

IN TOUCH

The Quarterly Newsletter of the North Bucks Branch
of
The Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers



Woughton on the Green - 1995 Branch Striking Competition Winners

Quarterly Meeting at Tingewick, Saturday 2nd September 1995

3:00 - 4:00	Ringling at Twyford
4:00 - 4:30	Ringling at Tingewick
4:30	Service at Tingewick
5:00	Tea
5:45	Meeting
	Evening Ringling until 8:30

Names for tea to Mrs Lois Houghton Brown (01280-848658) after 6pm by Wednesday 30th August.

Don't forget the **Call Change Competition at Wavendon on Saturday 16th September from 3:30 to 5:30**, entries to the Ringing Masters by Friday 15th September - see the rules in the May edition of In Touch.

Your Branch Officers for 1995/6 are listed below, please keep "In Touch" with us.

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Editorial

This edition includes several quarters rung to mark the 50th anniversary of VE day, although very little detail of other ringing was received. The learners at Bradwell helped with the ringing to mark the 2 minutes silence on 8th May, and felt involved even if they weren't ready to ring quarters. Perhaps there will be more special ringing for VJ Day. The 50th Anniversary of the end of the war is 15th August, but commemorative ringing is expected on the 19th and 20th August - in particular for mid day on the 20th.

Don't forget to send reports of outings, especially if they include more than lists of towers!

Presumably there are no piles of "In Touch" in towers around the branch, and everyone has just the right number as there was no response to my request in the last edition.

At the Guild AGM a new editor of Odd Bob was appointed - John Martin. By now you should have read his first efforts as an edition of Odd Bob was issued at the Guild Festival. He is interested in giving some of the articles in In Touch a wider audience, but would not do so without the author's permission. If he contacts you and permission is granted I can transfer the information in the form of a computer file- which will save a lot of re-typing!

The ringers on the cover are - Peter Tribble, John Lonsbrough, Simon Head, Zoe Storey, Bob Winstanley and Brian Baldwin. Good luck representing the Branch at the Guild Final in October in the Oxford City Branch.

Jill Joyce

The next edition of "In Touch" will be distributed at the beginning of November, please submit any articles or information, to the Editor, by **8th October**.

"In Touch" is published by the editor on behalf of the officers of the O.D.G. North Bucks Branch. Any view expressed in "In Touch" is that of the author and copyright resides with the individual authors.

ODG NORTH BUCKS BRANCH

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting and Striking Competition held at Woughton on the Green on 3rd June 1995.

Chairman's Welcome

Brian Newman welcomed members to the meeting, and John White and Ann Jones for judging the striking competition. He then asked John White to give the results.

Striking Competition Results

John White said that the aim of striking competitions should be to improve Sunday Service ringing and all the competition ringing would have been very good service ringing. He made some general comments on the ringing, particularly pointing out that backstroke leads could be improved, a number of slow backstroke leads had been noted. Comments on individual teams were :-

Team 1 (Bradwell) : rang plain courses of Grandsire, generally good with the potential to be better. Leading was poor.

Team 2 (Woughton) : rang two 120s of Grandsire, confident ringing, but with some slow back stroke leads. The last lead of both 120s was particularly good.

Team 3 (Downs Barn) : rang touches of Plain Bob, not quite confident enough in the method, perhaps would have been more settled with plain courses. There was a miscall or error as four leads more than the test piece were rung, only the first 240 changes were judged. The band should be admired for sticking with the ringing and completing the test piece.

Team 4 (Buckingham) : rang 120s of Grandsire. Rounds did not settle, which was not a good base for the changes, but ringing got better as it went along. The ringing was probably too slow to strike well on these bells. The changes were elastic not showing enough consistency.

The results were then given :-

1st	Woughton on the Green	53 faults
2nd	Bradwell	75 faults
3rd	Buckingham	104 faults
4th	Downs Barn	130 faults

Apologies for Absence were received from David Bardwell, Rosa Clare, Godfrey Foat and Audrey and Jim Lambert.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Bletchley had been published in the May 1995 edition of "In Touch" and were taken as read.

Matters Arising

- i) Godfrey Foat had had limited response to the Loughborough trip. if sufficient replies had not been received by the end of July the outing would have to be cancelled.
- ii) Details of the information obtained for the Asset Register were available for people to check.

Election of New Members

Bradwell :	Joanna Jones (Junior)	Proposed : David Joyce	Seconded : Rachel Skinner
Lillingstone Lovell :	Catherine Dancer (Junior) Michael Dancer Robin Culley Bernard Phillips Gemma Storer (Junior) Rod Storer	Proposed : John Lonsbrough	Seconded : Brian Newman
Hanslope :	Kevin Haseldine (Junior)	Proposed : Malcolm Hooton	Seconded : Barry Eglesfield

Some queries were raised regarding the nominations from Lillingstone Lovell as some had been long term members of the branch. It was suggested that the records of the Treasurer be examined to determine whether election or re-election was appropriate. Pat Newton, Guild Master, asked for the situation to be clarified before information was sent to the Membership Secretary. With this proviso all were elected. Those present at the meeting were welcomed to the Guild.

Officers' Reports

1. Secretary

"Correspondence continues as usual, and I give special thanks to the tower correspondents who reply promptly to requests for permission to ring, particularly those involved in the early April rush to catch the In Touch copy date. You all replied within the week, which is not easy when Vicars and Churchwardens are consulted, and this was much appreciated. All towers up to the end of the year have now been applied for, and some have already confirmed, and I will write to the 1996 towers within the next two weeks.

