



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

In Touch

May 2004 -- Centenary Issue



North Bucks Branch Centenary and Oxford Diocesan Guild Festival

Saturday 12th June 2004
Newton Longville

- 10.00—10.45 Refreshments available The Longueville Hall
10.15 Service Ringing at St Faiths
11.00 Centenary and Festival Service
12.00—2.30 Barbeque Lunch at The Longueville Hall
12.00—3.30 Mini-Ring, Stalls, Refreshments, at the Hall
12.30 'Rise and Fall' Striking Competition at St Faiths
3.30 Competition Results at the Hall
4.00—5.00 Open Ringing at St Faiths
Towers open on the way home

PIG ROAST LUNCH

must be booked by

1st June—£6.50 a head

Cheques (payable to ODGCBR North Bucks Branch) to:

Mrs Helen Stanworth, 11 Valley Road, Linden Village, Buckingham MK18 7BW



Who's Who 2004/2005

Chairman

Mr Barry Eglesfield, 15 Chardacre, Two Mile Ash,
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Post currently vacant

Guild Representatives

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Archivist

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Over the Border in Northants Towcester Branch— 2004

22 May	Joint Practice with North Bucks	
12 June	Guild 80th Anniversary AGM	Maxey
10 July	Striking Contest v North Bucks	Wicken
31 July	Open Day	Blisworth etc
4 Sept	Branch Practice	Paulerspury
18 Sept	Summer Festival & 8 Bell Competition	Northampton
2 Oct	Branch Meeting & 6 Bell Competition	Bradden Wappenham
23 Oct	Practice	Ashton, Grafton
	Quiz Night—Fish & Chips	Stoke Bruerne
13 Nov	Branch Practice	Wicken
4 Dec	Branch Annual Dinner	Towcester

No Quarterly Meeting in June!

Owing to the "other events" in June this year, the Branch Officers thought you probably would not mind too much if there was no Quarterly Meeting to attend as well.

However, if you have any new ringers to be elected as members of the Oxford Guild, then there will be an opportunity to do so on Friday 18th June, at the Six Bell Striking Competition at Weston Underwood.

Our Grateful Thanks...

..... to all those who contributed towards this issue
of *In Touch*.

The deadline for the next Newsletter is:
Friday 30th July 2004

Sheila Watts & Sheila Ware
Editors

Where's This?

Any ideas? We came across it on holiday last year and couldn't resist taking a photo.

Does anybody else have any interesting and unusual photos for the next issue?



North Bucks 1904 - 2004

North Bucks occupies the northern territory of the Oxford

Diocese, with Buckingham to the west, Milton Keynes at the centre and Olney to the north east. Before the construction of Milton Keynes, towns in North Bucks were remembered from their position on transport routes. Bletchley and Wolverton joined the rest of the world in the 1850s when the West Coast Main Line railway was built and, since 1959, Newport Pagnell has had its famous motorway service area.

By Doug Hird, Branch Archivist

Massive destruction of rolling stock followed and four people were killed.

The Branch is Formed

The ODG was formed in 1881 and the Stony Stratford band joined up in 1885. Stony Stratford has had ODG members for virtually every year since then. An early attempt at the formation of a Branch in 1892 was very dependent on the support of Rev J H Travers here. So on his removal to Henley two years later the momentum was lost. The idea was not. In 1897 the Bletchley ringers were talking about forming a Branch to join their neighbouring towers but it took some time to get together. The North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild was eventually founded at Newton Longville on 11th June 1904. It had 130 members from 17 towers. At that time the population of North Bucks was approximately 57,000. It is now nearer 207,000.

What Else Was Happening in 1904?

It is hard to imagine what life was really like 100 years ago. It is tempting to believe that it was very different. Edward VII was King, the Prime Minister was Arthur James Balfour (Conservative) and the horse was still considered a sensible means of transportation. There are, however, many aspects of our modern lives that are direct results of events in 1904. Knighted this year were Sir James Dewar, the inventor of the Thermos Flask, and Sir Edward Elgar. Among the list of new-borns were George Formby, Sir John Gielgud, Cary Grant, Glenn Miller, Cecil Day Lewis, Bing Crosby, Bill Brandt, Count Basie, Theodor "Dr Seuss" Giesel and Fats Waller.

Science, technology and engineering were seldom out of the news. On the rails, The Great Western Railway's City of Truro became the first railway engine to break the 100 mph barrier. (The world speed record for motor cars was just 65.79 mph.) On the Liverpool to Southport line, the first main line electric train service was begun.

Not all was good news though. The 2.48 am express from Marylebone Station became derailed at Aylesbury having failed to slow down in time to take a curve. Another train, travelling in the opposite direction struck the wreckage.

Other essential 1904 newcomers include: The Daily Mirror, Wireless Weather Forecasts, Leeds University, Peter Pan, Liverpool Cathedral, the Gillette Safety Razor, Caterpillar Tracks, Ice Cream Cones and The New York Subway.

The motor car was still in its infancy. The Napier Company built the world's first usable 6-cylinder car and W R Morris began to manufacture motorcycles at Cowley, near Oxford. In the USA, the first Buick was sold to Dr. Herbert H. Hills of Flint, Michigan.

Being a Leap Year, there was interest for sports fans. The Olympic Games and Worlds Fair were held at St Louis. The first Africans to compete at the Games were marathon runners who were there for the Boer War Exhibit. Thomas Hicks won the marathon after the disqualification of Fred Lorz who had covered a large part of the 42 km in a car. He did at least get out just before the finish. Hicks, however, almost died in the event after mixing brandy and strychnine. At the Worlds Fair, the Liberty bell was put on display and Iced Tea was also invented. England regained the Ashes taking a 3-1 series lead against Australia and Football's world governing body, FIFA, was formed in Paris.

