Old North Berks Branch Newsletter

No: 150 June 2017



The new Branch 6-bell Striking Competition Trophy

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Editorial

Welcome to the 150th issue of the Branch Newsletter.

I'm sure lots has been going on in the branch since November, maybe too much in some cases, as the Tower Talk articles are a bit thin on the ground this issue. Thanks to all those who could remember what happened. To make up for this there are some interesting articles to fill the void, including a reminiscence of some difficult bells from 1964, so please enjoy this edition.

Please note the plea from the Ringing Masters on supporting the evening Branch Practices, these are incredibly helpful to the towers visited and the visitors alike. Let's try to attend as many as we can.

There are quite a few congratulations to get through this edition, so here goes.

Firstly, to the Young Ringers initiative, and Susan Read the impetus behind it, which has been recognised nationally as a scheme to interest and engage younger members of our practice by the award of the Sarah Beacham Youth Group Award at the ART annual conference.

First Quarter-Pealer's this edition are Lisa, Abi, Christine, George and Simon, congratulations to you all and let's hope there are greater achievements to come.

Congratulations to Nicola on hitting a couple of milestones before Colin!

Peter has scored his 5,000th peal, and Colin his 7,000th (probably 17% on the way to his 8,000th by now), these are truly significant milestones in a ringers' life and in Colins' case the whole exercise. (Looking at the Peal Reports I did wonder whether we should rename this issue the St Blaise Society Newsletter).

Here's hoping the Summers antics allow for more news in the November issue, enjoy whatever you get up to and keep the memories ready for the next edition.

Ian Minns

Finally, a thought to leave you with:
Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase.

Ian Minns

Chairman's Report

Firstly, let me extend my thanks, on behalf of the Branch, to Susan Read for all her work as Chair during this last year. I am sure she will do an excellent job in her new role as Education Officer, as elected at the Branch AGM. Susan starts her new beginners course very soon and if you are able to help or support with this please do contact her. The positive effect of this course is we will gain valuable new ringers and branch members; as we all know we always need fresh blood coming in.

We are very lucky at my home tower, North Moreton, of having great support from our neighbouring towers to help on practice nights and, indeed, for service ringing. With that in mind, I would encourage all of our members to visit another tower on practice night or offer to ring elsewhere if your tower does not have a service.

Finally, I am looking forward to the two forthcoming branch events: the outing and BBQ at The Croft, Milton Hill on 22nd July and, later in the year, the barn dance. I look forward to seeing you at these events.

Rob Nickless

Secretary's Report

2017 got off to a good start with over forty branch members attending the New Year's ringing with refreshments, which was hosted by Abingdon, St Helen. I would like to thank Susan Read and the Abingdon ringers for all their efforts in making everyone so welcome. The excellent refreshments ranged from interesting and tasty soups through to delicious cakes. This was once again a very happy occasion for the Branch.

In March we held our six-bell striking competition and AGM at Cumnor. The competition was once again well supported with six teams entering, three of them from Abingdon. It was very pleasing that one of these teams was made up entirely of young branch members. Thanks go to our judges, Jon and Kay Chamberlain of Faringdon, who both said that they had enjoyed themselves very much. The team from Wallingford were the winners and they were awarded our new branch striking competition winner's trophy. They will represent ONB at the Guild's six bell competition in October. The full results were 1st Wallingford (29 faults); =2nd Blewbury and Abingdon S (62 faults); 4th Abingdon C (82 faults); =5th Harwell and Abingdon Y (120 faults).

The branch was not represented at the Guild's 6-bell striking competition last October because the Abingdon ringers were not able to raise a band. The branch band entering the Guild's 10-bell striking competition in Banbury in November was placed equal third with EBSB Branch, only one percent behind the Newbury ringers who came second.

At our AGM we had a change of some of our branch officers. The vacant position of Training Officer was taken on by Susan Read, who has done so much work with the training of our younger branch members. This left the position of Chairman free, and this was taken up by Rob Nickless of North Moreton, with Dick Peters of Wantage taking on the role of Vice Chairman. Seven new members from four towers were elected to the Guild, and Rev. Kevin Beer was transferred to Brightwell from Beaconsfield. Branch evening practices were discussed, as several last year were poorly attended. These are the only times when new members can be elected to the Guild, other than at the AGM. It was decided to continue the practices as they currently are and to monitor the situation for further discussion at next year's AGM. All branch members are asked to try to attend at least one branch evening practice per year. It was also decided that the afternoon practices will be run by the Joint Ringing Masters.

Susan Read has continued to organise events for the young ringers in the Branch. Recent activities have been skittles and ringing at Radley in December, a treasure hunt, magic show and ringing at Brightwell in February, and ringing at (and walking in between) Great Milton and Great Haseley at Easter. At the Annual Conference of ART, the Sarah Beacham Youth Group Award was given to the Abingdon Society of Bell Ringers. Susan Read has said that the cash prize of £400 will be put towards the purchase of a dumb bell for Abingdon, which will be attached to a computer and used as a training aid.

So far this year we have held two social occasions for our monthly afternoon practice ringers. In January we had lunch together at The Bear before ringing at North Moreton and in April we held a 'mini' outing, ringing at three towers in the neighbouring Vale of the White Horse Branch. Starting with Shellingford and then on to Longcot, we enjoyed a pub lunch at the King and Queen before going on to ring at Faringdon.

The annual day outing and barbecue will be on Saturday 22nd July. Philip Roberts will arrange ringing at five towers in Wiltshire (including Royal Wootton Bassett, Liddington, and Wanborough), with a pub lunch and afternoon tea. Stuart and Naomi Gibson are hosting the barbecue in the evening. Please come along to these fun events.

Another date for your diaries: On Saturday, 11th November, there will be a barn dance and supper at Harwell Village Hall. We have already committed deposits to the dance band 'Jigsaw' and to the hall, so please support this occasion!

Gill Loyd

Ringing Masters' Ramblings

A slightly direct and troublesome Ramble from us for this issue of the newsletter, as there is really only one important issue worrying your faithful Ringing Masters! This is evening Branch Practices.

Those, who attended the February branch committee meeting and the AGM, will know that on occasions there has been a sharp decline in numbers attending the regular evening branch practices. Support for the afternoon and the Surprise Major practices is holding up very well and both are proving to be very useful ringing and social occasions for branch members. However, for unexplained reasons, there has in recent months been a decline in support for the evening practices. These monthly practices, arranged at different towers, aim to support local tower ringing capabilities, encourage social mixing and promote awareness of wider branch and tower activities.

