



# Old North Berks Branch Newsletter

No: 160

December 2022



**Wantage** — Winners of the Branch Striking Competition on 18th June 2022.

L to R: Jenny, Andy, Dave, Graham, Sarah and Teifi.

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## Editorial

Welcome to the Winter 2022 issue of the Branch Newsletter.

Only three months after ringing took place in June to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II, we were ringing with the bells fully muffled on the death of her Majesty.

Amongst the muffled ringing, 'open' ringing took place to mark the Proclamation of the Accession of HM King Charles III.

You will find an article about the role of the Branch Secretary on p.5. If you are able to help with any part of this, please contact Gill Loyd.

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

Congratulations to Wantage on winning the Branch Striking Competition and representing the Branch at the Guild 6-bell Striking Competition in October.

Congratulations are also due to Charlie Nickless and Elizabeth McNeill who have rung their first Quarter Peal, and Alexander Davies who has rung his first Peal.

Sadly Berice Large, a long term member of Marcham, has passed away recently.

It just remains for me to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

**Daphne Pollard**

## Chairman's Report

I hope that this newsletter finds you and your families well. 2022 has been a busy year with lots of events (bell-ringing and otherwise) that were pushed back due to Covid.

It was encouraging to see many of you at the, well-organised and well-attended, branch striking competition at North Moreton back in June. Well done to all who took part and especially to Wantage who excelled that day. Special thanks to Richard Loyd for his excellent organisation.

September brought the sad news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II and a plethora of ringing as part of Operation London Bridge, for the proclamation of King Charles III, and then again for Queen Elizabeth's funeral. Well done to everyone who rang (and the stalwarts who fitted and refitted muffles in short order) at this historic time; I am sure it is something we will all remember for a long time to come.

The Branch Barn Dance in Harwell was great fun and raised over £300 for Branch funds. A great time was had by all and my thanks go to the Harwell ringers and their families and friends who made the evening such a success.

Finally, I would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I'm looking forward to what 2023 has to offer and to the ringing in celebration of the coronation in May.

**Rob Nickless**

## Secretary's Report

At last a summer more like the 'good old days' before Covid, where all scheduled branch practices have taken place! Attendance at most practices has been good, with seventeen at the recent surprise major practice at Milton. Almost all of our towers rang on the death of the late HM Queen Elizabeth II and for her funeral, and also for the proclamation of King Charles III.

The Branch Ringing School continued, and Susan Read arranged for twelve learners and eight trainee teachers to attend different practice nights each week during the summer. Both the learners and the trainee teachers increased their confidence and ability to ring / run practices. The winter school involves sessions to teach new learners how to handle a bell. These take place on Saturday mornings alternately in Abingdon and Kirtlington.

Sadly I have to report the death of Berice Large, who was a loyal member of Marcham and a very long-standing Guild member. Many of you will remember her happiness in recent years at branch afternoon practices whenever she rang a touch of Stedman. Unfortunately I have very little information about Berice and her ringing life and so, if anyone can supply more details, please can you let Daphne know for inclusion in a future newsletter.

At the Branch Committee Meeting in October our Treasurer, Stuart Gibson, reported that branch membership currently stands at 237 from 25 towers, twelve down on last year. Fund raising during the year has been strong, with the barbecue and outing raising £554, and honey sales yielding £193. The Branch currently has funds totalling £6,400, with no donations to branch restoration projects so far this year. However there is one possible project on the horizon and another likely to go ahead, and donations towards these will need to be discussed and put to the AGM next year.

In June we held our 6-bell striking competition for the first time on a Saturday morning. This was a very successful event at North Moreton, with six teams entering. The results were: 1<sup>st</sup> Wantage (34 faults), 2<sup>nd</sup> Abingdon A (35 faults), 3<sup>rd</sup> Blewbury (45 faults), 4<sup>th</sup> Wallingford (56 faults), 5<sup>th</sup> Abingdon B (58 faults), 6<sup>th</sup> Radley and Steventon (71 faults). Our judges were Keith Osborne from Kent and William Stungo from Berkshire, and we would like to thank them for all their useful comments and for giving their time. The North Moreton ringers and friends provided a superb breakfast during the competition, which was enjoyed by all. The event was so successful we have decided that future competitions will be held on Saturday mornings. Wantage went on to represent the Branch at the Guild's competition and came 5<sup>th</sup> with only 17 faults.

The branch outing took place on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July. This year Philip Roberts took us to Weston on the Green, Aynho, Adderbury, Sandford St. Martin and Stonesfield. Some of us enjoyed lunch at the Red Lion, Adderbury, whilst others took advantage of the summer sunshine and had a picnic al fresco. Afternoon tea was arranged by Janette at Sandford St. Martin. Almost thirty members attended and thanks go to Philip and Janette for all their organisational skills. The outing was followed by a barbecue at the home of Stuart and Naomi Gibson. There were a record number of attendees (almost sixty members, partners and friends). As ever the food was excellent and thanks go to Stuart and Naomi for hosting this popular event for branch members.

By the time you read this the barn dance and supper at Harwell Village Hall, which was long postponed from 2020 and 2021, should have been held on 12<sup>th</sup> November. I really hope that it went well! Our annual New Year's ringing event is scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2023 in Steventon.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Gill Loyd

## **Ringling Masters' Ramblings**

If the wider world seems to be in crisis, the same doesn't appear to be true with local ringing. Branch practice attendance has been encouraging and there is increasing evidence that ringers are returning to not only their own tower, but also going out visiting neighbouring practices in increasing numbers. I also hear of a few 'returning' ringers joining towers after many years of absence. This is all good news and we hope the trend continues through the winter. It is always harder to drag yourself out in the dark evenings, but a warm welcome and a cosy tower make a big difference. After all it could in fact reduce your winter fuel bill and help work off the Christmas waistline!

One of the afternoon branch practices was held at Long Wittenham, giving members an opportunity to ring the recently restored bells. Those who remember these bells will be absolutely blown away by the transformation. They are now a tuneful and easy going 6, a pleasure to ring and a world apart from how they were! Well done to the Long Wittenham ringers, and especially Julia Sargent who spearheaded the project through very difficult times. This also showcases the fantastic skills of Mark Walker and the Whites team who can tune and restore bells to very fine modern standards. We are very lucky to have their expertise on our doorstep.

