



# In Touch

North Bucks Branch - [www.northbucksbranch.org.uk](http://www.northbucksbranch.org.uk)  
February 2020—In Touch's Final Edition

## North Bucks Branch – Diary of Events 2020

Date	Event	Venue	tbc/C	Timing	Organiser
<i>22<sup>nd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> Feb</i>	<i>Sponsored QP Week</i>	<i>Various</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>Details to follow</i>	<i>Guild</i>
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Midweek Group	To be advised	tbc	11.00-12.30	Nick Read
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Branch AGM	Emberton	C		Brian Baldwin
<i>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Mar</i>	<i>General &amp; Bell Fund Mtgs</i>	<i>Reading Branch</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>Details to follow</i>	<i>Guild</i>
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Branch Practice	Downs Barn	C	3.30-5.00pm	Barry Eglesfield
<i>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Mar</i>	<i>Guild Education Comm.</i>	<i>Venue?</i>	<i>tbc</i>	<i>Details to follow</i>	<i>Colin Newman</i>
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Midweek Group	To be advised	tbc	11.00-12.30	Nick Read
<i>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April</i>	<i>Radley Course</i>	<i>Radley</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>All day</i>	<i>lsteff@talktalk.net</i>
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Branch Practice	<i>Leighton Buzzard</i>	tbc	5.00 – 6.30pm	Barry Eglesfield
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Midweek Group	To be advised	tbc	11.00am-12.30pm	Nick Read
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Officers Meeting	Woughton	C	7.30pm	Brian Baldwin
<i>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May</i>	<i>Guild Ringing Day</i>	<i>Vale of White Horse</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>Details to follow</i>	<i>Guild</i>
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	VE Day (Bank Holiday)	All Towers	C	7.00pm	National
<i>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May</i>	<i>Guild AGM</i>	<i>Old North Berks</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>c4.15pm</i>	<i>Guild</i>
<i>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May</i>	<i>Guild 8 Bell Striking</i>	<i>Old North Berks</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>2.00pm</i>	<i>Guild</i>
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Branch Practice	<i>Shalstone and Beachampton</i>	tbc	5.00 – 6.30pm	Barry Eglesfield
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Midweek Group	To be advised	tbc	11.00-12.30	Nick Read
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	6 Bell Competition	Wavendon	C	4.00pm	Brian Baldwin
<i>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June</i>	<i>Tower &amp; Belfry Course?</i>	<i>Leckhampstead</i>	<i>tbc</i>	<i>Details to follow</i>	<i>Guild</i>
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Branch Practice	Gt Brickhill	tbc	5.00 – 6.30pm	Barry Eglesfield
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Midweek Group	To be advised	tbc	11.00-12.30	Nick Read
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Interbranch Meeting	Wicken	tbc	5.00 – 6.30pm	Barry Eglesfield
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Midweek Group	To be advised	tbc	11.00-12.30	Nick Read
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Officers Meeting	Woughton	C	7.30-9.00pm	Brian Baldwin
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Branch Practice	Padbury & Thornborough	tbc	5.00 – 6.30pm	Barry Eglesfield
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Midweek Group	To be advised	tbc	11.00-12.30	Nick Read
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Autumn Meeting	Hanslope	tbc	Details to follow	Brian Baldwin
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Branch Practice	Olney	tbc	5.00 – 6.30pm	Barry Eglesfield
<i>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Sep</i>	<i>Tower &amp; Belfry Course?</i>	<i>Ivinghoe Beacon</i>	<i>tbc</i>	<i>Details to follow</i>	<i>Guild</i>
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Midweek Group	To be advised	tbc	11.00-12.30	Nick Read
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Branch Practice	Hanslope	tbc	3.30-5.00pm	Barry Eglesfield
Thursday 22 Oct	Midweek Group	To be advised	tbc	11.00-12.30	Nick Read
<i>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Oct</i>	<i>Basic Course</i>	<i>Steeple Aston</i>	<i>tbc</i>		<i>Guild</i>
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Officers Meeting	Woughton	C	7.30-9.00pm	Brian Baldwin
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Branch Practice	Stony Stratford	tbc	3.30-5.00pm	Barry Eglesfield
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Midweek Group	To be advised	tbc	11.00-12.30	Nick Read
<i>November</i>	<i>Guild Gen Mtg &amp; 10Bell</i>	<i>To be advised</i>	<i>tbc</i>	<i>Details to follow</i>	<i>Guild</i>
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Meeting	To be advised	tbc	4.00-6.30pm	Brian Baldwin

## Branch AGM

The Branch AGM will be held on Saturday 7th March

All Saints, West Lane, Emberton, Buckinghamshire, MK46 5DA

The running order for the day will be:

- Ringing from 4.00pm,
- Service at 5.00pm,
- Tea at 5.30pm - please book your tea by Wednesday 4th March with Sheila by email [swandsw@btinternet.com](mailto:swandsw@btinternet.com) or by telephone 07703 279 165
- AGM at 6.00pm with further ringing to follow

Please let me know prior to the meeting if you wish to add anything to the agenda, or submit a New Member Application, by email, [secretary@northbucksbranch.org.uk](mailto:secretary@northbucksbranch.org.uk)

All papers for the meeting will be published on website by 29th February and available in hard copy at the meeting.

