



HEADSTOCK

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

October 2016

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

For one reason or another I have not been at many of the District events in the last quarter. My thanks to Barbara Woplin for chairing our July meeting when I was absent at the Ringing World National Youth Contest of which I have written separately. I have also written separately about our local young ringer activities over the summer which culminated in us being able to form a team to enter in the Melville Cup, the young ringers striking contest held before the Association Striking Contest.

As most of you will know our Annual District Meeting is held in January. It is at this meeting that we elect the officers to serve the District for the year and other members for the District Committee. The elected positions are Ringing Master, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and BRF Treasurer (also currently serves as R J Sharp and Association BRF representative). Independent examiners for the District accounts and BRF accounts are also elected. Current indications are that at least one of the current office holders does not wish to continue in office so please all consider if you could serve in one of these positions or know of somebody who would be suitable. I'm sure existing office holders would be happy to explain what their duties entail if you are uncertain.

Alex Nash
District Chairman

Bedford District Programme of Meetings and Events 2016/2017

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

1 Oct 2016:	Bedford, St Andrew (8) Quarterly District Meeting Afternoon Ringing, Service, Tea, 6.00 pm Business Meeting	3.30 – 6.30 pm
	Bedford St Peter de Merton (8) Evening Ringing	7.00 – 8.30 pm
5 Nov 2016:	Keysoe (5) Afternoon ringing	2.00 – 4.00 pm
3 Dec 2016:	Clapham (6) Morning Ringing	10.00 – 11.30 am
21 Jan 2017:	Bedford, St Peter de Merton (8) Annual District Meeting Afternoon Ringing, Service, Tea, 6.00 pm Business Meeting Evening Ringing	4.00 – 8.30 pm

Future Events

20 May 2017	Association AGM, Biggleswade District
17 June 2017	Ridgman Trophy, Great St Mary Cambridge
16 Sept 2017	Association Striking Contests, Luton District

Young Ringers' Events

1 July 2017:	Ringing World National Youth Contest, Birmingham
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For details of eligibility and practices being held in the run-up to the 2017 event, see the Association website www.bacbr.org.uk or contact Sue Silver president@bacbr.org.uk.

Report of Bedford Quarterly District Meeting on 2 July 2016

As usual in July there was no service, and after ringing at Harrold and a picnic tea eaten in lovely weather in Harrold Country Park Barbara Woplin took the Chair in Odell church as District Chairman Alex Nash was at the Ringing World National Youth Contest. The minutes of the April quarterly meeting at Kempston were read and after one addition they were signed as a true record.

Under Matters Arising Anna Townsend reported that the Bedford District was now established on Facebook, and 29 members had joined so far. The BRF stood at £17,777.32 with no grant applications having been received. A meeting of the RJSharp Fund Trustees had been called for 22 July to discuss a grant for the monthly young ringers' meetings, and also to consider the rules.

Richard Bray of Turvey, who had been ringing at Harrold, was proposed as a new member by Bob Jones, seconded by Anna Townsend, and this was carried unanimously.

Past events were reported on, including the District Outing for which a vote of thanks was proposed to Adrienne Sharp, and the Association AGM for which James Saunders was thanked for the organisation. Thanks also went to Anna Townsend and Sarah Ward for organising the district striking competition and to the hosts Oakley. The future programme was also discussed, including the young ringers' practices during the summer months to be organised by Barbara Woplin.

St Andrew's Biggleswade: Bell Restoration, Augmentation and Ringing Centre Project

A service of Dedication of the restored and augmented ring, plus the commissioning of the new Ringing Centre by the Bishop of St Albans, Rt Revd Alan Smith, took place on Sunday 25 September at 5 pm, followed by refreshments and an opportunity for general ringing and sharing further information on the project and plans for the future.

For more information see **www.biggleswadebells.org.uk**.

Bike 'n' Hike on Saturday 10 September 2016

After a break from this event in September 2015, this year's tour will go down in Bike 'n' Hike history as being notable for the dreary weather which was rather unsuitable for cycling. It drizzled for most of the day, the drizzle being interspersed with heavier showers.

Only four people set off at 10 am from Priory Methodist Church in Newnham Avenue, Bedford, although others joined in along the way making it possible to ring at least six bells at St Andrew Bedford, St Peter de Merton Bedford, St Mary and St Helena in Elstow and St Paul Bedford. Some participants rang for a 12 o'clock wedding at St Owen Bromham, and chimed the single bell at All Saints in Queen's Park Bedford. Enquiries about ringing at three other Bedford churches proved unsuccessful. A heavy rainstorm was falling as the cyclists left Queen's Park but they carried on and, after this thorough soaking, they had dried off by the end of the day.

In summary, 29 churches, ringing at six, including a wedding at Bromham, and one puncture repair en route!

