



OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH BUCKS BRANCH

In Touch

May 2001

Striking Competition & Quarterly Meeting at Great Linford Saturday June 2nd 2001

4.00 pm	Draw and Competition Ringing
5.00 pm	Service
5.30 pm	Tea
6.15 pm	Result and Business Meeting followed by evening ringing until 8.30 pm.

Names for tea to **Alan & Tine Marchbank** (01908 611434) by **Tuesday 29th May 2001**.

Entries for the Striking Competition to Richard Stanworth
(01280 814172 or Richard.Stanworth@tesco.net) by **Friday 1st June 2001**.

(See inside for striking competition rules)

Wavendon wins the Beginner's Striking Competition

The competition was held at Emberton on Friday 27th April, although it has to be said that the event was not particularly well attended, with a mere two teams entering! Our judge was David Phillipson and the competing bands were from Newport Pagnell and Wavendon (although this team was made up of members of other towers). The Newport band had entered their team in advance and Wavendon's band assembled on the night to provide competition! Some rather nice ringing was enjoyed by all present before and afterwards, and both teams gave of their best. The winners were the Wavendon band (Leigh Head, Martin Smith (our bonafide beginner, as approved by the Judge!) Helen Stanworth, John Stanworth, Catherine Stanworth and Sheila Watts, pictured below, collecting the Chairman's Tankard and their certificates).



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From The Chair



Firstly, I would like to welcome Leigh Head and Catherine Stacy as Branch Officers and to thank Sheila Watts for her work on *In Touch* and Gareth Grayson for being Assistant Ringing Master.

We now have enough members to qualify for three Guild Reps. When was the last time we thought about what the branch is doing for all these ringers? We don't see most of you at meetings or practices. Is there something we should be doing or do we already try to do too much? What can the branch organise better than individuals? Lots of questions, so Catherine is going to put them all together in a questionnaire. We want to find out what is good and what is not good, what should we change and how we can most appropriately support ringing in North Bucks in the 2000s.

Meanwhile, I remember that one of our Guild Reps volunteered to organise, or possibly commission, a branch outing to Manchester. Any takers?

Doug Hird



Editor's Ramblings

The first thing that I would like to do is to say a big thank-you to Sheila Watts for doing such a brilliant job as our previous editor, and I really hope I can live up to her example. Thanks Sheila, for all the help and support that you've given me and all the little tips you passed on to me—they'll certainly come in useful.

Secondly, I should really say a few words about myself by way of introduction. I am currently the Tower Captain at Wavendon and have been a member of the ODG for several years. I learnt to ring in Derbyshire and Cheshire, at Dinting Vale, and Mottram-in-Longendale, and spent a lot of time regularly attending practices at other towers such as Marple, New Mills and Stockport, where I made many good friends who helped me out a lot. I even bumped into Jeff Brannan a few times!

At the moment, I'm bashing my way through a few different things, like Kent and touches of Grandsire. I hope to be able to travel round the branch a bit over the next few months so that I can visit some of the places that I haven't as yet been to and of course to meet some more members of the branch.

I hope that *In Touch* will continue to be as good a publication as it was when Sheila was in charge and that you will all continue to contribute to it. After all, it's your articles that make the newsletter, and it's your forum, so keep them coming!

Leigh Head

Woughton's Grand Day Out

The day started bright and early on Saturday 21st April as a group of us gathered outside St Mary's at Woughton. As the clock ticked around towards 9:30 we waited in anticipation for our transport to arrive. Only the week before it had been in quarantine on a farm isolated by foot-and-mouth. But just before the appointed hour, it arrived, a vintage double-decker bus (Birmingham City Transport from the 50's in original colours). We boarded quickly and some of us rushed to sit at the front of the upper deck, bringing back memories of childhood school runs.



And it was off to the first tower, St. Barnabas at Linslade. After a brief interlude in the car park where Gareth demonstrated just how baggy his jumper really is we were in and 25ish people were packed into the ringing room.

Brian Baldwin led us in some nice Cambridge and plenty of rounds and call changes to get us all warmed up. Generally agreed to be the best ring (and ringing) of the day. A great start!

Then onwards to Wing. Infamous for both it's heavy tenor and anti-clockwise ring, Wing was an interesting tower. Leigh achieved one of her ambitions of ringing the tenor (her heaviest to date) and both Doug and Gareth turned in the tenor with excellent results. Despite the rumours, these bells were not as hard going as some of us expected. Although the anti-clockwise ring did catch a few people out during the call changes!!

In comparison to the ringing room at Linslade, Stewkley was palatial. Peter was running this tower and there were several firsts for people. Paul & Sarah Wheeler hunted on 8 and I attempted Stedman Triples which, with a few whispers from Mr. Baldwin, actually came round – thanks Brian! This was one of the more swinging towers and movement could be felt quite noticeably when the bells were moving.