*Brian Baldwin*

**This is your branch; have your say!**

## **Branch Communications**

Having been In Touch Editor since 2016, I have been proud to contribute to the Branch. In the May 2018 edition, I wrote an article here asking about engagement with branch, entitled Our Branch. Leading on from that, the future of In Touch was decided by the Branch Members at their meeting on the 7th of December at St. Mary's Bletchley, at which the following was proposed and voted on. The proposal was accepted without disagreement.

- The role of In Touch Editor will be evolved into Communications Officer, working with the Webmaster to keep the branch informed, aiming for the members finding the website a valuable tool for news and events, and using the articles submitted to enliven our website.
- Ending the hard copy publication.
- An up-to-date diary and Branch Officers contact emails will be available on the website.
- On a monthly basis, an email will be circulated to all members with a link to the website encouraging them to look at a copy of the branch diary and news.
- Members and towers who would like a quarterly black and white Branch diary sent to them by post can request this at no additional cost, by making this request to the Communications Officer.
- This proposal will be implemented for the year 2020-2021.

As we look to the future, we consider that this is the last edition of In Touch to be produced. It is credit to those who have been editor of this fine publication that it has endured, and been of such quality, for so long. To my predecessors, you can be proud of the impact In Touch had, and thank you for your hard work and skill.

The evolution of communication within North Bucks will not only reduce consumption of natural resources, but allow re-investment into the website, creating access for our Branch to the world, using current information, as well as making communication easier to manage for the volunteers whose time is given to the Branch.

*Phillip Starr—Branch Communications Officer*

## Mid-week Ringing Group

The next meeting of the Midweek Ringing Group will be **Thursday 27th February 2019**, 10.30am for tea and coffee (donation of £1 requested) and ringing from 11.00am to 12.30pm at the SS Peter & Paul, Cosgrove, Stratford Road, Cosgrove, Milton Keynes, MK19 7JA

The bells at SS Peter & Paul, Cosgrove are a ring of six (tenor is 10cwt). It is an upstairs ring and there are toilets in the church.

Ringing will be followed by an opportunity to go to lunch (if you wish) at The Barley Mow, 7 The Stocks, Cosgrove, Milton Keynes, MK19 7JD.

Do come along if you are able, all abilities are welcome. If you need any more information please feel free to email me on [read.nicholas@hotmail.com](mailto:read.nicholas@hotmail.com)

Nick Read

## Practice Night—St. Mary's Whaddon

While Whaddon is no longer able to hold a band practice due to a lack of numbers, the ringers are fortunate to have the monthly Open Practice at St. Mary's, Whaddon. This continues with ringers from a vast array of ability and from across branch borders, on the first Friday of every month. All abilities are welcome, and every effort will be made to accommodate you.

Please join in this friendly practice on a fine set of six (Tenor 14 hundred weight).

Phillip Starr

## Award for our Secretary!

Brian Baldwin, tower captain at Woughton-on-the Green and North Bucks Branch secretary, has just been awarded the first Lifetime Award for Community Service to be given by Old Woughton Parish Council for, to quote the citation, his "45 years of committed service to the care, repair and restoration of the church [of St Mary, Woughton-on-the-Green], in particular ..... the bells" and his distinguished service as tower captain.

The whole citation is in *Old Woughton News*, the Parish Council newsletter, available on-line here: <http://oldwoughton.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2019.12-Winter-2019.pdf>

The newsletter also contains an article by Brian about bells, bell-ringing and how he became a bellringer

Martin Petchey

Picture right:-

*If Norfolk County Council can promote bell-ringing as healthy (and that's an important agenda for local government today), why not Bucks CC and Milton Keynes Council? Write to your local councillor to suggest it.*

Martin Petchey



## Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Derek Stainsby of Loughton

Derek is the former tower captain of All Saints, Loughton and St Mary's, Shenley and has been a member of the North Bucks Branch since 1974. He has been an active and highly valued member, acting as Guild Rep from 1976-81, Assistant Ringing Master 1978-79, and Branch Ringing Master from 1981-88.

