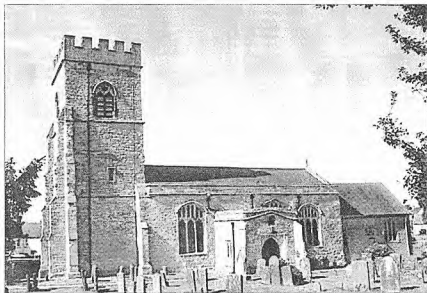




OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH BUCKS BRANCH

In Touch

August 2005



St Mary the Virgin, Thornborough
5 Steel Bells - Weight 11-3-23

Quarterly Meeting at Thornborough

3rd September 2005

- 3.30 Ringing
- 4.30 Service
- 5.00 Tea
- 5.45 Business meeting & ringing
at Beachampton until 8.30

Names for tea to: Helen Stanworth
Tel: 01280-814172
by Tuesday 30th August

70 years a Guild Member!

At the Branch practice at Stoke Goldington on 15th July, Owen Warren (tower captain), was rather surprised to see such a large turnout of Branch members, plus champagne, plus the Guild Master in attendance! He was even more surprised when everyone trooped downstairs and Jon Chamberlain started to make a speech about a special event in 1935—Owen's year of election to the Guild. Owen was presented with a framed certificate in recognition of his 70 years of membership, and was toasted with champagne.

He was just 17 when he was elected a member at the Branch AGM at Newport Pagnell. He had been taught to

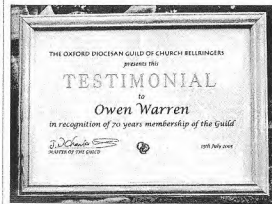
ring by Ernie
Shouler at Stoke
Goldington,

the tower where he rang for the next 70 years, and indeed still runs a regular practice. Owen succeeded Arthur Armstrong as tower captain "not long ago" (over thirty years....). In the early days Owen recalls ringing at many other towers in the area — "anywhere within cycling distance". He also recalls that things were very different in the 1930s and 40s. If you missed your sally or committed some other ringing misdemeanour, that was it, you didn't get asked to ring again!

Congratulations to Owen on his remarkable achievement.



Owen (right), receives his certificate from
Jon Chamberlain, Oxford Guild Master



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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.

Videos

We now have three titles available:

Bellhandling—a tutor's companion (produced by the Central Council)

Look to and Learn (produced by the Kent County Association)

Teaching Demonstration (recording of Steve Coleman teaching)

These videos may be borrowed from the Secretary free of charge. However, a deposit of £5 will be required against safe return of the video.

Our Grateful Thanks...

....to all those who contributed towards this issue of *In Touch*.

The deadline for the next *In Touch* is:
Friday 4th November 2005

Sheila Watts & Sheila Ware
Editors

The Bells of St Edmund's, Maids Moreton



The five bells of St Edmund's church were recast in 1906 with a sixth bell being added. Cock's "Bells of Bucks", printed in 1897, gives the inscriptions for the five as then. They were subsequently upgraded to six by George Ward, a local builder living in the village and a bell dedicated to his gift was the one added.

In 1950 the bells were again recast and the inscriptions were largely kept but not to the same bells. A new inscription was added to the 4th to commemorate the service of the Sexton, Sidney Daniels, who appears in the photo of the 1906 re-hanging above, together with his daughter Sylvia. He is 3rd from left.

Apart from the anonymous bell hangers from Bowells of Ipswich we know the names of all the local men in the picture. Two of them were to be killed later in WW1.

The present bells are from 1950 as stated, and the inscriptions are as follows:

Treble: SANCTE EDMUNDE ORA PRO NOBIS * 1450
RING IN REDRESS TO ALL MANKIND * 1950

2: SANCTE MARIA ORA PRO NOBIS * 1450
RING IN THE COMMON LOVE OF GOD * 1950

3: HERBERT JONES, CAPTAIN OF RINGERS,
RANG IN THIS BELFRY FOR OVER HALF A CENTURY
RING IN THE VALIANT MAN AND FREE * 1950

4: IN MEMORY OF
SIDNEY DANIELS, SEXTON 1888 - 1938
AND HIS WIFE EMMA

RING IN THE LOVE OF TRUTH AND RIGHT

5: GEORGE WARD GAVE ME
AND RESTORED US ALL
1906

6: G.A.PARE RECTOR
S.G.WILLIAMS) CHURCHWARDENS
G.J.BECKETT)
RING IN THE NOBLER MODES OF LIFE * 1950

(N.B. George Pare was the Rector in 1950)

Some of the earlier inscriptions are retained both around the crown of the bell and on the reverse side.

Thus we have on the Tenor
JOHN BRIANT HERTFORD FECIT 1806
J.LONG SUTTON RECTOR * SCOTT * R.HINSON
C.WARDENS

On the 5th we find:-
RECAST BY JOHN TAYLOR & CO * LOUGHBOROUGH
This is in spite of this being the new bell in 1906.

On the 4th there is
PRAISE YE THE LORD ALLWAYSE J7J7 * WILLIAM SCOTT *
MOSES GIBBES * CHURCH WARDENS

No. 3
WILLIAM "SCOTT" MOSES * GIBBES "CHURCH" WARDENS *
J7J7

No.2
WILLIAM "SCOTT" MOSES "GIBBES" CHURCH * WARDENS
on reverse side J7J7

And on the Treble there is the following:-
CANTATE DOMINO CANTICVM NOUVM
HENRY BAGLEY MADE MEE J7J7

On reverse E * B ** ESQ
M * B ** ESQ

Cocks explains the significance of the two sets of initials EB and MB above on two pages of text mistakenly attributed to Great Marlow in his book. They are, in fact, about Maids Moreton. The Addenda acknowledges this.

Reg Doble
Tower Captain
St. Edmund's

REPORT FROM THE GUILD REPS

Brian Newman & Alan Marchbank

Spring Committee Meeting Bampton 12th March 2005

The first part of the meeting was the annual report of the Guild Bell Fund. They have had a good year as the investment income has increased as the stock market has improved, and £14,000 added by fundraising, the bulk being a gift aided donation of £10,000. All the figures and a copy of the Trustees' Report is in the Guild Annual Report, which will have now been seen by the Branch members. So this year looks like being another good year for the fund, which is appropriate as this is its 30th year. The Officers and Trustees remain the same as in the Guild Report.

