

SUMMER '91

IN TOUCH

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



A word (or two) from your secretary...

As Alan has gone on to higher things (ie. Branch Chairman), I am now your Branch Secretary. Alan's will be a hard act to follow, but I will endeavour to do my best. If you need to contact me, my address is:

9 Walgrave Drive,
Bradwell,
MILTON KEYNES,
MK13 9BS

Or you can try phoning on (0908) 316339, though we are notoriously hard to get hold of! If you feel like a ring, I ring at Bradwell on a Wednesday night, and I also hope to be at most of the branch events.

Alan has passed on his list of tower correspondents. If you haven't received any of the recent notices it may be because I haven't got the right details, so please let me know. Please also let me know of any changes to your tower practice nights etc. so that we can publish them in the next issue of In Touch.

In case you weren't at the AGM in March, the new branch officers are:

Chairman	- Alan Marchbank
Secretary	- Andrew King
Treasurer	- Sheila Ware
Ringing Masters	- Barry Eglesfield
	- Ron Snack
Guild Reps	- Sheila Watts
	- Samantha Hayes-Bradley
Newsletter Editor	- Ros Tyrrell
Branch Archivist	- Doug Hird



1.Chairman 2.Secretary 3.Treasurer
4.& 5.Ringing Masters 6. & 7.Guild Reps
8.Branch Archivist.

Great Linford - A Project Report

For some while there has been a knowledge that things needed to be done to improve the "go" of the bells, but with the priorities directed towards church fabric repairs, the Bells have had to wait.

In November last year it was suggested that if a budget cost could be identified for the bell work, the stewardship committee who would be formulating their next years budget in December, would consider it.

So it was then that Alan Hughes of Whitechapel inspected the Bells in February and identified that some work was indeed required. He recommended that the existing Howell headstocks be retained and modified to accept new gudgeons for roller bearings, and be thickened in the centre to permit centre drilling. The iron shaft, ball and flight of the existing "Box top" clappers be reused and forced onto new staple tops to make new clappers. The bells will be removed to the foundry for the removal of the cast in clapper staples and to turn the bells by 45° so that the clappers will strike new surfaces of the bells. New pulleys will be installed and the flapper boards in the intermediate chamber will be removed. The ropes will then be "drawn" over pulleys to maintain the existing rope circle.

Excluding transportation, labouring effort and painting the frame, the work is to cost £12500 excluding the dreaded VAT. This is not all. Whilst the bells are out the floor below the bells requires replacing, and extra lighting is needed in the bell chamber and intermediate chamber.

The church being keen to proceed at this most competitive cost, placed an order for the work in April with a view to doing the work in the first quarter of 1992 (January to April). The local band has agreed to take on considerable amounts of money saving work:-

- i) Painting the frame - saving £2000
- ii) Replacing the floor - saving £500
- iii) Providing transport to and from the foundry - saving £800
- iv) Providing labouring effort to the bell hanger - saving £3000

Now here is the appeal to you. We could do with help providing materials labour or money to undertake any of these jobs. Offers of mobile sand blasting kit that will help clean down the frame, scaffold boards or similar to re plank the floor, or a lorry to transport the bells. (Total load about 5 tons) would be most welcome.

Any donations or offers of help should be directed to me, Alan Marchbank, 109 Bradwell Road, Bradville, Milton Keynes. (0908) 321564.

Watch this space for future news.

NORTH BUCKS BRANCH

QUARTERLY MEETING

and

SIX BELL STRIKING CONTEST

SATURDAY 1st JUNE 1991

- 2.15pm Draw for contest - Fenny Stratford
- 2.30pm to 4.30pm Striking contest - Fenny Stratford
- 4.30pm Service ringing at Bletchley
- 5.00pm Service at Bletchley
- 5.30pm Tea, followed by results and short meeting in the Church Hall.
- 7.00pm Evening ringing at Bletchley

NAMES FOR TEA TO PEGGY FAITHFULL (0908) 366531 or (0908) 379025 by 27th MAY 1991 PLEASE

PLEASE REGISTER BANDS BY 30th MAY 1991 WITH ANDREW KING.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
 2. Minutes of the last meeting
 3. Matters Arising
 4. Election of New Members
 5. Treasurers Report
 6. Reports
 - 6.1 Towers and Bells
 - 6.2 Education
 7. Any Other Business
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SIX BELL STRIKING COMPETITION RULES

1. A team will represent a tower (or towers) in the branch. At least five members of the team, including the conductor, must be fully paid up members of the branch.
2. A tower may enter more than one team, but each ringer may ring for only one team.
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 a test piece of at least one minute's rounds followed by 240 changes in any method(s) or 240 rows of call changes ending in rounds.

