



Old North Berks Branch Newsletter

No: 151

December 2017



The refurbished Didcot Spire

In this issue:

- 2 Editorial
- 2 Chairman's Report
- 3 Secretary's Report
- 4 Ringing Masters' Ramblings
- 5 Tower Talk
- 13 Branch Outing
- 15 Branch Outing—a non-ringers' view
- 16 Barn Dance
- 18 Blessing of Bells at St Michael's Abingdon
- 19 Branch Handling Course/Ringing School
- 20 Young Ringers' Events
- 23 Quarter Peals
- 25 Peals
- 28 Christmas Quiz
- 28 Recipe for Peanut Biscuits
- 29 Bell Muffles advert
- 30 New Year's Day Poster
- 31 ONB website,
- 31 Contact List
- 31 Copy date for the next issue
- 32 ONB Branch Programme

Editorial

Welcome to the Winter 2017 issue of the Branch Newsletter.

Hopefully you will find something amongst the articles to entertain, enlighten or even just amuse, we certainly think there is a good spread of interest in this edition.

The activity of our Branch is again nicely illustrated by the articles and calendar in this issue.

It is particularly pleasing to read of the success of Susan Read's ringing course initiative, which seems in part to be addressing the need for new recruits, a theme again prevalent in the Tower Talk articles. It looks as though the initiative is set to continue next year, so let's support it in whatever way we can. Similarly, the Young Ringers events are continuing to engage our younger recruits and introducing them to the 'other side' (social) of ringing as a pastime. When we look back on this period in years to come we will have a lot to thank Susan and her helpers for.

Congratulations go to Daniel and Joe for scoring their first quarter peal. There are quite a few other 'firsts' amongst the quarters and peals in this edition, a sign of ringers extending their range. I surprised myself by ringing my first peal in over 48 years, so there's hope for more of the 'older' ringers out there to get on the bandwagon, I'll just try not to leave it so long before my next one!

Once again, a big thank you to all our contributors for the articles received, please keep them coming in. Also, please include pictures if you can, as these always add to the interest of the newsletter.

My best wishes to all for the coming season, we're looking forward to hearing about the celebratory antics in the next edition!

Ian Minns

Finally, a thought to leave you with:

Some people get lost in thought because it's such unfamiliar territory.

.S

Chairman's Report

What a fantastic night we had at the Branch Barn Dance! It was great to see such a mix of ringers, from so many towers, coming together to enjoy fantastic food, a brilliant band, and great craic. My thanks, on behalf of everyone who attended, go to Philip, Janette, Richard and Gill for all their work in organising and running the evening, and to all those who cooked, served food, sold raffle tickets and many other tasks besides.

Reflecting on the success of the Barn Dance made me think about the similarities between dancing and ringing. Both exercise the mind and the body; both require concentration and a bit of stamina, and both improve significantly with practice (my wife assures me that I still need a lot of practice at the barn dancing!); With that in mind it was good to hear that there has been good attendances at the Branch evening practices, thanks in no small part to the sterling efforts from our joint ringing masters. Please do try and attend when you can. Here in North Moreton we have agreed to cancel our local practice to support the branch one if they fall on the same night.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and happy New Year. Don't forget our New Years ringing at Appleton.

Rob Nickless

Secretary's Report

Since the last newsletter we have continued to hold various practices over the summer and autumn months. Evening branch practices were held at Sunningwell, Drayton, Chilton, Sutton Courtenay and Cholsey. Some were better attended than others, but more of this elsewhere in the Newsletter. Afternoon practices were held at Marcham, Childrey, Radley, Brightwell, Sunningwell and Milton, and surprise major/royal practices at Abingdon, Milton and Drayton.

At the Branch Committee Meeting in October, the Treasurer, Stuart Gibson, reported that branch membership is currently 261 (246 members paying full subscriptions, 7 Honorary members, 2 Life members and 6 members who pay their subscription via another branch). This is four less than last year. Stuart also reported that the Branch had funds totalling £4,353, which shows a considerable gain on last year. This gain is due to the collection of the additional £2 per member for branch restoration projects.

Our Training Officer, Susan Read, organised an intensive ringing course from May to July under the Association of Ringing Teachers' Learning the Ropes (LTR) syllabus. Five learners attended and one could ring rounds fairly confidently before the end of the course. From September onwards Susan has set up a Branch Ringing School, initially continuing to teach those who attended the intensive course. Later this year more new beginners will be taught to handle a bell. This is a remarkable teaching initiative and towers in the Branch will benefit from having more new ringers.

On a sad note, over the summer months we were sorry to hear of the deaths of John Pearce of Appleton, Jim Blond of Blewbury and Helen Walker of Didcot. All three ringers had been faithful members of their towers and will be sadly missed.

Our branch outing was organised by Philip Roberts of Harwell on a damp Saturday in July. Over twenty branch members and friends visited Royal Wootton Bassett, Wroughton, Liddington, Wainborough and Lambourn. This excellently organised outing included a pub lunch in Wroughton and afternoon tea at Lambourn, and was followed by a well-attended barbecue at the home of Stuart and Naomi Gibson. As ever, the food was excellent, but the croquet green was too wet for play. Thanks go to Philip, Janette, Stuart and Naomi for arranging a good day for the Branch. The proceeds of the barbecue and raffle went into the branch fund and will be used for future restoration projects.

Congratulations go to the Wallingford ringers, who represented the Branch in the Guild's six bell striking competition at the beginning of October and were placed third.

By the time you read this, our next social event will have taken place in November. Thanks go to Philip and Janette Roberts for organising a barn dance and supper in the village hall in Harwell. Barn dances in the past have always been great fun, with everyone showing off their dancing skills, and so I hope that many of you and your friends will have had a good time.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Please don't forget to come over to Appleton on 1st January 2018 at 10.30am for our annual New Year's ringing and refreshments event.

Gill Loyd

Ringling Masters' Ramblings

First of all, hearty congratulations to the Wallingford team who came 4th of 10 teams in the Guild 6 bell competition held in the Witney and Woodstock Branch. Apparently they were very closely ranked with the teams in second and third place, so this is a brilliant achievement against stiff competition from other branches and well done to the team!

In the Spring newsletter we expressed our concern about the often low attendance at evening branch practices, whilst afternoon and advanced practices were well attended. Since then there has been a mixed picture. Some being quite well attended and providing helpful ringing opportunities for local ringers, whereas others were quite poorly attended.

This is an important concern for the branch as a whole, since these practices have been a regular feature in the branch calendar and have proved to be both helpful and enjoyable for so many of us. We urge tower captains to try to encourage their tower members, perhaps especially newer members, to come along to these practices. Generally towers with easy going bells are chosen so as to be suitable for newer ringers. These practices are always designed to be welcoming, social and friendly to ringers of all standards, so please come along despite the draw of the fireside in the dark winter evenings!

On a positive note it is really pleasing to see Susan's teaching efforts bearing fruit, with new recruits being trained and plans for more future training activities. We would like to add our appreciation to all the experienced branch members who have helped her in this effort.

Christmas is fast approaching with lots of extra ringing, and we encourage quarter peal attempts where possible to perhaps give members a chance for consolidating their method skills and improving striking.

And here is a joke from Philip.....

As I was thinking ahead to Christmas and reflecting on the past few months, I thought I would share some observations.

1. Always remember that you are unique – just like everyone else.
2. All that glitters, has a high refractive index.
3. The most embarrassing thing you can do as a school pupil, is to call your teacher mum or dad.
4. The most painful household incident is wearing socks and stepping on an upturned plug.
5. Triangular sandwiches taste better than square ones.
6. You know you've turned into your dad the day you put aside a thin piece of wood specifically for stirring paint.

And remember – a good pun is its own reward.

Happy Christmas to you all and successful ringing in 2018.

Richard Loyd and Philip Roberts

TOWER TALK

Abingdon

We were very pleased to welcome a new potential bellringer when Eric, son of Rebecca Peberdy, was born on July 31st. He lives within the sound of both St Helen's and St Nicolas bells and has already visited the latter tower on several occasions.

Thanks are due to Lisa Astbury for hosting a very successful barbecue on August 13th. Extra activities included snooker on a mini table in the drive and a chance to have a ring on Isaac's mini-ring which he has installed in the garage. Unfortunately with a clapper flying out and one wheel becoming seriously warped it didn't survive the day and some significant repair work was needed afterwards!

