



In Touch

May 2002



First Peal at Lavendon For the Queen Mother

Fri Apr 5 2002 2h56 (10¾)

5040 Surprise Minor

(4m (1,2) London, (3) Surfleet, (4) Beverley, (5,6,7) Cambridge)

- 1 Gareth Grayson
- 2 Edith Robinson
- 3 Peter Tribble
- 4 Christina Tribble
- 5 B Douglas Hird
- 6 Barry R Eglesfield (c)

Rung Half Muffled to mark the passing of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

First peal on the bells since being augmented to 6 in 1974.



Quarterly Meeting and 6-bell Striking Competition at Maids Moreton Saturday 8th June 2002

4:00 Draw & Competition ringing

5:30 Service

6:00 Tea

6:45 Results and Meeting



Names for tea to Ann Fletcher (01280-817989) by **Wednesday 5th June 2002**
Entries to Richard Stanworth (01280-814172) by Friday 7th June 2002

Contact List	From The Chair
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	Editorial many drastic changes. The format that has been developed by previous editors works well and content isn't too hard to find. So, for as long as people write stuff for In Touch, I am quite happy to "cut & paste" it together. However, I should make it clear that I am only filling in until a more permanent editor can be found. Being Ringing Master at one tower, Tower Captain at another and Steeplekeeper at another is quite enough ringing to be involved in really. You may notice that this edition came out a little later than usual. The beginning of May usually generates some content and it seemed worthwhile waiting for events to unfold. Doug Hird
<i>In Touch</i> is published by the Editor on behalf of the officers and members of	

Secretary's Notes

Names For Tea

Following comments made at the AGM, please remember to book your tea at Maids Moreton. If members persist in taking tea at meetings without previously booking, then the officers may be forced to implement the NNNT rule. This will have the added advantage of identifying the culprits when they are refused tea.

Beginnners Striking Competition

Following the death of the Queen Mother, the Branch Officers decided that it was inappropriate to hold this competition on its original date, Friday, 5th April. The competition was therefore postponed until Friday 3rd May. Because Lavendon was unavailable for the revised date, the competition was moved to Calverton.

Bellhandling Video

The branch has a copy of the video produced by the Central Council entitled 'Bellhandling - a tutor's companion'. This is aimed at those teaching bell handling but may also be helpful to those learning to ring.

The video may be borrowed from the secretary free of charge. However a deposit of £5 will be required against safe return of the video.

'A life well lived'

This was the title of a musical evening held at Stowe Church on 27th April as a celebration of the life of Bill Yates. It consisted of a collection of music and readings put together by our own Jonathan Humbert and Stuart Thompson, formerly Director of Music at Leeds RC Cathedral, and now at Caterham School in Surrey. They were ably assisted by contributions from Rev John Hudson of Padbury and Graham Wheeler, a lifelong friend of Bill, from Silverstone. The repertoire was varied, including songs from the shows, light opera,

Flanders and Swann, Organ pieces and hymn singing. The most amusement seemed to be gained from Flanders and Swann's 'Song of Patriotic Prejudice' which poked light hearted fun at our Celtic neighbours and declared, in a most un-PC fashion, 'The English, The English, The English are best, so up with the English and down with the rest!'

Congratulations to Jonathan and co. for a most entertaining evening. There was a retiring collection which, after expenses should clear about £500. This will be used to place a seat in Dadford Cemetery in memory of Bill, and also to refurbish the Ringing Room at Stowe in his memory.



Ringling Master

Beginners Striking Competition

Training

A training event is planned for Saturday 29th June 2002. The special method will be Cambridge Surprise Minor. If you are interested then please contact the Ringing Master, Richard Stanworth or the Training Officer, Simon Head. You will then be contacted with further details when they are known.

Tower Captains – If you have identified training needs for your tower then let us know and we will attempt to meet those needs for you.

Inter Branch Striking Competition

This is coming up at the end of July. We need ringers for three separate bands of at all possible – a six-bell team, a team for call changes on eight, and a Stedman Triples team. That is 22 ringers in all, surely no too difficult to find from our membership. The Ringing Master will be contacting you soon, but if you would like to take part, please contact him.

Buckinghamshire Place Doubles

This is the special method chosen for the Branch Practice at Leckhampstead. It is not a common method and so you will find a blue line for it in this edition of In Touch. If you would like a coloured version of the blue line, then please contact the Ringing master or see him at one of the practices before August.

competition at Lavendon as planned, the Calverton practice was converted into a combined practice and competition. The format worked very well as it gave ringers the opportunity to try out the bells and to gain confidence over the evening. Two bands were put together, one mainly from Lillingstone Lovell and the other based on Newton Longville. With some help from the audience, both bands rang well and the result was quite close. The Lillingstone Lovell band won, however, according to our judge for the day, Malcolm Hooton from Stony Stratford.

