

IN TOUCH

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



Congratulations to John Lonsbrough - 50 years membership of the Guild

Annual General Meeting at Emberton, Saturday 2nd March 1996

3:30 - 4:30	Ringling
4:30	Service
5:00	Tea (in the village hall)
5:45	Meeting
until 8:30	Evening Ringing

Names for tea to Mrs Sheila Watts (01234-711113), by **Wednesday 28th February**.

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

Thanks to those few (Becky, Godfrey, Ian, Brian, David, John, Sheila & Sheila) who have bothered to submit items for this edition of In Touch. I was surprised at how little had been rung for Remembrance Sunday or Christmas, at least according to the quarter peals or tower news sent to me. I haven't resorted to the tactic used by one Newsletter Editor in Kent - "I make things up and print rumours or gossip - if they aren't accurate, then next time I'll get something submitted", but at times it is difficult to resist the temptation. I heard some complaints that there weren't enough pictures in the earlier editions - there weren't any printed in this edition because none were submitted !

I hope the next edition will have lots of ringing reports and quarters as I'm sure that EVERY TOWER has already planned their ringing for the sponsored quarter peal week (25th February to 2nd March). If not ask your tower secretary where the letter and sponsorship form are and DO SOMETHING! This Branch has benefited from fund raising throughout the Guild for Downs Barn, so we should be putting something back. If you are not up to ringing a Quarter Peal arrange some other ringing, and if sponsorship by the change isn't acceptable, perhaps someone in the parish would be willing to sponsor ringing for a special occasion - wedding anniversaries or birthdays.

This newsletter has got descriptions of most of the officers' posts for your consideration prior to the AGM. Remember that the Branch needs officers to run it and if there aren't enough volunteers, the Branch may not be there in future.

Jill Joyce

The next edition of "In Touch" should be distributed at the beginning of May, please submit any articles or information, to the Editor, by the closing date :-

7th April (Easter Sunday)

"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 Downs Barn on 2nd December 1995.

Chairman's Welcome - Brian Newman welcomed members to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence were received from Becky Fawcett, Roy Keeves, Sheila Blenkhorn, Bill Yates and Pat Newton - Guild Master. Brian Newman reminded members that the Master was represented by David Joyce as our Guild Steward.

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at Tingewick had been published in the November edition of "In Touch". These were accepted as a correct record by the meeting and taken as read.

Matters Arising

- i) The Secretary had received a reply from the Membership Secretary regarding the elections from Lillingstone Lovell. Two of the members elected at Bletchley - Robin Culley and Rod Storer - had previously been elected and were re elections, the rest were new members.

Election of New Members

Forms had been received proposing election of the following, with effect from 1st January 1996 :-

Buckingham :	Andrew Spencer Ann Fletcher	Proposed : Richard Stanworth	Seconded : Helen Stanworth
Hanslope :	Catherine Priestley	Proposed : Roy Keeves	Seconded : Sheila Blenkhorn
Loughton :	David Day Elizabeth Day Raymond Watkin (Re election)	Proposed : Derek Stainsby	Seconded : Barry Smith
Old Wolverton :	Georgina Gates (Junior)	Proposed : Mick Nimmo	Seconded : Jo Nevill
Shenley :	Stan Ainsworth Terry Brown Anna Yates (Junior) Lorraine Brookman Ann Ridge	Proposed : Derek Stainsby	Seconded : Barry Smith
Whaddon :	Sally Green (Re election) Matthew Green (Junior) Derek White (Re election) Barbara Brown (Re election) Roger Green Maureen Hobbs Alyson Fletcher	Proposed : Derek Stainsby	Seconded : Barry Smith
Woughton on the Green :	Christina Jones	Proposed : Brian Baldwin	Seconded : John Lonsbrough

All were elected.

Officers' Reports

1. Secretary

"There are a few things to mention which I think are not covered elsewhere in the Agenda.

Copies of Issue 45 of the Guild Newsletter "Odd Bob" arrived with me a few days ago. I am now in the process of distributing them to towers, and it will save time and postage if Tower Correspondents who have not yet had theirs can collect them from me today.

This time our Branch Notes were not printed at all! I posted them to the Editor two weeks before his deadline, but he has not received them.

The Guild Report Editor has asked for information on two matters, and the first one is the updating of the Tower Correspondents' List in the Report. I sent a letter, asking for any amendments, to each Tower Correspondent and was in time to have them delivered with the current issue of our Branch Newsletter "In Touch". Only four replies have been received by me, which I think indicates that we are very close to our target of 100% accuracy, and the information has been sent on to the Report Editor.

The second matter concerned the use of Christian names in Lists of Members in the Report. I referred this to the Branch Officers' Meeting, which has decided that the Members should be consulted, and a letter is being sent to each tower with the allocation of "Odd Bob". It is hoped that the replies can be received and sent on to the Editor in time for him to work on the lists in his Christmas holiday.

As stated in "In Touch", I have decided not to offer myself for re-election at our Branch AGM next March. I took on the job when asked because I felt that I had a duty to give some service to the Guild, and I now feel that I will have discharged that duty by being Secretary for two years.

The job really needs a younger person with a motor car, perhaps someone in their sixties or fifties whose career has levelled out and whose children are grown up. The total work required is small, but it tends to come in intensive patches between availability of information and the deadlines for passing it on.

The temptation for me is to start winding down now, but I will do my best to keep things up to date for the handover in March. If anybody would like to know what I have been doing as Secretary, I shall be happy to show them."

2. Ringling Master

David Joyce reported that a ringing school had been run for the Tingewick band. The school had been for plain hunt and included their first experience of ringing on six bells. The pupils were ringing plain hunt to methods and have been told to come out to other towers. Richard Stanworth said there was a marked improvement in those that had attended the course. It had helped the rest of the band make progress as they now had a stable band ringing with them.

3. Treasurer

The treasurer said that this was the quiet period of the year and she had nothing to report.

4. Guild Representative

The report was given by Sheila Watts and is attached to these minutes. David Joyce said that if anyone wished to take advantage of the reduced cost of the Easthampstead course he had a copy of the 1995 programme. If members were interested sponsorship may be available.

