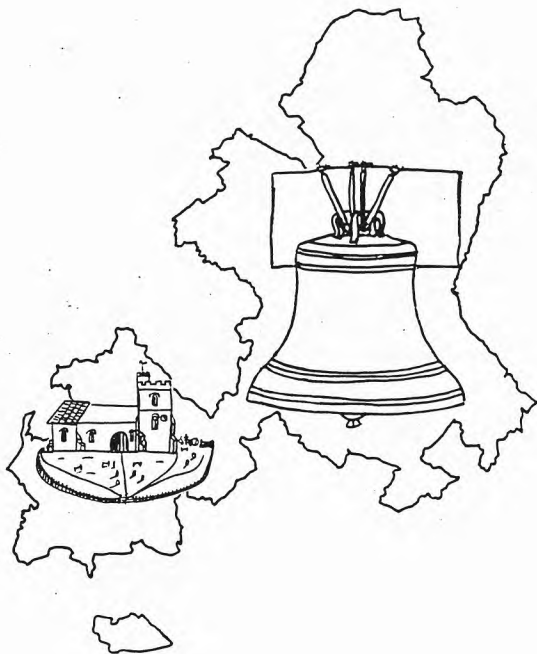


SPRING '89

IN TOUCH

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



----- LATEST LATEST LATEST LATEST -----

Downs Barn Bell Fund Update

Thanks to a generous donation of £750 to the bell fund we are now just £276 short of paying for the bells themselves.

Our aim for 1989 is to raise sufficient money to buy the plans and working drawings to enable us to build the frame. The cost of these will be around the £1000 mark.

Events in the pipeline include a sponsored peal, hopefully on the new ring of eight at Kingstone, Herefordshire. For those of you who don't know by now, the bells for Downs Barn originally came from Kingstone, and some of the Downs Barn fund raisers rang a sponsored peal on the old bells, the last before they were removed.

We are also holding another of our famous Barn Dances. The date is set for Saturday June 10th, so book it now. If you didn't make the last ones be sure you don't miss this one! Let's see lots more ringers there.

Meanwhile, how many drivers out there collect the assortment of vouchers and stamps given away with petrol? How many of you, like me, never collect enough to get anything worthwhile with them? If you end up throwing them away, why not give them to the bell fund, we can use them for fund raising. You can hand them to any of the Downs Barn ringers, or if you don't know who we are, to one of the branch officers.

Andy King.

Situation Vacant !!!

The N.Bucks Branch invites applications (&/or nominations)
for the important post of

CHAIRMAN

which will be vacant from the next AGM (March 4th)

To contact the editor phone or write to.....

R. E. TYRRELL
23 FRANKSTON AVENUE
STONY STRATFORD
MILTON KEYNES
MK11 1DR
0908 561307

or

Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit
16, Erica Road
Stacey Bushes
Milton Keynes MK12 6PA
Tel: Milton Keynes 312475

Rounds and Plain Hunting

Part 1 How it all started by A.Learner

It all started with the Rector saying that the bell ringers were looking for new members, if anybody was interested they would be welcome to go to the practice night to see what was involved.

Well there I stood in the ringing tower about to find out what had I let myself in for.

The ringers at the tower explained how the bells were rung using a small bell to demonstrate. I was shown how the bell would have to be rung up before any ringing could take place, this small bell was complete so that I could see all the actions and how the stay stopped the bell from going right over.

I was told that I must never touch the ropes until I knew how to ring correctly. They would start my introduction to ringing by ringing the bells up, so I sat out of the way and watched. Six ringers then rang up in rounds it looked so easy all they did was to pull on the rope which seemed to go higher up into the tower. As the rope went higher they would pull first on the soft piece of the rope and then on the coil in their hands the coil being let out until they only held on by the end of the rope. Suddenly I heard a shout of "Stand" they all caught the rope by the soft piece and the bells stopped.

Right now to start, I was told to stand with the rope hanging down in front of me. My instructor then told me that the soft piece in the centre of the rope was called the "Sally" while the end piece of the rope was called the tail. I had to hold onto the tail and when this went up I would have to pull it back down, the instructor would look after the "Sally". He pulled on the sally, down came the rope then it went back up with me holding onto the tail I pulled it back down. The sally was caught and the bell stopped well that wasn't too bad. We kept doing this until I could pull the rope down at the correct time and not too hard. Next I would have to pull on the sally the instructor would then pull on the tail and then catch the sally. After this I was also allowed to catch the sally with the instructor catching it at the same time but above my hands.

That would be all that I was to be taught that evening so off I went leaving the ringers to carry on with their practice.

DIARY OF EVENTS 1989

MARCH

SATURDAY 4th	BRANCH A.G.M.
SATURDAY 11th	ODG GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING
FRIDAY 17th	BRANCH PRACTICE
SUNDAY 26th	QUARTER PEAL WEEK

LOUGHTON/BRADWELL

TINGEWICK

!