If call changes are rung then at least 30 changes must be called and at least five different bells called to lead.

Plain courses of a method are 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.

4. At the end of the competition the judge(s) will be asked to announce the results. The decision of the judge is final, even if it is wrong!
5. The winning team will represent the branch in the Guild six bell striking competition.

NORTH ROCKS BRANCH

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING HELD AT

GREAT LINFORD ON SATURDAY 1ST DECEMBER 1990

The chairman opened the meeting at 18:30 by welcoming the members present.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from: Jim and Audrey Lambert
Alan and Tine Marchbank
Ron Tyrrell

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last quarterly meeting were circulated and signed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

Audrey Jones of Hanalope, elected at the last meeting, was previously elected a member at Newport Pagnell some years ago, but her membership had lapsed. There was concern that Guild records would show her as two separate people.

The grants to Great Brickhill and Calverton had been paid.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

The following new members were elected:

Steven Curtis of Stony Stratford
Paul Hindley of Stony Stratford
Catherine Newman of Bradwell (Junior)

The Chairman welcomed them all to the Branch and Guild.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Sheila Ware gave a statement of Branch accounts.

All towers have now paid their subscriptions for 1990, and the account stands at £282.00.

Guild subscriptions for 1991 are now due, and are £3.75. Of this, £2.45 goes to the Guild, and the branch keeps £1.30. The branch subsidises membership for Juniors, which for 1991 will be £2.75.

The Guild Master, Pat Newton, commented on the recent membership survey asking about subscriptions. Although a fair few members had responded positively to the proposal of a personal membership of £15, there was an overwhelming majority against. The results have been passed to the Finance Committee.

The Central Branch have suggested a fee of £5 per adult member, with half price for Juniors and non wage earners. The Guild will need to carry out a survey to determine the number of members in each category.

Malcolm Hooton asked whether 'Juniors' covered those in full time education. This was not known.

Malcolm Hooton also asked about the free subscriptions for those with over 30 years' membership. Membership will be free to those with over 30 years' continuous service who are over 65 years of age, and who are active ringers. Alan Marchbank is identifying those who qualify.

REPORTS

TOWERS AND BELLS

There was no formal report.

Ted Fawcett spoke about the plans for an extension to St. Lawrence's, Bradwell. This is to provide a kitchen, vestry, toilets and storage space, and thus increase space within the body of the church. It will involve creating a raised ringing chamber approximately 15' above the current floor. Plans are that drawings will be complete in January, with work to start in the spring and finish by Christmas 1991. The church has been given a grant of £70k by the Diocese, with the remainder of the cost to be found locally.

Hugh Butler said that Great Brickhill are now ringing again. Alan Marchbank, Doug Hird and Barry Egglefield had inspected the bells, and have recommended that a new headstock be provided for the tenor since the current one is worn ridden. There are two new ringers being taught. Practice night is now WEDNESDAY, and Hugh invited anyone to come along.

Malcolm Hooton spoke about Stony Stratford. There is a large hole in the bellframe. There are arguments between the POC and founders about the extent of the damage. Alan Front is to inspect the tower in a few weeks. Ringing is now limited to Sunday service ringing only.

Godfrey Foot mentioned the restoration appeal at Newport Pagnell. There are no problems with the bells. The first bill for the stonework has arrived. No grant was given by English Heritage.

Godfrey also mentioned Pannocham which is just outside the branch. The bells have not been rung recently due to opposition from the vicar. The new incumbent is interested in the bells. Members of the branch rang the bells for the architects who were examining cracks in the tower. The bells go well.

Sheila Watts said that Emberton should be back ringing again for Christmas. They are currently practicing at Clifton Keynes. Sound control has been fitted in two of the louvers. Practice nights will soon restart on Fridays. They are busy raising funds.

