

IN TOUCH

The Quarterly Newsletter of the North Bucks Branch
of
The Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers



St Lawrence, Bradwell
(The Revised AGM Location)

Annual General Meeting at *Bradwell* on Saturday 1st March 1997

3:30	Ringling
4:30	Service
5:00	Tea
6:00	Business Meeting
	Evening Ringing - until 8:30

Names for tea to David & Jill Joyce (01908-667025), by **Tuesday 25th February**

Please note the change of venue

Your Branch Officers for 1996/7 are listed below, please keep "In Touch" with us.
If you come to the A.G.M. then you'll be able to note down the changes for 1997/8!

Brian Newman	01908-668347	6 Martin Close, Neath Hill, Milton Keynes. MK14 6JG
Secretary		
Helen Stanworth	01280-814172	11 Valley Road, Linden Village, Buckingham. MK18 7BW
Minute Secretary & Newsletter Editor		
Jill Joyce	01908-667025	4 Woad Lane, Great Linford Village, Milton Keynes. MK14 5HE
Treasurer		
David Bardwell	01908-676841	21 Forrabury Avenue, Bradwell Common, Milton Kevnes. MK13 8NF

Helen Stanworth 01280-814172 11 Valley Road, Linden Village, Buckingham. MK18 7BW

Jill Joyce 01908-667025 4 Woad Lane, Great Linford Village, Milton Keynes. MK14 5HE

David Bardwell 01908-676841 21 Forrabury Avenue, Bradwell Common, Milton Keynes, MK13 8NF

Richard Stanworth 01280-814172 11 Valley Road, Linden Village, Buckingham, MK18 7BW

Alexandra Titlev 01908-646632 "The Willows", 15 Drayton Road, Newton Longville, Milton Keynes, MK17 0BH

Doug Hird	01908-614741	19 Priory Street, Newport Pagnell. MK16 9AF
Alan Marchbank	01908-611434	6 Broadway Avenue, Giffard Park, Milton Keynes. MK14 5QF

1. *Journal of Management Studies*, 1997, 34, 1, 1-14.

Doug Hird 01908-614741 19 Priors Street, Newport Pagnell. MK16 9AF

VACANCIES - All of our current officers complete their service at the A.G.M. in March and a number have indicated that they do not wish to stand for re-election. Please start thinking of who can be persuaded (or might volunteer) to share in running our branch for 1997/8, particularly for the following posts :-

Chairman	Minute Secretary	Newsletter Editor
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Editorial

This is my last edition of In Touch as editor - and will be the smallest yet! Thanks to those people that have contributed - and to those regular contributors over the last two years. Any newsletter will begin to get stale if it relies only on the Editor (or the Editor's family!) for contributions and it is time for someone else to take over the bulk of the input. Please support the new Editor - particularly in the early editions before they've had time to build up a stock of 'fillers'!

I am planning to enter the 1996 editions of In Touch in the Ringing World newsletter competition - this may result in a contribution to the Bell Restoration fund as that is what is being offered as prizes.

Jill Joyce

The next edition of "In Touch" (best wishes to my replacement) should be distributed at the beginning of May. Please submit any articles or information, to the new Editor, by the closing date :-

Sunday, 6th April

"In Touch" is published by the editor on behalf of the officers of the O.D.G. North Bucks Branch. Any view expressed in "In Touch" is that of the author and copyright resides with the individual authors.

ODG NORTH BUCKS BRANCH

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at Fenny Stratford on 7th December 1996.

Chairman's Welcome - Brian Newman welcomed members to the meeting and thanked the Fenny Stratford ringers for the tea.

In Memoriam - the meeting stood in silence in memory of Walter Mawby who rang at Olney and previously at Stoke Goldington.

Apologies for Absence were received from Doug Hird, Ros Tyrrell, Tine Marchbank, John Wells (Guild Master), Barry Cowper (Guild Secretary), Bill Yates, Anne Fletcher, Andrew Spencer, Sheila Watts and Sheila Ware.