We moved onto lunch in Drayton Parslow where we were joined by a couple of 'other halves' in the Three Horseshoes. Lunch was excellent as was the beer and it was an opportunity to plan some ambitions for the afternoon. Although with hindsight, less alcohol and more pouring over diagrams might have been useful!

Bob Winstanley was in charge at our next tower, Mursley so, as Peter put it "we avoided getting involved in any dreaded Stedman". A lovely church with a "really cute little ring" (thanks for that quote Gareth). Cold inside, but lovely sat on the wall outside in the sunshine listening to the others working off their lunch.

Next was Winslow, another tower run by Peter, and another small, crowded ringing room. Gareth again gets the quote of the tower with "A very fine tower, a very fine church, a very fine organ, bloody awful bells. What sort of stupid people put a clock that big into the only place to ring from?" As one (shorter)

member of the group put it "Brill if you're short and all very friendly". The bells were extremely loud in the ringing room which made communication from the conductor to the troops very difficult. Stedman, Cambridge and Grandsire were attempted, but not to any great effect – sorry Winslow!

By the time we arrived at Little Horwood, we were all fairly tired and so not many people tried to stretch themselves too far. That left it to the dedicated Stedman-ers which Bob duly avoided! One obscure method put in an appearance when the band rang a burst of Obadiah. The raised ringing room was big enough only for those actually ringing but the large glass wall allowed onlookers to admire the goldfish within.

All in all, a great day out was had by everyone, we had no lockouts and everyone rang to their limit, some even a little beyond. The bus was excellent fun and helped set the mood for the day and with the April showers holding off for once, the countryside was a pleasant picture. Everyone I spoke to thoroughly approved and were looking forward to the next Woughton outing.

Many thanks to Malcolm for the use of the bus and for taxiing us around in it and also to Peter, Christina, Zoe and Malcolm for driving the route the week before with a large stick (ask them).

Most of all, thanks must go to Peter for organizing all the towers and pre-ordering lunch. This was the first outing he had organized and it was a major success. Well done, and when's the next one?

In all, 9 Towers from Milton Keynes and surrounding areas were represented: Woughton, Simpson, Wavendon, Loughton, Downs Barn, Newport Pagnell, St. Andrews Bedford, Milton Keynes Village and Bradwell.

Thanks also to Peter Tribble and Gareth Grayson for remembering more about the day than I did!

Martin Smith



The ensemble, pictured outside the beautiful church at Stewkley

George Amor

George Amor's Funeral service was held at All Saint's Loughton on Friday 20th April. Ringing after the service was carried out by members of the St Paul's Bedford band, and by other ringers from Bedfordshire, Lincolnshire and Buckinghamshire.

George Amor (Anne Stainsby's father) both started and finished his ringing career in our branch. He learned to ring at Simpson, and his first peal, in 1929, was Grandsire Doubles at Loughton, being the first of Grandsire by a local band and on the bells. He had a distinguished career in the Police force, and was a senior officer in the Police Guild, for whom he rang a peal at Loughborough. He rang for many years at St Paul's Bedford, where the old 6th (now the 8th) is still referred to as "George's bell". Finally he rang at Loughton for a year before being prevented by ill health. A quarter peal was rung in his memory by Loughton and Shenley ringers.

Bob Winstanley

Foot & Mouth Bell

As was announced at the AGM, The Archbishop of Canterbury has asked that there should be a single tolling bell on each Sunday at mid-day for 5 minutes during the duration of the Foot & Mouth outbreak. I have just finished reading a book about the use of bells in France in the 19th century by both the Church and State as tools of propaganda. This seems a little reminiscent of this.



As far as I know, few towers have taken up this suggestion. I have made a point, however, of ringing it at Downs Barn. The congregation are just getting ready to leave at this time and it is quite a talking point. Considering that Downs Barn is one of the least countrified parts of North Buckinghamshire, the response has been very positive.

Doug Hird

Maintenance at Newport

This time, I have my Steeple Keeper's hat on. It is an old bobble hat with dust and oil in it.

Newport bells are in need of the attention of a bell-hanger. Quotes are currently being sought from Whitechapel, Taylors, Whites and Eayre & Smith for:

- 🔧 New bearings
- 🔧 Repair of the Tenor wheel
- 🔧 New pulleys

The intention is to finish the work this year.

Other work may follow this. Watch *In Touch* and the web site for progress.

Doug Hird

Secretary's Snippets



How many members does the Guild have? How Many peals were rung for the Guild last year? Which branch has a practice next week?

You can find the answers to these and many other questions in the Annual Guild Report for 2000 or the Guild Newsletter "Odd Bob," issue 61 which 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.

Your chance to Win £250

Don't forget to buy a ticket for the Bell Fund Draw which will be drawn at the Guild Festival in July. No ticket - no chance.

All monies, counterfoils and any unsold tickets should be returned to the Branch Secretary by Friday 15th June or direct to the promoter by 4th July. Please make all cheques payable to "Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers". Any spare tickets should be returned to the Branch Secretary as soon as possible for re-sale.