Forthcoming Events

1. The **Branch diary** and other ringing events were published in "In Touch".
2. Lists of **Olney practices** for 1996 were available.
3. The week of 29th February 1996 was the **sponsored ringing week** in aid of the Bell Fund and David Joyce asked the branch to make some efforts, especially as the Guild had raised so much money for the Downs Barn project. A poor response would give rise to adverse comments. A trophy was presented to the branch raising the largest amount per head - this was approximately £7 in 1992.
4. There had been no applications for the next **mini ringing school**, although Tingewick were interested in taking more places. The schools are limited to three pupils and concentrate on simple methods - plain hunt, Plain Bob or Grandsire for example.
5. A set of draft rules for the **Towcester competition**, produced by the Branch Officers, had been circulated during tea. It was proposed by David Joyce, seconded by Brian Newman that these be adopted for the 1996 competition. This was agreed by the meeting. A copy of the rules is attached.
6. David Joyce asked the branch to help out with **Christmas and New Year** ringing at nearby towers without bands. Ringing at this time of year was generally appreciated and would reflect credit on the Branch. Brian Baldwin said that a ringing event was taking place at Woughton on the Green in association with a planned Watch Night service, they only had five ringers and would be grateful for extra help.

Any Other Business

1. It was announced that John Lonsbrough had just completed **fifty years membership** of the ODG, a proportion had been spent as a non resident member.
2. The **Asset Register** was presented to the Branch. Members were asked to look at the record and make comments on the front.
3. **Photographs** of the bands taking part in the method and call change striking competition were available on request from the Newsletter Editor.
4. A number of the **Branch Officers were not seeking re-election in 1996**, these included :-

David Joyce - Ringing Master and Guild Representative
Sheila Watts - Guild Representative
Sheila Ware - Treasurer
John Lonsbrough - Secretary

Members were asked to think seriously about someone to fill these posts. There was approximately one officer for every 20 members and some towers with large numbers of members did not appear to pull their weight, it was not healthy for all the branch officers to come from a few towers. A description of each of the officers' jobs will be included in the next edition of "In Touch".

Vote of Thanks

Brian Newman thanked Fiona and Dave Maybrey and the Downs Barn ringers for the tea, Ros Parrett for taking the service and Barry Eglesfield for playing the organ.

Striking Contest Rules - North Bucks Branch v Towcester Branch

The Inter-Guild Striking Competition Challenge Trophy

- 1/ Each band will be allowed up to 1 minute of practice.
 - 2/ No ringer may ring in more than two bands.
 - 3/ Call Changes on 8 bells - The first 20 rows will not be marked, followed by 120 marked rows that must include Queens.
 - 4/ 8 Bell Section : Stedman Triples rung for the George Holland Stedman Trophy.
 - 5/ 120 Plain Bob Minor - Rounds will not be marked.
 - 6/ The trophy will be awarded to the winner of the most sections.
 - 7/ No ringer may ring for both sides.
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The George Holland Stedman Trophy

- 1/ Each band will be allowed up to 1 minute of practice.
 - 2/ The rounds will not be marked, but the whole test piece will be marked.
 - 3/ The test piece supplied has been specially chosen as it was George's favourite composition. The composition calling is Bobs at 4,5,6,7,12,13, repeated, giving 168 changes.
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GUILD GENERAL COMMITTEE

Notes of meeting - Saturday 25th November @ Boyn Hill, Maidenhead

Attending : Guild Reps, plus David Joyce & Brian Newman

A long meeting, notable for bagpipes being played just outside the window after a wedding.

1. **Minutes** of meeting at Shipton-under-Wychwood agreed.
2. **Matters Arising**
Towers & Belfries Committee - Wheatley tenor to be recast & other bells rehung.
Teaching ringing - guidelines to be circulated regarding teaching children.
3. **Correspondence**
No longer a requirement to have Guild Accounts audited - however, they would be!
Shipton-under-Wychwood gave a donation of £50 to the Guild following hosting the last committee meeting.
4. **Management of the Restoration Fund**
Currently one application for funds from Langley Marish, who are augmenting from 6 to 8. £150 granted.
5. **Guild Subscriptions 1996**
Discussed by Finance & General Purposes Committee & Branch Secretaries meeting. No reason to increase from last year. Fixed at : £5 (£3.20 to Guild, £1.80 to Branch)
 NRLM - same as ringing member
6. **Guild Festival 1996**
Saturday 13th July
Service at Adderbury
Buffet lunch & Bell Fund draw
General ringing around Banbury / 10 bell competition at Banbury
Barn dance at Somerton

1997 Invited to Central Bucks
Millennium Festival (Year 2000) in Oxford City
7. **Finance & General Purposes Committee**
Election of Graham Clifton to Committee, to replace David Joyce who is now on the Committee as Guild Steward.
8. **Transfer of Swerford & Wigginton**
Agreed that these towers be transferred to the Chipping Norton Branch from Banbury Branch as they are part of the Hook Norton parish which is in the Chipping Norton Branch. Swerford is unsafe, and Wigginton a 3.
9. **Guild Badges**
Agreed to reinstate old-style chrome badge. 500 ordered. Will be sold at £1.50 - a slight profit for the Guild.
10. **1996 Sponsored Ringing Week**
To be held each Leap Year. Details coming round with Odd Bob.
Sponsored Quarter Peals or other ringing to take place between 25th February & 2nd March in aid of the Bell Fund. A shield goes to the Branch that raises most money per member.
11. **Forthcoming Events**
Easthampstead - substantial profit made at last course, so price dropped to £100 next time.
Spring General Committee - to be held at Bletchley.
12. **A.O.B.**
Guild Library - now with new Librarian (Philip Brown). Please use it! Lists of books to be supplied to Branch Secretaries. Lists available to others at a small charge, or he will copy the file to a supplied computer disk.
Peal Secretary - Liz Struckett has moved to 30 Blagrove Lane, Wokingham, Berks. RG41 4BA (01734-890072)
The Internet - reported that some Guilds now had ringing information on the Internet. Agreed that the Oxford Guild would go ahead with a pilot project, supplying details of Guild Officers, Branch Secretaries, and tower lists. No personal details to be given without permission.
13. **Spring Committee Meeting** - 9th March 1996 at Bletchley.