There was much discussion during the meetings about possible causes and actions that might be taken to address this problem. One suggestion was to abandon the evening practices altogether. However, although this is a serious consideration and may indeed be our only future option, it was decided to continue with the programme of practices for the next year. Abandoning the practices would have two consequences at branch level. Firstly, when something has been lost it is much harder to reinstate. Secondly, because the evening practices are the only recognised regular 'open to all members' events, election of new members and other routine branch business could only be addressed annually at the AGM. This would be a shame.

How can we encourage better attendance? Experienced ringers and tower captains might take a lead in encouraging newer ringers to attend, perhaps by offering a lift? If every member made a resolution to attend even just one branch practice each year that would more than solve the issue! At a recent branch practice just one visiting ONB member attended, but what a difference that one person made to what could be rung, so even low attendance is actually much better than none at all!

Let's all do whatever we can to keep the ONB practices going; we are an active and social branch so we should be able to sort this out without resorting to the drastic and backwards step of abandoning them next year.

We look forward to seeing you at a practice near you very soon!

Philip just wants to add .....

A Sunday school teacher asks her pupils where God lives. A small girl sticks up her hand and says, 'Miss, God lives in our bathroom.' 'In your bathroom?' says the teacher, 'Why do you think he's in there?' The girl replies, 'Because every morning my daddy bangs on the bathroom door and shouts, 'God, are you still in there?'

What do you call a Duck that's been dead for a week? A Humming Bird.

Richard Loyd and Philip Roberts

TOWER TALK

Abingdon

Enormous congratulation are due to Susan Read for receiving the Sarah Beacham award on behalf of St Helen's for all the work she and others are doing towards the training of young ringers. This is a national award, including a grant, and so it's particularly pleasing to be recognised in this way.

This year St Helen's hosted the New Year's Day branch ringing and a very successful event it proved to be. Most of the Abingdon ringers, including our youngsters, helped with the organisation in one way or another. As well as the ringing, a sumptuous lunch was provided and having a snooker table in the church must have been a first!

Whites carried out replacement of the rope bosses at St Nicolas', part funded by a grant from the branch and the surplus from the New Year's Day refreshments and raffle. Following this we replaced the worn ropes with 6 better ones from St Helen's.

Our seasonal dinner was held once again at Coseners House at the end of January. This was somewhat more disappointing than the excellent meals we have had there in the past when a mix-up occurred over the pre-ordered meals. Nevertheless it proved to be a good social occasion and we were pleased that Kevin Beer, who is now in the Wallingford team ministry, as well as our local team rector and vicar, Charles Miller and Paul Smith were able to attend.

This year for the first time we were able to put 3 teams into the branch 6-bell striking competition including a youth team who were applauded for their courageous efforts on the far from easy bells at Cumnor. Our highest ranked team came second in the competition, a very worthy result.

Our AGM held at the end of March was ably chaired by Charles. All the post-holders were re-elected but as David Thomas is away at university for some of the year, Sarah Barnes was elected as co-deputy tower captain for St Helen's. A proposal to install a dumbbell in St Helen's was approved and will be progressed and will be partly funded by the Sarah Beacham award.

Several of our ringers have made significant progress in quarter-peal ringing and so congratulations to the following: Lisa Astbury for her first quarter and to Phoebe Astbury for first quarter away from the tenor; Abi Gibson for her first quarter, on the tenor to Doubles, after ringing for only a few months; Sophie Martin for first of Surprise, Cambridge Minor, and Josh Ball for first treble-dodging in the same quarter. Also, congratulations to Matt and Becci for the birth of their son, Jasper.

Tim Pett

Appleton

I was not able to give the details of a successful peal of Grandsire Caters for Remembrance for the last Newsletter so have included them in this issue. We were visited by the St Blaise Society in December who rang a peal of 5002 Masham Surprise Royal.

The most recent peal was rung on the morning of our 199th March 4th Anniversary Dinner. The evening event took the usual format with good food provided by The Plough, the singing of the traditional songs as well as handbell ringing, including a lapped course of Stedman Cinques. We are now looking forward to the 200th celebration next March.

We were pleased to be able to ring a Quarter Peal of Grandsire Caters on Christmas Eve for the Carol Service. This was helped by David, Sarah and Catherine Ockwell being home for Christmas and augmenting our band.

Andrew and Jenny Dyer have had multiple celebrations this year with Andrew's significant birthday and retirement in March followed by their 40th Wedding Anniversary in April. I am pleased to say that we were able to ring Quarters for these events.

Sylvia Harrison

Blewbury

The last few months have been busy as usual: we had our Christmas meal at the Red Lion in Blewbury, with this year's theme being James Bond. Dining with *007* were M, Q, Miss Moneypenny and an assortment of other Bond characters from Oddjob to Pussy Galore. Boxing day saw a quarter of Stedman Triples,and we rang in the New Year for the first time in several years. In February we had an outing to the towers of North West Oxfordshire, ringing at Charlbury, Chadlington, Shipton-under-Wychwood, Kingham, Woodstock and finally, Kidlington, where keen-eyed ringers spotted a teenage Mark Vincent in a photo on the tower wall! During the day, we all enjoyed a hearty lunch in the Tite Inn at Chadlington, some excellent cakes with tea in Woodstock Church Room; and after the day's efforts many of us retired to the Ovisher Indian restaurant in Kidlington. All those who took part had a good time and the event extended everyone's ringing experience and quite possibly a few waistlines too.

In March, to celebrate a 100th birthday within the village and the 70th birthday of one of our own ringers, Chris Cook, there was a quarter peal attempt with an all local band which came to grief only 7 minutes from the end; a magnificent attempt by an all local band. Also in March, our team was represented in the Branch striking competition at Cumnor, and we came joint second with one of the Abingdon teams. And in April, the sun shone for our annual duck race on Easter Sunday; there was a good turnout and all proceeds went to our Tower and Bell fund.

It is always good to gain new ringers, and we are pleased to have good range of age and experience in our tower. We are delighted to have welcomed Ellen back after a 25 year break; she has brought along her teenage son, Eden, and he is making excellent progress. We are also looking forward to being joined this month by another returning ringer, Maria, and her teenage son, Alfie. Ringers from Blewbury regularly visit other local towers, for practice and/or Sunday service. Many thanks for making us welcome. We are also lucky enough to have regular visitors to our Friday practices. If you would like to join us too, you are always welcome.

Finally, returning to extended ringing experiences and waistlines; I recently made it through my first quarter peal – not least due to the excellent band around me who expertly put me right and made sure I survived the experience. I also went on the Radley course in April. I had asked for Bob doubles but administrative matters meant that I ended up going for Bob minor but on the Bob major course! We had a tutorial and rang in 4 different towers with plenty of chance to practise. Many thanks to the tutors and helpers for their patience and help. It was quite a tiring day, but enjoyable nonetheless and was rounded off by an excellent meal of Chilli and sticky toffee pudding prepared by Daphne and helpers at Radley. Although I did not feel that I was making a lot of progress on the day, I certainly had a good day and I have been told that my ringing has improved as a result. Luckily, politeness has prevented anyone from passing any comment on the effect of the sticky toffee pudding on my waistline.

