

# Sonning Deanery Branch Newsletter



January 2018, Winter Issue

## Chair's welcome

Last year we introduced a programme of regular ringing for young ringers within the Branch. It's been good to see young ringers getting out and meeting others in different towers, and we hope to develop the youth activity further. Sadly our first youth officer, Josh Slade, has left the area. Rob Needham is organising the youth practices and Steve Wells is running them, but we really need someone to take on the role of Youth Officer and develop this activity. Could it be you? If so, consider standing for election at the AGM.



Last year we also took an in-depth look at ringing and ringers within the Branch. Predictably it showed both positives and negatives, with a mixture of stronger and less strong bands. Most surprising was that nearly a third of our members are inactive - that makes our published membership figures illusory but it also suggests that lapsed members still value their association with ringing. Around a third of our towers can't ring for the services they ought to, but on the plus side many bands support each other so they can ring for more than they could unaided, and two towers have re-started regular service ringing. Two thirds of practices are supported by regular visitors (four on average), which is a tribute to community spirit within the Branch. We face many challenges, including growing our numbers, and it is heartening to know that two thirds of bands have recruited in recent years, even though not all recruits have stuck.

We need to raise the profile and status of ringing with non-ringers, from whom we recruit, and on whose good will we depend. That requires publicity, and in 2018 we will again take the Charmborough Ring to the Hurst Show for two days in June (as we did two years ago, see: [odg.org.uk/sdb/events/2016charmborough.html](http://odg.org.uk/sdb/events/2016charmborough.html)). We hope to make this year even more successful, and I look forward to your support. In 2016 over two dozen volunteers helped to man the bells and explain ringing to the public. Put the dates in your diary – Saturday/Sunday 23-24 June.

For the first time in many years we had no Training Officer this year, and we decided to take the opportunity to step back and find out about members' underlying training needs. We hoped that would be complete by now but technical issues have delayed it – with up to 150 potential responses we need to make sure not just that the questions will be easy to answer but that all the answers will be easy to process as well. Of course finding out the need is just the first step – we then need to satisfy the need, which will be much easier if we elect a Training Officer at the AGM. Could you take on this role? The Training Officer doesn't have to run all the training – other people can be asked to do that – but he/she needs to organise things so that the training gets done.

## Calendar

### Saturday 20th January

Arborfield (6)  
10.30am—12 noon Branch Practice

### Saturday 17th February

Wargrave (8)  
AGM  
Ringing 3-4pm, Service 4pm, Tea  
4.45pm, 5.15pm AGM.

### Saturday 17th March

Warfield (10)  
10.30am—12 noon Branch Practice

Young Ringers Practice (2nd Sunday of the month, 2.30 –4pm) 14th Jan at Waltham St Lawrence, TBD in Feb and March.

Monthly Tuesday afternoon practices (2-4pm at Binfield) on 9th Jan, 6th Feb & 6th March (provisionally).

Surprise Major practices (Wednesday 8pm –9.30pm) at Wokingham All Saints on 10th Jan, 14th Feb & 14th March (provisionally).

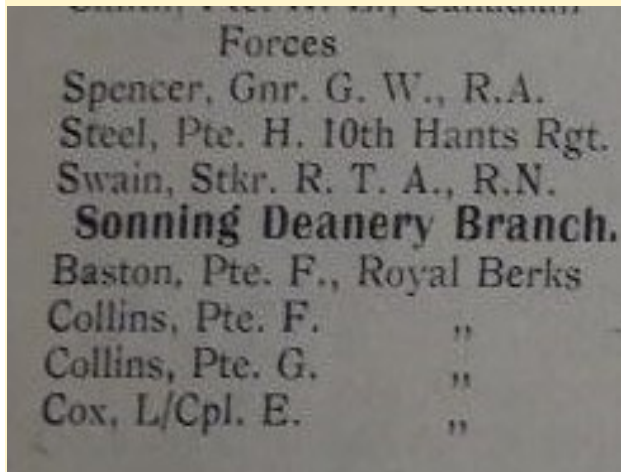
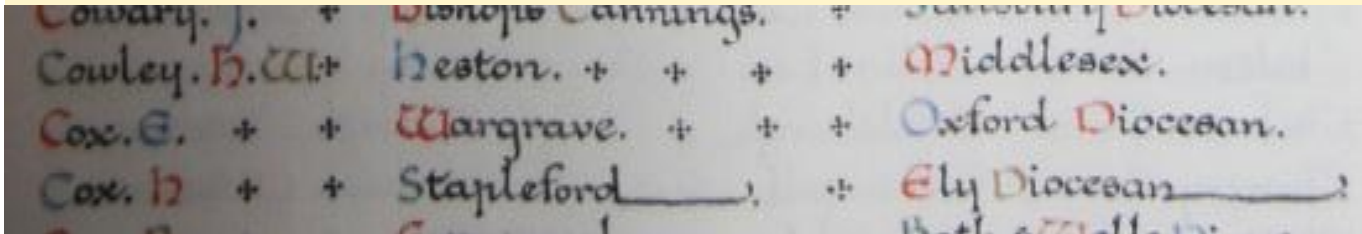
Most monthly practices continue to be reasonably supported, but by no means all members benefit from them. We would like to spread the benefit more widely so if you've not been to a Branch practice, why not give it a try? You will be made welcome. All standards are catered for, and it's quite likely you could try something that you don't normally get the chance to ring. Look at the Branch diary to find out when & where practices are: [odg.org.uk/sdb/diary/](http://odg.org.uk/sdb/diary/)