Talking of which, after the Long Wittenham project we were anticipating a period of calm in terms of bell restorations within our branch. How wrong we were! In the potential pipeline following discussions at the committee meeting are North Moreton (augmentation to 8), Sparsholt (rehang and augmentation to 6), East and West Hendred (rehang), and even the possible reversal of the disabling of full circle ringing at Ardington. Sadly, the initial optimism we had for a full restoration of the derelict Culham bells seems to have faded.

This is a very exciting situation. Our branch has an enviable record for taking care of our bells, and if we continue on this path we will eventually run out of work. That would be a nice problem to have. Having good easy going bells and a comfortable ringing chamber are vital first steps for the sustainability of ringing, and creating a local community team. We do hope that members will help to support all of these extremely worthwhile projects in our branch in the coming years.

Finally, we must mention our appreciation to everyone who rose to the significant challenges of ringing for the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Proclamation of King Charles III. No doubt ringing for the Coronation will be somewhat easier to organise.

Please maintain your enthusiasm, and we hope to see you at the branch practices or social events soon. Happy Christmas and a fun New Year to you all.

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

Last night I dreamt that I was swimming in a lot of orange pulp. When I awoke, I realised that it was just a "fanta sea".

Why do you not trust an atom? Because they make up everything!

**Richard Loyd and Philip Roberts**

## Branch Advanced Practices

The eagle eyed among you might have already noticed some new additions to the calendar for 2023. At a recent very well attended branch surprise major practice, we had a discussion. It was decided that the six Surprise Major practices should remain to cater for those who have little other opportunity to maintain their skills. However it was also thought that there was a need for 'Advanced' practices. These will be aimed at those branch members who have moved beyond plain courses of Plain Bob and Grandsire into more complicated methods and touches, but who are perhaps not quite ready to ring surprise methods. These Advanced practices will be designed for those at an interim level of method skills, and would include methods such as Stedman, St Clements, Kent Treble Bob, Cambridge Surprise, Double Court Minor, Double Norwich Court Bob Major and other six and eight bell methods. We have therefore decided to trial an additional five practices in the coming year for branch members at this skill level. Gill has arranged these, and you will see them on the branch calendar in this issue. I would encourage tower captains to identify ringers who you feel will enjoy and benefit from this type of ringing. Of course, we will also need our most experienced and capable ringers to support these practices in order to provide the best opportunities. We will see how they go, but please mark your diaries and talk to your rising skill ringers about these. Thank you.

**Richard Loyd and Philip Roberts**

## Branch Secretary Role

It is now 18 years since I was elected Branch Secretary (doesn't time fly when you are having fun!). Now that I am getting a little older and certainly more grey, I have started to think about the size of this role and the amount of time that it all takes. Not a lot if you say it quickly, but I do feel that the time has come to split the role into three positions.

1. Traditional Branch Secretary Role: arranging business meetings, taking minutes; writing reports for the Guild Annual Report, Odd Bob and the Branch newsletter; dealing with correspondence to and from the Guild / branch members.
2. Branch Practices Planner:
  - Annually: liaising with the Joint Ringing Masters in the autumn to plan practices, then arranging practices for the next year to be advertised in the December newsletter
  - Monthly: advertising forthcoming afternoon and evening practices, and bi-monthly surprise major/royal and advanced practices.
3. Social Events Planner: organising and advertising New Year's Day ringing and refreshments, the April mini outing, the autumn social; advertising and helping with the barbecue; advertising the branch outing.

Being one of life's administrators, I would be happy to continue as Branch Secretary (role 1) unless, of course, anyone else would like to take on this position. However I would not continue in roles 2 and 3 after the 2023 AGM in March.

The good news is that I am aware of one branch member who has kindly offered to be considered for the role of Social Events Planner (role 3). Therefore we are looking for a branch member to take on the role of Branch Practices Planner (role 2). All practices for 2023 have already been arranged and so it will initially only require the monthly advertising of practices from March 2023.

If anyone is interested in any of these roles, you are very welcome to contact me for more information by emailing [gillianloyd@gmail.com](mailto:gillianloyd@gmail.com).

**Gill Loyd**

## TOWER TALK

### Appleton

We celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in the Village with a variety of events including a peal of 5070 Royal (Platinum Alliance and Cambridge Surprise) rung on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sadly, in September we tolled the tenor to mark the passing of Her Majesty, and while we couldn't get enough ringers to ring a half-muffled peal, we did manage to ring a half-muffled quarter peal.

Sylvia Harrison resigned from being Tower Secretary in the summer – many thanks from all the tower members are due to her for undertaking this job for over 20 years; David Ockwell has taken the job on. Sylvia and Michael are about to move to Northamptonshire to be nearer their daughter and grandchildren – between them, they have been tower members for over 100 years – quite a feat! We will miss them, wish them well with the move and hope they will come back and see us from time to time.

We continue to ring for two Evensong services a month (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>) and are planning a recruitment campaign as we need more ringers and we would like to restart practices soon.

**Michele Winter**

### Blewbury

Friday practices have started up again in earnest, and we sometimes get as many as 15 ringers when visitors come. Thank you to our regular and not quite so regular visitors, you really do make a difference to what we can ring.

In June we rang to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II and then in September we rang on the sad occasion of her death, and for the proclamation of the new monarch, HM King Charles III.

When Operation London Bridge was put into action, both the tower captain and the steeple keeper were away on their holidays. Luckily, everyone remaining pulled together. There was a flurry of activity, and a few days of texts and emails. Thank you so much to Rob Nickless and his son Charlie for stepping in and offering to fit, turn and then refit the muffles, and help with all the associated ringing up and down, as well as doing the same in their home tower of North Moreton. Thanks also to the experienced members of our tower for their help and advice with this and to the regular ringers at each tower for travelling between them to ensure that both could ring to mark the death of the Queen, the proclamation of the King, and for the Queen's funeral.

**Christine Kowalczuk**

### Brightwell

We have been quite fortunate at St Agatha's - not only to have such lovely bells, but also to have supportive neighbours and enough regular ringers to ring for most Sunday services - usually on 5 or 6 bells, but sometimes just 2 or 3. Our Tuesday practices have also been generally well supported, with regular help from Wallingford and other visitors.

We were able to ring all 8 bells by our own local band for the funeral of HM Queen on 19<sup>th</sup> September. This included 96 changes of Queens (fully muffled, with the tenor half-muffled), as well as some general ringing and some tolling. Indeed, our two young learners were able to toll the treble 60 times each, under the careful eye (and helping hand) of Rev. Kevin. We also rang / tolled on the day of her death and for the accession/proclamation.