As it wasn't possible to hold the

Quarter Peals

Calverton

Wednesday 27th February 2002

1260 Doubles (4m.1v)

1 B Phillips, 2 Elaine Koster, 3 R Jones, 4 J Woodcock, 5 D Moore, 6 M Woodcock.

For the Festival of St Leander.

Joint conductors: 3,4,5.

Wednesday 10th April 2002

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1 Helen Stanworth, 2 Catherine Stanworth, 3 Barry Eglesfield, 4 Christine Ryan, 5 Michael Tinsley, 6 Richard Stanworth (C)

Rung half-muffled in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother

Sunday 14th April 2002

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Katie Waters (1st Q), 2 Malcolm Hooton, 3 Derek Stainsby, 4 Jonathan Waters, 5 Bob Winstanley (cond.), 6 Roger Blackburn.

Clifton Reynes

Saturday 2nd March 2002

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1 Rosemary Maclaine, 2 Barbara Beard, 3 A Nash, 4 Peter Tribble, 5 P J Albon, 6 R W Jones (1st as cond.)

For Bedford District Quarter Peal Week

Emberton

Sunday 31st March 2002

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1 Heather Phillips (1st Q), 2 Denby Murduck, 3 Sheila Watts, 4 Phillip Haslam, 5 B Douglas Hird, 6 David Philipson (cond.)

For Easter, and in thanksgiving for the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Tuesday 9th April 2002

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1 Wendy Haslam, 2 Natalie Green, 3 Sheila Watts, 4 David Jones, 5 Denby Murduck, 6 Roy Keeves (cond.)

Rung half muffled in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, on the day of the funeral.

Fenny Stratford

Wednesday 13th March 2002

1260 Doubles (4m/3v)

1 B Phillips, 2 Elaine Koster, 3 R Jones, 4 D Moore, 5 J Woodcock.

Joint conductors: 3,5.

Hanslope St James the Great

Sunday 7th April 2002

1260 Stedman Triples 49 min

1 Alan Cozens, 2 David Philipson, 3 Sheila Watts, 4 Roy Keeves, 5 Tony Gray, 6 Nick Gray, 7 Jonathan Griggs (cond.), 8 Richard Haseldine.

Rung half muffled in memory of the Queen Mother.

Lillingstone Lovell

Wednesday 6th February 2002

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Tom Philips, 2 Robin Culley (1st inside), 3 Bernard Philips, 4 Michael Dancer (1st Att.), 5 David Moore (1st as Cond.)

For the 50th Anniversary of HM the Queen's Accession to the Throne.

Tuesday 9th April 2002

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Keith Everitt (1st Q), 2 Robin Culley, 3 Bernard Philips, 4 Michael Dancer, 5 David Moore (cond.)

Rung half muffled in memory of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Maids Moreton

Saturday 23rd February 2002

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1 Helen Stanworth, 2 Catherine Stanworth, 3 Peter Nicholson, 4 David Goodger, 5 John Stanworth, 6 Richard Stanworth (cond.)

An 18th birthday compliment to John Stanworth.

Newport Pagnell, SS Peter & Paul

Sunday 3rd February 2002

1250 Cambridge S Major

1 Martin Smith, 2 Nicola A King, 3 Rachel Stacy, 4 Edith Robinson, 5 P David Taylor, 6 Andrew Spencer, 7 Gareth Grayson, 8 B Douglas Hird (cond.)

Dedicated to Mark Taylor and Leanne Webster, married on Dec 29 in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Sunday 28th April 2002

1264 Plain Bob Major

1 Emily Payne, 2 Rachel Stacy, 3 Nicola A King, 4 P David Taylor, 5 Charles J Knight, 6 Gareth Grayson, 7 Alan Marchbank, 8 B Douglas Hird (cond.)

For the Wedding of Nicola

Old Wolverton

Holy Trinity

Friday 12th April 2002

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Michelle Bentley *

2 Lyn Saunders

3 Sally Hobbs

4 James Woodcock

5 Michael Nimmo (C)

6 John Mercer

Rung half-muffled in memory of Her

Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen

Mother

* First Quarter

Stowe

Wednesday 6th February 2002

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Anne Mercer, 2 Peter Nicholson, 3 Helen

Stanworth, 4 Bob Winstanley, 5 Richard

Stanworth (cond.)

To mark the 50th Anniversary of the
Accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth
the Second.