Congratulations to Sophie Martin who rang her first peal of Major, Yorkshire Surprise, at Milton on October 8th and to Dan and Joe Gillett, who rang their first quarter peal, Plain Bob Doubles, at St Helen's on October 13th with Dan on the treble and Joe on the tenor. This was rung using the simulator and was the first quarter to be rung that way in Abingdon. It was rung on the day of the funeral in St Helen's of Janet Morgan, Past Mayor and Freeman of Abingdon.

The tower outing to Warwickshire and Worcestershire on September 30th was very efficiently organised by Lisa who contributes the following account.

On Saturday 30th September, 24 ringers, some from the tower and others from the surrounding area, set off for a day out in the Stratford-upon-Avon and Evesham area. The method of the day was Erin which was rung in most of the different churches. Otherwise we rang a combination of call changes and methods suited to the range of abilities in the group. We started the morning at Holy Trinity, Stratford, the church where William Shakespeare is buried and spent a pleasant hour ringing the beautiful 10 bells housed there. After Stratford, we moved on to Pebworth where there was a light 10 in a tiny village without so much as a pub. The last tower before lunch was Bidford-upon-Avon where there is a ground floor ring of 8.

In the afternoon we visited two very different rings, a friendly village 6 in Harvington and finally, the high point of the day for most, the grand 12 of The Bell Tower in Evesham. We all had a great day out with good food and pleasant company and I think that all of us learnt a great deal about the different rings.

Tim Pett and Lisa Astbury



Evesham

Appleton

We have had a fairly quiet summer but we rang a quarter in memory of Polly Birch nee Dick (aged 32). Polly was brought up in Appleton and her parents, Richard and Felicity, regularly attend our March the Fourth dinner. We rang for her wedding two years ago and two months after the birth of her little girl Polly was diagnosed with cancer and sadly died within a few weeks.

We are very busy organising our 200th March the Fourth Celebration. As well as a peal and dinner on Saturday, 3rd March we are arranging a day of celebration on Sunday, 4th March. Whites of Appleton will be opening their workshop and making available the Balscote Ring on both days. Richard and Felicity Dick are allowing us to use their barn on Sunday for a hog roast. There will be an exhibition as well as handbell ringing, singing and morris dancing. The Charmborough Ring will be erected outside the barn and will be available for ringing. We will circulate more details after Christmas.

Sylvia Harrison

Blewbury

We ring regularly on a Sunday, and practice nights are usually well attended by our own ringers and by visitors, who are always welcome. We have had as few as 5 and as many as 18 ringers on a practice night. But one evening was memorable for a different reason: there was a loud boom as the clapper on the tenor sheared off! A new one has since been fitted and the tenor now rings really well and with a new resonance.

Since the last report we have had visitors from Oxford and Devon (always impressive ringing) and from the Bradfield ringing course

In June we enjoyed a weekend ringing tour in Gloucestershire. Our hotel was in the Forest of Dean and we ventured into Wales on the Saturday. We got to experience some very picturesque scenery and narrow winding roads, quaint country churches and city centre churches. One or two sets of bells were a bit tricky and one or two were quite delightful. It was a thoroughly enjoyable and social weekend and many thanks to Richard and Gill for organising.

We have rung for only one wedding this year – but it was a very special one, as one of our ringers, Andrew, married Karen on his birthday this August. To celebrate his Scottish roots, the Saltire was flown from the tower that day. Andrew rang before the wedding and there was more ringing afterwards. It was a real village affair, with the bridal procession making its way on foot through the village to church, and a lovely reception with tea and cake prepared by the WI in the village hall, a very enjoyable afternoon which continued into the evening with more celebrations. Many congratulations to Andrew and Karen.

On a sadder note, this year also saw the passing of Jim Blond, a long-time former ringer at Blewbury who contributed a great deal to bell ringing, and whom many of you knew well. We hosted two ringing events to commemorate and celebrate his life. We rang in July and his family came to listen, with a strawberry and cream tea held afterwards to share memories of Jim; and in August, a peal of Morville Delight Major was rung at Blewbury in his honour. Thank you to Colin Turner and his band for the latter.

Jim would be delighted that his daughter, Cathy, and grandson, Sam, have decided to take up ringing and have now joined us at Blewbury for Friday night practices. Together with our other teenage ringers Eden and new learner Alfie; they have considerably lowered the average age of the band, and all are making really good progress.

Christine Kowalczuk



Andrew ringing before his wedding



June weekend Tour—Ringers at Chepstow

Chilton

The earliest bell in Chilton was one of the Wokingham bells, it hung in a wooden tower until it fell out and landed in a tree. In Victorian times the tower was rebuilt in the local stone, more metal added to this ancient bell and 3 new bells cast in 1892. The village carpenter made a frame for these 2 new bells which stood above the original 4 bell frame. He made new wheels much like the cartwheels with which he was familiar, but he was not familiar with the stresses swinging bells cause on a tower. The bells had a long draft being rung from the ground floor. In the mid-fifties Bill Corduroy from Harwell collected together a band of youngsters whom he taught to ring with help from other Harwell ringers. Most of them managed to ring quarter peals and some even managed peals. Sadly, Bill did not teach them how to recruit more ringers. Ringing was stopped in the late 1960s due to the weakness in the tower.

Eventually in the late 20th century, something had to be done to strengthen the tower and provide a new frame, other wise the bells would have fallen into the vestry. The village and parish raised money to do this to celebrate the millennium, the bells were rededicated at a service in January 2001. Nine villagers started trying to learn to ring but some left the area and we have failed to recruit more ringers. How do other towers do this? We only have 2 members who ring for Sunday service regularly; we are very grateful to ringers from Harwell and Blewbury who often come to help us.

Kate Crennell

Cholsey

We went on an outing to The Bell Foundry at Loughborough on 31st August. We were allowed 32 people so some ringers from Wallingford and Brightwell joined us.

We had a great day; we were able to see four bells being cast for a tower in Rosemore near Sydney, Australia.

Everything was very hands on. We saw the tuning methods, the templates for the moulding and when they had poured the bell metal into the moulds we were allowed onto the floor of the furnace room and watched the staff stirring the hot metal with willow sticks to get rid of any gasses.

After we had the tour of the works we went to the very light ring of ten bells and most of the ringers "had a go" !

The Austalian connection was represented by David Smith who we discovered had rung a peal with one of our ex ringers Saskia Norduijn at Bendigo. Saskia now lives in Adelaide and still rings frequently.

We still have our three learners who started last year; and our latest recruit David Over is now ringing with us thanks to Susan Reed's beginners course.

Wallingford have been ringing at Cholsey for some time as there was work on their Tower. This has been helpful to our learners as they also help us on our practise night.

Jenny Jeskins



Chris May looks on as Colin Davies sounds a newly cast bell at Taylors.

Didcot

We start with the sad news that one of our dedicated ringers, Helen Walker, died on September 19th after a short illness. Helen was an amazing woman; she was highly thought of at her workplace RAL Space and also held office for many years in the Royal Astronomical Society, the president spoke at her funeral. Helen trained as an astronaut and was pipped at the post by Helen Sharman; she could also count Sir Patrick Moore as a friend. She was also very involved in our church, All Saints' here in Didcot, serving for many years on the PCC, Diocesan rep, server and of course bell ringer. She also played croquet, loved beer and steam trains, and worked on restoring the engines at Didcot railway centre. She has left a gap that will be hard to fill. Didcot ringers were joined by Philip, Daphne and Claire at her funeral. We rang half muffled at Helens request and she was seen out by an all lady band which she would have appreciated.

We held a coffee morning on Saturday October 21st, with a 'have a go at ringing' invite. Thank you to all the branch members that came, a total of £310 was raised for Macmillan Cancer in memory of Helen, plus 5 people had a go at ringing!

Happier news is that All Saints' Didcot bells were featured on BBC 1 on Sunday September 17th. The programme was the prelude to the Invictus games 2017. One of the competitors, Jack Cummings, was married at All Saints' in August and the BBC was there to record his wedding and the bells.

Earlier in the year we had a visiting band of ringers who rang a quarter peal, they called it Didcot singles!

We continue to practice on Mondays at 6pm – 7:15pm, with a coffee and chat break in the middle.