Prior to that (on 19<sup>th</sup> July) we had achieved a ring of 840 Plain Bob Doubles - a belated celebration of the platinum jubilee. This was a first for everyone in the band (and probably our only 840). Details are in the Miscellaneous Performances section.

On a more parochial note, I am pleased to report a successful quarter and peal in memory of Roy Thorpe (RIP). On the day of the first anniversary of his death (24<sup>th</sup> July), we rang 1,260 Plain Bob Doubles (with the help of our friends at Wallingford) here at St Agatha's. See details in the list of quarters.

For the anniversary of his burial, we rang a peal (with the help of friends from the branch) on 10<sup>th</sup> August. This was 5,056 Plain Bob Major, poignantly being the same method and composition, with the same conductor as Roy's last peal. And I am delighted to report that this was his first peal at his first attempt for Alex Davies, one of our local ringers. The full details are in the list of peals. It was also one occasion where locals commended us for the ringing - and were moved that it was for Roy - a well-known and loved figure in the village.

Aside from those special rings, we have hosted the Young Ringers' practices a couple of times and had a handful of visiting bands. It is a pleasure to hear all 8 of our bells being rung (well) on such occasions. And it's also pleasing to be told how nice our bells are!

**John Dowling**

## **Cholsey**

We rang for the Queens Funeral on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> September. We were unable to ring a quarter peal but managed to ring fully muffled for over half an hour.

We muffled the two lightest Bells by covering the clappers with thick socks

Since Covid has calmed down we have started going out to visit other Towers which our learners have enjoyed.

**Jenny Jeskins**



Those who rang at Cholsey for Her Majesty's Funeral



## East Hagbourne

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May, Laura organised a Hagbourne tower ringing outing which involved a visit and ring at three towers in the local area. There were 13 ringers on the outing including learners and more experienced ringers. Our last tower of the day was in Wantage and following our ring the group gathered in a local pub garden near the church for refreshments which included beer, soft drink, tea and even a hot chocolate.

We held a quarterly meeting of HSCR on Tuesday 7th June in the tower, the meeting was well attended with 10 members and 3 non-members.

Despite the very hot weather, the bells have been rung at St Andrews tower for practices and for services throughout July and August although on one Tuesday evening they rang the bells for just an hour for practice due to the HOT weather!

**DISAPPOINTING** Sadly the Duck Race had to be cancelled on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August as the stream did not have enough water in it for the ducks to swim down. They will go back into training and hopefully will be back next year!!

We rang for five weddings during the summer months, the first being that of our Tower Keeper's daughter in early May. The wedding on 6th August was that of the eldest daughter of one of our ringers, Janet Corderoy.

We were all shocked and sadden to hear that our Queen, Elizabeth II, passed away peacefully on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September. Details of what bell towers and ringers were to do on the event of the death of her Majesty had been kept in the tower and therefore needed to be put into action, in accordance with the relevant directive in the Operation London Bridge Plan. Several of our ringers were away on 8<sup>th</sup> September, including our Tower Keeper, John Napper. After a few phone calls and with the aid of John's sister Joy, our second set of bell muffs were located. The bells needed to be fully muffled with the exception of the tenor, which is only muffled on one side. All the other bell clappers had to have two muffles on them, one on each side. A big thank you to Daniel, our deputy Tower Keeper and Alan Foster for getting the bells down and putting the muffles on. Alan tolled the tenor bell 96 times at midday on Friday 9th September. Jeff Powell, our chairman, sent out an e-mail to all of our ringers inviting them to ring the bells for 30 minutes on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 11:00. There were more than 14 ringers in the tower that morning.

Practice night was cancelled on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September.

The bells were rung for the pet service on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September

About 14 ringers came to ring the bells for 30 minutes at 10:00 for the Queen's State Funeral on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September; this enabled those who rang the bells time to get home to watch the funeral at 11:00. This was an historic moment because the bells are only rung fully muffled on the death of a Monarch.

We decided that on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, our practice night, that we would ring them muffled but would ring them down at the end of the practice to remove all the muffles.

**Queen Elizabeth II R.I.P God Bless her.**

**God save the King.**

We held our tower quarterly meeting on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October following a shortened ringing practice. The meeting was due to be held on the first Tuesday of October but unfortunately there were too many members unavailable so the meeting was moved to the second Tuesday in October.

Ringer's Sunday took place on Sunday 23rd October, the bells were rung for the Ringer's Even-song at 6:00. A big thank you to Fr Jason for taking such a lovely relaxed and enjoyable service and for playing the organ for the bellringing hymns, the service was followed by light refreshments. At 5:00 an horrendous thunderstorm swept through the village so a big thank you to those who turned out to support this service in such awful conditions.



We rang the bells half muffled on Remembrance Sunday and left the muffles on for the practice on the Tuesday evening.

Handbell practices are under way ready for the Christmas Tree Festival and the group are hoping to perform in the afternoon on the second Saturday of the festival, 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**Shirley Goss**

## **Milton**

The most exciting thing to happen recently was our outing, which was in the Witney and Woodstock Branch on 26<sup>th</sup> July. We rang at four towers, Church Hanborough, Freeland, Stonesfield and Wootton. All of these towers were something of a novelty to our two youngsters, Emily & Matthew, as this was the first time they had encountered a spiral staircase. We had some good ringing and enjoyed tea and cake at Freeland. A photograph of the group may be found below. Before the end of the School holidays Emily and Matthew also had a trip to Radley on their practice night, experiencing a different type of staircase.

It has been good to be able to welcome visiting bands back once again, we have also rung for two weddings. Amongst the visitors were the ODG Youth ringers and the Bradfield Course.

Several peals have, as usual, been rung. Details of these can be found elsewhere.

We are delighted to announce the birth of Peter, son of Megan and Oliver Bardsley, who arrived on 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov, his picture is also below.

**Colin Turner**



## **North Moreton**

Like many bell ringers across the country, the death of Queen Elizabeth II was marked by the ringers of All Saints, North Moreton.

On the day following the Queen's death, the six bells were rung fully muffled, with the tenor half muffled. A magical sound. The following day (Saturday 10 September) the bells were rung open to mark the proclamation of King Charles III.

The bells, again muffled, were rung on the morning of 19<sup>th</sup>, the day of Queen Elizabeth's funeral, to give as many ringers as possible the opportunity to ring. None of us had rung with bells fully muffled before and this was followed by a successful quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles later that day, in commemoration of her majesty.

With only four ringers in the village, we are indebted – as always – to other members of the Branch, who shared their time and skills over this period and we thank them.