You will see from the list of Officers' duties (published in In Touch) that among other things I distribute Odd Bob (that's the Guild Newsletter) and I actually may be doing this during July, as a new editor has been appointed and his copy date is next week!

The new Guild Membership Secretary is keeping up to date, and has sent me a batch of certificates for the 18 new members who joined us in March, so if you are one of these and have not already had yours it is available now.

Today's new members' names will be notified next week, and we may possibly have your certificates in July or August if the momentum can be maintained.

That's all I can think of at present, apart from thanking all of you for your co-operation, especially the Minute Secretary who has to fill the empty spaces in my failing memory."

2. Ringling Master

A rearranged Ringing School had taken place on 27th May. The original pupils had been unable to attend at short notice and a reduced level school had been held at one tower for learners from Bradwell and Buckingham. No applications for ringing schools had been received and the Ringing Masters urged people wanting tuition in basic methods to get in touch.

The Ringing Masters and some of the Towcester branch officers had met and produced rules for both the Towcester and the Stedman competitions. Volunteers were required for the competition, with touches starting at call changes ropes would be available for almost everyone.

3. Treasurer

All towers except one had paid up. The funds stood at £1081.

A definition for Junior members was proposed, after some discussion the proposal that a Junior should be defined as "in full time education up to and including the age of 21" was proposed by Sheila Ware and seconded by Brian Newman and agreed by the meeting.

The raffle had raised £20.50

Forthcoming Events are as shown in In Touch.

Any Other Business

- i) Brian Newman asked the Guild Master if there were any points she wished to raise. The Guild Festival was to be held in Oxford on 8th July, choir members were required. The 10 bell competition would take place in the afternoon and a barbecue would take place in the evening.
Places were still available on the Easthampstead course.
- ii) John Lonsbrough said that second edition notices for the Guild Festival were available for those towers which had received notices with hand written amendments.
- iii) The trophy for the Stedman competition was now available and was displayed to the meeting.
- iv) Membership certificates were presented to those members present at the meeting by Pat Newton.
- v) Amended copies of the tower contact list printed in In Touch were available.
- vi) In addition to the asset register David Bardwell was compiling a list of those towers with In Union certificates. Any information could be added to the list on the top table.
- vii) David Joyce reminded members that the rules for the Call Change competition to be held at Wavendon were in In Touch and encouraged people to enter. He pointed out that the rules would allow experienced ringers from one tower to take in a band of learners from a neighbouring tower.

Vote of Thanks

Brian Newman thanked the Woughton ringers for their hospitality, Rev Mike Houston for taking the service, the Guild Master, Pat Newton, for attending the meeting and John White and Ann Jones for judging the competition.

Moving up from Stedman Doubles to Triples

Stedman is rather an unusual principle because, although there is no mistaking that doubles and triples are related, there are big practical differences in stepping up. Fortunately the step from 7 to 9 and 9 to 11 is much simpler! The rules for constructing a plain course of triples are easy enough - when a bell has double dodged in 4-5 up, it moves out to do the same in 6-7. As 7th place is the furthest that it can go, it must turn around and double dodge 6-7 down, then move in to double dodge 4-5 down. In effect you have cut the line and inserted double dodges in 6-7 (for caters you stretch to 8-9 as well). In practice the biggest problem with this delay in returning to the front, is still remembering whether you will be going in Quick or Slow when you leave 4-5 down.

Having convinced you that the plain course is not too much extra to understand, here comes the bad news - for touches you need to learn completely different calls. As an experienced *doubles* ringer, you will know that the only call used is a single and that it is called at *backstroke* just as you arrive in 4-5 up. If you look at this in a diary or similar ringing book you will see that this takes place 'within the six' (hopefully you know that Stedman is made up of alternate slow and quick sixes).

For **Triples** the calls are made at **handstroke** and occur **across the junction of the sixes**, and are actually easier to ring. What happens is that the bells that are double dodging in 6-7 do another dodge together and then a further double dodge for the new six. In many touches this Bob will be followed by another (6 blows later) and these bells will stay at the back for another six. In practice the call is treated as adding 3 dodges each time. If you have been taught to ring Stedman by counting three backstrokes when dodging, you will understand what your tutor was preparing you for - if not then try and adapt your doubles technique before tackling triples.

The biggest practical problem with staying at the back for an extra six, is that it means that you will eventually go back onto the front the same way as last time. However, if there are two Bobs you will go back in the way you were originally expecting to. By now you will have a head spinning with numbers - you're counting your places (6-7), counting your dodges (in blocks of 3 backstrokes) and trying to count whether you have been dodging for an odd or even number of Bobs! There are lots of odd rules and tips for working out how you will go in, depending on how other bells are working beneath and with you - try them if you like, but they *only* work if the other bells are not adrift themselves. The simplest rule is fine when you are a learner, but don't use it every few minutes in a peal (please!) - the bell that you double dodge 4-5 down with has just come off the front the same way as you are about to go in so why not ask them whether you are quick or slow? Equally an 'expert' can help a nervous learner by just mouthing this clue as you leave 4-5.