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at Newton Longville had been published in the November edition of "In Touch". It was pointed out that the person elected from Olney had been confirmed as Paul Hulley. It was proposed by Helen Stanworth, seconded by Hugh Butler and carried that the minutes be taken as read.

Matters Arising - It was felt that elections should not take place without correct names. David Joyce proposed and Richard Stanworth seconded the motion "The Nomination form for membership should be fully completed in all details for election to take place". This was carried by the meeting.

Election of New Members

Nomination forms had been received proposing election of the following :

Bradwell :	Holly Robinson (Junior)	Proposed : David Joyce	Seconded : Jill Joyce
Fenny Stratford :	Sylvia Albert Michael Perkins (Junior)	Proposed : Peter White	Seconded : Clive Raven
Shenley :	Anne McIntyre	Proposed : Barry Smith	Seconded : Derek Stainsby

All were elected as new members with effect from 1st January 1997.

Certificates were then presented for members elected at earlier meetings.

Officers Reports

1. Secretary

I attended the meeting of Guild Secretaries in October and the Guild Committee Meeting. From these meetings various information was obtained, some of which is covered in other officers' reports. One item I should mention is the Best Keep Tower Competition, the next one of these will be held over the winter of 1997 to 1998.

It's Annual Report time again. Information about the branch members and tower details will appear exactly as they did in this year's report unless you advise otherwise. In particular the report does not contain every member's Christian name or title (Mr., Mrs., Miss etc.).

If you wish to change your entry in the report, copies of the branch entry are available at this meeting. Please check your entry and change it if necessary.

I now turn to future branch practices. Please note that the December practice will now be at **Wavendon** not Simpson on 20th December. Some of the practices in the first quarter of next year are still to be confirmed. Please watch out in In Touch and The Ringing World for any changes. The AGM will be held at Newport Pagnell on Saturday 1st March at 3:30 pm.

2. Ringing Master

Firstly I must correct an omission from my In Touch report regarding the inter-branch striking competition. The Secretary was also one of those who took part.

As you will know from In Touch, the Call Change striking competition in September only attracted two teams. Why didn't more of you enter? As David Joyce wrote in In Touch, should we make some changes to the rules or when we hold this event? Please tell us what you think.

Shenley represented our branch in the Guild 6-bell competition. They finished fourth in their heat, just one fault behind Aston Clinton, so just missed going through to the final.

Practices have been held at Loughton and Stony Stratford with good attendance and the special methods rung by all who wished to.

Turning to next year, the final of the Guild 8-bell competition will be held at Wanborough in the South Oxon. branch and the method will be Grandsire Triples. This will be held on Monday 5th May (the May Day Holiday). The 10-bell competition will be at Amersham on Guild Festival Day (12th July) and the method will be Little Bob Royal. In the New Year I will get together a band to practice for these events. Little Bob Royal will definitely be on the agenda at Kempston in April.

Finally I ask again if anyone wishes to progress with Plain Hunt, Plain Bob or Grandsire, please give your name to one of the ringing masters and when we have enough names a mini ringing school can be arranged. If more advanced practice sessions are needed, can I suggest that if you can arrange your own session then the Ringing Masters will try to arrange help if at all possible.

3. Treasurer

The **Building Society account** stands at £829.71, compared with £965.16 at the same time last year.

The **General Account** shows a credit of £204.44 for the year to date, compared to £250.75 for last year.

£891.50 has been received in **Subscriptions** to date, representing 154 adults and 29 juniors. £563.20 had been paid to the Guild for 176 members.

Regular checks are made to statements for the **Ringing World account**, to ensure it remains in credit. It currently stands at £28.20.

Expenditure on "**In Touch**" stands at £218.40 for the year to date, with donations of £121.00. The production of "In Touch" is recognised as a cost to the Branch, but any additional donations will always be welcome.

