

# North Muskham *capturing memories*

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## Bell Ringers in 1936

### *At St Wilfred's Church, North Muskham.*

In 1936, there was a keen band of young people attending St. Wilfred's Church who were extremely keen bell ringers. They were taught by Mr. John Gascoigne, who had been the captain for many years.

The tower possessed five bells, and to master the art of "change ringing", we needed another bell. It was decided to make an all-out effort to raise money for this much needed tenor bell, which was to cost over £200.

Whist drives, dances etc were held in the school, and we formed our own concert party, calling ourselves "The Beaus and Belles". We toured around all the neighbouring villages at Christmas time, rang carols from door to door, with a set of hand bells kindly loaned to us by a Mr. Hedderley who lived in Waltons Lane. Miss K. Ballachey, Edgefield House, arranged the script in a wonderful variety of stage entertainment, singing, sketches etc. These concerts were indeed popular and people came from far and near for a jolly good night out. We even went out as far as East Leake, near Nottingham.

Eventually we had gathered together enough money for our new bell, which was, in due course, ordered from Messrs. John Taylor's Bell Foundry, Loughborough.

After a short while, and our object completed, we were able to have a dedication service for this new tenor bell - weighing over 15cwt. This has encouraged, through the years, many enthusiastic, expert ringers from many districts to share our pleasure in "change ringing".

In the Belfry there is a marble tablet with the names of the young people who for a number of years worked extremely hard to raise money for the St Wilfred's Tenor Bell!

The names on the photograph above are as follows:-  
Back Row left to right:

**John Peel, Harry Gascoigne, David Broderick, John Gascoigne (Captain) Stanley Wykes, Tom Needham,**

Middle row left to right:

**Henry Venables, Edith Marsh, Nancy Needham, Kathleen Streeton, Bernard Plummer,**

Front row seated left to right:

**Lucy Jarvis, Kathleen Ballachey, Margaret King**

3 couples emerged from this group of 14 to be eventually married!



Written by Nancy Milnes,  
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