



In Touch

August 2000

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Lillingstone Lovell hosts September Quarterly Meeting

Saturday 2nd September 2000

3.00-4.00 Ringing at **Leckhampstead**
4.00 Ringing at **Lillingstone Lovell**
4.30 Service
5.00 Tea
5.45 Business Meeting followed by evening ringing until 8.30

Names for tea to **Robin Culley**
by Tuesday 29th August 2000
Tel. 01280-860665

Alexander Rigby of Stamford cast the back four bells in 1693 (tenor 6-2-0).
The Churchwardens' accounts read:

"Paid to Mr Rigby for Casting of the Beles & for metall the sum of £3-17-0", and
"To Mr Sandes for A Quarre of strong Wateres when the townesmen waid the belles £0-1-4"

It is difficult to imagine the amount of ringing, as no less than nine sets of bell ropes were ordered between 1693 and 1712! The entry of 1697 is interesting:

"For shooting the Bellropes £0-0-4d"

In 1952 the ring was augmented by the addition of a new treble, cast by Taylors (2-3-12).

Lillingstone Lovell Church was built in 1340, the third church to be built on the site. The 13th Century tower and the south doorway remain from an earlier church. The Chantry chapels were added in the 14th Century, and the oak roof and the porch in 1639.

The Brasses are 15th and early 16th Century, and the hanging wall monuments of the 1700s are worth reading. The Pulpit was installed in the early 1600s, and the Box pews in the 18th Century.



Assumption of the BVM, Lillingstone Lovell (5)

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The Chairman's Soap Box

The Guild Festival

We always like to encourage members to get out and about. Firstly to branch events but also to Guild events. I have lately found this latter option a source of great encouragement.

This year's Guild Festival was held in Oxford. A good start. That is where they should all be held. Arriving late, the Denham ringers having visited Downs Barn that morning, we were greeted by an orderly queue at Lincoln College. We had wondered how the assembled throng were going to find their way through the college but some enterprising soul had opened the gate by the tower entrance. This was the high point though. The entire company proceeded to attempt the record for the largest number of ringers to be packed into an enclosed space. After several helpings of Call Changes, helped along by a fairly continuous argument about calling up or down, North Bucks members could contain their frustration no longer, and were rewarded by a touch of Grandsire. On returning to ground level, we heard that New College, the next tower was unavailable. A wedding had unexpectedly been organised. Now I know a thing or two about organising weddings in Oxford Colleges. They are not unexpected. A short walk to the next tower to another queue outside St Cross. The key had not turned up. So we all walked back across town to Carfax. A creditable raise, because mostly North Bucks ringers took part, and then a serious danger of Call Changes breaking out again. Next stop, Stony Stratford for a curry.

The moral of this tale is that the grass is not greener in all other parts of the Guild. OK, so we don't win striking competitions. That is against the minority. Actually, if the rules were more like those in the Peterborough Diocese we would probably win fairly frequently. The Wicken band contains a substantial North Bucks membership. In general, the quality of ringing in North Bucks is comparable with that in the rest of the Guild. So, get out and about and be encouraged. Go on a few open days. But if you want a good chance of ringing what you want, take a band with you.

Doug Hird

Next Issue Copy Date: Saturday, 21st October 2000



Once again I am grateful to all those who have contributed towards this issue of *In Touch*.

I look forward to receiving items for the November issue—reports of your summer outings, grabs, special ringing for the Queen Mother's 100th birthday (not forgetting Bill Yates' 80th!). You could also advertise your Christmas festivities (perish the thought...), and the 'real' Millennium ringing.

Sheila Watts, Editor

Wedding Bells

Christina Jones and Peter Tribble, ringers from Woughton and Simpson, were married at the Church of St Andrew, Bedford, on Saturday 3rd June.

The ceremony took place at 3pm, and the church was packed with relatives and friends from all over the country and as far away as Canada. The bells were rung before the service by friends and family, and afterwards by the St Andrew's band. This was followed by rounds for everyone, and at times there were thirty or so ringers in the tower. Afterwards it was back to Christina's home at Manor Farm, Hardmead, for the reception in a splendid marquee (decorated with bells....).

More ringers and friends turned up for the evening event, a Ceilidh. The Band was Fiddlers Bridge from St Albans, and the Editor wishes the camera had been to hand when ringers took to the floor to the intricacies of the Gay Gordons and other delights. The more restrained of us sat and watched, and sampled the excellent buffet.

At times during the day it was similar to a Striking Competition—at every turn in David and Rachel Jones' large and beautiful garden, there was a group of ringers.

The happy couple set off for their camping honeymoon on the Sunday, travelling to Santander in Spain.

We wish Christina and Peter every happiness in their future life together, and hope they will be ringing with us in the Branch for many years to come.



Tina & Peter at the Ceilidh

The Bride and Groom (who impressed the Emberton band by turning up for practice straight from the honeymoon), wish to thank everyone for their support at the Ceremony and Receptions.