Ring out the Old .. Ring in the New

How did you mark the New Year? Over the years we have experienced several different methods of ringing out the old year - perhaps you could try them next year.

A number of towers, including Bradwell, ring out the old year half muffled - this means that there is a gap whilst one or more brave souls go up and take off the muffles, so the bells need to be reasonably accessible.

At Canterbury Cathedral, where there are rather more bells than in any of the Branch towers, we rang out the old year on the minor twelve (with the eleventh as tenor). This resulted in a really mournful sound, and was the only time we were allowed to ring that particular twelve. A similar effect could be achieved by ringing the front six of an eight for the old year and the back six for the new.

At Great Linford the decaying old year was marked by decaying rounds - first the treble, then the second etc stood on consecutive handstrokes finishing with the tenor ringing the twelve strokes at midnight. This required a lot of control and perfect timing (a treble ringer with the speaking clock on a mobile phone!).

We have also heard of bells being fired. This involves ringing rounds, then every bell striking at the same instant for 3 whole pulls, then returning to rounds. This needs practising in advance as it needs good bell control and understanding that the ropes will actually look like very close backwards rounds.

If anyone is aware of other traditions please let the Editor know - I'll compile a list for publication in the In Touch before New Year 1997!



All Saints, Lathbury Bells

At the request of the Churchwardens four of the bells were chimed before the Carol Service on Sunday 17 December. The congregation were very pleased that we rang.

The Church has been subject to a major restoration over recent years, this has cost £196,000. During this time the bells have been unringable. After work on the tower masonry and a visit by Alan Frost the bells have been declared ringable for short periods.

A replacement for a broken gudgeon strap on the third has been made and will be installed very soon. The third can then be raised from its temporary blocks. The bells are basically

ringable, but some work is still required to make the installation safe for regular ringing and more work is needed on replacement gudgeon straps and repairs to wheels. Doug Hird is preparing a proposal for this work which will be put to the Church Council and to the Branch in the hope of receiving a grant towards this work.

A service of thanksgiving for the completion of the building work and repair of the organ will be held in April and we intend to ring all the bells at the service.

We hope to arrange regular service ringing on five bells and attract members of the congregation to learn to ring.

Consideration is being given to a special open day where all the tower grabbers who have yearned to ring the bells will be able to contribute towards the restoration work. Current thinking is to request a high donation for this privilege.

Godfrey Foat

ODG 10 Bell Ringing School

Saturday 4th November saw David and I getting up early, for a change, to travel across the Guild to the 12 at Amersham where we were going to help out at the Cambridge and Little Bob course. One other North Bucks resident also made the trip as Raymond Watkin attended as a pupil. The day started with tea and coffee for the helpers (I think the biscuits were for show!) whilst the pupils had a talk on the methods from Bill Butler in the ringing room. About 7 pupils took part and were persuaded to ring both methods, despite objections from one that they were only there to ring Little Bob. In fact Little Bob was only rung at the start of the first session to get people used to frequent dodging on 10. With the length of time taken to ring even half a course of Cambridge Royal two or three pupils had to ring at the same time. There was no particular placing of the pupils or specific tutors appointed, so individual pupils needed to have done some homework before hand - particularly if they were going to use the course and after bells as described in the notes.

Lunch and the afternoon session were to take place in Slough. We had some directions on which church and where to park - and an assurance that the pub was "just round the corner". We found the car park straight away - by luck more than judgement, then spent quite a time walking round the church trying to find the corner that the pub was just around! We were able to give directions to the car park to those amongst us who hadn't had quite as much luck - and eventually traded information with someone who had found the pub but not the car park. The relevant corner was about half a mile away!

Eventually refreshed we carried on ringing through the afternoon, escaping just before the queues built up for that evenings fireworks displays. I think the pupils got plenty of practice from the school, but needed to have done a lot of homework to really benefit. Members of the branch may not be able to benefit from the more advanced schools, but most people should find that plain hunt on 10 is within their capabilities and will improve plain hunting on smaller numbers.

Jill Joyce

Friday November 17th saw Ted and I setting off from Bradwell to visit relatives in Cheltenham, 1½ hours away. On the Buckingham bypass we became aware of a small convoy built up behind a vehicle and trailer travelling about 40mph. Resigned to slow progress I started looking at the countryside more and let my mind wander - you'll be pleased to know Ted was doing the driving! Just as we reached the Buckingham Golf Course something drew my attention back to the vehicle and the flat-bed trailer and I shrieked at Ted (which he didn't appreciate - he's used to me being semi-comatose) "It's bells, on the trailer, it's church bells!" Suddenly we didn't mind being in this queue of traffic at all - this was interesting!

At Finmere we turned left for Bicester and as cars ahead overtook we gained on the trailer and could make out one large bell with three smaller ones around it. Where were they going? To or from a foundry or Appletons? Where were they from? With a couple of cars between we could see the smaller bells still had canons. Finally we were behind them and we could see "Ash.." on the left hand bell and "bells" on the right hand one. Then we saw "Ashill Bells" on the largest. One question answered, but where was Ashill? The trailer stopped at the mini roundabout in Bicester and with my nose pressed to the windscreen I reported to Ted that the trailer hire firm was in Norfolk. Eventually we passed them on the Bicester straight to find there were actually 6 bells in total, the smallest four with canons, being towed by an Isuzu Trooper. The most interesting part of the trip was over!

Our 1988 edition of Dove has an Ashill, Norfolk St. Nicholas (GF), 6, 11cwt in G - unringable. Can anyone tell us about them and the purpose of their journey?

Becky Fawcett



Holy Week Activities

This edition of In Touch will be the last before Easter, so here are some suggestions on how to spend this traditional ringers week off!

Carry on ringing - Wicken in the Towcester branch is one tower where ringing doesn't stop. In other towers the ringing may be muffled or on a minor ring (see New Year at Canterbury).

