

# Sonning Deanery Branch Newsletter



June 2022, Summer

## Chairman's message



It seems a long time since I wrote in the last newsletter as we were just emerging from the fourth wave of Covid, winding up practices and hoping we wouldn't be struck by too many more waves. As I write we seem to be entering the next wave, though it appears to be less disruptive than previous waves, and most people seem to be relaxing, now that most restrictions in society have been removed.

All our regular practices are now running again, and whereas initially we just concentrated on a couple of open ground floor rings we are now moving some of them to other towers round the Branch. Most have been well supported but a few could have benefitted from more ringers, so please look to see which events would be best for you and support them. All members are welcome at Branch events but if you haven't been to one before, why not get someone else from your tower to go with you (or if you have been, encourage someone who hasn't). For details see the diary on the website: [odg.org.uk/sdb/diary/](http://odg.org.uk/sdb/diary/)

We've also started running courses in the Branch. In February eleven members attended a course on tower maintenance run for us by the Guild. By the time you read this we will also have run a course on rope splicing, and have arranged a course on listening skills, both of which were in high demand.

Jane, our Training Officer, is arranging an ART M2F course (teaching core skills) in October. Please contact her if you are interested at: [training@sdb.odg.org.uk](mailto:training@sdb.odg.org.uk) She has also identified the need for some skills training and has organised special practices.

We can organise more courses on topics for which there is demand, so we need to know what members want. The last time we asked for expressions of interest was in 2018, four years ago, and before Covid we ran 11 courses on the most popular topics. Many people's needs have changed in four years, so why not look at courses we have offered, and tell us which interest you. On the website, go to: [odg.org.uk/sdb/training/](http://odg.org.uk/sdb/training/) and either fill in the form or contact Jane to discuss your needs.

Most of our towers need to recruit, and I'm pleased to see that several have gained ringers who, after not ringing for some years, have now returned to ringing. They are the best sort of recruits, because neither they nor the band they join have to wait for a lengthy training process before they can get on and make a contribution. It has been said that there are more lapsed ringers than active ringers. I don't know whether that's true but there must be a lot. All we need to do is find them, and stimulate their interest.

The Platinum Jubilee gave us a chance to make a joyful noise as part of the nation's celebrations, and I was pleased to see many performances across the Branch, despite a lot of ringers being away. A total of 19 performances over the weekend, involving 10 towers, were reported on BellBoard.

Many of us will go away over the summer. I hope, like me, you will check to see what ringing there is near where you will be. Visitors are always welcome, especially during the summer when the 'home team' may be depleted by ringers being away, and it gives you a chance to ring at a new tower.

John Harrison, [chairman@sdb.odg.org.uk](mailto:chairman@sdb.odg.org.uk)

## Towers and Belfries Maintenance Course – Twyford, 19 February 2022

Eleven keen students, with Tony Crabtree, Anthony Williamson and Len Palfrey, spent a very informative and practical day at St Mary's church, Twyford. The group comprised nine ringers, as well as two partners who are not ringers themselves but are keen to assist with maintenance.

The day started with presentations by Tony, Len and Anthony, setting out the programme for the day, giving health and safety guidance, and providing a background to problems that we might encounter, and ideas for improvements. We were also provided with copies of Anthony's very comprehensive checklist and schedule for tower inspections.

The whole group went up into the tower either to observe and listen, or to ring the bells (and ring them down again) ahead of the belfry visits, to get a feel for any potential problems.

We were then divided into groups to inspect the bells, using Anthony's checklist; to look at the bell model, together with headstock and clapper, and examples of wear and tear on stays, pulleys, bearings and other bell gear, with Len; and to learn how best to correct odd-struckness on the wheel, as well as helpful advice for putting on a new rope, with Tony.

We all learned a great deal during a very busy and enjoyable day, and as a result at least one tower has now had a full inspection, including the tightening of a couple of stay bolts and a new rope on one bell.

Huge thanks and appreciation to Tony, Anthony and Len, and to Simon Farrar, the tower captain at Twyford; see you in a tower somewhere soon!

Sue Portsmouth, Sonning

## Sonning



At St Andrew's, Sonning, we lost two ringers as a result of the pandemic, but 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 she has passed her level 1 of *Learning the Ropes* and is nearing completion of level 2. And this month we have just started to teach Natalie who lives in the village just two minutes walk from the tower.

Earlier this year we were sad to lose Peter Kemm and his daughter Fiona from our band; they have moved to a village in Dorset.

We were delighted to host a peal on the Thursday morning of the long Jubilee weekend, and the details are on the back page of this newsletter. The tower band also rang on the Friday morning to celebrate the Platinum jubilee.

The Sonning Scarecrow Trail was also held over the same weekend, and Sonning bell ringers took part by making and displaying a huge banner hung down the side of the tower.

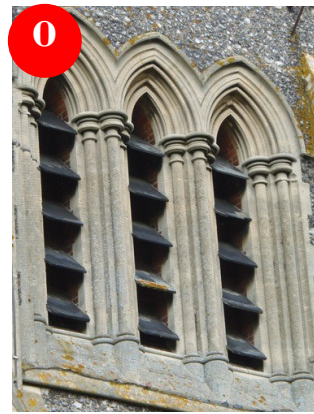
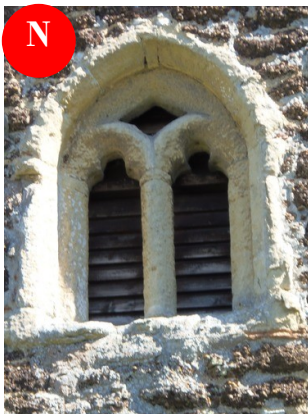
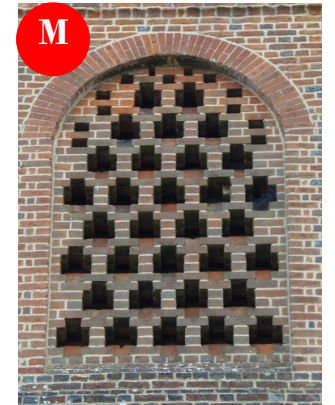
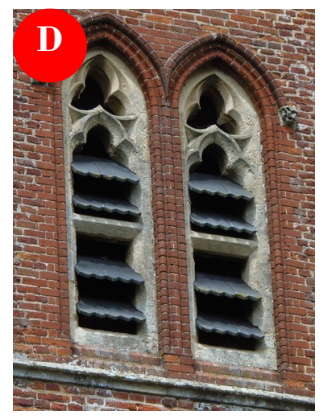
Rob Needham