England's Thousand Best Churches By Simon Jenkins

Often when visiting a church to ring I have regretted not having the time to look around and learn a little about it. This summer, while in Cornwall, I decided to rectify this and visit some churches during the daytime to appreciate other attributes; after all, without churches there would have been no bells as we know them.

The recently published book, *England's Thousand Best Churches*, gives the author's personal choice but it seemed a useful starting point to visit some of the ones he had chosen. I was not disappointed, as it led to many areas that I perhaps would have never visited and many fascinating buildings. I have also found it an interesting book to read about our local churches, and would recommend it to all.

Sheila Ware



The Editor at the Church of St Anthony-in-Roseland, Cornwall

From the Ringing Master Richard Stanworth

Joint Practice

This joint venture with the Luton District of the Bedfordshire Association at Woburn on Saturday 15th July was felt to be a success and worth repeating. The venue next time will be in the North Bucks Branch on a date yet to be decided. Look out for this in the next edition of *In Touch*. Methods rung included Cambridge, Yorkshire, Superlative and London. Bristol didn't go! About eight or so ringers attended from each branch as well as a few visitors from further afield. Thanks to the Luton District for arranging the evening.

Ten Bell Striking Competitions

The Guild 10-bell competition will be held at St Thomas, Oxford on September 9th. The test piece will be a touch of 216 Grandsire Caters. We are hoping to enter a band, so I will be contacting people in the near future for this event.

Anagrams of Richard Stanworth our Ringing Master (with thanks to Richard)

Warrant this chord, Third crash on wart
Throws and rich rat, Onward thirst arch
Throw drains chart, Throw this darn car

A Win for Stowe!



It was good to have six teams entering the Beginners' Striking Competition, this year held at Maids Moreton on Friday 28th April. The Judge was our very own David Joyce, who was most helpful with his constructive comments on the ringing.

The bands enjoyed the easy-going light ring of six, although some of the ringers must have found them quite different from their own bells at their home towers.

Teams from Maids Moreton, Downs Barn (with a little help from Great Linford), Tyringham, Newport Pagnell, Tingewick, and Stowe took part.

Congratulations go to all ringers who participated, but particularly to Stowe, who were placed first, and to the runners-up, Newport Pagnell. The Stowe team was presented with the trophy, the Chairmans' Cup.

Stowe Band (pictured above L to R): Gillian Macdonald, Charlie Macdonald, Bill Yates, Helen Stanworth, Sue Russell, Anne Mercer

Newport Pagnell Band: Gareth Grayson, Rachel Stacy, Catherine Stacy, Daniel Morris, Carol Smith, Zara Ford

New Priest at the 'LAMP' Group

The three bells of Haversham rang out on 15th June for the Licensing of the Reverend Ian Pusey as Priest-in-Charge of Little Linford, Emberton, Haversham, and Tyringham with Filgrave.

For the ringers of Tyringham, it was a 'grab' as none had rung at Haversham before. Indeed, the ringing chamber had to be cleared of the usual Church debris as it is some time since the bells were last rung.

Ian Pusey is no stranger to the Branch and the area, as his previous post was at St Mary's, Bletchley.

A Chocolate Outing

Nicki King

I am organising a combined ringing and Cadbury World trip on 23rd August (Wednesday before the Bank Holiday), don't ask why but it seemed like a good idea at the time!

The towers will hopefully be:

Edgbaston	8	9.30 - 10.15 (confirmed)
Harborne	8	10.30 - 11.15
Kings Norton	10	12.30 - 1.15
Northfield	10	1.30 - 2.15

Then we'll go to Cadbury World. If 20 or more people want to go there's a discount and I can try to book a slot for 2.30 pm. The price is £5.20 adults and children £3.70 if discounted, or full price is £6.75 for adults and £4.90 for children. Please let me know if you are interested in any aspect of the outing. There will be a small donation required for the towers kind enough to let us ring.

NB Times and locations are provisional- I will confirm nearer the date.

Please contact me at 01908-614741, or email nicola_king@hotmail.com

The Guild 8-Bell Competition



Held at Linslade on 1st May—we came 5th out of 7 teams, ringing Little Bob Major. High Wycombe were the winners.



Assistant Branch Ringing Master, Gareth Grayson, is spotted practicing an alternative rope skill.



The Branch Band L to R: Richard Stanworth, Roy Keeves, Andrew Spencer, Jill Joyce, David Joyce, Doug Hird, Alan Marchbank, Gareth Grayson

It seems a short time since the last SSRS (Saturday Social Ringing Society!!) 1999

May holiday. This annual event has taken place since the 1980s and we have visited many parts of the country.

Around twenty ringers from North Bucks, and from Rugby, Irchester and Birmingham, met at Thorne, near Leeds, for a ring before going on to our accommodation at Bishop Thornton near Harrogate. We had been lucky to find a farm that had converted some buildings into six different sized 'cottages'. This suited our needs admirably, having the added advantage that we took over the whole complex. The riding stables, which were also part of the farm, were an added attraction, along with the geese and wildlife.

