

Sonning Deanery Branch Newsletter



October 2022, Autumn issue

Chairman's message



A lot of Branch activity is more or less back to the pre-Covid normal. Let's hope that we can weather the inevitable winter rise in cases without too much disruption.

The elementary practices we introduced a few years ago are clearly meeting a strong need, with good attendances and enthusiastic participants. To meet the demand our Ringing Master, Nigel, has increased them from once to twice a month. I'm pleased also that our new Youth Officer, Jennifer, has been able to restart Young Ringers Practices.

Branch events on weekday evenings are hard for anyone whose home tower practises on the same night to attend. To get round this, at least in part, we will be alternating both

Elementary and Advanced practices between Tuesday and Wednesday.

On another positive note we must congratulate our training Officer, Jane, for taking the initiative to host an ART course on teaching foundation skills. Nine Branch members were on the course – a significant boost to teaching skills within the Branch.

It was sad to be ringing for the Queen's death just three months after ringing for her Platinum Jubilee. Every band rose to the challenge, with 44 recorded performances in the Branch.

Next year we will be ringing for the King's Coronation, and there is talk of a national recruitment campaign ahead of it, like the one running up to the centenary of the Armistice (and for the Millennium). High profile events can offer good publicity, but a healthy ringing community needs more than the occasional burst of recruitment. We should aim for a steady flow of new recruits – enough to grow our numbers and offset the inevitable losses as ringers age, but not too many at once to overload our ability to deliver quality training and good development opportunities. We have all lost ringers over the last couple of years so now is the time to try to set ourselves on an upward path.

Several towers are currently limited in what they can offer developing ringers without help, and would benefit greatly from one or two visitors a bit further on than they are. If you can spare the odd evening to help you would be made very welcome.

John Harrison, chairman@sdb.odg.org.uk

ART, Teacher Training in the Branch

Following on from the success of the Sonning Deanery elementary ringers' outing I had to consider how to provide further progression opportunities.

What better way than to have Clare McArdle, ART Tutor and Birmingham Ringing School initiator come and run a teacher's training course for the Sonning Branch. I chose the Module 2 Foundation course, M2F, as this level advises on how to teach learners who have established bell handling to move on to develop skills for change ringing. It reduces the pressure on achieving by providing little progressive steps towards a larger goal. Or in the words of a learner "reduces the feeling of sheer panic!"

At this level there is so much to understand and experience, and often advanced bellringers don't realise how much they take for granted. Also, as we age, the ability to dual task let alone triple task becomes harder. With 5 key foundation skills at this level there is much to cover from bell control, listening, rope sight, rhythm and striking and theory.



On Saturday 8th October the branch held the M2F course at St Mary's Twyford which is an excellent location with the church hall being adjacent to the door to the bell tower so no getting wet if it's raining. A large space with lovely kitchen and servery which certainly made it easy to support a training course. Oh, and the tower can be silenced. Essential.

Ringers from 6 of our branch towers attended which was very encouraging. A few of the ringers had already attended the M1 Course, organised by the previous Training Officer Jacquie Hazell in 2018, so have been able to extend their knowledge of ART and hopefully they will trial new ideas in their future ringing practices.

A course in isolation is not always best, so ART provides a comprehensive website of information, toolbox of exercises along with mentors and then assessors when each teacher is ready for their accreditation to ART. Nigel and Jane Mellor will provide mentoring support to some of the ringers, but other experienced ringers will mentor the teachers they attended with. This helps provide the continuity of the ART ideas.



It was an entertaining and informative day. The teachers enjoyed the camaraderie and being part of a group of people who all wanted to help others learn to ring. There were exercises to practice and exercises to create. Jan created her kaleidoscope *Jan's Juggling* and Daniel created his slow to quick *Triple Kaleidoscope Challenge* both to encourage bell control, teach the need to count and aid understanding of speeds. ART's toolkit of ideas provides resources like these for this level and explains why we should include them.

