

IN TOUCH

The Quarterly Newsletter of the North Bucks Branch
of
The Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers



Bill Yates, Secretary of Towcester Branch - Striking Competition Winners
(75 years young on 6th August)

Quarterly Meeting at Downs Barn, Saturday 2nd December 1995

3:30 - 4:30	Ringling
4:30	Service
5:00	Tea
5:45	Meeting
	Evening Ringing

Names for tea to Mrs Fiona Maybrey (01908-562233), by **Monday 27th November**.

Your Branch Officers for 1995/6 are listed below, please keep "In Touch" with us.

Chairman

Brian Newman 01908-668347 6 Martin Close, Neath Hill, Milton Keynes. MK14 6JG

Secretary

John Lonsbrough 01908-691498 Flat 22, Langland House, Langland Road, Netherfield, Milton Keynes. MK6 4JT

Minute Secretary & Newsletter Editor

Jill Joyce 01908-667025 4 Woad Lane, Great Linford Village, Milton Keynes. MK14 5HE

Treasurer

Sheila Ware 01234-713667 1 Crabtree Close, Olney. MK46 5DU

Ringling Masters

David Bardwell 01908-676841 21 Forrabury Avenue, Bradwell Common, Milton Keynes. MK13 8NF

David Joyce 01908-667025 4 Woad Lane, Great Linford Village, Milton Keynes. MK14 5HE

Richard Stanworth 01280-814172 11 Valley Road, Linden Village, Buckingham. MK18 7BW

Guild Representatives

Sheila Watts 01234-711113 28 Gravel Walk, Emberton, Olney. MK46 5JA

Archivist

Doug Hird 01908-614741 19 Priory Street, Newport Pagnell. MK16 9AF

Editorial

This edition of In Touch has fewer quarters than previous editions, whether that was because fewer were rung, or those ringing quarters didn't notice the copy deadline, I don't know - it would be a pity if those ringing first quarters were not congratulated by the branch. It was disappointing to see only one quarter for VJ plus a small amount of special ringing, I had hoped that In Touch would provide a record of the special ringing in the branch. Thanks to all those who have contributed articles to this edition - if you've got some spare over the Christmas holiday perhaps you could contribute something to the next edition.

Jill Joyce

WANTED

The next edition of In Touch will be distributed just before the 1996 Branch AGM - where new officers will be elected. Now is the time to think of people who would be willing to take office, that may include YOU. At the AGM a number of officers will not be seeking re-election. John Lonsbrough has served the two years he was willing to do as **Secretary**. There will be a vacancy for **Guild Representative** as David Joyce has a post on the Guild Committee in his own right, he has also served three years as **Ringling Master** and would like more time to devote to his Guild Steward duties.

The May In Touch gave descriptions of the work done by each of these officers. The post of Secretary has been split over the last two years with Jill Joyce taking minutes and John Lonsbrough undertaking the other duties. If his replacement wishes to take on the whole job or split it some other way we really need to know before the AGM.

The next edition of "In Touch" will be distributed at the beginning of February, please submit any articles or information, to the Editor, by **7th January**.

"In Touch" is published by the editor on behalf of the officers of the O.D.G. North Bucks Branch. Any view expressed in "In Touch" is that of the author and copyright resides with the individual authors.

ODG NORTH BUCKS BRANCH

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at Tingewick on 2nd September 1995.

Chairman's Welcome

Brian Newman welcomed members to the meeting and thanked the ringers and rector of Tingewick for the tea and service.

Apologies for Absence were received from Alan & Tine Marchbank, David & Fiona Maybrey, Pat Newton- the Guild Master, Paul Faithfull and Hugh Butler.

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at Woughton on the Green had been published in the August edition of "In Touch". It was proposed by David Joyce, seconded by Bill Yates and agreed by the meeting that these be taken as read.

Matters Arising

- i) John Lonsbrough had written to the Membership Secretary requesting clarification of the status of the members proposed from Lillingstone Lovell. He was still awaiting a reply.

Election of New Members

There were no new members for election.

Election of Guild Representative

David Joyce had been elected as Guild Steward at the Guild AGM, as predicted at the Branch AGM, and an additional Guild Representative was required for the Committee meeting in November. Sheila Ware said that she would be attending the meeting, therefore it was proposed by Godfrey Foat and seconded by Bill Yates that Sheila Ware be Guild Representative at the November meeting. This was agreed by the meeting.

Officers' Reports

1. Secretary

"Summer is the quiet time for the Secretary, when all basic correspondence has been done and we are just waiting for things to happen.

All Branch events for 1995 are now confirmed, and those planned for 1996 are coming along nicely. One unexpected blip was that the Guild Membership Secretary was unable to attend the Guild Festival and thus could not deliver the certificates for our latest new members, and I regret to have to ask them to wait until December.

However, our allocation of the Guild Newsletter "Oddbob" was delivered in early July, and was all distributed to towers on the normal basis of one copy for each four members or thereabouts. The editor cut the North Bucks Branch report by simply omitting the first 40% of it, thus it is unclear when some events happened, and your tower's special event may have been left out.

Anybody may contribute material to "Oddbob", and I will forward items if required, but it is best to send them direct to the editor with the author's permission to reproduce.

Thank you for your attention."

