



HEADSTOCK

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

July 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

The District Outing was rescheduled from its May date to June 10th but our May date did not go to waste. Ian and Anna Townsend ran a Little Bob Minor training day which I understand was excellently organised and well received by the participants. For a training day materials can be prepared and experienced ringers available to help novices through a method. It does require the participants to ring on what may be unfamiliar bells, but anybody attempting to ring a method should have a good enough ringing technique to be able to handle most unfamiliar bells of familiar weight. We are looking for input on what other training people might wish to take part in: this could include bell handling if you feel that may be restricting your ringing progression.

The aforementioned District Outing, superbly organised by Adrienne Sharp, was into Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire. There was a good turn-out and several complimented that the towers were far enough away to make it an outing but not so far that it wasn't worth coming for just some of the day if you could not make it all.

At the start of June seven bands took part in the District Striking Contest at Stagsden. Oakley, the defending rounds champions, took a step up and were welcome additional participants in the method contest. This left the way clear for the local band to take the rounds contest unopposed. We can only speculate what the outcome may have been if other bands had taken the plunge and entered. There was something of an upset in the method competition where perennial winners Kempston had to settle for second place behind Bromham. The two will meet again as the District representatives in the Association contest at Colmworth in September.

Alex Nash
District Chairman

Editor's Note: The report of the District Outing will be included in the October Headstock.

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 July 2017:	Quarterly District Meeting Sharnbrook (8) Afternoon Ringing Felmersham (8) BYO Picnic Tea 6.30 pm Business Meeting Evening Ringing	4.30 pm until 8.30 pm
1 July 2017:	Birmingham Ringing World National Youth Contest	
5 Aug 2017:	Swineshead (5), Morning Ringing Upper Dean (5), Morning Ringing	10.00 – 11.00 am 11.15 – 12.15 pm
2 Sept 2017:	Milton Ernest (6) Evening Ringing	7.00 – 8.30 pm
9 Sept 2017:	Beds & Herts Bike 'n' Hike t.b.c.	10.00 – 6.00 pm
16 Sept 2017:	Colmworth (6) Association Striking Contest	5.00 pm
24 Sept 2017:	(Sunday) Clifton (8) Young Ringers' Striking Contest	2.00 – 4.00 pm
7 Oct 2017:	Turvey (8) Quarterly District Meeting Afternoon Ringing, Tea, 6.00 pm Business Meeting Evening Ringing	3.00 – 8.30 pm

Future Events

20 Jan 2018: **Bromham** (8), Annual District Meeting

Young Ringers' Events

Aug 2017: Bedford District Young Ringers' Practices
t.b.c.

Bedfordshire Association of Church Bellringers
Report on AGM held on 20 May 2017 at Biggleswade

The President, Sue Silver, began by congratulating the Bedfordshire Young Ringers on their win in The Ringing World National Youth Contest in 2016 as well as 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Those present stood to remember Reverend Canon John Tibbs of the Bedford District who died in 2016.

The Minutes of the 2016 AGM at St Paul's Bedford, the 2016 Accounts and the 2016 Annual Report were accepted. Sue thanked Richard Hillson and Chris Williams for their work with the accounts as well as Barbara Fraser who stood down as Treasurer at this AGM after seven years, also Terry Brown for the Annual Report. Terry thanked Sue for her work as President.

Officers were elected as follows:

President:	Sue Silver
Vice-President:	Pat Albon
Honorary Secretary:	Terry Brown
Honorary Treasurer:	Tim Blunt
Honorary Peal Secretary:	Anthony Smith
Honorary Librarian:	Pat Albon
Honorary Independent Examiner of Accounts:	Trevor Groom.

Sue thanked Richard Hillson for his nine years' work as Independent Accounts Examiner. She also thanked other officers: Rosemary Drewery (Safeguarding Co-ordinator), Tony Sharp (Webmaster) and Roger Kendrick who is standing down as Technical Advisor. John Loveless has taken on an informal role as PR lead for Central Council of Church Bellringers (CCCBR) communications.

