

May 2005

A taste of Tadmarton

Tadmarton has much more to offer than good pub grub and the ringers 'cake and cuppa'. St Nicholas church has played host to Branch events in the past and is the venue for this year's Striking Competition in June.

The village lies on the Banbury - Shipston road with the church in a prominent position on higher ground opposite the Lampet Arms (built as a hotel for the railway that never came).

The church dates from Norman times through to the 20th century with a mixture of styles and interesting details.

The bells were rehung and retuned in 2000 and the details are as follows:

1 - Cast in 1947 at the Whitechapel Foundry and donated by the family of Lieutenant Commander Nigel Crossley RN who died in 1939 whilst commanding HMS Gypsy. Weight 4-1-5.

2 - Cast by Matthew Bagley II 1761 at the Chacombe Foundry. Weight 4-3-0

3 - Cast by Newcombe of Leicester in 1612. Weight 5-1-0

4 - Originally cast in 1607 by the Atton family of Buckingham it was recast by Taylors of Loughborough in 1923. Weight 6-1-10

5 - Cast in 1637 by Henry Bagley I at the Chacombe Foundry. Weight 8cwt.

6 - Cast 1618 probably on site by the itinerant founder Richard Purdue. Weight 11cwt.

Whites hung the new bell in 1947 and again did the work in 2000. Only four peals have been rung on the bells.

The present band, who started learning in 1997 in preparation for the Millenium, are a willing and increasingly competent group whose talents go far beyond ringing and who play a regular part in branch activities.



Around Towers

Adderbury

Adderbury Church has just launched a campaign to raise £250,000 for roof and structure repairs and the bellringers are involved in several of the fundraising activities, which should make for a fun summer. We continue to uphold our reputation as a gastronomic organisation, with an excellent Italian evening recently held in April. Our two new learners are now fairly competent at Plain Hunt and continue to make steady progress.

Trevor Trivett

Banbury

Practices continue apace with a variety of methods being rung on Wednesday evenings. Sunday ringing is spasmodic so if you want to join us check by ringing Jean first (7.00am-8.30am). Our 'water watch' has resulted in contractors being appointed to repair the portico roof and the work is imminent. This will not affect the ringing as no scaffolding is being used. The men will work 'spiderman fashion' with hooks securing them to the walls.

Sadly we lost Jack Bishop just after New Year and a peal is planned to commemorate his and brother Harry's service to ringing at St. Mary's. Our international learners Veri, Ursula, and Edna all sent cards at Christmas but sadly they have no bells to practise on.

We accepted Janet's invitation to hold our AGM at the vicarage in March, the highlight of which was scones made by her daughter Miriam (in case Jean was hungry having come straight from work!). And very nice they were too.

We came away with a long list of 'things to do' including 'Banbury Archives'. If anyone has anything relevant to ringing at Banbury lurking in their tower/home/shed please could Jean have a copy?

Jean Davis

Bloxham

Things are not going too well. Several of the ringers. I have been teaching for years have just given up and stopped coming. The practices have been very poorly attended of late. One Friday I walked on crutches up to the church and rang all the bells up. Another ringer turned up half an hour later and drove me home.

Recently I was away for two Fridays, and Graham Clifton and Martin Saunders very kindly agreed to come and run the practice, but only three ringers turned up each time. I am sorry to say that we have therefore

cancelled practices at Bloxham until further notice. Bloxham Spire is going to have major work done on it. Apparently they are going to fit jacks, cut a slot round the spire, and jack it up so that they can do repair work. All ringing is suspended from the 16th May until the 8th July. After that I shall have to try to get some more learners.

Alan Griffin

Great Tew

This year the ringers of Tew tower are looking forward to the refurbishment of their beloved tower. Re-pointing, cleaning and fixing up the roof are within those plans. Hopefully the work will match the standards we see now in the newly refurbished roof of the church.

After last years' all day ringing affair with the Johnston wedding in June, we the ringers have been able to relax and embellish our talents at our own speed. At this year's tower AGM we decided to make monthly goals for the tower and personal goals for the ringers. Tower goals consist of learning: St. Martins, St. Simons, All Saints, St. Nicholas and Winchendon Place, among others. As well as trying to learn all the Minimus methods - just for fun! Plain Bob, Reverse Bob, and Double Bob have already been done, and we move onward always. The best

