



OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH BUCKS BRANCH

In Touch

May 2008



Summer Social

The Summer Social will be held at Maids Moreton on Saturday 7th June 2008

The timetable will be as follows:

4.30—7.00 pm General Ringing

Drinks and light refreshments will be available during this time.

There may be breaks in the ringing to allow for socialising!

Chairman

Mr Richard Stanworth
Email. chairman@northbucks.org.uk

Secretary

Mrs Helen Stanworth
Email. secretary@northbucks.org.uk

Treasurer / In Touch Editor

Mrs Sheila Watts
Email. treasurer@northbucks.org.uk /
intoucheditor@northbucks.org.uk

Ringling Master

Mr Barry Eglesfield
Email. ringingmaster1@northbucks.org.uk

Assistant Ringing Master

Post Vacant

Training Officer

Post Vacant

Guild Representatives

Mr Alan Marchbank
Email. guildrep1@northbucks.org.uk

Brian Newman

Email. guildrep2@northbucks.org.uk

Archivist

Mr Doug Hird
Email. archivist@northbucks.org.uk

Secretarial Snippets

Videos

Bellhandling—a tutor's companion (produced by the Central Council—video or DVD)

Look to and Learn (produced by the Kent County Association—video)

Teaching Demonstration (recording of Steve Coleman teaching—video)

These videos/DVD may be borrowed from the Secretary free of charge. However, a deposit of £5 will be required against safe return of the video/DVD.

Membership Information Forms

All members should have received a form at the beginning of the year of which about half have been returned. If you haven't already done so, you should complete and return your form to the Secretary. As we are aiming to communicate directly with each member, we cannot do this and keep you informed of Branch and Guild activities until we have received a completed form. If you have not received the form, or have mislaid it, please contact the Secretary and she will send you a copy. Forms will also be available at Branch Practices and meetings.

Egroup Membership

If you have provided an email address on your membership information form, you will be invited to join the North Bucks egroup forum so that you will

automatically receive notices about Branch and Guild events via email. There is no compulsion to join the egroup. However, we would like as many Branch members as possible to join the egroup so that we can keep in touch with you.

Business Meetings & Election of New Members

Please note that any Branch practice may be convened as a business meeting if deemed necessary by the officers present, subject to there being sufficient members present. These will mainly be for the election of new members.

The Secretary will have membership nomination forms at Branch practices as well as meetings. Under these arrangements, new members may be elected at any Branch Practice or meeting.

Grants

Applications for grants for assistance from individuals for training or from towers for work or for the provision of things that keep bells ringing shall be submitted to the Secretary. Details of applications received will be sent out to towers as soon as possible after receipt. All applications received and sent out at least one month before a meeting will be considered at the next general meeting of the Branch. A meeting for this may be convened at a Branch practice or other Branch event.

Grants will be given towards training courses as follows: 50% of the cost up to a maximum of £50. Applications for grants should be made in writing to the Secretary. It would help us if you apply before you attend the course.

Chairman's Jottings

We were unable to fill two Branch posts at the AGM March – Assistant Ringing Master and Training Officer so we are looking for volunteers to fill these posts. If you are interested in helping to run the Branch then please speak to any of the officers. If you prefer not to become a Branch officer but would still like to help in some way with running the Branch then please talk to us about how you could help. Maybe you could help organise a training day or find ringers to help at a tower that needs help.

The Open Day on Easter Monday in Aid of the Olney Bells Appeal went very well and I would like to thank all who helped to make the day a success. The total sum raised from the Open Day, including the tax from gift aided donations, was £908. I received a letter of thanks from David Phillipson, Ringing Master at Olney and Project Manager to the PCC, on behalf of the Appeal Committee. He wished to convey this message to all members of the Branch:

“On behalf of everyone involved with the appeal and the major project at Olney I would like to send our sincerest thanks to the following: The Church authorities for allowing the use of the bells at the 31 towers; the Branch officers for the first class organisation of the day and collecting the monies so efficiently; the ringers, friends and relations who participated during the day by stewarding, supporting the ringing or providing first class refreshments. Lastly we would like to thank everyone in and associated with the Branch for the very significant donation to the appeal fund.”