The Branch Takes Shape

It took a little time to mould the new Branch. In 1905, the first Committee meeting decided that "Meat Teas shall not be provided at meetings" and criticised the Guild for taking two thirds of the subscription instead of half, an argument that was to continue for some time.



The Hanslope Band at the 1905 Meeting at Newton Longville

It would appear that the ringing arrangements at meetings also caused some disagreement. The September 1905 meeting at Shenley decided that "no touch exceeding 15 minutes in length should be rung at a quarterly meeting". The business of most meetings, however, followed the usual course. The Chairman and Secretary would be re-elected and the meetings for the following year would be agreed. Occasionally, grants were made for work on bells and in most cases a meeting at the tower in question usually followed. For many years, AGMs were held at the Church of the Chairman. So the majority of these were held at Shenley, Bletchley and Newport Pagnell until the mid 1950s.

The Bells

The increased level of activity that led to the formation of the Branch is an indication of the general level of interest in bells and bell ringing at the time. More bells were cast for North Bucks between 1900 and 1910 than in any other decade and 50% of the bells we currently have were cast in the last 100 years. These include a number of fine single founder rings.

Newport Pagnell – Gillett & Johnston 1911,
Wavendon – Whitechapel 1952, Maids Moreton –



Taylor 1950, Fenny Stratford – Alfred Bowell 1913, Downs Barn – Taylor 1992. In fact, of all the rings detailed by Cocks in Church Bells of Bucks, 1897, only one has not been re-hung since. Much of this activity was at the hands of Alfred Bowell's workmen. In the first decade for the 1900s 17 rings were re-hung and several of these were augmented. Without his pragmatic approach to bell

hanging, quite a few of our currently active rings would have become unringable some time ago.

Membership

Over its 100 years, the North Bucks Branch has seen members from 55 towers, including 2 threes, 9 fives, 31 sixes and 11 eights. Now, we have 6 fives, 19 sixes and 8 eights. Part of the reduction is a result of the formation of the Central Bucks Branch in 1928. Revd J F Amies, who was instrumental in the formation of this new Branch, was later active in North Bucks, organising special practices for young ringers in the Weston Underwood area.

Current Branch membership is usually around 200 members. A little below the peak levels in 1908 and 1936 but somewhat higher than levels immediately before Milton Keynes.



The Olney band at the turn of the century

Peals and Quarters.

Prior to 1904, a number of peals were rung for the neighbouring Bedfordshire Association. As might be expected, the first peal for the new North Bucks Branch was rung at Newton Longville. The immediate eight bell activity was at the other end of the Branch. Here, the railway provided good communications with Bedford and local ringers had made good progress with Treble Bob Minor at Emberton and rang the Branch's first peals of Plain Bob Major and Grandsire Triples on the newly augmented eight at Olney. Branch members were also exploring new heights. Cecil Valentine's band made good use of the rings at Calverton, Stony Stratford and Wicken, just over the border in Northants. They rang the first peal with four S Minor methods for the ODG at Stony Stratford (1913), the first peal of S Minor for the ODG at Calverton (1914) and the first peal of Cambridge S Minor for the Guild at Stony Stratford (1914). Back in Emberton, the fastest peal in the Branch was rung in 2h23. The band went on to ring a double peal in 2h24. This was the band's second attempt. A rope broke after five hours in the first attempt. The performance was repeated in 1993 when modern ringers discovered how hard some of the old methods were to ring.

The Centenary

To mark the Branch's Centenary, we will be hosting the ODG's Annual Festival. This is to be held at Newton Longville on June 12th and will include a Service, a "ringing up and down" striking competition, a Pig Roast and the Lichfield Mini-ring. Also during the year, Branch members aim to ring 100 quarter peals.

Doug Hird

Quarters

St Lawrence, Bradwell
Sunday 2nd March 2003

A Quarter Peal of Mixed Doubles
(St Martins, St Simons, Plain Bob & Grandsire)
(43 mins)

- 1 Christine Abbott
- 2 Rebecca Fawcett
- 3 Jill Joyce
- 4 Edward Fawcett
- 5 David Joyce (C)
- 6 Gordon Abbott

Rung to celebrate the 70th Birthday of Gordon Abbott (6)
on 1st March 2003

Holy Trinity, Old Wolverton
Wednesday 30th April 2003
1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Robert Saunders
- 2 Lynn Saunders
- 3 Malcolm Hooton
- 4 James Woodcock
- 5 Michael Nimmo (C)

Holy Trinity, Old Wolverton
Monday 17th November 2003
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Robert Saunders
- 2 Lynn Saunders
- 3 Sally Hobbs
- 4 James Woodcock
- 5 Michael Nimmo (C)
- 6 John Mercer

Rung half muffled in memory of red Mynard, who
died 13th November 1992

SS Mary & Giles, Stony Stratford
Monday 2nd February 2004
1280 Plain Bob Major

- 1 Lyn Saunders
- 2 Jill Eales
- 3 Peter Eales
- 4 Bob Winstanley
- 5 Michael Nimmo
- 6 James Woodcock
- 7 David Moore
- 8 Malcolm Hooton (C)

Rung to celebrate the life of Alice Eales, 97 years.
First Major 1, 6 and 7

St Lawrence, Bradwell
Sunday 8th February 2004
1320 St Simons Doubles (43 mins)

- 1 Christine Abbott
- 2 Jennifer Brookman
- 3 Jill Joyce
- 4 Christine Cable
- 5 David Joyce (C)
- 6 Gordon Abbott

First in method for 2.

