

SEPT/OCT 1993

# IN TOUCH

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



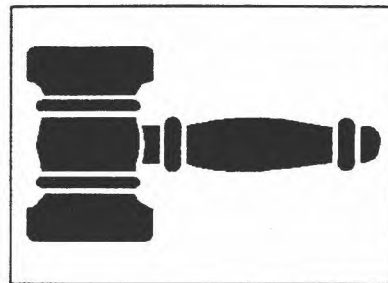
Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

## North Bucks Branch

1993/94 Branch Officers - Contact Information

|                       |                                                                                |                                                         |
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## FROM THE CHAIR



Welcome to another issue of our Newsletter. As this has been compiled before, and distributed after, our Quarterly meeting, you may already know most of the news. Never mind: pass this copy on!

The Downs Barn success story culminates on Sunday September 5th with the dedication of the bells. A new Church, a new ring of bells: a unique experience for most of us. A feature about Downs Barn is in the current issue of the Ringing World, and the band have copies available: it is very pleasant to read it particularly when the new Church and bells are in your Branch and you can go along and ring there. An article on the dedication service will be compiled for the Ringing World, and will appear also in Odd Bob and our next Newsletter.

"Frameside's" article in our last issue was reproduced in the Ringing World, and I have had comments from Branch members (see later on in this issue), plus those in the RW - whose editor appears to prefer to select controversial articles rather than other items! Maybe lively correspondence adds zest to a magazine, but..... Enough said, I think.

We do send copies to the RW, and to Guild officials including the editor of Odd Bob, and Steve Crane as Branch Secretary writes a report of our activities for Odd Bob, so the general coverage is quite wide. Our Newsletter always needs contributions from Branch members, so please send in your news - past and planned events - and even the odd controversial article! (But the Editor asks that all articles are signed with the contributor's name).

Support continues for Branch events, but we should aim to have more towers represented. We don't ask every individual member to come to every event, but if you are a regular supporter you can help even more by encouraging other members to attend.

With this current issue each tower will receive a questionnaire from David Joyce about weddings: completion is voluntary, but we would like to get as comprehensive a picture as possible. Also on the Admin side, please (1) let the Secretary know if the number of Newsletters for your tower is adequate (roughly one for two members) and if you need more copies of Odd Bob to be issued to you, and (2) note the date Saturday 26th February 1994 for a proposed Branch Dinner.

I'm making a quick offer to anyone who may be interested in the theoretical side of their ringing - method structure, and/or composition: let me know if you would like to learn some of the basics, or just something about conducting. We need more ringers to be able to call/conduct touches, and I would like to encourage development in this direction.

Finally, the next issue is targeted for early November, closing date for copy is flexible at the end of October but don't leave it till the last moment...

## Secretary's Scribbling

### Diary

The important addition to this issue of the diary is the Branch Annual Dinner on Saturday 26th February 1994. Arrangements are still being discussed but for now please make a note of the date in your diary.

### September Quarterly Meeting

If you tried to book tea with Hugh Butler will have realised that the number I quoted in the last issue of In Touch was wrong. My records showed an old number that BT had added an extra digit to recently without telling me. Sorry about the confusion. Hope you got your tea!

It seems that August was a bad month for me. I also managed to miss the deadline for the Ringing World advert, hence only a last minute reminder appeared. I can't claim full credit for this one as I was misinformed of the RW's publishing deadlines. It seems that for an advert to appear it must be on the Editor's desk by the Thursday before the Thursday that the particular issue comes out. So anyone wanting an article to appear in a specific issue take note. I will too, and try to get it right next time!

### Thanks From Newton Longville

I've received a letter of thanks from the Revd. Tony Whalley of Newton Longville, on behalf of the St. Faith's Restoration Committee, expressing gratitude for support from the Branch in ringing the bells at their fete on 10/11 July. He reports that a profit of approximately £3,500 was achieved.

### Guild Annual Report

Still no news of it! Can't find any other Branch Secretaries who know anything about it either. There isn't even a good rumour going around. Still, I'm sure it will be worth having when it does finally turn up!

That's about it for this issue. Nothing else to report in the Branch or Guild at the moment. Perhaps once the holiday period passes things will pick up.

## THE PICNIC

We were lucky to have another fine day for the annual Bedford District/North Bucks Branch picnic on 7th August.

Stagsden was a popular choice for the first ring, both branches being well represented. An enjoyable and wide variety of methods was rung.

The designated picnic area was Bromham Mill, causing chaos when two of the North Bucks cars headed for Bromham windmill, not watermill.... Barry's culinary skill in the preparation of his picnic was much admired, as were Carole's bell-shaped biscuits.

On then to Olney, which was also well supported. So well, in fact, that we had to ring with the door open to keep the temperature down!

We look forward to next year's venue. Our thanks to the organisers.

(Contributed by the two Sheilas from Emberton. Your Chairman thoroughly enjoyed the trip, but will want a navigator for next year's outing).

