



Old North Berks Branch Newsletter

No: 159

June 2022



The band, in ringing order, who rang a Quarter Peal on Tuesday 17th May at Steventon to celebrate Jack Jarvis' 75 years membership of the ODG.

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Editorial

Welcome to the Summer 2022 issue of the Branch Newsletter.

You will find later in the Newsletter, an article by Jenny Dyer, our 'Branch Recovery Champion' about 'Ringing Recovery'.

Congratulations to Jack Jarvis of Steventon who, on the 17th May, celebrated 75 years membership of the ODG.

Congratulations are also due to Isaac Davies, Rebecca Pocock, Nicholas Speller, Mary Leneis and Richard Binning, who have all rung their first Quarter Peal.

A few other milestones have also been reached: our Vice Chairman, Charles Morrish, has celebrated 50 years of ringing, while Trish Napper of Sutton Courtenay clocked up 68 years membership of the ODG in April, and I also reach 68 years membership in September of this year.

My best wishes for the coming months and don't forget to send in your reports for the next issue of the Newsletter.

Daphne Pollard

Chairman's Report

It would appear that the return to ringing after the various covid lockdowns is going well, with regular practices re-established and the old confidence returning. I am also delighted to hear of numerous new bell-ringers and wish them well as they learn the ropes.

I am sure, like me, you will be looking forward to marking the occasion of the Platinum Jubilee in early June with some celebratory ringing. What an amazing achievement and celebration to be part of.

We look forward to enjoying, and hope to see you at, our branch outing and barbeque in July, and then later in the year, the barn dance in November. With best wishes for the summer.

Rob Nickless

Secretary's Report

Once again because of Covid-19 we were unable to have our usual New Year's Day Ringing and Refreshments event. This had been scheduled to be held at Steventon and I am sure that I will soon be contacting the ringers there to see if 2023 might be possible!

Our AGM was held successfully by Zoom meeting. It was once again ably hosted by our Chairman, Rob Nickless and was attended by twenty-nine members, including the Guild Safeguarding Officer, June Wells, and our Guild Branch Steward, Patricia Newton. All branch officers remained in position apart from Janette Roberts, who wished to stand down after many years of service as a Branch Representative. The Chairman thanked Janette for all the work she had done for the Branch and Dick Peters was elected to take her place. Safeguarding was discussed and there is a separate article about the issues in this newsletter.

Our Treasurer, Stuart Gibson, reported that in 2021 the membership of the Branch was 247, a decrease of 14 from 2020. There were no fund raising events in 2021 but honey sales resulted in donations of £203. The one social event, a BBQ, raised £159. The Branch, for the fifth year, suggested a voluntary £2 donation with subscriptions and £472 was collected in the year. Almost everyone made the contributions to put towards Branch bell restorations projects. A donation of £500 was made to the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund. The Branch, at the end of 2021, had funds in the region of £4,700, which is well in excess of the reserves required by the Branch.

Fourteen new branch members were elected to the Guild: Neil Weston of Abingdon St Nicolas; Lindsay Lott of Blewbury; Lynn Burrige of Brightwell; Hedley French of Childrey; Frances Higham, Anna Hurst and Susie Pocock of Cholsey; Marion Preston of Cumnor; Ben Williams of Harwell; Karen Bishop and Charlie Nickless of North Moreton; Alban Walker of Radley; Wendy Muggeridge of Wallingford and Sarah Macdonell of Wantage. This was thought to be a good sign that things are improving after Covid. Colin Turner has advised that Dawn Smith, a former Guild member from Milton, died at the beginning of December. She and her family moved away from the village many years ago, but both she and her son Ian were very involved with the new bells project.

The branch 6-bell striking competition is usually held in March on the day of the AGM. This year it has been postponed until 18th June, which will hopefully give more bands time to practice and prepare for the competition. The competition will be held at North Moreton during the morning and I have been reliably informed that refreshments will be available – with the inclusion of bacon butties as an incentive for towers to enter the competition (or you could just come along and cheer on the teams!).

Branch practices resumed at the end of February, although one surprise major practice had to be cancelled through lack of attendees. We recently had a ‘mini’ outing of three towers (Lambourn, Brightwalton and East Ilsley) with a pub lunch in the Crown and Horns at East Ilsley. This was attended by 20 branch members and was very successful despite the go of some of the bells, the cold weather and having to eat outside because of a competing funeral wake!

Our main branch outing is planned for Saturday, 23rd July and this will be followed by a barbecue at the home of Stuart and Naomi Gibson. The barn dance and supper at Harwell Village Hall, which was postponed from November 2020 and 2021, is now scheduled for 12th November. More information will follow when available but all events are of course subject to any current Covid regulations.

Gill Loyd

Ringling Masters’ Ramblings

With the spring weather and hopefully the worst of the pandemic behind us, it is good to see ringling returning to almost normal in most of our towers. Jenny Dyer in her role as branch ringling recovery champion has been looking at how the pandemic has affected our ability to sustain ringling at each of our towers. If you have not completed the questionnaire then please do so as it might help to bring some resources to help you with any difficulties that you are experiencing.

With branch practices, ringling school training sessions, and Guild events now underway, it is more important than ever for tower correspondents to pass on information about these events. I know some of these emails might not always be relevant to all members but many are, and it is better to press delete than not receive any information. Tower correspondents should also print and display the posters advertising upcoming events in their tower. If you don't get these, please give your correspondent a nudge!

Now that Covid restrictions are broadly lifted, we can look forward to members supporting ringling in nearby towers within the branch. We encourage more of this to not only improve practices and learning opportunities, but also to renew and enjoy the social friendships that we have so missed during the last two years.

Please try to support the branch six bell striking competition. It will be held during the morning of 18th June at North Moreton. We welcome all tower bands to enter and we especially would like to see some call change bands from towers who may not have entered a team for a while. We are promised as always a warm welcome and delicious refreshments from the North Moreton ringers. There will be no official business meeting, just the chance to socialise and enjoy North Moreton bells.

Of course, Ramblings wouldn't be worth reading without a joke from Philip.....

I called into a Turkish barber shop the other day and asked, "How much for a haircut?" He said, "Twenty pounds". I said, "How much is a shave?" He said, "Ten pounds". So I said, "Can you shave my head?"

The barber said to me, "After your shave, what do you want on your face?" I said, "Leave the nose"

Boy, was he slow. He looked at me and said, "Do you know that you are starting to turn grey?" I said, "Well, get a move on"

Just to leave you with a little thought;

Remember, one good turn, could get most of the duvet!

Richard Loyd and Philip Roberts

TOWER TALK

Abingdon

Ringling at both Abingdon towers is gradually returning to something approaching "normal". Unfortunately, several ringers have not returned yet for various reasons, not all to do with Covid. Nevertheless, we managed a turnout of 14 at St Helen's last Sunday, May 8th, which was very pleasing. We also managed to ring a quarter peal of Yorkshire S Major on the same day, the first on more than 6 bells for two and a half years, which enabled Jeanette to record her first of treble bob major and Josh his first of Yorkshire.

Our annual dinner was able to take place this year, on Feb 22nd, and was once again very well organised by Margaret, this time at Cosener's House. We were pleased to welcome several visitors, including Martin Crick who was a previous tower captain at St Helen's.