St Mary, Padbury
Saturday 14th February 2004
1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Christine Cable
- 2 Helen Stanworth
- 3 Richard Stanworth
- 4 David Joyce
- 5 Catherine Stanworth (C)
- 6 Michael Tinsley

A North Bucks Centenary Quarter and Birthday
Compliment to Richard Stanworth.
First as Conductor

Assumption of the BVM, Stowe
Saturday 14th February 2004
1320 Kent Treble Bob Minor

- 1 Jonathan Spencer
- 2 Ann Fletcher
- 3 Margaret Vince
- 4 Shirley Webb
- 5 Laurence Gibson
- 6 Andrew Spencer (C)

Rung to celebrate the Centenary of the North Bucks
Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild.
First Kent Treble Bob Minor—3, 4, 5
First Treble Bob Minor—1

St Edmund, Maids Moreton
Saturday 21st February 2004
1260 Grandsire & Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Shirley Webb
- 2 Jonathan Spencer
- 3 Ann Fletcher
- 4 Antony Lloyd
- 5 Andrew Spencer (C)
- 6 David Goodger

Rung to celebrate the Centenary of the North Bucks
Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild.

St Lawrence, Bradwell
Sunday 22nd February 2004
1260 Doubles (41 mins)
(360 Grandsire, 360 St Simons, 540 Plain Bob)

- 1 Christine Abbott
- 2 Andrew King
- 3 Jill Joyce
- 4 Brian Newman*
- 5 David Joyce (C)
- 6 Gordon Abbott

Wedding compliment to Sarah Newman and
Christopher Taylor, married on 14th February 2004.
* Most Methods

More Quarters

St Lawrence, Bradwell
Sunday 14th March 2004

1260 Grandsire & Plain Bob Doubles (40 mins)

- 1 Jenny Brookman
- 2 Christine Cable
- 3 David Joyce
- 4 Christine Abbott
- 5 Ian Green (C)*
- 6 Gordon Abbott

* Most methods as Conductor

1st mixed doubles—4

St Lawrence, Bradwell
Sunday 28th March 2004

2004 Plain Bob Minor (63 mins)

- 1 Michael Tinsley
- 2 Jenny Brookman
- 3 Jill Joyce
- 4 Christine Cable
- 5 Ian Green
- 6 David Joyce (C)

An engagement compliment to Chris Brookman and Geraldine Shreeves.

1st minor inside—2

Longest length—5

(See David Joyce's write up on this date touch elsewhere in this issue.)

St James the Great, Hanslope
Sunday 4th April 2004

1264 Spliced Plain & Little Bob Major (48 mins)

- 1 Stuart Grout
- 2 George Green
- 3 Tony Gray
- 4 Ian Thompson
- 5 Kevin Haseldine
- 6 Richard Haseldine
- 7 Roy Keeves
- 8 Jonathan Griggs (C)

Rung to celebrate the award of the John Hughes Scholarship for Aberystwyth University to Kevin Haseldine. Also for the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild.
First in method—5

St Lawrence, Bradwell

Sunday 25th April 2004

1260 Stedman Doubles (40 mins)

- 1 Peter Tribble
- 2 Christine Cable
- 3 Jill Joyce
- 4 Ian Green (1st Stedman)
- 5 David Joyce (C)
- 6 Brian Newman

To congratulate our learners on winning the Branch Beginners Striking Competition.

SS Peter & Paul, Buckingham

Sunday 25th April 2004

1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Shirley Webb
- 2 Jonathan Spencer
- 3 Ann Fletcher
- 4 Laurence Gibson
- 5 Ruth Stokes
- 6 Ray Vickers
- 7 Andrew Spencer (C)
- 8 Christopher Stokes

Rung to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women, and the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild.
First Grandsire Triples inside—4

Grants

Applications for grants for assistance from individuals for training or from towers for work or for the provision of things that keep bells ringing shall be submitted to the Secretary. Details of applications received will be sent out to towers as soon as possible after receipt. All applications received and sent out at least one month before a meeting will be considered at the next general meeting of the Branch.

Training Grants

Grants will be given towards training courses as follows: 50% of the cost up to a maximum of £50. Applications for grants should be made in writing to the Secretary. It would help us if you apply before you attend the course if at all possible.

Pig Roast Lunch—Saturday 12th June—Book Now!!

Tickets, price £6.50 are now available from the Secretary. Cheques payable to ODGCBR North Bucks Branch. Last date for purchase - 1st June

Where Does the North Bucks Fit Within The Guild?

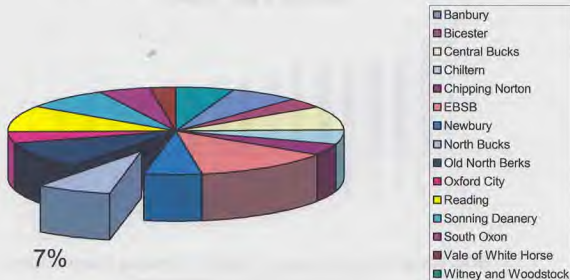
By Richard Stanworth

Have you ever wondered which Branch has the most members, or the most towers? Is it the North Bucks Branch? The answers can be found here. They are based purely on the numbers published in the Annual Report for 2003.

