



Old North Berks Branch Newsletter

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Branch Outing—21st July 2018

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Editorial

Welcome to the Winter 2018 issue of the Branch Newsletter.

There has been a lot of activity in the branch, both inside and outside the towers, over the last six months. Hopefully you will find something amongst the articles to interest you.

Of particular mention in this issue is the number of towers who managed to contribute to the national initiatives on Remembrance Sunday, both afternoon and evening events. The commemorations by ringers over the last four years in honour of all those who fought and, in many cases, died for our country in the First World War have been appreciated by many outside the ringing community. I feel, as I'm sure many of you do, that our efforts have been worthwhile in honouring that great sacrifice made one hundred years ago.

Congratulations go to the young ringers from the branch who took part in the Oxford Diocesan Guild team at the RW National Youth Competition. The team acquitted themselves well in the final results, being awarded the Ringing World Editor's Trophy for Excellence. Well done. Congratulations also go to Michelle and Willow for scoring their first quarter peals and for the other achievements amongst the quarters and peals.

A big thank you to all our contributors for the articles received, please keep them coming in, include photographs if you can, as these always add interest. My best wishes to all for the coming season, enjoy yourselves over the next few months, keep a note of your antics and any anecdotes for inclusion in the next edition!

Ian Minns

Finally, a thought to leave you with:

Genius is nothing but a great aptitude for patience.

Chairman's Report

What a fantastic Skittles evening we had at Radley village hall as our branch social. This was well organised by Daphne and her ringers, rounds of skittles, fresh fish and chips served from the van in the car park, followed by Daphne's legendary sticky toffee pudding. It was good to see so many there, with a wide ranges of ages. The children were a valuable help in setting the skittles up each time and saved some of the more mature backs and knees the effort! although it was reported to me that one of our ringing masters suffered bad cramps in the night due to the setting up of the skittles each time, well that was his excuse anyway! Thanks to all involved in organising the evening, a great success.

It has been good to hear so much positive feedback from around the branch about the Remembrance day ringing. We at North Moreton, like many towers, rang half muffled for the Morning service and then rang open at 7.05pm, the bells were a very fitting part of the day.

Finally I would like to, albeit slightly early, wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing many of you at the New Years Day ringing and refreshments here at All Saints, North Moreton.

Rob Nickless

Secretary's Report

Since the last newsletter all the scheduled branch practices have taken place. Susan Read has arranged learners' practices to start half an hour before each branch evening practice. This has led to an improvement in attendance because the learners and their helpers have often stayed on to the main practice. We hope that this trend continues and again encourage tower captains and others to attend with their new ringers at least one branch evening practice in a year.

At the Branch Committee Meeting in October, the Treasurer, Stuart Gibson, reported that branch membership currently stands at 272, which is eleven more than last year. Branch fund raising in the year has been strong. The barbecue and outing raised £289, and honey sales have so far yielded £152. The branch has funds totalling £6,290 of which £1,104 is held in the CFOB and £5,186 at Lloyds. The increase in funds is mainly due to the collection of the additional £2 per member for Branch Restoration projects.

Susan Read, our Training Officer, has been very busy over the summer months. In June she organised a half-term ringing club in Abingdon for our young ringers, at the beginning of September there was ringing and a quiz at St Giles in Oxford, and in October ringing followed by party games at Cholsey. The branch ringing school is continuing to recruit new ringers for our towers. Susan is about to start teaching our third LTR1 group of new learners. The two previous courses were very successful and participants are now ringing in their home towers.

On a sad note, in August I was sorry to have to report that Phyllis Brook of East Hagbourne had died. Phyllis learnt to ring at Aston Tirrold and was a Guild member for many years. She will be sadly missed by everyone who knew her.

The branch outing was once again arranged by Philip Roberts and this year (for once!) the weather was fine all day. Over twenty branch members and friends visited Tadmorton, Bodicote, North Aston, Deddington and Steeple Aston. This was an excellently organised outing, which included a pub lunch in Adderbury and afternoon tea at Steeple Aston. The branch barbecue followed on in the evening at the home of Stuart and Naomi Gibson. Over 60 attended and, as usual, the food was superb. There was also fun on the croquet green as the sun was setting. Thanks go to Philip, Janette, Stuart and Naomi for arranging a good day for the Branch.

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 second.

In November we held a skittles evening with fish and chip supper at Radley Village Hall (please see separate report in this newsletter). Thanks go to Daphne Pollard for organising this for the Branch. Ringing to celebrate New Year will be held at North Moreton on 1st January 2019 from 10.30am to 12.30pm, with light refreshments available to get the year off to a good start.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Gill Loyd

Ringling Masters' Ramblings

Never let it be said that the ONB Newsletter is not the bringer of exciting 'hot off the press' news! At the recent skittles evening, Stuart Gibson informed us that one of our lesser known towers, Letcombe Bassett, has just received an offer of a grant from the ODG funds for a restoration project on the 3 bells. It has been many years since these bells have been rung regularly, and it is particularly pleasing to hear that another of our branch towers is embarking on an ambitious project to restore their bells. If you have not visited this extremely attractive downland village, then here is a photo of the church. Some of the grave adornments are particularly worth seeking out!



From a period of relative slumber we now have Letcombe Bassett, Steventon and Long Wittenham actively pursuing projects for improving the condition of their bells. I also hear rumours of something happening at Sparsholt, and there are early studies underway to look at the feasibility for the longterm restoration of Appleford bells.

This is all great news because newly restored bells offer a great chance for recruitment of local ringers. This all adds to the steady flow of new ringers joining the branch from the ONB training initiative and individual tower efforts. Several of our recent recruits will have rung on Remembrance Day for the 'Ringing Remembers' national project to recruit at least 1400 ringers symbolically replacing those lost in the Great War. We know that our branch tower captains have made huge efforts to respond to the call for the various special commemorative ringing for this centenary day.

The continuing popularity of our thoroughly enjoyable social events, which include the New Year's Day ringing, summer outing and BBQ, and the autumn social, is another healthy sign that our branch is in very good shape to sustain itself into the future. Well done to everyone who puts in so much effort to make these events happen. Don't miss the next event of New Year's Day ringing and refreshments at North Moreton.

That's the serious bit, and now for the essential joke from Philip.....

A man said to his neighbour: " Did you hear me pounding on the wall last night"?

Neighbour: " Don't worry about it, we were making quite a lot of noise ourselves"

If the left side of the brain controls the right hand, then only left- handed people are in their right mind.

What word is always pronounced incorrectly?

Answer: Incorrectly.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2019.

Richard Loyd and Philip Roberts

TOWER TALK

Abingdon

Our learners continue to make good progress at our Friday simulator practices and many of them have received Learning the Ropes certificates at various stages. Michelle and Willow have rung their first quart-peals and Joe his first inside.

We began our celebrations of the end of the Great War by ringing St Nicolas bells on Saturday 10th November for the bun throwing. This is an ancient Abingdon tradition where the town councillors throw buns from the roof of the County Hall to the people in the market place below. Despite the rain there was a huge crowd to catch the buns and listen to the ringing at the same time.

