

November/December 1994

IN TOUCH

The Newsletter of the North Bucks Branch
Of
The Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers

Founded 11th June 1904



Special feature - Clifton Reynes

EDITORIAL

Will your bells be ringing out over Christmas and New Year? There will be lots of opportunities, though I wonder how many towers are still able to ring in the New Year at midnight. There are many towers which we only visit at this time of year. It is a bit like visiting old friends, I suppose.

Christmas. What a good time for things to start picking up. The Branch ten-bell practice at Kempston was well attended and some good ringing was done. Not necessarily the best of striking, after all we don't even have a ring of ten, but members made good use of the chance to extend their ringing experience. A number of branch members, also in ten-bell mode, attended the Guild ten-bell day. A recent "first peal" attempt at Downs Barn showed up a lack of "quality" eight bell practice. The solution? To set up a regular advanced eight bell practice. All this and branch practices! And what of our long term future? Young ringers are becoming more and more active and are now starting to organise ringing opportunities for themselves.

So, the Branch seems set for a period of good ringing. Want to be part of it? Good, but don't just sit back and wait for "The Branch" to tell you what to do. If you want to do something, get on the phone and make it happen. You might be surprised by the results. I, however, will not be. The North Bucks Branch has been in the forefront of ringing in the past, it can be again. It can be again with the ringers we already have and those we are training now. We just have to make the opportunities and encourage our learners to excel in a world where mediocracy is too often acceptable.

DOUG HIRD



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CLIFTON REYNES

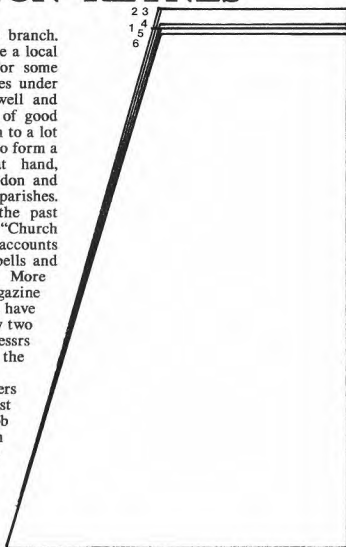
We have many rings of six in the branch. Some are regularly visited, some have a local band and some are rarely rung. For some strange reason, Clifton Reynes comes under the latter category. The bells go well and sound good. There is even a choice of good pubs nearby. The problem is common to a lot of village rings. Not enough ringers to form a regular band. Help is usually at hand, however, in the form of the Lavendon and Olney bands from the adjacent parishes. There has been a local band in the past though. Take a look at the entry in "Church Bells of Bucks." The churchwarden's accounts carry many entries relating to the bells and ringers between 1663 and 1774. More recently, the Newport Deanery Magazine of 1921 tells us that "the bellringers have been practicing vigorously, helped by two members of the Olney band, Messrs Freeman and Fisher and the improvement is marked."

The influence of the Emberton ringers also spread to the village. The first peal on the bells, in seven Treble Bob methods was rung here by Emberton ringers just after the bells were installed. They went on to ring in most of the subsequent thirty peals.

The bells go well because of the work of Alfred Bowell in 1905. They were originally a ring of five which was cast by John

Hodson, a London founder, in 1664. Hodson also cast a bell for Newton Blossomville in 1653. Writing in 1887, Cocks tells us that they were hung on two levels. Parts of the upper tier are still in place above the present frame. The cost of this ring amounted to £5 7/10, paid in two installments. Cocks also suggests that there were five bells before 1664, as the frame was dated 1631. An analysis of the shapes of these bells reveals that Hodson designed the ring in a fairly traditional way. That is, the tenors are short and the trebles are high.

In 1905, a new treble bell was added, new fittings, including ball bearings and Bowell's RSJ headstocks, were fitted and the bells were hung in a steel and iron frame (type 8.3.A as classified by Chris Pickford). The only catch was Bowell's own design of clapper suspension. The back two are quite difficult to



ring up "right way" and a bit odd struck as a result. The shape of the new treble was, as is usual in Bowell's additions, not designed to fit in with the progression of shape described above. Its proportions are more like the tenors than the trebles.

