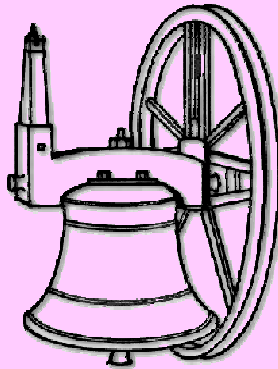


October 2006

**The
Bedfordshire
Clanger**



Biggleswade District Newsletter

The Biggleswade district usually meets for ringing on the second Saturday in each month at 3.30pm. Details of upcoming events are listed on the following pages.

- District Secretary: Elizabeth Overfield
10 Peartree Close, Shefford, Beds SG17 5JG
01462 815672
beth@overfield.connectfree.co.uk
- Clanger Editor: Jackie O'Regan
67 Fallowfield, Ampthill, Beds MK45 2TT
01525 630242
bedfordshire.clanger@ntlworld.com
- Bookstall: Anthony Smith
58 Cambridge Road, Langford, Beds SG18 9PS
01462 700676
anthonyh.smith@btinternet.com

Contents

District Committee for 2006.....	3
Editorial	3
Dates for your Diary	4
Christmas Social – 9 th December 2006	4
District AGM – 13 th January 2007	4
Recent Events.....	5
Campton – The Last Ring, 3 rd September	5
Association Striking Contest – 16 th September	6
Association Open Day – 30 th September	7
Useful Websites	8

District Committee for 2006

	Name	Tower	Telephone
Chairman	Mike Matthews	Eaton Socon	01480 212838
Vice-Chairman	Sue Silver	unattached	07850 793847
Secretary	Elizabeth Overfield	Arlesey	01462 815672
Treasurer	Peter Overfield	Arlesey	01462 815672
Ringing Master	Anthony Smith	Biggleswade	01462 700676
District BRF Treasurer	Sue Spencer	Eaton Socon	01480 476068
Catering Adviser	Carol Werrett	Stotfold	01462 629073
Editor "The Clanger"	Jackie O'Regan	Amphill	01525 630242
Committee Members	Bob Werrett	Stotfold	01462 629073
	John Loveless	Campton	01462 819074
	John Parsons	Meppershall	01462 813333
	Alan Smith	Biggleswade	01767 313521

Other Officers

District BRF Auditor	Mrs M Mann	Maulden	
Ronald J Sharp Bell Fund Rep	Mr J Parsons	Meppershall	
Tower Secretary (ex officio)	Terry Brown	Clifton	01462 631057

Editorial

It's time to book tickets for the Christmas Social (see enclosed poster and page 4) and the last chance to book to attend the Bedfordshire Association 125th Anniversary Dinner (see page 4 and www.bacr.co.uk).

It would be good to see more people at the monthly meetings, and to know what stops some people from attending. The District is here to support **you**, so please let us know if you like what is offered or if you would like any changes. Do you come to meetings sometimes? Never? Would you like more training, or an idea of what methods might be rung at meetings? Please send any ideas and feedback or reasons you can't or don't come to monthly meetings, along with any articles or ideas for items to go into The Clanger, to Jackie O'Regan either by post or by emailing bedfordshire.clanger@ntlworld.com.

Remember you can get additional copies of the Clanger, please pass the message on to anyone who might be interested – the annual subscription is £4 a year (£1 per issue); please submit orders to the Editor!

Dates for your Diary

Bedfordshire Association 125th Anniversary Dinner

17th March 2007 at Silsoe College, 7pm for 7:30pm

Formal dinner with guest speakers and entertainment

* See www.bacr.co.uk for full details *

**100 Association members have already signed up -
final bookings by the end of October!**

Tickets £30 ~ £5 deposit ~ contact Beth Overfield

- 14th October** Training Day, Arlesey 10:00am-12:00pm
- 11th November** Ampthill (tea, meeting) - Haynes
- 9th December** Christmas Social, Biggleswade - ringing 4:30-6:30pm,
Social 7:00pm
- 13th January** District AGM, Henlow (tea, service, meeting)

Ringing for the standard two tower District Meeting is from 3:30pm. Tea is generally around 5:00-5:30pm and is followed by evening ringing.

Christmas Social - 9th December 2006

This year's Christmas Social is again being held at Biggleswade, with ringing from 4:30-6:30pm and the Social starting at 7:00pm. This is always well worth attending – good food, good company and at the very reasonable cost of £8 per head. Handbell ringing will figure in the entertainment, you'll just have to come along to see what else there might be!

Please display the enclosed poster in your tower, and book tickets with Beth Overfield or Carol Werrett by the end of November – this event is always well-subscribed so don't delay! If you would like any more copies of the poster please call or email Jackie O'Regan.

District AGM - 13th January 2007

The AGM will be held at Henlow – please come along and show your support. Don't forget it's not just the meeting, there is of course also ringing, tea and a service.

Recent Events

Campton - The Last Ring, 3rd September

It seems only a few months since January 2004 when the Campton Bells Appeal was launched with "The Big Ring". But a lot has happened in that time! Including numerous and varied fundraising activities.