Christine Kowalczuk



The band who rang in Christine's first quarter.

East Hagbourne



December had been a busy month in the tower. Some of the team had been practicing for the' Ring and Sing' concert on Tuesday 20th December. The new group being trained by Jill Garlick have been working hard and played several carols and at the concert on the evening. The church was packed for the concert which was the final event of the now annual St Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival.

On Thursday 31st December, New Years Eve, ringers gathered at the tower for 11:30 pm ready to ring out the old year and ring in the New Year. We rang the bells for about 20 minutes and then Janet Corderoy conducted a short service of thanksgiving. Thank you goes to Janet for doing this for us. We then wished all our fellow ringers and visitors a happy new year. John Napper, the tower Keeper tolled the tenor bell which was followed by firing the bells several times, this is a custom in Hagbourne tower, an incredible sound. A lovely start to the New Year.

On January the 29th, for evensong, we rang a quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles for two of our young ringers. This was a first quarter peal for George Omar on the tenor and a second quarter for Matt Addison on the treble. Well done boys! Sadly, the boys will be leaving us at the end of the year to go off to University where we hope they will continue to ring, we will miss them.

AGM of The Hagbourne Society of Change Ringers took place on the last Tuesday in February (28th). For details of officers of HSCR see the tower website.

The ONB Wednesday afternoon practice was held at St Andrew's on Wednesday 22nd March.

A quarterly meeting of HSCR was held on Tuesday 19th April (Holy Week). Thanks once again to Jeff and Coral Powell for hosting this meeting and for the HOT hot cross buns.

We rang for early morning service on Easter Sunday starting at 7:30 in the morning, the neighbours are warned and are used to it after all these years. We also rang for the 10:30 service.





Whites of Appleton came on Tuesday 4th April, and with the help of John Napper and Alan Foster, the Sanctus bell and headstock have been removed and are now in the workshop being repaired. The old clapper, which is badly worn on two sides, is now on display in the tower. I was informed that it is 300 years old!



We are ringing to mark the anniversary of the deaths of those on our World War 1 Memorial. This was the 'brain child' of Jill Garlick who has done a fantastic job in researching those on the memorial plaque and now, with the help of a couple of others, we now have a file in church with some family history of those who died. To date we have rung for Albert John Mills and on May 9th we will ring for Frank Napper. We hope to have at least four Nappers in the band for this occasion. When we rang for Albert Mills some family members came to the village and came up the tower to listen and watch the ringing. They were very moved and grateful that this was being done in memory of their relative who died 100 years ago.

It is with great sadness that I report the death of Michael Gray, brother of one of our ringers, Janet Corderoy. Mick, as he was known to the group, always came to ring with us when he was visiting his sister in Hagbourne. He was a regular member of the Sally Forth group when, twice a year, we went on our weekend ringing outings all over the country. Mike who was a ringer lived in Snitterfield, Warwickshire and taught many to ring in that area. He was also a regular ringer at Coventry Cathedral and a past President of the Coventry Guild. He will be sadly missed. His funeral was held at St James The Great Church, Snitterfield on Friday 12th May, there were over 130 people at the service many of whom were bellringers, they gave him a wonderful send off.

Shirley Goss

Harwell

Our Boxing Day ringing was well received with many ringers and non ringers attending.

At Harwell's AGM in February everyone was re-elected so yours truly is still in charge.

Our young ringers carry on making steady progress with two attending the Radley course. Simon has now rung his first quarter (Tenor behind to Plain Bob / Grandsire Doubles) for St Georges Day.

Once again we would like to thank the Blewbury ringers for swelling the numbers at our practices and although only one outside ringer turned up for the evening branch practice at Harwell in April, it made all the difference.

We look forward to ringing for the Harwell Feast on Monday 29th May and our BBQ in September.

Philip Roberts

Letcombe Regis

On 13th November 2016, Remembrance Sunday, there was no service at our church (we only have it at St. Andrew's once every six years) but to give our learners experience of half muffled ringing, the muffles were attached and the bells raised the day before, so we were able to pull straight off into rounds immediately after the two minute silence and we rang for half an hour.

Christine broke a couple of toes after Christmas and was unable to climb our notorious ladder for almost three months but she is back ringing now. Henry and Sophie have been learning to conduct call changes as part of the skills section of the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme.

Our three latest recruits, mum Toni, daughter Lily, and George, are very keen and progressing well. They all enjoyed attending the Young Ringers Treasure Hunt and Magic show on February 14th 2017. Unfortunately they were disappointed to be unable to attend the outing in April owing to the different school Easter holiday dates in Oxfordshire.

On Easter Sunday, April 16th, all eight of our band (including Henry's dad, Mark) were able to be present at the same time. In addition, we were delighted to have visitors Rachel and Emily from Milton so we were able to have a go at Devon call changes, a new experience for our team.

Anne Williams

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

We continue to have practice nights on Mondays at Long Wittenham, but unfortunately we are not over run with new recruits. We wait, with anticipation, that the church door will open and people flock in to join the elite group of people who can ring church bells, I suspect we may be deluding ourselves!

Changed service times at St Mary's means that the bells can be rung once a month before the service, this is much appreciated by the congregation.

Ringing at Little Wittenham takes place if there is a fifth Monday in the month. All visitors will be very welcome, the bells need to be rung more frequently. The last time we rang there the ropes were so stiff they practically stood up like a charmed snake! They will be rung on May Day after the traditional concert by the river, and for a couple of the weddings booked in the church this year.

We held our AGM and an evening meal at the Cherry Tree in Steventon this year, not to be recommended on Quiz nights.

Julia Sargent

Milton

The last few months have been exciting at Milton as we have watched the progress of the reordering of the church to incorporate a toilet and kitchen and to provide a Community space. The new facilities should be available by July. We have kept practices going throughout the work and some evening and weekend ringing has also been possible. Just to remind you, whilst the church remains closed for the building work, entry will continue to be via the tower west door.

Our practice repertoire has been further extended as we have added Cambridge Surprise Major, touches of Stedman Triples and touches of Annable's London Surprise Minor. Several quarter peals have been rung with Edward and Rachel both ringing their first quarter of Surprise.

