



# HEADSTOCK

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

**April 2017**

## 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**

We had a change in District Ringing Master at the Annual District Meeting. After several years in the role, James Saunders decided to step down. Our thanks must go to him for his work over those years. We welcome Ian Townsend as our new Ringing Master. Hopefully it has already come to your attention that an immediate initiative is information posters about forthcoming events that are now being distributed with the idea that they are put up in towers to help remind us of forthcoming events.

I hope that many District members will be able to attend the Association AGM, the District Striking Contest and the District Outing all of which are in the coming quarter. The striking contest will be at Stagsden, which has a mid-weight ground-floor ring of six. Many will be aware that there are two sections of competition held on the day, a rounds section and a methods section, with a cup for each. A given tower band can only enter one section and the first two bands in the method section qualify for the Association Striking Contest in September, which is due to be at Colmworth this year. You are of course welcome to come and listen to the ringing and form your own judgements whether or not your tower is entering a band (and we hope many will enter).

With regard to the District Outing, please note that the date for it is now Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June. Although the outing is normally a route planned for the whole day you are of course welcome to come to just some of the towers if all day is not possible for you. Ringing on the outing will range upwards from rounds and called changes and hopefully of a quality that reflects we are visiting not practising.

*Alex Nash*  
*District Chairman*

## **Bedford District Programme of Meetings and Events 2017**

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

- 1 Apr 2017: **Sharnbrook** (8) 3.30 – 8.30 pm  
Quarterly District Meeting  
Afternoon Ringing, Service, Tea,  
6.00 pm Business Meeting  
Evening Ringing
- 6 May 2017: **Training Event**  
Details to be confirmed
- 20 May 2017: **St Andrew, Biggleswade** (10)  
Association Annual General Meeting
- 3 June 2017: **Stagsden** (6) 5.00 pm  
District Striking Contest
- 10 June 2017: **Bedford District Outing**
- 17 June 2017: **Ridgman Trophy**, Great St Mary Cambridge
- 1 July 2017: **Felmersham** (8) 4.30 – 8.30 pm  
Quarterly District Meeting  
Afternoon Ringing, Picnic Tea,  
6.00 pm Business Meeting  
Evening Ringing
- 1 July 2017: **Ringing World National Youth Contest**, Birmingham

### **Future Events**

- 16 Sept 2017: **Association Striking Contest**, Colmworth
- 20 Jan 2018: **Annual District Meeting**, Bromham

### **Young Ringers' Events**

- 24 Sept 2017: (Sunday) Young Ringers' Striking Contest

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

## Report of Bedford Annual District Meeting on 21 January 2017

Alex Nash opened the meeting at St Peter de Merton, Bedford, by thanking the Association officers for coming, and he thanked St Peter's for hosting the meeting, St Paul's for permission for evening ringing, and Revd Paul Fricker for both conducting the service and playing the organ. He also thanked those who had provided the tea.

No deceased members were reported. The minutes of the previous ADM in January 2016 at Biddenham were read and approved.

Under Matters Arising Stephen Stanford reported that a peal board in memory of Eddie Jeffries of Bromham had been completed and he thanked those who had made donations towards it.

The next item was the presentation of the Young Ringers' C Edward Jeffries Memorial Trophy, it was awarded to Nathan Cooke who was unable to be there to receive it, but it was presented to him by Alex Nash at a later District event.



The Association Notices were taken next. President Sue Silver thanked the current Treasurer Barbara Fraser for her work and announced that Barbara will not be standing again in May, so a replacement will be required. Biggleswade's RJSharp Ringing Centre is almost operational. Safeguarding is now a high priority for the Church of England, Sue stated that the Diocese expects all tower captains and deputies to register for an enhanced check with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) which replaces the CRB checks. See the Safeguarding page on the Association website [www.bacbr.org.uk](http://www.bacbr.org.uk). Sue also encouraged people to Gift Aid their membership subscriptions. She congratulated the young ringers for their fourth Ringing World National Youth Competition success in 2016.

Association Secretary Terry Brown announced the forthcoming AGM, Six-Bell Striking Contest, and young ringers' Melville Cup (see page 4). She recommended that members try out the new improved Association website on which Tony Sharp has been working.

The District report by the Secretary Bob Jones, the BRF report by the Treasurer Martin Goodwin, and the Membership report by Jenny Thompson were presented and accepted. The programme up to May 2017 was circulated and approved, subject to tower availability.

