



# Old North Berks Branch Newsletter

No: 157

June 2021



Long Wittenham bells on display before rehanging

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## Editorial

Welcome to the Summer 2021 issue of the Branch Newsletter.

Although some of us have been able to ring a reduced number of bells at Christmas and Easter, and single bell tolling on other occasions, notably for Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and the National Day of Reflection (the first anniversary of the first COVID-19 lockdown), Towers have been keeping in touch with their ringers through Zoom meetings, Ringing Room and other methods.

Congratulations to Long Wittenham on completion, during 'lockdown', of their Bell Restoration Project. I am sure we will all look forward to ringing at Long Wittenham in the future.

You will find on page 11, an article by Jenny Dyer, our 'Branch Recovery Champion' about 'Ringing Recovery'.

Congratulations to Megan and Oliver Bardsley, of Milton tower, on the birth of a daughter, Catrina Iris (to be known as Carrie).

Sadly three Branch members have passed away since the December Newsletter: John Money (Cholsey), Angela Smith (Abingdon) and Claire Ward (Steventon Tower Captain). I am sure they will all be missed in the ringing chambers.

Looking forward, it is hoped that nothing will stop 6 ringers from mixed households ringing together from 17<sup>th</sup> May for up to 45 minutes, with the recommended restrictions.

Let us hope nothing happens to stop the planned social events from taking place (see p24).

**Daphne Pollard**

## Chairman's Report

Hopefully, if all Government Covid targets have been met, we can look forward to a full return to service ringing and the opening of practice nights once more, after 21 June. You will no doubt be aware that there is a national joint initiative between the CCCBR and ART called "Survival and Recovery" to assist with the return to ringing, and my thanks go to Jenny Dyer for volunteering to be our branch "Recovery Champion". Jenny has already been in touch with all tower captains and should you need any information about the return to ringing please do get in contact with Jenny.

At the recent branch ringing recovery meeting, held via Zoom, it was really encouraging to hear how many towers had set up regular meetings via online platforms or regular practice sessions in the virtual ringing room. As the social side of ringing is as important as the ringing itself this will, of course, stand us in good stead to restart our practices and tower events as we are allowed. We can look forward to a local branch outing and barbeque in July and, if we are able to, it will be good to see you all in person then.

Finally, it was with great sadness we learned recently of the untimely passing of Claire Ward. Claire was a great supporter of our branch for many years and will be very sadly missed. Our thoughts go to Claire's family at this difficult time.

**Rob Nickless**

## Secretary's Report

Normally I would be writing about New Year's Day ringing with refreshments, but sadly I am not. Covid restrictions are still preventing our sociable events from taking place.

Once again our AGM was held successfully by Zoom meeting. It was ably hosted by our Chairman, Rob Nickless and was attended by twenty-five members, including the Guild Master, Katie Lane, and our Guild Branch Steward, Patricia Newton. Dick Peters said that he wished to stand down as Vice Chairman and Branch Representative. The Chairman thanked Dick for all the work he had done for the Branch over the past six years and Charles Morrish was elected to take his place. All other branch officers remain in position. The Treasurer reported that in 2020 the membership of the Branch was 261, a decrease of 16 from 2019. There were no fund raising events in 2020 but honey sales resulted in a donation of £220. The Branch at the end of 2020 had funds in the region of £6,682, which includes the £3,000 grant to be paid to Long Wittenham. A donation of £500 was made to the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund.

There have been no new members elected to the Guild for over a year. Sadly we have lost three of our members. John Money of Cholsey passed away in December 2020 after a short illness. John was 95 years old and was a long standing member of the Guild, joining in 1940. Angela Smith of Abingdon passed away in February 2021, aged 91. She rang her first peal for the Guild in 1949, probably first joining around 1947, but had a break in Guild membership of about fifteen years when her children were young. Claire Ward of Steventon passed away suddenly on Easter Sunday. Claire regularly rang at Steventon, Milton, Drayton and Radley and was a great supporter of the Branch. They will all be sorely missed.

I am pleased to say that the rehangings of Long Wittenham bells and the installation of a rope guide has been successfully completed. Work planned at Abingdon, St Nicolas, had to be postponed until April in accordance with Covid-19 regulations and should be completed in June.

A national network of Recovery Champions has been recruited to support with recovery planning for ringing within their local areas, and to coordinate the flow of ideas and information. Jenny Dyer of Cumnor has become the Recovery Champion for our Branch. Jenny is the Tower Captain at Cumnor and has been ringing since 1973. She is passionate about ringing and wants to ensure that it continues after the Covid-19 pandemic. She is currently identifying the challenges and what support might be needed in our towers when preparing for a return to ringing.

On a more sociable note, we are planning to have a 'local towers' outing organised by Philip Roberts, followed by a barbecue at the home of Stuart and Naomi Gibson, on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> July. The barn dance and supper at Harwell Village Hall, which was postponed from November 2020, is now scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021. More information will follow when available, but please make a note of these dates and let's hope that Covid restrictions don't get in the way!

**Gill Loyd**

## Ringing Masters' Ramblings

What a grim year it has been on so many fronts. We won't dwell on what has been, but instead concentrate on what is hopefully a more positive outlook in the coming months.

There has been some very limited and sporadic ringing during the pandemic, and we certainly appreciate all towers who marked the funeral of HRH Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh, by tolling single bells. Please record this on BellBoard if you haven't already done so. This is part of an historic national record of the event. All eyes are now focussed on how the relaxation of Covid rules will allow us to get back to what we all enjoy so much. For this there is a national initiative for survival and recovery of ringing, which aims to give advice and support for our return to the ropes. Jenny Dyer of Cumnor has kindly stepped forward to act as our branch coordinator, and she attends the very useful meetings. Jenny can call upon the support of the branch officers to

help her if needed. I urge all tower captains to support Jenny and discuss with her any problems or concerns that you have with your plans to recommence ringing with your local bands. Jenny is organising Zoom discussion meetings for branch tower captains and representatives, but is also contactable by email [jadyr55@hotmail.com](mailto:jadyr55@hotmail.com).

At the time of writing we are awaiting the first major relaxation which will allow up to 45 minutes of ringing with 6 from mixed households providing certain precautions are observed. This is a first step and we hope that June 21<sup>st</sup> will see the majority of restrictions fully lifted. On that basis we hope that we may be able to look forward to a mini outing to some of the safest ground floor and well ventilated towers in our branch on July 17<sup>th</sup> followed by an outdoor BBQ at Stuart Gibson's home. This will be a wonderful occasion for us to meet socially and enjoy some safe ringing once more. Watch for confirmation and details from Gill nearer the time.

