



# *In Touch*

May 2009

## *In this issue :*

- Who's Who and Editor's Note 2
- Message from the Chairman 3  
*Introduction from Brian*
- Ringling Development Leaders 4  
*Initial reports from the new team*
- News from Olney 5  
*Update on the augmentation*
- Guild 8 Bell Competition 6
- Most southerly bell in Britain? 7  
*The Marchbank family go bell hunting in Cornwall*
- Derby Cathedral 7  
*Roger Everson compares the cathedral bells with Haversham bells*
- All around the Belfries 8
- Bits and Bobs 10  
*Including "from the archives"*
- Quarters and Peals 11
- A visit to Big Ben 12  
*Buckingham ringers have a day out to London*
- Minutes of the AGM 13
- Whats on and where 16  
*Ringling activities in the branch and elsewhere*



## *Branch Summer Social and Striking Competition*

*Saturday 20th June at Clifton Reynes*

Everyone is invited to the Branch Summer Social - an afternoon of ringing, light refreshments and good company. The second part of the afternoon will include the Six Bell Striking Competition.

4.30pm General Ringing  
6.00pm Striking Competition

The striking competition is an opportunity for everyone to join in and try to ring to the best of their ability. It doesn't matter what is rung - call changes or a method, so long as there are 120 changes.

The draw for the event will take place at 6pm. Teams do not need to be submitted beforehand - just be there on the day for the draw. If you would like to ring but don't have a tower band, or need some more people to make up the band, then just turn up and make yourself known to Alan Marchbank and help will be provided.

# Who's Who 2009—2010

**Chairman**

Brian Newman  
chairman@northbucks.org.uk

**Treasurer**

Sheila Watts  
treasurer@northbucks.org.uk

**Ringling Development Leader - Buckingham Deanery**

Richard Stanworth  
rdl\_bh@northbucks.org.uk

**Archivist**

Doug Hird  
archivist@northbucks.org.uk

**Ringling Development Leader - Milton Keynes Deanery**

Alan Marchbank  
rdl\_mk@northbucks.org.uk

**In Touch Editor**

Jonathan Griggs  
intoucheditor@northbucks.org.uk

**Ringling Development Leader - Newport Pagnell Deanery**

David Phillipson  
rdl\_np@northbucks.org.uk

**Branch Website**

<http://www.northbucks.org.uk/>

**Secretary**

Helen Stanworth  
secretary@northbucks.org.uk



## *From the Editor . . .*

Welcome to this summer edition of In Touch.

Firstly, thanks to all of you who have contributed to this edition of In Touch, especially those who I coerced at the AGM! It has been great to receive a wide variety of articles and this helps to make In Touch a good read - so please keep them coming. There are still some towers that haven't contributed any news to recent editions: it would be good to hear from you, even if it's just a few lines, to let everyone know what is happening in your tower.

There was a good turnout at the AGM and this contributed to the discussions regarding the future of ringing within the Branch. The new

positions of three Ringling Development Leaders were filled at the AGM, and there are reports from each in this edition.

Work continues at Olney and very soon the Branch will have a ring of 10. Read the latest news on page 5. There are two important dates to note: on 27th June Branch members are invited to ring on the new 10; and 11th July is the Service of Rededication. Put these dates in your diaries!

Just one more thing, the deadline for the next edition of In Touch is:

**Tuesday 4th August 2009**

*Jonathan*

# Message from the Chairman

Dear All

Welcome to this my first "message from the Chairman". I would first like to thank my fellow officers that are standing again. More help on the committee is always welcome, so if you think you could take on a role, please let us know.

You will see from the calendar that most of the events are following the established pattern, but we are looking to modify this where possible, to encourage more ringers to attend and to give the opportunity to meet new folk from other towers.

The Ringing Development Leaders will be taking the branch practices in their respective deaneries, so come along and meet them. They are there to help you and offer support, from ringing advice to tower maintenance.

As I said at the AGM, there may well be occasions when, due to my work pattern, I will not be at meetings, so I may not be able to meet you all face to face. However, I am contactable by email, phone or old fashioned letter and I will do my best to find an answer for you or provide help.

Brian

## The Guild Deputy Master with Guild News



The ODG AGM is on the 16th May and it is nearby at Stewkley this year.

There have been some important developments in the rules of membership in the past 12 months that will be voted on at the meeting. If you have a view and want to have your say this is your chance.

The meeting will be kept moving - gone are the days of talk for talk's sake. So come along and support your Guild.

Alan Marchbank

## The Secretary with two notes



### Grants

Applications for grants (for training assistance, work in towers, ropes, pulleys etc.) may be submitted to the Secretary. Details of applications received will be distributed to towers as soon as possible and will then be considered at the next branch meeting. A meeting for this may be convened at any branch practice or event.

### Training Grants

Grants are available to assist with the cost of training courses as follows: 50% of the cost of the course up to a maximum of £50. Applications for grants should be made in writing to the Secretary. Please apply before you attend the course.

## Other Branch News



### Branch Practices

Following the really good attendance at the AGM at Hanslope in March it was very encouraging to see that the subsequent Branch Practice at Loughton was also well attended, with about 20 ringers from at least six different towers plus one child and one dog.

The bells were virtually rung continuously all evening. Everything was rung: rounds and call changes, Grandsire, Stedman, plain hunt and Cambridge. In fact whatever people wanted to ring - it was rung.

Please look at the What's On and Where on the back page and continue to support the Branch events.

### Inter Branch Striking Competition

For those of you who have not taken part in this competition before, this is a really friendly and informal evening where folks from the North Bucks and Towcester branches can gather for a chat, some light refreshments and a bit of slightly competitive ringing.

There are 3 pieces of ringing for each branch to perform : Call changes, Plain Bob Minor and some Stedman Triples. If you would like to ring then please contact your Ringing Development Leader (contact details on page 2) who will be pleased to hear from you. Alternatively, if you just fancy coming along to listen and join the social gathering, you are most welcome.



# from the new Ringing Development Leaders

## Newport Deanery

Following my election as the AGM in March, things developed very rapidly. There was a Deanery Synod meeting a week after the AGM and I was able to talk to the members about the changes that were taking place in the organisation of the Branch and the change of focus. Ringing is included in the Deanery Plan and is among the first group of objectives to show positive movement.

