



HEADSTOCK

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

January 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

The end of the year is quieter than average on the District programme. The weather tends not to be so conducive for outings and we sometimes even leave our churches after a practice to find it warmer outside than it was in. I hope though that everybody was busy ringing over Christmas for the additional services and people the season brings. It is probably the time, except perhaps for church weddings, when the general population most expects and indeed, for some, hope to hear our bells ringing. Hearing the church bells is a pleasure for many too often overshadowed in our minds by the fear of complaints about our ringing. That's not to say we shouldn't of course seek to have the best striking we can for the outside listeners to hear.

There is no flagship event, akin to the River Festival last year, in the District programme for 2015. There is the regular cycle of first Saturday ringing meetings interspersed with the established variations. Up to date programme information should be available on the Association website (<http://www.bedsbellringers.co.uk/>). What I think is worth reiterating is that everybody is welcome at our ringing meetings and all levels of ability from rounds and call changes upwards are catered for. The meetings can present a good opportunity to ring something with a band that may be stronger than your home tower band and can also be an interesting chance to ring on some different bells. Our Ringing Master, James Saunders, has to be thanked for his hard work running the ringing at our meetings, always with an eye to ensuring all abilities are catered for.

I must also thank the District Committee members for their work through the year. Outings, striking contests, ringing teas and even monthly ringing meetings do not happen without somebody giving up some time to organise them.

Alex Nash, District Chairman

Bedford District Programme of Meetings and Events 2015

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

- 17 Jan 2015: Cardington 4.00 – 8.30 pm
Annual District Meeting
Afternoon Ringing, Service, Tea,
6.00 pm Business Meeting, Evening Ringing
- 7 Feb 2015: Wilden 10.00 am – 12.00 noon
Morning Ringing
- 7 Mar 2015: Odell 7.00 – 9.00 pm
Evening Ringing
- 1-8 Mar 2015: Quarter Peal Week
- 18 Apr 2015: Riseley 3.30 – 6.30 pm
Quarterly District Meeting
Afternoon Ringing, Service, Tea,
6.00 pm Business Meeting
Sharnbrook: Evening Ringing 7.00 – 9.00 pm

Future Events

- 2 May 2015: District Outing
- 16 May 2015: Association AGM at Leighton Buzzard
- 6 June 2015: Ridgman Trophy at Wisbech
- 6 June 2015: District Striking Contests at Bletsoe
- 19 Sept 2015: Association Striking Contests at Haynes

Young Ringers' Events

- 11 July 2015: Oxford
National Young Ringers' Striking Competition

For details of eligibility and practices being held in the run-up to this event, see the Association website www.bacr.co.uk or contact Sue Silver president@bacr.co.uk.

Report of Bedford Quarterly District Meeting on 4 October 2014

Chairman Alex Nash opened the meeting at St Mary's, Goldington, by thanking Rev'd Richard Howlett for conducting the service and the Goldington band for hosting the meeting and providing the tea. In the absence of Bob Jones the minutes were taken by Andrew Dennison.

There were no deceased members, nor any matters arising or correspondence. Andrew reported that the BRF stands at £16,505. There was one member ratification. Alex reminded the meeting that nominations for the Eddie Jeffries Trophy for a young ringer were required by 31 December 2014.

The quarterly meeting with a picnic tea at Colmworth in July had been attended by around 20. At the National Young Ringers' Striking Competition the trophy was retained by Bedfordshire. The stand at the River Festival with the Charmborough Ring had again been a success with lots of people having a go at ringing, and Sarah Ward was thanked for the organisation. She said that she is unlikely to repeat the stand in future since the number of volunteers was too low. The meeting at Bletsoe in August was remarkable in that the ringing was recorded as the bells were to be removed the next day for refurbishing (as reported in last October's Headstock). Practices for young ringers were held during the summer holidays at Elstow, Keysoe, Turvey and Oakley. The practice at Stagsden in September was attended by 13 ringers in spite of the Ringing Roadshow taking place on the same day. Also in September 13 people took part in the Bike 'n' Hike for which sponsorship money was still being collected. The Association Striking Contest was reported on in the last Headstock. The programme to January 2015 was noted.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are now due for payment, which has to be made before the Association Annual General Meeting on 16 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.