Of course many of us are focussing on recruiting and training new ringers as well as retaining our current membership. We certainly hope that most will return full of enthusiasm. We do not yet know what restrictions might apply after June 21<sup>st</sup> and this may have an impact on our ability to train. It is not possible to safely teach or even coach ('standing behind') someone if social distancing rules are still in place. On the basis that nightclubs will be open for business it does seem inconceivable that social distancing in a belfry will be necessary as we would argue that a ringing chamber is nothing more than a nightclub in a church! Of course don't quote us on that as we don't want to encourage all nightclub activities in our ringing chambers!

In the meantime, please be patient and follow all the rules so that we can open up safely and enjoy our ringing with gusto for the second half of the year. We will need to be kind to each other as surely a year of abstinence will have made us a bit rusty, both physically and mentally!

And now to end with, one of Philip's jokes.....

Sorry but not quite in the mood for jokes, but my friend Tony keeps telling me not to say his name backwards. So I said 'why not' (ynot)?

**Richard Loyd and Philip Roberts**

## **TOWER TALK**

### **Abingdon**

#### **St Helen's**

Until the current lockdown in November, we had been ringing for Sunday morning services at St Helen's. (Three bands in turn, ringing five, alternate bells, masks, sanitiser, 15 minutes, social distancing.) We look forward to initially resuming a similar pattern on six bells when restrictions ease. Meanwhile, as services have started again, we have reverted to just one ringer/household each Sunday. Exceptionally, we rang five bells to celebrate Christmas Day and Easter Sunday. Otherwise, there has just been the odd funeral to toll for. That included, of course, tolling for the Duke of Edinburgh on his death and on the day of his funeral, which gained us favourable local publicity. Nevertheless, not all members of the band have felt sufficiently confident to do any ringing at all in the past year and will probably not be rushing back to the tower. A weekly email of ringing news has kept everyone in touch, together with ad hoc individual contacts maintained between members.

On a more positive note, restrictions have eased for school and youth groups. That means that ODG practices for the RWNYS have restarted. Our three youngsters in the Guild squad are now able to do some proper ringing!

The funeral of Angela Smith was a momentous event for us. The bells were restricted to just mournful tolling of the tenor. At least inside the church, handbells were rung before the service. Then, as the funeral procession entered the church at the west door, it paused so that the handbell ringers stood around the coffin and, in a silent church, they solemnly rang a minute's rounds.

**Brian Read**

### **St Nicolas'**

Up to Christmas the Sanctus bell was rung for Sunday service. For Christmas day the most we could do was to chime three bells. Work was due to start on the tower in early January so the ropes were removed and protection placed over the bearings and pulleys so that no ringing has been possible since then. The work was postponed due to the lockdown, but started on 12th April and is due to last for six weeks. The ends of the Albert Lock memorial bench have had to be cut off in order to remove it from the ringing room. The bench has now been shortened and will be housed in the nave until the work is finished.

**Hugh Bishop**

### **Appleton**

Squeezing in an opportunity between one lockdown and the next, we were able to ring for Christmas. David and Sarah Ockwell and Pete and I distanced ourselves into our two households, and rang four bells for the Christmas morning service.

For the first time since it began in 1818, there was no March 4<sup>th</sup> dinner to celebrate the 'Bells' Birthday'. Disasters ranging from epidemics to wars have not stopped it before, but this time we had to cancel it. March 4<sup>th</sup> regulars sent messages of good wishes and we all raised a glass that evening in a toast. A quarter peal of Double Oxford Bob Major to mark the anniversary was rung by Michele and friends on 'Ringing Room'.

For Easter, the congregation gathered in church, masked, sanitised and socially distanced; but in the tower we are not yet allowed to mingle so Pete and I rang two bells for Easter Sunday. Members of the congregation said they were very pleased to hear the bells ringing although they could tell the available repertoire was not very wide! We look forward to the time when restrictions lift and we can ring properly again.

Pete tolled a bell for Prince Philip; 99 strokes open on the day he died, and 99 times half-muffled on the day of his funeral.

**Barbara Payne**

### **Blewbury**

Sadly, not a lot to report on the ringing front since the last newsletter. At Christmas we rang for Midnight Mass and for the morning service. Since then, there has been tolling for the National Day of Reflection, and to mark the passing of HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

We have been keeping in touch with weekly Zoom calls on practice nights and look forward to being able to start up ringing again as soon as we can. We have also pencilled in a July date for this year's duck race, so fingers crossed!

**Christine Kowalczyk**

## Cholsey

At Cholsey we rang for Easter Morning in spite of the Service being in the Laurence Hall (they could hear the bells) and Andrew the Vicar was pleased that we rang.

We entered a team for the Bellringers quiz on 10<sup>th</sup> April and came 6<sup>th</sup> out of 7, but only one point behind the joint winners. It was very well organised by Abingdon Rotary Club for us.

As you know John Money passed away in December after being a member of the Guild and Cholsey Tower for over 50 years. We are planning a “celebration/memorial” to remember him on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July, which is his Birthday. A plaque will be presented by his Son and Daughter.

I am expecting we will have light refreshments, some ringing and if we can arrange it, a quarter peal.

If anyone would like to join us could you please let me know. I know that some people have said that they would like to come; I anticipate that proceedings will be at about 4 or 5 o'clock.

**Jenny Jeskins**

e-mail: [jennyjeskins@btinternet.com](mailto:jennyjeskins@btinternet.com).

## Cumnor

Despite the pandemic we have managed to keep active by ringing online. This has enabled us to ring several methods, which we cannot often do in the tower, owing to lack of numbers or skills. The online ringing is made easier by a character called Wheatley who can ring any number of bells for most methods. It is a computer programme which runs alongside the Ringing Room and enables us to ring methods such as Plain Bob Major, Stedman Triples and Cambridge Surprise Minor even if we have insufficient ringers to make up the team. It is any one's guess as to how much our skills will have improved when we eventually get back to real ringing. But we are all looking forward to May 17<sup>th</sup> when we believe towers will be opened for ringing, albeit on a restricted scale.

Our tenor bell was tolled 99 times in memoriam of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April. And also on the day of his funeral, 17<sup>th</sup> April. Details are given in the Miscellaneous performances section.

**Gerard Ledger**



Guy and Richard Matthews after tolling the tenor on 10<sup>th</sup> April.

## East Hagbourne

Our bells fell silent in November 2020. We had arranged to ring them for Remembrance Sunday but it was not to be, due to another lockdown.

We were so happy that we had been given permission to ring the bells for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We rang four of our eight bells wearing masks and with social distancing. For two of us it was the first time that we had rung a bell since March and we were a bit concerned that we would remember how to ring but it is a bit like riding a bike and once we had pulled the bell off the balance, we were fine. Personally, for me, it was a bit emotional but I am so glad that I was able to do it.