Bell-handling Video

The Branch has a copy of the video produced by the Central Council entitled 'Bell-handling - a tutor's companion'. This is aimed at those teaching bell-handling but may also be helpful to those learning to ring.

The video may be borrowed from the Secretary free of charge. However a deposit of £5 will be required against safe return of the video.

Tower Contacts

Has there been a change of officers/correspondent at your tower? Please remember to let the Secretary know of any changes.

Helen Stanworth



Ringling Master's musings

Branch Practices

Once a quarter the branch practice focuses on rounds and call changes, especially for our new recruits who may feel intimidated by everyone ringing changes. Please come along and join in as the more experience you can get of ringing on different bells, the quicker you will improve and gain in confidence.

We will always welcome you to branch practices; they are for the benefit of ALL members, whatever level you ring at. Don't forget to bring your instructor to help out. We can only make a success of practices if we also have experienced ringers to help out and provide a strong framework around the less experienced ringers. Please continue to support us by turning out!

Look in the calendar at the back of the newsletter for the dates of the practices, but in particular the next focus on call changes is at **Wavendon on 15th June**.

Branch practices will always be tailored to be beneficial to everyone present, whatever their ability. We can always ring Plain Hunt, Plain Bob and Grandsire for those who request it, so don't be put off if you can't ring the special method. This is intended as an opportunity to pool the talents of the branch and ring methods that perhaps normally aren't possible at individual towers.

Training

There are a number of ways in which we can help you progress in your ringing:

- ❏ **Arranging a Ringing School** - Either plain hunt or plain bob. If you would like to attend then please let the Ringing Master know. Dates will be arranged once we have some attendees. The school normally runs for about three hours on a Saturday afternoon.
- ❏ **Helping at your tower** - If you would like help then please let the Ringing Master know and he will see what can be done. Please remember however that we all have commitments to our own towers and can only help you out when we have the time available, so don't expect an instant response to your request for help. If we come to help then we will expect to run the ringing and attempt to structure the session to give most benefit to those present.
- ❏ **Bell Handling Workshop** - If you would like help with ironing out bell handling problems then the Ringing Master is willing to give advice or arrange a workshop.

Tower Captains - if you have ringers who would benefit from further training which you cannot give them in your own tower, then nominate them for a branch training session when we can give them some intensive tuition and practice.

Joint Practice

The next joint Surprise Major practice with the Luton District of the Bedfordshire Association will be held at **Woburn on Saturday 14th July 2001 from 7.30-9.00 p.m.** Please support this if you can ring surprise major methods. The venue is still subject to confirmation

Ten Bell Practice

The next ten-bell practice will be at **Daventry on Friday 29th June from 7.30-9.00 pm.** Please support this if you can. The tower is still subject to confirmation.

Richard Stanworth

Catherine's corner

Questionnaire

Our Assistant Ringing Master, Catherine Stacy, is putting together a questionnaire. The aim is to find out what you think the Branch Officers should be doing. This will give us feedback from all members, not just the vociferous few that attend meetings. So, when you see it, please fill it in and make your views heard.



ODG North Bucks Branch - Six Bell Striking Competition Rules

- ❏ Entries must be made to the Ringing Master by the closing date notified in *In Touch*.
- ❏ Ringers should ring regularly at the tower, within the branch, that they represent. At least 5 members of the team must be paid-up members of the branch.
- ❏ No ringer may ring for more than one team.
- ❏ A tower may enter more than one team.
- ❏ Up to two minutes practice ringing per team will be allowed before the test piece.
- ❏ The start of the test piece will be notified to the judges by ringing two whole pulls on the treble.
- ❏ The test piece will consist of at least 20 rows of rounds, followed by 120 changes in one or more methods, or 120 rows of call changes. If method is rung then plain courses are acceptable. If call changes are rung, then at least 10 changes must be called and at least three different bells brought down to lead.
- ❏ Where possible, a judge from outside the branch will be appointed for the competition. He or she will be asked to offer constructive comment and advice on the ringing by each band, as well as presenting their markings. The judge's decision is final.
- ❏ A branch officer or other suitable person will act as tower steward and timekeeper. The steward may be asked to indicate the end of the first 20 rows, and the 140th row if call changes are rung.



Peals and Quarter Peals



Stowe

Assumption of the BVM

Monday 16th April 2001

2h 49m

5040 Minor (3m: Cambridge S, St Clements, Plain Bob)

1 David Goodger

2 Andrew Spencer

3 Richard Stanworth

4 Michael Tinsley

5 Jonathan Humbert

6 Richard Yates (C)

To celebrate 65 years ringing by William A Yates

Wicken

St John

Sunday 18th February 2001

1250 Lincolnshire Surprise Major

1 Catherine Stanworth

2 Michael Tinsley

3 John Stanworth

4 Nigel Williams

5 Roger King

6 John Lewis

7 Andrew Spencer (C)

8 Doug Hird

Loughton

All Saints'

Friday 20th April 2001

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1 Becky Fawcett

2 John Brookman

3 Ann Birch

4 Jonathan Waters

5 Ted Fawcett

6 Bob Winstanley (C)

By Loughton and Shenley ringers, in affectionate memory of George Amor, on the day of his funeral service.