## THE STRIKING COMPETITION WITH TOWCESTER BRANCH OF PDG

From David Joyce:

This competition took place at Wicken on 31st July. Towcester lost the toss and were put in to ring first.

### RESULTS:

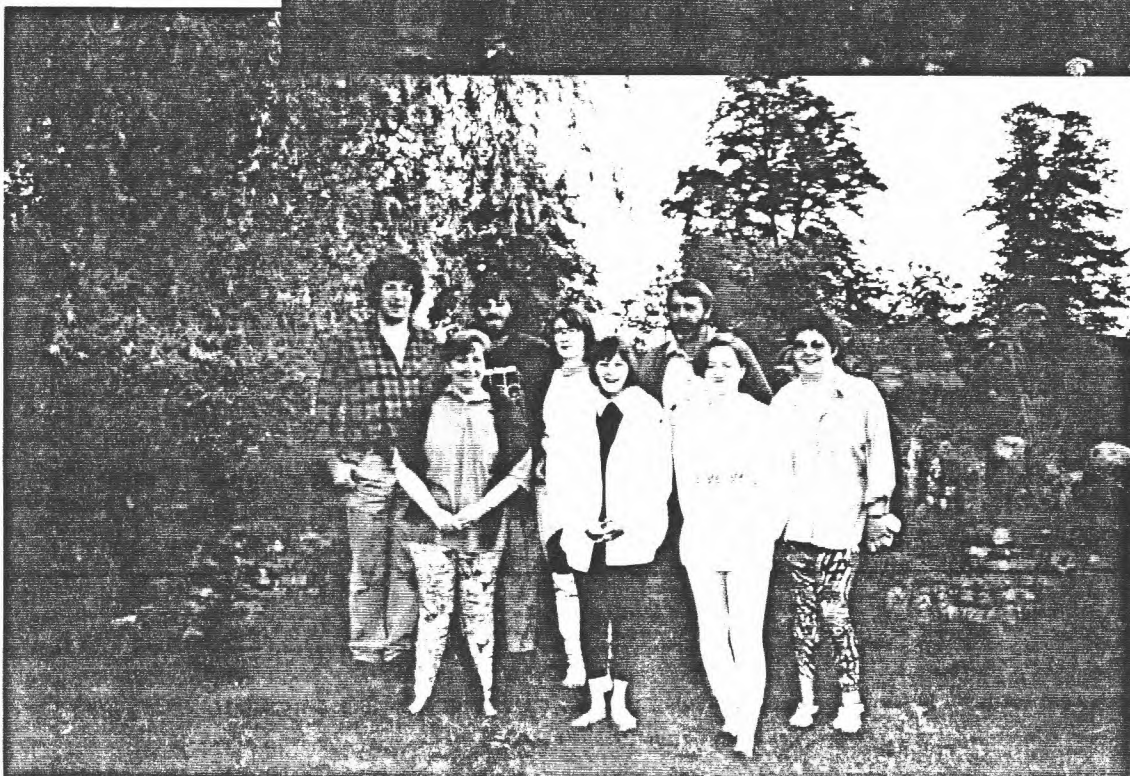
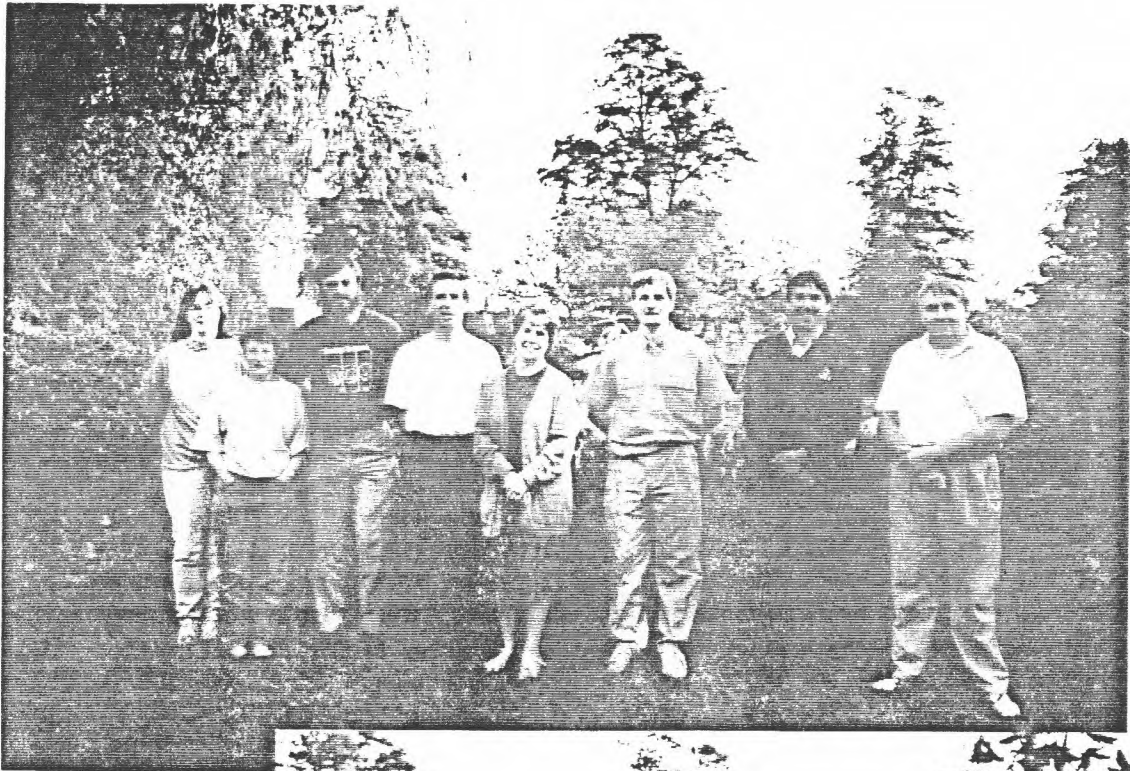
| <u>Method rung</u>      | <u>Faults-Towcester</u> | <u>Faults-North Bucks</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Grandsire Triples       | 21                      | 32                        |
| Cambridge Minor         | 9                       | 11                        |
| Call Changes on 8 Bells | 31                      | 29                        |

