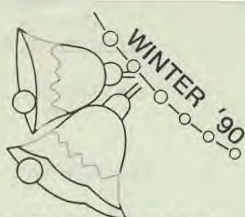


IN TOUCH



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH BUCKS BRANCH

OF

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS



THE 5th BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 23rd 1991.

AT

THE BOAT INN, STOKE BRUERNE.

MENU



Cream of Asparagus Soup

Fillet of Sole Brittany

*Roast Topside of Beef
with
Yorkshire Pudding
Roast Potatoes
Buttered Carrots
Broccoli Spears*

Pineapple Pavlova

Coffee with Cream

After Dinner Mints



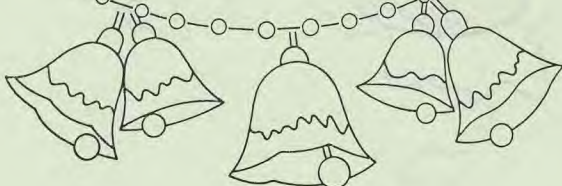
Wine is included with the meal.

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE SHORTLY, PRICE £14.60, FROM:

ALAN MARCHBANK, TELEPHONE (0908) 321564.

SHEILA WARE, TELEPHONE (0604) 24829.

SHEILA WATTS, TELEPHONE (0234) 711113.



Whos who, where & when

TOWER	CONTACT	RINGING TIMES	
		SUNDAY	PRACTICE
BEACHAMPTON	Mrs J. Nevill (MK) 566337		
BLETCHLEY	Mr. P. Faithful (MK) 79025	5:15	Mon 7:30
BRADWELL	Mr. E. Fawcett (MK) 319405	5:45	Wed 7:30
BUCKINGHAM	Mr. P. Nicholson (0280) 814201		Fri.
CALVERTON	Mr. B. Eglesfield (MK) 564668	5:30	Thur 7:30
CHICHELEY	Mr. Robertson (023065) 371	5:30(1st)	Mon 7:30
			alt with #1
CLIFTON REYNES	Mr. M. Davis (0234) 711082		
DRAYTON PARSLOW	Mr. F. Houndslow (029672) 707		
EMBERTON	Mrs. S. Watts (0234) 711113	9:15	Fri 7:45
		(from Christmas 1990)	
FERRY STRATFORD	Mr. P. White (MK) 642826		
GT. BRICKHILL	Mr. H. Butler (0525) 26663		Thur 7:30
GT. LINFORD	Mr. A. Marchbank (MK) 321564	10:15	Tues 7:30
HANSLOPE	Mrs. J. Haseldine (MK) 510895	10:15	Thur 7:30
HAVERSHAM	Mrs. H. Beck (MK) 220526		By arrangement
LAVENDON	Mr. B. Clifton (0234) 712774		Wed 7:30
LECKHAMPTSTEAD	Mr. Pentland (02806) 303		
LILL, LOVELL	Mr. R. Cullley (0280) 815360		
LOUGHTON	Mr. D. Stainsby (MK) 666492	10:30	Mon 7:30
MAIDS MORETON	Mr. G. Holland (0280) 823072		Wed, 7:15
MILTON KEYNES	Mrs. P. Giffard (0908) 665439		Mon, 7:30
NEWPORT PAGNELL	Miss G. Watson (MK) 675767	8:45/5:15	Wed 7:30
NEWTON LONG'LE	Mr. J. Clarke (MK) 75794		
NORTH CRAWLEY	Mr. W. Parker	5:30(2,3,4,)	Mon 7:30
			alt with #1
OLD WOLVERTON	Mr. M. Wingo (MK) 321011	10:30	Tue 7:30
OLNEY	Mr. C. Knight (0234) 713719	5:30	Thur 7:30
SHALSTONE	Mr. C. Mullineux (0280) 704963		By arrangement
SHEALEY	See Loughton		By arrangement
SHERINGTON	Mr. D. Williams (MK) 611946		By arrangement
SIMPSON	See Woughton U-T-G,	9:40(1st)	Thur 7:45
			alt with +
STK. GOLDINGTON	Mr. O. Warren (090855) 416		
STONY STRATFORD	Mr. M. Hooton (MK) 565380	9:00	Mon 7:30
STOWE	See Buckingham		
THORNBOROUGH	Mr. O. Goodger (MK) 812976		Thur 7:30
TINGEWICK	Mr. A. Hawkins (02804) 526		
TYFORD	Mr. E. Herring (08697) 671		
TYRINGHAM	See Haversham		By arrangement
WAVENDON	Mrs. R. Davis (0908) 583016		
WESTON U'WOOD	See Stoke Goldington		
WHADDON	Mrs. B. Brown (MK) 502470		
WOUGHTON U-T-G,	Mr. B. Baldwin (MK) 670579	10:00	Thur 7:45
			alt with +