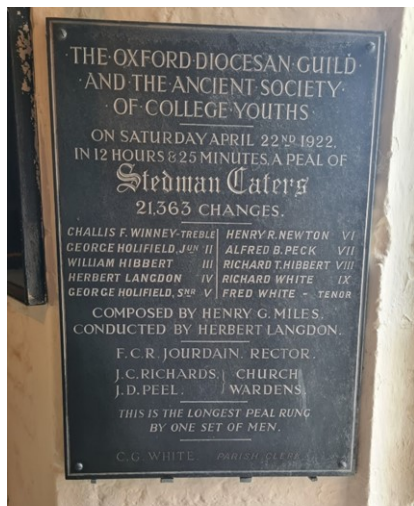
There was good support for our excellent outing on April 9th to Somerset which was organised by Isaac O'Shea who is now based in Burnham on Sea. He had arranged some very heavy bells for us starting with the 10 at Wrington. This was followed by Axbridge, which most of us felt were the nicest bells of the day, East Brent, Burnham, where unfortunately the 2nd was out of action and by way of contrast the very light 8 at Highbridge. Whilst in Burnham, most of us had a takeaway lunch from the local fish and chip shop and a tour round Isaac's workshop. We were grateful for some help from two or three local ringers and especially so to Richard and Marion Newman who invited us back to their house afterwards for a cup of tea and a go on their light 10-bell mini-ring.

We plan to hold the tower AGM soon but in the meantime the same officers remain in post.

Tim Pett

Appleton

Following the CO₂ measurements taken by Simon Bond in the Autumn we have returned to ringing for Evensong twice a month on either 6 or 8 bells. Recently, we were pleased to welcome Sylvia and Mike Harrison back after a two-year absence from ringing for Covid-19 reasons. We are hoping to restart practices before too long. A successful quarter peal of Grandsire Triples, conducted by David Ockwell, was rung in February to mark the Queen's Accession Anniversary.



We were hoping to ring a 10,000 of Grandsire Caters in December to mark the 50th, 100th and 150th Anniversary of previous 10,000s rung in the tower but the Omicron variant of Covid-19 arrived a few days before the planned attempt in December, so the attempt was cancelled. With help from the "usual suspects" we did ring a peal for March 4th day on 5th March – this was planned to be a 10,000 but a miscall towards the end of the first hour, resulted in the bells being set-up, however we did ring a normal length peal. On 23rd April we rang a peal of 5,100 Stedman Caters (composed and conducted by John Pladdys) to mark the 100th anniversary of the then record peal of 21,363 Stedman Caters rung on 22nd April 1922 (see photograph of the peal board).

Appleton village are planning 4 days of celebrations to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June and we will be attempting a peal on the Friday afternoon after the service from St Paul's Cathedral which is being live-streamed for villagers in the Church.

Michele Winter

Blewbury

It is good to report that our social and ringing activities have continued to build up since the last newsletter in December. We held our Christmas dinner in the Blewbury Manor barn. The doors and windows were kept open, but we managed to keep warm enough to enjoy the food, drink and most importantly, the company of our fellow ringers and families.



Restrictions were lifted in time to ring a quarter peal to mark Peter Corderoy's 80th birthday - just 4 hours before his 81st! The occasion also marked 90 years since the Corderoy family started ringing in Blewbury. Peter rang the tenor, and afterwards the band and fellow ringers raised a glass in celebration.



Ringling on practice night and Sundays has built up, so that with the return of more ringers and visitors we are now ringing all 8 bells on most occasions. We have a new tower member who has returned to ringing after several years away, and quite a few other villagers have expressed an interest in joining us too.

In March we had a joint outing with North Moreton tower to Benson, Checkendon, Shiplake, Twyford, and Waltham St Lawrence. It was a good day's ringing, and the new format of brunch instead of lunch went down well, leaving plenty of room for cakes at tea time.

Our duck race was back to its usual date of Easter Sunday this year and the wonderful weather brought out plenty of people to cheer the ducks along the stream.

Christine Kowalczyk

Cholsey

We are very pleased to have six new (and fairly new) recruits to the Tower.

Rebecca has rung her first quarter peal of Bob Minor with the help of Chris, Nuala, Kathryn and Daryl from Wallingford. The others are varying from Bob Doubles to Plain Hunting.

We ran our own Plain Hunting course on the day of the Radley Course as our ringers and the Aston Ringers couldn't get on the Radley course.

On the 11th June we are planning a local ringing outing; anyone wishing to join us will be welcome.

Jenny Jeskins



New members from Cholsey

L to R: Anna Hurst, Susie Pocock and Frances Higham.

Cumnor

We continue to have a very dedicated band of ringers at St Michael's and are fortunate in having a ground floor ring, with plenty of ventilation in the tower. This enabled ringing to resume once lockdown restrictions eased and allowing all our bells to ring out once more across the Parish of Cumnor.

In February 2022, we rang a quarter peal to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Accession to the Throne of HM Queen Elizabeth II (reported under the 'Quarter Peal' section) and hope to ring a further quarter to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June.

We were delighted to resume ringing for weddings at the end of last year, on all eight bells, and a further five weddings are scheduled for 2022!

Earlier this year, we welcomed a visiting band to Cumnor, the 'Roving Ringers', as part of a ringing weekend to the area. By prior arrangement, we also welcome visiting ringers to our practice evenings and for Sunday service ringing.

In addition to our tower practices, our band continues to meet weekly using the virtual platform 'The Ringing Room' which enables us to practice method skills and to keep in touch with a former member of our band who has moved from the area.

We recently launched a new website <https://cumnorbellringers.uk/> which provides information about the bells at Cumnor, ringing times and links to a range of resources. We will also be adding information about learning to ring, aiming to promote interest and to recruit new members.

Jenny Dyer

East Hagbourne

At the Hagbourne Christmas Tree Festival a group of our young ringers performed at The Big Wassail and they all did a great job. A couple of budding actors there, I think! The handbell ringers were hoping to do a 'Mini' Ring and Sing at the second Saturday lunch but sadly the lunch had to be cancelled due to Covid so we played outside the church just before the Grand Draw.

2021 was rung in by a solitary ringer on the tenor bell but this year there were 7 of us in the tower from 11:30 when we rang the bells for 20 minutes and then we held a short service that was led by Trevor and Shirley Goss. Daniel rang the New Year in on the tenor bell. Sadly, we could not 'fire' the bells as we did not have the team to do it, perhaps next time. We did have a few visitors but they had sought permission prior to their visit due to covid. The tower was well ventilated, fortunately it was a very mild evening, and everyone wore masks. The ringing was followed by a toast with Prosecco. We finished at 12:15.

Ringing practices are going well and we usually get a good turn out on a Tuesday night of both our beginners and our more experienced ringers so we have a good mix. Some of the group meet at the Fleur following the ringing for a chat and catch up. Things seem to be getting back to some sort of normality but we are still being careful.

The bells are rung for evensong twice a month and alternately for morning service twice a month.

The tower AGM took place on Tuesday 22nd February.

Jill Garlick ran a ringing course on Plain Hunt for our learners on Saturday 12th March. The course was well attended by both learners and helpers, Jill hopes to run another course at the end of April.

We held our quarterly meeting in Holy Week on Tuesday 12th April, in the Parish Room, enjoying a hot drink and lovely hot cross buns with butter/spread and jam courtesy of Jill and Shirley. This meeting is usually held at Jeff's house but he was busy celebrating a 'Special' birthday!

