# Old North Berks Branch Newsletter

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Cliff and Jill Garlick, taken at Blewbury practice being held at Steventon on 18th October 2019.

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## Editorial

Welcome to the Winter 2019 issue of the Branch Newsletter.

We have a varied selection of articles for you this issue, recording the activities in the Branch over the last six months. Together with more personal reflections on the hobby we all enjoy.

Amongst the happy memories of the summer, there is, however, a note of sadness in the loss of Cliff Garlick, a true stalwart of the exercise who will be greatly missed, the article by Jeff Powell remembers Cliffs' contributions to ringing and the Branch over the years.

Congratulations to the Abingdon band for being placed first in the Guild 6 bell striking contest and good luck for the upcoming Four Shires competition.

Congratulations also to Elisha for scoring her first quarter and to Tim on ringing his 4000th peal. Nicola and her band also deserve congratulating for their all ladies peal of 147 Surprise Minor methods, believed to be the most methods rung to a peal by an all ladies band.

Having had a few false starts and barring any major hurdles in the coming weeks, by the time you read this newsletter I will have moved to pastures new. I've enjoyed my time as joint editor of the newsletter, hearing about the various events in our towers and beyond. We have an enviable reputation for being a successful Branch, due in no small part to the efforts of the various officers and more importantly you, the members, who support our organised activities. Keep this energy flowing and I'm sure the Branch will continue to prosper in the years to come. Thank you for all your contributions over the years, please continue to support Daphne by sending in your reports, articles and photographs.

Not wishing to steal Phil's crown, but at Radley I'm known as a bit of a 'Dad joke' teller, so as a final present to you all, I'll leave this seasonal favourite of mine:

One snowman turns to another and says: "Can you smell carrot?"

My best wishes to all for the coming season and the years ahead.

**Ian Minns**

A couple of final thoughts to leave you with:

Friendship consists of forgetting what one gives and remembering what one receives.

Don't find fault, find a remedy.

## Chairman's Report

What a busy Summer and Autumn it has been for the Branch. Highlights have included the Branch outing on 13th July, organised by Philip Roberts of Harwell, during which over twenty branch members and friends visited Dunstable, Ivinghoe, Linslade, Whitchurch and Quainton for an excellent day's ringing. This was followed, that evening, by a lovely barbecue at the home of Stuart and Naomi Gibson with over 50 in attendance. Elsewhere, works at Steventon tower, including installation of a new rope guide, were completed, and Long Wittenham's bell restoration project is gathering pace on fund raising with a view to starting work in 2020. Across the Branch, there is also a full programme of young ringers events, ensuring the next generation of ringers are, figuratively and literally, learning the ropes.

Congratulations to Abingdon on winning the Guild's 6-bell striking competition. They have now been invited to represent the Guild in the Four Shires 6-bell competition.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the branch and committee members who help organise events, host events, run practices, raise funds, train new ringers, and represent and support us as a branch. Without all of your contributions and time, bell ringing in our area would be far less successful.

Looking forward, there are a couple of events for us to look forward to over the winter. Wantage have invited the Branch for the New Year's Day Ringing and Refreshments (details to follow) and at Blewbury the dedication of the new stained glass window celebrating bells and bell ringing will take place on Tuesday, 7th January at 7.00pm. All are welcome to attend. A peal will be rung during the afternoon by the Westminster Abbey Company of Bell Ringers.

At the time of writing this I have learned of the very sad news of the loss of Cliff Garlick. Cliff, among his long and very supportive time as a bell ringer, was a past chair of this branch, and will be greatly missed by us all. We send our deepest sympathies to Jill and her family at this time.

**Rob Nickless**

## Secretary's Report

Once again we have had a very busy summer in the Branch, with all surprise major practices and monthly afternoon practices (apart from one) being quite well attended. As usual our monthly evening general practices have not always been well attended, indeed the one at Sunningwell had to be cancelled through lack of support, and it is impossible to know which ones will be successful or not. The Branch Committee discussed this at the recent autumn meeting and decided to continue with these practices for another year, mainly because there is only one business meeting per year (AGM). Abandoning branch evening practices will mean that there will be no other opportunities during the year for conducting branch business, such as the election of new members, without calling for an EGM. We would like to thank all those who have supported the Branch over the past months.

At the Committee Meeting in October, Stuart Gibson (Treasurer), reported that branch membership currently stands at 276, which is seven more than last year. Branch fund raising during the year has been strong. The barbecue and outing raised a magnificent £465 before tower fees of £100, and honey sales have so far yielded £275. There are two outstanding grants (Long Wittenham and Letcombe Bassett), and one has been paid to Steventon. The branch has funds totalling £5,980 of which £1,111 is held in the CFOB and £4,869 at Lloyds.

Susan Read, our Training Officer, has been very busy over the summer months. For our young ringers she organised ringing and refreshments at Whitchurch and Pangbourne in May, at Berrick Salome and Drayton St Leonard at the beginning of August and at Old Marston at the end of August. The Branch Ringing School is running a course for new learners. Initially held at a variety of towers, this is now at St Helen's Abingdon using the excellent facilities of the simulator. The eleven learners are really pleased to be able to make good progress so they can take more advantage of the practices in their own towers. Additionally Susan has organised two successful ART courses on how to teach bell handling. At the ART AGM earlier this year, our Branch was highly commended for the work of the Branch Ringing School.

The Branch outing in July was once again very successfully organised by Philip Roberts of Harwell. Over twenty branch members and friends visited Dunstable, Ivinghoe, Linslade, Whitchurch and Quainton, and enjoyed a pub lunch in Linslade and afternoon tea at Whitchurch. It was followed by an excellent barbecue at the home of Stuart and Naomi Gibson with over 50 in attendance. Once again the food was superb and there was fun on the croquet green. Thanks go to Philip, Janette, Stuart and Naomi for arranging such a good day for the Branch.



Congratulations go to the Abingdon ringers, who represented the Branch in the Guild's six bell striking competition at the beginning of October and gained first place. They have been invited to represent the Guild in the Four Shires 6-bell competition.

By the time you read this our next social event will have taken place. This is a quiz night and supper in November at Brightwell Village Hall. Thanks go to Roy Thorpe and his ringers for hosting the event and to Anne Hales of Blewbury for devising and compering the quiz. Ringing to celebrate New Year will be held at Wantage on 1st January 2020 from 10.30am to 12.30pm, with light refreshments available to get the year off to a good start.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Gill Loyd**

## Ringing Masters' Ramblings

The sad and sudden loss of one of our most celebrated and devoted members, Cliff Garlick, was a shock to so many of us. We share the sadness of the loss of one of our most famous and loved ringing characters, and our thoughts are with Jill and her family at this difficult time. He will be remembered with great affection by so many people.

Notwithstanding this sad news, there is much to be positive about in our Branch. Total membership is not declining, ringing standards are generally good, there is more organised training than ever before, our three annual branch social events are well supported, and we continue to restore our bells into very good order. These restorations events include some of our more obscure towers such as Letcombe Bassett and Sparsholt. The excellent recent rehanging of Steventon bells this year, and the next project at Long Wittenham (scheduled for 2020) are testament to the energy and enthusiasm of our membership to keep ONB bells ringing for future generations.

There is just one aspect of branch activity that we feel is not quite as good as it could be. This is the attendance at the monthly evening branch practices. The afternoon practice, Surprise major and training practices are very well attended but some of the recent evening practices have been very disappointing. The exception to this trend was the excellent October practice at Cumnor which saw several new faces and good ringing opportunities for locals and visitors alike. Please can we ask that tower captains do what they can to encourage their members to come along to these practices? If everyone made a resolution to attend just one branch practice in 2020 it would make a big difference! These practices also offer the only opportunity other than the AGM to elect new members to the Guild.

**Richard Loyd and Philip Roberts**

# TOWER TALK

## Abingdon

Some 30 ringers and friends took part in this year's outing in August which was very efficiently organised by Lisa Astbury. We started at the two 8-bell towers in Bradford-on-Avon, the light one first and then the almost 30 cwt 8 at Holy Trinity church. Here we acquitted ourselves very well whilst some of the non-ringers strolled around the delightful Wiltshire market town. Lunch followed at the Dandy Lion pub in Bradford where most of us managed to squeeze on to one table and the pre-ordered food was served fairly promptly considering the size of the group. Next it was on to Trowbridge which gave the opportunity for ringing on 12, some of us for the first time, and

some creditable Grandsire Cinques was rung. The 8 at Melksham were thought by many to be the nicest bells of the day. Then it was on to the picturesque National Trust village of Lacock where afternoon tea was provided in the Village Hall by the local Women's Institute. The final ringing of the day was at the 12.5 cwt 6 in Lacock where the bells were more challenging, as was getting us all into the relatively small ringing chamber!