Janette Roberts

East Hagbourne

The bellringers were sad to hear of the death of 'Jimmy' Blond who lived in Blewbury. Jimmy was a very accomplished ringer who taught many people to ring. His name appears, along with his brother Bob, on many of the Peal Boards in the local area. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Jane and their family at this sad time.

On the 31st May a group of 20 ringers met in The Fleur for the Kimber Memorial meal. This is an annual event to celebrate and give thanks for the life of Tony Kimber one of our ringers who died in 2001. We enjoyed a very nice meal followed by our usual game of 'Left, right and centre' a game devised by Tony which we always have great fun playing and it usually causes a few heads to turn in the pub.

A Big '**Thank You**' to everyone who supported the Bellringer's Jam stall at the Village Fete. Although it was very windy it did not rain. Thanks to Cliff for holding our tent down for us during the day, he was quite happy sat there holding the tent in one hand and a pint in the other!

The handbell ringers performed at the concert *Entertainment for a Summer's Evening* on Saturday 1st July, 7:30 at St Andrew's Church.

The annual **Duck Race** took place on **Sunday 27th August**. The little ducklings were back again this year.

On the 16th August at 6:00 the bells were rung for Alfred John Wiggins who was killed on this day in World War 1, one hundred years ago. There were eleven ringers who came to ring on this occasion plus some visitors.

Sanctus Bell



Yes, the Sanctus Bell is back at last and we are ringing it again for service. Personally I think that it sounds a bit different than it did before and it is more difficult to strike but I am assured that it just needs time to settle.

Summer is always a difficult time re getting a band of eight to ring for service and we have managed it on several occasions but if we cannot get eight then a team of six works well. All services have been rung for with the exception of a couple of evensongs that we usually ring for on the first Sunday of the month. Many of the ringers have enjoyed holidays all over the world from Oman, Europe, The Baltic, the USA and Dorset, a well travelled bunch!

We sadly had to bid farewell and good luck to a couple of our young ringers as they went off to University, one going to York and one going to Plymouth. We wished them both well and hope they continue with their ringing.

Ringer's Sunday was on Sunday 22nd October when we have a special ringer's evensong followed by refreshments. Always a lovely service and we all enjoy singing some of the old ringer's hymns.

We will be attempting a half muffled quarter peal for Remembrance Sunday on 12th November.

On Monday 4th December we will be ringing for the 100th anniversary of the death of William Shorey in the First World War.

Handbell practices are well under way with the teams now practicing together, so put the date in your diary for the "Ring and Sing", 19th December. We are also playing for an event in Upton in early December and possibly for The Even Bigger Wassail as part of the Christmas Tree Festival.

Shirley Goss

Harwell

Ringling at Harwell continues like many other towers, we have a fairly good turnout for Sunday service ringing (except when holidays clash), and would find it difficult to ring the eight for practice nights if it were not for our regular visitors, to whom we are very grateful.

Our young ringers are coming on and quarter peals should be happening soon. Callum is currently taking a year out, working with the scouts near Bristol before going on to university.

Our treasurer, Clive, has been looking at properties near Exmouth, so a move may be in the offing. This has prompted us to advertise for new recruits.

As the darker nights draw in, we at Harwell wish you all good ringing, good health and a good Christmas time. Speaking of which, we will again be having coffee and mince pies and a ring (which ever order you choose) on Boxing Day morning 10.30am till 12 noon. You are most welcome to join us, ringers and non-ringers alike.

Philip Roberts

PS. I went into the Bakery near Steventon yesterday and saw some cup cakes that looked really nice. They all looked the same and were priced at £1.99 each except for one, which was priced at £2.99. When I asked why the difference, the baker replied, 'That's my dearer cake' (Maderia!)

Letcombe Regis

Toni, Lily and George, our new recruits from autumn, 2016, have grown in confidence and are progressing well. The highlight of their ringing careers so far has been ringing before and after a village wedding on September 30th. Together with Christine, Mark, Henry and Anne we achieved really good striking with our call changes. Our other band member, Sophie, was miffed to be unable to ring and earn £15 as she had to help out at her school's Open Day. We had a lot to live up to as several weeks previously the village had been treated to some expert Grandsire Doubles rung by colleagues of an employee of Whites of Appleton whose wedding was held at our church.

During the summer holidays newcomers to the village, Caroline and her son Matthew (11), started to learn to ring. Our young people, Henry, Sophie, Lily and George have all separately been involved as helpers, either demonstrating strokes, ringing a bell to be followed by the learner or showing how the tail end of a stationary bell rope should be tied. Since September we have held some Friday night practices when allowed by availability of ringers, and we intend that their first Sunday ringing will be half muffled on Remembrance Sunday.

Anne Williams

St Peter's Little Wittenham and St Mary's Long Wittenham

Both towers have had visiting ringing teams over the last few months, and hopefully appreciated the bell refurbishment in St Peters, plus the lighting in the tower and staircase. Bristol University team rang at both churches as did a team from Aldershot. West London team rang at St Mary's.

A quarter peal, in memory of David and Richard Lay, was rung by the Radley and Milton ringers.

Branch taster sessions have been held in Long Wittenham and were well attended. No new ringers have appeared in either Tower despite recent appeals in local parish magazines, but we will continue the quest.

Julia Sargent

Milton

The last few months have continued to be busy at Milton. The builders have gone and we now have a very "user friendly" church which doubles as a community space complete with kitchen and WC. Whilst a number of the old pews have been retained, these are all moveable to make the church a very versatile space enabling many different activities to take place. Do come and have a look if you haven't yet been. July 30th saw the dedication of the completed works by the Bishop of Dorchester before a congregation of about 140. This also saw the inauguration of the DAMASCUS parish (Drayton, Appleford, Milton, Sutton Courtenay & Steventon) and the installation of Rev Helen Kendrick as the first Rector of the parish. At the same time Karen Hyde (whose son Oliver rings at Radley and joins us at practice when home from Portsmouth University) was licensed as curate. Subsequently at the first APM Nicola was elected as churchwarden for the new parish thus continuing and extending links between the ringers and churches of the group.

There has been quite a lot of ringing too. We had a mini outing in the summer starting at Aldworth which has only three bells, but I saw a notice saying that they do tea & cake in church on Wednesdays in summer. An offer of prearranged refreshments was too good to turn down. After we had had our fill there we rang at Compton on the way home. It was an enjoyable and sunny afternoon out.

There have been the usual number of peals and a number of targeted quarter peals. These included the first of Surprise for Oliver, during the summer vacation and the first of Surprise Major for Rachel and Major inside for Edward. A peal was rung to mark the inception of the DAMASCUS parish and another in memory of John Pearce.

Times change and we miss Edward who has now moved to Nottingham to continue his studies at Nottingham Trent University. We made it known to a few of our ringing friends in the area to look out for him and we were pleased to hear from him at the end of his first week that he had followed up some of these contacts and had not been idle on the ringing front! We look forward to hearing more from him when he returns at Christmas.

At a recent practice we rang six different Minor methods. A seed of an idea was sown, how about ringing these six plus Double Court, which we had also practiced recently, in a peal of seven methods? Charles was keen so the peal was duly rung at Berrick Salome on the 20th of September.

We have added Single Oxford B Minor and London Surprise Minor to our repertoire and continue to ring Cambridge S Major when numbers allow.

Visitors are welcome on a Tuesday evening although it is best to check before turning up as we sometimes do not hold a practice if numbers are low or arrange a quarter peal instead.

Colin Turner

North Moreton – Celebration of the First Anniversary of Inauguration of Bell Works

It is a year since North Moreton celebrated the inauguration of the renovated bells, with our first Bell Service taken by the bishop. Twelve months later, we still have plenty to celebrate. We have managed to ring for most of the church services, including the evening ones, and are so grateful to the help we have received from Branch members at the Monday evening practices. We have lots of visitors and they are very welcome.

The NM tower is always glad to welcome groups of ringers and we have had twelve of these over the last nineteen months. On every occasion we have served refreshments and have very much appreciated the kitchen and WC facilities.

Our ringing chamber has had the additions of a heater, a fan and our own notice board. The PCC are progressing with the electrical work, and we plan to have some more lighting to avoid shadowing, while we ring.

The vestry remains incomplete, but the electrical work has caused some of the delay and when that is finished, we can continue with the furnishing of the vestry with wardrobe, cupboard and desk.

