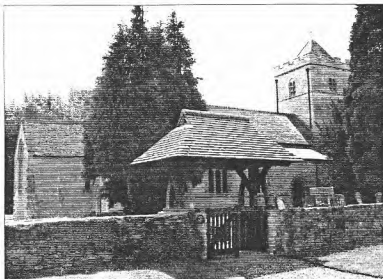


In Touch

August 2004

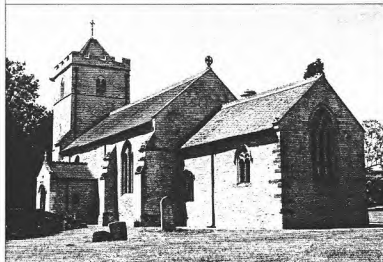


Quarterly Meeting

The Quarterly Meeting will be held at St Mary's Church, Leckhampstead, on Saturday 4th September. The timetable will be as follows:

- 3.30 Ringing
- 4.30 Service
- 5.00 Tea
- 5.45 Business Meeting
- 7.00 Evening ringing at Maids Moreton

Names for Tea to Paul Verrier (01280-860439)
by **Thursday 26th August 2004**



St Mary's Church Leckhampstead

The Church tower is late 13th century, and is in three stages. An embattled parapet, a moulded outer stringcourse and two gargoyles were added later. A fine west doorway, dating from circa 1280, has a pointed arch of two moulded orders. Above is a restored round-headed window light circa 1180, shafted and with similarly decorated hood as the arcade arches inside.

Of the five bells the third is the oldest, dating from about 1545 and made by J Saunders (founders of Reading); tenor and fourth were installed circa 1660 by Chandlers of Drayton Parslow. Second and treble were fitted in 1897; one to mark Queen Victoria's Jubilee and one as a present by the children of the parish to the Rector. The main bells are a fine, but difficult, ring though recent replacement of bearings has helped. Also in 1897 a new Sanctus bell was fitted, the former (medieval) Sanctus, inscribed "Crestit me firi fecit", now rests on the floor at the western end of the north aisle.

There are three interesting peal boards in the ringing chamber. Each records a performance of 5040 changes of Antelope & Grandsire Doubles, rung by the Towcester District Association in March 1908, December 1910, and February 1922.

(Taken from the Church History, published by Leckhampstead District Church Council, supported by The Open Churches Trust)

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Assistant Ringing Master

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Training Officer

Post currently vacant

Guild Representatives

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Archivist

Mr Doug Hird, 78 Lakes Lane, Newport Pagnell. MK16 8HR
Tel. 01908-614741, Email. doughird@northbucks.org.uk /
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Secretarial Snippets

Grants

Applications for grants for assistance from individuals for training or from towers for work or for the provision of things that keep bells ringing shall be submitted to the Secretary. Details of applications received will be sent out to towers as soon as possible after receipt. All applications received and sent out at least one month before a meeting will be considered at the next general meeting of the Branch.

Training Grants

Grants will be given towards training courses as follows: 50% of the cost up to a maximum of £50. Applications for grants should be made in writing to the Secretary. It would help us if you apply before you attend the course if at all possible.

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.

Over the Border in Northants Towcester Branch—2004

4 Sept	Branch Practice	Paulerspury
18 Sept	Summer Festival & 8 Bell Competition	Northampton
2 Oct	Branch Meeting & 6 Bell Competition	Bradden Wappenham
23 Oct	Practice Quiz Night-Fish & Chips	Ashton, Grafton Stoke Bruerne
13 Nov	Branch Practice	Wicken
4 Dec	Branch Annual Dinner	Towcester

Our Grateful Thanks...

..... to all those who contributed towards this issue of *In Touch*. A special thank you to Alan Marchbank for producing the Centenary photograph pages in colour.

Ever since the Branch agreed that *In Touch* could be just Minutes and Forthcoming Events, we have been able to produce bumper issues! Please keep those articles coming in!

The deadline for the next *In Touch* is:
Friday 29th October 2004

Sheila Watts & Sheila Ware
Editors

Centenary Celebration Day & Guild Festival

Saturday 12th June - Newton Longville



...some thoughts from those who took part...

The Centenary Service

What hymns would the ringers know, what Service should we plan, and would anyone come? These thoughts exercised us for many weeks before the event. We need not have worried. The Church was comfortably full and the ringers sang heartily, as ringers do. Not only the Bellringers' Hymn 'Unchanging God', but also the modern hymn that the Rector had chosen! The Choir was wonderful, and the Communion Service just the right length with an entertaining sermon. The collection went towards the cost of the new ringing chamber platform. Our thanks must go to Newton Longville Church for hosting our Centenary Service in such style, with particular thanks to the Revd. John Kinchin-Smith.

SW & SW



Raising and Lowering Competition

Four teams in total, three from Guild Branches and a team from the host village, Newton Longville, entered this unusual competition. The 'test piece', rung on the back six, required raising the bells, standing and then lowering them. Without the opportunity for a few minutes practice, ringers in this competition are plunged into striking their bell perfectly from the outset. From the comments overheard it was obvious that this was the first time most of the competitors had rung in a competition like this.

During the raises the slight odd struckness of some of the larger bells caused a few faces to go red and some brows to be mopped as the ringers tried to ensure that rhythm was maintained on both the hand and backstrokes. The stand also seemed to cause problems for bands with, in most cases, at least one bell not setting at the same time as the others.

However, despite exhaustion and nerves, the standard of striking was high with some very pleasant ringing being experienced.