Lisa also kindly hosted the tower bring and share barbecue at her house. This annual event started on the first anniversary of the installation of the new bells at St Helen's and has been held every year since as close to that July date as possible. This year it had to be pushed back into September because so many of us were unavailable in July and August.

Abingdon won the Old North Berks branch striking competition and so represented the branch at the Guild competition held at Chalfont St Peter on October 5th. We were drawn to ring 5th out of the 8 teams competing and having listened to some of the earlier teams we decided that a fairly brisk pace would produce the best striking. We rang Grandsire Doubles, ably conducted by Isaac O'Shea, and were pleased that we had acquitted ourselves well with no method mistakes. The judges gave the results in the church hall and we were very pleased and somewhat surprised to be placed 1st ahead of High Wycombe and Drayton St Leonard, the first time that Abingdon had won this competition. It was a fitting swan song for Isaac who will soon be leaving us to take up a job in Weston-super-Mare. We will miss him at Abingdon but wish him well in his future career and hope he will come back from time to time when he visits his parents in Sutton Courtenay.



The team in ringing order from right to left: Priscilla Morris, Susan Read, Brian Read, Sarah Barnes, Isaac O'Shea and Tim Pett.

During Sunday morning ringing at St Nicolas on September 15th, a piece of masonry fell from the roof of the nave close to the tower. Ringing was stopped immediately and a subsequent inspection by the church architects discovered some cracks in the tower. Consequently ringing has been suspended until repairs can be carried out. This may well take several months but we are hopeful that ringing can be resumed in time for Christmas. In the meantime the bells can be chimed but not rung full circle.

The funeral of PC Andrew Harper took place at Christ Church, Oxford on October 14th. PC Harper had been based at Abingdon police station and so it was fitting that we were able to toll a single bell at St Nicolas church and also at St Helen's to mark the occasion. This was reported online in the Abingdon blog (See https://www.abingdonblog.co.uk/?p=23350).

**Tim Pett**



## Blewbury

The summer months saw plenty of ringing in Blewbury with Sundays and practice nights well attended, and ringing for half a dozen weddings. In September we had a ringing weekend in Kent. Thanks go to Keith Osborne, (Helen's cousin) for his part in organising this and for letting us all have a go on his traction engine whilst we were there!



Charles Morrish polishing the engine.

Fundraising for a new bell-themed stained glass window in our tower has continued apace too, with a very successful auction of promises and several events in the church and grounds. Thank you to everyone who has supported us. Although not quite to our target, we now have sufficient funds to begin installation, and work began with the removal of the old window at the beginning of September. This has meant that all ringing in the tower has now been suspended whilst the new window is installed and the mortar is setting, to prevent tower movement during ringing affecting the surrounding stonework. We expect to start ringing again on Advent Sunday, but in the meantime we are practising every Friday evening at Steventon. Thank you to Claire and the Steventon ringers for having us.

The Dedication of the new window by the Bishop of Dorchester will take place in Blewbury church on Tuesday 7th January 2020 at 7.00 pm, and a peal by The Westminster Abbey Company will be rung on Blewbury bells during the afternoon. All are welcome to come to this celebration evening and to admire the new window.

**Christine Kowalczuk**

## Chilton

Since May we have welcomed the Bradfield Course in August, our usual visitors from Marston who come on Bank Holiday Mondays, a large group of visitors from nearby Odiham in Hampshire and one wedding with bells.

We are grateful to Debbie Greenfield from Harwell who runs the Chilton practice on the 1st and 3rd Monday's in the month between 7.30 and 9pm. We are also grateful for those who come regularly from other branches and would welcome any others who would like to come. We are still trying to recruit new members.

We hope to see you here at the next Branch afternoon training session to be held on 23 Novembr 2019 between 2 an 3.30pm

**Kate Crennell**

## East Hagbourne

On the 23rd May a group of 20 ringers met in The Fleur for the Kimber Memorial meal. This is an annual event to celebrate and give thanks for the life of Tony Kimber one of our ringers who died in 2001. We enjoyed a very nice meal followed by our usual game of 'Left, right and centre' a game devised by Tony which we always have great fun playing and it usually causes a few heads to turn in the pub.

The annual **Duck Race** took place on **Sunday 25 August** at 2:30 followed by teas in the church. The little ducklings were back again this year. I think it was one of the hottest days of the summer!

The tower were very sad to hear of the death of Barbara Millard. Barbara's daughters Caroline and Elaine were both ringers at St Andrew's tower before they both married and moved to the Uffington area. Barbara herself did try to learn to ring but admitted that she had probably left it a bit late but she did have a go!

The group of new ringers are doing really well and the practice nights on a Tuesday evening have now gone back to 7:30. The ringers thanked the locals for all their patience and understanding. It has been very important to give those learning to ring for the first time a special time just for them and that half an hour at 7:00 before normal practice proved invaluable. We now have SEVEN new ringers who can handle a bell on their own, Dion, Bea, Jazzie and Sam have joined us to ring for Sunday service on several occasions. We hope that other members of the group will soon feel confident enough to join us too! Jill Garlick and her team have done a great job teaching and supporting the new ringers.

Ringer's Sunday was on Sunday 20th October when we have a special ringer's evensong followed by refreshments. Always a a lovely service and we all enjoy singing some of the old ringer's hymns.

The bells were rung half muffled for the morning service on10th November, Remembrance Sunday.

We hope to playthe handbells for The Even Bigger Wassail as part of the Christmas Tree Festival.

**Shirley Goss**

## Harwell

Thursday practice nights at Harwell are busy and varied. The enthusiasm and interest from the centenary ringers of last year has been extremely satisfying. They can all ring confidently on different bells and are gaining experience in ringing the treble and tenor to rounds and call changes. Many are now moving on to plain hunting and one has a date for their first quarter peal in the diary. With the support of more experienced ringers, others who attend the weekly practice have chosen different areas to focus on to progress their ringing, including striking, inside to Bob minor, treble bob, Stedman and Kent. Visiting ringers are always welcome – and chocolate is always available.

**Bridget Taylor**



## Letcombe Regis

On the May Day Bank Holiday, May 6th, we rang in the evening to celebrate the birth of Archie, son of Prince Harry and Meghan.

We missed Henry and Sophie during the summer term while they were on exam leave and they both did extremely well at A level and GCSE respectively. The rest of the band (Christine, Caroline, Toni, Lily, George, Matthew and Anne) kept the bells ringing, and by June Lily had completed her module for her Bronze Level Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Traditionally we always have a summer break in August and despite advertising for new ringers, none came forward to be taught during the holidays. We rang for a wedding on August 31st with the help of Anthony Henderson. We were short as Anne had been suffering from a mystery illness (it is still ongoing), Caroline fell off a ladder, badly injured her shoulders and is still not ringing, and Sophie and Henry were both away for the weekend.

Christine (who learnt to ring when we got the bells ringing again for the Millennium) is now in charge and our bells are still ringing though a few Sundays have had to be cancelled due to other illnesses and commitments etc. Henry will soon be on his gap year travels, Matthew has become a talented swimmer and events often occur on Sundays so our band will be rather depleted this winter. Any visitors will be very welcome! On a positive note, Lily enjoyed Susan's half term Young Ringers Outing to The Vale of the White Horse.

**Anne Williams**

## Long and Little Wittenham

The bells at St Marys continue to be rung, with the ringers very much looking forward to the long overdue repair work and retuning being carried out. The funds have been raised, and we are waiting for the DAC approval. We then hope that Whites have a cancellation or can fit us in before their scheduled date of December 2020!

The response to the appeal from ringers and members of the public has been fantastic and we are very grateful for their support. It is apparent from the response from Long Wittenham villagers just how much they appreciate the bells and want them to continue to be rung for services, weddings and other celebrations. This project has certainly raised the profile of the bells in this Church.