Following on from this course the elementary practices have been increased to twice a month to allow the teachers time to establish their teaching. If

you have learners in your tower, please consider sending them to the practices. Be in touch with Nigel Mellor Branch Ringing Master or Jane Mellor Training Officer.

A thank you ditty to Clare McArdle, ART Tutor

Learnt to set our bell...well eventually,
Learnt to count and listen.
We've learnt to 'ding dong and stop'
And we can switcharoo.

You've helped us develop new methods:

Jan's Juggling and,
Daniel's Dastardly Triple Kaleidoscope Challenge.
No Covid today, thankfully, but plenty Mexican 2nd wave.

You've encouraged debate on leading and coaching
and given us vision to develop our bands.
You provided us that 'leap of faith'.

The ropes and bells have behaved, but,
with so much information to process
our brains are now tied in knots.

Thank you to all ringers
as no course is fun without you.
But mostly, thank you to Clare
for the fun delivery of your skills.

Jane Mellor, Training Officer



Sonning

At St Andrew's, Sonning, we lost two ringers as a result of the pandemic, and more recently the Kemm family of ringers moved away to Dorset. Luckily, since then we have gained two new ringers, both learners. Becki, the daughter of one of our long term ringers, started ringing with us in October 2021, and Natalie started ringing this summer.

They both have made good progress with learning to ring and recently Becki has gained her level 2 of *Learning the Ropes* and Natalie has passed her level 1 of *Learning the Ropes*. Our congratulations to them both.

For service ringing on Sunday 16th Oct we had 13 ringers — a record for the tower!

Rob Needham



Succession of our Monarchy

By searching on *BellBoard* I have found the following performances at Branch towers involved with the succession of our Monarchy. As John says in his chairman's message, every tower in the branch was involved, and I'm sure some members also took part in more ringing outside the branch.

Marking the death of Queen Elizabeth II, Thursday 8th September

Sonning: 96 tolling **Waltham St Lawrence:** 96 tolling.

Marking the death of Queen Elizabeth II, Friday 9th September

Arborfield: rounds, **Binfield:** rounds, tolling **Easthampstead:** 150 Grandsire Triples, Queens, rounds, QP (see below) **Finchampstead:** tolling **Hurst:** rounds, tolling **Sandhurst:** general ringing **Shottesbrooke:** 96 tolling, QP on 11th (see over), QP on 14th (see over) **Sonning:** 96 rounds, call changes, **Twyford:** rounds **Warfield:** tolling **Wargrave:** rounds **White Waltham:** tolling **Wokingham All Saints:** rounds, call changes.

Celebrating the accession of King Charles III, Saturday 10th September

Arborfield: rounds, call changes **Easthampstead:** QP (see below) **Sandhurst:** general ringing **Sonning:** call changes **Twyford:** QP (see below) **Warfield:** call changes (on 11th) **Wargrave:** call changes .

Marking the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, Monday 19th September

Arborfield: rounds, call changes **Barkham:** rounds **Easthampstead:** general ringing and tolling **Finchampstead:** general ringing **Sandhurst:** rounds **Shottesbrooke:** QP on 18th (see over) **Sonning:** call changes, tolling **Twyford:** QP (see over) **Waltham St Lawrence:** QP (see over) **Warfield:** call changes, tolling **Wargrave:** call changes, tolling **Wokingham All Saints:** QP (see over) **Wokingham St Paul:** QPs on 18th and 19th (see over).