Sunday morning started on a high, literally, ringing the bells of Ripon Cathedral for morning service. Then the group dispersed to enjoy the rest of a free day for sightseeing.

May Holiday 2000 North Yorkshire

Tuesday & Thursday were 'ringing free' days, when the delights

of the famous sweet shop at Masham, Fountains Abbey, and the Dales were some of the places visited. On Tuesday evening we joined the Escrick practice, on the old Birmingham Bull Ring bells, and on Thursday visited Northallerton (10), by many declared the best ring of the holiday.

Some important milestones were achieved during Wednesday's ringing, both Sheila Watts and Wendy Haslam achieved their 1,000th tower. On the previous Saturday Keith Haslam rang his 1,000th peal, so all three celebrated. Towers rung on the Wednesday were East Witton, Middleham, Masham, West Tanfield, Kirkington, Wath juxta Ripon and Sharow.

On Friday, our last day of ringing, we travelled up into the Dales. Skipton bells were the highlight of the day, and the light eight at Pateley Bridge were distinctly challenging for most, having no stays on the trebles. We also sampled Otley, Ilkley, Addingham and Burnsall.

Each year the week is organised by different people, and this was the year of the Haslam family. It was also notable for the increase in our junior membership — Lauren (8) and Sam (5) were able to continue their ringing experience at each tower, and Estella Haines (6 months), grand daughter of Freda and Mike Bennett, joined us for the first time.

The holiday was rounded off by an excellent meal for the whole group at Burnt Yates. Prizes were awarded to the winners of this year's competition—to write a topical limerick.

Next year's May Holiday is planned for Wiltshire.

Sheila Ware



Audrey Jones tries a
Yorkshire Tail End



Lauren, Martha & Sam Haslam
Estella Haines

Ringling started in earnest on Monday, when we visited the towers of Birstwith, Beckwithshaw, Harrogate, Knaresborough and Kirk Deighton. We had our first experience of Yorkshire tail ends, which was new to many and caused some consternation to begin with as tail ends look like sallies! Some people found their hands too small to accommodate this extra 'furry bit'.

*We ringers drove up the M1
To meet at Duke's Place for some fun.
We rang some fine peals
And ate some fine meals
Three cheers to the Haslams, well
done.*

*A ringer called Keith had one aim
To have many peals to his name.
Then came the great day
One morning in May
A thousand he'd rung, now that's
fame.*



Keith Haslam—1000 peals
Sheila Watts & Wendy Haslam—1000 towers

Over the Branch Border (please check these events before setting out!)

August			
4	7.45	Brafield-on-the-Green	Northampton Branch Surprise Practice
5	4.00-7.00	Bletsoe, Milton Ernest, Clapham	Bedford District Meeting
12	6.30-8.30	Marsh Gibbon	Central Bucks Practice
12	7.00-9.00	Easton Neston	Towcester Branch Practice
September			
1	7.45	Brafield-on-the-Green	Northampton Branch Surprise Practice
16		Welford	Peterborough Guild Summer Festival
23	7.30	Church Brampton	Northampton Branch Meeting
30	3.00-8.00	Potterspurty & Cosgrove	Towcester Branch Meeting & S.Competition
October			
6	7.45	Brafield-on-the-Green	Northampton Branch Surprise Practice
7	3.30-8.30	St Andrew, Bedford	Bedford District Quarterly Meeting
7			Towcester Branch Outing
28	3.00-4.30	Milton Malsor	Northampton Branch Practice
November			
3	7.45	Brafield-on-the-Green	Northampton Branch Surprise Practice
4	3.00-5.30	Pavenham, Felmersham	Bedford District Meeting
11	6.30-8.30	Steeple Claydon	Central Bucks Practice
11	7.00-9.00	Greens Norton & Blakesley	Towcester Branch Practice
December			
2	6.30-8.30	Biddenham	Bedford District Meeting
7	7 for 7.30	Towcester Town Hall	Towcester Branch Dinner
9	6.30-8.30	Soulbury	Central Bucks Practice

Moreton Made—The Maids Moreton Millennium Pageant

This was performed outdoors on three evenings in May on the Church Green. The script called for bells to be rung at various times - not easy when you can't see or hear any of what's going on! It became even more of a problem when six of our number had parts in the pageant - Ann Fletcher as a bully soldier and tyrannical priest, Peter Tampsett as a farm labourer and supporter of one of the knights during the jousting, Shirley Webb as a medieval labourer and 20th Century gossip, Jonathan Spencer as a poor member of society from 1450-1912, Lucy Robinson as a fairy and villager down the ages, Sheila Goodger in the choir. They also appeared in other crowd scenes.

The ringing involved ringing just two bells when the pageant recounted the building of the church - that was all they had at the time; single blows - with gaps when the names of the fallen of the First World War were read out; and general rounds near the end as part of the celebrations - worked out by the producer as four whole pulls - no more, no less. All ringers were nervous about being able to set their bell exactly when required.