On Sunday our first ringing to commemorate the centenary of the Armistice was half-muffled before the services at St Helen's and St Nicolas churches. As the congregation, including clergy, councillors, members of the armed forces and youth organisations left St Helen's, the tenor was tolled for 10 minutes. During the parade through the town to the war memorial, St Nicolas tenor was tolled 228 times, once for each of the soldiers who had been killed in the war.

At 12.30, with the muffles removed, there was open ringing as part of the Ringing Remembers campaign. Taking part were 8 of our recruits who had started to learn during the last year, Michelle, Willow, Samuel, Simon, Elizabeth, Helen, Jackie and Isaac. It was very pleasing to be able to contribute to this project which far exceeded the 1400 new recruits representing the 1400 ringers who had lost their lives in the war.

Later that afternoon a musical and well-struck quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters was rung half-muffled at St Helen's, ably conducted by Isaac O'Shea. Then finally we rang at St Helen's starting just before 7.05 pm for the nationwide Ringing for Peace initiative.

Tim Pett



Taken at the "Ringing Remembers" party at St Nicolas' on Sunday 11th November lunchtime.

Blewbury

Over the summer we were pleased to be asked to ring for seven weddings. We ring regularly on a Sunday and our Friday practice nights are usually well attended by our own ringers and by visitors who are always welcome. We often visit the local pub after practice and every now and then we follow Sunday ringing with a Ringers Breakfast.

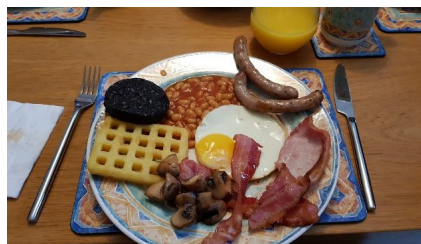
We had an outing to Gloucestershire, ringing at 7 churches in one day. We tried our hand at steel bells in Chalford, a simulator in Woodchester, and rang on a very nice 12 in Painswick. We also made time for a pub lunch and afternoon tea, with several people finishing off the day with an Indian meal in Cirencester. A good turnout and a good day's ringing, with thanks to Stan Burrage of Stroud branch for organising all the towers.

In July, a visiting ringer brought along his cousin, Helen, who lives in Blewbury and she was so taken by ringing that she has stayed on to become one of our regular ringers. She qualifies to be included as one of the ringers recruited this year as part of "Ringing Remembers" which aimed to recruit 1400 new bell ringers nationwide to mark 100 years since the end of the First World War, when it is recorded that 1400 bell ringers (including two from Blewbury) lost their lives in the conflict.

On Remembrance Sunday, after ringing half muffled for the morning service, an Armistice peal of Stedman Triples was attempted. Unfortunately, it was not to be, but a Quarter Peal of the same was successfully rung in its place. Then at 7.05pm we joined in with church bells nationwide in the "Battle's Over" initiative, ringing as beacons were being lit across the country.

The sound of bells calling to the community is also the theme of an exciting new project here in Blewbury. Project Resound is commissioning a significant contemporary work of art to celebrate bell ringing in the form of a stained glass window to be installed in the west tower of St Michael's church. There has been no new stained glass in the church since 1908, and so this will be a legacy of our time for years to come. Installation is planned for next summer and fundraising is in full swing, with over 40% of the £75,000 target raised as I write this in November; from grant aid, personal donations and events. By the time you read this, "Lux et Cantus", A Saxophone Exploration, the first of a series of fundraising musical concerts in St Michael's will have taken place. Thank you to those who came and I hope you had a wonderful evening. If you would like to know more, please ask any member of the project team; their details and more about the window can be found in the Project Resound leaflet at <http://blewbury.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Project-Resound-leaflet.pdf>. We also have a Just Giving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/Resound>.

Christine Kowalczyk



A magnificent spread - Blewbury Ringers Breakfast at Anne's.



Project Resound – Artistic impression of a new stained glass window celebrating bells, to be installed in the west window at St Michael's Church, Blewbury.

Chilton

We have welcomed several visitors on outings and the Radley and Bradfield Courses. We are grateful to members of other towers who help us ring for service on Sundays.

Our tower clock chimes were repaired in May; we hope to welcome Branch learners to our Evening practice on 22 October and the Afternoon training session in November.

Sadly, we have failed to recruit any new ringers for Chilton, any advice on how to recruit would be very welcome.

Now that Harwell tower is being repaired we welcome Harwell ringers to ring with us. Last Thursday, 8 Nov their weekly practice was held in Chilton. They also came round to help us ring with bells half muffled for the Sunday morning service and in the evening they rang with us to celebrate the 'War's Over' project at 7.05pm in the evening.

Kate Crennell

East Hagbourne

On the 23rd 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.

On Saturday 18th August a band of visiting ringers, who were on the Bradfield Ringing Course, visited our tower. The method that they were learning on the course was Stedman Triples and there was some lovely ringing during the afternoon.

The annual **Duck Race** took place on **Sunday 26th August**. The little ducklings were back again this year.

It is with great sadness that I report the sudden death of Phyllis Brook. Phyllis was taught to ring by her father in Aston Tirrold where she grew up. Later she became a regular ringer at St Andrew's tower as well as being a regular church goer here. She was a regular member of the Sally Forth group when, twice a year, we went on our weekend ringing outings all over the country. It was only in recent years that she stopped ringing due to the tower stairs but remained a member and supporter of the tower until her death on 24th August. She was extremely knowledgeable about sport especially cricket and football and was a lifelong Reading supporter. She will be missed by all the ringers.

We rang the bells on Saturday 29th September at 10:30 in memory of **Charles Talbot Baker** who died on this day in WW1, one hundred years ago.

On Sunday 30th September we rang a quarter peal in memory of Phyllis Brook. We rang Phyllis's favourite method, Grandsire Doubles. The details are in the Quarter Peal section.

Ringer's Sunday was on Sunday 21st 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 ringers' hymns.

On Saturday 27th October a quarter peal was organised by Hugh Baxter in memory of his wife Caroline Baxter who died 10 years ago. Both Caroline and her sister Elaine were ringers at East Hagbourne before moving to the Uffington area. Elaine rang in the band.

Handbell practices are well under way with the teams now practicing together so put the date in your diary for the "Ring and Sing", 18th December. We are also playing for The Even Bigger Wassail as part of the Christmas Tree Festival.

Shirley Goss

Harwell

As part of the Ringing Remembers campaign, St Matthew's Harwell have recruited 8 learners. We have 7 new recruits: Helen, Susan and Jude (who have been learning since just before last Christmas); and Jayne, Elisha, Rowan and Caleb (who have only been learning for the last few weeks). We also have one ringer, Bridget, who has returned from a break of about 20 years.

As part of Battle's Over, Harwell wanted to join many of the parish churches across Oxfordshire by ringing out for peace. Our 8 new recruits were going to ring for the first 5 minutes by themselves. This was a very ambitious target but they have all done very well and I was confident that they could do it.

Unfortunately, essential maintenance work on the tower means that we are not able to ring at Harwell for a few weeks. This was very disappointing news but we were lucky that the other church in our benefice, Chilton, kindly agreed that we could go and ring there instead. So at 7.05 pm on Sunday 11th November, Harwell's 8 Ringing Remember recruits, together with other ringers from both Harwell and Chilton, rang the bells at All Saints', Chilton to celebrate the centenary of the Armistice. They did amazingly well and we are very proud of them all.

