

IN TOUCH

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



YOUR EDITOR NEEDS YOU



TO PROVIDE : NEWS
 ARTICLES
 PEAL AND QUARTER PEAL REPORTS
 CARTOONS
 LETTERS

AND ANYTHING ELSE THAT WILL BE
 OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS OF THE BRANCH.

YOUR EDITOR IS

ROS TYRRELL

A PAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S FILOFAX!

THE TOWER AND BELLS OF MILTON KEYNES

On Saturday 13th February, 1988, Alan Marchbank, Doug Hird and I met with Norman Cotton, the Vicar of Milton Keynes Village, in order to inspect the bells and hangings at Milton Keynes Parish Church.

Although estimates vary, I think I am correct in saying that it is at least six years and perhaps longer since the bells were last rung at all. In the late 1970s/early 1980s ringing was stopped due to cracking in the tower walls. Since that time the bells, although in good order and roped ready to go, have hung downcast and silent.

As I stated at the recent branch dinner, not many sixes have bells from six different founders from four different centuries, but this is the case here. Briefly, the details are as follows:-

Treble	John Taylor & Co.	1934	26.75 inches diameter
2	Barwell	1889	28.5
3*	Newcome	1614	32
4*	Anthony Chandler	1675	32.5
5*	Richard Chandler	1704	35.25
6	Gillett of Croydon	1887	39 (9-0-0 in G)

(known to be a recast of a Newcome tenor dated 1614)

* with canons and cast iron canon retaining headstocks.

Sanctus - no markings, but with canons. 14.75 ins. (hung above the treble)

The six are hung in a metal H frame on one level on ball bearings with hastings stays. The treble and second swing east-west, whilst the remaining four swing north-south. They are rung from the ground floor and the bells are approached via a spiral staircase to the intermediate clock room, and then via a steep wooden ladder to the floor of the belfry. You emerge at the top of the ladder underneath the fifth and then it is a tight squeeze past this bell to the top of the frame.

At present there is a great deal of stone dust which has been created by the current stonework repairs to the tower, the paint is flaking from the metal frame and there is an amount of rust to be removed. All of these works will be easily remedied by a two man working team from the branch in four days, or alternatively, four men for two days!

There are currently still cracks in the fabric of the tower, and in particular there is one which stretches from the base of the frame, rises vertically up the western side of the tower to the left of the louvre, and ends at the roof of the tower. In addition, the wooden lintel over the louvre on the western side is badly wormed.

The Church authorities are extremely keen on the bells being rung in July, when the tower repairs are due to be finished, and once the structural problems have been resolved. The branch will then need to consider the best ways in which further support, i.e. financial, educational, etc., can be supplied.

David Phillipson
Chairman

THE 2ND ANNUAL DINNER

The second branch Annual Dinner took place as advertised on Saturday 20th February, and some 46 members and visitors were present. The venue was the "Cowpers Oak" at Western Underwood. Despite the many and various pronunciations of "Cowper" and our best efforts to misdirect people with the spelling of venue on tickets, a most successful evening was enjoyed by all.

After a veritable feast of roast beef and yorkshire pud, Mr. Phillipson gave a brief speech rounding up the progress being made around the branch, and preposing a toast to the Oxford Guild.

The Guild Master Mr. Thorne our guest speaker, spoke on his concerns for the future of the ODG in terms of membership turnover, bell restoration funds, and educational ambitions. The evening closed with ringers doing what they enjoy and do best - chatting, and drinking.

I would like to record my thanks to ROS for suggesting the venue, organising tickets, and adverts, and with the organising of the event. (The truth is I did very little!).

Next year we hope the venue will be in the Buckingham Quarter of the branch, on Saturday February 18th 1989 - book the date now!

ALAN MARCHBANK

These verses were written down from a broadside in the possession of Mr. Tyrrel, Glawcot:

TO THE RINGERS OF BUCKINGHAM

He that in ringing takes delight
and to this place draws near
These articles set in his sight
Must keep if he rings here.

The first he must observe with care
Who comes within the door
Must if he chance the curse or swear
Pay sixpence to the poor.

And whosoe'er a noise do make
or idle story tell
Must sixpence to the ringers take
For mending of the bells.

If any like to smoke or drink
They must not do so here
Good reason why: just let them think
This is Gods House of Prayer.

Young men that come to see and try.
And to not ringing use
Must sixpence give the company
and that shall them excuse.

He that his hat on his head does keep
Within this sacred place
Must pay his sixpence 'ere he sleep
Or turn out with disgrace.

If anyone with spurs to heels
Ring here at any time
He must for breaking articles
Pay sixpence for his crime.

If anyone o'erthrow a bell
As that by chance he may
Because he minds not ringing well
He must his sixpence pay.

Or if a noble minded man
Comes here to ring a bell
A shilling is the sextons fee
Who keeps the church so well.

And when a ringer sets his bell
And when his peal is o'er
The rope it must be hanked up well
Or pence must forfeit four.

If any at our parson sneer
Or wardens rule devise
It is a rule of old most clear
That such shan't here abide.

