

Bletsoe Peals

Wednesday, 17th October 1888

Not a peal, but worthy of mention, being the first known record of *method* ringing at Bletsoe.

"Five members of the Sharnbrook Company paid a visit to Bletsoe, and rang on the bells of the parish church two six scores of plain Bob and three six scores of Grandsire Doubles, each called differently by the following, A J Barcock, E Coleman, J Dickens, W Page, L Bell. This was rung as a compliment to Mr Frederick Haines, the parish clerk, it being his 50th year as a ringer."

(Bedfordshire Mercury, October 27th, 1888)

A sixth bell, the treble and named *Eleanor*, was added in 1900 in memory of the widow of *StAndrew*, 14th Baron *StJohn* of Bletsoe.

1 Saturday, February 23rd, 1901

2 hours 50 minutes. Minor, 5040 Changes; Being 720 each of Woodbine, Oxford, and Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford, Double Court, Oxford Bob, and Plain Bob.

Joseph Church	Treble
Frank Webb	2
Chas Wm Clarke (C)	3
Charles R Lilley	4
William Freeman	5
John Wm Barker	Tenor

"FIRST PEAL on the bells".

2 Saturday, September 7th, 1901

2 hours 50 minutes. Minor, 5040 Changes; Being 720 each of Woodbine, Oxford, and Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford, Double Court, Oxford Bob, and Plain Bob.

Frederick J Bird	Treble
Charles R Lilley	2
Thomas R Hensher	3
John W Barker	4
William Freeman	5
Charles W Clarke (C)	Tenor

3 Saturday, March 22nd, 1902

2 hours 50 minutes. Minor, 5040 Changes; Being 720 each of Violet, Merchant's Return, Woodbine, Oxford, and Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford, and Double Court.

Fred. Wilford	Treble
William Stapleton	2
Charles W Clarke	3
William Freeman	4
John W Barker	5
Charles R Lilley (C)	Tenor

4 Saturday, November 19th, 1910

Central Northamptonshire Assn. of Church Bellringers.

2 Hours 53 minutes. Minor, 5040 changes; Being 720 each of Woodbine, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Double Oxford, Double Court, Oxford Bob, and Plain Bob.

A Chapman	Treble
Harry W Gayton	2
William V Newman	3
C W Clarke (C)	4
J B Martin	5
A H Martin	Tenor

Rung as a birthday compliment to A H Martin. The ringers were entertained to tea at the conclusion of the peal by the Rector, the Rev R H Moss.

5 Saturday, November 19th, 1925

2 hours 50 minutes. Grandsire Doubles, 5040 Changes.

P Wyatt	Treble
T Asque	2
W Darlow	3
S Litchfield	4
E Asque (C)	5
C Crane	Tenor

6 Saturday, November 20th, 1926

3 hours 10 minutes. Minor, 5040 Changes; Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Woodbine, Oxford, and Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford, Oxford Bob, and Plain Bob.

Herbert L Harlow	Treble
William Stock	2
Henry W Gayton	3
Henry Stapleton	4
Pearl Inskip (C)	5
Alfred Robinson	Tenor

7 Saturday, February 9th, 1929

3 hours. Minor 5040 Changes; Being 720 Cambridge, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob, and two 720's each of Oxford Treble Bob and Kent Treble Bob.

Ernest Asque	Treble *
John R Smith	2 †
Joseph Crisell	3 *
John Potter	4
Herbert L Harlow	5
John T Newington (C)	Tenor

* First peal in five methods. † First peal.

J R Smith was elected a life member of the Association in the tower.

8 Saturday, November 20th, 1937

3 Hours 8 Minutes. Minor, 5040 Changes; Viz.: 720 of Kent Treble Bob and two extents each of Oxford Treble Bob, Single Oxford and Plain Bob.

John Hilson	Treble
Herbert L Harlow	2
Leonard Williams	3
Donald L Cockings	4
C Henry Harding (C)	5
Reginald J Houghton	Tenor

9 Saturday, November 22nd, 1975

2 hours 44 minutes. Minor 5040 Changes; Cambridge Surprise Minor (Being two 2160's and one 720)

Colin M Payne	Treble
Ronald J Sharp	2
John W Sinfield	3
Clifford W Izzard	4 *
C Michael Orme	5
Philip Mehew (C)	Tenor

* 1st Cambridge Minor

In Memoriam John Hilson of Turvey, Association Vice President, Died 11th November. Member of the band that rang in the 1000th Peal for the Association.

10 Saturday, April 24th, 1982

3 hours 2 minutes. Minor 5040 Changes; Surprise Minor (3 extents Cambridge, 2 each London, Norwich)

James W Yates	Treble
Lynda M Lazzerini	2
Brian Harris	3
Anthony H Smith	4
Christopher J Pickford	5
Mark Regan (C)	Tenor

Bedfordshire Centenary Project Peal.

11 Tuesday, September 4th 1984

2 hours 48 minutes. Minor 5040 (7 methods, 1 extent each London Surprise, Norwich Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Cambridge Surprise, Oxford Bob, Plain Bob)

C Edward Jeffries (C)	Treble
Alison J Cox	2
Anthony H Smith	3
Martyn J Marriott	4
Patrick J S Albion	5
Philip Mehew	Tenor

12 Monday May 1st 1989

2 hours 58 minutes. Surprise Minor (13 methods:-

1. Annable's London, Rossendale; 2. Netherseale; 3. Norfolk, Primrose; 4. London, Wells; 5. Beverley, Durham, Surfleet; 6. Ipswich, Cambridge; 7. Norwich)

Clive G Smith	Treble
Charlotte M Smith	2
Anthony H Smith (C)	3
Andrew M Keech	4
Martyn J Marriott	5
Frank W Rivett	Tenor

A thanksgiving for the life and ministry of

David K Williams, Rector of Blunham, 1981 - 1986.

13 Friday March 6th 1992

Hertford County Association. 2 hours 55 minutes.

Surprise Minor (12 methods:-1. Northumberland, Sandiacre, Carlisle; 2. Cambridge; 3. Berwick, Hexham, Primrose; 4. Ipswich, Cambridge, Bourne; 5. Norwich; 6. York, Durham; 7. Cambridge, Ipswich)

Andrew M Farmer	Treble
Ian R Fielding	2
Mary C Symes	3
Colin M Turner	4
Peter G C Ellis (C)	5
Robert J Crocker	Tenor

14 Saturday June 20th 1998

2 hours 55 minutes. Surprise Minor (7 methods:- 1. Berwick, 2. Hexham, 3. Primrose, 4. Beverley, 5. Surfleet, 6. Cambridge, 7. Norwich)

Charlotte M Smith	Treble
Rosalind J Keech	2
Anthony H Smith	3
David A Potts	4
Christopher J Pickford	5
Stephen H Stanford (C)	Tenor

Specially arranged for Bletsoe Village Fete.

15 Saturday, 24th February 2001

3 Hours 10 Minutes. Minor 5040. An extent of each of Woodbine, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford, Double Court, Single Oxford, and Plain Bob.

Barbara J Woplin	Treble
Shelagh R Melville	2
Anthony H Smith (C)	3
David A Hope	4
Martin Major	5
Patrick J S Albion	Tenor

To celebrate the centenary of the first recorded peal on these bells, in which the same methods were rung

The ringers were afterwards entertained to tea prepared by Alison, wife of the Churchwarden & Tower Captain, Edward Bean, who in turn was responsible for suggesting the peal be rung to mark the occasion.