Derek was born on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1930 in Deeping St Nicholas, Lincolnshire, the twin son of a minister. He and his brother David learned to ring in 1943 (one of the '43ers') at Edenham in Lincolnshire.

He met Anne Amor, a fellow ringer at a ringing meeting at St Pauls, in Bedford and they were married in December 1959 at Anne's parish church, Christ Church Bedford, one of the few churches in Bedford with no bells so the guard of honour rang hand bells. After living and ringing in Radcliffe-on-Trent, Derek and Anne and their three sons moved to Milton Keynes in 1970 where Derek worked on the development of the new city of Milton Keynes. As tower captain of Shenley, Loughton and Bradwell, he ran excellent practices which attracted many visiting ringers who not only enjoyed the advanced ringing but also the company – Derek is never short of a tale to tell or an amusing comment on shoddy ringing ! Derek was a regular Sunday service ringer at Shenley and Loughton when services permitted and, though no longer ringing, is still to be seen in All Saints ringing room on Sundays for a chat – and even rang briefly for the Christmas service last month.

The recent refurbishment of Loughton bells was a project he took a particular interest in, and his generous donation helped kickstart the project and funded the new treble bell which was dedicated to Derek and Anne Stainsby.

Derek has taught innumerable people to ring – many still ringing in the branch – and his patience and good humour along with his support and encouragement ensured progress beyond the new ringer's expectations. With Anne alongside him, he was happy to take the time with extra coaching, visits to other towers and organising quarter peals.

Derek has rung 14 peals for the branch and 124 quarters. His first quarter for the branch was in September 1971 at Bletchley with his first peal for the branch following in December 1972 (both Plain Bob Major and both also having Terry Page in the band). Derek was also a member of the band that rang a peal in 1979 for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the North Bucks Branch. A particularly special quarter peal was rung on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1995 when both Derek and his brother David rang at Loughton to celebrate their 65<sup>th</sup> birthdays that day.

Derek and Anne were made Life Members of the ODG in 2008.

Derek still keeps abreast of branch activities through the branch newsletter "In Touch" and still reads the Ringing World, a magazine he has subscribed to for around 50 years.

*Anne McIntyre*

### Peal

**Oxford Diocesan Guild Loughton, Buckinghamshire**

All Saints

Saturday, 25 January 2020 in 2h 38 (11–2–14 in G)

#### **5040 Cambridge Surprise Minor**

One 2160 and 4 extents

1. Adam D Hird
2. Martin Petchey
3. B Douglas Hird
4. Alan J Marchbank
5. Douglas S Vale
6. Stephen H Stanford (C)

First peal - 1. First peal of Minor - 5

Rung as a 90th birthday compliment to Derek Stainsby of the local band.



**Oxford Diocesan Guild**  
**Loughton, Buckinghamshire**

All Saints

Wednesday, 22 January 2020 (11–2–14 in G)

**900 Plain Bob Minor**

1. Terry Page
2. Becky Fawcett
3. Anne McIntyre
4. Edward Fawcett
5. John Brookman
6. Gary W Reading (C)

Rung to celebrate Derek Stainsby's 90th birthday, and his long contribution to ringing and the branch

**Oxford Diocesan Guild**  
**Woughton on the Green, Buckinghamshire**

St Mary

Thursday, 23 January 2020 in 40m (7 in B)

**1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor**

1. Brian Baldwin
2. Christina Tribble
3. Martin Petchey
4. Paul Crombleholme
5. Peter Tribble
6. Simon J O Head (C)

Rung to celebrate the 90th Birthday of Derek Stainsby of Loughton, Milton Keynes. With thanks from all his friends for his help and long service in the North Bucks branch.

**Oxford Diocesan Guild**  
**Shenley, Buckinghamshire**

St Mary's

Saturday, 25 January 2020

**1260 Doubles (3m)**

360 St Martin's; 360 St Simon's; 540 Plain Bob

1. Sarah Elliott
2. Becky Fawcett
3. Anne McIntyre
4. Ann Birch
5. Edward Fawcett (C)
6. Gary Reading

Rung to celebrate the 90th birthday of Derek Stainsby, former Tower Captain at Shenley.



## Six Bell Striking Competition

Many congratulations to our treble ringer, Jen, who stood in at the last moment due to Hannah Cromblehome not being well that morning. Special mention to excellent treble ringing—Woughton on the Green

Below are the results and a photo of the team.