We then moved on to the General Committee meeting. There has been a small change in the insurance cover; the age range being extended to start at 7 years and finish at 85. Brian Gatward has produced a new guidance sheet for all towers.

The Guild Librarian produced for consideration a list of duplicate books held in the Library, asking whether we sell or keep them. After discussion further details were asked for, but the general view was that where possible they should be sold.

There is revised guidance for Child Protection, which will be distributed.

Reports were taken from the various sub-committees, and members mainly re-elected. The Towers & Belfries Committee are down on numbers and are looking for new members.

There is to be a change this year amongst the Guild Officers with Graham Clifton standing down as Guild Master, Hilarie Rogers as Minutes Secretary and Colin Fowles as a Guild Steward. We do have Jon Chamberlain willing to take over as Master and Robert Newton to stand as Deputy Master. Minutes Secretary and Guild Steward are as yet open.

Reports were taken from the Restoration Fund and these can be read in the annual Guild Report. They also had a reasonable year for fundraising.

It was decided by the Committee to recommend a donation from the General Fund to both the Bell and Restoration Funds of £500 each this year.

The Guild is looking for ideas to promote and support the Guild's 125th Anniversary, which falls on the 17th January 2006.

This year's Guild Festival is at

Shrivenham on the 9th July, and they are looking for support as we did last year. There is to be a ringing contest for young ringers at the Festival.

Next year's Festival will be in Oxford on 8th July 2006 with a Service at the Cathedral followed by lunch at St Aldates.

The Guild diary of events is now out, most of which you will find in our own *In Touch*. Additions are a Tower Leaders course on the 18th June and a request for ringing on the 60th Anniversary of VE Day.

The Guild Report has been circulated; extra copies being sold at £5 each.

Annual General Meeting East Hagbourne 21st May 2005

A fairly quiet meeting, with the main event being the election of new Officers. Graham Clifton stood down and Jon Chamberlain has now taken over as Master. Robert Newton is Deputy Master.

Other changes - Brian Robson and Cheryl Watson became Stewards; John White became Minutes Secretary, and Louise Marshall replaced Christopher Wells on the Committee.

The Treasurer gave a brief report on the finances as already detailed in the annual report. The Bell Fund has benefited by a donation of some £10,000 and has so far received in new money this year some £13,000.

Most other matters have appeared in the Report or Odd Bob.



Over the Border in the Towcester Branch

- 3 Sept Quarter Peal Day & Pub Meal
17 Sept Guild Summer Festival & 8-Bell Comp—
Daventry Branch
1 Oct Meeting & 6-bell Comp—Pattishall & Gayton
22 Oct Quiz night & Fish n Chips—Stoke Bruerne
Cricket Club
12 Nov Practice with N.Bucks—Wicken @ 7.30
3 Dec Branch Dinner—Towcester Town Hall
Further details from John Stanworth 01280-814172

...and in the Northampton Branch

- 24 Sept Milton Malsor—7.30
22 Oct St Giles, Northampton—tbc
26 Nov Piddington—7.30

Ringings at St Mary's Church, Stowe

Saturday 27th August

12 noon — 5.00 pm
(please note change of time)

Flower Festival Refreshments

**Proceeds towards
the repair of the
Chancel roof**

Inter-Branch Striking Competition at Wicken

North Bucks vs Towcester
Saturday 2nd July 2005

The marks were close, and it was a pleasure to ring again at Wicken—but unfortunately North Bucks came second in all three sections. But judging by these photos (*thank you, Catherine*) our ringers didn't mind too much and had a good time!



Call Changes



Plain Bob Minor



Stedman Triples



LOOK TO! a new website:

embroidered clothing for bellringers

A local embroidery company, Impact Trading, who are based in North Bucks, have recently launched a new website just for bellringers.

Ringin'locker.co.uk makes it easy for ringers to order embroidered clothing: the website has been tested by the *In Touch* editors and they have described it as "simple, attractive and easy to navigate". The home page of the website features two local ringers who kindly agreed to pose – take a look and see if you recognise them! If you can name them both, and name the tower, enter the competition below.

Ringin'locker.co.uk has a range of clothing to view, with photos and garment details, including prices and an on-line ordering facility. Ringing groups can either submit their own logo, or choose one of the stock logos available, to which lettering can be added. Impact Trading have been splicing logos and clothing for twelve years and have their very own in-house campanologist – so your orders will be in safe hands. If it's time that your tower smartened their image, phone 01908 511051 or email sales@ringin'locker.co.uk for friendly advice and a local service.

Ringin'locker.co.uk are also proud to be a sponsor of the Ringing Roadshow 2005: they are the exclusive supplier of the Ringing Roadshow Clothing Range and have provided the Roadshow organisers with their uniforms for the event. You may have read about this in a recent issue of *Ringin' World* – if you missed this, then go online to RingingRoadshow2005.org.uk where the "clothing" page gives full details. From here, there is a direct link to **ringin'locker.co.uk** to place orders – for all orders placed, 5% will be donated to the Central Council. The photo shows local ringer Jonathan Griggs sporting a Roadshow sweatshirt.



It's not too late to order Roadshow clothing – if you place an order now it will be ready for collection from the Roadshow on 10th September, where **ringin'locker.co.uk** have a stand. Their stand will feature an embroidery machine in full-swing, producing bellringing logos: there will also be the opportunity to buy and order clothing and view the samples on display. If you are going to the Roadshow, we look forward to seeing you there.

Natalie, Sarah, Josephine and Karen

Ringin'locker Competition

Take a look at the home page of **ringin'locker.co.uk**. If you can identify the two ringers and the tower, send your answer by email to sales@ringin'locker.co.uk. Please put "InTouch Competition" as the subject title and supply your name, your home tower and phone number. The winner will receive a free polo shirt or sweatshirt, embroidered with a selected bellringing logo and name monogram.