and Towcester retained the trophy by 2 to 1.

The judge's comments were particularly favourable about both touches of Cambridge Minor.

Each Branch used 20 ringers out of a possible 22, and it is noteworthy that 5 of the North Bucks call-change band (the winning one) came from Bletchley.

Photographs on next page, showing our bands (in descending order) for the Triples, Minor, and Call Changes.



# A HAPPY BAND.....

We have been given the following photograph of the team that won the Branch Six-bell striking contest.



Left to right: Back row; Andy King, Samantha Hayes-Bradley, Martin Petchey  
Front row; Becky Fawcett, Gordon Abbott, Chris Abbott.

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## ANOTHER ATTEMPT FOR THE DOUBLE PEAL AT EMBERTON.

Dates have been provisionally booked for this, either the 20th November or 11th December. More details will be advised later.

Sponsorship is the order of the day - please be prepared to give your support, don't wait to be asked to sign a form, **VOLUNTEER NOW!** The Chairman will be pleased to hear from you and forms will be shortly supplied. Also, it will be pleasant if Branch members within reasonable reach of the tower can go along and listen to some of the attempt. (Perhaps the "sentries" would be prepared to share their hot soup and rolls and blankets).

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## FRIENDLY CLUB VISITS HAVERSHAM

On 16th August, nine members of the Haversham Friendly Club visited the tower in the village. This club has been in existence for only eight months, after the Women's Institute link of over sixty years ended last December.

The visit was arranged after I had given the club a talk in July. Using handbells, kindly loaned by Hanslope, (thanks Richard and Roy), the members were so interested that a request was made to see bells in action.

Eight ladies and one gentlemen crammed into the ringing room, which left Mike Beck, Stephen Crane and me a surprising amount of room to ring. Two ladies managed to climb to the bells, as did eighty-seven year old Mr Thomas. It is not an easy route from the ringing room, involving negotiating two ladders, the second one being vertical held only by a piece of rope, (and a large hand). It was the first time any had seen bells that close, and they were surprised at their size. As there are only three, we were a bit limited in what we could ring, but we did manage some Call Changes and two-blow plain hunt.

All in all, a very fruitful evening for all concerned. The world of ringing has reached a quarter who had no knowledge of the art. I am not sure, however, if we have gained any potential new recruits.

Many thanks to Mike and Steve for their time and assistance.

John Randall

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## BUILDING WORK AT BRADWELL TOWER

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Ted Fawcett writes that ringing is temporarily suspended. The steel framework for the new upstairs ringing floor was put in on 17th August, the new floor and ceiling is due to be in place by the 4th September.

As to when ringing can recommence, this is dependent on the Whitechapel foundry who are due to put in new ceiling bosses, and supply and fit new specially adapted ropes. As yet Ted does not have a date for this work so if anyone was planning a ring at Bradwell - ring Ted first.

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## OCTOBER RINGING SCHOOL

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Godfrey Foat has enough ringers to hold sessions on six bells, on a reduced scale over part of the weekend (only a small take-up for the original scale we were prepared to handle). Those involved are being notified of the arrangements.

The proposal was an experiment, and is still worthwhile even on a reduced scale. The Chairman would like to hear what members feel about the availability of personal tuition: where should we pitch it between Branch practices and the ringing-school approach?

