

SPRING '90

IN TOUCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH BUCKS BRANCH
OF
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS



From the Secretary's filefax.

Well here we are again. doesn't time fly when you're having fun and doesn't time fly when you forget it's time to write something for the Newsletter (especially those days after you've been hurried along by the Editor).

Well quite a lot has happened since the last time I was writing - the Calverton band goes from strength to strength under the able leadership of Brarry; Emberton keep forging ahead with their 1/4 peals; and generally things are looking quite healthy and positive around the Branch.

Although we are only just into the new year (and I mustn't speak too soon) it is very pleasing to see such good turn outs. It is very difficult to explain how valuable it is to ring at other towers, it is the only way that you can experience the varying characteristics that bells are left with by their founders and hangers and develop throughout time. There is only one way to gain that experience and overcome fears of long ropes or light bells or whatever and that is to get out there and 'grab' a few towers - you'll meet a few nice people as well (and some not so nice)² and see some pretty sights.

So what's on the agenda for the first quarter of 1990?

The first milestone is of course the AGM this year at Newport and Tythingham, quickly followed by the first of the 8 bell practices at Buckingham.

April is a busy month starting with the ODG Youth Weekend, then the Plain Bob course at Fenny Stratford, and the Beginners striking contest at Stowe.

In May Tim will be organising the Branch Quarter Peal Week, the other is the 8 bell contest to participate in and the ODG AGM to go to all in 18 days!

For more details of these and a full diary of the next 4 months events look at the Diary further on.

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ALL SAINTS, EMBERTON
TOWER RESTORATION APPEAL



Emberton Bellringers present

THE WELDON HANDBELL RINGERS

giving an evening of entertainment:
110 handbells rung by experts performing a wide range of music

on

Saturday 28th April, 1990

7.30 p.m.

The Institute, Emberton

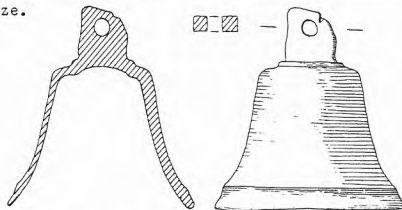


Tickets £2.50,
which includes
refreshments,
available from:

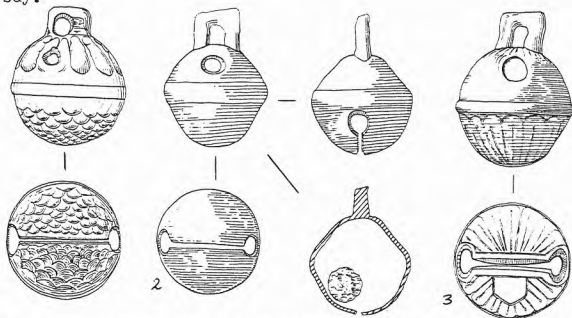
Sheila Watts, 28 Gravel Walk, Emberton, Olney. 0234-711113/0908-653214
Sheila Ware, 33 Westcott Way, Favel Green, Northampton. 0604-24829

The Gt Linford Bells!!!

A small bell was found during M.K.Archaeology Units' excavations some years ago, & probably dating from about the late 17th century to the early 18th century. It is made of copper alloy & has traces of the iron clapper fitting inside it. The drawings below are actual size.



Whether it was intended for domestic purposes or came from the name box of a horse collar or was used for campanology is difficult to say.



The many crotals (above) or harness bells, from the excavations indicate the agricultural nature of the villages past. Some of the crotals still have their peas & are ringable (unlike Lathbury.)

Ros Tyrrell.

This Quarters Quarters

ALL SAINTS, EMBERTON

Sunday 26th November, 1989 - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Rebecca Lewis | 4. Charles J. Knight |
| 2. Lawrence Bendelow | 5. Godfrey L. Foat (C) |
| 3. Walter Mawby | 6. Sheila Watts |

First Quarter Peal - Rebecca Lewis. With the best wishes of the band to Lawrence Bendelow, leaving for Germany.

Sunday 17th December, 1989 - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Sheila Ware | 4. Gordon Ellis |
| 2. Andrew Osborne | 5. Alan Marchbank (C) |
| 3. Walter Mawby | 6. Sheila Watts |

First Quarter Peal - Sheila Ware. For the Carol Service, and the Christening of William and Richard Crocker.

ALL SAINTS, CALVERTON

Saturday 16th December, 1989 - 1260 Plain Bob Minor

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Ann Houston | 4. Bob Winstanley |
| 2. Paula Cochrane | 5. William A. Yates |
| 3. Jon Lovell | 6. Barry R. Eglesfield |

First Quarter Peal - Ann Houston

Tuesday 9th January, 1990 - 1260 Plain Bob Minor

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Jo Neville | 4. Justin Baker |
| 2. Jill Eales | 5. Shirley Northcote |
| 3. Clare Lovegrove | 6. Barry R. Eglesfield (C) |

Rung with the bells half muffled by members of the Sunday Service band as a tribute of respect to the Benn family tragically killed in a car accident on January 8th.