UPDATED 20/11/90

NEWPORT PAGNELL & EMBERTON OUTING

On October 27th, Emberton and Newport ringers plus friends set off for Lincolnshire - the main objective of the day being Boston Stump. After overcoming the problems of parking and the 200-odd steps up the Stump, we had some enjoyable ringing on the 21 cwt ten. A first in Grandsire Caters for some, also firsts on ten. The ringing chamber has a unique feature of a raised dome in the centre, in which there is a trapdoor where you can view the Church below. Not all ringers risked taking a look! A further short climb to an external gallery gave magnificent views over the Fens and towards the Wash.

After lunch and a short drive, we met up at Bicker, an easy going 7 cwt eight. The ringing chamber has a very low ceiling, and some of the less-travelled ringers found the experience of the disappearing sallies somewhat disconcerting. Ringing ranged from rounds to Cambridge.

On to the village of Rippingale, a very nice 12 cwt six. Emberton and Newport's restoration problems seemed minor when we realised there was a pinnacle missing off the tower, and a massive gash in the nave roof where it had fallen!

The next tower visited was Thurlby, a 12 cwt six - the only tower of the day to cause slight handling problems - perhaps also due to the weariness of the ringers! However, St. Clements, Stedman and Cambridge were enjoyed.

After a break to allow time for tea and to travel nearer home, we met up at the final tower of Weldon in Northants, a delightful 8 cwt eight. We were joined by three more members of our bands, and some very good striking was achieved on these beautiful bells (pity about the Yorkshire!). Weldon is the home of the handbell ringers that gave the concert this year at Emberton. Is this the only tower where a peal board commemorates a tower bell peal rung by members of the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain?

After we had assembled for the Outing Photo, we dispersed to various pubs, eating houses, etc. An enjoyable day was had by all - our thanks to the organisers, Sheila and Jeanette, and all those who came along.



NOTES OF THE TOWER REPRESENTATIVES MEETING

Apologies for absence were received from;
Hanslope
Great Brickhill
Bradwell

Sheila Watts opened the discussion on the activities that make up the Branch Diary of events by explaining that the Diary for 1991 was to be published soon and tower and members input was required if the functions are to be supported.

Godfrey Foat continued the 'events' theme by pointing out that was a total of 42 events in the 1990 Diary - 24 Branch Practices; 3 1/4ly meetings and 1 AGM PLUS the Guild events. He said he considered aim of the Branch ringing master was to advance the standard of ringing in the Branch and considered that with the current 'over-subscription' of practices it was not possible to achieve this.

PRACTICES.

Godfrey Foat suggested that -;

- i) There should be more encouragement for members to visit other towers practices as a learning and helping experience.
- ii) Branch practices should be focused only on towers that ring.
- iii) The number of Branch practices should be reduced.

There was general support amongst the meeting for these principles.

After some general discussion on the format of practices it was agreed that:-

- i) 8 bell practices should continue
- ii) For some Branch practices 2 towers should be organised - the second tower to be used for a 1/4 peal or 'special need' practice in parallel with the other tower.
- iii) Structure of practice to be:-
5th Fridays - 8 Bell Practice

3rd Fridays - some 6 some 8 Bell Practices

1st Fridays - some 6 some 8 Bell Practices PLUS second local tower for 1/4 or 'special needs' practice.

MEETINGS.

The meeting discussed the Branch Meetings and concluded that:-

- i) They should remain as 3 Quarterly meetings and the AGM.
- ii) The six bell contest should precede the June 1/4ly meeting.

COMPETITIONS.

The meeting discussed the contest vs. Towcester Branch and agreed that :-

- i) It should be moved from the first Saturday in September
- ii) The venue should be changed.