Traditionally we would all be in the tower to ring in the New Year but sadly it was not to be. With permission from our rector, Daniel, one of our young ringers was able to toll the new year in with just the tenor bell ringing, with another adult present for safety reasons.

During February and March, the tower was still silent along with many others in the country as sadly we could not ring together due to the current lockdown. John Napper, our Tower Keeper, has kindly kept an eye on the bells and also the church clock.

The tower AGM took place, online, on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

One of our bells was tolled by Jeff Powell for the Day of Reflection on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, the church was open from 11:30 – 12:30 for those of us who wanted to observe the day with the minutes silence at midday.

The bells were rung on Easter Sunday for evensong at St Andrews, the first time since Christmas. Four bells were rung with social distancing and facemasks and for just 15 minutes. Evensong continued every Sunday in April so we were able to ring the bells for these services with the usual restrictions.

We were all very sad to hear of the death of his Royal Highness Prince Phillip, The Duke of Edinburgh. As instructed John, our tower keeper and Daniel put the muffles on the bells and they were rung half muffled until after his funeral service. Four members of the team rang the bells on the day of his funeral and Alan Foster tolled the bell before 3:00pm on the day.

The wedding list for our church has been updated and our first wedding is on 8<sup>th</sup> May but sadly we will only be able to ring four of our eight beautiful bells. There are another eight weddings on the list throughout the year so we hope that our bells will be able to ring out again in celebration.

Take care and stay safe.

**Shirley Goss**

## Milton

As, I am sure will be the case with most towers, there is little to report this time around. We did manage to ring six bells on Christmas Day due to the relaxation of social distancing requirements to 1M with masks and the presence of the Morrish family *en masse*. There being no such relaxation at Easter, Nicola and I marked the occasion with our extensive two bell repertoire!

We have taken available opportunities to ring a single bell to mark Captain Sir Tom Moore's funeral, the National day of Reflection, and the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral. A bell was also tolled on the day of death of Claire Ward, who rang regularly with us. This ringing was performed on different bells to give as many as possible a work out.

Claire Ward was a regular ringer at Milton practice and on Sundays. We will greatly miss her cheerful and enthusiastic presence at Milton and hope to ring a fitting tribute for her later in the year.

On the good news front, Megan and Oliver Bardsley have welcomed two new family members over lockdown. Firstly Echo a golden Retriever puppy, and then on 19<sup>th</sup> April Catrina Iris Bardsley (to be known as Carrie) was born at home almost within the sound of Milton bells. As you can see from the photograph Megan, Oliver and Carrie are doing well and making the most of a sunny day. I understand Echo is also pleased with the new addition to the family.

We now wait with bated breath to see how the relaxations unfold over the coming months.

**Colin Turner**



Oliver, Carrie and Megan  
Bardsley

## **North Moreton**

January included our annual outing – lockdown style! Soup, courtesy of Jo Nickless and family was provided. Impressively, most of it made from home grown vegetables; the bread was purchased from The Blewbury Bread Company and sweet treats to follow, made from leftovers from a visitor-less Christmas! These were collected/distributed and enjoyed whilst chatting online.

There followed a quiz, which as always caused a lot of ‘discussion’, but remained great fun. The prize (a virtual one) went to Gill and Richard Loyd. It was great Alice Auckland and her dog, Pippa, joined us for the event from Scotland. I am not sure how helpful Pippa was with the quiz?

Buoyed with our success, we followed this in February, with a Murder Mystery Evening – also lockdown style. This took us all evening and still no-one guessed the murderer. Set in the 1960s, I feel we bell ringers rose magnificently to the occasion; all dressed in 1960’s gear and with 1960’s food and cocktails – some of us probably have never stopped drinking those! It was an evening to remember, although I fear no self-respecting repertory company will be offering us work any time soon.



Charlie on his box.

We continue to meet virtually every Monday, at the time of our practice, but look forward to meeting in the All Saint's ringing chamber before too long. Our newest recruit Charlie Nickless will at last be able to use his very own box. Beautifully crafted by Charles Morrish and with Charlie's name, we are hoping, with Charlie's permission, it will do duty for many more youngsters visiting our tower.

**Beryl Jones**



The band that rang on Christmas Day.

## Radley

As restrictions were relaxed for Christmas, four bells were rung for the Midnight Service, and all six for the 11am Service on Christmas Day.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> March, the Marie Curie National Day of Reflection, I tolled the Tenor 50 times at 12.01pm, following the national one minute's silence. This was the first anniversary of the first COVID-19 lockdown. Also remembering those who have lost their lives to COVID-19.

There was an open-air service at 11am on Easter Sunday in the Vicarage garden next to the Church, and so we were able to ring the bells for 15 minutes before the Service.

We were all devastated to hear that Claire Ward had suffered a massive stroke in the early hours of Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, and had passed away. When Claire returned to ringing in 2006, she was living in North Abingdon and joined us at Radley on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings. When she and Bob set up home in Didcot she still came to Radley each Thursday evening. She will be very much missed by us all in the future.

The half muffled Tenor was tolled 99 times on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 12 noon, in memory of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who passed away the previous day. It was again tolled, half muffled, 99 times prior to his funeral on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April. Many thanks are due to Oliver Hyde for doing the tolling on both of these occasions.

**Daphne Pollard**

## **Sunningwell**

The Bells of St Leonards have been silent for too long; however, the Band are optimistic that at some point before the Solstice, our Sunday cadences will once again welcome worshippers to Prayer. Some of our ringers have been able to “keep their hands in” by ringing at other local churches where occasional ringing has taken place. Throughout the long silence of 2020, the Band have been kept up to date with the latest information and news from CCCBR and ONB through emails from branch secretaries and local contact persons and this has been particularly useful (and much appreciated) in providing the latest interpretation and possible implementation of pandemic government rules and advice with regard to ringing.

On account of the seniority of some of the Band members, the confined nature of the spiral staircase access to the ringing chamber and the proximity of the ropes and limited ventilation of the chamber, no ringing has taken place for most of 2020 and none is currently anticipated until it is clear that it is demonstrably safe to do so. We all sincerely hope that we will be able to resume our familiar Sunday ritual by the time the Solstice comes around.

**Mike Wykes**

## **Wantage**

We have little news from Wantage. We have rung 4 bells when allowed and the tower captain is recovering from a knee replacement operation!

**Graham Stoter**

## **West Hanney**

We lost our tower captain and her daughter, when Rosi Rollings and her family left the village for a new life in Wales in February. We now number six in our tower and will be attempting to encourage new ringers to join us once we are able to ring fully again.

