



# HEADSTOCK

The Newsletter of the  
Bedford District of the  
Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers

**January 2016**  
**(including October 2015)**

## Web Version

This version of Headstock has photographs with reduced quality.

It also has contact details of people removed.  
Personal contact details can be found in your Tower's copy of  
Headstock, or in the latest Annual Report.

## **From the Chairman**

As we hold our Annual District Meeting it is appropriate to thank the officers and other District Committee members for their work throughout the year and particularly in this context Maureen Hall for putting together Headstock and organising its distribution.

Bob Jones has been the District Secretary for many years and as well as the more obvious minute and correspondence duties takes on most of the contact role with the towers of our District with regard to arranging the activities identified for our District Programme. We thank everybody who has hosted events in the past year and hope that those requested feel able to host us in the coming year.

Jenny Thompson has been District Treasurer for even longer and regularly points out that it would be quite possible for somebody else to do the job. Please make her job easier by letting her have your annual subscriptions as soon as possible (if you haven't already).

James Saunders does not always have an easy job as District Ringing Master. Sometimes a shortage of ringers makes running a ringing meeting challenging and just occasionally the high number of ringers present is a challenge. The weight and difficulty of some bells in relation to those present can make it difficult to achieve good striking without repeatedly making use of the more experienced ringers present, but great efforts are made to ensure everybody gets a reasonable amount of ringing. Also, anybody is welcome to make a ringing request if there is something in particular they have learnt and would like to try and ring, subject to a band being available.

Other activities such as the District Striking Contest and the District Outing are annual events for which others generally accept organisational responsibility at each ADM. Talking of striking contest I should mention that our District has the current Association cup holders, Kempston, and that our young ringers won the Melville Cup competition against the other Association districts this year. May good quality striking continue this year.

*Alex Nash*  
*District Chairman*

## **Bedford District Programme of Meetings and Events 2016**

This is a provisional programme, for confirmation see The Ringing World or phone the Secretary, Bob Jones.

16 Jan 2016:	Biddenham Annual District Meeting Afternoon Ringing, Service, Tea, 6.00 pm Business Meeting Evening Ringing	4.00 – 9.00 pm
6 Feb 2016:	Carlton Afternoon Ringing	2.00 – 4.00 pm
5 Mar 2016:	Felmersham Evening Ringing	7.00 – 9.00 pm
6-13 Mar 2016	Quarter Peal Week	
2 Apr 2016:	Kempston Quarterly District Meeting Afternoon Ringing, Service, Tea, 6.00 pm Business Meeting Evening Ringing	4.00 – 9.00 pm

### **Future Events**

7 May 2016:	District Outing	
21 May 2016	Bedford St Paul's Association Annual General Meeting	

### **Young Ringers' Events**

2 July 2016: Ringing World National Youth Contest

For details of eligibility and practices being held in the run-up to this event, see the Association website [www.bacr.co.uk](http://www.bacr.co.uk) or contact Sue Silver [president@bacr.co.uk](mailto:president@bacr.co.uk).

## **Report of Bedford Quarterly District Meeting on 4 July 2015**

The meeting took place at the church of All Saints in Turvey. Alex Nash was in the Chair and he thanked David Nightingale, Churchwarden, for arranging for the use of the Church and facilities. There were no deceased members reported. The minutes of the April 2015 Quarterly Meeting at Riseley were read and accepted. Under Matters Arising it was stated that there had been no action at the Association AGM regarding the administration of the RJ Sharp Fund, or the Association Bell Fund.

Richard Hillson pointed out that the Bedford District Representatives did not have an opportunity to seek the views of the members. The General Committee has no power of veto over the decisions of the Trustees, and the Members delegate their voice to the District representatives by electing them. The BRF stood at £17,181.86 with no grants applied for, or outstanding. Recent events were reported on, most already mentioned in the July Headstock. Alex thanked Adrienne Sharp for organising a good day out for the District Outing on 2 May. Bedfordshire came third in the Ridgman Trophy competition at Wisbech on 6 June.