Ringing practices continues at Long Wittenham every Monday evening and at Little Wittenham when there is a fifth Monday in the month.

Just one visiting team this quarter, from Holloway (not the prison) in London, who rang at both towers. I wonder which they found the easier of the two?

**Julia Sargent**

## Milton

There has been quite a bit of activity at Milton during the last six months. In June we had a taster evening in an attempt to recruit some learners and this was amazingly well supported. There had been a three line whip from the Headteacher at the school, so in the end there were about 20 potential recruits present. Obviously some were only there as they were expected to attend, so the following week saw a somewhat reduced turnout. Numbers have, as always, dwindled so we are now left with about six. Of these, Matthew, rang rounds with us on Sunday 6th October for the first time. There is quite a spread of ages, across three generations.

On practice nights we have been ringing a variety of Surprise Minor methods and in August rang a quarter peal of three Surpise Minor methods a first for Daphne, Edward and Oliver.

We had a half day outing on Friday 23rd of August when we rang at four towers around Burford. We started at Fulbrook then Asthall, both augmented from three bell towers in the last 20 years. Following an *al fresco* tea at Black Bourton we rang there and finished at Aston. A wide range of methods was rung during the afternoon and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.




This photo was taken at the last tower — Aston.

Sadly our friend Sue Marshall succumbed to her illness and passed away on Sunday 7th of July. We happened to be ringing a peal at Milton that afternoon so dedicated it to her memory.

Nicola managed to gather together a band on Sunday 6th October, all of whom were born in 1959, so have celebrated their 60th birthday this year. A peal of Bristol Surprise Major was duly rung followed by celebratory tea and cake.

**Colin Turner**

## North Moreton

*Farewell to North Moreton's Bell Captain*

It was a bitter sweet afternoon at North Moreton on Sunday 6 October. A quarter peal on the bells was rung in memory of Alistair Auckland, who began his ringing career at All Saints and died far too young, in 2018.

Alistair brought a mixture of bewilderment as he grappled with the different methods, huge enjoyment with his successes and always so much fun. The ringing chamber came alight when he arrived on practice nights, always a little later than Alice, as we understand, he stayed back to do the washing up!

Over thirty five people came to say goodbye to Alice, who left North Moreton the following day. The Auklands are a well-known couple in the area and Alice had rung for some time in Sutton Courtenay and many ringers, villagers and personal friends came to share in the party that followed the QP. Alice did not want any fuss, but it seems her friends had other ideas and I hope the send-off on her last night in North Moreton has left her with some happy memories.





Thankfully the quarter peal went well. The ringers were Alice (treble), Gill Loyd (2), Christine Kowalczuk (3), Richard Loyd (4), Charles Morrish (5 and caller), Rob Nickless (6). Watching Alice ring the treble, the newest bell in the tower, which bears the names of Alice and Alistairs' two sons was almost overwhelmingly poignant.



Quarter Peal ringers in order of ringing from left to right.

We wish Alice all good luck with her new life in Scotland, with her daughter and grandchildren. We look forward to her return visits and perhaps ringing the All Saints bells once more.

*Other News from All Saints, North Moreton*

Bell ringing in North Moreton is thriving. It is good to be able to report this, when our own ringers are so few and it is a testament to the support we receive from so many members of the Branch. Our Monday practice nights are well attended and provide a good training ground for beginners. We welcome anyone of any standard and most find Monday evenings both constructive and great fun.

A quarter peal was rung on 31 May in memory of Gladys Kirkman. Gladys lived for many years in the village and supported a number of village projects and events, opening her beautiful gardens each year. She was particularly supportive of the bells and felt they played an important part in village life. She was among the kindest of people and it was a pleasure to mark her life in this way.

Our handbell team go from strength to strength. They rang at the Harvest Festival service – the perennial favourite 'We Plough the Fields and Scatter' plus their own arrangement of 'All Things Bright and Beautiful'. Their performance was much appreciated and was particularly remarkable as two of the ringers had been unable to rehearse! Well done and we look forward to your Christmas performances. Anyone wanting a go would be very welcome. Practices are on alternate Monday evenings - contact Alison on 01235 810880.

**Beryl Jones**

## Radley

Practices and Sunday ringing continue to be well supported with visitors from Sunningwell and Abingdon most Thursdays.



Some of you may recall the clock which has hung on the wall of the ringing chamber at Radley for many years and which hasn't been working since the 1960's. Well, thanks to Mark Walker and the PCC, we have at last got it working. It has been relocated away from the heating pipe and to be more visible from the church. We hope it will continue working for a good many more years.

We have only had to ring for one wedding this year, and a group of students and teachers from.the Bradfield Ringing Course visited in August.

On Remembrance Sunday we rang a half-muffled Quarter in the evening. Sadly, this was also to say good bye to Ian Minns as he is moving to Somerset later in November. Ian has been a member of our band since 2004, was the project manager for the rehanging of the bells in 2015, introduced and organised the Tower Christmas Dinner, and will be greatly missed by us all.

**Daphne Pollard**

## Steventon

Following the installation of the rope guide in July, rope control at Steventon has become a delight especially noticeable on the lighter bells. There are new ropes on the way which will make the handling a real pleasure.

We have been able to muster up enough ringers from round and about to ring most Sundays which is wonderful, thank you to everyone who has helped out.

Since September we have welcomed the Blewbury ringers on Friday evenings for practice night whilst their tower is out of action. A few of us Steventon ringers have joined these practices and have benefited greatly. The ringing of the bells has not gone unnoticed in the village; the vicar reported that someone thought the church was under attack! Others thought it was the wind….it would need some wind to move the bells to that degree! Overall the ringing of bells in Steventon is greeted with joy.

We have had several visiting bands of ringers this year since the bells were rehung.

Having not been part of a successful Quarter peal rung at Steventon in all my years since learning to ring there, I rang two in three days at the end of October, one for a first quarter for a Lambourn ringer and one organised by Blewbury ringers in memory of Cliff Garlick.

Following the recruitment notices earlier in the year, five Steventon residents turned up to Nick's trial session, three dropped out due to various reasons, the other two are progressing really well under instruction at Drayton on Monday evenings and Abingdon on Saturday mornings,one comes along to the Blewbury practices on a Friday and has rung for Sunday service.

**Claire Ward**



## Sunningwell

Bells are rung before Divine Service each Sunday morning and there is almost always a full band, and often more than 6 ringers. The Branch Practice planned for 14th August unfortunately had to be abandoned partly due to a number of potential attendees being away on holiday. It is hoped that future Branch Practices will be better supported.



St Leonard's Sunningwell has a rather convoluted approach to the ringing chamber, with an ascent from the base of the tower by way of a narrow spiral staircase with 39 steps (shades of John Buchan!), followed by a descent of about 2m, down a steep ladder, to the ringing floor. The steepness of this descent gave rise to health and safety concerns and to mitigate these concerns, a hand rail has been recently installed so that resulting handhold gives ringers additional stability during descent and ascent. The image to the left shows the new handrail.

**Mike Wykes**

## Wantage

We continue to ring for Sunday services and also for the majority of our Tuesday night practices. We are grateful to our visitors who travel to Wantage on a Tuesday night which gives our more experienced ringers the opportunity to ring surprise methods.

We have a number of local residents who comment when we ring well but also when our striking and general ringing is below standard. As I live close to the church, when our ringing is below standard I walk the long way home!

As in most towers we find it very difficult to attract young ringers. We have one 16 year old who is learning to ring under the Duke of Edinburgh scheme but otherwise there is no interest. A good percentage of our ringers are over 70 years of age so there is a need to find new recruits in the near future.

Our bells were inspected by Whites in August and were found to be in good order.

**Graham Stoter**

## West Hanney

Whilst we have on paper 11 members in our tower, we have occasionally had a problem raising enough for Sunday ringing, due to illness, holidays, work commitments and other absences. Our four novices have progressed brilliantly, thanks to the dedication of Rosi, our Tower Captain, and one of them is now ready for Sundays. Some of our Wednesday practices have had to be cancelled, but we are always pleased to welcome Berice and Michelle to the tower and are very grateful to them for their encouragement and support.