Beryl Jones

Radley

Our numbers have been depleted by Oliver returning to Portsmouth and Edward going to Nottingham, but we ring regularly on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings. We look forward to their return for the Christmas holiday.

Both a Peal and a Quarter were rung to welcome the Revd. Robert Glenney who was installed as Rector of the United Benefice of Radley, Sunningwell and Kennington on 1st August. The Peal was of Cambridge S. Minor and Pl. Bob, and Edward and Ian both rang in it. The Quarter was also rung to mark the centenary of the death of A/Sgt Ernest Bennett of Radley who died on 2 August 1917.

Oliver has been learning Cambridge Minor and rang a Quarter at Milton on 15th August. Edward has been learning Cambridge Major and a successful Quarter was rung at Milton on 23rd August.

Joshua is improving his Bob Doubles, learning Reverse Canterbury and also ringing the Treble to plain minor.

Oliver was home for the weekend which enabled us to ring a half-muffled quarter on Remembrance Sunday.

Daphne Pollard

West Hanney

We have continued to ring for our Wednesday practice most weeks and now have seven ringers and two learners. As always we are very grateful to our regular visitors from other towers.

In spite of various age related ailments, holidays, business trips and family commitments, we also manage to ring for most Sunday services, even if only with three or four ringers. We have also rung for a couple of summer weddings.

During the recent village Michaelmas Fayre, we opened the Tower, and climbing to see the bells was very popular, with 55 intrepid mountaineers ascending the vertical ladder. Sadly there were no converts to bell-ringing, though much enthusiasm and interest was shown, so hopefully a few seeds have been sown.

Two visiting bands have been to Hanney in the past few months. The first, in August, was from Farnborough and at the beginning of October, Colin Turner and his team rang a glorious peal, which was a treat for the village and an inspiration to those of us ringers lucky enough to hear it.

Jean Hazard

Branch Outing - Saturday 22 July 2017

My first reaction on being asked to write about the branch outing from a ringer's point of view was to wonder just how interesting such a report could possibly be given that I knew someone else was writing from a non-ringer's perspective. Is it just the report with all the interesting stuff left out? And perhaps someone who had been ringing for more than 2 years might provide more of a contrast to a non-ringer! Anyway, I'll be leaving in more of the details of the bells than I might otherwise have done, but I will include other things too, because even ringers notice a little more than the actual towers. (Don't they?)

So, over 30 ringers (and a few non ringers), representing 19 different towers from within and outside the branch, visited 5 towers and one pub over the course of one very enjoyable day, with excellent organisation once again by Philip Roberts. There was a wide range of ringing abilities and I think everyone got to ring what they wanted to, although given the number of ringers, maybe not as many times as they might have liked. I for one was happy to have a ring or maybe two in each tower and then retreat to make way for more ringers (some of the towers got a little cramped). This meant I rang mostly rounds and call changes and can't comment too much on what else was rung beyond the usual Plain bob, Grandsire and Stedman, but that was my choice. I also need to mention the amazing 8 year old Amelie from Brightwell who was ringing rounds and call changes on the day and has now been elected to the Guild. Well done, Amelie!

We started the day at Royal Wootton Bassett, St Bartholomew & All Saints with a light ring of 8 (19-1-0) . We were greeted by the vicar who complimented the ringing and asked if it was our first grab of the day. (Her husband is a ringer, apparently!)

Our next stop was Wroughton, where we arrived in heavy rain to find blood being washed off the church step. I don't know how the blood got there, but whatever you are imagining could well be more interesting than the real story, so I'll leave it there! The bells, a ground floor ring of 6 (20-1-17) were very heavy set and quite hard to pull off but they rang well once they were going. And so with slightly longer arms and feeling a couple of inches taller than when we arrived we retired to the local pub for a well-deserved and very tasty lunch.

We began the afternoon at Liddington, All Saints, ringing their new set of 6 (8-2-11) which was installed only last year below the old, conserved ring of 5. The new bells sounded lovely, but were quite loud in the ringing chamber so that the conductor had to shout to be heard. Also of note here was a good quality bottle of port in the vestry and a large safe. (With more port, perhaps?)

There was an even larger bottle in the ringing chamber at Wanborough, but this one held no port: it was for donations. There were 8 bells (18-2-23) and I took hold of my rope with the same trepidation that I usually do on an outing in a new tower, but I was pleasantly surprised to find they rang quite like ours do in Blewbury. My only disappointment here was that the West door, from which a long red carpet extended all the way to the altar (thus providing an excellent approach for a bridal party) is apparently never used.

The last church of the day was St Michael and All Angels in Lambourn, (8 (20-2-0)). Here we enjoyed an excellent tea with the usual selection of wonderful cakes before making our way outside to the tower, up the slippery steps and along the balcony to the ringing chamber. Apparently the heavier bells were a little tricky – but I rang the 2 and it went quite nicely thank you – and so I declined the offer to try another!

Another successful outing and thanks again to Philip for organising.

Christine Kowalczuk



Ready for the BBQ pudding course!

Branch Outing – Saturday 22 July 2017 – a non-ringers' view

The tour started in the newly Royal Wootton Bassett, home of a fine town hall and shops that even the discerning Nick and Debbie approved of. St Bartholemew's and All Saints sported a teddy bear in a surplice, a fine donations box and a set of black and white funeral traffic cones. We moved on to St John the Baptist's and St Helen's Wroughton, not expecting excitement, to find members of the PCC mopping blood off the steps in readiness for a wedding. We were comforted that the police had swept the whole churchyard. As if that wasn't enough, Nick got his plums out in the church (to everyone's delight). We also found some bemused visitors from Australia accompanying Reg and Carole and explained the bell ringing to them – also a large array of random hand bells on a shelf round the ringing floor. We then filed into the skittle alley at the White Heart for lunch (over 30 of us).

Following lunch we staggered off to All Saint's Liddington, where the invisible glass wall to stop ringers tottering off the edge of the ringing platform turned a few stomachs queasy. A fine font lid and a treat for Lottie dog who was allowed in for a lie down. Moving on, we arrived at St Andrew's Wanborough – a somewhat dark interior – where Nick got his plums out again and where there were some strange sections of old bell under the pulpit.

The finale of the trip was St Michael's Lambourn (where many have enjoyed tea and cake before) with its little Juliet balcony on the route to the ringing chamber. We weren't disappointed, especially in the gluten free peanut cookies which many are making at home now. (Recipe on p.28.) We rounded off, appropriately, with the group photo.



Nick's plums (almost all gone by this stage)

Bob Mannix
(Claire Ward's husband)



Group photo a Lambourn

Barn Dance – Saturday 11th November

It's all about timing. Counting in eights (or occasionally sixes). It involves changing places with the one next to you, keeping nice and precise with even spacing and no clashing. Sometimes you go in quick, sometimes you take the lead or stay behind. Whatever happens in the middle, you should all end up back where you started.

Does all that sound familiar? There must be a hundred transferable lessons between bellringing and barn dancing. Well, I'm sure there are, but as with bellringing itself, some of us learn quicker and more efficiently than others. There were slick movers and those of us that kept losing the plot and trying to do a four point star when it should have been a do-si-do, (or was it stripping the willow?)

Good or bad, we all carried on regardless whilst the caller did her best to yell out instructions, and the excellent band (Jigworks) kept the tempo and quite probably smiled to themselves at what was unfolding before them. Winners and losers were there none, just good natured merriment. For once, being in the wrong place was excused without stern words or the body language of disapproval so commonly seen on the average practice night!

A good time was had by all, and I haven't even mentioned the provision of baked potatoes with a choice of fillings and salad followed by a selection of puddings. Generous helpings, tasty and served up by brilliantly efficient kitchen staff.

Harwell village hall is a superb venue. Gillian and Richard Loyd, Jeanette and Philip Roberts, Nick Clarke, and their team behind the scenes did us all proud. Many, many thanks for your efforts. We in turn did our bit by supporting the event in large numbers.

A success all round, then. And if a few of us felt a little bit stiff the next morning, it was all in a good cause – the barn dance raised £263 and the raffle £190 for branch restoration funds.

Charles Morrish







Blessing of Bells at St Michael's Abingdon – 29th September 2017

The Rt Rev'd Rowan Williams was at St Michael and All Angels, Abingdon-on-Thames, this evening for the service to re-dedicate and bless the restored three bells.