The Appeal is progressing well with the confirmation of various grants adding to the total so far raised, and the project is still on target with works expected to start during the week commencing 21st July.

The summer social at Maids Moreton will take the form of the successful afternoon last year – general ringing, but with plenty of opportunity to chat over a cup of tea. Please do join us.

With best wishes.

Richard Stanworth



Derek receives the certificates from the Chairman

Honorary Membership for Derek & Anne Stainsby AGM at Olney—1st March

The Chairman proposed from the chair that Derek and Anne Stainsby be elected Honorary Members of the Guild. Derek and Anne were elected members in 1974. Derek had served the Branch in a number of posts. He was a Guild Rep from 1976 to 1981, Assistant Ringing Master from 1978 to 1979, and Ringing Master from 1981 to 1988. The Chairman felt sure that he wouldn't have been able to do all this without the support of Anne and he was pleased to formally propose their election. This was seconded by Tine Marchbank and they were elected unanimously by the meeting. The Chairman presented a testimonial certificate to Derek recording his election as an Honorary Member, along with a similar certificate for Anne.

Derek thanked the meeting and spoke about his early ringing. He was one of the '43ers', learning to ring in 1943 at Edenham in Lincolnshire, so he first joined the Lincoln Diocesan Guild. He moved around for a while before joining the Southwell Guild when he settled at Radcliffe on Trent. In 1970 they moved to Milton Keynes, eventually joining the Oxford Guild. Anne came from Bedford and began ringing 50 or more years ago, learning her ringing with Eddie Jeffries, Steven Ivin and others of that era. Derek said how he always enjoyed the company and ringing locally and again thanked everyone.

(Extracted from the AGM minutes)

Quarters

Washington (Old Post Office Tower) DC

Monday 18th February 2008

1260 Grandsire Triples (50 mins)

- 1 A David Hole III
- 2 Paula Fleming
- 3 Mary Clark
- 4 Meredith A Morris
- 5 Catherine Stanworth
- 6 Michael Tinsley
- 7 Richard S Dirksen (C)
- 8 Ed Donnen

For President's Day

St Mary, Shenley

Friday 29th February 2008

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Ann Birch
- 2 Becky Fawcett
- 3 Bob Winstanley
- 4 Derek Stainsby
- 5 Ted Fawcett (C)
- 6 John Brookman

Rung in appreciation of the work of Revd. Richard Davis in the Watling Valley Team Ministry

Ss Peter & Paul, Upton, Notts

Sunday 27th April 2008

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Victoria Stanworth
- 2 Catherine Stanworth
- 3 John Stanworth
- 4 Helen Stanworth
- 5 Richard Stanworth (C)
- 6 Michael Tinsley

In memory of Alan Gowler, 30 May 1928—26 April 2005. Father of Helen and Grandfather of John, Catherine and Victoria. A thanksgiving for his service as Churchwarden, Organist and Bellringer at this Church.

(Helen particularly wanted to ring the 4th, as it was the treble of the original four bells before augmentation in 2006, and the bell on which she learned to ring nearly 40 years ago.)

St James the Great, Hanslope

Sunday 11th May 2008

1260 Spliced Stedman and Grandsire Triples

- 1 Jonathan Griggs (C)
- 2 Richard Haseldine
- 3 Alan Cozens
- 4 Ian Thompson
- 5 Nick Gray
- 6 Tony Gray
- 7 Roy Keeves
- 8 Stuart Grout

For Sunday Service

Peals

All Saints, Wing

Wednesday 5th March 2008

3h 21m—tenor 28cwt

5040 Minor (7 methods—1 extent each London, Wells, York, Durham, Beverley, Surfleet, Cambridge)

- 1 Christopher C Stokes
- 2 Richard Haseldine
- 3 Alan J Marchbank
- 4 Richard A Horne
- 5 Andrew Haseldine (C)
- 6 Barry R Eglesfield

In celebration of the life of Walter "Dick" Lee of Quanton, who died on 11th January 2008.

On the 42nd anniversary of Ed Houghton's first peal.

