



HEADSTOCK

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

April 2018

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

Whilst acknowledging the risk of duplication, I would like to mention some of the forthcoming events this quarter.

There will be a training session on the morning of May 5th on Oxford Treble Bob Minor. Sufficient experienced ringers will be available to ring with newer students of the method. This follows on from a successful training session last year.

The Association AGM is on May 19th at Leighton Buzzard. Look out for confirmation of the timings and agenda items in the forthcoming weeks. This is a significant opportunity in the year to hear about Association activities and to input into what might come in the future. It is also a chance to ring on 12 bells, in addition to that afforded each third Monday of the month at St Paul's Bedford.

The District Striking Contest will be at Carlton on June 2nd. This is a competition for Sunday service bands and has two sections, one for rounds and one for method ringing. Each band can enter one section and the first two bands from the method section go forward to represent the District in the Association Striking Contest later in the year. Although not the reigning District champions, Kempston of our District are the current Association champions. Details will be circulated to tower contacts closer to the date.

The District Outing will be on June 9th and is intended to be to the Rugby area. Again details will be circulated when the towers have been finalised. All are welcome for some or part of the day, although do bear in mind when choosing what to ring that as visitors we have a responsibility to maintain a high standard of striking.

Alex Nash
District Chairman

Report of Bedford Annual District Meeting on 20 January 2018

Alex Nash opened the meeting at All Saint's Kempston by welcoming those present including Association President Sue Silver, Secretary Terry Brown and Treasurer Tim Blunt, and he thanked Revd Eric Lomax for conducting the service and for the use of the church, bells and hall, Howard Brooks for playing the organ, and all those who had provided the tea.

No deceased members were reported. The minutes of the previous ADM in January 2017 at Bedford St Peter's were read and approved.

Under correspondence details were given of The Battle's Over Armistice Centenary and recruiting drive for 1400 new ringers to ring on Remembrance Sunday (the number of ringers killed in World War I).

The Young Ringers' C Edward Jeffries Memorial Trophy was awarded to Jonathan Nash who has continued to make good progress and it was presented to him by Alex Nash.



The 2017 District Report prepared by the Secretary was read and approved. The BRF Treasurer's Report examined by Richard Hillson was presented by Martin Goodwin. A grant had been paid to Elstow and one to Kempston had been approved. The Membership Report was presented by Jenny Thompson. The programme up to May 2019 was also presented.

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;

Ringling Master: Ian Townsend;
BRF Independent Examiner: Richard Hillson;
District Accts Independent Examiner: Andrew Dennison;
Four Committee Members:
Barbara Woplin, Anna Townsend, Ann Desics, Sarah Ward;
Striking Contest Organiser: Sarah Ward/Anna Townsend;
District Outing Organiser: Adrienne Sharp;
Two Association General Committee Representatives:
Alex Nash and Ian Townsend.

The following were elected as new members: Ash Kathuria of Goldington, Bal Singh of St Andrew's Bedford, Melanie Daniels of Bromham, and three Milton Ernest ringers Neil Roy, Luke Parry and Richard Newman. John Mustoe of Thurleigh was elected as a returning member.

Under Association Notices it was stated that the Association of Ringing Teachers were holding a weekend conference in Royston on 3/4 March. The General Committee had been working on a revision to the Bell Fund Rules after last year's attempt did not meet with the approval of the AGM. Pat Albon suggested that the proposed rule change be published on the Association website for members to see prior to the AGM.

Under AOB Maureen Hall asked for items for Headstock now that there will not be any Tailenders' reports. Alex said he hoped something similar to Tailenders could be formed for the future. The problem of pigeons getting into the bell chamber at Colmworth was discussed as well as the teaching of new ringers there. Pat Albon asked whether the paperwork for quarterly meetings could be put on the website beforehand. Stephen Stanford drew attention to the Kempston Bell Appeal.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are now due for payment, which has to be made before the Association Annual General Meeting on 19 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.

District Quarter Peal Week 3 – 11 March 2018

Bedfordshire Association

Sharnbrook, Bedfordshire

St Peter

Saturday, 3 March 2018

1260 Grandsire Triples

1 Jenny Thompson

2 Alexander J Nash

3 Robert W Jones

4 Jonathan Nash

5 Ian Townsend

6 Pat J S Albon (C)

7 Martin Heaslip

8 Simon H Sweeney

Rung during Bedford District Quarter peal week

Bedfordshire Association

Sharnbrook, Bedfordshire

St Peter

Sunday, 4 March 2018 (9-3-5 in F#)

1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

1 Pat J S Albon (C)

2 Barbara Beard

3 Pam M Bailey

4 Kath Stenton

5 Robert W Jones

6 Simon H Sweeney

Rung for Evensong during Bedford District Quarter Peal Week

Bedfordshire Association

Bedford, Bedfordshire

St Paul

Monday, 5 March 2018 in 54 mins (28-3-6 in D)

1320 Grandsire Cinques

Composed by D F Morrison

1 Charlotte M Smith

2 Alan M Shepherd

3 Christine A Williams

4 Anthony H Smith

5 Jonathan J Nash

6 Cameron White-Spunner

7 Alexander J Nash

8 Matthew R Johnson

9 Patrick J S Albon

10 John P Loveless

11 Stephen H Stanford (C)

12 James R B Saunders

In fond memory and in thanksgiving for the life of James R (Jim) Taylor, one time member of the local band at this Church.