Debbie Greenfield



Harwell's eight recruits at Chilton

Letcombe Regis

On May 19th seven of us (Caroline, George, Henry, Lily, Sophie, Toni and Anne) rang for 40 minutes to celebrate the marriage of Prince Henry and Meghan Markle. We rang a variety of call changes including Princes (532146). The other two members of our band, Christine and Matthew, were unable to be with us owing to other commitments.

In July Henry was not with us for three weeks as he participated in a school trip to Tanzania. The group raised money for a primary school where they did some teaching and also helped build a new block. They went on safari, did snorkelling in the ocean and also climbed part way up Mt. Meru!

Lily and her Mum, Toni, enjoyed the Young Ringers outing to St. Giles in Oxford on Sept. 3rd.

This year's Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride took place on September 8th. A group of Shrivenham ringers toured round our area on bikes, ringing at local churches on their way, including St. Andrew's. They rang lots of plain hunt for the benefit of those of our band who could be there. Each learner enjoyed the novel experience of ringing separately with a team of five experts and a 'stander behind' so they have a standard to which to aspire on our practice nights. Since then our plain hunting has improved greatly. Over the last year our striking of call changes on Sundays has progressed from 'Satisfactory' (which now translates as 'in need of improvement' in Ofsted parlance!) to 'Good' and occasionally we reach 'Outstanding'!

Anne Williams

Milton

We've had a reasonably busy six months with two weddings. One of these was a well known village family, so it was nice to actually ring for somebody that some of us knew! We continue to ring our Minor repertoire on practice nights, extending to 8 bell methods when numbers permit. We welcomed the Guild Master one week and she fortunately chose a "cake night" to attend. Come to think of it nearly every week is a cake night these days.

We had an afternoon outing on Wednesday 18th of July, when we rang at an assortment of towers around Pangbourne. The first tower was the redundant church at Basildon with its rather challenging ring of four. Pangbourne followed where good use was made of the facilities, consequently more time was spent drinking tea than actually ringing. Beenham came next followed by Stanford Dingley. The day ended at Beedon (where the photo was taken) with just a short drive home.



The next event was Charles's 60th birthday which was celebrated with a peal and most unusually, cake.

Good use is being made of the new facilities in the church. We recently had two bands of visitors on the same day. First to call were members of the Oxford University Society who were travelling by bus. It was nice to be able to offer hot drinks to them before they started. They were also rather taken by the incomplete jigsaw puzzle on a table in church. They gathered around like a plague of locusts and set about finishing it with great enthusiasm. Sadly, the departure of their bus to Abingdon beckoned with only about 30 pieces remaining. I was able to complete this whilst waiting for the next band (from St Albans Hertfordshire) to arrive and e-mail a photo of the completed puzzle on to their organiser. One of the OUS ringers said it was the best outing he had ever been on, just because of the jigsaw!

The centenary of the end of the First World War was marked with half muffled ringing before the service. The conclusion of the two minute silence was marked by 19 whole pulls, half muffled, on the tenor, each whole pull commemorating a name on the village war memorial. The bells were then rung open following the service as part of the national event Ringing Remembers.

Colin Turner

North Moreton

Despite having only five regular bell ringers, it is pleasing to note that North Moreton has managed to ring for all eligible services held during 2018, with the possible exception of one. This is thanks to help from Branch members. We are grateful to them also, for supporting our Monday night practices so successfully.

At the time of writing we look forward to our 'Medieval Requiem Candlelit Service'. For those who don't know (or who have forgotten), during the works to renovate the bells and build the ringing gallery, some bones were discovered, buried close to the West door, in unmarked areas. Interment of these will take place at this service.

The oldest bell in the tower (C1350) will be tolled and the service will be taken partly in Latin and under candlelight.

We are lucky enough to have a recently formed and enthusiastic hand bell group, who meet regularly. They plan to play a piece of music, in medieval style, written especially for our service. If you miss this, the group will be performing again at Christmas.

We hope many of you will have attended our Medieval service and we look forward to welcoming many ringers again, to the New Year's Day ringing, 10.30am.

Beryl Jones

Radley

Practices and Sunday ringing continue to be well supported with visitor(s) from Sunningwell most Thursdays.

Mark Walker's son, Alban, has been learning to ring since May and despite being very light-weight is progressing well.

We have rung two Quarters to mark the centenary of the deaths of two soldiers from the parish who died during WW1 – Pt Harold Betteridge (27 September 1918) and L/Sgt Henry Bradley (29 October 1918).

On Saturday 10th November, the Branch Skittles Evening and Supper was held at Radley Village Hall with 60 people attending. A good time seemed to be had by all attending.

On Remembrance Sunday we rang half-muffled for the 11am Service and 'open' at 12.30pm as part of the national 'Ringing Remembers' commemoration of the Great War Armistice. The 'open' ringing at 12.30pm consisted of a Quarter of Plain Bob Doubles (details in the QP section).

Daphne Pollard

Steventon

Although we don't ring every Sunday at Steventon, there has been a fair amount of ringing since the last newsletter. We have had several weddings, at least one funeral for a past ringer as well as for a few special evening services. Interestingly there have been several visiting ringers to the tower this Autumn.

With the help of Nicola's organisation we were able to ring very successfully for Armistice 100 for which there have already been favourable comments.

The fundraising for the restoration kicked off to a very good start and with grants hoped for from the branch and guild there is about £11,500 including Gift Aid, with a total of £15,000 plus VAT to find, just another £3,500 to go. The project has the support of the Diocesan Bell Advisor and a Faculty has been applied for. Hopefully, Whites can complete the work next year before the wedding season starts. Any donations still gratefully accepted.

Once there is a definite date I hope to recruit new ringers from the new houses in the village although I will need help with teaching as I have no experience in that field.

Claire Ward

Wantage

Wantage Ringing Outing – Saturday June 23rd 2018

Our long-awaited ringing outing *finally* took place this summer – only taking a mere eighteen years to come to fruition! Thank you to Dave Endacott for his meticulous planning and timings, and to all the Tower contacts who helped so generously with their time in making such an eagerly anticipated day for us all so enjoyable. Even the glorious sunshine greeted us that morning as we made our way to our first tower in the Cotswolds, St Matthew at Langford. We were a little late starting, but enjoyed some steady ringing there.

We then headed over to the church of St Peter in Alvescot, looking absolutely charming set in its meadow-like churchyard. There were enough of us on the outing to ring, to sit and listen and enjoy the surroundings and for some of us the ringing here, which was well organized and well struck, was the highlight of the day.

Then off for lunch at the Clanfield Tavern which happened to be just across the road from our third tower of the day, St Stephens, and after that, St James, Aston, both with ground floor rings and longer drafts than we are used to, so a little more testing for us.

Tea at Aston Pottery was a dream ... lots of pots of tea and enormous slices of cake! Sadly, we said goodbye to our youngest ringer, Dick's twelve year old grandson Owen, who had been calling Call Changes for us during the day with great aplomb! Thank you to Andrew and the family for joining us from Bingham in Nottinghamshire (where Andrew is Tower Captain) and to our loyal and valued ringing friends who joined us for the day from other towers.