thing about trying out all these methods is being able to walk into a different tower and be able to ring a wide range of methods. Thanks to Joan and Sue's guidance this becomes more attainable. For their personal goals each ringer chooses either a method, a method to call, leading up/down, or simply calling call changes as their aim. It's quite amazing what a small group can accomplish. Joan continues to call more and more quarters. Sandford quarters offer her the opportunity to try out her skills. Recently she successfully called a quarter of Bob Doubles for Evensong at Sandford with the added challenge of only 5 bells ringing! Abbott rings us up and down steadily and has even started doing so for Sunday service (when he doesn't have to run off to his 'vicarly' duties). The Crinklies are ever pushing him forward, as he now starts to grasp the Norwich above and London below methods. After Sarah's return to England from Canada, her main accomplishment has been to learn Cambridge Minor with a first quarter on the treble for "Firsts and Favourites" week. As well as this, she gets used to the sound of her voice as she tries her hand at calling call changes. Roger brings with him two new ringers from Duns Tew, Heather and Sonya. Both are growing in confidence at every visit.

For the future, we look forward to the striking competition in Tadmarton, hoping to hold onto our second place position (maybe even pulling into the lead!?!). There are more weddings in the offing. As young ringers like Sarah started out as the honorary "ting-tang" ringer, a few children from the congregation enjoy watching the bells being rung and even take pride in ringing the ting-tang themselves! Is this the future for the Tew ringers, we wonder?

Sarah Conway

Mollington

We wish to welcome Ann Cubitt to Mollington, she has joined us from Lambourne in Berkshire. She has settled in really well and has already

been on a Bob Doubles Course and visited several local towers. With her help we now regularly ring plain courses of Bob Doubles for Sunday services and touches on practice nights. Bob and Ted still spend a couple of hours each week working on the frame. They have nearly finished undercoating and hopefully this summer will see the topcoat going on. As you will see from the article on Jack Medland, the last time it was painted was when the frame was new; this was over twenty years ago.

Diana Reeves

Sandford St. Martin

On the second Sunday of each month Sandford have their evensong service and some of the Great Tew ringers head down the road to ring. As always, we receive much appreciation. Recently we had the pleasure of ringing for a special event. Heather (from Duns Tew and ringer at Tew) is a proud mother and grandmother. Three of her grandchildren were baptized at Sandford, so we rang them in with a quarter of Grandsire on the 3rd of April!

Sarah Conway

Tadmarton

There is not much news from Tadmarton. Unfortunately we have lost one ringer who has moved away but we do have a new learner; David Deacon who is doing well and has just started to ring with us for services. We are very grateful to Stuart and Michael from Brailes and Paul from Cherington who join us regularly on Friday nights and we always enjoy having other visiting ringers. We are now able to ring many doubles methods and have just started to attempt Erin doubles.

We are looking forward to hosting the striking competition again in June. We will be having a barbecue in Doug and Daphne Woodward's garden and hope for a warm, dry evening. By the way, Doug's vegetable patch is all planted up!

Lindsey Smith

Steeple Aston

We arrived in Steeple Aston on a beautiful Tuesday in August. That evening - exhausted from moving our family of six across the Atlantic - we were sitting in the garden and for the first time we heard the bells ringing from the Church tower. That glorious sound seemed the perfect ending to our first day but we little knew how much better we would come to know those bells. At the Harvest Supper my daughters Ellen (13) and Fiona (10) were fascinated by the posters and model the bellringers had on display and we were pleased to accept Graham's offer to join them on a practice night. Canada has only a handful of churches with bells and we had never seen the inside of a bell tower.

So began our bell ringing. As is probably true for most people, we rapidly discovered that ringing is harder than it looks, and the thought of ringing a peal is still awe-inspiring. Nonetheless we progressed and have enjoyed it greatly. We have been grateful for the warm welcome and friendship extended by all the bellringers and for their humour and patience with our mistakes! Graham, Mick and many others have shared their time and skills so generously.

At Christmas we started learning to play the handbells; going round the village on frosty December evenings and hearing the old familiar carols ring out is something we shall never forget. In March we enjoyed another Steeple Aston bellringers' tradition - Skittles Night in Tackley, in lieu of practice night in Holy Week!

We were thrilled to be elected members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild at the Branch Practice in Steeple Aston - the briefest and most efficient meeting of any sort I have ever attended! A few weeks later we went to ring at Deddington - our first excursion to another tower. We received our certificates at the Half-yearly meeting and enjoyed the delicious tea.

Our time in England is drawing to a close - sadly we have to leave at the end of July. We will miss so much about our life here but particularly we will miss the bells; the challenge of learning something new, the wonderful sounds of the bells, the sense of connection to all ages past and all the friends we have made in the bell tower. The girls and I have enjoyed the camaraderie of learning and ringing together. We will always remember it fondly and hope that some day we will ring again.

