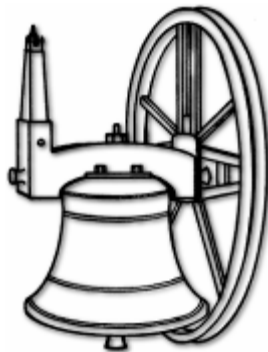


January 2006

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.

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District Committee for 2005

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Chairman	Mike Matthews	Eaton Socon	01480 212838
Vice-Chairman	Charlotte Smith	Biggleswade	01462 700676
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	Bob Werrett	Stotfold	01462 629073
	John Parsons	Meppershall	01462 813333

Other Officers

District BRF Auditor	Mrs M Mann
Ronald J Sharp Bell Fund Rep	Mr J Parsons

Editorial

You can now access the Clanger online! It has been set up as page on the new Amphill Ringers website – there is a link on the Association website www.bacr.co.uk or you can go to www.amphillringers.org.uk/the_clanger.htm As well as the downloadable PDF versions of the Clanger that some of you already receive via email there will be extra information, so bookmark it on your internet browser and please refer to it regularly for updates on events and other District matters.

We would be happy to put other events that might be of interest to District members in the Clanger, please phone or email with any details you would like to see in future issues and/or on the website.

After the Annual District Meeting on 14th January the committee list given above may be incorrect, so please check online before contacting committee members.

Dates for your Diary

14 th Jan	Roxton	- Eaton Socon (service, tea, ADM)
11 th Feb	Blunham	- Biggleswade (tea)
18 th Feb	Association committee meeting	
11 th Mar	Willington	- Northill (tea, meeting)
18 th Mar	Association training day	
24 th Mar	Annual District dinner	
8 th Apr	Campton (tea, meeting) - Southill	
1 st May	Walk and Ring – Woburn, Aspley Guise and Husborne Crawley	

Ringling for the standard two tower District Meeting is from 3:30pm. Tea is generally served around 5:00-5:30pm, depending on whether it is served at the first or second tower, and is followed by evening ringing.

Annual District Dinner - 24th March

This is still a provisional date for the District Dinner, details will be circulated to all towers in due course and posted on the website.

Walk and Ring - 1st May

On 30th December a "Walk and Ring" took place – a mini ringing outing where ringers walked from Ampthill to Flitton, then on to Maulden and back to Ampthill, arranged by John Hele from Ampthill (*see Recent Events*).

John has been poring over Ordnance Survey maps and come up with another good route, from Woburn to Aspley Guise, on to Husborne Crawley and back to Woburn (all towers in the Luton District). The route is about 7 miles in all, and with stops for ringing and refreshments at local hosteleries should take around 4 hours, after which a meal can be arranged at one of the pubs in Woburn. Ringers will be meeting at 1pm outside St Mary's in Woburn to start the walk.

Can all those who are interested in joining in please either call John Hele on 01525 840278 or send an email to contact@amphillringers.org.uk for more details and so that we have an idea of numbers. Details will also be posted in the "Clanger" section of the Ampthill Ringers website www.amphillringers.co.uk

Wanted!

The aim of this new section is to support District towers and members by circulating any requests for people, information, help with methods or anything else you might need! There will also be a Wanted column online (*see Editorial*)

which will be regularly updated, so if you have anything you want included on the website or in future issues of the Clanger please let us know.

Haynes need ringers

The Haynes ringers would love to have some extra support from more experienced ringers to help their band of learners, many of whom are at a very early stage. Their usual practice night is a Monday, but this could possibly be changed to fit in with other commitments.

Please contact Brian Oertel on 01234 381428 if you can help in any way.

Recent Events

Training Days - October and November

by Bob Werrett

Due to requests from District towers, this year's training was divided into two separate day sessions.

The October training was held at Arlesey in the morning and Henlow in the afternoon.

A total of eleven pupils were introduced to ringing Plain Bob Doubles and Minor, and two advanced pupils participated in Treble Bob and Cambridge Minor. Each pupil was allocated a tutor for guidance and instruction. John Loveless supported the eight instructors as Ringing Master for the two sessions.

In November a second session was arranged for four pupils to learn the method of Stedman Doubles. Sandra Cloughton supported her six instructors as Ringing Master.

