

Reports

1 Training officer (Jane Mellor)

Since the last Business meeting in November 2022 the following focused training and events have taken place:

1 Dec 2022 – Raising and Lowering at Eversley led by Simon Farrar

23 Mar 2023 – Rope Splicing Course led by John Harrison

25 Mar 2023 – ‘Firsts’ quarter peal morning at All Saints Wokingham

1 April 2023 – Rope skills with Jane Mellor & Darren Smith at All Saints Wokingham

19 Aug 2023 – Elementary outing and Branch practice

23 Sept 2023 – Second ‘firsts’ quarter peal at Binfield

The Raising and Lowering event was very successful, and the intention is to continue to offer this. Vicky at Shottesbrook has offered their help.

The firsts quarter peal morning was a great success with three first quarter peals rung.

The Rope skills morning was organised as a focused event for specific ringers, and I thank Darren Smith for his help. Although this intended to be less handling and more advanced rope work it really was teaching handling.

Our 2nd elementary outing was a success with a great turnout, visiting Clewer, Dorney and Maidenhead finishing up at White Waltham as the Branch practice. These outings are helping to bond the group and create confidence in ringing. The standard had progressed from the previous year which is encouraging.

The second Firsts Quarter peal morning gave success to one quarter at Binfield with a first as conductor for James who was only working at elementary level the year before.

ART M2F follow up

It has now been a whole year since the M2F course on 8th Oct 2022. Our branch had 9 people attending from 6 different towers. Due to family circumstances, I have not been as present as I wished to be following up with this course. However, several of the teachers are embracing the ART methodology and I hope to encourage teacher accreditation through this coming year.

Elementary Progress

With the elementary practices having been run twice monthly for the last 2 years we are now seeing progression. Many are ready for quarter peals to consolidate learning but finding the right time is difficult. Can we build a time into the calendar for a regular quarter?

Looking ahead

Focused work with specific ringers works and they benefit. I would like tower captains to think of their ringers and who needs focused training be it handling, understanding call changes, consolidating a method or a quarter peal, and let me know.

Branch recruitment

I would like to consider organising an ART M1 course in the branch. It would be beneficial to organise this around a branch recruitment drive. The success of this will be the teachers being willing to support.

2 Ringing master (Nigel Mellor) 2023 Ringing Highlights

The elementary practices continue to be the best attended – on one occasion too well attended with over 22 people which made it quite hard to run.

During the year other members of the branch, particularly those that attended the ART M2 course (October 2022) have run some of the elementary practices. I plan to continue this approach in 2024 as on a personal basis it means I can reduce the number of practices I attend in a year. We currently on average organise 5 practices a month and I am grateful to Steve Wells and those others that have run practices when I am not available.

The ringing standard of those that have been attending the elementary practices has generally improved such that I have changed the approach to some of the elementary practices to include more advanced ringing. Based on this we should review 'what do we need for 2024'? The Wednesday elementary practice has tended to become more of an Sonning Deanery Ringers

intermediate practice, particularly when we are being hosted by a tower that is their normal practice night (Finchampstead, Waltham St Lawrence).

The daytime practice at Binfield continues to be reasonably attended with a mixture of standards of ringing. Is there a case for also alternating with another tower to run an 8-bell practice?

The advanced practice has become the least well attended and has not really recovered since the pandemic. I would like to encourage members of the branch to come along to this practice. It is not restricted just to surprise major and can be an opportunity for those members that are progressing beyond Plain Bob and Grandsire. Anyone who wants to learn to ring the treble to surprise or treble bob methods are always very welcome.

Congratulations to some of our young ringers (Becki Shuttleworth and James Moynihan) who have achieved their first peal.