2. Ringling Master

David Joyce gave the report.

The Ringing Schools were successful in January, scrambled in May and cancelled due to lack of interest in August.

Future proposed Ringing Schools will also be cancelled if there is no interest, although ringing in the Branch was not really of a standard where training was not necessary. There was some discussion of ringing schools - Barry Eglesfield feeling they were unnecessary and Sheila Watts asking for them to be directed at individual towers. As the May school had been directed at a tower who had withdrawn at the last minute it did not guarantee attendance. It was agreed to attempt schools on the proposed dates.

The meeting was reminded of the Call Change Striking competition on 16th September. David Joyce explained that the rules were designed to allow towers to approach others if they had insufficient learners, or for experienced ringers to take in a band of inexperienced ringers from another tower. Judges were chosen from within the Branch to ensure they knew the spirit in which the competition was run.

Forthcoming Events were published in "In Touch".

Any Other Business

1. Godfrey Foat had the bookstall with him, including some new publications.

2. The Outing to the Loughborough Bell Foundry on 23rd September was going ahead. Seats were still available and a list of the day's events.
3. The Sponsored Cycle ride was taking place on September 9th. Godfrey Foat was seeking sponsorship for Newport Pagnell - where an architect has been asked to provide plans for a new ringing platform which they would like installed by next spring.
4. The Easthampstead course starting on 29th September was looking for additional helpers, as a lot of the experienced ringers were being used on the Spliced Surprise course.
5. A handbell concert was being held on 21st October at Emberton Village Hall. The concert featured the Weldon Handbell Ringers and started at 7:30. Tickets were £2 each including refreshments.

Vote of Thanks

Brian Newman again thanked the Tingewick ringers for the tea and the rector for taking the service.

CALL CHANGE STRIKING COMPETITION

The competition was held on 16th September at Wavendon with three teams taking part. The judge was Alan Marchbank, who made some general comments on the ringing before giving details for individual teams. Alan said that he would like any of the bands to ring at his tower on Sunday. He would not make comments on individual bells, but had noted that teams had more difficulty with back stroke rows than handstroke, which could indicate a problem with the bells or ropes.

Team 1 : (Emberton) There were gaps at the back in 5-6 and there was a tendency to split into two groups of three. There were trips at the changes which quickly disappeared. The leading of the treble was good as was the covering.
Faults : 43

Team 2 : (Bradwell) This band were slower and more consistent than team 1, which made the mistakes more noticeable. Ringing settled quickly, with a split into two halves. There were occasional trips at the changes, but the majority of the faults occurred in the rounds. Leading and covering were good.
Faults : 27

Team 3 : (Buckingham) This band were not as confident and started uneasily and the shakiness increased with the call changes, working its way through the rows. The second half was better than the first, perhaps the band were becoming more confident in the bells and in competition ringing. There were long periods of faultless ringing in the second half.
Faults : 54

Certificates were presented to all bands and the Chairmen's Cup was presented to Ian Green, Captain of the Bradwell team.



Picnic Meeting at Odell and Lavendon

The picnic meeting with the Bedford District on 6th August was poorly attended at Odell, as two of the ringing masters were involved in a Wedding and 75th birthday celebrations! Each Branch provided four ringers - North Bucks only reaching that total by persuading Sarah Newman to ring (she'd only come for the cake!)

There had been some confusion over the ringing time - a number of Bedford people arrived as we rang down! Fortunately the early finish gave us time to mend the rope on the 4th, which broke as we rang down. It required quite a lot of equipment from boots and ingenuity as the ropes were drawn by the rope guide high in the ringing room and we couldn't find a suitable ladder.

Once the repair work was completed there was still plenty of time for the picnic in Harrold and Odell Country Park. We could have done without some of the animal visitors - ducks, swans and, particularly, wasps!

Attendance improved at Lavendon, despite the heat which made the ringing chamber very cosy. The local shop did a roaring trade in drinks and ice creams. At the end of ringing people scattered in all directions, in some cases to catch up with the aforementioned wedding and birthday celebrations.

Branch Outing to Loughborough

After a pleasant coach trip north to the foundry, we were given a very informative guided tour by the new Curator of Taylors Bellfoundry Museum followed by ringing on the very light weight 10 at the foundry, an interesting experience for those of us who may have a tendency to over pull.

Following lunch in Loughborough our next tower was at Quorn a ring of 8, which everyone seemed to enjoy ringing. Our next tower at Rothley was another upstairs ring in very cosy surroundings, not quite enough room for all our group to enter at once, but never the less it was again an easy going set of bells.

Our final tower was at Newton Linford, we were a little delayed in gaining entry, which gave some of the party a chance to try out the various tea rooms and ice cream stands which are to be found near the church. Once inside we found an interesting control box fitted in the ringing room which seemed to be some form of automatic ringing device, as there was no obvious mechanical connection and the system was turned off. We rang up which was when an odd whirring noise was noticed when the treble was turned over, but apart from that and a tendency for the treble to be a bit stiff at setting they were another nice set of bells.

On the way home some of our number obviously had not had enough ringing for the day, as Godfrey produced some of his hand bells which the younger members of our party aided by among others Alan Marchbank promptly started an impromptu ringing session. Finally I would like to thank Godfrey Foat for all of the hard work he put in to make this outing so enjoyable for all of us who went.

