



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

In Touch

February 2002

Annual General Meeting at Newport Pagnell Saturday 2nd March 2002

4:00 Ringing

5:00 Service

5:30 Tea

6:00 Meeting

Followed by evening ringing until 8.30 or 9.00

Names for tea to Carol Smith (01908-616666)
by **Wednesday 27th February 2002**

**** Please note that, as at 21st January, this is still not confirmed. ****

Newport bells are back in the swing of things see article on page 12



Everyone know
what time it is...?
It's tool time!
Renovation and
re-installation in
progress at
Newport Pagnell.



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From The Chair



Once again, it is AGM time. This year we have the opportunity to ring on the finest ring of eight in Buckinghamshire. Now rehung with new bearings, rollers and wheels, Newport's bells go better than ever. All of the unpredictability of the front bells has been smoothed out and the only challenge left is the length of the ropes.

At this year's meeting we will be electing a new Chairman and a new Newsletter Editor as the two of us are resigning from our posts. So far no new volunteers have come forward but perhaps there is some political manoeuvring going on behind the scenes. Let's hope so.

We also need to spend some time deciding what to do with the Assistant Ringing Master's post.

It just remains for me to say thank you to all the officers who have done their jobs so well in recent years, and to you, the members, for helping to make the meetings entertaining and stimulating. I'm sure my successor will enjoy being Chairman as much as I have.

Doug Hird

AGM's are a great opportunity for branches to inject new blood and new ideas into their routines. With Doug and myself



Editor's Ramblings

stepping down from our posts at this meeting, it provides a chance for others to come and reshape the jobs and make their own mark on the branch. If you haven't done so previously, make your views known, and share your ideas. The branch is what you make it and the newsletter and meetings are your soapbox—use them.

I would like to say thank you to Sheila Watts for "training me up" and also to Martin Smith for his most excellent editorial assistance and use of his PC! A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to the newsletter and I hope that you will support my successor just as well and continue to use *In Touch* as your forum.

Leigh Head



Secretary's Snippets



Training Officer

At previous meetings the possibility of creating the post of Training Officer was discussed. This will need to be agreed at the AGM. If we decide to have a Training Officer, what does he/she do? This is the view of what a T.O. might do, based on the experience of Mike Davies in the Chiltern branch.

The ringing master, the branch secretary, or someone else entirely can do the job. The function of the training officer is different from that of the ringing master. The training officer deals with the organisation and the ringing master with delivery. The training officer need not be an expert ringer but should be well versed in how training is planned, organised and delivered. Theoretically, the training officer need not even be a ringer. The training officer identifies the need, plans the training, fixes up the appropriate training sessions, organises the helpers, and then hands over to the ringing master who runs it. He then comes in at the end for the evaluation of the event. Normally this is informal and verbal. If there are any significant lessons to be learnt for next time, then these are passed back to the ringing master.

It was felt that this should be included in the next *In Touch* in order to present what a training officer might do. However it was felt that it should not be presented as a fixed idea of what a training officer does but as a guide to what one might do, if appointed.

We might wish to do things differently. The Chiltern branch is smaller than our branch with only about half the number of towers. This may affect the way in which a T. O. could operate within the North Bucks. It is up to you to choose. Please come along to the AGM with your ideas.

Tower Information

I sent out a letter to all tower correspondents in December, giving the details which are held about them as tower correspondent, and of the bells and ringing at their tower. They were asked to check these details, amend as necessary and return the letter to me by the end of the year. So far, about half of the letters have been returned. If you have not yet done so, please return the letter to me, even if everything is correct, so that we know that we have the correct details. It will not cost you anything, as there was a stamped

addressed envelope included. We try to maintain accurate information. We can only do this if you help.

Helen Stanworth

Notes from the Branch Secretaries Meeting on 5th October 2001

Subscriptions

No change from the current £5.50 (£3.50 to the Guild, and £2 to Branches). It was suggested that an extra 50p be raised in the future, with half being paid to the Bell Fund and half to the Restoration Fund. It was agreed that Branch Secretaries should ask for opinions from the Branch Membership. What do you all think? Please let me have your thoughts.

Striking Competitions

It was agreed that the methods to be rung for the eight and ten bell striking competitions should be as follows:

Plain Bob Major
Grandsire Caters

It was suggested that the Ten Bell Striking Competition might take place on the morning of the Autumn General Committee Meeting (to be held in North Bucks Branch in 2002). A more central venue within the Guild could be used for this - Bicester may be available.

Bell Fund Draw

Some Branches felt that the Draw didn't hold the same attraction as it once did. Perhaps an alternative fund raising event might be preferable. Suggestions please.