Tuesday 9th April 2002

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Anne Mercer

2 Helen Stanworth

3 Laurence Gibson

4 Jonathan Humbert

5 Richard Stanworth (C)

6 John Stanworth

Rung half-muffled in memory of Her

Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen

Mother

Wicken, St John

Friday 15th March 2002

1280 Bristol Surprise Major

1 Alan Cozens, 2 Natalie Green, 3 Ruth

Stokes, 4 Richard Haseldine, 5 Roger

King, 6 Nick Gray, 7 Chris Stokes, 8

Jonathan Griggs (cond.)

First quarter of Bristol SM: 2 & 6.

This year the branch entered two teams for
the Guild eight-bell striking competition.

With a bit of organisation a couple of
practice sessions were arranged in the
previous week at Downs Barn. This gave
everyone the chance to ring as a band and
to see what the touch was like.

Guild 8-bell Striking Competition

Andrew Spencer was in charge of the "A"
team and Barry in charge of the "B" team.
It seemed fairly clear during the practice
sessions that the bands were likely to
perform similarly. The 272 changes of
Plain Bob Major took the "B" team a little
less than 9 minutes while the "A" team took
a little longer. This was attributed to a
change in the front end ringers. On a small
ring like Downs Barn the ringers of the
lighter bells can significantly influence the
overall speed and this was evident in the
practice.

On the day, both teams were drawn in the
same heat and were to ring at Steeple
Aston in the morning. A flat tyre and Bank
Holiday traffic in Bicester prevented two of
our ringers from arriving on time and we
had to re-arrange the bands. Things were
not helped by being up against the
Reading and High Wycombe bands also.

The results of the heat:

1st—Reading 4

2nd—High Wycombe 7

3rd—????? 14

4th—North Bucks "B" 27

5th—North Bucks "A" 32

Steeple Aston bells are a bit heavier than
Downs Barn so touch times were
consistently around 9 minutes 15 seconds.
Our "A" team again rang quite slowly
though, adding another minute to this.

So the first three went on to compete in the
afternoon at Islip where?????

Toward Better Striking

The heart of good striking is leading well. The treble and the tenor are like two railway lines along which the rest of the ringing runs and they act as 'bookends' for each change. When ringing behind you are often taught to 'push the bells along' which basically means don't stop or hold up the tenor. Just because someone goes wrong and slows down the whole change it doesn't mean that you should slow down too. In fact it is usually far better to crash into people than to try and avoid them, this doesn't apply just to the treble or tenor but to all bells. If you hold up and wait for someone who is late, and the bell behind you also holds up and the bell behind him etc then nearly everyone is out of place. If you just keep going, then you may clip the bell in front, or clash with him making a horrible sound, but all the bells behind you will be unaffected, you then have one brief clash while the rest of the change continues on. If everyone tries to avoid everyone else then you are continually holding up pulling in and wobbling about to avoid clips & clashes and as a result the whole change sounds uneven, and the effect knocks on into the next change and the next unless the leading is good.

We are all taught when ringing rounds that you pull off on the treble just as the tenor is catching his handstroke. Backstroke leads are done by ear rather than sight which leads to the universal criticism of "Pull in your Backstrokes" which we have all heard at one time or other. The rhythm of leading on the treble when ringing rounds is to hold up the handstroke and pull in the backstroke which is a slightly awkward feeling and different to ringing rounds in the middle. This holding up of the handstroke gets less marked as the heavier bells lead because it is masked by the need of heavier bells to pull off earlier because they have larger wheels and so strike later.

The key to good leading is 'Rhythm'. This is important on two counts, firstly the rhythm involved in getting the lead in the right place. Leading is more than being first, because if you are first, but hold up so much that everyone crashes into you then the change gets compressed into half its usual space, in worst cases you can hold up so much that other bells overtake you. Equally you can be over eager and "Rush the lead" and go before the back bells have finished ringing the previous change. Learners can have difficulty distinguishing between a rushed lead and one that is held up, because in both cases you have bells ringing just before and just after your bell. Also in the case of a held up lead other bells may overtake you and fill in the telltale gap that would have indicated that you were too slow. On balance when learning if you are unsure it is probably better to slow down rather than to speed up, but for an experienced band the 'carry on regardless' rule mentioned in the first paragraph applies. If the rest of the change has spread out because people have held up, don't hold up your lead, this will only make the problem worse, it is better in this case to crash into the back bells and keep the rhythm going.