According to the report The ODG has a total of 2560 members. The EBSB Branch has the most

members, with 341 (13.3%) and the Vale of White Horse Branch has the least, with just 62 (2.4%). The North Bucks is sixth in this list, with a total of 184 (7.2%). The average membership per Branch is 171. Banbury Branch has 169 members and is seventh in the list. It is the closest to the average membership. About half of the Branches have an above average membership.

Guild Members



Based on the Report, there are 403 towers in The Guild. The North Bucks Branch has the most towers; with 46 (11.4%) and the Vale of White Horse Branch has the least, with 14 towers (3.5%). The average is 27 towers per Branch. The Oxford City Branch has 27 towers and is eighth in the list. About half of the Branches have an above average number of towers.

Just over three-quarters of the towers in the Guild have members. The Branch with the highest percentage of towers with members is the Sonning Deanery Branch in which every tower has members, i.e. 100%. In the Oxford City Branch just 48.1% of the towers have members and this is the lowest percentage. The North Bucks Branch percentage is 63% and it is 12th in this list.

Do we have enough members to ring all the bells? Looking at the towers with members then the average number of members per tower is 8.4. The highest number is in the Sonning Deanery with 12.2 per tower and the lowest is in the Chipping Norton branch, with 6.2 per tower. The North Bucks are 14th in the list with 6.3 per tower. If we include towers without members in the totals then the average drops to 6.4 per tower. Sonning Deanery stays at 12.2 per tower because they have 100% towers with members and North Bucks have the lowest figure with 4.0 per tower.

Is this enough? Well that depends on the number of bells in each tower. I think that that's a question for another time.

Cont'd overleaf

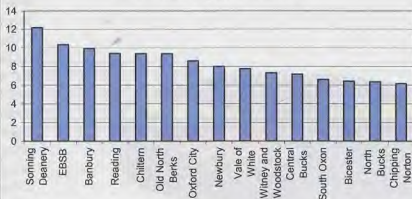
All Towers



12%

	Banbury
	Bicester
	Central Bucks
	Chiltem
	Chipping Norton
	EBSB
	Newbury
	North Bucks
	Old North Berks
	Oxford City
	Reading
	Sonning Deanery
	South Oxon
	Vale of White Horse
	Witney and Woodstock

Members per Tower



ODG North Bucks Branch - Six Bell Striking Competition 18th June- Weston Underwood

RULES

1. Entries must be made to the Ringing Master by the closing date—Thursday 17th June.
2. 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.
3. No ringer may ring for more than one team.
4. A tower may enter more than one team.
5. Up to two minutes practice ringing per team will be allowed before the test piece.
6. The start of the test piece will be notified to the judges by ringing two whole pulls on the treble.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.

Bradwell's Date Touch

By David Joyce

At our AGM in January, I suggested that the band attempt a quarter peal every other week in the hope that we could develop our confidence and striking, but also to simply stop if one wasn't good enough. Previously, we had got out of the habit of ringing quarters and when special occasions arose, would feel pressured to succeed however rusty we felt or sounded.

So far this year, we have had greater success than we had dreamed of, so I floated the idea of making one of our attempts into a date touch. Nice idea, but how do we get exactly 2004 changes in a composition? We had managed to ring date touches in the mid nineties, but I couldn't get any spliced touches to generate the magic length of 84 (added to 16 times 120) that we needed this time. After plenty of web searches, I was no better off, but did find a 564 of Minor which would stretch 2 extents of 720 to the required 2004 changes. Before using it, I checked the composition and found it to be false so decided to set MicroSiril running on the problem to get my own solution. That was an interesting exercise which gave me several million possible compositions, but no easy way to find a "nice" one, so back to the web! I did find one eventually (in Ben

Willett's on-line quarter peal records) and rearranged it to what I felt was a better structure. After a few practice nights spent trying out the first part of this touch, we decided to go for the date touch comfortable in the knowledge that if we wanted to, we could quit at 1284.

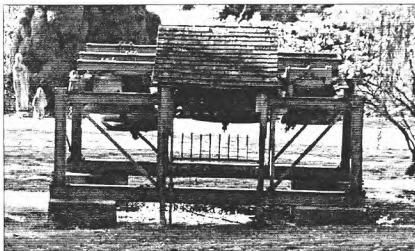
We happily rang away and settled into the 720's - all was going well until, at about the 1 hour mark, I was asked whether we were ringing a peal as it seemed to be going on for rather longer than a normal quarter! After surviving that panic, we completed a very enjoyable date touch - a first for several of the band. (*See details on the Quarters page.*)

For those of you who fancy a date touch, try the composition below :-

564 Plain Bob Minor
Wrong, Before, Home [repeat]
Wrong, single Home
Wrong, Home, Wrong [3 times with a single at Home to finish]

As you may recognise, the last part is half of the simplest 720.

If you ring the earlier sections and omit the single at Home, you will get a handy 204.



So where did you think this was?

No-one had a go at guessing where this was in February's *In Touch*, so the prize of a bottle of wine goes to the lady in Office World who did the photocopying—she had a go! Thanks to Sheila Blenkhorn & Roy Keeves for supplying the picture, wine and details of the bells.

PRINKNASH, Gloucester (R.C.) Abbey of Our Lady & St Peter 8, 21-3-1 in E Chiming only

Father Mark, the Abbot's Secretary at Prinknash Abbey, says:

The bells were cast in 1912 at Taylors of Loughborough, when we were living on Caldey Island, off Tenby. When we moved here in 1928, 2, 3 and 7 were left behind, and two more cast by Taylors in 1931. In Caldey, they were in a tower, but here they have always been in a frame, although, till 1975, they were beside the old house, St Peter's Grange, which used to be the Monastery. They are in the scale of E major. Our guide books in the shop have some details, and our internet site also.