On the day of the first rehearsal with the bells, Dave rang the single blows -

but got a ticking off from the producer when he failed to set and rang through the middle of a speech! At the next rehearsal Richard rang the single blows and also failed to set - however later on when we re-did that scene, he got it right. After that it became his job for the duration! We had a few problems with timing - the producer gave us cues over the radio. This required that he gave us a standby cue as we could not hear what was happening in the arena. On a few occasions he didn't give us the standby cue but just said over the radio "Bells now!" and we had to hurriedly grab ropes and ring. At the first performance this led to Richard complaining to the producer over the radio about the lack of warning - unfortunately he had the volume turned up and most of the audience heard him as well! As well as ringing the bells we were also asked to help with the Civil war scene. This involved flashing lights within the church when various explosive sound effects were being made outside and screaming at the soldiers from the doorway (by Dave with Richard as stand-in).

On the final evening we thought we would give them a good "do" and continued to ring through the applause at the end of the performance. Fortunately we just managed to hear the vicar begin to speak using the musician's microphone and stopped in

time for him to introduce the Bishop of Buckingham who thanked all for taking part.

Altogether nine ringers took part in the ringing. We had to make a rota as several ringers also had tickets for performances and were not available to ring on those evenings. Those involved were Dave Goodger, Anne Mercer, Margaret Vince, Robert George (chief flasher!), Andrew Spencer, Helen, Catherine, John & Richard Stanworth.

Richard Stanworth



Peter Tampsett—Joust supporter

The Trouble with Stedman Caters



By Natalie Green
(inspired by my footballing hero, KK)

This is the story of how a team of Hanslope ringers and various friends set about the task of scoring a quarter of Stedman Caters.

February 1999

The manager of the team 'Cool-hand' Griggs decided that a warm-up fixture of Grandsire Caters (a sort of friendly before the big match) might be a good idea, so in February 1999 the team arrived at St. Giles, Northampton to limber up on 10 bells. Phil Haslam (no.2) and David 'Bomber' Taylor (in the role of sweeper at no.10) were selected to join the Hanslope squad of eight, with the manager making a bold tactical decision to play himself as captain at no.7. In under an hour it was all over: Griggs was delighted with the performance and declared the team fit and ready for the big one.

1st attempt

Three months later, May 1999, the chosen venue was Moulton. This time Hanslope supplied a squad of nine and George 'Gaffer' Green was called up as tenth man and captain. However, in short, to be precise, in a nutshell, this was a bad night for ringing Stedman, and the fixture was abandoned well before half time due to a hat-trick of own goals from the no.5. In the post-match analysis, the ringer in question admitted to "having a bad day at the office", but Cool-hand Griggs also admitted that the weight and speed of Moulton bells (light and fast) was a crucial factor in the defeat and immediately proffered his resignation. Later that evening (after a heavy meal and a few ciders at The Watts Arms), Griggs was persuaded by Roy 'Safari-man' Keeves to reconsider and thus plans were made for the next attempt.

2nd attempt

In November 1999 the team returned to the tower of their previous Caters triumph – St. Giles, Northampton. Ryan Probert and George Green were brought in to join the eight from

Hanslope, Green once more wearing the captain's armband. For twenty minutes the team enjoyed some excellent striking, the bells passing amongst each other with ease. Then disaster struck: Nick Gray, at no.4, was going in quick with some nifty handling when he was pole-axed from above due to his rope slipping the wheel – a cynical tackle if ever there was one and an early bath for the whole team. Cool-hand Griggs made light of the disaster, saying "it was a quarter of two halves: in the first half we totally dominated the play, but unfortunately for us, there was no second half".

3rd attempt

Three months later, in February 2000, the team travelled to Kempston for the third attempt. This time Hanslope supplied a squad of only six: Natalie 'short-bird' Green was left on the bench due to an injury, her place taken by Jenni 'another short-bird' Mountford from Leighton Buzzard. Phil Haslam, Bomber Taylor and George Green (captain again) completed the line-up. But it was to be third time unlucky for Griggs and the team, this time the captain, striking at no.6, making an uncharacteristic foul on the front. Both Griggs and Green were devastated; team morale slumped to an all time low during the post-match feasting at The Three Cranes, Turvey. Griggs once more pondered his position as Manager, but by the end of the meal the Hanslope faithful had persuaded him to launch one last effort.

Final attempt

The date was set: May 13. The venue was booked: Daventry. But a few weeks before the fixture, Griggs was forced to postpone when it became clear that he couldn't raise a team. Availability also caused a few headaches for the re-arranged date of June 30; with less than 24 hours to go, the Manager hastily rushed through two late transfer deals to sign up Jill Haseldine at no.2 and Chris Bulley at no.9. Hanslope supplied a squad of seven and Doug Hird completed the team. In this, his last effort, Cool-hand

decided to go all out for glory and seized the captain's armband for himself.

