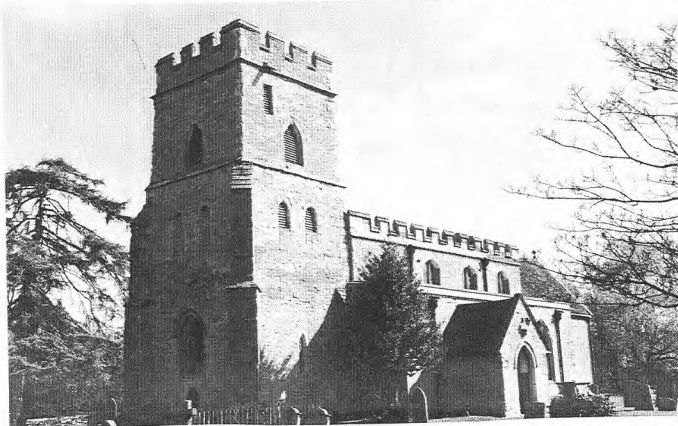


Published May 1997

IN TOUCH

The Quarterly Newsletter of the North Bucks Branch
of
The Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers



**Quarterly Meeting & Striking Competition at Great Linford
Saturday 7th June 1997**

3:00 Service
3:45 Draw followed by Contest
5:00 Tea
5:45 Business Meeting
Evening Ringing

Names for tea to Tine & Alan Marchbank (01908-611434) by **Wednesday 4th June**

Competition entries must be made to Richard Stanworth (Ringing Master) (01280-814172)

by Friday 6th June

Your Branch Officers for 1997/8 are listed below, please keep "In Touch" with us.

Chairman

Doug Hird 01908-614741 19 Priory Street, Newport Pagnell. MK16 9AF

Secretary

Helen Stanworth 01280-814172 11 Valley Road, Linden Village, Buckingham. MK18 7BW

Minute Secretary

Nigel Titley 01908-646632 "The Willows", 15 Drayton Road Newton Longville Milton Keynes MK17 0BH

Treasurer

David Bardwell 01908-676841 21 Forrabury Avenue, Bradwell Common, Milton Keynes. MK13 8NF
E-Mail dbardwel@adtranz-signal.co.uk

Ringling Master

Richard Stanworth 01280-814172 11 Valley Road, Linden Village, Buckingham. MK18 7BW

Assistant Ringling Master

Alexandra Titley 01908-646632 "The Willows" 15 Drayton Road Newton Longville Milton Keynes MK17 0BH

Guild Representatives

Alan Marchbank 01908-611434 6 Broadway Avenue, Giffard Park, Milton Keynes. MK14 5QF
Doug O'Neale

Archivist

Doug Hird 01908-614741 19 Priory Street, Newport Pagnell. MK16 9AF

Newsletter Editor

Rosa Bardwell 01908-676841 21 Forrabury Avenue, Bradwell Common, Milton Keynes. MK13 8NF
r.bardwell@cranfield.ac.uk

Editorial

Welcome to the first edition of In Touch under new management. My grateful thanks to Jill Joyce for all the work she has put in, and to Jill and David for their help and advice in getting me on the right track in preparing this edition.

Jill should also be thanked for keeping In Touch going for the last two years. I am sure you will agree that she has done an excellent job and I hope that I will be able to follow in her example.

The newsletter is an important part of our ringing and needs input from everyone, not just the officers (who can get a bit boring!) but from people who enjoy ringing and have something to say, more about this later.

To get you going, how about some reports on the outings you will be making during the summer or even if you ring while away on holiday, let me know of your experiences. Any type of subscription is appreciated, obviously on disk in Windows format is the best but anything from legible hand-written (I can read most!) to E-Mail on r.bardwell@cranfield.ac.uk.

The next edition of "In Touch" should be distributed at the beginning of August. Please submit any articles or information, to the Editor, by the closing date :-

Sunday 6 July

"In Touch" is published by the editor on behalf of the officers of the O.D.G. North Bucks Branch. Any view expressed in "In Touch" is that of the author and copyright resides with the individual authors.

From The Chair

There is much talk about The Millennium at the moment. It seems that we are to make sure that all bells are rung at once to mark the occasion. The problem is that there are more bells than ringers, not just in North Bucks, but throughout the country. So the various ringing organisations are setting about telling their members what to do about it. We are being treated to advice on recruiting, teaching and retaining. We have been sent posters advertising seminars and for recruiting.

Outside help is, of course, welcome but what will actually be effective is local knowledge and our own skills and enthusiasm. The Millennium will present an increase in workload to many of us as we set about recruiting and teaching new people so we must be careful to make the best use of our time and effort. More is not always better. We need to think about who we recruit, how we teach them and what we do with them once they are addicted. In short, we need to concentrate on the quality of what we do. We should not be surprised that only children respond to our posters if they look like they were drawn by children. We should not be surprised if learners become disillusioned if we are not teaching them well enough, and we should not be surprised if experienced ringers give up ringing when striking is poor or no new methods are offered as a challenge.