Guild Six Bell Competition at Chalfont St Peter – October 5<sup>th</sup> 2019

Faults

1. Abingdon 38
2. High Wycombe 40
3. Drayton St Leonard 44
4. Thatcham 48
5. Wokingham 50
6. Woughton on the Green 78
7. Aylesbury 98
8. Oxford 135



*Brian Baldwin*

## ART Conference 2020 - join us in Derbyshire!

The ART Annual Conference is an inspiring and enjoyable weekend, with leading speakers sharing best practice from their ringing as well as ideas from other activities and professions. Continuing our successful partnership with the CCCBR the second day of the conference is organised by the Volunteer and Leadership Workgroup and focuses on recruitment and retention.

The conference is open to all ringers. Please join us in Hilton, Derbyshire on 14/15 March 2020 - together we can make a difference!

<<http://events.bellringing.org/conference2020>> > Book your conference place

### ART Conference - Saturday 14 March

ART's conference agenda this year includes a great line up of speakers. In a break from tradition the key-note speaker is not a ringer. Bonita Norris is the youngest person to climb Mount Everest. Her talk - Mountains of the mind - speaks about the lessons she learned on this extraordinary journey as a very ordinary person - the marginal gains, the leaps of faith, the not giving up when failure seemed inevitable. All lessons in leadership that we recognise in our own ringing world. Bonita is joined by our other key-note speakers:

- \* Richard Grimmett on Taking striking seriously
- \* Alison Hodge and Tony Crabtree on What would TripAdvisor say about your tower?
- \* Mark Plater (Senior Lecturer at Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln) on the Science and practice of motivation

A range of seminars will showcase innovative ideas and good practice from amongst the bell ringing community. Thanks to your feedback from the 2019 conference these include:

- \* Teaching with simulators - Steve Farmer & Chris de Cordova
  - \* Striking it right - Colin Newman
  - \* Starting a band from scratch - Ginette Pardoe
- \* Learning the Ropes Festival of Ringing - Nikki Thomas & Ruth Suggett
- \* The Social Media Toolkit - Alison Everett, Deb Baker & Emily Ashton

We have also introduced a lunchtime Teaching Forum hosted by Pip Penney which will give you the chance to talk through any teaching issues you may have.

### CCCBR Recruitment & Retention - Sunday 15 March

Continuing last year's successful partnership with the CCCBR, the second day of the conference is organised by the Volunteer and Leadership Workgroup.

With a focus on recruitment and retention, they will look at how to look after your new ringers so that they blossom and enjoy their new hobby. Hearing from recent recruits, sharing ideas, initiatives and experience through grouped activities will provide you with ideas to take your recruitment and retention plans forward.

### ART Awards

And don't forget the ART Awards Ceremony in the early evening. Help us celebrate and reward the great things that ringing teachers and leaders are doing to secure the future of ringing.

*Ken Darvill, Hon General Secretary*

### Oxford Diocesan Guild

#### Great Linford, Buckinghamshire

St Andrew

Saturday, 30 November 2019 (16–1–22 in F<sup>2</sup>)

#### **1260 Doubles**

3 Methods (Stedman, Grandsire, Plain Bob)

1. Christine E Marchbank
2. Graham J Bartholomew
3. Steve Thomason
4. Alan J Marchbank (C)
5. John B Marchbank
6. Viv Hollis

On Patronal Festival. Most methods 3.

*Alan Marchbank*

### Oxford Diocesan Guild

#### Great Linford, Buckinghamshire

St Andrew

Tuesday, 31 December 2019 in 44m

(16–1–22 in F<sup>2</sup>)

#### **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

1. Alexandra J Marchbank
2. Viv Hollis
3. Liz Wagstaff
4. Steve Thomason
5. Alan J Marchbank (C)
6. Graham J Bartholomew

A farewell to 2019.

*Alan Marchbank*



This innovative Christmas tree was spotted on Facebook by Martin Petchey.

It is the work of the Padbury ringers, and credit for the excellent photo goes to Catherine Tinsley.



## Ringling Pathways

Proud owners of a 2020 Ringing World Diary and RW readers may already have discovered one of The Ringing World's big projects for the year. Part challenge, learning, focus and exploration – and hopefully fun: 2020 Ringing World Pathways are your chance to join in with the worldwide ringing community this year. These are the opening words of the article attached and if you need further info please use the following link [Ringing Pathways 2020](#)

The pathways can be approached as an individual, particularly the Blue Path, or by the Tower or Branch. Doug Hird has volunteered to look after the Yellow Path as a Branch, perhaps in conjunction with other local branches.

I know that several individuals have already registered on BellBoard. Please start by reading the article, talk to your Tower Captain and the following points of contact are available to help.

Branch Officers: [Martin Petchey](#) [Doug Hird](#) [Barry Eglesfield](#)

Brian Baldwin - Branch Secretary.



