



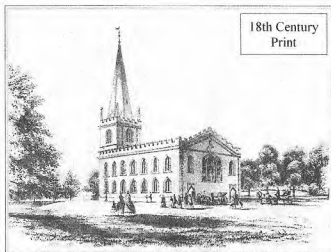
In Touch

May 2005

Quarterly Meeting at SS Peter & Paul, Buckingham 4th June 2005

- 3.30 Ringing
- 4.30 Service
- 5.00 Tea
- 5.45 Business Meeting & Ringing until 8.30

Names for tea to Andrew Spencer: 01280 817989
by **Wednesday 1st June 2005**



SS Peter & Paul, Buckingham has 8 bells, with the heaviest weighing 27cwt 0qtrs and 3lbs and the lightest around 6cwt. They have inscriptions as follows:

- Treble: I MEAN TO MAKE IT UNDERSTOOD THAT THO IM LITTLE YET IM GOOD
2. IF YOU HAVE A JUDICIOUS EAR YOU'LL OWN MY VOICE IS SWEET AND CLEAR
RECAST 1956 MEARS LONDON
3. OUR VOICES SHALL WITH JOYFUL SOUND MAKE HILLS AND VALLEYS ECHO ROUND
4. SUCH WON'D'ROUS POWER TO MUSICK'S GIVEN IT ELEVATES THE SOUL TO HEAVEN
5. MUSICK IS MEDICINE TO THE MIND
6. WHILST THUS WE JOIN IN CHEERFUL SOUND MAY LOVE AND LOYALTY ABOUND
7. IN WEDLOCK BANDS ALL YE WHO JOIN WITH HANDS YOUR HEART UNITE SO
SHALL OUR TUNEFUL TONGUES COMBINE TO LAUD THE NUPTIAL RITE
Tenor: WILL.^M ELLIOTT BAILIFF. RICH.^D WHEELER T.TOWN W. BOUGHAM
W & I. NORRIS COLLECTORS I. MANDER HANG US 1782

Each bell also indicates the foundry that made the bell:
CHAPMAN & MEARS OF LONDON FECERUNT 1782

The foundry, Chapman & Mears, where the bells were cast in 1782 is the same business in Whitechapel, London as Mears where the second was recast in 1956. This is listed in the Guinness Book of Records as Britain's oldest manufacturing company still running with an unbroken history of over 400 years, it is now called The Whitechapel Bell Foundry. The inscriptions also record the recasting of the second bell along with a facsimile of the inscription from the original bell, this bell developed a crack and was recast in 1956.

The bells hang in a heavy oak frame with sections up to 8 inches square, this is believed to be the original frame installed in 1782. Alfred Bowell of Ipswich modified the installation in 1907; he replaced bearings and other fittings making the bells more manageable, although still difficult, for traditional change ringing.

This was demonstrated by the fact that the first full peal was successfully completed on the bells in 1908, including Bowell as one of the ringers.

It is not clear what happened to the bells from the old church, it is possible that the bell metal used to cast the current bells was reclaimed from the ruins of the old church. The old church certainly had bells, historical evidence suggests there were 5 bells from the early 1500's which were recast into 6 bells around 1751. Changes to the tower and bells around this time, reputedly to remove the ale drinking ringers from the centre of the church to a ringing chamber higher in the tower, have been credited with causing the structure to collapse in 1776.

Andrew Spencer
Tower Captain, Buckingham

Who's Who 2005-2006

Chairman

Mr Alan Marchbank, 6 Broadway Avenue, Giffard Park, Milton Keynes. MK14 5QF
Tel. 01908-611434, Email. alan.marchbank@tesco.net

Secretary

Mrs Helen Stanworth, 11 Valley Road, Linden Village, Buckingham. MK18 7BW
Tel. 01280-814172, Email. helen@tsl-uk.com

Treasurer / In Touch Editor

Mrs Sheila Watts, 18 Colsons Way, Olney, Buckinghamshire. MK46 5EQ
Tel. 01234-713667 / 01908-653214
Email s.k.watts@open.ac.uk / sandsw@clara.net

Ringling Master

Mr Richard Stanworth, 11 Valley Road, Linden Village, Buckingham. MK18 7BW
Tel. 01280-814172, Email. richard@tsl-uk.com

Assistant Ringing Master

Mr Barry Eglesfield, 15 Chardacre, Two Mile Ash, Milton Keynes. MK8 8JN
Tel. 01908-566050, Email. barrytheboilerltd@amserve.com

Training Officer

Post currently vacant

Guild Representatives

Mr Alan Marchbank, 6 Broadway Avenue, Giffard Park, Milton Keynes. MK14 5QF
Tel. 01908-611434, Email. alan.marchbank@tesco.net
Brian Newman, 6 Martin Close, Neath Hill, Milton Keynes. MK14 6JG
Tel. 01908-395160, Email. bnewman@teleflex.com

Archivist

Mr Doug Hird, 78 Lakes Lane, Newport Pagnell. MK16 8HR
Tel. 01908-614741, Email. doughird@northbucks.org.uk / brian.hird@abbeynational.co.uk

Secretarial Snippets

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.

