



OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS
The Newsletter of the North Bucks Branch

In Touch

August 2002

Quarterly Meeting & Striking Competition

The Quarterly Meeting will be held at Old Wolverton on Saturday 7th September 2002. The timetable is as follows:

- 4.00 Ringing
- 5.00 Service
- 5.30 Tea
- 6.15 Business Meeting—Followed by evening ringing until 9.00

Names for tea to Lyn Saunders
(01908-314450) by **Saturday 31st August 2002**



Please note change of venue and slight timing alteration – Stony Stratford is unavailable and Old Wolverton has a wedding earlier in the afternoon

Old Wolverton in the Archives

The bells are a complete ring by John Briant of Hertford. Cast in 1820, they are six of only eleven bells supplied by this founder to the North Bucks area. A feature of his bells is their distribution. They are nearly all conveniently close to the Grand Union Canal which tells us how they got here. In fact, Hanslope's tenor is reputed to have been dropped into the canal at Castlethorpe.

Old Wolverton's first peal was 100 years ago, an opportunity for a repeat performance:

20th September 1902

3 hrs. and 1 min.

5040 Minor 7m: (Kent Treble Bob, Single Oxford Bob, Plain Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, Woodbine Treble Bob, College Bob, Double Court Bob)

1 Harry Sear

2 Frederick Hopper

3 William Freeman

4 Charles W Clarke

5 William Stapleton

6 Frederick Wilford (c)



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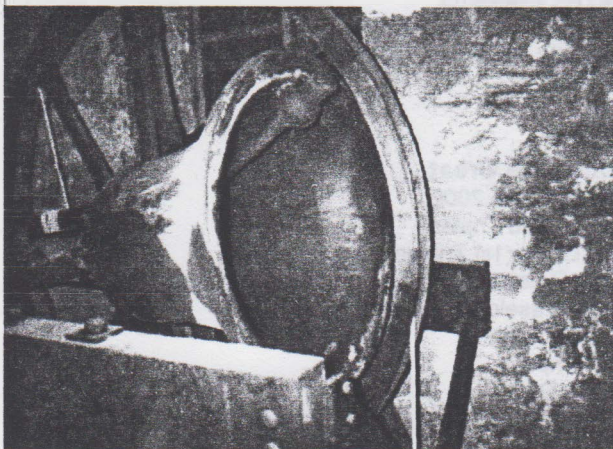
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From The Chair **Barry Eglesfield**

I am trying to settle in as Chairman. We had a quietish meeting at Maids Moreton. I feel I must congratulate all those who made a tremendous effort to ring Peals and Quarters for the passing of the Queen Mother and the Jubilee. I feel privileged to ring the tenor behind at Bradwell at very short notice which was possibly the greatest achievement by all the band for one reason or another. I will not elaborate at the moment on the Inter Branch contest. It has not just been a good year for the roses it has been spectacular.

Editorial **Doug Hird**

Where does the time go? Here we are with another In Touch. All the usual content in good time for the Quarterly meeting. It is encouraging that there are more pages of peals and quarters than the minutes. A reminder that we are a ringing society. There haven't been that many other articles though. Perhaps everyone is too busy ringing. Can we have a bit more input for the next edition please?



Something about your band, competitions and puzzles perhaps. Maybe guess the tower. Something like this bell for example. One of the oldest bells in the branch. Cast by a female bell founder, now in relatively modern Whitechapel fittings. If you try to find it in John Hearn's book, you won't. But that's not much of clue. It's two friends were sold when the tower fell down. The 4cwt tenor to Fenny Stratford who sent it to direct to Gloucester, to the Rudhall foundry. They, in turn, sent back a bell weighing about 8cwt.

Secretary's Notes **Helen Stanworth**

Names For Tea

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

Inter Branch Striking Competition

Due to a misunderstanding about time and venue, This was postponed at very short notice. Apologies to all involved. A new date will be arranged later.

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.

Proposal

The following proposal will be discussed and voted upon at the Quarterly meeting at Old Wolverton, as agreed at the Maids Moreton meeting. Please give it some consideration and come prepared to discuss it.

'That in the matter of financial grants made and paid to towers within the branch, there be instituted a simple process of follow-up by a branch officer to establish that the grant has been utilised for the intended purpose and where this relates to a work activity as opposed to a purchase, the work has been undertaken to an acceptable standard. The officer conducting such a follow-up should report back to the next branch meeting and the matter be recorded in the minutes.'

Peals

The Oxford Diocesan Guild

Stony Stratford

St Giles

Tuesday 30th April 2002

2 hrs. 43 mins.

