

MAY/JUNE 1994

IN TOUCH

The Newsletter of the North Bucks Branch
Of
The Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers

Founded 11th June 1904



Cover Girls? ... See Page 11

From the Editor



This edition of *In Touch* contains lots of interesting pieces by Branch members and my thanks go to contributors, but yet again I am going to ask for more from you, dear readers.

This time I have a special plea, PLEASE could I have some pieces on ringing. Glancing back through some back issues of *In Touch* I became aware that we actually used to publish things about how to improve ringing, both in quite academic terms to help with understanding methods and construction, but also in the form of 'handy tips' for method ringing. So, how about some constructive help with some of the up-coming methods at Branch practices? As before, I can accept handwriting, typewriting, or best of all, on 3½" discs in ASCII format - without any clever formatting, that's my job. The address remains as follows:

19 Priory Street
Newport Pagnell
Bucks
MK16 9AF

Coming soon somewhere in this issue ...

Draft minutes of the Branch AGM held at Buckingham, these are Jill's Minutes (in a lightly edited form) which she will be putting to the next Branch meeting for formal acceptance. Catch up with what you missed and remind yourself of what went on.

Some outing reports ... any more would be gratefully received.

The answers to Ringer's Relief 2 - and no-one has given me their attempts at solving this problem! Lazy or what!!

Ringing reports, with special mention of the 'Ladies' Bands' who rang for the priesting of women in the Branch.

AGM details, and much, much more ...

I hope you enjoy this edition, the next one is due for the beginning of July, and as I will be working away from early June for four weeks, please, please, let me have your copy early ... otherwise I will be up at all hours during a weekend (nay, day) off - and won't be happy! Many thanks in anticipation

Nicki

Branch Officers 1994

Chairman:

Brian Newman ☎ 0908 668347

Secretary:

John Lonsbrough ☎ 0908 691498
(note correct spelling of Lonsbrough)

Minute Secretary:

Jill Joyce ☎ 0908 667025

Treasurer:

Sheila Ware ☎ 0234 713667

Guild Representatives:

Sheila Watts ☎ 0234 711113
David Joyce ☎ 0908 667025

Ringing Master:

David Joyce ☎ 0908 667025

Archivist:

Doug Hird ☎ 0908 614741

Newsletter Editor:

Nicki King ☎ 0908 614741

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In Touch is the newsletter of the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers. Any view expressed is that of the author, and copyright resides with the individual authors.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR ...

Well, here we go, another year and a full Branch diary to carry us through.

So, what else can we do? Well, there are all those towers in our Branch with fewer than six bells which we have tended to ignore, how about a meeting or two at some of these, please let the Committee know your views on where we should hold our Branch meetings.

Then, as every tower captain has said at sometime or another, how can we attract new members and keep them? Perhaps someone knows, do you? How about more social events or tower outings for our new ringers to help fire their enthusiasm. And if there is any way the Branch can collectively help, please tell any of us. Our telephone numbers are shown in this newsletter.

Finally, this is the time of the Guild AGM and, as you all know by now, this year it is our Branch's privilege to host it. So come along and join in and meet the folk from the other branches.

BRIAN NEWMAN

WOUGHTON O-T-G ... & FRIENDS

On 23 April, 14 people went on a leisurely outing and (to mention the most important thing first) partook of an excellent lunch at the World's End at Ecton, about five miles east of Northampton.

The 12 ringers came from the towers of Beachampton, Loughton, Old Wolverton, Simpson and Woughton-on-the-Green and rang a variety of methods ranging from Rounds to Cambridge. Towers visited were Ecton (lovely mellow 18th century sound) and Earls Barton (good mountaineering needed on the access ladder) and Mears Ashby (post-prandial difficulty with the long draught) and Wilby (who looked the wrong way in the anti-clockwise circle?) and Great Doddington (a super little five).

No rush, no fuss, good bells, mostly good ringing and always good fellowship made up a very happy day - even the sun came out to honour the occasion!

JOHN LONSBROUGH



Helena Ray (Newport Pagnell) has a possible use for car sun roofs

AGM - 5.3.94 BUCKINGHAM

DRAFT
DRAFT

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Buckingham on Saturday 5th March 1994.

The Chairman, M Gilbert, welcomed those members present and commented on the number of towers represented. He pointed out that J Joyce was acting as minute secretary in the absence of a Branch Secretary, S Crane having vacated the post.