It was agreed that this was an excellent event and should not be dropped from the Diary.

The Beginners contest was also discussed and the following points agreed:-

- i) Hold the event in place of Branch Practice

- ii) Make it more mobile - say a circuit of Loughton, Bradwell, Stowe, Calverton,

A 'Rise and Fall' contest was suggested for the Diary. It was agreed that this would be better organised between towers rather than at branch level. Godfrey will look into this.

QUARTER PEAL WEEK

It was agreed that this needed the 'right' level of organisation if it is to be a success. In leap years the aims should be to raise money for the Guild Bell Repair fund. Doug agreed to organise the Quarter Peal Week in 1991.

EDUCATION.

After some discussion it was agreed that there was a continuing need for Plain Hunt and Plain Bob instruction in the branch and a Training Day should be fitted into the Diary. It was agreed that the best way to help towers to progress was to arrange specific sessions for them.

COMMUNICATIONS

Following some extremely detailed discussion the following points were agreed:-

- i) In Touch should be published more in advance of the 1/4ly Meetings.
- ii) More news from the towers is needed for In Touch.
- iii) A tower list with contact name, service and practice night details should be in every other edition.
- iv) The Tower Reps. Meeting is a good forum for discussion include one in next years diary too.

Alan Marchbank lead the initial discussion on the activities organised by the Guild focusing particularly on The Guild Festival, The Guild AGM, The Ringing Day, The 8 Bell Contest, The 6 Bell Contest.

There was a brief discussion on each of these events with the following outcomes.

GUILD FESTIVAL.

- i) Needs to be made into more of a 'special' event.
- ii) Holding it in Oxford is central to the Guild (no more than 50 miles from anywhere) and would permit a service in the Guilds Cathedral.
- iii) The Guild President should be invited to preach.

AGM

- i) Can another event - say the 8 Bell contest be run before this to improve attendance?
- ii) Could the Branch organise a mini-bus for this event?

GENERAL ISSUES

It was suggested that the Guild Annual Report be simplified in the way that peals are recorded. As the peals are bound to be published in the Ringing World why not simply list all the peals - date and venue.

Can an ANNUAL REPORT be provided for each member?

At 4.30pm the business concluded the chairman closed the meeting and wished everyone a safe journey home.

ODG SIX BELL STRIKING COMPETITION 1990. Judge: Mr Frank Price

After turning left at a roundabout somewhere in the middle of the Cowley Works, we were a few minutes later surrounded by the Oxfordshire village Garsington. The not too easy to find church is sited on a spur (or would eminence be a more suitable description for this particular site?) with an impressive view towards The Vale of the White Horse. Just right for the occasion on a fine day, but on this Saturday the Judge had to be moved from the shed in the corner of the churchyard to a car parked just below the tower so that he could hear the bells. Inside the tower, a groundfloor ring, the competition was between not only the bands that had entered, but also the strong winds that were beating a tattoo over the North Nave with the lead on the roof. But it didn't rain (much!)

Frank Price had a demanding afternoon ahead. There were to be no heats, ten bands with a schedule allowing each twenty minutes to perform their set piece, and only a short break for a cuppa half way through. Having rung up each bell himself and rung some rounds (with the help of others - He may be good, but not that good!) Mr Price felt satisfied that he had the feel of the bells and could usefully comment on the striking. Being a tutor at the Easthampstead Course (bookings are being taken for next year but hurry, hurry) Frank Price is known for demanding a high standard of striking in ringing but in particular for good leading in rounds and good leading in changes. His general comments to the bands included the observation that the poor quality of some of the leads from ALL the bands may have affected their position in the competition. He also pointed out that the bell striking in seconds place is important and influences the rest of the change.

With these comments in mind the one minute of rounds and the changes had been marked separately along with the number of faults due to leading errors. It's easiest to give the results as a table and I've done it in 'winning order' and not 'competition order'.