Sitting outside in the graveyard judging the competition was John Thurman and Hannah Wilby. In their summary after the competition they remarked on how difficult it was to mark this competition in comparison to a normal striking competition. However, they had managed to distinguish between the teams. The results were as follows:

- 1st EBSB 80%
- 2nd Reading 65%
- 3rd North Bucks 60%
- 4th Newton Longville 50%

The
North Bucks
Band



JG

A view from the other side of the counter

How much lettuce will a bell ringer eat? How many cherry tomatoes can they consume? How many jars of apple sauce will we need? These were all questions that had to be answered as Sheila Goodger and I planned the catering to go with the pig roast. We did our estimates and made our purchases and hoped that we had enough for everyone. In the meantime we worried about selling enough tickets to cover the costs.

On the day we arrived in good time to set everything out. We found the kitchen at the hall to be well equipped and with plenty of room to prepare

the salads and sweets. The pig duly arrived ready roasted at about 11:45. It was still on the spit and as the Service of Celebration was not yet over the gas was lit under the pig to keep it hot. Once people began to arrive for lunch, David and Peter set about the pig with carving knives, whilst Sheila, Evelyn and I served the meat in a roll and ensured that the salad dishes were kept topped up.

On the whole the day ran very smoothly. We sold enough tickets to cover the costs and everything was cleared up in good time before we had to vacate the hall. I would like to thank those who helped - David and Sheila Goodger, Peter and Evelyn Nicholson, and Lindy Snack.

(And the answer to the questions - about half as much as we had estimated. The sweet and crunchy salad was preferred to the herb salad, and we had several packs of cherry tomatoes and jars of apple sauce left over. However, all the sweets, enough for 100 people, were all eaten by the 80 who had lunch.)



Not much Pig was left!

HS

The Mini Ring

Thankfully the day dawned bright and fair, as had it been windy and raining, erecting the Mini Ring might have proved just too difficult. The custodians of the Litchfield Mini Ring were there bright and early too, and with a great deal of guidance we managed to erect it, just as the Service finished and our visitors were returning for lunch. It was a great experience to ring on the tiny bells—you have never over-pulled till you have over-pulled a tiny bell and boy did some people over pull! The highlight was probably hearing the experts ring a course of Cambridge although I was well pleased with a touch of Bob Minor! It packed away much more quickly and was soon disappearing into the sunset.

Thanks are due to Ron Snack, Simon Head, Brian Newman and David Joyce for working so hard to put

it all together and then pack it all away. Would we do it again? (Well I think it was worth it, so) YES!

AM

Oxford Guild Festival

(from The Ringing World, July 23 2004

This year's Guild Festival was celebrated a month earlier than usual, in June, to coincide with the Centenary of the founding of the North Bucks Branch at Newton Longville. For this the Branch members had hired the very impressive Longueville Hall. Refreshments were available for 10.00 am for those weary travellers who had driven the length of our extensive Guild and this was followed by a Communion Service at St Faith's Church, Newton Longville. The Revd. John Kinchin-Smith, Rector of Newton Longville, gave a very powerful address, directing all the various groups in the Church to work together in Christ and compelling us to 'be worthy of our high calling'. During the Communion the anthem *God be in My Head*, by Walford Davies was heard and the organist played us out with Karg-Elert's *Nun Danket*. Back at the Longueville Hall a veritable banquet was produced—pig roast accompanied by a wonderful salad with plenty of sideshows for our diversion and the Lichfield mini-ring was much in evidence. The Rise and Fall competition took place after the Service and we were all grateful to the Longville ringers for completing the ringing platform. These interesting bells must have been impossibly challenging when rung from the ground floor! Many thanks to the North Bucks Branch for all their organisation and for giving us a Festival to remember!

Bobbie May

What do you think David was saying?
Your suggestions to the Editors, please!





Erecting the Mini Ring



The Longueville Hall



Mini Ring completed



Lucky Cards Stall



Shenley's Book Stall



Judges: Hannah Wilby & John Thurman



The Competition Trophies



North Bucks Band



EBSB Band—the winners!



Newton Longville Band



Reading Band



The Pig Roast Lunch



The "Hanslope Boys"



The Stocks



Thirsty work at
the Mini Ring



Where's this?

In the last issue we asked if anyone could guess where this was.

It's at Tresillian, near Truro in Cornwall.

Does anybody else have any interesting or unusual photos for the next issue?

From The Ringing World — 25th June 2004 Diary of an Indexer by Rowena Gay

June 11th issue — the front page Centenary article

Why did the North Bucks Branch decide that 'Meat teas' should not be provided at meetings? Was vegetarianism becoming popular among the natives at the time? Or perhaps, as the heading ('The Branch takes shape') suggests, members were putting on weight and needed to restrict their protein intake. How tactless, therefore, to celebrate the Centenary with, among other things, a Pig Roast.....

Monday 3rd May saw the dawning of the ODG Ringing Day and Eight Bell Competition. The ringing began slowly and, in the rain, rather miserably at Taynton, though spirits were good. Route B, from Bloxham, fared rather better, probably because of several recently restored rings on the itinerary and somehow ringers have a nose for these. The quality of the ringing was good, even though numbers were noticeably down on previous years and the Bell Fund probably won't benefit as much. The ringing was hosted jointly by the Chipping Norton and Witney & Woodstock Branches.

The Competition was held in the afternoon, thus allowing all to have a ring in the morning and for tower grabbers to pause and listen to some of the competition ringing later, in case they had worked hard enough already! But this I doubt.

Heats were at Witney and, more challengingly, at Shipton-under-Wychwood with 10 teams taking part in all.