33 PETER & PAUL, NEWPORT PAGNELL.

Sunday 14th January 1990..... 1260 Plain Bob Doubles.

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Gillian Watson | 4. G.L.Foat (C) |
| 2. Nicola Ramsay | 5. D.Manton |
| 3. A.Jones | 6. G.Stratton |

Rung to welcome Rev John Morrison as Archdeacon of Buckingham & for the Baptism of Stephanie Osborne.

First on a working bell for 2.

Gt Linford Goes North on a Settle-Carlisle Railway Celebration Ringing Tour

At St Andrews we have steam enthusiasts as well as ringing enthusiasts. John Randall convinced us that the saving of the Settle-Carlisle Railway was a good excuse to ring a quarter peal & see a steam train in superb countryside.

So bright & very early on a late September Friday we packed ourselves into a 12 seater minibus & headed north to Kirby Lonsdale. We found a really good pub for lunch, & were overheard talking shop by a lady from S. Shields, who eventually joined us in the tower to help us ring the 12cwt 6. I recommend a visit to Kirby Lonsdale, a very pretty town. By 4.00 we were ready to head on to the Guest house for supper.

Our first tower on Saturday was Kirby Stephen a 15cwt 8. They were rung from upstairs, with a rather long draft for my taste. The glassed & uncurtained chancel arch made your ringing style awfully visible. The ringers had written a welcome to us on their blackboard, with enough this very friendly.

On to Appleby, where the bells had just been rehung. We snatched a quick lunch & the "A Team" vanished to ring the 16cwt which was the centre of our trip. We wanted to celebrate the saving of the Settle-Carlisle line here because in 1865 the same bells were rung when the act was passed enabling the line to be built. After general ringing on the 10cwt 6, we dashed off to the station to admire the LNER V2 class Green Arrow as it got up steam & snorted off south to Hellifield.



Gt Salkeld was a bit of an anti climax as we were locked out initially, though it gave us time to enjoy the sunshine. The upstairs ringing room had, in 1515, been the schoolmasters lodgings, so there was a huge fireplace. This had a Medieval gravemarker as its lintel. The clock mechanism & its balcony jutted into 1/4 of the room resulting in the 3rd & 4th ropes having to pass through it. So this church had long & short draft on its 11cwt 6. The bells were so loud that we couldnt hear Alan's 'Scream' Changes.

We concluded the day with Cine films about railways John had made on previous trips & very good they were too.

On Sunday we followed the line north via Giggleswick to Carlisle. Here we rang the Cathedrals 20cwt 8 for evensong. It was then a chase down to Shap, to ring their 8cwt 6 along with 3 friendly locals & back for supper.

On Monday, on the way home we stopped at low Bentham, a 19cwt 6. The Vicar called in to meet us on his way to a Confirmation class & pointed out the pre reformation bell hung above our unobservant heads in the porch.

Thanks for organising a pleasant & varied weekend John you showed us a lovely part of our country & some interesting bells.

30-30.14-12-30.14-14.30.16-16.70.14.36.14.90 'F' L.E.12

*Can YOU ring these Methods ?
Do you know what the numbers at the
TOP & BOTTOM represent ?*

*Whether you can OR whether you cannot,
whether you do OR whether you do not,
COME TO*

EASTHAMPSTEAD '90

and find out MORE !

*COURSES FROM PLAIN HUNT TO SURPRISE MAJOR
both on TOWER & HANDBELLS*

*Friday 14th to Sunday 16th
SEPTEMBER 1990*

at

EASTHAMPSTEAD, Berkshire.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE OBTAINABLE FROM

**MRS. BOBBIE MAY, 4 HALFACRE CLOSE,
SPENCERS WOOD, READING, BERKSHIRE. RG7 1DZ.**

PLEASE ENCLOSE A LARGE (A5 SIZE) SAE

-36-14-36-36-14-36-36-78 'B' L.E.12

O.D.G. YOUTH ACTIVITIES

If you will be aged between 11 and 16
at the end of March, read on.....

A ringing weekend is being organised for junior members

from Friday, 30th March

to Sunday, 1st April

in North Bucks

Cost: about £30

Numbers limited to 16, so apply early

Application forms from:

Mrs P. Newton
44, George's Hill,
Widmer End,
High Wycombe,
Bucks. HP15 6BE.

tel: (0494) 713834

BEGINNERS STRIKING CONTEST

To be held at Stowe on Fri 20th April at 7pm

RULES

1. A TEAM SHALL CONSIST OF SIX RINGERS, NOT MORE THAN THREE OF WHOM SHALL HAVE RUNG IN EITHER A QUARTER PEAL OR A CHANGE RINGING STRIKING COMPETITION.

