

HEADSTOCK

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

October 2014

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

My thanks to Barbara Woplin for chairing the July Quarterly Meeting in my absence. I was absent with my daughter, Melissa, at The Ringing World National Youth Contest (RWNYC) in Worcester. I think this is the first national ringing event that I have attended and it was impressive to see sixteen teams gathered from all around the country and the other organised activities. There were open towers around Worcester, handbell sessions and 12 bell sessions among the activities laid on by the hosts in addition to the contest itself at Old St Martin's. Priority was quite rightly given to the youngsters at the open towers and all were positively encouraged to have a ring at the cathedral. We were also allowed to enjoy the views from the roof-top of the tower. Bedfordshire went into the contest as defending champions and were able to defend the trophy with an excellent piece of call changes. You can listen for yourself at <http://rwnyc.ringingworld.co.uk/> or indeed a snippet from Bells on Sunday from July 13th (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006sgsh/broadcasts/2014/07>).

Bedford River Festival somehow seems quite a long time ago now, maybe it is the sense of relief that we did, with many thanks to Sarah Ward in particular, manage to gather sufficient volunteers to erect the mini ring on the Friday and then have it well manned over the weekend. Our thanks must go to the many volunteers who helped demonstrate and introduce our art to a great number of festival visitors. Whilst it is true that there has not been a large number of new recruits we cannot tell what seeds may have been planted for the future or overlook the PR benefits of our attendance. Indeed, at Elstow a couple of Sundays ago, as we were finishing a young ringers' practice, a father arrived with his two young boys who he had promised to see the big bells being rung after they had had a go at the River Festival and we were able to show them and explain what we were doing.

Funnily enough whilst on the Ring and Ride a number of us enjoyed over the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust Bike 'n' Hike day on September 13th we also had passers by at Elstow who asked if they could watch some ringing. They were probably outdone by the expressions on the faces of the American visitors at Biddenham when we launched into ringing a method after an initial piece of call changes.

The Association Striking Contests were held at Elstow on September 20th. The Melville Cup is a rounds ringing competition for young ringers

from each District. Unlike last year, Bedford District was able to assemble a team this year. With four ringers out of our six ringing in their first ever striking contest and the other three bands each containing more members of the RWNYS band than ours they did very creditably to come a very close second to the Luton District band; in the Association method contest, the St Peter's Cup, only the winning piece was marked as a higher standard. Our District bands, St Peter's and St Andrew's from Bedford, came second and third respectively, behind Dunstable but ahead of last year's winners Biggleswade. Only one step up for a District band to take next year!

Alex Nash
District Chairman

Bedford District Programme of Meetings and Events 2014

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

4 Oct 2014:	Goldington Quarterly District Meeting Afternoon Ringing, Tea, Service, 6.00 pm Business Meeting, Evening Ringing	3.30 – 8.30 pm
1 Nov 2014:	Little Staughton Afternoon Ringing	2.00 – 4.00 pm
6 Dec 2014:	Bromham Evening Ringing	7.30 – 9.00 pm
17 Jan 2015:	Cardington Annual District Meeting Afternoon Ringing, Tea, Service, 6.00 pm Business Meeting, Evening Ringing	4.00 – 8.30 pm

Young Ringers' Events

11 July 2015: Oxford
The 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 or contact Sue Silver president@bacr.co.uk.

Report of Bedford District Meeting on 5 July 2014

In the absence of Chairman Alex Nash the meeting at St Denys in Colmworth was chaired by Barbara Woplin.

The meeting observed a minute of silence for Mary Hobbs, who was a ringer at Carlton, and a Tailender. The Secretary was requested to convey the sympathy of the meeting to her daughter, Lin Barratt, and the family. The meeting was also informed that John Long is in hospital, and James Saunders was asked to give him our best wishes.

Andrew Dennison reported that the BRF had received a bequest from the estate of Shelagh Melville of £5,560, and the BRF currently stands at £16,446.

Under Recent Activities, mostly already reported on in the last Headstock, Adrienne was thanked for organising the District Outing and she has offered to organise the 2015 one as well. At the Association AGM in Biggleswade two Bedford District members were elected to the position of Honorary Life Member, Cliff Izzard and Derek Hammond. This accolade was well deserved, as both have given over 50 years of hard work and loyal service to the Association. At the Ridgman Trophy Competition in Essex in June, Bedfordshire were not able to retain the trophy, which was won by Essex.