Wicken

9th March 2001

1280 Spliced Surprise Major

(Cambridge, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Rutland)

1 Peter Tribble

2 Natalie Green

3 Doug Hird

4 Richard Haseldine

5 Nick Gray

6 Roger King

7 George Green

8 Jonathan Griggs (C)

1st 4-Spliced Surprise : 2,5

St James the Great, Hanslope

Sunday 4th February 2001

1280 Cambridge Surprise Major

1 Richard Haseldine

2 Natalie Green

3 Sheila Watts

4 Alan Cozens

5 Tony Gray

6 Nick Gray

7 Roy Keeves

8 Jonathan Griggs (C)

For Service

1st Quarter of Major - 5

St James the Great, Hanslope

Sunday April 8th 2001

In 48 minutes

1280 Double Norwich Court Bob Major

1 Stephen Crane

2 Natalie Green

3 Alan Cozens

4 Nicholas Gray

5 Ian Thompson

6 Jonathan Griggs

7 Richard Haseldine (C)

8 Roy Keeves

First of DNCBM - 2, 4, 5, 6

Rung for Sunday Service

Also a 50th Birthday Compliment to Ian Thompson (5).



Branch Practice says "Pants to Poverty"

I'd like to thank everyone who braved the chill wind and sleet on March 16th to go the branch practice at Thornborough. And special thanks go to those who gave some money to Comic Relief in exchange for some chocolately nosh. I raised a total of £16.78, so thanks again.

Nicola King



The Weather Vane (Foiled Again!)

A few weeks ago, Eagle Eyed Gareth at Newport Pagnell noticed that, where there was once a gilded weather vane, a stick remained. Perhaps it had blown off?

Same time next week, it was back, but now silver instead of gold. And it had climbed back with the use of a small ladder...

The change of colour was a combination of aluminium foil and sellotape. Efforts to remove the vane again to take off it's new clothes were resisted. It was too heavy.

Doug Hird

Ringling Roadshow 2001



The pretty village church at Keele

On Saturday March 31st, a small group of 4 from Milton Keynes and Newport Pagnell piled into a car and nipped off up the motorway to join in with the fun at the Roadshow, at Keele University in Staffordshire. We started the day by ringing at some lovely towers, including St. Peter ad Vincula at Stoke on Trent and Ashton-under-Lyne. After this we made our way to the show itself and spent a good while exploring. There was a whole host of information on display from the exhibitors, depending on what your requirements or interests were. We even bumped into a few familiar faces from the branch! There were several mini-rings to get to grips with, certainly worth a try just for the experience of it if you've never tried it before, not to mention the beer tent which was useful for afterwards...

After lunch at a rather nice local pub in Keele Village, we made our way to Keele church for a spot of ringing, which we duly got after queuing up in the drizzle for 25 minutes or so which wasn't quite so much fun.

The exhibition was rather crowded and noisy and it was a little difficult to get at the more popular exhibits such as the Doves stand, but all in all, worth a visit.

Leigh Head

www.northbucks.org.uk



Guild 8-bell Striking Competition

The web site has had a number of updates recently...

Peals and Quarters

Information from back issues of *The Ringing World* now goes back to 1970 with a few individual years in the 1960s. Does anyone have any pre-70's copies that I could borrow? There are a few details to be corrected but generally the records are accurate.

Your own performances

There is now a page where you can enter who you are and all your peals and quarters within the branch will be summarised. It also has a summary of where you have been a member. This is largely to satisfy a requirement of the Data Protection Act.

Tower and Founder summaries

The history of individual rings of bells, their dates and founders, is now available. This shows just how out of date *Church Bells of Bucks* is. The Founder summary is from the same data but covers the whole branch and shows who was active in each century. Inscriptions will be added as soon as there are sufficient in the database.

Sound Files

MP3 recordings of some of our rings have been made. These are being amassed as the opportunities arise.

WAP

The WAP pages show forthcoming events and a version of the individual summaries mentioned above.

Archive of Branch Accounts

Accounts in "old money" have been added to the database. More recent accounts will be added soon.

Doug Hird

We usually have a chance to include some mention of the 8-bell competition in this issue of *In Touch*. The date is a bit too late this year so here is a pre-competition piece.

In the absence of a number of key members of the usual band, a different approach is being tried. This year the intention is to give a number of our younger members experience of competition ringing. The band is based on the young band at Newport Pagnell. The objective is to ring as well as we can and to listen to other bands ringing the bells, probably better than us but competitions do funny things to the most experienced ringers so we don't expect to come last.

Doug Hird

Practices at Downs Barn



For the next two months (the remainder of the quarter) we will be running practices every Tuesday and will focus on a different method during every month.

Practice times are the usual 7.30 pm to 9 pm.

May: **Double Norwich / Double Court**

June: **Stedman Triples**

Everyone is welcome, just come along and join us.