The Queen's Jubilee

It was thought unlikely that any Guild-organised ringing would be needed, as most towers would arrange their own.



Ringling Master's musings

Branch Practices

About once a quarter the branch practice focuses on rounds and call changes, especially for those of you who may feel intimidated by everyone ringing changes. Please come and join in, as the more experience you can get of ringing on different bells, the quicker you will improve and gain in confidence.

We always welcome you to branch practices; they are for the benefit of **ALL** members, whatever level you ring at. Don't forget to bring your instructor to help out. Practices are only successful if we also have experienced ringers to help and provide a strong framework around the less experienced ringers

The dates are in the calendar at the back of the newsletter. The next focus on call changes is at **Simpson on 15th March.**

Remind your instructor to bring his/her Ringer's Diary - a method in the diary may be called for at short notice just to keep them on their toes!

We try to make sure that Branch practices are tailored to be beneficial to the ringers present, whatever their ability. We will always ring plain hunt, plain bob and Grandsire for those who request it, so don't be put off if you can't ring the special method. This is merely a focus for those who wish to try something different.

Training

A training event is planned for **Saturday 29th June 2002.** The special method will be **Cambridge Surprise Minor.** If you are interested then please contact the Ringing Master, or the new Training Officer. You will then be contacted with further details when they are known.

Beginners Striking Competition

This is planned for **Friday 5th April at Lavendon.** Please support this. Check the new rules to see if you are eligible (page 8 - after the peals list). If there are not enough beginners in your tower to make a band, then get together with ringers from another tower and make up a team. If you would like to take part and are not part of a team, then come along and we will make up teams on the evening. If you do not feel confident on your own, the rules do not restrict the number of people in the tower! You can always have a mentor to stand by you as long as they don't actually ring.



Richard Stanworth



Peals and Quarter Peals



Peals

The Oxford Diocesan Guild

Stony Stratford

SS Mary and Giles

Tuesday 27th November 2001

2 hrs. and 43 mins

5024 Yorkshire S Major Comp: J. R. Mayne

1 David Livingstone

2 James E Daniels

3 Beryl R Norris

4 M Ann Bethell

5 Timothy G Pett

6 Malcolm G Hooton

7 Peter Bridle

8 J Alan Ainsworth (c)

Quarters

Clifton Reynes

St. Mary

Wednesday 24th October 2001

1260 Doubles 4m/7v

1 B Phillips

2 Elaine Koster

3 R Jones (c)

4 David Moore

5 J Woodcock

6 Michael Woodcock

For United Nations Day.

Downs Barn

Church of Cross and Stable

Tuesday 6th November 2001

1260 St. Simons doubles

1 David Moore

2 Nicki King

3 Martin Smith

4 Simon Head

5 Doug Hird (C)

First inside to method for 2 & 3

Woughton-on-the-Green

St. Mary

Wednesday 7th November 2001

1440 London Surprise Minor

1. Catherine Stacey

2. Christina Tribble

3. Gareth Grayson

4. Doug Hird

5. Peter Tribble

6. Barry Eggesfield

First quarter inside to method for 2

Rung as a birthday compliment to 2 & 6

Maids Moreton

St. Edmund

Sunday 11th November 2001

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Shirley Webb

2 Ann M Fletcher

3 Andrew J Spencer (c)

4 Margaret A Vince

5 Peter J Nicholson

6 David Goodger

Rung half-muffled in memory of Louisa Elizabeth Sarah McCulough (Auntie Lou) 1910-2001

Wavendon

St. Mary

Friday 23rd November 2001

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1 Scott Ayres

2 Anna Sexton

3 Peter Tribble

4 Nicki King

5 Martin Smith

6 Doug Hird (C)

Rung as a tribute to Marie Cross

Great Linford

St Andrew

Friday 23rd November 2001

1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

1 Gareth Grayson

2 Nicola A King

3 B Douglas Hird

4 David M Joyce

5 Alan J Marchbank

6 Barry R Eglesfield (c)

In memory of Marie Cross.