My memories of Clifton bells go back to the 70s when we rang some of the worst Bob Doubles imaginable and learned how to conduct the hard way. Team work at its best when calling Bob Minor and unexpected quarter peals. Those were the days! Ask Charles Knight to relate the story of when the police turned up at The Robin Hood. I am sure we will be found in Clifton at some time during Christmas or New Year's eve re-telling old tales.

DOUG HIRD

A new Church Bells of Bucks?

In the last issue of *In touch* I wrote about the new booklet by J E Hearn on "The Chimes and Rings of Buckinghamshire." We all know that it is easy to be critical of any new work, take Milton Keynes for instance. It is more difficult, however, to see how something could be made better.

People will be reading this sort of book for years to come and will believe what they contain. So they must have useful, accurate and relevant information and some form of analysis which should provide conclusions not immediately clear from a simple observation of each installation.

A possible format for each installation might be:

The church Place Name, Dedication, Map Reference, Photograph.

The bell frame:

A description and plan of the Bell Frame, with measurements, diagrams or photographs, of any important structural points or other distinguishing markings. "Pickford" references should be given. Date of construction where known. A brief comment on the condition of the frame. Measurements of the amount of movement during ringing would be useful as supporting information.

The bells:

The following details of the bells should be given in a table format:

Bell number.

Weight - using appropriate format. i.e. if known exactly: 14-2-0. If estimated: 14½cwt.

Dimensions: Diameter at Mouth, Length (Shoulder to mouth), Diameter at shoulder.

Founder and date, where this is not clear from the inscription.

An accurate representation of the inscriptions should also be given.

Description of fittings. This could be abbreviated as by Sharpe, or an alternative "shorthand" notation might be adopted. A brief comment on the condition of the fittings. Description of canons, and cast-in crown staples, where appropriate.

History: An historical analysis should then follow. It should be separate from the preceding details as they are intended to be a description of the current state of the installation. It is best to avoid mixing past and present accounts any more than is absolutely necessary as this could lead to confusion.

The analysis should describe, and attempt to explain, changes in the ring. It is not necessary to reproduce every historical document. A summary will suffice. For example, a table showing data from standard sources might well be easier to assimilate than many transcribed accounts. For example, the following table combines information from inventories made in 1552, visitations in 1637, Brown Willis's records in 1714, Cocks in 1897 and a recent survey.

	1552	1637	1714	1897	1994
Bells	3	5	5	6	8
Sanctus Bells	1	1	1	0	0

The historical analysis should limit itself to the history of the bells as much as possible. The history of the ringers and their activities, while interesting, is distinct from that of the installation. Such a history deserves a separate research activity, resulting in a separate publication. Similarly, the history of the activities of individual bellfounders also merit their own publications, separate from the 'county' books.

A complete bibliography must be given for each tower which should tell the reader what information is available and where it may be found. There is no need to reproduce information which is available elsewhere.

Have I missed anything? Let me know what you think.

DOUG HIRD

References

- 1 **Pickford**
Bellframes: A practical guide to inspection and recording.
- 2 **Sharpe**
Church Bells of Herefordshire.
- 3 **Elphick**
Sussex Bells & Belfries.

Half Term Outing

On Tuesday 25th October there was a half term outing. We went to five lovely little churches ranging from three to six bells.

The first church was **Haversham** and I have to say they were serious and worrying. This proved to be right when we proceeded up their slightly unsafe looking ladders and had a good look at these interesting bells. The thing that worried me most was the stays. They were extremely short and stumpy. So when we rang them up they were set extremely carefully because of the possibility of a Breaking Stay!! By all means they were difficult because, being me, I had difficulty pulling them off. On the way down (ringing down) we had a bit of fun. Well Roland did, but we won't go into that.

The next ring was **Tyringham**. I wouldn't say they were difficult but they are light set.