EDUCATION

Godfrey mentioned that his article in the last newsletter had received three requests for courses:

- i) Raining/Lowering course (from Milton Keynes Village)
No plans as yet.
- ii) Stedman/Cambridge course (from Bradwell)
No date agreed as yet.
- iii) Putting Bobs into Plain Bob (from Emberton)
Help given over the last couple of weeks.

Godfrey has also received requests for a repeat of the open Plain Hunt/Plain Bob course run last February.

The Kauthampstead course was again very good, but nobody from the branch went. Pat Newton said that the 1991 course would be 'a bargain' since this year 'a had made a profit!

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. The Annual Dinner will be held at the Boat, Stoke Bruerne on 23rd February. Tickets are now available from Sheila Watts, Sheila Ware or Alan Marchbank, price £14.60
2. The latest 'In Touch' is available. Thanks again to Ron and Doug.
3. Sheila Watts reminded the meeting that all officers' posts will be renewable at the March AGM. Some officers will definitely not be seeking re-election. Will all members please think of suitable nominations.
4. Harry Eglesfield has offered to help the Ringing Masters at Branch practices.
5. Malcolm Hooton asked if the branch had ever been invited to ring at Leighton Buzzard since we had made a donation to help in the restoration. Sheila replied that no formal invitation had been received, but that visitors were made very welcome.
6. The meeting stood in silence in memory of Colin Snack who's funeral was last Thursday.
7. Pat Newton thanked the Branch for helping with the Youth Weekend, and for organising the Guild Festival. She apologised for the poor turnout. The 1991 festival will be held in Reading.
8. Sheila Ware reported that the raffle had made £11 for the Guild Bell Fund.
9. Thanks were given to the providers of Mince Pie and coffee. The meeting closed as was followed by ringing.

Andy King



The Branch AGM at Bradwell Church.



SOME OF OUR QUARTERS

St Michael, Lavendon.

14th January. 1260 Grandsire Doubles

1. Ann Clifton; 2. Brian Clifton; 3. Sally Adnitt; 4. Walter Mawby; 5. Chas Knight (C); 6. Tom Peach.

Rung as a January birthday compliment to all the band.

20th February. 1260 Reverse Canterbury Grandsire & Plain Bob.

1. Ann Clifton; 2. Sally Adnitt; 3. Kim Blomfield; 4. Brian Clifton (C); 5. Tom Peach; 6. John Lay.

First 1/4 for 3 (Congratulations).

St Lawrence, Old Bradwell.

10th February. 1260 Doubles, 4 methods.

1. Rebecca Fawcett; 2. Ted Fawcett; 3. Samantha Hayes-Bradley; 4. Fred Mynard; 5. Andrew King (C); 6. I.D.Green.

Rung as a farewell compliment to Revd Peter Green, of the Stantonbury Ecumenical Parish. First quarter for 6, (Congratulations)

28th February. 1260 Grandsire Doubles.

1. Christine Abbott; 2. Fred Mynard; 3. Martin Petchey; 4. Ted Fawcett; 5. Andrew King (C); 6. Gordon Abbott.

Rung to give thanks for the Gulf war ceasefire. Family members in the Gulf : son of 1 & 6, brother in law of 3 & brother in law of 4.

13th March. 720 Plain Bob Minor.

1. Rebecca Fawcett; 2. Fred Mynard; 3. Samantha Hayes-Bradley; 4. Jenny Brookman; 5. Ted Fawcett; 6. Andrew King (C).

Rung to give thanks for the safe return of 1's brother from flying Jaguars in the Gulf.

7th April. 1260 Stedman Doubles.

1. Samantha Hayes-Bradley; 2. Rebecca Fawcett; 3. Andrew King; 4. Ted Fawcett; 5. Dave Maybrey (C); 6. Gordon Abbott.

First in method for 1,2,3,4, and first in method as C for 5.

14th April. 1260 Plain Bob Doubles.

1. I.D.Green; 2. Rebecca Fawcett; 3. Jenny Brookman; 4. Fred Mynard; 5. Dave Maybrey (C); 6. Ted Fawcett.

Rung for evensong & as part of the quarter peal event. First attempt for 1.

St Andrews, Gt Linford.

16th April. 1260 Plain Bob Minor.

1. Tine Marchbank; 2. Mike Beck; 3. Ron Snack; 4. Barry Eglesfield; 5. John Randall; 6. Alan Marchbank.

Rung belatedly for 1/4 peal weekend. First of minor inside for 2.