5152 Majestic Surprise Major

Comp: A J Cox

1 David Livingstone

2 Beryl R Norris

3 James E Daniels

4 S Kathleen M Baldwin

5 William Butler (c)

6 J Alan Ainsworth

7 Roger Baldwin

8 Peter Bridle

Old Bradwell

St Lawrence

Monday 3rd June 2002

2 hrs. 31 mins.

5040 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Jenny W Brookman

2 Chrissie Cable (1st peal)

3 Jill Joyce

4 Br Austin

5 David M Joyce (c) (1st peal as conductor)

6 Barry R Eglesfield

As part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations. The conductor's first peal was rung for the Silver Jubilee.

Downs Barn

The Cross and Stable

Saturday 29th June 2002

2 hrs. 34 mins

5056 Ealing S Major

Comp: D G Hull

1 Maurice Edwards

2 Charlotte Everett

3 Michele Elender

4 Claire F Edwards

5 Lloyd S Cartwright

6 Clive Holloway

7 Timothy G Pett

8 Ian Roulstone (c)

Quarter Peals

Calverton

All Saints

Friday 31st May 2002

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1 Helen Stanworth

2 Catherine Stanworth

3 Richard Yates

4 John Stanworth

5 Michael Tinsley

6 Richard Stanworth (c)

On the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Alan and Joyce Gowler (parents of Helen and grandparents of Catherine and John) and for the Golden Jubilee

Saturday 27th July 2002

1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor

1 Helen Stanworth

2 Catherine Stanworth

3 Michael Tinsley

4 John Stanworth

5 Richard Stanworth (c)

6 David Stanworth

To celebrate Richard and Helen's Silver Wedding Anniversary

Cosgrove

SS Peter & Paul

Sunday 16th June 2002

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1 Helen Stanworth

2 Barry Eglesfield (c)

3 David Joyce

4 Christine Cable

5 John Stanworth

6 Richard Stanworth

A thanksgiving for the life of Jim Lambert

Emberton

All Saints

22nd June 2002

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Natalie Green

2 Roy Keeves

3 Sheila Watts

4 David Jones

5 Jonathan Griggs (c)

6 Roger Everson (1st Quarter)

To celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen

Elizabeth II

Hanslope

St James the Great

Sunday 9th June 2002

1260 Plain Bob Triples

1 Stuart Grout (1st Triples)

2 Natalie Green

3 Richard Haseldine

4 P David Taylor

5 Ian Thompson

6 Anthony Gray

7 Jonathan Griggs (c)

8 Roy Keeves

For Service and to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

Lillingstone Lovell

The Assumption of BVM

Monday 3rd June 2002

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 John Nicholas (1st Quarter)

2 Tom Philips (1st Inside)

3 Bernard Philips

4 Robin Culley

5 David Moore (c)

Loughton**All Saints**

Friday 10th May 2002

1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Derek Stainsby
- 2 Mary Rixon (c)
- 3 Stella Shell
- 4 James Ingham
- 5 Richard Hutchins
- 6 Barry Cowper

Saturday 8th June 2002

1260 Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Rosa Scott
 - 2 Ann McIntyre
 - 3 Derek Stainsby
 - 4 Jonathan Waters
 - 5 Bob Winstanley (c)
 - 6 Roger Blackburn
- For the Jubilee

Maids Moreton**S Edmund**

Sunday 2nd June 2002

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Ann Fletcher
- 2 Jonathan Spencer (1st blister)
- 3 Margaret Vince
- 4 Peter Nicholson
- 5 David Goodger
- 6 Andrew Spencer (c)

Rung to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of HRH Queen Elizabeth II

Tuesday 30th July 2002

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Helen Stanworth
- 2 Catherine Stanworth
- 3 Peter Nicholson
- 4 David Goodger
- 5 John Stanworth
- 6 Richard Stanworth (c)

On Richard and Helen's Silver Wedding Anniversary

Newton Longville**S Faith**

Sunday 14th April 2002

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Edie Robinson
- 2 Alan Marchbank
- 3 Christine Ryan
- 4 Christine Cable
- 5 David Joyce
- 6 Barry R Eglesfield (c)

In thanksgiving for the life of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Tuesday 4th June 2002

1264 Plain Bob Major

- 1 Helen Stanworth
 - 2 Catherine Stanworth
 - 3 David Joyce
 - 4 Christine Ryan (1st on 8)
 - 5 John Stanworth
 - 6 Nigel Titley
 - 7 Richard Stanworth
 - 8 Barry Eglesfield (c)
- Rung for the Golden Jubilee