Brian Newman

EMBERTON TOWER OUTING -Cambridgeshire

7th October 1995

Towers organised, lifts arranged, people invited - the only thing that let us down was the weather! Although slightly better than the preceding Friday, when there was horizontal rain, we did wonder if we were in for a wet and cold day. Fortunately, by the afternoon it was fine.

About 20 ringers (Emberton plus friends) arrived at the first tower, Duxford, and enjoyed this light six. Also the facility of toilets! On to the eight at Sawston. More of a challenge here as although they were a lightish ring, they were definitely the trickiest bells of the day and it was hard work to correct the striking oddities. Here Emma had her first experience of a rope slipping the wheel, something she probably won't want to repeat

The lunch parties seemed split between the Greyhound at Sawston (good beer, we heard), and the delightful churchyard by the river at Harston - our next peal of six. Super bells, we discovered once they were raised, and you can't always tell by the condition of the ropes what sort of ring it will be!

On to Orwell, where we met old friends. A pleasant six with no vices! Our last tower of the day was the eight at Bourn. We did full justice to this excellent ring.

Methods of the day ranged from Plain Hunt to Erin, Stedman, Cambridge and London. Our thanks to our friends and the hosting tower captains. There's a rumour that we are going to Staffordshire next year.

Sheila Watts and Sheila Ware

TOWCESTER COMPETITION

The Inter Branch competition with the Towcester Branch was held at Wicken on Saturday 29th July. Ringing took place for both the Inter Guild trophy and the George Holland Stedman trophy. 22 different Branch members took part in the different bands. The judges were Adrian and Heather Semken from Essex, who gave comments and marks for each section. :-

6 Bell Section : 120 Grandsire Doubles

North Bucks : quite good and very stately, good open handstroke leads, the middle of the row was a bit crunched up.
Towcester : generally quite steady, after a shaky start settled down well, tended to bunch in pairs.
Result : North Bucks won by 28 faults to 47

8 Bell Section : free choice of Major

North Bucks : rang Plain Bob. Some disagreement as to speed, not quite working as a team. Slight method errors, some rows got three separate faults, however not bad.
Towcester : rang Bristol. Quite a bit faster, spoilt by method errors.
Result : Towcester won by 54½ faults to 55½

Call Change Section

North Bucks : fairly slow and a little unsteady, not all the rows the same length. Appeared not to settle.
Towcester : rang two rows short. Faster, rows falling over each other, open handstroke leads were missing.
Result : Towcester won by 47 faults to 62½

George Holland Stedman Competition

North Bucks : lots of faults in 648 rows, several method errors
Towcester : nice flowing piece of ringing except the last four rows
Result : Towcester won by 35½ faults to 52

Both trophies were presented to the Towcester branch, the George Holland trophy was presented to Richard Yates by George's daughter and son in law, Anne and Chris Freeman.



16 Little Bob Minor - Call a Bob at the first two leads - the 4th will make both of them and the touch will come round after just 16 changes. This is worth remembering because if you put a Bob into a sensible touch too soon, just call another Bob 8 blows later and you'll be back to where you were before.

Finance & General Purposes Committee

At this recent Guild meeting (attended by the principal officers, stewards, CC reps), a number of matters were discussed that may be of interest to the branch. It's role is to carry out follow-up and preparation to assist in progressing items discussed at the AGM or Committee meetings.

1/ Some Branch Secretaries had sought a 'job description' to help them understand what the duty entailed - several sets of notes had been offered and were to be shared at the Guild meeting of all Branch Secretaries on Friday 6th October.

2/ A quotation had been received for the supply of the 'old style' silver guild badges - hopefully the November committee meeting will agree that this was acceptable and supplies will be available in the New Year.

3/ Subscriptions will probably be unchanged for 1996, but will need to increase soon. There seems to be a problem with increases - changing by a small amount every year is an administrative nightmare, but large steps after several years of no change appears unpopular. **If you have a preference then tell the Guild Reps / Committee what it is and why.**

4/ At the November Committee meeting we will be asked to endorse the transfer of Swerford & Wigginton from the Banbury to the Chipping Norton Branch. Apparently this is wanted by all involved as these towers are currently split from the others in the Hook Norton Benefice.

5/ As 1996 is a leap year, there will be sponsor forms prepared to encourage fund raising for the bell fund. The idea is to ring peals, quarters or any other special ringing around the end of February. **Bearing in mind how much help the Guild has given to the Downs Barn project, I think there is a considerable obligation on us to really get involved this year.**

6/ As agreed at the Guild AGM, there is a need for changes to several Guild rules - particularly in the definition of members and officers. If you have any thoughts then please write them down and send them to the Guild Secretary.

7/ Although it was agreed at the AGM that the Report would now show Christian names instead of just initials, it was still not clear how this information would be collected. It was also recognised that there may be members who would prefer not to be treated this informally, or more so (Edward / Ted or Jacqueline / Jackie). Whatever happens, timescales will be very tight so **it would help if each band prepared for the request by compiling their local preferences now.**

David Joyce

Guild 6 Bell Striking Competition

The Guild competition was held on Saturday 7th October in the Oxford City Branch. North Bucks was represented by Woughton on the Green who rang in the heat at Iffley and David and Jill Joyce who judged the heat at Horspath!