Whilst the bobs are altering the path of the bells in 6-7 there is one other bell whose work must change. This is the bell that had hoped to leave 4-5 up for 6-7, but now finds their path blocked. As one of those bells has not left 6-7 for 4-5 down, you simply turn around in 5th place and do the 4-5 down double dodge. You will not have to worry about changing how you would go onto the front as you have cut 2 sixes out of your work and would go in the same way as you had expected to.

The Single in triples keeps the same two bells at the back, but they make 6ths & 7th place across the six end. In fact this will not affect the bell dodging 6-7 up, as it was about to lie in 7th and then double dodge 6-7 down anyway. The other bell was just leaving 6-7 down but 'turns around' in 6th and starts all of the 6-7 dodging all over again. The good news is that Singles do not alter your plans on whether you will be going in quick or slow.

If you take a quick look at calls in caters and cinques you will see that triples style calls are used, they just affect the bells in the back three places - now all you need is the ropesight and a few more bells in the branch?

Touches of triples are frequently based on codes for certain calling positions (S,H,L,Q) which are pairs of bobs. This is good news if you have trouble coping with odd bobs (fancy naming them after our Guild newsletter!), but you'd better plead with the conductor if you want to be sure. If you are pushed into calling a simple touch, then call SQ twice which lasts for 168 changes. When you are striking your last blow in 5th before going in, call a Bob, count until 3 handstrokes later and call another. Next time you are in 4-5 down you will be going in the other way and call 2 bobs in a similar manner. Do this again for another course and it should come round. The beauty of this touch is that you always call when leaving 4-5 down, so there is no worrying about whether you are about to go in quick or slow. If you go in quick before slow, then you would actually be calling QS but the only bell you need to watch out for is that the Treble is halfway through the Q, so you would accidentally call and odd bob touch.

Like learning any method, you must take the trouble to write out the method frequently and then stand behind and watch before diving in - a lot of people really enjoy Stedman Triples so please don't overtax their patience by not doing your homework. Hopefully you will work hard enough to join the Stedman appreciation Society in due course.

1234567
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2314567
3241657
2346175
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4637251
6342715
6347251
3642715
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4716521
3475612
3746521
7345612
7436521
4735612
7453162
7541326
5743162
5471326
4753162
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7415236
4712563
4175236
1472563
1745236
1742563
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1276435
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1563472
1654327
2563472
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7523614
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2573164
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3124567
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1234567

QUARTERS

QUARTERS RUNG FOR
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF

VE DAY

Cosgrove, SS Peter & Paul

Saturday 6th May 1995

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 John Stanworth (1st Quarter)
- 2 Richard W Yates
- 3 Duncan Harrison
- 4 William A Yates
- 5 Richard S Stanworth (C)
- 6 Helen Stanworth (1st away from 1)

Bradwell, St Lawrence

Sunday 7th May 1995

1260 Doubles (4 methods)

- 1 Michelle Copson
- 2 Rebecca Fawcett
- 3 Jill Joyce
- 4 Ian Green
- 5 David M Joyce (C)
- 6 Gordon Abbott

Buckingham, SS Peter & Paul

Sunday 7th May 1995

1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Helen Stanworth
 - 2 Ann M Fletcher
 - 3 Michael Tinsley
 - 4 Peter J Nicholson
 - 5 William A Yates
 - 6 Richard W Yates
 - 7 Richard S Stanworth (C)
 - 8 David G Goodger
- Rung prior to Civic Commemoration Service

Hanslope, St James the Great

Sunday 7th May 1995

1264 Plain Bob Major

- 1 Nicholas Gray
- 2 Carole Huxter
- 3 John Randall
- 4 Gerald Kingston
- 5 Ian Thompson
- 6 Alan Cozens
- 7 Roy Keeves
- 8 Richard Haseldine (C)

Bradwell, St Lawrence

Monday 8th May 1995

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Christine Abbott
 - 2 Rebecca Fawcett
 - 3 Edward L Fawcett
 - 4 Ian Green
 - 5 Jill Joyce (C)
 - 6 David M Joyce
- 1st minor as conductor

Downs Barn, Cross & Stable

Monday 8th May 1995

1260 Plain Bob & Grandsire Doubles

(7-6-8 cover)

- 1 Alison Cross
 - 2 Fiona Maybrey
 - 3 Bob Winstanley
 - 4 Tine Marchbank
 - 5 Doug Hird (C)
 - 6 Jonathan Hill
 - 7 Scott Ayres
 - 8 Nicki King
- Rung before VE day service.

Loughton, All Saints

Monday 8th May 1995

1280 Plain & Little Bob Minor

- 1 John Brookman
- 2 Derek Stainsby
- 3 Raymond Watkin
- 4 Barry Smith
- 5 Monty Gilbert
- 6 Bob Winstanley (C)

Maids Moreton, St Edmund

Monday 8th May 1995

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Clive Goodger
- 2 Ann M Fletcher
- 3 Peter J Nicholson
- 4 David G Goodger
- 5 William A Yates (C)
- 6 Helen Stanworth

Shenley, St Mary

Monday 8th May 1995

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 John Brookman
- 2 Bob Winstanley
- 3 Irene Gordon
- 4 Raymond Watkin
- 5 Barry Smith
- 6 Monty Gilbert (C)

Stowe, Assumption of St Mary

Monday 8th May 1995

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Clive Goodger
- 2 Richard S Stanworth
- 3 Peter J Nicholson
- 4 David G Goodger
- 5 William A Yates
- 6 Helen Stanworth