The proposed Association Bell Restoration Fund rule change did not obtain an absolute majority and will be referred back to the General Committee. The proposed R J Sharp Fund Code of Practice Change was approved.

Terry read a report by James Eggleston on the R J Sharp Ringing Centre at Biggleswade, further details will be available on www.biggleswadebells.org.uk.

Subscriptions will remain the same, attention was drawn to the many members who do not Gift Aid their subscriptions and they are requested to do so. In 2018 the Association AGM will be held on 19 May at 6.00 pm at Leighton Buzzard and the Association Striking Competition St Peter's Cup will be on 15 September in the Biggleswade District.

Other items were raised under Any Other Business:

- Tony Sharp gave a report on the Association website www.bacbr.org.uk.
- Pat Albon, one of the CCCBR Representatives, gave an update on the changes which are going on.
- Linda Garton encouraged members to subscribe to The Ringing World.
- Stephen Stanford reported on a project at Kempston to replace the tenor and 7th bells.
- It was reported that Eversholt have placed an order for their bell restoration project involving a new frame, bell tuning and new fittings.

Sue thanked Rev'd Guy Scott for the service and the use of the bells, and also the organist and the tea team.

Report of Bedford Quarterly District Meeting on 1 April 2017

Alex Nash opened the meeting at St Peter's Sharnbrook by thanking Rosemary Drewery for conducting the service, and Pam fforde for playing the organ, he also thanked St Peter's for use of the church and bells and those who had provided the tea.

Stephen Stanford informed the meeting that Reverend Canon John Tibbs had died in November 2016. The meeting stood in silence in his memory. An obituary appeared in the 2016 Association Annual Report.

The BRF stood at £18,138.80 with two requests for grants: the first from Campton was rejected as it is not in the Bedford District; the second was from Elstow and a grant of £348 towards a set of bell ropes was approved. There were no new members.

Recent events (see April Headstock) and future events (in this Headstock) were discussed.

Bedford District Striking Contest 2017

This year's district striking contest took place at Stagsden on Saturday 3rd June. It was well attended with seven teams. Simon Dixon from Rushden judged the competition.

Stagsden (who rang first) won the rounds category; Oakley (the previous holders of the cup) switched to method ringing this year. Stagsden last won the rounds cup in 2007, taking second place in 2008, but have been absent since then until this year. Hopefully we will see them more often at future competitions.

For the methods category there were six teams. The results were:

1 st place – Bromham	27 points	rang 7 th
2 nd place – Kempston	33 points	rang 2 nd
3 rd place – Goldington	49 ^{1/2} points	rang 6 th
4 th place – St Andrew's Bedford	57 points	rang 4 th
5 th place – St Peter's Bedford	58 ^{1/2} points	rang 5 th
6 th place – Oakley	65 points	rang 3 rd

Bromham and Kempston will represent the district in the association striking contest.

Looking back over the results from the previous twenty four years, the methods cup has been shared between five towers; Bromham's success this year increases that to six! Since 2011 Bromham have steadily worked their way up from third place to first place, scoring well with a fine 120 of plain bob doubles. Oakley rang in the method contest for the first time since 2011, it is encouraging to see bands progressing.

Overall it was great to see such a good turnout, with many people supporting and enjoying the ringing and refreshments.

Many thanks to Stagsden for the use of the bells, as well as those who helped out on the day in various ways.

Anna Townsend

Photos on the following pages by Ian Townsend

Editor's note: The other teams through to the Association Final at Colmworth on 16 September are Biggleswade and Clifton from the Biggleswade District, plus Dunstable and Silsoe from the Luton District.



Above left: Richard Brown receiving the Hammond Cup from the judge on behalf of Stagsden. Above right: Derek Hammond receiving the method cup from the judge on behalf of Bromham.

Below the bands (in order of ringing):



Stagsden



Kempston



Oakley



St Andrew's, Bedford



St Peter's, Bedford



Goldington



Bromham (with the method cup)

Emma Grace Townsend

Anna and Ian Townsend now have a baby girl Emma Grace born on Saturday 17 June weighing 7lb 8oz.