The 29 churches in order of visiting were (in Bedford unless otherwise specified):

Priory Methodist, Newnham Ave; Three Rivers, Denmark St;
Christ Church, Denmark St; Holy Cross RC, Goldington Rd;
St Mary's Goldington; Putnoe Heights Church; St Mark's, Calder Rise;
St Phillip and St James, Severn Way; Park Road Methodist, Roff Ave;
St Martin, Clapham Rd; Quaker Meeting, Lansdowne Rd;
St Owen's, Bromham; St Andrew's, Kimbolton Rd; St Peter's;
St Joseph's, Midland Rd; Rutland Road Church;
Queen's Park Moravian Church, Howard Ave;
All Saints, Westbourne Rd;
Church of Our Lady RC, Bedford Rd, Kempston;
Transfiguration, Bedford Road, Kempston;
Kempston East Methodist, Bedford Rd, Kempston;
Kempston West Methodist, High Street, Kempston;
All Saints, Church End, Kempston; Elstow Abbey;
Bunyan Christian Fellowship, High St, Elstow;
Christ the King, London Rd; St Michael, Faldo Rd;
St John's, St John's Street; Bunyan Meeting, Mill Street; St Paul's.

Maureen Hall from notes supplied by Bob Jones

Tailenders' Programme for 4th Quarter of 2016

Tuesday 11 October

Piddington

11.00 am – 12 noon, The Church of St John the Baptist
6 bells, 10-2-23 cwt in F# (ground floor)

Lunch at The Green Man, Lavendon

Arranged by Richard Entwistle
Ringing Master: Richard Entwistle

Tuesday 8 November

Colmworth

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

Lunch at The Wagon and Horses, Eaton Socon

Arranged by Humphrey Chetwynd-Talbot
Ringing Master: Derek Hammond

Tuesday 13 December

Maulden

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

Lunch at The Jolly Cooper, Wardhedges

Arranged by Chris Catlin
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.

Tailenders' Report 2016

There was an error in the July Headstock in that the Tailenders' meeting at Old Warden was of course in June and not August.



The July meeting was at All Saints in the pretty village of **Southill**, the 11 cwt six are on the heavy side but go well. Methods rung were Bob minor, Grandsire doubles, Cambridge minor, Bob doubles, Stedman doubles and Norwich minor.

As we were leaving we were told that the Columbarium housing the tomb of Admiral John Byng (1704-1757), which is not normally open, had been opened for later visitors and that we were welcome to see it too. Admiral Byng was born in Southill and had a successful naval career, but after failing to relieve a besieged British garrison at Minorca in 1756 he was controversially court-martialled and executed by a firing squad.

Lunch was at The Green Man in Stanford, a relatively new pub for Tailenders, where the meals were agreed to be good, and good value. Thanks go to Derek Hammond for the organisation.

Originally no meeting was planned for August, but Lynn Goodwin came forward to organise a meeting at **Haynes**, another picturesque village in central Bedfordshire, strung out in a number of "ends". The six bells are rung from the ground floor and with a tenor of 6 cwt the trebles are rather light. Bob Jones was ringing master and methods rung were Grandsire doubles, Bob doubles, rounds and call changes, Stedman doubles, and Single Oxford minor.



Lunch was at the Star and Garter in Silsoe and thanks go to Lynn for the organisation.

Our September meeting was in the pretty village of **Great Barford** on a glorious September day. There were not many of us but, as there are only five bells, there were enough.

The bells are heavy going and most of us found them rather hard work to ring. We had three sets of call changes, a touch of Plain Bob minimus and a reasonable touch of Grandsire doubles.



Lunch was at the Toby Carvery on Goldington Road where the food is always of a satisfactory standard.

Thanks go to Barbara Woplin for organising everything and laying on such fantastic weather for us.

Ringing World National Youth Contest

The RWNYC was held on July 2nd in London this year. With the number of entries for the event continuing to grow, a new format was adopted this year. There were three qualifying venues which hosted eight teams each in the morning with two to qualify from each heat for the final at St Olave's, Hart Street in the afternoon.

Bedfordshire Young Ringers were drawn in the qualifier held at St James, Garlickhythe the home of the Jubilee Bells that were first rung on a barge during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee River Pageant. This year our band was ringing a method, a touch of Plain Bob Triples, rather than call changes as previously. Before their ring our young ringers had the opportunity to visit St Paul's Cathedral ringing room and bells. Via St Magnus-the-Martyr for some, it was then back to the headquarters for the day, St Mary-le-Bow, to find out if a possibly somewhat below par performance by their standards had been good enough for our band to make the final. At this stage band names were written on a whiteboard without any further revelation of relative performance. We qualified from our qualifier as well as Fen Tigers, the ringing being judged in the same way whether it was method or call changes as theirs was. This knocked out Yorkshire Tykes high performers in the method section last year and the G & B method team, method winners last year, fell by the wayside at St Dunstan-in-the-West as did last year's second in call changes, Derbyshire, at St Saviour, Pimlico.