The sabbath day we wish to keep
And come to church to pray
The man who breaks this ancient rule
Shall never share our pay.

And ringers all should say or sing
When bells are down and cease
May God preserve the Church and Queen
And guide us home in peace.

J Tomkins
December 1897.

(Submitted by Frank Daniels, Loughton)

RESULTS FROM THE QUESTIONNAIRE

What Questionnaire? you must all be asking.

Well not quite all of you because in response to the questionnaire enclosed with the last edition of this newsletter I did receive 3 replies. To those who did reply, a big thank you.

From these replies I cannot reach any conclusion on the members of the Branch or their thoughts regarding what they need from the Branch or whether our current plan for practices is correct. By reviewing the attendance at Branch practices I could draw the following conclusions:

1. The more experienced ringers do not come because the ringing is aimed mainly at the learners.
2. The less experienced ringers do not come because the ringing is aimed mainly for the experts.
3. Christmas-time is not best for attendance.
4. Those who do come spend most of their time ringing for the less experienced. Most of this ringing is to a high standard because everyone is trying very hard. The worst ringing of the night is often when a more advanced method is rung.

To be successful, our Branch Practices need more support!!!

Everyone is welcome and constructive comment is always appreciated.

We try to hold practices in all corners of the Branch, some towers can be a long way from home, but please come to those local to you.

I will be delighted to receive any more Questionnaire replies - the information is useful in planning Branch events.

Godfrey Foak

PEALS

Sat 19th Dec 1987 3 hr 3(22)
St James the Great, HANSLOPE
5090 Cambridge S Major (comp. BD Price)

1. Nicholas Grey, 2. Julie Haseldine, 3. Alan Cozens, 4. Roy Keeves,
5. Gerald Kingston, 6. Doug Hird, 7. Andrew Haseldine (c), 8. Richard Haseldine

Fri 1st Jan 1988 3 hr 5(21½)
SS Peter + Paul, NEWPORT PAGNELL
5040 Steadman Triples (arr. JW Washbrook)

1. Doug Hird, 2. Christine Murphy, 3. Anthony Smith, 4. Alan Marchbank,
5. David Phillipson, 6. Mike Lowndes (c), 7. Ian Harris, 8. James Yates
Rung for Epiphany. First Stedman triples for 2.

Congratulations to our fellow ringers of the Peterborough Guild on the First Quarter on the new ring of bells at St Benedicts' Northampton (1440 PB Minor)

SOME OF OUR RECENT QUARTERS

31st October 1987. All Saints, Emberton

1284 PB Minor: 1. Lawrence Bendelow, 2. Godfrey Foat, 3. A. Osbourne,
4. Judy Crocker, 5. Doug Hird, 6. David Phillipson (c).

Rung for the patronal festival and to welcome 4 to the band.

1st November 1987, St James the Great, Hanslope

1260 PB Major: 1. Shirley Cozens, 2. Diane Rogers, 3. N. Gray, 4. A. Cozens,
5. G. Kingston, 6. R. Keeves, 7. R. Watkins, 8. R. Haseldine (c).

First major for 1.

31st December 1987, Holy Trinity, Old Wolverton.

1260 PB DOubles (46 mins): 1. Chris Crook, 2. Heather Beck, 3. Deb Watson,
4. Fred Mynard, 5. Mick Nimmo (c), 6. John Randall.

Rung for New Year, First Quarter for 1.

21st January 1988, All Saints, Calverton

1260 January Doubles (38 mins) 1. Godfrey Foat, 2. Bill Yates, 3. Andrew King
(c), 4. Doug Hird, 5. Dave Maybrey, 6. Paul Faithfull.

7th February, SS Peter + Paul, Newport Pagnell

1260 Grandsire Triples (46 mins) 1. Christine Murphy, 2. Sheila Watts,
3. Alan Jones, 4. Mike Lowndes, 5. David Manton, 6. Doug Hird,
7. Godfrey Foat (c), 8. Gerald Stratton.

Rung for evensong. First triples as (c). First without piano stool for 2.

13th February 1988, All Saints, Loughton

720 Norwich S Minor 600 Cambridge S Minor: 1. F. Daniels, 2. Anne Stainsby, 3. Caroline Davis, 4. Bob Winstanley, 5. Derek Stainsby, 6. Tim Davis (c)

Rung in aid of the ODG Bell Repair FUnd.

14th February 1988, St Andrews, Gt Linford

1260 PB DOubles (mins) 1. Fred Mynard, 2. Christine Marchbank, 3. John Randall, 4. Deb Watson (Asst c), 5. Alan Marchbank (c), 6. Ros Tyrrell.

Rung to wish bon voyage to Heather Beck who is joining her husband in Australia.

... And Another Peal

SS Mary & Giles STONY STRATFORD

Sunday 7th February 2 hr 57 (12½) 5088 Lincolnshire S. Major (comp. CJ Sedley)

1. Julie Haseldine, 2. Alan Cozens, 3. Andrew Haseldine, 4. Ruth Stokes, 5. Malcolm Hooton, 6. Christopher Stokes, 7. George Green, 8. Richard Haseldine.

Rung to welcome Victoria Alice Eales, born 29.1.88.