Rosemary Lane

Branch outing to London



November 20th 2004 was the Annual Branch Outing organised by Sue Burchell. Approximately 24 ringers from the Branch and friends from further afield visited London. The first tower was St. Lawrence Jewry opposite the Guildhall. This was followed by St. Mary-le-Bow (12), St. Botolph's Aldgate (8), St. James Islington (6) and St. Mary's Islington (8). It was an enjoyable day with good bells, good ringing and good company. The day finished with a meal at Bledlow.

Whoops missed it again!

Mr. Jack Medland



Jack Medland lived for many years in Mollington and was Church Warden from 1971 until 1989. He held this post under Father Duke and then Jeff Chard. At the beginning of 1980 the P.C.C. discussed the possibility of having our bells re-hung and augmented to six, but this was going to cost over £8,000. For a population of less than 500 this was going to be a major campaign.

As Jack was a retired Managing Director he was nominated Appeal Secretary and spent hours and hours writing to different organizations trying to obtain grants etc. He even wrote to every church in the country dedicated to All Saints to see if they would be prepared to help. Once the money started rolling in he obtained quotes from

Taylor and Whites and after slight persuasion from Bob, Whites got the order.

At one stage Father Duke was so worried because we had a completely empty tower, no bells, beams or floor boards, that he sent Jack into Banbury to see how Bob was progressing with the frame. After his inspection Jack's reaction was "bloody marvellous". He didn't then just sit back and watch the work taking place he also got his hands dirty and with Father Duke's help they gave the steel frame three coats of paint. He was also very good at making tea and coffee!!!!

Without all his support I don't think our bells would have ever been restored so we owe him a lot. In latter years he had moved from Mollington to be nearer his family but when he died in March his ashes were brought back here and a quarter peal was rung. **Diana Reeves**

Mollington, 4 March 1260 Doubles (R.C.P, Stedman, Plain Bob & Grandsire): 38 min:

Graham Reeves 1, Jean Davis 2, Diana Reeves 3, Barry Davis 4, Robert Reeves (C) 5, Ted Stear 6. Rung in memory of Jack Medland - Churchwarden from 1971 to 1989. A good friend to the ringers and who helped in many ways when our bells were re-hung in 1982.

Notable quarters

Banbury, 16 March, 1282 Cambridge Surprise Royal: 48 min: Robert Reeves 1, Jean Davis 2, Catherine Stanworth 3, Rosemary Hemmings 4, Diana Reeves 5, John Stanworth 6, John Temple 7, Alan Griffin 8, Michael Tinsley 9, Barry Davis (C) 10. First of Surprise Royal 3, 6 and 9. First inside to Surprise Royal 2.

This was rung when only 10 turned up for practice. It is not very long ago when this would not have been possible without assistance from experienced ringers from outside the branch.

Sandford St Martin, 3 April, 1260 Grandsire Doubles (11 different callings.): 40 min: Sarah Conway 1, John Temple 2, Lorna Smale 3, Joan Warren 4, John Lindsay (C) 5, Roger Stranks 6. For the baptism of Dante, Imogen and Naomi; grandchildren of Heather Hughes, a local ringer. (*see Sandford St. Martin report*)

See website for other quarters - www.banbury-bells.org.uk

Jack Bishop 1920 - 2005

The bells of St. Mary's Banbury rang out on the afternoon of Monday January 17th in celebration of the life of Jack Bishop who was a bellringer at St. Marys.

Jack died on January 8th two days before his 85 birthday. He learned to ring on the four bells at Horley in 1932 with his brother Harry. He continued to ring there until joining the RAF during World War II. He continued his association with the RAF through the local RAFA club. In 1948 Jack and Harry joined the Banbury band but still supported Horley by maintaining the bells and ringing for weddings up to the 1980s. In 1950 Jack became Vice Captain at Banbury, a position he held until 1958 except for 1951 when he was elected Tower Captain for that year. In 1950 Jack also became Steeple Keeper. He held this post until 1994. He enjoyed ringing in occasions but was not did ring four peals - two in 1959 and 1965. Although not Grandsire and Plain Bob being regular ringer for services attended services at St. difficulty climbing the stairs stopped him from being an years. In 1945 he married one daughter Ann. Betty died but Jack was well looked law and grandchildren and he was immensely proud of his family.



quarter peals for local interested in peals although he 1951 and two at Banbury in a prolific method ringer - his favourites - Jack was a and practices at St. Marys but Pauls. Failing eyesight and to the ringing chamber had active ringer in the last two his wife Betty and they had some three or four years ago after by his daughter, son-in-

Jack began work at Switchgear and then for the remaining 25 years of his working life was an electrician at Alcan. He was a keen gardener and also a member of the Baden Powell Guild of the Scout Association. In the last few years he became a member of the Banbury Blind and Visually Impaired Club (to which donations were requested in his memory). Jack's last outing with the ringers was to Great Tew in June where he cheered Banbury on as they won the Branch 'Striking Competition'. He will be sadly missed.