Closing date: 30 September 2005. The winner to be notified on 3 October 2005 and full details will be published in the next edition of *In Touch*.

Compare the playing fields on Willen Road, Newport

COMMUNICATION, INFORMATION AND PR

messages. This has to be through all media with levels of

By Doug Hird

with our towers on a Sunday morning. For most of the morning, there are about 100 people of all ages in all kinds of weather, and that is just one town. We struggle to maintain a total membership of 200. What is the difference? People know about football. In fact, more people ski in Milton Keynes during a typical week than join us in the tower. The Church is no longer an integral part of most people's lives so the activities of ringers are unfamiliar. The public are in general supporting and appreciative of Church bell ringing. I have certainly heard more compliments about ringing in the last year than I have heard complaints since I started ringing. There is a vague positive feeling towards ringing but no real understanding.

This unfamiliarity makes it difficult for us to recruit learners and raise funds and contributes to difficulties with sound levels and peal ringing in built up areas. At the moment, the media and the public see very little information about ringing. Local papers will follow up almost anything of interest but reporting is at best sporadic.

To get more positive involvement from the general public and potential supporters, we have to communicate the good points well. To create an impression of normality, we need to provide a constant flow of information. A single tower won't provide enough input to keep the public's attention but the whole Branch can. There is always something happening or about to happen that is worth reporting. By using the whole picture, we can show ringing as a normal, varied and vibrant activity rather than an occasional curiosity.

We need to build up a background level of recognition that we can then use to get across more involved

complexity tuned to the message and channel used. It has to be organised and sustained, possibly over decades, so it has to be part of how the Branch works. We also need to be aware of media interest in forthcoming national events involving ringers such as VE Day and Trafalgar.

The media respond best when presented with a consistent point of contact. This not only works in our favour when we are offering information but also when a news story breaks containing less good news. It gives us the chance to minimise any damage and offer support to towers if appropriate. Supporting this, there needs to be comprehensive background information readily available on the Branch web site. This should support current stories and provide general information about ringing.

Communications within the Branch need to work such that news is made available as it happens, and preferably before. Branch Officers and members need to be prepared to support towers receiving media attention to ensure that the most positive image is put forward. News items will appear in the media and also in *In Touch*. It is important that a consistent Branch message is put forward in both.

The Proposal

I propose that the post of Branch Public Relations Officer be created to raise awareness of ringing in North Bucks to the general public. However, I think it is more important that the Branch agree what the role is than to actually fill it at this stage. If a suitable person is found during this development process then that is a bonus. The following points indicate the scope of the role.

PURPOSES—IN SUPPORT OF:

- Recruiting
- Public Relations in advance of events/ringing
- Fund raising

MEDIA CHANNELS:

Internal—Ringers

Ringling World, In Touch, Branch website, E-Group, Guild website, other ringing websites & resources, other ringing PRO's, Odd Bob, E-Mails.

Internal—Church

Display boards, parish/town magazines & newsletters, door, Diocesan website, Church websites, E-Mails.

External—Broadcast

Papers, local radio, local TV, libraries, posters, leaflets, talks to local groups, local websites.

CONTENT – REPORTS ON:

Open days, meetings, practices, visiting bands, outings, striking competitions, peals & quarters, normal ringing times, re-hanging & other projects, general interest—history, etc, births marriages & deaths.

GUIDELINES/BEHAVIOURS (in no particular order):

Identify most photogenic locations & opportunities (& people?) in advance; stress the positives; have standard answers to FAQs to hand; corporate consistency; show ringing as a normal activity; don't get sidetracked; find positive message in bad news—offer alternative story or more favourable view; regular & sustained flow of information; develop a plan to support above purposes; strategies to avoid no-go subject areas; version control for slow moving items—posters etc; there has to be something behind it—Child Protection Policy, Training Plans, etc; PRO should be knowledgeable, confident and in touch; not all this needs to be done by the PRO—use what specialist knowledge we have.

ISSUES:

How does this overlap with *In Touch* Editor, Secretary, Guild PRO, or the Church?

This relies on the observations: We need more ringers; there is a problem with ringing peals or holding striking competitions in built up areas; we need outside money for restoration and augmentation.

Can local effort overcome the influence of national media?

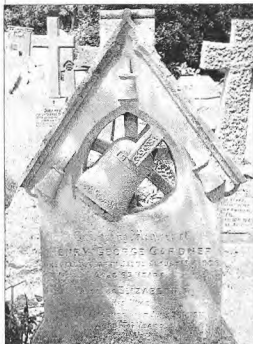
Doug Hird

A Week in Gloucestershire

It was the turn of the Haslam family to organise this year's May ringing holiday—a lovely week in the north Cotswolds. Fourteen Branch members took part, and it was good to see 'unattached' members Gordon & Lindy Ellis, and Steve & Kay Crane. Other ringing friends joined us so it was quite a large party and we were able to tackle some significant peals—the 12 bells of Gloucester Cathedral and Painswick, the 10 at Stroud, and the bells of some lovely Cotswold village churches.



But perhaps the best thing was our influx of new young ringers. Sam and Lauren Haslam (in the centre of the picture) were joined by their three ringing cousins from Birmingham, and there were at least four others just dying to be old enough to learn. Perhaps this will ensure the future of our May Holiday, which has now been running for over fifteen years.



This ringer's gravestone was spotted at Upton St Leonard. Henry George Gardner must have been a very keen bellringer when he died in 1903 at the age of 69!



Thanks go to the Haslams for their organisation—and we look forward to Lincolnshire next May.

Guild Master old....

St Michael, Great Tew, Oxon
Sunday 22nd May 2005
2005 Spliced Triples & Major

- 1 Michael Tinsley
- 2 Joan Warren
- 3 Catherine Stanworth
- 4 Sue Burchell
- 5 Barry Davis
- 6 Robert Reeves
- 7 John Lindsay (C)
- 8 Graham Clifton

Ringing started at 20.05 on 20.05.2005

Rung on the eve of the retirement of Graham Clifton as Oxford Guild Master

Date Touch

and Guild Master new....