Apologies for Absence were received from: P Newton, Guild Master; J Wells, Guild Secretary; G Clifton, Deputy Master; Branch Members - B Brearley; S & A Cozens; C Huxter; A Jones; D Maybrey; R Parrett and R Tyrrrell.

Minutes of the 1993 AGM and the Quarterly meeting held in December 1993 had been circulated during tea. M Gilbert wished to present both sets of minutes and in future present AGM minutes at the next quarterly meeting. He asked if there were any objections to him signing the minutes as correct, none were made prior to signing taking place.

MATTERS ARISING

1. Support for ODG Bell Fund - it had been pointed out that the Branch had agreed to support this fund with the proceeds of raffles at quarterly meetings. No raffles had been held and M Gilbert asked for a proposal for a donation in lieu of the proceeds. A Marchbank proposed and G Foat seconded a donation of £75. This was agreed by the meeting. M Gilbert said that the question of the raffle should be considered by the new committee.

2. Subscriptions would be raised as part of the Treasurer's report.

3. Branch Dinner - due to lack of support this was cancelled.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Buckingham - John Stanworth (J), Richard Ashwood

Proposed: P Nicholson, seconded: W Yates

Old Wolverton - Alison Lemmer (J)

Proposed: J Neville, seconded: J Lonsbrough

Downs Barn - Ann Griffin, Scott Ayres (J), Amy Head, Alison Cross, Dennis Parrett, Ros Parrett - transfer to ringing member

Proposed: F Maybrey, seconded: B Newman

Bradwell - David Bardwell - re election, Rosa Clare - re election

Proposed: E Fawcett, seconded: D Joyce

Lillingstone Lovell - David Moore

Proposed: D Hird, seconded: D Stainsby

All were elected.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

1. **Chairman:** the report as submitted to the annual report was read to the meeting. G Foat objected to mention of work at Newport Pagnell as this was not yet public and should be removed

Draft minutes prepared by Jill Joyce of the recent AGM at Buckingham. Comments to Jill, please.

from the report. M Gilbert agreed to contact the report secretary to amend the report.

2. **Treasurer:** the balance sheet for 1993 and an interim balance sheet for 1994 were presented by D Hird. He pointed out the practice donations were up, but other donations were down. *In Touch* cost approximately £50 per issue. Expenditure therefore represented approx. 3 issues. Payments for Downs Barn were the proceeds of the double peal sponsorship which had not yet been paid over.

A Marchbank queried the *Ringing World* account in the 1993 accounts as no payment had been made. It was confirmed that the account was in credit and another payment had been made in 1994. D Bardwell pointed out that the Building Society and cash in hand did not total the balance carried forward. An adjustment was made to the Building Society figure.

S Watts queried the disposal of the double peal sponsorship as part of the proceeds were to be donated to Emberton. D Hird said an adjustment would be made. A Marchbank asked for the figures to be clearly shown in the accounts as the income and payments from the sponsored peal.

Subject to the adjustments stated, D Hird proposed the adoption of the 1993 accounts. This was seconded by D Stainsby and agreed by the meeting.

Subscriptions for 1994: D Hird proposed, B Newman seconded that subscriptions should be: Adults: £5, Juniors: £3.50. This was agreed by the meeting.

3. **Ringing Master:** This was given by D Joyce. He said that a number of points had been covered in the Chairman's report. He would like to see more members at Branch Practices as numbers attending had fallen. Special methods had been in place for a year and some feedback on these would be welcomed. Striking competitions - the 8 bell had coincided with the installation of Downs Barn bells, the 10 bell band had been built at short notice from a limited number of ringers, but it was pleasing to report that for the competition with the Towcester branch there were almost as many ringers as ropes available in the test pieces. D Joyce asked members wishing to be considered for the 1994 competitions to contact the ringing master.

4. **Guild Representatives:** M Gilbert said that a report on the committee meeting had been given at the Hanslope meeting. A report on the meeting did not feature in Odd Bob as promised, but M Gilbert did not propose to expand on his previous report.