We all have experience of these situations and so we can all learn from them if we are prepared to. If we can learn, we can improve. With improvement will come success in meeting the need for new ringers and, in the longer term, reducing the pressure on those of us who are already ringing.

Don't forget though that you are not alone. There are nearly 200 members of this branch, many of which have a wealth of experience to draw on, and the branch officers are always willing to help. If we don't know the answer to a problem, we can generally find someone who can. Just ask.

Doug Hird

From the Editor

Some people never know when to speak up, some people do not know when to be quiet, I suppose in this instance I come into the latter part of this statement! If you were present at the AGM in March you will know that a lot of discussion took place regarding the editing of In Touch. Jill Joyce who had built up the newsletter over the last two years felt it was time to hand over to someone else. For a long time the first part of the statement was true, no one knew it was time to speak.

I have been associated with the North Bucks branch for five years now and have seen how the newsletter has changed and been built up by different people. I felt that it would be such a shame to let this important part of our ringing to slip into decline after so many people had put in so much work over the years. So the second part came about, I found myself speaking when perhaps I should have been quiet...we will see.

Not every ringer can for one reason or another get to meetings or get out and about. I feel that In Touch is, and should be the bridge between those who can get to meetings and do things and those who cannot, keeping all within the branch informed of what is happening.

BUT I have not been in this area as long as some of you, I do not know everyone (I am trying to get out as much as I can) so I will need a lot of help and guidance.

This is not my newsletter, it is not the officers, it is yours, and if you need help with ringing, maintenance or you have some ideas why not publicise them through this medium. I do have some ideas for the newsletter, it would be nice for instance if we could have some history of the bells and ringing as Bletchley have given me for this issue, which I thank Roger Everson for very much. Also are you ringing for any special events and why? Will anyone be ringing for the Queen & Prince Philip's 50th anniversary in November? Please let me know. As I say, I will try to get to as many practices as I can, don't worry, I will be very happy to help learners with rounds, no fancy methods for me, I leave that to David and the "others"! But I would like to talk to people and find out about how they started to ring, their experiences, their outings etc. etc.

Thank you to all those who have sent me information and details already, and thank you in anticipation to all those who will do so in the future!

Rosa

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Bradwell on 1st March 1997.

Chairman's Welcome - Brian Newman welcomed members and visitors to the meeting, especially Barry Cowper, Guild Secretary, and Stirling McGuire, Millennium Liaison Project Co-ordinator.

Apologies for Absence were received from Ros Tyrrell, Godfrey Foat, David Jones, Bill Yates and John Wells (Guild Master).

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at Fenny Stratford had been published in the February edition of "In Touch". It was proposed by Derek Stainsby, seconded by Helen Stanworth and carried that the minutes be taken as read.

Matters Arising - there were no matters arising.

Election of New Members

Nomination forms had been received proposing election of the following :

Old Wolverton :	Anthony James Emmerson	Proposed : Michael Nimmo	Seconded : S M Beck
	Debbie Emmerson	John David Mercer	Christopher James Exley
Newton Longville :	Jackie Hoare (Junior)	Proposed : Nigel Tittley	Seconded : Alex Tittley
	Elanor Tittley (Junior)		
Downs Barn :	Andrew Dowkins (Junior)	Proposed : Doug Hird	Seconded : Jon Hill
Stony Stratford :	Peter Keens	Proposed : Malcolm Hooton	Seconded : Ian Ranson
Whaddon :	Nicholas Green (Junior)	Proposed : Mr R Green	Seconded : Mrs S Green
	Daniel Beckwith (Junior)		
Olney :	Elizabeth Knight	Proposed : Sheila Ware	Seconded : Charles Knight
Great Brickhill :	Val Hartwell	Proposed : Hugh Butler	Seconded : David Joyce

All were elected as new members.

Officers Reports

1 Chairman

Brian Newman thanked all the branch officers for their continued support over his period in office. He wished them well for the future and hoped that they could continue to count on the Branch's support as well.

We have had a good year with our team winning the inter Branch competition with Towcester and a continued regular support of our branch practices, it's a pity that our internal 6 bell competitions are not so well supported, but I'm sure that our Ringing Master will have more to say on that subject in his report. As to the future - there's the Millennium Project coming along, a matter that our project team will want to give more information on, so I will confine myself to asking you all to help in recruitment, not just for the project, but to carry ringing forward into the next century.

2 Secretary

I have prepared a concise report covering the last 12 months. Greater detail can be found in my reports at previous quarterly meetings. The pattern of monthly branch practices and quarterly meetings continued as in previous years, visiting towers across the branch, from North Crawley in the east to Shalstone in the west. Our AGM was held at Emberton in March, with several offices changing hands. Unfortunately Denby Murduck, who was elected as assistant Ringing Master, resigned part way through the year due to work commitments. Our thanks to Alex Tittley for taking over.