Income for the **Guild Bell Fund** is currently raised by raffles at the Quarterly meetings - £76.50 in the year to date. The detailed requirements for the 100 club are making progress, but unfortunately very slowly. Assistance has been requested, but no volunteers have come forward. Today's raffle raised £18.

Guild Subscriptions are to go up to £5:50 in 1997 to be split £3:50 to the Guild and £2:00 to the branch. The increase is to cover additional costs associated with the Millennium project. We currently charge junior members £3:50. It was proposed by David Bardwell, seconded by Hugh Butler and carried that the junior subscription be raised to £4:00 from 1997. The branch will still subsidise junior members by £1:50.

4. Guild Representatives

Alan Marchbank gave the report on the November General Committee meeting held in a very small room in Coombe.

There was a discussion on Finance and subscriptions. A number of other items were also discussed:

- i) There was a request for support for a private publication on 3 and 4 bell towers. The proposers have been asked to produce a business plan and a decision will be made when this has been seen.
- ii) There was an explanation of the latest serious incident when someone lost the tip of their finger, this was settled quickly by the insurers. The Ecclesiastical Insurance Co. may look for certificates of fitness for purpose (available from the bell foundries). The Towers and Bells sub committee will investigate this.
- iii) No decision has been made on Bill Butler's bookstall - the Guild has not yet decided whether it wants a bookstall.
- iv) The reissue of affiliation certificates may be incorporated into the Millennium project.

David Joyce said that the accident reported at ii) involved a learner in his 50s in supervised rounds after 6 months learning. The learner was keen to sue. It may become necessary to get learners to sign a disclaimer.

5. Millennium Project Liaison Team

Approximately ¾ of the towers in the Branch had provided information to the team. A report will be produced in the next edition of In Touch.

Forthcoming Events

1. Events are listed on the back of In Touch. The replacement of Simpson by Wavendon occurred after In Touch was printed.
2. A request for a joint meeting with the Luton District of the Bedfordshire Association had been received. This was proposed for Saturday 24th May from 6:30 to 8:30. It was agreed that we should go ahead with the joint meeting.
3. Godfrey Foat had offered to arrange an outing to the Whitechapel foundry and a number of London towers in the first quarter of 1997. It would be open to the branch and take place by coach.

Any Other Business

1. Odd Bobs were available for people to collect.
2. David Bardwell said that from 35 towers issued with membership surveys, only 5 replies had been received. Every time we have to chase for replies it costs the branch more.
3. Jill Joyce and Brian Newman would not be standing at the next AGM. New people were required as Chairman, Newsletter Editor and Minute Secretary. It would be good to spread this to different towers.

Vote of Thanks

David Joyce thanked Rev Stephen Huckle and Ian Thomas for taking the service, Susan the organist and Pat, Sylvia, June, Lucille, Clive, Margaret and Michael for the tea.

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers North Bucks Branch - Membership Nomination Form

Tower Name _____

	<u>Title</u>	<u>Christian Name</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Y/N</u>
Member's Name	_____	_____	_____	Junior ? _____
Member's Name	_____	_____	_____	Junior ? _____
Member's Name	_____	_____	_____	Junior ? _____
Member's Name	_____	_____	_____	Junior ? _____
Member's Name	_____	_____	_____	Junior ? _____
Member's Name	_____	_____	_____	Junior ? _____
Member's Name	_____	_____	_____	Junior ? _____
Member's Name	_____	_____	_____	Junior ? _____
Member's Name	_____	_____	_____	Junior ? _____
Member's Name	_____	_____	_____	Junior ? _____

1997 subscriptions: Adult = £5:50, Junior = £4:00.

Junior members' [in full time education, up to and including the age of 21] subscriptions are currently subsidised by the Branch.

PRINT CLEARLY and hand to the Chairman, prior to the start of the meeting - please show the Title, Christian Name (or initials if preferred) & Surname as you wish it to appear in the Guild Report.