5. **Archivist:** D Hird said that the last year had been a consolidation exercise. He had obtained peal records for all towers in the Branch from Canon Felstead - numbers for all towers and

details for some. Minutes of meetings had been entered on computer. A historical membership list of the branch was being compiled. Future actions depend on the computer systems available. Information on the second branch meeting had been obtained from Hanslope and an old peal book had been obtained from Olney. Reports had been produced on the work of Alfred Bowell in the area, the development of the frame at Hanslope, and articles for the newsletter.

5. **Towers and Bells:** D Hird said that no meetings of the subcommittee had taken place. Ongoing activity was: **Hanslope** - rehang, **Lathbury** - a rehang of the 3rd, looking for funds for the rest, **Great Brickhill** - on hold awaiting funds, **Stony Stratford** - awaiting other work on the church, **Chicheley, North Crawley, Sherington** - to be looked at by a foundry. M Gilbert thanked the members of the committee for their work in the previous year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN: Nomination: Brian Newman
Prop'd: D Joyce, sec'd: A Marchbank - Elected
SECRETARY: Nomination: John Lonsbrough
Prop'd: M Gilbert, sec'd: R Snack - Elected
J Lonsbrough was elected on the basis that he was willing to undertake all aspects of the secretary's job with the exception of taking minutes.

TREASURER: Nomination: Sheila Ware
Prop'd: S Blenkhorn, sec'd: D Stainsby - Elected
RINGING MASTER: Nomination: David Joyce
Prop'd: M Gilbert, sec'd: R Keeves

No further nominations were received and D Joyce was elected. After some discussion it was decided that the Ringing Master should co-opt assistants where necessary and further discussion should take place at the next quarterly meeting.
GUILD REP: Nominations: Sheila Watts and David Joyce

Prop'd: S Crane, sec'd: M Gilbert and prop'd: J Joyce, sec'd: M Gilbert - Elected

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Nomination: Nicola King

Prop'd: D Joyce, sec'd: M Gilbert - Elected

ARCHIVIST: Nomination: Doug Hird

Prop'd: M Hooton, sec'd: S Watts - Elected

MINUTE SECRETARY: Nomination: Jill Joyce

Prop'd: R Clare, sec'd: M Gilbert - Elected

EVENTS

1. Ordination of Women Priests: a letter from the Guild Master was read out asking branches to arrange quarter peals by ladies' bands to celebrate the priestings in the diocese on 16/17 April. One at Downs Barn, by a ladies' band, is being organised, and the band at Buckingham will ring a quarter peal for their deacon's first communion service.

2. 90th Anniversary of Branch: This takes place on 11.6.94. D Joyce suggested that a quarter peal be attempted over the weekend at all towers in the Branch - with the emphasis on first quarters and local band performances. The 6 bell competition the week before would be an ideal time to finalise arrangements.

3. Guild AGM: the Downs Barn ringers were asked if any help was required. F Maybrey said some help with catering and the loan of an urn and utensils would be required.

A. O. B.

1. M Gilbert read a letter from P Newton asking for volunteers for vacant posts on the Guild Committee - Membership Secretary, Public Relations Officer, Newsletter Editor, Steward.

2. S Blenkhorn asked if a questionnaire could be produced to find out why people don't attend Branch Practices. A Marchbank suggested that the choice of towers might influence attendance.

3. D Hird said that the branch practice at Emberton coincided with the musical evening arranged by J Humbert at Downs Barn. He had just had a request to move the practice. It was decided to leave the practice as it had already been advertised.

4. G Foat queried the number of Downs Barn events in the calendar of events. F Maybrey said that approximately £8000 was still outstanding.

5. G Ellis asked if Downs Barn bells were available to visiting ringers. F Maybrey said that the agreement with the neighbours was being enforced with ringing for practice nights and services only, although some ringing had taken place for specially arranged services. It was difficult to find vacant time slots as there were a large number of bookings for the building as a community centre.

6. M Gilbert said that he still had some tower copies of the 1992 Annual report. Remaining copies would be sold at £2.50

VOTES OF THANKS

B Newman thanked the Rev Pauline Hardy for the service and G & C Stopps, S Bye and L Mayston for the tea. A donation of £13.50 from the tea had been received.