Finally I hope you will join me in thanking my fellow officers for all they have done for ringing in the Branch during 2017. I hope that you will enjoy your ringing in 2018 and that its sound will uplift those who hear it.

*John Harrison, Chairman*

## Ringling remembers

For Wargrave this has not been as straightforward as it would appear from the entry in the CCCBR memorial book and roll of honour (below).



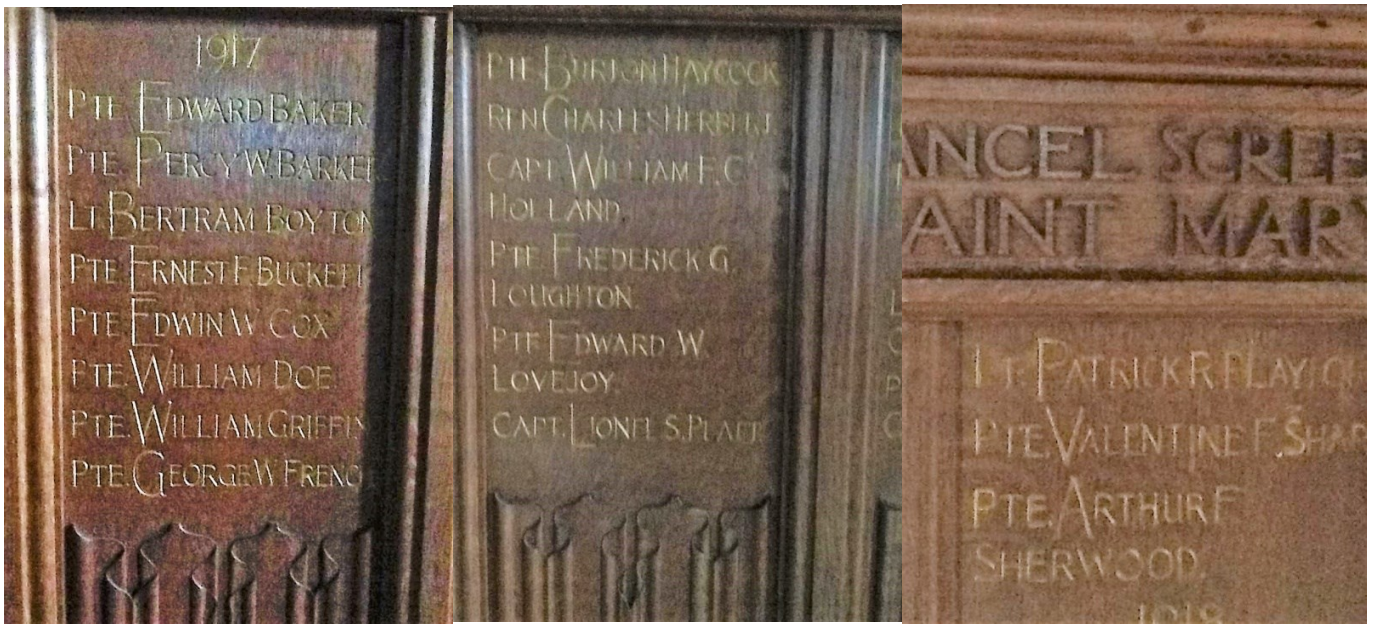
On the website he was listed as Private E Cox 6441 of 1<sup>st</sup> Btln. Royal Berks, d 2/6/17, but this turned out to be an Edward Cox, whereas the Wargrave Roll of Honour shows him to be Edwin W Cox 24656 of 2<sup>nd</sup> Btln Royal Berks d 6/2/17. The website has been updated, but as yet we have found no direct evidence that Edwin Walter was a ringer at Wargrave, although a L/Cpl E Cox appears in the ODG Roll of Honour under the SDB.