No ringing and no Church services have taken place in Hanney this year and the team is anxious to get started again. On both Palm Sunday and Easter Day, however, services were held in the churchyard and a single bell was rung for the former and two bells on Easter Sunday. We were surprised and very happy at the number of appreciative comments posted on the village facebook page. We hope some may respond positively when we beg for recruits!

The team continues to keep in touch with each other through Whats App and Zoom and Andy Jones has kept in touch with the Branch at online meetings and webinar.

A member of our team tolled the Tenor bell on April 10<sup>th</sup> at noon in memory of the Duke of Edinburgh and it is planned to ring again for his funeral on 17<sup>th</sup> April.

**Jean Hazard**

## USEFUL WEBLINKS & CONTACTS

**Oxford Diocesan Guild—Old  
North Berks Branch**

<http://onb.odg.org.uk/live/>

**The Central Council of Church  
Bell Ringers**

<https://cccbr.org.uk/>

**Association of Ringing Teachers**

<https://ringingteachers.org/>

**Survival and Recovery Toolbox**

<https://ringingteachers.org/survival-and-recovery-toolbox/Help>

**Getting fit for ringing—article in  
Ringing World 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

[https://ringingteachers.org/application/files/2116/1623/3632/Yoga\\_for\\_Ringers.pdf](https://ringingteachers.org/application/files/2116/1623/3632/Yoga_for_Ringers.pdf)

**Getting the Bells and Tower fit  
for ringing**

<https://ringingteachers.org/survival-and-recovery-toolbox/bell-maintenance>

**Branch Ringing School**

<https://ringingteachers.org/about/art-hubs/branch-ringing-school>

**Branch Recovery Champion:**

*Jenny Dyer*

*Email: [jady55@hotmail.com](mailto:jady55@hotmail.com)*

## RINGING RECOVERY

An exciting time awaits, yet one of caution, as we look forward to a gradual return to ringing, although for some towers this may present challenges.

However, help is at hand through a network of **Recovery Champions** across the country, coordinated by the Central Council (CCCCBR) and Association of Ringing Teachers (ART). The **ART website** features a wealth of information within the ‘**Survival and Recovery Toolbox**’, and you may already be delving into these resources:

- ◆ **Survival** — ‘Keep going’
- ◆ **Getting fit for ringing** — for ringers and tower captains
- ◆ **Recovery** — ‘Planning for recovery’ and ‘The Recovery’ — coming back better

Having taken on the role of **Recovery Champion for the Branch**, and working with Branch Officers, I hope to be able to support recovery planning at a local level and coordinate the flow of ideas and information for all towers.

‘**Tales of Lockdown and Beyond**’ — this virtual ‘recovery session’, took place on 17<sup>th</sup> April for Branch tower representatives. Throughout there was a profound message of enthusiasm and positivity, with tales of how bands had kept in touch during ‘lockdown’ shared: plans for a return to ringing; retention of bands and recruitment of new ringers post ‘lockdown’ - these included:

- ◆ Newsletter and local magazine/newspaper articles
- ◆ Creating a tower website or updating an existing one
- ◆ Creating Facebook, WhatsApp and/or Twitter accounts
- ◆ Identifying ringers who may have moved to an area during lockdown
- ◆ Contacting of lapsed ringers
- ◆ Preparing the bells for ringing
- ◆ Arranging virtual ringing and social events.

**Recovery Champion National Network Meetings** — recent presentations and discussions highlighted the importance of collaboration, not just within Branches, but further afield, to help ensure ringing survives beyond the pandemic, and that bells continue to ring out for Sunday services.

### What next?

Do send me an email if you:

- ◆ Need support with a return to ringing at your tower.
- ◆ Have ideas to share that could support other towers.

*Jenny Dyer, Branch Recovery Champion*

**Claire Agnes Rebecca Ward,** 19<sup>th</sup> November 1956 – 4<sup>th</sup> April 2021



On Easter Sunday, the village of Steventon in Oxfordshire lost one of its true locals in the sudden and unexpected death of Claire Ward, our Tower Captain. Claire was born from, educated, married and buried in Steventon: probably quite a rare thing these days for ladies aged only in their 60s. Even though she didn't live here for all of her life, she was heavily involved in village activities at St Michael and All Angels church until she passed away, including at the harvest suppers, barn dances and lent lunches. She was a member of the church choir when young and a quiet and effective member of the Parochial Church Council in more recent years.

Jack Jarvis, Steventon's Tower Captain for 53 years, taught Claire from about ten years of age. She rang until she was about 30, including being part of a handbell ringing team which toured village homes and the three pubs each Boxing Day (for which, her brother said, a good liver was required due to the returned generosity of villagers). She then paused in her ringing for some years, returning in about 2006 and becoming a Guild member again in 2007. She was a regular ringer at Steventon, Milton, Drayton, Radley and, until she moved to Didcot, Sunningwell, as well as helping out at many other towers when required. She was very much loved in these towers and was a great help to Daphne, Ann and Audrey when serving the evening meal at the Radley Ringing Course. Claire cycled and caught the train to many of her rings, and for so long, that it was years before many were aware that she was able to drive.

BellBoard tells us that Claire has rung 20 quarter peals since 2010, in Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles, in Cambridge Surprise Minor and in Plain Bob Triples. Her firsts at that time are telling in what they don't say: they don't list any of her Doubles quarters as firsts inside, so gaps in that knowledge have gone with her or are in paper copies of the Ringing World. She became Steventon's Tower Captain in 2018, taking over from Jack. Easter Sunday became a day of great sadness this year for the congregation. One of our ringers described her own ringing that day as 'appalling'. It wasn't, but it reflected our raw news and also paid homage, in more ways than one, to how much Claire was already being missed.

In lockdown, Claire turned her hand to making masks and scrubs bags for her local surgery and opted to have a 'mask tree' outside her home, for people to help themselves, with a donations box gaining just under £2,000 for Didcot Food Bank and SOFEA in the year. Her standard of craftsmanship, as with her cooking skills, was exceptional.

Claire leaves behind Bob Mannix, her husband of five years. At their wedding blessing, at which Jack officiated, he declared to the congregation that it was wonderful to see them get together and then get married – but they could have got on with marrying sooner! Bob says that the eleven years that they had together were undoubtedly the happiest of both of their lives.

Claire and Bob made a delightful couple and Bob got drawn in to help, not with ringing itself, but including with steeple keeping and with house-to-house delivery of recruitment posters. Bellringing tours were a highlight for both of them, with Bob joining in enthusiastically as a groupie and their first social outing as a couple was to the Radley Ringers Christmas do.