Videos

We now have three titles available:

Bellhandling—a tutor's companion (produced by the Central Council)

Look to and Learn (produced by the Kent County Association)

Teaching Demonstration (recording of Steve Coleman teaching)

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

Over the Border in the Towcester Branch

- 4 June Practice—Paulerspury @ 7.30
11 June Guild AGM, Brickstock, Thrapston Branch
18 June Blisworth & Stoke Bruerne open ringing — celebrate Blisworth Tunnel bi-centenary
2 July Striking Comp v. N.Bucks—Wicken @ 6.00
3 Sept Quarter Peal Day & Pub Meal
17 Sept Guild Summer Festival & 8-Bell Comp—Daventry Branch
1 Oct Meeting & 6-bell Comp—Pattishall & Gayton
22 Oct Quiz night & Fish n Chips—Stoke Bruerne Cricket Club
12 Nov Practice with N.Bucks—Wicken @ 7.30
3 Dec Branch Dinner—Towcester Town Hall
Further details from John Stanworth 01280-814172

Our Grateful Thanks...

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

The deadline for the next *In Touch* is:
Friday 5th August 2005

Sheila Watts & Sheila Ware
Editors

Guild Ringing Day & Eight Bell Striking Competition

It was the turn of the North Bucks Branch to host this annual Guild event, on Bank Holiday Monday—2nd May.

We opened twenty nine of our towers for one hour, and teams of stewards augmented the local ringers stewarding the two routes, starting at the west of the Branch at 9.00 am and finishing in the east at Olney at 7.00 pm.

Meanwhile, Hanslope ringers (who were hosting the Striking Competition), were busy masterminding a mammoth bell ringers' tea, which had to last from 3.30 pm until 8.00 pm for an unknown number of ringers.

The Striking Competition started at 4.30 pm, and nine teams were put through their paces, ringing 252 changes of Oxford Bob Triples. The judges, Chris Mew and Mark Sayers from the Coventry Guild, were comfortably situated in an adjacent house, and the competition proceeded smoothly, with some very good ringing being heard.



North Bucks Team

L to R back: Barry Eglesfield, Richard Haseldine, Christine Cable, Richard Stanworth, Doug Hird, Alan Marchbank
Front: Edith Robinson, David Joyce

Place	Team	Faults
1	St Mary, Reading	6½
2	High Wycome	9
3	Reading Branch	12
4	East Berks & South Bucks Branch	16
5	Aston Clinton	23
6	North Bucks Branch	43
7	South Oxon Branch	47
Disqualified	Sonning Deanery Branch	
Disqualified	Witney & Woodstock Branch	

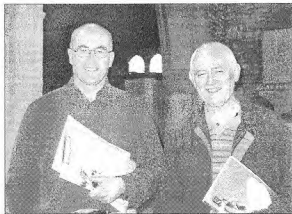
The Results:

The judges were constructive in their comments, and congratulated all teams who took part.

The cup was awarded to the band from St Mary's, Reading.

Our thanks to everyone who helped make the day a success—incumbents, tower captains, stewards, Guild and Branch Officers, Judges, Hanslope ringers (and particularly the tea team).

The proceeds from the tower fees and refreshments go to the Guild Bell Fund—£762.86 was raised.



Judges: Chris Mew and Mark Sayers

Comments heard during the Open Day ringing:

"No point in me ringing here, it's a Cucumber tower" (a repeat of an earlier grab)

(during Doubles) "Careful, tenor, you can get a bus through there"

Simultaneous Peals at Blisworth and Stoke Bruerne - Alan Marchbank

On Easter Monday Blisworth Tunnel celebrated it's 200th anniversary - or at least a bunch of ringers from North Bucks Branch of the ODB and the Towcester Branch of the PDG did!

Starting early in the morning - 09.00 - before all the neighbour's bedroom curtains were open, 11 good men and true, as the poster around Blisworth village put it (and who are we to argue?) started peals to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the opening of the tunnel and also the augmentation to 6 and re-hanging of Blisworth bells.

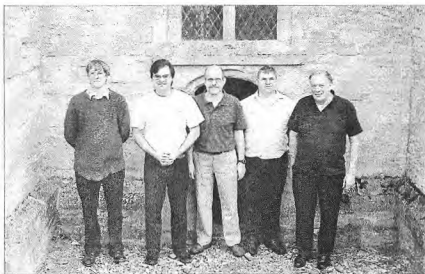
The Towcester Branch band rang at Blisworth - Cambridge Minor was scored at the second attempt - the first coming to grief in the first 720. Congratulations go to John Stanworth who scored his first peal.