<http://www.davidsemporium.co.uk/Prinknash>

Business Meetings

From the Secretary

There will not be a Quarterly Meeting in June because of the Branch Centenary Celebration Day.

As agreed at the AGM, there will, if necessary, be a short business meeting following the Branch Striking Competition at Weston Underwood on Friday 18th June. The only business will be the election of new members. Please let the Secretary know of any elections in advance, as the meeting will only be held if she knows of members to be elected.

The next Quarterly Meeting will be on Saturday 4th September. Details will appear in the next newsletter. The minutes of the AGM will also appear in the next newsletter.



Striking Competitions

From the Ringing Master,

Centenary Striking Competition

As part of our Branch Centenary celebrations we are holding a special Striking Competition at Newton Longville on 12th June. This will be an inter-Branch raising and lowering competition. Each Branch in the Guild is being invited to enter a team and a trophy will be presented to the winning team. A copy of the rules is included here so that you can see what the teams will have to do. You will then be able to lend a critical ear to the proceedings whilst enjoying your pig roast lunch!

RULES

1. The competition will be a Raising and Lowering Competition and will take place on the back six bells at St Faith, Newton Longville, on Saturday 12th June 2004.
2. Each Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild is invited to enter one team representing the Branch in the Competition. The organisers may also invite entries from individual towers but precedence will be given to Branch teams.
3. The Competition organiser must receive entries by the date specified on the form.
4. No person shall ring for more than one team.
5. The draw for ringing order will take place at 10.30 a.m. The Competition will start as soon as possible after the conclusion of the Service, at approximately 12 noon.
6. Any band that is not ready to ring when called may be disqualified (at the discretion of the Chief Steward).
7. The Competition piece will consist of two parts with a maximum of one minute allowed between the parts:
 - a. Raising the bells in peal The bells will be raised in peal until the bells are fully up and ringing in rounds. The bells will then be stood. This section shall conclude when all of the bells have stood.
 - b. Lowering the bells in peal The bells will be rung down in peal. This section shall conclude when all of the bells have ceased to sound.
8. The start of the test piece will be signalled to the judges by the chiming of the treble six times.
9. The basis/method of judging shall be entirely at the discretion of the competition judges. The judges' decision will be final.
10. In any question as to the interpretation of these rules or of any penalty to be imposed on any band the decision of the Chief Steward will be final.
11. The winning team will be presented with the North Bucks Branch Centenary Trophy. The teams in second and third place will also receive a small trophy as a memento of the Competition.

Branch Six Bell Striking Competition

The Branch Striking Competition will be held at Weston Underwood on Friday 18th June, starting at 7.30 p.m. prompt. You will find the rules elsewhere in this newsletter. Entries to the Ringing Master by **Thursday 17th June**, please.

Inter-Branch Striking Competition

This is coming up in July. The date has moved to earlier in the month so that, hopefully you won't all have gone away on your summer holidays. We need ringers for three separate bands if at all possible – a six-bell team, a team for call changes on eight, and a Stedman Triples team. That is 22 ringers in all, surely not too difficult to find from our membership. The Ringing Master will be contacting you soon, but if you would like to take part, please contact him. We will be following a similar format as last year and will be jointly judging the event ourselves, with a judge from each Branch appointed for each section of the competition. This is a good chance for anyone interested in judging striking competitions to have a go, or to sit with a judge to find out more about how to do it. If this interests you then let the Ringing Master know beforehand.

An Interesting Grab!

From OU Society ringers: Sheila Watts, Sheila Ware, and Steve Crane

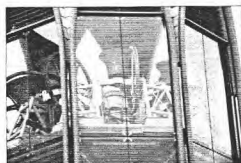
In February The Open University Society of Change Ringers made their annual trip to Essex to ring on the Louvaine Campanile, David Belcham's mini-ring at Wickford—eight bells hung in his dining room.



David had been helping to teach the new band at the recently opened glass tower at St Martin of Tours, Basildon, so we were fortunate to be given permission to ring there.

We joined the practice session for the local ringers, and much enjoyed the eight bells, tenor 11-2-24, which went well and sounded glorious. The tower is well designed with a 'reception area' at the base (with comfy chairs!), and a short spiral staircase into the 'ringing room'. It is very much like ringing in the middle of a shopping centre, with glass all around you and on full view to everyone! The bells are also visible, and there was a lot of interest from passing shoppers.

So, if you get a chance to go there in the future—take it!



Beginners Striking Competition

This year the Competition was held at Wavendon on St George's Day.

There were twelve beginners - three from Bradwell, one from Great Linford, and eight from Newton Longville. As there was a range of ringing ability it was agreed to make up four teams, with three beginners and three experienced ringers in each team.

First to go was a team from Bradwell, with David, Dean and Jean. The second team to ring was Newton Longville 'A', with Daniel, Jenny and Jean. The third team, representing Great Linford included Alex, Hazel and Christian. The fourth team was Newton Longville 'B' with Stefan, Rebecca and Anna.

Doug Hird and John Stanworth sat outside in the gathering gloom and judged the competition. They said that they had found it easy to pick a winner but that the other three teams had been very close. They declared Bradwell to be the winners with Great Linford as Runners Up. Our thanks to Doug and John for acting as judges for the event. Thanks also to all the experienced ringers who helped out.