Doug & Nicki

The Data Protection Act and the North Bucks Branch

The Data Protection Act ensures that personal data relating to individuals is only used according to certain guidelines and that individuals have the right to see data that relates to them.

As well as the normal record keeping associated with running any ringing association, The North Bucks Branch maintains an archive of historical information as an educational and informative resource.

The Archives have now been in operation for a number of years and have enjoyed the full support of the Branch membership. The delivery of information via the web has received similar encouragement. There have been regular opportunities for members to voice any concerns during quarterly meetings and via the Branch Newsletter, *In Touch*. To date none have been expressed.

Information about you

If you are a North Bucks Branch member, or if you have rung a quarter peal or peal in the branch it is most likely that your name is in the branch web site somewhere. Much of the archive information is taken from reports previously published in *The Ringing World* and other sources. Although this puts the information in the public domain, by holding it in an easily retrievable format, it comes within the scope of the DPA. You may also have been mentioned in the minutes of meetings or you may have taken part in some other activity. Under the DPA you have the right to ask what information is held by the North Bucks that relates to you. If you want to know, just send an e-mail via the web site or contact one of the Branch officers. The act stipulates that personal data should be accurate so if you find an error, let us know. Such corrections also improve the quality of the Archives as an educational resource.

Permissions to hold and process personal data

After some discussion within the Branch it has been decided that, while the Branch will strive to inform anyone whose personal data it holds is kept informed, it is not practically possible to obtain written consent from everyone whose name is mentioned in every document, minute, peal or quarter peal.

Notice is given here that individuals can expect their names to appear in this web archive once that information is published in the public domain.

For any new developments on the DPA, visit our web site: www.northbucks.org.uk



Principles of the Data Protection Act

How the Data Protection principles are applied to The information held by The North Bucks Branch and contained within its web site.

1 Personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully

The Oxford Diocesan Guild and the North Bucks Branch only use personal data for the purposes listed in principle 2 below.

2 Personal data must only be obtained and used for specified and lawful purposes

Firstly, it is required that data users tell individuals what "specified and lawful purposes" their data is to be used for.

In the case of the Oxford Diocesan Guild and the North Bucks Branch these have been identified as:

- ❑ Reporting of performances that individuals take part in. Unless such performances are publicly published they are not officially recognised.
- ❑ Checking that participants in performances are paid up members of the Guild.
- ❑ Publishing contact details of tower correspondents. This is primarily for the use of ringers in arranging visits but is also valuable in case of emergency.

3 Personal data must be adequate, relevant and not excessive

For most ringers, the data consists of:

Name	{	Performance
		Membership year
		Tower

For tower correspondents, this consists of:

Name	Tower	Address / Phone
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No other data is needed for the normal running of the Guild and its branches.

4 Personal data must be accurate and where necessary, kept up to date

For tower correspondents, details are published in the Guild Annual Report. However, a rolling record is also kept by Guild officers and is available on request. Corrections can be made to this at any time at the request of correspondents.

Membership and performance information is also published in the Annual Report and performances are also published in *The Ringing World*. The use of database technology allows corrections to be made to historical membership and performance records. By referring to this record via the web site, ringers can easily identify errors and get changes made according to principle 6 below. This helps to establish a better quality of record than has previously been possible.

5 Personal data must not be kept for longer than necessary

Membership records have traditionally been retained indefinitely. This is to support the Guild rule that states that a member, having completed 50 years continuous membership, is subsequently entitled to free membership. Performance data is also traditionally maintained indefinitely to allow complete records of performances in individual towers to be used for educational purposes. Also, for technical reasons, performances occasionally have to be withdrawn. This can occur years after the event.

6 Personal data must be processed in accordance with the rights of data subjects

Data subjects have the following rights:

- ❑ Inaccurate information is to be corrected or erased
The web site and associated database makes this possible
- ❑ A copy of their information must be provided on request
The web site and associated database makes this possible
- ❑ Data Subjects can opt out of direct marketing
Any information used by The Guild will not be used for such purposes
- ❑ Data Subjects are entitled to compensation for breach of the act.

7 Personal data must be kept secure

For tower correspondents, personal address data is published in the Annual Report and is also available on request from Guild officers. In order to address principle 8, this information is not available via the web site. Instead, a form is being developed to allow ringers to request a tower visit to be organised by Branch officers.

All other information is already in the public domain.

8 Personal data must be properly protected when transferred overseas

For tower correspondents, address data is published in the Annual Report and is also available on request from Guild officers. This information is not available via the web site. Instead, a form is being developed to allow ringers to request a tower visit to be organised for you.

All other information is already in the public domain. For any new developments on the DPA, refer to our web site: www.northbucks.org.uk

Other matters relating to the DPA

In response to comments made at the recent AGM, the Chairman/Archivist has forwarded the article referring to the DPA to Brian Gatward with the following covering note:

Brian. I gather that you are, as well as everything else, involved in DPA issues. At a recent North Bucks Branch meeting I was given the task of writing up our position for our newsletter and to copy you in on our thoughts.