Spring clean the tower - but remember that dust, lumps of stonework and dead flies will end up on the lowest level as they fall through the rope holes so volunteer to clean the bells!

Go on a tower holiday. One of the towers in Kent used to hire a narrow boat and cram at least three more people on than it could accommodate. If you like the idea remember that you need an awful lot of shopping on Thursday to feed hungry mouths on a bank holiday.

Last October, we at Emberton were once again privileged to host a Concert by the Weldon Handbell Ringers. After initial worries - "Would anybody come?" - on the night we were scrambling around trying to find enough chairs for the 120 tickets sold. We were all treated to a wonderful evening of handbell music. A special treat (and major anxiety for us) was the guest appearance by our band playing "The Ash Grove" on Sheila Ware's handbells. In a weak moment we had agreed to do this, but at least it made everyone laugh! The evening raised £150 for the Church's restoration fund. We are most grateful to our friends who turned up to support the event.

Sheila Watts

SS Peter & Paul, Newport Pagnell

New Ropes : Following a report on the state of the ropes in the town "Bridge" magazine we have been fortunate to receive a number of donations towards the cost of replacement. We have now received a set of new ropes from John Pritchard (Ropes) Ltd. These ropes, which are maroon and gold, will be blessed during the 9:30 service on Sunday 14th January.

Why did we need new ropes after only ten years? It was the rotting effect of the rain which comes in through the louvers. We have had to cut out sections from most ropes at least once. We have also had some wear at the tail end on some ropes requiring new rope ends. Work has progressed slowly to install boarding inside the louvers to protect from the weather and provide a bit of sound control.

Our sources of donation are varied. When we requested donations we quoted the Whitechapel price of £80 per rope and this acted as a useful guide to donors. A number of members of the Church have subscribed, some anonymously. A talk to the Newport Pagnell Historical Society raised a collection for one rope, they have requested one of the old ropes for their Museum. The Mothers Union have contributed a rope and our links with the British Legion (quarter peals for VJ-Day and Remembrance Sunday and drinking in the bar after practices) raised a donation. A little bit of work has meant that Church and belfry funds can be saved for our new ringing platform.

Ringling Platform : We have had a preliminary meeting with the DAC and the Architect is now preparing a detailed proposal. The platform will be accessible via a spiral staircase within a new room containing kitchen, toilet and meeting room. Watch this space, but do not hold your breath!

Godfrey Foat

Central Council Education Committee

The winter 1995 newsletter has recently been distributed to Guild and Branch secretaries. John Lonsbrough holds a copy of their directory, which may be borrowed on request.

PEALS & QUARTERS

QUARTERS

Bradwell, St Lawrence

Sunday 5th November 1995
1995 Doubles (9 methods/principles)
1 Jenny Brookman
2 Rebecca Fawcett
3 Jill Joyce
4 Ian Green
5 David Joyce (C)
6 David Bardwell
Most methods 2,3,4,5
Longest length 2,4 and as conductor

Newport Pagnell, St Peter & St Paul

Sunday 12th November 1995
1260 Plain Bob Doubles (7-6-8 Cover)
1 Gareth Grayson (1st attempt)
2 B Douglas Hird
3 Nicola A King
4 P D Taylor
5 Godfrey L Foat (C)
6 Loretta P Ramsay
7 Scott Ayers
8 Gerald R Stratton
For Evensong on Remembrance Sunday

Woughton on the Green, St Mary

Sunday 3rd December 1995
1320 Oxford Treble Bob Minor
1 Zoe Storey
2 Peter Tribble
3 Malcolm Storey
4 Simon Head
5 John Lonsbrough (C)
6 Brian Baldwin
Rung by local band members as a compliment to John Lonsbrough on his attaining 50 years membership of the ODG, to which he was elected on 1st December 1945

Bradwell, St Lawrence

Sunday 7th January 1996
1260 Doubles (Grandsire & Plain Bob)
1 Becky Fawcett
2 Ian Green
3 Jenny Brookman
4 Michelle Copson
5 David Joyce (C)
6 Jill Joyce
Most methods - 4
Circled Tower - 6

HANDBELL QUARTERS

16 Wandsworth Place, Bradwell Common
Monday 23rd October 1995
1260 Plain Bob Minor
1-2 Alan J Marchbank
3-4 Ronald J Snack
5-6 Godfrey L Foat (C)
Best wishes to Peggy Faithfull, to be licensed as a Reader on 28.10.95

16 Wandsworth Place, Bradwell Common
Monday December 11th 1995
1260 Plain Bob Minor
1-2 Alan J Marchbank
3-4 Ronald J Snack
5-6 Godfrey L Foat (C)
For Christmas - Early!

PEALS

Downs Barn, Cross & Stable

A peal was rung on 24th December, but no details have been received.

Points from the Quarters . . .

Congratulations to Gareth Grayson on ringing his first quarter and to Peggy Faithfull on being licensed as a Reader.

Having challenged the Branch to compose a **date touch** David Joyce encouraged the Bradwell band to actually ring one. We had been practising 12 different doubles methods, but limited ourselves to nine for the attempt - the final practices being the 75 of spliced Grandsire and Stedman, which had to come at the end of the ringing to finish at handstroke. We had real problems ringing the 75 on the Sunday morning and several false starts before we actually rang the date touch - but we did it! Now the treble and tenor ringers want to ring inside, so there should be more practising of an even nastier 76!

. . . News from the Towers

Bradwell : Having completed the re fitting of the church , the next stage of the re fitting of the Ringing Chamber took place when we had carpet fitted, hopefully reducing the noise of the bells, as well as looking very smart. We got the first muddy footprints on it when workmen came to replace the railing at the back of the gallery with something more dangerous, so we've got more work in store.

Two of our learners have recently been presented with bell club awards - Joanna Jones getting her Green badge and Rachel Skinner her Red.

Hanslope : Kevin Haseldine has rung his first quarter peal at Alderton in Northamptonshire. He has also been awarded a bell club Green badge.