Richard Stanworth

STOP PRESS—GUILD 8 BELL COMPETITION ! Monday 3rd May !

The North Bucks team came 4th in the heat at Shipton under Wychwood, so didn't go through to the next stage.

Winners of the final, at Hook Norton, were Reading St Mary.

THE GUILD

**Summary of the Guild General Committee meeting
held on Saturday 13th March 2004 at Princes Risborough**

from Alan Marchbank



Brian Newman and I attended this meeting as Representatives of the Branch. There are as usual two business meetings, the Annual General Meeting of the Bell Fund Governing Body, which is ex-officio the ODG General Committee, followed swiftly by the March General Committee meeting.

The Bell Fund AGM

As usual this was a short and non-controversial affair. The events of 11/9/2001 had severely unsettled the global money markets and in the past two years there was concern that the interest derived from our investments was insufficient to meet the demand for grants from this fund. Coupled with repaying a "loan" of £30,000 of capital taken prior to the Millennium to meet the requirements during that time, confidence had knocked in the principle of this form of grant funding and the trustees ability to manage it. However, after some prudent measures to marginally reduce the level of grant being offered, an up-turn in the money markets and two very generous transfers of funds from the General ODG funds, it is pleasing to report that not only do we have a surplus of investment income to roll forward to next year but have also repaid all but £6,000 of the "loan". I feel the benefit of this sort of fund is only now being appreciated - interest from the investments exceeding new money raised by almost 3 to 1. Anyone wanting to know more please ask me - I was returned as a Trustee for a further term.

The General Committee Meeting

This is a preparatory event to the ODG AGM in May, as well as conducting considerable business

in its own right. Here are the highlights:

- Guild Master Graham Clifton will as previously stated stand down in May - a successor is yet to be found. Any volunteers or nominations please contact a Branch or Guild Officer.
- There will be vacant positions for Guild Stewards and Central Council Reps, please make yourself known if you have ideas or wish to be nominated.
- There was a small operating surplus in the General Fund in the year. This reverted to a small overall loss after the transfer of funds to the Bell and Restoration funds.
- The General Fund remains strong with reserves of around £16,000. A proposal will be put to the AGM that £1,000 be transferred from the General Fund to each of the Bell and Restoration Funds.
- A detailed report on the state of insurance was presented by the Hon Treasurer. See the separate article in this newsletter.
- Peal fees will remain at 35p per rope (or 35p per ringer for handbell peals)
- Odd Bob will be published twice a year from now on to reduce the reporting burden on Branch Secretaries. You should see them in your towers around March and October.
- A Value for Money review has been conducted on the Easthampstead Course by the Education Sub Committee which has determined that it would be difficult to find a more cost effective location at present.

They continue to be open to ideas for venues etc.

- The Bookstall goes from strength to strength with new publications being available as and when. The KCACR video on teaching and learning to plain hunt is available at £11 (and very good it looks too, I bought one).
- The Guild Festival will be on 12th June at Newton Longville and coincides with our Branch Centenary.
- A £400 grant was voted to the new ringing centre at Aston Clinton for the procurement of a video camera to be used as part of teaching ringing.
- The CoFE Guidance on Child Protection is available as a pdf download in the Diocese of Oxford website under Children.
- The latest Child Protection guidance for ringers and their Parishes, and the necessary forms are available as MSWord downloads from the ODG website.
- Masses of documents were collected for distribution throughout the Branch so you should soon see Annual Reports, Odd Bobs and other matters in your towers.
- The First Place and Third Place Certificates were collected for the Six and Ten Bell Striking Competitions respectively. They have been framed and can be seen in Hanslope tower—who provided the majority of the ringers.





OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

CHILD PROTECTION

A summary for those involved in teaching
Church bell ringing to young people



This has been produced as the result of a request made at the General Committee Meeting in November 2003. It is intended to help ringers find their way around the various documents that exist about Child Protection, but cannot be a substitute for reading the documents themselves, and has inevitably left things out. There is a separate pack containing useful documents, which are identified by the number in brackets. The Branch Secretary can provide further information. The Diocesan guidelines are based on the Childrens Act 1999, the Home Office document Safe from harm, and the House of Bishops' Policy on Child Protection, 1999.

MAIN DOCUMENTS TO REFER TO:

Diocese of Oxford: *Better Safe Than Sorry Part 1, Policy and Guidelines for PCCs*, January 2000.

Diocese of Oxford: *Better Safe Than Sorry Part 2, Induction and practice pack for those working with children and young people*, January 2000.

Diocese of Oxford: *Better Safe Than Sorry Part 3, Applying for a disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau*, September 2002

USEFUL CONTACTS:

The Diocesan Child Protection Officer is Stephen Barber (01865 208290)

The Children's Officer for the ODG is Hilarie Rogers (01865 890163) or hilarie@5rogers.fsnet.co.uk

IF YOU ARE TEACHING YOUNG PEOPLE—

- Approach the incumbent of the main Church where you ring. Ask if you can be checked and approved to work with young people. Hopefully the Church will have Child Protection procedures—they all should. If not, check with the Diocese on what to do next.
- The main procedure is to complete a Declaration Form (Form 6) and undergo a check with the Criminal Records Bureau (Form 7).
- The advice is that anyone who may be involved in teaching under-18s should seek approval, and preferably at least one person of each sex should be approved. If someone aged 10-17 is teaching other youngsters, there is a suggestion that they might be checked also.
- If you are teaching at more than one tower, you ought to seek approval in each tower, but often a photocopy of relevant documents is sufficient.