The final was held at Hook Norton, where competitors and other visitors alike could listen to the ringing from the churchyard or the pub across the road! Some excellent ringing took place and the laurels eventually

2004 ODG Ringing Day & 8-Bell Competition

From an article by Bobbie May
in the 25th June issue of *The Ringing World*

went to Reading, St Mary & St Laurence. It is, apparently, their year, since most of those who rang in the band also helped to bring

back the Tewkesbury Shield. Oxford City Branch team came 2nd with High Wycombe 3rd.

The test piece was 240 Plain Bob Major and the judges were Ted Garret and Ian Calvert from Northants. The heats were judged by Maurice New and Cliff Garlick (Witney) and Murray and Mary Coleman (Shipton-under-Wychwood).

Our many thanks must go to the judges and the organisers of the towers, particularly those who organised the wonderful tea at Hook Norton.

Oh, and yes, the weather cheered up at last and the sun shone on the competition, if not on all the competitors!

NB. North Bucks rang in the heat at Shipton-under-Wychwood, coming fourth, so didn't go through to the final. Our ringers were: Barry Eglesfield, Jonathan Griggs, Doug Hird, David Joyce, Jill Joyce, Alan Marchbank, John Stanworth, and Richard Stanworth.

NOT APPRECIATED!

Sadly our efforts are not universally applauded. In the eighteenth century the Parish Clerk of St Peter Mancroft put the following in *The Norwich Mercury* in protest at the Ringers' habit of performing at 6.00 am on Sundays.

*Ye rascally ringers, inveterate foes,
Disturbers of those who are fond of repose,
I wish for the peace and the quiet of these
lands
That ye had round your necks what ye pull with
your hands.*

With thanks to the O.U. Society of Change Ringers

Inter-Branch Striking Competition

The date for this was brought forward another week to Saturday 10th July in order to try and avoid holidays and get more ringers taking part. As far as the North Bucks went, we still struggled to get enough people to participate, as there seemed to be a number of other events happening on the same day. We provided our own judges again, with a different person adjudicating on each section.



The first section was call changes on eight. This was judged by David Joyce, for North Bucks, and Nigel Williams, for Towcester. This was followed by the six-bell section, for which the test piece was 120 Plain Bob Minor. The judges for this section were Chris Stokes for Towcester, and Richard Stanworth for North Bucks. The last section was the Stedman Triples, which was judged by Charlie Truman from Towcester, and Simon Head from North Bucks.

When we all met in the Church for the results, each pair of judges gave their verdicts in turn. Because each judge used a slightly different marking scheme, the total faults awarded to each team showed a wide variation between judges. However, in each section of the Competition the judges agreed on the winner. Unfortunately the Towcester Branch failed to ring enough changes in the call change section so were disqualified.



The winners of each section were:

Call Changes	North Bucks
Plain Bob Minor	Towcester
Stedman Triples	Towcester

This year Towcester were the winners of both the Inter-Branch trophy and the George Holland Stedman Trophy.

Richard Stanworth

Branch Six Bell Striking Competition

This year we went to Weston Underwood on Friday 18th June. The entries were rather poor, compared to previous years, with just three official teams entered. Perhaps everyone was suffering from the effect of the Centenary day the week before. An additional scratch team was made up on the night. Barry Davis from Banbury was our judge and placed the teams as follows:

1st	Hanslope	10 faults
2nd	Bradwell	36 faults
3rd	Loughton and Shenley	38 faults
4th	Scratch team	41 faults

This means that Hanslope will go forward to represent the Branch, and defend their title, in the Guild Competition at the beginning of October.

Richard Stanworth



Many years ago there was a group of young people who all learnt to ring in

the villages around North Bucks and Northampton. Gradually they grew up and married and, although they kept in touch and all continued ringing, they drifted apart as family ties took up more of their time. Some of them changed jobs and moved house but most still remained in central England.

Towards the latter half of the eighties as their families became more independent, they occasionally began to meet up again on a Saturday evening to ring together and then to enjoy a drink and a meal afterwards in a local pub. Gradually these get-togethers extended to a day, a long weekend and finally, since 1989, to a whole week at the end of May every year. By now the friends had put down roots in six different county shires - and thus the SSRS was born. As successive generations have joined us we now comprise a group of about twenty people with an age span of eight years to seventy plus and an equivalent ringing ability ranging from rounds to surprise maximus. We take it in turns to organise the accommodation and ringing and we have been all over the country from Cornwall to the Lake District. Thus it was that this year for our 16th annual holiday we came to stay in the beautiful mediaeval town of Lavenham in Suffolk. Most of us stayed for the whole week but we were also joined by several very welcome friends who either stayed nearby for part of the week or just came up for the ringing days. As usual, we had three full days of ringing, which radiated out in different directions from Lavenham, alternated with a rest day in between each one and we also rang for Service at the Parish Church on Sunday.



Six Shires Ringing Society Sojourn in Suffolk

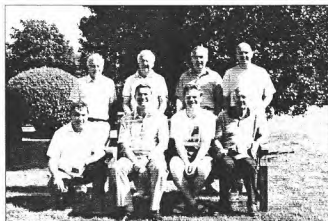
Although we all ring together regularly and still meet up during the year

on a Saturday evening for a social, the members of the SSRS had never rung a quarter peal together. It was decided this year to remedy that situation and a quarter was duly arranged for Sunday afternoon at Lavenham Church.

The ringing was very good and I overheard quite a few people remarking how pleasant it was to hear the bells as they walked around the town on that beautiful hot sunny May afternoon.

Finally, I have mentioned no names in this article but I feel I must just say a big thank you on behalf of us all to Mike and Freda Bennett who organised the holiday this year.