With help from these loyal visitors and from Laura Makin we have successfully rung for three weddings this summer and were able to open the tower for inspection during the village Michaelmas Fayre last month. Thirty-three brave souls climbed the ladder to see the bells and learn about our craft, so helping to augment the Fayre's funds.

**Jean Hazard**

## Cliff Garlick

The ringers at Hagbourne Tower are very sad indeed to report that Cliff died in his sleep in the early hours of October 25th 2019. A terrible shock for his family, and a great loss to all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Cliff had been a member of the Guild since May 1958 – a period of 61 years – and during that time he gave unstinting service to the tower at Hagbourne, and to the wider ringing community in Berks and Oxon. His dedication to both tower and St Andrews church cannot be emphasised enough as both were integral to his whole life, along with his love of his family. He did so much to modernise the ethos at our tower – ensuring that young ringers were encouraged and taught, and bringing a sense of fun to ringing, while at the same time always remembering why we were there. For all of us at Hagbourne tower there has never been a time when he has not been a part of our ringing family. In recent months he had been struggling with various health issues – and in the last few weeks had been unable to join us in the ringing chamber – something which frustrated him greatly and saddened all of us. It seems very fitting that his last Sunday service in St Andrews was our special Ringers' Sunday one on the 20th. As a tribute the first hymn sung at the service the following Sunday was "The sacred bells of England" which is one from the ringers hymnbook.

As well as being an extremely accomplished ringer Cliff was also fun to be with – with a joke and witty comments at the ready for every occasion. In what has become a somewhat bland and careful society he was refreshingly politically incorrect – with laughter never very far away when he was with us.

Whilst always having a sense of fun he also took his duties as Tower Foreman and Chairman very seriously indeed – always striving for the best possible ringing and keeping us on our toes, while at the same time accepting that not all of us could ever be the ringer he was. Sunday service ringing was particularly important – and his dedication was such that he hardly ever missed ringing for morning and evening services during his time with us.

Encouraging new ringers was also important to Cliff – and he had been particularly delighted in recent months with the great progress made by a new crop of learners, a number of whom are now ringing for Sunday service and very much part of the team.

Cliff was also an excellent and dedicated hand bell ringer – with the Christmas concert in St Andrews being a particular favourite with people enjoying his witty banter, as well as his top quality ringing of the heaviest hand bells.

Cliff was a friend to many, and a dedicated family man, and was liked by everyone he met. We extend heartfelt sympathy to Jill, Amanda and Barbara at this sad time, whilst also being grateful for the role Cliff played in our lives.

**Jeff Powell**

## Branch Outing – 13th July 2019

Well Philip must have seen me coming...

So here goes... yet another great success from Philip and Janette; this year's Branch outing started in Dunstable where the Tenor took three to ring up and and is rung from a huge box.

We followed on to Ivinghoe to some 'interesting to manage bells' reached via a very tight winding staircase. Their Tower Captain said the bells were no longer on square bearings but that wasn't obvious to us!

Lunch was plentiful, courtesy of the Globe Inn, idyllically set next to the Grand Union Canal.



Moving on to Linslade with a cosy eight where Richard tried out a commode for size. A tuneful course of Cambridge was amongst the ringing here and then we moved on to the characterful village of Whitchurch and my first experience as a Ringing Master. It was lovely to hear a course of Double Oxford but the attraction of tea next door was drawing people away.

It was indeed a delicious tea for twenty two, such that would have given competition to any Bake-off contestant. Peter, Clare, and Seb were the lucky raffle winners which included a car air freshener... the idea being that as the Branch couldn't stretch funds enough to provide a new car as a prize, this would at least make his smell like one.

Last stop, the aptly named church in Quainton, though perhaps would be better described as elaborate with its marble walled ringing chamber, effigies of the Dormer family.

Though a few of the familiar faces were unable to join us, the day was well attended. Everyone enjoyed themselves and the experience of ringing different bells in new locations.

Thank you Philip and Janette, all bakers, ringing masters and helpers, looking forward to 2020.

Now off to the Annual Branch BBQ.

**Karen Walker**

## Branch BBQ — 13th July 2019



See also enlarged copy on page 32



## Quiz Evening – 9th November

With the warning that Rule 13 would apply, more than 80 people settled down for a fund-raising quiz for the Branch Bell Fund. Knowing that the Quizmaster's (in this case Quizmistress's) decision would be final (the aforementioned rule 13) we put on our thinking caps for 8 rounds of questions of General Knowledge, Witches, 2018 (was that meant to be a round on History?), etc.

With a break in the middle for supper, chillis and casseroles to the fore, there were even sets of table questions to deal with – photographs of British Prime Ministers, and cryptic clues to Oxfordshire villages and towns. We were a bumper crowd from across the branch with friends from further afield and spanned that age range from under 10 to those who remembered when the Old North Berkshire Branch wasn't in Oxfordshire. The hubbub of conversation and laughing covered the attempts to bend the mind to working out how a town or village name could be the answer to a clue, or the surprise that Spencer Percival looked like that.

After a great evening of wonderful food, good company, strange team names and mild-mannered grumbles about some obscure fact, we broke up with thanks to all those who organised and prepared for the event, raising over £520 for the bell fund. Particular thanks went to our inquisitor, Anne, who is moving to pastures new. Next year, a different fund-raiser in a different part of the branch.

**Brendan Bailey**
Harwell and Chilton Bell-ringers



See also enlarged copy on page 33





## Younger Young Ringers Outing (South Oxon Branch – 7th August 2019)

**Six ring sixes!**

This time our outing wasn't interrupted by a single TV personality, unlike the previous two outings! On Wednesday 7th August we visited three quiet village churches with particularly light bells in the South Oxon Branch. We met with six younger ringers (9 – 14 years) from the Old North Berks, Oxford City and Vale of White Horse branches. There were also two older teenage ringers, three parents and five older ringers.

Berrick Salome, (6, 7 cwt) tower was built from wood and was somewhat small, but very attractive in the afternoon sunshine. We were surprised to find an art class taking place in the churchyard with about six elderly artists studiously drawing the church. We hope we didn't disturb their peace too much!

The second tower, Drayton St Leonard (6, 6cwt) had been rehung and retuned a few years ago. The bells had a glorious tone with a lovely hum. Despite their lighter weight, the tenors were not quite so easy for child ringers as the first tower but we rung some plain bob doubles with the help of some of the older ringers.

At the third tower, Shabbington (6, 6 cwt), Daphne brought out the cakes and drinks she had brought for everyone. She is renowned for her home made cakes and scones and everyone tucked in before we enjoyed another easy light six, ringing Stedman and plain bob as well as rounds and call changes.

The nine year old needed some help to ring in the right place, but the others all rang (and called) decent call changes. Five of them trebled to Bistow Doubles (something new for many of the adults). And two rang inside to doubles methods. It was a pleasure watching the young people ringing together and even managing to ring the tenors, something only one from a light tower had been able to do before.

Outings like this are hopefully helping our young ringers not only to enjoy ringing more, but to realise that there are others like them to meet and ring with.

**Susan Read**



## Young Ringers Outing (Old Marston – 27th August 2019)

**Last minute outing!**

At relatively short notice I planned a day outing on 27th August. But the young ringers who said they could come were all at the younger end of the age range and not up to ringing at the towers I had booked. And some who wanted to come from Oxford had no transport. So two days before the planned outing I decided to postpone the day outing until half term. Happily Old Marston were able to welcome us instead, which was ideal.

Nine ringers under the age of 21 and eight older ringers came to Old Marston, travelling variously by bicycle, e-bike, bus and car. We were able to play some ringing games to challenge our setting, rope control and counting as well as to ring plain bob, stedman, grandsire and treble bob hunt.

We rounded off the afternoon with some of Daphne's lovely cakes, scones and peanut butter cookies. What's not to like!

**Susan Read**





## Young Ringers' Outing (Vale of White Horse – 30th October 2019)

I organised a half term outing with four towers with the help of Tony Crabtree. When we arrived at the first tower, a funeral was about to start. I am very grateful to the tower captains who had already arranged to swap over two of the towers so that our outing would not be too disrupted.

The outing was attended by thirteen young ringers from five branches of the ODG. Eight more mature ringers accompanied them, one of whom, Paul Lucas, kindly took lots of photos.

The following report was received from Simon Fuentes, a French national aged 12. I wish I could write as well as this in another language!