Padbury**S M V**

Sunday 14th July 2002

1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Helen Stanworth
- 2 Catherine Stanworth (1st in method)
- 3 Barry Eglesfield
- 4 John Stanworth
- 5 Richard Stanworth
- 6 Michael Tinsley (c)

Sunday 4th August 2002

1296 Cambridge S Minor

- 1 Nigel R Titley
 - 2 Alan J Marchbank
 - 3 Alex Titley
 - 4 Ian Chapple (1st of S Minor)
 - 5 Michael Tinsley
 - 6 Barry R Eglesfield (c)
- Rung as a farewell to Alex Titley who is moving to the Manchester area.

Passenham, Northants**S Guthlac**

Saturday 2nd June 2002

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Ian Ranson
- 2 Scott Ayers
- 3 Malcolm Hooton
- 4 Bob Winstanley
- 5 B Douglas Hird (c)

For the Queen's Jubilee and for the Golden Wedding of Evelyn and Bert Heppenstall.

Rolleston, Notts**Holy Trinity**

Sunday 2nd June 2002

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Catherine Stanworth
- 2 Helen Stanworth
- 3 Philip Smith
- 4 Trevor Bryan
- 5 Richard Stanworth (c)
- 6 John Stanworth

To celebrate the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Alan and Joyce Gowler (parents of Helen and grandparents of Catherine and John) and for the Golden Jubilee

Shenley**S Mary**

Monday 3rd June 2002

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Christine Abbot

2 Lorraine Brookman

3 Ann Birch

4 John Brookman

5 Ted Fawcett (c)

6 Gordon Abbot

For the Queen's Jubilee

First as conductor in the method

Simpson**St Thomas**

Wednesday 8th May

1260 Doubles (3m,3v)

1 D Moore

2 B Phillips

3 R Jones (c)

4 Elaine Koster

5 J Woodcock

6 M Woodcock

Rung for the Golden Wedding anniversary of Mr & Mrs Philip Simpson, formerly of Bletchley.

Stony Stratford**St Giles**

Tuesday 9th April 2002

1260 Grandsire Triples

1 Peter J Eales

2 Alan C Cozens

3 Malcolm G Hooton

4 L Ruth Stokes

5 Jill Eales

6 Christopher C Stokes

7 Richard Haseldine (c)

8 David Scrutton (1st Q)

Half Muffled for the death of Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother.

Tingewick**SMV**

Friday 10th May 2002

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Stella Shell

2 Mary Rixon

3 Richard Hutchins

4 Barry Cowper

5 James Ingham (c)

25th together 3 & 4

Thornborough**St Mary**

Wednesday 10th May 2002

1260 Doubles (2m)

1 Mary Rixon

2 Stella Shell

3 James Ingham

4 Richard Hutchins

5 Barry Cowper (c)

Old Wolverton**Holy Trinity**

Tuesday 4th June 2002

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Michelle Bentley

2 Lyn Saunders (1st in method)

3 John Mercer (1st in method)

4 James Woodcock

5 Michael Nimmo (c)

6 Michael Woodcock

Rung to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second

Wavendon**The Assumption of BVM**

Monday 3rd June 2002

1260 Plain Bob doubles

1 Leigh Head

2 Anna Sexton

3 Lorraine Brookman

4 Martin Smith

5 John Brookman (c)

For Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee and as a Get Well for Norma Baldwin.

Woughton on the Green**The Assumption of BVM**

Sunday 16th June 2002

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Leigh Head

2 Nicola A King

3 Brian M Baldwin

4 Martin Smith

5 B Douglas Hird (c)

5 240's and 1 60.

50 Years Ago Doug Hird

Towers and Bells

To mark the Queen's accession to the throne a number of our rings were restored. The results were three very different rings.

Wavendon are the lasting legacy of Revd C E Wigg who was Master of the Guild and Rector at Wavendon. An old ring of five was re-cast into a modern light six in a new steel frame.



Stoke Goldington also needed the input of an ODG Master as Frederick Sharpe was asked to inspect the bells. The tenor had been cracked for some time and the frame was in a poor state. The Diocesan Advisory Committee expressed concerns that a valuable historical ring would be lost. Sharpe's opinion was that Whitechapel should get on with the job. The back four were by Henry Bagley in 1625 and the old treble by Henry Penn in 1707. With the addition of a new treble and some re-casting, they are now a good ring of six in a modern steel frame. The first peal on the new bells

had to wait until 1963 though.