A number of you will have been with Claire just a week before she died, because she took part in the ODG DNAP quiz, in the Map Thrashers team: Richard and Gill Loyd, young Bobbi Cookson, Bob and Claire and Tim and I. We were delighted with our sixth place out of sixteen. Six of us (all bar Bobbi) had met weekly throughout lockdown for forty minutes of laughter by Zoom. Characteristically, Claire was crafting as we laughed, making masks for much of the time, to keep up with demand. In recent weeks, she was relentlessly knitting a human intestine system and organs for a charity that supports children in hospital having serious operations, as a discussion aid.

Claire's funeral had a 'full' church of the permitted 30 guests, with about another 50 guests outside and over 40 people who were watching the service as a live stream from all around the world. Bob told us that the funeral party were accompanied throughout their walk behind the hearse with the sound of the bells ringing. Handbell ringing followed as Claire's coffin entered and left the church, before and after the service. Personally, I found it very moving that Jack, who had taught Claire to ring 54 years ago and officiated at her and Bob's wedding five years ago, was now saying the commendation and committal at her funeral. Should you wish to view the service, the following link will take you to it. Filming starts at about 3 minutes 20 and the hearse arrives at about 8 minutes 20.

<https://view.wessexlive.tv/claire-agnes-rebecca-ward-29-04-2021/>

Contributions to the Stroke Association in Claire's memory have so far reached over £2,700. Should you wish to make a contribution, you can still do so through <https://claireward.muchloved.com> or via Bob.

Claire was an extremely modest lady. She leaves a huge hole in the life of family, friends, Steven-ton church, local charities and the village and she will be sorely missed.

**Jeanette Davey**

With thanks to the following for their contributions:

Bob, her brother Steve, Jack Jarvis, Nick Clarke, Tower Captain at Drayton, Richard and Gill Loyd, Tower Captain of Blewbury and Branch Secretary, Daphne Pollard, Tower Captain at Radley and the Revd Phil Sutton.

**Mary Angela Smith,** 14<sup>th</sup> August 1929 – 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021



Angela with St Helen's Treble

Angela was born in Windsor to Charles and Molly Carter. As a small child she moved to Abingdon when her father was transferred from the Windsor branch of the (then) Westminster Bank. With her parents and brother Bryan she lived in Park Road until Charles was promoted to Deputy Bank Manager when they took up residence over the bank in the Market Place.

Angela attended St Helen and St Katherine School and then the Marlborough Secretarial College in Oxford. After college she worked as an administrator at Corpus Christi College and later at the Ashmolean Museum. When her parents retired to Dorset, Angela stayed on in Abingdon living with friends in East St Helen Street. She married Bill Smith in 1962 and they lived in Drayton for a year. When they adopted Roger and Sarah they moved back into Abingdon, firstly to Westfields and then to 22 Park Road which became the family home for many years.

Angela was taught to ring by Albert Lock on the 6 bells at St Nicolas Church in Abingdon in the 1940s when she was still at school. Albert, (a local stone mason who lived in East St Helen Street) was, at the time, tower captain of both St Nicolas and St Helen's towers. During those years, Angela remembered doing a lot of tower grabbing, and Albert's wife often acted as a chauffeur. Angela described Albert as being a very good ringing teacher, who 'stood no nonsense' but, at the same time, was not 'draconian'! He had a reputation for being insistent on 'decent striking' and as he was regularly heard to say 'nothing like well struck rounds' – something we have all heard Angela say often!

Angela was always modest about her ringing achievements, but the archives tell another story; she rang a total of 30 peals ranging from Doubles to Cinques. Her first peal was the treble to Cambridge S Minor at Steventon on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1949. She rang most of her peals with Malcolm S Cloke (15) and Alan R Pink (14) and 22 of them were for the Oxford Diocesan Guild. Her leading conductor was Alan Pink (11) and leading peal tower was St Ebbe's, Oxford (7). Most of her peals on 8 bells were Kent Treble Bob or Plain Bob but she did ring one peal of Cambridge Surprise Major and one of Double Norwich inside. She only rang 2 peals on more than 8 bells, Grandsire Caters and perhaps her most impressive peal, Stedman Cinques at Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford. This was conducted by Walter Judge, took 3 hours and 48 minutes and was rung half-muffled by

friends and colleagues of the cathedral belfry as a tribute to Victor Bennett who had passed away 4 days previously. Further to all this, one of Angela's peals was in celebration of her 21st birthday. And another significant peal, which was her last, was of Grandsire Caters (depicted on a peal board in St Helen's) in 1956 commemorating the visit of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II to Abingdon for the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the granting of the Borough Charter. This peal was rung with other 'notables' of that era - her mentor Albert Lock, along with 2 members of the previous generation of the White family (local bell-hangers in Appleton) – Francis and Frederick. Also, one of the current White generation members Brian, which happened to be his first peal, and Marie Cross (Radley tower captain who contributed significantly to teaching ringing in Abingdon at that time).

Angela was one of the longest standing members of the Old North Berks branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers and was North Berks branch representative on the ODG committee from 1954 to 1957. However, after she was married in 1962, she had a break from ringing and returned in 1990 when her son and daughter had grown up.

Angela gave very long service (of more than 40 years) to bell ringing in Abingdon and with her endless encouragement and interest in all of us she helped many of the band achieve their ringing milestones. She, with Roger and Sarah, donated the treble bell for the new ring of 10 bells at St Helen's in 2006. Angela spent the last few years of her life in Bridge House care home in Abingdon. For some of the local ringers it was memorable to celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with her there in August 2019. Despite a failing memory she continued to ring for Sunday morning service at St Helen's until the Covid restrictions prevented it. Almost to the day a year ago, Angela was in the tower with us, actively participating in Sunday ringing and joining us for coffee afterwards, a great memory to have.

Angela died peacefully on 22<sup>nd</sup> February with her daughter, Sarah by her side. Her funeral was held in St Helen's church on 10<sup>th</sup> March, the first funeral there for over a year, and the local ringers were well represented. Susan Read, Tim Pett and David Thomas rang changes on handbells as the congregation were entering the church including a special touch of 91 changes, composed by David, to mark Angela's age. Angela was buried in Abingdon cemetery immediately after the service, attended by her family.

**Margaret Brock and Tim Pett**

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## **Long Wittenham, St. Mary's, Bell Restoration Project**

The Parish Church Goods in Berkshire 1552 record Long Wyttham – in the paryshe church ther A chalice of sylver gylte, three belles.

Now there are 6 beautifully restored, repaired and retuned bells which are 'a joy to hear and a joy to ring'.

