

AUTUMN '90

IN TOUCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH BUCKS BRANCH
OF
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS



TOWER REPRESENTATIVES MEETING

On Sunday 9th September 1990 there will be a tower representatives meeting at Rectory Cottages, Bletchley starting at 2.30pm. Two representatives from each branch tower are invited to attend and the meeting should finish with a cup of tea by 4.00pm

Rectory Cottages is on Church Green Road next to the Church Hall.

The aim of the meeting is to identify the content of the Branch Diary for 1991. In doing this we will want to know YOUR feelings towards the activities organised within the Branch.

For example

- (i) Meetings
- (ii) Practices
- (iii) Education and training
- (iv) Competitions
- (v) Special Events
- (vi) Social Events
- (vii) 1/4 Peal Week

We would also like feedback from you about the way in which the Branch is organised and run. In particular communications, resources and the role of Branch Officers.

In a similar way we need to know your feelings towards Guild activities so that they may gain your support in the future.

The Guild events are

- (a) AGM
- (b) Guild Festival
- (c) 6 Bell Contest
- (d) 8 Bell Contest
- (e) Ringing Day
- (f) Easthampstead Course

There will be an opportunity to raise any other business at the end of the meeting, (advance notice of any items would be appreciated).

We are interested in everybodys opinion, so please discuss these issues within your band and make sure your tower is represented.

Alan Marchbank (0908) 321564.

From the Top of the Secretary's Head

Guild Festival 1990

As you know the Branch was host to this years ODG Guild festival which took place on the 7th July last. I am in debted and must sincerely thank the incumbents and ringers (especially the tower correspondents) of each of the nine towers we rang at during the day, and also the towers that were on preliminary routes and were held as "first reserves". Thank you all. I must also thank the Downs Barn Ringers especially Dave, Fiona, Andrew and Samantha for the lunchtime arrangements. The lunch "Al Fresco" was really excellent and enjoyed by all who indulged.

And finally (but not least) thank you to Peter and Bill for the arrangements at Buckingham for the Bells and Service and of course thank you George for an expert piece of Banner carrying.

The thanks out of the way you must ask yourselves what the purpose of the festival is? As one of only six events organised by the Guild each year, it is obviously a significant occasion, and is the only one organised solely for the for Guild members to ring, socialise and worship together. Those who toured the towers this year know how disappointing the ringing was due to the poor attendance and the splendid service at Buckingham would have been so much better with a full church.

The Guild belongs to the Guild members it takes the membership to change the way the Guild works, and the events it organises. It takes you to attend branch and Guild events to say what you want the Branch and Guild to do for you.

In this vein, as discussed at past 1/4ly meetings a tower representatives meeting will be held on Sunday 9th September for you to steer the Branch in the direction you want it. Lets aim for a full attendance by making sure your tower is represented.

Alan Marchbank

An Up-date from Great Brickhill

You will know that Gt. Brickhill bells are currently un-ringable due to the poor condition of the stone Mullions on the tower and the major roof repairs that have become necessary after last years wild winter. Well, its good to be able to report that the fund raising to date has raised sufficient money to allow orders to be placed and work will commence on 20th August and all being well, will be completed by 14th October.

At the time of writing there is still some £8000 to be raised to meet the expected bill and if anyone would like to make a contribution please contact either Hugh Butler (052 26) 663, or the church treasurer Mr. Hinton (0525 26) 496.

1

TOWER OPEN DAY AT BRADWELL

On Saturday 23 June the bellringers and social events committee of St Lawrence Bradwell Village organised a Tower Open Day.

The open day started for us at ten o'clock when we arrived at the church to arrange the various displays. First we assembled the new display boards purchased by the branch and kindly lent to us by Sheila Watts and Sheila Ware. With this came some very useful information on bellringing to which we added some material relevant to St Lawrence. When this was finished, everyone commented on how professional the display boards looked. Beside the boards we laid out some ringing books and Ringing Worlds and we borrowed the ODG video "Birth of a Bell" via Allan Marchbank, and set this up by the pulpit where people could sit in the pews to watch.

We borrowed the model bell from Newport Pagnell and our steeple keeper, Gordon Abbott, used this to explain the intricacies of a working bell. This was enhanced by live colour television pictures from the belfry relayed to two monitors in the church, one by the ringing chamber and one by the display boards. The ability to see the movement of the bells and the pulling of the ropes at the same time was the success of the day, as much for the ringers themselves as for the public.

The tower opened at two o'clock and there were demonstrations of call changes and method ringing. Any member of the public who wished to, could have a go under the guidance of the tower captain, and many did from as young as five year old (chiming only with the bell down) to as old as over seventy. Most people tried handstroke and backstroke separately and were occasionally surprised at how little effort was involved.

The weather on the day was windy with sunshine and showers so the refreshments provided by members of the congregation in a large tent were very popular.

The open day finished at five o'clock and although the day was not a financial success (due to the cost of hiring the tent) we achieved our main aim of introducing people to the church and bellringing. People came from all over the city and a few showed a definite interest in learning. Our own tower has gained one learner who appears very keen and is making good progress.