Barbara thanked Humphrey Chetwynd-Talbot and Felicity Evans for providing the welcome cups of tea, and Colmworth parish for the use of the church and bells.

Humphrey thanked Cliff, Andrew, Sarah and other helpers who had been coming to Colmworth practices on alternate Thursday evenings to assist with their many new ringers. Colmworth had been overwhelmed by the sudden interest, and the help and encouragement was invaluable.

Bob Jones asked if anybody had any interest in bound volumes of the Ringing World, dating from 1951 to 1994. These had belonged to Shelagh and Malcolm Melville, and were rescued before the house was cleared. 25 earlier volumes had already been donated to the Association Library.

Bike 'n' Hike Report

Once again the more energetic members of Bedford District set out on a gruelling biathlon to cycle between and ring at eleven churches. This was a sponsored effort, on Saturday September 13th, The National Churches Trust's Ride and Stride Day. The money we raised will be split between the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust, and the Bedford District BRF.

We gathered at St Andrew's, where we rang until 10.00am, the official start time for recording visits on our sponsorship forms. St Paul's, then Goldington were next. After this we made our way across the Green to Priory Country Park. The intention was for a more leisurely route than last year – no toiling up steep hills to Felmersham, but a gentle trip eastwards along CycleWay 51. The weather was kind to us, and we enjoyed beautiful sunshine at Willington, where we stopped for lunch in the churchyard, sitting on the seats thoughtfully provided.



The gradient posts had long since vanished from the old railway line to Sandy, but as we cycled into the wind, it felt as if they would have shown at least 1 in 5. Blunham was a "first" for several of the group, but the refreshments available

downstairs seemed to be more attractive than prolonged ringing on this 18 cwt six. Perhaps the state of the ropes was also a slight deterrent

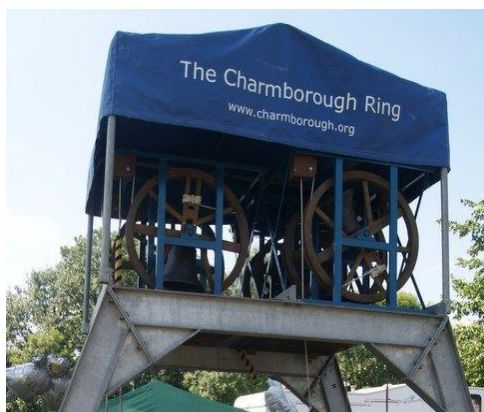
We were soon heading back past Willington Lock to ring the anti-clockwise six at Cople. There was time here and at Cardington to get our breath back, before attacking the last stages: Elstow, Kempston, Biddenham and St Peter's, where some of us arrived just in time. After cycling the distance of a Marathon, and ringing 84 bells, mostly needing

raising and lowering as well, the band departed wearily, but satisfied with a good day's work.

Andrew Dennison is collecting our sponsorship money, and will be happy to receive your contribution if you have not already supported us.

Bob Jones, photo Martin Goodwin

Charmborough Ring at Bedford River Festival 18/19/20 July 2014



This year we took a turn guarding the bells overnight on Saturday. After our evening session it was lovely to sit at the barbecue with a beer and hamburger as the sun went down, watch the fireworks and get ready for a night under canvas! As we haven't camped for years this was quite an experience for us! Eventually a nearby party subsided, so we got a quiet night and slept quite well. It was nice to sit over an early cuppa and welcome the morning helpers, ringing while the litter crew tidied up the site.

The weekend weather was kind to us. Rain held off until Sunday afternoon and we managed to get the Charmborough bells packed away between the showers – just! Many people had a "go" on the bells from toddlers just chiming to others moving on to full circle ringing. Maybe many of these would never have the chance to ring church bells. Hopefully it has given some of them a taste which they could follow up sometime soon ... or even in later life.

Martin and Lynn Goodwin

Celebration of the Centenary of the Diocese of St Albans

Besides the River Festival The Charmborough Ring was also at this event at Keysoe Equestrian Centre on 25 August 2014. It was an exceedingly wet day, even by Bank Holiday Monday standards. The rain saturated the ropes and some plans had to be changed. Some Clergy ringers took advantage to "have a go" on the Ring.