In an action replay of Kempston, the team played their heart out for 20 minutes with the striking bang on target, then everything promptly collapsed due to too few players up front and too many at the back. Fortunately, there was just enough time for a re-start and some fifty minutes later, just before the floodlights were due to go out, it was all over well, almost. The moral victory was ours, but in truth, there was one minor technical problem with the final result. In short, to be precise, in a nutshell - when it came round, it didn't quite come round, as it were, if you see what I mean, if you follow the drift of the debate, but in the words of our beloved Manager, Cool-hand Griggs: "they think it's all over - WELL IT IS NOW"

The Hanslope squad: Jonathan Griggs, Roy Keeves, Ian Thompson, Nick Gray, Richard Haseldine, Carole Harner, Natalie Green, Steve Crane and Alan Cozens.

The Holy Cross, Daventry
30th June 2000
1287 Stedman Caters
1 Roy Keeves
2 Jill Haseldine
3 Richard Haseldine
4 Natalie Green
5 Ian Thompson
6 Jonathan Griggs (C)
7 Nick Gray
8 Doug Hird
9 Chris Bulley
10 Steve Crane

1st Stedman Caters 4,5,7
1st Stedman Caters as conductor

Footnote – the majority of the band wish to register this quarter in *In Touch*, since the required number of changes were rung successfully and with some excellent striking. However in the final course, two front bells swapped over and hence when it came round, these two bells were out of position. This quarter will not be sent to *The Ringing World*.

BRAIN BENDERS

Answers to these puzzles
will be given in the
next issue of
In Touch



Who
am
I?

MIXED NOTICES

Here are five warning notices which you might find in any church tower, but the words have got mixed up. Can you sort them out? There are three words to each notice.

CLOCK IN DANGER
DURING PROGRESS UP
PEAL HAMMERS HEAD
RELEASE RINGING BELLS
SILENCE YOUR MIND

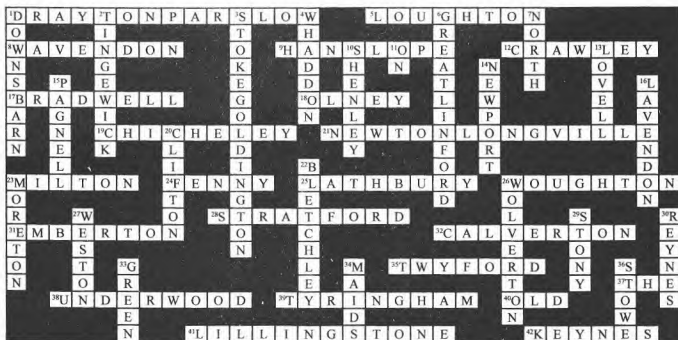
BRAIN BENDERS ANSWERS

MAY ISSUE

Pictures: David Joyce!

Crossword Answers:

With thanks to David & Jill Joyce



The missing eight was Buckingham and the sixes Great Brickhill and Simpson

Quarters & Peals

St Lawrence, Weston Underwood
24th April 2000
1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor
1 John Ewer
2 Lucy Shepherd (C)
3 Sarah Loise Ward
4 Richard Home
5 Micky Ridgway
6 Alan Shepherd

St Edmund, Maids Moreton
4th May 2000
1260 Grandsire Doubles
1 William Yates
2 Shirley Webb
3 Margaret Vince
4 John Stanworth
5 Andrew Spencer (C)
6 David Goodger
Rung half-muffled in memory of
Christopher Stopps 1936-2000, former
ringer at this tower

St Michael, Lavendon
9th May 2000
1272 Primrose Surprise Minor
1 Hilda Collins
2 Hilary Aslett
3 Michael Brown (C)
4 Stan Ruddlesden
5 Ray Vickers
6 David Harris
First in method—2

St John the Evangelist, Wicken
19th May 2000
1280 Plain Bob Major
1 Catherine Stanworth
2 Helen Stanworth
3 Charles Truman
4 Gerald Kingdon
5 John Stanworth
6 Nigel Williams
7 George Green
8 Richard Stanworth (C)
First inside—2
Rung on the 80th birthday of Beth
Stanworth, mother of tenor ringer and
grandmother of ringers of treble and 5.
Also belated 80th birthday wishes to
her husband Bill

St Edmund, Maids Moreton
20th June 2000
1260 Grandsire Doubles
1 Catherine Stanworth
2 Helen Stanworth
3 Margaret Vince
4 David Stanworth
5 Richard Stanworth (C)
6 John Stanworth
A thanksgiving for the life of
Catherine Joy Murdoch (nee Stanworth)
10 June 1917—7 June 2000

St John the Evangelist, Wicken
1st July 2000
1280 Cambridge Surprise Major
1 Jonathan Griggs
2 Nicola King
3 Peter Tribble
4 Gareth Grayson
5 Bob Winstanley
6 Jo White
7 Barry Eglesfield
8 Doug Hird (C)
1st Cambridge Surprise Major—4

St John the Evangelist, Wicken
14th July 2000
1280 Cornwall Surprise Major
1 Margaret Bulleid
2 Lynn Fuller
3 Charles Truman
4 Andrew Spencer
5 Roger King
6 Richard Stanworth
7 Jason Carter
8 Nigel Williams (C)
A get well wish to Bill Yates

News from Wavendon

The Tower Captain, Leigh Head,
reports that three learners have
joined the Wavendon band.