First person to turn tenor in more than once—6



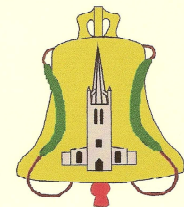
OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD

St James the Great, Hanslope,
Buckinghamshire

Sunday 30th March 2008

A Quarter Peal Of
1260 Stedman Triples

in 43 minutes



Treble	Alan Cozens
2	George Green
3	Ian Thompson
4	Richard Haseldine
5	Nick Gray
6	Tony Gray
7	Jonathan Griggs [C]
Tenor	Roy Keeves

Rung in celebration of the 70th birthday of
Sheila Ware

In Touch—Review of Finance and Distribution

Following the discussion at the AGM on 1 March (please see minutes on pages 10-12), the following email was received from Jonathan Griggs at Hanslope.

*From: Jonathan Griggs
To: Branch Officers
Date: 2 March 2008
Subject: In Touch Thoughts*

Having opposed David Joyce's motion regarding the evaluation of sending second copies of In Touch to some towers I thought I would explain my reasons why and suggest what to me appears a more logical and straightforward solution to the problem.

One of the main purposes of In Touch is that it is a method of communication that is available to all. If it is to work, everybody needs to be able to get a copy which they can read in whichever format they choose. I cannot see how David's proposal of making a second copy available to certain towers where the membership is higher ensures that everyone that needs to see a copy will get one. If a tower has say six members how does the addition of a second copy ensure that the other four members get to read it? Moreover providing some towers with second copies means that there is an additional complication with packing, postage, distribution and cost recovery. I believe I heard Sheila say that you desired a simple process for distribution.

As a solution I propose the following:

Currently there is a downloadable version and a single printed copy provided to every tower. This means that those people who wish to read their copy online or want to print their own copy and read it can do so. I think the tower correspondent who receives the copy of In Touch should ensure that everyone in their tower can get to see a copy. Each tower will be different. Some people will want to look at it and maybe print their own online. Some people may want to share a copy, read and return the copy to the tower or have their own. If people want additional copies then someone at the tower should copy or print the required number of copies as required at that tower. This is not a complex or costly process. Any incurred costs can be accommodated out of small payments, donations or the tower funds within each tower.

I think this is a better solution because:

- 1. Each person at each tower will receive a copy of In Touch in whatever format they need it in.*
- 2. There is no wastage as the local person at each tower will only produce copies as required because of their local understanding of who wants it which way.*
- 3. The distribution is simple from the Sheilas' point of view—one copy per tower.*
- 4. There are no additional postage costs in distributing second copies.*

So in summary I would say—keep it as it is and make it the tower's responsibility to ensure that every member of their band gets to see a copy.

Jonathan

The Branch Officers met and discussed the various options. It was agreed:

1. One hard copy of *In Touch* will be sent to each tower contact. Each tower will take responsibility for the distribution of *In Touch* to their own members as they wish.
2. A copy will be placed on the Branch website, so each member may read it there or print their own copy.
3. *In Touch* will be emailed to unattached members, and other Guild contacts.

Weddings at Emberton!

Not unusual to have weddings in a pretty village Church, you might say. However, currently at Emberton there's a fair smattering of bellringers amongst them!

Pictured on the left is **Heather Phillips** and Phil Fellows, married in the Church on 12th April. Heather learned to ring some years ago with us as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award. We shall miss her as she starts her new life as a Barrister in London.

Then there's **Justina Bendelow**. Her wedding is on 24th May, and as a bellringer of many year's standing we'll be there supporting her.

As if that's not enough excitement for a while, we've just heard that **Fiona Lewis** will be coming back to Emberton for her marriage next June. Fiona (and indeed all her family) learned to ring at Emberton and were members of the band for many years.

So, who's next?