I followed this up with a letter dated the 20th March addressed to the Newport Deanery Chapter, the Churchwardens and representatives of the Newport Deanery Synod. This was a general letter of introduction and the following is an extract from that letter:

*My appointment is not intended to in any way replace or impinge upon the existing organisation in individual towers and in this deanery we do have some very active and well organised towers. My role is to support those active towers in continued growth and good health and to address the issues in those towers where there is no organised band of ringers, no recruitment and training of new ringers, current or potential problems with the bells, frame or tower, etc.. I can provide a single point of contact for any ringing issue in the deanery where other lines of contact do not exist. So if you have a single bell in a turret with no rope and no one to supply and fit one, require ringers for a wedding or other special service but have no ringers, have a group of people who would like to learn to ring but have no one to teach them, then please contact me.*

My role is dependent on cooperation and working together, with common aims, so I will be closely involved with all the Tower Captains and Ringing Masters and indeed all ringers throughout the Newport Deanery, in order to make a difference.

We are very fortunate in the Newport Deanery to have Revd. Beverley Hollins living in Newport Pagnell, in the role of Deanery Development Facilitator. Beverley was responsible for putting together the document called 'Living Faith in the Newport Deanery'. In this document Beverley brings together Bishop John's 'Living Faith' document, the Newport Deanery Plan and a summary of SMART objectives identified during previous synod sessions. In having such a dynamic plan to work to, the Newport Deanery is somewhat ahead of the other two deaneries that, together with Newport, make up the vast majority of the Branch.

On the 21st April Beverley kindly hosted a meeting of the three Ringing Development Leaders, together with Doug Hird, to discuss how the experiences and lessons learnt within the Newport Deanery could be of help in developing the Milton Keynes and Buckingham Deaneries. We brainstormed various issues, identifying possible ways forward for Alan and Richard in the



development of their roles in circumstances very different to those prevailing in the Newport Deanery.

In coming months we look forward to trying out new ideas to develop ringing in the Branch as a whole.

David Phillipson

## Milton Keynes Deanery

As the RDL for Milton Keynes I have just started to appreciate the challenge that is in front of me. As David reports above, we were able to spend an evening with Revd. Beverley Hollins who explained the working structures of the MK Deanery with both its Anglican Parishes and Synod and Ecumenical organisation which does not have a consistent model across the 5 LEPs (Local Ecumenical Parishes).

I have come away with a number of ideas to increase the points and levels of involvement with the LEPs and a greater understanding of where there is common ground between the 2 organisations. Turning this into positive actions will be the next challenge. Anyone got a spare day in the week I can borrow please?

I have spent some time at Great Brickhill recently where they can only ring the front 4 until the bells are re-hung (and augmented to 8). I was very pleased to see some of them (and many others too) at the practice at Loughton and could see the improvement in their ringing and confidence even in that short time. It is often said that the best ringers ring at the most towers. True or not, getting experience of other bells really does help you progress and sometimes makes you appreciate your own bells when you get back to them!

Alan Marchbank



## Buckingham Deanery



As David and Alan have reported, we had an initial meeting with the Revd. Beverly Hollins from Newport Pagnell to understand whether approaches in the Newport Deanery could also be useful in the Buckingham Deanery.

To start the ball rolling I have suggested that as many Buckingham Deanery ringers as possible meet at the Branch practice in Thornborough so

that we can discuss the challenges that exist in the deanery and can start to consider some ideas and actions that can resolve the problems.

Richard Stanworth

# News from Olney

## Extract from the Olney Bells Diary

On Saturday 2nd May a coach load of nearly fifty people travelled from Olney to Whites of Appleton to see the bells hung in the new steel frame with all of their fittings. The photo to the right shows some of the crowd admiring the shiny blackened bells and the frame in the trademark 'blue' of Whites. Brian White and his wife hosted our visit with a plentiful supply of tea and coffee. The more adventurous of the group took a rope on the mini-ring which is installed in an adjacent workshop. Following the visit the frame and all the fittings will be disassembled. The non-painted steel will then be galvanised and everything prepared for transportation back to Olney. We all enjoyed the unique opportunity provided by the visit and now look forward to seeing the bells come home.



*The bells in their new frame at Whites of Appleton*

In the belfry, work has been continuing to rebuild the sills under the louvres and to prepare sockets and cast in concrete padstones in readiness for the new foundation beams. This work is being undertaken by N&G Gray and Sons from Hanslope and a very fine job they have been doing as well. The photographs below show the Eastern sill both before and after being rebuilt.

Now that the sills have been rebuilt we have a platform to work from for the installation of the sound control in the East, West and South louvres.

In the ringing chamber, the pendulum is now in its new position and Charles Knight is working on the not-so-simple job of boxing it in, with minimal levels of clearance to play with. The large section of boxing in the North West corner around the old weight shaft is now much reduced and being re-boarded. Alan Marchbank is doing a grand job rewiring the tower and installing new lighting, together with cabling and power

supply for the CCTV installation which is hoped will be in place for the Service of Rededication.

In the clock room works to the clock itself continue and the clock case now needs to be repositioned back towards the West wall, so that there is no longer a requirement for the drawing and tubing of ropes as they pass through the room.

Regular working parties are tackling the mountain of jobs that need to be done prior to taking delivery of the bells at the beginning of June. If you have any spare time and want to get your hands dirty please give me a call (contact details on page 2).

Looking ahead, I am pleased to be able to confirm a number of key dates as follows:

**Friday 22nd May** – Collection from Appleton of all the structural steel and frame sides. Transport is being provided free of charge by Duncan Rogers, MD of Projector Lifting, Olney.



*Before . . .*



*. . . and after*



## *News from Olney continued*

**Tuesday 26th May** – Start of installation of foundation beams and frame grillage. Work supervised by Whites of Appleton. Labour supplied by a team of named and insured local voluntary labour.

**Friday 5th June** – Collection from Appleton of the bells, wheels and all other fittings. Transport is being provided free of charge by Duncan Rogers, MD of Projector Lifting, Olney. It is planned that the bells will be paraded around the town: the proposed route being up Weston Road, along Aspreys stopping briefly outside Ousedale School, down Yardley Road stopping briefly outside of Olney Middle School and then along the full length of the High Street before arriving at the church.

**Weekend of 6th/7th June** – Bells will be on the floor of church for all to see. The two new bells will be blessed during the 10am Sunday Service.

**Monday 8th June** – Start of installation of bells and fittings. Work supervised by Whites of Appleton with labour supplied by a team of named and insured local volunteers.

