Sonning Deanery Branch Newsletter





An excellent way to consolidate your method ringing is to ring quarter peals. From **Nov 5th - 13th** is the **Branch Quarter Peal Week**. I would like to encourage every tower to ring at least one quarter. If you need help in forming a band or conducting, please contact me or any other officer who will be only too pleased to help.

Due to some unfortunate circumstances, the monthly afternoon practices at Binfield have had to be cancelled recently because of insufficient ringers.

This should improve now. Our next practice is on November 1st at 2pm.

Please come along if you would like to ring, even for a short while before you pick the children up from school! All standards are catered for.

Steve Wells (Ringing Master)

Sonning Deanery Ringing Outing—Saturday 15th October 2016

Time	Tower	Dedication	No. of bells	Weight	Grid ref.	Postcode		
10.00-10.45	Baughurst	St Stephen	6	6-2cwt	SU582599	RG26 5JY		
11.15-12.00	Monk Sherborne*	All Saints	5	7-1cwt	SU608558	RG26 3HW	(ground floor)	
12.00-2.00	Lunch	The Swan, S	herborne St Jo	ohn, 3 Kiln Roa	ad, RG24 9HS			
2.00-2.45	Sherborne St John	St Andrew	6	10-3cwt	SU623555	RG24 9HT		
3.15-4.00	Bramley	St James	8	12-1cwt	SU644589	RG26 5DF	(ground floor)	
4.15-5.00	Silchester	St Mary	5	6cwt	SU643623	RG7 2HH		
* - anticlockw	vise							

Please contact Pam Elliston (pam.elliston@talktalk.net) to confirm attendance and so that we can reserve a table for lunch.

Forthcoming Events

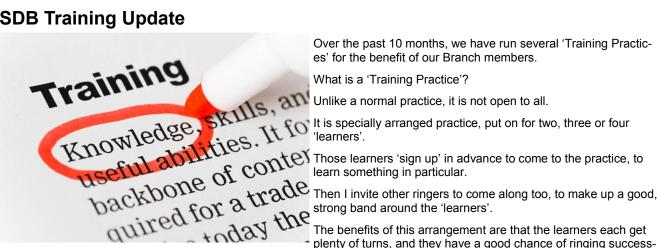
Quarter Peal Week 5th—13th November

Saturday 19th November Arborfield 4.30pm Business Meeting. NB: NO ringing afterwards. Saturday 17th December Wokingham St Pauls (8) 4pm—6pm Branch Practice with mince pies

Saturday 21st January Hurst (8) 10.30am—12 noon Branch Practice Monthly Tuesday afternoon practices (2-4pm at Binfield) on 1st Nov, 6th Dec, 2nd Jan (provisionally).

Surprise Major practices (Wednesday 8pm –9.30pm) at Wokingham All Saints on 12th Oct, 9th Nov & 14th Dec (provisionally).

SDB Training Update



Over the past 10 months, we have run several 'Training Practic-

plenty of turns, and they have a good chance of ringing success-

fully because they have a strong band around them, and a skilled person standing by to give advice.

We have run two 'Basic' practices at Waltham St Lawrence, for six 'learners' altogether - practising call changes, place making, covering behind and plain hunt.

At Twyford, there have been five 'Advanced' practices, when we have practised Cambridge, Yorkshire and Bristol Surprise Major. Notionally this has helped six 'learners'; but actually, at these sessions, quite a few of the 'helpers' benefit from the extra practice too!

We hope to arrange a few more Training Practices before the next AGM.

Please get in touch with me if you would like to join in!

Jacquie Hazell (Training Officer jm@hazellfamily.net)

Summary of the Hurst Show recruitment exercise

As you will probably know the Branch organised an advertising and recruitment weekend using the Charmborough Ring over the two days of 25/26th June at the Hurst Show. This is a summary of the results of the recruitment exercise in terms of the people who took up learning to ring. Obviously the benefits of 'spreading the word' and advertising tower bell ringing (including radio coverage about the Charmborough Ring and the Hurst Show) are more difficult to quantify.

At the Hurst Show we offered a taster session of tower bell ringing and asked people who were interested to write their contact details on a paper form. Over the two days we got 29 entries on the forms. Over the next few days 3 people who were not on the forms contacted a ringer direct; two of these were past ringers who were inspired to return to ringing. Of those who gave their location we had: Wokingham 8, Twyford 5, Hurst 3, Woodley 3, Winnersh 1, Ruscombe 1, Binfield 1, Wargrave 1 (and 3 for Reading branch).

Most of the contact with possible recruits was by email, plus some phone calls. Over the whole period of the exercise I sent out 126 emails, most of them to multiple recipients. The results for the 32 people whose names we had were:

3 names given to Reading branch; 7 never responded to any invitation (we organised 3 taster sessions on different dates);

9 said they were no longer interested or didn't have the time for bell ringing; 4 who have not attended any session but have expressed an interest : a 13 year old, location unknown; one for Wokingham; one for Twyford and one for potentially Arborfield.

9 who attended taster sessions, as follows:

- 5 'students' attended 1st taster held on 2/7/2016 none have taken up ringing
- 3 'students' attended 2nd taster held on 30/7 one has taken up ringing,
- the other two are being contacted to see if they are still interested
- 1 'student' attended 3rd taster held on 3/9 she has not taken up ringing (too busy)

This measures the immediate effect but hopefully we may see some longer term wins over the years to come.