The usual crop of peals have been rung here, including Charles' first peal for about 20 years (a peal of Lessness Surprise Major at Milton) – we hope this will inspire him to ring many more. Colin rang his 7000th peal on Christmas Eve at Abingdon St Nicolas, he continues to be the world leading peal ringer having rung over 1500 peals more than anyone else. You will also notice the peal at Milton on 3 Dec has a footnote saying "This is Colin Turner's 304th peal in 2016 surpassing the previous record set in 1989". In fact Colin rang in total 334 peals in 2016 so doing he absolutely smashed the previous record for number of peals in a year (his own previous record). He is having a quieter year this year!



On 18th March Colin rang a peal at Christ Church Erith, this is particularly worthy of note because this was the 4000th tower in which Colin has rung a peal. This has required a huge amount of organisation, commitment, perseverance and mileage and represents peals in about 70% of the pealable towers with five or more bells in the world. The picture shows Colin with his trusty Dove's Guide (the ringers equivalent of Bradshaw's Guide used by Michael Portillo for rail journeys). Colin's quest for ringing peals at new towers has also meant Nicola has rung peals in a lot of towers and has now rung the treble bell for a peal in 1000 different towers and also the second bell in 1000 different towers, the only person to achieve either of these targets (at last something Colin hasn't done first).

Nicola Turner

Radley

Numbers fluctuate for various reasons, but we ring regularly on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings.

Two quarters have been rung: on 5 February and 23 April to mark the centenary of the deaths of four soldiers from the parish who died during the Great War in February and April 1917. The one on 5 February was also an 18th birthday compliment to Edward Walker. Congratulations to Edward for calling both quarters.

We are looking forward to Oliver Hyde returning from Uni shortly for the summer, but unfortunately when he returns to Portsmouth in September, Edward will also be going off to Nottingham University – we shall miss them both.

The 24th annual Radley Course took place on 8 April and once again we provided the evening meal.

Daphne Pollard

Wantage

We continue to ring on Sundays and for practices on a Tuesday night. We are very grateful to Richard and Gill Loyd, Liz Woodhouse and Joe Norton who attend our practices when available.

A quarter peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major was rung in February to celebrate the life of Alex Sharpe's Mother, Hilary Sharpe, who died in January 2017. It was appropriate that the quarter peal was rung at Wantage, where she had lived for nearly 70 years.

The last official photograph of the ringers and the Vicar was taken in 1896 so I decided that it was about time another photograph was taken!



Wantage Ringers 1896

It was agreed that we would meet after the main service, at noon at the Parish Church. This gave ringers the chance to go home and change into best suits etc after ringing before the service. We also did not want to be outdone by our Vicar, Canon John Salter! It was arranged that one of our churchwardens, Bob Chaplow, would take the photograph. So we took our places and the first photograph was taken. It was very poor as no one was smiling! This occurred twice more and it looked as if we were all concentrating on ringing a difficult method! However, on the fourth attempt of taking a photograph it was successful and we were all smiling, probably because I said 'Reading for promotion'! It did the trick as even Dick Peters was smiling!



Wantage Ringers 2017

At present we do not have a strong band who can ring many methods but what we do have is a band who are committed and loyal and turn up regularly for practices and Sunday ringing. In addition, we have a friendly atmosphere, enjoy good banter, especially on a Sunday morning when discussing football results!

Graham Stoter

Young Ringers' Event (Ringing, Treasure Hunt, Magic - Brightwell, 21 February 2017)

On a cold dull afternoon in February, fourteen young ringers, nine adults and two younger brothers converged on Brightwell to ring the recently renovated bells. The ringing mostly consisted of rounds and call changes, but there was some plain hunt too. And while the tower bells were being rung, we also rang rounds and plain hunt on handbells in the church room. Much amusement was had over the instruction that before each hand stroke lead there should be not only a gap, but a loud sniff from all those ringing the handbells!

To ensure that our magician could arrive and set himself up in comparative privacy, the young ringers were arranged in teams for a treasure hunt: A sheet of questions about the village of Brightwell was given to each team together with a time limit and the promise that cake and soft drinks would await them on their return.

The teams returned and hopefully knew a little more about Brightwell as a result of the quiz. After the promised cake and soft drinks, provided by Daphne, everyone took seats at the rear of the church and Mike Green delivered a fascinating magic show including an intriguing card trick, colour-changing silk handkerchiefs, a rope that appeared to reassemble itself despite being cut with scissors, and an attempt to sever my hand with a small guillotine! Truly amazing and very enjoyable!

Susan Read



Young Ringers Event (Great Milton & Great Haseley – 19 April 2017)

It was a beautiful sunny day in the Easter Holidays (as decreed by Oxfordshire County Council). The young ringers were missing some of the usual faces: at least one group couldn't come because their school had become an academy and opted to set their own different holidays. And others were on holiday with their families. But we had eleven school aged ringers including three from the Reading Branch and eight from the Old North Berks Branch. Ages ranged from 11 to 18 years old. And we were accompanied by seven adult ringers and one little brother.

We met at the church in Great Milton and rang on the lovely eight with David Thomas (19) taking charge. We rang lots of rounds and call changes as well as some plain bob triples among other methods.

At the end of the ringing we arranged the young ringers into three teams to compete in a treasure hunt on our way by foot to Great Haseley, less than two miles away. Each group was accompanied by two adults and Daphne went ahead by car to open the Village Hall and arrange the refreshments.

One of the questions invited the teams to sketch a prominent local landmark. Luckily they all spotted the nearby windmill and Isaac was keen to tell everyone that his granddad had helped to build it! They mostly identified the winter crop near the path as Christmas Trees (but one group guessed it was winter barley!)

They must have been hungry that day – all the cakes and scones that Daphne provided were eaten! And we walked on to the church at Great Haseley where Hilarie Rogers met us. Half way up the tower there was a small opening between the stones used to build the tower where there must have been a bee's nest as hundreds of small bees were streaming in and out.

We climbed the steps (being careful of the wobbly one) and rang on the lovely six bells. We even rang a couple of tunes – "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" and "Now the day is over". It was sad to hear that there is no local band of ringers to ring on those bells.

We were told not to open the ringing room window in case the bees came in the ringing chamber. And that was good advice because whilst we rang, an enormous cloud of bees gathered excitedly in the sunshine outside the tower window and then swept away. Perhaps they were swarming on that warm afternoon.

Before we dispersed, the results of the Treasure Hunt were announced. Two teams were joint winners and received a bag of mini Easter Eggs each to share out.

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

Susan Read



New Striking Competition Trophy

Certainly in recent times, and if a hazy memory of my teenage years in the North Berks Branch serves me well, I think I can confidently say that there has never been a trophy for the winning tower team in our 6 bell striking competition. Following the stressful wait to hear the judges' feedback and scoring, and the general applause for the victorious team, there has always been an awkward sense of anti-climax when there is no trophy to award.