Sheila Blenkhorn



LAVENHAM, Suffolk - 30th May 2004

1260 Stedman Triples:

Ivor Dickin 1, Keith Haslam 2, Roy Keeves 3, Phil Haslam 4, Mike Fiander 5, Julian Parker 6, William Haynes [C] 7, Mike Bennett 8.

Rung for Pentecost by the SSRS at the start of their annual Ringing Week.

Back Row:

Ivor Dickin, Keith Haslam, Roy Keeves, Phil Haslam

Front Row:

Mike Fiander, Julian Parker, William Haynes [C], Mike Bennett



CENTENARY MUGS

There are still some Centenary Mugs available for sale. They are in white fine bone china with the North Bucks logo on the front, and

the Church logo on the reverse (depending on whether you are right or left handed)! Both logos are in blue/green.

They can be purchased at Branch practices/meetings, or contact Sheila Ware:

Tel: 01234-713667
Email: sandsw@clara.net

Buy yours now while stocks last!

June 1904
North Bucks Branch



Founded at
St Faith, Newton Longville

At Redbourn, Hertfords.

*All that intend to take these ropes in hand
To ring, mark well these lines and understand
Which if with care you read will plainly see
What fines and forfeits are the Sexton's fee.*

*He that doth break a stay or turn a bell
The forfeit is a groat it's known full well
And carelessly to ring with spur or hat,
The forfeit is a groat, beware of that.
And they that fight or quarrell, swear or curse
Must pay two potts or else do worse.*

*And for unlocking of the steeple door,
And for the sweeping of the belfry floor,
And to buy oil you know it's very dear,
And for my own attendance given here.*

*If you will well observe such rules as these
You're welcome to ring here when you please.*

Pray Remember the Sexton

*Jo^s Brown
1754*

Laying The Right Foundations: Teaching the Early Stages of Ringing

Saturday 9th October 2004

This course is intended to provide a basic framework for teaching bell ringing upon which individuals can build as their circumstances permit. The different aspects of the topic will be approached in a variety of ways - presentation of ideas, discussion, and practical sessions as appropriate. The aim of the day is to encourage good practice particularly for teaching the vital early stages of bell handling and elementary change ringing. The course is intended for both experienced and less experienced teachers.

Previously this course has been held in the southern part of the Guild, a long way for us to travel. This time a venue closer to us has been arranged, in order to encourage participation of members from the more northerly Branches of the Guild.

The date arranged for this seminar is **Saturday 9th October**, and it will be based at Steeple Aston and Rousham. There will be a morning and an afternoon session, with a pub lunch arranged at Steeple Aston. There may be a small charge for the course, plus the cost of lunch. Full details will be circulated as soon as they are available.

Places are limited so early booking is advised. Please contact Joan Warren, the Banbury Branch Secretary. Joan's contact details are: Grove House, Little Tew, Chipping Norton OX7 4JB
Tel No: 01608 683643; EMAIL: joan@niddle.com

Quarters

St Edmund, Maids Moreton

Sunday 29th February 2004

1320 Kent TB Minor

- 1 Peter Nicholson
- 2 Jonathan Spencer
- 3 Shirley Webb
- 4 Ann Fletcher
- 5 Ray Vickers
- 6 Andrew Spencer (C)

A retirement compliment to Revd Hugh Kent, Rector of Maids Moreton, rung prior to his last Service
First of Kent TB inside—2

St Lawrence, Bradwell

Sunday 9th May 2004

1260 Reverse Canterbury Doubles (42 mins)

- 1 Christine Abbott
- 2 Jenny Brookman
- 3 Jill Joyce (C)
- 4 Christine Cable
- 5 David Joyce
- 6 Gordon Abbott

First in method—2 & 4

First as Conductor in method

SS Mary & Giles, Stony Stratford

Monday 17th May 2004

1280 Plain Bob Major (47 mins)

- 1 Lyn Saunders
- 2 Michael Nimmo
- 3 Peter Eales
- 4 Malcolm Hooton
- 5 David Moore
- 6 James Woodcock
- 7 Jill Eales (C)
- 8 Robert Winstanley

Rung for Ascensiontide, and the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild

St Mary, Banbury

Thursday 20th May 2004

1259 Grandsire Caters

- 1 Cliff Wightman
- 2 Joan Warren
- 3 Catherine Stanworth
- 4 John Lindsay
- 5 Diana Reeves
- 6 David Bennett
- 7 John Stanworth
- 8 Robert Reeves
- 9 Barry Davis (C)
- 10 David Wetherall

For Ascension Day

First on 10—2, 7

St Lawrence, Bradwell

Sunday 23rd May 2004

1260 Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles (41 mins)

- 1 Christine Abbott
- 2 Christine Cable
- 3 Andrew King
- 4 Ian Green
- 5 David Joyce (C)
- 6 Dean Meakins

Celebration for Ruby Wedding Anniversary of Dick & Rosemary Grace

First Quarter—6

St Mary, Padbury

Sunday 30th May 2004

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Helen Stanworth
- 2 Christine Cable
- 3 David Moore
- 4 David Joyce
- 5 David Goodger
- 6 Richard Stanworth (C)

For Annual Service of Padbury Sick Benefit Society,
A welcome to the Revd Tom Gibbons and compliment to Bill Thatcher, retiring after 22 years as Churchwarden

St Mary, Shenley

Monday 31st May 2004

1260 Doubles (60 Grandsire, 120 Reverse Canterbury, 240 St Simons, 360 St Martins, 480 Plain Bob)

- 1 Anne McIntyre
- 2 Bob Winstanley
- 3 Derek Stainsby
- 4 Ted Fawcett
- 5 Simon Head (C)
- 6 Hugh Butler