PLACE	PEAL SPEED	TOWER AND BRANCH	FAULTS		
			ROUNDS	METHOD	TOTAL
1	2.37	EASTHAMPSTEAD (Sonning Deanery)	4/1	54/7	58
2	2.48	ASTON CLINTON (Chiltern)	5/1	60/5	65
3	2.52	HIGH WYCOMB (EBSB)	1/0	71/15	72
4	2.55	THATCHAM (Newbury)	1/0	84/10	85
5	2.48	BUCKINGHAM/MAIDS MORETON (North Bucks)	11/3	81/7	92
5	2.39	APPLETON (Old North Berks)	6/0	86/21	92
7	2.36	ST MARY & ST LAWRENCE (Reading)	14/0	100/11	114
8	3.00	QUAINTON (Central Bucks)	9/5	116/16	125
9	2.48	SHRIVENHAM (Vale of the White Horse)	5/1	148/7	153
10	2.48	ST GILES OXFORD (Oxford City)	9/1	153/9	162

PEAL SPEED: This approximates the time taken to ring the bells to a peal calculated from the time taken to ring the touch. This time is used as a handy guide by Competition Judges to confound those ringers who haven't a clue to what the Judge is on about.

For Garsington bells, Frank Price favoured the faster speeds and 'bright' ringing, he thought that a peal speed of 2hrs 35mins was about right. His comments for the Euckingham/Maids Moreton team were that the rythm and beat made it a good piece of ringing but the leads let it down. The trips in the method were quickly corrected.

Our congratulations to the winners, Easthampstead of the Sonning Deanery Branch, our thanks to the Oxford City Branch for their hospitality and to Frank Price for judging the competition and for his constructive criticism. We should also thank the other branches of the Guild, we wouldn't have the competition without them.

Tine Marchbank.



The proud grins of the winners !!!

From The Top of the Secretary's Head....!

Somewhere within the newsletter (probably towards the back) you should find a copy of the first 3 months of next years Diary of Events for the Branch.

Each tower that is involved with the organisation of practices, meetings or other events for the Branch will receive a separate letter requesting the use of their bells. This year I have included a 'tear - off' strip to make it easier for you to advise me if the booking is OK or not as the case may be.

Every tower correspondent will in due course receive a final copy to display in their tower and I would be very grateful if you could make sure that it actually gets into the tower so that everyone can see it.

The structure of this years events follows that of previous years and incorporates a 5th Friday practice which is notionally at an 8 bell tower. I have also indicated that 2 towers are to be available on some of the practice nights. This is in response to the excellent turn outs at this years practices and the idea is that the second tower may be used as a location for either very specific practice or a 1/4 peal attempt. The exact use will be determined on the night.

Finally we have published a list of towers; contacts and ringing times as requested but can you please check that it is still accurate for your tower and feedback to me any amendments that are necessary.



NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

Great Brickhill - the stonework repairs have now been completed and practices have started again. All are welcome to join us on Thursday nights at 7.30pm

Calverton - the practice is going from strength to strength with all levels and abilities making excellent progress. Recent highlights have been ringing a clean bob course of London; Ringing wellstruck courses of Belfast, Carlisle, Hull, Norwich and Cambridge and doing not too badly at a touch of spliced Belfast, London and Cambridge.

Great Linford - In trying to put Bob Doubles behind us we have become adventurous and started to learn Stedman which is now almost achievable with the Sunday service band. Simon and Ian are also being weened off the Doubles Drum and are having considerable success in Bob Minor. Next we aim to tackle Kent, Little Bob and really crack this Grandsire stuff!

SITUATIONS VACANT ...
Annual General Meeting - 2nd March, 1991

All Branch Officer posts automatically become vacant at the AGM on 2nd March next year and must be re-filled. The current Officers are:

<u>Post</u>	<u>Holder</u>	<u>Duties</u>
Chairman	Sheila Watts	The buck stops here!
Secretary	Alan Marchbank	General factotum
Treasurer	Sheila Ware	Nags about the subs, etc.
Ringing Masters	Godfrey Foat	Your ringing mentors
	Tim Davis	
Guild Reps	Tine Marchbank	"Go-between" on Guild matters
	Andrew King	
Newsletter Editor	Ros Tyrrel	Her work is evident here!

Some Officers will, of course, stand for re-election. However, at the time of writing we know that Sheila Watts and Godfrey Foat will definitely not be seeking re-election to their current jobs.