Our final ring was at the delightful and picturesque church of St Mary, Black Bourton, one that we were keen to ring at with its newly restored ring of six bells. The lightest bells of the day, they were an easy six, if a little quick for us heavy bell Wantage ringers! We were very fortunate to be given permission to climb up the tiny steps to the tower where the newly polished bells on their gleaming red headstocks were hung tightly up above us on their new platforms... quite a sight! There are some breathtaking 13th century wall paintings too, so this little Grade 1 church is well worth a visit.

We had *such* a good day – we certainly won't be waiting eighteen years for our next one! Thank you to all involved in making it so special.

Celia Leeson-Cox (on behalf of the Wantage Ringers)

West Hanney

With the help of loyal visitors we have continued to enjoy regular practice nights and although our team of six Hanney ringers on Sundays is often depleted, we manage to call villagers to services most weeks, even with only a band of three.

We have two new recruits who are learning with enthusiasm and two others who are now almost ready for Sunday ringing. Although we had a full tower for most of our recent opening at the Annual Michaelmas Fayre and 42 people climbed up to see the bells, many showing much interest, we have not yet been inundated with any more recruits.

There was a very small turnout for the Branch Practice at Hanney in September which was disappointing, but our grateful thanks go to Philip and Susan, who made it such fun for all who did turn up.

We are very happy that we have been able to install new ropes on our tenor and number 4 bells and we have placed the order for the remaining four. Our grateful thanks go to various village funds as well as to private individuals for generous help in funding the ropes.

Jean Hazard

Skittles Evening

Once again ONB Branch showed how sociable (and competitive!) it is. On a wet night in November sixty members and friends turned out to battle against each other over a skittle alley. Divided up into nine teams, some of the chosen names were associated with their leaders, such as Bertie's Bowlers, Oliver's Army, The Right Charlies and Reg's Rebels; whilst others were more esoteric, such as The Bright Bells, The Loose Cannons and (more dubiously) Norfolk 'n Good.

The first match started promptly at 7.30pm, with the first six bowlers raring to go. The Right Charlies took an early lead, with Berties' Bowlers a close second. However they were both soon overtaken by Oliver's Army, who maintained their lead to the end of the first game and became first-half champions.

Everyone enjoyed a welcome break for fish and chips, jumbo sausages or cheesey chips with mushy peas, which were all ably cooked from a van parked outside the hall. This was followed by a choice of Daphne's delicious sticky toffee pudding or jelly and fruit. In between the two courses we had the drawing of raffle tickets for the many quality prizes. The tickets were drawn by the youngest attendee, Bertie from Blewbury aged four. He even managed to draw a winning ticket for our older Bertie of Didcot, showing that Berties do indeed stick together! As do Blewbury ringers when Anne generously donated her prize of a bag of pork scratchings to Richard, who had jealously coveted it throughout the prize draw. ONB Branch proved that it is famed for its generosity as well as its sociability when it was revealed that the raffle had raised £137 for branch restoration projects.

The second skittles match was a close contest initially, until more and more managed to knock over all nine skittles with their three balls and the team scores opened out. Richard was highly suspicious that this phenomenon related to the amount of Daphne's sticky toffee pudding each had consumed and wished he had eaten more! Was it a minor miracle that the team A Minor Miracle became the outright winners, or could this just be put down to the bowling skills of Nick and Stuart? We shall never know.

Thanks go to Amelie, Charlie and Ellen, together with Rob and Jo, for helping Richard to steward the skittle alley and helping to preserve his back. Thanks also go to Daphne for organising the food and also to her ringers at Radley for making such an enjoyable time for everyone. The evening raised a further £260.40 for branch funds, making a total of £397.40.

Gill Loyd



Mark about to enjoy fish and chips, while his son gets in some practice.

A couple more photos appear on page 25.

RWNYC Competition

Four of the Abingdon young ringers have been in training since last autumn for the Ringing World National Youth Competition (RWNYC). Once a month they met at a different church in the Oxford Diocese to ring with the best young ringers (under 19 years old) and hoped to be chosen to represent the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell ringers.

The competition took place on Saturday 7th July in central London. Sadly two of the Abingdon four couldn't be there, but the other two: Sophie Martin and Josh Ball, took part. Other members of our team travelled from Reading, Newbury, North Bucks, and other places in between.

Whilst the focus of the day was the competition there were handbell workshops, a treasure hunt, other towers to ring at and lots of opportunities to meet with other young ringers. There were 22 competing teams of eight from all over the country, so with reserves there were over 200 young bell ringers taking part.

Having all travelled into London from different directions, we met at St Michaels, Cornhill. Coloured wrist bands and programmes were distributed and the team disappeared up the tower with great enthusiasm.

Our heat, at noon, was at Christ Church, Cubitt Town. We needed all the time we had allowed to get there on the DLR. Then off to St Magnus the Martyr, London Bridge to ring, eat lunch and wait for the results. Luckily other teams had picked up the email giving the results of the heats and their cheers alerted us to the fact we were through to the final.

We walked to nearby St James, Garlickhythe for the final, where we were the last team to ring at 16:10. Doug kept everyone up to date with the football results so we knew England were doing well. A quick team talk from Hilarie, one of the trainers, with feedback from the ringing at the heat and off they went.

After the final they remembered there was a photographic competition for a team picture. Here it is, the team having fun working together as they had when ringing.



Back Row - Thomas Sherwood (3) Cory Gibson (R) Anna Sherwood (7 C)

Middle Row - Sophie Martin (6) Adam Hird (R) Izzy Anderson-Besant (1)

Front Row - Daniel Page (2) Jake Reid (8) Dougie Vale (4) Josh Ball (5)

Then back to St Mary le Bow, Cheapside for the comments, 'rang with purpose, good structure and an enthusiastic piece of ringing'. Finally we learned that Sussex Young Ringers had come first, ringing call changes and won the Whitechapel Trophy. We had come second overall and earned the RWNYS Trophy for Excellence as the top change ringing band. This was a fantastic achievement and a wonderful day out!

Susan Read

ART Learning the Ropes Masterclass 2018 – Birmingham

On Saturday 8th September, Josh (17) and I, accompanied by Susan and Tim (adults), travelled to Birmingham to attend the annual ART celebration event, for those who have achieved Level 5 of the Association of Ringing Teachers Learning the Ropes scheme. When we arrived we collected our lunches and were given details of our overnight accommodation.

Each student was assigned a personal mentor to help develop their ringing throughout the day. I was paired with David Hull and Josh with Paul McNutt. Before heading to the towers, we were welcomed and completed a few listening exercises as a group, to see if we could identify striking errors and know how to correct them. We were also given individual objectives for the weekend.

The first ringing of the day was at St Phillips (a twelve) where we rang a mix of methods so everyone's capabilities could be assessed. We worked closely with our tutors to develop our personal objectives and then went on to St. Paul's for targeted ringing on 10. In the afternoon we experienced the St. Martin's 16, before being joined by other groups throughout the afternoon, so that everyone could have an opportunity to ring on higher numbers. We were all encouraged to try something new, with the help of our tutors. I called call changes on 16, called touches of Stedman and grandsire cinques and rang the tenor at the bullring! Firsts for Josh were ringing Grandsire Caters for the first time (a touch!), Little Bob Royal inside, a touch of Cambridge Major, Cambridge Royal inside, and Littleport Maximus (inside to a touch). He was really thrilled!



