

Sonning Deanery Branch Newsletter



October 2016, Autumn Issue



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, Sherborne St John, 3 Kiln Road, 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

* - anticlockwise

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 Practices' for the benefit of our Branch members.

What is a 'Training Practice'?

Unlike a normal practice, it is not open to all.

It is specially arranged practice, put on for two, three or four 'learners'.

Those learners 'sign up' in advance to come to the practice, to learn something in particular.

Then I invite other ringers to come along too, to make up a good, strong band around the 'learners'.

The benefits of this arrangement are that the learners each get 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!

Ringling 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



resolve, 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 | 5 Anthony C F Perry |
| 2 Graham N Scott | 6 Stephen C Wells |
| 3 George Whiteside | 7 Robert C Kippin |
| 4 David Sullivan (500th peal) | 8 Alban D Forster (C) |

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.

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).

Thursday 15 Jan

White Waltham

1260 St Simon's and St Martin's Doubles

- 1 Lesley Graves
- 2 Caroline Andrew
- 3 Susanne Sargent
- 4 Vikki Bulbeck
- 5 Steve Wells (c)
- 6 Simon Graves

A 50th Birthday compliment, on the day, to the Simon Graves, tenor ringer.

Saturday 2 April

White Waltham

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Rob Needham
- 2 Lesley Graves
- 3 Barbara Wells
- 4 Caroline Andrew
- 5 Steve Wells (c)
- 6 Simon Graves

A 50th Birthday compliment, on the day, to the Lesley Graves and her twin brother Christopher Palmer.

Wednesday 6 April

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Bradley Herrington
- 2 Simon Chapman
- 3 Barbara Wells
- 4 Anna Barker
- 5 Stephen Wells (C)
- 6 Chris Otim

Rung to celebrate the birth of Mia-Rose Chapman on January 15th 2016, daughter of 2.

Sunday 10 April

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Simon Chapman
- 2 Bradley Herrington
- 3 Barbara Wells
- 4 Daniel Chafen
- 5 Thomas Helyer
- 6 Stephen Wells (C)

Rung to celebrate the birth of William Austin Curtis Wells on March 22nd 2016, grandson of 3 and 6. First inside 2.

Thursday 21 April

1260 Plain Bob Triples

- 1 Bradley Herrington
- 2 Barbara Wells
- 3 Judith Bowler
- 4 Anna Barker
- 5 Alison Wood
- 6 Rachel Moss
- 7 Stephen Wells (C)
- 8 Christopher Otim

Rung to celebrate the 90th birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II. First of triples, treble.

Saturday 23 April

1260 Plain Bob Triples

- 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.

Sunday 11 September

Twyford

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Malcolm Edwards
- 2 Sue Slade
- 3 Graham Slade
- 4 Richard Bennett
- 5 Simon Farrar (C)
- 6 Julian Pettifer

A compliment to Rev Simon Howard vicar of Twyford, Ruscombe and Hurst. Rung before his final service before leaving to become the chaplain at Lee Abbey in Devon.

Saturday 7 May

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Bradley Herrington
- 2 Christopher Otim
- 3 Anna Barker
- 4 Stephen Wells (C)
- 5 Thomas Helyer
- 6 Simon Chapman

In memory of the Rev Jane Gibbs, Associate Priest at St Mary's Hinckley and mother of 3, who died on March 13th. First inside 2.

Sunday 3 July

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Simon Chapman
- 2 Rachel Moss
- 3 Barbara Wells
- 4 Daniel Chafen
- 5 Stephen Wells (C)
- 6 Bradley Herrington

Rung in memory of Private George Howard, a ringer from Easthampstead, who died on July 1st 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme, age 23.

Saturday 28 May

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, Wokingham	0118 978 5520	chairman@sdb.odg.org.uk
Ringling Master	Steve Wells	Easthampstead	01344 452202	dbrm@sdb.odg.org.uk
Deputy Ringling Master	Nigel Mellor	All Saints, Wokingham		dbrm@sdb.odg.org.uk
Treasurer	Sue Davenport	St Paul's, Wokingham	0118 978 6554	treasurer@sdb.odg.org.uk
Secretary	Rob Needham	Sonning	0118 926 7724	secretary@sdb.odg.org.uk
Training Co-ordinator	Jacque Hazell	Waltham St Lawrence	07905 085815	training@sdb.odg.org.uk
Branch Reps	Sue Davenport & Jacque Hazell	As above	As above	committee@sdb.odg.org.uk
Bookstall	Pam Elliston	Sonning	0118 969 5967	bookstall@sdb.odg.org.uk
Newsletter Editor	Alison Clayton	Sonning	0118 926 6767	editor@sdb.odg.org.uk
Webmaster	John Harrison	All Saints, Wokingham	As above	webmaster@sdb.odg.org.uk