Olney

SS Peter and Paul

Thursday 29th November 2001

1280 London Surprise Major

1 Nicola A King

2 L Ruth Stokes

3 B Douglas Hird

4 Edith M Robinson

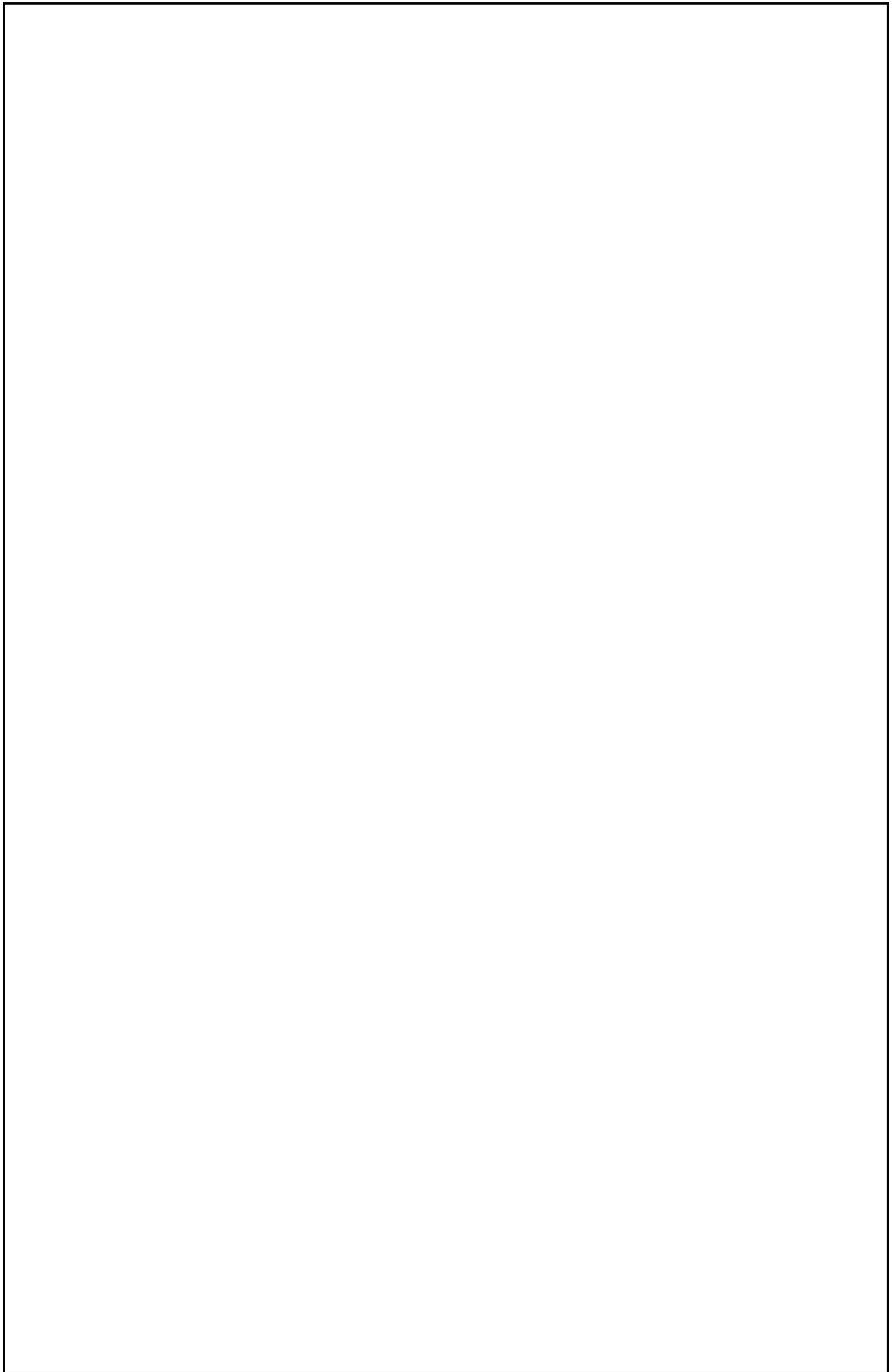
5 Andrew J Spencer

6 Christopher C Stokes

7 Andrew M Keech

8 Barry R Eglesfield (c)

In memory of Marie Cross.



Wicken

St John

Friday 30th November 2001

1280 London Surprise Major

1 Ruth Stokes

2 Natalie Green

3 Alan Cozens

4 Richard Haseldine

5 Roger King

6 Nick Gray

7 Chris Stokes

8 Jonathan Griggs (C)

First quarter in the method for 2 & 6

Loughton

All Saints

Saturday 1st December 2001

1260 Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles

1 Rosemary Scott

2 Becky Fawcett

3 Derek Stainsby

4 John Brookman

5 Bob Winstanley (C)

6 Roger Blackburn

Rung as a 50th birthday compliment to Jacqui Clare Bradburn. A sponsored quarter from the promises auction to fund the re-gilding of the Loughton church clock face.