The Iffley heat was judged by David Cornwall from Hughenden, who placed Easthampstead and Shrivenham joint first and Woughton third, putting them in the final.

At Horspath the bands were Tilehurst, Aston Clinton, High Wycombe, Marston and Abingdon. The top three were Tilehurst, Abingdon and High Wycombe - so the Deputy Master might not ask David J. to judge again as his team was knocked out. I don't think Abingdon were very impressed with David's comments as they were convinced that they hadn't made it!

From a judge's point of view judging heats is really strange as the most important places to get right were third and fourth rather than the winners.

The final at Marston was judged by Tony and Nicola Pullen and Rob New from Wiltshire, they made very few comments about the ringing then gave the results :

1st	Easthampstead (5½ faults)
2nd	Abingdon (7½ faults)
3rd	Tilehurst (9½ faults)
4th=	High Wycombe & Shrivenham (18 faults)
6th	Woughton on the Green (25 faults)

Congratulations to Woughton on making it to the final to compete with the professionals, at least in the heats you scored fewer faults than High Wycombe!

What is Place Notation ?

The odd numbers that you see beside a method in the Ringers Diary are a sort of shorthand or code for that method, but no-one ever explains it anywhere do they ?

All this little sequence of numbers does is to tell you the rules for creating the next row in the change. It does this by stating which place does not swap, or using an X to say all pairs swap. If there are two consecutive rows without an X it is normal to punctuate between the numbers with a full stop.

The place notation takes you up to the half-lead (when the treble is at the back) and you then work back through the place notation to create a mirror image for the second half. You will then be given the notation for the plain lead-head as well as the Bob & Single. The notation for Plain Bob Minor is X16X16X16 p1h=12 b1h=14 s1h=1234

	123456	
X	214365	All bells crossed
16	241635	1&6 place fixed, rest crossed
X	426153	All cross
16	462513	1&6 fixed
X	645231	All cross
16	654321	1&6 fixed
X	563412	All cross (mirror image)
16	536142	1&6 fixed
X	351624	All cross
16	315264	1&6 fixed
X	132546	All cross
12	135264	1&2 place fixed, rest crossed

Then repeat until the plain course comes round - if this seems ridiculously complex for such a simple method you might like to write out this method (0=10, E=11, T=12) :-
X3TX14X125TX36X147TX58X169TX70X18X9TX10XET
p1h=12, b1h=14, s1h=1234.

This would take 20 minutes to ring, so imagine how long it would take to dictate the blue line over the phone, rather than just the place notation ! If you think that writing out is hard enough - some handbell ringers ring 2 bells by place notation, not even the blue lines.

PEALS & QUARTERS

PEALS

Stowe, Assumption of St Mary

Saturday 5th August 1995

5040 Surprise Minor (7 methods)

1 James Linnell

2 Lynn M Walters

3 Richard S Stanworth

4 George E Green

5 Richard W Yates (C)

6 G Nigel Williams

A compliment to William A Yates on

his 75th birthday

QUARTERS

Stoke Goldington, St Peter

Sunday 30th April 1995

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1 Alan Cozens

2 Audrey Jones

3 Ian Thompson

4 Denby Murduck

5 Owen Warren

6 Roy Keeves (C)

Rung for Patronal Festival

Stowe, Assumption of St Mary

Saturday 15th July 1995

1260 Plain Bob & Grandsire Doubles

1 John Stanworth

2 William A Yates

3 Ann M Fletcher

4 David G Goodger

5 Richard S Stanworth (C)

6 Helen Stanworth

Rung by members and friends for the National Trust Centenary and re-opening of the Temple of Venus prior to the Centenary Concert and Fireworks.

Bradwell, St Lawrence

Sunday 6th August 1995

1260 Doubles (5 methods)

1 Christine Abbott

2 Rebecca Fawcett

3 Jill Joyce

4 Ian Green

5 David Joyce (C)

6 Gordon Abbott

Wedding compliment to David Bardwell & Rosa Clare, married the previous day. Also thanksgiving for the life of Gwen Mynard, widow of Fred.

Buckingham, SS Peter & Paul

Sunday 6th August 1995

1260 Grandsire Triples

1 Helen Stanworth

2 Lynn M Walters

3 Ann M Fletcher

4 William A Yates

5 Andrew J Spencer

6 Richard W Yates

7 Richard S Stanworth (C)

8 Peter J Nicholson

75th birthday compliment to our tower

captain Bill Yates

QUARTERS RUNG FOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF

VJ DAY

Newport Pagnell, St Peter & St Paul

Sunday 20th August 1995

1 Peter Tribble

2 P D Taylor

3 Nick Gray

4 Godfrey L Foat

5 Alan J Marchbank

6 B Douglas Hird (C)

Stowe, Assumption of St Mary

Friday 1st September 1995

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Helen Stanworth

2 Richard S Stanworth

3 Peter J Nicholson

4 Ann M Fletcher

5 William A Yates (C)

6 David G Goodger

A compliment to Rose and Mont

Clarke on their Golden Wedding

Anniversary

Bradwell, St Lawrence

Sunday 3rd September 1995

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Jenny Brookman

2 Ted Fawcett

3 Ian Green

4 Michelle Copson (1st inside)

5 David Joyce (C)

6 Gordon Abbott

Rung for the dedication service to celebrate the completion of reordering.