Sophie ringing the tenor at the bullring.

In the evening we were treated to a delicious dinner at Byrons, a burger restaurant. Later we played card games in Josh's palatial hotel room – cheat, blackjack and spoons.

An 'All You Can Eat' breakfast at our Premier Inn set us up for the next day when we walked to the Bullring for some handbells prior to the usual Sunday service ringing. We then were allowed to ring on both the 12 and the full 16 for the service, as well as witnessing some impressive spliced Surprise Maximus by the famous Birmingham band. After stopping for coffee and some impromptu coursing order tuition from Michael Wilby (thank you!), we headed down to St Chad's for 20 minutes of ringing, before returning to St Paul's. There we rang a quarter of Cambridge Major, my first of Major as conductor and Josh's first of Surprise inside.

It was a brilliant weekend, and many thanks go to all of the organisers and helpers, in particular Stephanie Warboys, Simon Linford and Arthur Reeves for the time and commitment they put into making this event the huge success that it was.

Sophie Martin (Age 15)

Young Ringers Club (St Helen's Church, Abingdon, 29 May – 3 June 2018)

Rather than running an outing for young ringers in half term week, we decided to try a Club with ringing (on the simulator) each morning for two hours and the option of teaching some new ringers. There were four days (we didn't run it on the bank holiday). We used St Helen's, Abingdon because the simulator allows us to ring as much as we like without our bothering the neighbours.

Up to six young people came during the four days including two who had no experience of ringing, both of whom came close to handling on their own by the end of the week. We had arranged for my husband and me to run the club but four ringers came at various times during the week and helped, as well as one non-ringing parent. We were also really pleased that Daphne came and provided a generous amount of cake, cheese scones and pop for our morning breaks.

Apart from teaching the two new ringers, we rang lots of call changes, played ringing games and used the simulator to start to teach the young ringers to hear their bells and to learn to ring a cover bell entirely by listening.

Whilst ringing we were sometimes distracted by a pair of pigeons who had found their way into the ringing chamber. They did a lot of cooing and occasionally fluttered across the room. Amelie decided we should name them Bob and Sally. We were glad when one of our ringers managed to eject them from the tower and closed the window firmly!

And after our refreshments each day, we rang handbells, including ringing some simple tunes from music and ringing plain hunt with one bell each.

The week went well with lots of fun. We hope to run a ringing club again at some point.

Susan Read
ONB Training Officer



Young Ringers Outing (St Giles, Oxford, Monday 3rd September 2018)

Every year, early in September, the road between St Mary Magdalen and St Giles churches in Oxford is transformed into a magnificent fairground for two days. There are large and small fairground rides as well as stalls selling all manner of hot and cold foods, etc. The crowds and the noise are phenomenal! To allow the people some respite from the clamour, St Giles' church traditionally opens and serves tea and cakes. And the ringers there like to ring changes on handbells as PR for bell ringing and as quiet entertainment for those in the church.

This was the second time we had used this event as an opportunity for the young ringers to ring both church bells and handbells at St Giles. After all, with all the noise of the fairground, the tower bells were hardly going to matter to anyone trying to work nearby! And the vicar was pleased at having a group of young people happily trying to ring handbells as entertainment for the visitors.

There were eight young ringers there plus ten adults including some ringers. The young people represented just four branches this time: Old North Berks Branch, Oxford City Branch, Reading Branch and Witney & Woodstock Branch. Ringing ranged from call changes and plain hunt to plain bob doubles and triples. By request, we rang some ringing games: "Twister" (taking turns twisting to face the wall while ringing rounds) and also "killer" involving standing after a number of whole pulls determined by a die.

The church ladies provided some lovely filled bread rolls, cake and drinks as our refreshments, and then the young people paired up to try to find the answers to a quiz sheet about the church.

We followed this by taking out our handbells. We attempted to ring plain hunt: standing in a row in front of the pulpit with one bell each and swapping place physically with a neighbour between each ringing along the row. It worked with just six young people, but was not quite so successful with twelve (including three children who were just visiting the church).

Tunes were then rung on handbells using simple numeric music. We were surprised and glad when the congregation burst into applause after our rendition of "My Grandfather's clock".

Meanwhile, some of the parents had been marking the church quiz sheets. We rounded off the afternoon by announcing the answers and awarding small chocolate bars as prizes before the young people dispersed.

Susan Read
ONB Training Officer



Young Ringers Outing (Cholsey – 24 October 2018)

This year, the Wednesday in October half term when we usually hold an outing, was the day of the branch practice. We had planned to repeat the outing we ran in 2012, a visit to Cholsey with a party in the church. And it turned out the branch practice was booked to be there too. So we agreed to combine the two events. But we got there half an hour earlier so the young ringers could enjoy the bells at least partly on their own.

There were ten young ringers comprising five from the Old North Berks Branch, two from Benson in the South Oxon Branch and three from Oxford City Branch. We rang rounds and call changes for four of our youngsters and some grandsire doubles. Then with help from the adult ringers we tackled plain bob doubles and Stedman doubles.

We hope the not so young branch ringers were pleased to see the younger ringers ringing. But we didn't want to hog the ropes and stop the adults from enjoying the bells too, so we retired downstairs for our party.

Daphne had prepared some lovely refreshments for us including hot pizza slices, cheese scones and cakes. And hot drinks for the adults. But we soon got on with the party games.

We started with musical chairs to warm everyone up. Then the youngsters were split into two teams for relay races with balloons – blowing them with straws, and tapping them with wooden spoons. We played Spin the Trencher, Hunt the Ring and Granny's Footsteps.

The game that caused the most hilarity was the Piggy Game: Young Alban, at his first young ringer outing, volunteered, was blindfolded and given a cushion. He was spun around inside a circle of seated young people. He had to find some knees, put the cushion on them and take a seat. He doubtfully did this and as requested, prompted the person he had sat on to "Grunt, Piggy, Grunt". When the person grunted, Alban had to name him. He guessed it might be Josh, then to great amusement pointed out that Josh was the only one whose name he knew!

We finished the party in true party style with the award of mini chocolate bars as prizes for all the participants before they were collected by their parents.

We hope the adult ringers didn't mind missing out on the refreshments and party games. Another time, perhaps we should invite them to join in. They might enjoy the balloon races and the Piggy Game?

The next young ringers outing will be on Wednesday 2 January when we will ring at Radley and then play board games and play carols on handbells in the church room.

Susan Read
ONB Training Officer



Old North Berks Branch Ringing School

Our branch contains 32 ringable towers. But around half of our towers don't have enough ringers to ring all their bells. With the help of the other Branch Officers, I have been organising a collective effort to try to recruit and teach some learners on a branch basis. The towers and the many experienced teachers of ringing in the Branch have helped immensely.

In May – July 2017 we ran a six week “Learn to Ring” course. We gave an hour's one-to-one teaching three times a week, each at a different tower at 7pm on their practice night. Four people joined the course. By the end of six weeks the learners could almost ring solo. We had rung at thirteen towers and seventeen teachers had taken part.

From July to December 2017 the lessons continued circulating round our branch towers but just once a week and with fewer teachers and more participation by the ringers at the practice nights. The learners progressed and were joined by some other learners from around the branch.