**Saturday 27th June** – Church Cherry Fair; first session of full open ringing. Ringing beforehand (12.15pm to 1.15pm) will be by the Olney ringers plus a number of specially invited guests. Ringing afterwards from 4.30pm onwards will be open to ringers from the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Guild who have been supportive of the appeal. **PLEASE NOTE that this invite is for members of the Branch only. It is NOT an open tower grab and is not being publicised.**

**Sunday 28th June** – Patronal Festival; first service ringing by the Olney ringers.

**Saturday 11th July** – 5.00pm Service of Rededication of the bells by Bishop Alan of Buckingham

David Phillipson

---

## *The ups and downs of the Guild 8 Bell Striking Competition*

This year the Guild 8 Bell Striking Competition was hosted by the Banbury Branch, with heats held at Adderbury and Banbury and the final at Great Tew. The North Bucks branch were drawn to ring at Banbury against some very strong opposition. The set touch of Grandsire Triples was rung without trips and it was felt that it had been good performance that might place the band "mid-table". However, to the band's surprise, the judges felt that the ringing was consistent with just a few niggling faults which were only just noticeable but not really significant to the rhythm. North Bucks won the heat, with the strong teams of EBSB and Reading trailing in second and third place. The fact that one of the judges was a relative of the ringer of the 6th had nothing to do with the result. Honest. So onwards to the final with confidence and optimism . . .

The band were drawn fourth in the final which allowed time for a walk up to the cricket ground for some tea before ringing. The bells were more difficult to ring than Banbury, so everyone concentrated hard on good striking, which settled surprisingly quickly into a good rhythm and the prospect of another fault-free touch seemed possible. However it was not to be: with everyone concentrating on striking the first call came late and it took a lead to recover. Three bells were now in the wrong position and this meant that the final lead required correction, with further striking clashes. The judges of course heard the two bad patches of ringing and this affected the score, although they did comment that the first 13 changes showed real promise! The band were placed last and High Wycombe won. Although disappointing, especially having won the heat, the branch now know that they can compete with the strongest bands in the Guild - so this must be taken forward to next year.

Heat results at Banbury:

1st North Bucks - 28 faults

2nd EBSB - 33 faults

3rd St Mary with St Lawrence, Reading - 37 faults

4th Abingdon - 47 faults

5th South Oxon - 49 faults

6th Reading "B band" - 61 faults

The Final at Great Tew:

1st High Wycombe - 30 faults

2nd St Mary with St Lawrence, Reading - 32.75 faults

3rd St Aldate, Oxford - 36.25 faults

4th Banbury - 42.75 faults

5th EBSB - 57.5 faults

6th North Bucks - 79 faults

*The North Bucks band (left to right):*

*David Phillipson, John Stanworth, Alan Marchbank, Jonathan Griggs, Richard Stanworth, Roy Keeves, Tony Gray, Doug Hird*



## *Is this the most southerly bell in Britain?*

Here is a photo of what has to be (or was when it was photographed) the most southerly bell in Britain. We spotted it when on holiday last October, staying in what was formerly the staff accommodation of the Lizard Lighthouse. The bell was on the south side of the main perimeter wall, with nothing but a bit of grass and lots of water between it and France.

Cast by Gillett and Johnston of Croydon in 1948, it was about 40" in diameter at the mouth and I guess weighed in at 15 to 20 cwt. The inscription indicated it was a gift of a coke and electricity company in London but did not say to whom it was donated. Did Trinity House exist in 1948 I wonder?

It had been tuned in the modern way by a vertical tuning machine and had been "used" extensively judging by the clapper marks just inside the lip. The clapper was not present, though it had been suspended from the large flange cast into and through the crown in such a way as to hit any part of the inside of the lip. I assume therefore, it was a "buoy bell" ? (At only a ton, Barry would no doubt say it was a lady's bell!)

Alan Marchbank



---

## *Reflection on my ringing day out*

I recently went on a day's ringing to Derbyshire with the Guild of Post and Telecoms Ringers and was pleased to ring at my first cathedral. Now this is somewhat of a radical shift in venue for me: coming from Haversham my home tower has three little bells and Emberton, where I practise, with its comparative splendid little six.

I must say I did enjoy waking up the good people of Derby on a Saturday morning and even more so on finding out that this was the oldest ring of ten in the world. However on reflection it still doesn't compare with ringing for a wedding in one of our local churches where the likelihood is that people might want to hear the bells. So back to Haversham; did you know we now have a ringing chamber above the new toilet, a nice view over the interior of the church through a little Norman window and shorter ropes so we can actually ring the bells? So next time you hear of a wedding at Haversham that needs ringers you would be most welcome to come along and try out this not quite the oldest ring of three in the world so please do.

Roger Everson



*The bells of Derby Cathedral are the oldest ring of ten bells in the world. Most of them have been here since 1678 when the number of bells was increased from 6 to 10. The largest bell weighs 19 cwt. (965 kg), its pitch is D flat and it is over 500 years old. It is believed that it came from Dale Abbey at the Dissolution of the Monastries. The youngest bell, the third, is dated 1693, so all the bells are over 300 years old. The eighth was in Ashbourne Parish church until 1815.*



## All around the Belfries

### Emberton

Ringling took a back seat recently when we became aware that Carrie was venturing into amateur dramatics on non-ringing nights. A group of Emberton ringers enjoyed a splendid night out to see her in *My Fair Lady* at Turvey Village Hall -not even in the Branch! It was a great show performed by TATS, the Turvey Amateur Theatrical Society. Our next engagement? A performance of *Bonaventure* – Carrie has a speaking part this time!

On the ringing front, we've been trying some methods with a Lent/Easter theme: **Lenton** Bob Doubles and Lee-on-the-Solent Bob Minor, but we rather ran out of steam before the Easter Day Surprise Minor!

Sheila Watts



### Great Linford

Steady progress continues to be made by our learners and we are pleased to welcome a new recruit who has just started to learn. The connection is rugby - Simon plays rugby with John at MKRUFC. His dad is a ringer too but not at Linford so best not say too much at the moment!

We have had a number of opportunities to show off our bells and the exercise since the last In Touch. A group of year 2 and 3s spent the morning with us investigating the church. With the aid of CCTV we showed them how our bells work at both ends of the rope. They worked out how old our bells are and drew pictures of them. We've seen the results and some of them are fantastic!! They stretched a rope along the nave and got an idea of just how high up the bells are!