We rang all 8 bells on Easter Sunday, for the 10:30 service, for the first time in three years.

On Easter Monday we rang the bells to celebrate the 80th birthday of David Wilcox a great supporter of St Andrew's Church and the tower.

Jill had planned to run a training course on 23rd April but unfortunately had to cancel it as too many of the team were unavailable.

We rang the bells for a 'Special' wedding on 1st May, our Tower Keeper, John Napper's daughter, Joanna was married at St Andrew's on that day. A very happy family occasion.

Shirley Goss

Milton

It has been a period of “Keeping calm and carrying on” since the last newsletter. We now ring Beverley Surprise Minor regularly and will aim to expand our repertoire now that seems to be embedded in the memory banks. Our two learners continue to progress, Emily is able to ring call changes unaided, whilst Matthew gets to grip with Plain Hunt on five.

Recently we had a visit from the Oxford University Society, the first outing party to the tower for over two years. We have another group booked in for June.

We are always pleased to have visitors to our Tuesday practice, 7.30 – 8.30, which allows time for tea and cake afterwards. It’s always worth checking before attending though as some times we do not have enough to ring due to work commitments and other planned absences.

Colin Turner

North Moreton

Christmas without Bells (Almost)!

Disaster threatened the Christmas ringing at All Saints North Moreton. With terrible timing, the clapper on the Tenor broke into two and it took Herculean labours and a great team effort to have the clapper remade and replaced in time for festivities. Particular thanks to Whites of Appleton and to Rob Nickless, Bell Captain, for finding time, in what must be the busiest week of the year. The photos show: 1) the old and new clapper and 2) Rob with his son Charlie, who is our youngest member of the NM band.

The NM ringers and friends continue to ring every week for practice and rarely have to miss a service. On a glorious day in May for the North Moreton Fete, we welcomed the visitors with ringing and are always grateful to our local bell ringing friends for keeping the bells such an active part of village life.

Beryl Jones



Radley

Not much to report this time other than we ring regularly for the 11am Service on a Sunday and also hold our usual Thursday evening practices. Ringing has been disrupted on a couple of occasions by either ringers or somebody in the household, having Covid. Unfortunately for Abingdon, Lisa Astbury has decided to join us at Radley – welcome Lisa.

We were able to hold our annual Christmas Dinner in the local pub. This was enjoyed by all and Covid didn't manage to cause any problems.

Visiting ringers from the Radley Course, came in April. The April Branch Practice was held at Radley and several ringers from other towers attended. This was different to other years when perhaps one, or none, visitors have come.

Daphne Pollard

Sunningwell

Apart from ringing at weddings, where governmental and CCCBR rules allowed, there has been no regular ringing at St Leonard's since the Spring 2020.

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 pandemic, the Band have been kept up to date with the latest information and news from CCCBR and ONB through emails from the branch secretary 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 2021 and none is currently anticipated until it is clear that it is demonstrably safe to do so. Access to the Ringing Chamber is a critical issue, particularly for the senior ringers, since the spiral staircase is rather narrow and tortuous and can be challenging during both ascent and descent. To make the spiral staircase more accessible, one of the Band, Derrick Stevens took it upon himself to make it easier by installing a grasp rope so that ascenders and descenders can steady themselves by holding onto the rope. Being a yachtsman of many years standing, Derrick had the skill set to do the necessary ropework and the fixation to the staircase inner wall, particularly as the installation is based on yacht fittings, which he is very familiar with. The photos below show the rope and fixations during installation and it is envisaged that the large diameter rope (40mm diameter) will make the journey up and down easier for ringers.

Mike Wykes



Wallingford

We have maintained practices and Sunday service ringing at Wallingford throughout the period. We have continued to maintain Covid prevention measures (in having windows and doors open with an extra ventilator running to circulate air). We have relaxed the rule about masks, so that people may remove them if they wish. So far we have avoided any Covid outbreak associated directly with the tower (just a few members have succumbed, but only lightly). Progress has been steady and we are slowly recovering confidence and the range of ringing we can do to pre-pandemic levels. We are happy to welcome visitors, but would still ask if people could ask in advance if they would like to come to ensure that we are not over-crowded. The "pub fund" remains untouched since the start of lockdown, so we look forward to a suitable occasion when it can be used for its proper purpose!

Chris Tuckett

Wantage

Wantage are now back to ringing regularly on Sunday's and Tuesday's with a core 10 ringers. 4 of us have had bouts of Covid but luckily with various ringers isolating for a while, we still managed to ring for all the services.

In February we rang a quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Accession to the throne of the Queen.

Following our Tower AGM in March, we all enjoyed a fabulous meal at the local Indian Restaurant.

Wantage is expecting our new Vicar in July. Her licensing service will be 21st July and we intend to ring for this service, and also hope to ring a quarter peal to welcome her on the following Sunday 24th.

Practices at Wantage now welcome visitors but ask that you check beforehand with Tower Captain David Endacott davidendacott@hotmail.com and/or Tower Secretary Jenny Bennett jennyben-nett525@sky.com

Jenny Bennett

Badgers Handbell Group

As reported in the last newsletter the lifting of the Covid-19 restrictions has meant that we have done less handbell ringing because we're now able to ring in towers again. However, we have continued to practise once a week which has led to our method capability increasing and we have rung regular quarter peals in Weston Road (not reported here) and occasional, more advanced quarter peals at my house in Long Close (see quarter peal list) which has allowed some members to advance to ringing Surprise Major and the band to ringing Royal and Maximus in hand rather than on line. We have also rung two peals which has allowed me to "escape" from the tenors and John Pusey to ring his first in two methods on the tenors.

Joe Norton was taken seriously ill last month and admitted to the Churchill Hospital with a serious lung infection which resulted in him having keyhole surgery to allow the medics to clear his lungs out. He is now recuperating at home in Wantage and looking forward to starting to ring handbells again and once allowed, to get back into the tower; we wish him a speedy recovery.

Michele Winter

USEFUL WEBLINKS & CONTACTS

Oxford Diocesan Guild—Old North Berks Branch

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

Branch Ringing School

[https://ringingteachers.org/about/
art-hubs/branch-ringing-school](https://ringingteachers.org/about/art-hubs/branch-ringing-school)

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers

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

[https://cccbr.org.uk/resources/
learning-development](https://cccbr.org.uk/resources/learning-development)

[https://cccbr.org.uk/wp-content/
uploads/2017/03/7_RW
onepage.pdf](https://cccbr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/7_RW_onepage.pdf)

<https://cccbr.org.uk/youtube-index/>

Association of Ringing Teachers

<https://ringingteachers.org/>

Chiming:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=L_jvajtN14](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_jvajtN14)

Fitting muffles:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=JkJF6PaX6fy](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JkJF6PaX6fy)

Survival and Recovery Toolbox

[https://ringingteachers.org/survival
-and-recovery-toolbox/Help](https://ringingteachers.org/survival-and-recovery-toolbox/Help)

Other resources

Various resources:

[https://www.whittingsociety.or
g.uk/articles/articles.html](https://www.whittingsociety.org.uk/articles/articles.html)

RINGING RECOVERY

Ringling has now seen a return to some normality in many towers, and particularly with Branch events, including afternoon and evening practices resumed—it is hoped that many of you will feel encouraged to support these events once again. Of significance are the 14 new members, elected at the Branch AGM in March. In addition, the Branch Ringing School sessions were well attended by both learners and teachers and monthly practices have now resumed for young ringers.