After lunch we all cycled off to **Sherington**. Scott, Roland and I cycled along with Doug Hird and three others went by car, it took Doug and the other three a long time to get to Sherington so Scott, Roland and I rang the five up in peal. Well, sort of!

Next we went to **Chicheley**. Lovely ring of six and no complaints. And last but not least, **North Crawley**. I really liked these bells. Nice new ropes, bit jumpy, but still, it had a nice clean ringing area which made it nicer to ring in.

Well that was the outing, and the people that cycled, cycled home, apart from Roland, who went by car. It was an exciting but tiring day for all I suppose.

GARETH GRAYSON
NEWPORT PAGNELL

Thanks to all who allowed us to ring their bells and to Allison Deering of Haversham and John Kitchen of Sherington for refreshments along the way.

Stranger than Fiction. . .

Did you know that...

The Tenor bell at Hanslope was dropped into the canal at Castlethorpe when it was being unloaded from its barge. Take a look at a map and see if you can work out what route it must have taken from the foundry in Hertford.

The Tenor bell at Buckingham was turned upside down and filled with ale when it was delivered. The townspeople made good use of the ale in welcoming the new ring.

Bill Yates conducted a peal of Carter's Doubles at Sulgrave in 1960. It was the first of Carter's Doubles for the Peterborough D G, was it the first in the method?

Alan Cozens rang in the first peal of Doubles on the Bellfoundry bells. Well someone had to be first.

Gillett & Johnston only ever cast three rings of ten.

A village band at the end of the last century was told by their vicar of the peals being rung at other towers. They were doubtful but, seeing the challenge of such a performance, set about testing the proposition. After ringing rounds for three hours, they declared themselves satisfied that such a feat was possible after all.

Another quarter peal

Bradwell, St Laurence
Sunday 5th November 1994
1260 Stedman Doubles
1 David Joyce
2 Jenny Brookman
3 Jill Joyce
4 Ian Green
5 David J Maybrey (c)
6 Andrew King
1st of Stedman - 2.



See page 11 for more

SECRET SEVEN CYCLING SENSATION

Although a number of the Newport Pagnell band are regular cyclists, some of us pump up the tyres for the once a year Sponsored ride for the Historical Churches Trust.

On this, our third year as a band, seven set off from Newport to meander down the Redways as far as Wavendon and Fenny Stratford and back.

The route was carefully planned by Jeannette Ross, our tower secretary, with a pit stop at ??? an important feature. When the weather began to look a bit black we changed plans and missed out a couple of churches that were 'uphill' and added Lathbury on the end so that we could claim 20 churches.

We were all bright and raring to leave SS Peter and Paul at 10am but Gerry Ramsay decided to get a punctured tyre before we even started! A quick replacement and we were off down the high street looking for churches. Willen had not got their log-in sheet so we all signed the visitors book. This church is so well sighted, it is a pity there are no ringable bells. At Middleton (or is it Milton Keynes!) we met the group from Brickhill - it looked like the whole village! Kents Hill church is newly built. Make the effort to go and admire the design but don't fall into the font by the entrance door.

After a suitable lunch under the windmill we headed down to Fenny. St Martin's had an open day, Peter tempted us to ring but we resisted. We did sponsor the vicar to take our group photograph. Other churches in Fenny were less well attended - one of the problems of these trips is that many churches do not have welcomers throughout the day, we sometimes do not find a log sheet. At least this year all the churches were on the official list, last year Godfrey added one that was not. He was not allowed to plan the route this time!

Back through the valley of Simpson, Woughton and Woolstone (we wondered at the crooked ladder) and on to Willen lake again. Although most parts of MK had lots of rain, we only met one short, sharp shower - lucky we were in the Wayfarer at the time! After the rain had stopped we went up the

hill to Downs Barn and Great Linford then along the railway walk to Newport, with the added loop to Lathbury.