We were contacted by a local arts group called Monkey Kettle who are keen to develop a performance involving and using church bells. They joined us at a practice night to get an understanding of what we do and I think we all learned a lot!! They are still keen to produce something and we shall see what develops. It may be ringing, but not as we know it!

Our decision to appoint a cake co-ordinator for the management of cakes to celebrate birthdays on practice nights was a stroke of genius. Never has so much cake been consumed on a Tuesday evening!

Alan Marchbank

### Whaddon

Bell ringers at St Mary's Church, Whaddon meet for practise on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 to 9pm. The meetings are well supported every week by eight or more ringers, covering a broad range of ages to ring the six bells, captained by Mr Derek White. The Tenor Bell weighs 15.24 cwt. The bells are rung on the first Sunday of each month and other notable church days and events. Many of the ringers regularly support ringing at other churches namely Stony Stratford every Sunday morning; Calverton fortnightly on a Sunday; Loughton weekly; Swanbourne and Thornborough (who do not have their own band of ringers). Often on a Sunday morning there is a race to see if we can make it on time from Stony Stratford to Whaddon to ring for the second time of the morning, so far we have always made it!!

The ringing platform is an open balcony and allows easy viewing of the ringers by the congregation. This provides easy cueing for weddings when the bride is about to arrive and leave. The platform is accessed through the vestry by a few wooden steps up through a trap door, so a bit of an easier climb than some towers. We are very fortunate at St Mary's to have, as the backdrop to the ringing platform, a beautiful stained glass window of some size and age. It faces due west so in the evening it is most glorious as the setting sunlight illuminates the detailed work in all its splendour.

On Saturday June 13 there will be a joint event at St Mary's of an Open Day for the ringing platform with a Coffee Morning down in the Church from 10am to 12 noon. All are welcome to come and have a go.

Experienced bell ringers will be on hand to help anyone who comes along. We hope that the event will encourage people of all ages to come and have a look inside our lovely church of St Mary's and to take this unique opportunity to view the inside of the ringing platform and to ring one of the bells themselves. There will be opportunities for those who show an interest to learn more about regular ringing at St Mary's.

Anne Stokes

### Woughton

St Mary's Woughton is back ringing again having had considerable amounts of loose stone removed from around all four windows of the belfry. The tower is structurally sound and we continue to practice on Thursday evenings at 8.00pm and service ringing on Sunday at 9.15am.

Brian Baldwin





## Hanslope

On Saturday May 2nd Hanslope ringers and friends went to Staffordshire for Roy's annual outing. Like previous years the towers are all hand selected so that they are all grabs for the organiser.

This year started in Rugeley, followed by Armitage and Kings Bromley. All light sixes - nothing too strenuous. After lunch we tackled Barton Under Needwood where the ringing vastly improved when we discovered how to open the sound control so that we could hear the bells. This was followed by the 8 at Alrewas which we all wanted to take home as they were so good. The nice little 6 of Elford followed and then another excellent 8 at Whittington which although only 6cwt rang really well.

Jonathan Griggs



*Ringers at Barton under Needwood who managed to extract themselves from the pub after lunch!*

---

## Padbury

St Mary, Padbury, is one of four churches in the Lenborough Benefice, which is part of the Buckingham Deanery.

The bell ringers at St Mary, Padbury have, for many years now, turned to the ringers of the North Bucks Branch when they have needed help with ringing the bells for Church services or special occasions. More recently, since early in 2003, a number of ringers from the North Bucks Branch have been regular ringers at Padbury and now form more than half of the Sunday Service band. It therefore seems appropriate for Padbury to transfer to the North Bucks Branch as most of the current band comes from North Bucks, and all the other towers in the Buckingham Deanery, other than those in the Lenborough Benefice, are members of the North Buck Branch of the Guild.

We have six bells, tenor 10½ cwt. and we ring as follows:

### Sundays

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| First Sunday  | 5.20 – 6.00 pm   |
| Second Sunday | 10.20 – 11.00 am |
| Fourth Sunday | 10.20 – 11.00 am |

### Practice Night

|        |                |
|--------|----------------|
| Friday | 7.00 – 8.30 pm |
|--------|----------------|

Now that there are no longer branch practices on a Friday evening, if you find yourself at a loose end, do come and join us, we will be pleased to see you. Just give Richard a call on 01280-814172 to check that we are ringing.

We are currently planning some maintenance work on the bells and one of our band, Anne Perry, has written the following acrostic on 'The Bells Of St Marys':

*The Bells that hang here in the tower,  
Have seen a lot of service,  
Engaging in a little care, will help restore their former  
flare.*

*Before the work can make a start  
Every penny will need raising  
Listen for the bells to ring, then  
Leave a little in the "tin" to  
Save the bells from failing.*

*Over the years the parts have worn,  
For ever ringing on Sunday morn,*

*Some maintenance will now ensure,  
The Bells return to sound once more.*

*Merrily the bells will ring at all the special functions  
A few more ringers would really be nice, just  
Remember, we don't need asking twice,  
Your chance to ring would just be great  
So come along and have a go, it's surely not too late.*

Richard Stanworth

## Downs Barn

A peal band and 3 sets of visitors have kept us busy in the last 2 months. Interestingly one of the visiting bands wanted to ring for Sunday service and so it was a real pleasure to hear 3 leads of Bristol coming from the tower on a Sunday morning. I am still keen to try to get the bells rung for service on a frequent if not regular basis - say once a month for starters, if anyone wants to help me in this objective you know where I am. Ringing would be from 10.15 to 10.55. There is some interest in ringing amongst church members so this may be a golden time.

Alan Marchbank

# Bits and Bobs

## From the Archives . . .

### *and they sold a hedgehog to pay for the bells!*

No-one who has rung at Sherington will be surprised to learn that the last time these bells were re-hung was in 1901. Every other ring in the branch has since been re-hung but Sherington's bells battle on. The Bucks Standard provides the story:

The first sign that something needed to be done comes in April 1901 when a concert was put on for the village. One can only imagine the scene with songs such as "I can't stand Mrs. Green's mother," "Our 20th century stores," "I didn't get a wink all night," and "Buttercup, Rose Robinson making a nice little buttercup." Also, "Messrs. J. Warner and Sons, of Cripplegate, London, sent a beautiful little model bell for exhibition at the concert." This, the second of two concerts made £10 1s. 4d.