HOW TO CALL A TOUCH - BOB CALLING FOR BEGINNERS

If you would be interested in joining a short introduction into the art of calling touches, which probably will be held in June or July please contact Godfrey Foat.

BRANCH STRIKING COMPETITIONS

Friday April 8th

Beginners Striking Competition

STOWE

Saturday April 16th

Six Bell Striking Competition

WOUGHTON

For details see the following pages.

Please let Alan Marchbank know if you are entering a team(s) and if you are limited by any time constraints.

MAKE SURE YOUR BAND ENTERS A TEAM.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

NORTH BUCKS BRANCH

BEGINNERS STRIKING COMPETITION

THE CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, STOWE

7.30 pm FRIDAY EIGHTH APRIL 1988

RULES

1. A TEAM SHALL CONSIST OF FIVE RINGERS. NO MORE THAN TWO 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 CONTEST 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. 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 TEST PIECE OF FOUR MINUTES OF ROUNDS

(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!!

THE JUDGE IS TO BE ANNOUNCED.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

NORTH BUCKS BRANCH

SIX BELL STRIKING COMPETITION

THE CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION B.V.M. WUGHTON

4.30pm SATURDAY 16th APRIL 1988

RULES

1. A TEAM WILL REPRESENT A TOWER(S) IN THE BRANCH. AT LEAST FIVE OF THE SIX MEMBERS OF THE TEAM, INCLUDING THE CONDUCTOR, MUST BE PAID-UP MEMBERS OF THE BRANCH.

2. THE ORDER OF RINGING OF THE TEAMS SHALL BE DRAWN AT THE START OF THE COMPETITION BY THE STEWARDS OF THE DAY

3. 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 THE TEST PIECE OF AT LEAST ONE MINUTES ROUNDS FOLLOWED BY 240 CHANGES IN ANY METHOD(S) OR 240 ROWS OF CALLCHANGES ENDING IN ROUNDS.

IF CALL CHANGES ARE RUNG THEN AT LEAST 30 CHANGES MUST BE CALLED AND AT LEAST 5 DIFFERENT BELLS BROUGHT DOWN TO LEAD.

IF METHOD IS RUNG THEN PLAIN COURSES WILL BE ACCEPTABLE.

THE TEST PIECE MUST FINISH WITH ROUNDS AND SHALL BE CONCLUDED BY AT LEAST ONE BELL STANDING.

THE STEWARD IN THE TOWER WILL HELP WITH TIMING IF REQUESTED

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

6. THE WINNING TEAM WILL REPRESENT THE BRANCH AT THE GUILD SIX BELL STRIKING COMPETITION TO BE HELD IN THIS BRANCH ON OCTOBER 1st

THE JUDGES ARE TO BE ANNOUNCED

BELLWORD SQUARE

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

Beachampton	Olney
Bradwell	Shenley
Emberton	Simpson
Great Linford	Stoke Goldington
Haversham	Stony Stratford
Lavendon	Stowe
Leckhampstead	Twyford
Loughton	Wavendon
Lillingstone Lovell	Weston Underwood
Milton Keynes	Wolverton
North Crawley	Woughton

Some two word names do not appear consecutively!

NORTH BUCKS BRANCH 1988 DIARY OF EVENTS

REVISED - AS AT 20 FEBRUARY 1988

All dates in March - June, major events for the rest of the year.

March

Sat 5th	BRANCH A.G.M	Emberton and Olney
Sat 12th	General Committee O.D.G.	O.N.B branch
Fri 18th	Branch Practice	Wavendon?
Sun 27th	HOLY WEEK	

April

Fri 1st	GOOD FRIDAY	
Sun 3rd	EASTER SUNDAY	
Fri 8th	Learners Striking Comp	Stowe
Sat 16th	Branch Striking Comp	Woughton

May

Mon 2nd	O.D.G. 8bell Striking Comp. (Double Norwich C B M)	Quainton
Fri 6th	Branch Practice	On Offer?
Fri 13th	Note the date	
Fri 20th	Branch Practice	Chicheley?
Sat 21st	O.D.G. ANNUAL MEETING	Benson, S Oxon
Mon 30th	Bank Holiday	

June

Sat 4th	Quarterly	Drayton Parslow?
Fri 17th	Branch Practice	Mursley?, Bletchley
		Old Wolverton?

July

Sat 2nd	O.D.G. Festival	Dorchester
	Barn Dance	Sutton Courtney
Fri 29th	Special Methods Practice	Loughton

August

Sat 6th	Joint meeting with Bedford Branch	Stagsden
		Olney?

September

Sat 3rd	Quarterly	Haversham? and Hanslope?
Fri 23rd	Easthampstead Course	
Sun 25th		

October

Sat 1st	O.D.G. 6bell Striking Comp	Final at Bradwell
?????	Branch Quarter Peal Week	Heats to be confirmed
		Organiser: A King

December

Sat 3rd	Quarterly and Christmas Social	Great Linford, Wolverton
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Will all Tower Secretaries please confirm with Alan Marchbank the availability of their towers for the dates here and those in the full list which was published in the previous issue.