Proposed by _____

Seconded by _____

Elected at _____ on ____/____/____

Circulation :- 1/ Minute Secretary

2/ Treasurer

3/ Secretary for forwarding certificate needs to Guild membership secretary

PEALS & QUARTERS

PEALS

Maids Moreton, St Edmund

Saturday 2nd November 1996
5040 Surprise Minor (7 methods :
Berwick, Beverley, Hexham, Surfleet,
Primrose, Cambridge, Norwich)
1 Richard W Yates (C)
2 Stanley M Ruddlesden
3 Andrew J Spencer
4 B Douglas Hird
5 Richard S Stanworth
6 G Nigel Williams
In memory of George W Holland,
1917-93. Also to welcome Sian
Elizabeth Stanworth, born earlier this
day.

18 Ashfield, Stantonbury

Saturday 16th November 1996
5040 Plain Bob Minor
1-2 Alan J Marchbank
3-4 Ronald J Snack
5-6 Godfrey L Foat (C)
Rung for the Society of Royal
Cumberland Youths Peal Day, after
meeting short for Minor at St Andrew,
Great Linford

QUARTERS

Downs Barn, Cross & Stable

Sunday 8th September 1996
1260 Plain Bob Minor
1 Jonathan Hill
2 Nicola King
3 David M Joyce
4 Simon Head
5 David Maybrey
6 B Douglas Hird (C)
First minor - 1

Shenley, St Mary

Sunday 8th September 1996
1260 Plain Bob Doubles
1 Irene Gordon
2 Lorraine Brookman
3 Ray Watkin
4 Bob Winstanley (C)
5 Derek Stainsby
6 Barry Smith
First inside - 2

Downs Barn, Cross & Stable

Sunday 13th October 1996
1260 Doubles (1 principle, 10 methods)
1 Nicola King
2 Nigel Tittley
3 B Douglas Hird (C)
4 Simon Head
5 David Maybrey
6 Charles Knight

Shenley, St Mary

Sunday 13th October 1996
1260 Plain Bob Minor
1 Anne McIntyre
2 Barry Smith
3 Anne Birch
4 Mick Nimmo
5 Ray Watkin
6 Bob Winstanley (C)
For St Edward's Day

Bradwell, St Lawrence

Sunday 3rd November 1996
1260 Doubles (Plain Bob & Grandsire)
1 Christine Abbott
2 Jenny Brookman
3 Jill Joyce
4 Michelle Copson
5 David Joyce (C)
6 Gordon Abbott
To wish Ted & Becky Fawcett good
luck in their new home.

Bradwell, St Lawrence

Sunday 1st December 1996
1260 Doubles (Plain Bob & Grandsire)
1 Rosa Bardwell
2 Jenny Brookman
3 Jill Joyce
4 Ian Green
5 David Bardwell (C)
6 Gordon Abbott
To celebrate the birth of Ruth Beatrice
Humphries (Niece of 1 & 5). Most
methods as conductor.

Quarters Rung in Thanksgiving for the Life of Walter Mawby

Olney, St Peter & St Paul

Sunday 15th December 1996
1260 Grandsire Triples
1 Alex Tittley
2 Nicki King
3 Alan Cozens
4 Roy Keeves
5 Nigel Tittley
6 Simon Head
7 Doug Hird (C)
8 Charles Knight

16 Wandsworth Place, Bradwell Common

Monday 16th December 1996
1440 Plain Bob Minor
1-2 Alan J Marchbank
3-4 Godfrey L Foat
5-6 Ronald J Snack (C)

Stoke Goldington, St Peter

Friday 3rd January 1997
1260 Stedman Doubles
1 Sheila Watts
2 Jonathan Griggs
3 Roy Keeves
4 Charles Knight
5 Alan Cozens (C)
6 Owen Warren

Bradwell, St Lawrence

Sunday 29th December 1996
1996 Doubles (5 Methods / Principles)
1 Michelle Copson
2 Jenny Brookman
3 Jill Joyce
4 David Bardwell
5 David Joyce (C)
6 Ian Green
In thanksgiving for the life of Harry
Brannan (Father of 3rd). Most methods
- 1, Longest length - 1 & 6, Longest
length as conductor - 5.