**Susan Read**

**Report about bell ringing**

On Wednesday the 30th of October 2019, all the young bell ringers went on a special trip in the Vale of the White Horse around Oxfordshire.

First we arrived at Longcot but we didn't have to climb any stairs as the bell ringing chamber was on the ground floor: no exercise in the early morning!

Our next destination was Faringdon. Unfortunately, the church had a tune mechanism with many cables on the roof and when the bell ropes touched them, it made an awful sound. Then, we had a ploughmans lunch cooked by the hard working of Daphne: thank you, Daphne!

Our afternoon was full of surprise with another church in Shrivenham; there was a hidden passage behind the eagle stand and the stairs were very cramped.

Our last stop on the trip but was supposed to be our first was Stanford in the Vale which was a cosy and roomy place to finish the day.

Thank you to Susan for organising that Autumn event.

**Simon Fuentes**



## Branch Ringing School

**Extra handling lessons for new learners!**

Since March, the Branch Ringing School has focussed on providing extra "Learning The Ropes 1" (LTR1) Rope Handling practices for the newer learners in our branch. It is difficult to give them the attention they deserve during a normal practice night. Attending an extra session on a Saturday morning can really help them to improve and join in with normal ringing in their own tower more quickly.

In the eight months since March, twenty-seven ringing teachers from in and around our branch have helped teach and fifteen learners have taken part at the LTR1 sessions. We decided that it was easiest to hold the lessons at a tower where a full simulator was in place so that we were able to teach on a one to one basis with many learners at the same time and not annoy the neighbours.

Some branch members attended courses to learn how to teach ringing this year and have taken advantage of the Saturday morning sessions to get more practice and confidence in teaching ringing. Hopefully by the end of the year, four ringing teachers will have been accredited from round here including two from our branch.

The LTR2 Foundation Skills sessions at different tower practice nights are perhaps better suited to the lighter evenings. I expect to restart them in April 2020 when the clocks go forward and would like to recommend them for those who are starting to try to ring rounds.

I now realise that it might be better to concentrate on the LTR1Rope Handling lessons during the winter months so that we are not trying to organise two sorts of sessions in any one week.

Do contact me for details of the Branch LTR1 Rope Handling lessons for your newer learners until the end of March and for LTR2 Foundation Skills from April till September.

Please encourage anyone interested in learning how to teach Rope Handling, Foundation Skills or Change Ringing to contact me for help finding the right day course and support after the course.

**Susan Read**
Branch Training Officer
training-officer@onb.odg.org.uk



Lyn Thornton (Harwell) about to ring with advice from Ryan Mills (Abingdon) with Peter Heritage (Abingdon) in the background.







Mary Leneis, Debbie Greenfield and Bobbie Cookson. Debbie taught Mary and Bobbie to ring at Drayton, with extra lessons from the Branch Ringing School. Mary and Bobbie will be members of the Steventon band.

## ART Course

### Young ringers learn to teach with ART

On Saturday 29th June, I attended a one-day course towards Module 1: Teaching Bell Handling, through the ART Teacher Training Scheme. This session was specifically organised for young ringers in the Oxford Diocesan Guild, with 7 attendees from Year 9 through to university, alongside some additional helpers. I was the only Oxford University Society representative due to an unfortunate mismatch with term dates. The session was motivated by the understanding that in order to secure the future of ringing, we must engage the younger generation.

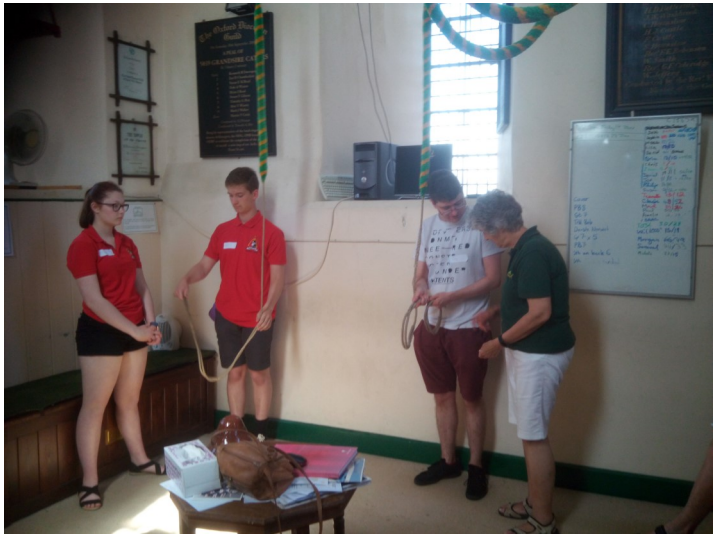
Practical sessions were held at the 10 at St Helen's in Abingdon with theory sessions in the nearby parish centre. The practical sessions showcased some interesting techniques for teaching specific aspects I saw for the first time, though testing them out with both left- and one-handed ringers presented unexpected challenges! These ranged from fielding wayward ropes to exercises for dealing with specific idiosyncrasies. The theory sessions discussed various teaching philosophies and constructively drew on ideas from coaching in other skills, such as canoeing, cycling, and cricket.

The session was organised by Susan Read, and presented by Pip Penney. Lunch comprised no less than four varieties of sliders with matched toppings and accompaniments, and a crunchy apricot slice to finish - many thanks to Susan for all her hard work in preparing this. The standard order of events for such a course was complicated by an afternoon wedding, for which we rang a musical touch of Grandsire Triples; the bride was only 20 minutes late, which didn't disrupt the day too much and gave us more time with our desserts!

I personally chose to attend because most of my teaching experience has been only as a short term substitute, so I thought I would benefit from the long term progress arc and the structure and support that ART provides. My own handling issues, including a persistent "floating hand", also led to a lack of confidence in teaching handling, but this was somewhat resolved in the practical sessions, culminating in a demonstration of effective prompting. I look forward to completing the rest of the module, with online resources and a teaching logbook to tap into with support from my ART mentor, and a final assessment to become accredited.

**Craig Robertson**







## A 'Small' Achievement!

On Sunday 3rd November 2019, six Harwell ringers achieved a special quarter peal, including 4 members of the same family.

It was Elisha Small's first attempt at a quarter peal, age 13. She was joined by her mother, Lyn, and one of her brothers, Ben (his first attempt inside). It was rung to celebrate the 21st birthday of her eldest brother, Seb, who learnt to ring at university and who rang the fifth. So four 'Small's altogether!

**Debbie Greenfield**



## Angela Smith's 90th birthday: recognising her contribution in Abingdon

For the ringers in Abingdon it was memorable to celebrate with Angela Smith, her 90th birthday in August this year. She must be one of (if not the) longest standing members of the Old North Berks Branch and the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers, having started to learn ringing when she was at school in Abingdon in the 1940's. At that time her family lived above the Bank in the Abingdon Market Place.

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

Angela has always been modest about her ringing achievements, but the archives tell another story……. she rang a total of 30 peals ranging from Doubles to Cinques. Her first peal was the treble to Cambridge S Minor at Steventon on 20th June 1949. She rang most of her peals with Malcolm S Cloke (15) and Alan R Pink (14) and 22 of them were for the Oxford Diocesan Guild. Her leading conductor was Alan Pink (11) and leading peal tower was St Ebbe's, Oxford (7). Most of her peals on 8 bells were Kent Treble bob or Plain Bob but she did ring one peal of

Cambridge Surprise Major and one of Double Norwich inside. She only rang 2 peals on more than 8 bells, Grandsire Caters and perhaps her most impressive peal, Stedman Cinques at Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford. This was conducted by Walter Judge, took 3 hours and 48 minutes and was rung half-muffled by friends and colleagues of the cathedral belfry as a tribute to Victor Bennett who had passed away 4 days previously. Further to all this, one of Angela's peals was in celebration of her 21st birthday. And another significant peal, which was her last, was of Grandsire Caters (depicted on a peal board in St Helen's) in 1956 commemorating the visit of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II to Abingdon for the 400th anniversary of the granting of the Borough Charter. This peal was rung with other 'notables' of that era – her mentor Albert Lock, along with 2 members of the previous generation of the White family (local bell-hangers in Appleton) – Francis and Frederick. Also, one of the current White generation members Brian, which happened to be his first peal, and Marie Cross (Radley tower captain who contributed significantly to teaching ringing in Abingdon at that time).