After a long period of disuse, White's of Appleton have just finished the work to get them back working.

The link for the recording of the bells is
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C1PSOzhw-dA>



Three young ringers from St Helen's were invited to ring them for a short period in front of the congregation ...
 Chiming rounds was tricky – long draft and springy ropes.

Brian Read

ONB Branch Handling Course May – July 2017

Our Branch ran a successful ringing course in the Wallingford area to teach some new ringers to ring from scratch. We rang three times per week for an hour for six weeks, visiting eleven towers in the process!

Initially there were three people learning to ring, David, Paul, and Ruth, but later on Nicky and Pete joined us, so in the end we taught five new ringers. The big advantage of teaching in a group like this is that the learners enjoy learning as part of a group, instead of alone with a teacher. And it is great fun to visit so many different rings of bells during the course.

We are very grateful that seventeen of our experienced teachers of ringing took part in the course. It was really good to prove that we can all work together so harmoniously and so effectively.

We are following the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) syllabus and are glad to report that Paul succeeded in gaining the first Learning the Ropes Certificate. The other new ringers are not far behind and hope to earn their certificates soon. Here is a photo of one of the sessions with the teachers that day.



Left to right the people are: Nicky, Sarah, Paul, Pete, Susan and David.

We are pleased to report that Paul is ringing regularly with the Sunningwell ringers and David is ringing in Cholsey. Nicky, Pete and Ruth are considering which towers to join when they are a little more confident with handling.

ONB Branch Ringing School

We are continuing to teach the group of five new ringers by holding weekly Saturday morning sessions and are now calling it our Branch Ringing School. Our plan is to teach some more complete beginners in the branch from the beginning of October, on a weekly Saturday morning basis. We will continue to visit different towers in our branch each week and will need some helpers from the towers we visit. Please look out for our visit to your tower and make our new ringers welcome!

We are looking out for up to six new people to learn to ring with our Branch Ringing School from October onwards. Please ask around in your neighbourhood for someone interested in learning to ring. Hopefully they will ring in your tower when they are confident they can ring rounds well enough.

All the teachers from the ringing course will hopefully continue to help to teach with the Branch Ringing School. If you would like to help teach on an occasional basis, please contact me so that I may add you to the list.

Susan Read
Branch Training Officer

Young Ringers Event (Sunningwell, walk and mini-ring – 31 May 2017)

On the warm sunny afternoon of Wednesday 31 May, ten young ringers met to ring at Sunningwell (6, 8-2-0) and at Isaac's new mini-ring (5, 0-0-9), in the roof space of Lisa's garage in North Abingdon.

In Sunningwell, we climbed the very worn stone steps to the ringing chamber and then found we had to climb down wooden steps about six feet to reach the floor of the ringing chamber! We put the bells to good use ringing some call changes, plain bob doubles, and playing a game where the ringers were supposed to stand the bells after a chosen number of rounds, causing much hilarity.

After a group photo outside the tower we split into three teams (each with an adult) to walk nearly two miles to Lisa's house for refreshments and to try the mini-ring. On the walk the teams had a question sheet to work through. Some were amazed to find that the maximum fine for dog fouling was £1,000!

Daphne had prepared some excellent refreshments with home-made scones and cake. The mini-ring was great fun and something most of the ringers had not encountered before. And lots of us had a go at playing snooker on a mini billiard table. And then there was the pogo stick...

Thank you to Daphne for the refreshments and opening up Sunningwell bells, Lisa for allowing us to visit her lovely home, and Isaac for making sure the bells worked when we arrived.

Susan Read



Young Ringers Event (St Giles, Oxford, Tuesday 5 September 2017)

Traditionally, St Giles church in Oxford is open during the St Giles Fair in early September. It provides a quiet place where people may take refuge from the noise and crowds of the fairground outside. The church has laid on tea and cakes for their visitors and this year these were expertly provided and served by ladies from the WI.

John Pusey likes to take the opportunity to invite visitors to the church to try ringing handbells with him, hoping that he may draw in some new learners for his team. And he likes to ring a quarter on handbells before the evening service. This year John was away on holiday so he asked me to organise it.

I had been away myself and was feeling very guilty that so far I had not organised anything for the young ringers. John's request triggered the idea of taking the young ringers to St Giles – they would love being so close to the Fair. And ringing couldn't possibly be accused of disturbing the neighbourhood whilst there was so much noise from the Fair!

We met at 2 pm with eight young ringers and nine adults. (Sadly some of our usual young ringers had already started school that day). The standard of ringing was quite high, including some rounds and call changes, plain hunt on seven, plain bob triples and Cambridge Surprise Major.

An excellent tea was provided by the ladies of the WI. I had prepared a quiz of questions about the church, but there really wasn't time to do it justice. But two of the boys had a go at it. They recognised the painting of Didcot Power Station. And the animal in the stained glass window of St Giles was identified as a sheep. I confess I wasn't sure if it was a sheep or a goat when I looked. I found out later it was supposed to be a hind!

With John's permission, we used the twelve handbells from the tower, firstly to demonstrate how change ringing works by walking through plain hunt on eight, then to do it again by lapping, involving some of the young ringers. And then we rang some simple tunes on the handbells.

All too soon, it was 4 pm and we said goodbye to the young people. But in honour of John's tradition four of us stayed on and rang a quarter peal of Plain Bob Major on the handbells before the evening service.

The next outing will be in the October half term holiday. Venue and date yet to be decided!

Susan Read
ONB Training Officer





Young Ringers Event (Witney & Ducklington – 25 October 2017)

We met at 10 am at Witney's imposing church in bright cool sunshine.

I had arranged the outing at rather short notice and was sorry to find that lots of the usual young ringers were going away for half term. Having expected only three young ringers I had asked some adults to come and make up the band. Paul from Headington, Daphne from Radley, Alison from North Leigh came to support us as well as Andrew, Roger and Hazel from the towers concerned.

In the end, seven young ringers arrived including Misha from Banbury Branch, Matthew and Toby from Oxford City Branch and Lily, George, Joe and Phoebe from the Old North Berks Branch. And they brought two parents with them. So we were quite a crowd, especially in the small tower at Ducklington!

After raising the bells at Witney we were able to ring call changes, plain hunt on seven and bob doubles. When we finished ringing we organised the young people into three teams, each with an adult. We had prepared a quiz with instructions on how to walk to Ducklington and sent the teams off at three minute intervals, with strict instructions not to visit the playground they would be passing!

At Ducklington, Daphne had prepared a lovely spread – chocolate cake, lemon drizzle cake, buttered cheese scones, tea, coffee and fizzy pop. There wasn't much left by the time we ascended the tower to ring the light bells!

At the prize giving, all the youngsters received a mini-mars bar as prizes with the girls (who got most answers right) receiving extra bars.

We dispersed at 12.30 pm, leaving just enough time for some of us to make it to the Old North Berks Branch Practice at Milton for 2 pm!

The next young ringer outing will be in the Christmas holiday. Venue and date yet to be decided!

Susan Read
ONB Training Officer



QUARTER PEALS

Blewbury, 13 May 2017. 1260 Plain Bob Minor: Christine Kowalczuk 1, Gillian Loyd 2, Ellen Bramhill 3, Josie Irving 4, Richard Loyd 5, Stuart Gibson (C) 6. Rung to celebrate Christine's 60th birthday and Ellen's wedding anniversary.

Abingdon (30 St Amand Drive), 25 May 2017. 1264 Plain Bob Major: Susan E M Read 1-2, Rosanna Cretney 3-4, John G Pusey 5-6, Joe Norton (C) 7-8. Rung to congratulate Zoë Williams on submitting her mammoth project.

Blewbury, 30th May 2017. 1280 Spliced Surprise Major (P,N,Y,C,L,S,R,B): Richard Loyd 1, Gillian Loyd 2, Andrea Gilbert 3, Mary Friskney 4, Josie Irving 5, Christopher Tuckett 6, Stuart Gibson (C) 7, Mark Vincent 8. For the Archdeacon's visitation.

Abingdon, St Helen, 11 June 2017. 1280 Lincolnshire Surprise Major: Hugh Bishop 1, Peter Heritage 2, Brian Read 3, Sarah Barnes 4, Isaac O'Shea 5, Matt Franklin 6, Tim Pett (C) 7, David Thomas 8. 1st in the method - 4, 5.