St Michael and St Mary Magdalene, Easthampstead

Friday, 9 September 2022

1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Anna Stowe
 - 2 Judith Bowler
 - 3 Graham N Scott (C)
 - 4 Barbara E Wells
 - 5 Rachel Moss
 - 6 Daniel Chafen
 - 7 Stephen C Wells
 - 8 Andrew I Mitchell
- Rung half muffled at noon in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

St Michael and St Mary Magdalene, Easthampstead

Saturday, 10 September 2022

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Noah Whitfield
 - 2 Anna Stowe
 - 3 Barbara E Wells
 - 4 Daniel Chafen
 - 5 Graham N Scott
 - 6 Stephen C Wells (C)
- Rung at 11 a.m. to mark the proclamation of His Majesty, King Charles III

St Mary, Twyford

Saturday, 10 September 2022

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Naomi Fairbrother
 - 2 Sue Portsmouth
 - 3 Richard Bennett
 - 4 Matthew Steele
 - 5 Simon Farrar (C)
- Rung open for the Proclamation of King Charles III.
God save the King!

St John the Baptist, Shottesbrooke

Sunday, 11 September 2022

1260 Doubles (13m)

60 Antelope; 120 Grandsire; 120 All Saints; 120 Spliced St Simons & St Martins; 120 Reverse Canterbury; 120 Spliced Winchendon Place & St Nicholas; 120 St Remigius; 120 Huntley Place; 120 Plain Bob Doubles; 120 St Osmund; 120 Eynesbury.

- 1 Martha C Hazell
- 2 Edward C Westlake (C)
- 3 Jacqueline M Hazell
- 4 Simon D Smith
- 5 Vikki E M Bulbeck
- 6 Rob Taylor-Ailes

Rung half-muffled in memory of Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

St John the Baptist, Shottesbrooke

Sunday, 18 September 2022

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Lesley S Cross
- 2 Jacqueline M Hazell
- 3 Martha C Hazell
- 4 Vikki E M Bulbeck
- 5 Simon D Smith (C)
- 6 Charley Smith

In memory of Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

St Mary, Twyford

Monday, 19 September 2022

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Naomi Fairbrother
- 2 Pam Elliston
- 3 Richard Bennett
- 4 Matthew Steele
- 5 Simon Farrar (C)
- 6 Edward Owen

Rung fully muffled with the tenor open at backstroke in memorium Queen Elizabeth II.

St John the Baptist, Shottesbrooke

Wednesday, 14 September 2022

1299 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Lesley S Cross
 - 2 Martha C Hazell
 - 3 Simon D Smith (C)
 - 4 Vikki E M Bulbeck
 - 5 Jacqueline M Hazell
 - 6 Charley Smith
- In memory of Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.
Rung half-muffled.

Wokingham, St Paul

Monday, 19 September 2022

1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Derek Palmer
- 2 Christopher P Cole
- 3 Richard M Bishop
- 4 Elizabeth J O'Brien
- 5 Alan K Barsby
- 6 Steven J Field
- 7 Kenneth R Davenport (C)
- 8 Peter J Davenport

Half muffled following the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

St Lawrence, Waltham St Lawrence, Monday, 19 September 2022**1320 Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place Doubles**

- 1 Kathryn Titford
- 2 Jacqueline M Hazell
- 3 Martha C Hazell
- 4 Vikki E M Bulbeck
- 5 Simon D Smith (C)
- 6 Lesley S Cross

In memory of Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.
Rung in the evening while the Queen's Burial Service was taking place in St George's Chapel, Windsor. Rung half-muffled.

Wokingham, St Paul

Sunday, 18 September 2022

1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Pam Elliston
- 2 Alan K Barsby
- 3 Derek Palmer
- 4 Richard M Bishop
- 5 Christopher P Cole
- 6 Steven J Field
- 7 Kenneth R Davenport (C)
- 8 Peter J Davenport

Half muffled prior to the Civic Commemoration Service for the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

All Saints Wokingham, Berkshire

Monday, 19 September 2022

1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Kristin L Fitch
- 2 Jon P Tutchter
- 3 Christopher P Cole
- 4 Neil G Curnow
- 5 Stephen R Smith
- 6 Jonathan P Goodchild
- 7 John A Harrison (C)
- 8 Stephen C Bates

Rung half muffled before the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II.
900th quarter: 7.

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