Angela was North Berks branch representative on the ODG committee from 1954 to 1957. However, after she was married in 1962, she had a break from ringing and returned in 1990 when her family had grown up.

This account is by way of giving recognition to Angela's long service (of more than 40 years) to bellringing in Abingdon, along with her endless encouragement and interest in all of us as we learnt the exercise and achieved our ringing mile-stones. We feel fortunate that Angela continues to ring regularly with us for Sunday ringing at St Helen's.

**Margaret Brock and Tim Pett**






**Answers to the puzzle in the last Newsletter:** (Where are these towers with clocks in the ONB)

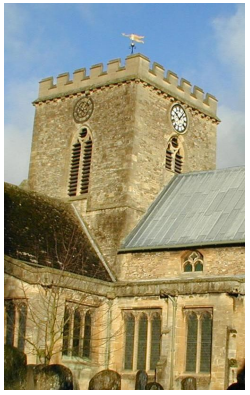
**Kate Crennell**





**A:** Clock without any external face — **East Hagbourne**

**B:** Clock with one face with only one hand — **Childrey**





**C:** Tower with clock with two faces each with two hands which can play tunes on the quarter hours as well as strike the hours — **Wantage**

**D:** Tower with 2 different clock faces — **Harwell**

## Pat Pugh's Ringing Reminiscences

I began ringing shortly after I went up to Oxford, in 1948, with the Oxford University Change Ringing Society. During the war, of course, all bells had been silenced, but on VE Day there was a peal of bells across the country. The towers were all cleaned and refurbished as soon as the money could be raised to do it. The University Society was building up at the time, as many undergraduates returning from war service resumed their previous hobbies. There was a wide range of ages amongst the ringers at the time, and we youngsters all benefitted from the experience of the older ringers.

We rang regularly on Sundays at many towers, including New College, Magdalen College, Christchurch College, St Cross Church, St Ebbs, St Giles and the University Church. Once a year we had a trip further afield, and rang at Winchester, Lincoln and Durham Cathedrals. Let's also not forget the many village towers in the counties of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, in fact, anywhere within a cycle ride from Oxford. The tower snatching was great fun! Some of the keenest ringers notched up about a peal a week during term time.

Meanwhile in the church at Gulval, a village outside my home town, Penzance in Cornwall, word had reached the bell-tower that they had a new ringer in their midst, and I was soon roped in for Sunday duties during the holidays. There I benefited from the experience of Harry Myles and Marion Lidgey, who were renowned figures in West country ringing. My husband, Stanley, and I, were married in Gulval Church in 1952, with my two dogs, Sandy and Doogles, and presiding Canon Buckley's dog, Mac, in attendance. Despite the Gulval ringers ringing Oxford and Cambridge (the two methods in alternation, not spliced, as they could not prepare that in the time), I was not able to persuade my husband to take up the craft. Mac used to accompany the Canon everywhere, including regularly to church. I saw Mac's grave for the first time last month, on holiday with my son Vyvyan and his family.

After Oxford, I rang at Toot Baldon village Church, where I used to arrive on the back of the tower master's motorbike each week. In 1953 we moved to Abingdon, where I rang at St Helen's Church for two years, and then after my son Vyvyan was born, I rang regularly at St Nicolas Church. Later, my family and I had duties in the choir as well. This often entailed me scuttling up the aisle at the last minute to reach the vestry after ringing, then hurriedly donning robes just in time for the procession. At one time there were 4 Pughs, 3 Bishops, and one Monk in the Choir.



Pat with the ringers as the Church celebrated her 90th birthday at the Sunday morning Service. Seated next to Pat is Angela Smith, whose 90th birthday is reported elsewhere in the Newsletter.



Over the years I had the pleasure of ringing at Coventry Cathedral, soon after its inauguration, at Glasgow Cathedral, and at a commemoration for ringers in St Martin in the Fields in Trafalgar Square. Unfortunately Parkinson's Disease forced me to give up ringing, but I was able to 'ring in' the Millennium at St Helen's, and that was the last time I rang. But although it's been some time since that day, I still get a friendly wave from the bell-tower at St Nic's often when I attend services.

**Patricia Pugh**

## So much more than pulling a rope!

In the early seventies I wandered up our local bell tower as it seemed inviting and a good distraction from the usual scout night activities. It turns out that this was a life changing course of action. Bell ringing has been a key part of my life ever since.

Yes, there are spells where ringing dominates, and others where it takes a back seat. But one of the beauties is that it never needs to die away completely. At any time, you can pick up where you left off, without the huge financial outlay of many other interests.

Naturally, new recruits need to master the basic bell handling skills and this will dominate initially. However, I am a big believer in promoting the wider horizons from an early stage.

We can include:
Large, small, old and new bells.
Unlimited complexity of methods and long length ringing.
The social side and ringing associations.
Ringing trips and Dove's Guide.

But still, there is more. What about the spin-offs along the way? How many interesting and historic places have I discovered whilst visiting new towers? There have been countless lovely churchyards, interesting ascents to the ringing room, views over towns and countryside, clocks, sundials, yew trees, gates… The list goes on and on.

Without making this article too long, I just wanted to share my latest sideline, which has been rather unexpected, but rewarding. Perhaps it might give others inspiration for something different.

Brought up in Yorkshire, I have always been chiefly attached to 8 bell towers – they tend to dominate in the West Riding. As for so many ringers, I always hope to aspire to ringing on higher numbers. I enjoy 10, and can cope with simple ringing on 12, but I know my limits. That represents the prestigious side of our art.

Since moving south to Oxfordshire (something I never, ever thought would happen in my life!), my eyes have been opened. I have come to enjoy discovering Northamptonshire. It is pleasant, if not spectacular countryside, the villages with their characteristic ironstone buildings are quaint, and history abounds with all the battles of old. In ringing terms, the county has more than its fair share of 5 bell towers.

There are plenty of Doubles methods available, but, perhaps snootily, I have always rather looked down on these as the poor relations, particularly when rung without a cover bell. That may be so, but what I have come to understand is that 5 bell towers often have real character. Possibly this is precisely because they have been overlooked. The bells may be rough, the ropes in a poor state. You may have to move the flower stands from the rope circle before you ring. More than likely the ropes will be adjusted for ringers of 4 foot in height (don't ask me what that is in metric, I am strictly imperial on these things). But… This little avenue of distraction is my present source of unexpected pleasure. Not all the time, of course. That's the point, it's there for the times you fancy giving it a go. This is perhaps the greatest strength our hobby offers.

And so it was, on Saturday 20th July, that five of us ventured out into the Northamptonshire countryside to ring three quarter peals at three different 5 bell towers. We were all experienced ringers, the methods were not too demanding and I had taken advice on whether the bells were suitable for quarter peals on a hot summer Saturday. Success was guaranteed, surely?

Firstly, we were late setting off, then held up by an accident on the A43, so we arrived slightly harassed at Syresham. We started with our most difficult choice first, Stedman Doubles. On the 4th extent, disaster struck, as so often it does in this method. No time to restart, we went to lick our wounds over lunch.

Finding a suitable place to eat threw up another bonus. Whilst searching the internet for cafes/pubs, I discovered The Flight Deck at Turweston Aerodrome. It is a long detour round the perimeter of the airfield, but once there you will find a new building with first floor café complete with outside balcony. The food is excellent and you can watch the light aircraft coming and going. Much recommended.

Our second tower was Chipping Warden. Once again, we were late due to a road closure and long diversion. We had changed our plans, considering them to be overambitious, particularly with the conductor being generally off form. We set off for Grandsire Doubles, working hard in the heat. On extent 8 (or was it 9?) things came to an abrupt end. (Note from the conductor – why does Grandsire do this to you? a moments hesitation whilst you question how many extents you have done, and you miss a call!) We couldn't end without scoring anything. So we tried for Grandsire again at our third tower, Marston St. Lawrence, after all, this is bread and butter, surely. This time we were successful, allowing us some form of self satisfaction. We took a photograph for posterity.

So there we are. Some ringers may view this as failure and beat themselves up. Not us. We had an excellent trip. Three good towers, a good place to eat, friendship and a dose of reality that showed us we aren't quite as clever as we might like to believe!