Jo, Clare and Martin are all making
good progress—two of them are
into rounds, and one has rung for a
wedding.

Visitors are very welcome at the
practice on a Friday night.

Peals

Cross & Stable, Downs Barn
15th April 2000
5056 Tee-Jay Surprise Major
Comp. A J Pitman
2 hrs 31 mins

- 1 Michael D Fiander
- 2 Mervyn C Way
- 3 Mary E Dunbavin
- 4 David M Gambling
- 5 Susan V Gambling
- 6 M J Bill Blowfield
- 7 Peter G C Ellis (C)
- 8 David G Salter



A 'family peal' prior to the
Wedding of Christina Jones
and Peter Tribble at
St Andrew, Bedford,
on 3rd June 2000

St Andrew, Bedford
20th May 2000
5040 Grandsire Triples
(Parker's Twelve-part)

- 1 Philip Jones
- 2 Christina Jones
- 3 Alexander Nash
- 4 David Jones
- 5 Peter Tribble
- 6 Bob Winstanley
- 7 Richard P J Carter (C)
- 8 John Brookman

Christina's elder brother—1
The Bride—2
St Andrew's Tower Captain—3
Christina's father—4
The Groom—5
Peter's cousin—7
First Peal—8

See page 3 for a Wedding
photo and to find out what
happened on The Day.

Six Bell Competition Trophy goes to Hanslope

Good weather heralded the Branch Six Bell Competition on 3rd June, and the first ice creams of the striking competition season were spotted as we lounged in Lavendon churchyard listening to the ringing.

There were only three teams – Buckingham, Hanslope, and a combined team from Shenley & Loughton. An alternative fixture (see page 3) probably had something to do with this turnout!

The judge, Richard Stevens from Bicester, congratulated all ringers on their performance. He commented that there was no bad ringing and that all could be pleased with their effort. Some sound advice was given – “Keep at your striking. If the rounds are not right, then nothing else will be right.”

Hanslope (ringing Stedman) came first with 12 faults, Shenley & Loughton (ringing Plain Bob Doubles) were a very close second with 13 faults, and Buckingham (ringing Grandsire) scored 26 faults.

Congratulations to Hanslope—they will go forward to represent the branch in the Guild competition on Saturday 7th October at Brightwell Baldwin.

Our thanks to Richard Stevens for acting as Judge.



Rory Keeves receives the trophy from the Judge, Richard Stevens

Secretary's Snippets from Helen Stanworth

Tower Contacts

Has there been a change of officers or correspondent at your tower?

Please remember to let the Secretary know of any changes at your tower - we have a duty under the data protection principles defined in the Data Protection Act to ensure the information we hold is accurate and up to date. Please help us to comply with this.

Guild Millennium Committee

This committee is still seeking reports, photos, etc about any special ringing events for this millennium year.

They are also intending to collate information about special ringing for 4th August - the 100th birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. Please send anything you may have to the branch secretary for forwarding to the committee.

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 bellhandling 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.



The 'PowerGen' Grant – an update

Members who were unable to attend the Branch Quarterly meeting at Lavendon may not know the outcome of the applications that were published in the last edition of *In Touch*. The four applications (from Buckingham, Lathbury, Simpson and Woughton) were discussed at the meeting, and it was agreed that the £500 donated by PowerGen for bell restoration should go to St Thomas, Simpson. The application from Brian Baldwin, Tower Captain at Simpson, read:

“These bells have not been rung for two years whilst structural repairs have been completed on the walls and now the roof timbers. When I am asked to bring the bells back into action I know that there is work to be done including new clapper bushes on bells 1-4, improvements to the oil delivery on the open bearings, two new Hastings stays and two pulley blocks. I am hoping that the repairs to the structure of the church will be completed this year and then we can have a late but special Millennium ring at Simpson.”

We look forward to having Simpson bells back in action.

Sheila Watts
Treasurer

This is a good point to remind members that the Branch general funds are there to be used. If you have a project which requires some cash, why not apply to the Branch for a grant?

Who is this Branch member ?

The Answer

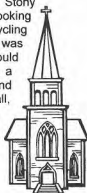
(see page 9 of the last issue)

The facts:

- My name is **Derek Stainsby**. Congratulations to Alan Cozens for being the first correct entry out of the hat.
- I was born at Deeping St Nicholas, near Spalding in Lincolnshire.
- I started ringing when the war time ban was lifted at Edenham, Lincolnshire, where my father was Rector.
- I've rung about 25 peals, not just in North Bucks, but many in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire.
- Edenham was where I rang in the 50th anniversary peal of Primrose Surprise Major. The first one was rung at this tower.
- One of my strangest experiences was at Whaddon, when leading 'ringing down' the rope broke at 'catch and hold'. A fresh rope was fitted. On the first pull of the raise at the next practice, I broke the treble rope again!
- Another strange experience was also at Whaddon, where a mouse ran down the rope on the 4th!
- I have recently been to Lincoln Cathedral to see my sister, Brenda Stainsby, receive Royal Maundy Money. This was in recognition of her services to the church at Edenham.
- I am tower captain at Loughton, and help out at other towers in the Branch.