Downs Barn, Cross & Stable

Sunday 10th September 1995

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1 Fiona Maybrey

2 Scott Ayres (1st inside)

3 John Lonsbrough

4 Nicki King

5 Simon Head

6 Doug Hird (C)

Rung for Ros and Dennis Parrett's Pearl

Wedding Anniversary

Maids Moreton, St Edmund

Monday 25th September 1995

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Helen Stanworth

2 Richard S Stanworth

3 Peter J Nicholson

4 Andrew J Spencer

5 William A Yates (C)

6 David G Goodger

Retirement compliment to Rev Norman

Thorp, Vicar of North Buckingham and

Rural Dean of the Buckingham

Deanery.

Hanslope, St James the Great

Thursday 28th September 1995

1264 Plain Bob Major

1 Alan Cozens

2 Janet Haseldine

3 Nicholas Gray

4 Gerald Kingston

5 Ian Thompson

6 John Randall

7 Richard Haseldine (C)

8 Roy Keeves

In thanksgiving for the life of Alfred

George Keeves, ringer at Hanslope for

65 years.

Stoke Goldington, St Peter

Friday 6th October 1995

1260 Stedman Doubles

1 Audrey C Jones

2 Sheila Watts

3 Roy Keeves

4 Ian J Thompson (1st Stedman)

5 Alan Cozens (C)

6 Owen Warren

In thanksgiving for the life of Alfred

George Keeves.

Bradwell, St Lawrence

Sunday 8th October 1995

1260 Doubles (6 methods)

1 Christine Abbott

2 Jenny Brookman

3 Jill Joyce (C)

4 Rebecca Fawcett

5 David M Joyce

6 Gordon Abbott

90th birthday compliment to Bill

French.

Downs Barn, Cross & Stable

Sunday 8th October 1995

1488 Plain Bob Major

1 Alan Marchbank

2 Scott Ayres

3 Nicki King

4 Peter Tribble

5 John Lonsbrough

6 Simon Head

7 David Maybrey

8 Doug Hird (C)

1st Major - 1, 6

HANDBELL QUARTERS

16 Wandsworth Place, Bradwell Common

Monday 15th May 1995

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1-2 Ronald J Snack

3-4 John V Lonsbrough

5-6 Godfrey L Foat (C)

A birthday compliment to Jacqueline

Foat, niece of 5-6

16 Wandsworth Place, Bradwell Common

Monday 22nd May 1995

2520 Plain Bob Minor

1-2 Alan J Marchbank

3-4 Ronald J Snack

5-6 Godfrey L Foat (C)

First half peal for all. Longest length on handbells for 1-2

16 Wandsworth Place, Bradwell Common

Monday 17th July 1995

1280 Plain Bob Major

1-2 Alan J Marchbank

3-4 John V Lonsbrough

5-6 Godfrey L Foat (C)

7-8 Ronald J Snack

Points from the Quarters...

The quarter rung for **Bill Yates' 75th Birthday** came at the end of a weekend of celebrations, which included a barbecue on the day. A large number of relatives and friends joined Bill at the 8:00 Communion service at Stowe. The turnout was so much greater than usual that the service had to be moved from the side chapel to the main body of the church. Afterwards we were invited back for a drink and were able to admire the trophies and certificates won the previous day - better luck with the beetroot next year!

Congratulations to David and Rosa on their marriage, and to the handbell band on completing a half peal.

Other Ringing for VJ Day

In addition to the quarters rung there was general ringing at **Bradwell** either side of the two minutes silence, and a quarter peal attempt at 12:00 was lost. At **Great Linford** some Grandshire doubles was rung. **Woughton** rang mixed Singles and Minimus from 12:00 to 12:20.

... News from the Towers

Bradwell : At the beginning of August Bradwell ringers celebrated the wedding of Rosa Clare and David Bardwell. They married at Blethley register office followed by a service of blessing at St Lawrence church. In the evening the ringers and their families joined them at La Tambourista, Stony Stratford for a reception.

At the end of August David and Jill Joyce hosted a barbecue to mark Jill's birthday. Food and drink flowed all day and evening. Six ringers managed to attend and ring for evensong, a slightly inebriated secretary (Jenny) got the giggles, but nevertheless managed to hold a conversation with the vicar! Everyone had a great day and we managed to finish a nebuchadnezzar of champagne (20 bottles) drunk in beer tankards of course! nobody was the worse for wear, although tales of Mr Bardwell dancing on his lawn dressed only in Tigger T-shirt and socks makes me wonder.

On Wednesday 20th September Bill French an ex-ringer and old Bradwellian came up on one of his occasional visits to see us. It was his 90th birthday and we were all thrilled when after a little persuasion he took hold of a bell and rang with us.

Jenny Brookman

Fenny Stratford : The bells were amongst the attractions on a weekend of exhibitions and displays at Fenny Stratford church.

Newton Longville : Having a rope break on them when ringing for the Flower Festival this summer has not discouraged them. Alex and Nigel Titley have recently moved into the village and as a result there is now a practice on Thursday nights.