We use the ART “Learning the Ropes” (LTR) syllabus to structure our teaching, with the bonus of certificates for the learners at strategic points in their progress. We named this group the LTR2 (Foundation Skills) group of our Branch ringing School. The LTR2 group continues to this day. We use lots of games and exercises to help the learners to learn to control their bells, to listen to their striking and to raise and lower confidently.

Meanwhile we set up further LTR1 (Handling) courses for new learners in January and October 2018. Saturday mornings 9.30–10.30am seems to work well, again visiting a different tower each week. We recommend that each new ringer is attached to a branch tower where they receive an extra lesson each week between the Saturday sessions. This is an important part of the training because just one lesson a week isn't enough! We taught three learners in January and three more started in October.

Some of the new learners are really well motivated, support their towers enthusiastically and have been out at other practice nights several nights a week. There have been of course a small number of learners dropping out through illness and moving house but more than half continue to ring. Many of those attending the LTR2 group are learning to ring plain hunt in their own towers.

Overall I am delighted with the results. The Branch Ringing School is gradually making a difference to our Branch, introducing novel exercises to our towers and helping our teachers and tower captains to gain new teaching and ringing ideas from each other. We haven't managed to repopulate any of our towers yet, but we have made a start. Congratulations to everyone who has opened their tower for us, taught new ringers, run learner practices or helped in any way!

Susan Read
Training Officer, Old North Berks Branch
October 2018



QUARTER PEALS

APPLETON SOCIETY, **Appleton**, 3 May 2018: **1259 Grandsire Caters**: Barbara H Payne 1, Michele Winter 2, Andrew J Dyer 3, Lucy Laird 4, Craig M Robertson 5, Rosanna Cretney 6, David A J Endacott 7, John H Napper 8, Tony Crabtree (C) 9, Peter H M Day 10. Rung with the bells half-muffled in thanksgiving for the life of Jennifer Blackwell following her funeral at this church.

Abingdon (30 St Amand Drive), 9 May 2018. **1280 Plain Bob Major**: Susan E M Read 1-2, John G Pusey 3-4, Tim Pett 5-6, Joe Norton (C) 7-8. 800th quarter: 3-4.

Blewbury, 19 May 2018. **1260 Stedman Triples**: Jill Garlick 1, Ellen Bramhill 2, Gillian Loyd 3, Mark Vincent 4, Richard Loyd 5, Michael Winter 6, John H Napper (C) 7, Matthew Phillips 8. Rung to celebrate the marriage of H.R.H Prince Harry and Ms Meghan Markle. Also to celebrate the 10 Year anniversary of Rev.Jason St.John Nicolle, a great supporter of bells and bell ringing in the village. 1st Stedman – 6.

Appleton, 23 May 2018. **1259 Grandsire Caters**: Michele Winter 1, Barbara H Payne 2, Andrew J Dyer 3, Sylvia M Harrison 4, Mary C Friskney 5, Craig M Robertson 6, Rosanna Cretney 7, Michael J Harrison (C) 8, John H Napper 9, Peter H M Day 10. For the Service of Licensing, Induction and Installation of the Rev'd Ken Campbell as Rector of the New Parish of Appleton with Besselsleigh.

Abingdon, St Helen, 3 June 2018. **1320 Plain Bob Doubles**: Lisa Astbury 1, Phoebe Astbury 2, Susan Read 3, Sarah Barnes 4, Tim Pett (C) 5, Brian Read 6. 1st quarter away from tenor – 1. 1st quarter inside – 2.

Abingdon (30 St Amand Drive), 7 June 2018. **1280 Plain Bob Major**: Susan Read 1-2, John Pusey 3-4, Joe Norton 5-6, David Thomas (C) 7-8.

Abingdon (20 St Amand Drive), 28 June 2018. **1312 Kent Treble Bob Major**: Joe Norton 1-2, David Thomas 3-4, Tim Pett (C) 5-6, John Pusey 7-8.

Abingdon, St Helen, 1 July 2018, **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Joe Gillett 1, David Thomas (C) 2, Priscilla Morris 3, Tim Pett 4, Josh Ball 5, Daniel Gillett 6. First away from the tenor: 1. Rung for evening service.

Abingdon (30 St Amand Drive), 5 July 2018. **1272 Kent Treble Bob Minor**: Susan Read 1-2, Joe Norton 3-4, David Thomas (C) 5-6.

Abingdon (30 St Amand Drive), 5 July 2018. **1264 Plain Bob Major**: Susan E M Read 1-2, David L Thomas 3-4, Joe Norton (C) 5-6, John G Pusey 7-8.

Abingdon, St Helen, 22 July 2018. **1260 Stedman Triples**: Sophie Martin 1, Susan Read 2, Sarah Barnes 3, Isaac O'Shea 4, Tim Pett 5, Peter Heritage 6, David Thomas (C) 7, Brian Read 8. First of Stedman Triples: 1 and 3. First of Stedman as Conductor: 7. Rung for evening service and in a futile attempt to convince Sarah that Stedman is a lovely principle.

Blewbury, 23 July 2018. **1260 Grandsire Triples**: Matthew Phillips 1, Jill Garlick 2, Shirley Goss 3, Josie Irving 4, Gillian Loyd 5, Richard Loyd 6, Mark Vincent (C) 7, Peter Corderoy 8. In memory of Lieutenant Robert Bishop Slade, who died in active service on this day in 1918. He served gallantly in the army and RFC, and became one of the very first officers in the newly formed Royal Air Force. He was a Blewbury bell ringer before the war and is remembered on p.621 of The Ringing World. Several of his family members were in attendance during the quarter peal.

Abingdon, St Helen, 26 August 2018. **1260 Doubles (6m)**: Susan Read 1, Brian Read 2, Peter Heritage 3, Isaac O'Shea 4, Tim Pett (C) 5, Michelle X 6. 1st quarter-peal – 6.

Abingdon (30 St Amand Drive), 13 September 2018. **1264 Plain Bob Major**: Comp. Joe Norton: Susan E M Read 1-2, Tim Pett 3-4, David L Thomas 5-6, Joe Norton (C) 7-8.

Abingdon, St Helen, 15 September 2018. **1296 Little Bob Royal**: Comp. David L Thomas (No. 225): David L Thomas (C) 1, Isaac J O'Shea 2, Marc A McDonald 3, Alan M Eyles 4, Andrew Alford 5, Sarah Barnes 6, Sophie L Martin 7, Ashley F E Monck 8, Daniel Jarvis 9, Luke G Groom 10. First in method: 6. Circled the tower twice and circled as conductor: 1. 21st birthday compliment to the conductor.

Harwell, 15 September 2018. **1280 Plain Bob Major**: Marc A Mc Donald 1, David L Thomas 2, Daniel Jarvis 3, Isaac O'Shea 4, Alan M Eyles 5, Ashley F E Monck 6, Andrew Alford 7, Luke G Groom (C) 8. 21st birthday compliment to 2.

East Hagbourne, 30 September 2018. **1260 Grandsire Doubles**: Jill Garlick 1, Shirley Goss 2, Valerie J Simmonds (C) 3, Jeff Powell 4, Alan Foster 5, Daniel Dawson 6. In memory of Phyllis Brook. RIP.