The SDB records of the time do not show an E Cox at Wargrave, neither do the Wargrave Belfry meeting records we have so far found in the Parish Magazines. The two lists do not match each other, and although there are some ringers with a surname of Cox, there is no E Cox among them. The guild librarian, Doug Beaumont, and Alan Regis MBE are still researching. The church was burnt down and bells destroyed in 1914 so there was no ringing until the new bells were dedicated in 1916, so the records may well be incomplete.

With a lack of specific evidence it was decided to ring a Quarter to remember all 18 of the Wargrave men who died in action in 1917 (on Friday 29th December 2017), rather than just "E Cox".

### 1288 Plain Bob Triples

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Jacqueline Hazell | 5 Graham E Slade     |
| 2 Lavinia Sullivan  | 6 Anthony W Gordon   |
| 3 Kitty Gingell     | 7 David Sullivan (C) |
| 4 Freddie Gingell   | 8 George Whiteside   |



*Vinni Sullivan (Wargrave)*

### Some Quarter Peals from All Saints, Wokingham

**20th November**

**1260 Grandsire Triples**

- 1 Kristin L Fitch
  - 2 Jane A Mellor
  - 3 Mary Spence
  - 4 Nigel A L Mellor(C)
  - 5 Alan K Barsby
  - 6 John A Harrison
  - 7 Stephen R Smith
  - 8 Stephen C Bates
- Rung as a Platinum Wedding Anniversary compliment to Queen Elizabeth II & Prince Philip.

**13th December**

**1250 Pudsey Surprise Major**

- 1 Ian F Taylor
  - 2 Stephen C Wells
  - 3 Jane A Mellor
  - 4 Tom Blomley
  - 5 Stephen R Smith
  - 6 Jonathan P Goodchild
  - 7 Nigel A L Mellor (C)
  - 8 John A Harrison
- 70th birthday compliment to Barbara Wells

**Monday, 1 January 2018 in 1h11m**

**2018 Yorkshire Surprise Major**

Composed by Simon J Gay

- 1 David Sullivan
  - 2 Jenny M Page
  - 3 Jon P Tutchter
  - 4 Alan K Barsby
  - 5 Lavinia M Sullivan
  - 6 Anthony W Gordon
  - 7 J Martin Rice
  - 8 John A Harrison (C)
- Rung to welcome the New Year

### It's all about who you know....

There are many ways to recruit ringers but often a successful way is 'who you know', in other words personal contact. This is very much what happened when the Sonning band had a stall at the Sonning Show in mid September. As a result of our presence at the show we recruited four ringers, but to be honest not one was directly from the stall and its advertising material. It was all down to personal contact before and after the event.

I put a 'post' about the ringers' stall at the Sonning Show on an Earley Facebook group and this got a 'like' from Vicky – who is now learning to ring. She knows Katie (see below) because Vicky is a teacher and Katie has done some supply teaching at the same school.

Norma is a Brownie leader and she brought her Brownies for a visit to the tower a few days before the Sonning Show. The Brownies enjoyed it and Norma herself was interested in the ringing.

Katie was organising a group of youngsters in maypole dancing at the Sonning Show, and Pauline Needham knew Katie through Guiding. Pauline asked Katie if she was interested in learning to ring and got a positive response. Later that afternoon Katie visited our stall and rang Norma to come over – they are neighbours – and both got some more information about learning to ring. Katie said that she knew Katherine who used to be a ringer and who lived near her. She subsequently encouraged Katherine to visit Sonning tower and she has returned to ringing.