Maureen Hall

Robert Paul Wood: 13 October 1953 – 31 December 2013

Taken from a tribute given at Robert's funeral service held at Elstow Abbey on 22 January 2014, by Stephen Stanford.

The full tribute including a few anecdotes can be read on the Beds Assn web site obituaries page at www.bacr.co.uk.



Robert (Bob) Wood (or in his younger days Woody) died of a heart attack on New Year's Eve 2013 while delivering books to Putnoe library in Bedford where he worked for the local authority library service. His untimely death, aged just 60, was completely unexpected and came as a tremendous shock to his family and friends. He rang in what transpired to be his last peal, at Campton, just three days before his death, and his final ringing was in an unsuccessful quarter peal attempt at

St Andrew's Bedford on the previous evening.

Robert was born on 13 October 1953 in Bedford, the son of May and Cyril Wood. Sadly, his mother passed away when he was just four years old, but his father was remarried, to Sylvia, and so he became one of an extended family of six. They all enjoyed a happy and industrious childhood at 2 Moor Lane Bedford, which I recall was always a hive of fun and activity, much of that precipitated and encouraged by Sylvia.

I first met Robert while still at primary school; we were both members of the choir at Elstow Abbey under the indomitable choirmaster, Mr Taylor (otherwise known to us as Toots). It was a somewhat riotous organisation – a kind of substitute youth club for boys from the village (no girls in those days) – and in such circumstances Robert's quiet and unassuming nature proved to be something of an asset, enabling him to fully participate in the action without drawing much attention or suspicion. In the most part he managed to keep a clean sheet, avoiding the fines that were dished out to most of us for various misdemeanours ranging from devouring fruit from the harvest festival display, to exploding fireworks in the ruins behind the church! It didn't go unnoticed to me that this was a rather desirable attribute, and Robert and I soon became good friends (or perhaps I should say, partners in crime!).

Robert's name, along with my own and a few others, remains inscribed for posterity in the lead flashing on the bell tower roof.

In those days, the fee for ringing the bells at weddings was ten shillings, compared to that for singing in the choir which was only one and sixpence, and so along with his elder brother Richard and a number of other choristers, Robert soon found his way into the bell tower, where he was taught to ring by the late Bob Huckle, and Martyn Marriott. It was not too long before I joined him in the tower, and then also the 15th Beds Scout Group and Pilgrim Grammar School; and so was cemented a life long and much valued friendship of approaching some 50 years.

As a teenager Robert was passionate about bells and ringing and it was often our main topic of conversation cycling to and from school. We attended ringing practices most nights of the week, rushing home to get homework done so that we could do so. Saturdays were similarly occupied attending ringing meetings and outings, often cadging lifts (not to mention the odd drink) with notable Bedfordshire ringers of the day. By his mid teens Robert was showing signs of being a very capable ringer, and largely as a result of this, we managed to negotiate our way into the band at St Paul's Bedford. In those days this was the Mecca of ringing in Bedfordshire and the surrounding area, with arguably some of the best Sunday service ringing in the country. It was not a place where many dared to cross the threshold – certainly not where a couple of inexperienced young lads from a six bell tower down the road should show up uninvited on a Sunday morning!

Robert's ringing achievements of this period, from 1968 when he rang his first peal at Elstow, to 1978 when he gave up ringing, are impressive by any standard, especially for someone of his age. His peals included many of London Major (including eight peals in a week in Leicestershire), London Royal (two versions), and Bristol Royal; all methods that at that time were considered very much 'top-notch', and not so frequently rung to peals. Robert was also a member of the youngest band to have rung a full peal for the Bedfordshire Association, at Elstow in October 1973. Unfortunately, pocket money and wedding fees did not run to the cost of a peal board, and it was Robert who transcribed our endeavours on the bottom of a ringing box for posterity. It is still in use today.

Personally, I always regarded Robert as one of the best ringers to have originated from Bedfordshire in more recent times. Not only was he very

capable of learning and memorising methods and ringing them for long periods without error, he also possessed an excellent musical ear and sense of rhythm. I recall him ringing his first peal of Bristol Royal, having learnt it between the end of Sunday morning ringing and the start of an afternoon peal, replacing one of the original band who pulled out.