Newport Pagnell : Gareth Grayson is one of our "up and coming youngsters" who is now seen at many branch events. He rang a very good first quarter peal on Remembrance Sunday. He has just won his Red bell club badge. Charlie Russell is the son of our new Curate. He learnt to ring at Cuddesdon whilst his father was at College there. He is younger than the usual start at Newport but he has taken to the challenge well and is now a valued member of the band. He has just won his Blue bell club badge.

Godfrey Foat

Newton Longville : The new tower correspondent is :-
Miss Alexandra Tittley
15 Drayton Road
Newton Longville
Milton Keynes MK17 0BH
Tel : 01908 646632

Thornborough : The new tower correspondent is :-
Mr Ray Goodger
3 The Cottages
Back Lane
Thornborough
Buckingham MK18 2DH
Tel : 01280 812976

Weston Underwood : Complaints about the noise of the bells has meant that permission for the February Branch Practice has been withdrawn.

Woughton on the Green : The Woughton ringers celebrated New Year in style. At about 8 o'clock they met at a parishioner's house for the first party, then walked to the church at about 11 o'clock to ring and attend the Watch Night Service. The service ended at 23:50 when Little Bob Minor was rung coming into rounds at 23:55. At 23:56 the treble stood, at 23:57 the 2nd and so on leaving the 5th to stand at midnight. The tenor then rang twelve times at which point everyone else joined in and five more minutes of Little Bob were rung. The party then continued at a ringer's house until 1:30!

What do they do?

The Branch AGM is fast approaching and, as mentioned in the previous edition of In Touch and at the last Quarterly meeting, a number of Branch Officers are not seeking re-election. The fact that an existing officer is still willing to stand should not deter anyone from standing - its good to see willing volunteers! I have asked the current branch officers to write a brief description of their jobs, highlighting the essential parts and giving some indication of any additional things they do. I hope this will help anyone considering standing (if you need someone to propose you, please speak to the Chairman or Secretary before the meeting) - or nominating someone else (please remember to ask/persuade them first!).

Although nominations are taken verbally at the meeting, it would help to know those willing to stand prior to the meeting. The Chairman could then announce during tea any posts for which we have received no nominations.

Chairman : The person who chairs meetings, but does little else! It does help to be diplomatic and have some ability to be nice even in adversity.

Secretary : John has provided a detailed two page listing of the job which will be of help to his successor. This can be summarised as follows :-

1. Attend Branch meetings and the Guild General Committee meetings (March & November) and Branch Secretaries Meeting (October).
2. Deal with correspondence by post and telephone.
3. Maintain a list of current members by tower and membership class.
4. Notify the Guild Membership Secretary of all elections, to enable certificates to be distributed.
5. Send a report of the Branch activities to the Guild Report and Newsletter Editors as requested.
6. Distribute material sent out by Guild Officers.
7. Book towers for meetings and send appropriate notices to the Ringing World.
8. Prepare Agenda and report for each Branch business meeting.
9. Ensure that Branch attendance book is sent to and completed at each Branch event.

Minute Secretary : Takes minutes at Branch quarterly and officers' meetings. Ensure that the former are published in In Touch and the latter are promptly distributed. This post was created to assist the current Secretary. If the new Secretary prefers to take his/her own minutes, this post could either lapse or change to assist the Secretary with one or more of the above tasks.

Newsletter Editor : The main purpose of the newsletter is to inform members and non-members about activity in the Branch, so the key things are to maintain the calendar of events and to publish minutes of business meetings. The rest of the newsletter depends on other members of the branch bothering to provide details of quarter peals, news from the towers, reports of outings and other events etc. You must be prepared to write quite a bit yourself (or bully someone else into doing it) as contributions are usually slow in coming forward. The newsletter is distributed a month before each quarterly meeting and masters for copying need to be produced about three weeks earlier, resulting in four busy weekends a year. The newsletter is currently produced on a simple word processing package. There is no need for fancy desktop publishing software, unless you want to, equally a typewriter will do a perfectly adequate job.

Ringing Master : At the 1995 AGM there were three nominations for the two posts and it was agreed that for 1995 the work would be shared between all three. I have received this description from the retiring Ringing Master (David Joyce). The main duty is to take charge of the ringing at the monthly Friday night practices and the quarterly Saturday meetings. It has also included organising and running several afternoon ringing schools. It helps to be able to ring most of the common methods and call simple touches, because volunteers are so scarce, but in theory you could be too busy organising ringing to actually take part in it. Broad shoulders are invaluable because more people moan (to others) about what they didn't get to ring, than thank you for ensuring that they were given a reliable band around you when learning. You also need the confidence to stop bad ringing and strengthen the band before moving on. The ringing masters also choose the special methods for the monthly practices, plus writing some notes for "In Touch". With more than one ringing master, you don't have to be able to get to every meeting - just make sure that one of you does !

Treasurer : An interesting task for a methodical person! The largest part of the job is collecting the yearly subscriptions from each tower and sending them to the Guild. Other areas dealt with are quarterly meeting raffle and teas, In Touch donations and payment, expenses of the Officers, etc. None of these take a great deal of time, nor indeed high financial ability.

Guild Representative : Contrary to popular opinion, a very enjoyable post, especially if you like getting out and about a couple of times a year - meeting other ringers and sampling new towers. The Guild rep attends the Guild General Committee meetings (two per year), which are held in a different area of the Guild each time. Your job is to represent the views of the Branch to the Guild, and communicate the views of the Guild to the Branch.

Archivist : No description has been submitted.

Are you One in Twenty - if not why not ?

A simple bit of maths shows that with 10 branch officers out of a membership of about 200, one in twenty should be involved. Whether this means that each of us should hold a post once every twenty years, or whether we should think more in terms of a tower membership is up to you. On average a tower with 20 members ought to be covering 1 post each year, a tower with 10 members - every other year, a tower with 6 or 7 members - last year, this year or next ?

Please think very hard about standing, or persuading someone else from your band to stand, for one of the posts described above - everyone has some skill to offer, so why not take a turn and do your share !!