Wavendon

St. Mary

Friday 7th December 2001

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1 Nicki King

2 Leigh Head

3 Peter Tribble

4 Martin Smith

5 Brian Baldwin

6 Bob Winstanley (C)

First quarter inside to method for 2

Newport Pagnell

SS Peter and Paul

Sunday 16th December 2001

1260 Grandsire Triples

(Comp: From Parkers 12 part)

1 Scott Ayers

2 Catherine Stacy

3 Nicola A King

4 Alan J Marchbank

5 Gareth Grayson

6 Charles J Knight

7 B Douglas Hird (c)

8 Jonathan Stacy

The first quarter on the bells after re-hanging. Rung by the spanner crew and their other halves.

Newport Pagnell

SS Peter and Paul

Sunday 30th December 2001

1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major

1 Rachel Stacy

2 Nicola A King

3 Andrew J Spencer

4 Alan J Marchbank

5 Gareth Grayson

6 B Douglas Hird

7 Barry R Eglesfield

8 Trevor W Marchbank (c)

Woughton-on-the-Green

St. Mary

Sunday 6th January 2002

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1. Leigh Head

2. Brian Baldwin

3. Simon Head

4. Peter Tribble

5. Christina Tribble (C)

6. Alan Marchbank

First conducted quarter for 5

Rung for Epiphany

Wavendon

St. Mary

Friday 25th January 2002

1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

1 Leigh Head

2 Nicki King

3 Christina Tribble

4 Martin Smith

5 Peter Tribble

6 Doug Hird (C)

First Treble Bob quarter for 1

First Surprise Minor quarter for 4

All of the following were rung as a thanksgiving for the life of William Yates

Buckingham

SS Peter and Paul
Friday 5 October 2001
1260 Grandsire Triples
1 Ann M Fletcher
2 Barry R Eglesfield
3 Michael J Tinsley
4 G Nigel Williams
5 Richard W Yates
6 Richard S Stanworth
7 Andrew J Spencer (c)
8 David Goodger

Stowe

St. Mary
Monday 8th October 2001
1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor
1 Andrew J Spencer
2 Barry R Eglesfield
3 Steven Stanford
4 John Wells
5 G Nigel Williams
6 Robin H Rogers (c)

Stowe

St. Mary
Monday 8th October 2001
1260 Grandsire Doubles
1 Roger King
2 Helen Stanworth
3 Margaret A Vince
4 Lawrence A S Gibson
5 Richard S Stanworth (c)
6 Peter J Nicholson

Calverton

All Saints
Wednesday 10th October 2001
1260 Doubles 2m/3v
1 Michael Woodcock
2 B Phillips
3 R Jones
4 Elaine Koster
5 David Moore
6 J Woodcock

Downs Barn

Church of Cross and Stable
Friday 12th October 2001
1260 Stedman Triples
1 Richard W Yates
2 Alan J Marchbank
3 Jill Joyce
4 Robert W Winstanley
5 David M Joyce
6 Gareth Grayson
7 Barry R Eglesfield

Beginners Striking Competition

Everyone is welcome at this event. Come along and join in. You do not have to be in a band to enter. Come along and we will make up bands on the night. Complete bands are also welcome, so long as they conform to the rules below. If there are not enough beginners at your tower, then get together with neighbouring towers and make up a team.

The Rules

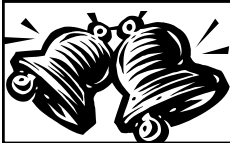
1. For the purposes of this competition, a beginner is defined as a ringer who has never rung in a quarter peal. Any other ringer is an experienced ringer.
2. Each band will consist of six ringers and may have no more than one experienced ringer in the band.
3. The competition will consist of each team ringing rounds for three minutes.
4. Up to two minutes practice per team will be allowed.
5. The start of the test piece will be notified to the judges by ringing two whole pulls on the treble.
6. A judge will be appointed for the competition. The judge's decision is final.

The full text of the report on the bells and fittings at Simpson Church can be found as a

Report on Simpson Bells

one page supplement included one copy per tower.

See your tower captain/In Touch contact for this report.



Calling my first quarter



The background

Some time last year, the Woughton ringers had the bright idea of attempting to ring a quarter peal on the first Sunday of each month. We were all asked what we would like to do. I said London Minor and thought nothing more of it. Then the next thing I knew, it was suggested that I attempt to call Bob Minor. Oh dear! My calling skills were distinctly lacking and it wasn't something that I particularly wanted to do. However, anything for a challenge, so I did some homework and got some coaching from Peter about calling places. I was eased in slowly, calling short touches at practice night and slightly longer ones on a Sunday morning. Fortunately I had a couple of months to wander round muttering under my breath, "home, wrong, home, home, wrong, home," etc.