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|               |    |                  |                   |
|---------------|----|------------------|-------------------|
| <u>123456</u> |    | <u>156342</u> 48 | <u>142635</u> 96  |
| 214365        | 1  | 513624 49        | 416253 97         |
| 124635        | 2  | 153264 50        | 146523 98         |
| 216453        | 3  | 512346 51        | 415632 99         |
| 261435        | 4  | 521364 52        | 451623 100        |
| 624153        | 5  | 253146 53        | 546132 101        |
| 621435        | 6  | 251364 54        | 541623 102        |
| 264153        | 7  | 523146 55        | 456132 103        |
| 624513        | 8  | 253416 56        | 546312 104        |
| 265431        | 9  | 524361 57        | 453621 105        |
| 256413        | 10 | 542316 58        | 435612 106        |
| 524631        | 11 | 453261 59        | 346521 107        |
| 256431        | 12 | 542361 60        | 435621 108        |
| 524613        | 13 | 453216 61        | 346512 109        |
| 542631        | 14 | 435261 62        | 364521 110        |
| 456213        | 15 | 342516 63        | 635412 111        |
| 546123        | 16 | 432156 64        | 365142 112        |
| 451632        | 17 | 341265 65        | 631524 113        |
| 456123        | 18 | 342156 66        | 635142 114        |
| 541632        | 19 | 431265 67        | 361524 115        |
| 514623        | 20 | 413256 68        | 316542 116        |
| 156432        | 21 | 142365 69        | 135624 117        |
| 516342        | 22 | 412635 70        | 315264 118        |
| 153624        | 23 | 146253 71        | 132546 119        |
| <u>135264</u> | 24 | <u>164523</u> 72 | <u>123456</u> 120 |
| 312546        | 25 | 615432 73        |                   |
| 132456        | 26 | 165342 74        |                   |
| 314265        | 27 | 613524 75        |                   |
| 341256        | 28 | 631542 76        |                   |
| 432165        | 29 | 365124 77        |                   |
| 431256        | 30 | 361542 78        |                   |
| 342165        | 31 | 635124 79        |                   |
| 432615        | 32 | 365214 80        |                   |
| 346251        | 33 | 632541 81        |                   |
| 364215        | 34 | 623514 82        |                   |
| 632451        | 35 | 265341 83        |                   |
| 364251        | 36 | 623541 84        |                   |
| 632415        | 37 | 265314 85        |                   |
| 623451        | 38 | 256341 86        |                   |
| 264315        | 39 | 523614 87        |                   |
| 624135        | 40 | 253164 88        |                   |
| 261453        | 41 | 521346 89        |                   |
| 264135        | 42 | 523164 90        |                   |
| 621453        | 43 | 251346 91        |                   |
| 612435        | 44 | 215364 92        |                   |
| 164253        | 45 | 123546 93        |                   |
| 614523        | 46 | 213456 94        |                   |
| 165432        | 47 | 124365 95        |                   |
| <u>156342</u> | 48 | <u>142635</u> 96 |                   |

Primrose is (in theory) perfectly simple to ring if you already know how to ring Cambridge. The method is identical except that instead of 2nds being made at the lead ends, 6ths place is made. The effect of this is to alter the order in which the place bells appear, so you must know the start and finish of each of your place bells.

Touches are the same as the same call in Cambridge (because a Bob in either method is a 4ths place lead end). This means that a Bob Course of Primrose is identical to a Bob Course of Cambridge - guess what touch of Primrose won't be called at the special practice ?

The reason for choosing this as a special method is not that it is popular in its own right, just that it makes you think a lot more about the true structure of Cambridge.

Double Norwich Court Bob Major - Plain Course

|                 |    |                 |    |                 |     |
|-----------------|----|-----------------|----|-----------------|-----|
| <u>12345678</u> |    | <u>16482735</u> | 48 | <u>17856342</u> | 96  |
| 21436587        | 1  | 61847253        | 49 | 71583624        | 97  |
| 24135678        | 2  | 68142735        | 50 | 75186342        | 98  |
| 42316587        | 3  | 86417253        | 51 | 57813624        | 99  |
| 24361578        | 4  | 68471235        | 52 | 75831642        | 100 |
| 42635187        | 5  | 86742153        | 53 | 57386124        | 101 |
| 24365817        | 6  | 68472513        | 54 | 75836214        | 102 |
| 42638571        | 7  | 86745231        | 55 | 57382641        | 103 |
| 46283751        | 8  | 87654321        | 56 | 53728461        | 104 |
| 64827315        | 9  | 78563412        | 57 | 35274816        | 105 |
| 46287135        | 10 | 87653142        | 58 | 53724186        | 106 |
| 64821753        | 11 | 78561324        | 59 | 35271468        | 107 |
| 46812735        | 12 | 87516342        | 60 | 53217486        | 108 |
| 64187253        | 13 | 78153624        | 61 | 35124768        | 109 |
| 61482735        | 14 | 71856342        | 62 | 31527486        | 110 |
| 16847253        | 15 | 17583624        | 63 | 13254768        | 111 |
| <u>18674523</u> | 16 | <u>15738264</u> | 64 | <u>12345678</u> | 112 |
| 81765432        | 17 | 51372846        | 65 |                 |     |
| 87164523        | 18 | 53178264        | 66 |                 |     |
| 78615432        | 19 | 35712846        | 67 |                 |     |
| 87651423        | 20 | 53721864        | 68 |                 |     |
| 78564132        | 21 | 35278146        | 69 |                 |     |
| 87654312        | 22 | 53728416        | 70 |                 |     |
| 78563421        | 23 | 35274861        | 71 |                 |     |
| 75836241        | 24 | 32547681        | 72 |                 |     |
| 57382614        | 25 | 23456718        | 73 |                 |     |
| 75832164        | 26 | 32546178        | 74 |                 |     |
| 57381246        | 27 | 23451687        | 75 |                 |     |
| 75318264        | 28 | 32415678        | 76 |                 |     |
| 57132846        | 29 | 23146587        | 77 |                 |     |
| 51738264        | 30 | 21345678        | 78 |                 |     |
| 15372846        | 31 | 12436587        | 79 |                 |     |
| <u>13527486</u> | 32 | <u>14263857</u> | 80 |                 |     |
| 31254768        | 33 | 41628375        | 81 |                 |     |
| 32157486        | 34 | 46123857        | 82 |                 |     |
| 23514768        | 35 | 64218375        | 83 |                 |     |
| 32541786        | 36 | 46281357        | 84 |                 |     |
| 23457168        | 37 | 64823175        | 85 |                 |     |
| 32547618        | 38 | 46283715        | 86 |                 |     |
| 23456781        | 39 | 64827351        | 87 |                 |     |
| 24365871        | 40 | 68472531        | 88 |                 |     |
| 42638517        | 41 | 86745213        | 89 |                 |     |
| 24368157        | 42 | 68475123        | 90 |                 |     |
| 42631875        | 43 | 86741532        | 91 |                 |     |
| 24613857        | 44 | 68714523        | 92 |                 |     |
| 42168375        | 45 | 86175432        | 93 |                 |     |
| 41263857        | 46 | 81674523        | 94 |                 |     |
| 14628375        | 47 | 18765432        | 95 |                 |     |
| <u>16482735</u> | 48 | <u>17856342</u> | 96 |                 |     |