David Joyce

Of Bobs, Bills and Singles... Day Course for "Tower Captains" given by Bill Butler

Having been a tower captain for only 10 months, and a ringer for only a handful of years, I set off for this course secure in the knowledge that I would come out of it a better captain (cries of "that wouldn't be hard" from the tower). The truth was that almost anyone involved in organising any aspect of the ringing at a tower, teaching or deputising in one of these roles would have benefited. A shame then, that only David Joyce and myself ventured out from North Bucks. David is very handy on these occasions as he has a lot of experience to share and can also sniff out a good pub at a range of 1,000 yards.

The day covered all aspects of running a band - selecting, recruiting, teaching, organising, refereeing, the lot and Bill has significant experience (I was still in shorts when he took up the captaincy at Thatcham!). I can't say that I agreed with all that he had to say, nor others by their comments, but it was all food for thought and provoked discussion over the excellent pub lunch. That's the other useful thing about days like this - the huge collective experience on tap within the attending masses (well 20 odd of us in this case) never mind Bill and Pat Newton who organised it.

After lunch it was off to the tower at Stoke Mandeville for some practical demonstrations, at least two ideas from which I have already put into practice. I had better not pass comment on the bells in case any copies of this pass as far as Stoke Mandeville, but suffice to say that they levelled our abilities down nicely. Another thing that became apparent as the day progressed was the different circumstances facing different bands and towers. Bill, at Thatcham can afford to be really choosy about who he takes on as a learner - insisting that any potential candidate either attends church (or has parents who do for youngsters) and that they attend every evening for their first week's tuition to get them off that ground (as far as rounds, so he said). Insisting on residents of the parish who come to church and have 5 evenings free per week will leave some captains training the church cat!

One of the ideas already put to good use is the repeating of sections of Bob Doubles to give learners the change to repeat either of the dodges again and again. A call of "repeat the lead" (or "Bill" after its instigator, and hence the title of this) just after the treble has left the lead should see it make long 5ths, with the bell that has just made 2nds making 4ths below it. The effect is to reset things to how they were a lead ago so that the two bells that just dodged get to do it all over again. The really nice part, that I didn't appreciate until putting this into practice is that you only have to make this call once the work is complete. If the learner was successful then leave it be, otherwise make them do it again.

All in all, a useful day from which I certainly came away better able to cope and with some new ideas to try out. Next time one is offered, and this was mentioned, why not sign up? You certainly don't have to be a captain.

Ian Green

One short for a touch of Grandsire Doubles ?

If you almost have enough, but your fourth "inside" ringer isn't quite ready for Bobs (or if it's a Sunday and you are keeping the striking good) then this touch will help. It will also be a helpful stepping stone on a practice night. Put your learner on 3, 4 or 5 and ring plain leads of Grandsire until they would be making 3rds - calling a Bob here won't affect them, but they will find the other three bells in fresh places ! Calling 3 of these Bobs will give a 90 change touch.

David Joyce

Emergency Quarter Peal Callings for use with five to eight bell methods

This follows on from my Easy Bob Calling articles. As I am not a conductor, I am rarely asked to call a quarter, but it has been useful to have a few easy callings "up my sleeve", and they are effective as long as nobody makes a bad mistake. A planned performance will normally use a composition which is tailored to fit the method(s) rung, so the emergency system may be less musically satisfying, but it does enable the performance to proceed, maybe even in the planned method.

This is intended to be a simple practical explanation, omitting all theory.

Doubles

If you can call an extent of Doubles, do this 11 times to give 1320 rows. Use the clock or your watch to time each extent (between 4 and 5 minutes) and this will avoid counting up to 11, provided you noted the start time.

If you can also call a touch of 60 rows, do this once and then call 10 extents to reduce the total length to the normal 1260 rows (timing the 10 extents).

Note : A plain course of Stedman is 60 rows.

It is assumed that you will recognise rounds at the end of each extent.

Triples

Grandsire : Ring 4 and call a Single at first lead end (6-7 up), then call yourself In and Out twice with Bobs. Thereafter, call a Bob at every fifth lead end until you go into the Hunt, then call yourself Out immediately with a Bob. Now repeat this sequence (from the word thereafter) until rounds comes at handstroke after 1315 rows. Reverse rounds (76543218) occurs six rows before the finish.

Stedman : Ring any bell except 2 or 3 and call yourself In Slow with Single, then Out Slow twice with Bobs. Repeat this sequence three times, but with all Bobs and no Single. (Total one Single and eight Bobs). Then call yourself In Slow with Single, Then Out Slow three times with Bobs, repeating this sequence twice but with all Bobs and no Single. (Total one Single and eleven Bobs). This gives 15 courses which is 1260 rows, round at backstroke.

Minor and Major

These are all simple regular callings of 1440 or 1344 rows (long but easy). They are based on the standard calling of ringing 3 or 5, and calling yourself Make, In Out for 2nds place methods or In, Out, Out for last place methods. I shall refer to either of these as a "standard part".

Plain Minor : Call 12 standard parts (appropriate to the type of method) with Single instead of Bob to start with and for the first call of the 7th part (after about 25 minutes). Two Singles and 34 Bobs.

Treble Dodging Minor : Call 6 standard parts (appropriate to type of method) with all Bobs. Total 18 Bobs and no Singles.

These give 1440 rows for all types of Minor, and for sixth place methods you must choose your bell (3 or 5 such that the In position occurs first).

Plain Seconds Place Major : Call 6 standard parts, with Single instead of Bob to start with and for the first call of the 4th part (shortly past half-way, after about 24 minutes). Two Singles and 16 Bobs.

Treble Dodging Seconds place Major : Call 3 standard parts with all Bobs. Total calls only nine Bobs and no Singles.

These give 1344 rows for both types of seconds place Major, and the tenors are kept together if you ring 3 or 5 and call yourself Make, Out, Out.

Unfortunately this system does not work for eighths place Major methods, but it does work for all seconds place Major methods including Surprise.

John Lonsbrough

A learner's touch of Bob Doubles

If your learner is having trouble coping with all of the different things that could happen at a Bob, then use this touch to do a bit at a time. This can be rearranged for any bell to get the easy bits - just write it out in advance if mental gymnastics is not your speciality. Call the 2 to do long 5ths and then two leads later call a Bob so that the 2 runs out. Repeat this and the touch will come round at 100 changes. The pattern is PBFBP,PBFBP and also gives an easy time to the 3 whilst the 4 & 5 get to make the Bob twice each.