Now as the financial target is being approached we have had the excitement of visiting Loughborough, to see bells cast, and Appleton, to see them prepare for the new frame. Next on the work schedule is to remove the existing bells from the tower in readiness for building work to accommodate the new ones, this means that there will be no ringing at Campton for a few months.



In true Campton style a suitable event was organised for "The Last Ring". This took place on Sunday 3rd September and was in the form of an informal striking contest accompanied by the usual copious volume of tea and cakes etc. There were 9 teams entered for the competition which proved to be a great leveler, where the less experienced ringers were interested to note that the president of the Central Council (with over 3000 peals behind him) could also miss his sally. Not once but three times. Wendy Piercy, quietly assisted by George Bonham, placed Campton first in the rounds competition and Richard Horne's team won the change ringing section. Each of the winners were presented with a Campton Bells Appeal Pen. Can there still be any ringers without one? The formal

proceedings were completed by presenting Jean Luddington with a framed record of quarter peals rung in memory of Peter, who had been a stalwart of the tower for many years.

Overall the afternoon proved to be a huge success with over 60 people from a wide area attending, and we thank the organisers for their efforts. Now all that remains is for the Campton band to keep practising together so that they are on top form for "The First Ring" which should take place sometime in the spring.

Anthony Smith

Association Striking Contest - 16th September

It was the turn of the Biggleswade District to host the Association Striking Competition which was held at Eaton Socon on 16th September 2006. The District Committee had hoped to hold the event at Sandy, but there were problems with booking the church hall, so the event was moved to the back six at Eaton Socon.

The judge was John Thurman from Towester and the teams were from Biggleswade, Kempston, Flitwick, Eaton Socon, St Pauls Bedford, and Dunstable.

The judge commented that on the whole the ringing was good and the results were quite close. He felt that in all cases the ringing improved as it continued and would have been even better if it had continued for a longer period, as ringers became more used to the bells.

The results were as follows:

1 st	Kempston	Grandsire Doubles	83%
2 nd	St Pauls, Bedford	Grandsire Doubles	74%
3 rd	Eaton Socon	Grandsire Doubles	68%
4 th	Biggleswade	Plain Bob Doubles	67%
5 th	Dunstable	Grandsire Doubles	63%
6 th	Flitwick	Plain Bob Doubles	57%

Congratulations to Kempston for winning the competition.

The local ringers were thanked for producing an excellent tea, which rounded off a most enjoyable afternoon. Thanks to the incumbent at Eaton Socon for the use of the bells, the Eaton Socon ringers for the tea and to the judge.

Beth Overfield

Association Open Day - 30th September

Of the 41 towers throughout the Association that signed up to take part in the Open Day, 9 were from our District: Ampthill, Arlesey, Biggleswade, Blunham, Haynes, Maulden, Northill, Roxton and Tempsford. The main publicity for the event was arranged by Michael Barnicott-White, including television, a local radio interview and posters. Any additional publicity and arrangements for the day itself was organised by the individual towers.

A full report will soon be published on the Association website, www.bacr.co.uk, but for now here is some feedback from a few District towers:-

Roxton

There were over a dozen visitors at Roxton, keen to see the "new" belfry – no obvious recruits yet.

Biggleswade

Over 20 people and children visited Biggleswade, mostly from the Church family or nearby residents – additional publicity was limited to parish publications.

There was a display of ringing-related materials, handouts etc, and demonstrations were given of rounds and simple changes. Quite a number of visitors tried their hand at rounds (under close supervision). All the visitors were given a copy of the blue CCCBR leaflet, a sheet describing the Biggleswade group and a list of bell-related websites.

Overall it was a successful day; it remains to be seen if any recruits are generated but good work was certainly done amongst the St Andrews family and neighbours.

Ampthill

Despite some very hit and miss publicity Ampthill ended up with over 30 visitors. One of these had only heard about the Open Day from the radio interview, had printed off the details from the website and has since been to practice night. Most of the others came out of curiosity more than anything else, but who knows, some of them might return! The CCCBR leaflets were handed out, with labels on the back showing practice night and website details.

Most of the visitors were happy just having a look at the bells and in the ringing room, some rounds and methods were also rung on 4 bells. The children particularly were keen to do more, and anyone who wanted to had a go at chiming a bell.

It was a fantastic way of raising the profile of ringing within the community and giving people an idea of what we do, so regular open days will be arranged in future.

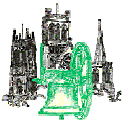
Useful Websites



Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers
www.bacr.co.uk



The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers
www.cccbr.org.uk

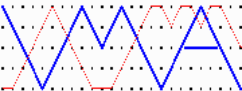


Doves Guide
www.cccbr.org.uk/dove/dove.php



Ringing World
www.ringingworld.co.uk

Change Ringing Resources - for links to just about everything related to ringing:
www.ringing.info



The Visual Method Archive – useful to get the blue line for any method, even those not in the “Red Book”!
www.ex.ac.uk/knotweed/vismeth.htm



And don't forget you can now find the Clanger, along with up to date news, information and more, at
www.ampthillringers.org.uk

Please let us know of any other ringing-related websites you find useful – send the links to us at bedfordshire.clanger@ntlworld.com to be included in future issues.