Long Wittenham, 27 June 2017. 1260 Minor (720 Cambridge, 540 Plain Bob): Daphne Pol-lard 1, Nicola Turner (C) 2, Robert Newton 3, Charles Morrish 4, Edward Walker 5, Colin Turner 6. In memory of David & Richard Lay, Grandfather & Great Uncle respectively of the ringer of the 5th.

West Hanney, 15 July 2017. **1279 Doubles (4m/1v)**: Josh Ball 1, Nick Clarke 2, Sarah Barnes 3, David Thomas (C) 4, Isaac O'Shea 5, Reg Sidlow 6. 50th together: 4 and 5. Rung half-muffled in memory of Clifford Judge, grandfather of Isaac on the first anniversary of his death.

Abingdon (20 St Amand Drive), 16 July 2017. **1260 Plain Bob Minor**: Isaac O'Shea 1-2, Tim Pett 3-4, David Thomas (C) 5-6. First quarter on Isaac's bells. The band wishes to associate Len Porter and George Vant with this performance.

Abingdon (30 St Amand Drive), 29 July 2017, 1344 **Plain Bob Major**: Susan Read 1-2, Tim Pett 3-4, David Thomas 5-6, Isaac O'Shea (C) 7-8. First on 8 in hand: 7-8. First on a middle pair: 5-6. First 8 bell quarter on Isaac's handbells. Rung as an 18th birthday compliment to the conductor.

Radley, 6 August 2017. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Daphne Pollard 1, Oliver Hyde 2, Ann Belcher 3, Audrey Fowlie 4, Edward Walker (C) 5, Maurice Belcher 6. Rung to welcome Rev Robert Glenn who was installed as Rector of the United Benefice of Radley, Sunningwell and Kennington on 1st August. Also to mark the centenary of the death of A/Sgt Ernest Bennett of this parish, died 2 August 1917.

Milton, 8 August 2017. **1260 Doubles (7m)**: Claire Ward 1, Oliver Hyde 2, Colin Turner (C) 3, Nicola Turner 4, Edward Walker 5.

Milton, 15 August 2017. **1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor**: Daphne Pollard 1, Nicola Turner (C) 2, Claire Ward 3, Oliver Hyde 4, Edward Walker 5, Colin Turner 6. First of surprise – 4.

Appleton, 20 August 2017. **1277 Grandsire Caters**: Andrew J Dyer 1, Charlotte Everett 2, Barbara H Payne 3, Sylvia M Harrison 4, Jenny A Dyer 5, Peter J Heritage 6, Peter H M Day 7, Michael J Harrison (C) 8, Bernard J Stone 9, J Roger Mitty 10. For Evensong, also to celebrate the life of Polly Elizabeth Birch (nee Dick) 1985 – 2017. "Respect the World and look after the Bees" – Polly 2017

Milton, 23 August 2017. **1250 Cambridge Surprise Major**: Cynthia Howell 1, Rachel Morrish 2, Daphne Pollard 3, Nicola Turner (C) 4, Sue Marshall 5, Charles Morrish 6, Edward Walker 7, Colin Turner 8. First of Major – 7 First S Major inside - 2.

Abingdon, St Helen, 27 August 2017. **1280 Rutland Surprise Major**: Hugh Bishop 1, Anne Franklin 2, Sarah Barnes 3, Brian Read 4, Matt Franklin 5, Isaac O'Shea 6, Peter Heritage 7, Tim Pett (C) 8. 1st quarter in the method - 3, 6.

Abingdon, St Helen, 10 September 2017. **1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major**: Susan Read 1, Sophie Martin 2, Hugh Bishop 3, Sarah Barnes 4, David Thomas 5, Brian Read 6, Tim Pett (C) 7, Isaac O'Shea 8. 1st quarter of Surprise Major - 2. For Evening Service and with best wishes to the Rev Charles Miller for a full recovery.

Abingdon, St Helen, 24 September 2017. **1280 Cambridge Surprise Major**: Hugh Bishop 1, Sophie Martin 2, Susan Read 3, Brian Read 4, Sarah Barnes 5, Peter Heritage 6, Tim Pett 7, Isaac O'Shea (C) 8. 1st quarter of Cambridge Major - 2 and as conductor. Rung for the 150th anniversary of the dedication of St Michael's Church in this parish.

Abingdon, St Helen, 13 October 2017. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Daniel Gillett 1, Susan Read 2, Sophie Martin 3, Brian Read 4, Isaac O'Shea (C) 5, Joe Gillett 6. First quarter: 1 and 6. On the day of the funeral in this church of Councillor Janet Morgan.

Chilton, 26 October 2017. **1260 Grandsire Doubles**: Rachel Morrish (Milton) 1, Peter Birtwhistle (Great Shefford) 2, Liz Saunders (Great Shefford) 3, Richard Loyd (Blewbury) 4, Charles Morrish (Milton) (C) 5, Gill Loyd (Blewbury) 6. To celebrate the birth of Roxana Alizé Quenet Loyd, Granddaughter of 4 and 6 born 21 October 2017. First quarter inside for 2 and 3.

Abingdon, St Helen, 29 October 2017. **1280 Pudsey Surprise Major**: Susan Read 1, Sophie Martin 2, Sarah Barnes 3, Brian Read 4, Matt Franklin 5, Ryan Mills 6, Tim Pett (C) 7, Isaac O'Shea 8. First blows in the method 2, 3 & 8.

Blewbury, 1 November 2017. **1260 Grandsire Triples**: Matthew Phillips 1, Ellen Bramhill 2, Gillian Loyd 3, Josie Irving 4, Matt Napper 5, Mark Vincent (C) 6, Richard Loyd 7, Peter Cordero 8. Rung to celebrate the 80th birthday of Dick Street and the birth of Roxana Quenet Loyd, granddaughter of 3 and 7. 1st quarter away from tenor 1.

Abingdon, St Helen, 12 November 2017. **1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major**: Susan Read 1, Sophie Martin 2, Brian Read 3, Matt Franklin 4, Ryan Mills 5, Peter Heritage 6, Tim Pett (C) 7, Isaac O'Shea 8. Rung half-muffled for Remembrance Sunday.

Radley, 12 November 2017. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Daphne Pollard (C) 1, Charlie Milward 2, Ann Belcher 3, Oliver Hyde 4, M Ian Minns 5, Maurice Belcher 6. Rung half-muffled on Remembrance Sunday. To mark the centenary of the deaths of Pte Arthur Smewing and Frederick Hermon of this parish, died 27 November 1917. Also to welcome William James Lane, first grandson for Charlie and Yvonne Milward.

PEALS

Chilton, 14 July 2016, 2h32, **5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (41m)**: Comp. John S Warboys: Ian G Judd 1, Antoinette J R Jackson 2, June D Wells 3, Timothy G Pett (C) 4, E John Wells 5, Stuart F Gibson 6.

Chilton, 29 December 2016, 2h44, **5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (7m)**: Ian G Judd 1, Bobbie May 2, Catherine M A Lane 3, Simon L Edwards 4, Timothy G Pett (C) 5, Kenneth R Davenport 6. To welcome Bobbie back to Peal ringing.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 18 May 2017, 2h36, **5088 Grafton Delight Major**: Timothy G Pett 1, Cynthia E Howell 2, Helen J Piper 3, Robert J Crocker 4, Bernard F L Groves (C) 5, Colin M Turner 6, Nicola J Turner 7, Peter Bridle 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Sunningwell**, 26 May 2017, 2h44, **5040 Surprise Minor (7m)**: Brian Bladon 1, Colin M Turner 2, Cynthia E Howell 3, Susan E Marshall 4, Peter G C Ellis (C) 5, Nicola J Turner 6. Circled the tower – 6.

BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN GUILD, **Chilton**, 3 June 2017, 2h38, **5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (7m)**: Lesley A Knipe 1, Michael Hatchett 2, Josie S Irving 3, Timothy G Pett 4, Jeffrey Knipe 5, Robert D S Brown (C) 6. 900th Peal for the Association – 5.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 4 June 2017, 2h32, **5190 Bovey Tracey Alliance Major**: Nicola J Turner 1, Colin M Turner 2, Cynthia E Howell 3, Katharine J Salter 4, John C Sheppard 5, David G Salter 6, Timothy G Pett (C) 7, Richard L Thumwood 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 19 June 2017, 2h42, **5088 Swindon Town Surprise Major**: Brian Bladon 1, Timothy G Pett 2, Colin M Turner 3, Beryl R Norris 4, John C Sheppard 5, Peter Bridle 6, Darran Ricks (C) 7, Nicola J Turner 8. Commencing at 11.01, remembering all those affected by the Grenfell Tower fire.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 23 July 2017, 2h43, **5056 Versailles Surprise Major**: Brian Bladon 1, Stuart P B Talbott 2, Simon W Edwards 3, Debby M Talbott 4, Colin M Turner 5, Charlotte A Boyce 6, Nicola J Turner 7, John R Martin (C) 8. Rung in memory of Margaret Glazebrook on the eve before her funeral.

Chilton, 24 July 2017, 2h34, **5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (13m)**: E John Wells 1, June D Wells 2, Anna E Sherwood 3, Stuart F Gibson 4, David L Thomas 5, Timothy G Pett (C) 6. 1st peal of Surprise Minor – 3. Most Surprise Minor methods – 5.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 30 July 2017, 2h35, **5152 Malvern Hills Surprise Major**: Nicola J Turner 1, Katharine J Firman 2, Graham G Firman 3, Cynthia E Howell 4, Timothy G Pett 5, Richard L Thumwood 6, Peter G C Ellis (C) 7, Colin M Turner 8. Rung to mark the completion of the reordering of the church, including installation of kitchen & WC facilities. Also to mark the inception of the DAMASCUS parish (Drayton, Appleford, Milton, Sutton Courtenay & Stevenon) and installation of Rev Helen Kendrick as the first Rector.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Radley**, 2 August 2017, 2h26, **5040 Minor (2m)**: Robert H Newton 1, Edward A S Walker 2, M Ian Minns 3, Colin M Turner 4, Nicola J Turner 5, Robert J Crocker (C) 6. Rung to welcome the Rev Robert Glenny who was installed as Rector of the United Benefice of Radley, Sunningwell & Kennington yesterday.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Drayton**, 3 August 2017, 2h43, **5152 Cotswold Way Delight Major**: Nicola J Turner 1, Helen J Piper 2, Robert J Crocker 3, Cynthia E Howell 4, Peter Bridle 5, Timothy G Pett 6, Colin M Turner 7, Bernard F L Groves (C) 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 6 August 2017, 2h33, **5088 London Surprise Major**: Brian Bladon 1, Nicola J Turner 2, Cynthia E Howell 3, Jack E Page 4, Colin M Turner 5, Craig P Homewood 6, Mark Regan (C) 7, Christopher J Pickford 8.

Chilton, 16 August 2017, 2h36, **5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (23m)**: E John Wells 1, June D Wells 2, Anna E Sherwood 3, Stuart F Gibson 4, David L Thomas 5, Timothy G Pett (C) 6. Most methods to a peal – 3, 5.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Blewbury**, 23 August 2017, 3h05, **5088 Morville Delight Major**: Susan E Marshall 1, Nicola J Turner 2, Robert J Crocker 3, Timothy G Pett 4, Colin M Turner 5, Ian Roulstone 6, Ian Butters (C) 7, Claire F Roulstone 8. In memory of James P Blond, ringer at this tower for many years, who died recently.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION, **Milton**, 24 August 2017, 2h33, **5088 Superlative Surprise Major**: Lucy P A Hopkins Till 1, Katharine J Salter 2, Paul T Young 3, Beryl R Norris 4, Robert H Jordan 5, C Barrie Dove (C) 6, Roger S Riley 7, Fergus M S Stracey 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 17 September 2017, 2h33, **5130 Hemingford Grey Alliance Major**: Brian Bladon 1, Cynthia E Howell 2, Richard L Thumwood 3, Colin M Turner 4, Charlotte A Boyce 5, Nicola J Turner 6, John R Martin (C) 7, Peter G C Ellis 8. Rung as a Diamond wedding anniversary compliment to Ian and Margaret Ann Crichton, parents of the ringer of the 6th.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 21 September 2017, 2h34, **5010 Frampton Marsh Alliance Major**: Robert J Crocker 1, Nicola J Turner 2, Cynthia E Howell 3, Helen J Piper 4, Timothy G Pett 5, Peter Bridle 6, Colin M Turner 7, Bernard F L Groves (C) 8. Remembering John Pearce who died on 7th August 2017. John rang six peals with this third Thursday band in the 1990's.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **West Hanney**, 4 October 2017, 3h04, **5040 Surprise Minor (21m)**: Nicola J Turner 1, Colin M Turner 2, Susan D Sparling 3, Pauline C McKenzie 4, Peter G C Ellis 5, Michael E C Mears (C) 6.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Sunningwell**, 4 October 2017, 2h33, **5040 Surprise Minor (41m)**: Susan D Sparling 1, Nicola J Turner 2, Colin M Turner 3, Pauline C McKenzie 4, Peter G C Ellis (C) 5, Michael E C Mears 6. In memory of Sunningwell resident George Esmond Haggie, killed in action in Flanders on 2nd October 1917, cousin of Pauline.

Milton, 8 October 2017, 2h45, **5152 Yorkshire Surprise Major**: Colin M Turner 1, Sophie L Martin 2, June D Wells 3, Anna E Sherwood 4, Nicola J Turner 5, E John Wells 6, Timothy G Pett (C) 7, Isaac J O'Shea 8. 2nd peal and 1st of Major (aged 14) – 2.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **North Moreton**, 12 October 2017, 2h54, **5040 Surprise Minor (42m)**: Ruth Curtis 1, Nicola J Turner 2, Colin M Turner 3, Paul F Curtis 4, Peter G C Ellis (C) 5, Robert J Crocker 6. The ringers of 2, 3, 5 and 6 rang in the last peal (42m Doubles) prior to rehanging and augmentation.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 14 October 2017, 2h38, **5184 Bristol Surprise Major**: Cynthia E Howell 1, Brian Bladon 2, Nicola J Turner 3, Timothy G Pett 4, Graham G Firman 5, Mark Edwards 6, Colin M Turner 7, Peter G C Ellis (C) 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 19 October 2017, 2h38, **5184 Brendon Hills Surprise Major**: Brian Bladon 1, Colin M Turner 2, Helen J Piper 3, Richard L Thumwood 4, Robert J Crocker 5, Timothy G Pett 6, Bernard F L Groves (C) 7, Peter Bridle 8. In memory of Richard M Casserley who died earlier today.

Abingdon, St Helen, 24 October 2017, 3h, **5040 Spliced Surprise Royal (8m)**: Robert H Newton 1, Beryl R Norris 2, Patricia M Newton 3, Anna E Sherwood 4, Peter Bridle 5, Bernard F L Groves 6, W John Couperthwaite (C) 7, Ian G Campbell 8, Colin G Newman 9, Graham A C John 10. First peal of Spliced Surprise Royal: 4.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Sunningwell**, 8 November 2017, 2h38, **5040 Surprise Minor (7m)** : Colin M Turner 1, Robert J Crocker 2, Nicola J Turner 3, Simon L Edwards 4, Peter G C Ellis (C) 5, Christopher J Pickford 6.

APPLETON SOCIETY, **Appleton**, 11 November 2017, 2h54, **5039 Grandsire Caters**, Comp. S A Bond: Michele Winter 1, Michael A Williams 2, Julie A Haseldine 3, Andrew J Dyer 4, Simon L Edwards 5, Simon A Bond (C) 6, Peter H M Day 7, John H Napper 8, Andrew Haseldine 9, Bernard J Stone 10. Half-muffled in memory of the fallen. Remembering in particular Lieutenant Victor Augustus Stone, 8th Battalion Canadian Infantry (Manitoba Regiment), great-uncle of Bernard Stone, died 10th November 1917 aged 31.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 11 November 2017, 2h46, **5120 Bristol Surprise Major**: Colin M Turner 1, Brian Bladon 2, Darran Ricks 3, Nicola J Turner 4, John C Sheppard 5, Peter G C Ellis 6, Bernard F L Groves (C) 7, Peter Bridle 8. 5,000th peal – 2.

Christmas Quiz

Can you identify the branch towers from the following anagrams?