Tuesday, July 23 began as a wet day but this didn't dampen the spirits of the Sherington villagers. They had a Fancy Fair to organise. By the afternoon, the weather had improved and villagers and visitors mingled in the manor grounds. There were fancy stalls, a picture stall, a fruit, flower and china stall and, of course, a refreshment stall. "Button holes were disposed of by Master Basil Estcourt, who, with juvenile persuasion, managed to do a fairly lucrative business; and the Misses Helen, Muriel and Gwendoline Farrar succeeded in adding to the funds by selling photographs of the Parish Church." There was a bran tub, a weighing machine and a dressed doll competition. Mr. J. Jefferson had for sale "a wheelbarrow, for which the sum of £1 was asked for and obtained, and pigeons, ducks, and fowls, a pair of spaniel pups, and a young hedgehog." The day was officially rounded off with another concert, in the drawing room of the Manor but actually, continued as "dancing to the strains of the string band was indulged in a field belonging to Mr. Jefferson on the opposite side of the road."

So this made another £80 for the fund, which was a good result as the quote from Webb & Bennet of Kidlington was for only £60. By November the work had been completed and a service of thanksgiving was held on Thursday 21st.

One can't help thinking that another round of concerts and fairs is becoming due at Sherington. Sounds like fun!

Doug Hird

## Running Out . . .

After completing 646 miles of training since Christmas 2008, Nicki King completed the 2009 London Marathon in 5 hours 7 minutes and 48 seconds. She writes:

It was a warm and sunny day, the conditions were slightly hotter than expected, but the fantastic support from the crowds kept me going. I hope to raise over £800 for the Stroke Association, assuming everyone pays up, beating my initial target of £750! There's still time to donate via the JustGiving page <http://www.justgiving.com/nicolakingflm09> if you've been meaning to but not done it yet. Many thanks to everyone who has already donated, your money is going to a good cause. The Stroke Association hopes to raise over £230,000 through sponsorship of London Marathon runners, which will help fund the development of new treatments and the support of families of sufferers.

It was a fantastic day and I've already entered the ballot for next year, oops!

Thanks

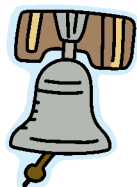
Nicola

## Newton Blossomville Etching

In the last edition of In Touch I reported that Anne Stainsby had donated a picture of Newton Blossomville church to the branch in the hope that someone would offer it a good home. The picture is an etching by local schoolmaster Arthur Snaith. Sheila Watts was the only one who expressed an interest so it will now be going to Emberton to hang in the tower there and Sheila has made a donation to the Guild bell fund.

Jonathan Griggs





# Quarters and Peals



## Easter Ringing at Newport Pagnell

We ringers have become rather used to Holy Week being a bit of a break from ringing. On Easter Sunday the bells ring out again and the normal course of events resumes.

At Newport we have been thinking about what our bells are for, what they tell the people of Newport and how they can once more be a part of worship. So some new ringing opportunities have been tried out this year with some success.

We got off to a good start on Palm Sunday with a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor by the local band. Our normal Wednesday practice night was used to go out for a meal which did much for "team building." Then on Good Friday, the bells were fully muffled before an afternoon service. The effect was remarkable. This powerful ring was transformed into a mournful, almost haunting instrument. Then, for the next day, Holy Saturday, the opposite effect was achieved by removing the muffles and opening the trapdoors. At the point in the evening service where it is proclaimed "Jesus is risen" the sound of the bells filled the church. This was repeated during the peace and during the final hymn. This was particularly moving for all present as it was the first time ringing had been included in the order of service at Newport for very many years.

On Easter Sunday, normal service was indeed resumed with a full turnout in the morning and a quarter peal of Plain Bob Major, with a largely local band, for evensong. This was a particularly successful departure from our normal plans and is likely to be improved upon next year.

Doug Hird

## SS Peter and Paul, Newport Pagnell

Sunday 5 April 2009

### 1260 Plain Bob Minor

1. Loretta Ramsay
  2. Mike Lowndes
  3. Nick Read
  4. Rachel Stacy
  5. Scott Ayers
  6. B Douglas Hird (c)
- Rung for Evensong on Palm Sunday

Sunday 12 April 2009

### 1264 Plain Bob Major

1. Loretta Ramsay
  2. Nick Read
  3. Alan J Marchbank
  4. Mike Lowndes
  5. Charles J knight
  6. Robin Hickmott
  7. Scott Ayres
  8. B Douglas Hird (c)
- Rung for Evensong on Easter Sunday

Sunday 3 May 2009

### 1260 Grandsire Doubles

1. Elly Pendry (1st quarter peal)
  2. Nick Read
  3. Robin Hickmott
  4. Mike Lowndes
  5. B Douglas Hird (c)
  6. Andrew White
- Rung for Evensong and to thank Dick Parker for many years of service as Secretary to the PCC at Newport Pagnell.

## All Saints, Calverton

24 January 2009

### 5040 Surprise Minor

(720 each of Carlisle, Beverley, Wells, Surfleet, London, Cambridge and Norwich)

2 hrs 47 mins

1. Julie A Haseldine
2. Marika Haseldine
3. James A Haseldine
4. Kevin R Haseldine
5. Andrew Haseldine (c)
6. Richard Haseldine

First peal - 4

The first all-Haseldine Peal

"The first all-Haseldine peal was also my first, a mere 13 years after my first quarter peal. My lack of peal ringing desire has been gradually eroded away by my family and friends over the years, until I eventually decided to give it a shot despite having recently moved to Yorkshire. The recent addition of Marika to the Haseldine family also coincided nicely, allowing the possibility of a minor peal. The array of methods was decided upon to reduce the possibility of me drifting off!

I actually enjoyed the peal (which surprised me), and am certainly keen to ring more either in Yorkshire or Bucks! Now all we need are two more willing Haseldines for a crack at major . . ."

Extract from *The North Bucks Branch Yorkshire Correspondent* (Kevin Haseldine)



# Quarters down under in New South Wales



**The Wesleyan Chapel,  
Castlereagh**  
Sunday, 22 February 2009  
**1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor**  
1. Esther Perrins  
2. Bill Perrins (c)  
3. Thomas Perrins  
4. Rachel Perrins  
5. James Perrins  
6. David Phillipson  
James on the fifth, aged 12, rang his first  
peal just over a month later and rang  
inside to 8 Spliced. He is featured in an  
article in the Ringing World on page 396  
in the 17 April edition.