FOR EACH TOWER—

- The Central Council Guidelines (Form 2) and Guild Policy (Form 1) should be followed.
- A Child Registration Record (Form 3) should be filled in for each young person, and kept by the Tower Captain for reference at each ringing session. Check the details annually.
- There is a separate form for courses (Form 4).

- The Guild is compiling a list of those registered to work with young people (Form 8), which should be returned to the Children's Officer.
- Have a signing-in book for everyone for each session.

LOOK OUT FOR—

- It is hard to define what to look out for, but
- Be aware of who is in the tower, especially if it opens out onto the Church, or if people spill outside during the summer.
- Be particularly aware of anyone spending time alone with a young person, especially if they offer lifts home.

CENTRAL COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS—

- Always have two adults present when young people are being taught.
- Invite parents of any trainees to come and watch a training session before allowing their child to start to learn, and ensure that the parent fully understands what is involved in learning to ring.
- Make sure a parent is responsible for delivering the child to and collecting the child from the tower.
- Keep an attendance register.
- Be aware of the insurance position for children.
- Never allow children up among the bells apart from an initial demonstration visit if it is safe to have one.

CHILD PROTECTION

SUMMARY FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN PARISH CHILD PROTECTION (The Branch Secretary can provide further information)



SETTING UP—

- Discuss the Better Safe Than Sorry documents at PCC level.
- Adopt a Parish Policy on Child Protection (Form 1), and on Disclosure (Form 2). Also sign the Agreement between the Diocese and Parish (Form 3) ready for use.
- Implement and monitor appointment procedures in the Parish (see below).
- Appoint a PCC member to monitor compliance and report back to PCC at least annually.
- Make adequate training provisions for those involved in work with children and young people and those who should be familiar with issues connected with youth/children's work and child protection.
- Ensure that the premises on which church activities with children and young people take place, comply with the necessary health and safety requirements and are safe/appropriate for those activities.
- Check the insurance position.

APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE— (see example on Form 4)

- Appoint someone as the Appointing Body Nominee, who will liaise with the applicant and deal with correspondence with the Diocese regarding CRB checks.
- Appoint a separate person as the Approved Parish Representative, who will check the identity of applicants prior to sending off the CRB form.
- Ask the applicant to complete a Declaration Form (Form 5), which should be kept safe.
- Ask the applicant to request a CRB check (Form 6), and fill in the appropriate form.
- The applicant's identity must be checked by the Approved Parish Representative—full details are in BSTS Part 3.
- The form should be accompanied by a copy of the Request Form (Form 7) and a cheque for £5 for volunteers, £12 for paid posts, and sent to the Diocese.
- When satisfied as to the outcome, the person can begin work



Fairly recently a "Yellow Card" has been

published by the Guild and distributed to all towers. This seems to have raised more questions than it answered. In response to subsequent correspondence, Brian Gatward Hon Treasurer who manages our insurance scheme, gave the following explanation at the March General Committee Meeting. It is reproduced here in the hope that it will assist all of our members to appreciate something of what they get from ODG membership.

Personal Accident Insurance

This is provided to every Guild member over 9 years old and under 80 years old. It provides cover for injuries sustained during ringing activities and whilst carrying out maintenance work on bells (this is

Guild Insurance Clarification and Explanation

defined as work not requiring a faculty). This is about people and not things. Dropping a camcorder down the belfry steps is not covered by this - your household insurance may provide cover.

Public Liability Insurance

Required for Guild events like the Festival or where members of the public are injured in some way. Where a member of the public is injured somehow during a tower open day that was not a Guild event the Guild PL would not cover it. However, for such an event the Church (or Parish) should have its own PL insurance which would cover it. The watch word is if you are opening your doors to the public ensure you know who has the Public Liability Insurance to cover you!

Guild Loss and Damages

This is a policy specifically to cover

the loss or damage of Guild property and assets. The contents of the Library and the Master's Chain of Office are an example, which if stolen destroyed or damaged would be covered by this policy.

Legal Expenses Insurance

Recently taken up in recognition that there are significant personal costs associated with mounting a legal defence. This insurance is available to Guild members to meet their legal costs associated with mounting a defence arising from incidents or allegations associated with ringing activities but CANNOT pay any fines or penalties that may result.

Whilst maintenance work on bells is covered by the insurance described above, should there be work on bells requiring a faculty this is not included. Insurance for volunteer labour in such circumstances can be arranged through the Guild at very competitive rates. Contact Brian Gatward for further details.