JILL JOYCE

THE SOUNDS OF BELLS

DING DONG
GB, France, Portugal

DIN DON
Spain

BIM BAM
Belgium

DIN DAN DON
Italy

KLING KLANG
Sweden

DIN DIN
Turkey



LUCKY ESCAPE FOR RINGERS - TOWER COLLAPSES

Although Buckingham is situated at the far north of the county, it has always played a prominent part in the life of Bucks. Whether as a centre of business or a strategic military location, Buckingham remained a focal point of the area until the construction of Milton Keynes. It is not surprising, with so much activity in the town, that some should have been recorded and that some of this history should be of interest to ringers. Among the many stories which are told about Buckingham's bells, tower and ringers the tale of the fall of the old tower appeals more than most. In 1891 the Aylesbury writer, Gibbs, wrote:

"In 1753 the tower was raised in height about 24 feet, but the increased weight of the masonry proved too great for the piers which supported it, and on March 26th 1776 the fall of the tower took place only minutes after the ringers had left it."

Had the motion of the bells damaged the tower? Are we in danger in our own towers? Fortunately we have the following account related by the grandson of an eye witness:

"He had just come through the church yard and was on his way home through Church Street into Well Street ... and he had scarcely got into the turning into Well Street when he was startled by a sudden roar or explosion something like a prolonged peal of thunder, and the street was filled with a dense cloud of dust something like a thick fog. It occurred about 8 o'clock in the evening, and if I recollect aright he said the Curfew bell had just ceased. Of this however I am not quite positive."

So the vision of a lucky band of ringers, just escaping with their lives, is probably far fetched. The fallen bells were a fairly new, and heavy, ring of six. They were cast in 1717 by the Whitechapel foundry, the tenor weighing 27 cwt. In 1782, the replacement ring, installed in the replacement tower, were also cast at Whitechapel, and are the present 24cwt ring of eight. The reception of the bells gives rise to another of those special stories

associated with Buckingham. It is said that, on its arrival in Buckingham on 8th February 1783, the tenor was turned upside down and filled with beer. Thus was the bell christened.

A political argument broke out in 1820 when the Buckingham ringers went on strike. According to a local newspaper,

"they wouldn't let them ring for the queen on her triumphant trial, so they wouldn't ring any more at all."

On acceding to the Throne, George IV tried to divorce his estranged wife, Caroline. Seeing that being Queen had its advantages, she sought a legal ruling to prevent the divorce, which she won. The Queen had a good deal of public support, possibly due to the King's unpopularity, and was evidently supported by the Buckingham ringers.

The band had become better behaved by the end of the century. In 1890 two moves were made to join local bands together in respectability. A new district association for Buckingham was formed, although this was short lived, and the Oxford Diocesan Guild held its annual festival in Buckingham when the Rev F E Robinson took a personal interest in the bells. Eventually his advice was heeded and in 1908 the bells were rehung by Alfred Bowell of Ipswich and the band joined the ODG. Since then 51 peals have been rung and 73 Guild members elected from the Buckingham band.

There are many more tales about ringing at Buckingham which I will try to include in a later issue, when Bill Yates is fully recovered from his hip operation and well enough to be interviewed.

DOUG HIRD

DID YOU KNOW ...

The highest bell in the world is at a height of 4,000m above sea level in the cathedral of La Paz, Bolivia.

90 GLORIOUS YEARS

Hopefully you have all seen, from the previous In Touch and other notes, that our Branch was founded 90 years ago, on 11th June 1904, and that I am trying to co-ordinate some way of marking the event.

What I have suggested is that some time during the second weekend in June (10th to 12th) we try to ring a quarter peal in each of the Branch towers. As we have almost 200 ODG members, plus a few more local ringers who are not members of the Guild, we should be able to put up a pretty good effort.

I would like to see as many people involved as possible - there must be a lot of potential "first quarter peelers" who could be given a chance. There must also be scope for more firsts as conductor or in a new method that would all tend to show our Branch in a good light.

Hopefully with Friday evening, Saturday weddings and Sunday Services there should be a time for each tower to attempt at least one quarter, perhaps more if you've plenty of ringers. If there are neighbouring towers with no ringers, or not enough to manage on their own, why not get in touch with them and offer to help?

Although I can't be everywhere at once, I am willing to try and help make up numbers for any bands that are short of ringers - if you're desperate I could probably stick a few Bobs in if you have no conductor. I am also willing to try and co-ordinate any "spare" ringers or conductors and match them up with bands needing help. **If you need (or can offer) help - please let me know!**

If you are planning to ring any quarters for the anniversary could you please let me, or my answering machine (☎ 0908 667025), know so that I can keep track of where there is, or might not be, any ringing arranged so far.