To put matters right, we now have a splendid unique trophy that the branch can award to the winning team. One of the Blewbury ringers, Nick Thomson has a machine workshop, and with the help of Dick Street has machined us the wheel and clapper trophy from brass, and mounted it on an oak plinth (see photo on front cover). The clapper and wheel represent the mechanical variables for mastering good striking, whilst the all-important human ringer at the end of the rope is the other variable!

Our grateful thanks go to Nick and Dick for making us this lasting trophy for future ONB striking competitions. Abingdon team were the 2016 winners and at the New Year's Day ringing event were retrospectively presented with the trophy (see photo below). Will they retain the trophy in 2017? We will soon know!

Richard Loyd



Presentation of the Striking Competition Trophy to Wallingford winners of the 2017 Competition



Abingdon Holy Week Training Course

We ran a shorter than expected ringing course in Abingdon at Easter with lots of our own young ringers plus Aidan and Clare from Cumnor. Each day we enjoyed an hour of ringing training, then refreshments and a game in the Church Centre before another half hour of ringing training.

Susan Read



ART Award

The Sarah Beacham Youth Group Award is offered by the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) for outstanding work with groups of young ringers. I applied on behalf of the Abingdon Society of Bell Ringers. In our application I explained the background of the Society and various aspects of our work with young people:

Firstly how we recruit young people and train them with daily ringing lessons ("intensive training") over a week or two in the school holidays . We have held nine such courses between 2013 and 2016 and taught 18 young people and seven adults on those courses. Having a full simulator in our tower means we can tie all the bells and produce the sound of the bells using a computer. We turn off the two bells we are using to teach handling and use the remaining eight bells to hold a practice for our other young ringers whilst the intensive training is going on. It is a bit chaotic but good humoured and helps the new young people to become assimilated into the group better than if they were taught on their own.

Secondly I explained how we have organised outings for all the young ringers in the area in each school holiday since 2012. We make sure that every outing involves not only some ringing but also a social activity of some sort, so that all the young ringers get to know each other, whatever stage their ringing has reached. It has resulted in a far stronger group of friends and young ringers in our branch than in any other area of the Oxford Diocesan Guild.

Thirdly the encouragement for many of our better ringers to attend ART courses to learn how to be teachers of ringing themselves, so that when we run intensive ringing training we have a number of trained teachers available. Two of our teachers including me are fully qualified teachers, and four others are part qualified. Some are able to help on daytime courses such as those for our young ringers and others who are of working age are more useful for evening courses such as that planned for summer 2017.



Susan with a group of young ringers with the ART Award Certificate

Additionally to the tower bell ringing we do, we run a tune ringing team which starts each October and practices carols for the Christmas season after which we disband until the following October. We invite all our young ringers to join the handbell team, and most do. With our silver waistcoats and rhythmical performances, we provide a public face for the tower bell ringers which is welcomed in carol services and old people's homes around the town.

A measure of our success may be seen in the ODG band for the Ringing World National Youth Contest. Abingdon young ringers have taken part in the ODG team for the last four years. In 2016 we made up half of the team and the team came joint second!

The efforts of the Abingdon Society of Bell Ringers mean that we are now seen as a beacon of how to work with young ringers in the Oxford Diocesan Guild. Our branch is seen as a "hot spot" of young ringers. We are proud to be recognised by the ART for our work.

Susan Read



North Moreton Peal Number Two 1964

The privilege of ringing in the recent first peal on the augmented bells at North Moreton brought back memories of my previous peal there in July 1964 which was only the second on the bells. At that time, there were a number of very keen young ringers, most attending Wallingford Grammar School and being young and enthusiastic were always looking for new ringing challenges. We knew that North Moreton were very diffcult and had heard tales of ringing there from Frank Castell at Brightwell and Jack Berry at Wallingford who had both rung in the first peal on the bells in 1951, Jack also calling it. There was one story that during service ringing a rope had got caught under one of the handles of a large chest that stood in the centre of the ringing chamber upending it leading to the band having to take avoiding action which left most of the bells ringing themselves!

It did not take too much time (or winding up from some of our elders) for us to decide that we would have a go at ringing peal number two. Being young and naive we decided we would ring Stedman just to make it even more interesting! The band (average age 17) consisted of Gerald McIlhone from Warborough, Geoff Cook from Cholsey, Andrew Jobson from Little Wittenham and Robert Partridge and Charlie Adam from Wallingford. Gerald called it and rang the tenor and we navigated our way through without undue excitement until near the end when Gerald began to turn an unhealthy looking colour. Nevertheless he managed to make it to the end and then immediately staggered into the churchyard where he laid flat out on the grass for some time before he recovered enough to stand and eventually ride his bike home. We were inordinately proud of our achievement as the bells with their long unguided draft were bad enough but Stedman Doubles without a cover is pretty demanding even on easier bells. The details of this peal are:

All Saints North Moreton, Berkshire
July 18th 1964 in 2h 59 mins
5040 Stedman Doubles

Charles J Adam	Treble
Geoffrey K Cook	2
Robert A Partridge	3
Andrew J Jobson	4
P Gerald McIlhone(C)	Tenor



Fifty two years on, no less than four of the band are still very active ringers, Geoff in Wokingham, Andrew in Cheshire, Robert in Shiplake and Gerald in Wellington New Zealand. Charlie emigrated to Australia after gaining a mining degree and as far as we know no longer rings although he has popped into Wallingford on one or two occasions in the last 30 years. Gerald and Robert had not met since 1972 when they rang in a Wallingford Grammar School former pupils peal at Wallingford. However he and Robert were reunited in October 2016 when Robert visited NZ and rang with Gerald at both Wellington towers. The picture of the two was taken after ringing on the 5 bells at Old St Pauls, another long draught unguided ring of 5 but extremely light! Gerald still remembers the North Moreton peal very clearly and felt it was one of the hardest he has ever rung.

R A Partridge

QUARTER PEALS

Abingdon, St Helen, 6 November 2016. **1280 Plain Bob Major**: Priscilla Morris 1, Susan Read 2, Hugh Bishop 3, Brian Read 4, Sarah Barnes 5, Peter Heritage 6, Tim Pett 7, Isaac O'Shea (C) 8. 1st on 8 as conductor. Rung half-muffled in memory of David Beacham who was a cousin of the conductor's grandmother.

Blewbury, 10 November 2016. **1440 Surprise Minor** (3m): Richard Loyd 1, Gill Loyd 2, Josie Irving 3, Mary Friskney 4, Joanna Knight 5, Stuart Gibson (C) 6. Rung half muffled in memory of Jag Cook on the day of his funeral.