## **Report of Bedford Quarterly District Meeting on 3 October 2015**

The meeting was held at the church of St Owen in Bromham. Chairman Alex Nash thanked Revd Linda Bond for conducting the service and allowing us the use of the bells and other facilities, also Derek Hammond for playing the organ, and all those responsible for providing the tea.

No deceased members were reported, however a non-member, Sandra Nightingale, had been responsible for encouraging many young ringers at Turvey over a long period of time. She and David were present at the Young Ringers' striking contest with four youngsters from Turvey only days before the road crash in which she was killed. The meeting stood in silence in her memory.

The minutes of the July 2015 Quarterly Meeting at Turvey were read and accepted. Recent events were reported on. James Saunders mentioned that attendance at ringing meetings has been disappointing. As Ringing Master, he is keen to encourage ringers of all abilities, but this is difficult if there are insufficient experienced ringers to form the steady basis required for learners to progress.

## Young Ringers in Bedfordshire

### The Whitechapel Trophy (Ringing World National Youth Contest)

The Whitechapel Trophy is an annual countrywide eight bell striking contest for young ringers. This year's contest was held in Oxford on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July with 19 teams from as far afield as Scotland and the Isle of Wight taking part. The whole day is a day out with not only the striking contest but also a treasure hunt, handbell activities and other towers open for ringing.

Bedfordshire went into the contest as defending champions. Six of the winning band from last year rang again this year with the other two being the reserves from last year. Our ringers came from six different six and eight bell towers, including at least one from each of Bedfordshire Association's three Districts. Bedfordshire made it a hat-trick of victories, graded A\* ahead of A rated Derbyshire, Sussex and G&B (Gloucester and Bristol).

### Ongoing activities

There is a background of ongoing activities that helped build towards this. There is a monthly practice that rotates through different locations at which any young ringer from an Association tower is welcome. This is usually attended by in excess of 15 young ringers from eight different towers or more. The practices have been running for about three years and the half-time break for refreshments has evolved to permit the 'taxi drivers' to drink tea almost throughout the two hour session. Whilst the sessions are adult led, the ringing is for the young ringers with adults restricted to making up the numbers for the occasional more complex piece. Some of the young ringers get opportunities to ring things they do not at their home towers, others the chance to reinforce what they are currently working on. Young ringers are of course welcome at general ringing meetings and other Association activities as well.

### Melville Cup

Once a year, in September, the young ringers become rivals as they compete representing their Districts in the Melville Cup, a rounds striking contest started in 2008 and won at least once by each District. It is held prior to the Association striking competition. This year the contests were held at Clifton. Young ringers from Turvey, Oakley and St Andrew's,

Bedford made up our District band and a couple of our other District ringers helped make up the numbers in the Biggleswade band and a scratch band that also rang. I am pleased to report that Bedford District emerged from the District bands as the winners ahead of the Luton District.

*Alex Nash*  
*Chairman*



The Bedfordshire Young Ringers' Team with the Whitechapel Trophy

### **Subscriptions**

Subscriptions are now due for payment, which has to be made before the Association Annual General Meeting on 21 May. The subscription for resident ringing members over the age of 19 is £10 per year, the rate for under-19s is £2.50. If you are a UK taxpayer and pay the full £10 annual subscription, please consider signing a "Gift Aid Declaration" so that the Association can claim back the tax on it. A form for doing this can be downloaded from the Association website [www.bacr.co.uk](http://www.bacr.co.uk).

## **Miriam's 50 years as Elstow Tower Captain**

On Sunday 21 June a special celebration was held to congratulate Miriam Clark on her 50 years as Tower Captain at Elstow; also her 89<sup>th</sup> birthday a few days earlier on 15 June. Following the Matins service a very good surprise Sunday lunch was enjoyed in Joyce and Bill's tea garden where Miriam was joined by a few close and long standing ringing friends. This was followed by a special Evensong conducted by Rev Stephen Smith and attended by about a hundred friends from the Elstow congregations and ringing fraternity. The readings, prayers, and address were specially prepared and given by some of Miriam's close friends and the service included some of her favourite hymns. Tea and a fine selection of cakes, prepared and served by ringers and friends, followed the service, while those attending signed a congratulatory framed picture of Elstow Bell Tower and reminisced over old times. The day concluded with a celebratory Quarter Peal on the bells.