Hurrah, it's finished, though we haven't been able to ring all six together yet. There are two small issues to be sorted out, emergency lighting in the tower and an adaptation to the ladder to make it easier to move and safer for users.

As most ringers know, the bells in St. Mary's were becoming difficult to ring, and something needed to be done to improve the situation. Whites of Appleton had carried out a full survey of the state of the bells and fitments in 2014 and, allowing for inflation and contingencies, we needed about £36,000. We decided to have all the recommended work done as well as adding new wheels, ropes and a rope guide.

I said I would take on the fund raising and with support from the Branch members it was all systems go. We needed the support of the PCC as well and I met them on May 1st 2018 (nearly 3 years ago!) with the proposal that I would take responsibility for fund raising and project management and hopefully would not have to call on PCC funds as they were in the middle of an expensive extension for the toilet facilities and servery. This was agreed.

We were very fortunate in getting some substantial grants and with excellent support from the village and community, funds were in place reasonably quickly, but long delays in securing the faculty meant that when Whites had a slot in their diary they could not start work! When the faculty was finally granted, this time it was Covid restrictions that stopped work. However, work began at the end of January this year and as we were unable to do any of the work ourselves because of restrictions we decided to have the metal frame cleaned and painted professionally. The best decision ever! (Additional cost)

With the scaffolding in place (additional cost) it didn't take long for the bells to come down, be taken off to the workshop, sorted out and tuned, and returned for the bell blessing before being rehung. The bells were displayed in the church for a week and we were amazed at the interest shown by the villagers who visited, it was a once in a life time experience.

Advice to anyone taking on a similar project – ask for help when in doubt, make sure the faculty is applied for in good time, add on at least 25% to the amount you think you will need. The final figure for our project is not finalised but go the whole hog, get all your ducks in a row early on, have supportive people around you. So thanks to all of them, and plenty of patience and wine!

**Julia Sargent**  
April 2021

### **RWNYC Young Ringers' Practice**

Ten young ODG ringers met at Longcot on Sunday 25 April to restart practising for the Ringing World Youth Contest. They were a bit rusty, most of them not having rung for over a year. But Colin Newman ran a fun practice with lots of rounds, quick fire call changes and other exercises to improve their control. By the end of the practice their striking was noticeably better.

To limit their Covid exposure, they rang with the outside door wide open, wearing masks and only rang inside for 45 minutes. And after refreshments kindly provided by Daphne Pollard, they rang outside on Tony Crabtree's mini-ring which was something new for many of them!

Of the ten young ringers, two were from Abingdon in the Old North Berks branch (Sophie and Joe). Other branches represented were Reading (3), Oxford City (2), Vale of White Horse (2) and EBSB (1).



The Ringing World Youth Contest has been postponed from July 2020 to September 2021, and will take place in Worcester.

**Susan Read**

## Badgers Handbell Group

Most of our ringing since the last newsletter has been online using Ringing Room. We hold two main practices on Tuesday and Friday evenings and quarter peals are normally arranged for Monday evenings and at weekends. There is also a monthly 12-bell practice which has so far enabled us to achieve four quarter peals of Maximus and led to us doing more ringing on higher numbers at the online practice nights. We regularly have 15 plus people at the online practices and ringing varies from Major to Maximus – this keeps David Thomas very busy ensuring that everyone gets to ring what they want to.

We were able to ring a few face-to-face quarter peals in December when the rules changed for a short period of time and the Tier system was reintroduced meaning we could meet outside. We celebrated the lifting of the third national lockdown on 29<sup>th</sup> March by wrapping up well and ringing four quarter peals outside in the garden. Lindsay purchased a gazebo – christened “Botley Cathedral” (for those of you with long memories, this is what the original Hartford Motors tower was nicknamed) which has been very useful, especially when it’s raining! We have also rung two peals – one on a very cold Easter Saturday (see the picture of Joe on p21!) and the other on 17<sup>th</sup> April in memory of HRH Prince Philip on the day of his funeral.



“Botley Cathedral”



“Botley Cathedral” lit up.

Although most of the virtual quarter peals are not reported in the newsletter (they can be found at <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=13204> for 2020 and <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=13413> for 2021).

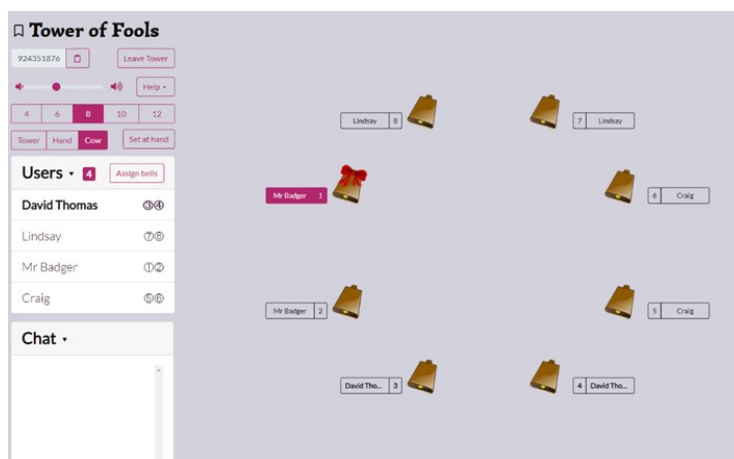
There are some quarter peals that merit a mention here (details in Quarter Peal Section):

A virtual quarter peal in memory of Angela Smith from Abingdon and we rang “live” quarters in memory of Claire Ward from Steventon and HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh (details of these are given in the quarter peal reports).

The Ringing Room was established by Bryn Reinstadler and Leland Kusmer from Cambridge MA in March 2020 and was quickly adopted by the group, with David Thomas conducting the first quarter peal on Ringing Room in the UK on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. To mark the anniversary of this a quarter peal was rung by the same band on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

It was decided to celebrate a year of Ringing Room with a 24 hour virtual handbell extravaganza on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February and David Thomas, Lindsay Powell and Joe Norton were on the organising group for this. Lindsay has written a full report on the day (see The Ringing World 12<sup>th</sup> March) but a total of 60 quarter peals were scored (and a few were lost) with ringers talking part from all over the world (UK, USA, France, Guernsey, Canada and Australia) – quite a feat!

If you logged into Ringing Room on 1<sup>st</sup> April – the screen looked a little different (see photo) – the normal sallies or handbells had been replaced by cowbells! Most people just enjoyed the “fun”, but the Badgers group were the only group to rise to the challenge of ringing a quarter peal on anticlockwise cowbells! (Details in QP Section)



Suitably named tower!