The photo shows Charlie Nickless with his dad, Rob fixing the muffles. They were on for the Friday, off for the proclamation on Saturday and on again for the funeral ringing. Well done both!

**Beryl Jones**



Now where did we leave the horses? Two lost cowboys in the wilds of Oxfordshire, enjoying a barn dance, or possibly a 'Hoe Down'. Charlie Nickless and Richard Loyd having a wonderful time, one evening in November.

## **Radley**

Sunday and Thursday practice ringing continues as usual.

To celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II, a short piece of ringing took place on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June to coincide with the Service of Thanksgiving being held at St Paul's. Also to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, a Quarter Peal was rung on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June (details are in the Miscellaneous and QP sections).

Like the majority of other towers, we rang on the sad occasion of the death of Queen Elizabeth II. The Tenor was tolled, half-muffled, for one hour from 12 noon on the day following her death, and then on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September, a Quarter of PB Doubles was attempted but failed after 720 changes (details in the Miscellaneous section). This was rung fully muffled, with the tenor open at backstroke, before the funeral service of Her Majesty.

We also rang before the Service of Thanksgiving for our Churchwarden who sadly died from Cancer, after a very short illness.

A half-muffled quarter peal was rung on Remembrance Sunday.

The Branch afternoon practice was held at Radley in July with only 8 people attending. Visiting ringers from the Bradfield Course also visited on 19<sup>th</sup> August, and we have also rung for two weddings, and a funeral (ringing both before and after the service was requested!).

**Daphne Pollard**

## Sparsholt



The bells at Sparsholt Church are rung relatively infrequently at the moment; however, they were recently rung in celebration of the Proclamation of King Charles III and muffled bells were rung in mourning for the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. Currently, fund raising is underway to support the renovation of the bell tower and to augment the current four bells up to a set of six.

**Hedley French**

## Steventon

We were able to ring all bells half-muffled, or toll the tenor half-muffled, or chime the tenor for the death of our beloved Queen, on three days and both Sundays.

For almost all of our ringing, we owe huge thanks to ringers from other towers, who have come in to help us on a range of fronts. We've been able to ring almost every Sunday due largely to help from Oliver and Daphne from Radley and Stuart from Chilton. We're very grateful, as are our Associate Vicar Phil and the congregation, so many thanks to each of you. We're also very grateful to Charles who has worked with Bob on the maintenance of the bells. Thanks are also due to Richard and Gill Loyd, who help with ringing and teaching whenever they can, and to all other passing helpers, including Christine and Helen from Blewbury and Katie from Bristol, who married a local and for whom we were able to open up our ringing chamber to their ringing friends.

Our band may be increased a bit in the future because we've got quite a bit of interest in learning to ring from locals in the village. A lot of that is due to the fact that we're so visible as a team, ringing as we do in our main entrance door within the body of the church. Three learners from two families are currently being taught from scratch and two others have had lessons in the last few months, but are having a break from being taught for various reasons. Another couple of families would like to have a go. It's all very encouraging because we haven't had a recruitment drive: we just drip-feed info about what we're doing into the village newsletter and Facebook pages and it's easy for locals to come and watch for important civic occasions, whether standing outside or in. We will ring half-muffled on four occasions during Remembrance Week, to complement the village History Society's week-long exhibition about those villagers who fell in the two World Wars.

We look forward to seeing you all when we again host the branch ringing get-together on 2nd January 2023. Wrap up warm, just in case we have to keep some of the doors open to maximise the ventilation! We'll also be warming you up with soup, sarnies and cake! All are welcome.

**Jeanette Owen**

## Sunningwell

Sunday ringing has resumed at Sunningwell. However, on account of the unavailability of some of the previous (i.e. pre-covid) ringers, the bells are not rung on every Sunday, rather just on those Sundays when an adequate band can be assembled. Ringing at weddings has continued, thanks to valued assistance from neighbouring towers, in particular Radley.

Sunningwell continues to be visited by other ringers, both as part of externally organized ringing courses and by Bands wishing to ring quarter or full peals.

**Mike Wykes**

## Wallingford

We have continued with our weekly practice as well as Sunday ringing and on occasions have managed to ring changes on 10. The goal of a quarter peal of Caters has been set for 2023! We successfully rang quarter peals to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee in June, and for the various events at the time of the death of the Queen and the accession of the new King. The band has stayed committed and loyal, and we are delighted that two ringers have returned to the fold and have restarted to ring with us.

**Chris Tuckett**

## Wantage

Along with our regular Sunday morning ringing and Tuesday Practice nights where we have anything between 6 and 11 ringers, we have been quite active since the last newsletter.

On 1<sup>st</sup> June we rang for the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. This was general ringing that included 70 changes of Queens.

We participated in the Branch 6 Bell Striking Competition on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June at North Moreton. We won the competition ringing Grandsire Doubles. The morning set up for the competition seemed to work well and the bacon and sausage sandwich breakfast laid on by the locals was a great bonus.

Our new Vicar came in July and we rang for her installation service. We successfully scored a Quarter Peal of Grandsire Doubles prior to her first service on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July.

In August one of our own (Dick Peters) celebrated a significant birthday. As his family were visiting, we welcomed them to our practice night so Dick could ring in a band that included his son and grandson. This also included his granddaughter who has only been learning since March. As this was the first time that Dick had rung with her, he called the changes. A fitting way to celebrate with three generations of one family all ringing together.

4 of us shared tolling 96 times for the death of Queen Elizabeth II on 9<sup>th</sup> September. We rang an open (un-muffled) Quarter Peal of Plain Bob Doubles on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September following the Mayor's Proclamation for King Charles in Wantage Market place that afternoon. We were very pleased to have been included on the Mayor's social media platforms and are grateful for the joined-up communication between his office, ourselves and the Church at this time. 9 of us then participated in half muffled general ringing on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September prior to the State Funeral.

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October our team took part in the Guild 6 Bell Striking Competition Finals held at Shaw-cum-Donnington on a very lovely sunny afternoon. We did ourselves proud considering we ring a 21cwt 8 and the competition bells were a 7cwt 6. We came 5<sup>th</sup> with 17 faults, very closely behind the winners who got 10 faults, the next team got 14, and joint 3<sup>rd</sup> place got 16.5. So we were pleased with ourselves.

Due to illness and other commitments we had to cancel our summer outing day, also the fact that the temperature was going to exceed 33 wasn't going to help. We aim to reschedule that for next year. We have had some request from Scouts and Guides and are in the process of producing a plan for visitors to the church and tower, which can hopefully take place early next year.