I would like to thank the many people who helped with the organisation, participated in the service, and provided refreshments, which contributed to such an enjoyable occasion. I would especially like to thank my partner Sarah-Louise who was largely responsible for the overall organisation. Unfortunately our attempts to keep the event a surprise for Miriam were a little too effective, and I understand a few people were not informed and did not receive the open invitation. If this was the case, please accept our apologies.

The address from Miriam's service is printed below.

I would like to thank you all for joining us this afternoon in what I think is quite a unique celebration. As far as I am aware, there are very few if any people who have served the same church as Tower Captain of the Bell Ringers for 50 years, either in Bedfordshire, or indeed further afield. So firstly, we all congratulate Miriam on this magnificent and possibly unique achievement.

As you will have heard, from Stephen, and in Mavis's prayers, it is not only as Tower Captain that Miriam has given such dedicated service to this church. The number of people here this afternoon, both from the Elstow Abbey morning and evening congregations and from the Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers, is surely an appreciation, and testament to her years of very dedicated service.



Many of you will know that two or three years ago Miriam suffered a fall whilst engaged in her other hobby; that of bowling, (it is interesting perhaps that both her hobbies require an ability to strike accurately!). Following the fall and her subsequent recovery Miriam decided to take active retirement from both bowling and ringing. So sadly for the last few years she has been unable to join us in the ringing chamber, although she retains a firm grip on all matters concerning Elstow ringing and has maintained a keen interest, continuing to organise us from the ground floor to ensure that ringing continues, and matters are kept in good order.

Indeed there is not much, if anything concerning Elstow Abbey and the ringing here that escapes Miriam's attention. It occurs to me that this service is possibly the only event that has done so during the last fifty years! So many thanks to all of you who managed to keep it quiet until today, and especially to Stephen Smith, Tracey Hinson, Stephen MacDonald (our Team Vicar, Churchwarden, and Organist respectively), Barbara Routledge, Ann Desics, Sarah, and the Evensong congregation who not only colluded in making the arrangements, but also rescheduled the Evensong without a notice appearing in the pew sheet or magazine, that might have given the game away.

I could not allow this occasion to pass without giving you a little history of Miriam's ringing career. Miriam spent her childhood in Great Barford attending the Bedford Girls' Modern School (later Dame Alice Harpur). She learnt to ring after the war time ban ended in 1943 at Tempsford, and I believe that she was taught by Reg Houghton. (Reg and Flo Houghton were stalwart members of the Biggleswade District over many years and seldom if ever missed a monthly meeting. I well remember them and the old Standard Eight car in which they travelled to ringing events.)

Miriam's name first appears in the Bedfordshire Association Annual Report in 1946 (the first report following the war). She is listed under Tempsford alongside fellow ringers Mildred Hull (her Aunt), Berril Bull, Joan Harding, Florance Read and Reg Houghton. The Tempsford pre-war band had also included several very notable Bedfordshire ringers including Eddie Jeffries, Bryan Simms and Henry Harding, their absence from Tempsford in the 1946 report presumably attributable to war service.

Miriam continued to ring at Tempsford until 1950 when she is listed under Great Barford alongside her Aunt, now Mildred Marshall, who shortly after became Tower Captain at Goldington. For much of the early 50s Miriam was the only ringer recorded at Great Barford although I am sure there were other ringers there. It was in 1957 when Miriam was first listed as a ringer at Elstow, so she had been ringing the bells at Elstow for some 55 years before she stopped ringing.