Radley, 30 September 2018. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Daphne Pollard (C) 1, Sally Mulholland 2, Claire Ward 3, Oliver Hyde 4, Mark Walker 5, M Ian Minns 6. To mark the centenary of the death of Pt Harold Betteridge of this parish, died 27 September 1918. Claire Ward (3) is a second cousin, 3 x removed of Pt Betteridge.

Abingdon, St Helen, 14 October 2018. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Angela Martin 1, Daphne Pollard 2, Margaret Brock 3, Sarah Barnes 4, Alison T Merryweather-Clarke (C) 5, Michelle X 6. Heralding the 60th anniversary of the first Lady Peer entering the House of Lords next week, we celebrate the first lady peer to be appointed under the Life Peerages Act. Criminologist Baroness Wootton of Abinger subsequently became the first woman to sit on the Woolsack as Deputy Speaker, and authored the Wootton Report in 1968 proposing decriminalisation of possession of cannabis in small amounts.

Radley, 21 October 2018. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Daphne Pollard 1, Abi Gibson 2, Oliver Hyde 3, Mark Walker 4, Edward Walker (C) 5, M Ian Minns 6. To mark the centenary of the death of L/Sgt Henry Bradley of this parish, died 29 October 1918. 1st Q inside – 2.

Abingdon, St Helen, 4 November 2018. **1280 Plain Bob Doubles**: Susan Read 1, Brian Read 2, David Thomas (C) 3, Joe Gillett 4, Sarah Barnes 5, Willow Gathergood-Dains 6. 1st Q – 6. 1st Q inside – 4. Rung with congratulations to Josh Ball on his 18th birthday. Rung for the Vespers service.

Abingdon, St Helen, 11 November 2018. **1332 Grandsire Caters**: Comp. Rob Lee: Tim Pett 1, Sarah Barnes 2, Susan Read 3, Brian Read 4, Matthew Franklin 5, Ryan Mills 6, Sophie Martin 7, Simon Yarrow 8, Isaac O'Shea (C) 9, Peter Heritage 10. Half-muffled for Evening Service on Remembrance Sunday. This performance is linked to the event Ringing for the Centenary of the WWI Armistice.

Blewbury, 11 November 2018. **1260 Stedman Triples**: Ellen Bramhill 1, Mark Vincent 2, Mary Friskney 3, Chris Tuckett 4, Josie Irving 5, Richard Loyd 6, Stuart Gibson (C) 7, Matthew Phillips 8. Rung to remember the fallen, especially those from the village of Blewbury including two bell ringers, Private Montague Green and Lieutenant Robert Slade.

Radley, 11 November 2018. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Daphne Pollard 1 (C), M Ian Minns 2, Ann Belcher 3, Mark Walker 4, Oliver Hyde 5, Maurice Belcher 6. Rung open, as part of the national 'Ringing Remembers' commemoration of the Great War Armistice, and to commemorate all those from all countries who died in that conflict.

PEALS

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 17 May 2018, 2h36, **5070 Hardwick Hall Alliance Major**: Nicola J Turner 1, Colin M Turner 2, Helen J Piper 3, Cynthia E Howell 4, Peter Bridle 5, Alan M Eyles 6, Bernard F L Groves (C) 7, Robert J Crocker 8. In loving memory of Rita Turner (Colin's mum) who died yesterday.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Sunningwell**, 5 June 2018, 2h40, **5040 Surprise Minor (11m)**: Colin M Turner 1, Cynthia E Howell 2, Nicola J Turner 3, Timothy G Pett 4, Robert J Crocker 5, Peter G C Ellis (C) 6.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 10 June 2018, 2h34, **5040 Advent Alliance Major**: Charlotte A Boyce 1, Cynthia E Howell 2, Colin M Turner 3, Michael J Dew 4, John C Sheppard 5, Richard L Thumwood 6, Nicola J Turner 7, John R Martin (C) 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 21 June 2018, 2h36, **5100 Zwodder Alliance Major**: Nicola J Turner 1, Robert J Crocker 2, Helen J Piper 3, Richard L Thumwood 4, Colin M Turner 5, John C Sheppard 6, Bernard F L Groves (C) 7, Peter Bridle 8.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS, **Abingdon, St Helen**, 21 July 2018, 3h1, **5000 Spliced Surprise Royal (4m)**: Comp. Robert C Kippin: Angela M Athawes 1, David C Bath 2, Anne M Anthony 3, Felicity S Warwick 4, Shirley E McGill 5, David A Warwick (C) 6, Daniel J Page 7, Adam S Greenley 8, Jack L Edwards 9, Nicholas M W Haggett 10.

Chilton, 23 July 2018, 2h35, **5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (25m)**: E John Wells 1, Stuart F Gibson 2, June D Wells 3 David L Thomas 4, Simon L Edwards 5, Timothy G Pett 6 (C). Most methods to a peal 4.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 5 August 2018, 2h35, **5056 Failand Surprise Major**: Katharine J Firman 1, Nicola J Turner 2, Colin M Turner 3, Charlotte A Boyce 4, Richard L Thumwood 5, John C Sheppard 6, Graham G Firman 7, John R Martin (C) 8.

Milton, 23 August 2018, 2h30, **5088 Black Cats Return Delight Major**: Brian Bladon 1, Colin M Turner 2, Cynthia E Howell 3, Nicola J Turner 4, Peter Bridle 5, John C Sheppard 6, Richard L Thumwood 7, Timothy G Pett (C) 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 27 August 2018, 2h38, **5152 Yorkshire Surprise Major**: Brian Bladon 1, Timothy G Pett 2, Peter Bridle 3, Colin M Turner 4, Stuart P B Talbott 5, Nicola J Turner 6, John R Martin (C) 7, Charlotte A Boyce 8.

Chilton, 10 September 2018, 2h42, **5040 Cambridge Suprise Minor**, Comp. by Donald Morrison 3x1440 (DM No.6476, DM No.3900a & 3W,2H,2SW,SH) & 1x720 (5th Obs): Stuart F Gibson (C) 1, Kenneth R Davenport 2, Janet E Menhinick 3 Catherine M A Lane 4, Josie S Irving 5, Simon L Edwards 6. Circled Tower: 1, Completes Series as (C) Minor to Maximus.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Wallingford**, 22 September 2018, 2h58, **5004 Wandering Wye Alliance Royal**: Cynthia E Howell 1, Nicola J Turner 2, Ian Butters (C) 3, Robert J Crocker 4, Peter G C Ellis 5, Colin M Turner 6, Richard L Thumwood 7, Susan E Marshall 8, Ian Roulstone 9, Claire F Roulstone 10.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 26 September 2018, 2h42, **5088 Diamond Delight Major**: Colin M Turner 1, Nicola J Turner (C) 2, Charles E J Morrish 3, Cynthia E Howell 4, John C Sheppard 5, Simon L Edwards 6, Alan M Eyles 7, Peter Bridle 8. A 60th Birthday compliment to 3.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 30 September 2018, 2h30, **5040 Gibside Alliance Major**: Timothy G Pett 1, Charlotte A Boyce 2, Nicola J Turner 3, Mark Edwards 4, Alan M Eyles 5, Michael J Dew 6, John R Martin (C) 7, Colin M Turner 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 7 October 2018, 2h34, **5152 Humphlet No.2 Surprise Major**: Brian Bladon 1, Cynthia E Howell 2, Timothy G Pett 3, Nicola J Turner 4, Charlotte A Boyce 5, John C Sheppard 6, Colin M Turner 7, John R Martin (C) 8.