A special thanks to all the instructors who gave up two Saturdays to help our new ringers to progress and enjoy their ringing.

November's Stedman Special Training Day

by Sandra Cloughton

I felt like Oliver Twist. I could feel eyebrows shoot up all over the District whenever it was mentioned, for I had asked Bob to arrange for a group of us to try Stedman at the Training Day. Could Tempsford and Blunham and Roxton and Northill *really* be ready to ring Stedman? *STEDMAN??!!!* "Well, - sort of" was the cautious reply, as we have to make our advances where we may in our corner of the District. Sometimes our strength lies in Bob Doubles; at other practices the band favours Grandsire and some long time ago a fallow period left three of us ringing regularly for services *and* practices for so long that we progressed beyond hunting to "Stedman Singles" [see A below].

Eventually we three became four again and taught it to the fourth person and then to another and then we stretched to Minimus [see B below].

On a good day, 6 of us might struggle through that, taking turns on treble and tenor and doing the work. Another day might be a Grandsire day and now Bobs were being introduced there... I felt that collectively, our knowledge of the Stedman Slow Work was good enough to go for Doubles given the security of a strong band and I knew that there was no way *I* could cope with teaching the double dodges on my own but hoped they might become familiar, even a friendly concept, if they were introduced and guided by a minder, again in the security provided by a strong band.

I think it worked!

Bob organised the core team and I organised Tempsford's bells and refreshments and recruits. There seemed to be plenty of help one way and another. Too few "minders" and the tuition would not have worked so I was delighted to think that I could play the role of hostess throughout the afternoon and that "my" learners would have a break from me. However, I had to stand in at an early stage as some of the tutors could not take "Stedman Singles" on board in time[!] and this led to the break-down of the "buddy system" by which a tutor stays with his/her learner throughout the afternoon and was the only serious "minus" put forward by our trainees.

However, it was also commented that a waving arm to point out whom to follow can be unnerving for a learner and, um, some people do not make their calls very clearly. [Never guilty, me! No, no, no! *Of course* not!]

Excellent team of minders

Once again, a big thankyou to our helpers

Good for the grey cells [countered with I started ringing too late in life]

They rang at twice our usual plod, but a steady band is a great advantage

These are some of some of the comments from [in anonymous alphabetical order] the trainees, Chris Morris, David Bradley, John Hele, Phil Harlow, Tim Hele and Viv Smith.

Another Stedman Special has been arranged for 14th January at Tempsford, prior to the ringing at Roxton. We look forward to consolidating what we have learnt!

A: *in which the 2nd rings the last whole turn, marks time one extra blow in thirds and repeats, the 3rd does the half turns properly and the treble hunts to thirds, marks time one blow and does the first whole turn in a mirror image of the 2nd. Of course!*

B: *4th bell marks time a couple of blows and then does all the slow work and marks time until the work comes round, 3rd starts in the proper way with first half turn and completes the slow work, marks time with 6 blows in 4ths and finishes with the first whole turn, 2nd does the last whole turn, 6 blows at the back and in again for the rest of the slow work, while the treble is quick bell three times with 6 blows at the back three times.*

Evening Ringing - Saturday 12th November

Attendance for the evening ringing at Stotfold was rather less than overwhelming! Nonetheless those who attended made good use of the opportunity to ring a variety of the usual methods.

Christmas Social - Saturday 10th December

The Christmas Social was at Biggleswade again this year, and as usual was a great success. Some varied ringing followed by a wonderful four course roast dinner – what could be better!

There were quizzes galore to help keep us occupied before and after the meal; we were also treated to two items of entertainment this year, firstly the Arlesey handbell ringers who played a selection of Christmas Carols, and then Bob Churchill and Peter Overfield gave a rendition of one of Bob's creations, to the tune of Flanagan and Allen's "Underneath the Arches" (see *Bits and Bobs*).

Thanks to all who helped organise this event, particularly those who were involved in preparing and serving the meal.



Arlesey handbell ringers



Attempting the church gates quiz!



the floodlit church

Walk and Ring - Friday 30th December

by Elizabeth Hele

Where were you on 30th December?