For the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild

St Edmund, Maids Moreton

Saturday 5th June 2004

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Bob Christopher
- 2 Jonathan Spencer
- 3 Shirley Webb
- 4 Ann Fletcher
- 5 David Goodger
- 6 Andrew Spencer (C)

Rung to celebrate the Wedding of Philip James Vince and Marie Victoire Passailaigue married this day at Sullivan's Island, Charleston, South Carolina. Philip is the son of Margaret Vince, a ringer at Buckingham and Maids Moreton

More Quarters

St Mary, Shenley

Sunday 6th June 2004

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Rosemary Scott
- 2 Becky Fawcett
- 3 Bob Winstanley
- 4 Derek Stainsby
- 5 Ted Fawcett (C)
- 6 John Brookman

In Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of D-Day

St Lawrence, Bradwell

Sunday 6th June 2004

1260 Doubles (240 Reverse Canterbury, 120
Winchendon Place, 120 St Nicholas, 240 St Simons, 120
St Martins, 240 Plain Bob, 180 Grandsire)

- 1 David Green
- 2 Jennifer Brookman
- 3 Jill Joyce
- 4 Christine Cable
- 5 David Joyce (C)
- 6 Ian Green

For the 60th Anniversary of D-Day

First Quarter—Treble

St Andrew, Great Linford

Sunday 6th June 2004

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Helen Stanworth
- 2 Richard Stanworth
- 3 Simon Head
- 4 Brian Newman
- 5 Alan Marchbank
- 6 Barry Eglesfield (C)

For the 60th Anniversary of D-Day

A North Bucks Branch Officers Centenary Quarter Peal

St Lawrence, Bradwell

Friday 11th June 2004

1260 Doubles (480 Reverse Canterbury, 480

Winchendon Place, 300 St Nicholas) (40 mins)

- 1 Jill Joyce
- 2 Jennifer Brookman
- 3 Ian Green
- 4 Christine Cable
- 5 David Joyce (C)
- 6 Brian Newman

On the 100th Anniversary of the creation of the North
Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild

St Faith, Newton Longville

Friday 11th June 2004

1288 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Christine Ryan
- 2 Helen Stanworth
- 3 Alan Marchbank
- 4 Nigel Titley
- 5 Simon Head
- 6 John Stanworth
- 7 Richard Stanworth (C)
- 8 John Clarke

To celebrate the Centenary of the formation of the
North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild at
Newton Longville on 11th June 1904. First Quarter on
the bells since completion of the ringing gallery. By
members of the local band, Branch Officers, and
friends who helped with the construction work



St Mary, Banbury

Sunday 20th June 2004

1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major

- 1 Diana Reeves
- 2 Joan Warren
- 3 Catherine Stanworth
- 4 Robert Reeves
- 5 Keith Abbott
- 6 Michael Tinsley
- 7 John Lindsay (C)
- 8 Josh Eldridge

First in method—2, 3

St Lawrence, Bradwell

Sunday 20th June 2004

1260 Doubles (Plain Bob, Grandsire, St Simons,
St Martins)

- 1 Christine Abbott
- 2 Christine Cable
- 3 Jill Joyce
- 4 Simon Head
- 5 Ian Green (C)
- 6 Gordon Abbott

For Fathers Day

Most methods as Conductor

Even More Quarters

St Mary, Thornborough
Wednesday 23rd June 2004
1260 Grandsire & Plain Bob Doubles
1 Jonathan Spencer
2 Ann Fletcher
3 Ray Vickers
4 Andrew Spencer (C)
5 David Goodger

Rung prior to the Service licensing the Revd Philip Derbyshire in the House for Duty post at Thornborough & Raddcliffe-cum-Chackmore

St Andrew, Great Linford
Friday 23rd July 2004
1260 Plain Bob Minor
1 Dr Andrew Jeffries
2 Malcolm Hooton
3 James Maltby
4 Brian Newman
5 Alan Marchbank
6 Barry Eglesfield (C)

Congratulations to Andrew Jeffries and Lyndsay Atkinson, local ringers, who have graduated as Doctors from Medical School

St Lawrence, Bradwell
Sunday 25th July 2004
1260 Doubles (Stedman, Grandsire, St Simons,
St Martins, Plain Bob) (42 minutes)
1 Christine E Marchbank
2 Christine Cable
3 Jill Joyce (C)
4 Ann Birch
5 Christina Tribble
6 Becky Fawcett

By a Milton Keynes ladies band to celebrate the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch

Most methods as Conductor

1st as cover—
6



St James the Great, Hanslope
Thursday 29th July 2004
1260 Spliced Minor (50 mins)
(Plain Bob, St Clements, Buxton, Pinehurst,
Double Oxford, Childwell, Thelwell)

- 1 Nick Gray
- 2 George Green
- 3 Tony Gray
- 4 Roy Keeves
- 5 Jonathan Griggs (C)
- 6 Richard Haseldine (C)



Centenary Quarters!

Don't forget - we want a Century of Quarter Peals for the Branch Centenary. We would like at least one Quarter to be rung in each tower in the Branch with ringable bells, and that as many ringers as possible be involved. These can be an opportunity for ringers to make progress so lets get lots of 'firsts' in the Quarters. If you ring a Centenary Quarter then, in addition to publishing it in the usual places, please forward details to the Ringing Master. He will then collate them all together and also arrange for each Quarter to be printed on a special Centenary Certificate.

If you need help in organising or ringing a Quarter at your tower, then please get in touch with the Ringing Master. He will arrange ringers to help if needed. He will also be arranging Quarters at towers without ringers. If you would like to ring in any of these, then please let Richard know.