Sadly, we have to report the death of Walter Mawby of Olney who was active for many years in the eastern part of the branch. We also marked the passing of Charlie Gough in the summer who, although a member under Padbury, for much of his ringing career helped out at Buckingham and the surrounding towers. Membership has again shown a slight increase during the year and two towers now have members who have not had any for a number of years.

Finally, we are to appear in the Buckinghamshire COIN along with the other branches covering the county. This is the Council OnLine Information Service which is available at various libraries throughout the county, including Bletchley, Buckingham, Milton Keynes and Olney within our branch. This will help to raise our profile within the area and may help with future recruiting.

3 Ringing Master

I only intend to briefly cover highlights of the past year as more detailed accounts can be found in my previous reports.

Congratulations to Bradwell in last year's Tidy Towers Competition; to the Under 18 band in the competition at Headington in the summer; to our bands who regained the trophy from the Towcester branch.

We held one training day for three members wishing to progress in Bob Minor. Only one other request for training was received during the year. I'm sure there are more of you who would like to progress in the basic methods, so an alternative approach is planned for this year.

Practices throughout the year have been well attended and have all been run by the Ringing Master or his assistant. Special thanks to Alex Titley who, having been elected in September as my assistant to replace Denby Murduck, and not expecting too arduous a time, had to run the practice in October - rather a baptism of fire!

4 Treasurer

The accounts for the calendar year to 31/12/1996 have been produced and audited by Jeanette Ross. A copy of the 1996 accounts has been distributed. There is also a limited number of 1995 account sheets available for comparison purposes.

The accounts show a net gain over the year of £28.98 otherwise details are as shown.

A statement from the Ringing World has been reconciled with the Branch record showing £22.80 credit as of 31/12/1996

Grateful thanks to Jeanette for auditing the accounts. There were no queries on the 1996 accounts. David Joyce proposed and Hugh Butler seconded that an Honorarium of £10 be given to Jeanette Ross in thanks for auditing the accounts. This was approved by the meeting.

1997 Accounts : **Building Society Account** stands at £995.16 (Compared to £869.18 last year). **General Account** for the period 1/1/97 to 28/02/97 shows a credit of £336.96. (Compared to £319.26 last year). **Subscriptions** received to date total £368.50 - 61 Adults, 7 juniors, Total 68 paying members from 13 towers. **Ringing World Account** as of 28/02/97 the Branch records stand at £47.68 subject to correct counting of lines printed. Periodic checks with the Ringing World statements are done to ensure the figures match. A cheque to the value of £40.00 recently sent to the Ringing World to increase the account credit. A cost to the Branch but any additional donations to help cover the production costs will always be a welcome.

Income for the **Guild Bell Fund** is currently raised through raffles held at the AGM and Quarterly meetings. Brian Newman has volunteered to run the 100 club. Once this is running the raffle will be dropped.

David Joyce asked if sponsorship for Easthampstead was available as in previous years. Anyone wishing to apply for sponsorship was asked to approach the branch officers.

Brian Newman proposed and Helen Stanworth seconded the adoption of the accounts, this was carried.

5 Archivist

Doug Hird reported that this year he had been looking at bells, particularly the more obscure rings. He had not yet measured Bradwell, so it may be possible for people to see the sort of information gathered after the meeting.

Election of Officers

<u>Post</u>	<u>Nomination</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>	<u>Result</u>
Chairman	Doug Hird	Brian Newman	Sheila Ware	elected
Secretary	Helen Stanworth	Brian Newman	Hugh Butler	elected
Minute Secretary	Nigel Titley	Brian Newman	Doug Hird	elected
Treasurer	David Bardwell	David Joyce	Ian Green	elected
Ringing Master	Richard Stanworth	Brian Newman	Holly Robinson	elected
Assistant Master	Alex Titley	David Joyce	Helen Stanworth	elected
Guild Representatives	Alan Marchbank	Sheila Blenkhorn	Holly Robinson	elected
	Doug O'Neale	Alan Marchbank	Doug Hird	elected

There was some discussion about whether this election should be for 18 months, due to the proximity of our AGM to the Spring General Committee meeting. It was pointed out that the election of Guild representatives must take place at the AGM according to the Guild Rules.

Branch Archivist Doug Hird	Malcolm Hooton	Hugh Butler	elected
Newsletter Editor Rosa Bardwell	David Joyce	Brian Newman	elected

Forthcoming Events

A proposed calendar of events for 1997/98 was circulated for comment. The program had been produced as the officers elected in 1996 had found it difficult to generate and issue request letters for a program in the limited time scale available. Dates for proposed ringing schools were shown in June and September - the first applications received for the set dates would determine the methods etc. It was pointed out that the June date coincided with the probable date of the under 18 striking competition. The officers will confirm this and change the ringing school date if necessary.