HANDBELL QUARTERS

16 Wandsworth Place, Bradwell Common

Monday 28th October 1996
1440 Plain Bob Minor
1-2 Godfrey L Foat
3-4 Alan J Marchbank
5-6 Ronald J Snack (C)
Birthday compliment to John
Marchbank, age 2.
For the end of Summertime

16 Wandsworth Place, Bradwell Common

Monday 11th November 1996
1260 Plain Bob Minor
1-2 Ronald J Snack
3-4 Alan J Marchbank
5-6 Godfrey L Foat (C)
For Remembrance

16 Wandsworth Place, Bradwell Common

Monday 18th November 1996
1260 Plain Bob Minor
1-2 Alan J Marchbank
3-4 Ronald J Snack
5-6 Godfrey L Foat (C)

Points from the Quarters . . .

Congratulations to Jonathan Hill on
ringing his first minor and to Lorraine
Brookman on ringing her first inside.



A number of quarters were rung in thanksgiving for the life of Walter Mawby :

Walter Frederick Mawby 1924-1996

Walter would have been surprised at the large number of ringers and friends that attended his funeral at St Peter & St Paul, Olney, Buckinghamshire, on 12th December. Although a private man of few words, the large congregation was indicative of the respect in which he was held, both in the ringing community and around North Bucks and South Northants.

Walter was born at Hackleton, Northamptonshire, where he probably learned to ring. Piddington became his home tower for a while, and he rang a few peals in the area, mainly in the Fifties. Walter owned a fine set of handbells which were used mainly for tune ringing - he and his friends would play Carols around the villages and outlying farms at Christmas. He was a regular supporter of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, and later became a member of the Oxford Diocesan Guild when he moved to Stoke Goldington. Walter was made a Life Member of the Oxford Guild in the late Eighties when he had completed 50 years of membership. On moving to Olney, he became a member of the band at St Peter & St Paul, and was much valued for his reliability and his quiet sense of humour.

The bells were rung half-muffled before the funeral by members of the present band and by friends spanning Walter's 60 years or so of ringing. Having worked on the land all his life, the closing hymn 'We plough the fields and scatter' was a rousing and appropriate choice.

Sheila Watts

Bradwell : Once again, we managed to ring a date touch just before the end of the year vanished. Last year's treble and tenor ringers got their turn inside this time. It is almost cheating to extend your "longest length" records by just one row, but we did.

In addition to the peals listed, Richard Stanworth took part in a peal of Berkshire Surprise Major rung at Blechley by ringers from the southern end of the Guild.

The quarter peal total at Branch towers has also been increasing due to the activities of ringers from the Luton District of the Bedfordshire Association - it has been noted that some members of our Branch are taking part.

... News from the Towers

Bradwell : Ted & Becky Fawcett recently moved house from Bradwell to Shenley. Although we miss them on Sundays, we are grateful to still see them on some Wednesday practices. Our latest recruit is Holly Robinson - see the separate article about her rapid progress through our new teaching experiment.

Calverton : A quarter peal was attempted for Remembrance Sunday, which unfortunately did not come round. However, the ringing served its purpose as half muffled ringing during an open air service had been requested by the vicar.

Newport Pagnell : As part of the Down to Earth mission, held over the week of 9-17 November, the bellringers were involved in the Children's workshop. About 60 children in the 8 - 12 age group attended an afternoon based on the theme of 'Nobody is a Nobody'. Alongside songs to sing and religious stories to hear, they could also join in activities such as drama, picture making, carpentry, juggling and bellringing. Everyone could find something that they could do.

For the bellringing, Carol Smith, Charlie Russell and Godfrey Foat showed small groups what method ringing was by using the Simulator purchased with support from the branch. Groups then used handbells to 'walk' plain hunt across the back of the church. We also had groups playing 'The Bells of Saint Mary's' on handbells.