I write this hoping to kindle interest in others. Not necessarily the same format, but to open minds to the endless possibilities out there. Just pluck an idea out of the ether and try it. That's the beauty of bell ringing, there is no need to get stuck in a rut.

**Charles Morrish**



Saturday 20th July 2019
Marston St. Lawrence, Northants.
**1260 Grandsire Doubles**

1 Rachel Morrish
2 Philip Roberts
3 Maureen Velvick
4 Steve Vickars
5 Charles Morrish (C)

Rung on Rachel and Charles' 34th wedding anniversary.



# QUARTER PEALS

**Milton**, 24 February 2019. **1280 Bristol Surprise Major:** Cynthia Howell 1, Wendy Campbell 2, Charlotte Boyce 3, George Unsworth 4, Colin Turner 5, Charles Morrish 6, John Martin (C) 7, Ian Campbell 8.

**North Moreton**, 31 May 2019. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Alice Auckland 1, Rachel Morrish 2, Gillian Loyd (C) 3, Mary Friskney 4, Richard Loyd 5, Rob Nickless 6. In memory of Gladys Kirkman.

**Blewbury**, 6 June 2019. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles:** Matthew Phillips 1, Gillian Loyd (C) 2, Christine Kowalczuk 3, Ellen Bramhill 4, Richard Loyd 5, Peter Corderoy 6. To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings. 1st quarter inside: 3.

NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY SOCIETY, **Radley**, 30 June 2019. **1300 Mixed Doubles (4m)**: Alex Speakman 1, Adam Wilmott 2, Lydia P Parkes 3, Daniel T Calvert 4, Edward A S Walker (C) 5, Estella J Haynes 6. Rung at the end of the 2019 NUSCR summer tour.

**Chilton**, 6 July 2019. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Daphne Pollard 1, Philip Roberts 2, Bridget Taylor 3, Richard Loyd 4, Nick Clarke (C) 5, Peter Corderoy 6.

**Milton**, 17 July 2019. **1320 Surprise Minor (3 Methods):** Rachel Morrish 1, Daphne Pollard 2, Colin Turner 3, Edward Walker 4, Oliver Hyde 5, Nicola Turner (C) 6. Most Surprise Minor methods 2,4 & 5. A 21st birthday compliment to Oliver.

**Abingdon** (30 St Amand Drive), 14 August 2019. **1290 Spliced Major (2m)**: Susan Read 1-2, David Thomas (C) 3-4, Tim Pett 5-6, Isaac O'Shea 7-8. Rung as a 90th birthday compliment to Angela Smith.

**Wallingford**, 18 August 2019. **1260 Grandsire Triples**: Katherine Parker 1, Mary Friskney 2, Keith Anderson 3, Daryl Dixon 4, Josie Irving 5, Robert Partridge 6, Chris Tuckett (C) 7, Philip Mills 8. With congratulations and very best wishes on her 90th birthday to Pat Berry, widow of Jack Berry who was tower captain at Wallingford for over 50 years.

**Marcham**, 26 August 2019. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Michelle X 1, Willow Gathergood-Dains 2, Susan Read 3, Brian Read 4, Josh Ball (C) 5, David Thomas 6. First quarter peal as conductor: 5. First on the treble: 1. Rung to celebrate the birth of Sylvia Yok Mui Chan.

**Wallingford**, 22 September 2019. **1260 Grandsire Triples**: Daryl Dixon 1, Jo Gamester 2, Mary Friskney 3, Katherine Parker 4, Robert Partridge 5, Kevin Beer 6, Chris Tuckett (C) 7, Philip Mills 8. For Evensong and in celebration of the recent Golden Wedding of Jane and Chris Tuckett, with congratulations from all Wallingford ringers and friends.

**North Moreton**, 6 October 2019. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Alice Auckland 1, Gillian Loyd 2, Christine Kowalczuk 3, Richard Loyd 4, Charles Morrish (C) 5, Rob Nickless 6. In memory of Alistair Auckland, a ringer at this tower. Also a farewell compliment to Alice Auckland, who is moving to Dundee, with best wishes from all the ringers and friends associated with North Moreton tower.

**Steventon**, 23rd October 2019. **1260 Grandsire Doubles**: George Rabbitts 1, Claire Ward 2, Rachel Morrish 3, Maureen Velvick 4, Charles Morrish (C) 5, Rob Nickless 6. !st QP away from cover for treble. Remembering Lottie, faithful trailhound and churchyard regular!

**Steventon**, 26 October 2019. **1320 Plain Bob Minor**: Christine Kowalczuk 1, Claire Ward 2, Helen Sharpe 3, Gillian Loyd 4, Richard Loyd 5, Alex Sharpe (C) 6. Rung to celebrate the life of Cliff Garlick, long standing ringer at East Hagbourne and active supporter of Old North Berks Branch.

**Harwell**, 3 November 2019. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles :** Elisha Small 1, Lyn Small 2, Benjamin Small 3, Nick Clarke (C) 4, Sebastian Small 5, Debbie Greenfield 6. First Q: 1, 1st inside: 3. 21st birthday compliments to 5.

**Wallingford**, 3 November 2019. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Jenny Jeskins 1, Karen Walker 2, Keith Anderson 3, Daryl Dixon 4, Mary Friskney (C) 5, John Hutchinson 6. Before the Service for All Souls, remembering particularly local branch ringer Cliff Garlick who died recently. First inside: 2.

**Abingdon, St Helen**, 10 November 2019. **1260 Grandsire Caters**: Comp. David L Thomas (No. 353): Priscilla Morris 1, David Thomas (C) 2, Susan Read 3, Alison T Merryweather-Clarke 4, Gillian Loyd 5, Sarah Barnes 6, Richard Loyd 7, Tim Pett 8, Ryan Mills 9, Brian Read 10. 700th Quarter Peal: 4. Rung half-muffled for Remembrance Sunday.

**Radley**, 10 November 2019. **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: Daphne Pollard (C) 1, Sally Mulholland 2, Ann Belcher 3, M Ian Minns 4, Mark Walker 5, Maurice Belcher 6. Rung half-muffled for Remembrance Sunday. Also to wish Ian Minns farewell as he is moving to Somerset, and to welcome a baby girl born on 7 November to Polly and Dan Lane, a granddaughter for Charlie and Yvonne Milward.

**Wallingford,** 10 November 2019. **1260 Grandsire Triples**: Daryl Dixon 1, Jo Gamester 2, Nuala Clements 3, Katherine Parker 4, Keith Anderson 5, Mary Friskney 6, Chris Tuckett (C) 7, Kevin Beer 8. Rung half-muffled for Remembrance Sunday.



# PEALS

**Chilton**, 4 February 2019, 2h45, **5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (22m)**: Michael Hatchett 1, Timothy G Pett 2, Simon L Edwards 3, Lesley A Knipe 4, Jeffrey Knipe 5, Stuart F Gibson (C) 6. Circled Tower: 2.

**Milton**, 7 May 2019, 2h42, **5152 Ytterbium Surprise Major**: Peter Bridle 1, June D Wells 2, Beryl R Norris 3, E John Wells 4, Richard L Thumwood 5, John C Sheppard 6, Martin J Turner 7, Timothy G Pett (C) 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY**, Milton**, 24 May 2019, 2h35, **5040 Zulu Alliance Major**: Susan E Marshall 1, Colin M Turner 2, Cynthia E Howell 3, Nicola J Turner 4, John C Sheppard 5, Alan M Eyles 6, John R Martin (C) 7, Peter Bridle 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY**, Brightwell**, 25 May 2019, 2h42, **5032 Hotel Alliance Major**: Alison R Wiilliams 1, John C Sheppard 2, Peter Bridle 3, Colin M Turner 4, Susan E Marshall 5, Nicola J Turner 6, Timothy G Pett 7, John R Martin (C) 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 16 June 2019, 2h34, **5040 Yankee Alliance Major**: Nicola J Turner 1, Alan M Eyles 2, Cynthia E Howell 3, Charlotte A Boyce 4, John C Sheppard 5, Richard L Thumwood 6, Colin M Turner 7, John R Martin (C) 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 21 June 2019, 2h34, **5040 Uniform Alliance Major**: Robert J Crocker 1, Richard L Thumwood 2, Cynthia E Howell 3, Beryl R Norris 4, Nicola J Turner 5, John C Sheppard 6, Peter G C Ellis (C) 7, Colin M Turner 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 7 July 2019, 2h37, **5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major**: Debby M Talbott 1, Nicola J Turner (C) 2, Beryl R Norris 3, Colin M Turner 4, Stuart P B Talbott 5, John C Sheppard 6, Charles E J Morrish 7, Peter Bridle 8. In memory of Sue Marshall.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**,14 July 2019, 2h37, **5152 Sisland Delight Major**: Cynthia E Howell 1, Alan M Eyles 2, Nicola J Turner (C) 3, Beryl R Norris 4, John C Sheppard 5, Colin M Turner 6, Richard L Thumwood 7, Peter Bridle 8.