David Joyce asked whether special methods would be included - these had started as 'missing links' on the normal progression from Plain Bob (Double Court etc). Any suggestions for special methods should be made to Richard Stanworth.

It was noted that the call change competition was not included in September. The officers felt that this competition was poorly attended and was not necessarily achieving its aim. It was hoped to encourage more entries in the main competition by awarding the trophy to the most improved band. David Joyce supported the officers in their decision - there had been only one response to his appeal in In Touch. The under 18 competition was still available for younger ringers. Sheila Watts as a donor of the trophy endorsed this, confirming that the trophy was meant for beginners. It was proposed by Alan Marchbank, seconded by Doug Hird and carried that the officers should go away and come back to a future meeting with a proposal on how the trophy should be used.

M Nimmo asked if **learners practices** could be included in the program, he had a number of older learners who were not keen on attending normal branch practices. It was felt that if branch members could attend Old Wolverton practices it might encourage learners to go elsewhere. To create a learners practice the special method at one branch practice should be rounds and call changes.

The Ringing World Roadshow will be taking place at Knowle in the West Midlands on April 12th.

Any Other Business

1. Doug Hird has prepared a show on the information gathered on the Millennium project, anyone interested can stay after the meeting.
2. David Bardwell said that members elected at some meetings had never paid a subscription, but were still shown in the ODG records. To prevent future occurrences, the following proposal was made by David Bardwell, seconded by Helen Stanworth and agreed by the meeting :

Subscriptions for new members are due with the nomination form and shall be paid at the meeting at which the new member has been elected.

Membership details will not be forwarded to the Guild until the treasurer has confirmed that the appropriate subscription has been paid.

Subscriptions paid in December for members elected at the December meeting will be with effect from 1st January of the following year.

The nomination form to be amended to reflect this procedure and provide a means for the Treasurer to confirm to the Secretary that the subscriptions have been received.

3. Alan Marchbank proposed a vote of thanks for the outgoing officers.
4. Alan Marchbank had completed the majority of tower inspections he was asked to undertake as a member of the Towers and Belfries Committee. He will inspect any tower and give maintenance advice, but requires a written invitation from a Church Officer.
5. Gareth Grayson said that Shirley Waterhouse was no longer the tower contact at Calverton as she had moved. Gareth had taken on that role. It was pointed out that all changes to tower correspondents should be formally notified to David Bardwell and Helen Stanworth.
6. Richard Stanworth said that the Guild Striking Competitions were to be held on May 5th and July 12th. He will be approaching people to take part, so check your availability.
7. A Youth Training day was being held on April 5th. Pat Newton was looking for volunteer helpers.
8. Barry Cowper, Guild Secretary, thanked the Branch for our welcome and asked us to try and support Guild events as they were held for our benefit.
9. Stirling McGuire said that he would be staying to watch Doug's display and would answer any queries about the Millennium project.

Vote of Thanks

Brian Newman thanked Peter Worthen for taking the service, Don Skinner the organist and the Bradwell ringers for the tea.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS - NORTH BUCKS BRANCH
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 1996

File : 96ACOUNT.XLS/1996 Audit Accounts

INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
January	Balance Brought Forward Building Society Account		£629.22		
April	Building Society Interest	£5.23			
June	Building Society Interest	£3.86			
December	Building Society Interest	£6.18			
			£15.27		
	1995 Guild Subscriptions 4 senior x £5.00	£20.00		1995 Guild Subscriptions 4 x £3.20	£12.80
	1996 Guild Subscriptions 154 senior x £5.00	£770.00			
	1996 Guild Subscriptions 29 junior x £3.50	£101.50		1996 Guild Subscriptions 183 x £3.20	£585.60
			£891.50		£598.40
	Quarterly raffles for Guild Bell Fund		£94.50	Guild Bell Fund (Quarterly raffles)	£94.50
	Branch practice donations		£108.38	Tower donation from Branch Practice	£55.00
	In Touch donations		£126.00	Feb/Apr/Aug/Nov Apr/Sept	In Touch printing expenses In Touch Editor expenses
					£150.75 £72.35
					£223.10
				May	Ringling Masters' expenses
				Feb	Secretary's expenses
				May/Sept	Minute Secretary's expenses
				Various	Treasurer's expenses
				Feb	Other Officers Expenses-Honorarium for Auditor
				July	Ringling School Expenses
				July	Ringling World advertising account
				May	Striking Competition expenses - General
				August	Striking Comp. exp. - Engrave Towcester Trophy
					£2.56 £24.00
					£26.56
				June	Tower Gift - Bradwell Certificate Frame
				October	Meeting expenses - Hire of Newton Longville Hall
					£11.00 £31.00
	Miscellaneous donations - Display Board		£10.00		
				December	Balance Carried Forward Building Society Account
					£658.20
			£1,874.87		£1,874.87

GUILD REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

From the General Committee meeting held at Uffington on 8 March 1997

1 Guild Publications

The Library Catalogue has been updated following the re-cataloguing of the majority of the stock. The Guild Service Booklet is taking shape and should be ready in a draft form soon. Any ideas for inclusion should be sent to Bobbie May or Ken Davenport.