The quarter peal itself

Finally the day arrived. I felt like I was ringing my first quarter all over again. Once everyone had arrived and chosen their bells, we set off at quite a pace. The first few minutes went well and I was just settling in, then after a bit of a crash, which seemed to sort itself out, I realised that two bells had swapped after dodging with the same bell 3/4 up and down. I may not know much but I do know that this shouldn't happen in minor. We stopped. After rope adjustment and a swap around, we started again. I was feeling more nervous and wanting it to be over. I ran through in my head the calling points and reminded myself to look at the clock as we started and hoped that no-one would go wrong because I knew that I wouldn't be able to put them right. After the first few calls, I settle down again. I knew that I'd run through it so many times I could do it in my sleep! Everything was going well, the striking was reasonable and I'd put the calls in the right place. After calling the first single, I was in unpractised territory and a slight mistake gave me a major headache in trying to remember where I was, what had I just called, and where had my ropesight disappeared to?? At the end of the 720 I breathed a sigh of relief as hopefully it would downhill all the way from there. In fact, knowing exactly how much was left kept me concentrating until the end.

The final "that's all" was a huge relief. After 20 years of avoiding calling much, let alone a quarter, I'd done it. I'm sure that there were signposts and indicators of where I was but to be honest, I didn't really notice them—maybe when I call my next one in another 20 years?!

To any of you out there who are thinking of calling your first quarter, all I can say is, do your homework, practice and have a good, strong band around you who won't go wrong.

Christina Tribble

Streatham Doubles at Woughton-on-the-Green

Differential methods have only recently been allowed by the Central Council and make a change on practice nights from Stedman or plain hunt doubles methods. In doubles with a differential method there are two lines to learn. One line is rung by the Treble and one other bell, while the remaining bells ring another line. In Streatham doubles the Lead lengths are 20 changes, and so the Treble and 2nd ring a course of work that is two leads long, (40 Changes) while the 3rd, 4th and 5th ring a course of work that is three leads long, (60 Changes) and so the whole thing comes round after 3 repetitions for the Treble and 2nd, and two repetitions for the 3rd, 4th and 5th.

Place notation for Streatham Doubles

3.1.3.125.3.1.3.1.3.5.145.5.3.1.3.1.3.125.3.1

Place notation for some other Differential Doubles Methods (variations on a theme)

Name	Notation	LH
Chysauster	1.3.125.3.1.3.1.3.125.3.125.3.1.3.1.3.125.3.1.123	21453
Kirton-in-Holland	1.3.125.3.1.3.1.3.5.1.5.3.1.3.1.3.125.3.1.123	21534
Algarkirk	1.3.125.3.1.3.1.3.5.1.5.3.1.3.1.3.125.3.1.125	21453
Crows-an-Wra	1.3.125.3.1.3.1.3.5.3.5.3.1.3.1.3.125.3.1.123	21453
Ding Dong	145.3.125.3.1.3.1.3.125.3.125.3.1.3.1.3.125.3.145.123	21534
Borleigh	145.3.125.3.1.3.1.3.5.1.5.3.1.3.1.3.125.3.145.123	21453
Lanyon	145.3.125.3.1.3.1.3.5.3.5.3.1.3.1.3.125.3.145.123	21534
Hooe	3.1.3.125.3.1.3.1.3.125.345.125.3.1.3.1.3.125.3.1	21534
Streatham	3.1.3.125.3.1.3.1.3.5.145.5.3.1.3.1.3.125.3.1	21453
Tillington	3.1.3.125.3.1.3.1.3.5.345.5.3.1.3.1.3.125.3.1	21534
Ulverscroft	3.1.3.5.1.345.1.145.1.5.345.5.1.145.1.345.1.5.3.1	21534
Calke	3.1.3.5.123.3.123.1.3.125.345.125.3.1.123.3.123.5.3.1	21534
Hardwick	3.145.345.5.123.3.123.1.123.5.345.5.123.1.123.3.123.5.345.145	21534

Many more (well 33 in all) from a CCC website near you!!

Simon Head

1. Methods with no Hunt Bells

These are classified as Principals: All the bells do the same work

Example: Stedman

What are Surprise, Differential, Principal, etc.?

2. Methods with one Hunt Bell

These can be further split into several categories depending on whether the Treble is *Plain Hunting* (a), *Treble Bobbing* (b) or *Making Places* (c)

2a Plain Methods

The Treble plain hunts: These are further subdivided into *Bob Methods* and *Place Methods*

Bob methods

Where there are no internal places made in the work

Example: Plain Bob

Place methods

Where the entire work consists of making places (No Dodges)

Example: Reverse Canterbury

2b Treble Dodging Methods

These are further subdivided into *Treble Bob*, *Surprise & Delight Methods*. The Treble dodges the same number of times in each dodging position up and down, i.e. 12,34&56. Note the Treble doesn't have to dodge once, it can dodge twice etc..