**Jenny Bennett**

## 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/>

### Other resources

Various resources:

<https://www.whittingsociety.org.uk/articles/articles.html>

## RINGING RECOVERY

The Steering Group of this National initiative, after due consideration, advised in July 2022 that the role of the Survival and Recovery Group had run its course. Whilst nationally the group has closed, there remained some follow-up from the Branch survey to address. Where towers identified the need for extra ringers on Sundays, help at practices and with recruitment, a meeting took place with the Branch Ringing Masters, raising awareness of the needs of individual towers.

For those towers hoping to recruit more members, one tower was recently successful in attracting six learners, two of whom had already learnt to ring! In case it is helpful, below is the text for the poster used which could be easily customized for your tower.

*Jenny Dyer*

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

**Learn to Ring in **insert the name of your church****

**It's fun, friendly and free!**

- Be part of a great English tradition
- Most people can ring (minimum age **insert age**)
- It's good for upper body strength and fitness
- Start gently with trained instructors
- You don't need to be musical

**To find out more:**

Pop along to a **insert day of the week** practice 7.30-9pm

Contact us at **add tower website link here**

**Include a photo of your  
tower/ringers here, plus a  
QR code that links to your  
tower's website.**

## Recruitment

In Abingdon, we make a special effort to recruit young people to learn to ring and hold a practice after school on Fridays for 10 – 18 year old school-children with the help of three of our former youngsters who are now accredited ART teachers. We vary in success with some young people going on to join the adult team and others deciding it isn't for them, but on the whole it has been a worthwhile way of recruiting.

In the summer, one of our adult ringers pointed out that we weren't doing anything to attract adults into ringing in Abingdon. We run the Branch Ringing School which gives extra handling lessons for learners from in and around our branch on Saturday mornings from October to March each year, but almost none of the learners were from our tower. It was a wake-up call for me and I thought about it.

How would we go about teaching adults if anyone did want to learn to ring with us?

We could use the Ringing School to help them learn to ring, but they would need to learn with our own band too and we take it as read that snatching the odd 10 minutes during a normal practice night is not a good way to teach handling. But it does integrate the learners into the band. We came to the conclusion that if we taught for around half an hour before our practice and allowed an overlap of say fifteen minutes as the other ringers arrived, it might work. We already have five or six ART trained teachers in the band and they would probably agree to come to practices early and teach. A sort of plan!

But how would we find people interested in ringing? I was idly looking at my phone and at a social media website "NextDoor" where local people post messages about lost cats, outgrown children's clothes for sale, etc. I wondered if that might be a way to find one or two learners. Without much thought, I put a short notice there:

"Would you like to start ringing church bells? We're starting teaching a group of people who are interested to see if they like ringing. Teaching starts soon at St Helen's in Abingdon. Contact me for more information."

The website asked for a photo. Luckily I had a photo of the band who rang for the proclamation of the new king on my phone so posted that with the notice.

Within a day there were four responses from people interested. Within three days there were four more. We invited them all for a taster session at 7 pm at our tower and ended up holding three taster sessions / ringing lessons on successive weeks, and it looks like those lessons will continue for now.

Our taster sessions worked like this: We introduced them to all the teachers. We showed them the bells and explained how they worked with the clapper stays already on and someone primed to ring a bell up and down again with a few strokes and setting in between. Afterwards each person was allocated a teacher and given a short lesson in ringing. We explained the suggested lesson plan at the tower and the Ringing School. We showed them the ART Ringer's Personal Progress Logbook. We introduced them to the rest of the band and the visitors to the rest of the band. We gave out information about the Ringing School. And four of the newcomers completed the enrolment form and asked to come again!

We now have six new learners including those four, varying in age between perhaps 30 and 65. Five were women. Two were born overseas and have English as their second language. We are really happy and hope that they will continue to enjoy their time in the tower with us.

Of those who didn't take up ringing, one was 88 and worried about climbing so many steps; one was already really busy playing in a brass band; one hadn't realised it would be such a big commitment of his time and one had been volunteered by a friend and backed out without ever meeting us.



Overall, finding the people turned out to be the easiest part. The hard work starts now with making sure we give them all a really good experience of ringing and ringers!

**Susan Read, Abingdon**



Susan Read presenting Abingdon learners, Crispin (on the left) and Simon (pronounced the French way), with their ART Bell Handling certificates.



**Branch Striking Competition — Saturday 18 June 2022 — North Moreton**



Abingdon 'A'



Abingdon 'B'



Blewbury



Steventon / Radley



Wallingford



Wantage



Our Chairman, Rob Nickless,  
presenting the Winners Trophy  
to Dave Endacott MBE of  
Wantage.





Branch BBQ — 23 July 2022



## Branch Barn Dance — 12 November 2022

The barn dance and supper was a great success, with over 60 attending. Ticket sales, a raffle and bar takings raised £337 for branch bell restoration projects. Thanks go to the excellent band, Jigworks, and their caller, and to the Harwell ringers and friends for providing a superb supper for everyone.



Bridget, Janette and Anita with the crumbles ready to serve.

## TOWER BELLS — QUARTER PEALS

**Wallingford**, 22 May 2022. **1288 Grandsire Triples**: Karen Walker 1, Katherine Parker 2, Jo Gamester 3, Nuala Clements 4, Josie Irving 5, Mary Friskney (C) 6, Chris Tuckett 7, Philip Mills 8. For Evensong and to celebrate the recent marriage of Alice (daughter of Karen) to John and to welcome Trudy, newest grandchild of Jo.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION, **Abingdon, St Nicolas**, 28 May 2022. **1299 Grandsire Doubles**: Helen Mansley 1, Jack Aylward 2, Louise C Palmer 3, David AC Matthews (C) 4, Matthew Dawson 5, Adam Bennett 6. Rung to celebrate the marriage of Katie and Magnus and to wish them much happiness for the future.

**Abingdon, St Nicolas**, 3 June 2022. **1260 Grandsire Doubles**: Dan Gillet 1, Joe Gillett 2, Margaret Brock 3, Ryan Mills (C) 4, Jeanette Thomas 5, Michelle X 6. Rung to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM The Queen. Circled tower to quarters - 5. This performance is linked to the event The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022.