Abingdon, St Helen, 13 November 2016. **1260 Plain Bob Triples**: Becci Franklin 1, Priscilla Morris 2, Margaret Brock 3, Matt Franklin 4, Hugh Bishop 5, Sarah Barnes 6, Isaac O'Shea (C) 7, Josh Ball 8. Rung on the minor 8, half-muffled, for Remembrance Sunday.

Milton, 29 November 2016. **1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor**: Philip Roberts 1, Daphne Pollard 2, Nicola Turner 3, Tim Pett 4, Edward Walker 5, Colin Turner (C) 6. First of Surprise – 5.

North Moreton, 10th December 2016. **1260 Stedman Doubles**: Stuart Gibson (C) 1, Rachel Morrish 2, Gillian Loyd 3, Mary Friskney 4, Richard Loyd 5, Robert Nickless 6. To celebrate the Golden Wedding of Alice and Alistair Auckland, both ringers at this tower.

Appleton, 24 December 2016. **1295 Grandsire Caters**: Sarah J Ockwell 1, Michele Winter 2, Barbara H Payne 3, Sylvia M Harrison 4, Catherine E Ockwell 5, Jenny A Dyer 6, Peter H M Day 7, Michael J Harrison (C) 8, David C Ockwell 9, Bernard J Stone 10. For Christmas. Rung before the Carol Service

Blewbury, 26 December 2016. **1260 Stedman Triples**: Stuart Gibson 1, Gill Loyd 2, Josie Irving 3, Richard Loyd 4, Mark Vincent 5, Charles Morrish 6, John H Napper (C) 7, Matthew Phillips 8. Rung during the Blewbury Boxing Day Walk and marking the 105th birthday of William (Bill) Dent Robinson and the birth of Louis, 1st grandchild of Mrs Susanne Lay (Churchwarden).

Milton, 10 January 2017. **1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor**: Philip Roberts 1, Daphne Pollard 2, Nicola Turner 3, Charles Morrish 4, Edward Walker 5, Colin Turner (C) 6.

Blewbury, 14 January 2017. **1260 Tottenham Bob Triples**: Joanne A Waller 1, Ken Waller 2, Joanne Waller 3, Michael Hurst (C) 4, Colin J Butler 5, Mark Robins 6, Ben Waller 7, Carol Waller 8.

Milton, 17 January 2017. **1260 Plain Bob Minor**: Colin Turner 1, Daphne Pollard 2, Claire Ward 3, Edward Walker 4, Philip Roberts 5, Nicola Turner (C) 6.

East Hagbourne, 29 January 2017. **1260 Grandsire Doubles:** Matthew Addison 1, Jill Garlick 2, Shirley Goss 3, Jeff Powell 4, John W. Napper (C) 5, George Omar 6. First quarter 6.

Abingdon (30 St Amand Drive), 2 February 2017. **1264 Plain Bob Major**: Susan Read 1-2, Tim Pett 3-4, John Pusey 5-6, Joe Norton (C) 7-8.

Radley, 5 February 2017. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Daphne Pollard 1, Sally Mulholland 2, Ann Belcher 3, M Ian Minns 4, Edward Walker (C) 5, Maurice Belcher 6. Rung to mark the centenary of the deaths of Ptes Albert Bennett and Edgar Abbott of this parish, died 8th and 17th February 1917 respectively. Also an 18th birthday compliment to Edward Walker. 1st Q as conductor..

Abingdon, **St Helen**, 19 February 2017. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Phoebe Astbury 1, Susan Read 2, Sarah Barnes 3, Brian Read 4, Isaac O'Shea (C) 5, Lisa Astbury 6. 1st Q – 6. First quarter away from tenor – 1. First doubles as conductor. Rung with the band's congratulations to Matt and Becci Franklin on the birth of their son Jasper. For Choral Evensong.



Phoebe and Lisa Astbury

Milton, 7 March 2017. **1260 Minor (2m)**: Daphne Pollard 1, Colin Turner 2, Claire Ward 3, Edward Walker 4, Nicola Turner (C) 5, Charles Morrish 6.

Abingdon, St Helen, 17 March 2017. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Susan Read 1, Brian Read 2, Hugh Bishop 3, Edward Walker 4, Isaac O'Shea (C) 5, Abi Gibson 6. First quarter: 6. Rung half-muffled in memory of Debbie Pimm, grandmother of the sixth.

Appleton, 19 March 2017. **1273 Grandsire Triples**: Barbara H Payne 1, Andrew J Dyer 2, Jenny A Dyer 3, Peter J Heritage 4, Jonathan Cresshull 5, Michael J Harrison (C) 6, Peter H M Day 7, Bernard J Stone 8. For Evensong, also with the best wishes of the band to Andrew for his 70th Birthday and Retirement.

Abingdon, St Helen, 25 March 2017. **1440 London No.3 Surprise Royal**: Janet E John 1, Beryl R Norris 2, Joanne P Druce 3, Timothy G Pett 4, Josie S Irving 5, Anna E Sherwood 6, Joanna E Knight 7, D Giles Winter 8, Graham A C John 9, Colin G Newman (C) 10. A very slightly belated 17th birthday complement to Anna Sherwood. First in method – 6

North Moreton, 26th March 2017. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Christine Kowalczuk 1, Gillian Loyd 2, Richard Loyd 3, Philip Roberts 4, Mark Vincent (C) 5, Robert Nickless 6. Rung for Mothering Sunday evensong service. 1st quarter peal 1.

Sunningwell, 1 April 2017. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Oliver Hyde 1, David Thomas 2, Anna Sherwood 3, Edward Walker (C) 4, Isaac O'Shea 5-6. First double handed quarter peal: 5-6. Rung by a band of ODG young ringers aged 19 or under.

Milton, 4 April 2017. **1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor**: Philip Roberts 1, Rachel Morrish 2, Daphne Pollard 3, Charles Morrish 4, Edward Walker 5, Colin Turner (C) 6. First of Surprise – 2.

Appleton, 21 April 2017. **1260 Plain Bob Minor**: Fiona J Davis 1, Sylvia M Harrison 2, Andrew J Dyer 3, Jenny A Dyer 4, David A J Endacott 5, Michael J Harrison (C) 6. Ruby Wedding anniversary compliment to Andrew & Jenny. 200th together 2 & 6.

Abingdon, St Helen, 23 April 2017. **1276 Cambridge Surprise Minor**: Josh Ball 1, Sophie Martin 2, Brian Read 3, Sarah Barnes 4, Isaac O'Shea 5, Tim Pett (C) 6. For evening service on St George's Day. First of treble-dodging - 1; first of Surprise - 2.

Harwell, 23 April 2017. **1260 Doubles (Plain Bob/Grandsire)**: Philip Roberts 1, Debbie Greenfield 2, Clive House 3, Nick Clarke 4, Mark Vincent (C) 5, Simon Roberts 6. 1st Q – 6.