Treble Bob Methods

As the Treble plain hunts between the dodging positions, i.e. moves from 12 up into 34, no internal places are made

Example: Kent Treble Bob

Surprise methods

As the Treble plain hunts between the dodging positions, i.e. moves from 12 up into 34, at least one internal place is made

Example: Cambridge Surprise

Delight Methods

Everything Else! I.e. sometimes internal places are made as the Treble moves between dodging positions and sometimes they are not

Example: Marple Delight

2c Treble Place Methods

The Treble must make at least one place in the Half Lead, the work of the Treble must be Symmetrical about the Half Lead and it must spend the same amount of time in each position, i.e. strike the same number of blows in each place of the lead

Example: Avon Treble Place Doubles

Notation : &5.3.5.1.345.5.1.3.1.345+1

Alliance Methods

The path of the Treble is Symmetrical about the Half Lead but the Treble does not strike the same number of blows in each position

Example: Amersham Alliance

Hybrid Methods

The path of the Treble is not symmetrical about the half lead.

3. Methods with Two or More Hunt Bells

These are also split into the same categories as plain methods, but are also split into three classes imaginatively titled a, b & c.

Class 'a'

Twin Hunt Methods have the treble as a principal hunt bell being unaffected by the calls and a second hunt bell(s) that follow the same path as the Treble (Note doesn't have to be plain hunt)

Example: Grandsire

Class 'b'

Twin Hunt methods have a secondary hunt bell that pivots at the same time as the primary hunt bell, For example in Grandsire the hunt bell doesn't pivot at the same time as the Treble.

Example: Biddesden Place

Class 'c'

Twin Hunt Methods, Basically everything else, methods in which the path of the second hunt bell is not related to the Treble as it has to be in 'a' or 'b'

Example: Bedfont Place

Slow Course Methods

These are similar to twin hunt methods in that another bell follows a repeating piece of work each lead which is not related to the Treble.

Example: Woughton on the Green doubles

Methods with multiple Blue Lines

Differential methods have more than one line with some bells following one set of work and others following a different set of work.

Example: Streatham Doubles

Simon Head



“Newport Bells are back and are the best once more!”



It all started with the second. The slider broke and allowed the bell to go over and from then on it wouldn't go without a lot of effort. Gareth's girls were quite capable of making the effort but that wasn't the point. Something was wrong. We got Alan Marchbank to take a look and soon found that the bell had moved along its bearings. It was running on a high part of the bearing so there was a lot of friction. A swift kick put the bell back in its old rut. We kept on looking though and found more and more problems. The pulleys were worn, the wheels falling apart, even the tenor's ball bearings were making some unpleasant noises. The bell founders confirmed this, and helpfully, attached a price as well.

By this time local interest had been stirred and a local charitable fund offered £5,000 towards the work. As the ringers had already got a reasonable sum in hand from donations and wedding fees, the quote from Taylor's was soon accepted.

Dismantling the bells went smoothly with the help of various local ringers and a load of bell fittings made their way to Loughborough in late September. The few warm evenings in November were used to put some paint on the frame sides, making use of the extra access given by the lack of wheels. The clock hammers and wires were also dismantled to allow us better access and to do a better job of cleaning them up.

The cleaned, painted and refurbished parts arrived back early on a foggy Monday morning in December. They were soon laid out on the tower floor and were already attracting a lot of interest. Already the ringers had started to reclaim their part of the church.

Most of that first morning was spent getting organised. By the end of the day, we had a couple of bells back on their bearings and had worked out which parts we had and which were missing.

Over the next few days, with the assistance

of numerous helpers, all the bells were reunited with their headstocks, wheels and other fittings. By Thursday evening everything was together again and tightened and a quick phone call gathered enough ringers together to try out the back six.

The first quarter was rung on the following Sunday by “The Spanner Crew” and their other halves. It was immediately clear just how much better the bells were. No more pulling, no more unpredictability. The bells were soon back into the swing of their usual routine over Christmas and the New Year.

Our thanks go to the following for their help, support and advice:

Gareth Grayson, Charles Knight, Alan Marchbank, David Moore, Scott Ayres, David Taylor and Jon Stacy.

Tim Wooding, Audrey Jones and Nicki King for the first try out ring.

The Middleton Fund and the ODG Bell Fund for financial support and to the PCC for their support.