We would like to thank all those who helped on the day plus the many people who helped with the provision of the display items and those who helped organise the day.

T.C.

141 Shortwood Rd.,
Pucklenhurch
Bristol
BS17 3PH
Tel: 027582 2215

S-7-90

Dear A J Marchbank,

Re: System Bell Relighting Fund

Warmley Guild of Bellringers are planning to hold a tower open-day on October 6th 1990. It is hoped to have 30 towers open for ringing, the first 5 being:

Keynsham	9.00 o'clock
Kelston	9.20
Bitton	9.40
Warmley	10.00
Mangotsfield	10.40

We intend to keep each tower open for an hour, with a planned route that makes it possible to ring at all 30 towers.

The cost will be £5 for a day ticket or 30p per tower, day tickets and programmes will be available at the towers listed above, or in advance with an SAE from the address above.

Details will be advertised in the Ringing World.

Proceeds from the open-day will be towards the System Bell Fund.

It would be appreciated if you could announce this event at your next branch meeting.

We look forward to seeing you.

Yours sincerely,

L. B. S.

Lucy Bailey
Secretary of Warmley Guild of Bellringers

**NORTH BUCKS BRANCH SIX BELL STRIKING COMPETITION
SATURDAY 9TH JUNE, 1990**

The contest this year was held at Wavendon, a lovely venue with easy going bells. A music rehearsal was taking place in the Church, which gave us some unusual competition to begin with, but difficulties soon overcome we proceeded with the ringing. Seven teams took part, and it was good to see so many ringers. Congratulations to Bradwell for sending three teams! Ringing was drawn as follows:

Great Linford
Bradwell (Old Bradwellians)
Emberton
Buckingham & Maids Moreton
Bradwell (Dodgers)
Bradwell (Champions)
Newport Pagnell

Bob Doubles
Grandsire Doubles
Bob Doubles
Grandsire Doubles
Stedman Doubles
Bob Doubles
Bob Doubles

We were very fortunate to have as Judges David and Jill Joyce, who had recently moved to Milton Keynes from Kent. David had been ringing a peal in Kent during the morning, and they had dashed back to North Bucks especially to judge our contest.

David's critical and constructive comments on the ringing were appreciated and much enjoyed by those present. We look forward to welcoming them both to the Branch in the future. And now for the results

Bradwell (Old Bradwellians) 104 faults; Emberton 108 faults; Buckingham & Maids Moreton 80 1/2 faults; Bradwell (Champions) 96 faults; Newport Pagnell 134 faults; Bradwell (Dodgers) and Great Linford - no marks as the test piece was not completed.

The Branch Shield was won by Buckingham & Maids Moreton, and the coveted Broken Stay jointly by Bradwell (Dodgers) and Great Linford (I wonder which tower will get the honour of displaying it?). The Bradwell and Great Linford Challenge Shield, traditionally presented to the highest placed team of the two was won by Bradwell (Champions)

Our thanks to the organisers of the contest, Wavendon Church, the Judges, and especially the ringers who came to compete.



The Winners Shield.



The Broken Stay was presented, in turn to the Tower Captains
of The Bradwell Dodgers and Gt Linford....



Are these the Old Bradwellians,
the Bradwell Dodgers
or Bradwell Champions ???

CENTRAL COUNCIL RINGING SCHOOL
July 20-22nd Moulton Agricultural College, Northampton

Over 150 ringers from all parts of Great Britain met for this summer school which was held for the first time at Northampton.

Back in February it had seemed an excellent idea to have a weekend of intensive ringing, but come this hot and muggy July we began to have severe misgivings. But, nothing ventured nothing gained, your Chairman and Treasurer decided to "have a go".

Pitsford was the first tower available for general ringing before registration at the College, when after a general welcome groups were sorted out and sent off with their tutors for the first lecture.

The groups were fairly small and covered a wide range of topics and abilities from Tower Management to Bob Doubles to Belfry Maintenance to Surprise Royal. Tuition and ringing was very intensive, often with long distances to travel between towers, and not finishing until 9.30 in the evening. We had the opportunity to try a simulator set up and guided by Philip Gay of Keele. (Next project for the Branch - raising £500 for a simulator? Perhaps a demonstration at a Quarterly Meeting?)

The course ended with an inspiring Service for all at the College and the usual cups of tea and exchanging of telephone numbers. We both felt it was a very worthwhile and enjoyable weekend and would encourage any ringer to go next year, when the School will be at the same venue.

Sheila

From The Branch Officers

GUILD FESTIVAL 1990.

We would like to thank all those ringers who supported the Festival, and the Incumbents of the towers that were open for ringing. We were very disappointed that there were not more of you taking the opportunity to ring with the Guild and join in the Choral Evensong.

ZAPS

This is the "official" name for a long sticker for your car!

"I  **BELLRINGING**" zaps are available from Sheila Ware, cost 60p (or more!) in aid of All Saints, Emberton, Restoration Appeal.