Although the age range means that we will not gain any recruits immediately, we hope that this has raised awareness of the bellringers amongst these youngsters. There is already talk of repeating the workshop, we hope to be there with something new - maybe a new tune to play!

Godfrey Foat

Shenley : At long last our new ropes have arrived. These were blessed in front of a full church during Holy Communion on Advent Sunday. During the service our vicar referred to our 'ancient' bells and to the fact that our 'ancient' bell ropes were worn out, we were waiting for the reference to the 'ancient' bell ringers but were spared. The ropes have now been fitted, just ahead of a busy schedule of Christmas and New Year ringing - including the first time the New Year had been rung in for over 30 years.

Following a review of security it has been decided to lock the church during Monday night practices. The main entrance door, south porch, will therefore be locked shortly after 7:30 pm. Anyone arriving after this time should use the north door, please knock on this door if locked. We regret the inconvenience this will cause but for some time we have felt that the church is at risk as we are unable to view the interior from the ringing chamber. Visitors continue to be welcome at our practices which alternate with All Saints', Loughton.

Barry Smith

Whaddon : Contractors have recently finished cleaning the tower of years of dust and debris, they have also fumigated against death watch beetle. An unexpected benefit is that the bells can now be heard much more clearly from inside the church.

Barry Smith

Matters Arising from the Minutes

You should be expecting articles on the following if you read the minutes!

The Coach Outing to the Whitechapel Foundry and London towers mentioned in the minutes will probably not take place, as bookings for tours of the foundry are of limited availability.

If you have not yet been visited by the **Millennium Team** prepare for a visit shortly. Hopefully an article will be available in the next edition of In Touch once all the information has been collected.

Emberton eventually gets to Oxfordshire

The 1996 outing proved to be something of an organiser's nightmare..... It seemed such a good Pub Plan - a few towers south of Oxford with the highlight of the day to be the Abbey at Dorchester, followed by a much recommended tea shop just down the road. Finding a date suitable for all was problematic, and then, alas, it was not to be - a choir festival was booked at the Abbey on our chosen date.

Pub Plan B went into action; how about Woodstock and Bladon? Many phone calls and letters later we realised we couldn't do that either, as Woodstock had already allocated their 'visitors spot' for October, and Bladon was not available. Back to the drawing board. Now we abandoned Pub Plans and stuck a few pins in the map! Success this time, and eighteen or so of us set off on a sunny October day.

The first stop was Middleton Stoney, a really impressive Church where Edward the Confessor was baptised. The six bells didn't seem quite so impressive, however, but we gave a good account of ourselves. Then on to Kidlington - a magnificent eight. We did justice to this fine ring and much enjoyed our time here.

Lunch was interesting. Denby had recommended a pub for us (from his historic knowledge of the area). However, a lynching was later threatened as those of us who went there realised the pub had obviously changed hands, and was no longer the cosy and reasonable place that Denby remembered. Ringers approached the next tower distinctly poorer

On to Eynsham (6) and Church Hanborough (6). The latter tower was a nice surprise as we discovered the heavy bells had recently been rehung - some very stately ringing was enjoyed..

The last tower of the day was Kirtlington (8). Perhaps the day had been good practice for us all, as our ringing achieved new heights - we rang some really well struck Double Norwich, Erin, and Yorkshire.

Our thanks go to all who contributed towards the day, particularly our supporters from other towers.

Sheila Watts

Holly was our Guinea Pig

At the recent Tower Leadership seminar, Bill Butler repeated his theories about teaching learners and at Bradwell recently we adapted some to try out a new teaching programme for our latest recruit. Holly had been on our waiting list for several months - ever since she came along to watch one of Naomi's lessons and started adding her voice to the rest of us who were trying to persuade Naomi to catch the sally more often.

Prior to starting the training sessions we all had a session with our diaries to find a week where enough of us could keep up the commitment of a tutor as well as a chaperone / helper. The plan was to have an hour of practice every day, so that there was no time to forget or lose momentum as happens with weekly lessons.