**All Saints Parramatta**  
Sunday, 15 February 2009  
**1280 Bristol Surprise Major**  
1. David Phillipson  
2. Esther Perrins  
3. James Perrins  
4. Ruth Stokes  
5. Hadden Arrowsmith  
6. Thomas Perrins  
7. Bill Perrins (c)  
8. Chris Stokes  
1. James Perrins  
2. Rachel Perrins  
3. Esther Perrins  
4. Lexi Prabhakar  
5. Ruth Stokes  
6. David Phillipson  
7. Hadden Arrowsmith  
8. Chris Stokes  
9. Bill Perrins (c)  
10. Thomas Perrins

## Bellringers visit Big Ben

This year is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Big Ben and many months ago Ray mentioned the idea of visiting Big Ben, a chance not to be missed. Application was made for some of our bellringers along with some ringers from Long Crendon to make the visit.

The Clock Tower is not open for casual visitors and the procedure for arranging a visit started with a letter to our MP. A date many months ahead in Holy Week was agreed on and formal submission of personal details followed to allow security checks, much to our surprise everyone passed without the need for any positive vetting. A number of advisory warnings are given by the authorities concerning the number of steps and physical fitness requirements to complete the climb, but we bellringers are used to steps and with the services of our expedition doctor from Long Crendon we reckoned we should survive the ordeal.

A train from Milton Keynes was carefully selected and arrangements made for many of the group to meet at the station and take advantage of group discount tickets. A final check of the trains the day before found our train had been cancelled and industrial action planned between Milton Keynes and London. Not to worry, Aylesbury Vale has built a new station just for people like us in the north of the district with free parking thrown in for good measure. We met up on the sunny morning at Aylesbury Vale Parkway after the commuters had left and enjoyed our journey on Chiltern Railways to Amersham where the train was unexpectedly terminated due to a signal failure somewhere before Marylebone. Never mind, it was an opportunity to practice walking up and down steps as we swapped platforms several times following the various incomprehensible announcements, finally settling on a London Transport train for Baker Street.

We arrived at Portcullis House with plenty of time of spare and experienced the airport style security as we waited in the foyer, our safety enhanced by two

policemen with machine guns. After the contingent from Long Crendon arrived, our tour guide took us through an ancient tunnel under the road to the Clock Tower. We had a welcome break on our climb up the 334 steps at a staging post about one third of the way up, our guide explained some of the history of the building, the clock and the bells while we rested. Our next stop was the gallery behind the massive 7m diameter dials, we could see the hour hand moving every 2 seconds through the opalescent glass and noted the 28 energy efficient light bulbs that illuminate each face at night. A few more flights of steps and we were standing in the belfry next to Big Ben with just a few minutes to go before 12 noon.

Now Big Ben is a big bell, it weighs nearly 14 tonnes, is about 9 feet in diameter and it is about 10 times as heavy as our tenor at Buckingham and yes it is cracked. Armed with government issue ear plugs we waited for the strike, the chimes just before twelve were a warning, standing a few feet from the bell, even with earplugs and fingers in our ears, the strike could be felt through our bodies. With our ears still ringing we made our way down the staircase to the clock room and we were shown the Great Clock, like the bells and dials the clock is also massive and is driven by about 2.5 tonnes of weights. Fortunately, the chiming mechanism weights are wound by electric motors but the going train is still wound by hand three times a week. We watched the motion of the levers and cogs as the mechanism struck 12.15 and 12.30. Old pennies are still used to regulate the clock, one penny placed on a platform mounted on the pendulum rod causes the clock to gain 2/5ths of a second in 24hrs, with the accurate time being obtained from the speaking clock via a telephone beside the clock mechanism.

We finished our visit with a quick tour of the Palace of Westminster before retiring for lunch and the opportunity to experience London beer and pies in a local pub.

Andrew Spencer



## OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS NORTH BUCKS BRANCH

### *Minutes of the AGM held at Hanslope on the 7th March 2009*

#### **Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman, Richard Stanworth, welcomed everyone to Hanslope for the Annual Meeting thanked them for coming and expressed the hope that the discussions of the future of the branch would be fruitful.

#### **In Memoriam**

The chairman asked the meeting to stand and remember two members who had died since the Autumn Meeting in September: Anne Stainsby of Loughton and Sylvia Albert of Fenny Stratford.

#### **Apologies for Absence**

Received from Brian Newman (arrived later), Robert Newton (Guild Master), Hilarie Rogers (Guild Secretary), Ros Tyrrell, John Mercer, David Scrutton, Keiran Salter, David Phillipson, Peter Tampsett, Hugh Butler, Derek White, and Alex Marchbank.

#### **Minutes of previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Autumn Meeting held at Shenley in September had been published in the November edition of In Touch. Derek Stainsby proposed and Sheila Ware seconded that they be signed as a true record.

#### **Election of New Members**

Nominations had been received proposing 17 new members:

Old Wolverton: Lyn Bentley (re-election), Robert Bentley (re-election), Michael Woodcock proposed by John Mercer, seconded by Mike Nimmo

Emberton: Sam Haslam (Junior), Carrie Walker, Scott Forrest (re-election) proposed by Sheila Watts, seconded by Phil Haslam

Hanslope: Michael Parsons (Junior) proposed by Roy Keeves, seconded by Sheila Blenkhorn

Newport Pagnell: Nick Read, Mike Lowndes (re-election), Eleanor Pendry, Emily Rice, Ebryl Nichols (Junior) proposed by Doug Hird, seconded by Scott Ayers

Olney: Ruth Plackett proposed by Charles Knight, seconded by Liz Sheaf

Great Brickhill: Diane Richardson, Rosemary Howell, Tim Franklin proposed by David Middleton, seconded by Butch Baker

Unattached: Nathan Tinsley proposed by Gillian Macdonald, seconded by Richard Stanworth

All were elected without dissent. The Chairman asked those present to stand and they were welcomed to the Guild and Branch.

#### **Officers Reports**

The Chairman proposed to consider each report as printed in the February edition of In Touch (and included in the Appendices to the minutes).

Chairman – (Appendix A) - No Questions

Secretary – (Appendix B) – No Questions

Treasurer – (Appendix C) – Alan Marchbank asked how the financial arrangements for In Touch were proceeding, following the changes to the production of In Touch that were agreed at earlier business meetings. Sheila Watts expressed the view that we are going in the right direction but that we haven't solved it yet. Donations towards the costs are still coming in with subscriptions. These are a great help. The current editor is investigating other cost savings, so things should continue to improve.

Alan Marchbank proposed and Jonathan Griggs seconded that the accounts be adopted. This was approved by a show of hands.