(Rung during Bedford District QP Week)

Bedfordshire Association

Bletsoe, Bedfordshire

St Mary

Wednesday, 7 March 2018

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1 Andrew Heyman

2 Robert W Jones

3 Lorraine Andrews

4 Martin Goodwin

5 Martin Heaslip

6 Pat J S Albon (C)

Rung during Bedford District Quarter Peal week

Bedfordshire Association

Oakley, Bedfordshire

St Mary

Saturday, 10 March 2018 (10-0-2 in G)

1260 Plain Bob Minor

Rung during Bedford District Quarter Peal Week

1 Pam M Bailey

2 Dorothy J Kirby

3 Derek A Hammond

4 Chris Hartley

5 Martin Heaslip

6 Pat J S Albon (C)

Bedfordshire Association

Bromham, Bedfordshire

St Owen

Saturday, 10 March 2018 (22-3-18 in D)

1260 Grandsire Triples

Composed by J J Parker

1 Andrew T Heyman

2 Robert W Jones

3 Simon H Sweeney

4 Derek A Hammond

5 David I Stanford

6 Stephen R Hare

7 Stephen H Stanford (C)

8 Martin Heaslip

Wishing Ann Desics a speedy recovery.

For Bedford District QP Week

All Saints Kempston Bells Appeal: March 2018 Update

Two significant milestones have been reached since the last edition of Headstock.

- The two Prinknash Abbey bells were moved from Loughborough to Whites of Appleton on 14th February where they will eventually be tuned and fitted out. Thanks to Pat Albon and Cliff Izzard who assisted we have reduced our overall cost by ~£400. There are some nice pictures of the bells on the Kempston ringer's web site. They look and sound excellent!
- The first stage faculty application was approved by the Diocese to proceed to the public 28-day consultation stage, which passed without comment. The second stage application has now been submitted to the Diocese.

A formal order is about to be placed. It is anticipated that work in the tower will be carried out in September or October and completed during 2018, appropriately coinciding with the 40th anniversary of the original refurbishment project.

Brief details of the project were included in the Keltek Trust's annual review published in the Ringing World, February 2nd edition. The Editor kindly agreed to publish a follow-up article with a picture, further details of the project, and an appeal for donations, including the My Donate web site link. This was published in the Ringing World March 16th edition. There is a copy on our appeal web site.

The appeal fund has received a little over £7,500 in donations and gift aid recovery to date. Together with much appreciated grants from the Bedford District and Bedfordshire Association, donations for the bells, and expected gift aid and VAT recovery, this leaves us with about £10,000 still to be raised. It has been pleasing to receive a few unexpected donations from people with Kempston ringing or family associations dating back some years, who were not previously known to us.

Our focus for the coming months will be on fund raising for the final amount. In addition to actively progressing charitable grants and company sponsorship, current plans include wider distribution of the brochure within the parish and ringing community, articles in local

magazines and press, a mini ring in the Kempston (or possibly Bedford) shopping centre, engagement at the Church fete, and a quiz night.

The quiz night will be on Saturday 21st July in Kempston Church Hall. It promises to be a fun evening and is open to all, not only ringers. We hope that as many towers and other groups as possible will take up the challenge and enter teams. Further details are to follow – please reserve the date in your diaries – and start to organise your teams!

We would like to use the opportunity provided by the project, not only to raise the remaining funds, but also to promote ringing generally; if possible to recruit potential new ringers. To this end, in addition to public events such as a mini ring, we are considering engagement with the local primary school and possibly secondary schools, especially at the time when the bells are delivered and the work in the tower is in progress.

If you have enjoyed or benefited from ringing at Kempston over the years and wish to be associated with the project, we would be most grateful for donations. Please visit our web site and/or the My Donate site, consult a copy of our appeal brochure, or contact Richard Hillson or myself.

<https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/allsaintschurchkempstonbellsappeal>

If you think you can support us in other ways, with promotional, recruitment, and fund raising activities, please do contact us. We would like to involve as many as possible in these aspects of the project, so please do come forward with your suggestions and offers of support. All will be gratefully accepted.

*Stephen Stanford (on behalf of the appeal committee)
Project Leader*

Eversholt Bells Project (Luton District)

There was a visit to the foundry on 22nd February for a guided tour and explanation of the work that was being done. Eversholt bells were duly shown to us in the tuning shop in the process of cleaning and tuning. Our date of re-installation has not been given but we are having a service to re-dedicate the bells by the Bishop on October 6th which is also Harvest Festival. All are welcome especially ringers.

Bob Churchill

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 Stephen Stanford and Bob Churchill for their updates on the Kempston and Eversholt bell work. If anyone else has information about bell projects please let the Editor know. Thanks also to Bob Jones for his continued support with information on District matters.

The next Headstock will be distributed at the Quarterly District Meeting taking place on 7 July 2018 at Oakley. Please send your articles, announcements etc by 29 June. 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.