## Know your Branch louvres!

Chris Cole has kindly supplied a photograph of the louvres in each tower of the branch (*see next page*) — all you have to do is match each picture to its tower! Chris has also offered a prize for the winner, so get your entries in to: [christopherpetercole@gmail.com](mailto:christopherpetercole@gmail.com)

Good luck and happy hunting!





**The Louvres Quiz** — match the photo letter to the tower number below.  
 1 Arborfield, 2 Barkham, 3 Binfield, 4 Easthampstead, 5 Finchampstead, 6 Hurst,  
 7 Sandhurst StM, 8 Sandhurst IC, 9 Shottesbrooke, 10 Sonning, 11 Twyford,  
 12 Waltham St Lawrence, 13 Warfield, 14 Wargrave, 15 White Waltham,  
 16 Wokingham AS, 17 Wokingham StP  
 Send your answer to [christopherpetercole@gmail.com](mailto:christopherpetercole@gmail.com)



## Learners at Binfield

Having been very short on ringers at Binfield since the covid restrictions, we were pleased to be able to ring for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Friday 3rd June. This was also the first 'public performance' for our two newer members Chris Williams and Dave Adams. We were kindly supported by Judith Newman and Steve Wells. We also rang for Sunday service on 5th June, the first time since the covid lockdowns.

Jan Glen

### Peals, Quarter Peals & interesting rings

By searching on *BellBoard* I have found the following performances from the start of March until now, listed in alphabetical order of member's surname. My apologies to any members whose performances I have missed.

**Vikki Bulbeck, Shottesbrooke, Clewer:** 15 quarters, 2 peals, mostly at Shottesbrooke or Windsor Castle

**Chris Cole, St Paul's:** 6 quarters+ in hand, 3 peals in hand

**Kenneth Davenport, St Paul's:** 1 quarter, 4 quarters in hand, 3 peals in hand

**John Harrison, All Saints Wokingham:** 3 quarters, 7 quarters in hand

**Jacqueline Hazell, Waltham St Lawrence:** 10 quarters, 1 peal

**Martha Hazell, Waltham St Lawrence:** 6 quarters

**Nigel Mellor, All Saints:** 3 quarters, 13 peals, 9 quarters in hand

**Jane Mellor, All Saints:** 4 quarters

**Janet Menhinick, Sandhurst:** 9 quarters, 9 peals, 17 quarters in hand, 4 peals in hand.

**Sue Portsmouth, Sonning:** 2 quarters, 67 online (*Ringing Room*) quarters

**Graham Scott, Easthampstead:** 4 quarters, 1 peal (100th this century), 11 online (*Ringing Room*) quarters

**Simon Smith, Shottesbrooke:** 8 quarters, 1 peal

**Stephen R Smith:** 3 quarters

**David Sullivan, Wargrave:** 3 quarters

**Vinni Sullivan, Wargrave:** 3 quarters, 23 online (*Ringing Room*) quarters

#### Society of Royal Cumberland Youths

**St Andrew, Sonning, Berkshire**

Thursday, 2 June 2022 in 3h 7

**5024 Spiced Surprise Major (4m):** 1280 each Cambridge, London, Superlative; 1184 Bristol. 110 changes of method, all the work.

- 1 Adam S Greenley
- 2 Jack E Page
- 3 David C Bath
- 4 Douglas J Beaumont
- 5 Stephen A Rossiter
- 6 Benjamin D Constant
- 7 Ian Roulstone (C)
- 8 Claire F Roulstone

Rung for the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

#### Wokingham, Berkshire

**St Paul**

Sunday, 5 June 2022 in 48m

**1260 Grandsire Triples**

- 1 Pam Elliston
  - 2 Steven J Field
  - 3 Alan K Barsby
  - 4 Derek Palmer
  - 5 Richard Bishop
  - 6 Christopher P Cole
  - 7 Kenneth R Davenport (C)
  - 8 Peter J Davenport
- Rung to Celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II

#### Shottesbrooke, Berkshire

**St John the Baptist**

Sunday, 5 June 2022 in 2h 50

**5040 Doubles (4m)** 1200 St Nicholas;

1200 Reverse Canterbury; 1200 St Simon's; 1440 Plain Bob

- 1 Vikki E M Bulbeck
- 2 Holley F Wakeling
- 3 Jacqueline M Hazell
- 4 Simon D Smith (C)
- 5 Michael J Trimm
- 6 Lesley S Cross

To celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.

2: First Peal

4: First Peal as Conductor

First peal by a local band since 26.9.1989.

Chairman	John Harrison	All Saints, Wokingham	0118 978 5520	chairman@sdb.odg.org.uk
Ringling Master	Nigel Mellor	All Saints, Wokingham	0118 979 2037	brm@sdb.odg.org.uk
Deputy Ringling Master	Steve Wells	Easthampstead	01344 452202	dbrm@sdb.odg.org.uk
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