Jon Chamberlain at Stoke Goldington on 15th July sporting a Ringing Roadshow cap—supplied by Ringinglocker.

Notes from the Archivist

The Bucks Standard—1860

21st January, p1

NO HOUSE IS COMPLETE WITHOUT BELLS
THOMAS COALES (Successor to the late W.P.
Coales in bellhanging.) Continues to HANG BELLS
on scientific principles, with all the modern
improvements.
HIGH STREET, NEWPORT PAGNELL

3rd March 1860, p4

THE LATE GALES (Tuesday Last - Newport Pagnell)
At the parish church a still greater misfortune took
place; in the course of the morning the top portion of
the pinnacle at the east end of the tower, placed
midway between the one at the south-east and that
on the north-east angles, was blown onto the roof of
the church, broke away the lead and oak roofing, and
fell into the church near the front of the organ loft;
many pieces of the stone were broken off by the fall;
but one entire piece weighing nearly two hundred-
weight, fell in the aisle, sinking the stones on which it
fell about two inches, and scattering many pieces of
the fragments for some distance around, both of

stone and wood. Several of the pieces fell in the
organ loft, damaging the book board and throwing
some of the books over into the church. Two of the
globes on the gas pillars were smashed to pieces,
but singular to say, the chimneys on the pillars were
left untouched. If the accident had occurred on a
Sunday during divine service, it is more than
probable that it would have been attended with fatal
results to some of the choir; or had the pinnacle fallen
on to the front of the organ loft, there can be but little
doubt the whole of it would have come down, and
most probably the organ with it.

20th October, p4

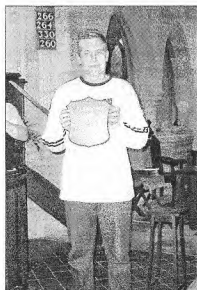
An account of the "North Crawley farmers'
association for the encouragement of ploughmen".

22nd December, p4

OLNEY.
CHANGE RINGING. On Thursday evening,
December 13th, the ringers of the Church bells met in
the belfry and rung, in a very masterly style, 1520
changes in the space of fifty-eight minutes; the
names of the ringers are as follows:- Mr J Osborn,
treble; G Stratton, 2nd; J Coles, 3rd; G Minard, 4th; J
Ward, 5th (conductor); W French, tenor. The weight
of the tenor bell is 36 cwt.

Branch Six Bell Striking Competition

St Mary the Virgin, Clifton Reynes
Friday 24th June 2005



It was good to spend a summer evening at Clifton Reynes again—and encouraging to see a good turn out of Branch members for the annual Striking Competition. Chris Bulleid—Ringing Master of Towcester Branch, PDG—was the judge. Congratulations to the winners—Hanslope. They will go through to Guild Six Bell Competition on 1st October. The St Lawrence & St Andrew Striking Challenge Shield went to Bradwell.

1. Hanslope, 29 faults
2. Bradwell, 48 faults
3. Loughton & Shenley, 49 faults
4. Great Linford B, 79 faults
5. Great Linford A, 84 faults





RINGING ROADSHOW 2005

Newbury Racecourse, Berkshire
Saturday, 10th September 2005

**80+ Exhibitors with over 100 stands
Including ALL the major bellhangers**

Handbell Performances and Workshops

Sponsored by Handbell Ringers of Great Britain

Seminars

Sponsored by Whitechapel Bell Foundry

Mini-rings

Software, CDs and DVDs

Books

Central Council Information Stands

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Ringing Routes to and from the Event**

A superb day out for ringers and families!

**Web site: www.ringingroadshow2005.org.uk
Enquiries to:- roadshow2005@btinternet.com**

Quarters

St Andrew, Great Linford

Sunday 8th May 2005

1260 Doubles (780 Grandsire, 480 Plain Bob)

- 1 Ros Tyrrell
- 2 Alexandra J Marchbank
- 3 Edith M Robinson
- 4 Alan J Marchbank (C)
- 5 James Maltby
- 6 Scott P Ayers

First Quarter away from tenor—1

By a Sunday Service Band, on the 60th Anniversary of the end of hostilities in Europe

St Mary, Whaddon

Sunday 8th May 2005

1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Scott P Ayers
- 2 Edith M Robinson
- 3 Catherine M Stanworth
- 4 Alan J Marchbank
- 5 Michael J Tinsley
- 6 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

On the 60th Anniversary of the end of hostilities in Europe. In recognition of the contribution made by Whaddon to the secret war.

The Cross & Stable, Downs Barn

Tuesday 17th May 2005

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Scott P Ayers
- 2 Alexandra J Marchbank
- 3 Edith M Robinson
- 4 Simon Head
- 5 Barry R Eglesfield
- 6 Alan J Marchbank (C)

First Bob Minor inside—2

In memory of Gerald Kingston

St Mary, Clifton Reynes

Friday 20th May 2005

2520 Cambridge, London & Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Charles J Knight
- 2 Edith M Robinson
- 3 Simon Head
- 4 Alan J Marchbank (C)
- 5 B Doug Hird
- 6 Barry Eglesfield

On the 100th anniversary of the first peal on the bells
In memory of Gerald Kingston

St James the Great, Hanslope

Friday 20th May 2005

1260 Stedman Triples (44 mins)

- 1 Carole Harmer
- 2 Alan Cozens
- 3 Jonathan Griggs
- 4 Tony Gray
- 5 Ian Thompson
- 6 Nick Gray
- 7 Richard Haseldine (C)
- 8 Roy Keeves

Rung for Confirmation Service, and in memory of Gerald Kingston who for many years was a ringer at Hanslope

All Saints, Loughton

Saturday 21st May 2005

1260 Plain Bob Minor (43 mins)

- 1 Frank Daniels
- 2 Terry Page
- 3 Anne McIntyre
- 4 Derek Stainsby
- 5 Ted Fawcett
- 6 Bob Winstanley (C)

Rung to celebrate the 85th anniversary of the Buckinghamshire Federation of Womens' Institutes