28th April. 1260 Plain Bob Doubles.

1. Steve Crane; 2. John Randall; 3. Alan Marchbank; 4. Heather Beck; 5. Ron

Snack (C); 6. Ros Tyrrell.

Rung for a special service for the recently bereaved. First quarter for 1. (Congratulations).

All Saints, Emberton.

17th March. 1272 London Surprise Minor.

1. Judy Crocker; 2. Alan Marchbank; 3. Sheila Watts; 4. Tine Marchbank; 5. Doug Hird; 6. Barry Eglesfield (C).

Rung for Passiontide. First of London for 3.

7th April. 1260 Plain Bob Doubles.

1. Claire Lintern; 2. Phil Haslam; 3. Lindy Ellis; 4. Monty Gilbert; 5. Gordon Ellis (C); 6. Sheila Watts.

First 1/4 for 1 (Congratulations).

14th April. 1260 Plain Bob Doubles.

1. Sheila Watts; 2. Sheila Ware; 3. Godfrey Foat; 4. Monty Gilbert; 5. Alan Marchbank (C); 6. Tine Marchbank.

Rung for 1/4 Peal Weekend. First 1/4 inside for 2.

All Saints, Milton Keynes.

13th April. Plain Bob Doubles.

1. Terry Smith; 2. Brian Baldwin; 3. Deb Watson; 4. Alan Marchbank (C); 5. Barry Eglesfield; 6. Ian Fowler.

Rung for 1/4 Peal Weekend.

St Edmunds, Maids Moreton.

13th April 1260 Plain Bob Minor.

1. Fred Thompson; 2. Margaret Vince; 3. Peter Nicholson; 4. Bill Yates; 5. David Goodger; 6. George Green. (C)

Rung for 1/4 Peal Weekend.

SMV, Thornborough.

13th April 1260 Plain Bob Doubles.

1. Fred Thompson; 2. Bob Christopher; 3. Peter Nicholson; 4. Bill Yates (C); 5. David Goodger.

Rung for 1/4 Peal Weekend.

St John the Evangelist, Wicken.

14th April, 1280 Belfast Surprise Major

1. Bill Yates; 2. Ron Snack; 3. George Holland; 4. Ruth Stokes; 5. Chris Stokes; 6. Alan Marchbank; 7. George Green; 8. Richard Yates (C).

cont
overlap.

Rung for 1/4 Peal Weekend, and as a compliment to George Holland on completion of 60 years devoted service to the ringing exercise. More about this 1/4 can be read in an article by Richard Yates in Ringing World May 3rd '91, page 114.

Also rung for 1/4 Peal Weekend, but lost, were Grandsire Triples at Buckingham and Cambridge Minor at Stowe.

Thanks those who sent by various means, the above 1/4s.....Ed

THREE WORK JOLLY HARD AT BRADWELL!

Ever reached the stage of learning a method where a little extra help would make all the difference! Three of us at St Lawrence's were in this position with Cambridge Surprise Minor, so a course was arranged in mid April to sort out the 'minor' (!) details.....

It was jolly hard work, so much concentration on one method with only 7 ringers total, but the evening was well worth while. It was very enjoyable, and taken in a relaxed atmosphere. Each of the learners, Becky & Ted Fawcett, Jenny Brookman, & Jo Neville, gained something from the session, and are indebted to their helpers: Alan Faiers, Derek Stainsby & Dave Maybrey (who conducted the course).

Unsigned....probably Ted Fawcett ?

How about some news from your tower.....

Contact the editor

at work: MK Archaeology Unit: MK312475 (ask for Ros) or
at home: 23, Frankston Ave, Stony Stratford, MK11 1DR

The copy date for the next issue will be: 4th AUGUST

ODG 8 BELL STRIKING COMPETITION

The edited comments of A. Marchbank jotted down after practice night!

The band consisted of: Tine & Alan Marchbank, Gillian Watson, Shirley Waterhouse, Tim Davis, Bill Yates, Barry Eglesfield & Alan Faiers.

The first heat was at Clanfield, Oxon, and were described as being hard to hear and difficult to strike. Rather like Newton Longville was mentioned!