DISPLAY BOARDS

These have now been used in four Churches during a variety of occasions - flower festival, tower open day, etc. They really are easy to erect, and advertise the Exercise in an interesting way. More material is needed, also more bookings. Donations towards cost welcome!

Ring Sheila Ware on 0604-24829.

This Quarters Quarters !

ALL SAINTS, EMBERTON
1296 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR
SUNDAY 10TH JUNE, 1990

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. L. Bendelow | 4. P. Haslam |
| 2. Sheila Watts | 5. A. Marchbank |
| 3. Judy Crocker | 6. G. L. Foat (C) |

To commemorate the start of the restoration of the tower.
First treble bob - Lawrence Bendelow

Stowe 1260 PlainBob Doubles
1.F.Thompson, 2, Margaret Vince, 3. P.Nicholson, 4. A.J.Floyd,
5.D.Goodger, 6.W.A.Yates(C).
Rung for the quarter peal week, first of minor for 1.

27th July

ST Lawrence's Old Bradwell 1260 Plain Bob Doubles, 41 mins.
1. Chris Abbott, 2. Beckey Fawcett, 3. Samantha Heyes-Bradley
4. F.Mynard, 5. E.Fawcett, 6. G.Bignall.
Rung for the wedding of Martin Fetchey & Debbie Thomson on this day

4th August.

Calverton , 1440 Plain Bob Minor
1.Simon James, 2.Jo Neville, 3.Bob Winstanley, 4. Barry Eglesfield,
5.Alan Marchbank, 6.Tim Davis (C).
Rung in honour of the 90th Birthday of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, first of minor for 1.

As some of you may know, for some years the Oxford Guild has appointed four members each year as Stewards, with the aim of linking the guild's central structure to its membership. At this year's AGM, I was honoured to be asked to be one of these stewards. It has since been decided that I should take the Bucks branches and East Berks as my 'patch'.

As I am new to the job, I don't think I will do it perfectly. But I think I could do a better job with answers to a few questions. They are not necessarily the right questions - but I hope that people will tell me what they think I should have asked!

(i) What do you think Guild stewards do?

(ii) What do you think Guild stewards are meant to do?

(iii) What do you think Guild stewards ought to do?

I hope that I will be able to get to branch meetings - and hopefully the occasional local practice and give lots of people the chance to tell me what they think the answers to these questions are. But in case I don't - and even if I do but forget what I have been told - I hope that some of you will write to tell me what your views are. My address is:

Mr G Blundell
72 Nursery Road
Taplow
Maidenhead
Berks
SL6 0JU

PS
I hope I will soon hear from some of you,
and even more, I hope
that I will have the chance to meet you!

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS
(Towers & Belfries Committee)

FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF THE COURSE HELD LAST YEAR
HERE ARE PRELIMINARY DETAILS OF -

A BELFRY MAINTENANCE COURSE

DATE - SATURDAY OCTOBER 13, 1990

PLACE - BUCKINGHAM AREA

TIME - START 10 AM

- FINISH (APPROX) 5 PM

PLEASE BRING OLD CLOTHES, TORCH, NOTEPAD AND PENCIL,
ROPE FOR PRACTICAL SPLICING SESSION.

THERE WILL BE A SMALL CHARGE TO COVER EXPENSES AND A
DONATION TO EACH OF THE TOWERS WE VISIT.

TO REGISTER OR FOR FULLER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT:-

RICHARD STEVENS
"DELOW"
BLACKTHORN ROAD
LAUNTON
BICESTER

OX6 0DA

SAE APPRECIATED FOR RETURN OF FULL PROGRAMME

OR TELEPHONE BICESTER (0869) 243920

Dear Diary.....

SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY	1st	BRANCH QUARTERLY & STRIKING CONTEST vs. TOWCESTER BRANCH	Woughton Wicken
FRIDAY	7th	BRANCH PRACTICE	Beachampton
FRIDAY	21st	BRANCH PRACTICE	Drayton Parslow

OCTOBER

FRIDAY	5th	BRANCH PRACTICE	Leckhampstead
FRIDAY	5th	ODG SECRETARYS MEETING	
SATURDAY	6th	BRANCH COURSE	To be advised
FRIDAY	19th	BRANCH PRACTICE	Sherrington

NOVEMBER

FRIDAY	2nd	BRANCH PRACTICE	Loughton
SATURDAY		ODG GENERAL COMMITTEE MTG	
FRIDAY	16th	BRANCH PRACTICE	North Crawley
FRIDAY	30th	8 BELL PRACTICE	Hanslope P.B. Major & Rutland S.M.

DECEMBER

SATURDAY	1st	BRANCH QUARTERLY	Emberton & Olney
FRIDAY	14th	BRANCH PRACTICE	Clifton Reynes
FRIDAY	28th	BRANCH PRACTICE	Gt. Linford

NOTES. a) All Friday night practices start at 7.30 pm.
b) Hanslope and Bletchley have been transposed, as have Leckhampstead and Drayton Parslow.
c) Please let me know if YOUR tower cannot fit into this diary

Copy date for the next IN TOUCH 17th November