We had an enjoyable day out and raised over £200 in sponsorship for the Trust and our Churches, I can recommend this event to everyone. A few points to remember - most sponsors offer a fixed sum so you do not have to go wild in your target; cycling in a group is more enjoyable than by yourself; Redways are safer than Grid roads.

Why not plan a tower outing next year and raise money for your church. If not then please sponsor us!

GODFREY FOAT

ODG 10 - Bell Course 1994

This year's ODG 10-Bell course was held on Saturday 29th October. As in previous years the objective of the course is to give Guild members an opportunity to develop their 10-bell expertise. There being no 10-bell towers in the North Bucks Branch this was a chance not to be missed.

Of the ten students attending, three were from our branch. Along with me were John Lonsborough (Woughton) and Brian Baldwin (Simpson).

We met at Abingdon where the morning's instruction was to take place. The course began with some theory; a brief lesson on how to cope with the extra two (or four) bells. John Wells (Guild Secretary and Course Leader) explained the importance of good rhythm and of being aware of the coursing order. Although at times we felt we needed a calculator in order to understand some of John's comments, we later found them to be very useful. Coursing order is one of those things I'd never really bothered with but when ringing on 10 it seems that being able to pick out 'course' and 'after' bells is a useful skill to have.

FRAMED!

The practical session started with rounds and call-changes, followed by Grandsire, Little Bob and St Helens (Stedman without slow work). We students were divided into three groups (3, 3 and 4) and, in turn, made reasonable attempts at each. I guess the credit should really go to the helpers, of which there were a dozen or so, for sorting us out as we got lost. A visit part-way through the morning from Marie Cross (Ex Odd bob Editor and Easthampstead 'Style' Instructor) got us standing up straight and pulling the rope all the way through (and she didn't even say a word!)

For the afternoon session we headed off to Appleton, stopping at the local pub for lunch. going by the spread of food we were expected - £3 (excluding beer!) well spent. On with the ringing, and after some Little Bob to get used to the bells we had a bash at the Stedman. this was a bit more of a challenge, but we survived it.

Its probably worth saying that much of our success was due to John Wells having the foresight to send out 'homework' in advance of the course. We had to learn the structure of each method and a few 'signposts' before being allowed near the bells. So no excuse for not knowing the line! The only problem now is how to consolidate these new found skills. More out-of-area Branch Practices required please! Objective met and a good day out. A bargain at £8 and recommended to all budding 10-bell enthusiasts.

SJC

p.s. Ringing World devotees please note: I no longer record 9 and fewer as grabs!

The In Touch editorial team had a day out on Saturday 26th November to find out what the latest archaeological thoughts were on the subject of bell frames. The Institute of Field Archaeologists Bellframe Meeting at Retford brought together the views of a number of 'experts' in the field.

The six speakers brought to light numerous points of view on old bell frames. Chris Pickford (of Bedford) started the day with an excellent summary of the evolution of bell frames. Barry Roberts of Rochester Cathedral followed this with an explanation of the various difficulties involved in bell ringing which seemed to impress the non ringers considerably (as did the ringing at Saundby). The "other side" was also ably put forward by Frank Green, an archaeologist working on the bell frame at Romsey. On the practical side, we were all greatly impressed by the bell frame repository in Saundby church. Here, George Dawson talked us through the history of three rescued, and reconstructed, bell frames.

A most interesting and stimulating day in which both sides of an equation were seen. It will be good if the interest shown so far can be built upon.

DOUG



SNIPPETS

The bells at **Downs Barn** sounded excellent for the Remembrance services though one of our youngest ringers was curious to see where the "muffins" were fitted.

There is a rumour that **Olney** tower may gain a ringers' gallery. The idea doesn't seem to offer many benefits to the ringers though as the bells will be harder to hear and to ring. Perhaps a new frame might be needed as well. The benefits for the rest of the church are more clear though.

Congratulations are due to **Bill Yates** on repeating his first peal. Same method, same composition, same bell. Here is the original:

The Peterborough Diocesan Guild

Wicken, Northants.