Following the 'Pathways to Recovery' meeting held last November, it was agreed that individual needs of towers should be established and then taken forward as a Branch 'recovery plan', so that all towers could have sufficient ringers for services and practices. A survey was therefore sent to all Branch Towers, with the following questions asked and seeking ideas to support ringing recovery:

- ◆ What support does your tower require to ensure that ringing thrives?
- ◆ Are there members of your band who would be willing to help at other towers within the Branch?
- ◆ If your ringers already help at another tower(s), please list the tower(s) supported and whether for practices, Sunday services and/or teaching.
- ◆ Please provide any ideas you have that would support ringing recovery within the Branch.
- ◆ Are you happy to be contacted to discuss your responses?

So far, 17 towers have responded to the survey:

- ◆ 6 towers are in a strong position and did not require support
- ◆ 6 towers require support with Sunday service ringing
- ◆ 4 towers needed additional ringers for practices
- ◆ 5 towers required recruitment ideas and materials
- ◆ 2 towers required support with teaching new ringers
- ◆ 8 towers already supported ringing in other towers
- ◆ 6 towers indicated they had ringers who could support in other towers.

As a follow-up to the survey a meeting with Branch Officers will take place to take forward a 'recovery plan' and be in touch with towers that have indicated support is required and where ringers can assist in other towers.

For towers that are hoping to recruit new ringers, here are some ideas to get you started:

- ◆ Plan a date for a ringing open morning/afternoon, then advertise the event
- ◆ Posters—put these up around your local community and in shop windows
- ◆ Talk to local schools about bellringing and invite students and their families to the tower
- ◆ Flyers—post through doors
- ◆ Contact your local radio station
- ◆ Place articles in your village magazine.

Jenny Dyer, Branch Recovery Champion

Safeguarding

As a result of communications on Safeguarding from the CCCBR in The Ringing World being discussed at the February Branch Committee Meeting, June Wells, Guild Safeguarding Officer, was invited to attend the branch AGM to clarify some complicated issues. Here are the questions raised together with the responses she gave:

On many occasions Safeguarding issues go unnoticed. What is the Church seeking to achieve?

The Church is making everyone aware of the types of abuse that can happen and letting them know what is the correct thing to do if ever anything comes to their attention.

Every three years all ringers aged 16 and over are required to take the online 'Basic Awareness' course, which takes approximately 1 hour 15 minutes.

It had been agreed by the C of E National Safeguarding Team and the Oxford Diocese that all church volunteers, including bell ringers, choir members, sides persons, flower arrangers, etc. need to complete the Basic Awareness Course. This course makes everyone aware of the meaning of Safeguarding and helps them to know what they should do if ever anyone makes a disclosure to them.

Every three years, all tower captains are required to take the online 'Foundation' Course, which takes approximately 1 hour 30 minutes.

Until Christmas 2021, all tower captains had been expected to take the Leadership course. However this had been reduced to Foundation level by the C of E National Safeguarding Team with agreement from the Oxford Diocese. The course needs to be completed regardless of whether or not there are any young ringers or vulnerable adults in the band.

Every three years some ringers, particularly those training a large number of young ringers, will need to take the 'Leadership' Course. This course consists of two 1 hour 30 minute sessions, and requires advance preparation and a post course interview.

The Branch Training Officer, who teaches a number of young ringers, needs to have taken the Leadership course. In addition there are several Guild Officers who have been identified by the Guild Master who also need to take this course.

What should be done if a ringer refuses to take the required course?

Tower captains should ask their ringers to complete the course. However it would be up to each Parish Safeguarding Officer to ensure that this was done. Tower captains should promote the courses, but responsibility lies with each parish. Parish Safeguarding Officers and tower captains can stop someone ringing if they have refused to do the relevant course. Tower Captains need to supply their Safeguarding Officers with the names of all their ringers.

Do vulnerable ringers have to complete the training?

All ringers should complete the pathway. Where people have struggled to complete it due to IT issues some parishes have developed buddy systems so people have support with the technology. It could be that someone might for example have a learning disability, that means that their learning age is below 16, when we wouldn't expect people to complete the training anyway so this might be relevant in some cases. Most exemptions would need to be considered on a case by case basis.

What is the definition of a vulnerable adult?

It should be noted that the Church includes 'vulnerable adults' in their policies. The official definition of a vulnerable adult, or an adult at risk, is a person over the age of 18 who is unable to take care of him or herself OR unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation. This is unlikely to apply to many, if any, ringers but ringing must take seriously its respo-

nsibilities to ensure the wellbeing of all ringers.

What happens if there are visitors to the tower?

Visitors' names should be entered in the tower register. There should be a local ringer, who has completed the Foundation course, at service ringing and at any practices.

Is one to one training of ringers permitted with no one else present?

This is permitted but not considered to be wise. If a child is being taught, this could be done in the presence of a parent. It is also ideal to have two adults in the car if transporting young ringers.

How early in the induction process should the training happen?

It is expected that people work to achieve the acquired level of learning as soon as is practicably possible upon starting a new role. This would be when they start to take part in practice and Sunday service ringing.

Is the Basic Awareness training transferable between organisations?

No - within the Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework 2021 it states that the only core learning pathway that would be portable is the Methodist Foundation course for the C of E Foundation course, as this has been analysed as comparable.

How to book a course

This can only be done online through the Safeguarding portal on the C of E website. Courses are free of charge. Awareness and Foundation courses can be completed at home and, if necessary, in more than one session. If a ringer is not computer literate, they can do the course with their Parish Safeguarding Officer or another suitable adult.

DBS checking

Safeguarding training is in addition to DBS checking. Tower Captains and anyone teaching young people or vulnerable adults need to be DBS checked.

Gill Loyd

Jack Jarvis of Steventon celebrates 75 years as a Member of the ODG



Jack obtained Honorary Membership of the ODG many years ago: there is no higher honour with which he can be awarded, but he has recently received a letter from the Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild to recognise and admire his dedication to Steventon tower and his decades of contribution to ringing. On 17th May 2022, his 75th anniversary of membership, in recognition of his contribution we rang a quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles at Steventon, with Jack in the band.

No-one has served long enough to be able to do Jack justice, so it was necessary for me to speak to him direct to get the facts, during which time he made it quite clear that he doesn't like bragging. He is a humble servant of the Lord and has displayed this in the quietest of ways, not only through his commitment to the church as a member of the bell ringing team for over 76 years, but also as a member of the church choir for 77 years and as a Lay Minister for 31 years. He still continues with each of these roles. Roles he has served and relinquished are every position on the PCC, including Chairman during interregnums, and churchwarden. All of these have been done quietly and modestly, without fuss or fanfare.

Jack first learned to ring in 1946 at the age of 12, being recruited from the church choir as was the norm: all but two of the fourteen choir boys were also ringers. He became Tower Captain in 1955 and held that role for an incredible 63 years. This automatically meant that he assumed the role of steeple keeper. He never considered his roles a burden: he enjoyed them and no-one else was willing to take them on, even into recent years.

On debating whether or not we should half-muffle the bells for an event in the last year, and in the absence of our current steeple keeper, he offered to go up our vertical ladder at the grand age of 87 and stride the gap at the top (which is too big for my own fears to overcome) to do it for us. If any of you has studied the access into our tower, you will understand why I thought it best that we ring open instead.