Lesson 1 was set for Saturday morning, but had to be cut short due to a double booking of the church. Backstrokes were looking good, with just a quick taster of handstrokes before we had to stop. Lesson 2 wasn't spoilt by the snow and by the end, handstrokes were going well. Monday evening was spent getting the 2 separate strokes going more smoothly and consistently, then putting the two together. Tuesday was spent polishing the finer points of balance, but by then I was being firmly told to "stand over there because I don't need you!"

Wednesday was our normal practice night and that meant not only hearing the bell for the first time, but also having to ring rounds with (and meet) the rest of the band. Although a few nerves meant the odd bump of stay (and wince of steeple keeper), progress was still looking great. After having to drop Thursday from our programme, Friday evening was spent working on a few bits of fine tuning, followed by Holly proving us wrong by setting 10 consecutive handstrokes.

After another break on Saturday, Holly came along to ring for her first Sunday Service and to be presented with her Blue badge from the "One per learner" scheme. Although I'm not an absolute fan of Pam Copson's progress cards, they were ideal for recording this rapid progress. Rather than colour in the bell for each item achieved, Holly was asked to write the date instead - we now have a permanent record of this early progress.

Where next ? - after another good bit of practice night ringing (yes once a week is all the rest of us can cope with, Holly) it was time to go for the first tower grab and attend a branch quarterly meeting. Unfortunately, a bad cold spoilt these plans, but Holly was elected a member of the Guild (yet another tick on the Copson sheet) just two weeks after her first lesson.

What have we got out of this ? - another (very keen) member of the band; worries about how on earth to keep this rate of progress going; respect for Holly's parents who supported her by delivering and collecting her for every lesson. Most of all I realised how much more energy and enthusiasm a 12 year old has compared to us ancient ones who were helping and teaching. Next time your band have a learner to teach, think about using a similar system - it may be exhausting, but it worked for us. Well done Holly, when will you be wanting your Green badge ?

David Joyce

Could you fill this space?

Articles are gratefully received whatever length they are - column fillers are usually in short supply and are often desperately needed!

Other Events Within and Without the Branch

This section is intended to bring you information about some other ringing events, that are not organised by our own Branch or Guild. This information is not kept as complete or up-to-date as our own Branch diary, so please keep an eye on Odd Bob and The Ringing World. If you wish to check before attending, or want to know further details, please contact the following people :-

Olney - A Monday evening 8 bell practice is run by Roy Keeves (01908-510105) from 7:30 to 9:00 each month. There is a core of regular attendees, but new faces are always made welcome. Methods rung range from Rounds to Surprise Major, with a special method sometimes being chosen in advance.

Central Bucks Branch - Mark Sellin (01296-392175).

Towcester Branch - Bill Yates (01280-814937).

Wellingborough Branch - John Holmes (01933-405169).

Luton District - David Adams (01582-868534).

Bicester Branch - Simon Cole (01869-247525).

Northampton Branch - Mrs Dorothy Stopps (01604-890638).

Bedford District - Eddie Lambert (01234-363513).

Date	Time	Event details	Location
Sat 25th January	eve	Luton District AGM	Luton
Sat 25th January	3:00	Towcester Branch AGM	Potterspury
Sat 1st February	aft	Bedford Branch Practice	Little & Great Staughton
Thu 6th February	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Wolvercote
Sat 8th February	3:00	Central Bucks Branch AGM	Aylesbury (8)
Sat 22nd February	6:30	Luton District Evening Meeting	Studham
Fri 7th March	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Kirtlington
Sat 8th March	6:30	Central Bucks Branch Practice (to 8:30)	Swanbourne (6)
Sat 22nd March	6:30	Luton District Evening Meeting	Leighton Buzzard
Sat 5th April	aft	Bedford Branch Practice	Bedford, St Paul
Mon 7th April	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Brill
Sat 12th April	6:30	Central Bucks Branch Practice (to 8:30)	Waddesdon (6) <i>steel bells</i>
Sat 26th April	3:30	Luton District Quarterly Meeting	Tilsworth
Sat 26th April	eve	Luton District Quarterly Meeting	Totternhoe
Tue 6th May	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Islip
Sat 10th May	6:30	Central Bucks Branch Practice (to 8:30)	Marsh Gibbon (5)
Wed 4th June	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Middleton Stoney
Fri 13th June		Bicester Branch Striking Competition	Middleton Stoney
Sat 14th June	5:30	Central Bucks Branch Striking Contest	Steeple Claydon (6)
Thu 3rd July	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Woodeaton
Fri 1st August	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Ludgershall
Mon 1st September	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Bicester
Tue 7th October	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Islip
Wed 5th November	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Middleton Stoney
Thu 4th December	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Kirtlington