The North Bucks Branch band had responsibility for the Stoke Bruerne peal. As there are only 5 bells it had to be Doubles, how to keep it interesting was the challenge? After all it was the

morning after the end of 40 days of abstinence for one of our ringers. So the decision was to ring it silent and un-conducted.

Also at the 2nd attempt - (we initially came to grief in the 2nd extent) a fine peal was scored - a first for all members of the band. 5040 Doubles (2 extents Grandsire, 10 each Stedman: St Simon's Bob; St Martin's Bob, Plain Bob) in 2 hours 53 mins.

The rest of the day was spent "relaxing" (some of us got quite "relaxed") and trying to ring hand bells whilst cruising through the tunnel on "Fabian Stedman", the narrow boat borrowed for the occasion by Commodore Bullied.



Doug Hird, Simon Head, Richard Stanworth, Alan Marchbank
Barry Eglesfield (Conductor)

Archivist's Notes

At my talk to the Milton Keynes Historical Society the locals brought out a bell. About ½ cwt, attached to a headstock.

They had a local story that it was the school bell so they have a plan to reinstate it. They brought out photos of the school, complete with bell.

They were a bit disappointed to have it pointed out that the bell in the photo had no canons and was attached by only two bolts. On closer inspection, the school bell was only as wide as a single brick is long. So only little. I then showed them on one of their own photos of the 1934 bell frame the bearings for the bell they had brought out. So it was probably in the tower at the same time they thought it was on the school. It has no inscription but there may be something in

Cocks. It is possible that the moulding of the canons may provide a clue. The canons are broken, but not entirely lost. Four bolts hold it to the headstock. The bell itself is sound and has potential. It has very little clapper wear. They liked the idea of a canon retaining headstock to copy those in the tower. If the cast in crown staple was drilled out an independent crown staple could be fitted and the canons could probably be held in place with Loctite.

As the person who had brought it out of the church was the churchwarden, I left it with him to sort out. He will probably need to seek Diocesan advice but they have just got clearance to install electric clock winding so he is well used to all that.

Doug Hird

After a short illness and a brief period in hospital Ron Snack died suddenly on the 22nd February 2005 aged 58. It is one of life's great and mysterious coincidences that exactly 41 years before, he had rung his first peal.

Ronald J Snack

Ron was a post-war baby growing up in the Amersham area of Bucks. Following "O" levels at the local technical school he went to work for the local farming suppliers, where John Camps senior generated an interest in ringing and persuaded him to learn.

He was taught to handle a bell by Rosalind Hicks, tower captain at Amersham and struck up a firm and lasting friendship with Tony Fortin. Through Tony he found his way into peal ringing. Their first together was Ron's first peal, minor at Chalfont St Giles on 22nd February 1964. Their last together was to celebrate the birth of Tony's daughter.

Ron's ringing abilities developed quickly – he was an excellent striker and a good all round ringer. His enthusiasm for "tower grabbing" and love of good ringing were a great combination. A competent conductor, he called over 50 of the 462 peals that he rang for 20 guilds and associations. He rang more than 250 for the Yorkshire Association and 125 for the Oxford DG. He rang a number of peals for the Cumberland's including Bristol S Maximus. But he was equally at ease teaching the basics to beginners, patiently helping, coaxing and encouraging them through their first quarters and peals.

Ron was always a cheerful companion and like many ringers enjoyed a pint – and he was ever ready to buy a round too.

In 1968 following a number of job changes in the south Bucks area Ron took a job with the Department of Transport in Leeds and moved north to the tender mercies of Mr Dove and Mr Warford! Not that this was unknown territory for Ron – he had established a friendship with Barrie Dove some years before during a ringing holiday in Devon. The day after his arrival "up north" he rang a peal of Ullesthorpe S Major at Drighlington, the first of many! Thus Ron's ringing was cranked up a notch or two, with peals scored early on at York Minster and such places as Leeds parish church and Bradford Cathedral.

Ron rang 254 peals in his 7 years in Leeds, on all numbers from 5 to 12, and was particularly pleased to have rung the tenor to a peal of Southrepps Doubles at Nidd, North Yorkshire, in June 1968.

In 1975 a promotion opportunity presented itself in London and so he moved back to live in Hackney and work for the Dept. of Social Security as an Executive Officer. Once again there were opportunities for peal ringing and Ron joined the London scene, regularly ringing peals with the Cumberlands.

Whilst living and working in London Ron met Linda and they decided to move out to the new city development of Milton Keynes. It was a sign of the times that the DSS

would not entertain Ron's request for a transfer away from London and so he changed jobs – joining Abbey National to work in Ruislip on the basis that the job would move to Milton Keynes.