Lillingstone Lovell were made up to five by Taylors adding to the four 1693 bells by Alexander Rigby. The bells were dedicated on 20th December.

The first peal here appears early in 1953:

The Oxford Diocesan Guild

24th January 1953

2 hrs. and 35 mins.

5040 Stedman, Grandsire, Plain Bob & St. Simon's Bob Doubles

1 Miss Doreen Spokes

2 George W Holland

3 K Mary Cowley

4 Frederick Vickers

5 William A Yates (c)

Peals and Quarters

1952 saw, or heard, six peals. At Olney and Buckingham at the start of the year and at Twyford, Buckingham, Hanslope and Stony Stratford at the end.

The Archives are a bit short of detail on quarter peals. Old copies of *The Ringing World* would be very useful! However, this quarter must have been worth hearing:

Tyringham

St Peter

10th February 1952 in 45 mins.

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Fred Orchard

2 Miss Edith Sharp

3 S Birch

4 Arthur R Armstrong (c)

5 Cecil Sharp

In memoriam H M King George VI, Rung fully muffled.

Branch Meetings

In June, the AGM was held at Church House in Newport Pagnell where tea was partaken on the vicarage lawn.

The Rev Campbell was re-elected as Chairman and Reg Howson re-elected as Secretary & Treasurer. A grant of £5 was made to the Stoke Goldington bell fund.

The Quarterly meetings at Whaddon, Great Brickhill and Bletchley included regular updates on the ongoing bell restorations.

Next edition—100 years ago

Minutes of Quarterly Meeting Held at Maids Moreton on 8th June 2002

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman, Barry Eglesfield, welcomed everyone to Maids Moreton, and asked for members' indulgence as this was the first meeting he had chaired for some time.

In Memoriam

The Chairman paid tribute to Jim Lambert who had died recently. Barry had known him for something like 45 years and Jim had been an active ringer in Barry's early ringing career. In later years he had moved to Stony Stratford and had attended meetings regularly, although no longer an active ringer. Barry also extended condolences to Audrey.

The Chairman then asked everyone to stand in silence for a few moments in memory of Jim.



Apologies for Absence

Received from David Middleton, Alan & Tine Marchbank, Gillian and Charlie Macdonald, Anne Mercer, David & Sheila Goodger, Roger King, and Nigel Tittley.

Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General meeting held at Newport Pagnell in March were published in the May edition of In Touch. They have also been published on the web site. It was proposed by Brian Newman, seconded by Derek Stainsby, and agreed by those present 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

No nominations had been received. Christine Ryan has transferred from the Banbury Branch.

Officers' Reports

Ringling Master. Richard Stanworth reported that, in his absence, Barry had got together two teams for the Guild Eight Bell Striking Competition. Well done to those who did take part. Unfortunately both teams had been in the heat where only three bands went through out of five taking part, and both of our bands were eliminated. However it was pleasing that we were one of only about six branches who had entered.

Treasurer. Sheila Watts reported that the balance in the Building Society account currently stood at £1,745, of which about £370 is due to the Guild. 160 members have paid so far. There are five towers

still to pay. These are Downs Barn, Great Brickhill, Newport Pagnell, Old Wolverton, and Tingewick. Sheila asked that if anyone was attending practices at these towers then please remind them about paying. The Raffle this afternoon raised £19.50 for the Guild Bell Fund.

Guild Reps. The Guild Reps were not present but the Guild Steward, David Joyce, made a few comments about the Guild Committee and Guild AGM. The committee meeting had not only been catching up with the business since the autumn meeting but also the extraordinary meeting of the Bell Fund. There were some changes to the trustees of the Bell Fund, which may inject some new ideas in to fund raising ideas etc. The Guild AGM was held at Shinfield, at the far end of the Guild's area. Brian Newman did not get back on to the General Committee. The main changes were the election of a new Master and Deputy Master. These posts have been filled by Graham Clifton and John Chamberlain, who are both keen to get out to branch meetings, so we should see them around the branches.

Forthcoming Events

Richard Stanworth briefly reminded members of forthcoming events in June and July. Because of uncertainty as to the availability of Buckingham, the June Branch Practice will now be at Wicken, with the start at 7.30 p.m. The Branch Training Day should be going ahead – this would be discussed later. The Inter Branch Competition is coming up on 27th July and 22 ringers are needed. The rest of the calendar can be found in In Touch. Events not yet published are: Branch Practices – October at Lillingstone Lovell, November at Lavendon, December at Bletchley, December Quarterly meeting at Fenny Stratford.