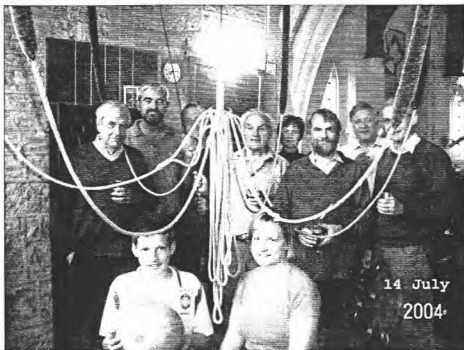
Richard Stanworth

The Maids Moreton Rope Spider



On Wednesday July 14th the ringers at Maids Moreton celebrated the installation of a rope spider. This has been a much talked about feature in the tower and we thought it appropriate to celebrate with a brief opening ceremony and party before the Wednesday practice. Reg Doble (the spiderman) ceremonially lowered the ropes while the ringers toasted the event. The picture shows some of the ringers including Little Miss Muffet sitting on her tuffet in the front. Shirley (WorldWide) Webb was unable attend, we believe this was due to essential practice for her hammer throwing in the forthcoming Olympic games. Long discussions followed concerning the correctness of the term rope *spider* in a six bell tower, perhaps this is something which might be taken up with further correspondence in *In Touch*, one suggestion was that we should call it a hexapod insect but I can't see that catching on. The spider was pulled back up to the ceiling where the cord became stuck preventing it lowering under its own weight. Fortunately the tower captain has kept a long piece of piping in the tower for 20 or 30 years and the spider was coaxed down with little help from vet. The final spider body is still in the workshop and Reg assures us this will be sufficiently massive to overcome the problem, I just hope we are strong enough to pull it up.

Andrew Spencer



CENTENARY DINNER?

When the Centenary celebrations were first planned, a suggestion was made that a Centenary Dinner would be a good idea.

An alternative might be a Quarter Peal Day, followed by a Fish & Chip Supper.

WHAT WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

Please let a Branch Officer know your views, and if you would attend. Or come along to the Quarterly Meeting on 4th September, when there will be discussion and a decision will be made. Please support us!

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS NORTH BUCKS BRANCH

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at Great Linford on 6th March 2004

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman, Barry Eglesfield, welcomed everyone to Great Linford for the Annual Meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Received from Charlie Macdonald, Gillian Macdonald, Brian Gatward (Guild Treasurer), John Payne (Guild Membership Secretary), Graham Clifton (Guild Master), Nigel Harrison (Guild Secretary), David Goodger, Becky Fawcett, John Stanworth, Catherine Stanworth, Michael Tinsley and Laurence Gibson.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Quarterly meeting held at Bradwell in December were published in the February edition of *In Touch*. David Joyce pointed out an error in the minutes. The Rev. Andy Jowitt took the Service, and not as printed in the minutes. Subject to this correction, it was agreed on a show of hands that the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising

Election of New Members

A nomination had been received proposing one new member -

<u>Tower</u>	<u>Name</u>
Maids Moreton	Reg Doble

Proposed by David Goodger, seconded by Margaret Vince

He was elected without dissent. The Chairman then welcomed Reg to the Guild and Branch.

Officers' Reports

Chairman The year has been steady, with much of the time devoted to preparing for the Centenary. Ringing wise, we have attempted one or two things and failed. We attempted the peal at Calverton. This was lost at the end by conductor error. We hope to go for this again. A peal was also planned at Great Linford, to be ten extents, but this has fallen by the wayside for the moment. We still need one or two more to assist with the Centenary. We have co-opted David Joyce, Sheila Ware and David Goodger to help, but if anyone else can help with the organising then please see me or one of the other officers. The main emphasis of the meetings has been the Centenary. Things are progressing nicely now after one or two hiccups along the way and hopefully all will go well.

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. A joint practice was held at

Towcester with the Towcester Branch. This was the only joint practice held this year. Membership of the Branch decreased again in 2003 with only 16 new members elected. The total number of towers with members is 30. An Officers' meeting has been held before each quarterly meeting and the AGM plus extra ones to organise the Branch Centenary on 12th June. We also have 3 co-opted members on the committee to help with this. As part of our usual preparations for the Annual Report letters were again sent out to all towers for which we have contact details, requesting that they check these details and correct any mistakes. The rate of return has remained at about the same level as last year but there are still a number that have not been returned. Please return the letter, even if the details are correct. That way I can ensure that the Branch records are kept up to date.

Treasurer Copies of the audited accounts had been circulated to those present. A few of the main points were highlighted. The balance fell from £1031 at the beginning of the year to £999 at the end of the year, a loss of £32. Subscriptions were collected from 181 members. This was a drop of 19 from the previous year, although some of these have paid since. These will be shown in the 2004 accounts. £63 was given to the Guild Bell Fund, the proceeds from the raffles and collections at Branch meetings. We collected £80 at Branch practices, of which £45 was given back to the towers. *In Touch* publishing costs were £114. This was for the two editions in August and November. This was a lower figure than usual, due to the production difficulties earlier in the year. We are very grateful for the donations of £170 which more than covered our costs last year but will also go towards the costs this year. Lastly two grants were paid this year amounting to £250. The current status is £1160 in our account. 19 towers have paid subscriptions for 2004, with 11 towers still to pay. Today's collection has raised £15 for the Guild Bell Fund.