Guild Representatives – Alan Marchbank attended one meeting as Guild Rep last March before being elected as Deputy Guild Master and he reported on this. This focussed on preparations for the AGM in May. Further matters that were discussed were the ongoing communications initiative within the Guild to improve communications, generally stirred up by fact that when we communicated with every member of the Guild to attend a Guild event we were substantially oversubscribed. This is progressing and they are working on the technology problem of holding a membership database centrally.

Brian Newman added that the November meeting discussed Guild finances. The Guild is currently operating at a deficit and eating into its reserves. This is currently not an issue as there are sufficient reserves but the small increase in subscription will reduce the deficit and rate at which the reserves are depleted.

Ringing Master – Attendance has declined over the year and it has become increasingly difficult to find ringers for special ringing. We were unable to enter bands in either the eight bell or ten bell competitions despite the best efforts of Alan Marchbank. Barry advised the meeting that if the proposed change to the list of branch officers was carried then he would not be standing for office. He thanked all those who had supported him and the other officers during the year.

Branch Archivist – More information has been added to the archive, mostly from local newspapers, as well as Guild publications such as Odd Bob. Additional recordings and photos have also been added. All this is available on the branch website. This is a useful resource for displays, talks etc. Doug can also prepare displays for individual towers if requested.

## Future of the Branch – Discussion and Proposals

Alan Marchbank introduced this item, remarking that he felt he was a poor substitute for the person who should have been introducing this. It was David Phillipson who had done a substantial amount of work in preparing the discussion document which started the debate amongst the officers. Having published the discussion document in *In Touch* and sent a letter to all members, the aim today was to involve members in the discussion and get their opinions on the way forward. Alan re-iterated the Guild objectives as these are what the Branch should be aiming for: increase the attendance of members for Sunday service ringing. We're here to ring bells on Sundays; the recruitment of ringers, so that there may be regular ringing at towers within the diocese, where the bells are ringable. The Red Amber Green Status report was a wake-up call suggesting where there could be shortages of ringers in ten years time if we sat back and did nothing. We have suggested some ways forward but really this meeting needs to decide if we want to do this, and whether we can do this.

Jonathan Griggs commented that the RAG status report may be flattering, as there are often members of towers who don't actually ring. Simon Head added that he rang at three towers on a Sunday, but that doesn't show up in the chart as it is based on members at each tower. He felt that closer ties with the Church are a good move, but that in itself would not solve our crisis, as the Church has similar problems to us with a declining membership. The Chairman felt that where we could benefit was to work together at benefice and deanery level and get access to a potential market for new ringers.

David Middleton applauded the initiative with more help being available to towers to help with recruiting and training. He was concerned that the proposal to transfer the Brickhill group of towers to Central Bucks would not be helpful to them as their nearest centre of ringing was Milton Keynes. That's where they look to for ringing, not Haddenham or Aylesbury, which are the centres of ringing in the Central Bucks Branch. They would like to be put in with the Milton Keynes Deanery, not cast into the outer darkness of Central Bucks. Butch Baker supported this view as, when he looks out from the hill by Great Brickhill Church, he sees Milton Keynes, not Aylesbury. He also added that he thought that there should be a closer association with schools, as that's where young ringers would come from, rather than the church itself.

Charles Knight felt that we needed to enhance the connection between ringers and the clergy. In Newport deanery they were getting there. The Rev Beverley Hollins had as part of her job just the sort of thing that had been talked about. Why not involve the clergy, because it seemed to be working quite well for them. We need to keep them informed. We belong to the church. Barry Eglesfield agreed that it was absolutely essential to stay with the church. That's what the bells are there for, which some people seemed to forget.

Alan Marchbank clarified the point that the branch cannot force a tower to move to another branch if the ringers don't want to move. If the ringers at Brickhill don't wish to move to Central Bucks then it won't happen. He thought that we needed to concentrate not on what can ringers do for us, but what can we do for the exercise. This was really about, how do we as ringers ensure that we take action now to engage with more ringers and get more new ringers to sustain the exercise, how do we deal with bells that are becoming difficult to ring. We mustn't sit here thinking that somebody was going

to come and help us. Actually, we need to go and help ourselves. We need to help with the exercise, and that's where I think this debate should be. What are we going to do differently?

The Chairman moved the discussion on to the re-organisation of the officers with the replacement of the Ringing Masters with Ringing Development Leaders as set out in *In Touch*. This is a leadership role. They cannot do everything themselves. Their role would be to try and get more people involved in each area, based on the deaneries. So there would be three of these roles, nominally covering the Newport, Milton Keynes and Buckingham Deaneries.

Chrissy Cable expressed concern that we have struggled to fill posts in the past and now we were proposing three new roles. The Chairman explained that the three new roles effectively replaced the three existing roles of Ringing Master, Assistant Ringing Master and Training Officer.

Doug Hird commented that one of the reasons in the past that roles had not worked was that they had not been particularly well defined and this had led to people doing each other's jobs. By splitting the job geographically you don't have the problem of whose job it is.

The Chairman then moved on to the third proposal on the agenda, which was along the lines of: Friday nights aren't working, let's try something else. He was concerned that if this was made as a formal proposal then we could be stuck with Saturday events, even if it was found that these were also not working.

There were several comments regarding the fact that we had previously moved the striking competition from a Saturday to a Friday and moved from quarterly meetings to half-yearly meetings because of lack of support on Saturdays. However there were more views in recognition that Fridays aren't working. Saturdays may not work either but we need to give it a go. There were also a number of comments that this did not need a formal proposal but that the officers try alternative days and times for events, still including some Fridays if thought worthwhile, and that we talk about it again in a years time.

The Chairman now asked the meeting to consider the three proposals that were on the agenda. David Joyce suggested that, rather than getting bogged down in procedural processes, the meeting should say that if the various towers that had been mentioned were willing to progress a move between branches in the coming year, then the branch officers would support them in going through that process. Thus there was no compulsion, but if they liked to make an application then the meeting is saying 'fine, go ahead'.

Alan Marchbank took this forward and proposed the following enabling motion (proposal a):

The North Bucks Branch will consist of all towers in the Buckingham, Milton Keynes and Newport Deaneries. We will enable towers in the Buckingham Deanery which are currently in Central Bucks to transfer to the North Bucks Branch, should it be their wish. Should the towers in the Mursley Deanery, which are currently in North Bucks, wish to transfer to Central Bucks, we will also be supportive of that.