See the tower contacts list for further details.

North Crawley : A review of the village news in the local paper showed that the "fine peal of bells" were mentioned when a wedding was the village news.

Olney : Congratulations to Chas Knight on his investiture as Officer Brother in the Order of St John.

FOUND

Has anyone lost a navy blue hooded jacket? There has been one hanging on the coat hooks at Bradwell since mid August - you don't have to stay and ring with us if you just want to collect it.

Ringling Details

Please check very carefully the details on David Bardwell's latest list of ringing times and tower contacts. This will be almost our last chance to get these details exact for the next edition of the Guild report.

Has your computer got a modem ?

Did you know that there was a computer bulletin board dedicated to ringers and ringing ? This is partly funded by the Central Council and all ringers are welcome to use it for just the cost of their phone call. Set your modem to dial 01794-514754 and login as a new user.

There are different sections for swapping messages and asking for help, plus a lot of files available for downloading to your machine. If you are really keen you can even download the peals that will appear in next week's Ringling World.

Some of the ringing / composing programs are intended to raise funds for local bell restoration projects - if a donation is "part of the deal" then please don't forget it. A number of copies of ABEL and MicroSirl are in use in the branch, and are used to prepare the method sheets for this newsletter.

DOUG IN THE USA

The town of Charleston, South Carolina is known chiefly for its history. In this it is not unlike most of our North Bucks towns. Our local historical societies can tell us about the last few hundred years because the information is readily at hand. In South Carolina, the last few hundred years is all they have. Tourists come from all over the USA to wander round the quiet streets with their timber buildings. Those in the centre of town clean and freshly painted, those on the outskirts more dilapidated. Each house has a small plaque telling of the role of its inhabitants during the Civil War. Only the market is reluctant to re-tell its origins as a slave market. The town with its Atlantic port clearly did well out of the trade into and out of the Southern States.

Now the trade is tourism but I left our group of Abbey National visitors amongst the souvenir and local curiosity shops and went in search of the local ringers. The bells of St Michael's were unringable for many years. The 18cwt eight were supplied by the Whitechapel foundry some 200 years ago and a frame was made for them. Unfortunately, no one had told the frame maker that the tower was octagonal not square. The frame had to be fitted with its corners jammed into the windows. Needless to say, the bells did not go well and were hardly ever rung. Now, they hang in a new (1993) steel frame and go very well.

I joined the band for their Saturday morning practice, which, on this occasion, had also been joined by the ringers of the Stella Maris Catholic church just a few miles away. After an hour of tied practice for these new ringers, some Bob Doubles and Plain Hunt was rung using a simulator. This was quite good as all of the bells are connected to it. Then the clappers were untied and the town was treated to rounds on the eight and Doubles on the back six.

Ringin in South Carolina is making progress and Charleston has plenty of learners. The problem is only one of distance. Imagine how the North Bucks Branch would get on if Loughton was as far from Bradwell as Southampton, Old Wolverton somewhere near Manchester and Great Linford in the North Sea, near Felixstowe. But, if you ever find yourself in South Carolina (or North Carolina for that matter) the journey is well worthwhile.

Doug Hird



Calling Grandsire Doubles Round

Ever got lost calling Grandsire Doubles, or had bells swap over and realised that your touch won't work? Don't worry any more, as this tip will always get you out of trouble.

Call the 4 into the hunt with a Bob (or a Single if you can see that it was about to make normal 3rds). Once the 4 is in the hunt, just wait until you can call it out when it double dodges down with the 5 - do this with a Bob or Single as necessary to get the 2 & 3 the right way round at the front of the row.

David Joyce

**Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers
North Bucks Branch - Membership Nomination Form**

Tower Name _____

Member's Name	_____	Junior ?	_____
Member's Name	_____	Junior ?	_____
Member's Name	_____	Junior ?	_____
Member's Name	_____	Junior ?	_____
Member's Name	_____	Junior ?	_____
Member's Name	_____	Junior ?	_____
Member's Name	_____	Junior ?	_____
Member's Name	_____	Junior ?	_____
Member's Name	_____	Junior ?	_____
Member's Name	_____	Junior ?	_____

Junior members' subscriptions are currently subsidised by the Branch.
[in full time education, up to and including the age of 21]

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY and hand to the Chairman prior to the start of the meeting.