Thornborough, St Mary the Virgin

Monday 8th May 1995

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Helen Stanworth
- 2 Peter J Nicholson
- 3 William A Yates (C)
- 4 David G Goodger
- 5 Andrew J Spencer

Great Linford, St Andrew

Tuesday 16th May 1995

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Donna Dawson (1st quarter)
- 2 Ronald J Snack
- 3 Brian Newman
- 4 Paul Faithfull
- 5 Alan J Marchbank (C)

Padbury, St Mary the Virgin

Sunday 28th May 1995

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 John Stanworth
 - 2 Richard W Yates (C)
 - 3 Ann M Fletcher
 - 4 Peter J Nicholson
 - 5 David G Goodger
 - 6 Helen Stanworth
- For the annual Padbury Feast Service

Great Linford, St Andrew

Tuesday 30th May 1995

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Barry Smith
- 2 Donna Dawson (1st inside)
- 3 Alan J Marchbank (C)
- 4 Paul Faithfull
- 5 Brian Newman
- 6 Ronald J Snack

Maids Moreton, St Edmund

Saturday 3rd June 1995

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 John Stanworth
 - 2 Ann M Fletcher
 - 3 William A Yates (C)
 - 4 Peter J Nicholson
 - 5 David G Goodger
 - 6 Helen Stanworth
- For the start of the Village Carnival

Thornborough, St Mary the Virgin

Thursday 15th June 1995

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Helen Stanworth
 - 2 Gerald Kingston
 - 3 William A Yates (C)
 - 4 Richard S Stanworth
 - 5 David G Goodger
- Rung open in thanksgiving for the life of Frank Canvin, age 94, immediately following his interment this day

Aston Clinton, St Michael & AA

Saturday 10th June 1995

1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major

1 L Roy Woodruff

2 Richard C Yates (C)

3 Lynn M Walters

4 B Douglas Hird

5 William A Yates

6 David Burbidge

7 Rev John D Nixon

8 G Nigel Williams

80th Birthday compliment to Rev Terry

Lewis, Vicar here for 31 years. Also a

welcome to Bethan Laura Claire Lewis,

born 3rd June 1995

Loughton, All Saints

Sunday 25th June 1995

1320 Plain Bob Minor

1 Bob Winstanley

2 Ray Watkin

3 Peter Tribble

4 Barry Smith

5 John Lonsbrough (C)

6 Brian Baldwin

Bradwell, St Lawrence

Sunday 2nd July 1995

1260 Doubles (4 methods)

1 Rachel Skinner (1st quarter)

2 Rebecca Fawcett

3 Jill Joyce

4 Edward L Fawcett

5 David Maybrey (C)

6 Gordon Abbott

Rung to mark the refurbishment of St

Lawrence's Church and as a 13th

birthday compliment to 1

HANDBELL QUARTERS

16 Wandsworth Place, Bradwell Common

Monday 10th April 1995

1296 Plain Bob Major

1-2 B Douglas Hird

3-4 Ronald J Snack

5-6 John Lonsbrough

7-8 Godfrey Foat (C)

16 Wandsworth Place, Bradwell Common

Monday 1st May 1995

1440 Plain Bob Minor

1-2 Alan Marchbank

3-4 Ronald J Snack

5-6 Godfrey Foat (C)

Points from the Quarters . . .

Congratulations to John Stanworth, Donna Dawson and Rachel Skinner on ringing their first quarter peals, and to all other ringers with firsts.

Impromptu ¼ Peals at Great Linford

On Tuesday 16th May at about 8.00pm there were just 5 of us. Donna, who had joined us with Paul from Blechley, was not expecting what happened next. "Let's ring a quarter peal" said some enthusiast (who shall for the purposes of personal safety remain nameless). Donna looked unmoved, not necessarily enthusiastic but definitely not worried. The back 5 were the chosen bells, Bob Doubles the method and a very good quarter was scored. Donna's first quarter and her first attempt and a very worthy performance to open her account with.

Two weeks later Donna again visited us on a Tuesday evening. As 8.00pm approached the learners were departing and there were just five of us. "Let's ring a quarter peal", said someone "Do you know what to do at Bobs Donna?" "No" was the reply "But I'll try if you tell me".

So it was that over a swift cup of coffee Donna learned the bobs in Plain Bob and prepared to attempt her first quarter peal inside. The arrival of Barry Smith just before we started augmented the band to six and we started. The extents were structured to give Donna an easy introduction to the calls but of the 10 extents she was only unaffected for 4 of them and rang all the other possible extents. The standard of ringing was good throughout and the level of coaching reduced as the quarter progressed such that there was little or no conductor intervention in the last 4 extents other than for putting in the bobs.

Congratulations are due to Donna on her achievements and willingness to have a go. Thanks to all the other ringers that made it all possible.

Alan Marchbank

The quarter on 25th June was for **Loughton Village Gardens Day**, when a number of local gardens were open, with teas at the church and a special Evensong for which a quarter peal was scheduled. Following two short attempts at Cambridge something easier was rung. The time taken was 44 minutes, an average speed of 30 rows per minute. This was pretty fast for Loughton bells and caused a great deal of perspiration.

John Lonsbrough

Other Ringing for VE Day

In addition to the quarters rung there was general ringing at **Bradwell** and **Milton Keynes Village** around the two minutes silence on 8th May. At **Passenham** general ringing took place on 6th May after a quarter peal attempt failed.