The other ringers at Elstow at this time included Peter Burr who was Tower Captain, Jim Norton (whose son Michael later became Vicar), Gordon Goodwin, Herbert Gill, Felicity and David Prole, and Frank Webb all Elstow names who a few of you with long Elstow associations may recall.

By 1959 the tower captaincy had transferred to Bob Huckle, and it was at about this time that the band began to develop with the addition of several members who became capable and in a few cases quite prolific ringers. Marion Clark (later Marion Bray), Martyn Marriott (who read the second lesson for us and whose father was People's Warden here for many years, commemorated by the book case at the rear of the church), Kate Rivett, Bob Law (who was later ordained priest), Susan Law, Susan Fowkes, Don Jowett (who later served as Verger) and Rodney French to name a few of them.

Miriam was very much at the centre of things and Martyn recalls that as the only car owner (a red Austin 1100 registration 435 JTM) she frequently transported other members of the band to all parts of the county for Saturday bell ringing meetings and mid week practices at other towers.

Miriam took over from Bob as Tower Captain in 1965 at a time when Elstow ringing was probably at its best and shortly following major restoration of the tower in 1964, an event commemorated on a peal board in the tower that was in fact Miriam's last peal (more of which later). A wide range of methods were rung in those days for both Sunday services (I especially recall Oxford Treble Bob, Woodbine, College Exercise, and Single Oxford), and the Friday night practices were generally a sell-out, with barely sufficient space in the ringing chamber to accommodate everyone. This could be somewhat problematic, especially in the winter months when the centrally located paraffin heater belched paraffin fumes into the room, and following installation of the ringing chamber ceiling in 1964, the bells were

broadcast over a home built valve amplifier system that created a sound rather like a second hand juke box!

Miriam presided over the introduction of a large number of young ringers; mainly Wilf Taylor's cast-offs from the choir, whose voices had broken and who had perhaps become a little too unmanageable to be passed off as angelic choir boys! Of course there was also the attraction of wedding ringing fees to supplement pocket money!

Alan and Martin Norman, Stephen and Trevor Robinson, Rosemary and Chris Hartley, Richard and Robert Wood, Stephen and David Stanford, Chris and Michael Chapman, Philip and Michael Barnicott, Stephen Chilvers, and Simon Billars to name some of them. Most of these were taught to ring by Bob Huckle and Martyn Marriott, and the regular visitors such as Bob Piron. It is a tribute to their efforts and Miriam's captaincy, that eight of these remain as ringers at various churches across the country today (it would be nine had it not been for the tragic passing of dear Robert Wood in late 2013 – please do take a look at the lovely seat installed to his memory under the tower window if you have not already seen it).

Miriam was always encouraging – transporting many of us to district meetings and practices, and for many years – until after the time that I left for university – there was the familiar small package each Christmas containing a Ringer's Diary; a subtle hint to learn a few of the methods contained within it!

Elstow ringing, as in many places, has waxed and waned over the years, but one way or another Miriam has ensured the ringing has continued, and there has seldom been a period, other than perhaps in the early 2000s after the change in Sunday morning service times, when there was not ringing for both Sunday services, Friday night practice, and for any weddings and funerals requiring it. This has been in addition to dealing with requests from visiting bands, and keeping the finances in order. So we are very grateful for all that Miriam has done. It is by no means an easy task over such a lengthy period. Without Miriam, and others like her, there would surely be many more silent bell towers than there sadly are.

In addition to her role as Elstow Tower Captain, Miriam served on the Bedfordshire Association Bedford District Committee for many years (between 1960 and 1974).

Miriam has also of course served in many roles at Elstow, most notably perhaps as Churchwarden, I think spanning four incumbencies – those of Michael Norton, John Tibbs, Richard Huband, and Jeremy Crocker – approaching some 25 years in all. So she has seen a few Vicars off during that time! John Tibbs and Richard Huband were unfortunately unable to attend today, but both send their thanks and very best wishes to you Miriam for all that you did during their times here.