The election of District Officers was as follows:

Chairman: Alex Nash;

Secretary: Bob Jones;

Treasurer: Jenny Thompson;

BRF Treasurer: Martin Goodwin;

R J Sharp Bell Fund Rep and Central Bell Fund District Rep:

Martin Goodwin was also willing to continue in both these roles;

Ringling Master: Ian Townsend;

BRF Independent Examiner: Richard Hillson;

District Accts Independent Examiner: Tim Blunt;

Four Committee Members:

Anna Townsend, Sarah Ward, Ann Desics, Barbara Woplin;

Striking Contest Organiser: Sarah Ward;

District Outing Organiser: Adrienne Sharp;

Two Association General Committee Representatives to be appointed by the Committee.

Nathan Cooke of Elstow and Karen Rogers of St Paul's were elected as new members.

Under Any Other Business, Alex thanked Maureen Hall, Headstock Editor, and James Saunders for his excellent work in the difficult role as District Ringing Master for a number of years.

### **Canon John Tibbs**

Canon John Tibbs, who will have been known by many ringers, died at home on 14 November 2016. He was Vicar at Elstow when he joined the Association in 1983. He served as District Chairman from 1986 to 1989 and remained an Unattached Member of the Bedford District until 2011.

## Tailenders' Report 2017

In February we met at **Yardley Hastings'** church on quite a sunny winter's day. The church was open for the non-ringers and the ringers went round the outside of the church to the entrance to the ringing chamber. We were just about to ring up when the clock chimed 11. Much consternation all round because there were no notices or indeed any signs about clock hammers. The gentleman who let us in (a non-ringer) was questioned but he didn't think there was a problem so with a certain amount of caution we rang up in peal.



The bells went well around the front end but the tenor needed a lot of work to keep it up. Despite this it was turned into a decent course of Cambridge minor. We also rang Grandsire doubles, Plain Bob doubles and Stedman doubles as well as rounds and call changes.

Lunch was at an old favourite, The Green Man at Lavendon. Because it was Valentine's Day the choice was limited slightly but most tastes were catered for and the food was good and served promptly.

Many thanks to Ann and Graham Boyle for organising everything so capably.

The March meeting was at **Bletsoe** on a morning when the sun was just pushing through the cloud to shine on the many daffodils around the village, and on the stonework of the church.

We were one bell short of the full set of six as the stay had been broken on the treble and the rope had been pulled up into the bell chamber, so there was no argument about who was going to stand and hold the bell on the balance in between touches.

Derek Hammond was Ringing Master and eleven ringers were present. Methods rung were Grandsire doubles, Plain Bob doubles, Stedman doubles and St Martin's.

Lunch was at The Queen's Head in Milton Ernest.

Thanks go to Barbara Woplin for the arrangements.



### **District Quarter Peal Week 4-12 March 2017**

Congratulations to Bromham who appear to be the only tower to ring a Quarter Peal for Quarter Peal Week:

**Bromham**, Bedfordshire, St Owen  
Sunday, 12 March 2017 (22–3–18 in D)

**1260 Plain Bob Minor**

1 Adrienne P Sharp, 2 Robert Gornall, 3 Derek A Hammond,  
4 Stephen R Hare, 5 Martin Heaslip, 6 Robert W Jones (C).  
Rung for Evensong during Bedford District Quarter Peal Week.

### **Subscriptions**

Subscriptions are now due for payment, which has to be made before the Association Annual General Meeting on 20 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.bacbr.org.uk](http://www.bacbr.org.uk)**.



## Tailenders' Programme for 2nd Quarter of 2017

Tuesday 18 April

(note this is the **third** Tuesday)

### **Clifton Reynes**

11.00 am – 12 noon, The Church of St Mary  
6 bells, 10-2-14 cwt in A (ground floor)

Lunch at The Robin Hood, Clifton Reynes

Arranged by Martin Barratt

Ringling Master: Martin Barratt

Tuesday 9 May

### **Milton Keynes Village (note change from Wavendon)**

11.00 am – 12 noon, The Church of All Saints  
6 bells, 9-0-0 in G

Lunch at The Red Lion, Salford t.b.c.

Arranged by Chris Catlin

Ringling Master: Barbara Woplin

Tuesday 13 June

### **Oakley**

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

Lunch at The Queen's Head, Milton Ernest t.b.c.

Arranged by Graham Ridgway

Ringling Master: Richard Entwistle

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, and to Bob Jones for his support.

The next Headstock will be distributed at the Quarterly District Meeting taking place on 1 July 2017 at Felmersham.

Please send your articles, announcements etc by 23 June 2017. 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.bacbr.org.uk](http://www.bacbr.org.uk) but the web version has all personal contact details removed. If your tower does not currently receive Headstock then please contact the Editor at the address above.