Proposed by _____

Seconded by _____

Elected at _____ on ____/____/____

Circulation :- 1/ Minute Secretary

2/ Treasurer

3/ Secretary for forwarding certificate needs to Guild membership secretary

NORTH BUCKS. BRANCH - TOWER RINGING TIMES

TOWER (BELLS)		SUNDAY		PRACTICE		NOTES	PHONE NO.
				DAY	TIME		
BEACHAMPTON	5	11:00 (1), 09:30 (2, 3 & 4)	-	-	-		01908-566937
BLETCHLEY	8	09:30-10:00	Mon	19:30-21:00			01908-379025
BRADWELL	6	09:30, 17:30 (2, 3, 4 & 5)	Wed	19:30-21:00			01908-311506
BUCKINGHAM	8	17:15 (1), 09:15 (3 & 4)	Wed	19:30-21:00	Last of Mth #4		01280-814937
CALVERTON	6	By arrangement	Wed	20:00-21:00			01908-618754
CHICHELEY	6	17:30-18:00 (1)	Mon	19:30-21:00	Check Venue alt #5		01234-391371
CLIFTON REYNES	6	By arrangement	-	-			01234-711082
DOWNS BARN	8	10:00-10:30	Tue	19:30-21:00	Not 1st. Tuesday		01908-562233
DRAYTON PARSLow	6	17:30-18:00	-	-			01525-240287
EMBERTON	6	09:15 & 17:30 (3)	Tue	19:45-21:00			01234-711113
FENNY STRATFORD	6	09:00	Thu	20:00-21:00			01908-642826
GREAT BRICKHILL	6	By arrangement	-	-			01525-261663
GREAT LINFORD	6	10:15-10:45	Tue	19:30-21:00			01908-321564
HANSLOPE	8	10:15-11:00	Thu	19:30-21:00			01908-510105
HAVERSHAM	3						01908-312136
LATHBURY	5	UNRINGABLE					01908-313859
LAVENDON	6	10:15-11:00 (3)	Wed	19:30-21:00			01234-712774
LECKHAMSTEAD	5	No ringing	-	-			01280-860303
LILLINGSTONE LOVELL	5	09:00-09:30 (2, 4)	Thu	19:30-21:00	1, 3, 5 of Mth.		01280-860665
LITTLE BRICKHILL	3						
LOUGHTON	6	10:30	Mon	19:30-21:00	alt #1		01908-666492
MAIDS MORETON	6	09:00 (1), 17:15 (2), 10:45 (4)	Wed	19:00-20:30	All except last Wed #4		01280-812868
MILTON KEYNES VILLAGE	6	10:30-11:00 (2, 4)	Tue	20:00-21:00			01908-665439
NEWPORT PAGNELL	8	08:50-09:30, 17:30-18:00	Wed	19:30-21:00	Sun eve. by arrangement		01908-676467
NEWTON BLOSSOMVILLE	3						01234-881581
NEWTON LONGVILLE	8	By arrangement	Thu	19:30-21:00			01908-646632
NORTH CRAWLEY	6	17:30-18:00 (2, 4)	Mon	19:30-21:00	Check Venue alt #5		01234-391785
OLD WOLVERTON	6	10:00-10:30	Tue	19:15-21:00			01908-321011
OLNEY	8	-	Mon	19:30-21:00	4th of mth		01234-713719
SHALSTONE	5	No ringing	-	-			01280-700014
SHENLEY	6	09:00-09:30	Mon	19:30-21:00	alt #1		01908-666492
SHERINGTON	5	10:30-11:00 (1), 09:00-09:30 (2,3,4,5)	-	-			01908-610560
SIMPSON	6	-	Thu	20:00-21:00	1,3 alt #2 (5 chk venue)		01908-670579
STOKE GOLDINGTON	6	09:15-10:00 (2)	Fri	19:30-21:00	2, 4 alt #3		01908-551416
STOKE HAMMOND	3	-		All visitors	welcome by arrangement		01525-270289
STONY STRATFORD	8	09:00-09:30	Mon	By arrangement			01908-565380
STOWE	6	09:00 (2), 17:15 (4)	Thu	19:00-20:00			01280-814937
THORNBOROUGH	5						01280-812454
TINGEWICK	5	-	Mon	19:30-20:30			01280-848658
TWYFORD, BUCKS	6	By arrangement		By arrangement			01869-277671
TYRINGHAM	5	No ringing	-	-			01234-711566
WAVENDON	6	No ringing	-	-			01908-582839
WESTON UNDERWOOD	6	By arrangement	Fri	19:30-21:00	2, 4 alt #3		01908-551416
WHADDON	6	-	Tue	19:30-21:00			01908-502470
WOUGHTON-ON-THE-GREEN	6	09:30	Thu	20:00-21:00	2, 4 alt #2		01908-670579

PLEASE PASS ANY AMENDMENTS/UPDATES TO D. BARDWELL (01908-676841)

Other Events Within and Without the Branch

This section is intended to bring you information about some other ringing events, that are not organised by our own Branch or Guild. This information is not kept as complete or up-to-date as our own Branch diary, so please keep an eye on Odd Bob and The Ringing World. If you wish to check before attending, or want to know further details, please contact the following people :-

Olney - A Monday evening 8 bell practice is run by Roy Keeves (01908-510105) from 7:30 to 9:00 each month. There is a core of regular attendees, but new faces are always welcome. Methods rung range from Rounds to Surprise Major, with a special method sometimes being chosen in advance. *Note that there is no practice in December.*

Downs Barn - These practices have now ceased and have been replaced by occasional quarter peals to help the regular Sunday Service ringers. For further information, please contact Doug Hird (01908-614741).

Central Bucks Branch - Mrs Jackie Sellin (01296-392175).

Towcester Branch - Bill Yates (01280-814937).

Wellingborough Branch - John Holmes (01933-405169).

Luton District - David Adams (01582-868534).

Bicester Branch - Simon Cole (01869-247525).

Northampton Branch - Mrs Dorothy Stopps (01604-890638).

Bedford District - Eddie Lambert (01234-363513).