All that remains is to make use of the bells. Practices continue on Wednesday evenings and more quarters are planned. A good opportunity to try them out will be the North Bucks branch AGM in March. Everyone is welcome. See if you can tell the difference.

Doug Hird (Steeple keeper)

Minutes of the December Quarterly Meeting

Held at Down's Barn on 1st December 2001

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman, Doug Hird, welcomed a small gathering to Downs Barn for the meeting

In Memoriam

The Chairman asked those present to stand in silence for a few moments in memory of Bill Yates of Buckingham, who died in October, and Marie Cross of Radley who had died recently.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Sheila Watts, Sheila Ware, Simon Head, Audrey and Jim Lambert, Helen Stanworth, Mike Nimmo, David Scrutton, and Brian Newman.

Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes of the Quarterly meeting held at Shenley in September had been published in the November edition of In Touch. It was agreed by the meeting that the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

David Joyce asked about the report on Simpson bells. Doug directed him to the other side of the branch notice boards that had been set up. Alan Marchbank's full report was pinned up there for those present to read. Malcolm Hooton commented that it was a very thorough report. As Simpson had received the Powergen money it was felt that the report should be circulated around the branch. It was commented that, as it was so detailed, perhaps it would be better to circulate a summary of the full report.

Election of New Members

Nominations had been received proposing eight members -

Tower	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Great Brickhill	Jeremy Hopkinson (re-election) Andrew Howell (re-election) Brian Simpson (re-election)	David Middleton	Doug Hird
Downs Barn	Scott Ayers (re-election)	Doug Hird	David Joyce
Unattached	Edith Robinson	David Joyce	Barry Eglesfield

Officers Reports

Secretary. In the absence of the Secretary, Richard Stanworth gave this report. Helen had received a reply from Mike Davies regarding the role of a training officer. The job can be done by the ringing master, the branch secretary, or someone else entirely. The function of the training officer is different from that of the ringing master. The training officer deals with the organisation and the ringing master with delivery. The training officer need not be an expert ringer but should be well versed in how training is planned, organised and delivered. Theoretically, the training officer need not even be a ringer. The training officer identifies the need, plans the training, fixes up the appropriate training sessions, organises the helpers, and then hands over to the ringing master who runs it. He comes in at the end with an evaluation of the event, discussing if there are any lessons to be learnt in terms of moving forward with the training. It was felt that this should be included in the next In

Touch in order to present what a training officer might do. However it was felt that it should not be presented as a fixed idea of what a training officer does but as a guide to what one might do, if appointed.

Ringling Master. Richard Stanworth reported that although we had entered for the ten bell striking competition, we were unable to take part due to two members of the band dropping out at the last minute. He stated that he had attempted to get a band from those ringers who were known to have recent experience on ten bells. This had proved difficult because of the holiday period just before the event. Next year it is proposed to hold the event in November. Hopefully this will allow time to get a band together without being affected by holidays.

Treasurer. As the treasurer was not present, Doug read out her report: The Branch Account balance at the Building Society stands at £1071.23. Thank you to those towers who have recently paid their 2001 Guild Subscriptions – only one tower with members remains unpaid (Newton Longville). I shall be writing to all towers soon after 1st January 2002 for the 2002 Guild Subscriptions. You'll all doubtless be pleased to know that the sub remains the same as 2001 - £5.50 for adults, and £4.00 for juniors. We currently have 188 Branch members. The Raffle today raised £14.00, which goes to the Guild Bell Fund. Thank you everybody.

Guild Representatives. Doug presented the report on the November committee meeting, with assistance from David Middleton and David Joyce. This had been one of the more interesting committee meetings of recent times. More research had been done into the question of the charitable status of the Guild and the F & GP committee will discuss this in January.

A Special meeting is to be held regarding the Bell Fund in January. This is as a result of an e-mail sent by Nicola Turner to Nigel Harrison, the Guild General Secretary, regarding a grant application for Milton in Oxfordshire. This had been circulated to some of the Guild Reps. The application had reached the Bell Fund secretary too late for their meeting in February. At their next meeting in September the committee decided not to make any grants until the financial markets had stabilised following the recent events in America. Nicola had taken exception to this and circulated her point of view. Although there did not appear to be great enthusiasm for an extraordinary meeting, the treasurer said that he would welcome one in order to put his point of view. This swung the meeting and, following a recount, there were then sufficient votes in favour of the meeting. The extraordinary meeting must have a quorum before it can discuss the affairs of the Bell Fund. Part of the issue is that the Bell Fund has spent more than its investment income because of the additional projects leading up to the millennium. This was clearly stated from the outset and they have been quite open in all their reports regarding this. Another area in which there is possibly some confusion is in defining what is income. Within the Bell Fund, only investment income counts as 'income'. All money raised for the Bell Fund goes straight into the capital fund and does not count as income, even though it is new money coming into the Bell Fund.