If you succeed in ringing any quarters for the anniversary, could you please send the information direct to me so that I can co-ordinate a report to the Ringing World that will keep all of our efforts together. It would

be helpful if all such reports reached me no later than the June practice meeting on Friday 17th June.

Start organising NOW, and good luck !!

DAVID JOYCE
4 Wood Lane
Great Linford
Milton Keynes
MK14 5HE



NEWS FROM HANSLOPE

As some of you know, the bells of St James the Great, Hanslope, have been silent since the end of January. Eayre and Smith started work on 31 January and work should be completed by the end of May when normal ringing will be resumed.

The work undertaken is as follows:

- 1 Fit new galvanised steel supports in east and west walls then bolt the timber to the new steelwork. The new steelwork to be linked to the existing north-south steel foundation beams so that a grillage is formed securely built into all four walls of the tower.
- 2 Reverse the roping of the seventh bell.

It is hoped that the actions outlined in items 1 & 2 above will reduce the oscillation of the tower.

- 3 Refurbish or renew worn sliders, slider bars and ground pulleys.
- 4 Correct "odd struckness" as far as possible by modifying the length of the crown staples and providing new clappers with the correct clapper/crown staple proportions.
- 5 Fit new cast iron headstocks on bells one to six, refurbishing and replacing any

necessary fittings. (Bells seven and eight were fitted with cast iron headstocks in 1979).

Details of the Bells

- 1 & 2 Cast by Mears & Stainbank, London 1947
- 3 Cast by Alfred Bowell, Ipswich 1906
- 4 Cast by Robert Taylor, St Neots 1815
- 5 Cast by William Hall, Drayton Parslow 1752
- 6 Cast by Robert Atton, Buckingham 1625, recast by Alfred Bowell
- 7 Cast by Robert Atton, Buckingham 1626
- 8 Cast by John Bryant, Hertford 1814 Tenor 22cwt (approx)

The tenor is said to have sunk in the canal at Castlethorpe on its way from Hertford and to have lain in the water for a week. In 1714 there were five bells with a tenor of 18cwt and possibly cast by John Goorme around the middle of the 15th century. In 1891 the bells were quarter turned and hung in a new frame by Taylors at a cost of £175 13s 9d. In 1906 a new treble was added and the 6th recast by Alfred Bowell. 1947 saw the peal augmented to the present eight by two trebles, cast by Mears & Stainbank and hung by Whites of Appleton. Further work was carried out in 1979-80 by Whites when the two back bells were hung on cast iron headstocks and the whole peal put on ball bearings.

So 1994 sees further work being done on these bells and we are hoping we will have a peal of bells to compliment our lovely church.

ROY KEEVES

A PLUG FOR OLNEY

A special change ringing practice is now held at Olney on the 4th Monday of each month for anyone who is interested! Methods at the last practice ranged from Plain Bob Major or Grandsire Triples to Double Norwich and Yorkshire Surprise.

The next practice will be held on Monday 23rd May, and everyone is most welcome to come and ring on these magnificent bells.

Contact: ROY KEEVES

☎ 0908 510105

BRADWELL OUTING BELLS, BURGERS & CHIPS

The first place we visited was Milton Bryan. We only stayed there for about ten minutes because it only had three bells. Me and Rachel only rang tail stroke because the bells were very awkward. We tried to blend in with the walls but it didn't work. Next we went to Whipsnade and the bells were very light. We found them very easy to ring. Houghton Regis was the next that we rang in. There were lots of butterflies there. They were quite heavy bells. Next was Tilsworth. The bells there were like the bells at St Lawrence's. Then we ate lunch at the Cross Keys in Totternhoe. Me and Rachel had a quarter pounder with chips and salad. I felt very comfortable at the bells at Totternhoe. The bells at Wing were lifting me off my feet. I wouldn't like to ring there again. Linslade were easy to keep in time.