Example of a BobExample of a Single

|     |                 |     |        |                 |     |
|-----|-----------------|-----|--------|-----------------|-----|
|     | 18765432        | 95  |        | 18765432        | 95  |
|     | <u>17856342</u> | 96  |        | <u>17856342</u> | 96  |
|     | 71583624        | 97  |        | 71583624        | 97  |
|     | 75186342        | 98  |        | 75186342        | 98  |
|     | 57813624        | 99  |        | 57813624        | 99  |
|     | 75831642        | 100 |        | 75831642        | 100 |
|     | 57386124        | 101 |        | 57386124        | 101 |
|     | 75836214        | 102 |        | 75836214        | 102 |
|     | 57382641        | 103 |        | 57382641        | 103 |
|     | 53728461        | 104 |        | 53728461        | 104 |
|     | 35274816        | 105 |        | 35274816        | 105 |
|     | 53724186        | 106 |        | 53724186        | 106 |
|     | 35271468        | 107 |        | 35271468        | 107 |
|     | 53217486        | 108 |        | 53217486        | 108 |
|     | 35124768        | 109 |        | 35124768        | 109 |
| Bob | 31527486        | 110 | Single | 31527486        | 110 |
|     | 13254768        | 111 |        | 13254768        | 111 |
|     | <u>12345786</u> | 112 |        | <u>12345786</u> | 112 |
|     | 21437568        | 113 |        | 21437568        | 113 |
|     | 24135786        | 114 |        | 24135786        | 114 |
|     | 42317568        | 115 |        | 42317568        | 115 |
|     | 24371586        | 116 |        | 24371568        | 116 |
|     | 42735168        | 117 |        | 42735186        | 117 |
|     | 24375618        | 118 |        | 24375816        | 118 |
|     | 42736581        | 119 |        | 42738561        | 119 |
|     | 47263851        | 120 |        | 47283651        | 120 |
|     | 74628315        | 121 |        | 74826315        | 121 |
|     | 47268135        | 122 |        | 47286135        | 122 |
|     | 74621853        | 123 |        | 74821653        | 123 |
|     | 47612835        | 124 |        | 47812635        | 124 |
|     | 74168253        | 125 |        | 74186253        | 125 |
|     | 71462835        | 126 |        | 71482635        | 126 |
|     | 17648253        | 127 |        | 17846253        | 127 |
|     | <u>16784523</u> | 128 |        | <u>18764523</u> | 128 |

The first task to master is the names of the various bits of work - it is quite easy to put people right (because of the way the work interleaves) but to succeed we must speak the same language ! Many people also learn the method by the simple rule of "Near, Full, Far, Treble Bob"

**Treble Bob** is the work that the 2nd starts with, it then goes on to do **Near Places**, then (as it becomes 4ths place bell) the **Full Work**, followed by **Far Places**. The cycle then repeats, but in mirror image - this time the treble bob is towards the lead and the full work is at the back.

The most helpful rule of thumb is that places link to places. e.g. as 7th place bell finishes the treble bob work, it lies in 8ths place (and is turned by the treble), then goes to make places at the first possible position (5ths/6ths). You should note that the treble is the bell passing through these places. Study the 4 parts of the method where this occurs and you will have a much better understanding of the structure, and should survive touches much better.