St Andrew, Great Linford

Saturday 21st May 2005

1272 Ipswich Surprise Minor

- 1 Barry R Eglesfield (C)
- 2 Alan J Marchbank
- 3 Philip D Bailey
- 4 Christopher Stokes
- 5 Ruth Stokes
- 6 Edith M Robinson

On the 90th anniversary of the founding of the WI
In memory of Gerald Kingston

SS Peter & Paul, Olney

Thursday 2nd June 2005

1260 Stedman Triples

- 1 Ruth Stokes
- 2 Christopher Stokes
- 3 Alan J Marchbank
- 4 John Beresford
- 5 Terry Page
- 6 B Douglas Hird
- 7 Barry R Eglesfield (C)
- 8 Charles J Knight

In memory of Gerald Kingston

SS Peter & Paul, Newport Pagnell

Sunday 5th June 2005

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Catherine Stacy
- 2 Rachel Stacy
- 3 James Maltby
- 4 Scott P Ayers
- 5 Charles J Knight
- 6 B Douglas Hird (C)

90th birthday compliment to Lou Moodie

More Quarters

St Andrew, Great Linford

Friday 17th June 2005

1260 Stedman Doubles

- 1 Alexandra J Marchbank
- 2 Barry R Eglesfield
- 3 John Stanworth
- 4 Edith M Robinson
- 5 Alan J Marchbank (C)
- 6 Scott P Ayers

For Great Linford Waterside Festival

1st Stedman 1 & 4, 1st Stedman as Conductor

St Andrew, Great Linford

Saturday 18th June 2005

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Barry R Eglesfield
- 2 Alexandra J Marchbank
- 3 Catherine Stacy
- 4 Scott P Ayers
- 5 Edith M Robinson
- 6 Alan J Marchbank (C)

For Great Linford Waterside Festival

Circled tower to Quarters—5

St Andrew, Great Linford

Sunday 26th June 2005

1260 Stedman Doubles

- 1 Alan J Marchbank
- 2 Scott P Ayers
- 3 Catherine Stacy
- 4 John Stanworth
- 5 B Douglas Hird
- 6 Ros Tyrrell

1st Stedman 2 & 3

1st Quarter with painted faces 2 & 3!

All Saints, Milton Keynes Village

Monday 20th June 2005

1272 London & Wells Surprise Minor

- 1 Scott P Ayers
- 2 Edith M Robinson
- 3 Alan J Marchbank
- 4 John Stanworth
- 5 Simon Head
- 6 Barry Eglesfield (C)

1st Quarter London & Wells—4

Assumption of the BVM, Wavendon

Thursday 30th June 2005

1276 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Scott P Ayers
- 2 Simon Head
- 3 Edith M Robinson
- 4 John Stanworth
- 5 Barry R Eglesfield
- 6 Alan J Marchbank (C)

Rung at speed to avoid the intoxicating fumes of Edie's nail varnish

Holy Trinity, Old Wolverton

Sunday 3rd July 2005

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Scott P Ayers
- 2 Alexandra J Marchbank
- 3 Barry R Eglesfield
- 4 John Stanworth
- 5 Edith M Robinson (C)
- 6 Alan J Marchbank

Cross & Stable, Downs Barn

Sunday 3rd July 2005

1280 Plain Bob Major

- 1 Barry R Eglesfield (C)
- 2 Alexandra J Marchbank
- 3 Edith M Robinson
- 4 Christine Cable
- 5 Alan J Marchbank
- 6 Catherine Stacy
- 7 Scott P Ayers
- 8 B Douglas Hird

1st Major at 1st attempt—2

For 20th Anniversary of the Ordination of the Revd Paul Smith, Vicar of this Parish

St Andrew, Great Linford

Friday 8th July 2005

1276 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Scott P Ayers
- 2 Edith M Robinson
- 3 Catherine Stacy
- 4 Philip D Bailey
- 5 John Stanworth
- 6 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

Dedicated to those killed and injured in the London bombings 7th July 2005

St Andrew, Great Linford

Saturday 9th July 2005

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Barry R Eglesfield
- 2 Alexandra J Marchbank
- 3 James Maltby
- 4 Philip D Bailey
- 5 Edith M Robinson
- 6 Alan J Marchbank (C)

For the 60th anniversary of the end of WWII

Even More Quarters

St Lawrence, Bradwell
Sunday 10th July 2005
1260 Grandsire, St Simon & PB Doubles (44 mins)

- 1 Scott P Ayers
 - 2 Christine Cable
 - 3 Simon Head
 - 4 Brian Newman
 - 5 David Joyce (C)
 - 6 Gordon Abbott
- Rung in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II

Cross & Stable, Downs Barn
Sunday 10th July 2005
1260 Doubles (5 methods)

- 1 Alexandra J Marchbank
- 2 Edith M Robinson
- 3 James Maltby
- 4 Alan J Marchbank (C)
- 5 Philip D Bailey

For the 60th anniversary of the end of WWII

St Mary, Bletchley
Sunday 10th July 2005
1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major

- 1 Scott P Ayers
- 2 David M Joyce
- 3 Peter Tribble
- 4 Christine Cable
- 5 B Douglas Hird
- 6 Simon Head
- 7 Barry R Eglesfield
- 8 Alan J Marchbank (C)

Rung to coincide with the celebration in Bletchley Park for the 60th anniversary of the end of WWII

St Mary, Padbury
Sunday 10th July 2005
1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Victoria Stanworth
- 2 Helen Stanworth
- 3 Catherine Stanworth
- 4 John Stanworth
- 5 Michael Tinsley
- 6 Richard Stanworth (C)

Rung for the National Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II
First Minor—1

St Mary, Bletchley
Sunday 17th July 2005
1280 Plain Bob Major

- 1 Christine Marchbank
- 2 Barry R Eglesfield
- 3 Alexandra J Marchbank
- 4 Catherine Stacy
- 5 B Douglas Hird
- 6 Scott P Ayers
- 7 Edith M Robinson
- 8 Alan J Marchbank (C)

St James the Great, Hanslope
Sunday 17th July 2005
1260 Grandsire Triples (44 mins)