Freda Ivings 1923 - 2005

Freda a well known ringer to many Branch members, died suddenly on April 7th. Born Freda Martin on June 1st 1923 she was the youngest of five children. The family grew up in Northampton where her father worked in the boot and shoe industry as a clicker. After leaving school Freda worked in the offices of the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS.).

In 1943 she met her future husband Bill who was serving in the army and based at Northampton. They married on May 3rd 1945 at Northampton Methodist Church and immediately moved to mother. Here they raised and daughter Brenda both of Bill was taught to ring at father John, who was also Freda did not take up ringing support to the Deddington preparing their annual dinner, etc. Freda was taught tower the Oxford Diocesan Guild in Deddington for more than 25



Deddington, living with Bill's their family having a son Alec whom became ringers.

Deddington in the 1930s by his the tower captain. Although until 1970 she provided much ringers before this time - helping to raise tower funds bell ringing by Bill and joined 1973 ringing regularly at years until both Bill and Freda

retired from the tower in 1998. Although Freda kept no ringing records she rang the treble to a peal of Grandsire Triples in 1978 to commemorate the retirement of Canon George

Palmer a former vicar of Deddington. In addition she rang in around 50 quarter peals mainly of Plain Bob or Grandsire Doubles and Triples.

Freda supported various Branch functions, including helping with Branch teas when held at Deddington and was always the congenial hostess when ringers were invited into their home (which was on many occasions). Their home was also the venue for the handbell ringers to practice before the Christmas Party fundraising season and Freda was an accomplished handbell ringer.

Freda also contributed enormously to Deddington church where she worshipped regularly and to church functions. She was renowned for her apple pies! She also helped for many years with the church flowers and had a chrysanthemum bed specifically for this purpose. Up until her death she continued to help with the church cleaning. She will be greatly missed by many ringers and friends.

Banbury, 25th April, 1259 Grandsire Caters: Barry Davis 1, Annie Hall 2, Jean Davis 3, Chris Mew (C) 4, Diana Reeves 5, J. T. Nutt 6, Mark Sayers 7, Michael Coleman 8, Graham Clifton 9, Jacqueline Hands 10. Rung in memory of Freda Ivings, mother of Brenda Coleman and mother in law of Michael.

Oscar Hemmings 1916-2005

Oscar died on January 7th 2005. Although not a member of the Banbury Branch Oscar was well known to many ringers in the branch. He lived in Hook Norton and was a member of that tower. At one time Oscar could be found regularly at Deddington and Adderbury practices always with his cheery smile and good humour. For many years he was also a regular attendee at Boxing Day ringing at Deddington. Oscar always enjoyed a drink after ringing and so it was no surprise that he was assistant brewer at Hook Norton brewery.

Who said

Overheard in a belfry near you (and we thought everyone was discussing the methods they were learning)

'Thank you for indulging my little fantasies' 'I knew once it went it would go'

Grumpy old man! *'I want the T-shirt – it'll suit me down to the ground'*

'I suppose you could say we are a lunch club who ring together'

Branch Carol Service.

As Guild Master I had attended a ringers' carol service in the Reading Branch and enjoyed it. After talking it over with our Rector at Steeple Aston he was very willing to host a similar event for the Banbury Branch.

The service was planned with the cooperation of the other Steeple Aston ringers for the first Saturday in December (4th.) at 6pm.

Without needing to twist arms ringers from many other towers in the Branch volunteered to read lessons and sing solos.

We had chosen the date and time in the hope that people would not be too booked up with their own Christmas arrangements.

As this was a first we were a little unsure how many would turn up. We had offered mince pies and mulled wine after the service; we decided to allow for about 60 people.

We were very pleased to report that about 55 actually turned up.

The service started with Great Tew ringing handbells. Stephen M'Caw Rector welcomed everyone. Lesson readers came from, Bloxham, Duns Tew, Steeple Aston, Bodicote, Cropredy, Great Tew and Mollington.