Any Other Business

A proposal was received in writing from Alan Marchbank, which followed on from a discussion at a previous Officers meeting. The proposal was:

'That in the matter of financial grants made and paid to towers within the branch, there be instituted a simple process of follow-up by a branch officer to establish that the grant has been utilised for the intended purpose and where this relates to a work activity as opposed to a purchase, the work has been undertaken to an acceptable standard. The officer conducting such a follow-up should report back to the next branch meeting and the matter be recorded in the minutes.'

In support of this Alan noted that there was no particular reason why he felt that the closing of the loop was required, except for the general duty of care the officers owe to the membership. He had no evidence or suspicion that the branch had ever been mis-led or cheated in any way, but with such rigour in place there can be no aspersions cast.

The Chairman thought that this proposal should not be voted on now but deferred until the next meeting in order to give members time to consider the matter. In discussion it was not clear whether this proposal would have any effect on when grants would be paid, i.e. would grants only be paid after an officer had conformed that the proposed work had been completed to an acceptable standard. There was some concern about the effect of this on projects where expenditure was incurred before the work was completed. There was a suggestion that in this sort of case staged payments could be made with a final payment on satisfactory completion. It was agreed that the proposal be considered at the September meeting, after members have had a chance to review the proposal, as it will have appeared in the newsletter by then.

Training Officer. Simon Head had originally taken on this post because there were no other volunteers. Simon does not really have the time to devote to this role and Barry has discussed this with him. He is prepared to relinquish this post in favour of someone with more time to devote to it. Simon will still continue as Assistant Ringing Master. Christine Ryan of Newton Longville is prepared to take on the role of Training Officer if this is agreed by the meeting. Christine was proposed for the post of Training Officer by Richard Stanworth and seconded by Martin Smith.

A query was raised as to whether the branch 6-bell striking competition could be held at a different time of year, preferably outside the wedding season, as a number of bands had already been ringing for several weddings before coming to the meeting. This might encourage more teams to enter if it didn't clash with weddings. This has been raised before and alternatives have been tried, but without much success. The chairman agreed that the officers would consider this at their next meeting. In the mean time if members have any ideas then please forward them to the branch secretary.

The Cambridge Training Day will be going ahead on 29th June. It is oversubscribed so the chairman had asked the branch officers who had applied to stand down this time. Following on from the responses from towers regarding training needs, it is clear that there is also a need for training days in Grandsire and Plain Bob as well as Cambridge. It is therefore probable that the next training day in the autumn will be for Grandsire or Plain Bob. Another Cambridge training session will be held, but after the need for plain methods has been met.



The Chairman announced that he hoped to organise some 'Chairman's Special Practices'. These will be 10 and 12 bell practices. He also re-iterated the hope that we could get three completely separate bands together for the Inter Branch competition.

Thanks

The Chairman thanked the Maids Moreton Band for making the arrangements for the day, and for the excellent tea. He also thanked the Rev Hugh Kent for allowing us the use of the church and bells, and for taking the service. Members showed their appreciation in the usual manner. The chairman then closed the meeting, prior to the drawing of the raffle.

Branch Notice Boards

Doug Hird

Wear and Tear

The notice boards are still doing service at the various events around the branch but after some years of active service they are showing signs of wear. The bags are particularly worn and some of the fittings have been lost. We will need to spend some money in the near future on these valuable items.

New Home Needed

A new home is needed for the Branch Notice Boards. They don't take up much space and for a lot of the time they are out and about. Any volunteers please get in touch with Doug Hird,

Dates for the Diary 2002

AUGUST

16th 7.30 Branch Practice Leckhampstead
Special Method: Buckinghamshire Place Doubles

SEPTEMBER

7th 3.30 Quarterly Meeting Old Wolverton

13th-15th *Easthampstead Course* *Easthampstead*

20th *7.30 Branch Practice Chicheley
Special Method: Carlisle S Minor

OCTOBER

5th *Six Bell Striking Competition* *Witney and Woodstock*

18th *7.30 Branch Practice Lillingstone Lovell
Special Method: Union Bob

NOVEMBER

2nd *One-Day Course* *Steeple Aston*

15th *7.30 Branch Practice Lavendon
Special Method: Hull S Minor

23rd * *Autumn General Committee Meeting* *Downs Barn*

DECEMBER

7th *3.30 Quarterly Meeting Fenny Stratford

20th *7.30 Branch Practice Bletchley
Special Method: Premier S Major

Items marked * were unconfirmed as at 3 August 2002
Italicised events are Guild events

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

www.northbucks.org.uk

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

www.Groups.yahoo.com/group/nbb_odg