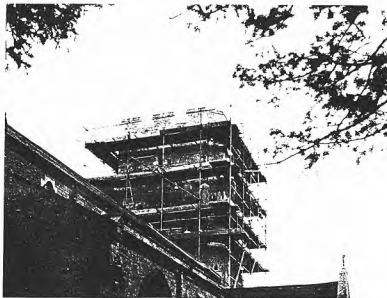
It is up to the members of the Branch to fill all these posts. What a healthy situation it would be to have members coming forward, keen to take part and contribute in some way! This is your chance to make your contribution and have your say in Branch activities - don't miss the opportunity!

Please get your thinking caps on



STOP PRESS

Emberton should be back in action by Christmas following the restoration of the tower. Friday practices 7.45-9.00 and Service ringing 9.15-9.45 will resume, and all are very welcome to join us. Our thanks to Clifton Reynes for hosting our nomadic band, and to all those who turn up to help.



FIRE

Fire is a particularly serious threat to a church, whether caused by accident or malice. The Leighton Buzzard experience prompted us at Olney to think seriously about it. More than that, we sought expert advice from the Buckinghamshire Fire Service, in the person of Station Officer Miller from Bletchley Fire Station.

As most of you will know, the ringing chamber at Olney is around 30ft up, without windows and entered from within the church. Not an easy place to escape from in a hurry. It was suggested that when a number of people are upstairs someone should be downstairs to raise the alarm. This may be practical with a large party but with our normal band we would always be one short! Maybe we could install a smoke detector below the ringing room floor.

A fire needs three things before it can exist; fuel, oxygen and heat. Without any one of these it cannot happen. We cannot get rid of oxygen as we need it to breathe. Fuel comprising of our floor carpet, ceiling frame and ropes, we also need, but we can remove all our rubbish, including the debris brought in by pigeons and jackdaws. So clear such rubbish out and fix louvres and wiring. That leaves us with the sources of heat. No proper user of a church is going to smoke in the tower are they? (I do remember ash trays in Sherington some years ago). Downstairs, however, candles are lit up and the incense was lit by a bottled gas blow lamp, all next to curtains, clothing and seat cushions. The idea of Singed Server, or Barbecue Bob Major did not find favour.

This leaves the electricity supply. All wiring should be checked by a competent contractor at intervals of not more than five years. Lead light cables should not be left trailing across the floor - ours did!

We do have emergency lighting in the ringing room, but in the event of a power failure, the stairs are very dangerous. Mr Miller considered that more emergency lighting here would not help due to the deep shadows likely to be caused, and instead suggested a pair of good torches hung up in the ringing room near the door would be more practical. This has been done.

We had previously been given a water type fire extinguisher, this was considered adequate as no-one would hang about up there any longer than necessary.

Please don't let this put you off visiting us. We've never had a fire, but we have taken as many precautions as we can.

HOW ABOUT YOUR TOWER?

Chas Knight of Olney

QUARTER PEALS

LOUGHTON

Sunday 22nd May, 1988

1200 Steadman Doubles

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Derek Stainsby | 4. Peter Cannon |
| 2. Anne Stainsby | 5. Tim Davis (C) |
| 3. Caroline Davis | 6. Bob Winstanley |
- For Evensong

LOUGHTON

Sunday 29th May, 1988

1200 Double Court Bob Minor

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Caroline Davis | 4. Derek Stainsby |
| 2. Frank Daniels | 5. Bob Winstanley |
| 3. Anne Stainsby | 6. Tim Davis (C) |
- For Evensong

FENNY STRATFORD

Friday 10 June, 1988

1320 Norwich Surprise Minor

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Chris Baldwin | 4. Derek Stainsby |
| 2. Anne Stainsby | 5. Fred Mynard |
| 3. Caroline Davis | 6. Tim Davis (C) |
- For the induction of Rev S Huckle

LOUGHTON

Sunday 26th June, 1988

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Caroline Davis | 4. Frank Daniels |
| 2. Anne Stainsby | 5. Tim Davis (C) |
| 3. Derek Stainsby | 6. Bob Winstanley |
- For Evensong

GREAT LINFORD

Sunday 9th October, 1988

1440 Annable's London & Ipswich Surprise Minor

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Fred Mynard | 4. Bob Winstanley |
| 2. Caroline Davis | 5. Alan Marchbank |
| 3. Tim Davis (C) | 6. Dave Maybrey |