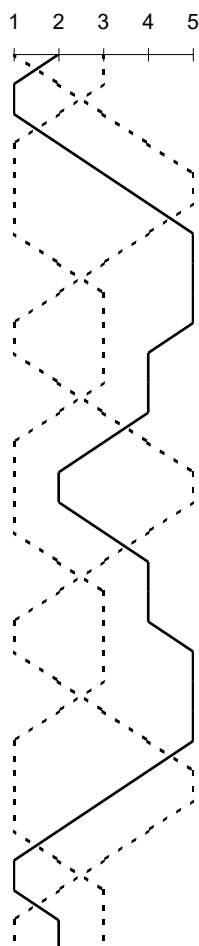
Deciding whether to hold up or crash through is very much a judgement call and depends on how good the ringing is. In good ringing always carry on, the person who held up will correct their mistake in the next change and the problem will go away. If you hold up you are perpetuating their mistake. If the ringing is very lumpy then holding off for quarter or half a blow is not going to help the rhythm, but this is already broken so you are not going to make it worse and may avoid a clash or clip so resulting in a better sound overall.

Rhythm is also important over a number of changes. When ringing rounds you are leading for a large number of blows and can settle into a rhythm, however with change ringing things are different because you will be leading for one or at most two blows. In this case it is important not only to get the leading right so that the change starts in the right place, but also as you are coming down to the lead to listen to the rhythm of the changes beforehand so that your leading is the same as the leading of the person before you. It is here that I believe bands let themselves down, everyone listens to their leading, leaves the correct gap for the handstroke lead, pulls in their backstroke nice and tight, job done. WRONG!

You cannot lead in isolation and if you follow the above approach it is like just following the bell in front of you when ringing rounds and not listening to the gaps the other bells make and trying to make yours the same. So when you lead at handstroke try and make your handstroke lead sound the same as the handstroke lead that went before it and have nice uniform handstroke leads. We all know we have to listen for closed backstroke leads and work hard at pulling in backstrokes and sometimes we forget about the handstroke lead & just either lead off the tenor in (doubles/triples) or in even bell methods just throw the handstroke lead in after an arbitrary gap. Try not only to pull in your backstrokes but also keep the handstroke leads nice and even.

Buckinghamshire Place Doubles

	1	2	3	4	5
345	2	1	3	4	5
145	2	3	1	4	5
5	3	2	4	1	5
1	3	4	2	5	1
125	3	4	5	2	1
1	3	5	4	1	2
5	5	3	1	4	2
145	5	1	3	4	2
345	1	5	3	4	2
123	1	5	3	2	4
5	1	3	2	4	
5	3	1	2	4	
3	5	2	1	4	
3	2	5	4	1	
3	2	4	5	1	
3	4	2	1	5	
4	3	1	2	5	
4	1	3	2	5	
1	4	3	2	5	
1	4	3	5	2	
4	1	3	5	2	
4	3	1	5	2	
3	4	5	1	2	
3	5	4	2	1	
3	5	2	4	1	
3	2	5	1	4	
2	3	1	5	4	
2	1	3	5	4	
1	2	3	5	4	
1	2	3	4	5	



2 Hunt Bell
 <- 1 blow in thirds

Working Bell

<- Lead

<- 4 blows at lead

<- 4 blows in fifths

<- 4 blows in thirds

4

<- 3 blows in fourths

<- 4 blows at lead

<- seconds and back

<- 4 blows in thirds

5

<- 4 blows in fifths

<- 4 blows at lead

<- lead

<- 3 blows in thirds

<- make 2nds

Hunt Bell

The third is the hunt bell and never goes above 3rds place
 It begins by ringing 1 blow in thirds; Hunts to lead; Rings 4 blows at lead (2 whole pulls) Hunts to thirds place; Rings 4 blows in thirds (back-hand, repeated)

Working Bell (2nd in diagram)

Lead; Hunt to the back; 4 blows in fifths; 3 blows in fourths; Hunt down to seconds place; Make seconds over the hunt bell; Hunt out to fourths place; 3 blows in fourths; 4 blows in fifths; Hunt down to lead; Lead; Make seconds over the treble

Lead End

Bells at the front ring a Grandsire Single at a plain lead

Work at a Bob

Bells at front ring a Grandsire Bob

Bell in seconds place when bob is called makes thirds and comes out of hunt

Bell leading when bob is called makes thirds and goes into hunt

Bells in 4ths and 5ths when bob is called are unaffected

Callings

Bob called when treble is in 3rds place coming down to lead

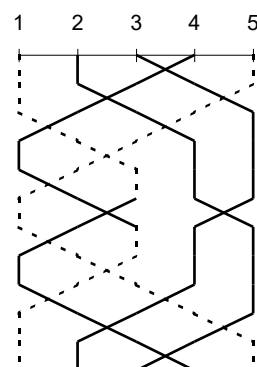
There appears to be only one calling

PPBB repeated twice and its rotations

ie PBBP, BBPP, and BPPB

Bob

	1	3	4	2	5	1
125	3	4	5	2	1	
1	3	5	4	1	2	
5	5	3	1	4	2	
145	5	1	3	4	2	
345	1	5	3	4	2	
1	1	3	5	2	4	
	3	1	5	2	4	
	3	5	1	2	4	
	5	3	2	1	4	
	5	2	3	4	1	
	5	2	4	3	1	



Bob

Child Protection

From Odd Bob—April 2002

All towers should now have received a copy of the Guild's policy on Child Protection, along with some forms for use (with some adaptation). If you have not received this communication, please contact me.