Steeple Aston provided a second handbell item.

Two solos were sung much to the enjoyment of all, Dorothy Willets, Steeple Aston sang Ding Dong Merrily on High, and Catherine Conway, Great Tew sang O Holy Night.

Abbott Conway led the prayers before we sang our final carol.

The evening turned out to be a very enjoyable social occasion. People stayed for over an hour after the service chatting, eating and drinking.

I hope this will become an annual event in the Branch calendar and another tower will offer to host it next time.

Graham Clifton

Dinner Date

Twelve months to the day 35 ringers returned to the New Inn at Wroxton Heath for the Branch Dinner on March 12th 2005. We soon found our places as they were all neatly labelled with names and menu choices (we are notorious for forgetting what we ordered!).

After the meal Ab Conway announced that he had decided to 'spare us the next day sermon' and ably entertained us with some amusing anecdotes of his early life in Canada. Then it was time for the raffle. Mollington held two of the three lucky numbers while Jean and Barry took home enough fresh fruit for a month's feasting!

Thanks were expressed to Lindsey and Vicky for organising the dinner at short notice. Sadly our official branch photographer was confined to his chair with a foot problem.

A £20.00 donation was sent to Katherine House Hospice from the proceeds of the raffle

We know where the oldest peal board in the Branch is but which tower has the one with the most unusual or intriguing wording. If your tower has an interesting board or notice (old or new) please send the details to

Puzzle Page

SOUND AS A BELL

The listed words can all be used to describe the sound of bells and are hidden in the grid horizontally, vertically or diagonally, reading either backwards or forwards. Some letters have been used more than once. When all the words have been found, the remaining letters will spell out the name of the titled person who commissioned Big Ben, and after whom the bell was named.

<input type="checkbox"/> Boom	L	L	O	R	E	J	G	N	I	D
<input type="checkbox"/> Chime	L	T	S	R	A	L	C	N	E	I
<input type="checkbox"/> Clang	O	O	C	N	U	R	K	T	I	H
<input type="checkbox"/> Clank	N	L	G	L	A	M	A	N	S	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Clash	K	L	S	A	N	B	A	I	K	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clatter	E	R	H	L	O	N	L	L	N	T
<input type="checkbox"/> Clink	D	B	E	S	E	C	G	I	E	E
<input type="checkbox"/> Crash	L	N	E	T	N	N	L	M	R	L
<input type="checkbox"/> Ding	A	R	U	M	H	C	K	O	A	G
<input type="checkbox"/> Dong	E	J	O	O	I	U	A	O	T	N
<input type="checkbox"/> Jangle	P	M	I	A	S	H	N	B	T	I
<input type="checkbox"/> Jingle	G	N	O	D	R	E	C	D	L	J
<input type="checkbox"/> Knell	N	C	L	A	N	K	R	H	E	A
<input type="checkbox"/> Peal	L	L	R	E	T	T	A	L	C	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Rattle										
<input type="checkbox"/> Resonate										
<input type="checkbox"/> Resound										
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring										
<input type="checkbox"/> Roar										
<input type="checkbox"/> Roll										
<input type="checkbox"/> Rumble										
<input type="checkbox"/> Thunder										
<input type="checkbox"/> Tinkle										
<input type="checkbox"/> Toll										

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Answers to November's puzzle page

Mystery picture: tower - Duns Tew, spire - Bloxham, nave and chancel - Great Tew, transept - Adderbury

Word Play

Strike while the iron is hot.

To *lead* a dogs life

It was a *stroke* of genius

pull up short

A *down* of hares

A *rope* of pearls

pull the other one

He was a *tower* of strength

turn the tables

He who pays the piper *calls* the tune

Bob Doubles Course "À LA GRIFF" - Saturday, 5th March 2005

Our course sessions took place at two churches, Tadmarton in the morning and Swalcliffe in the afternoon; our instructor was Alan Griffin. Our learner group comprised four and we were lucky enough to have the assistance of about eight or nine other competent ringers to help during each of the morning and afternoon sessions.

The first session started with a theory introduction. The four of us on the course could actually write out a Bob Doubles Course, so we did (on paper at least) know the blue line and bell positions. Alan then gave a few helpful hints on noting the position of the treble in relation to the bell each ringer was ringing to assist in knowing what the next work should be, in thinking ahead and also in trying to keep a good rhythm whilst ringing. We were given some "crib sheets" then moved on to the practical side.

We each took turns ringing a few plain courses of Bob Doubles on the bell of our choice, as well as ringing the tenor behind. We were also encouraged to ring the plain course from other bells.