2 Millennium Project

The Millennium Project will be officially launched on Easter Sunday and will be promoted by an article in The Door at about the same time. All towers are requested to do "something special on Easter Sunday to raise the awareness of Bells, Bellringing and the Guild Project.

3 Bookstall

The Education sub-committee has been made a grant of £1,000 to start a new Guild bookstall. The grant will be used to buy fast-moving stock. The stock will be obtained from the best available sources. The Education Sub-Committee also offered to sell on a "sale or return" basis Bill Butlers remaining stock of books along side the Guild Bookstall.

4 Guild Rules

The main requirement is to separate membership categories from subscription categories. A good chunk of these proposed changes were agreed in principle, so long as the membership/subscription aspects are sorted out.

Doug O'Neale & Alan Marchbank

Have You Seen Them ?

The Guild Annual Report for 1996 and the Guild Newsletter "Odd Bob", issue 49, have been sent out to all towers in the branch with members. If you haven't seen either of these yet, please ask your tower correspondent about them.

There are still a few copies of the 1996 Guild Report left which can be purchased from the Branch Secretary at £2.50 + 50 p postage.

Get Selling

Don't forget to sell your tickets for the Bell Fund Draw. All monies and counterfoils should be returned to the Branch Secretary by Friday 20th June or direct to the promoter by 29th June. Please make all cheques payable to "Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers". Any spare tickets should be returned to me as soon as possible.
Helen Stanworth

Ringling Vacancies

Thinking back to last year, I organised what I thought was a splendid outing to Lincolnshire. Organising the outing was fun, but going on the outing was better excluding the big problem of having a lack of ringers. Maybe it is difficult deciding on whether or not to go on an outing or maybe you are already booked. If I give you a date, then maybe you could help me with some feedback and I can then make adjustments to get more than 7 ringers this time.

I will try Saturday 26th July. Please contact
Gareth Grayson on 01908 210073

HELP NEEDED AT BLETCHLEY

We currently have a small band of regular ringers, now mainly made up of younger less experienced ringers as we have lost some experienced people for various reasons and now need to build up the band. We do need help on practice nights to help these learners get on. If you can help then why not come along to a practice night -Mondays 7:30 - 9:00 pm or ring Paul Faithfull on 01908 379025.

Branch Striking Competition

We are looking for lots of entries for the competition at Great Linford. Because of wedding commitments, the timings of the service and the competition are slightly different this year (see separate notice). This should make it possible for your tower to enter a team, even if you have weddings to ring for earlier in the afternoon.

As agreed at the AGM, we have discontinued the call change competition for this year, and one proposal is for the trophy from this competition to be awarded to one of the teams entered in the branch six-bell competition. The exact criteria for the award of the trophy have not been finalised yet, but may be based on the most improved team, the best team ringing call changes, or similar criteria. So, come on and enter, listen to other teams, hear some constructive comments on your ringing, and, who knows, you may go home with a trophy even if you don't win the main event !

Branch Practices

At the monthly branch practices we try to visit, over time, all the ringable towers in the branch and to cater for all ringers in the branch. These practices are for **ALL** ringers in the branch to get around, try different rings of bells, ring with other ringers, try new methods, improve ringing of methods already known. The special methods, when chosen for a practice, are to provide a focus for those ringers who wish to try something new or consolidate a method. These special methods are not rung to the exclusion of the standard things normally rung at branch practices. We will always ring rounds, call changes, plain hunt, Grandsire, Plain Bob if required by anyone attending a practice, as well as anything else requested (within reason !). Come along and join us.

Other Striking Competitions

By the time you read this we will probably have taken part in the Guild eight bell competition, but there are other competitions coming up for which ringers are wanted.

On Saturday 12th July the Guild 10-bell competition takes place at Amersham when the test piece will be Little Bob Royal.

On Saturday 26th July we will be contesting the Inter Guild trophy and George Holland Shield at Wicken in our annual competitions against the Towcester Branch

Anyone wishing to take part should contact Richard Stanworth. I am particularly looking for ringers to take part at Wicken as there are several bands required for this multi-section event.

news from calverton

With the belfry clear of pigeons and their mess and the nasty wiring all cleaned away, we hope to start some recruiting to help us with Sunday ringing and the Millennium ring. The bells are now rung regularly every Sunday alternating with quarters being produced frequently when arranged.