Some questions have cropped up more than once, so I would like briefly to summarise the suggested procedure—

- 🔔 Each PCC has been asked to produce a policy, and as part of this to identify those working with young people (ie under 18) in all areas of church life, which should include the ringers. These adults are then invited to fill in a Declaration Form, which their incumbent (or appointed representative) keeps.
- 🔔 The parent/guardian of each young ringer should fill in a Child Registration Record, which the Tower Captain should keep for ready use at each ringing session. There is a separate form for outings.
- 🔔 The Central Council guidelines on working with young people should be applied.

If you have young people in your band, and have not been asked to complete a Declaration Form, it may be that your parish has forgotten to include the ringers. If however nothing has been done at all, and your incumbent has no information about such a form, let me know the name of your parish and I can arrange for information to be sent from the Diocese to the incumbent.

If you have completed a Declaration Form, I need to add your name to the Guild's Register. A letter should be with each Tower Captain shortly explaining how to do this. If you don't have access to a computer and need Child Registration Record Forms adapting for your tower, please get in touch with me, giving name of church and name of church insurer.

If you regularly teach youngsters at a second tower, it would be useful to check whether the second church's PCC would like a photocopy of your Declaration Form.

If you work with youngsters but don't have a home PCC, you should fill in a Declaration Form and send it to me to look after on behalf of the Guild.

Finally, I have been advised that procedures may have to be revised when the Criminal Records Bureau comes on stream later this year!

Please don't hesitate to contact me at 4 High Street, Drayton St Leonard, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 7BA (01865 890163) hilarie@5rogers.fsnet.co.uk for any information, forms, copy of Guild policy etc. I also have copies of the 'Better safe than sorry' books, which include a Declaration Form, which I can e-mail if required.

Hilarie Rogers

Around the Towers

Downs Barn

The arrival of four young learners, including the return of Kimberley, now give the Downs Barn band a familiar structure. Practices will concentrate on bringing on these local ringers and starting others.

Tyringham

The band remains active, which is usually the way with bands made up of congregation members. Wednesday night practices continue without external help/interference. It was good to see a local band attending the branch practice in April.

Newport Pagnell

With Carol Smith now in charge, the band continue the schedule of Sunday and practice ringing, now made more busy by weddings on Saturdays. Three learners are making good progress on the easier going bells.

Olney

An advertising campaign produced good initial results with about five learners starting. A regular two are making good progress and some of the old band are returning for occasional visits. More recruiting is still needed to make up the numbers though.

Beachampton

Here the 4th bell is exhibiting the same symptoms as the 2nd at Newport last year. The stay was given a good thump and now it goes very rough. Now the good weather is back with us, a bit of course engineering is proposed.

Old Wolverton

Twyford

Great Brickhill

Lillingstone Lovell

Clifton Reynes

A combination of a new home grown band and some of the 1970's band is making good progress and is getting to grips with Plain Bob and Reverse Canterbury Doubles.

Lathbury

There is now no regular ringing at Lathbury. The bells are not in a good state (they are barely good enough to be described as poor) and there are no resources to sort them out. There is a wedding in August that we hope to ring for but the bells will need some First Aid before they can be rung.

Methods and Variations

The Downs Barn youngsters have been having great fun writing out methods from first principles and getting to grips with place notation. All this before rounds. Some of the presentation has been a bit variable though.

123456

214365

241635

426153

462513

645231

654321

Star Wars Style

And how it is actually rung

123456

214365

241635

426153

462513

645231

654321

563412

536142

351246

Ringer's Wedding at Newport

It is always special when one of the band gets married and Nicola's wedding was no exception. For us, the preparations started on the previous Wednesday. The length of the treble's tail end was checked, adjusted and checked again. The band was getting impressed that she really was going to ring it in a wedding dress.

On the day, this part of the proceedings went well and a few minutes of well struck rounds under the watchful eye of the video cameras started the ringing off. A visiting band shortly added to the confusion and the locals had a few hours to recover. The evening saw us all join family and friends at Woughton where a fine time was had by all.