Little Bastow was then introduced to us as an aid to accomplishing the 3/4 up dodge, four blows behind and 3/4 down dodge in one lead. After all taking turns we then reverted to Bob Doubles in the hope that our dodging might have improved somewhat and that we had a better understanding of our bell position when doing the dodges. Personally it was a help to me, so I expect it was to my fellow learners.

We followed on with trying to ring a course of Reverse Canterbury Doubles. The blue line of this method was shown on our crib sheets. It was a good way of making each of us aware of our places whilst at the same time following a similar line to that of Bob Doubles.

By this time our brains were full of this additional knowledge! We learners bemoaned the fact that it was so easy to see it and understand it on paper.... We then took a much needed lunch break, some at the pub in Broughton and others in their own way.

We then moved on to Swalcliffe for the afternoon session and started by ringing some more Little Bastow. We progressed to ringing touches of Bob Doubles after having been reminded of what we should (or shouldn't) do when a bob was called. This additional session reinforced what we had spent time learning during the morning.

The course ended at 3.30 p.m. when the snow that had been falling had, thank goodness, turned to rain.

It only remains for me to say, on behalf of Veronica, Martin, Ann and myself, a huge THANK YOU to all the helpers who gave up their Saturday and, of course, to Alan Griffin for his tutoring. Without this valuable support, we learners may well have fallen by the wayside long ago.

Heather Hughes - Duns Tew

From Ann (Mollington)

Many thanks for organising such a super day on Saturday. I enjoyed it so much doing different pieces of method ringing. Please give Alan a big thank you.

from Michael Sands (Bodicote) who actually came as a helper but found himself ringing Bastow and RCP for the first time!

I'd also like to tell you that I thought the Ringing last Saturday was excellent! I really enjoyed the whole day and I think it was a terrific success. We were all included equally and I hope there will more days like that to come!

Banbury Branch 'Firsts and Favourites' - Saturday 5 February 2005

Banbury Branch held its third annual Firsts Event on Saturday 5 February, this year extended to Firsts and Favourites. There were first quarters ranging from Bob Doubles to Erin Caters with achievements by ringers from 14 years to over 65 years old. Other firsts included a 'first away from home' for Ellen Lane and a 'first ring' on the three bells at Claydon for Graham Clifton (ODG Guild Master) which completed his ringing of all the ringable bells in the Branch! And not to miss an opportunity, he was joined there by Simon Angel and Tony Best, who rang for the first time on three bells! Lindsey Smith picked up an unexpected first for steeple keeping as she dealt ably with a loose clapper on the two at Swalcliffe before one of the quarters!

There were first Quarters for Alex Berry, Philip Paling, Veronica and Martin Warner; first inside for Michael Sands and Catherine Cooper; this quarter also included firsts for Camilla Durnin and Sarah Conway. Sarah also rang her first of treble bob and Alison Saunders rang RCP, Martin Saunders achieved his first of Stedman Triples and Joan Warren and Michael Tinsley their first of 5 spliced.

John Lindsay's Irish background came to the surface when he requested a quarter of Erin Caters as a favourite and the Banbury practice night band were happy to humour him! This was obviously going to raise firsts as well but it was debatable for several weeks as to how many there would be for the band as Barry Davis thought he had rung a quarter of Erin a long time ago; Bob Reeves didn't think he had, but Barry was adamant that if he had, then Bob had - and what about Diana in all this? Barry finally came up with the record after the quarter; both he and Bob had rung a quarter of Erin Caters on October 16th 1978! That still left 6 firsts including one for Diana!



One of reasons why this event is so popular is that the day finishes with everyone crowding in to the Lampet Arms at Tadmarton where we are given substantial suppers followed by puddings laced with custard and we celebrate our achievements with liquid refreshment and the presentation of certificates.

Joan Warren

The quarter peals rung were as follows:

Bodicote, 29 Jan. 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 42 min: Veronica Warner 1, Martin Saunders 2, Ian Rodrick 3, Chris Cox 4, Alan Griffin (C) 5, Alison Saunders 6. First quarter 1.

Bodicote, 30 Jan. 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 41 min: Alison Saunders 1, Julie Hart 2, Chris Cox 3, Ian Rodrick 4, Martin Saunders (C), Philip Paling 6 First quarter 6.

Rousham, 2 Feb. 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor: 42 min: Sarah Conway 1, Joan Warren 2, Christine Cox 3, Alan Griffin 4, Robert Reeves 5, John Lindsay (C) 6. First of Treble Bob Minor 1. Rung by the Cherwell Crinklies.