. . . News from the Towers

Bradwell : In April we all had a most enjoyable evening at Andy & Sam's, helping them to empty their drinks cabinet before they left for America. They have now settled in Michigan, although at the time of writing are in San Francisco for a short while.

We were towerless for 7 weeks during May/June but to keep the band together borrowed other towers for our practice nights. Many thanks to those towers that accommodated us. We are now back at home base - this time the church has had a real face-lift.

Jenny Brookman

Downs Barn : Steps are being taken to carry out the Health and Safety work. The barrier next to the seating has been raised, all it needs is the gap at the bottom filling. Harnesses have been purchased, but rope etc must be inspected before they can be fitted.

Great Linford : There was a display in the tower for the Linford Water Festival. Shortly after that the installation of the simulator was completed. A number of learners are being taught.

Tingewick : There are about six ringers now and the band are learning plain hunt. They would welcome visitors on practice nights, but not invasions! One or two experienced ringers make a great difference to the practice, making everything a little steadier. They are also keen to practice raising and lowering in peal, but that would require three or four helpers. The band would like to thank Bill Yates and David Goodger for all their help.

Woughton : The Woughton band rang a touch of Cambridge Minor for the 10am service on 18th June, which was the first touch of Surprise by a local band for several years - and made front page news in the church news sheet !

CONCLUDING - "HANDY TIPS" FOR CALLING TOUCHES -

For this final phase of my 'handy tips' it is assumed that the reader knows what happens (and can ring it!) at the calls appropriate to the method which they are to call.

The experts use an 'observation bell', which means that they ring one bell and locate calling positions by observing the work of another bell. So mentally they are ringing two bells, and most people do not have a type of brain which can cope reliably with this until they have had many years of practice, and so I will not pursue this system except where the observation bell is the treble. If you have come this far with me, you are possibly able to sense the position of the treble (especially when it is coming down towards its lead) and if you have this ability you can now use the treble as the observation bell to call the touches given in my first instalment of this series.

Do not forget to do the appropriate work if affected by any of the calls!

We now consider some selected easy touches called by using yourself as observation bell when affected by some or all of the calls:

Doubles:

- a) Grandsire - ring 3 or 5 and call 'Bob' each time you pass the treble in 3-4 (fourth place at handstroke over the treble when going up). This will cause you to double-dodge 4-5 up, and your next work is to make thirds place. (three minute touch). To get an extent (five minute touch) replace two Bobs by Singles and ensure there are two Bobs called between these Singles.
- b) Other Plain Methods - ring any bell and call yourself In (take treble from lead) then Out (treble takes you from the lead) then Make Bob (make fourths place) in accordance with the rules of the method being rung. Call as the sally goes up in front of your face, at two blows before your work will be altered by the call. This gives and extent (five minute touch).
- c) Stedman - ring any bell and call 'Single' at handstroke in fourth place, just after leaving the front work. This will cause you to do 'cat's ears', then go straight back into the front work in the same way as you came out. Now ring a full course (both types of front work and the double dodging between them) and then call 'Single' as you makes fifths place after double dodging up. This will cause you to do 'reverse cat's ears', then double dodge down and go in to the front work in the same way as you last came out. This is an extent (five minutes).

Minor:

- a) Plain Methods - ring any bell and call yourself as for Plain doubles above. Touch length will be three to seven minutes depending on which bell and which method.
- b) Treble-dodging methods - ring 4 and call yourself to Make the Bob whenever possible according to the rules of the method. Rounds comes as you make the second Bob. (3 to 8 minutes, depending on method).

Triples:

- a) Grandsire - ring 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 and call 'Bob' as for Grandsire Doubles. This causes you to work at the call as in the doubles. (seven minute touch).
- b) Plain bob - ring any bell and call as for Plain Doubles. (ten minute touch). Shorter touches are too complicated for our consideration at this stage.
- c) Stedman - ring any bell except 6 or 7 and call 'Bob' every time you pull the sally at your second dodge in 4-5 up. You will Make every Bob and actually ring the work of two courses of Stedman Doubles. (five minute touch). If you ring 5, the first call is at the going-off!

Be alert to call 'this is all' or (if calling late) 'rounds please' when rounds is coming up, but sometimes this is not easy to see or hear. It helps to know that (in the touches above) rounds will occur only when the treble is leading and you are in your home position (5 in 5ths, 2 in 2nds, etc) at backstroke. For example, if you are ringing 3 to Plain bob (on any number of bells) the touch will come round only when you are either dodging 3-4 up (without any call) or are running out (at a Bob), so it is wasted effort to look and listen for rounds elsewhere in the ringing.

In these articles, the usual rows of figures and diagrams have been avoided, because this text was originally prepared for people (in another Guild) who asked for an approach of this type as a possibly easier alternative to the usual presentation in ringing books.

The touches are specially selected as capable of being explained in words only, and in the hope that they may be useful to those who are thinking of trying to call a few touches even though (as many ringers admit) they cannot relate the sound of the bells to ropesight.