Finally, we'd like to congratulate David Thomas in being awarded "Highly Commended" in The ART Award for Inspiring Leadership in Ringing – a very well-deserved award!

Michele Winter

## HANDBELL QUARTER PEALS

(\* Botley is in the Parish of Cumnor)

**Botley\*** (2 Long Close), 12 December 2020. **1280 Kent Treble Bob Royal:** Adam D Rebick 1–2, David L Thomas 3–4 (C), Joe Norton 5–6, Lindsay Powell 7–8, Michele Winter 9–10. Rung as a 70<sup>th</sup> birthday compliment to Nigel Thomson.

**Botley\*** (2 Long Close), 12 December 2020. **1296 Churchill Little Bob Royal:** Joe Norton 1–2, Adam D Rebick 3–4, David L Thomas (C) 5–6, Lindsay Powell 7–8, Michele Winter 9–10. First in method: 1–2.

**Botley\*** (2 Long Close), 12 December 2020. **1264 Blackley Bob Major:** Lindsay Powell 1–2, Joe Norton 3–4, David L Thomas (C) 5–6, Michele Winter 7–8. First in method for all.

**Botley\*** (2 Long Close), 22 December 2020. **1260 St Clement's and Plain Bob Minor:** Michele Winter 1–2, Lindsay Powell 3–4, Joe Norton (C) 5–6. First St Clement's in hand: 1–2. Birthday Compliment for yesterday to Jon Mills and nobody else.

**Botley\*** (2 Long Close), 22 December 2020. **1729 Plain Bob Major:** Michele Winter 1–2, Lindsay Powell 3–4, David L Thomas 5–6, Joe Norton (C) 7–8. Rung on the  $(2^3+5^3)$ th birthday of Srinivasa Ramanujan.

**Botley\*** (2 Long Close), 22 December 2020. **1264 Plain Bob Major:** Lindsay Powell 1–2, David L Thomas 3–4, Joe Norton (C) 5–6, Tony Crabtree 7–8. 1,000th quarter: 5–6. First on eight in hand for 42 years: 7–8.

**Ringling Room, 2 March 2021. 1328 St Clement's College Bob Major:** Lisa Ryan 1–2, Lindsay Powell 3–4, Michele Winter 5–6, Joe Norton (C) 7–8. 250<sup>th</sup> handbell quarter together: 3–4 and 7–8. 50<sup>th</sup> quarter on Ringling Room: 5–6. Completes the pairs to St Clement's Major: 3–4. First in method as conductor. Rung in memory of Angela Smith, a ringer from Abingdon. This performance was rung using simulated sound. Performed on a virtual ringing platform.

**Ringling Room**, Oxfordshire, 4 March 2021. **1312 Double Oxford Bob Major** (Comp. David L Thomas [No.575]): Lindsay Powell (Oxford) 1-2, David L Thomas (Abingdon) (C) 3-4, Joe Norton (Wantage) 5-6, Michele Winter (Oxford) 7-8. Rung for the 203<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Appleton bells. This performance was rung using simulated sound. Performed on a virtual ringing platform.

**Botley\*** (2 Long Close), 29 March 2021. **1280 Spliced Plain Minor (4m)**: Michele Winter 1-2, Lindsay Powell 3-4, Joe Norton (C). In real life! Most Minor methods in hand: 1-2. First in “Botley Cathedral”.

**Botley\*** (2 Long Close), 29 March 2021. **1280 Double Norwich Court Bob Major**: Lindsay Powell 1-2, Joe Norton 3-4, David L Thomas (C) 5-6, Michele Winter 7-8. First touch of Double Norwich on real handbells for all.

**Botley\*** (2 Long Close), 29 March 2021. **1344 Plain Bob Major**: Michele Winter 1-2, Joe Norton 3-4, David L Thomas 5-6, Lindsay Powell (C) 7-8. First conductor as major.

**Botley\*** (2 Long Close), 29 March. **1312 Kent Treble Bob Major**: Joe Norton 1-2, David L Thomas (C) 3-4, Lindsay Powell 5-6, Michele Winter 7-8.

**Ringling Room**, 31 March 2021. **1280 Spliced Major** (2m) 704 Double Norwich; 576 Bristol Surprise; 7 com; atw: Samuel M Senior 1-2, Craig M Robertson 3-4, David L Thomas (C) 5-6, Jonathan C Mills 7-8. First including Double Norwich: 7-8. First Double Norwich and Bristol Spliced: 1-2 and 3-4. First Double Norwich and Bristol Spliced in hand: 5-6. Rung on the first anniversary of the first quarter peal on Ringling Room in the UK with the same band. This performance was rung using simulated sound. Performed on a virtual ringing platform.

**Ringling Room**, 1 April. **1312 Kent Treble Bob Major**: Joe Norton 1-2, David Thomas (C) 3-4, Craig M Robertson 5-6, Lindsay Powell 7-8. First Anticlockwise: 5-6. First Anticlockwise Major: 1-2, 3-4 and 7-8. First on Cowbells for all. Happy April Fool’s Day! This performance was rung using simulated sound. Performed on a virtual ringing platform.

**Botley\*** (2 Long Close), 1 April 2021. **1284 Spliced Bob Major (4m)**: Lindsay Powell 1-2, Joe Norton 3-4, David L Thomas (C) 5-6, Michele Winter 7-8.

**Botley\*** (2 Long Close), 1 April 2021. **1260 Cross Minor**: Lindsay Powell 1-2, David L Thomas 3-4, Joe Norton (C) 5-6. First in method. Cross Minor: x. Most calls in a quarter for all (630).

**Botley\*** (2 Long Close), 1 April 2021. **1344 Plain Bob Major**: Lindsay Powell 1-2, David L Thomas 3-4, Joe Norton 5-6, Michele Winter (C) 7-8. First quarter of major in hand as conductor. With thanks to all the band for their support and encouragement of my handbell adventure during the last year and also to Simon Gay for the excellent conducting course.

**Botley\*** (2 Long Close), 5 April 2021. **1296 Little Bob Royal**: Adam D Rebeck 1-2, David L Thomas (C) 3-4, Joe Norton 5-6, Lindsay Powell 7-8, Michele Winter 9-10. 200<sup>th</sup> on real handbells: 3-4. 50<sup>th</sup> on real handbells: 9-10. Remembering Harry Winter on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death.

**Botley\*** (2 Long Close), 5 April 2021. **1292 Spliced Bob Royal (4m)**: Lindsay Powell 1-2, Adam D Rebeck 3-4, David L Thomas (C) 5-6, Joe Norton 7-8, Michele Winter 9-10. Most royal methods for all. Rung in memory of Claire Ward, ringer at Steventon.