APRIL

FRIDAY 7th	BRANCH PRACTICE
FRIDAY 14th	LEARNERS STRIKING COMP.
SATURDAY 15th	JOINT MTG WITH CENTRAL BUCKS
FRIDAY 21st	BRANCH PRACTICE

BRADWELL

STOWE

WINSLOW

CHICHELEY

BEST KEPT TOWER COMPETITION

This year, the ODG Towers and Belfries committee are running a competition to find the best kept towers in the guild.

The aim is to get ringers to take more interest in what is above them, as well as what is around them in the ringing room. So the judges will be awarding marks (both positive and negative) for the state of the bells and fittings and for the frame, as well as the obvious ones like how clean and tidy the place is. The judges will check everywhere in the tower, including the middle room where all those old pieces of rope and broken stays are kept!

Every tower was sent a letter about the competition, so ask your tower captain to see it. If your tower has lost theirs I can get hold of some spares. All towers are automatically entered for the competition unless they fill in the form on the bottom of the letter stating that they do not wish to take part. If your tower does not want to take part, please can you let me have the slip back by the end of June at the latest. If you don't you may well be pestered by one of the judges wanting to come and have a look round!

The judges visits will start sometime in July (as far as current plans go, though it may be earlier if we have a lot of towers wanting to take part), and all judging for the first round will be completed by early September. So be warned! You haven't got long to get cracking. How long ago was it that you last looked upstairs? What about those dead pigeons? That cracked stay on the second? The tenor rope that showers you in fluff at backstroke because it's so frayed? Or the loose bolt on the treble headstock? Let's not be beaten by the other branches. It's time for some spring cleaning!

R.E. TYRRELL
23 FRANKSTON AVENUE
STONY STRATFORD
MILTON KEYNES
MK 11 1 DR

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16th. December 1988

Dear R. Tyrrell,

Ref: IN TOUCH

I have written a small account of how I was taught to ring bells. As you can see I have not included my name or address but call myself A. Leaner. If you feel that you would like to use it in the newsletter but require my name first just put a note in the next newsletter.

I have written it over four pages to allow you to include it over four issues if required.

I am hoping to stay totally anonymous and leave it to the readers of the newsletter to identify me from it.

Needless to say I have only been ringing for a short time, but I do belong to a North Bucks Branch Tower

Yours Faithfully


A. Leaner

A. Leaner

BRANCH QUARTER PEAL WEEK

Sunday March 26th to Sunday April 2nd 1989

Plans for the quarter peal week are now in full swing.

The task of organising some 40 quarter peals in 9 days is quite a task, but the organisation is being spread out between a number of ringers in the branch, each one organising a few quarters.

If you would like to ring in one or more quarters, please let me or one of the other organisers know. It takes a lot of ringers to ring 40 quarters, and we want to involve as many people as possible. If you want to ring, or call a particular method, or ring in a particular tower, please let us know that as well. We can't guarantee to fulfil everyone's wish, but we'll try.

If you haven't yet rung a quarter, there's no need to worry, now could be your chance to have a go.

The moral of the story is If you want to ring, LET US KNOW ! The more willing people we have, the easier it will be to organise everyone.

The organisers and the towers they are responsible for are listed below.

Brian Baldwin (0908-670579)	Simpson and Woughton-on-the-Green
Tim Davis (0908-563298)	Bletchley, Fenny Stratford and Newton Longville
Barry Eglesfield (0908-564668)	Beachampton and Calverton
Godfrey Foat (0908-313859)	Leckhampstead, Newport Pagnell and Sherington
Doug Hird (0908-614741)	Chicheley, Hanslope and North Crawley
Malcolm Hooton	Stony Stratford
Andy King (0908-560817)	Bradwell, Great Brickhill and Haversham
Chas Knight (0234-713719)	Clifton Reynes, Olney and Weston Underwood
Alan Marchbank (0908-321564)	Drayton Parslow, Great Linford, Old Wolverton and Thornborough
Dave Phillipson (0234-711291)	Milton Keynes and Wavendon
Derek Stainsby (0908-666492)	Loughton, Shenley and Whaddon
Sheila Watts (0234-711113)	Emberton, Lavendon, Stoke Goldington and Tyringham
Bill Yates (0280-814937)	Buckingham, Lillingstone Lovell, Maids Moreton, Shalstone, Stowe, Tingewick and Twyford

Here's to a successful week - Let's try to beat the record set last time when a total of 33 out of 38 quarters were scored!

Andy King.

NORTH BUCKS BRANCH AGM

Saturday 4th March

4.15 to 5.00	Ringling at Loughton
5.00 to 5.30	Service at Loughton
5.45	Tea in Loughton Village Hall followed by meeting
7.30	Ringling at Bradwell

Names for tea to Alan Marchbank (321564)

EASTHAMPTSTEAD

1989

Friday, September 29 - Sunday, October 1

Lectures and Practicals in Groups

from

Plain Hunt to Surprise Major

also

Options

Change Ringing on Handbells, Maintenance, Better Striking,
and Topics of General Interest

SENNY BLUE FINDS

Application Forms can be obtained from

Mrs Bobbie May
4 Halfacre Glose, Spencers Wood,
Reading, Berkshire. RG7 1DZ.

Please enclose an A5 size, stamped & self-addressed envelope