Ron knew Milton Keynes well – or at least the villages from which it was developing—as it was peal and tower grabbing territory from his earlier days in Amersham. He quickly settled into ringing regularly at Great Linford teaching and developing a Sunday service band and sharing a practice with Old Wolverton. An extensive network of friends grew around North Bucks and Towcester particularly through the Wicken practice. It was through these associations that he contributed much practical work to the augmentation at Towcester, the re-hanging of Great Linford and the installation of the new ring of 8 at Downs Barn.

Ron worked for Abbey National in Milton Keynes until his job was out-sourced, when he took early retirement, and promptly got a full time job working for The Open University.

In 1984 Colin, Ron and Linda's only child, was diagnosed with Hunters Syndrome of Mucopolysaccharide Disease, and they found themselves drawn to the MPS Society. Initially getting the benefit of support and information about Colin's condition, Ron and Linda were soon involved in organising and managing significant aspects of the operation of the charity. As Fund Raising Officer Ron raised literally thousands of pounds to pay for research into the MPS Diseases, organising events and sponsorship with fund-matching where ever possible to maximise the outcome.

Remembering what they had experienced when Colin was first diagnosed, Ron and Linda became leaders in the Family Support team, which was available day and night by telephone to help other families who were facing the challenges presented by MPS sufferers. Quite literally hours were spent on the phone helping parents of newly diagnosed children understand what help was available, and that they were not alone. Maintaining contact with as wide a group of families as possible was a significant and time consuming task which Ron took on. Sadly Colin died in 1990 just before his 9th birthday.

Ron had become disillusioned with the MPS Society feeling they were no longer supporting families. Instead he transferred his allegiance to an organisation for MPS sufferers called MARCS Friends where support for the family is a primary concern.

Some small measure of comfort for Linda and Ricky will be drawn from the outstanding attendance at Ron's funeral when ringing friends from as far away as Leeds, Newcastle, Devon and Spain came together to pay their respects to a man who made a great contribution to the exercise and with who's passing the ringing fraternity will be the poorer.

Tony Fortin, C. Barrie Dove, Alan Marchbank



Roy's Retirement

You can't let these occasions go by unmarked! That's how Hanslope ringers and friends felt when they discovered their tower captain, Roy Keeves, was 'quietly' retiring from work on Thursday 3rd February. As it was practice night it seemed an ideal opportunity to have a surprise celebration in the Watts Arms after ringing.



A good time was had by all (especially Roy) and as you can see he received some interesting retirement presents.....

First Pealer Surprises rest of Band at Towcester

(from The Ringing World—15th April)

With the Royal Wedding being moved from Friday to Saturday, the Towcester ringers took the opportunity to mark the occasion with a peal. However, as the organisation didn't start until practice on the Friday evening (no surprises there then), and with many of our usual squad unavailable at such short notice, we had to recruit from further afield.

John Lindsay rang Andrew Wilby on Saturday lunchtime to say that he had managed to contact Catherine Stanworth (*member of the North Bucks Branch*) who would be able to get to Towcester for a 5 pm start. As conductor of the attempt I had no problem with this as Catherine has visited Towcester on practice night once or twice and has always rung competently, so I had no worries as to her capability.

Catherine rang the treble to Yorkshire Surprise Royal with next to no mistakes. Her striking was of a very high standard throughout, and she remained unfazed on a few occasions when other members of the band were, shall we say, having difficulties! Imagine our surprise when, after the conclusion of the peal, Catherine informed us that she's actually never rung a peal before! Throughout the peal she had looked relaxed and confident, on the one occasion that she had made a small mistake she had obeyed instructions and got right very quickly, and her striking recovered immediately.

This is just to say "well done" to Catherine, and thanks for helping us out. From the conductor's point of view she rang the treble really solidly and made my job much easier than it might have been. The fact that she achieved this ringing with a band that she didn't really know makes it all the more remarkable. I definitely think we have discovered another rising star of the exercise.

John Thurman

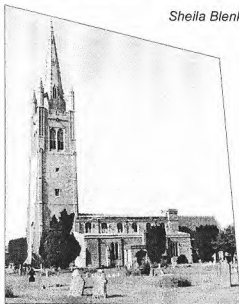
RON SNACK

The members of Hanslope tower would like to be associated with the quarter peals rung in memory of Ron Snack—three attempts were made on successive Sunday mornings for a quarter peal of Stedman Triples but unfortunately on each occasion they were unsuccessful.

Six ringers took part in all three attempts—Jonathan Griggs, Roy Keeves, Ian Thompson, Nick Gray, David Taylor and Phil Haslam. The following ringers made up the rest of the bands—Alan Cozens, Richard Haseldine, Stuart Grout, Doug Hird and Alan Marchbank.

We very much regret that we were unable to achieve a successful quarter in memory of a much respected ringing friend. Sadly it wasn't to be, but Hanslope ringers and friends wanted to be associated with the many other quarter peals that were rung for Ron.