1. GONNA BID
2. BASH ENTOURAGE
3. DRY LEA
4. TWO MEN HALTING
5. ROSALIND TROT
6. DERWENT SHED
7. KING COLE
8. e.g. TOE CLIMBERS
9. AT TWENTIETH MILL
10. A NUT COUNTERS TOY
11. SHORT PALS
12. TELECASTS MOB BET
13. ON THE STORK
14. VENT NOTES
15. FALL DOWN RIG

Answers next Newsletter. Sorry, no prizes.

Gluten free peanut biscuits (Janette brought these along to the Branch Outing in July)

260g peanut butter (any sort)
200g caster sugar (I use about 170g)
1 egg

Oven: 180 fan, 190 non fan

Put everything into a bowl and mix well. Should be a softish, but not runny consistency.

Put desert spoon sized blobs on a lined baking tray with room to spread. Cook for about 8 - 10 minutes for soft centre, a bit more for not so soft, depending on size of blobs. I check from 8 minutes onwards.

Leave on the paper until firm enough to move on to a wire rack to cool.

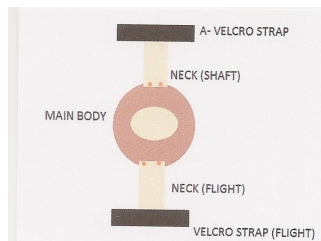


O'Shea Velcro Bell Muffles

Bell muffles made from high quality Cow Hide leather and crafted with great precision made to match clappers. Made using traditional leather working techniques such as wet moulding and riveting combined with a small amount of adhesive to aid durability and treated with leather preservative to lock in moisture and protect against dampness for a long serving life.

High quality copper rivets are used for attaching the muffle neck to the main body.

On bells heavier then 6cwt, rivets are used in conjunction with the adhesive on the central pad.



Required dimensions are:

A. Shaft Diameter

B. Ball diameter

C Diameter where ball meets flight

D. Length of flight

Bells up to 12cwt £15 each

Above 13cwt £22 each

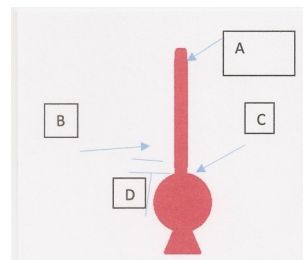
Timber shafts £32 each

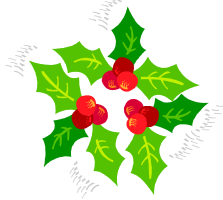
Nylon shafts £26 each

Non-Standard clapper shapes please call for a quote.

Please note that the waiting time for muffles can vary between 2-4 weeks

To place orders, call 07856 701133 or email osheamuffles@yahoo.com with the subject "MUFFLES"





ONBB



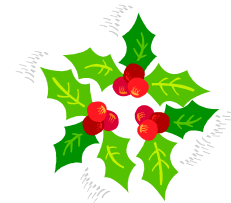
***New Year's
Ringing &
Refreshments***

Monday, 1st January 2018

St Laurence, Appleton

10.30am – 12.30pm

Everybody welcome



Old North Berks website

The Old North Berks website can be found at www.onb.odg.org.uk. The website is a valuable tool providing up to date information and a means of contacting the branch officers and the towers within the branch. It should be the first port of call for details about branch events. Why not visit it now and add it to your favourites. If you spot any incorrect or missing information then please contact the webmaster at webmaster@onb.odg.org.uk.

Or would you like to include something on the website. Why wait for the Branch Newsletter to report a special event in your tower. Maybe there has been a special birthday or a first quarter or you have been on a tower outing. Just email the webmaster with the details and maybe a photo. Let's hear about these events as they happen.

Newsletter Editor:	Ian Minns ✉ 2 Little Howe Close, Radley, Abingdon OX14 3AJ 💻 newsletter-editor@onb.odg.org.uk	☎ 01235 200972
Branch Chairman:	Rob Nickless ✉ 43 Meadow Way, Didcot OX11 0AX 💻 chairman@onb.odg.org.uk	☎ 01235 510479
Branch Secretary:	Gillian Loyd ✉ Dornie Lodge, Besselslea Road, Blewbury OX11 9NW 💻 secretary@onb.odg.org.uk	☎ 01235 850459
Branch Treasurer:	Stuart Gibson ✉ The Croft, Milton Hill, Abingdon OX13 6BD 💻 treasurer@onb.odg.org.uk	☎ 01235 820491
Joint Ringing Master:	Richard Loyd ✉ Dornie Lodge, Besselslea Road, Blewbury OX11 9NW 💻 ringing-master-1@onb.odg.org.uk	☎ 01235 850459
Joint Ringing Master:	Philip Roberts ✉ Highfield, The Winnaway, Harwell, Didcot OX11 0JG 💻 ringing-master-2@onb.odg.org.uk	☎ 01235 861409
ONB Website:	💻 www.onb.odg.org.uk	

NEXT ISSUE

Deadline for copy for the next issue in June 2018 is 25th April 2018. But please don't wait until then, send your news, pictures, and quarters in as they happen.

Published by the Old North Berks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild

ONB Branch Programme for 2018

Please make note of the varied start and finish times which are designed to mirror local requirements for practices. The Surprise Practices are intended for all levels of Surprise ringing and we particularly welcome branch members who wish to learn Cambridge major from minor standard. Please contact Richard Loyd if you would like to be added to his email reminder list for the Surprise practices.

Monday, 1st January – Ringing and refreshments – Appleton (10) (10.30am–12.30pm)
Wednesday, 24th January – Afternoon Practice – West Hanney (6) (2.00–3.30pm)
Wednesday, 7th February – Surprise Major Practice – Harwell (8) (7.30–9.00pm)
Tuesday, 13th February – Branch Practice – Abingdon, St Nicolas (6) (7.30–9.00pm)
Wednesday, 28th February – Afternoon Practice – Sutton Courtenay (8) (2.00–3.30pm)
Saturday, 17th March – Striking Competition and AGM – Cholsey (8) (SC 3.00pm, Service 5.00pm, Tea 5.45pm, AGM 6.30pm)
Wednesday, 28th March – Afternoon Practice – North Moreton (6) (2.00–3.30pm)
Wednesday, 4th April – Surprise Major/Royal Practice – Wallingford (10) (8.00–9.30pm)
Monday, 9th April – Branch Practice – Steventon (6) (7.30–9.00pm)
Wednesday, 25th April – Mini outing and lunch
Tuesday, 8th May – Branch Practice – East Hagbourne (8) (7.30–9.00pm)
Wednesday, 23rd May – Afternoon Practice – Blewbury (8) (2.00–3.30pm)
Wednesday, 6th June – Surprise Major Practice – Brightwell (8) (7.45–9.15pm)
Thursday, 14th June – Branch Practice – Aston Tirrold (6) TBC (7.30–9.00pm)
Wednesday, 27th June – Afternoon Practice – Marcham (6) (2.00–3.30pm)
Saturday, 14th July – Branch Outing and Barbecue
Wednesday, 25th July – Afternoon Practice – Radley (6) (2.00–3.30pm)
Wednesday, 1st August – Surprise Major Practice – Goring (8) (7.45–9.15pm)
Wednesday, 8th August – Branch Practice – Childrey (8) (7.30–9.00pm)
Wednesday, 22nd August – Afternoon Practice – Cumnor (8) (2.00–3.30pm)
Wednesday, 12th September – Branch Practice – West Hanney (6) (7.30–9.00pm)
Wednesday, 26th September – Afternoon Practice – Drayton (8) (2.00–3.30pm)
Wednesday, 3rd October – Surprise Major Practice – Milton (8) (7.30–9.00pm)
Friday, 12th October – Branch Practice – Blewbury (8) (8.00–9.30pm)
Wednesday, 24th October – Afternoon Practice – Cholsey (8) (2.00–3.30pm)
Saturday, 10th November – Social Evening – Skittles and Supper at Radley
Monday, 12th November – Branch Practice – Didcot (3) (6.00–7.00pm), Little Wittenham (5) (7.30–8.30pm)
Wednesday, 28th November – Afternoon Practice – Chilton (6) (2.00–3.30pm)
Wednesday, 5th December – Surprise Major Practice – Drayton (8) (7.30–9.00pm)
Wednesday, 12th December – Afternoon Practice – Harwell (8) (2.00–3.30pm)
Thursday, 13th December – Branch Practice – Radley (6) (7.30–9.00pm)