He had a rare ability to lift and improve an otherwise indifferent piece of ringing, and to bring others along with him. This he achieved, not in the more common and often somewhat coarse manner of setting his own rhythm and expecting others to go along with it, but more sensitively, with slight, almost unnoticeable, adjustments – a stretched backstroke here or a quick handstroke there, strategically placed to improve the overall effect and encourage others into the right place. Moreover, he could achieve this from anywhere in the circle – he did not need to be ringing one of the heavier bells. In this respect Robert's approach in ringing was a reflection of his approach to life. He was not the strong forceful up front leader; rather the quiet unassuming contributor who instinctively knew what was needed, and could make the difference. And indeed he always did.

Robert's shy and retiring nature did not however deter him from participating in the chorus line of a church amateur dramatic group, and in more recent times I understand he could also be quite a hit at family gatherings. The rendition left on his sister Helen's karaoke machine was certainly not that of a novice to this particular form of entertainment!

On leaving Pilgrim Grammar School with a respectable collection of O levels, Robert joined the Great Ouse River Authority as a surveyor's assistant, but after four or five years he decided that this was not a job for life, and he moved to the Post Office and became a postman, eventually acquiring an HGV licence and a driving job. His next and final move was in 1978 to what was then the Bedfordshire County Council library service, a position he retained in various guises until his untimely death.

In her tribute, one of Robert's work colleagues affectionately recalled that he was, "a very quiet and private person who was unfailingly calm, friendly and helpful". She continues by saying, "he was kind and was never heard to complain about anything. 'Going the extra mile' could have been a saying tailor-made for Bob; not only because of the thousands of miles he covered delivering books, but also because there appeared to be no limit to the lengths he would go to help".

By the late 70s, Robert's interest in ringing had waned; the departure of several ringing friends from the area possibly a contributory factor. It was a time when he made several changes in his life; moving jobs to join the library service, acquiring his flat in Chaucer Road, and in the early 80s he joined the Bedford and County Athletic Club and took up running, becoming almost as dedicated to this as he had formerly been to ringing. In addition to regular weekly running, Robert participated in a large number of marathons and half marathons, both locally and further afield. These included the London Marathon which he ran a number of times, and marathons in the USA, France and Holland. He could run a marathon in a very creditable time of three hours or less – interestingly, about the same time as it takes to achieve a peal on a ring of bells!

Unfortunately I have not been able to obtain a record of Robert's running achievements, but he possessed a collection of 89 medals that he won for the long distance running in which he participated, a tremendous achievement that was unknown to his family and friends until after his untimely death. His exploits included membership of a ten-strong team of runners and jog swimmers that planned and completed a 270 mile run across Crete (west to east) over 11 days in 1990.

Bob (as he was mostly known at the running club) was also a founder member of Bedford Harriers that was formed in 1985 to address a growing interest in long distance road running stimulated by the London Marathon. Their initial membership was a few dozen enthusiasts, but the club thrived, becoming one of the largest athletic clubs in the region. Bob served on the club committee and was among an early group of enthusiasts who ran nine marathons in the course of a year; a very daunting and as yet unsurpassed achievement! Robert's running career was brought to an end in about 2007, when he started to experience pain in his joints that was aggravated by running. And so it was that he made a very welcome return to ringing, rejoining the band at St Paul's Bedford. Here, from a ringing perspective at least, he probably did not find too much of interest, and he later joined the band at All Saints' Kempston, where for a short while he ably served as Ringing Master. After ringing at Kempston, and on route to visit his mother Sylvia at Moor Lane, he again regularly supported the Sunday morning ringing at Elstow, often completing the band of six and enabling us to ring something better and more interesting.

It is at such times and places he will be so sorely missed; the spare rope and just five bells ringing on the Sunday morning following his death

being a poignant reminder of his untimely passing, and a cause for reflection.

Robert served as Ringing Master of the Bedford District of the Bedfordshire Association and organised its annual striking competition on a number of occasions. Such positions of responsibility were not something that he particularly relished or found easy, he seldom if ever considered himself ahead of others and would only take such roles in the knowledge that there was no one else willing or capable. In accepting, he was selflessly putting the needs and wishes of others before his own inhibitions. Notwithstanding this, he was invariably the best person for the job and always took the responsibility seriously and performed his duties admirably, as ever, making his contribution.

A tribute to a ringer, who spent so much of his time in the art, would not be complete without a few statistics. Robert rang a total of 225 peals, 165 of them for the Bedfordshire Association. He conducted just four. Although very capable, I think his preference was to avoid conducting, a task that was somewhat conflicting with his quiet and thoughtful personality.