Wanted Under 18's

It would be nice to enter two bands in this years competition. So for all of those U18's who can ring call changes and more please contact either:

Alex Titely 01908 646632
Gareth Grason 01908 210073

All Saints Doubles

This is the method for the June practice at All Saints, Hillesden - known as the Cathedral in the Fields. 123456
213456

It is a method in which there is no dodging - it is all hunting and making places. 231546
325146
352416

The "rules" of the method 534216
543126

All Saints can be rung by a set of rules based on where you pass the treble - which plain hunts. 451326
415236
145236

Treble takes you from lead make seconds - same as Grandsire Single 145326
415326

Pass treble in 2-3 make long thirds - same as Grandsire Single 451236
542136

Pass treble 3-4 5ths - 4ths - 5ths (crankshaft) 524316
253416

Pass treble 4-5 5ths - 4ths - 5ths (crankshaft) 235146
321546

The Blue Line 312456
132456

The 2nd starts by leading. You then hunt up to the back, pass the treble in 4-5 and do a 'crankshaft' of 5ths, 4ths, 5ths. Hunt down to the lead and pass the treble in 2-3. This means that you make long thirds. Pass the treble in 3-2 going back to lead full. Hunting out to the back, this time you pass the treble in 3-4 so do another 'crankshaft's 5ths, 4ths, 5ths. From here go down to lead full. The treble turns you from the lead and the plain course comes round when you make seconds. 132546
312546
321456
234156
243516
425316
452136

Bobs 541236
514326

Bobs in All Saints are the same as plain leads in Reverse Canterbury. The calls are made when the treble is in thirds place going down to lead. The effect of a bob is as follows; 154326
154236

Place when Bob called Work you were going to
 do 514236
 Work at Bob 541326
 453126

 435216
 342516

Lead 2nds 2nds unaffected 324156
 231456

2nd Long 3rds 3-4 places up 213546
 123546

3rd You are the treble 123456

4th Begin crankshaft Make long 5ths

5th End crankshaft 3-4 places down

Great Linford Waterside Festival

We look forward to another excellent weekend when the man or grounds, courtyard and waterside around Great Linford Church will be full of people enjoying shows, stall, exhibitions, music and "things-to-have-a-go-at".

The 1997 Festival is to be held on 13th, 14th, and 15 June with a school produced opera in the Barn on the Friday night. A concert in Church by The Guild Singers on the Saturday night and the Sunday evening concert will be held on the stage in front of the Manor. **PLUS** all the events during the day.

Amongst the entertainment will be **RINGING**. We intend to set up the simulator so that ringers can test their skills and also so that we can demonstrate the art of ringing (without disturbing folk outside) to those who call in (whether they are interested or not!!)

THE BELLS OF ST MARY'S - BLETCHLEY BY ROGER EVERSON

There have been bells rung at St Mary's since around the time the tower was built in 1420 and their proclamation of Christianity and call to worship is as valid today as it has been over the centuries.



"Praise him with cymbals
Praise him with loud cymbals
Praise the Lord all living creatures!
Praise the Lord"

(Psalm 150)



The bells, and the people who ring them, have had a part to play in the spiritual life of the church over many years. They have pealed for many hundreds of couples taking their wedding vows, on more sorrowful occasions at the death of a loved one and to mark a special event or happening in the life of the church or the nation. There have also been times when they have been quiet, as during the second world war, when they waited in silence only to be rung in the event of invasion but ultimately to mark the peace.

Today we have a splendid ring of eight bells today, that strike an octave in the key of F, and have a fascinating history.

1420	The bell tower was built to house 4 bells							
1629	There were five bells cast from the 4 original with 18 cwt of metal from Arlesley weighing 43 cwt in total							
1712	The five bells recast to six and two new bells added, 69 cwt in total							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1717	recast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1718	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	recast
1760	-	-	-	fell!	-	-	-	-
1827	-	-	-	-	-	-	recast	-
1867	-	-	-	-	-	recast	-	-
1893	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	recast
1924	-	-	-	-	recast	-	-	-

Bells set in a new iron and steel frame still in use today.

Each of the bells has an inscription in Latin or English, bellfounder mark and date; the one I particularly like is the 3rd that translated from the Latin reads: "In the dawn of God's own day Awake my morning bell obey."

There have been several families in the church with a notable ringing history, and some will have noticed the small stained glass window in the church porch left as a memorial from one such family.

We will use our display and the Branch display boards and material to explain a little of bells and Bellingring history and in particular the history of Great Linford bells.

On the Saturday morning there will be a handbell quarter peal attempt in church Friday night.

HOW COULD YOU RISK MISSING AN EVENT LIKE THIS???

We look forward to seeing you there Time Marchbank.



PEALS & QUARTERS

PEALS

Downs Barn, Cross & Stable

Sunday 26 January 1997

5040 Grandsire Triples

Comp J J Parker's 12-part

- 1 Nicola King
- 2 Peter Tribble
- 3 David Maybrey
- 4 Barry Smith
- 5 Bob Winstanley
- 6 Simon Head
- 7 Doug Hird
- 8 John Hill

First Peal of Triples 2,4,6

First Peal 8. First Grandsire Triples as conductor. To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the dedication of The Cross & Stable.