RINGING, ITALIAN STYLE

David Scrutton, of Stony Stratford, was looking forward to his Italian cycling holiday in May, and was wondering if there would be a chance to grab a tower or two around Florence..... After all, the internet boasts a site describing change ringing in Verona! However, following the holiday, he writes:



"Well, we went to Italy but didn't get to ring! We enquired at Florence of the bells in the Cathedral but apparently the bells are controlled electronically. This was also the case when we came upon a smaller church in the country as the bells finished tolling – but nobody emerged from the tower during the time we visited. They seem to toll one or more bells at various times of the day at many churches in Italy (sunrise (3 times), lunch, sunset (several times)) so I suppose it is going to be hard to find sufficient ringers to do the ringing! - David Scrutton"

North Bucks top of the Guild league table



No, not in ringing, but in enthusiasm for the ODG Millennium Ale from the Hook Norton Brewery, called Ringers' Delight.

At the Guild Annual General Meeting in May we learned that the North Bucks Branch led with 87 cases (12 bottles each) ordered, with other branches well behind.



Our enthusiasm for eating is less—at the end of June North Bucks had taken only 4 of the 200 tickets for the Guild Festival Lunch in Oxford.

Golden Wedding

Congratulations go John and Elizabeth Lonsbrough on their Golden Wedding Anniversary—Monday 31st July 2000.

John was North Bucks Branch Secretary for some years before they moved, first to Bicester, then to Oxford.

Branch E-group

E-group membership stands at a healthy 27. Members have been using it for all sorts of things recently, including advertising ringing at flower festivals and keeping in touch with beer delivery details. Don't forget anyone can join, please send an email to <nicola_king@hotmail.com> if you'd like to participate.

All Change!

This surprising piece of writing was spotted by Kay Crane in the belfry at Skipton, North Yorkshire

'Neither should any excuse whatever obtain permission for ringing on Sunday. Many, even Clergymen, are not aware of the generic distinction between ringing and chiming..... I for my part would quite as soon sanction football or cricket in the churchyard on Sunday as ringing properly so-called, and I would as soon give up the belfry to prize-fighting on a Sunday as prize-ringing.... Ringing is an intellectual and scientific enjoyment as much so as chess or violin playing and in the opinion of some more so when done as it should be; and we know what view we should take of Sunday chess players or Sunday concerts. Let me therefore implore every clergyman to exercise his authority and put an extinguisher on all Sunday ringing.'

The Reverend Robert Waller
Sutton Bonington, Notts
26th June 1859

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS NORTH BUCKS BRANCH

Minutes of Quarterly Meeting held at Lavendon

3rd June 2000

Chairman's Welcome

Doug Hird welcomed everyone to the meeting, with a special welcome and thanks to Richard Stevens, who had earlier judged the branch striking competition.

Doug also offered congratulations on behalf of the branch to Peter Tribble and Christina Jones who were married earlier in the day.

Apologies for Absence

Received from Hugh Butler, David Middleton, Malcolm Hooton, Audrey & Jim Lambert, Brian Baldwin, Mr & Mrs Peter Tribble.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

These were published in the May edition of *In Touch*. It was agreed that the Chairman sign a copy of these as a true record.

Matters Arising

Millennium Plaques - Contacts with the Central Bucks Branch hadn't produced any information about alternative plaques. The secretary had approached the producer of the Guild plaques for further details of purchasing named plaques. Details had been sent to those towers which had expressed an interest in the additional plaques. A combined order from the branch will be placed once towers have responded.

Data Protection Act - Nothing formal has been done yet regarding registration. Doug has put together a document describing what the branch does with its data. This will also become a definitive record of how we use the data.

Election of New Members

Nominations had been received proposing three members -

Tower	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Buckingham	Jonathan Spencer (Junior)	Andrew Spencer	Bill Yates
Leckhampstead	Tom Taylor	Paul Verrier	David Moore
Calverton	Barry Eglesfield (re-election)	Sheila Watts	Roy Keeves

All were elected without dissent.

Officers' Reports

Secretary - Nothing to report.

Treasurer - The current balance in the Building Society Account is £1217. This does not include the Powergen Money. There are three towers still to pay their Guild Subscriptions and there are currently 165 paid up members. The raffle today raised £23 for the Guild Bell Fund.

Ringing Master - Nothing to report.

Guild Reps - Neither were present. However David Joyce (Guild Steward) stated that he had placed a report of the Guild AGM on the branch e-group.