I should also mention Miriam's membership and continued participation in the Bedfordshire Young Ringers group (yes you did hear me correctly!). After 70 years you can still be a young ringer, apparently. The group started in the late 40s – travelling to ringing holidays around the country, often by bicycle and staying in church halls and youth hostels. Most are now over 80 and they still meet each year, for a day of ringing and reminiscing. They have visited Elstow on several occasions in recent times. Miriam is also a keen participant with the Bedford District Tail-Enders, a retired group for local ringers who visit a different church each month for some ringing and a pub lunch.

As the ringers amongst us will know, one benchmark of ringing is the number and complexity of full peals rung. A full peal requires around three hours of ringing without a break and without significant error or repetition of the changes (it's rather like a well known radio panel game, but lasting about 180 times longer!). Well, I have found seven peals that Miriam has rung in (so one for each of her ten years as a ringer), her last being here at Elstow in 1964 as I have mentioned. She rang her first peal at Eaton Socon on 27 December 1947; the second to Plain Bob Minor with Henry Harding conducting. It was also the first peal for Lionel Clarke and Leslie Mardin and the other ringers were Bryan Simms ringing the tenor and Charles Blain on the treble. Other peals have been at Stagsden, Old Warden, Cardington, Maulden and Silsoe.

So there you have it – just a little of Miriam's long and varied ringing career, much of which it would be impossible for me to recount here.

So Miriam, many thanks from all of us for all you have done here at Elstow, and especially for the ringing, and once again many congratulations on completing 50 years as Tower Captain.

*Stephen Stanford*



Miriam's Celebratory Lunch in the Elstow Tea Garden  
(Miriam is fourth from left)

### **Bedfordshire Association**

On Sunday 21 June 2015 in 43 mins

**A Quarter Peal; 1320 Oxford Treble Bob Minor**

1. Ann M Fletcher
2. Rosemary A Maddocks
3. Andrew J Spencer
4. Martyn J Marriott
5. David I Stanford
6. Stephen H Stanford (Conductor)

Specially arranged to congratulate Miriam Clark on achieving 50 years as Tower Captain at this church, and also for her 89th birthday (15 June).

Also coincidentally on the 48th anniversary of Rosemary's first QP (Plain Bob Doubles) rung on these bells and conducted by Martyn.

## Tailenders' Programme for 1st Quarter of 2016

### Tuesday 12 January

#### **Carlton**

11.00 am – 12 noon, The Church of St Mary  
6 bells, 9-2-7 cwt in Ab

Lunch at The Bell, Odell

Arranged by Martin Barratt  
Ringing Master: Barbara Woplin

### Tuesday 9 February

#### **Bedford**

11.00 am – 12 noon, The Church of St Andrew  
8 bells, 5-2-22 in B

Lunch at The Pheasant, Kimbolton Road, Bedford

Arranged by Ann Boyle  
Ringing Master: Richard Entwistle

### Tuesday 8 March

#### **Oakley**

11.00 am – 12 noon, The Church of St Mary  
6 bells, 10-0-2 in G

Lunch at The Prince of Wales, Bromham

Arranged by Barbara Woplin  
Ringing Master: Derek Hammond

If you have previously indicated that you will attend a monthly meeting and find that you are unable to do so, please let the organiser know.

## Tailenders' Report 2015

July was an overcast damp day but the churchyard at **Abington**, where we had our morning ring, was a picture. The two lady volunteer gardeners were just putting the finishing touches to it as we arrived, prior to an inspection for the best churchyard competition.



The church is very well appointed with everything looking cared for. The ground floor ringing chamber and the bells were no exception. They went very well with a lovely bright sound and we enjoyed ringing them. We managed a course of Cambridge minor, Grandsire doubles, Plain Bob doubles and minor as

well as a touch of Stedman doubles.

Lunch was at The Trumpet in Weston Favell. The beer was good and the food was cheap (£10 for 2 main courses or £12 if you ordered steak) and mostly OK, although the people who ordered the steak were a bit disappointed. Everyone else was quite happy with their meals.