QUARTERS

Old Wolverton, Holy Trinity

31 January 1997

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 J Woolner
- 2 S M Beck
- 3 N Gray
- 4 I Thompson
- 5 M Nimmo (C)
- 6 J Mercer

To celebrate Licensing of
Rev Jeremy Trigg

Newport Pagnell, SS Peter & Paul

1 February 1997

1280 Cambridge Surprise Major

- 1 Christina Jones
- 2 P D Taylor
- 3 D Phillipson
- 4 G L Foat
- 5 P Tribble (first Surprise Major)
- 6 D Hird
- 7 M Gilbert
- 8 A Marchbank (C)

Rung to mark the Golden Wedding anniversary of Arthur and Winnie Fowler. At the Church Harvest supper an auction of talents raised £640 for local charities. The quarter peal was arranged 'on the day' and sponsored by the daughter of the couple. And what an array of talents were included!

Hanslope, St James the Great

9 February 1997

1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Natalie Green
 - 2 Carole Harmer
 - 3 Catherine Priestly
 - 4 Alan Cozens
 - 5 Ian Thompson
 - 6 Nicholas Gray
 - 7 Jonathan Griggs (C)
 - 8 Roy Keeves
- Rung for Sunday Service
First on Eight & First Inside for 3

Calverton, All Saints

9 February 1997

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Alex Titely
- 2 Bob Winstanley
- 3 Nigel Titely
- 4 Doug Hird
- 5 Gareth Grayson (C)
- 6 Peter Tribble

To wish Shirley Waterhouse and family all the best in their new home.
First as conductor

Old Wolverton, Holy Trinity

7 March 1997

600 Grandsire Doubles & 600 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 J Woolner
- 2 M Nimmo
- 3 I Thompson
- 4 N Gray
- 5 R Keeves (C)
- 6 J Mercer

Rung to Celebrate Licensing of Rev
Jeremy Trigg

Newport Pagnell, SS Peter & Paul

23 March 1997

1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Gareth Grayson
- 2 Nicki King
- 3 Christina Jones
- 4 Nick Gray
- 5 Roy Keeves
- 6 Douglas Hird
- 7 Godfrey Foat (C)
- 8 Peter Tribble

Rung for evensong on Palm Sunday

Hanslope, St James the Great

6 April 1997

1296 Cambridge Minor

- 1 Catherine Priestly
 - 2 Carole Harmer
 - 3 Roy Keeves
 - 4 Stephen Crane
 - 5 Ian Thompson
 - 6 Jonathan Griggs (C)
- Rung for Sunday Service
Thanksgiving for the life of Margaret
Stott. First of Treble Bob 1

HANDBELL QUARTERS

16 Wandsworth Place, Bradwell
Common

3 February 1997

1440 Kent Treble Bob Minor

- 1-2 A Marchbank
- 3-4 R Snack
- 5-6 G Foat (C)

16 Wandsworth Place, Bradwell
Common

3 March 1997

1260 Oxford Treble Bob Minor &

Plain Bob Minor

- 1-2 A Marchbank
- 3-4 R Snack
- 5-6 G Foat (C)

16 Wandsworth Place, Bradwell
Common

10 March 1997

1440 Oxford Treble Bob Minor

- 1-2 A Marchbank
- 3-4 R Snack
- 5-6 G Foat (C)

The handbell band is progressing slowly, the quality of the hospitality does lead to as much talking as ringing. We are following a stepping stones approach and have just moved on to Woodbine Delight Minor. We started as a eight bell band, had a brief bash at ten but are now back to six - we miss ringing on the higher numbers, can anyone help us?

Other Events Within and Without the Branch

This section is intended to bring you information about some other ringing events, that are not organised by our own Branch or Guild. This information is not kept as complete or up-to-date as our own Branch diary, so please keep an eye on Odd Bob and The Ringing World. If you wish to check before attending, or want to know further details, please contact the following people :-

Olney - A Monday evening 8 bell practice is run by Roy Keeves (01908-510105) from 7:30 to 9:00 each month. There is a core of regular attendees, but new faces are always made welcome. Methods rung range from Rounds to Surprise Major, with a special method sometimes being chosen in advance.

Central Bucks Branch - Mark Sellin (01296-392175).
Towcester Branch - Bill Yates (01280-814937).

Bicester Branch - Simon Cole (01869-247525).
Northampton Branch - Mrs Dorothy Stopps (01604-890638).

Wellingborough Branch - John Holmes (01933-405169).

Bedford District - Eddie Lambert (01234-363513).

Luton District - David Adams (01582-868534).