I have taken the attached two pages from our web site and re-worked them a little for non web distribution.

An observation I have just made in this process relates to a heated discussion at a previous quarterly meeting. We attempted to obtain signatures of new members on election to allow the branch to use personal data as outlined in our newsletter and web site. This ran into two problems.

First, if someone doesn't want to sign does that mean we cannot elect them? Clearly not as it isn't in the Guild rules and doesn't make sense. Second, what about minors? Who should sign?

We resolved this by returning to sanity and not asking for signed permissions. My observation lies in the eight principles of the DPA. I can find no actual reference to signed permission being essential. We just have to abide by the principles that are stated and I think we do.

Also, because we acted early, The North Bucks Branch has an entry in the DPA Register. It only cost £35.

Do you have any comments?

Would a short note in Odd Bob be in order to inform members that performances in North Bucks can be expected to be reproduced on the Branch web site? Similarly, something in the RW should inform as many as reasonably could be informed.

Doug Hird

Copy date for the next issue of *In Touch* is **July 20th** (Branch Practice at Drayton Parslow).

Please make sure that any articles, quarters and peals are forwarded to the Editor by that date, otherwise they may not be included!

Ten Commandments for the Bell-Ringer

(from the ringing room at Simpson)

REMEMBER Wednesday evenings to keep them wholly for the practice.

THOU SHALT NOT follow one rope too long, for the eyes are the windows of the mind and if they be glued to one rope how shall the mind be lighted.

THOU SHALT NOT tarry without the gates.

THOU SHALT hearken to the sound of thy striking and keep thy bell within her place.

THOU SHALT NOT bump the stay of thy bell lest it break and thou be carried up to the heavens.

THOU SHALT NOT rely completely upon thy helper, but cultivate thine own understanding, for he that listeneth for his helper from place to place shall stumble and perish, but he that counteth his own places can in no wise strike in the wrong place.

THOU SHALT learn thy methods well.

THOU SHALT NOT contemplate thy homework nor thy housework nor thy boyfriend nor any characteristic of thy fellow ringers, lest when the bob is called thou be taken unawares and be utterly confounded.

THOU SHALT NOT break any covenant with the band to follow after thy wife nor thy best girl nor thy second best girl nor thy friend nor thy enemy, for the band will not hold him worthy that turneth his "yea" to "nay".

HONOUR thy band and thy ringing master and forget not that regular attendance is also expected of thee on Sundays.



Update from Simpson



On Monday 7th May, an inspection of the bells and belfry was carried out by Brian Baldwin and various member of the band. Generally, the bells and fittings are in excellent condition considering that they have been idle for the better part of 5 years. Several things have been noted for further work/investigation.

Sound proofing on the sides of the tower that face the Old People's Home and Hamner Road needs to be installed. General cleaning and de-rusting of the frame is required. Heating and lighting (general electrical services) in the ringing chamber also needs to be looked at. Six new ropes will be needed as the current ropes are rather worn. The pulley boxes (below belfry) need some attention. The plain bearings need to be properly oiled. If anyone has experience of this or any other item mentioned above, Brian would be grateful for any assistance or advice.

Suspected clapper movement is not as serious as was thought. Movement is moderate on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th but not in need of immediate attention. This will

be re-checked when the bells have been back in use for a while.

During the visit, the pulleys were greased. Also, oiling of centre-pins in headstocks, bolts etc in wheels was carried out. The condition of the ropes, wheels, sliders, bearings, stays, clappers and frame was checked and a loose clapper bolt on 5th was tightened.

The bells cannot be rung full circle until the architect gives the all clear. Brian is not prepared to raise the bells until he has an architect present to monitor any movement of the building structure.

The ringing chamber was dusted, vacuumed and de-cobwebbed. And promptly messed up again when people came back down from the belfry! We did find time to vacuum Brian and have a chortle over some photos in an old copy of *In Touch*. [just be grateful that I didn't have time to scan them in, Gareth... Ed.]



Leigh Head

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Held at Bletchley on 3rd March 2001

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman, Doug Hird, welcomed everyone to Bletchley and commented that although it was not a very pleasant day, it was nice and warm in the church for the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Received from Gillian Macdonald, David Middleton, David Scrutton, Peter Tampssett, and Shirley Webb.

In Memoriam

The Chairman asked everyone to stand in silence for a few moments in memory of Valerie Hartwell of Great Brickhill who had passed away recently.

Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes of the Quarterly meeting held at Fenny Stratford in December were published in the February edition of 'In Touch'. There was one correction that had been notified by David Middleton. In the Guild Reps Report it should say that he, and not David Joyce, had raised the issue of the Guild status as regards becoming a charity. It was agreed by those present that the Chairman sign the minutes, with this correction, as a true record of the meeting.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

David Joyce asked if a copy of the article about Data Protection published in In Touch had been sent to Brian Gatward as proposed at the last meeting. Doug said that he had not done this and he was aware that he should do so. Doug had made an enquiry to the clergy at Old Wolverton about the state of the bells. This had been sent via e-mail but no reply had been forthcoming.