Richard Stanworth proposed, and Alan Marchbank seconded, that the accounts be adopted. This was carried on a show of hands

Ringling Master The monthly Branch practices have again included a range of special methods, with varied success. Suggestions for special methods are always welcome. A few other odd methods have also been tried on occasions. Our performance in the Guild competitions did not start too well, with the Chairman failing to find the venue for the eight-bell competition. Since then we have had a very successful year. Hanslope represented us in the six-bell competition and triumphed on the bells at Mursley. This is believed to be the first time that a North Bucks team has won the competition. Congratulations again to them on this success. In the ten-bell competition held at Biceston in November, we came a very creditable third, our best ever in this event. In the Branch

competitions, the six-bell event was held at Emberton on a Friday evening. We had a good turnout and a pleasant evening without the pressures of rushing round after ringing for weddings. The Guild Master, Graham Clifton acted as judge and the winners were Bradwell. Unfortunately they were not able to represent us at the Guild competition, which allowed Hanslope to go in their place. The Beginners competition was held at Fenny Stratford. There were one or two adjustments to the rules in order to make the competition fair and to give all taking part a reasonable chance. David Joyce judged this and he placed Newton Longville A first. We also did well in the Inter-Branch competition, held at Wicken in July. North Bucks won the contest by two sections to one. This was only the second time that we have won the Stedman trophy. As we were unable to find an outside judge, we did the judging ourselves, with each side providing a different judge for each section. This proved quite a successful format and will be used again this year.

Branch Archivist Doug had prepared a display at the back of the Church with a first draft of the article to appear in the Ringing World for the Branch Centenary. This had led to researching what other things were happening in 1904 – one piece of information gleaned was that the ice-cream cone had been invented in 1904. Work is planned on the website over the next year or so, with a view to making archive data more available. Requests for information for local tower displays are always welcomed, if you cannot find the information on the website.

Election of Officers

Brian Newman proposed Barry Eglesfield as Chairman and Simon Head seconded this. There being no other nominations, Barry was declared elected. Barry thanked the meeting for re-electing him and also thanked the other officers for their support through the previous year. He felt that their work was not always recognised by the rest of the members. It was a great pity that more members were not present to recognise this. He thought that the attendance was very poor for an AGM and asked that those present pass this comment on to the absentees. It was proposed that the other officers prepared to stand be re-elected en-bloc for the next year. David Joyce formally put this proposition, which was seconded by Terry Page, and carried on a show of hands.

The officers elected were:

Secretary	Helen Stanworth
Treasurer	Sheila Watts
Ringing Master	Richard Stanworth
Assistant Master	Simon Head
Guild Representatives	Alan Marchbank and Brian Newman
Branch Archivist	Doug Hird
Newsletter Editor	Sheila Watts

There were no nominations received for the post of Training Officer. Alan Marchbank proposed that the officers be given the authority by the meeting to seek out and second a suitable person for ratification at the next business meeting. David Joyce seconded this and it was

carried on a show of hands.

Grants

No applications had been received. Alan Marchbank provided some information on two pieces of work planned at Newton Longville. The first project, which won't involve any approach to the Branch, is the installation of a ringing floor. The faculty has now been granted, and work will start in Easter week. This is to be largely a 'do it yourself' project. Anyone who can help should let him know. The second project will involve coming round with the begging bowl. The plan is to take out the existing ring of eight bells and frame, recast the tenor to be slightly larger and heavier, recast the two trebles, and add two more trebles and install a ten-bell frame. This is likely to cost in the region of £75,000, and they will be approaching the Branch and Guild for assistance. If anyone knows of someone who would like to pay for the casting of a bell or donate a bell then please let Alan know.

Forthcoming Events

A list of events planned for the year had been circulated. Richard Stanworth pointed out an omission from the list. A joint practice with the Towcester Branch is planned for Saturday 22nd May. The Towcester Branch were quite keen to visit Newport Pagnell. Richard queried whether we should go there as the tower had been used several times already in the last year. Doug Hird said that there shouldn't be a problem on a Saturday evening and it was agreed that the joint practice be held at Newport. Several comments were made expressing the hope that Towcester Branch members support this joint practice more than they did the last one.

Points to note in the list of events:

The towers listed for September to December have not been finalised yet; replies are still awaited. The venue for the September Quarterly meeting is still in doubt. Maids Moreton had been proposed, but they have a fete on that day. An alternative would be to go to Leckhamstead for the meeting and then ring at Maids Moreton in the evening. The meeting agreed that this was an acceptable alternative. The next Branch practice will be at Hanslope, when the special method will be Hanslope Surprise Major – blue lines are available if required.

It is hoped to hold the Beginners Striking Competition at Wavendon. Simon Head said that he is still trying to confirm this with the Vicar.

The Inter-Branch competition has been moved forward to the second Saturday in July in order to ensure that it does not fall in the school holidays. This is in the hope of getting more people involved with the event.

There are currently no special methods specified for the practice in the last quarter of the year – suggestions will be welcomed from members. One suggestion was forthcoming – Double Norwich for one of the 8-bell towers.

Branch Centenary and Guild Festival

The Chairman introduced this by saying that the

committee had visited the site to view the facilities and plans were now moving ahead. Helen Stanworth reported that an article had been written for Odd Bob promoting the day and this will appear in the next issue. However, help is still needed with sideshows. The sorts of things that are planned include: a cake stall, the stocks – throwing wet sponges (it was suggested 'at the Chairman'), roll-a-penny, bat the rat. The jousting game offered by Graham Clifton had also been booked. However, this may be in doubt due to the outside space restriction imposed by the Parish Council. This will need to be discussed in detail by the officers at their next meeting.

Help promised so far:
 Milton Keynes Village – man a sideshow and face painting
 Emberton – Lucky Cards, Which tower does teddy ring at, and Centenary mugs
 Hanslope – help with Raising and Lowering competition
 Maids Moreton – Barbecue
 Alan Marchbank reported that the Mini Ring from Lichfield is booked. This will need to be stewarded throughout the day. Assistance will also be needed with erection and dismantling of the ring.