John Lonsbrough

Date Touches of Doubles / Minor

Date touches are not often rung as they take over an hour to ring, but can be fun on occasions. It is easier to compose touches of Stedman and on higher numbers, but to work one out for Doubles means ringing 16 extents (1920) plus a 75 (or a 76 for 1996) change touch which is not false. There are 79's of Grandsire and of Stedman but that's all. For Minor you would ring 2 extents (1440) plus a 555 (or 556) - there are 552's but we're a few years too late now! The possible solution is splicing Doubles, as Stedman gives lots of flexibility. I set the computer running on a number of plans and within a few hours this 75 was produced:-

Ring Grandsire with a Single at the first lead, then change to Stedman with the normal start. Call a Single as soon as the treble reaches 5ths (with the 3), let it go in and out quick and call another Single (with the 5th). The last call will be a Single at your first whole turn (affecting 3 and 4) and the touch comes round at the end of your last whole turn.

David Joyce

Date Touch 1995 Stedman Triples

S	H	L	Q	2314567	

s	1,8,10			5263147	(10 sixes)
		X		5342167	
X	X			3162457	

X		X		3251467	
X	X		X	2134567	A
		X		1234657	

	A			2416357	

X		X		2654317	
X	X		X	6423517	
		X	X	1326457	

	4A			2143657	

				1234567	

J A Cater
6th December 1994
(From the ringers BBS)

THE ENIGMA PILGRIMAGE

The Enigma Pilgrimage was undertaken over the VE Day weekend by members of the Woughton Ecumenical Parish. The Pilgrimage started at Aldbury on Saturday 6th May with services and meals at churches along the way, ending with a party at Simpson on the VE day bank holiday.

A total of about 50 people took part at various times and about half of them walked all the way - one with a bicycle which punctured early. Notable completers of the course included our lady Rector, Rev Freda Beveridge, and ringing captain Brian Baldwin who of course rang as well!

Ringing was at Aldbury (where the pilgrimage began), Eaton Bray, Slapton, Fenny Stratford and Simpson, and I took part at all except Eaton Bray and was involved with the events immediately before and after the ringing. At Aldbury - described as "agricultural" by a local ringer but actually very reasonable - I managed to raise the 4th on the wrong side, and Slapton were rather hard work for us townies, but all the reasonable and a good time was had by all. Lunchtime at Slapton was shared with the sheep who live in the churchyard and work as lawnmowers, and Fenny entertained us royally with drinks and snacks and vintage music - even I danced a little to Glen Miller!

John Lonsbrough

Handbell Concert

A concert by the Weldon Handbell Ringers will be held at Emberton Institute on Saturday 21st October 1995 at 7:30pm. Ticket prices are not yet known, but further details from Sheila Watts or Sheila Ware (01234 713667).

Guild 8 bell Competition

The North Bucks branch were represented in the Guild 8 bell competition by :-

Roy Keeves, Barry Eglesfield, Jill Joyce, Doug Hird, Bill Yates, Richard Stanworth, Godfrey Foat and David Joyce.

The test piece was a touch of Grandsire Triples, with very few calls. Two heats were needed and we were drawn in the one at Aston Clinton. We were drawn to ring sixth so started assembling during the Chiltern Branch ringing. Vale of the White Horse were a member short when it was their turn to ring, so we were asked to change places. We felt that we had rung better than the other teams we had heard! The heat was judged by Lawrence Haines from Tring who gave percentage marks for each team :-

Team 1	St Mary & St Lawrence, Reading	91%
Team 2	Old North Berks Branch	88%
Team 3	Tilehurst	90%
Team 4	Chiltern Branch	74%
Team 5	North Bucks Branch	83%
Team 6	Vale of the White Horse Branch	0%
Team 7	East Berks South Bucks Branch	79%

The top three teams went on to the final at Great Missenden where a lot of the bands seemed to have problems with the bells. The teams from our heat were 1st, 3rd and 4th in the final, so we consoled ourselves with the thought that we might have reached the final if we'd been drawn in the other heat.

Guild 10 Bell Competition

The 10 bell competition was held with the Guild Festival in Oxford on 8th July. Our branch was represented by :-

Barry Eglesfield, Ron Snack, Jill Joyce, Doug Hird, John Lonsbrough, Ruth Stokes, Alan Marchbank, Richard Stanworth, Christopher Stokes and David Joyce.

The test piece was 219 Stedman Caters and was conducted by Barry. Five teams took part on the light ring at St Thomas' - which were not the easiest bells to ring.

The competition was judged, from the organ loft, by Stephen Stanford of Leicester with some assistance from Brian White. The nearby railway line had ruled out judging from outside, so the competitors had to be quiet in the church and everyone listened from outside.

The faults given were :-

Team 1	North Bucks	220
Team 2	Reading	130
Team 3	East Berks & South Bucks	126
Team 4	Old North Berks	166
Team 5	Vale of the White Horse	281

So we were consistent in gaining 4th place, as in the last two years. After the presentation of the cup to Graham Firman, the certificates for the 8 bell competition were presented.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BILL!

Saturday 5th August is Bill Yates' 75th Birthday which he will be celebrating by exhibiting in his local Vegetable Show, amongst other things!

He will be attending a special 8am Communion at Stowe on Sunday 6th August and would welcome other ringers who would like to join him.

Bradwell Ringers Outing 13.5.95

It's that time of year again when a group of ringers set off in their cars for a dash around strange towers. This year for us was in and around Rugby on a sunny day in May. The towers ranged from a ring of 5 to an 8 bell tower.