On being asked whether he would like to ring a quarter peal to celebrate his 75th year of membership, Jack advised that he has only ever rung one quarter peal before and that event, typical of his recognition of the service of others to the church, was to mark the release of Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, from nearly five years as a hostage in the Lebanon.

Jack has taught many a young person to ring, held practice nights at Steventon and attended practice nights at other nearby towers. He can also tell some very entertaining tales of the annual handbell ringing tour of villagers' homes on Boxing Day, accompanied by generous offers of alcohol, from early in the morning to late in the evening. He can also tell of the times when he would chime three bells when short of ringers, one with a rope loop attached to his foot, and a fellow ringer would chime a fourth bell, thus keeping going the ringing for Sunday service.

That sums up Jack's contribution to ringing: a loyal, quiet, dedicated and effective leader, and an outstanding example to the rest of us. This recognition and Jack's standing in the church has the full support and heartfelt thanks of Rev Phil Sutton, Associate Priest with responsibility for Steventon, and the full endorsement of the Local Church Council.

Jeanette Davey
Tower Captain, Steventon



Dan and Joe Gillett of Abingdon with their certificates for successfully completing "Learning the Ropes" to Level 5. Dan and Joe are also ART qualified teachers of bell handing and provide valuable support to the Branch Ringing School.



Debbie Greenfield presenting ART Level 1 Certificates to Tom and Mary Clare Palmer of Drayton.

Young Ringers Practice (12 December 2021 – Drayton)

It was close to Christmas with all the competing parties and events, so we were not surprised when only seven young ringers came, aged between ten and seventeen. Three came from our branch, two from Oxford City and one each from Reading and Vale of White Horse branches. There were ten adults, all ringers, including three parents and three ex-young ringers.

As usual, we rang rounds and call changes, games to test our ability to stand our bells and to ring facing outwards. For our more experienced young ringers we rang plain hunt on seven, grandsire triples and Cambridge minor, with help from some of the adults.

During Daphne's wonderful refreshments we rang Christmas carols on handbells.

Many thanks to Drayton for hosting us.

Susan Read
Old North Berks Branch Training Officer



Young Ringers Practice (9 January 2022 – Longcot)

It was a cold bright day when we met in Longcot. Tony Crabtree had done us proud, providing us not only with the church bells, but with his mini-ring set up inside the church and a miniature set of eight toy handbells plus music for some simple carols.

It was good to meet one young ringer from Longcot we hadn't met before. Altogether there were twelve young ringers including one from Banbury branch, three each from Oxford City and Vale of White Horse branches and five from our branch. Eleven adults were present including two ex-young ringers and including four parents.

As usual, we rang rounds and call changes and games to test our ability to stand our bells. For our more experienced young ringers we rang plain hunt on seven and grandsire triples, with help from some of the adults.

On the mini-ring, all the young ringers attempted to ring them. Three of the most confident young ringers taught themselves to ring double handed and managed reasonable rounds between them.

We took advantage of the eight toy handbells and rang some simple, recognisable carols.

Added into the mix was Daphne's excellent refreshments. Altogether a very happy afternoon with lots of smiles among the young ringers.

Many thanks to Tony for hosting us at Longcot and for providing the much-enjoyed extra activities.

Susan Read
Old North Berks Branch Training Officer



Young Ringers Practice (13 February 2022 – Brightwell)

This month the young ringer practice was at Brightwell – a perfect location for us with good ventilation, a ground floor ring, and excellent kitchen and toilet facilities.

Eleven young ringers attended ranging from 9 to 18 years old. Six of the youngsters were local, from the Old North Berks Branch; three were from the Oxford City Branch and two from the Vale branch.

We rang lots of fun things for the youngest participants including forward and backwards rounds and the ever popular “killer” game. We rang plain bob doubles, grandsire doubles, grandsire triples and stedman triples for the more advanced young ringers (with the help of some of the adult ringers present). And some were challenged by ringing “Twinkle, twinkle little star” and “Westminster Chimes”.

It was a very happy afternoon with lots of smiles and chuckles through the masks. A good way to spend a rainy Sunday afternoon!

Susan Read
Old North Berks Branch Training Officer



Young Ringers Practice (13 March 2022 – Brightwell)

We had planned to go to elsewhere for this practice, but things became complicated because Oxford Botanic Gardens are partnering with the ODG to celebrate their 400th anniversary. They wanted to film and interview some of our young ringers to use on their website. We needed somewhere where they could film easily and came to the conclusion that Brightwell was a far better venue.



There were ten young ringers, three young (under 25) ART teachers to help with the less experienced young ringers and ten adults including parents, tower captains and the member of Oxford Botanic Gardens marketing staff.

As usual, we rang rounds and call changes and games to test our ability to control our bells. For our more experienced young ringers we rang Grandsire and Stedman triples, as well as Cambridge minor with help from some of the adults.

Daphne's excellent refreshments again helped the relaxed atmosphere. Altogether a very happy afternoon with friendships developing among the young ringers. We hope the Oxford Botanic Gardens people were equally happy with the recordings of our young ringers.

Susan Read
Old North Berks Branch Training Officer

Young Ringers Practice (10 April 2022 – Childrey)

A small group of young ringers met at Childrey, a light eight near Wantage with stunning views over the Thames Valley. Ringing varied between ringing games for our youngest ringer and surprise minor. Daphne's excellent refreshments were much appreciated by the young ringers and parents alike.

Susan Read
Old North Berks Branch Training Officer

TOWER BELLS — QUARTER PEALS

Cumnor, 10 September 2021. **1260 Grandsire Doubles**: Christopher Brown 1, Marion Preston 2, Andrew J Dyer (C) 3, Jenny A Dyer 4, Guy F Matthews 5, Michele Winter 6. Rung half muffled in memory of John (Sam) H Sunderland.

Wallingford, 28 November 2021. **1260 Plain Bob Triples**: Karen Walker 1, Wendy Simon 2, Nuala Clements 3, Katherine Parker 4, Daryl Dixon 5, Chris Tuckett 6, Mary Friskney (C) 7, Philip Mills 8. For the Advent Carol Service.

Abingdon, St Helen, 28 November 2021. **1260 Plain Bob Minor**: Joe Gillett 1, Susan Read 2, Hugh Bishop 3, Peter Heritage 4, Daniel Gillett 5, Ryan Mills (C) 6. For Advent.

Abingdon, St Nicolas, 5 December 2021. **1260 Grandsire Doubles** (8 different extents and a 60): Ryan Mills (C) 1, Susan Read 2, Matthew Franklin 3, Joe Gillett 4, Josh Ball 5, Isaac Davies 6. For the patronal festival service. First Q: 6. First of Grandsire: 4.

Blewbury, 10 December 2021. **1260 Grandsire Triples**: Matthew Phillips 1, Rachel K Morrish 2, Jill Garlick 3, Stuart F Gibson (C) 4, Josie S Irving 5, Keith A Osborne 6, John H Napper 7, Peter Corderoy 8. An 80th Birthday compliment to the tenor ringer, 4 hours before his 81st! Also to mark 90 years since the Corderoy family started to ring at Blewbury.

Wallingford, 19 December 2021. **1260 Doubles** (360 St Simon's and Grandsire; 540 Plain Bob): John Hutchinson 1, Nuala Clements 2, Wendy Simon 3, Mary Friskney 4, Chris Tuckett (C) 5, Philip Mills 6. For the Christmas Carol Service.