Tailenders' Christmas Lunch 2014: The Prince of Wales, Bromham



Tailenders' Report 2014

Our October meeting was in the little village of Flitton. There are six bells rung from the ground floor in a normal sized village church, but this one has something extra. There is an enormous mausoleum, accessed from the chancel, where assorted members of the de Grey family are buried or remembered.



We are very grateful to Chris for arranging for the mausoleum to be opened specially for us as it is normally closed for the winter.



The bells are light and easy going and we managed to ring reasonable touches of Plain Bob doubles, Plain Bob minor, Grandsire doubles and Cambridge minor.

Lunch was at The Jolly Coopers in Wardhedges. This is a delightful pub serving well kept

beer and good food. We were seated in a separate, very attractive, room and the service was prompt and efficient. We will definitely be going there again.

Many thanks to Julia and Chris Catlin for organising today's meeting and introducing us to such a pleasant lunch venue.



We met up at Colmworth on 11th November and were greeted by a very welcome cup of coffee and biscuits. Thanks very much Felicity and Humphrey. The church is undergoing extensive rebuilding at the east end but this caused us no problems at the tower end of the church.

The tenor bell was rung 11 times at 11 o'clock, Derek read out a short prayer, and then there was a minute's silence to remember those lost in war.

The bells are a lovely light six and we always

enjoy ringing on them. There was a course of Cambridge minor, a touch of Plain Bob minor, a touch of Stedman doubles and a touch of Grandsire doubles. The ringing was generally good apart from a few minor lapses in concentration.

Our lunch was at The Pheasant on Kimbolton Road, Bedford. There was a funeral reception taking place as we arrived which meant that some of the beer ran out and needed changing but this was swiftly done and we were all sitting down and being served in good time. The meals were from the pensioners' menu which meant that they were good value and just the right size. Thanks go to Barbara Woplin for organising everything so ably.

Our last meeting of the year was at Bromham. The lovely eight bells are well known to many of us but nobody seemed in the mood for ringing. There were 15 in the ringing chamber but it was quite hard work to get eight of those people to stand up to ring. Grandsire triples, Plain Bob major and call changes were all rung.



It was a different story at The Prince of Wales. Twenty five of us sat down to a very good Christmas lunch. The food was served efficiently a table at a time with the sauces and extra gravy arriving with the meal rather than afterwards. The starters were plentiful and very tasty, the roast main courses

were all very well cooked and the desserts were also just right. Add some party hats and you have a very festive occasion.

Many thanks to Derek Hammond for organising everything so well.

Tailenders' Report 2015

We began the year ringing at the interesting church in Pavenham. The meeting was started with a minute's silence in memory of Dennis Hobbs, a member of Tailenders, who died on New Year's Eve.



The bells are a rustic five, which generally go quite well, but our members found them difficult to strike well on the day. Touches of Plain Bob and Grandsire doubles were attempted but without much success. The best ringing came at the end with a 9 bob touch of St Simon's Bob doubles and a course of Stedman doubles.

We were very grateful to the locals for laying on coffee and biscuits for us.

Lunch was at The Cock in Pavenham, a small but welcoming pub. The food was served promptly and everyone enjoyed their meal. The beer was also very well kept.

Thanks to Martin Barratt for organising today's meeting.

Tailenders' Programme for 1st Quarter of 2015

Tuesday 13 January

Pavenham

11.00 am – 12 noon, The Church of St Peter
5 bells, 9 cwt in A

Lunch at The Cock, Pavenham

Arranged by Martin Barratt
Ringing Master: Barbara Woplin

Tuesday 10 February

Maulden

11.00 am – 12 noon, The Church of St Mary
8 bells, 10-2-14 in F#

Lunch at The Dog and Badger, Maulden

Arranged by Lynn and Martin Goodwin
Ringing Master: Richard Entwistle

Tuesday 10 March

Milton Ernest

11.00 am – 12 noon, The Church of All Saints
6 bells, 9-1-1 in G

Lunch at The Falcon, Bletsoe, t.b.c.

Arranged by Ann Boyle
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.

From the Editor

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, as well as to Alex Nash for his Chairman's report, and to Bob Jones for his usual last minute help.

The next Headstock will be distributed at the Quarterly District Meeting taking place on 18 April 2015 at Riseley.

Please send your articles, announcements etc by 13 April 2015. Your input is what makes Headstock what it is.

Maureen Hall

Email: 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 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.