Sheila Blenkhorn



Peals

The Cross & Stable, Downs Barn

Saturday 5th March 2005

5088 Lincolnshire Surprise Major (2 hours 41 mins)

(Comp W Barton)

- 1 Christine Cable
- 2 B Douglas Hird
- 3 Ruth M Stokes
- 4 Alan J Marchbank
- 5 Christopher C Stokes
- 6 Anthony K Fortin
- 7 Patricia M Newton (C)
- 8 Barry R Eglesfield

In celebration of the life of Ronald J Snack
1st on 8—1

St Andrew, Great Linford

Thursday 10th March 2005

5040 Surprise Minor (3 hours 11 mins)

(4 extents Cambridge, 3 extents London)

- 1 Alan J Marchbank
- 2 Roger Powell
- 3 Ruth M Stokes
- 4 Simon Head
- 5 Christopher C Stokes
- 6 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

Rung half muffled following the funeral of
Ronald J Snack

Circled tower to peals—1

St Mary the Virgin, Stoke Bruerne

Monday 28th March 2005

5040 Doubles (2 hours 53 mins)

(2 extents Grandsire, 10 each Stedman; St Simon's
Bob; St Martin's Bob, Plain Bob)

- 1 Alan J Marchbank
- 2 B Douglas Hird
- 3 Richard Stanworth
- 4 Simon Head
- 5 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

Rung silent and non-conducted

Rung simultaneously with the first peal on the rehung
and augmented bells at Blisworth for the 200th
anniversary of the opening of the Blisworth Tunnel.
First silent and non-conducted peal for all.

St Lawrence, Towcester

Saturday 9th April 2005

5040 Yorkshire Surprise Royal (3 hours 11 mins)

Comp. J M Thurman

- 1 Catherine Stanworth
- 2 Joanne C Lovell
- 3 Barbara A Foster
- 4 Jonathan G W King
- 5 John Lindsay
- 6 Hannah L Wilby
- 7 Brett Masters
- 8 Andrew W R Wilby
- 9 John M Thurman (C)
- 10 Richard I Alton

Rung to mark the wedding of HRH The Prince of
Wales and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall
First Peal—1

Quarters

All Saints, Calverton

Sunday 25th April 2004

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 David Scrutton
- 2 David Moore
- 3 Derek Stainsby
- 4 Bob Winstanley
- 5 James Woodcock
- 6 Malcolm Hoodon (C)

For the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch of the
Oxford Diocesan Guild

St Lawrence, Bradwell

Sunday 20th February 2005

1260 Plain Bob Doubles (43 mins)

- 1 Christine Abbott
- 2 David Green
- 3 Christine Cable
- 4 Dean Meakins
- 5 David Joyce (C)
- 6 Gordon Abbott

More Quarters

St Andrew, Great Linford
Sunday 27th February 2005
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Edith M Robinson
- 2 Alexandra J Marchbank
- 3 Christine E Marchbank
- 4 James Maltby
- 5 Alan J Marchbank (C)
- 6 Ros Tyrrell

By the Sunday Service Band
In celebration of the life of Ronald J Snack who
died 22nd February 2005
Also in celebration of the life of Les Baker, who
died 11th February 2005
First 'inside' - 2

Cross & Stable, Downs Barn
Tuesday 1st March 2005
1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major

- 1 Christine E Marchbank
- 2 Edith M Robinson
- 3 Richard Haseldine
- 4 Ruth M Stokes
- 5 Christopher C Stokes
- 6 Simon Head
- 7 B Douglas Hird
- 8 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

In celebration of the life of Ronald J Snack who
died 22nd February 2005

SS Peter & Paul, Newport Pagnell
Wednesday 2nd March 2005
1250 Cambridge Surprise Major

- 1 Roy Keeves
- 2 Barry R Eglesfield
- 3 Ruth M Stokes
- 4 Richard Stanworth
- 5 Christopher Bulleid
- 6 Ed Houghton
- 7 B Douglas Hird
- 8 Christopher C Stokes (C)

In celebration of the life of Ronald J Snack who
died 22nd February 2005

SS Peter & Paul, Olney
Thursday 3rd March 2005
1260 Stedman Triples

- 1 Alan J Marchbank
- 2 B Douglas Hird
- 3 Ruth M Stokes
- 4 Terry Page
- 5 Christopher C Stokes
- 6 David M Joyce
- 7 Barry R Eglesfield (C)
- 8 Charles J Knight

Half muffled in memoriam Ronald J Snack

St Lawrence, East Harptree, Somerset
Thursday 3rd March 2005
1272 Norwich Surprise Minor

- 1 Robin Stubbs
- 2 Molly Waterson
- 3 Roy Shallick
- 4 Anthony K Fortin
- 5 Thomas Longridge
- 6 Steven Bateman (C)