The Editors



Guild Six Bell Striking Competition

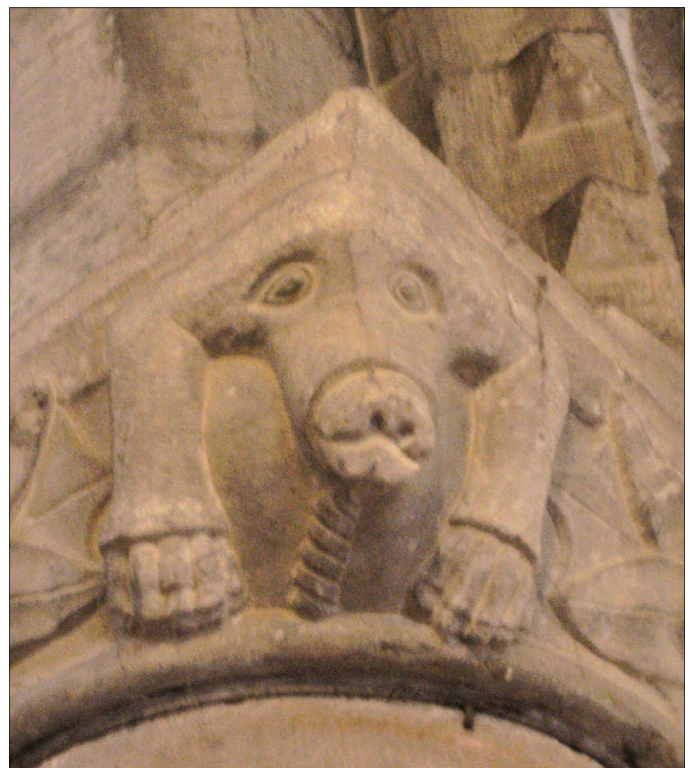
North Bucks will be hosting this competition on Saturday 4th October 2008. It is planned to hold the final at Milton Keynes Village, with heats at Wavendon and Woughton if required. Availability of towers is still subject to confirmation.

Our Grateful Thanks...

....to all those who contributed towards this issue of *In Touch*.

The deadline for the next *In Touch* is:
Tuesday 5th August 2008

Sheila Watts & Sheila Ware
Editors



Bells are only part of the interest on outings!

This dog/pig(?) was spotted at Attenborough, Nottinghamshire, on the Hanslope Outing on 3rd May.

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers - Brief summary of Officers' Tasks

Master

Chairs General Meetings and General Committee Meetings; is an ex-officio voting member of the Sub-committees, attends F&GP meetings and keeps a watching brief on the work of the others.

Represents the Guild where possible at Branch meetings and functions.

Coordinates all aspects of the Guild's representation and relationship with other bodies, and responds to all enquiries concerning ringing within the Diocese either directly or via another appropriate officer.

Prepares agendas for General and General Committee meetings with the General Secretary.

Maintains and looks after the Guild Banner, Master's Badge and other official equipment.

Deputy Master

Chairs General Meetings and General Committee Meetings in the absence of the Master; is an ex-officio voting member of the Sub-committee, attends F&GP meetings and keeps a watching brief on the work of the others.

Represents the Guild where possible at Branch meetings and functions, especially those where the Master is unable to attend.

Arranges judges and draws for the Guild 6-, 8- and 10-bell striking competitions, selects the composition for the 8- and 10-bell competitions and coordinates arrangements for those competitions with the Local Branch Secretary and the General Secretary.

Organizes ringing at the AGM, Guild Festival and other Guild events.

Honorary General Secretary

Coordinates arrangements for General Meetings, General Committee Meetings, Ringing Days and Guild Festivals with local Branch Secretary(s) and Guild Stewards.

Books the Cathedral and Hall for Festivals held in Oxford.

Prepares Agendas for General Meetings and General Committee Meetings with the Master.

Oversees the production of Minutes of meetings, and the production and distribution of notices and other papers related to Guild Functions.

Liaises with Branch Secretaries on day-to-day Guild matters.

Deals with all (non-financial) correspondence, internal and external, to the Guild.

As an ex-officio voting member of the Sub-committees, attends F&GP meetings and keeps a watching brief on the work of the others.

Represents the Guild where possible at Branch meetings and functions, especially those where the Master or Deputy Master are unable to attend.

Organizes and chairs the annual Branch Secretaries' Meeting.

Honorary General Treasurer

Attends and reports to General meetings and General Committee meetings.

Deals with all financial matters and correspondence, internal and external, to the Guild.

Attends F&GP meetings and as an ex-officio member of the other Sub-committees keeps a watching brief of those and provides financial advice and guidance to the sub-committees.

Honorary Assistant General Treasurer

Deals with the management of the Guild's General Fund, and assists the General Treasurer as required.