We all send our congratulations.

Emma Grace's parents are first and second left in the front row of the photo of Kempston on page 8.



Tailenders' Programme for 3rd Quarter of 2017

Tuesday 11 July

Eaton Socon

11.00 am – 12 noon, The Church of St Mary
8 bells, 13-1-11 cwt in F

Lunch at The Wagon and Horses, Eaton Socon

Arranged by Humphrey Chetwynd-Talbot
Ringing Master: Derek Hammond

Tuesday 8 August

Barrington (Cambs)

11.00 am – 12 noon, The Church of All Saints
6 bells, 11-0-3 in G (ground floor)

Lunch at The Little Rose, Haslingfield

Barton (Cambs)

2.00 pm, The Church of St Peter
6 bells, 10 cwt in *Ab*

Arranged by Lynn and Martin Goodwin
Ringing Master: Martin Barratt

Tuesday 12 September

Haynes

11.00 am – 12 noon, The Church of St Mary
6 bells, 6-3-5 in *Bb* (ground floor)

Lunch at The Greyhound, Haynes

Arranged by Barbara Beard
Ringing Master: Barbara Woplin

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 2017

April found us in **Clifton Reynes**. The sun was shining but there was a chilly wind keeping the temperature down. The bells are a ground-floor 6 so we were able to ring and socialise which is always a pleasure. The stuffed owls scattered around the church are an interesting form of decoration.



The bells went well and there was some decent ringing. We managed touches of Grandsire doubles, Plain Bob doubles and minor and Oxford Treble Bob. We also rang a course of Cambridge minor and, to mark the month, a touch of April Day.

Lunch was at the Robin Hood in Clifton Reynes. The menu was rather limited but everyone seemed to find the portions ample and the food well cooked. We sat in the conservatory and enjoyed the warm sunshine without the chill of the wind.

Thanks to Martin Barratt for organising everything this month.

Our May meeting was held in **Milton Keynes Village** on a chilly grey morning. Once we had utilised our sat-navs and maps to find the church, it was in a delightful spot, very different from the rest of Milton Keynes.



The bells are rung at the side of the church on the ground floor. The

ropes are quite long and springy and this caused some difficulty with the striking. We rang touches of Plain Bob and Grandsire doubles, Plain Bob minor and Stedman doubles as well as call changes.

Lunch was at The Red Lion in Salford which is the other side of the M1 so we took a variety of routes to get there. We ordered the food once we had arrived which meant some meals took longer to be served, but the menu was varied and there was something to suit everybody.

Many thanks to Chris and Julia Catlin for organising everything and taking us to a new area for many.

In June the Tailenders met at **Oakley** in rather nice English summer weather. The bells go well and there was some good ringing. We rang a plain course of Cambridge minor, and touches of Plain Bob doubles and minor, Grandsire doubles, Little Bob minor and Oxford Treble Bob.



Lunch was at the Queen's Head in Milton Ernest. The food was served very promptly indeed and was very good value.

Many thanks to Graham Ridgway for organising things so well, despite several last minute cancellations causing a few problems.

2017 Ridgman 10 Bell Striking Competition

This took place on 17 June at Great St Mary, Cambridge. Eight teams entered and Bedfordshire finished second with 72% behind Ely Diocesan Association with 86%. Bedfordshire ringers were: Charlotte Smith, Ros Keech, Philippa Whittington, Anthony Smith, Matt Johnson, Cameron White-Spunner, Stephen Stanford, Russell Brown, John Loveless and Frank Rivett.

Correction to April 2017 Headstock

Early copies of Headstock had an error in the QP on page 8 which should have read as follows:

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.

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 to the 'regular' contributors, especially to Anna and Ian Townsend for the District Striking Contest report and photos and photo of Emma Grace. Also to everyone who answered my many questions.

The next Headstock will be distributed at the Quarterly District Meeting taking place on 7 October 2017 at Turvey. Please send your articles, announcements etc by 29 September 2017. 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.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.