Prior to lunch we visited four towers:

St Lawrence, Napton	6	11.5cwt
All Saints, Leamington Hastings	5	15cwt
St Peter, Dunchurch	6	17cwt
St Andrew, Rugby	5	9cwt
	8	24cwt

We were certainly building up an appetite as the bells got heavier towards lunch. Rugby was unusual in that we started to ring at one end in the 5 bell tower and then went to the 8 bell tower at the other end of the church. Rugby is the only church with two towers of ringable bells.

A wonderful lunch was had at the Royal Oak in Hillmorton - recommended to anyone on a ringers' outing in the area. The pace and weight of bells slowed down a bit after lunch as we visited three towers:

St John the Baptist, Hillmorton	6	12cwt
St Mark, Bilton	6	7cwt
Stretton on Dunsmore	6	7cwt

There were no really bad towers in the day, but I think the general feeling was that Stretton on Dunsmore was the favourite - lovely bells and not unlike Bradwell.

Members of the band took charge of a tower each - the ringing ranged from a mixture of rounds and call changes, doubles methods, Stedman and Crayford Little Court, a method introduced at the end of the day for everyone to have a go at.

From a ringers point of view I think nearly everyone would have gained something from the day. For those of us relatively new to ringing it was a chance to try different bells, especially heavier ones and towers with loveable long drafts!

Thanks to David and Rosa who organised the day.

Michelle Copson

Newton Longville Flower Festival

Earlier this year the Secretary had a call from Newton Longville asking for ringing for their annual flower festival. This was adroitly passed to one of the Ringing Masters, who made some arrangements, then conveniently found a conference he had to attend and sent the Newsletter Editor along to take charge.

A larger number of ringers attended than in the previous year - was it the promise of a free tea, or had they heard of the Ringing Master's absence? We rang almost continuously from 2:30 to 4:00 and a total of 14 ringers representing at least 7 towers took part. Ringing was curtailed when the 7th rope broke, although a number of people would have left then anyway. As for the tea a thunderstorm meant sitting in the garden would be a little uncomfortable, so we all went home instead.

Mini Ringing School 27th May

The original plans for the Grandsire Doubles school had to be changed at the last minute when late booking of a wedding meant that the original pupils had to withdraw.

Two learners, from Buckingham and Bradwell, made use of the bells booked to ring their first blows of Grandsire inside. In fact it was the first time John Stanworth had attempted dodges.

The success of the mini ringing schools depends on the availability of keen pupils, so if YOU are learning simple methods and feel that some concentrated practice would help why not apply?

Calling Lady Peal Ringers

At the Guild AGM it was announced that plans are being made to celebrate the centenary of the first peal rung by a lady ringer - at Basingstoke on February 12th 1896. Heather Kippin of the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild has contacted other Guilds to ask for commemorative ringing. Pat Newton felt that there were sufficient ladies in the High Wycombe area to attempt a celebratory peal and would provide a focus for other ringing in the Guild. Have we got anyone interested - either in a peal or in marking the occasion?

Branch Assets / Lost Property ?

David Bardwell is still collating and photographing trophies & certificates - please let him know whether your tower has still got the old "In Union" Guild certificates.

Stop Press

By the time you read this, Godfrey will have had to decide whether the outing is viable - if you move fast then you might just make the difference !

Contact Scott Ayres for details of the "not at school" Summer Outing

Other Events Within and Without the Branch

This section is intended to bring you information about some other ringing events, that are not organised by our own Branch or Guild. This information is not kept as complete or up-to-date as our own Branch diary, so please keep an eye on Odd Bob and The Ringing World. If you wish to check before attending, or want to know further details, please contact the following people :-

Olney - A Monday evening 8 bell practice is run by Roy Keeves (01908-510105) from 7:30 to 9:00 each month. There is a core of regular attendees, but new faces are always made welcome. Methods rung range from Rounds to Surprise Major, with a special method sometimes being chosen in advance.

Downs Barn - What started as a small Surprise Major practice has now been expanded into a general monthly 8 bell practice, run by David Maybrey (01908-562233), on Sunday from 3:00 to 4:30. There are a variety of methods rung, depending on attendance. Permission for ringing has been given as it is for a special service of Compline, which the ringers are expected to attend.

Central Bucks Branch - Mrs Jackie Sellin (01296-392175).

Bicester Branch - Simon Cole (01869-247525).

Towcester Branch - Bill Yates (01280-814937).

Northampton Branch - Mrs Dorothy Stopps (01604-890638).

Wellingborough Branch - John Holmes (01933-405169).

Bedford Branch - Eddie Lambert (01234-363513).

Luton Branch - David Adams (01582-868534).