Alan stressed that the sideshows planned are not especially large but are intended to provide something to do other than ringing in the hope of getting families to come along. It is also intended to restrict the size of the event such that, if it rains, everything apart from the mini ring can be moved inside the hall.

Alan also explained how the Centenary day is a rather sensitive issue with Newton Longville Parish Council. They are concerned that we may takeover their revenue stream and have a negative effect on locally organised events later in the year. A number of points were put to them to allay their fears: this is predominantly a ringers event for members of the ODG; more is being made of the day because Newton Longville is so significant in the history of the Branch because that was where it all started; this links up with work being done in the tower and that the ringers want to see the bells restored to be a very sound ring; the day is hoped to generate some interest from the village in the bells and bell ringers. However, we have to tread a very thin line so as not to upset the Council.

It was generally felt that there are probably enough sideshows and stalls available, but if a tower has a stall or sideshow which they know works well, then that will be preferable rather than running one of the sideshows which are available but that they are not familiar with. There was concern that one of the problems with this event may be getting support from the rest of the Guild. It was noted that at the previous Guild Festival held in the Branch, the choir at the Service had outnumbered the congregation.

It was suggested that where towers were unable to help with a sideshow or stall, then help would still be needed with stewarding various aspects of the day, whether it be the mini ring, car parking, ringing competition, Church Service or Service ringing.

The timing of the day aims at being finished by 4.00 p.m. This will allow people who have to travel a chance to get home at a reasonable time. There is also the possibility

of arranging some towers to ring at on the way home for those that wish to. Leighton Buzzard and Aston Clinton were suggested as possible towers.

The Chairman urged members to get their offers of help in to any of the officers as soon as possible in order to help with the organisation of the day. He also invited anyone interested in helping to attend the officers meeting the next week when the Centenary will be the main topic.

AOB

The Secretary had received an e-mail from the Secretary of the Banbury Branch concerning organising a seminar entitled 'Laying the Right Foundations' for those who teach ringing. This was to see if there would be enough support to run this jointly. It was agreed that this type for seminar is needed but that it is difficult to get commitment unless a date has been fixed. We need to ask members from all the towers whether they will support this. The first question will be 'when is it'. A definite date is therefore needed and then attendees can be sought. David Joyce proposed that we support the joint seminar. Brian Newman seconded the proposal and it was carried unanimously. The Secretary should notify the Banbury Branch Secretary and ask that a date for the seminar be agreed as soon as possible.

The Secretary suggested that, as we have agreed not to hold a quarterly meeting in June, a short meeting is convened at the six-bell striking competition for the sole purpose of electing new members. This will save them having to wait until September to be elected. This was agreed as a good idea.

David Joyce asked about the Centenary Dinner. This has been put on hold until after the Centenary day in June.

David Joyce raised the timing of the December Quarterly meeting. Because a number of members attend the Towcester Branch Dinner on the same day, and some towers also hold Christmas dinners on that day, he suggested that the timing be brought forward.

Suggestions were made about holding the meeting on either the Saturday before, or the Saturday after, but the dates would still clash with other events. This led to a discussion on general attendance at Branch events and the need to re-assess how we attract members.

Following some discussion, Alan Marchbank agreed to canvass some opinions and prepare an article for *In Touch* discussing the war forward for the Branch and making it relevant to ringers in the Branch. The discussion then returned to the December quarterly meeting. Sheila Ware formerly proposed that the meeting start at 2.30 p.m., with the following timings: 2.30 ringing; 3.30 service; 4.00 tea and mince pies; 4.30 meeting. This was put to the meeting and agreed.

Vote of Thanks

On behalf of the members, the Chairman thanked Alan Marchbank and the Great Linford ringers for their hospitality, Rev. Peter Ballantyne for taking the Service, and Michael Tinsley for playing the organ. The members showed their appreciation in the usual way. There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting. Further ringing then followed.

North Bucks Branch—Calendar 2004

AUGUST	20	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Superlative Surprise Minor	Emberton
SEPTEMBER	4	3.30 7.00	Quarterly Meeting Evening Ringing	Leckhampstead Maids Moreton
	10-12		<i>Easthampstead Course</i>	<i>Easthampstead</i>
	17	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Reverse Canterbury	Tyringham
OCTOBER	2		<i>Guild Six-Bell Striking Competition</i>	<i>Compton Parva</i>
	9		<i>Laying the Right Foundations (Teaching the Early Stages of Ringing)</i>	<i>Steeple Aston & Rousham</i>
	*15	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Double Court Bob Minor	Lavendon
NOVEMBER	19	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Superlative Surprise Major	Stony Stratford
	27		<i>Ten-Bell Striking Competition Autumn General Committee Meeting</i>	<i>TBA Kidlington</i>
DECEMBER	*4	2.30	Quarterly Meeting (The time has been changed as agreed at the AGM)	Downs Barn
	17	7.30	Branch Practice Christmas Special—be prepared for anything!	Cosgrove

Items marked * were unconfirmed as at 24 July 2004
Events in *italics* are Guild events, etc.

Ten Bell Striking Competition

This is coming up on Saturday 27th November and I will be looking for a band to at least match, if not improve on, our position from last year. The method this year will be Grandsire Caters.

Richard Stanworth

Another Quarter

St Edmund Confessor, Shalstone
Saturday 8th May 2004
1260 Doubles (3 methods)

- 1 Gerald Kingston
- 2 Phil Curtis
- 3 John Lewis
- 4 Ian Chapple
- 5 Jim Linnell (C)

Rung in memory of the D-Day landers
who assembled at Shalstone