**Abingdon, St Helen**, 27 July 2019, 2h58, **5040 Yorkshire Surprise Royal,** Comp. by Graham A C John: E John Wells 1, Beryl R Norris 2, June D Wells 3, Cynthia E Howell 4, Stuart F Gibson 5, John C Sheppard 6, Peter Bridle 7, David L Thomas 8, Nicholas J Clarke 9, Timothy G Pett (C) 10. The conductor's 4000th peal.

**Chilton**, 12 August 2019, 2h46, **5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (7m)**: Michael Hatchett 1, Catherine M A Lane 2, Craig M Robertson 3, Simon L Edwards 4, Stuart F Gibson (C) 5, Josie S Irving 6. In celebration of the life of Brian Morris, long standing Chilton Parish Councillor and member of the millennium bells restoration committee, who died in July.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 18 August 2019, 2h37, **5040 Gillett Alliance Major**: Timothy G Pett 1, Beryl R Norris 2, Nicola J Turner (C) 3, John C Sheppard 4, Colin M Turner 5, Michael J Dew 6, Peter Bridle 7, Richard L Thumwood 8 The first peal in the method.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 25 August 2019, 2h29, **5024 Pink Fizz Delight Major**: Nicola J Turner 1, Charlotte A Boyce 2, Colin M Turner 3, Alan M Eyles 4, Alison R Williams 5, John C Sheppard 6, Richard L Thumwood 7, John R Martin (C) 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 22 September 2019, 2h34, **5040 Veryan Alliance Major**: Timothy G Pett 1, Cynthia E Howell 2, Nicola J Turner (C) 3, Richard L Thumwood 4, Peter Bridle 5, John C Sheppard 6, Colin M Turner 7, Alan M Eyles 8. The first peal in the method.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 29 September 2019, 2h29, **5040 Fenchurch St Paul Alliance Major**: Nicola J Turner 1, Cynthia E Howell 2, Colin M Turner 3, Charlotte A Boyce 4, John C Sheppard 5, Timothy G Pett 6, John R Martin (C) 7, Richard L Thumwood 8.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 6 October 2019, 2h35, **5024 Bristol Surprise Major**: Pauline C McKenzie 1, Nicola J Turner (C) 2, John Cornock 3, George Unsworth 4, Philip A L Rioch 5, Robert D S Brown 6, Christopher N McCarthy 7, Rebecca J Cox 8. All of the band were born in 1959.

ST BLAISE SOCIETY, **Milton**, 20 October 2019, 2h36, **5088 Zoolith Surprise Major**: Timothy G Pett 1, John C Sheppard 2, Charlotte A Boyce 3, Nicola J Turner 4, Alan M Eyles 5, Colin M Turner 6, John R Martin (C) 7, Richard L Thumwood 8. In memory of Thelma Roulstone.

SAINT JAMES' GUILD**, Milton,** 10 November 2019, 2h59, **5760 Spliced Surprise Minor (147 methods**): Sally A Brown 1, Jennifer E Earis 2, Helen C Mansley 3, Nicola J Turner 4, Lucy A Warren (C) 5, Stephanie J Warboys 6. Believed to be the most methods rung to a peal by a ladies band.



The band in order, clockwise from front right.



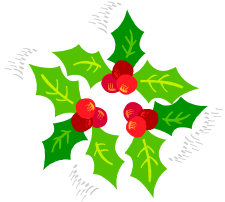


**Branch BBQ — 13th July 2019**



Branch Quiz — 9th November 2019







# ONBB

## New Year's Ringing & Refreshments

## Wednesday, 1st January 2020

## S Peter & S Paul, Wantage

## 10.30am – 12.30pm

## Everybody welcome





## Old North Berks website

The Old North Berks website can be found at www.onb.odg.org.uk. The website is a valuable tool providing up to date information and a means of contacting the branch officers and the towers within the branch. It should be the first port of call for details about branch events. Why not visit it now and add it to your favourites. If you spot any incorrect or missing information then please contact the webmaster at webmaster@onb.odg.org.uk.

Or would you like to include something on the website. Why wait for the Branch Newsletter to report a special event in your tower. Maybe there has been a special birthday or a first quarter or you have been on a tower outing. Just email the webmaster with the details and maybe a photo. Let's hear about these events as they happen.

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|---|---|---|
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## NEXT ISSUE

Deadline for copy for the next issue in June 2020 is 21st April 2020. But please don't wait until then, send your news, pictures, and quarters in as they happen.

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## ONB Branch Programme for 2020

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.

**Wednesday, 1st January** – Ringing and refreshments – Wantage (8) (10.30am–12.30pm)
**Wednesday, 22nd January** – Branch Practice – Brightwell (8) (2.00–3.30pm)
**Wednesday, 5th February** – Surprise Major Practice – Drayton (8) (7.30–9.00pm)
**Thursday, 13th February** – Branch Practice – Harwell (8) (7.30–9.00pm)
**Wednesday, 26th February** – Branch Practice – Cholsey (8) (2.00–3.30pm)
**Saturday, 21st March** – Striking Competition and AGM – Steventon (6) (SC 3.00pm, Service 5.00pm, Tea 5.45pm, AGM 6.30pm)
**Wednesday, 25th March** – Branch Practice – North Moreton (6) (2.00–3.30pm)
**Wednesday, 1st April** – Surprise Major Practice – Sutton Courtenay (8) (7.30–9.00pm)
**Tuesday, 21st April** – Branch Practice – East Hagbourne (8) (7.30–9.00pm)
**Wednesday, 29th April** – Mini outing and lunch
**Wednesday, 13th May** – Branch Practice – West Hanney (6) (7.30–9.00pm)
**Wednesday, 27th May** – Branch Practice – Sunningwell (6) (TBC) (2.00–3.30pm)
**Wednesday, 10th June** – Surprise Royal/Major Practice – Abingdon, St Helen (10) (7.30–9.00pm)
**Tuesday, 24th June** – Branch Practice – Childrey (8) (2.00–3.30pm)
**Saturday, 27th June** – Branch Outing and Barbecue
**Friday, 10th July** – Branch Practice – Appleton (10) (7.30–9.00pm)
**Wednesday, 22nd July** – Branch Practice – Radley (6) (2.00–3.30pm)
**Wednesday, 5th August** – Surprise Major Practice – Goring (8) (7.45–9.15pm)
**Monday, 10th August** – Branch Practice – North Moreton (6) (7.30–9.00pm)
**Wednesday, 26th August** – Branch Practice – Drayton (8) (2.00–3.30pm)
**Wednesday, 9th September** – Branch Practice – Childrey (8) (7.30–9.00pm)
**Wednesday, 23rd September** – Branch Practice – Marcham (6) (TBC) (2.00–3.30pm)
**Wednesday, 7th October** – Surprise Major Practice – Milton (8) (7.30–9.00pm)
**Friday, 16th October** – Branch Practice – Blewbury (8) (8.00–9.30pm)
**Wednesday, 28th October** – Branch Practice – East Hagbourne (8) (2.00–3.30pm)
**Thursday, 12th November** – Branch Practice – Radley (6) (7.30–9.00pm)
**Saturday, 21st November** – Social evening – Barn Dance
**Wednesday, 25th November** – Branch Practice – Chilton (6) (2.00–3.30pm)
**Wednesday, 2nd December** – Surprise Major Practice – Brightwell (8) (7.45–9.15pm)
**Monday, 14th December** – Branch Practice – Drayton (8) (7.30–9.00pm)
**Wednesday, 16th December** – Branch Practice – Harwell (8) (2.00–3.30pm)