REBECCA WILKINS

At Milton Bryan there were three bells, and they were about 6cwt, the other bell ringers found it hard to ring them up and down, we just rang tail stroke. Then we went to Whipsnade, they were six bells, they were very light. We rang bell five, it was nice and easy, we did quite well in rounds. Houghton Regis were 13cwt, the bells were quite heavy to ring. There were four butterflies and Sam got them out of the window. There was a funny clock shaped like a crash helmet. Tilsworth was 8cwt and has six bells. It had a staircase up the side and it was medieval I think. It had pews and in our book we read about good striking and rope-sight. Then we had LUNCH, me and Rebecca had a quarter pounder with chips and salad, followed by icecream and treacle tart, which Rebecca had. We sat with Ian and his son. Then we went to Totternhoe, it had eight bells. They had yellow sallies and were nice to ring. It thundered and I thought it was the lights. We went to Wing next, where there are six bells. I only did backstroke because the bells were so heavy, there was a trap door leading up to the bell tower. Linslade had eight bells and dark red sallies and we finished the sweets.

RACHEL SKINNER

LATE NEWS

EMBERTON

Having lost some of our members to University, etc., our band membership is now increasing. We have four new learners progressing into plain hunt and beyond, and, believe it or not, a waiting list of others. On practice nights we are grateful to our visitors for their support. During Holy Week we met as usual, but for theory sessions.

Barry Eglesfield has kindly done some electrical work for us - we are now proud of our emergency lighting and the lights on the belfry stairs - gone are the days of torches! A representative of the Guild Towers & Belfries Committee visited us recently and spent some two hours inspecting our installation as part of the Guild Best Kept Tower Competition. It was a fascinating two hours and we look forward to the promised report.

SHEILA WATTS

BITS AND GOBBETS

Following my last piece on the state of our towers there have been developments in several of them.

Chicheley bells are now back in action following the recent tower repairs and are highly recommended for the Branch practice in June. Woburn's tower has been given a clean bill of health and these bells are also ringing. Woughton-on-the-Green, are still unavailable, as the builders are still in possession of the church and access is dangerous. Practices are at 8pm at Simpson on 1st and 3rd Thursdays, and by arrangement on other Thursdays - usually at Simpson, but please phone 0908 670579 for the latest information.

WEDDING RINGING AT NEW BRADWELL

The design for St James church in New Bradwell included an impressive tower and steeple. Sadly, the money ran out with only the base of the tower built when the church was opened in 1860. So when a bride insisted on having bells at her wedding it took a number of phone calls before she found some willing ringers who would bring handbells to her wedding.

We had two practices before the big day, progress was better than expected as we concentrated on the rhythm of Plain Bob

Major and simple call changes. Come the day we chose a pitch in the churchyard close to the main door and rang at least eight plain courses through the rain and shine of a typical wedding afternoon. Confidence was high, so high that a quarter peal was called for at our next practice!

The composition was simple, but we had not rung a touch together before, how long could it last? I have not seen these chaps concentrate so hard for so long. A steady rhythm was kept throughout, minor trips were corrected and no major problems occurred. We are still on a 'high' two days later!

GODFREY FOAT

EASTER OUTING FOR YOUNGER RINGERS

After not getting a ring at Newton Blossomville on the last outing it seemed sensible to start this outing at this pleasant little ring of three. The youngsters spent as long inspecting the bells as they did ringing them. As these are a small ring in a reasonable sized tower, access to them is excellent. Ringing rounds was about all that most could cope with on these although a few attempted some energetic Plain Hunting and ringing down was fairly entertaining. Lavendon are a more normal ring and were more manageable. After a few false starts some good ringing was done here. After a short pub break in Olney (did we really hand over our car keys to Scott and Roland?) we had a good ring at Weston Underwood where Owen gave a guided tour of the bells. At Stoke Goldington our numbers were swelled by the arrival of Sheila and Sheila and we were able to put a few through extents of Doubles.

Some good progress was made during the day and some acquaintances renewed. The band is as interested in seeing what happens upstairs as in doing the ringing downstairs which is all part of the learning process. As ever they want to ring at yet more towers so the next trip is in the process of being planned for next half-term holiday at the end of May.

DOUG HIRD

RINGERS' RELIEF 2 - THE ANSWER

The highest possible score is 17. Ask Steve Crane to explain it to you sometime!

WHAT SORT OF RINGER ARE YOU?

The title comes from a questionnaire from *The Ringing World* dated 21 August 1959 - yes 35 years ago. (I thought this kind of questionnaire was a product of 1970's women's magazines, but obviously I'm wrong.) I think many of the questions are just as valid today for ringers to ask themselves. Here is the first part of the quiz, with some minor alterations for the 'modern climate', the rest of the quiz and the scoring will be published in the July/August edition of *In Touch*, so you'll have to wait to see how you score. Incidentally, the copy of *The Ringing World* from which this comes once belonged to one of our 'leading ringers', the Editor is not open to persuasion to publish the answers given by this person in 1959!

