

Oxford Diocesan Guild, Old North Berks Branch

Branch Ringing School - Progress

AIM

To continue to teach the adults who attended the intensive ringing course held between May and September. This takes advantage of the social group of learners created on the course and makes it more likely they will continue to ring and progress in ringing.

I have changed the name to Branch Ringing School to indicate the ongoing nature of the sessions.

PLAN

To visit a different tower each Saturday morning for an hour, 9.30 – 10.30 am. To continue teaching with the intention of improving their ringing and helping them to ring rounds and call changes with good style and with the ability to hear and adjust their own striking.

TEACHING

I have continued to invite the teachers of ringing from our branch to help. As the learners have progressed to rounds and call changes, the help needed has changed. We now need more ringers who can ring rounds well and far less one to one teaching is needed. However, I have been pleased to have the help of fourteen of the original group of teachers since the course finished. And have also been glad to have the help of ringers from most of the towers we have visited.

We continue to use the syllabus provided by the ART scheme, "Learning the Ropes" (LTR) to give us the ability to track the progress of each learner.

LEARNERS

Five learners attended the course. Four continue to learn. Ruth had kidney stones, has been operated on, and has decided to have a break from ringing.

ATTENDANCE

Paul has attended eleven of the twelve sessions, Nicky nine, David five and Pete two sessions. Pete finds Saturdays difficult but has been attending learner sessions at Abingdon.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Paul and David continue to ring rounds and call changes at practices and Sunday ringing at their own towers. Nicky and Pete are shakier on rounds, but are improving.

THOUGHTS

Last year the pilot course in the Abingdon area finished and we didn't continue. I felt uneasy about it and can confirm that of the four taught, two continue to ring but the others have dropped out.

This year I discussed my plans with friends from ART and was warned that it was important that the group dynamic of the learners was maintained by holding ongoing training of some sort. So this year I have continued with weekly lessons for all the people on the course. We continue to make the most of the friendly relationship between everyone involved in the course.

THE FUTURE?

- We should review what we are doing –Any change of direction needed?
- Charges to the learners and donations to towers ?
- When / where / how to teach the next group of learners

Susan Read, Abingdon, 1 October 2017