The subscriptions were raised a few years ago in order to cover additional expenditure associated with the millennium. Now that the millennium has passed, and expenditure is no longer at a raised level, there was discussion on what should be done with this extra part of the subscription. This centres on giving it to the Bell Fund and/or the Restoration Fund. Brian Gatward is going to prepare something in writing on this and circulate it round the branches for discussion.

The child protection advice is now completed and the meeting voted to adopt it. The Guild is to create a post of Children's Officer, for which they have someone lined up.

The subscriptions are to stay the same as before. The entry fee for the ten-bell competition is to be dropped to bring it in line with the other guild competitions. As a trial, the competition is to be held on the morning of the November committee meeting. As the North Bucks are hosting the committee meeting, there was some brief discussion on where the competition will be held. The officers believed that Bicester were on standby, whereas

they seem to think that they will definitely be hosting the competition. There was also a mysterious item. There are some radical suggestions being forward for changes to the ten-bell contest, emanating from the Oxford City branch. The main committee weren't told what these are but the Oxford City secretary was told that the Guild had the proposal and would be looking at it. David Joyce felt that the proposal probably included a change to the method, so that it is at least Surprise Royal, and possibly that towers as well as branches be allowed to enter. There was no discussion about the change to the arrangements for the draw this year. Apparently the organiser had decided himself to change to a draw at the beginning of the competition.

Forthcoming Events

Richard Stanworth briefly outlined future events planned for the second quarter of 2002:

Joint practice with the Luton branch on 23rd March at Hanslope,

Beginners striking competition on 5th April at Lavendon,

Branch practice in April at Tyringham

Branch practice in May will be a ten-bell practice, possibly at Northampton or Bedford or Bicester

Quarterly meeting and striking competition will be put back a week to 8th June because of the Jubilee weekend. This is proposed for Maids Moreton.

Branch practice in June at Buckingham

A training day is proposed for 29th June – target will be Cambridge Minor.

The date of the Inter branch competition was queried. This will be on the last Saturday in July. This is provisionally planned for Newport Pagnell.

Dates were also given out for Guild events. North Bucks will be hosting the November committee meeting. This may be held at Buckingham, depending on the size of room needed for the meeting.

David Joyce advised that the youth training day is being re-instated

Any Other Business

David Joyce asked if there were any officers who were definitely not standing again for posts.

Doug Hird advised that, as he had already said, he will be retiring as Chairman and Guild Representative, but as the number of members has reduced, only two Guild reps will be needed next year.

Leigh Head will not be standing for the post of Newsletter Editor.

Thanks

On behalf of those present, Richard Stanworth thanked the Downs Barn ringers for letting us ring their bells and for providing the tea. Thanks were also expressed to the Rev, Jackie Henry for taking the service and to the joint organists, Barry and Gareth. Members showed their appreciation in the usual manner. The chairman then closed the meeting and the drawing of the raffle followed.

DATES FOR THE DIARY...

FEBRUARY

Branch Practice

Spceial Method : Rutland S Major

Olney

7.30 pm 15th

MARCH

*Annual General Meeting

Spring General Committee Meeting

Branch Practice

Focus on Rounds & Call Changes

*Joint Practice with Luton District

Spceial Method : Belfast S Major

Newport Pagnell

3.00 pm 2nd

Old North Berks

9th

Simpson

7.30 pm 15th

Hanslope

6.30 pm 16th

APRIL

Beginners Striking Competition

Radley Course

*Branch Practice

Spceial Method: Carter Doubles

Lavendon

7.30 pm 5th

Radley

13th

Tyringham

7.30 pm 19th

APRIL

MAY

Eight Bell Striking Competition

Annual Ringing Day

*Ten Bell Practice

Annual General Meeting

Bicester Branch

6th

Bicester Branch

6th

Northampton ?

7.30 pm 17th

Reading Branch

18th

JUNE

The Queens Jubilee

*Striking Competition and Quarterly Meeting

*Branch Practice

Spceial Method: Yorkshire S Major

Training Day

Spceial Method: Cambridge S Minor

Maids Moreton

4.00 pm 8th

Buckingham

7.30 21st

TBA

TBA 29th

JUNE

3rd-4th

ITEMS MARKED * WERE UNCONFIRMED AS AT 20 JANUARY 2002
ITALICISED EVENTS ARE GUILD EVENTS