Sunningwell, 8 October 2018, 2h48, **5040 Surprise Minor (7m)**: Michael Hatchett 1, Janet E Menhinick 2, Timothy G Pett 3, Catherine M A Lane 4, Kenneth R Davenport 5, Stuart F Gibson (C) 6. To celebrate the 90th birthday (today) of the tower captain, Brenda Thomas' mother, Doris Turner.

Milton, 16 October 2018, 2h42, **5120 Spliced Surprise Major (4m)**: E John Wells 1, Timothy G Pett 2, Bernard F L Groves 3, Beryl R Norris 4, June D Wells 5, Ian G Campbell 6, W John Couperthwaite (C) 7, Peter Bridle 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 28 October 2018, 2h36, **5024 Bristol Surprise Major**: Sally A Brown 1, Nicola J Turner (C) 2, Beryl R Norris 3, Alan M Eyles 4, Graham G Firman 5, Colin M Turner 6, Peter G C Ellis 7, Peter Bridle 8.

East Hagbourne, 7 November 2018, 3h03, **5024 Cooktown Orchid Delight Major**: Nicola J Turner 1, Beryl R Norris 2, Colin M Turner 3, Phillip R J Barnes 4, Ian G Campbell 5, Ian Roulstone (C) 6, Colin G Newman 7, Claire F Roulstone 8. Ringing Remembers 1918 – 2018.

APPLETON SOCIETY, **Appleton**, 10 November 2018, 2h57, **5076 Grandsire Caters**: Michele Winter 1, Julie A Haseldine 2, Nicola J Turner 3, Peter H M Day 4, Stephen H Stanford (C) 5, Simon L Edwards 6, John G Pusey 7, David K Barrington 8, Andrew Haseldine 9, Bernard J Stone 10. Rung half-muffled in memory of the fallen; remembering the 22 men from the parish of Appleton who were killed in WW1.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Sunningwell**, 15 November, 2h40, **5040 Surprise Minor (41m)**: Simon L Edwards 1, Colin M Turner 2, Nicola J Turner 3, Simon P Rogers 4, Peter G C Ellis (C) 5, Robert J Crocker 6. Rung in memory of Gunner James Thomas Honey, Royal Garrison Artillery 109th Heavy Bty. A former ringer at this church, who died on 15/11/1918.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Abingdon, St Helen**, 17 November, 2h56, **5040 Gugh Surprise Royal**: Cynthia E Howell 1, Nicola J Turner 2, Charlotte A Boyce 3, David G Salter 4, Alan M Eyles 5, Robert J Crocker 6, John R Martin (C) 7, Colin M Turner 8, Robert H Newton 9, Peter G C Ellis 10.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 18 November, 2h40, **5000 Yeo Yeo Alliance Major**: Nicola J Turner 1, John C Sheppard 2, Cynthia E Howell 3, Charlotte A Boyce 4, Colin M Turner 5, Peter Bridle 6, John R Martin (C) 7, Alan M Eyles 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Aston Tirrold**, 19 November, 2h55, **5040 Surprise Minor (17m)**: Nicola J Turner 1, Christopher J Pickford 2, Colin M Turner 3, Michael E C Mears 4, Peter G C Ellis (C) 5, Robert J Crocker 6.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **West Hendred**, 19 November, 2h43, **5040 Surprise Minor (41m)**: Christopher J Pickford 1, Nicola J Turner 2, Colin M Turner 3, Robert J Crocker 4, Peter G C Ellis (C) 5, Michael E C Mears 6.

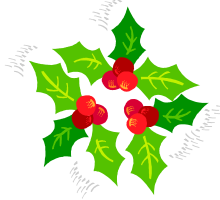
A couple of photos from the Skittles Evening on 10th November



Alban doing a throw for an action shot



..... and the skittles he knocked down



ONBB



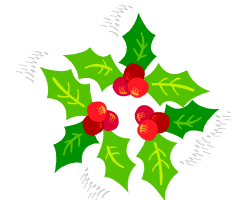
***New Year's
Ringing &
Refreshments***

Tuesday, 1st January 2019

All Saints, North Moreton

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.

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NEXT ISSUE

Deadline for copy for the next issue in June 2019 is 23rd April 2019. 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 2019

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 – North Moreton (6) (10.30am–12.30pm)

Wednesday, 23rd January – Branch Practice – East Hagbourne (8) (2.00–3.30pm)

Wednesday, 6th February – Surprise Major Practice – Brightwell (8) (7.45–9.15pm)

Tuesday, 19th February – Branch Practice – Abingdon, St Helen (10) (7.30–9.00pm)

Wednesday, 27th February Branch Practice – West Hanney (6) (2.00–3.30pm)

Saturday, 16th March – Striking Competition and AGM – Sutton Courtenay (8) (SC 3pm, Service 5.00pm, Tea 5.45pm, AGM 6.30pm)

Wednesday, 27th March – Branch Practice – Milton (8) (2.00–3.30pm)

Wednesday, 3rd April – Surprise Major Practice – Drayton (8) (7.30–9.00pm)

Monday, 8th April – Branch Practice – Chilton (6) (7.30–9.00pm)

Wednesday, 24th April – Mini outing and lunch

Wednesday, 8th May – Branch Practice – Cholsey (8) (8.00–9.30pm)

Wednesday, 22nd May – Branch Practice – North Moreton (6) (2.00–3.30pm)

Wednesday, 5th June – Surprise Royal/Major Practice – Appleton (10) (7.45–9.15pm)

Tuesday, 11th June – Branch Practice – Wantage (8) (7.30–9.00pm)

Wednesday, 26th June – Branch Practice – Childrey (8) (2.00–3.30pm)

Saturday, July – Branch Outing and Barbecue

Wednesday, 24th July – Branch Practice – Radley (6) (2.00–3.30pm)

Wednesday, 7th August – Surprise Major Practice – Goring (8) (7.45–9.15pm)

Wednesday, 14th August – Branch Practice – Sunningwell (6) (7.30–9.00pm)

Wednesday, 28th August – Branch Practice – Brightwell (8) (2.00–3.30pm)

Thursday, 12th September – Branch Practice – Wallingford (10) (8.00–9.30pm)

Wednesday, 25th September – Branch Practice – Steventon (6) (2.00–3.30pm)

Wednesday, 2nd October – Surprise Major Practice – Milton (8) (7.30–9.00pm)

Wednesday, 9th October – Branch Practice – Cumnor (8) (7.30–9.00pm)

Wednesday, 23rd October – Branch Practice – Harwell (8) (2.00–3.30pm)

Saturday, November – Social evening – Quiz and Supper

Tuesday, 12th November – Branch Practice – Brightwell (8) (7.45–9.15pm)

Wednesday, 27th November – Branch Practice – Chilton (6) (2.00–3.30pm)

Wednesday, 4th December – Surprise Major Practice – Harwell (8) (7.30–9.00pm)

Monday, 9th December – Branch Practice – Drayton (8) (7.30–9.00pm)

Wednesday, 11th December – Branch Practice – Blewbury (8) (2.00–3.30pm)