Cholsey, 12 February 2022. **1260 Plain Bob Minor**: Jenny Jeskins 1, Rebecca Pocock 2, Katherine Parker 3, Nuala Clements 4, Daryl Dixon 5, Chris Tuckett (C) 6. To celebrate 30 years' ministry as Vicar of Cholsey by Andrew Petit on the occasion of his retirement. First quarter at first attempt: 2.

Abingdon, St Helen, 6 February 2022. **1260 Grandsire Doubles**: David Thomas 1, Ryan Mills 2, Margaret Brock 3, Josh Ball 4, Tim Pett (C) 5, Michelle X 6. Rung to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Appleton, 6 February 2022. **1260 Grandsire Triples**: Barbara H Payne 1, Sarah J Ockwell 2, Craig M Robertson 3, Peter H M Day 4, Alan M Eyles 5, David C Ockwell (C) 6, David L Thomas 7, Bernard J Stone 8. To celebrate the 70th Anniversary today of the Accession of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Cumnor, 6 February 2022. **1260 Grandsire Doubles**: Nicholas Speller 1, Christopher Brown 2, Andrew J Dyer (C) 3, Jenny A Dyer 4, Guy F Matthews 5, Matthew Hall 6. To commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Accession to the Throne of HM Queen Elizabeth II. First quarter: 1.

Wallingford, 6 February 2022. **1260 Plain Bob Triples**: Karen Walker 1, Katherine Parker 2, Jo Gamester 3, Nuala Clements 4, Mary Friskney 5, Daryl Dixon 6, Chris Tuckett (C) 7, Philip Mills 8. Rung to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II.

Wallingford, 26 February 2022. **1260 Grandsire Triples**: Katherine Parker 1, Mary Friskney 2, Jo Gamester 3, Nuala Clements 4, Josie Irving 5, Robert Partridge 6, Chris Tuckett (C) 7, Philip Mills 8. Rung to show solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

Abingdon, St Helen, 8 May 2022. **1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major**: Jeanette Thomas 1, Sarah Ockwell 2, Susan Read 3, Brian Read 4, David Thomas 5, Josh Ball 6, Tim Pett (C) 7, Isaac O'Shea 8. First quarter of treble bob major - 1. Remembering Margaret Chapman of Marston Bigot who was well known to most of the band.

Steventon, 17 May 2022. **1260 Grandsire Doubles**: Mary Leneis 1, Jack Jarvis 2, Jeanette Owen 3, Oliver Hyde 4, Stuart F Gibson (C) 5, Richard Binning 6. By members of the Sunday service band to celebrate Jack's 75 years membership (today) of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers. 1st Q - 1 & 6. 1st in Method - 2, 3 & 4. 1st inside - 2. Jack's quote: I couldn't have rung for so long without God's help.

HANDBELLS — QUARTER PEALS

(* Botley is in the Parish of Cumnor)

Botley* (2 Long Close), 11 November 2021. **1260 Plain Minor (3m)**: Michele Winter 1-2, Lindsay Powell 3-4, David L Thomas (C) 5-6. Rung in memory of Bill Butler; on the day of his funeral.

Botley* (2 Long Close), 20 November 2021. **1320 Little Bob Maximus**: Lindsay Powell 1-2, David L Thomas (C) 3-4, Craig M Robertson 5-6, Joe Norton 7-8, Jonathan C Mills 9-10, Michele Winter 11-12. First on 12 real handbells: 5-6.

Botley* (2 Long Close), 20 November 2021. **1344 Kent Treble Bob Maximus**: David L Thomas (C) 1-2, Craig M Robertson 3-4, Jonathan C Mills 5-6, Joe Norton 7-8, Lindsay Powell 9-10, Michele Winter 11-12. First Treble Bob Maximus: 7-8. First Treble Bob Maximus on real handbells for the rest.

Botley* (2 Long Close), 20 November 2021. **1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major**: Lindsay Powell 1-2, Craig M Robertson 3-4, David L Thomas (C) 5-6, Michele Winter 7-8.

Botley* (2 Long Close), 21 December 2021. **1260 Spliced Plain Minor (4m)**: Michele Winter 1-2, Lindsay Powell 3-4, Joe Norton (C) 5-6. Birthday compliment to Jon Mills.

Botley* (2 Long Close), 21 December 2021. **1260 Buxton Bob Minor**: Lindsay Powell 1-2, Michele Winter 3-4, Joe Norton (C) 5-6.

Botley* (2 Long Close), 29 December 2021. **1296 Little Bob Royal**: Lisa Ryan 1-2, John G Pusey 3-4, David L Thomas (C) 5-6, Lindsay Powell 7-8, Michele Winter 11-12. First in method on this pair: 1-2. Rung in memory of David Darby, with the bands best wishes to Christine.

Botley* (2 Long Close), 8 January 2022. **1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major**: Joe Norton 1-2, Craig M Robertson 3-4, David L Thomas (C) 5-6, Michele Winter 7-8. First Surprise Major in hand: 1-2.

Botley* (2 Long Close), 8 January 2022. **1260 St Clement's College Bob Royal:** Joe Norton 1-2, Lindsay Powell 3-4, Craig M Robertson 5-6, David L Thomas (C) 7-8, Michele Winter 9-10. First in method on an inside pair: 3-4.

Botley* (2 Long Close), 8 January 2022. **1260 Grandsire Triples:** Lindsay Powell 1-2, Joe Norton 3-4, Craig M Robertson 5-6, David L Thomas (C) 7-8. First in method in hand for all.

Botley* (2 Long Close), 4 April 2022. **1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major:** Lindsay Powell 1-2, David L Thomas (C) 3-4, Craig M Robertson 5-6, Michele Winter 7-8.

Botley* (2 Long Close), 4 April 2022. **1312 Crayford College Bob Major:** Lindsay Powell 1-2, Craig M Robertson 3-4, David L Thomas (C) 5-6, Michele Winter 7-8. First blows in the method for all. 999th quarter peal: 5-6.

Botley* (2 Long Close) 15 April 2022. **1280 Kent Treble Bob Royal:** Lindsay Powell 102, Michele Winter 3-4, David L Thomas (C) 5-6, Alison T Merryweather-Clarke 7-8, Lisa Ryan 9-10. First on a middle pair: 3-4.