In memoriam Ronald J Snack

All Saints, Leighton Buzzard
Sunday 6th March 2005
1311 Stedman Cinques

- 1 Patricia M Newton
- 2 Jonathan Pawley
- 3 Ruth M Stokes
- 4 B Douglas Hird
- 5 Richard Yates
- 6 Nigel Williams
- 7 Alan J Marchbank
- 8 Ed Houghton
- 9 Charles Botting (C)
- 10 Christopher C Stokes
- 11 Barry R Eglesfield
- 12 David M Joyce

In celebration of the life of Ronald J Snack

St Andrew, Great Linford
Monday 7th March 2005
1272 London Surprise Minor

- 1 Christopher Bulleid
- 2 Richard Stanworth
- 3 Richard Yates
- 4 Alan J Marchbank
- 5 Nigel Williams
- 6 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

In celebration of the life of Ronald J Snack

Even More Quarters

St Andrew, Great Linford

Sunday 13th March 2005

1260 Doubles (720 Plain Bob & 540 Grandsire)

- 1 Brian Newman
- 2 Michael Nimmo
- 3 Alexandra J Marchbank
- 4 James Maltby
- 5 Alan J Marchbank (C)
- 6 Ros Tyrrell

In celebration of the life of Ronald J Snack

Most methods—3

The Cross & Stable, Downs Barn

Tuesday 15th March 2005

1250 Rutland Surprise Major

- 1 Christine Cable
- 2 Edith M Robinson
- 3 Barry R Eglesfield
- 4 Brett Masters
- 5 Ruth M Stokes
- 6 Jo White
- 7 Alan J Marchbank
- 8 Christopher C Stokes (C)

In celebration of the life of Ronald J Snack who

died 22nd February 2005

St Mary, Banbury

Wednesday 16th March 2005

1282 Cambridge Royal (48 mins)

- 1 Robert Reeves
- 2 Jean Davis
- 3 Catherine Stanworth
- 4 Rosemary Hemmings
- 5 Diana Reeves
- 6 John Stanworth
- 7 John Temple
- 8 Alan Griffin
- 9 Michael Tinsley
- 10 Barry Davis (C)

1st of Cambridge Royal—2, 3, 6 & 9

St Lawrence, Bradwell

Monday 28th March 2005

1269 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Christine Cable
- 2 Jennifer Brookman
- 3 David Joyce
- 4 Dean Meakins
- 5 Ian Green (C)
- 6 Jean Phillips

In celebration of the life of Ron Snack

St Andrew, Great Linford

Sunday 3rd April 2005

1260 Doubles (240 each: Grandsire, St Simon's Bob, St Martin's Bob; 540 Plain Bob)

- 1 Alexandra J Marchbank
- 2 Christine E Marchbank
- 3 James Maltby
- 4 Brian Newman
- 5 Alan J Marchbank (C)
- 6 Ros Tyrrell

By Sunday Service Band in thanksgiving for the life and work of Pope John Paul II

Most Methods—1

St Lawrence, Bradwell

Sunday 3rd April 2005

1260 Mixed Doubles (480 Plain Bob, 240 St Simon,

240 St Martin, 300 Grandsire) 46 mins

- 1 Ian Green
- 2 Brian Newman
- 3 Christine Cable
- 4 Alan Marchbank
- 5 David Joyce (C)
- 6 Dean Meakins

Rung half-muffled in commemoration of the life of Pope John Paul II

St Andrew, Great Linford

Sunday 21st April 2005

1272 Ipswich Surprise Minor

- 1 Alexandra J Marchbank
- 2 Edith M Robinson
- 3 Simon Head
- 4 James Maltby
- 5 Alan J Marchbank
- 6 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

1st Surprise Minor—1, 1st Ipswich—4

Cross and Stable, Downs Barn

Sunday 17th April 2005

1260 Stedman Singles

- 1 James Maltby
- 2 Simon Head
- 3 Alan J Marchbank (C)

By Sunday Service Band for the election of Pope Benedict 16th

1st Stedman—1, 1st Q of Singles—1 & 3

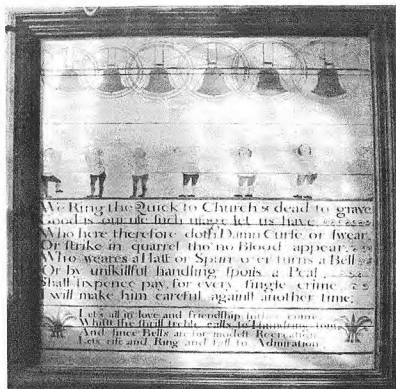
All Saints, Leighton Buzzard

Sunday 24th April 2005

1260 Stedman Triples

- 1 Christine Cable
- 2 Alan J Marchbank
- 3 Catherine Stanworth
- 4 David M Joyce
- 5 Michael Tinsley
- 6 Ed Houghton
- 7 Barry R Eglesfield (C)
- 8 Brett Masters

For the election of Pope Benedict 16th



Found at St Endellion Cornwall

This Georgian board can be found in the ringing chamber at St Endellion, a Church the *In Touch* editors visited when on holiday at Padstow recently. Note the ringers in their shirts and breeches!