GREAT LINFORD

Sunday 23rd October, 1988

1440 Rosemary's London & Norwich Surprise Minor

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Caroline Davis | 4. Bob Winstanley |
| 2. Tim Davis (C) | 5. Alan Marchbank |
| 3. Brian Baldwin | 6. Dave Maybrey |

LOUGHTON

Sunday 27th October, 1988

1440 Annable's London & Norwich Surprise Minor

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Fred Mynard | 4. Bob Winstanley |
| 2. Tim Davis (C) | 5. Alan Marchbank |
| 3. Brian Baldwin | 6. Dave Maybrey |
- For Evensong

Thanks to whoever dropped this through my letterbox...! ED

Dear Diary!

DIARY OF EVENTS 1990
Revisions shown in *italics*.

DECEMBER

SATURDAY	1st	BRANCH QUARTERLY	<i>Great Linford</i>
FRIDAY	14th	BRANCH PRACTICE	Clifton Reynes
FRIDAY	28th	BRANCH PRACTICE	Gt. Linford

DIARY OF EVENTS 1991
Subject to confirmation.

JANUARY

FRIDAY	4th	BRANCH PRACTICE	OLD WOLVERTON
	18th	BRANCH PRACTICE	BLETCHLEY

FEBRUARY

FRIDAY	1st	BRANCH PRACTICE	M. K. VILLAGE (WAVENDON)
FRIDAY	15th	BRANCH PRACTICE	STONY STRATFORD
SATURDAY	23rd	ANNUAL DINNER	BOAT INN, STOKE BRUERNE

MARCH

FRIDAY	1st	BRANCH PRACTICE	CLIFTON REYNES (WAVENDON)
SATURDAY	2nd	BRANCH A.G.M.	BRADWELL & LOUGHTON
SATURDAY	9th	OOO GEN COMM MTG	NEWPORT PAGNELL
FRIDAY	15th	BRANCH PRACTICE	FENNY STRATFORD
FRIDAY	29th	BRANCH PRACTICE	HANSLOPE

- NOTES. a) All Friday night practices start at 7.30 pm.
b) Towers in brackets() will be used in parallel with practice towers for 1/4 peals etc.

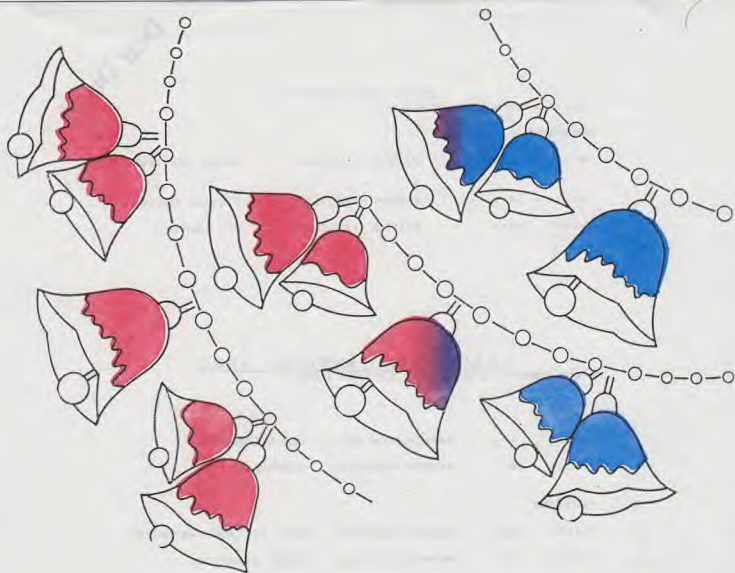
DIARY 1991 version 1.02(lists)

Dear Alan

I can/cannot* confirm that the Branch Practice at _____ on _____ is convenient and can go ahead as proposed.

Yours sincerely

* Delete as applicable.



What's happening in your tower? Tell us.....

In Touch needs articles from you

CONTACT THE EDITOR at home or at work....

TYRRELL
23 FRANKSTON AVENUE
STONY STRATFORD
MILTON KEYNES
MK11 1DR
0908 561307

Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit
16, Erica Road
Stacey Bushes
Milton Keynes MK12 6PA
Tel: Milton Keynes 312475

★★★by JANUARY 26th ★★★