Prepares the annual budget in liaison with the General Treasurer.

Attends F&GP meetings.

Guild Stewards

Represent the Guild where possible at Branch meetings and functions, and attend F&GP meetings.

In cooperation with the Local Branch Secretary, help with the arrangements for Guild Striking competitions, Meetings, Festival and Ringing Day.

Carry and maintain a Branch bookstall.

Organize ringing at General Committee Meetings within their area.



Honorary Librarian

Receives and archives minutes of all meetings of the Guild and its committees.
Maintains the Guild's book collection and purchases items as required (and within the budget authorized by the General Committee) to keep the collection up to date.
Receive and archives all correspondence no longer required by the General Secretary and Branches.
Files and maintain all Guild information and documentation.
Oversees and promotes all use of the library including the borrowing and returning of items.

Report Editor

Produces annual reports in time for the Annual General Meeting containing Officers' reports, accounts, branch reports, obituary list, list of long serving members, details of peals rung for the Guild, a list of tower correspondents.
Obtains quotations for and liaise with the Treasurer about the cost of new editions.
Produces and updates a separate list of tower correspondents for sale.
Coordinates the distribution of the report.

Peal Secretary

Records details, verifies and accepts all monies for Guild Peals.
Registers names and addresses of non-resident life members and provides lists of such members for ratification at the Annual General Meeting.
Produces a report listing first performances and other performances of note for Guild records.

Newsletter Editor

Produces a Guild Newsletter at such intervals as may be agreed by the General Committee.
Coordinates the distribution of the Newsletter.
Obtains quotations and advises on the cost of the newsletters.

Public Relations Officer

Advises Guild members on all aspects of Public Relations especially dealing with the media and other aspects of publicity, and encourages good practice in communication within the Guild.
Is the Guild's media representative, attends F&GP meetings, and is responsible for Guild display material.

Membership Secretary

Maintains appropriate registers of Guild members, and arranges for the issue of membership certificates for new members.

Children's Officer

Advises members about Child Protection, and acts as a focus for all members wishing to obtain information associated with it.
Acts as a liaison between the Guild and the Diocesan authorities on matters of Child Protection.

Website Manager

Maintains the Guild Website in accordance with the requirements of the General Committee.

Minutes Secretary

Prepares the minutes for the AGM and the General Committee Meetings in liaison with the Master and the General Secretary.

Server Manager

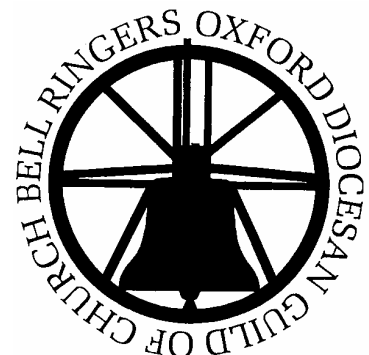
Manages the server that provides the guild's internet services

Assistant Server Manager

Acts as back-up and support for Server Manager

Central Council Representatives

Represent the Guild at Central Council Meetings and events.
Report to the General Committee on Central Council matters.



Newport ringers reach new heights

After many years of waiting, and several months of building, the bells of Ss Peter & Paul's Parish Church, Newport Pagnell are now no longer rung from the ground. The long draft that has filled so many ringers with trepidation is no more. The catalyst for this sudden, and uncharacteristic, burst of progress was a substantial bequest intended to provide improved facilities in the Church and access to the building. The plan took shape and other donations promised so that work could start with the removal of the steps to the north porch. Here the first obstacle was encountered. While creating a sloped floor, the top of a brick vault was uncovered which would need to be removed before the new floor could be constructed. Beneath this vault was found local benefactor John Revis and other family members. As a result of the inevitable delay, and although the west end of the Church was doubling up as a builder's yard, the bells were rung for the last time from the ground for Christmas. Shortly after this the three heavy steel foundation beams were lifted into place and bolted into the walls, and the new balcony began to take shape over a new kitchen and toilet.