Peggy Faithfull enquired about the whereabouts of the Millennium Plaque with names for Bletchley, as they had not received it. Richard Stanworth stated that it had been passed to someone to deliver it by hand and that he would check up in the records and follow it up. Leigh Head said that she believed she had agreed to deliver it and thought that she still had the plaque at home. She would check up.

Election of New Members

Nominations had been received proposing 8 new members -

Tower	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Bletchley	Joanna Swepton	Paul Faithfull	Hugh Butler
	Miss Lorna Swepton (Junior)		
	Gill Speller		
	Sue Barden		
	Louisa Clark		
Stowe	Charles Macdonald	Bill Yates	David Goodger
Wavendon	Martin Smith	Leigh Head	Gareth Grayson
	Louie Voightlander-O'Brien (Junior)		

All were elected without dissent. The Chairman welcomed them all to the Guild and Branch and asked those present to stand and make themselves known to the meeting.

Officers Reports

Chairman. This has not been too bad a year, with minimal changes to the officers, things have remained fairly stable through the year. The pre-quarterly meeting officers meetings have been fairly informal but have made sure that the officers were prepared for the meeting. Due to the informal nature of these meetings, formal minutes were not always taken. These meetings were short and to the point. As a result I feel that the officers did not 'stitch up' the decisions at meetings and members were able to influence the outcome. I would like to thank all the officers for their work during the year.

Secretary. The pattern of monthly branch practices and quarterly meetings continued as in previous years. Average attendances remained at much the same level as the previous year. Extra practices were arranged at Bicester and a Joint

Practice with the Luton District.

Membership of the branch increased by 15 in 2000 with three more towers now having members. This brings the total number of towers with members to 33.

Most towers have now received their Millennium Plaques and new tower affiliation certificates. There are still one or two to deliver to towers on the edge of the branch. The coordination of lists for these seemed to take up a large amount of my time during the year. I'm glad there won't be another millennium whilst I'm Secretary!

Treasurer. Copies of the audited accounts had been circulated. The treasurer hoped they were self-explanatory but highlighted a few of the main points. The balance at the beginning of the year was £1246 and at the end of the year the balance was £772. This had gone down as the Powergen Money had been paid to Simpson PCC. 233 membership subscriptions were collected, an increase of 17 over last year. Donations at branch practices were £148 against £113 last year. In Touch cost £262 to produce. The majority of this was covered by donations of £226 from towers and individual donations. Many thanks for these.

David Joyce queried why the money had already been paid to Simpson. It was his understanding that the money would be paid out when work in the tower was actually carried out. Sheila Watts said that her interpretation of the decision at the last meeting was that the money be handed over once we were sure that work was to go ahead. She had received a letter from Brian Baldwin assuring her that the work would go ahead as soon as the other work on the church was completed. She had also had a letter from the PCC acknowledging receipt of the money for work on the bells. It was proposed that the branch continue to monitor the situation at Simpson and ensure that the branches wishes regarding the grant be honoured.

Ringling Master. Practices have generally been well attended with the average attendance about the same as the previous year. There has been a varied range of methods rung with helpers when necessary. The special methods have also continued to be popular, often with several complete bands able to ring the method. We continued with quarterly practices where the focus was on rounds and call changes. These have been useful for those with less experience but fewer of them seem to be coming along. This is a good chance to ring at somewhere new without being overawed by lots of method ringing.

The Beginners Striking Competition, held at Maid Moreton, was well attended with new members again being involved. A team representing Stowe were judged to be the winners.

Our Branch six-bell striking competition was held at Lavendon. The number of teams taking part was rather disappointing. Hanslope were again the winners and went on to represent us in the Guild competition, where they did very well, finishing as runners up. Well done to them. The Inter Branch Striking Competition was held at Hanslope. We again had a good turnout of members taking part. We won the Inter Branch Trophy but were unsuccessful in prising the Stedman Trophy away from the Towcester Branch.

We were able to enter teams in both the Guild eight bell and ten bell striking competitions, although we were 'also rans' in both events. No doubt we would do better in a Guild skipping competition.

Branch Archivist. The branch web site has now been up and running for a while. This includes items from the Ringing World from the 1960's onwards, including most peals and quarters that have been published. Information prior to this has been taken from Guild Reports. Items still to be included are quarters prior to 1960 and peals rung by other Guilds at towers in the branch. The web site now includes short recordings of some of the rings in the branch. Today's performance at Whaddon will be added soon, for those unable to go today to hear what they missed. Other new items in the archives include a membership certificate found at Olney, still in its original wrapping. Ideas for other items to include in the archives are always welcome. Recordings of bells in the branch will be welcome for inclusion in the archive.