Date	Time	Event details	Location
Mon 23rd October	7:30	Eight bell Practice	Olney
Sat 28th October	6:30	Luton District Practice	Dunstable
	7:00	Northampton Branch Practice	Hardingstone
	7:30	Towcester Branch Supper & Quiz	Stoke Bruerne
Thu 2nd November	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Ambrosden
Sat 4th November	6:30	Bedford District Meeting	Turvey
Sat 11th November	6:30	Central Bucks Branch Practice (to 8:30)	Haddenham
Sat 25th November	6:30	Luton District Practice	Husborne Crawley
	7:00	Northampton Branch Practice	All Saints, Northampton
	7:00	Towcester Branch Practice (to 7:45)	Passenham
	8:00	Towcester Branch Practice (to 9:00)	Stony Stratford
Mon 27th November	7:30	Eight bell Practice	Olney
Fri 1st December	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Ludgershall
Sat 2nd December	6:30	Bedford District Meeting	Milton Ernest
	7:30	Towcester Branch Dinner	Towcester Town Hall
Sat 9th December	6:30	Central Bucks Branch Practice (to 8:30)	Winslow
	eve	Wellingborough Branch Social / Quiz	Finedon
Sat 16th December	6:30	Luton District Practice	Stanbridge
Sat 30th December	7:00	Towcester Branch Practice (to 7:45)	Stowe
	8:00	Towcester Branch Practice (to 9:00)	Malds Moreton
Mon 8th January	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Bicester
Sat 13th January	6:30*	Central Bucks Branch Practice (to 8:30)	t.b.a.
Sat 20th January	3:00	Wellingborough Branch AGM (to 9:00)	Finedon
Mon 22nd January	7:30	Eight bell Practice	Olney
Sat 27th January	3:00	Towcester Branch AGM (to 8:00)	Paulerspury
	3:30	Northampton Branch AGM	Kingsthorpe
Tue 6th February	7:30	Bicester Branch Practice	Islip
Sat 10th February	3:00	Central Bucks Branch A.G.M.	Aylesbury
Sat 24th February	6:30	Luton District Practice	Aspley Guise
Mon 26th February	7:30	Eight bell Practice	Olney
Sat 9th March	7:00	Wellingborough Branch Practice (to 9:00)	Earls Barton
Mon 25th March	7:30	Eight bell Practice	Olney
Mon 22nd April	7:30	Eight bell Practice	Olney
Sat 11th May	3:00	Wellingborough Branch Meeting (to 9:00)	Great Doddington
Mon 27th May	7:30	Eight bell Practice	Olney
Mon 24th June	7:30	Eight bell Practice	Olney

Don't forget all of the local tower practices in our branch each week. If you visit any of these events, why not take along another member of your local band ? However, it would be courteous to check with the organiser before taking an entire band along !

Last revised 15/10/95

Many thanks to the **Central Bucks Branch** for sending a copy of their newsletter - it will be available for you all to browse at the December meeting. It's a good way to keep in touch with our neighbours, but sad to note that their editor also seems to suffer from a lack of contributions from most of his members!

ODG North Bucks Branch Diary

Date	Time	Event details	Location
Sat 4th November	10:00	Guild 10 bell course - Little Bob & Cambridge	Amersham Slough
Sat 11th November	2:00	* Mini Ringing School Subject = Plain Hunting	t.b.a.
Fri 17th November	7:30	Branch Practice Special method = Kent Treble Bob Major	Buckingham
Sat 18th November	10:00	Tower Leadership Course	Stoke Mandeville
Sun 19th November	2:00	Branch Officers' Meeting	Olney
Sat 25th November	2:30	Guild Autumn Committee Meeting	Boyne Hill, Maidenhead
Sat 2nd December	3:30	Quarterly Meeting	Downs Barn
Fri 15th December	7:30	Branch Practice Special method = Little Bob Minor	Bradwell
Fri 19th January	7:30	Branch Practice Special method = St Simons & St Martins Doubles	Great Brickhill
Thu 1st February	19:45	Guild Finance & General Purposes Committee	Radley
Sat 3rd February	2:00	* Mini Ringing School Subject =	t.b.a.
Fri 16th February	7:30	Branch Practice Special method = London Surprise Minor	Weston Underwood
Sat 24th February (to Sun 3rd Mar)		* Guild Sponsored Ringing for Bell Fund	Everywhere!!
Sat 2nd March	3:30	Annual General Meeting	Emberton
Sat 2nd March	7:00	* Guild 10 Bell Course - basics	Long Crendon
Sat 9th March	2:30	Guild Committee Meeting in North Bucks Branch	Bletchley
Fri 15th March	7:30	Branch Practice Special method = Double Norwich Court Bob Major	Hanslope
Fri 29th March (to Sun 31st)		Guild Youth Weekend	Eton Dorney (Windsor)

Any event marked with * was awaiting confirmation when this list was prepared, if a more recent list is unavailable then please check with the Secretary for the current situation before attending.

Rounds, Call Changes, Plain Hunt, Plain Bob & Grandsire will always be available at Branch Practices. The special methods are intended to be a focus for the more advanced method ringing.

The Branch Mini Ringing Schools are specially tailored for a very small number of pupils to get intensive, high quality, training in one basic method. Please write to the Ringing Masters if you wish to be considered as a pupil for a future school.