Robert's first peal was at Elstow (in two methods on 29 October 1968) and his last at Campton, just three days before he died, on 28 December 2013. His leading peal towers were Bedford St Paul (29) followed by Henlow (18) and Elstow (16), and his peals were with 307 different ringers, including Anthony Smith (110), Stephen Ivin (67), and myself (59) and in 101 different towers. For someone who took a 30 year break from ringing, it is quite an achievement.

Robert's funeral was held at Elstow Abbey on 22 January, a bright and unusually rain-free day, and was conducted by Rev Stephen Smith, himself a ringer. Over 150 of Robert's family, work colleagues, and friends attended, with runners and ringers being well represented. The service included the Bunyan Hymn, the Ringer's Hymn, and 'Abide with Me' suitably reflecting Robert's life and interests, and the bells were rung open before and after the service in thanksgiving for his life. Following a private cremation, a very convivial reception was held at 'The Pheasant' where a collage of photographs and Robert's collection of running medals were admired, possibly for the first time.

So although we say our farewells to Robert with considerable sadness, we do so with thanks for the privilege of having shared and enjoyed a

part of our lives with him. We shall undoubtedly miss the kind and thoughtful son, brother, uncle and family friend who was always there when needed. We shall miss the cheerful colleague happily delivering books to the library. We shall miss the steady almost infallible peal ringer, and the bell that no longer rings on a Sunday morning. And we shall miss the once fit and athletic man that made running marathons appear easy. May he rest in peace.

Stephen Stanford
March 2013

Association Striking Contest held on 20 September 2014

This was held on the 8-2-00 cwt six at St Mary and St Helena, Elstow, and those attending were able to sit in the adjoining tea garden on a pleasant afternoon to listen to the ringing. The competitions were judged by Alan Marchbank and his son John from Buckinghamshire.

The results were as follows:

Melville Cup Striking Competition for Young Ringers:

Bedford District Young Ringers are to be congratulated on achieving a close second place. Also deserving of thanks are Andrew Dennison, who organised practices for young ringers at Elstow, Keysoe, Turvey and Oakley during the summer holidays, as well as all those who attended and helped at these practices.

Place	Team	Score
1	Luton District	93.75%
2	Bedford District	93.54%
3	Biggleswade District	91.81%
4	Luton District II	88.82%

St Peter's Cup – Association Six Bell Striking Competition:

Place	Team	Score	Rang
1	Dunstable	93.68%	4
2	St Peter's Bedford	93.06%	6
3	St Andrew's Bedford	92.78%	2
4	Biggleswade	92.64%	1
5	Linslade	90.00%	3
6	Campton	88.50%	5

Tailenders' Report 2014



For our July meeting we were by the Grand Union Canal at Blisworth and Stoke Bruerne. This made for a very pleasant day out so many thanks to Lynn and Martin Goodwin for their excellent idea and organisation.

We started with the good old-fashioned six bells at Blisworth. They go well and were a pleasure to ring. We rang a variety of methods including

Cambridge minor and Stedman doubles and there was some good ringing at the steady speed that suited the bells.

Lunch was at The Navigation in Stoke Bruerne, right next to the canal. The food was served extremely quickly and, at £10 for two meals, was excellent value. We were impressed by the quality of the food and particularly by the attentive staff who offered sauces and condiments as the food was served, rather than as an after-thought which so often happens.

Afternoon ringing was due to start at 2.30 but, because we had been served so swiftly at the pub, we were able to start ringing again at 1.30. Stoke Bruerne bells are a rather heavy going five and several people found them rather challenging. Apart from a good raise and lower in peal, the only other decent piece of ringing was the Stedman.



Our August meeting was the second of our two-tower summer meetings. The weather smiled on us and, although some grey clouds gathered, we only had a few spots of rain all day.

Wadenhoe is in a beautiful position on a hill overlooking the river and surrounded by beautiful countryside. Most people parked at the pub and walked up to the church while those in the know, or the lazier members, parked by the church and later drove down to the pub. The bells are lovely

and it is possible to achieve really good striking on them. We rang touches of Plain Bob and Grandsire doubles but the best ringing was a course of Cambridge minor and one of Oxford treble bob.