This is not a method for learners to take the treble to - not only do the bells come at you from the least expected direction, but the method ringers must have a very positive treble ringer to enable them to use the rules outlined above. When several of the band are all learning, the best place for the expert is on the treble!

Erin Triples - Plain Course

2143657 1 Erin is often known as "Poor Man's Stedman", which  
 1246375 2 I think is a little unfair - watch the Stedman  
 1423657 3 ringers reach for their diaries when Erin is  
 4126375 4 called for without warning!  
 4213657 5  
 2416375 6 The main differences to note when studying the  
 4261735 7 structure of the methods is that all sixes are the  
 2467153 8 same (not alternate quick & slow) and that the  
 2641735 9 plain course starts at the beginning of a six (not  
 6247153 10 the middle of a quick six). This means that the  
 6421735 11 back bells all have a "Plain Bob" start i.e. 4 & 6  
 4627153 12 go in, 7th lies, 3 & 5 go out.  
 6472513 13  
 4675231 14 The front work is often described as "Two and  
 4762513 15 Penny, One and Tuppence" (some of us have been  
 7465231 16 ringing since pre decimalisation!). The important  
 7642513 17 thing is to learn the front work very thoroughly  
 6745231 18 so that you don't get put off by others who are  
 7654321 19 less sure. Learn the starts for 1 & 2 as they are  
 6753412 20 usually the last ropes to go.  
 6574321 21  
 5673412 22 This is probably one of the best methods for a  
 5764321 23 learner to cover to, as in the plain course the  
 7563412 24 bells arrive at the back in the order  
 5736142 25 7,5,3,1,2,4,6 which can help for those with rope-  
 7531624 26 sight difficulties.  
 7356142 27  
 3751624 28 Bobs & Singles look just the same as Stedman, the  
 3576142 29 calls are made at handstroke. The simplest touch  
 5371624 30 is to call Bobs just before you leave 4-5 down and  
 3517264 31 arrive in 4-5 up for a touch 3 courses long.  
 5312746 32  
 5137264 33  
 1532746 34  
 1357264 35  
 3152746 36  
 1325476 37  
 3124567 38  
 3215476 39  
 2314567 40  
 2135476 41  
 1234567 42

Erin Triples - Example Touch with Bobs & Singles, 168 changes

|        |         |        |         |        |         |        |         |
|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
|        | 1234567 |        | 4532167 |        | 2135467 |        | 5431267 |
|        | 2143657 |        | 5423617 |        | 1253647 |        | 4513627 |
|        | 1246375 |        | 4526371 |        | 2156374 |        | 5416372 |
|        | 1423657 |        | 4253617 |        | 2513647 |        | 5143627 |
|        | 4126375 |        | 2456371 |        | 5216374 |        | 1546372 |
|        | 4213657 |        | 2543617 |        | 5123647 |        | 1453627 |
|        | 2416375 |        | 5246371 |        | 1526374 |        | 4156372 |
|        | 4261735 |        | 2564731 |        | 5162734 |        | 1465732 |
|        | 2467153 |        | 5267413 |        | 1567243 |        | 4167523 |
|        | 2641735 |        | 5624731 |        | 1652734 |        | 4615732 |
|        | 6247153 |        | 6527413 |        | 6157243 |        | 6417523 |
| Single | 6421735 | Single | 6254731 | Single | 6512734 | Single | 6145732 |
|        | 4627153 |        | 2657413 |        | 5617243 |        | 1647523 |
|        | 6472153 |        | 6275413 |        | 6571243 |        | 6174523 |
|        | 4671235 |        | 2674531 |        | 5672134 |        | 1675432 |
|        | 4762153 |        | 2765413 |        | 5761243 |        | 1764523 |
|        | 7461235 |        | 7264531 |        | 7562134 |        | 7165432 |
|        | 7642153 |        | 7625413 |        | 7651243 |        | 7614523 |
|        | 6741235 |        | 6724531 |        | 6752134 |        | 6715432 |
|        | 7614325 |        | 7642351 |        | 7625314 |        | 7651342 |
|        | 6713452 |        | 6743215 |        | 6723541 |        | 6753124 |
|        | 6174325 |        | 6472351 |        | 6275314 |        | 6571342 |
|        | 1673452 |        | 4673215 |        | 2673541 |        | 5673124 |
| Bob    | 1764325 | Bob    | 4762351 | Bob    | 2765314 | Bob    | 5761342 |
|        | 7163452 |        | 7463215 |        | 7263541 |        | 7563124 |
|        | 1736425 |        | 4736251 |        | 2736514 |        | 5736142 |
|        | 7134652 |        | 7432615 |        | 7235641 |        | 7531624 |
|        | 7316425 |        | 7346251 |        | 7326514 |        | 7356142 |
|        | 3714652 |        | 3742615 |        | 3725641 |        | 3751624 |
|        | 3176425 |        | 3476251 |        | 3276514 |        | 3576142 |
|        | 1374652 |        | 4372615 |        | 2375641 |        | 5371624 |
|        | 3147562 |        | 3427165 |        | 3257461 |        | 3517264 |
|        | 1345726 |        | 4321756 |        | 2354716 |        | 5312746 |
|        | 1437562 |        | 4237165 |        | 2537461 |        | 5137264 |
|        | 4135726 |        | 2431756 |        | 5234716 |        | 1532746 |
|        | 4317562 |        | 2347165 |        | 5327461 |        | 1357264 |
|        | 3415726 |        | 3241756 |        | 3524716 |        | 3152746 |
|        | 4351276 |        | 2314576 |        | 5342176 |        | 1325476 |
|        | 3452167 |        | 3215467 |        | 3541267 |        | 3124567 |
|        | 3541276 |        | 3124576 |        | 3452176 |        | 3215476 |
|        | 5342167 |        | 1325467 |        | 4351267 |        | 2314567 |
|        | 5431276 |        | 1234576 |        | 4532176 |        | 2135476 |
|        | 4532167 |        | 2135467 |        | 5431267 |        | 1234567 |