**Blewbury**, 3 June 2022. **1260 Grandsire Triples**: Mandy Winters 1, Jill Garlick 2, Stuart Gibson 3, Josie Irving 4, Gillian Loyd 5, Mark Vincent (C) 6, Richard Loyd 7, Matthew Phillips 8. To celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

**Marcham**, 3 June 2022. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Isaac Davies 1, Joe Gillett 2, Daniel Gillett 3, Brian Read (C) 4, Josh Ball 5, Elizabeth McNeill 6. First Quarter – 6; First on Treble – 1. This performance is linked to the events Platinum Jubilee Weekend Celebrations and The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022.

**Wallingford**, 3 June 2022. **1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major**: Jennifer Ellis 1, Janet Menhinick 2, Tim Pett 3, Katie Lane 4, Robert Partridge 5, James Champion 6, Peter Ellis (C) 7, Chris Tuckett 8. To mark the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

**Wallingford**, 5 June 2022. **1260 Plain Bob Triples**: Karen Walker 1, Wendy Simon 2, Katherine Parker 3, Nuala Clements 4, Mary Friskney 5, John Dowling 6, Chris Tuckett (C) 7, Philip Mills 8. To celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

**Radley**, 9 June 2022. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Charlie Milward 1, Alban Walker 2, Ann Belcher 3, Mark Walker (C) 4, Oliver Hyde 5, Maurice Belcher 6. First 'inside': 2. Rung to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

**Abingdon, St Helen**, 26 June 2022. **1344 Yorkshire Surprise Major**: Daniel Gillett 1, Isobel L Fray 2, Craig Robertson 3, Christopher I Griggs 4, Peter Heritage 5, Jonathan C Mills 6, David Thomas 7, Ryan Mills (C) 8. Arranged and rung as a send-off for the conductor as he moves to Yorkshire on Tuesday. First QP of treble bob major – 1. 150th quarter peal on tower bells – 2. For evensong

**Chilton**, 5 July 2022. **1260 Plain Bob Minor**: Philip Roberts 1, Debbie Greenfield 2, Bridget Taylor 3, Helen Sharpe 4, Alex Sharpe 5, Nick Clark (C) 6. A quarter peal with friends in memory of Bridget's daughter, Martha.

**Wallingford**, 10 July 2022. **1260 PB Minor**: John Hutchinson 1, Nuala Clements 2, Katherine Parker 3, Wendy Simon 4, John Dowling 5, Mary Friskney (C) 6. For Evensong and remembering with affection Helen Diserens and Roy Thorpe, who both died in July last year.



**Brightwell**, 24 July 2022. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Katherine Parker 1, Josephine Butterfield 2, Mary Friskney 3, John Dowling 4, Kevin Beer (C) 5, John Hutchinson 6. In memory of Roy Thorpe (long time tower captain and church member), on the first anniversary of his death.

**Wantage**, 24 July 2022. **1260 Grandsire Doubles**: David Endacott MBE 1, Jenny Bennett 2, Teifi Walters 3, Sarah Macdonell 4, Andy Bennett (C) 5, Graham Stoter 6. Rung to welcome Rev Katherine Magdalene Price as the new Vicar of Wantage, the first female Vicar of the parish. Dick Peters, Robert Haine and Celia Leeson-Cox wish to be associated with this quarter.

**Wallingford**, 9 September 2022. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Nuala Clements 1, Karen Walker 2, Katherine Parker 3, Mary Friskney 4, Chris Tuckett (C) 5, Philip Mills 6. Rung half-muffled on the back 6. In memory of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

**Wallingford**, 10 September 2022. **1260 Plain Bob Triples**: John Hutchinson 1, Alexander Davis 2, Karen Walker 3, Nuala Clements 4, Katherine Parker 5, Mary Friskney 6, Chris Tuckett (C) 7, Philip Mills 8. For the Proclamation of the Accession of HM King Charles III.

**Wallingford**, 11 September 2022. **1260 Plain Bob Triples**: John Hutchinson 1, Alexander Davies 2, Nuala Clements 3, Daryl Dixon 4, Katherine Parker 5, Mary Friskney 6, Chris Tuckett (C) 7, Philip Mills 8. Rung half-muffled before a memorial service for HM Queen Elizabeth II.

**Wantage**, 11 September 2022. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Graham Stoter 1, Jenny Bennett 2, Teifi Walters 3, David Endacott MBE 4, Andy Bennett (C) 5, Sarah Macdonell 6. Rung open in celebration following the Proclamation by the Mayor of Wantage of the Accession of King Charles III to the throne, in the Market Place earlier this afternoon.

**Appleton**, 15 September 2022. **1260 Grandsire Triples**: Peter W Spain 1, Sarah J Ockwell 2, Catherine M A Lane 3, Michele Winter 4, Rosanna Cretney 5, David C Ockwell (C) 6, Peter H M Day 7, David K Barrington 8. Rung half-muffled in Memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

**North Moreton**, 19 September 2022. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Helen Aitkins 1, Gillian Loyd (C) 2, Rachel Morrish 3, Christine Kowalczyk 4, Richard Loyd 5, Rob Nickless 6. In memoriam HM Queen Elizabeth II on the day of her funeral. Rung fully muffled with the tenor half muffled.

**Wallingford**, 9 October 2022. **1260 PB Triples**: John Hutchinson 1, Jo Gamester 2, Karen Walker 3, Nuala Clements 4, Chris Tuckett 5, John Dowling 6, Mary Friskney (C) 7, Philip Mills 8. For Harvest Festival Evensong.

**North Moreton**, 12 November 2022. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Charlie Nickless 1, Gillian Loyd 2, Christine Kowalczyk 3, Richard Loyd 4, Charles Morrish (C) 5, Rob Nickless 6. Rung half-muffled for Remembrance. 1st quarter peal at first attempt 1.





**Radley**, 13 November 2022. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Charlie Milward 1, Alban Walker 2, Ann Belcher 3, Jonathan Mills 4, Mark Walker (C) 5, Oliver Hyde 6. Rung half-muffled for Remembrance Sunday.

**Wallingford**, 13 November 2022. **1260 Doubles (2m)**: Karen Walker 1, Nuala Clements 2, Katherine Parker 3, Wendy Simon 4, Mary Friskney (C) 5, Philip Mills 6. Half-muffled before the Evening Service on Remembrance Sunday. Remembering Pat Berry, whose funeral was earlier in the week. Pat was widow of Jack Berry, tower captain at Wallingford for many years.