TOWER BELLS — PEALS

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS, **Abingdon, St Helen:** 20 November 2021, 3h6, **5040 Stedman Caters** Comp. R W Lee: David E House 1, Martin J Cansdale 2, Ryan S Noble 3, David G Maynard 4, Robin O Hall 5, Robert W Lee (C) 6, Andrew J Graham 7, Leigh D G Simpson 8, Paul L Carless 9, Andrew P F Bradford 10. 900th peal-length performance and birthday treat for the conductor, whose life begins tomorrow.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton,** 28 November 2021, 2h38, **5088 Bristol Surprise Major:** Cynthia E Howell 1, Simon W Edwards 2, Nicola J Turner 3, Richard L Thumwood 4, Ian Roulstone 5, Timothy G Pett 6, Peter G C Ellis (C) 7, Claire F Roulstone 8. In memory of Canon David H Sansum.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton,** 5 December 2021, 2h28, **5076 Colston Bassett Alliance Major:** Timothy G Pett 1, Cynthia E Howell 2, Nicola J Turner 3, Colin M Turner 4, Michael J Dew 5, Alan M Eyles 6, Richard L Thumwood 7, Peter G C Ellis (C) 8. 1,000th peal for the society – 3.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton,** 13 December 2021, 2h36, **5130 Victoria Garesfield Alliance Major:** Timothy G Pett 1, Cynthia E Howell 2, Nicola J Turner 3, Richard L Thumwood 4, Colin M Turner 5, Claire F Roulstone 6, Peter G C Ellis (C) 7, Robert J Crocker 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton,** 19 December 2021, 2h29, **5040 Xmas Alliance Major:** Peter G C Ellis 1, Alan M Eyles 2, Nicola J Turner 3, Beryl R Norris 4, Charlotte A Boyce 5, Richard L Thumwood 6, Colin M Turner 7, John R Martin (C) 8. In memory of Jim Shepard and Dawn Smith, a former ringer at this tower.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton,** 27 December 2021, 2h34, **5096 Lancashire Alliance Major:** Nicola J Turner 1, Simon W Edwards 2, Richard L Thumwood 3, Ian Roulstone 4, Alan M Eyles 5, Colin M Turner 6, Claire F Roulstone 7, Peter G C Ellis (C) 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 23 January 2022, 2h35, **5130 Jesmond Alliance Major**: Nicola J Turner 1, Colin M Turner 2, Cynthia E Howell 3, Beryl R Norris 4, Charlotte A Boyce 5, Richard L Thumwood 6, John R Martin (C) 7, Alan M Eyles 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 20 February 2022, 2h33, **5096 Dowsby Fen Alliance Major**: Nicola J Turner 1, Claire F Roulstone 2, Alan M Eyles 3, Charlotte A Boyce 4, Richard L Thumwood 5, Michael J Dew 6, John R Martin (C) 7, Colin M Turner 8.

Cholsey, 1 March 2022, 3h4, **5088 Deva Surprise Major**: Nicola J Turner 1, Claire F Roulstone 2, Beryl R Norris 3, Nigel A L Mellor 4, Colin M Turner 5, Robert H Newton 6, Ian G Campbell 7, Timothy G Pett (C) 8.

APPLETON SOCIETY, **Appleton**, 5 March 2022 2h52, **5057 Grandsire Caters**: Michele Winter 1, Gwen Rogers 2, Alan M Eyles 3, David L Thomas 4, David C Ockwell 5, Simon A Bond (Composed and C) 6, Stephen H Stanford 7, Robin O Hall 8, Philip Rogers 9, Alan T Winter 10. On March 4th Day for the 204th anniversary of the bells. Marking also the 150th, 100th and 50th anniversaries of 10,000s of Grandsire Caters rung on these bells.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 20 March 2022, 2h32, **5096 Beagle 2 Alliance Major**: Sally A Brown 1, Nicola J Turner 2, Colin M Turner 3, Robert J Crocker 4, Alan M Eyles 5, Ian Roulstone 6, Peter G C Ellis (C) 7, Claire F Roulstone 8. Remembering Geoff Dodd.

Milton, 6 April 2022, 2h39, **5024 Hughenden Surprise Major**: Patricia M Newton 1, Katharine J Firman 2, Nicola J Turner 3, Colin M Turner 4, Graham G Firman 5, Jack E Page (C) 6, Claire F Roulstone 7, Robert H Newton 8. Arranged to mark the 60th anniversary of the tenor ringer's first peal, Hughenden, 6th April 1962.

APPLETON SOCIETY, **Appleton**, 23 April 2022, 2h58, **5100 Stedman Caters**: Richard L Thumwood 1, John Pladdys (Composed and C) 2, Simon L Edwards 3, Michele Winter 4, Sarah B Ewbank 5, Timothy G Pett 6, Stephen H Stanford 7, Simon W Edwards 8, Simon A Bond 9, Simon D G Webb 10. Arranged and rung to mark the centenary of the then record length peal of Stedman Caters (21,363 changes), rung in this tower on 22nd April 1922. This has since been surpassed twice; once at Appleton and then at Edenham. Circled Tower: 1

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 2h32, 24 April 2022, **5160 Zeppelin Alliance Major**: Nicola J Turner 1, Cynthia E Howell 2, Charlotte A Boyce 3, Katharine J Salter 4, Richard L Thumwood 5, Timothy G Pett 6, John R Martin (C) 7, Colin M Turner 8.

HANDBELLS — PEALS

(* Botley is in the Parish of Cumnor)

OXFORD SOCIETY, **Botley*** (2 Long Close), 2 April 2022 2h17, **5040 Plain Bob Major**: Michele Winter 1-2, Lindsay Powell 3-4, Craig M Robertson 5-6, David L Thomas (C) 7-8. First away from tenors: 1-2. 25th handbell peal: 7-8.

OXFORD SOCIETY, **Botley*** (2 Long Close), 15 April 2022 2h18, **5008 Spliced Major (2m)**: Michele Winter 1-2, Lindsay Powell 3-4, David L Thomas (C) 5-6, John G Pusey 7-8. First Plain and Little Major 7-8. Most methods away from tenors: 1-2.

ONB Branch Outing

Saturday 23rd July 2022

09.45 – 10.30	Weston on the Green (6) (8-0-8) (T) Blessed Virgin Mary (Postcode: OX25 3QS)
11.00 – 12.00	Aynho (8) (16-1-20) (T) St Michael (Postcode: OX17 3BG)
12.15 – 13.30	LUNCH – The Red Lion, Adderbury (Postcode: OX17 3NG) Menu to follow
13.30 – 14.30	Adderbury (8) (24-0-14) (T) St Mary (Postcode: OX17 3LT)
15.00 – 15.45	Sandford St Martin (6) (9 cwt) St Martin (Postcode: OX7 7AG)
	TEA TBC
	Tower TBC

Free Prize Draw for attendees!

Lunch choices to philip.roberts@sky.com or 01235 861409
by ***Saturday 16th July***

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Old North Berks Branch



Barbecue & Croquet



*Join in the fun after the Branch Outing
on*

**Saturday 23rd July 2022
from 7.00pm**

At the home of Stuart and Naomi Gibson

***The Croft
Milton Hill***

(A4130 between A34 Didcot exit and Rowstock)

**£15.00 each (payable on the day)
All proceeds to branch funds**

All names to Gill Loyd by Friday 15th July please



**Telephone: 01235 850459
Email: gillianloyd@gmail.com**



Please note:

Soft drinks will be provided, please bring your own alcohol

Ringling by numbers – Charles Morrish

Like it or not, ringing is a numbers game. Think about it, they crop up everywhere.

The maximum number of changes on 6 bells is 720

A peal is 5040 changes

The treble in Plain Bob follows bells in the order 2,4,6,5,3

The place bell order in Yorkshire is 8,5,2,6,7,3,4

The weight of the heaviest tenor bell is 82cwt

The dodges in Plain Bob are 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 etc.

Some ringers seem to exist for numbers and take great delight in defining what is and isn't legitimate. As a whole, I can't help feeling that the higher echelons of the exercise devote too much attention to the regulation of our hobby. Sometimes it seems that a ringer's worth/standing is measured entirely by totals.

But what about personal statistics? (Fortunately, these aren't in the same obsessive quantity as cricket. I bet if you wanted to know who scored the fastest 50 on the first Thursday in May, someone could tell you, and probably without needing to look it up!) Consider, though that the Ringing World primarily exists to record peals. Many other records are kept by individuals that are never published.