## BEST KEPT TOWER CONTEST

I've been asked by a few people what the judges of the ODG Best Kept Tower Competition will be looking for when they do their inspections.

The following list is based upon the check list, as I remember it from 2 years ago and might well be different from what will be used this year. I hope it helps those that enter the competition, especially with the (perhaps) more obscure items and is generally helpful in maintaining a safe tower.

### Security.

All doors lockable and kept locked when the tower is unattended. Ground floor rings and towers where the ringing room is used for more than just ringing should have a lockable spider to keep the ropes out of the way.

### Access.

Stairs and ladders sound, secure and in clean condition.

### Floors.

Clear of trip hazards; safe for the load they have to carry. (Will the bellchamber floor stop the tenor clapper if it breaks?) Trapdoors sound and secure. Carpets and rugs should not introduce trip or slip hazards. Floor/ceiling bosses secure and smooth where the rope runs through.

### Electrics.

Wiring should be safe, PVC insulation (with or without conduit) or MICC. Rubber wiring can be dangerous. Power sockets located where tools are to be used. A lead-lamp with an enclosed lamp for bell maintenance. Lighting levels adequate and never dependant upon a single lamp. Emergency lighting either automatic or manual. Lighting enclosed or located to prevent being damaged by a flying rope. A working torch in a prominent location. Heaters guarded, stable and secure.

### Decoration.

Clean light walls make natural and artificial light more effective. It's also more attractive. Iron and steel bellframes, parts of bellframes and fittings painted. Clappers painted. Wooden frames and parts treated against insect and fungal attack.

### Tower.

Openings and louvre windows screened against birds. Louvres sound and secure. No signs of cracking where frame is built into tower. No wedges between frame and tower. No roof leaks. Roof access secure. Water tanks and pipework lagged. Overflows run outside. Chimneys and flues sound and not leaking. (Sulphur fumes and moisture make H<sub>2</sub> SO<sub>3</sub> - very aggressive)

### Bells & Fittings.

All pulleys rotate, correctly aligned, and not excessively worn.  
 Wheels tight on headstock; complete and sound.  
 Wheel stays painted and secure.  
 Garter holes smooth. Bobbins if fitted not excessively worn and secure.  
 Stay free of cracks, sound and correctly fitted.  
 Dingle (if fitted) secure and correctly adjusted (ie not binding).  
 Bell tight on headstock.  
 Gudgeons tight on/in headstock.  
 Plain bearings clean, lubricated and fitted with wicks or pads.  
 Roller bearings not leaking.  
 No excess movement of the bell across it's pit.  
 Clapper tight in bell, straight and swings at right-angles to headstock. Staple bush not worn. Locking nut/ split-pin fitted.  
 Slider board clean and securely stopped at each end.  
 Hastings and G & J sliders slightly lubricated.  
 Sliders not excessively worn at point of contact with slider board, not binding. Pivot secure in frame.  
 Clock/Ellacombe hammers pull clear of bells and wheels and never rest on the bells.  
 Spent lubricant cleaned from frame, bells and floor.  
 Ropes sound, correct splices in correct locations. (Short splices should not run over pulleys)  
 Ropes the correct length.

### Other general Items.

Tool kit for bells.  
 First aid kit prominently located in ringing room.  
 Fire extinguishers.  
 Notices warning of bells up and advertising ringing times, clock hammer arrangements etc.  
 Maintenance log book.  
 Visitors book.  
 Black board and chalk.  
 Notice board.  
 Teaching aids and books.  
 Set of muffles or half-muffles.  
 Clapper ties or boards for tied bell teaching.  
 Goggles, gloves, hard-hats and ear defenders available.  
 Boxes for shorter ringers.

An excellent reference book (it's presence in a tower is bound to impress the judges) which deals with all these matters in great detail, is the Central Council Towers and Bells Handbook.