Well, four brave ringers were taking part in a 'walk and ring'. John Hele, Elizabeth Hele, Kevin Sims and Vernon Green walked from St Andrews Church, Ampthill, to St John the Baptist Church, Flitton to ring the bells. This was a distance of about 3½ miles in non stop rain and cold winds. It was also very muddy, however we were not deterred and reached Flitton church to ring a few rounds and call changes.

Then we braved the weather again (it still hadn't stopped raining) to walk to Maulden, once again a very muddy walk. We were ahead of schedule so Kevin suggested visiting The George for a drink.



St. John's, Flitton

After this refreshment we walked the short distance to St Mary's Church, where Colin Gunns was waiting for us with the key. He and Sue Sims joined in the ringing to form a band of six, ringing some rounds and call changes.

Next stop was the White Hart for lunch (and more drinks). Unfortunately neither Sue nor Colin could join us for lunch, but a very nice lunch was enjoyed by the four original ringers before heading back to Ampthill to ring at St Andrews. By this time it had sort of stopped raining, but the ringers were wet anyway so it didn't make any difference.

The next Walk and ring will be organised in the spring/summer sometime, when there will be (hopefully) nicer weather and more ringers taking part!

Thanks to John Hele for organising the walk and ring, Sue for joining us and Colin for coming out in the rain with a cold to open Maulden Church for us.



St. Mary's, Maulden

Bits and Bobs

As promised, Bob'n'Pete's song from the Christmas Social –

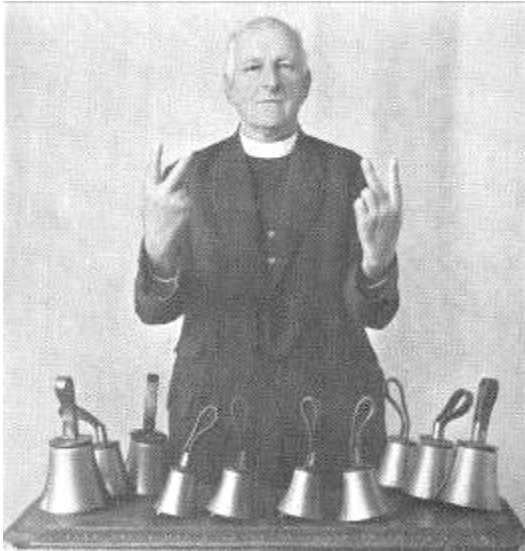
Clangerman and Bangon

*Up in towers and steeples,
In villages or towns,
We meet with other people,
To ring bells up and down,
Ring a touch of changes
In methods that we know,
We have such varied ranges
Of methods, Bob Doubles to Glasgow.*



*Sometimes we're ambitious,
And try for something grand,
And if it should defeat us,
We pile up and then stand;
Sort out where it went wrong,
Then try to get it straight,
And if we do, we've smiles on
Our faces, and we all feel
great.*

*Ringin' when it's raining,
And ringin' when it's fine,
The bells ring out high above;
We'll join with other people,
No matter where we stray,
In some tower or steeple,
We ring the hours away.*



Caption Competition

The response to the caption competition was frankly underwhelming – come on you lazy lot!

A couple of favourites were:

“How do you expect me to ring all these bells, I’ve only got two hands!”

and

“A warm welcome to all ringers”

but he might also be saying

“Well, if so many of you can’t be bothered to take part in competitions, this is all I have to say to you!”

18th Century Rhyme

This rhyme is from Saints Peter and Paul Church belfry, Little Gaddesdon, Herts:

**If that to ring you do come here,
You must ring well with hand and ear,
If that you ring in spur or hat,
A quart of ale you must pay for that,
And if a bell you over-throw
Sixpence is due before you go
And if you curse or swear, I say
A shilling’s due without delay,
And if you quarrel in this place
You shall not ring in any case.**

Useful Websites



Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers
<http://www.bacr.co.uk/>



The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers
<http://www.cccb.org.uk/>



Doves Guide
<http://www.cccb.org.uk/dove/dove.php>



Ringing World
<http://www.ringingworld.co.uk/>



The Ringing Roadshow
<http://www.ringingroadshow2005.org.uk/>

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



And don't forget you can now find the Clanger at
<http://www.amphillringers.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.