Meanwhile, the ringers became an itinerant band, benefiting greatly from visits to Tyringham, Chicheley, North Crawley, Sherington, Olney, Clifton Reynes and Emberton. The ropes went away to Peter Minchin for new tail ends, which he provided in only a few weeks, well in time for our target of ringing for Easter and the Open Day in aid of the Olney Bell Fund. The builders met this target with a bit of imagination, providing temporary barriers at the edges and an aluminium ladder. The first ringing on the new balcony was for Easter Day by a combination of the Newport and Linford bands and subsequent wedding bands have been reinforced by welcome help from Olney.

All this activity has focussed a great deal of attention on the tower, the bells and the ringers at Newport. The congregation, clergy and PCC are taking a real interest now in the ringing environment at Newport, and the development of ringing in the Newport Deanery. The builders' work is nearing completion. The ringers' work is just beginning.

Doug Hird

Olney Bells Project

With only news of the grant application to the Foundation for Sport and the Arts to come the Olney Bells Project is close to being fully funded. We have received two grants totalling £7,020 from the Guild, a grant of £17,800 from the Bucks Historic Churches Trust and a grant of £28,400 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The public appeal is now showing a total of over £61,000 and funds are still being received; please



remember that the appeal has only been running for a little over six months.

The actual grant received from the Heritage Lottery Fund was £35,500 with £28,400 going to the main project. The additional £7,100 is to fund additional works such as a new history of the Church and bells, an audio visual recording of the project, mobile displays for talks and exhibitions, etc.

Once our current issue with the clock is resolved the petition for faculty will be submitted next week and work is due to start on the project on the 21st July with the bells due to come out of the tower during week commencing 18th August. A deposit has already been paid to preserve the price of the two new bells and we look forward to visiting Whitechapel to see them cast during the summer.

So it is currently planned that the last practice night on the existing installation will be Monday 14th July and the last Service ringing at 9.20am on Sunday 20th July.

David Phillipson

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

NORTH BUCKS BRANCH

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

held at Olney on 1st March 2008

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman, Richard Stanworth, welcomed everyone to Olney for the Annual Meeting and thanked them for coming.

Apologies for Absence

Received from Jon Chamberlain (Guild Master), Hilarie Rogers (Guild Secretary), Chrissie Cable, and Vicky Stanworth.

Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes of the Autumn Meeting held at Buckingham in September had been published in the November edition of *In Touch*. Alan Marchbank proposed and Barry Eglesfield seconded that they be signed as a true record.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Chairman reported that the new membership information forms were beginning to arrive from members and reminded members that these needed to be completed so that the Branch can contact members directly rather than relying on the tower correspondents to pass things on. The Secretary had spare forms available at the meeting if required.

Election of New Members

Nominations had been received proposing two new members

Whaddon—Steven Stokes
Proposed Derek White, Seconded Ann Stokes
Hanslope—Sue Galloway
Proposed Sheila Blenkhorn, Seconded Roy Keeves

Both were elected without dissent. The Chairman asked those present to stand and they were welcomed to the Guild and Branch.

Election of Honorary Members

The Chairman proposed from the chair that Derek and Anne Stainsby be elected Honorary Members of the Guild. Derek and Anne were elected members in 1974. Derek had served the Branch in a number of posts. He was a Guild Rep from 1976 to 1981, Assistant Ringing Master from 1978 to 1979, and Ringing Master from 1981 to 1988. The Chairman felt sure that he wouldn't have been able to do all this without the support of Anne and he was pleased to formally propose their election. This was seconded by Tine Marchbank and they were elected unanimously by the meeting. The Chairman presented a testimonial certificate to Derek recording his election

as an Honorary Member, along with a similar certificate for Anne.

Derek thanked the meeting and spoke about his early ringing. He was one of the '43ers', learning to ring in 1943 at Edenham in Lincolnshire, so he first joined the Lincoln Diocesan Guild. He moved around for a while before joining the Southwell Guild when he settled at Radcliffe on Trent. In 1970 they moved to Milton Keynes, eventually joining the Oxford Guild. Anne came from Bedford and began ringing 50 or more years ago, learning her ringing with Eddie Jeffries, Steven Ivin and others of that era. Derek said how he always enjoyed the company and ringing locally and again thanked everyone. This was responded to with applause.