## HANDBELLS — QUARTER PEALS

(\* Botley is in the Parish of Cumnor)

**Abingdon, St Helen** (Ringing Chamber), 26 June 2022. **1296 Spliced Surprise Minor (5m)**: Lindsay Powell 1-2, Craig M Robertson 3-4, David L Thomas (C) 5-6. First including Alnwick and Newcastle in hand for all.

**Abingdon, St Helen** (Ringing Chamber), 26 June 2022. **1272 Surprise Minor (2m)**: Lindsay Powell 1-2, Craig M Robertson 3-4, David L Thomas (C) 5-6. First in these methods in hand for all.

## MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES

**Radley**, 3 June 2022. **420 Pl Bob Doubles**: Daphne Pollard 1, Oliver Hyde 2, Ann Belcher 3, Charlie Milward 4, Mark Walker (C) 5, Maurice Belcher 6. Rung to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II and coincide with the Service of Thanksgiving being held at St Paul's.

**Abingdon, St Helen**, 5 June 2022. **70 Queen's Change Royal**: Susan Read 1, Tim Pett 2, Margaret Brock 3, Jeanette Thomas 4, Priscilla Morris 5, Brian Read 6, Josh Ball 7, Sophie Martin 8, Ryan Mills 9, Michelle X 10. Rung to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. This performance is linked to the events Platinum Jubilee Weekend Celebrations and The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022.

**Abingdon, St Nicolas**, 5 June 2022. **Call Changes, Bob Doubles, Cambridge Minor**: Brian Read, Daniel Gillett, Elizabeth McNeill, Hugh Bishop, Isaac Davies, Joe Gillett, Josh Ball, Margaret Brock, Michelle X, Priscilla Morris, Reg Sidlow, Samuel Fuentes, Simon Fuentes, Susan Read, Tim Pett. Ringing to accompany the throwing by Town Councillors of five thousand buns from the roof of the County Hall to citizens in the Market Place, thus following an over 400-year custom to celebrate Royal events. This performance is linked to the events Platinum Jubilee Weekend Celebrations and The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022.

**Brightwell**, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022. **840 Plain Bob Doubles**: Josephine Butterfield 1, John Dowling 2, Alexander Davies 3, Amelie Wymer 4, Kevin Beer (C) 5, Louise Wymer 6. A belated celebration of the platinum jubilee. A first for everyone in the band (and probably our only 840). 840 being the months for the platinum jubilee – and a handy 7 x 120s! One sixth of a peal.

**Appleton**, 9 September 2022. The tenor was tolled half-muffled for an hour to mark the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II by Jack Knowles, Jon Mills and Michele Winter.

**Radley**, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022. **Tenor tolled half muffled**, for one hour from 12 noon, in memory of HM Queen Elizabeth II, by Daphne Pollard and Maurice Belcher.

**Abingdon, St Nicolas**, 10 September 2022. **General Ringing, Call changes including Queens and Kings**: Brian Read, Carol Sidlow, Crispin Mugabi, Dan Gillet, David Thomas, Hugh Bishop, Isaac Davies, Jeanette Thomas, Margaret Brock, Michelle X, Peter Heritage, Priscilla Morris, Reg Sidlow, Samuel Fuentes, Simon Fuentes, Susan Read, Tim Pett, Willow Gathergood-Dains. Rung open in celebration of His Majesty King Charles III's Accession to the Throne. This performance is linked to the event Ringing for the Proclamation of King Charles III.

**Radley**, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022. **720 Pl Bob Doubles**: Sally Mulholland 1, Alban Walker 2, Ann Belcher 3, Oliver Hyde 4, Mark Walker (C) 5, Maurice Belcher 6. Rung fully muffled with the tenor open at backstroke, before the funeral service of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

## TOWER BELLS — PEALS

**Cholsey**, 17 May 2022, 3h3, **5184 Spliced Surprise Major (7m)**: Nicola J Turner 1, Richard L Thumwood 2, Nigel A L Mellor 3, Beryl R Norris 4, Robert H Newton 5, Colin M Turner 6, Claire F Roulstone 7, Timothy G Pett (C) 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Sunningwell**, 27 May 2022, 2h42, **5040 Surprise Minor (41 m)**: Cynthia E Howell 1, Colin M Turner 2, Nicola J Turner 3, Timothy G Pett 4, Peter G C Ellis (C) 5, Robert J Crocker 6. Rung on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first tower bell peal of the standard 41 Surprise Minor to be rung in a 5040, with regular calls and without half lead splicing. It was rung in this tower with the ringers of 2,4 & 5 taking part, Tim conducting.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 30 May 2022, 2h37, **5058 Yorkshire Surprise Major**: Colin M Turner 1, Simon W Edwards 2, Nicola J Turner 3, Simon L Edwards 4, Darran Ricks 5, Mark Edwards 6, Timothy G Pett (C) 7, Richard L Thumwood 8. Rung to mark the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

APPLETON SOCIETY, **Appleton**, 3 June 2022, 2h53, **5070 Spliced Royal (2m, 30 Platinum Alliance; 5040 Cambridge Surprise; 1 com)**: Bernard J Stone 1, Michele Winter 2, Hazel M Rothera 3, Dorothy G Hall 4, David L Thomas (Composed and C) 5, Simon L Edwards 6, John G Pusey 7, Kenneth J Darvill 8, Alan T Winter 9, David C Ockwell 10. Rung for the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.

**Abingdon, St Helen**, 4 June 2022, 2h38, **5040 Surprise Minor (7m)**: Stuart F Gibson 1, Catherine M A Lane 2, Simon L Edwards 3, Christopher M Tuckett 4, David L Thomas 5, Timothy G Pett (C) 6. Rung to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II. This performance is linked to the events Platinum Jubilee Weekend Celebrations and The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 26 June 2022, 2h31, **5130 Quidditch Alliance Major**: Timothy G Pett 1, Peter L Bill 2, Nicola J Turner 3, Charlotte A Boyce 4, Richard L Thumwood 5, Alan M Eyles 6, Colin M Turner 7, John R Martin (C) 8. Remembering Allan G Keen whose funeral took place on Friday.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS, **Appleton**, 7 July 2022, 2h49, **5033 Stedman Caters**: W Nigel G Herriott 1, Michele Winter 2, Stephen J F Mitchell 3, Gwen Rogers 4, Stephanie E Hills 5, Martin J Cansdale (Composed and C) 6, John N Hughes-D'Aeth 7, John P W Taylor 8, Philip Rogers 9, Colin G Newman 10. First with the Society: 5. Rung for the College Youths Country Meeting.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 24 July 2022, 2h34, **5130 Irchester Alliance Major**: Nicola J Turner 1, Richard L Thumwood 2, Colin M Turner 3, Timothy G Pett 4, Stuart P B Talbott 5, Charlotte A Boyce 6, Alan M Eyles 7, John R Martin (C) 8.