David Joyce

Bob Minor at Olney - 100 years on

December 16th 1895

A Peal of 720 Bob Minor was rung by

T. Wright Treble

R. Perkins 2nd

W. Wright 3rd

S. Smith 4th

W. Jones 5th

R. Raban Tenor

Conducted by R. Raban

The first peal rung by a local band

So proud were they, that a peal board was made to record the event which still hangs in Olney tower. As none of these gentlemen appeared to still be ringing, Doug arranged for the 100th anniversary of this achievement to be marked by repeating the performance, but with current branch ringers. An uneventful and well struck 720 was successfully rung - good enough to have rung another half dozen, but then perhaps we would have flagged a little after 3 hours!

Saturday December 16th 1995

An Extent of 720 Bob Minor was rung by

Charles J Knight Treble

Scott Ayers 2nd

Simon Head 3rd

Bob Winstanley 4th

David M Joyce 5th

B Douglas Hird Tenor

Conducted by B Douglas Hird

Why not check your local towers' records in case there is the chance to commemorate some special anniversary of your local ringing during 1996? David Joyce

Method / Variation / Principle ?

So, do you know (care) what the difference is? Most things that you ring will be methods, with the exception of those defined below. A principle has every bell doing the same thing, without having a 'hunt bell' doing something different to the other bells - the commonest example would be Stedman. A variation tends to only exist to give doubles ringers something to do when they can't manage to learn a whole new method.

The almost 200 'basic' doubles methods were all named many years ago and their bobs and singles agreed. Variations are created by ringing a basic method with the 'wrong' calls. There are many thousands of such combinations, each with their own name. I don't see any reason to ring variations as there are so many basic methods to learn - a 120 of each would take all day to ring, far more than I can cope with! If you **have** mastered all of the basic methods, then try these if you must :-

Kennington is Plain Bob with a Reverse Canterbury Bob

April Day is Plain Bob with a Grandsire Single

St Paul is St Martin's with a Reverse Canterbury Bob

St Leonard is St Martin's with a Grandsire Single

Ashcott is All Saints Place with a Wainfleet Place Extreme

(what do you mean you don't know All Saints or Wainfleet).

David Joyce

What can under 18's do that oldies can't ?

For several years the O.D.G. has had a junior striking contest arranged near Oxford by Len Porter. Unfortunately, by the time that the date has been fixed and then sent out to towers as a guild notice, it's too late to publicise in In Touch or at a branch meeting. I have spoken to Len about the 1996 contest and there will be one around the end of June / early July, but no date has been set at the moment.

This branch has got more than enough ringers who are aged under 18 that are capable of giving the other branches a bit of competition, but they might need something from those of us who are too old to enter. **What should we do?**

1/ Talk to your eligible ringers and see who is willing or persuadable to have a go.

2/ Talk to the other possible ringers in the branch to see just how many might be able to take part.

3/ Give them some special time at your practice, or organise some special practices, to get used to ringing together. Get a visitor to "judge" a bit of their ringing and offer a few helpful comments on what was good and what needs a bit of extra attention.

4/ Take them out to a few other practice nights, or branch practices, so that ringing on strange bells is not likely to cause a problem.

5/ Arrange the transport to get down to Oxford and back on a Saturday afternoon / evening - without this practical help, their best ringing efforts would be wasted. It would also be good to see a few more of us down there just to support and encourage them.

6/ Try and find the tower notice about the 1995 contest and keep it on your tower noticeboard as a reminder.

If you're keen to take part in the contest and no one in your tower does any of the things listed above - then ask them why they haven't. If that doesn't work then shove a copy of this article through their letterbox every week until they do!!

David Joyce

Ringling pages on the Internet

By the time that this copy of In Touch has reached you, the O.D.G. should have set up a home page on the WWW - I suggest that those of you who are interested, do a few searches for all bellringing pages as there are already several out there. I suspect that there will soon be many personal home pages belonging to ringers, as CompuServe have just announced that they are offering this to each of their customers. If any branch members would like to publicise their ringers home page - tell the In Touch editor.

If the above paragraph means even less to you than the theory of peal proving, don't worry. Ringing still needs people, ropes, bells and towers - it's just that the "information super highway" is a way of using modern technology to help our ancient craft.

David Joyce

If you don't like David's column fillers - then send the editor some of yours instead!

Double Norwich Court Bob Major

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 below. When several of the band are all learning, the best place for the expert is often on the treble ! Learners can learn a lot by *watching* the treble, though.

The "rules" of the method

Most people learn the method by linking together the "named bits" - if you don't learn it this way too, how will you understand any corrections shouted by the conductor ? The rule is that you ring "**Near, Full, Far, Treble Bob**", but you need to do quite a bit of writing out before you can make much use of it. This is also a double method - that means that not only is the blue line symmetrical about the halfway mark, but the back work is also a mirror image of the front work.

To keep yourself right during the ringing, it may help to remember that places link to places and dodges to dodges. This means that if you leave the back after dodging, then your next work will be dodging, not places - you would dodge in 5-6 down if you were in the middle of **treble bob**, or go down to the **far** work (dodge 3-4 down then make places in 3rds & 4ths).

It is also extremely helpful to remember that all of your double dodges in 1-2 and 7-8 will be with your "course bells" - for the 4th these would be the 2nd and 6th (the same as for plain bob). As you gain confidence you can use this knowledge to help "catch" bells that are lost.

It is also very important to learn where each place bell starts *and finishes*, particularly during touches. Assuming that you have got a good treble ringer, you can also keep yourself right by knowing how your work revolves around the treble. During your **near** or **far** places the treble will always pass through the middle of them (in the same direction as you will be heading - it may help to think of this as you chasing the treble). During **treble bob**, the treble will always be next to your whole pull of leading or lying. When you are in the middle of your **treble bob** work, you cross the treble in 4-5.