**Botley\*** (2 Long Close), 5 April 2021. **1296 Little Bob Royal**: Joe Norton 1-2, David L Thomas 3-4, Lindsay Powell 5-6, Adam D Rebeck (C) 7-8, Michele Winter 9-10. Completes the pairs to Little Bob Royal: 5-6. First in the method as Conductor. First on 10 as Conductor.

**Botley\*** (2 Long Close), 8 April 2021. **1260 Childwall Bob Minor**: Michele Winter 1-2, Lindsay Powell 3-4, Joe Norton (C) 5-6. First in method: 1-2. First in method on inside pair: 3-4.

**Botley\*** (2 Long Close), 8 April 2021. **1320 Bourne Surprise Minor**: Lindsay Powell 1-2, Joe Norton 3-4, David L Thomas (C) 5-6.

**Ringling Room**, 9 April 2021. **1260 Plain Bob Minor**: Michele Winter 1–2, Susan K Fautsch 3–4, Alison T Merryweather-Clarke (C) 5–6. Rung in memory of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. This performance was rung using simulated sound. Performed on a virtual ringing platform.

**Ringling Room**, 9 April 2021. **1299 Spliced Major (2m)**: Samuel M Senior 1–2, David L Thomas (C) 3–4, Craig M Robertson 5–6, Adam D Rebick 7–8. Rung half-muffled in memory of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh who died earlier today, aged 99. This performance was rung using simulated sound. Performed on a virtual ringing platform.

**Botley\*** (2 Long Close), 10 April 2021. **1272 Norwich Surprise Minor**: Lisa Ryan 1–2, David L Thomas (C) 3–4, Jonathan C Mills 5–6. First in method in hand: 1–2 and 5–6.

**Botley\*** (2 Long Close), 12 April 2021. **1264 Plain Bob Major**: David L Thomas 1–2, John G Pusey 3–4, Joe Norton (C) 5–6, Alison T Merryweather-Clarke 7–8. Rung in memory of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

**Botley\*** (2 Long Close), 12 April 2021. **1296 Little Bob Royal**: Joe Norton 1–2, David L Thomas (C) 3–4, Michele Winter 5–6, Alison T Merryweather-Clarke 7–8, John G Pusey 9–10. First Royal on real handbells: 7–8. First Royal on an inside pair: 5–6. Rung in memory of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

**Botley\*** (2 Long Close), 12 April 2021. **1312 Kent Treble Bob Major**: Joe Norton 1–2, David L Thomas (C) 3–4, Michele Winter 5–6, John G Pusey 7–8. 200<sup>th</sup> quarter peal together 1–2 and 3–4.

**Ringling Room**, 13 April 2021. **1344 Spliced Plain Major (3m)**: Lisa Ryan 1–2, Lindsay Powell 3–4, Michele Winter 5–6, Joe Norton (C) 7–8. Rung in memory of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. This performance was rung using simulated sound. Performed on a virtual ringing platform.

**Botley\*** (2 Long Close), 19 April 2021. **1280 Minor (3m)**: Michele Winter 1–2, Joe Norton 3–4, Lisa Ryan (C) 5–6. 50<sup>th</sup> in hand on real bells: 5–6.

**Botley\*** (2 Long Close), 19 April 2021. **1264 St Clement's Bob Major**: Adam D Rebick 1–2, David L Thomas (C) 3–4, Lisa Ryan 5–6, Michele Winter 7–8. First in method on this pair: 5–6.

## Miscellaneous performances

**Abingdon**, St Helen, 10 March 2021. **91 Spliced Minor (2m)** (84 Plain; 7 Bastow Little); 1 com. Susan Read 1–2, Tim Pett 3–4, David Thomas (C) 5–6. Rung prior to the funeral of Mary Angela Smith, long serving member of the local band who passed away on 22nd February aged 91.

**Abingdon**, St Helen, 9 April 2021. **Tolling**: Susan Read 10, Brian Read 10. In memory of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh who died today aged 99.  
<https://abingdonblog.co.uk/?p=27071>

**Abingdon**, St Helen, 10 April 2021. **Half-Muffled Tolling**: Five minutes starting at 12 noon: Josh Ball 10. To mark the death of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

**Cumnor**, 10 April 2021. **99 Tolling**: 8. Guy F Matthews & Richard D Matthews. A tribute to HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, at 12 noon.

**Abingdon**, St Helen 17 April 2021. **Half-Muffled Tolling**: Reg Sidlow 10. Rung prior to the funeral of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

**Cumnor**, 17 April 2021. **Tolling**: 8. Matthew Hall & Guy F Matthews. Rung to commemorate the life of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, on the day of his funeral.

## HANDBELL PEALS

(\* Botley is in the Parish of Cumnor)

OXFORD SOCIETY, **Botley\*** (2 Long Close), 3 April 2021, 2h27, **5088 Kent Treble Bob Major**: Lindsay Powell 1–2, Joe D R Norton 3–4, David L Thomas (C) 5–6, Michele Winter 7–8. First Kent Major: 1–2. First Kent in hand: 7–8. First peal in “Botley Cathedral”.

OXFORD SOCIETY, **Botley\*** (2 Long Close), 17 April 2021, 2h40, **5000 Kent Treble Bob Royal**: Lindsay Powell 1–2, Joe D R Norton 3–4, David L Thomas (C) 5–6, Jonathan C Mills 7–8, Michele Winter 9–10. First on 10 in hand: 7–8. First Treble Bob Royal in hand for all. Rung in Memory of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh on the day of his funeral.



What all the best dressed peal ringers are wearing this season!

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers



**Old North Berks Branch**



## **Barbecue & Croquet**

*Join in the fun after the Branch Outing  
on*

**Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
from 7.00pm**

**At the home of Stuart and Naomi Gibson**

***The Croft  
Milton Hill***



***(A4130 between A34 Didcot exit and Rowstock)***

**£10.00 each (payable on the day)**

**All proceeds to branch funds**

**All names to Gill Loyd by Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> July please**



**Telephone: 01235 850459**

**Email: [gillianloyd@gmail.com](mailto:gillianloyd@gmail.com)**

***Please note:***

***Soft drinks will be provided, please bring your own alcohol***

## Old North Berks website

The Old North Berks website can be found at [www.onb.odg.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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 December 2021 is 19th October 2021. 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

### **Programme for 2021**

**Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> May** – Guild AGM – 5pm by Zoom

**Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> July** – Branch Outing and Barbecue

**Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> September** – Striking Competition – Steventon (6)

This will be part of a memorial event for Claire Ward, with ringing available for everyone, a short service and a traditional bell ringers tea.

**Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> November** – Social evening – Barn Dance at Harwell