As the Guild Reps reported at the last meeting and there has not been another Guild meeting since then, the reps do not give a report to the AGM

Election of Officers

<u>Post</u>	<u>Nomination</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Chairman	Doug Hird	Derek Stainsby	Hugh Butler
Secretary	Helen Stanworth	Malcolm Hooton	Brian Newman
Treasurer	Sheila Watts	David Joyce	Bill Yates
Ringling Master	Gareth Grayson	David Joyce	Nikki King
	Richard Stanworth	Brian Newman	Hugh Butler
Assistant Master	Catherine Stacy	Sheila Ware	John Stanworth

Guild Representatives – The Guild Master pointed out that we are now eligible for three Guild Reps, following the increase in membership

Alan Marchbank	Brian Newman	Gareth Grayson
David Middleton	Brian Newman	Gareth Grayson

	Doug Hird	David Joyce	Jill Joyce
Branch Archivist	Doug Hird	Gareth Grayson	Bill Yates
Newsletter Editor	Leigh Head	Sheila Watts	Gareth Grayson

On a show of hands, Richard Stanworth was elected as Ringing Master

All nominees for the other posts were elected unopposed.

There was some discussion of the role of the Assistant Ringing Master as it suggested that this is rather a 'non' job, often tending to be purely a deputy when the Ringing master is absent. It was agreed that the Assistant needed to have a more clearly defined role, and the officers would discuss this more fully.

David Joyce proposed thanks to all the officers for their work during the year.

Forthcoming Events

A Calendar of forthcoming events had been circulated. Richard Stanworth drew attention to some of the events. The next event is the Branch Practice at Thornborough on the 17th March. This is followed on the next day by a Joint Surprise practice with the Luton District, at Bletchley. A ten-bell practice has been arranged at Kempston on Wednesday 28th March, as we are unable to get the bells on a Friday. This is a joint practice with the Kempston band who have kindly agreed to us joining their practice night.

David Joyce suggested that the period allowed for the branch striking competition be extended by half an hour, until 5.00 p.m. This will allow bands that have been ringing for weddings during the afternoon to take part. He also suggested that the time for the December Quarterly Meeting be brought forward by half an hour. This will enable those members who are going to the Towcester Branch Dinner to get away at a more reasonable time. Both these suggestions were met with approval and will be implemented.

The Guild Master spoke about some of the forthcoming Guild events and gave some details about the Easthampstead course. Because of the unresolved child protection issues, anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent. In addition, there is a ten-bell course on the 13th October. This will concentrate on Grandsire and Plain Bob and will be held at Bicester (definitely) and hopefully Long Crendon.

Members were reminded that branch members may be sponsored to attend these courses.

The Chairman announced an outing from Witney to the Abergavenny area of Wales on 12th May, at a cost of £10 per person. Further details were available from the Secretary.

Any Other Business

A number of events were suggested – Gareth Grayson put forward the idea of a branch barbecue, as this had been quite successful in the past when held as part of a meeting. He thought that one might be arranged as a purely social event. The Chairman reported that David Middleton had previously put forward the idea of a branch outing and that he had talked himself into organising it. There was also a suggestion that the Striking Competition be held on a separate date from the Quarterly meeting. The Chairman agreed that it does no harm to challenge the status quo, and this could be considered.

The Guild Secretary reminded everyone that the Guild Festival would be held on 14th July.

Thanks

The chairman thanked Peggy Faithfull for taking the service and the Bletchley Ringers for their hospitality, and Joan Clark for playing the organ. He also thanked the Whaddon ringers for allowing us to ring earlier in the afternoon. Members showed their appreciation in the usual manner.

The Treasurer reported that the raffle had raised £31 for the Guild Bell Fund

There being no other business the meeting closed at 6.56 p.m.



DATES FOR THE DIARY...



MAY

Branch Practice
Special Method : Kent Treble Bob Minor

Annual General Meeting

Stowe

Kidlington

MAY

7.30 pm 18th

19th

JUNE

Striking Competition & Quarterly Meeting

Branch Practice
Focus on Rounds & Call Changes

***Ten Bell Practice**

Great Linford

Wavendon

Daventry

JUNE

4.00 pm 2nd

7.30 pm 15th

7.30 pm 29th

JULY

***Joint Surprise Practice**

Guild Festival

***Branch Practice**
Special Method : Grandsire Doubles

Inter Branch Striking Competition

Woburn

Kirtlington

Drayton Parslow

Wicken

JULY

7.30 pm 14th

14th

7.30 pm 20th

6-8.30 pm 28th

AUGUST

***Branch Practice**
Special Method : Double Court Bob Minor

Twyford

7.30 pm 17th

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

***Quarterly Meeting**

Ten Bell Striking Competition

***Branch Practice**
Special Method : Belfast Surprise Minor

Easthampstead Course

Shenley

Thatcham

Woughton

Easthampstead

SEPTEMBER

3.30 pm 1st

8th

7.30 pm 21st

25th - 30th

ITEMS MARKED * WERE UNCONFIRMED AS AT 11 FEBRUARY 2001
ITALICISED EVENTS ARE GUILD EVENTS