- 1 Stuart Grout
- 2 Carole Harmer
- 3 Alan Cozens
- 4 Ian Thompson
- 5 Roy Keeves
- 6 P David Taylor
- 7 Richard Haseldine (C)
- 8 Nicholas Gray

Rung for Sunday Service and to celebrate 70 years membership of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers by Owen Warren of Stoke Goldington

All Saints, Calverton
Sunday 17th July 2005
1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Alan J Marchbank
- 2 Alexandra J Marchbank
- 3 Rachel Stacy
- 4 Catherine Stacy
- 5 Scott P Ayers
- 6 Edith M Robinson (C)

Assumption of the BVM, Woughton on the Green
Monday 18th July 2005
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Catherine Stacy
- 2 Alan J Marchbank
- 3 John Stanworth
- 4 Edith M Robinson
- 5 Scott P Ayers (C)

St Lawrence, Bradwell
Monday 18th July 2005
1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Edith M Robinson
- 2 Christine Cable
- 3 Ian Green
- 4 Brian Newman
- 5 Scott P Ayers
- 6 Alan J Marchbank (C)

To celebrate the birth of Joseph, latest grandchild for Brian and Jasie Newman

Even More Quarters

St Peter, Stoke Goldington
Friday 22nd July 2005
1272 Norwich Surprise Minor (50 mins)
1 Jonathan Griggs
2 Roy Keeves
3 Nicholas Gray
4 Ian Thompson
5 Anthony Gray
6 Richard Haseldine (C)
Rung to celebrate 70 years membership of the
Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers
by Owen Warren of Stoke Goldington



St Andrew, Great Linford
Saturday 23rd July 2005
1260 Plain Bob Minor
1 James Maltby
2 Scott P Ayers
3 Alan J Marchbank
4 Alexandra J Marchbank
5 John Stanworth
6 Edith M Robinson (C)
400th Quarter for 6

Cross and Stable, Downs Barn
Sunday 24th July 2005
1260 Plain Bob Doubles (38 mins)
1 Ros Tyrrell
2 Alexandra J Marchbank
3 James Maltby (C)
4 Simon Head
5 Alan J Marchbank
By Sunday Service Band
1st as Conductor—3

St Mary, Padbury
Friday 29th July 2005
1260 Plain Bob Minor
1 Simon Head
2 Scott Ayers
3 James Maltby
4 Catherine Stacy
5 Alan Marchbank
6 John Stanworth (C)
First Minor as Conductor
Rung as a 40th birthday compliment to the treble
ringer

Introducing the new education officer!

Hello there! I have recently taken on the role of education officer and therefore need to know who needs educating and where! There are several ways that this can occur and how you choose to use it is down to you and your tower. Firstly, I can arrange for more experienced ringers to come and help certain ringers master particular skills or methods (Flying Squad). Secondly, I can organise training days if people inform me what they would like to be trained in. Thirdly, I can supply extra ringers for quarters or peals or even arrange quarters and peals so that ringers can consolidate particular methods. I hope to make myself known to as many of you as possible over the next few months, but in the meantime if I can help in anyway give me a ring 01908 695118. I look forward to hearing from you.

Edie Robinson





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

There are lots of new things on the website, and quite a lot of old stuff tidied up. Two in particular bring a bit of clarity.

The Towers pages bring together a snapshot of everything we have about each tower. There is room here for some individual input so if you want to add in a few lines about what is happening at your tower then let me know. Also, any photos would be good here.

Your Info allows you to search for your own peals and quarters in the Branch and also shows which towers you have been associated with. It also does the same for any other ringer so you can look up the history of Great Grandfather or any notable historical ringers.

Another new feature is e-mail addresses.

Branch Officer e-mails

You may have noticed in the list of Branch officers that they all have new e-mail addresses. These are all associated with the Branch website and so have a similar address. For example, the Treasurer's is:

treasurer@northbucks.org.uk

The view of the officers was that it was hard enough remembering to check one e-mail account, and a second wouldn't get checked that often. The new accounts have to allow for that. So I have set up these as "forwarding" accounts. What these do is send any incoming e-mails to the normal e-mail addresses of the officers. They act as a sort of relay. All the e-mails just appear in the right place and no changes have to be made to people's computers.

The main advantages and reasons for doing this are:

- The Branch looks organised.
- The e-mail addresses stay the same, even if the officers change.
- The personal e-mail addresses of the officers become invisible.
- They are part of the normal cost of the Branch website
- We can set up as many as we need.
- They can be switched off easily if there are any problems without damaging anyone's normal e-mail set-up.

We will be trying these out over the next few months and should get a good idea how effective this is in aiding communication.

Tower e-mails

Having set these up for the officers and found that we can have as many as we want, I can also set up similar e-mail addresses for tower correspondents. So we could have 'newportagnell@northbucks.org.uk' which would just bounce any requests from visiting bands to our tower correspondent. If you are interested in one for your tower, just send me an e-mail and I will get it set up. Then we could have a useful list of tower information on the web site.

For replies, you might also want to maintain a degree of anonymity. So I have set up a general e-mail address called 'reply@northbucks.org.uk' that anyone can use to reply to e-mails without using their own e-mail address. This will be a normal account with full spam and virus detection and a web interface; so again, no changes have to be made to anyone's computer. I can supply instructions on how to use it along with some suggested templates for use as replies.

Doug Hird
archivist@northbucks.org.uk

WORDSEARCH by JOHN MARCHBANK

Can you find these words?

BEER
BELL
BELLRINGERS
CALL CHANGES
CINQUES
DIAGRAMS
IN TOUCH
MAJOR
PEAL
STAY
TEA

B	E	E	R	T	S	N	D	A	E	I
E	A	A	T	S	A	F	I	Y	N	D
L	B	M	O	C	L	R	N	T	O	I
L	N	B	E	L	L	I	O	F	N	A
R	M	C	S	O	Y	U	M	Q	U	G
I	A	I	T	P	C	L	S	S	F	R
N	J	N	R	H	O	S	T	A	Y	A
G	O	Q	P	T	O	N	Q	Y	I	M
E	R	U	U	P	U	C	N	I	C	S
R	D	E	Q	I	E	L	L	J	O	R
S	F	S	Y	N	H	A	T	E	A	D
S	E	G	N	A	H	C	L	L	A	C

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting 4th June 2005—Buckingham

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman, Alan Marchbank, welcomed everyone to Buckingham. He recalled a previous meeting held at Buckingham when we sat in the church and it was extremely cold. The new meeting room facilities are much warmer and pleasant and the adaptation of the church to provide modern facilities, including easy access to the ringing room, was a welcome addition.