Rob Needham (Sonning)

Protection at last!

Ringing from a gallery makes you much more part of the church because the congregation can see you as well as hear you ringing. But it also has its downside if the church has a powerful heating system or a powerful organ and very active choir, as anyone who has rung for service at All Saints Wokingham will know.



The heat problem dates from the installation in the 1980s of a more efficient heating system that works by flooding the upper level with hot air. At pew level it is comfortable but above 8-10 feet it can be stifling. A more powerful organ installed around the same time made it almost impossible to hear the bells when ringing after a wedding, and we also had to stop ringing 5 minutes before services to give the organist a reasonable run in.

The tower restoration project begun in 1999 included a glass screen in the archway, but the bell restoration work in 2004 had to go ahead without it because the plan ran into heritage issues. At the time we thought they would take a couple of years to re-

solve, but as the years rolled on, the hoped for solution turned into an impasse.

As well as the solution being delayed, the problem got worse. Loud music rehearsals became common before services and in recent years

we have only been able to ring for about half the services - much to the disappointment of the congregation.

Finally, by making a big concession in terms of usable space within the tower, we managed to get approval for a modified design of screen that was installed during the summer.

As you can see from the photos it was quite an undertaking! There are more details of the design and interesting pictures of the installation on the tower website, see: allsaintswokinghambells.org.uk/ASProject/Screen/

John Harrison (Chairman)

Peals

Saturday 6 August 2016 in 2 hrs 53 mins

Easthampstead

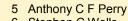
5312 Spliced Surprise Major (8 methods: 1152 Rutland, 768 Superlative, 704 Bristol, 576 Cambridge, Lincolnshire, Pudsey, Yorkshire, 384 London with 143 changes of method).

- 1 Heather A Kippin 2 Graham N Scott

- 3 George Whiteside 4 David Sullivan (500th peal)
- To celebrate the wedding of Sally Scott and Jamie Warwick on the 13th August, granddaughter of Stan and Joan Scott and daughter of 2.

Also to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the recasting and augmentation of the bells - the fathers of 2 and 7, Stan Scott and Charles Kippin, rang in the first peal on the 8.

- 6 Stephen C Wells
- 7 Robert C Kippin
 - 8 Alban D Forster (C)





Quarter Peals - All are at Easthampstead, unless shown otherwise. (Sorry, many of these are quite old,

due to a shortage of space in the last issue).

Training Co-ordinator

Branch Reps

Bookstall

Webmaster

Newsletter Editor

Jacquie Hazell

Sue Davenport &

Jacquie Hazell Pam Elliston

Alison Clayton

John Harrison

Thursday 15 Jan White Waltham			Saturday 2 April White Waltham		Wednesday 6 April 1260 Plain Bob Doubles		Sunday 10 April 1260 Plain Bob Minor	
1260 St Simon's and St Mar- tin's Doubles 1 Lesley Graves 2 Caroline Andrew 3 Susanne Sargent 4 Vikki Bulbeck		1 R 2 Le 3 B 4 C			1 Bradley Herrington 2 Simon Chapman 3 Barbara Wells 4 Anna Barker 5 Stephen Wells (C) 6 Chris Otim		1 Simon Chapman 2 Bradley Herrington 3 Barbara Wells 4 Daniel Chafen 5 Thomas Helyer 6 Stephen Wells (C)	
9 6 7	5 Steve Wells (c) 5 Simon Graves A 50th Birthday complime he day, to the Simon Gra	6 Si A 50 ent, on the	6 Simon Graves A 50th Birthday compliment It, on the day, to the Lesley Grave		bandary rour zoro, daugn		Rung to celebrate the birth of William Austin Curtis Wells on March 22nd 2016, grandson of 3 and 6. First inside 2.	
tenor ringer.		phe	pher Palmer.		Saturday 7 May		Sunday 3 July	
Тн	ursday 21 April	Saturda			1260 Plain Bob Doubles		1260 Plain Bob Minor	
1 2 3 , 4 , 5 , 6 7 ; 8 (8 (bir be	360 Plain Bob Triples Bradley Herrington Barbara Wells Judith Bowler Anna Barker Alison Wood Rachel Moss Stephen Wells (C) Christopher Otim ung to celebrate the 90th thday of HM Queen Eliz th II. 'st of triples, treble.	1 Simon 2 Rache 3 Barba 4 Alison 5 Anna 6 Thoma 7 Steph 8 Bradle Rung fo a- Sunday	1 Simon Chapman 2 Rachel Moss 3 Barbara Wells 4 Alison Wood 5 Anna Barker 6 Thomas Helyer 7 Stephen Wells (C) 8 Bradley Herrington Rung for St George's Day.		his final service before leav-		first day of the Battle of the Somme, age 23.	
		1260 Gi 1 Malco 2 Sue S 3 Graha 4 Richa 5 Simo 6 Juliar A compl Ruscom					1260 Plain Bob Doubles 1 Anna Barker 2 Bradley Herrington 3 Gail Wills 4 Barbara Wells 5 Stephen Wells (C) 6 Thomas Helyer First inside 3.	
	Chairman	John Harrison	All Saints, Wok	ingha	m	0118 978 5520	chairman@sdb.odg.org.uk	
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Waltham St Lawrence

All Saints, Wokingham

As above

Sonning

Sonning

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As above

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