The test piece was Grandsire, Tony Pullen judged, and the scores were thus:
1st: Tilehurst with 32%; 2nd: Reading with 35%; 3rd: N.Bucks with 37%;
4th: Abingdon with 44%; 5th: Sonning Deanery with 56; 6th: Oxford City with 64.

The final was held at Whitney, described as, a lovely 16cwt 8! The ringing was judged by Peter Coombs and Tony Pullen. The results were thus:

1st: High Wycombe, with 28 faults, 2nd: E.B.S.B. with 38, 3rd: Tilehurst, with 40, 4th: Chiltern, with 42, 5th: Reading, with 49, 6th: N.Bucks with 51.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The Treasurer has returned to the Branch
Mrs Sheila Ware
1, Crabtree Close, Olney, Bucks. MK46 5DU.
0234 713667

BEGINNERS STRIKING COMPETITION

There was some anxiety that there would be enough teams to make this a competition, but within half an hour six had turned up! The Bletchley cavalry arrived with six eligible ringers & consequently were able to make up three teams. These with the beginners from Beachampton, Emberton & Gt Linford made up the bands.

Our judges for the evening, Johnathan King & Nick Brett, from Leighton Buzzard, proved very astute. They spotted the hoax band, & put it last, & awarded the Chairmans Tankard to the Bletchley 'B' band. The most serious comments made by the judges was about the unevenness of the striking, but ringing good rounds is one of the most difficult skills in ringing. All who took part did very well. (except, perhaps, the band that rang Belfast!)

RESULTS:

1. Bletchley 'B', 2. Emberton, 3. Bletchley 'C', 4. Bletchley 'A', 5. Linford + Calverton + Emberton, 6. Belfast band (made method mistakes!)

Tine Marchbank.



Sat March 9th.

The ODG AGM was held at St Andrews Gt Linford

Best Kept Tower Competition 1991

The 1991 Best Kept Tower competition is now under way. Your tower should have received information about it by now, if you haven't seen a copy, Andy King has some spares.

Judging will start in late summer, so you have plenty of time to get things shipshape. If you want to enter, please return the tear-off slip on the bottom of the information sheet. If you don't feel that your tower is good enough to enter, but would like some advice from the Towers and Belfries committee, please tick the second box on the form and someone will arrange to come and inspect the bells.

DEAR DIARY**MAY**

Fri 17th	Branch Practice	Buckingham
Sat 18th	ODG AGM	Old N.Berks
Fri 31st	Branch Practice	Newport Pagnell

JUNE

Sat 1st	Quarterly Mtng & 6 Bell Comp	Bletchley & Fenny Stratford
Fri 7th	Branch Practice	Linford (Loughton)
Fri 21st	" "	Bradwell

JULY

Fri 5th	Branch Practice	Simpson (Woughton)
Sat 6th	ODG Festival	Reading
Fri 19th	Branch Practice	Buckingham

AUGUST *

Fri 2nd	Branch Practice	Lillingstone Lovell
Sat 3rd	Picnic Mtng with Beds Assoc	Lavendon & Felmersham
Fri 16th	Branch Practice	Shenley (Calverton)
Fri 30th	" "	Bletchley
Fri 30th	Ringing Course	EASTHAMPSTEAD

SEPTEMBER

Fri 6th	Branch Practice	Lavendon (Clifton Reynes)
Sat 7th	Quarterly Mtng	Gt Linford & Tyringham
Sun 15th	Tower Reps Mtng	Emberton Village Hall
Fri 20th	Branch Practice	Wavendon (MK Village)

OCTOBER

Fri 4th	Branch Practice	Leckhampstead
Sat 5th	ODG 6 Bell Final	Reading Branch
Sat 12th	Striking comp vs Towcester	T.B.A.....
Fri 18th	Branch Practice	Draton Parslow

NOVEMBER

Fri 1st	Branch Practice	Gt Linford (O.Wolverton)
Fri 15th	" "	Tyringham
Sat 23rd	ODG Gen Cmtee	S.Oxon Branch

DECEMBER

Fri 6th	Branch Practice	Newton Longville
Sat 7th	Quarterly Mtng	T.B.A.....
Fri 20th	Branch Practice	Stoke (Weston)

NB Fri night practices start at 7.30pm.

Towers in brackets will be used in parallel with practice towers for 1/4 peals etc.

* Newsletter copy date 4th August..