By Sunday afternoon, the band had sufficiently recovered to ring a quarter peal of Plain Bob Major to mark the occasion. With six local ringers, this was a good achievement.

Our congratulations to Nicola and zzzzzz. We all had an excellent day, we hope you did too.

Doug Hird

Steeplekeeper—Newport Pagnell

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at Newport Pagnell on 2nd March 2002

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman, Doug Hird, welcomed everyone to Newport Pagnell and hoped that everyone had had a chance to ring on the bells. If they had not done so already then he hoped that they would have a chance after the meeting.

In Memoriam

The Chairman asked everyone to stand in silence for a few moments in memory of Arthur Harrison of Beachampton who had passed away recently.

Apologies for Absence

Received from David Scrutton, Peter Tampsett, Shirley Webb, John and June Wells

Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes of the Quarterly meeting held at Downs Barn in December were published in the February edition of 'In Touch'. It was proposed by Hugh Butler and seconded by Barry Eglesfield that the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting. This was agreed on a show of hands.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising

Election of New Members

Nominations had been received proposing 8 new members -

Tower	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Shenley	Garry Pringle	E Fawcett	D Stainsby
Old Wolverton	James Woodcock	M R Nimmo	S C Hobbs
	Ivan Philpott		
	Lyn Saunders	M R Nimmo	J D Mercer
	Robert Saunders		
	Miss Michelle Bentley		
Stowe	Jonathan Humbert (re-election)	Helen Stanworth	Michael Tinsley
	Laurence Gibson		

All were elected without dissent. The Chairman welcomed them all to the Guild and Branch.

Transfer of Twyford to Central Bucks Branch

This item was moved up the agenda so that it could be dealt with before some of those present had to leave. The Chairman introduced the item by explaining that Twyford now has a local band that has a much closer relation ship with towers in the Central Bucks Branch than with towers in our own branch. This is largely because of the grouping of the parishes in that area as well as the fact that Twyford is much closer to the Central Bucks towers than to other North Bucks towers. Edwin Herring, Tower Captain at Marsh Gibbon, and also in charge at Twyford, was present to support the motion to transfer Twyford to the Central Bucks Branch. The Central Bucks Branch had already agreed at their AGM to accept Twyford. If the North Bucks agree to the transfer then it will be ratified by the Guild at The General Committee Meeting on 9th March. The chairman put the motion to the meeting and it was carried on a show of hands.

On a related matter, David Joyce queried the status of the motion agreeing to the transfer of Drayton Parslow. This had been passed several years ago in case a request was received to transfer the tower to the Central Bucks Branch. This is a similar situation to Twyford in that Drayton Parslow is grouped with parishes that are in the Central Bucks Branch. It was suggested that the tower be offered to the Central Bucks Branch. However it was pointed out that the tower could only be transferred if it wishes to. It was agreed that the motion previously passed regarding Drayton Parslow still stands.

Officers Reports

Chairman. Things appeared to have gone well this year, reflected by the fact that we still had a full complement of officers at the end of the year. I have endeavoured not to interfere with the things that the Secretary, Treasurer, and Ringing Master do. Branch events continue to be well attended, including this meeting. This is my final meeting and so I haven't anything else to say.

David Joyce asked whether Doug would continue as branch webmaster. He confirmed that he would continue as webmaster and also as archivist. There was general agreement that Doug had done a good job with the web site and that it is one of the best sites around.

Branch Archivist. Use has been made of a pile of old and oily Ringing Worlds in Wicken tower from the 20's and 30's. These contain many interesting snippets about ringing in the branch at that time, as well as ringing nationally. This information will be added to the web site which continues to grow.

Secretary. The pattern of monthly branch practices and quarterly meetings continued as in previous years. Average attendances remained at much the same level as the previous year. Extra

practices were arranged at Kempston and Daventry, neither was very well attended. Two successful Joint Surprise Practices with the Luton District were also held. Membership of the branch decreased in 2001. The total number of towers with members is now 31. Sadly we recorded the loss of several local ringers during the year: Val Hartwell of Great Brickhill, George Amor formerly of Woughton, Clarrie Sapwell of Great Linford, Randolph Tompkins of Stowe, and Bill Yates of Buckingham.

Towards the end of the year I sent out a letter to all towers for which we have contact details, requesting that they check these details and correct any mistakes. This was done as part of our commitment under the Data Protection Act to ensure that the information held about tower correspondents is correct. So far I have received 25 replies from the 40 or so letters sent out. Could I please remind people to return the letter, even if the details are correct. That way I will know that the information held is correct.