Radley, 23 April 2017. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Daphne Pollard 1, Sally Mulholland 2, Ann Belcher 3, M Ian Minns 4, Edward Walker (C) 5, Maurice Belcher 6. For St George's Day and to mark the centenary of the deaths of Ptes William Rogers and Edward Freeman of this parish, died 16 and 24 April 1917 respectively.

WINCHESTER & PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD, **Abingdon, St Helen**, 29 April 2017. **1280 Bristol Surprise Royal**: Christine R Hill 1, Oliver Chaloner 2, Ali Hunt 3, John Hawes 4, Daniel Graham 5, Kieran Downer 6, Ian Hunt 7, Pip Dillistone 8, Kristian D Scudamore 9, Peter W Hill (C) 10. First of Bristol Royal - 6, 7.

Abingdon (30 St Amand Drive), 4 May 2017. **1260 Plain Bob Royal**: Timothy G Pett 1-2, Susan E M Read 3-4, John G Pusey 5-6, Rosanna Cretney 7-8, Joe Norton (C) 9-10. First on ten handbells: 3–4, 9–10. First of Royal, and first on more than six handbells: 7–8. First on ten as conductor. Rung for Star Wars Day.

PEALS

APPLETON SOCIETY, **Appleton**, 12 November 2016, 2h55, **5129 Grandsire Caters**, Comp. Albert M Tyler (arr R LeMarechal): Ruth Stokes 1, Julie A Haseldine 2, Lesley J Belcher 3, Andrew J Spencer 4, Andrew Haseldine 5, Stephen H Stanford (C) 6, Peter J Heritage 7, Leon G Thompson 8, Christopher C Stokes 9, Bernard J Stone 10. Rung half-muffled in memory of The Fallen, 300th peal – 7

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 20 November 2016, 2h38, **5152 Port Erin Delight Major:** Timothy G Pett 1, John C Sheppard 2, Cynthia E Howell 3, Colin M Turner 4, Charlotte A Boyce 5, Nicola J Turner 6, John R Martin (C) 7, Peter Bridle 8. Rung in memory of Michael E Brown whose last peal was rung on these bells.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 25 November 2016, 2h31, **5056 Yorkshire Surprise Major:** Colin M Turner 1, Nicola J Turner (C) 2, Debby M Talbott 3, Cynthia E Howell 4, Stuart P B Talbott 5, Timothy G Pett 6, John C Sheppard 7, Peter Bridle 8. To welcome Stuart back to peal ringing.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 3 December 2016, 2h34, **5088 Tuffley Surprise Major:** Brian Bladon 1, Nicola J Turner 2, Cynthia E Howell 3, Robert J Crocker 4, Michael J Dew 5, Bernard F L Groves (C) 6, Colin M Turner 7, Peter Bridle 8. This is Colin Turner's 304th peal in 2016 surpassing the previous record set in 1989.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Appleton**, 21 December 2016, 2h42, **5002 Masham Surprise Royal:** Ruth Curtis 1, Nicola J Turner 2, Claire F Roulstone 3, Susan E Marshall 4, Peter G C Ellis 5, Colin M Turner 6, Ian Butters (C) 7, Ian Roulstone 8, Paul F Curtis 9, Andrew B Mills 10.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 21 December 2016, 2h30, **5184 Bristol Surprise Major:** Ian Butters (C) 1, Susan E Marshall 2, Andrew B Mills 3, Ruth Curtis 4, Nicola J Turner 5, Colin M Turner 6, Peter G C Ellis 7, Paul F Curtis 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 24 December 2016, 2h32, **5056 Ba Humbug! Surprise Major:** Susan E Marshall 1, Cynthia E Howell 2, Nicola J Turner 3, Charlotte A Boyce 4, Colin M Turner 5, Robert J Crocker 6, John R Martin (C) 7, Peter G C Ellis 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Abingdon**, **St Nicolas**, 24 December 2016, 2h30, **5040 Surprise Minor (42m):** Nicola J Turner 1, Robert J Crocker 2, Susan E Marshall 3, Timothy G Pett 4, Peter G C Ellis (C) 5, Colin M Turner 6. For the crib service. 7000th peal – 6.



The band that rang in Colin Turner's 7000th peal (left to right: Robert Crocker, Sue Marshall, Peter Ellis, Colin Turner, Nicola Turner, Tim Pett). The peal was rung on 24 December 2016 at Abingdon St Nicolas.

Brightwell cum Sotwell, 26 December 2016, 2h39, **5024 New Cambridge Surprise Major:** Timothy G Pett 1, Mary C Friskney 2, Nicola J Turner 3, Kevin V Beer 4, Brian P Diserens (C) 5, John C Sheppard 6, Colin M Turner 7, Peter G C Ellis 8. First peal on the bells after retuning and rehanging.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 12 January 2017, 2h36, **5152 Inglemire Surprise Major:** Nicola J Turner 1, Colin M Turner 2, Cynthia E Howell 3, Helen J Piper 4, Timothy G Pett 5, Richard L Thumwood 6, Bernard F L Groves (C) 7, Peter Bridle 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 22 January 2017, 2h39, **5088 Ashtead Surprise Major:** Colin M Turner 1, Michael J Dew 2, John C Sheppard 3, Richard L Thumwood 4, David M Gambling 5, Susan V Gambling 6, Peter G C Ellis (C) 7, Nicola J Turner 8. First peal in the method 5, 6.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 29 January 2017, 2h37, **5096 Rocket Pole Alliance Major:** Timothy G Pett 1, Peter G C Ellis 2, Nicola J Turner 3, Colin M Turner 4, John C Sheppard 5, Charlotte A Boyce 6, John R Martin (C) 7, Peter Bridle 8. Rung as a get well compliment to Bernard Groves, currently hospitalised in Hobart.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 12 February 2017, 2h39, **5088 Pudsey Surprise Major:** Timothy G Pett 1, Bobbie May 2, Richard L Thumwood 3, Cynthia E Howell 4, John C Sheppard 5, Colin M Turner 6, Nicola J Turner (C) 7, Peter G C Ellis 8. In memory of Mick Hobbs.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Drayton**, 16 February 2017, 2h40, **5184 Sparta Delight Major:** Cynthia E Howell 1, Helen J Piper 2, Nicola J Turner (C) 3, John C Sheppard 4, Richard L Thumwood 5, Mark Edwards 6, Timothy G Pett 7, Colin M Turner 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 19 February 2017, 2h35, **5024 Lessness Surprise Major:** Nicola J Turner 1, Peter Bridle 2, Charlotte A Boyce 3, Cynthia E Howell 4, Charles E J Morrish 5, Richard L Thumwood 6, John R Martin (C) 7, Colin M Turner 8.