Officers Reports

The Chairman proposed to consider each report as printed in the February edition of *In Touch* (and included in the Appendices to the minutes).

Chairman – (Appendix A) - No questions

Secretary – (Appendix B) – No questions

Treasurer – (Appendix C) – Sheila Watts summarised briefly the highlights. Some late subs had been paid in the last week and so membership was now 184, although only 177 subs were recorded in the accounts for 2007. Costs for *In Touch* had come down considerably. This would be discussed in a later item on the agenda.

Brian Newman proposed and Derek Stainsby seconded that the accounts be adopted. This was approved by a show of hands. The Chairman thanked Sheila Watts for her work in preparing the accounts.

Ringing Master – (Appendix D) – No questions

Training Officer – (Appendix E) – The Chairman commented that he felt that the last sentence of this report was coloured by the lack of response that Chrissie had got from members. He was not convinced that saying that we don't need a Training Officer was necessarily the right thing to do. This would give out the wrong message to members as the training of ringers is one of the aims of the Guild. We should be trying to do something about training, even if we are not having a lot of success. We may need to look at other ways of offering training.

Guild Representatives – (Appendix F) – No questions

Branch Archivist – (Appendix G) - No questions

In Touch – Review of finance and distribution

The Chairman began by thanking both Sheila Watts and Sheila Ware for their work in producing a very good quality Branch newsletter.

Last year time was spent discussing how to cut the

cost of *In Touch* because it was costing more than the Branch's annual income. The changes agreed last year had achieved savings and cut the cost by nearly a half. The accounts actually didn't show a full year's savings as the first edition of 2007 was produced under the old system with a lot more copies being printed. Financially the changes have saved our bacon. The Chairman asked the members present to say if the current distribution was working. This consists of one printed copy being sent to every tower and an electronic version being available on the Branch web site for anyone who wants to download their own copy.

David Joyce commented that, whilst he understood the need for 'sanitising' the version of *In Touch* on the web site (removing addresses etc), he wondered if the full version could be made available to members only. Sheila Watts asked if every member was getting to see a copy of *In Touch*.

Sheila Blenkhorn commented that at Hanslope they missed having several copies in the tower which could be browsed when ringers were sitting out on a practice night.

A number of suggestions were made regarding increasing the number of printed copies sent to towers with large numbers of members, however this would increase production costs and it was unclear at what level of membership a tower should receive an additional copy. Sheila Blenkhorn suggested adding 50p to the subscription to cover the additional costs. This idea was rejected by others as charging members extra for communicating with them.

David Joyce proposed that the new committee should consider providing towers with large numbers of members with extra copies of *In Touch*, determining the number of extra copies with regard to the extra cost of providing them.

The editors were concerned that the number of additional copies be limited in order to avoid the previous complexity with posting many different numbers of copies. Sheila Blenkhorn expressed concern that a lot of effort went into producing *In Touch* and this was being wasted if it wasn't getting to members. David Phillipson thought that, as at least one member of each tower would have internet access, they could download *In Touch* and print copies for their tower as required. There was concern that this merely shifted the cost from cheap photo copying to expensive printing which the tower correspondent would then need to get funded. There was also some discussion on providing additional copies for towers in return for a donation. This was thought to be too discriminatory.

Alan Marchbank then seconded the earlier proposal as he didn't see that this would be solved during the meeting. This was put to a vote and carried by a large majority.

David Joyce requested that thanks to Sheila Watts and Sheila Ware be recorded for their work on producing *In Touch*. The Chairman asked members to show their appreciation in the usual manner and enthusiastic applause followed.