Alan Marchbank

## CORRESPONDENCE

Regarding the article from "Frameside" published in the last issue, I can reassure members that letters would not get published in your Newsletter without the editor knowing the source, and this particular article was delivered personally by a Branch member. Pen names are a different matter, and despite precedent I have now ruled (wearing my Editor's hat) that articles must appear with the contributor's name, as this seems to be the preference.

I do not wish to reproduce the correspondence in full. Letters were received from John Randall of Hanslope (also printed in the Ringing World), from Sheila Watts and Sheila Ware of Emberton, and Doug Hird wrote to the Ringing World only. Some comments have also been passed to me verbally. It was a unanimous reaction to deplore the article, on various counts. Concern was expressed over the anonymity of the writer when airing such a topic, the deterrent effect of it upon recruits who might read it, and, generally, the one-sidedness of the approach that was revealed. Most comments referred to the need for the contributor to examine his/her own attitudes and aspirations. Some comments appeared to draw potential conclusions that, to be fair to the contributor, might not have been his/her intention.

Any one of us who has been ringing any length of time will have encountered what "Frameside" describes, and many other problems as well - much more serious ones amongst them. There are no instant solutions, but it helps to talk about the problems. As long as we keep our sense of perspective.....

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SOME OF OUR QUARTER PEALS.....

14th July 1993 at Great Brickhill. 1st Quarter by the local band.

1320 Plain Bob Doubles

- |                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. John Griffiths **        | 2. Lyndsey B. Brett |
| 3. Hugh Butler              | 4. Barry K. Smith   |
| 5. Nicholas H. Brett (Cond) | 6. Neil D. Evans    |

\*\* 1st Quarter.

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27th July 1993 at Great Linford.

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- |                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Ben Brearley **       | 2. Andrew Curtis ** |
| 3. Jonathon Humbert      | 3. Paul Faithfull   |
| 5. Alan Marchbank (Cond) | 6. Jo Woole **      |

\*\* 1st Quarter at first attempt. (Thanks to Jo, Jonathon and Paul for helping with this success).

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1st August 1993 at Bradwell.

1260 Doubles in 8 Methods

- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Becky Fawcett        | 2. Jenny Brookman ** |
| 3. Ted Fawcett **       | 4. Jill Joyce        |
| 5. David Joyce (Cond) # | 6. Brian Newman      |

\*\* Most methods/principles.

# " " " " as conductor.

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21st August 1993 at Bradwell.

Rung after the wedding of Ross Abbott and Amanda Behrandt. Ross was taught to ring at Bradwell and is the son of two of the present members of the band.

Last quarter on the bells as a ground floor ring.

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- |                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Ted Fawcett           | 2. Becky Fawcett |
| 3. Jill Joyce            | 4. David Joyce   |
| 5. Martin Petchey (Cond) | 6. Ian Green     |

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22nd August 1993 at Cosgrove. Rung for evening service.

1260 Doubles in 3 Methods

- |                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. T. Lambert           | 2. Clare Lovegrove |
| 3. Justin Baker         | 4. S. Crane        |
| 5. R. Winstanley (Cond) | 6. S. Martin       |
-

Date: 3-Sep-93      North Bucks Branch Diary

**Sep 93**

|        |                                                                            |                 |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Sat 4  | *Quarterly Meeting<br>Early afternoon ringing at Woughton                  | Great Brickhill |
| Sun 5  | *Downs Barn - Dedication of Bells<br>See your Tower Captain. Service 10:30 | Downs Barn      |
| Fri 10 | Easthampstead Course (10th to 12th Sep)                                    | Easthampstead   |
| Fri 17 | *Branch Practice<br>Method: Double Norwich Court Bob Major                 | Stony Stratford |

**Oct 93**

|        |                                                                             |                      |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Fri 1  | *Branch Ringing Course (1st to 3rd Oct)<br>Contact Godfrey Foat for details | Within the Branch    |
| Fri 1  | ODG Secretaries' meeting                                                    | Radley               |
| Sat 2  | ODG 6-Bell Striking Competition<br>See Secretary/Ringing Masters            | Central Bucks Branch |
| Fri 15 | *Branch Practice<br>Method: Primrose Surprise Minor                         | Lavendon             |

**Nov 93**

|        |                                          |                  |
|--------|------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Fri 19 | *Branch Practice<br>Method: Erin Triples | Newton Longville |
| Sat 27 | ODG Autumn General Committee Meeting     | Steeple Aston    |

**Dec 93**

|        |                                                            |                 |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Sat 4  | *Quarterly Meeting<br>Early afternoon ringing at Tyringham | Hanslope        |
| Fri 17 | *Branch Practice<br>Method: Stedman Doubles                | Drayton Parslow |

**Feb 94**

|        |                                                               |            |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Sat 26 | *Annual Branch Dinner<br>Provisional date - details to follow | Venue: tba |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------|

**Mar 94**

|        |                                      |         |
|--------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Sat 12 | ODG Spring General Committee Meeting | Reading |
|--------|--------------------------------------|---------|

For further information contact the Secretary: Stephen Crane (0908) 674192.

Please support your Branch by attending events preceded by "\*".