Cholsey, 21 February 2017, 2h57, **5058 Zeitgeist Delight Major:** W John Couperthwaite (C) 1, Beryl R Norris 2, Kenneth R Davenport 3, Colin M Turner 4, Timothy G Pett 5, Nicola J Turner 6, Martin J Turner 7, Peter Bridle 8.

Abingdon, St Nicolas, 4 March 2017, 2h33, **5040 Surprise Minor (7m)**: Jeffrey Knipe 1, Lesley A Knipe 2, Michael Hatchett 3, Timothy G Pett 4, Robert D S Brown 5, Stuart F Gibson (C) 6.

APPLETON SOCIETY, **Appleton**, 4 March 2017, 2h49, **5040 Cambridge Surprise Royal**, Comp. J Clatworthy: Bernard J Stone 1, Michele Winter 2, Julie A Haseldine 3, Andrew Haseldine 4, Patricia M Newton 5, Gwen Rogers 6, Robert H Newton 7, Stephen H Stanford 8, Philip Rogers (C) 9, Leon G Thompson 10. On March 4th Day for the 199th anniversary of the bells.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 12 March 2017, 2h36, **5056 Candlemas Delight Major:** Mary E Gow 1, Colin M Turner 2, Stephen J F Mitchell 3, Timothy G Pett 4, Nicola J Turner 5, Peter G C Ellis 6, Charlotte A Boyce 7, John R Martin (C) 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Brightwell cum Sotwell**, 21 March 2017, 2h54, **5088 Glyn Ebbwy Surprise Major:** Nicola J Turner 1, Timothy G Pett 2, Colin M Turner 3, Beryl R Norris 4, Robert A Partridge 5, W John Couperthwaite 6, Peter G C Ellis (C) 7, Peter Bridle 8. 5000th tower bell peal – 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 31 March 2017, 2h31, **5056 Yorkshire Surprise Major:** Cynthia E Howell 1, Nicola J Turner (C) 2, Brian Bladon 3, Debby M Talbott 4, Richard L Thumwood 5, Stuart P B Talbott 6, Colin M Turner 7, Simon W Edwards 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 9 April 2017, 2h33, **5152 Nemo Surprise Major:** David M Gambling 1, Cynthia E Howell 2, Nicola J Turner 3, Susan V Gambling 4, Colin M Turner 5, Simon W Edwards 6, Peter G C Ellis (C) 7, Timothy G Pett 8. The first peal in the method.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 30 April 2017, 2h37, **5152 Old Market Surprise Major:** Cynthia E Howell 1, Charlotte A Boyce 2, Colin M Turner 3, Nicola J Turner 4, Michael J Dew 5, Mark Edwards 6, John R Martin (C) 7, Richard L Thumwood 8.

Childrey, 2 May 2017, 2h55, **5056 Bristol Surprise Major:** John C Sheppard 1, Beryl R Norris 2, Colin M Turner 3, Peter Bridle 4, Nicola J Turner 5, Martin J Turner 6, Graham A C John 7, Timothy G Pett (C) 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 7 May 2017, 2h38, **5152 Ashridge Surprise Major:** Charlotte A Boyce 1, Cynthia E Howell 2, Susan E Marshall 3, Colin M Turner 4, Nicola J Turner 5, Timothy G Pett 6, Richard L Thumwood 7, John R Martin (C) 8.

ONB Branch Outing

Saturday 22nd July 2017

09:30—10:30	**Royal Wootton Bassett**, (8) (19-1-0) St Bartholomew & All Saints (Postcode: SN4 7BB / OS SU066825)
11.00—12.00	**Wroughton** (TBC) (6) (20-1-17) (GF/T) St John Bapt. & St Helen (Postcode: SN4 9JS / OS SU137802)
12.00—13:25	**LUNCH** (TBC) **Wroughton**
14:00—14:45	**Liddington**, (6) (8-2-11) All Saints (Postcode: SN4 0HB / OS SU206812)
15:00—16:00	**Wanborough**, (8) (18-2-23) (T) St Andrew (Postcode: SN4 0BZ / OS SU207825)
16:15—16:45	**TEA Lambourn Church**
16:45—17:30	**Lambourn**, (8) (29-2-0) (T) St Michael & All Angels (Postcode: RG17 8XX / OS SU326789)

Don't Forget: Free Prize Draw for attendees!

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Old North Berks Branch



Barbecue & Croquet

Join in the fun after the Branch Outing on

Saturday, 22nd July 2016 from 7.00pm

At the home of Stuart and Naomi Gibson



The Croft
Milton Hill
(A4130 between A34 Didcot exit and Rowstock)

£10.00 each (payable on the day)

All proceeds to branch funds

All names to Gill Loyd by Friday, 14th July please



Telephone: 01235 850459
Email: gillianloyd@gmail.com

Please note:
Soft drinks will be provided, please bring your own alcohol

ONB Branch Programme for 2017

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, 12th June – Branch Practice – Drayton (8) (7.30–9.00pm)

Wednesday, 14th June – Surprise Major/Royal Practice – Abingdon St Helen (10) (7.30–9.00pm)

Wednesday, 28th June – Afternoon Practice – Childrey (8) (2.00–3.30pm)

Saturday, 22nd July – Branch Outing and Barbecue

Wednesday, 26th July – Afternoon Practice – Radley (6) (2.00–3.30pm)

Wednesday, 2nd August – Surprise Major Practice – Goring (8) (7.45–9.15pm)

Monday, 14th August – Branch Practice – Chilton (6) (7.30–9.00pm)

Wednesday, 23rd August – Afternoon Practice – Brightwell (8) (2.00–3.30pm)

Monday, 11th September – Branch Practice – Sutton Courtenay (8) (7.30–9.00pm)

Wednesday, 27th September – Afternoon Practice – Sunningwell (6) (2.00–3.30pm)

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

Wednesday, 11th October – Branch Practice – Cholsey (8) (8.00–9.30pm)

Wednesday, 25th October – Afternoon Practice – Milton (8) (2.00–3.30pm)

Thursday, 9th November – Branch Practice – Wallingford (10) (8.00–9.30pm)

Saturday, 11th November – Social Evening – Barn Dance (venue TBC)

Wednesday, 22nd November – Afternoon Practice – Chilton (6) (2.00–3.30pm)

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

Monday, 11th December – Branch Practice – North Moreton (6) (7.30–9.00pm)

Wednesday, 13th December – Afternoon Practice – Blewbury (8) (2.00–3.30pm)

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 November 2017 is 17th October 2017. 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

STRIKING COMPETITION TEAMS



Abingdon 'S'



Abingdon 'Y'



Wallingford



Abingdon 'C'



Blewbury



Harwell