Kirtlington, 3 Feb. 1280 Spliced Surprise Major - Cambridge, Lincolnshire, Superlative, Yorkshire and Rutland: 47 min: Catherine Stanworth 1, Joan Warren 2, Robert Reeves 3, Diana Reeves 4, Barry Davis 5, Graham Clifton 6, John Lindsay (C) 7, Michael Tinsley 8. First of 5 Spliced, 2 and 8.

Banbury, 5 Feb. 1289 Erin Caters: 47 min: Joan Warren 1, Barry Davis 2, Keith Abbott 3, Alan Griffin 4, Diana Reeves 5, Robert Reeves 6, John Lindsay 7, Dave Bennett 8, Graham Clifton (C) 9, John Temple 10. First in method for all except 2, 6 & 7.

Banbury, 5 Feb. 1260 Stedman Triples: 45 min: Barry Davis 1, Alan Griffin 2, Dave Bennett 3, Sue Burchell 4, Keith Abbott 5, Martin Saunders 6, Graham Clifton (C) 7, John Temple 8.
First quarter of Stedman 6.

Mollington, 5 Feb. 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 39 min: Christine Cox 1, Michael Sands 2, Joan Warren 3, Ian Rodrick 4, John Lindsay (C) 5, Lindsey Smith 6, First inside 2.

Swalcliffe, 5 Feb. 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 44 min: Alex Berry 1, John Lindsay 2, Joan Warren 3, Rosemary Hemmings 4, Alan Griffin (C) 5, Christine Cox 6. First quarter 1.

Steeple Aston, 5 Feb. 1260 Grandsire Doubles: 42 min: Camilla Durnin 1, Dorothy Clifton 2, Catherine Cooper 3, Graham Clifton (C) 4, Malcolm Journeaux 5, Sarah Conway 6. First Grandsire Doubles 1, First quarter inside 3, First quarter covering 6.

Wigginton, 5 Feb. 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 41 min: Martin Warner 1, Chris Cox 2, Jean Davis 3, Martin Saunders 4, Barry Davis (C) 5, Alison Saunders 6. First quarter 1.

Bodicote, 5 Feb. 1260 RCP, Plain Bob, Grandsire Doubles: 42 min: Ian Rodrick 1, Alison Saunders 2, Catherine Stanworth 3, Martin Saunders 4, Bob Reeves (C) 5, Michael Tinsley 6. First of RCP 2.

Alex Berry who rang his first quarter at Swalcliffe noticed this snippet at school.

I was in my history lesson studying lots of old copies of the 'Bloxhamist' (school newspaper), when my teacher noticed an article about Swalcliffe. It turns out that an Old Bloxhamist had been bird nesting around that area, and something had led him up into the Bell Tower to get some eggs from the birds that nested there. He fell off one of the platforms and got stuck between the wall and the upright bell. A few hours later the band went to ring there and the poor Bloxhamist was killed by being squashed by a bell.

Points from the AGM

- Several new members were elected and four ringers who had transferred from other branches were welcomed.
- Barry Davis gave a resume of the history of the Branch - the 80th anniversary is in June.
- Abbott is 'on the case' to make Christchurch bells more available to Guild members.
- Christine Cox was thanked for her efforts during her year as ringing master.
- Subs remain at £5.50
- Duplicate material from the guild library is to be sold e.g. duplicate Guild Reports.
- Half yearly meetings will revert back to the previous format.
- Graham Clifton, as Guild Master, congratulated the members on the wide range of activities arranged in the Branch.

There was a bellringer from Bloxham
Who tripped when away from North Oxon.
He cried 'Oh disaster!
My foot is in plaster
And now I can't get my own socks on.'

Those bells he still wanted to play
No problem would keep him away
They gave him a crutch,
It didn't help much
But his foot should improve by the day

He decided to ring sitting down
And got people to drive him around
'In 63 days
I may break some stays
But I can't stand my foot on the ground.'

There followed much skipping and hopping
But no one and nothing would stop him
'The bells I will peal
And my foot will heal
Then Margaret and I can go shopping.'

There was a bellringer from Bloxham
Who tripped while at home in North Oxon
'It's really not funny,
I am a sad bunny
I think that your laughter is rotten.'

Now he travels around with a stool
And says 'Oh, I feel such a fool.
To break my foot once
I am really a dunce
But to do it again isn't cool.'

He is tired of us taking the mick.
No sympathy's making him sick.
Now his plaster's not there
He says he'll take care
But might he not want his hat trick?!