In the afternoon we rang at **Ecton**. The stairs to the ringing chamber were a little narrow but the ringing chamber was very interesting with boards and pictures dating back several centuries. The front four bells went well but the 5th and 6th were a bit harder to ring well.



Many thanks to Dorothy Kirby for organising everything so efficiently.

The Tailenders' August meeting was at **Renhold**. The six bells went quite well but they seem to ring heavier than their weight would suggest, particularly the tenor, which caused some problems.

Several touches were rung of Grandsire, Plain Bob and Stedman doubles as well as Oxford Treble Bob, Plain Bob and Cambridge minor. The striking varied but, unusually, all the touches came round.



Lunch was at The Toby Inn on Goldington Road.

Many thanks to Felicity Evans who organised everything very efficiently.

Our September ringing took place in the small village of **North Crawley**. The bells are a ground floor six with very springy ropes and they are not the easiest bells to ring. Several ropes were far too short and we were unable to find any boxes so some ropes had to be lengthened.



We managed to ring touches of Plain Bob and Grandsire doubles with experienced bands but most of the ringing was rounds and call changes.

Lunch was at the Prince of Wales in Bromham where we had our normal friendly welcome. The beer was excellent and the food was very good value at £10.50 for two main courses with superb chips.

Thanks to Richard and Susan Entwistle for organising everything so efficiently.



Our tower for October was **Westoning** which few of us had visited before. It is tucked away off the main road and is set well back by itself. We were made very welcome by the locals who kindly provided tea and coffee.



The bells are a relatively heavy six but with a good go and we enjoyed ringing them. We made a good job of Plain Bob, St Martin's and Grandsire and rang a very good touch of Plain Bob Minor, definitely Striking Competition standard.

We adjourned to the Cross Keys in Pulloxhill for lunch. This is a very pleasant rural pub and the food was delicious and reasonably priced. A place to revisit!

Our thanks go to Lynn and Martin Goodwin for organising this.



In November the Tailenders went to visit the newly rehung bells at **Bletsoe**. Thanks to a Lottery Heritage grant, and a lot of fundraising by the locals, the ringing chamber is greatly improved. The bright white walls and the rehung

circle make ringing there a much more enjoyable experience than in the recent past. There is also the excitement of being on TV as cameras in the ringing room and belfry transmit action pictures to a large split screen TV down in the main body of the church.

We rang touches of Plain Bob doubles and minor, Grandsire doubles and Oxford treble bob with the striking improving as the time went on. There was some really decent ringing towards the end.

Lunch was at The Queen's Head in Milton Ernest. The food was very reasonably priced and everyone seemed happy with their meals. They also had some excellent seasonal beer on tap.

Many thanks to Richard Hillson for organising everything so capably.



Our last meeting of 2015 was at **Silsoe**. The bells went nicely and there was some good, well-struck ringing. We rang Plain Bob minor and doubles, Cambridge minor, Grandsire doubles, Stedman doubles and a very nice course of Oxford treble bob.

Our Christmas lunch was at The Jolly Coopers in Wardhedges. The three course lunch plus coffee and mince pies was very good value at £16.95 a head and the food was well cooked and presented with enough choice to please everyone.

It was a very successful end to the year and we are very grateful to Chris and Julia Catlin for making all the arrangements so efficiently.



Tailenders' 2015  
Christmas Lunch  
at Wardhedges

## Tailenders' Report 2016

2016 started with one of our local towers, **Carlton**, chosen primarily because we could arrange to have the heating on in the church, always a good thing for non-ringers during the winter meetings.



The bells are easy to ring and go very well so we expected some good ringing. A lot of methods were rung from Plain Bob doubles and minor and Grandsire doubles to Oxford Treble Bob minor, Double Oxford Bob minor and then finishing with Stedman doubles and down.

Lunch was at The Bell in Odell which is under new management with a different style of menu. The meals were all attractively presented, very tasty and everyone was happy with their choices. The beer was also very well kept with a good selection to choose from.

Altogether a good start to the year.