On Saturday, Oct. 14th, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-EVANGELIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Parker's Twelve-part (7th the observation). Tenor 151 cwt.

* John B. Fitzhugh	Treble	* Joseph W. L. Linnitt	5
* Philip Jones	2	Thomas E. Roberts	6
* William Yates	3	* George Care	7
Ernest C. Lambert	4	Frederick C. Case	Tenor

Conducted by George Care.

* First peal in the method. +First peal.

Work at **Lathbury** continues apace with the rebuilding of the North Aisle Roof. This follows similar repairs in the South Aisle. It is hoped that repairs can be completed in time to keep out the winter weather. The bells just need a little attention and the anticipated costs for each bell are:

Wheel repairs	£260
Headstock strap renewal	£10
Headstock strap repairs	£10

So the cost of getting the third bell ringing again is likely to be £280.

If the others are to continue ringing with it, an extra £1120 could be needed soon afterwards, although with DIY wheel repairs we could get them ringing for a lot less.

As the youngsters found on their outing a few weeks ago, the bells at **Haversham**, rehung by Warners around 1903, are rather difficult to ring as the bells all set too deeply. Since then they have worked out that they would be better with a new set of "bent" stays. The existing ones are all straight. Does anyone know where three large pieces of ash and a band saw could be found?

On **Handbells**, John Lonsbrough has been enticed into the band and Plain Bob, Little Bob and Kent Treble Bob Royal are now added to the repertoire.



The bell at **Castlethorpe**. Back in action after a bolt tightening session.

Readers may have heard that the tenor at **Simpson** was recently out of action with clapper trouble. This has been taken as something of a hint which the ringers have taken heed of. Both these and **Woughton** bells are to be treated to a sort out which is to include the re-bushing of clappers.

Sherington bells have attracted the interest of bellframe experts. It is not surprising that these bells are in need of attention. The bell frame is basically a

very old four bell frame which has been weakened by augmentation.

Downs Barn

The Inscriptions and weights

As it appears that the latest copy of Dove's Guide records the weight of our newest tenor incorrectly we thought readers might like to have the "official" details:

In the inscription band of the Third bell is the inscription:
"BARWELL FOUNDERS BIRMINGHAM"

The inscription bands of the other bells are inscribed "1992" with
"WHITES OF APPLETON. CHURCH BELLHANGERS."
just above the soundbow.

The following inscriptions are positioned on the waists of the bells.

Bell	Inscription	Weight
Treble	MARGARET A. FOORD 1908 - 1991 ERIC C. J. FOORD 1904 - 1985 EMBERTON, BUCKS.	1-3-14
Second	DONATED BY THE RINGERS OF THE NORTH BUCKS BRANCH OF THE O. D. G. 1992	2-0-0
Third	TE DEUM LAUDAMUS REGINALD HEREFORD BIRD - VICAR JAMES FARR ~ CHURCHWARDEN 1902	2-1-17
Fourth	CANTATE DOMINUM CANTICUM NOVUM	2-2-27
Fifth	PRAISE HIM UPON THE LOUD CYMBALS	3-0- 8
Sixth	A GIFT OF THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS TO COMMEMORATE THE 450TH. ANNIVERSARY OF THE DIOCESE.	3-1-12
Seventh	1980 - 1991 P. GREEN 1991 - R. PARRETT } CHURCH MINISTERS A. HEAD } R. CROSS } CHURCH OFFICERS	4-2-11
Tenor	CAST AS A GIFT OF PATRICIA NEWTON MASTER OF THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD	6-0-10
Total Weight		26-0-15

The bells were all cast at Taylors' Bellfoundry, Loughborough on 27th November 1992.

Ps and Qs

Peals

Oxford D G
Bradwell, St Laurence
Tuesday 20th September 1994
5040 Surprise minor (14-m)
(1: London & Wells, 2: Carlisle, Chester & Munden, 3: Beverley & Surfleet, 4: York & Durham, 5: Westminster & Allendale, 6: Cambridge & Ipswich, 7: Norwich Surprise.)
Michael J Hobbs
1 Brian Bladon
2 William Butler
3 Robert J Crocker
4 Peter G C Ellis (c)
5 Colin M Turner
A birthday compliment to Bill French, 89 today.