**Brightwell**, 10 August 2022, 2h45. **5,056 Plain Bob Major**: Stuart Gibson 1, John Dowling 2, Kevin Beer 3, Robert Partridge 4, John Napper 5, Alexander Davies\* 6, Tim Pett 7, Chris Tuckett (C) 8. \* First peal at first attempt. Rung in celebration of the life and work of Roy Thorpe, former Churchwarden, long time tower captain, and devoted member of the church, for the first anniversary of his death (burial). Same method, composition and conductor as Roy's last peal.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 28 August 2022, 2h28, **5040 Guide Post Alliance Major**: Timothy G Pett 1, Cynthia E Howell 2, Nicola J Turner 3, Charlotte A Boyce 4, Alan M Eyles 5, Richard L Thumwood 6, John R Martin (C) 7, Colin M Turner 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 4 September 2022, 2h31, **5056 Yorkshire Surprise Major**: Martin J Turner 1, Nicola J Turner (C) 2, Simon L Edwards 3, Alan M Eyles 4, Robert J Crocker 5, Claire F Roulstone 6, Richard L Thumwood 7, Colin M Turner 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 5 October 2022, 2h36, **5040 Windy Gyle Alliance Major**: Nicola J Turner 1, Paul R Smith 2, Simon L Edwards 3, Richard L Thumwood 4, Claire F Roulstone 5, Colin M Turner 6, Peter G C Ellis (C) 7, Robert J Crocker 8.

**Milton**, 18 October 2022, 2h40, **5088 Oxfordshire Surprise Major**: Colin M Turner 1, Robert H Newton 2, Nicola J Turner 3, Beryl R Norris 4, Stuart F Gibson 5, Richard L Thumwood 6, Nigel A L Mellor 7, Timothy G Pett (C) 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 23 October 2022, 2h31, **5056 Queue Green Delight Major**: Charlotte A Boyce 1, Cynthia E Howell 2, Beryl R Norris 3, Nicola J Turner 4, Richard L Thumwood 5, Alan M Eyles 6, Colin M Turner 7, John R Martin (C) 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 9 November 2022, 2h37, **5088 Lessness Surprise Major**: Robert J Crocker 1, Nicola J Turner (C) 2, Timothy G Pett 3, Beryl R Norris 4, Claire F Roulstone 5, Alan M Eyles 6, Richard L Thumwood 7, Colin M Turner 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 13 November 2022, 2h36, **5124 Tango Alliance Major**: Nicola J Turner 1, Timothy G Pett 2, Richard L Thumwood 3, Simon L Edwards 4, Charlotte A Boyce 5, Claire F Roulstone 6, John R Martin (C) 7, Colin M Turner 8. 1,000<sup>th</sup> peal – 4.





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



***Monday, 2nd January 2023***

***Saint Michael and All Angels,  
Steventon***

***10.30am — 12.30pm***

***Everybody welcome***



## 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 June 2023 is 25th April 2023. 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 2023

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

**Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January** – Ringing and Refreshments – Steventon (6) (10.30am–12.30pm)  
**Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> January** – Branch Practice – Brightwell (8) (2.00–3.30pm)  
**Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> February** – **Surprise Major/Royal Practice** – Wallingford (10) (8.00–9.30pm)  
**Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February** – Branch Practice – Wantage (8) (7.30–9.00pm)  
**Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February** – Branch Practice – Marcham (6) (2.00–3.30pm)  
**Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March** – **Advanced Practice** – North Moreton (6) (7.30–9.00pm)  
**Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> March** – Branch Practice – Drayton (8) (7.45–9.00pm)  
**Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> March** – AGM – Zoom Meeting (7.00pm)  
**Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> March** – Branch Practice – Cumnor (8) (2.00–3.30pm)  
**Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> April** – **Surprise Major Practice** – Harwell (8) (7.30–9.00pm)  
**Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> April** – Branch Practice – Long Wittenham (6) (7.30–9.00pm)  
**Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> April** – Mini Outing and Lunch  
**Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May** – **Advanced Practice** – Blewbury (8) (8.00–9.30pm)  
**Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> May** – Branch Practice – Abingdon St Helen (10) (7.30–9.00pm)  
**Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> May** – Branch Practice – Benson (8) (2.00–3.30pm)  
**Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> June** – **Surprise Major Practice** – Drayton (8) (7.30–9.00pm)  
**Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> June** – Striking Competition – Long Wittenham (6) (from 10.00am)  
**Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> June** – Branch Practice – Sparsholt (4) (6.30–7.15pm)  
Childrey (8) (7.30–9.00pm)  
**Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> June** – Branch Practice – Cholsey (8) (2.00–3.30pm)  
**Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> July** – **Advanced Practice** – Cumnor (8) (7.30–9.00pm)  
**July (TBC)** – Branch Outing and Barbecue  
**Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> July** – Branch Practice – Radley (6) (2.00–3.30pm)  
**Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August** – **Surprise Major Practice** – Goring on Thames (8) (7.45–9.15pm)  
**Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> August** – Branch Practice – Aston Tirrold (6) (7.30–9.00pm)  
**Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August** – Branch Practice – North Moreton (6) (2.00–3.30pm)  
**Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> September** – **Advanced Practice** – Harwell (8) (7.30–9.00pm)  
**Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> September** – Branch Practice – East Hagbourne (8) (7.30–9.00pm)  
**Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> September** – Branch Practice – Steventon (6) (2.00–3.30pm)  
**Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> October** – **Surprise Major Practice** – Milton (8) (7.30–9.00pm)  
**Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> October** – Branch Practice – West Hanney (6) (7.30–9.00pm)  
**Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> October** – Branch Practice – Childrey (8) (2.00–3.30pm)  
**Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> November** – **Advanced Practice** – Drayton (8) (7.30–9.00pm)  
**Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> November** – Branch Practice – Cholsey (8) (8.00–9.30pm)  
**Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> November** – Quiz and Supper in Blewbury Village Hall  
**Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November** – Branch Practice – Chilton (6) (2.00–3.30pm)  
**Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December** – **Surprise Major Practice** – Brightwell (8) (7.30–9.00pm)  
**Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> December** – Branch Practice – Harwell (8) (7.30–9.00pm)  
**Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> December** – Branch Practice – Blewbury (8) (2.00–3.30pm)