So between a Facebook post, a tower visit, the Sonning Show and a lot of 'who you know', Sonning band now has four more ringers who are enthusiastic and learning well. Katie has already passed Level 1 of Learning the Ropes and the other beginners are not far behind.

*Rob Needham (Sonning)*



## Learning the Ropes Achievements from around the Branch

**St Mary's, Wargrave : 22/12/17 Kitty Gingell – Level 5 – Change Ringer.**

Kitty had completed everything apart from the final quarter peal by the end of March. This proved elusive, as the supporting bands lost the quarters, first of Kent then Cambridge. It was finally achieved on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec. and Kitty became the 82<sup>nd</sup> ringer to achieve this level. Not Kitty's best performance, but with so much depending on the outcome it made it more difficult to attain the good level of striking that she can achieve.

She now gets an invite to join her brother Freddie at the ART masterclass next September in Birmingham. Well done to both just two years after their first rounds and call changes on 8.

**St Mary's, Wargrave : 24/12/17 Anne-Marie Adams – Level 1 – Bell Handling.**

Anne-Marie joined the Wargrave band in February having been taught the basics of handling elsewhere, and has become a reliable Sunday call change ringer. In her initial training, Anne-Marie had not been taught to ring up and down, and we haven't had many opportunities to practice this. Christmas Eve saw her ring up the treble without assistance thus completing Level 1. Level 2 will follow shortly as most of that is already complete.

### All Saints, Wokingham

Three brothers Benji, Eddie and Louie Bass have been learning to ring at All Saints Wokingham since July 2017. Jane and Nigel Mellor gave them an intensive course over their summer holidays and after about 12 hours teaching they were able to handle a bell.



Using the "Learning the Ropes" scheme developed by ART, Association of Ringing Teachers, they have achieved their Level 1 Certificate and badge in Bell Handling (photo above).

Congratulations to them and we hope they will be able to join the young ringers practice very soon.

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Ringling Master	Steve Wells	Easthampstead	01344 452202	dbrm@sdb.odg.org.uk
Deputy Ringling Master	Nigel Mellor	All Saints, Wokingham	0118 979 2037	dbrm@sdb.odg.org.uk
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Webmaster	John Harrison	All Saints, Wokingham	As above	webmaster@sdb.odg.org.uk
Training Officer	Vacant			

## Quarter Peals - supplement to the Winter Newsletter January 2018

### **St Nicholas, Hurst**

**6 October**

#### **1288 Grandsire Triples**

- 1 Joyce Vernon
- 2 Anthony W Gordon
- 3 Barbara E Wells
- 4 Jacqueline Hazell
- 5 Rob Needham
- 6 Lavinia Sullivan
- 7 David Sullivan (C)
- 8 Sue Portsmouth

Celebrating 270 years of Hurst Bowling Club, adjacent to this church.

### **St Nicholas, Hurst**

**Friday, 3 November**

#### **1320 Alnwick Surprise Minor**

- 1 Anthony W Gordon
  - 2 Joyce Vernon
  - 3 Jacqueline Hazell
  - 4 Lavinia Sullivan
  - 5 David Sullivan
  - 6 Robert A Partridge (C)
- First Alnwick - 2, 3, 4, 5.

### **St Marys, Twyford**

**Thursday, 16 November**

#### **1260 Single Oxford Bob Triples**

- 1 Stephen C Wells
- 2 Jacqueline Hazell
- 3 Barbara E Wells
- 4 Anthony W Gordon
- 5 Vikki Bulbeck
- 6 Lavinia Sullivan
- 7 David Sullivan (C)
- 8 Sue Portsmouth

First touch of OBT - 5.

### **St Marys, Twyford**

**14 December 2017**

#### **1288 Little Bob Major**

Arranged from Middleton's with added music

- 1 Freddie Gingell
- 2 Barbara E Wells
- 3 Sue Portsmouth
- 4 Jacqueline Hazell
- 5 Vikki Bulbeck
- 6 Lavinia Sullivan
- 7 Anthony W Gordon
- 8 David Sullivan (C)

Celebrating Barbara's birthday.

First LB Major - 1, 3, 5.

### **St Mary, Twyford**

**Friday, 22 December**

#### **1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor**

- 1 Pam Elliston
- 2 Kitty Gingell
- 3 Lavinia Sullivan
- 4 David Sullivan
- 5 Robert A Partridge (C)
- 6 Stephen C Wells

First in a treble dodging method - 2. Completes Learning the Ropes Level 5.