North Bucks Branch - Tower Ringing Times

Tower	Bells	Sunday	Day	Practice Time	Notes	Contact	Phone no.
Beachampton	5					Jo Nevill	01908-566937
Bletchley	8				Office open M-F 9-1230	Church Office	01908-367769
Bow Brickhill	4	UNRINGABLE					
Bradwell	6	10:00	Wed	19:30-21:00		Gordon Abbott	01908-318019
Broughton	4						
Buckingham	8	09:15 (3 & 4), 17:15 (1)	Wed	19:30-21:00	Last of Month #1	Andrew Spencer	01280-817989
Calverton	6	17:30 Alternate weeks	Wed	By arrangement		Malcolm Hooton	01908-565380
Chicheley	6	17:30 (1)	Mon	19:30-21:00	Alt with North Crawley #2	David Robertson	01234-391371
Clifton Raynes	6	By arrangement	Tue	19:30-21:00	Oct to end June	Mike Davies	01234-711082
Downs Barn	8	10:00	Tue	19:30-21:00		Doug Hird	01908-814741
Emberton	6	By arrangement	Tue	19:45-21:00		Sheila Watts	01234-713667
Fenny Stratford	6	09:00	Thu	20:00-21:00		Peter White	01908-564309
Great Brickhill	6	09:30 or 11:00 (varies)				David Middleton	01525-261024
Great Linford	6	09:30	Tue	19:30-21:00		Alan Marchbank	01908-611434
Hanslope	8	10:15	Thu	19:30-21:00		Sheila Blenkhorn	01908-510105
Haversham	3					Roger Everson	
Lathbury	5					Maureen Smith	01908-612395
Lavendon	6	10:15 (3)	Wed	19:30-21:00		Brian Clifton	01234-712774
Leckhampstead	5	10:30 (2) Check	Thu	19:30-21:00	Check beforehand	Paul Verrier	01280-860439
Lillingstone Lovell	5	09:00 (2,4)	Tue	19:30-21:00		Bernard Phillips	01280-860228
Little Brickhill	3					Rosemary Everston	01525-261595
Loughton	6	10:30	Mon	19:30-21:00	Alt with Shenley #3	Derek Stainsby	01908-666492
Maids Moreton	6	09:00 (1 & 4), 17:15 (2)	Wed	19:00-20:30	All except last Wed #1	David Goodger	01280-812868
Milton Keynes Village	6	10:30 (2,4)	Tue	20:00-21:00	Tel to confirm	Patricia Gifford	01908-665439
Moulsoe	4						
Newport Pagnell	8	09:00, 17:20	Wed	19:30-21:00	Sun eve. by arrangement	Carol Smith	01908-616666
Newton Blossomville	3					John Letts	01234-881581
Newton Longville	8	By arrangement	Thu	19:30-21:00		Christine Ryan	01908-648739
North Crawley	6	17:30 (2,4)	Mon	19:30-21:00	Alt with Chicheley #2	Kerry Rose	01234-391785
Old Wolverton	6	10:00	Tue	19:15-21:00		John Mercer	01908-225051
Olney	8	09:30	Thu	19:30-21:00		Charles Knight	01234-713719
Shalstone	5					Holly Purefoy	01280-701075
Shenley	6	09:00	Mon	19:30-21:00	Alt with Loughton #3	John Brookman	01908-260413
Sherington	5	10:30 (1), 09:00 (2,3,4,5)				Ella Field	01908-610560
Simpson	6		Thu	20:00-21:00	1,3	Brian Baldwin	01908-670579
Stoke Goldington	6	09:15 (2)	Fri	19:30-21:00	2,4	Owen Warren	01908-551416
Stoke Hammond	3					John Bowler	01525-270202
Stony Stratford	8	09:00	Mon	19:30-21:00	Not BH	Malcolm Hooton	01908-565380
Stowe	6	09:00 (2), 17:15 (4)	Mon	19:30-21:00		Laurence Gibson	01280-822498
Thornborough	5		Mon	19:30-21:00		Ray Goodger	01280-812976
Tingewick	5		Mon	19:00-20:30	By arrangement	Lois Houghton-Brown	01280-848658
Tyringham	5	09:30 (1,3)	Wed	19:30-21:00		Kathleen Williamson	01908-611900
Wavendon	6		Fri	19:30-21:00		Rev David Lunn	01908-582839
Weston Underwood	6	By arrangement	Fri	19:30-21:00	By arrangement	Owen Warren	01908-551416
Whaddon	6					Derek White	01908-501987
Woughton-on-the-Green	6	09:30	Thu	20:00-21:00	2,4	Brian Baldwin	01908-670579

Total : 46 Towers

Last Updated: 2 May 2004

PLEASE PASS ANY AMENDMENTS/UPDATES TO RICHARD STANWORTH (01280-814172)

North Bucks Branch—Calendar 2004

MAY	15		<i>Guild Annual General Meeting</i>	<i>Monks Risborough</i>
	21	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Stedman Doubles	Beachampton
	*22		Joint Practice with Towcester Branch	Newport Pagnell
JUNE	11		Branch Centenary	Ringling World
	12		Branch Centenary Celebrations & <i>Guild Festival</i>	Newton Longville
	18	7.30	Six-Bell Striking Competition	Weston Underwood
JULY	*10	6.00	Inter-Branch Striking Competition	Wicken
	16	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: London Surprise Minor	Simpson
AUGUST	20	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Superlative Surprise Minor	Emberton
SEPTEMBER	4	3.30 6.30	Quarterly Meeting Evening Ringing	Leckhampstead Maids Moreton
	10-12		<i>Easthampstead Course</i>	<i>Easthampstead</i>
	17	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Reverse Canterbury	Tyringham
OCTOBER	2		<i>Guild Six-Bell Striking Competition</i>	<i>Compton Parva</i>
	*15	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Double Norwich Court Bob Major	Olney
NOVEMBER	19	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Superlative Surprise Major	Stony Stratford
	27		<i>Ten-Bell Striking Competition</i>	<i>TBA</i>
DECEMBER	*4	2.30	Quarterly Meeting (New timings—as agreed at the AGM)	Downs Barn
	17	7.30	Branch Practice Christmas Special—be prepared for anything!	Cosgrove

Items marked * were unconfirmed as at 1 May 2004
Events in *italics* are Guild events, etc.

THANK YOU!

to **Alan Marchbank** and **Richard Stanworth**
who kindly provided the colour photocopying for this special Centenary issue.