Date	Time	Event details	Location
Sat 22nd July	3:30	Luton Branch Quarterly Meeting	Whipsnade
	7:00	Northampton Branch Practice	Courteenhall
Mon 24th July	7:30	Eight bell Practice	Olney
Mon 7th August	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Brill
Sat 12th August	6:30	Central Bucks Branch Practice (to 8:30)	Bicester
Sun 13th August	3:00	Eight bell Practice	Downs Barn
Sat 19th August	3:00	Luton Branch Practice	Silsloe
Mon 21st August	7:30	Eight bell Practice	Olney
Sat 26th August	7:00	Towcester Branch Practice (to 7:45)	Wappenham
	8:00	Towcester Branch Practice (to 9:00)	Lois Weedon
Sat 2nd September	3:00	Wellingborough Branch Meeting (to 9:00)	Stanwick
Tue 5th September	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Islip
Sat 9th September	4:30	Peterborough Guild Summer Festival (to 8:00)	Wilton
Sun 10th September	3:00	Eight bell Practice	Downs Barn
Sat 16th September		Towcester Branch Outing	Chilterns
Sat 23rd September	7:00	Northampton Branch Practice	Harlestone
Mon 25th September	7:30	Eight bell Practice	Olney
Sat 30th September	4:00	Towcester Branch Striking Contest & Meeting (to 8:00)	Cosgrove
Wed 4th October	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Middleton Stoney
Sat 7th October	3:00	Bedford Branch Quarterly Meeting	Sharnbrook
Sun 8th October	3:00	Eight bell Practice	Downs Barn
Sat 14th October	6:30	Central Bucks Branch Practice (to 8:30)	Linslade
	7:00	Wellingborough Branch Practice (to 9:00)	Higham Ferrers
Sat 21st October	7:30	Handbell Concert - contact Sheila Watts (01234-711113)	Emberton
Mon 23rd October	7:30	Eight bell Practice	Olney
Sat 28th October	6:30	Luton Branch Practice	Dunstable
	7:00	Northampton Branch Practice	Hardingstone
	7:30	Towcester Branch Supper & Quiz	Stoke Bruerne
Thu 2nd November	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Ambrosden
Sat 4th November	6:30	Bedford Branch Meeting	Turvey
Sat 11th November	6:30	Central Bucks Branch Practice (to 8:30)	Long Crendon
Sun 12th November	3:00	Eight bell Practice	Downs Barn
Sat 25th November	6:30	Luton Branch Practice	Husborne Crawley
	7:00	Northampton Branch Practice	All Saints, Northampton
	7:00	Towcester Branch Practice (to 7:45)	Passenham
	8:00	Towcester Branch Practice (to 9:00)	Stony Stratford
Mon 27th November	7:30	Eight bell Practice	Olney
Fri 1st December	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Ludgershall
Sat 2nd December	6:30	Bedford Branch Meeting	Milton Ernest
	7:30	Towcester Branch Dinner	Towcester Town Hall
Sat 9th December	6:30	Central Bucks Branch Practice (to 8:30)	Winslow
	eve	Wellingborough Branch Social / Quiz	Finedon
Sun 10th December	3:00	Eight bell Practice	Downs Barn
Sat 16th December	6:30	Luton Branch Practice	Stanbridge
Sat 30th December	7:00	Towcester Branch Practice (to 7:45)	Stowe
	8:00	Towcester Branch Practice (to 9:00)	Maids Moreton

Don't forget all of the local tower practices in our branch each week. If you visit any of these events, why not take along another member of your local band ? However, it would be courteous to check with the organiser before taking an entire band along !

Last revised 11/07/95

ODG North Bucks Branch Diary

Date	Time	Event details	Location
Sat 29th July	6:00	* Striking Competition v Towcester Branch	Wicken
Sat 5th August	2:30 6:00	Joint meeting & Picnic with Bedford Branch	Odell Lavendon
Sat 12th August	2:00	* Mini Ringing School Subject = Plain Hunt / Bob Doubles	tba
Fri 18th August	7:30	Branch Practice Special method = Stedman Triples	Newton Longville
Sat 2nd September	3:00 4:00	Quarterly Meeting (Ringing, Service, Tea, Meeting & More Ringing)	Twyford Tingewick
Sat 16th September	3:30	Call Change Striking Competition	Wavendon
Sat 23rd September	9:00	* Coach Outing to Loughborough Bellfoundry [Book & Pay by 31st July, Info from Godfrey Foat (01908-313859)]	Loughborough
Sat 7th October		<i>Guild 6 bell Striking Competition</i>	<i>Oxford City</i>
Fri 20th October	7:30	* Branch Practice Special method = Little Bob Royal & Stedman Caters	St Giles, Northampton
Sat 4th November	10:00	* <i>Guild 10 bell course - Little Bob & Cambridge</i>	<i>Amersham Slough</i>
Sat 11th November	2:00	* Mini Ringing School Subject =	
Fri 17th November	7:30	Branch Practice Special method = Kent Treble Bob Major	Buckingham
Sat 18th November		* <i>Tower Leadership Course</i>	<i>Central Bucks Branch ?</i>
Sat 25th November	2:30	* <i>Guild Autumn Committee Meeting</i>	<i>EBSB Branch</i>
Sat 2nd December	3:30	Quarterly Meeting	Downs Barn
Fri 15th December	7:30	Branch Practice Special method = Little Bob Minor	Bradwell
Fri 19th January	7:30	Branch Practice Special method = St Simons & St Martins Doubles	Great Brickhill
Sat 3rd February	2:00	* Mini Ringing School Subject =	

Any event marked with * was awaiting confirmation when this list was prepared, if a more recent list is unavailable then please check with the Secretary for the current situation before attending.

Rounds, Call Changes, Plain Hunt, Plain Bob & Grandsire will always be available at Branch Practices. The special methods are intended to be a focus for the more advanced method ringing.

The Branch Mini Ringing Schools are specially arranged for a very small number of pupils to get intensive, high quality, training in one specific method. Although demand will always exceed supply, please write to the Ringing Masters if you wish to be considered as a pupil for a future school.

Last revised 11/07/95