### **St Mary, Twyford**

**19 October**

#### **1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor**

- 1 Rob Needham
  - 2 Sue Portsmouth
  - 3 Anthony W Gordon
  - 4 Vikki Bulbeck
  - 5 Lavinia Sullivan
  - 6 David Sullivan (C)
- First of surprise - 2.

### **St Marys, Twyford**

**4 November**

#### **1260 Grandsire Doubles**

- 1 Matthew Steele
- 2 Pam Elliston
- 3 Rob Needham
- 4 David Sullivan
- 5 Simon Farrar (C)
- 6 Sue Portsmouth

### **Waltham St Lawrence**

**Friday, 24 November**

#### **1440 Plain Bob Doubles**

- 1 Jacqueline Hazell
  - 2 Sue Portsmouth (C)
  - 3 Geoffrey M Harvey
  - 4 Rob Needham
  - 5 Anthony W Gordon
  - 6 Lesley S Cross
- First as Conductor, at first attempt : 2

### **Waltham St Lawrence**

**20 November**

#### **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

- 1 Martha Hazell
  - 2 Jacqueline Hazell (C)
  - 3 Vikki Bulbeck
  - 4 Kathryn Titford
  - 5 Derek R Smith
  - 6 Rob Needham
- Rung in Celebration of the Platinum Wedding Anniversary of HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, married 70 years ago on 20th November 1947.

### **Waltham St Lawrence**

**Friday, 8 December 2017**

#### **1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor**

- 1 Rob Needham
  - 2 Sue Portsmouth
  - 3 Anthony W Gordon
  - 4 Jacqueline Hazell
  - 5 Lavinia Sullivan
  - 6 David Sullivan (C)
- For the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

### **St Bartholomew, Nettlebed**

**Tuesday, 26 December**

#### **1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor**

- 1 Freddie Gingell
- 2 David Sullivan
- 3 Lavinia Sullivan
- 4 Kitty Gingell
- 5 Rebecca Gingell
- 6 J Chapman Knott (C)

### **SS Peter and Paul, Shiplake**

**Friday, 27 October**

#### **1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major**

- 1 Martha Hazell
  - 2 Pam Elliston
  - 3 Joyce Vernon
  - 4 David Sullivan
  - 5 Jacqueline Hazell
  - 6 Anthony W Gordon
  - 7 Lavinia Sullivan
  - 8 Robert A Partridge (C)
- First treble bob major - 1. On Dave and Vinni's 38th wedding anniversary.

### **Waltham St Lawrence,**

**10 November 2017**

#### **1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor**

- 1 Sue Portsmouth
  - 2 Jacqueline Hazell
  - 3 Lavinia Sullivan
  - 4 Rob Needham
  - 5 Anthony W Gordon
  - 6 David Sullivan (C)
- Half-muffled for Remembrance

### **St Nicholas, Hurst**

**1 December 2017**

#### **1288 Plain Bob Triples**

- 1 Stephen C Wells
  - 2 Lavinia Sullivan
  - 3 Geoffrey M Harvey
  - 4 Joyce Vernon
  - 5 Anthony W Gordon
  - 6 Kenneth J Davenport
  - 7 David Sullivan (C)
  - 8 Sue Portsmouth
- An engagement compliment to Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

### **Holy Trinity, Cookham**

**Thursday, 21 December**

#### **1259 Grandsire Caters**

- 1 Lavinia Sullivan
  - 2 Marcia L Dieppe
  - 3 Jacqueline Hazell
  - 4 Vikki Bulbeck
  - 5 Kitty Gingell
  - 6 George Whiteside
  - 7 David Sullivan
  - 8 Patricia M Newton
  - 9 Robert H Newton (C)
  - 10 Freddie Gingell
- First on 10: 4, 5, 10.  
First caters: 3.  
First Grandsire: 5.

### **Waltham St Lawrence**

**1 January 2018**

#### **1260 St Simon's Bob Doubles**

- 1 Martha Hazell
  - 2 Kate Titford
  - 3 Lavinia Sullivan
  - 4 Jacqueline Hazell (C)
  - 5 Vikki Bulbeck
  - 6 Lesley S Cross
- Rung to welcome the New Year.  
First Quarter Peal rung by an all female band in this tower.