As it happened, three method teams, Bedfordshire, Oxford DG and Sussex made the final alongside Three Spires (Lichfield), Fen Tigers (Lincolnshire) and Herts ringing call changes. With seven different ringing venues available in the afternoon there was plenty for the other teams to be doing as we made our way to ring second in the final. I thought our team rang their test piece better at St Olave's and there was general happiness with the performance as we then put our minds to the public transport options of London and some tower-grabbing before returning to a packed St Mary-le-Bow, eight hours after first being there to find out about our qualifying venue, for the results.

First the qualifiers were covered in turn by their groups of judges. The results had been close with 'A' grades required to go through and that was not enough for some at Garlickhythe or St Dunstan-in-the-West to progress. We had impressed with our pull off (worth the practice then) and only had minor trips quickly corrected. So with a call changes

section, a method section and the overall at stake it was on to the judge's remarks on the final ringing. Oxford DG had rung a method test piece first and were reported as very nice, just with individual errors. Our piece, we were told, had very few individual faults, so was that better we wondered? Some small failings noted in the next three bands ringing call changes and on to the final set of remarks on Sussex's Grandsire Triples touch. "Purposeful rhythm", "overall pleasing" then the magic (to our ears anyway) "but" word.

First, the call changes grades, and Herts won the gold medal with an 'A' grade ahead of Fen Tigers and Three Spires with 'A-'. Note at this stage that Bedfordshire had won ringing call changes for the previous three years and only the G & B, in 2012, had won the overall with a method test piece. Last year we were graded 'A*', this year Sussex and Oxford DG achieved 'A' grades and we repeated an 'A*' grade to claim the method ringing gold medal and the Whitechapel Trophy for the overall.

Alex Nash



Front row, left to right: Caroline, Clarrie, Sammi, Becca
Back row, left to right: Melissa, Cameron, Lizzie, Dean

Reserves were Jonathan and Becky.

The test piece of 168 Plain Bob Triples was conducted by Clarrie.

Bedford District Young Ringers

Over the summer there was a series of practices, organised by Barbara Woplin, to which the young ringers of the District were invited. These were generally on the practice nights of the host towers and supported by members of the local bands. Sharnbrook, Oakley, St Andrew's Bedford, St Paul's Bedford, Goldington and Turvey were kind enough to play host. In truth these proved less popular than in previous years in terms of the number of young ringers venturing away from their home towers so a revised format looks likely for next year.

However, we did have sufficient interest to form a band to compete against the other Districts for the Melville Cup at Eaton Bray on 17th September. In my observation these bells are not easy, being difficult to ring in some cases, not easy to strike and difficult to listen to in the ringing chamber with the third shouting at backstroke. Our band of Melissa and Jonathan from St Andrew's Bedford, David and Thomas from Oakley and Laurence and Jacob from Turvey acquitted themselves well, some experience of less easy bells coming in handy.

The judge, David Stanford, praised the compass of their test piece and reported that it was of good quality throughout with only sporadic faults. Their mark of 83% was enough to finish ahead of Luton District on 80% and thereby retain the Melville Cup. Emma, also from Turvey, combined with her brothers and three Luton District ringers to form a scratch band that was marked at 73% ahead of a Dunstable band on 63%. Biggleswade District was unable to form a band.



Alex Nash

St Peter's Cup - Association Six Bell Striking Competition

Six teams took part in this year's six bell striking competition for the St Peter's Cup held on 17 September, hosted by the Luton District at St Mary the Virgin, Eaton Bray. Well known to Bedfordshire ringers, the judge was David Stanford who now rings at Burgh in Suffolk. David said he had expected a high standard and wasn't disappointed. It was all very good ringing and the casual listener would have struggled to separate the teams! He scored this competition on the number of faults and judged Dunstable to be the winners.

Place	Team	Judge's Comments	Score	Rang
1	Dunstable	Good solid start which was maintained throughout apart from a method mistake towards the end.	19	6
2	Biggleswade	Good run into the ringing with this good standard maintained. The bells were rung at a good speed.	20	4
3	Clifton	Improved through the piece and finished quite nicely. The ringing slowed down slightly in the last part.	24	2
4	Kempston	Unsettled at the start, but got better as the piece progressed. Most faults were due to bells coming off the front too fast.	36	3
5	Bedford St Andrews	Didn't settle down into a consistent speed or rhythm. Most faults were due to bells coming off the front too fast.	40	1
6	Linslade	Good ringing but most leads had a bad patch, nothing specific just lots of little problems.	42	5



Rebecca Gordon receiving the St Peter's Cup, on behalf of the winning Dunstable band, from David Stanford.

*Article and Photo:
Terry Brown*

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 Terry Brown for details of the Association Striking Contest, to Bob Jones for information on the Bike 'n' Hike and to Alex Nash for his articles on the Young Ringers and the Ringing World National Youth Contest.

The next Headstock will be distributed at the Annual District Meeting taking place on 21 January 2017 at Bedford St Peter de Merton.

Please send your articles, announcements etc by 9 January 2017. Your input is what makes Headstock what it is.

Maureen Hall

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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.bacbr.org.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.