Treasurer. The accounts had been circulated and hopefully are self-explanatory. A few of the main points: we started the year with a balance of £772 and ended the year with £836, an increase of £64. 207 subscriptions were collected, a drop in membership of 26. This was largely accounted for by the loss of tower members at Thornborough and Lathbury. We sent £83 to the Guild Bell Fund – the proceeds from the raffles at meetings. The collections at Branch practices totalled £106, of which £55 was donated back to the towers. In Touch cost £227 – thanks to Martin Smith who printed the June edition free of charge, otherwise the costs would have been somewhat greater. Thanks to the towers and personal donations towards In Touch. These totalled £166 and helped considerably to offset the cost.

Ringling Master. At the practices we rang a number of special methods. These were quite popular and we had some good bands ringing them, sometimes for the first time. We continued with the focus on rounds and call changes practices although very few attended who are at this stage. I'm sure we have members at this stage but they are reluctant to leave their home towers and come and join us to get some more general practice, which would no doubt do them good.

The Beginners Striking Competition at Emberton was not well attended. We attempted to make a competition of it but didn't quite get the format right. Hopefully, the changes to the rules will encourage a few more entries this year and make it clear exactly what is expected of the bands.

Hanslope again won the six bell competition but were unable to represent us at the Guild event in October, so Buckingham went instead. They just missed out on getting into the final.

Honours were again divided in the Inter Branch competition, with North Bucks winning overall, and Towcester taking the Stedman trophy.

Simon Head questioned the advisability of holding a rounds and call changes practice in December as that is often poorly attended. It was pointed out that there were three of these practices last year, and the December practice was not the only one. The next one is at Simpson and the level of support will be monitored.

There was not due to be a report from the Guild Representatives, but David Joyce gave a short report on the Special Meeting held to discuss the Guild Bell Fund. This had been called by members who were concerned about the management of the Bell Fund. In the period leading up to the millennium the Fund had made grants in excess of its income. The rules of the fund only allow for grants to be made from investment income. The extra grants had been made by borrowing from the capital of the fund. At their meeting on 24th September, the trustees decided not to make any grants. This decision was made on the basis of the uncertain future of the investment markets following the events of 11th September 2001. It had nothing to do with the previous level of grants made. The fund is now in debt, as it has to pay back the capital borrowed, although there is no requirement to do this immediately, except that the reduced capital means a reduced income for future grants. The conclusion put forward by David Joyce was that certain people felt aggrieved when their bell projects did not receive a grant.

Various suggestions were discussed at the special meeting but the most sensible was for money raised to be identified specifically as being put towards reducing the debt to the capital fund. It has been requested that the trustees produce a form of wording to be used for doing this. This will allow grants to continue to be made from the fund's investment income.

David Joyce proposed that when the branch sends its contribution to the Bell Fund, it uses the form of words, as produced by the trustees, so that the money goes to reduce the debt to the capital fund.

The treasurer was asked when the contribution would be sent to the Fund. She stated that it would not be sent until December. It was therefore agreed that the proposal be withdrawn and the matter reconsidered at the December Quarterly Meeting, when hopefully the matter will be clearer.

Training Officer

The Chairman introduced this item by outlining some of the background to the idea of appointing a Training Officer. This had first been brought up when discussing the role of Assistant Ringing Master, and whether that role could include being responsible for training. However it was felt that

the role of a training officer is separate from the ringing master's role. Further discussion followed in which it was stressed by several people that the role of Assistant Ringing Master is to help with running the ringing, whereas the role of a Training Officer is very much an administrative role involved with identifying training needs and setting up training events for the Ringing Master to run. It was felt that we should appoint a Training Officer and review the role when some experience has been gained of the role. David Joyce proposed that the post of Training Officer be created. This was seconded by Simon Head and carried on a show of hands.

Election of Officers

<u>Post</u>	<u>Nomination</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Chairman	Barry Eglesfield	David Joyce	David Goodger
Secretary	Helen Stanworth	Brian Newman	Hugh Butler
Treasurer	Sheila Watts	Sheila Blenkhorn	Richard Stanworth
Ringing Master	Richard Stanworth	Sheila Watts	Roy Keeves
Assistant Master	Simon Head	Ted Fawcett	Martin Smith
Training Officer	Simon Head	Doug Hird	Becky Fawcett
Guild Representatives	Alan Marchbank	Brian Newman	Simon Head
	David Middleton		
Branch Archivist	Doug Hird	Barry Eglesfield	David Joyce

All nominees for the posts above were elected unopposed.

Newsletter Editor No nominations were received. It was agreed that an Extraordinary General meeting be held Simpson on 15th March for the purpose of electing a Newsletter Editor. In the meantime members were asked to see if there was anyone amongst those members not present willing to take on the post.