This was seconded by David Joyce. On a show of hands this was then carried by a large majority.



At this point the Chairman reported that the Secretary had received a letter from the ringers at Padbury, signed by all 10 of the current band, saying they wished to move to North Bucks, on the basis that their focus had always been towards Buckingham. A copy of the letter was also being sent to the Central Bucks. On the basis of the motion just carried, the request from Padbury to move was therefore approved by this Branch.

Proposal b) on the agenda was then put before the meeting: The officers of the branch shall consist of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Guild Representatives, Newsletter Editor, Archivist and three Deanery Liaison Officers.

This was formally proposed by Brian Newman and seconded by Simon Head. On a show of hands this was carried by a large majority

Proposal c) was not put to the meeting, but The Chairman set out the agreed outcome. The officers will try some Saturday events and see how they go. These will be shorter events without tea or a service. We need to make these sessions more focussed on what is planned, rather than just being a general practice. David Joyce was concerned that as part of this plan, it was not left to tower captains to run events. The Chairman agreed that if it was publicised as a branch event then it would be run by a branch officer.

### **Election of Officers**

Chairman: Brian Newman proposed by Alan Marchbank, seconded by Doug Hird

Secretary: Helen Stanworth proposed by Brian Newman, seconded by Derek Stainsby

Treasurer: Sheila Watts proposed by Sheila Blenkhorn, seconded by Barry Eglesfield

Guild Representatives: Richard Stanworth proposed by David Joyce seconded by Christine Cable. David Phillipson proposed by Alan Marchbank seconded by Charles Knight.

Branch Archivist: Doug Hird proposed by Robin Hickmott, seconded by Christine Cable

Newsletter Editor: Jonathan Griggs proposed by Sheila Ware, seconded by Simon Head

Ringing Development Leaders: Newport Pagnell - David Phillipson proposed by Alan Marchbank, seconded by Doug Hird; Milton Keynes - Alan Marchbank proposed by Sheila Ware, seconded by Barry Eglesfield; Buckingham - Richard Stanworth proposed by Brian Newman, seconded by Sheila Watts

All were elected unopposed.

### **Forthcoming Events**

An up to date Calendar of events had been distributed before the meeting. The Chairman highlighted that the Friday timetable will continue through April and May as these dates have already been requested. Saturday events will be tried after that, so dates in the calendar may change slightly.

Clifton Reynes are unable to host the Summer Social on the first Saturday in June but will welcome us on another day, so it is proposed to combine the Summer Social with the Branch Striking competition on Saturday 20th June.

Other dates to note are the Inter Branch competition in July, the Steeple Aston Course on 31st October, and the joint practice with the Towcester Branch on 21st November.

The Guild Open Day is on Monday 4th May in the Banbury Branch and a list of towers open is now available and will be circulated as soon as possible.

### **Any Other Business**

David Joyce announced that the bookstall would be open for business after the meeting.

Barry announced that he had a book produced by Phil Dunn of the peal and quarter peal compositions of Joe Arnold, who was organist at Leighton Buzzard. Proceeds from the sale will go to All Saints Leighton Buzzard.

Barry also informed the meeting that he had learned of the death recently of Steve, a previous host at the Greyhound, Haversham, where we hold Officers meetings.

The Secretary had had a letter via the Guild secretary from a police agency asking for any ringers who had been the victims of a burglary during the past two years to contact them. This had been sent out as a Guild badge had been found amongst the items recovered.

Sheila Watts announced that £42 had been collected for the Guild Bell Fund today and thanked everyone for contributing.

### **Vote of Thanks**

On behalf of everyone present, The Chairman thanked Rev Eric Dodsworth for taking the service, Nick Reid for playing the organ, Roy and Sheila and all the Hanslope ringers for the tea and hospitality today and asked everyone to show their appreciation.

The Chairman announced that there would be further ringing after the meeting for anyone who wished to stay and ring.

## ***Visual Teaching Aids***

Do you need some DVDs or videos to help teach your members to ring? There are a number of titles held within the branch and these are available to borrow. Please contact the secretary if you want further information (details on page 2).

**Bellhandling - a tutor's companion**  
by the Central Council (video or DVD)

**Look to and Learn**  
by the Kent County Association (video)

**Teaching Demonstration**  
recording of Steve Coleman teaching (video)

# What's on and where



## MAY

|                      |      |                               |                             |
|----------------------|------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Friday 15th          | 7.30 | Branch Practice               | Thornborough                |
| <i>Saturday 16th</i> |      | <i>Annual General Meeting</i> | <i>Central Bucks Branch</i> |

## JUNE

|               |       |                                         |                |
|---------------|-------|-----------------------------------------|----------------|
| Saturday 13th | 10.00 | Recruitment Open Day                    | Whaddon        |
| Saturday 20th | 4.30  | Summer Social and 6 Bell Competition    | Clifton Reynes |
| Saturday 27th | 4.30  | Branch Ringing<br>[Branch members only] | Olney          |

## JULY

|               |       |                                  |        |
|---------------|-------|----------------------------------|--------|
| Saturday 4th  | *6.00 | Interbranch Striking competition | Wicken |
| Saturday 11th | 5.00  | Service of Rededication          | Olney  |

## AUGUST

|               |       |                 |           |
|---------------|-------|-----------------|-----------|
| Saturday 22nd | *4.30 | Branch Practice | Calverton |
|---------------|-------|-----------------|-----------|

## SEPTEMBER

|                      |              |                                |                                 |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Saturday 12th        | *3.30        | Autumn Meeting                 | Padbury                         |
| <i>Saturday 26th</i> | <i>10.00</i> | <i>Michaelmas Training Day</i> | <i>Shinfield Ringing Centre</i> |

## OCTOBER

|                      |       |                                            |                                       |
|----------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Saturday 3rd</i>  |       | <i>Guild Six Bell Striking Competition</i> | <i>Vale of the White Horse Branch</i> |
| Saturday 17th        | 10.30 | Newport Deanery - Learners Practice        | Emberton                              |
| <i>Saturday 31st</i> |       | <i>Steeple Aston Course</i>                | <i>Steeple Aston</i>                  |

## NOVEMBER

|               |       |                                      |           |
|---------------|-------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Saturday 21st | *7.30 | Joint practice with Towcester Branch | Towcester |
|---------------|-------|--------------------------------------|-----------|

Items marked \* were unconfirmed as at 7th May 2009  
*Italicised events are Guild events*