It seems that was what he intended
Third plaster - his foot hasn't mended.
If he does as he's told
And doesn't catch hold
His troubles will surely be ended.

Things you need to know

Change of Officers

Ringing Master - Bob Reeves,

Deputy - Graham Clifton

**Branch Reps. - Alan Griffin and
Graham Clifton**

**Social Committee - Lindsey Smith,
Vicky Clifton, Heather Hughes, Ian
Rodrick**

Dates

**20th June - 80th Anniversary of the
Branch, quarter peals to be rung
throughout the month**

25th June - Striking Competition

**10th July - 60th Anniversary of
World War II, all towers urged to
ring on that weekend**

**16th July - Outing to Loughborough
Bell Foundry**

**10th September - Ringing World
Road Show at Newbury**

**15th October - Half yearly meeting
Bodicote**

**21st October - Trafalgar Day - all
towers urged to ring on that day to
celebrate the bicentenary**

29th October - Steeple Aston Course

**3rd December - Carol Service at
Bodicote**

North Oxfordshire Ringers Clothing

SWEATSHIRTS	Colours	Size	Price
Raglan Sleeve Ref SS8	black, royal, emerald, white Red, burgundy, navy, bottle Lt. blue, heather, purple	S M L XL XXL	£15.75
Open Hem/ Split Side Hem Ref SS20	black, navy, royal, heather, red bottle, white	S M L XL XXL	£16.75
SWEATERS			
Lambs wool Ref LWS V Neck	sky, royal, navy, red, burgundy, bottle, yellow, lt. grey, black, lilac, jade, denim	36" – 50" in 2" steps	£25.50
50/50 Wool/ Acrylic Ref 50/50	sky, royal, navy, red, burgundy, bottle, mid. Grey, cream, black	36" – 50"	£21.50
Acrylic V Neck Ref ACS	sky, royal, navy, red, burgundy, bottle, white, lt. grey, black	36" – 50"	£19.00
POLO SHIRTS			
Pique Polo Ref. SS11	black, sunflower, heather, purple, burgundy, royal, red, bottle, white Navy, sky, emerald, orange	S M L XL XXL	£15.00
RUGBY SHIRT			
Self Colour Long Sleeve Ref. FR1	black, gold, red, navy, burgundy, white, bottle, royal, emerald, purple, sky	S M L XL XXL	£20.50
Quartered Body Ref. FR2	black collar- <i>black/gold</i> white collar- <i>navy/purple, navy/sky</i> <i>Navy/jade, bottle/red, white/navy,</i> <i>White/red, black/red</i> Navy collar- <i>navy/heather</i>	S M L XL XXL	£21.00
TEA SHIRTS			
Ref SS7	black, white, navy, olive, khaki	M L XL XXL	£10.75



Sizes. S = 34/36, M= 38/40, L= 42/44, XL= 46, XXL= 48 (XXL 50p extra)
Children's sizes are available please ask for details.

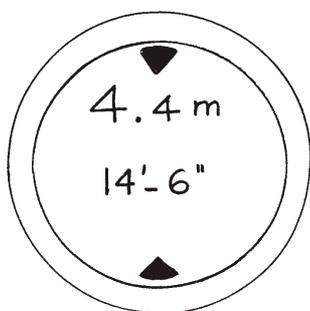
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Cash or cheque with order (payable to G Clifton)

Please note items ordered **CAN NOT** be changed.
If possible try on someone else's to check sizes.

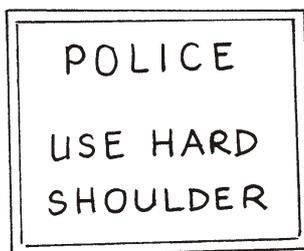
To order contact Graham Clifton 01869 347273.

Or email GJCStedman@aol.com

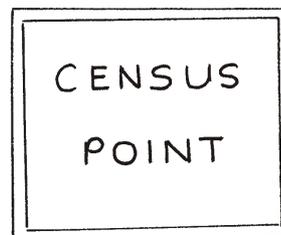
Find your way round ringing



You're too high



Pull the tenor in



Count your places

The editors would like to thank all those who have contributed to this edition of the newsletter either with articles or photographs. If you would like to contribute to the next edition with a puzzle, picture, wordsearch, article etc. then please send your contributions to Barry and Jean Davis at 61 Springfield Avenue, Banbury, Oxon or alternatively e-mail

Don't forget the website. If you want your own copy of this newsletter then download from -

www.banbury-bells.org.uk