A walk along the blue line

The 2nd starts at the beginning of the **treble bob** work - you will lead (after the treble) and then double dodge in 1-2, dodge 3-4 up, (pass the treble in 4-5), dodge 5-6 up, [become 7th place bell], double dodge 7-8 up (treble turns you from the back). Your next work is **near** (as near / soon as possible) places - go down to two blows in 5ths, then 6ths (treble comes through the middle of these), then dodge 5-6 down, head right down to the front [become 4th place bell on the way]. When you reach the front you will do the **full** work - double dodge 1-2 down, lead full, double dodge 1-2 up, then hunt away from the front [become 5th place bell on the way]. Your next work is **far** (as far / late as possible) places - dodge 5-6 up, then make places in 6ths & 5ths (treble comes through the middle of these), hunt up to lie at the back.

You will now become **treble bob** bell again - double dodge 7-8 down and then head down [become 6th place bell], dodge 5-6 down, 3-4 down, double dodge 1-2 down, lead full (treble takes you off lead) and hunt up towards 4th place [become 3rd place bell on the way]. You will now do **near** places - make 4ths, 3rds, dodge 3-4 up and then hunt up to the back. You will now do the **full** work - double dodge 7-8 up, lie at the back [become 8th place bell] and then double dodge 7-8 down. You then hunt down to do **far** places - dodge 3-4 down, make 3rds, 4ths and chase the treble down towards the lead. As you become 2nd place bell, the plain course should come round !

Bobs and Singles

If you already ring Stedman Triples, you may find it quite easy to recognise the type of calls used in DNCBM - the back pair of bells dodge at a bob and then pick up their new place bell which starts with a double dodge. Meanwhile the bell that was heading for the backwork has to turn round below these two dodging bells. All other bells are unaffected by the calls. At a single, the bells in 7-8 both make places - this means that the bell becoming 8th place bell is actually unaffected and that the bell that had just double dodged 7-8 down has to turn round and double dodge 7-8 up.

A simple touch can be called from 2, 3, 6 or 8 by calling yourself to make the bob 3 times, in the middle of treble bob (at the end of 2nd place bell).

12345678	15738264
21436587	51372846
24135678	51378264
42316587	35712846
24361578	53721864
42635187	35781246
24365817	53728416
42638571	53748661
46283751	32547681
64827315	23456718
46287135	32546178
64821753	23451687
46812735	32415678
64187253	23146587
61482735	23145678
16847253	12436587
18674523	12436857
81765432	41628375
87164523	46123857
78615432	64218375
87651423	46281357
78564132	64823175
87654312	4683715
78563421	64827351
75836241	68472531
57382614	86745213
75832164	68475123
57381246	86741532
75318264	68714523
57132846	86175432
51738264	81674523
15737846	18765432
13527486	12856342
31254768	71583624
32157486	75186342
23514768	57813624
32541786	75813642
23457168	5786124
32547628	75836214
23456781	57382641
24365871	53728461
42638517	5374816
42638157	53724186
42631875	35721468
24613857	53217486
42168375	35127468
41263857	31527486
14628375	1254768
16482735	12345678
16187253	
68142735	
86417253	
68471235	
86742153	
68472513	
86745231	
87654321	
78563412	
87653142	
78561324	
87516342	
78153624	
71856342	

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 made welcome. Methods rung range from Rounds to Surprise Major, with a special method sometimes being chosen in advance.

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
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 20th May	7:30	Eight bell Practice	Olney
Mon 24th June	7:30	Eight bell Practice	Olney
Mon 22nd July	7:30	Eight bell Practice	Olney
Mon 19th August	7:30	Eight bell Practice	Olney
Mon 23rd September	7:30	Eight bell Practice	Olney
Mon 28th October	7:30	Eight bell Practice	Olney
Mon 25th November	7:30	Eight bell Practice	Olney

Remember that a comprehensive list of meetings is published regularly in the Guild "Odd Bob" and some are advertised in the Ringing World as well. The information about our neighbours can only be published here in "In Touch" if someone lets us know - if you have any details (or corrections), please let the editor know.

If you visit our neighbours' events, please let them know about our branch and encourage them to visit us.

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 07/01/96

Guild Ringing Schools

There are a number of ringing schools organised by the guild and advertised in "Odd Bob" as well as posters being sent to each tower secretary. If you want to go *book early* - the Radley course was fully booked before Christmas and has a waiting list of 11 hopefuls at the time of writing (they obviously don't know that I've been asked to tutor one group for the day!).

Easthampstead is always overbooked, with many people coming back year after year (in more advanced groups?), so once again you should plan well ahead. This year the course is a little cheaper (about £100) so demand may be even higher. In the past, the branch has sponsored a number of students on this course - add a few wedding fees saved up over the coming season, plus perhaps some sponsorship from your own tower and you're there!

David Joyce

ODG North Bucks Branch Diary

Date	Time	Event details	Location
Sat 3rd February	2:00	* Mini Ringing School Subject =	t.b.a.
Fri 16th February	7:30	Branch Practice	Thornborough Note change of venue
finish at	8:30	Special method = Stedman Doubles	
Sun 18th February	2:00	Branch Officers' Meeting	4 Woad Lane
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)
Sat 6th April		Guild Handbell Ringing Day	Reading
Sat 13th April		Guild Ringing Course	Radley
Fri 19th April	7:30	Branch Practice Special method = Double Court Minor	Drayton Parslow
Mon 6th May		* Guild 8 bell Striking Competition Test Piece = Plain Bob Major	Sutton Courtney / Drayton Harwell (final)
Mon 6th May		* Guild Ringing Day	Old North Berks Branch
Sat 11th May	2:00	* Mini Ringing School Subject =	t.b.a.
Fri 17th May	7:30	Branch Practice Special method = St Remigius & Huntley Place Doubles	Shalstone
Sat 18th May		Guild Annual General Meeting	Islip
Sat 1st June	3:00	6 bell Striking Competition & Quarterly Meeting	Milton Keynes Village
Fri 21st June	7:30	Branch Practice Special method = Perivale Alliance Minor	Whaddon

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.

Last revised 07/01/96