Godfrey Foat has compiled a list of Open Days and Guild AGM's which may be of interest to anyone who is planning an event that ought not to clash.

Remember that a comprehensive list of meetings is published regularly in the Guild "Odd Bob" and some are advertised in the Ringing World as well. The information about our neighbours can only be published here in "In Touch" if someone lets us know - if you have any details (or corrections), please contact the editor.

If you visit our neighbours' events, please let them know about our branch and encourage them to visit us.

Don't forget all of the local tower practices in our branch each week. If you visit any of these events, why not take along another member of your local band ? However, it would be courteous to check with the organiser before taking an entire band along !

Last revised 14/01/97

ODG North Bucks Branch Diary

Date	Time	Event details	Location
Fri 21st February	7:30	* Branch Practice Special method = Surfleet S Minor	Old Wolverton
Sat 1st March	3:30	Annual General Meeting *** <i>Please note the change of venue</i> ***	<u>Bradwell</u>
Sat 8th March	2:30	Guild General Committee Meeting	Uffington
Fri 21st March	7:30	* Branch Practice Special method = Stedman Doubles	Sherington
Sat 29th March		Guild Handbell Day	Reading
Sat 5th April		Guild Youth Day	E Berks & S Bucks Branch
Sat 12th April	9:00	Guild Ringing Course (all day) Methods - see tower notice	Radley
Fri 18th April	7:30	Branch Practice Special method = Grandsire Caters & Yorkshire S Royal	Kempston
Mon 5th May	3:00	* Guild 8 bell Striking Competition Test Piece = Grandsire Triples	Wanborough
Mon 5th May		* Guild Ringing Day	South Oxon Branch
Fri 16th May	7:30	Branch Practice Special method = Rev Canterbury Doubles	Leckhampstead
Sat 17th May		Guild Annual General Meeting	Sonning Deanery Branch
Sat 24th May	6:30	* Joint Practice Meeting with Luton Branch	Olney
Sat 7th June	3:30	* 6 bell Striking Competition & Quarterly Meeting	Great Linford
Fri 20th June	7:30	Branch Practice Special method = All Saints Doubles	Hillesden

The calendar of branch events from July 1997 to June 1998 will be arranged by the new officers and should be published in the May edition of "In Touch". As this will go to print only a few weeks after the A.G.M. time will be very tight - please assist the secretary by replying promptly if your tower is asked to host an event.

Sat 12th July		* Guild Ringing Festival	Aylesbury
Sat 12th July	3:00	* Guild 10 bell Striking Contest Test Piece = Little Bob Royal	Amersham

Any event marked with * was awaiting confirmation when this list was prepared, if a more recent list is unavailable then please check with the Secretary for the current situation before attending.

Rounds, Call Changes, Plain Hunt, Plain Bob & Grandsire will always be available at Branch Practices. The special methods are intended to be a focus for the more advanced method ringing.

The Branch Mini Ringing Schools are specially tailored for a very small number of pupils to get intensive, high quality, training in one basic method. Please write to the Ringing Master if you wish to be considered as a pupil for a future school or are interested in different types of school.

Last revised 14/01/97