The last four lines were used by Sir John Betjeman when, as poet laureate, he wrote a poem to celebrate the marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer.

John Betjeman used to worship frequently at St Endellion, and is buried at nearby St Enodoc.

Ringing World Roadshow

We are liaising with the Towcester Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild regarding sharing a coach to the event, this year being held in Newbury.

Can anyone who is interested in travelling on the coach please contact the Chairman, Alan Marchbank:

Email: alan.marchbank@tesco.net
Tel: 01908 611434

Gerald Kingston

Gerald Kingston,
Chairman of the
Towcester Branch,
died on
Tuesday 10th May
following a short illness

R.I.P.



RINGING ROADSHOW 2005

Newbury Racecourse, Berkshire
Saturday, 10th September 2005

**80+ Exhibitors with over 100 stands
Including ALL the major bellhangers**

Handbell Performances and Workshops

Sponsored by Handbell Ringers of Great Britain

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A superb day out for ringers and families!

Web site: www.ringingroadshow2005.org.uk
Enquiries to:- roadshow2005@btinternet.com

[Possible] Fame at Last!

Last autumn some of the Hanslope ringers and their friends decided to have a long weekend away in Herefordshire.

To cut a long story short, we enquired about accommodation in the area through the local Tourist Information Centre and they expressed quite an interest in our bellringing group. They asked us to let them know our itinerary and said that they would like to come and take some photos of us ringing for possible inclusion in one of their forthcoming brochures.



So it was that last October at St Mary in Lydney a professional photographer duly arrived while we were ringing and took about a dozen photos, including those shown here. He noted down quite a lot of details about the group and the Tourist Information Centre have promised to let us know if we are going to appear in print. So, watch this space!

Sheila Blenkhorn

**Ringling at
St Mary's Church, Stowe**

Saturday 27th August

10.00 a.m. — 4.00 p.m.

**Flower Festival
Refreshments**

**Proceeds towards
the repair of the
Chancel roof**

A.G.M. Minutes

Due to personal circumstances the minutes of the AGM were not able to be included in this edition of *In Touch*. They will be available at the Quarterly meeting. Alternatively, an electronic version can be sent to those who send a request to helen@tsl-uk.com prior to the meeting.

Calling all "Beginners"

It was a lovely early April evening, the Choir had shifted their practice, and we'd even cleaned the Ringing Chamber! But alas there were not enough 'beginners' to hold the Branch Beginners Striking Competition at Emberton on 8th April.



Well, we did have one (see Donna pictured here) to enjoy Emberton's easy going six bells.



So next year, how about persuading your tower captain that it might be fun to enter this light-hearted competition? Remember it's 'beginners' of all ages. You might even take the Trophy back to your tower!

ODG North Bucks Branch - Six Bell Striking Competition Friday 24th June—Clifton Reynes

RULES

The Branch Striking Competition will be held at Clifton Reynes on Friday 24th June, starting at 7.30 p.m. prompt. Entries to the Ringing Master by **Thursday 23rd June**, please.

1. Entries must be made to the Ringing Master by the closing date—Thursday 23rd 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.



John Butler Trophy

On the 2nd April 2005 the North Bucks bell ringing Branch entered in the John Butler trophy young ringers striking competition.

In the North Bucks Branch was (left to right in picture) James Moltby, Alex Marchbank, Victoria Stanworth, Donna Bond, Josh Brewin, and John Stanworth. Well done to you all for doing your best.

First place was the Oxford City branch with 76%
Second place was Shiplake Tower with 67%
Third place was Vale of the White Horse Branch with 61%
Fourth place was East Berks South Bucks Branch with 59%
Fifth place was Reading Branch with 58%
Sixth place was Sonning Deanery Branch with 53%
Seventh place was North Bucks Branch with 51%

Thank you to all and a very big thank you to the people who made it happen. I hope you all had a very nice evening

Donna Bond (North Bucks Branch)

St Mary, Padbury
Sunday 8th May 2005
1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Victoria Stanworth
- 2 Helen Stanworth
- 3 Catherine Stanworth (C)
- 4 Richard Stanworth (C)
- 5 John Stanworth (C)
- 6 Michael Tinsley

In thanksgiving for the life of Alan Gowler,
28th May 1928—26th April 2005.
Father of Helen and Grandpy to John, Catherine,
Becky and Vicky.
Jointly conducted by 3, 4 and 5.