Election of Officers

Chairman—Richard Stanworth

Proposed Brian Newman, Seconded Sheila Watts

Secretary—Helen Stanworth

Proposed Sheila Blenkhorn, Seconded Ros Tyrell

Treasurer—Sheila Watts

Proposed Alan Marchbank, Seconded Barry Eglesfield

Ringling Master—Barry Eglesfield

Proposed David Phillipson, Seconded Doug Hird

Asst Ringling Master—No Nominations

Training Officer—No Nominations

Guild Representative—Alan Marchbank

Proposed David Phillipson, Seconded Sheila Ware

Guild Representative—Brian Newman

Proposed Roy Keeves, Seconded Alex Marchbank

Branch Archivist—Doug Hird

Proposed David Joyce, Seconded Barry Eglesfield

Newsletter Editor—Sheila Watts

Proposed Sheila Blenkhorn, Seconded Jonathan Griggs

All were elected unopposed

There was some discussion about the need for a Training Officer with an idea of appointing a recruiting officer. Recruitment was generally done at a tower level rather than at Branch level. However it was clear that some towers are better at this than others and there was scope to share ideas about successful recruiting methods between towers. Alan Marchbank commented that we also needed to recruit members to be involved with the Branch as currently it is the same group of people running the Branch, they have just swapped posts.

David Joyce proposed that the officers be empowered to co-opt members to the vacant posts until such time as elections can be held. There was general agreement from the meeting.

The Chairman thanked all the officers who had served in the past year, especially to Chrissie Cable for her work for the Branch, as she was not continuing as an officer.

The Chairman also asked for volunteers to come forward to fill the vacant posts, or if anyone could help with just a part of running the Branch, such as organising one training course during the year, then that would help out.

Forthcoming Events

An up to date Calendar of events had been distributed before the meeting. The Chairman drew attention to the Open Day being organised to raise funds for the Olney Bells Appeal and asked for volunteers to sign the list being circulated if they could help with stewarding.

Other events through to July were nearly all confirmed. Some changes to the calendar were highlighted. The Towcester Branch had asked to move the Inter Branch Competition to the last Saturday in June. This was probably a good idea as the first Saturday in July, when it was held last year, would this year coincide with the British Grand Prix weekend at Silverstone.

The joint practice with the Towcester Branch was

confirmed at Downs Barn for November.
The Guild Eight Bell Competition would be held in the Reading Branch at Tilehurst at the beginning of May with the test piece being a touch of Double Norwich Court Bob Major.

Leaflets advertising the Ringing World Roadshow to be held at Stoneleigh in Warwickshire were to be distributed to all towers.

Our Branch will be hosting the Guild Six bell Competition at the beginning of October and it is proposed to hold heats at Wavendon and Woughton if required, with the final at Milton Keynes Village.

Any Other Business

Terry Page asked that, if the meeting was not to be held in the Church, then the venue should be advertised in advance, as not everyone was able to get to the afternoon ringing beforehand. The

Chairman would ensure that this was done in future.

Vote of Thanks

David Joyce commented that the Chairman had thanked all the other officers for their work for the Branch during the year and added that the Chairman should be thanked as well. He then continued with specific thanks to Rev Philip Davies for taking the Service, the organist Nick Reid, those who had prepared the Service sheet, and to David Phillipson, Chas Knight and all the Olney Ringers for a superb tea. The members showed their appreciation in the usual way.

The Chairman asked that if anyone could take envelopes with posters for their towers, then please collect them from the Secretary.

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 18:45

North Bucks Branch—Calendar 2008

MAY	16	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Stedman Doubles	Shalstone
	17		<i>Guild AGM</i>	<i>Witney & Woodstock Branch</i>
JUNE	7	4.30	Summer Social	Maids Moreton
	20	7.30	Branch Six-Bell Striking Competition	Stoke Goldington
	28		Inter-Branch Striking Competition	Wicken
JULY	18*	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Duffield Major	Newport Pagnell
AUGUST	15*	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Durham Surprise Minor	Chicheley
SEPTEMBER	13*	3.30	Autumn Meeting	Shenley
OCTOBER	4		<i>Six Bell Striking Competition</i>	<i>North Bucks Branch</i>
NOVEMBER	1		<i>Steeple Aston Course</i>	<i>Steeple Aston</i>
	15	7.30	Joint Practice	Downs Barn
	22		<i>Ten Bell Striking Competition</i>	<i>Old North Berks Branch</i>
	22		<i>Autumn General Committee Meeting</i>	<i>Old North Berks Branch</i>

Items marked * were unconfirmed as at 6 May 2008
Events in *italics* are Guild events, etc.

We will always ring Plain Hunt, Plain Bob and Grandsire at any Branch practice for those who request it, so don't be put off if you can't ring the special method. This is merely a focus for those who wish to try something different.