Hertford C A
Olney, St Peter & St Paul
Saturday 15th October 1994
5040 Stedman Triples
Arr J Pladdys No 32
1 Richard L Thumwood
2 John Pladdys (c)
3 Russell A Brown
4 Andrew M Farmer
5 Michael D Flinder
6 Brian C Watson
7 Frank W Rivett
8 Peter G C Ellis

Peterborough D G
Wicken, St John Evangelist
Saturday 15th October 1994
5040 Grandisle Triples
Composed by J J Parker (12 part)
1 Lynn Walters
2 R George Care
3 William A Yates
4 Richard S Stanworth
5 G Nigel Williams
6 Richard C Stevens
7 Richard W Yates (c)
8 George E Green
On the 50th anniversary of William A Yates first peal, which was in this tower on the same bell ringing the same method and composition.

Quarter Peals

Wavendon, The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tuesday 26th July 1994
1260 Plain Bob Minor
1 Elizabeth Churchill
2 Lucy Shepherd
3 James Saunders
4 Peter Phillips
5 Robert Churchill (c)
1st on a working bell - 1.

Buckingham, St Peter & St Paul
19 August 1994
1280 Spliced Surprise Major (8m)
1 W A Yates
2 Pamela Bailey
3 Rev J D Nixon
4 Ruth Stokes
5 R W Yates
6 R Stephenson
7 C Stokes
8 G N Williams (c)
1st 8-spliced - 2

Stowe, The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sunday 28th August 1994
1260 Plain Bob Minor
1 Catherine Zwegintzov
2 R Goodwin
3 R Jones
4 S Zwegintzov
5 W Lanyon (c)
6 R Bing
For the 35th anniversary of the "mini" and the celebrations of this anniversary by the rally held at Silverstone and the surrounding area.

Bradwell, St Laurence
Sunday 4th September 1994
1260 Plain Bob Doubles
1 Michelle Copson
2 David Joyce
3 Rebecca Fawcett
4 Jill Joyce
5 Edward Fawcett (c)
6 Gordon Abbott
1st quarter - 1.
To celebrate Michelle passing her Diploma in Management exams.

Calverton, All Saints
Saturday 24th September 1994
1260 Plain Bob Doubles
1 Jo Neville
2 Nicola A King
3 David J Maybrey
4 Shirley Waterhouse
5 B Douglas Hird (c)
6 Scott Ayers
1st quarter - 6.

Downs Barn, the Cross & Stable
Sunday 25th September 1995
1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major
1 Nicola A King
2 Richard W Yates (c)
3 Alan J Marchbank
4 B Douglas Hird
5 Barry R Eglesfield
6 Godfrey Foat
7 David Joyce
8 David J Maybrey

Great Brickhill, St Mary
Sunday 9th October 1994
1260 Plain Bob Minor
1 Jill Joyce
2 David Bardwell
3 Barry Smith
4 David Maybrey
5 Hugh Butler
6 David Joyce (c)
1st of Minor - 5
A 60th birthday compliment to Hugh Butler and for the birth of Natalie Ellen Brett.

Great Linford, St Andrew
Friday 11th October 1994
1260 Doubles
1 Ron Snack (c)
2 Paul Faithfull
3 Godfrey Foat
4 Brian Newman
5 Alan J Marchbank
6 Andrew Curtis
To welcome John Baxter Marchbank, born 25/10/94.

Handbell Quarters

16 Wandsworth Place, Bradwell
Common.
Monday 10 October 1994
1280 Plain Bob Major
1-2 A J Marchbank
3-4 J Snack
5-6 G L Foat (c)
7-8 B D Hird
The big birthday compliment to Linda Snack.