STOP PRESS



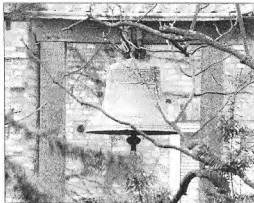
A Piece of Detective Work

Sheila Watts & Sheila Ware

It was back in February that we decided to have a day out and went over to Anglesey Abbey near Cambridge, a National Trust house famous for its display of snowdrops. After coffee and visiting the snowdrop wood we walked the 'winter path' and were startled to see a large bell through the trees—just outside the public area. Where did it come from and what was it doing there? We could just make out the founder's mark, and the date: TAR 1766. We took photos, of course—always on the lookout for things for *In Touch*!

An email to the National Trust at the Abbey revealed that they knew little of its history, but thought it might have come from local Lode Church, which the Fairhaven family paid to rebuild in the 1930s. Apparently the bell's current location outside the donor family's residence meant that it could not have been there over forty years. They very kindly sent us more photos, and asked if we could let them know if we found out anything. The photos revealed that the bell was "The gift of Mrs Brown". Who was Mrs Brown? That really captured our interest!

We consulted Doug Hird, who together with Scott Ayers, discovered that the founders mark was that of Thomas Rudhall of Gloucester (1744-1783). The Rudhall family foundry was declared bankrupt in 1830 and bought by Mears & Stainbank of London, where the equipment was transferred in 1848. The old records, kept by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, unfortunately do not go back to 1766.



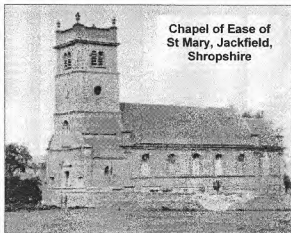
We were not sure how to proceed with our research next, but contacted the Secretary of the Ely Diocesan Association of Change Ringers, hoping they might have some local knowledge. Catherina, Ruth and Andrew were enormously helpful, and this is what we pieced together with the help of that wonderful resource, the internet:



In 1766 the bell was cast by Thomas Rudhall, Gloucester, for St. Mary, Jackfield. The village is situated on the south side of the River Severn in the Ironbridge Gorge, Shropshire. It was "the gift of Mrs Brown", and was shipped up the River Severn to the Church. Some say the Church was built in 1759 by Francis Blithe Turner in memory of a female relative. Others say it was paid for by Mrs Mary Browne, and set a later date of 1766, which corresponds with the bell. There is a popular legend that the deceased lady did not want the Church built on the conventional East-West alignment, and each night rose from her grave to push down the work completed during the day! Hence the Church was built North to South. Jackfield is notorious for its land slips, and the building quickly became unsafe and Services ceased in 1860. The Church was eventually demolished in 1960.

Around that time the bell was bought by Lord Fairhaven, the owner of Anglesey Abbey, with the hope of installing it in Lode Church, Cambridgeshire. However, it proved too heavy for the gable (there's no tower as such) and was never hung, so it was recycled as a garden ornament at the Abbey. Apparently Lady Fairhaven would ring the bell to summon her husband from the grounds for lunch! So that's the end of the mystery. It kept us entertained for some weeks and became quite a quest! Our grateful thanks go to:

Philip Warner, The National Trust
Doug Hird & Scott Ayers
<http://www.livinggloucester.co.uk/>
Whitechapel Bell Foundry
Catherina Griffiths, Ruth Ogden, Andrew Stevens
of the Ely Diocesan Association of Change Ringers
Broseley Local History Society



Chapel of Ease of
St Mary, Jackfield,
Shropshire

North Bucks Branch—Calendar 2005

MAY	20	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Stedman Doubles	Shalstone
	21		<i>Guild Annual General Meeting</i>	<i>Old North Berks</i>
JUNE	4	3.30	Quarterly Meeting	Buckingham
	24	7.30	Branch Six-Bell Striking Competition	Clifton Reynes
JULY	2*	6.00	Inter-Branch Striking Competition	Wicken
	9		<i>Guild Festival</i>	<i>Vale of the White Horse Branch</i>
	15*	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: TBA	Stoke Goldington
AUGUST	19*	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: TBA	Loughton
SEPTEMBER	3*	3.30	Quarterly Meeting Evening Ringing	Thornborough Beachampton
	10		<i>Ringling Roadshow</i>	<i>Newbury</i>
	16*	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: TBA	Bletchley
	23-25		<i>Easthampstead Course</i>	<i>Easthampstead</i>
OCTOBER	1		<i>Guild Six-Bell Striking Competition</i>	<i>Bicester Branch</i>
	29		<i>Steeple Aston Course</i>	<i>Steeple Aston</i>
NOVEMBER	12*	7.30	Joint Practice with Towcester Branch	Wicken

Items marked * were unconfirmed as at 5 March 2005
Events in *italics* are Guild events, etc.