- 1 When 'rounds for learners' is suggested at a meeting, do you
 - a sit down with patient resignation?
 - b be prepared to help either by taking a rope or standing behind a learner?
 - c go outside for a smoke?
- 2 At a meeting when one or two learners stand in for a touch of plain bob, do you
 - a immediately offer to ring one of the bells in the touch?
 - b offer to stand behind one of the learners?
 - c sit down quietly and wait for the next touch?
- 3 If, whilst sitting down in the above touch, one of the learners gets lost, do you
 - a shout instructions to the learner across the belfry?
 - b jump up, stand behind the learner, and tell them what to do?
 - c leave it to the conductor who was telling him anyway?
- 4 When meeting for service ringing with only five ringers for 6, 8, 10 or 12 bells, do you
 - a wait outside to see if more ringers turn up
 - b wait in the belfry to see if more ringers turn up
 - c suggest that John pops round to David's to see if he has got out of bed, and if he hasn't, 'call it a day'?
- 5 When asked to ring in a peal, which do you first consult: -
 - a your diary?
 - b your partner?
 - c your memory?
- 6 Having decided to ring in the peal, what is the first thing you enquire about: -
 - a the method(s)?
 - b the bells?
 - c the rest of the band?
- 7 If you are conducting a peal and miss a call, do you
 - a wait until the next trip, sail into it and make a proper mess?
 - b call 'stand' and confess your crime?
 - c call 'stand' and say there has been a change in the coursing order?
 - d panic?
- 8 When conducting a peal or touch, do you
 - a shout the calls and hope for the best?
 - b transpose the coursing order at each call?
 - c make the calls and have 'spot checks' at intervals throughout the composition?
- 9 When asked to ring a method you don't know, do you
 - a refuse to ring, saying that you haven't rung the method for at least 10 years?
 - b refuse to take part, admitting that you don't know the method?
 - c glance at the method and have a go?
- 10 When you get lost, do you
 - a shout, 'What am I doing??'
 - b start shouting at someone else?
 - c think quickly and try to put yourself right?
 - d panic?
- 11 If the conductor instructs you to do something that you are certain you should not do, do you
 - a start to argue and refuse to do it?
 - b do it and say nothing?
 - c do it and shake your head?
 - d nod your head and carry on what you were doing?
- 12 What is your opinion of lady ringers? Are they
 - a decorative material for otherwise drab surroundings?
 - b useful stop-gaps for Sunday service ringing?
 - c equal in all respects to their male counterparts?

To be continued ...

Newport Pagnell, Sts Peter and Paul.

Sunday 20 March 1994 42

1260 Doubles (2 methods)

- 1 Marilyn Ray
- 2 Godfrey Foat
- 3 Peter Tribble
- 4 Nicola King
- 5 B Douglas Hird (C)
- 6 Andrew Hobkinson

For Evensong and as a birthday compliment to the ringer of the Treble. First quarter peal:
6.

Emberton, All Saints.

Saturday 16 April 1994

1260 Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Christine Abbott (Bradwell)
- 2 Wendy Haslam (Emberton)
- 3 Anne Stainsby (Loughton)
- 4 Shirley Waterhouse (Calverton)
- 5 Jill Joyce (C) (Bradwell)
- 6 Sheila Watts (Emberton)

Rung by a North Bucks all ladies band as a compliment to all women being Priested in the Diocese of Oxford, and especially the Revd Annette Nixon of Emberton and the Revd Janet Collins being Priested at Buckingham and Banbury this weekend.

Newport Pagnell, St Peter & St Paul.

Sunday 17 April 1994 51 mins

1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 David Joyce
- 2 Godfrey Foat
- 3 Nick Gray
- 4 Alan Marchbank
- 5 Monty Gilbert
- 6 B Douglas Hird (C)

Rung in celebration of the Priesting of women in North Buckinghamshire.

Downs Barn, The Cross and Stable.