16 Wandsworth Place, Bradwell
Common.
Monday 31st October 1994
1260 Plain Bob Minor
1-2 Alan J Marchbank
3-4 Ron Snack
5-6 Godfrey Foat (c)
To welcome John Baxter Marchbank, born 25/10/94.



And so on to Christmas

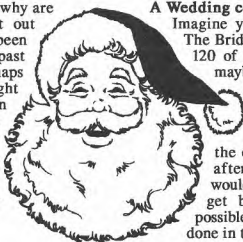
NORTH BUCKS BRANCH DIARY

Date	Time	Event & Special Method	Place
December 94			
Fri 16	7.30	Branch Practice Method: Stedman Doubles confirmed	Stoke Goldington
January 95			
Fri 20	8.00	Branch Practice Method: Bristol Surprise Major confirmed	Wicken
Please note change of venue			
February 95			
Fri 17	7.30	Branch Practice Method: Double Court Bob Minor confirmed	Fenny Stratford
March 95			
Sat 4	tba	Anual General Meeting confirmed	Bletchley
Fri 17	7.30	Branch Practice Method: Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Bob Doubles to be confirmed	Shenley
April 95			
Fri 21	7.30	Branch Practice Method: Little Bob Minor to be confirmed	Lavendon
May 94			
Fri 19	7.30	Branch Practice Method: Erin Triples to be confirmed	Olney
June 94			
Sat 3	4.15	Quarterly Meeting and 6-bell striking competition confirmed	Woughton
Fri 16	7.30	Branch Practice Methods: Winchendon Place and St Nicholas to be confirmed	North Crawley



CHRISTMAS PUZZLE PAGE

Bored? Nothing to do? So why are you sitting here and not out ringing? Oh you have been ringing every day for the past week. Fair enough. Perhaps one or two of these might pass the time better than watching TV. Which is your favorite? The crossword? Grandsire Doubles? I am sure that someone could write better ones though. Any volunteers?



A Wedding conductor

Imagine you are ringing for a wedding. The Bride seems to be late so you start a 120 of Grandsire Doubles. First lead, maybe she won't be long, we will just ring a plain course. Second lead, no sign yet, we might as well ring a 120. Let's start with a single. Oh that's the organ playing she must be here after all. We cant just stop, that would sound bad. How am I going to get back to rounds as quickly as possible? Now someone said it could be done in two leads. How do they do that?

Crossword

Across

- 1 Tongues for bells
- 4 Treble
- 5 An ear for carrying?
- 7 Tail...
- 8 Kent TB is interesting...
- 10 Woodbine
- 13 This peasant may hold 1
- 17 A final tool for the cobbler
- 18 Either National or in Bradwell
- 19 This issue's favourite transport
- 20 South London Foundry
- 22 Nine for a man, six for a woman
- 23 8, 9
- 24 How to silence bells, but not in silk perhaps
- 25 The 4th goes in...
- 26 A Shock in 2

Down

- 2 A capital method
- 3 We start and end here
- 6 ...next, 7
- 7 Principle with Plain start
- 9 Proved
- 11 The hopes and...of all the years
- 12 When we stand it..., ...
- 13 Not Barry's favourite
- 14 8 Night
- 15 Truncated computing
- 16 The Church up north
- 20 This might wear out a rope
- 21 Not Christmas Pud but the end is the same

Bell Delivery

The route between North Bucks and Hertford is not that easy to navigate. Even now with modern roads. It must have been more so in the early 19th century when the bell founder John Briant was in business. So, how did he deliver bells to Newton Longville, Padbury, Maids Moreton, Passenham, Hanslope, Wavendon, Old Wolverton and Fenny Stratford? Remember that a horse could only haul a load of about a ton on the road and that special care has to be taken to make sure that the bells are not damaged in transit. A particularly smooth route would have been needed. Dig out an atlas and a detailed map of North Bucks to see how it might have been done.

12345
21354
23145
32415
34251
43521
45312
54132
51423
15243
12534
21543
25134
52314
53241
35421
34512
43152
41325
14352
14325
41352
43125
34215
32451
23541
25314
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