In Memoriam

The Chairman asked the meeting to stand and remember Gerald Kingston, Chairman of the Towcester Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, who we have a close association with. Gerald was probably one of the longest friends of Bill Yates, who was a life long member of the North Bucks Branch. Gerald will be sadly missed by the Towcester Branch, and by ringing in general. Our thoughts will be with the Towcester Branch as they think about where their new chairman will come from.

Apologies for Absence

Received from Michael Tinsley, Catherine Stanworth, Anne Mercer, Catherine Stacy, Shirley Webb, Robert George, Peter Tampsett, Edie Robinson, and John Stanworth.

The Chairman reported that Anne Stainsby had been admitted to hospital following a stroke. Bob Winstanley has been keeping in touch with Derek and can provide further information.

Minutes of previous Meeting

It had not been possible to publish the minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held at Whaddon in March, in *In Touch* as is normally done. Copies of the minutes had been circulated before the meeting. Barry Eglesfield proposed and Brian Newman seconded that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting. This was agreed by the meeting and the Chairman signed the minutes.

Matters Arising

The Chairman drew attention to an article that had appeared in the Ringing World of 27th May. This was a report on the Ringing Day that was very complimentary about our management and organisation of the Ringing Day at the beginning of May, which was an item that was discussed at the AGM. As it was recognised as such a success, we should take a pat on the back for all the people who were involved, who ran towers, and made it all happen on the day. From the Chair, Alan wished to thank everyone who was involved in making it a success. It is certainly nice to get some appreciation publicly displayed.

Election of New Members

Nominations had been received proposing seven new members:

Lillingstone Lovell

Michael Dancer (re-election), Malcolm Jones, Alex Nicholas (junior) - proposed Bernard Philips, seconded Sheila Watts

Whaddon

Philip Starr (junior), Michael Evans—proposed Derek White, seconded Hugh Butler

Great Linford

Anita Bolam—proposed Alan Marchbank, seconded Rose Tyrrell

Donna Bond (junior) - proposed Alex Marchbank, seconded Victoria Stanworth

They were all elected without dissent. The Chairman welcomed the new members to the Guild and Branch. The Chairman raised two other membership matters. Malcolm Hooton was elected a member of the Guild over 50 years ago and it has been our custom in the past to present long service certificates. It is proposed to present such a certificate to Malcolm. The other matter has more immediacy to it. Owen Warren from Stoke Goldington this year achieves 70 years membership. The plan is to prepare a certificate for Owen recording 70 years membership and to present it to him at the Branch Practice at Stoke in July. Alan requested a particularly good turnout at the meeting at Stoke so that we can present it as a more representative Branch rather than just a Branch practice. He asked that members let towers not represented today know about the presentation. David Joyce suggested that we invite a Guild Officer to attend. It was agreed that we invite Jon Chamberlain, the new Guild Master to attend. David Joyce also reported that John Lonsbrough, who some members may remember from his time in the North Bucks Branch, achieves 60 years membership of the Guild this year.

Richard Stanworth proposed that Malcolm Hooton be elected an Honorary Ringing member of the Guild. This was seconded by Barry Eglesfield and agreed unanimously by the meeting.

Election of Officer

The Chairman was pleased to report that, after a period of being without a Training Officer, he had been able to persuade Edie Robinson to take on the position. He formally nominated Edie to be Training Officer and Barry Eglesfield seconded this. She was elected on a show of hands. Edie was unfortunately not present but Alan said that she had a number of ideas with regard to making contact with towers, finding out their training needs, and addressing them.

Officers Reports

Secretary The Secretary read out part of the report on the Guild Open Day which Bobbie May had put in the Ringing World, as this praised the organisation of the day, comparing it to the Guild Festival last year, and ended with thanks to the North Bucks Branch for a very special day.

Ringing Master The Ringing Master reported on two events, although these had also been reported in *In Touch*, as he wished to add thanks and congratulations. We entered a team in the Youth Striking Competition that the Reading Branch organised. He thought they did

very well, considering that they were probably one of the least experienced bands and also that they were nearly all under 21. Nearly all the bands that beat them had two members over 21, which was allowed by the rules. The leaflet promoting the competition implied that the marks would be weighted in favour of bands completely under 21 and with a conductor under 21. However no reference was made to this during the results and it appears that no weighting was applied, so we might have been better off by including a couple of more experienced ringers who were over 21.

In the Guild Eight Bell Competition we didn't do too well, finishing in seventh place. There was then some discussion on the method chosen for this year, there being a feeling that ringing a surprise major method would have been easier than Oxford Bob Triples. It was pointed out that the method alternated between triples and major and that this year it was the turn of the eight-bell competition to be an odd bell method. David Joyce reported that some branches liked the method chosen. However he thought that the composition was rather long and complex and was not conducive to good striking. The Chairman suggested that the officers could put these concerns to the various Guild committees as appropriate.

Treasurer Sheila Watts reported that the balance in the Building Society account currently stood at just over £1600. £550 is to be paid to the Guild as their portion of the subs, so we will have just over £1000 left. The Guild Open Day and Striking Competition raised £762 for the Bell Fund, for which they are very pleased. Thank you to all those towers who have paid their subscriptions. That's currently 154 members, of which 12 are juniors. There are just three towers outstanding and she will be writing to them shortly. Many thanks for contributions to the Bell Fund today, £17 has been raised. Centenary mugs are still available at the bargain price of £3 each. The Chairman reported that one decision made since the last meeting was with regard to a donation to the chosen charity in respect of Ron Snack's funeral. It would have been consistent with previous practice for the Branch to send a floral tribute but the family specifically requested that donations be made instead. The Branch therefore made a donation to Friends of MARC, which is the charity associated with children who carry the same range of complaints that Ron's son was born with, and subsequently died of. When you see the accounts at the end of the year and there is a donation identified in them, it was in lieu of a floral tribute.