## Association Striking Contests on 19 September 2016

The Association Striking Contests were held at Clifton. The judges were Nick Hughes and Chris McCarthy from Bishops Stortford.

### **Melville Cup Striking Competition for Young Ringers**

There were four bands entered, one was a "scratch band" formed so that all the youngsters could have a ring. The scratch band had the best striking but the Cup was awarded to Bedford District.

The scoring was based on the number of clean rows rather than faults.

<b>Place</b>	<b>Band</b>	<b>Rang</b>	<b>Score</b>
1	"Scratch band"	4	90
2	Bedford District	2	81
3	Luton District	3	70
4	Biggleswade District	1	37

### **St Peter's Cup - Association Six Bell Striking Competition**

Five bands took part after Eaton Socon had to stand down.

<b>Place</b>	<b>Band</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>Rang</b>	<b>Score</b>
1	Kempston	Grandsire Doubles	3	14
2	Linslade	Bob Minor	2	23
3	Dunstable	Grandsire Doubles	4	26
4	Bromham	Bob Doubles	1	35
5	Campton	Bob Doubles	5	66

Andrew Keech receiving the St Peter's Cup, on behalf of the winning Kempston band, from Chris McCarthy and Nick Hughes.

*Photo: Terry Brown*



## Record of Past Events of 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2015

### **Bedford District Programme of Meetings and Events 2015**

3 Oct 2015:	Bromham Quarterly District Meeting Afternoon Ringing, Service, Tea, 6.00 pm Business Meeting Evening Ringing	3.30 – 8.30 pm
7 Nov 2015:	Renhold Afternoon Ringing	2.00 – 4.00 pm
5 Dec 2015:	Bedford St Andrew's Evening Ringing	7.00 – 9.00 pm

### **Tailenders' Programme for 4th Quarter of 2015**

#### Tuesday 13 October

##### **Westoning**

11.00 am – 12 noon, The Church of St Mary Magdalene  
6 bells, 11-1-18 cwt in F#  
Lunch at The Cross Keys, Pulloxhill  
Arranged by Lynn and Martin Goodwin  
Ringing Master: Barbara Woplin

#### Tuesday 10 November

##### **Bletsoe**

11.00 am – 12 noon, The Church of St Mary  
6 bells, 11-0-16 in F#  
Lunch at The Queen's Head, Milton Ernest  
Arranged by Richard Hillson  
Ringing Master: Derek Hammond

#### Tuesday 8 December

##### **Silsoe**

11.00 am – 12 noon, The Church of St James the Great  
6 bells, 6-1-9 in B  
Christmas Lunch at The Jolly Coopers, Wardhedges  
Arranged by Chris Catlin  
Ringing Master: Martin Barratt

## **From the Editor**

Apologies for the fact that there was no October Headstock, due to illness.

If in any article the only contact details are a website or email address, and you do not have internet access, then in case of difficulty making contact please ask the Editor to make an initial contact on your behalf.

Views expressed in an article are those of its author. Articles may be edited.

Thanks go to the 'regular' contributors, also to Stephen Stanford for his report of Miriam Clark's celebration, to Terry Brown for details of the Striking Competitions, and to Bob Jones for the notes of the July and October QDMs.

The next Headstock will be distributed at the Quarterly District Meeting taking place on 2 April 2016 at Kempston.

Please send your articles, announcements etc by 24 March 2016. Your input is what makes Headstock what it is.

Maureen Hall  
Email: [maureensgpost@gmail.com](mailto:maureensgpost@gmail.com)

## **Headstock**

Headstock is issued quarterly and is available to all towers in the Bedford District at a cost of £1 per calendar year as a contribution towards printing costs, payable in January each year. The money is not being collected at present but contributions may be given to the District Bell Restoration Fund. Headstock is also available on the website of the Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers [www.bacr.co.uk](http://www.bacr.co.uk) but the web version has all personal contact details as well as surnames of young ringers removed. If your tower does not currently receive Headstock then please contact the Editor at the address above.