Date	Time	Event details	Location
Sat 26th April	3:30	Luton District Quarterly Meeting	Tilsworth
Sat 26th April	eve	Luton District Quarterly Meeting	Totternhoe
Tue 6th May	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Islip
Sat 10th May	6:30	Central Bucks Branch Practice (to 8:30)	Marsh Gibbon (5)
Wed 4th June	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Middleton Stoney
Fri 13th June		Bicester Branch Striking Competition	Middleton Stoney
Sat 14th June	5:30	Central Bucks Branch Striking Contest	Steeple Claydon (6)
Thu 3rd July	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Woodeaton
Fri 1st August	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Ludgershall
Mon 1st September	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Bicester
Tue 7th October	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Islip
Wed 5th November	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Middleton Stoney
Thu 4th December	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Kirtlington

Godfrey Foat has compiled a list of Open Days and Guild AGM's which may be of interest to anyone who is planning an event that ought not to clash.

Remember that a comprehensive list of meetings is published regularly in the Guild "Odd Bob" and some are advertised in the Ringing World as well. The information about our neighbours can only be published here in "In Touch" if someone lets us know - **if you have any details (or corrections), please contact the editor.**

If you visit our neighbours' events, please let them know about our branch and encourage them to visit us.

Don't forget all of the local tower practices in our branch each week. If you visit any of these events, why not take along another member of your local band ? However, it would be courteous to check with the organiser before taking an entire band along !

ODG North Bucks Branch Diary

Date	Time	Event details	Location
Mon 5th May	3:00	<i>Guild 8 bell Striking Competition</i> <i>Test Piece = Grandsire Triples</i>	Wanborough
Mon 5th May		<i>Guild Ringing Day</i>	South Oxon Branch
Fri 16th May	7:30	Branch Practice Special method = Rev Canterbury Doubles	Leckhampstead
Sat 17th May		<i>Guild Annual General Meeting</i>	Sonning Deanery Branch
Sat 24th May	6:30	Joint Practice Meeting with Luton Branch	Olney
Sat 7th June	3:30	6 bell Striking Competition & Quarterly Meeting	Great Linford
Fri 20th June	7:30	Branch Practice Special method = All Saints Doubles	Hillesden
Sat 5th July	2:00	<i>Ringing School</i>	
Sat 12th July		<i>Guild Ringing Festival</i>	Aylesbury
Sat 12th July	3:00	<i>Guild 10 bell Striking Contest</i> <i>Test Piece = Little Bob Royal</i>	Amersham
Sat 12 July		Guild Festival	Amersham
Fri 18th July	7:30	Branch Practice Special method = Single Oxford Bob Minor	Weston Underwood
Sat 26th July	5:30	Striking Contest with Towcester District	Wicken
Sat 2nd August		Picnic Meeting with Bedford Branch	
		* Ringing	Chicheley
Fri 15th August	7:30	Branch Practice Special method = Norwich S Minor	Stowe
Sat 6th September	3:30	Quarterly Meeting	Great Brickhill
Fri 12th September (to Sun 14th)		<i>Guild Ringing School</i>	Easthampstead
Fri 19 September	7:30	Branch Practice No Special Method - All Welcome	Woughton
Sat 4th October		<i>Guild 6-Bell Striking Contest</i>	Banbury Branch
Fri 17th October	7:30	Branch Practice Special method = Cambridge S Minor	Clifton Reynes
Sat 8th November	2:00	<i>Ringing School</i>	TBA
Fri 21st November	7:30	Branch Practice Special method = Grandsire Doubles	Tingewick

Any event marked with * was awaiting confirmation when this list was prepared, if a more recent list is unavailable then please check with the Secretary for the current situation before attending.

Rounds, Call Changes, Plain Hunt, Plain Bob & Grandsire will always be available at Branch Practices. The special methods are intended to be a focus for the more advanced method ringing.

The Branch Mini Ringing Schools are specially tailored for a very small number of pupils to get intensive, high quality, training in one basic method. Please write to the Ringing Master if you wish to be considered as a pupil for a future school or are interested in different types of school.

Ringling School

A half day school is planned for **Saturday 5th July** for a small number of students who wish to progress in one of the following :- plain hunt (on 5 or 6), Grandsire Doubles, Plain Bob Doubles, Plain Bob Minor. In the time available we will only cover one of these topics. The topic to be covered will depend on the applications received.

If you would like to attend then please complete the application form in this newsletter and return it to Richard Stanworth by Saturday 7th June. Places are limited and will be allocated strictly in order of receipt of application forms.

If your first choice is not the chosen topic, please indicate on the form whether you wish to attend any of the other topics.

Ringling School - Saturday 5th July 1997 2-6 p.m.

Application Form

Name : _____

Address: _____

Telephone No: : _____

Choice of Topic	First Choice	Alternative Choice
Plain Hunt	☐	☐
Grandsire Doubles	☐	☐
Plain Bob Doubles	☐	☐
Plain Bob Minor	☐	☐

Return to : Richard Stanworth, 11 Valley Road, Linden Village, Buckingham MK18 7BW, by Saturday 7th June 1997