2. A DRAW SHALL TAKE PLACE AT THE START OF THE COMPETITION TO DETERMINE THE ORDER OF RINGING.

3. A JUDGE SHALL BE ELECTED BY THE OFFICERS. THE JUDGE IS AN HONoured GUEST WHOSE COMMENTS AND ADVICE ON THE RINGING ARE WELCOMED

4. A EACH TEAM SHALL BE CALLED TO RING BY THE STEWARDS OF THE COMPETITION AND SHALL :

RING NO MORE THAN TWO MINUTES PRACTICE.

RING A SINGLE BELL TO ADVISE THE JUDGE.

RING A FOUR MINUTE TEST PIECE OF EITHER --:
ROUNDS, OR,
CALL CHANGE USING THE CHANGES BELOW.

(THE JUDGE SHALL STOP MARKING WHEN AT LEAST
ONE BELL HAS CEASED TO RING.)

(THE STEWARD WILL HELP WITH TIMING IF REQUESTED).

5. AT THE END OF THE COMPETITION THE JUDGE SHALL BE ASKED TO ANNOUNCE THE RESULTS. THE DECISION OF THE JUDGE IS FINAL, EVEN WHEN IT IS WRONG!!

CALL CHANGE TEST PIECE

123456

132456	(2 to 3)	
132546	(4 to 5)	
135246	(2 to 5)	QUEENS

132546	(5 to 2)	
132456	(5 to 4)	
134256	(2 to 4)	
143256	(3 to 4)	
142356	(3 to 2)	
142536	(3 to 5)	TITTUMS

124536	(4 to 2)	
124356	(5 to 3)	
123456	(4 to 3)	ROUNDS

Rounds and Plain Hunting

Part 2 How to ring, by A. Learner

The week soon passed it was time to go to the tower for the weekly practice.

The ropes were still tied up to a hook hanging in the centre of the tower when I arrived. The ropes were lowered and then all tied up in loops to keep them off the floor. Another thing to be taught, how they were expected to be tied, it looked simple but took awhile before it was mastered. The ringers tested that the bells were in the down position before they would be rung up. Again it looked easy with the group all ringing up together.

Now for my try again I was allowed to pull on the tail, followed by pulling the sally. Again this was all that I would do. I was being taught how to handle the bell and rope. As learners were being given instruction before most of the ringers arrived I again finished early leaving them to their practice.

The following week after again being allowed to pull on the tail, followed by pulling the sally, I was allowed to finally pull the bell on my own with my instructor standing in front ready to help out if I should need it or if I should go wrong. I now knew that it would not be an easy task.

I started to stay longer at the practice sitting down watching and listening to what was happening. The ringers all stood by their bells. The tower captain then told them that they would be Plain Hunting. The ringer standing at the number one bell said "look to Treble is going she has gone" the bells started ringing. What was this strange language, what did it all mean. It looked as if I would now have to learn another language.

Part 3 Rounds & Call Changes by A. Learner

I was now a regular and beginning to get to know all the ringers. I was now going to be put in with the rest of the ringers to ring in rounds, my instructor would still be standing by to help and advise me. I would either pull too early or too late on both the hand and back stroke, would I ever manage to get it right. This seemed to be how I was to progress over the next few weeks until I found that I was ringing by myself and doing what I thought was reasonable rounds.

Now the next stage would be the call changes. I would have to change places with another bell when told. We rang in rounds then the call came three to four. I had to stop following the number three bell and follow the two. Well I tried! Slowly in the following weeks I became better.

Well there I was standing in the band ready to ring rounds. Once started it carried on, I was pulling too hard and then it happened. Somehow the tail got caught around my hand. Having pulled too hard on the tail the sally went up.

I didn't have control the bell went right up hit the stay and carried on. I found myself leaving the floor everyone shouting to me to drop the rope, thankfully I managed after being pulled off the ground, although my weight had stopped the bell going too far. Everybody else stood.

The bell would now have to be repaired by having the stay replaced. This was to be my first visit to the bells. As there was a spare stay the bell was soon repaired and ready to ring. My confidence was rather shattered and I didn't really want to ring again that evening but was made to, I now think that if I had not rung straight away that would have been my last visit.

then we were not in the tower, but have they are at last! Ed.

Dear Diary 1990

FEBRUARY....

Fri 16th Branch Practice at Whaddon
Sat 17th Annual Dinner at Stoke Bruerne.

MARCH....

Sat 3rd Branch A.G.M. at Tyringham & Newport Pagnell.
Fri 16th Branch Practice at Twyford
Fri 30th 8 Bell Practice at BUCKINGHAM (P.B.Doubles &
Cambridge S.M.)

APRIL....

Fri 6th Branch Practice at M.K.Village.
Sat 7th Plain Bob Course at Fenny Stratford
Fri 20th Beginners Striking Competition at Stowe.

MAY....

Fri 4th Branch Practice at Thornborough.
Sat 5th to Sat 13th 1/4 Peal Week at lots of towers???
Mon 7th ODG 8 Bell Contest & Ringing Day.
Fri 18th Branch Practice at Calverton
Sat 19th ODG AGM. BLOXHAM

JUNE....

Sat 2nd Branch Quarterly Meeting at Lillingstone Lovell &
Maids Moreton