The number of towers visited, peals rung, heaviest tenor bell turned in...

Do any rules or conventions exist?

Can you count 2,3 or 4 bell towers?

If a tower augments from 6 to 8 bells, must you visit again?

If a tower gets a complete new ring of bells, can it be counted twice?

Can you count an 8 bell tower when only 6 bells were rung during the visit?

Do you know, in my view, it really doesn't matter. Decide your own rules. Mine have actually been inconsistent over the years. My 1000th tower can only be regarded as a nominal milestone. Much more important is the act of recording because this provides a source of pleasant memories in years to come.

If you become fixated on chasing numbers, you will miss seeing/hearing/actually enjoying what it was you came for. I learnt that lesson when trying to photograph a steam engine on the Settle and Carlisle line. I was so busy looking through the lens that I never appreciated the magnificence of the loco itself, and then it was gone. Similarly, whilst I am keen to keep my tower total ticking over, organised open days offering 20+ towers represent a very tiring day with little or no lasting memory of where you went. Long term, this is a poor return for boosting an arbitrary bragging right.

I have always recorded the details of my peals, but sadly never my quarter peals. Who knows how many of those I have rung? Of greater regret is that I don't know who they were rung with and why. What seems part of everyday life as the time passes into a faded memory. Things change.

Not wanting to bore anyone, here is a selection of memories generated from my towers list.

Addingham, W. Yorks. In past times, churches had a morning and evening service each Sunday. If there were bells, it was pretty certain that they would be ringing for each service. As a new and inexperienced ringer, I persuaded my Mum and Dad to stop on the way home from walking in the Yorkshire Dales to allow me to ring for Evensong. It was an unannounced visit, but I was made most welcome. Hopefully, I acquitted myself well. Whatever, I had increased my confidence, enjoyed myself and I have been left with a soft spot for the tower.

Alrewas, Tamworth, Barton under Needwood and other Staffordshire towers. I was working in Derby getting industrial experience during the university summer holiday. A ringing friend from Uni lived in Staffordshire and importantly, had a motorbike for transport. He gave me a lift round the area to visit towers he rang at. I was already interested in motorbikes, now I knew I had to have one. This was the start of a long love affair with 2 wheels.

Louth, Lincolnshire. I first rang on this heavy 8 in its wonderful tall tower on a Leeds Branch outing. Some years later Rachel, (then my girlfriend and recently taught to ring, now my wife) accompanied me to a motorcycle race meeting at Cadwell Park. It was Sunday with an early morning trip on the back of my Moto Morini. She remembers being frozen stiff, but it didn't diminish the thrill of ringing there. We had the unexpected bonus of being taken outside onto the parapet of the tower for fabulous views over the countryside.

Downham, Lincs. It's hard for a Yorkshireman to admit this, but Downham is in an idyllic setting nestling below Pendle Hill. We visited late in the afternoon on an autumn day. The bells are a typical country 5 and hard work. It would appear they weren't regularly rung because we had to spend time clearing the ground floor rope circle of flower display stands. I have returned to this village many times. I suggest you go too.

Ackworth, W. Yorks. We had high hopes of a good ring in the church at this historic village. Sadly, it was a struggle to get any semblance of good striking, they were nearly impossible to ring. I'm not rushing back unless work has been done on the bells, but it does prove that not all memorable events are perfect. Life's rich tapestry and all that... I wouldn't change a thing.

Just recently, I concluded it was 50 years ago that I started ringing. Then I came across a sheet of paper detailing the itinerary of my first ringing outing, the one that prompted my lifelong love of such things. It was to North Lincolnshire and dated 24th June 1972. Now, my memory recalls that I started in May, and that I was too inexperienced to be included on the annual outing that summer. This means that I must have started in 1971, the anniversary having been overlooked last year. Oh dear, I really should have written it down at the time!!



Addingham



Downham



Louth



Ackworth

Old North Berks Ringing School - Susan Read

The following are some of the responses received about the ONB Branch Ringing School:

Thanks so much for organising the ringing school. It's such a good opportunity for both learners and teachers. – Teacher from Oxford City Branch

Thank you very much for inviting me to this morning's Bell Ringing Lesson at St Helens Church, Abingdon; I thoroughly enjoyed it and look forward to joining you on future Saturday mornings. – Learner from Childrey

I must also say how much I enjoy my hour at Abingdon on a Sat morning. It is no exaggeration to say it is the highlight of my week! I was so pleased with what I achieved this morning with Debs, that I was walking away from the church about 2 feet off the ground with a big smile!!! Thanks so much! - Learner from Wallingford

The sessions are fantastic! I am so pleased that I was given the opportunity to attend. The coaches give up their own time to help your ringing experience. They are all enthusiastic and really help with all aspects of ringing. It is such a great opportunity to ring and learn from experienced ringers. Each week you can focus on a different aspect of bell ringing and move towards being a confident solo ringer. The sessions have given me so much more confidence and experience, with handling and ringing bells up and down. – Learner from Bicester Branch

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 December 2022 is 18th October 2022. But please don't wait until then, send your news, pictures, and quarters in as they happen.

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Programme for 2022

Friday, 27th May – Branch Practice – Cumnor (8) (2.00–3.30pm)
Wednesday, 1st June – Surprise Major Practice – Drayton (8) (7.30–9.00pm)
Wednesday, 8th June – Branch Practice – Cholsey (8) (8.00–9.30pm)
Wednesday, 22nd June – Branch Practice – Marcham (6) (2.00–3.30pm)
Saturday, 23rd July – Branch Outing & BBQ
Wednesday, 27th July – Branch Practice – Radley (6) (2.00–3.30pm)
Wednesday, 3rd August – Surprise Major Practice – Goring (8) (TBC) (8.00–9.30pm)
Tuesday, 9th August – Branch Practice – Brightwell (8) (7.45–9.15pm)
Wednesday, 24th August – Branch Practice – Blewbury (8) (2.00–3.30pm)
Wednesday, 14th September – Branch Practice – Cumnor (8) (7.30–9.00pm)
Wednesday, 28th September – Branch Practice – Long Wittenham (6) (2.00–3.30pm)
Wednesday, 5th October – Surprise Major Practice – Milton (8) (7.30–9.00pm)
Monday, 10th October – Branch Practice – North Moreton (6) (7.30–9.00pm)
Wednesday, 26th October – Branch Practice – Cholsey (8) (2.00–3.30pm)
Tuesday, 8th November – Branch Practice – East Hagbourne (8) (7.30–9.00pm)
Saturday, 12th November – Barn Dance and Supper in Harwell Village Hall
Wednesday, 23rd November – Branch Practice – Chilton (6) (2.00–3.30pm)
Wednesday, 7th December – Surprise Major Practice – Brightwell (8) (7.30–9.00pm)
Thursday, 8th December – Branch Practice – Harwell (8) (7.30–9.00pm)
Wednesday, 14th December – Branch Practice – Drayton (8) (2.00–3.30pm)

Please note that these practices are provisional and whether or not they take place will be determined by any Covid-19 regulations in place at the time of the proposed practice. Any guidelines/regulations imposed by individual towers will be advised at the time that the practice is advertised.

Please also note that these practices are only being advertised in the Old North Berks Branch for the time being.