OXFORD DIOCESAN BELL FUND  
Registered Charity Number 268390



OXFORD DIOCESAN BELL FUND

2020 Leap Year Sponsored Ringing

The Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund AGM celebrated its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September 2019.

Since its inception it has been able to assist bell restoration in the Diocese by granting over £400,000 to more than 200 projects. Better still because it is a capital fund, all the money that has been raised is still invested and the grants have been paid from interest and dividends generated by the capital,

Every year there are activities, which generate new money for which the Trustees are very grateful as only by increasing the capital can the Fund keep pace with rising costs, We are keen to ensure the 2020 Leap Year Sponsored Ringing Event, is a resounding success.

First organised in 1979 when Branches were encouraged to organise a sponsored Peal or Quarter Peal and donate the money raised to the Bell Fund. A special Shield was provided by Bill Butler and inscribed by Ted Gosling for presentation to the Branch raising the largest amount of money. Bicester Branch won, raising over £231. We don't expect peals and quarters (but by all means ring them if you like), any ringing can be sponsored, so presents a great opportunity to involve all levels and abilities and to introduce new members to the work of the Bell Fund.

In 2020 the Sponsored Ringing "Week" will be the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> February, The Shield will be presented to the Branch raising the greatest amount per head of membership. Sponsorship money can be Gift Aided to benefit from recovery of Income Tax.

Sponsor forms are available from the Secretary - Katie Lane (email [kt.catchmole@googlemail.com](mailto:kt.catchmole@googlemail.com))

*Alan Marchbank*  
Bell Fund Chairman

## Merger of ODG Restoration Fund with the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund

The idea of exploring a merger of the two Funds was raised back in November 2018 and the matter was debated at the Spring meeting of the ODG and subsequently by discussions and emails.

It is well known that for many years the Restoration Fund has been poorly supported compared to the Bell Fund. The idea of a possible merger was not only to simplify the administration and accounting but more importantly to remove the confusion between the two and enable fund raising to be focus on just one Fund.

Although the objects of both Funds were essentially the same there were two key differences. Firstly, the Bell Fund did not support augmentation work whereas the Restoration Fund did. Secondly, the Bell Fund is a Capital Fund i.e. all the money raised is invested with the interest and dividends from those investments being put into the grant fund for projects. In the case of the Restoration Fund the grant fund was derived any money raised plus interest, which has been minimal for several years. Due to the poor support the grant fund has never been significant in value.

The two funds were registered charities and following the discussions the trustees of both agreed resolutions for a merger having agreed the details on how a merger would work. The resolution for the Restoration Fund was passed at the AGM of the Oxford Diocesan Guild in May 2019 and the Bell Fund resolution was passed at an EGM in November 2019.

The merger was registered with the Charities Commission in December 2019 and was subsequently confirmed with a date of the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. The merger means that the Restoration Fund has been wound up with all assets being transferred to the Bell Fund.

The matter of the Bell Fund not supporting augmentations was resolved with a rule change at the EGM in November 2019. This will enable the Bell Fund to support grant requests that would have been directed at the Restoration Fund in the past.

As part of the merger process it was agreed that the unrestricted assets of the Restoration Fund would be transferred to the grant fund of the Bell Fund but any money required to support outstanding grants would be ring fenced. Furthermore, the restricted fund for the Longworth restoration project would become a restricted fund in the Bell Fund along with its assets.

As agreed with independent examiner the transfer of assets will appear on the balance sheet of the Bell Fund in 2020. The Charities Commission does not require a financial return to be filed for 2019 as the Restoration Fund was officially wound up on the 31<sup>st</sup> December.

The Trustees would like to thank the individuals, towers and the Branches for the financial support given over the years to the Restoration Fund and for all the support received during this merger process. The nett result of this merger should enable the Bell Fund to better support the restoration and maintenance of the bells in the Diocese of Oxford.

### Financial Details

Restoration Fund income in 2019: £1,903 (including £1,000 from Guild) Restoration Fund interest in 2019: £119

Restoration Fund grant Fund: £14,722 (to be transferred to grant fund of Bell Fund - £2,465 ring fenced for outstanding provisional grants) Longworth Fund: £14,586 (to be transferred to a restricted fund in the Bell Fund)

Bell Fund income in 2019: £10,013 (including £1,000 from Guild) Bell Fund dividend and interest in 2019: £25,341

Bell Fund Invested Assets: £684,988 Bell Fund Grant Fund: £90,796 Bell Fund Investment fund: £12,819 (to be invested)

*Stuart Gibson - Treasurer ODGCBR*