Sunday 17 April 1994

1264 Plain Bob Major

- 1 Alison Cross
- 2 Ruth Stokes
- 3 Sheila Watts
- 4 anne Stainsby
- 5 Jill Eales
- 6 Nicola King
- 7 Jill Joyce
- 8 Pat Newton (C)

Rung in celebration of the Priesting of women throughout North Buckinghamshire and as a particular compliment to Ros Parrett of The Cross and Stable.

Ron Snack's Front Room

16 Wandsworth Place, Bradwell Common

Monday 25th April 1994

1424 Plain Bob Major 45 mins

- 1 - 2 Alan J Marchbank (1st Q on handbells)
 - 3 - 4 Ron Snack (1st Major on handbells)
 - 5 - 6 Godfrey L Foat (1st as Conductor on handbells)
 - 7 - 8 B Douglas Hird (1st Q on handbells)
- First touch by the band.

Only a few ringing records have been received for inclusion in *In Touch*, is this a true reflection of the level of activity or did everything stop for Lent? The Editor feels it would be a shame if we did not continue to publish our achievements in the newsletter, but if she does not receive any notifications, then she can't include them. Please ensure you send your records soon after ringing, then you won't forget!

Three of the quarter peals on this page were rung in celebration of the Priesting of women over the weekend of 16 and 17 April. To my certain knowledge the following seven women are now priests within the North Bucks Branch area:

Revd Freda Beveridge, Holy Trinity, Woolstones

Revd Pauline Hardy, Radclive-in-Chackmore, Buckingham

Revd Janet Lawrence, St Mary's, Bletchley

Revd Ann Mackenzie, St Mary's, Bletchley

Revd Annette Nixon, All Saints, Emberton

Revd Ros Parrett, Cross & Stable, Downs Barn

Revd Margaret Saunders, Hospital Chaplain, Milton Keynes

Please ensure that any of these who are local to you know that ringing took place to commemorate this important occasion.

The question now remains 'When will Ros Parrett become a member of the Guild of Clerical Ringers?'

NICKI KING

NORTH BUCKS BRANCH DIARY

May 94

Mon 2	ODG Ringing Day & 8 Bell Competition	Banbury Branch
Fri 20	<i>Branch Practice</i> <i>Method: Winchendon & St Nicholas</i>	<i>Tingewick</i>
Sat 21	Guild 10-Bell Competition	Long Crendon
Sat 21	GUILD AGM Tea helpers contact: Fiona Maybrey ☎ 0908 562233 Other helpers contact: Brian Newman ☎ 0908 668347	Downs Barn

June 94

Sat 4	<i>Quarterly Meeting & 6-Bell Competition</i> <i>Note: This year both events on same day</i> Names for tea to: Ted Fawcett ☎ 0908 319405 Names of bands to: David Joyce ☎ 0908 667025	<i>Bradwell</i>
Sat 11	BRANCH 90TH ANNIVERSARY	EVERYWHERE!
Fri 17	<i>Branch Practice</i> <i>Method: Little Bob Minor & Cambridge</i>	<i>Chicheley</i>

July 94

Sat 2	Guild Festival and Barndance	Amersham & Aston Clinton
Fri 15	<i>Branch Practice</i> <i>Method: Stedman Triples</i>	<i>Newport Pagnell</i>
Sat 30	Striking Competition against Towcester Branch Contact: David Joyce ☎ 0908 667025	Hanslope

August 94

Sat 6	Joint Meeting with Bedfordshire Association Followed by picnic in Emberton and evening ringing in Bedford Contact: David Joyce ☎ 0908 667025	Emberton
Fri 19	<i>Branch Practice</i> <i>Method: Beverley Surprise Minor</i>	<i>Calverton</i>

September 94

Sat 3	<i>Quarterly Meeting</i>	<i>Lavendon</i>
Fri 9 - Sun 11	Easthampstead Course	Easthampstead
Sat 17	<i>Call Change Striking Competition</i> Also known as the Learners' Striking Contest NB: Instead of Branch Practice Contact: David Joyce ☎ 0908 667025	<i>Simpson</i>

October 94

Sat 1	Guild 6-Bell Striking Competition	Sonning Deanery Branch
Fri 21	<i>Branch Practice</i> <i>Method: Grandsire Caters & Cambridge Surprise Royal</i>	<i>Kempston</i>

November 94

Fri 18	<i>Branch Practice</i> <i>Method: London Surprise Minor</i>	<i>Maids Moreton</i>
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