Powergen Money

Details of the four applications, from Buckingham, Lathbury, Simpson and Woughton had appeared in the May edition of *In Touch*. Discussion followed on the merits of each.

The main points were :

- The intention is that the grant should all go to one tower.
- We should support a tower where there is a band of ringers.
- Buckingham is still not at the stage of definitely going ahead.
- Woughton have had 25 years to fix their wheel - they are prepared to do it now because the grant is available.
- Simpson have no income, they do have a band and it will be nice to get the bells back in action. They will need to install sound control as it is a residential area and the bells have not been rung for some time. It is not clear what the cost of work at Simpson will be.
- Lathbury have no income.

David Joyce then proposed that 'Subject to there being £500 of reasonable work being needed on the bells, the grant be made to Simpson'. This was seconded by Simon Head. This was agreed by a show of hands, there being none against.

Sheila Watts pointed out that normal branch funds are also available for giving grants to towers, and applications can be made to the branch at any time.

Forthcoming Events

Richard Stanworth gave details of some forthcoming events :

- The 10-bell branch practice on 30th June - we are still having trouble finding a venue - Richard is hoping for Daventry. However Jonathan Griggs said that he already had the bells for a quarter peal on that day. It was agreed that Richard try to get Moulton. He should also try for other days of that week if Friday wasn't available.
- The annual competition against the Towcester branch at Hanslope on Saturday 29th July starting at 6.00 p.m. Three separate bands are needed - 22 ringers in all - we need as many volunteers as possible for the three sections - 6 bell, 8 bell (Stedman Triples) and call changes on 8.

David Joyce announced that the Ringers Beer will be available for collection from Hook Norton on Saturday 17th June between 10.30 and 12.00. There are still 100 cases to be sold so orders are still being taken by Graham Clifton.

Due to problems at Wolverton, no ringing is presently taking place there.

John and Elizabeth Lonsbrough celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary at the end of July - David suggested that those that knew them when they lived in Milton Keynes might like to ring for this.

David also has tickets for the Guild Festival Lunch - he was given 25 tickets to sell and still has 25 available.

Any Other Business

Sheila Watts announced that the new vicar will be licensed at Haversham on Thursday 15th June, with ringing from 7-7.30 p.m. - please let her know if you can help.

Jonathan Griggs asked if more was known about the Guild Best Kept Tower Competition. Richard Stevens advised that there will be more published about this in the autumn.

The Chairman thanked the Lavendon band for their hospitality and the Rev James Wallace from Newport Pagnell for taking the service. Appreciation was shown in the usual manner.

Ann Stainsby asked that Sheila Watts be thanked for producing *In Touch* to such a high standard.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting and further ringing followed.

North Bucks Branch—Calendar 2000/2001

AUGUST	18	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Stedman Doubles	Calverton *** note venue change ***
SEPTEMBER	2	3.00 4.00	Ringling Quarterly Meeting	Leckhampstead Lillingstone Lovell
	9		<i>Guild 10-bell Competition</i>	<i>Oxford City</i>
	15	7.30	Branch Practice Focus on Rounds & Call Changes	Loughton
	*29	7.30	Branch Ten Bell Practice	TBA
	29		<i>Easthampstead Course</i>	<i>Easthampstead</i>
OCTOBER	6		<i>Branch Secretaries Meeting</i>	<i>Radley</i>
	7		<i>Guild Six Bell Striking Competition</i>	<i>Brightwell Baldwin</i>
	20	7.30	Branch Practice Special Methods: St Simons & St Martins Bob Doubles	Tingewick
NOVEMBER	17	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Yorkshire Surprise Major	Stony Stratford
	24		<i>Pudsey Peal Appeal (Children in Need)</i>	
	25		<i>Autumn General Committee Meeting</i>	<i>Wokingham</i>
DECEMBER	2	3.30	Quarterly Meeting	Fenny Stratford
	15	7.30	Branch Practice Focus on Rounds & Call Changes	Milton Keynes Village
2001 JANUARY	*19	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Superlative	Downs Barn
FEBRUARY	*16	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Surfleet	North Crawley
MARCH	3	3.00 4.00	Ringling Branch AGM	Whaddon Bletchley
	*16	7.30	Branch Practice Focus on Rounds & Call Changes	Thornborough

Items marked * were unconfirmed as at 29 July 2000
 Italicised events are Guild events

Another Gem from Wales

In the last issue you were treated to the leaning tower of Cwmyoy. Just up the mountain is Partrishow, a minute Church that is a must if you are in the area. It stands on the southern slopes of the Gader Range, with a wonderful panoramic view of the lower Grwyney Fawr with the Usk in the distance. The immediate surrounds of the Church have a grandeur and serenity that must be unique.

A 14th Century double bell-cot dominates the western end of the nave. It contains two bells – one cast in 1708 at a Chepstow foundry, the other is of uncertain age and origin. Apart from its setting, the Church is famous for its Rood Screen, a wonderfully intricate piece of carving, and the wall paintings. There is also a very rare 1620 Welsh bible.