Guild Representative Brian Newman gave a report on the Spring General Committee meeting held at Bampton, and the Guild AGM at East Hagbourne. The main points were:

Bell Fund – Money raised this year was £13,000 with £10,000 as a single, gift-aided donation
Guild Officers – Graham Clifton has stood down and Jon Chamberlain is now the Guild Master, Deputy Master is Robert Newton. The stewards have shuffled round and there is a new minutes secretary
Graham Clifton was elected a Vice President of the Guild
Brian Gaward has now done 25 years as General Treasurer, not as many as his predecessor who did 32 years. However Brian does not wish to beat that record,

so we will be looking for a new treasurer soon.
Child Protection – A revised guide is now available.
Towers and Belfries Committee – down on numbers and they are looking for volunteers. They usually look to the General Committee but might take on anyone interested
Guild Festival – Vale of White Horse this year as advertised. Next year the festival will be in Oxford.
Also general plea to help with ringing for VE/VJ day
David Joyce added that the large donation to the Bell Fund had come from a non-ringer who is a great believer in ringing and appreciated all that ringers do. Richard Stanworth added that he understood that the donor lives near the boundary between the ODG and the Salisbury Guild and that a similar donation had been made to that Guild.

Application for Grants

None had been received. The Chairman expressed his disappointment at this, as he knew of towers where work was planned, such as Tingewick, which would be eligible for grants, both from the Guild and from the Branch. We need to make them aware of this.

David Joyce mentioned that it had been reported at the AGM that the Easthampstead course was under subscribed and places are still available. This may be a reflection of the high cost of £175. Members were reminded that grants towards training courses are available.

Forthcoming Events

An up to date calendar had been circulated to all present. Points Arising:
Details were given of Guild Events that were missing off the calendar.

Guild Festival based on Shrivenham. Posters are in the envelopes being distributed today. This includes a Youth striking competition and it was hoped to enter at least one team.

Steeple Aston Course on 29th October – helpers will be needed. Grants available to help with cost for students.
Inter Branch Competition at Wicken on 2nd July – ringers needed for three bands: Call Changes on eight, Plain Bob Minor, and Stedman Triples
Branch six-bell competition at Clifton Reynes on 24th June – entries to Richard by the day before.

Quarterly meeting at Thornborough is confirmed
Ringing Roadshow at Newbury on 10th September – possible coach run jointly with Towcester branch. Not much interest yet. If you are interested in going by coach then please contact Alan Marchbank
Sunday 10th July – National Commemorative Day of 60th anniversary for the end of World War II – a poster is available for download from the Central Council website to advertise that you are going to ring. If you need help with ringing on this day then please contact Richard or Barry and they will try to find ringers to help.

There is also interest in getting bells rung on Trafalgar Day this year.

The Chairman also noted that a number of towers will shortly be celebrating the centenary of the first peal on their bells and it is hoped to ring centenary peals. Generally this recognises the work Bowell was doing around here one hundred years ago, making bells ringable and fit for ringing peals on.

Any Other Business

North Bucks Website – The Chairman had been discussing with Doug Hird restoring the functionality of the website, as well as setting up consistent email addresses, such as chairman@northbucks.org.uk. The other thing which we need to do, which we haven't been doing properly, is to reimburse Doug for the cost of establishing and keeping the website going. It seems that we are going to have to spend around £50 per year to do that and re-establish the functionality that we previously enjoyed. The Chairman asked Doug to put together a proposal with details of the costs. This can then ensure that the Branch pays the cost for having a branch website.

ODG Bell Fund – The Chairman reminded members that this year is the 30th anniversary of the setting up of the Guild Bell Fund, the capital fund. This fund has now got to the point where the money that it can distribute is more than meeting the requirement to give a 12½% grant to every job where there is an application in the Oxford Diocese. Those people who saw the fund as a scheme with real potential should be congratulated. Unfortunately they are no longer with us. There are a lot

of towers in North Bucks who have benefited – details can be provided to those interested. It would be nice if those towers that are able could donate something to the Bell Fund in recognition of what they got out of it, perhaps the fees from one wedding. Please encourage towers you know of to make a donation if they can. The Bell Fund is worth about £600,000 today. If the money had been raised in a standard bell repair fund, every year we would have raised money and spent it and we would have nothing left. The ODG Bell Fund now sits on something worth about half a million pounds which will be available for the future. By continuing to raise money then the level of grant may be increased in the future to 15 or even 20 per cent.

Thanks

Doug Hird proposed a vote of thanks to Buckingham for hosting the meeting; Philip Derbyshire for taking the Service; and to Robert Tucker for playing the organ. Thanks also to those who had prepared the tea. The members present showed their appreciation in the usual manner. The Chairman then closed the meeting at 18:55.

North Bucks Branch—Calendar 2005

AUGUST	19	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Grandsire Doubles	Loughton
SEPTEMBER	3	3.30	Quarterly Meeting Evening Ringing	Thornborough Beachampton
	10		<i>Ringing Roadshow</i>	<i>Newbury</i>
	16*	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Little Bob Major	Bletchley
	23-25		<i>Easthampstead Course</i>	<i>Easthampstead</i>
OCTOBER	1		<i>Guild Six-Bell Striking Competition</i>	<i>Bicester Branch</i>
	21	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: S.Simon & S.Martin Doubles	Sherington
	29		<i>Steeple Aston Course</i>	<i>Steeple Aston</i>
NOVEMBER	12	7.30	Joint Practice with Towcester Branch	Wicken
	18	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Double Oxford Bob Minor	Fenny Stratford
DECEMBER	3	2.30	Quarterly Meeting (Mince Pies & cups of tea)	Woughton
	16*	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Seasonal TBA	Great Linford

Items marked * were unconfirmed as at 5 August 2005
Events in *italics* are Guild events, etc.