Lunch was at The King's Head in Wadenhoe and the food and service were excellent. The staff are obviously used to dealing with lots of visitors from the narrow boats and the food was served promptly almost the second we had sat down. All the dishes looked appetising and were eaten with relish.



The bells at Stoke Doyle had recently been rehung and they made a fine job of it. The bells went well and again they were a delight to ring. We rang Plain Bob, Grandsire and St Simon's doubles with a varying degree of success but the best ringing was the Stedman prior to the lower in peal.



It was a good day out with lovely scenery, wonderful bells and a memorable lunch. Many thanks to Bob Jones for organising it so efficiently.

It was a good day out with lovely scenery, wonderful bells and a memorable lunch. Many thanks to Bob Jones for organising it so efficiently.

The September meeting was at Cople on a perfect late summer's day. The bells are an anti-clockwise six and they are not the easiest to ring well due to odd-struckness and handling problems. Nevertheless we did our best and completed courses of Norwich and Cambridge Surprise minor and touches of Stedman, Grandsire and Plain Bob doubles.



Lunch was at The Harvester on Goldington Road, Bedford. Many thanks to Richard and Susan for organising this month's meet.

Tailenders' Programme for 4th Quarter of 2014

Tuesday 14 October

Flitton

11.00 am – 12 noon, The Church of St John the Baptist
6 bells, 6-0-5 in B (ground floor)

Lunch at The Jolly Coopers, Wardhedges

Arranged by Julia and Chris Catlin
Ringing Master: Barbara Woplin

Names and deposits for the Christmas Lunch are needed at this meeting.

Tuesday 11 November

Colmworth

11.00 am – 12 noon, The Church of St Denys
6 bells, 9-3-18 in G# (ground floor)

Lunch at The Pheasant, Kimbolton Road, Bedford

Arranged by Barbara Woplin
Ringing Master: Derek Hammond

Tuesday 9 December

Bromham

11.00 am – 12 noon, The Church of St Owen
8 bells, 22-3-18 in D

Christmas Lunch at The Prince of Wales, Bromham

Arranged by Derek Hammond
Ringing Master: Martin Barratt

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.

Bletsoe Wins Heritage Lottery Fund Grant for Major Church Bells Restoration

The village of Bletsoe is celebrating the award of £46,700 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for an exciting project, “The Bells of St Mary’s – securing the future”. Starting on Monday 11 August 2014, and led by volunteers from the local community, the project will see the removal and restoration of the entire peal of church bells from St Mary, Bletsoe which will be carried out by John Taylor & Co of Loughborough. The bellringers of St Mary’s were keen to raise the money to restore the bells because years of use have made them very hard to ring. Tower Captain Paul Vine said “The bells will be so much easier to ring, especially for new ringers who want to learn. We’re delighted that the Heritage Lottery Fund has supported us with a major contribution to make this happen.” What’s more, once the peal of bells is restored and returned, then local groups will have the opportunity to experience the concept of bell ringing through closed circuit TV links from the belfry in the tower of St Mary’s. Schools, youth groups and any other organisation will have the chance to enjoy ringing the newly restored handbells.

The St Mary, Bletsoe peal of bells is historically significant as the first peal cast by Robert Taylor of St Neots in 1786, one of the Taylor family which, today, just over 225 years later, will be carrying out the restoration not only as part of the village but also the company heritage.

Information on progress of the restoration work and of the activities or training can be found on www.bletsoebells.co.uk and anyone is welcome to come and take part in the training sessions.

Commenting on the award, Revd Martin Bailey, Rector of St Mary’s, said “We are thrilled and thankful to God to receive such generous support from the Heritage Lottery Fund. We’re looking forward to our bells ringing out even more tunefully and joyfully when the work is complete!”

Explaining the importance of the HLF support, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund East of England, Robyn Llewellyn said “This is a great example of how Heritage Lottery Funding benefits heritage and people. In addition to the important restoration work on the bells, the plans for community activities and getting volunteers involved are impressive and this has all the elements that make up a successful project.”

Press Release

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, to Stephen Stanford for the Tribute to Bob Wood, to Bob Jones and Martin Goodwin for the report of the Cycle Day, to Martin and Lynn Goodwin for the piece on the River Festival, and to Paul and Trish Vine for sending me the Press Release on the Bletsoe bell project.

The next Headstock will be distributed at the Annual District Meeting taking place on 17 January 2015 at Cardington.

Please send your articles, announcements etc by 7 January 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.