Forthcoming Events

A list of events proposed by the outgoing committee had been circulated to all present. The events up to the end of June have already been published in the In Touch. Items brought to members' attention were: A special method has yet to be chosen for Leckhampstead in August. If there is a method called Leckhampstead, then we may try that. David Joyce suggested that, when the special method is to be an unusual method, then an explanation be included in In Touch, as well as a blue line, in order to help people with ringing the method.

Simon Head asked if members were happy that the method proposed for the training day is Cambridge Minor. There was general agreement with this.

The Striking Competition is due to start at 4.00 p.m. It was agreed that an hour and a half be allowed for ringing with the service moved back to 5.30 p.m.

The Inter Branch competition is proposed for Newport Pagnell. There was some concern that the long length of the ropes would cause a problem, particularly for less experienced ringers. This concern was noted and will be considered by the officers before the event is confirmed at Newport.

AOB

Sheila Watts proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing officers for their work for the branch, Doug Hird as Chairman and Leigh Head as Newsletter Editor. Members showed their appreciation in the usual manner. Barry Eglesfield added his support to the proposal. Barry also said that he hoped to be active in the running of the branch, assisting with training and the running of the ringing. He did not intend to limit his involvement to just sitting in the chair at meetings.

Vote of Thanks

Doug thanked the ringers of Newport for having us for the meeting and feeding us. Thanks to Gareth Grayson for playing the organ – on his own this time. Members showed their appreciation with a round of applause.

David Joyce raised the issue that the names for tea did not match the mouths for tea. It was felt that the members had been remiss in not notifying names for tea and a reminder stressing the need to book should appear in In Touch. This is only fair on those organising the tea.

The Chairman announced that the bells were still up and available to be rung, and Sheila Watts that the raffle would be drawn immediately after the meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.40p.m.

This meeting was called for the purpose of electing a Newsletter Editor as no nominations had been received at the AGM. A number of people had indicated that they would take on the post as a temporary measure if no other nominations were forthcoming, rather than leave the branch without an editor.

Only one formal nomination was received for the post of Newsletter Editor.

Doug Hird was proposed by Simon Head and seconded by Leigh Head. There were no other

nominations so Doug was elected as Newsletter Editor. He said that he hoped to be able to combine the newsletter editing with managing the web site in order to reduce the workload, and that was why he was prepared to take on the post.

This was the only business transacted at this meeting.

1. Entries must be made to the Ringing Master by the closing date notified in In Touch

Minutes of Extraordinary General Meeting Held at Simpson on 15th March 2002

2. Ringers should ring regularly at the tower, within the branch, that they represent. At least 5 members of the team must be paid-up members of the branch.
3. No ringer may ring for more than one team.
4. A tower may enter more than one team.
5. Up to two minutes practice ringing per team will be allowed before the test piece.
6. The start of the test piece will be notified to the judges by ringing two whole pulls

ODG North Bucks Branch - Six Bell Striking Competition Rules

on the treble.

7. The test piece will consist of at least 20 rows of rounds, followed by 120 changes in one or more methods, or 120 rows of call changes. If method is rung then plain courses are acceptable. If call changes are rung, then at least 10 changes must be called and at least three different bells brought down to lead.
8. Where possible, a judge from outside the branch will be appointed for the competition. He or she will be asked to offer constructive comment and advice on the ringing by each band, as well as presenting their markings. The judge's decision is final
9. A branch officer or other suitable person will act as tower steward and timekeeper. The steward may be asked to indicate the end of the first 20 rows, and the 140th row if call changes are rung.

Dates for the diary...

June

The Queens Jubilee			3rd-4th
Striking Competition and Quarterly Meeting	Maids Moreton	4:00	8th
Branch Practice Special Method: Yorkshire S Major	Buckingham	7:30	21st
Training Day Special Method: Cambridge S Minor	TBA	TBA	29th

July

Branch Practice Special Methods: Kent & Oxford TB	Stoke Goldington	7:30	19th
*Inter-Branch Striking Competition	Newport Pagnell	6:00	27th

August

Branch Practice Special Method: Buckinghamshire Place Doubles	Leckhampstead	7:30	16th
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September

* Quarterly Meeting	Stony Stratford	3:30	7th
* Branch Practice Special Method: Carlisle S Minor	Chicheley	7:30	20th

Items marked * were unconfirmed as at 10 May 2002

The Branch web site contains an up to date list of forthcoming events. Please check this for any changes to the programme. Address:

www.northbucks.org.uk.

Also, for reminders, the Branch e-group sends out e-mails before events:

www.yahoo....