

EBSB NEWS

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May 2023



**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL
EBSB BRANCH MEMBERS WHO RANG
FOR THE CORONATION OF
KING CHARLES III AND QUEEN CAMILLA**

Editorial:

This edition of the EBSB Branch Newsletter focuses mainly on ringing within the Branch for the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Congratulations to everyone who rang over that weekend and especially to the new recruits, who signed up to learn to ring just weeks before the event, and to their teachers who got them up and running in time to take part. I hope I have managed to include details of all ringing that was sent to Bellboard and the Ringing World, and I thank those who have supplied further information and photographs. Over the weekend there was special ringing at 25 towers in the branch, including 3 peals (Cookham, High Wycombe and Windsor Curfew Tower), 2 date touches (High Wycombe and Marlow) and 4 quarter peals (Amersham, High Wycombe, Hughenden and Marlow). There was also a peal attempt at Maidenhead that came to an abrupt halt when a rope broke after about 20 minutes.

It is great to know that West Wycombe bells can be rung again after a very frustrating period of silence and I am particularly grateful to Lyn Lee for providing background information on the situation.

The Sunday after the Coronation was "Bell Sunday". I hope this will be repeated next year because I got the impression that it fell a bit flat because so much effort was put into the Coronation ringing.

RINGING FOR THE KING

Amersham:

Sun 7 May, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Rosalind J Garrett- Bowes 1, Godfrey C Reynolds 2, Janet Galloway 3, Christopher J Potter 4, David Burbidge 5, Matthew R Johnson (C) 6, Martin Whitaker 7, Peter J Sippitt 8.

Sat 6 May, General Ringing: Niamh Brosnan, Kate Cook, Jan Galloway, Ros Garrett-Bowes, Matthew R Johnson, Chris Potter, Maryanne Roach, Valerie J Simmonds, Peter J Sippitt, Euan Thomas, Renny Thomas. Ringing on 8, 10 & front 8 using all the bells except 2 of 12. 1st call changes of Kings for new recruits Niamh & Kate.

Beaconsfield:

Sat 6 May, Rounds and Call Changes: Jen Slade 1, Geoff Hopkinson 2, Andrew Halford 3, Kerry Smaje 4, Bill Edwards 5, Peter Sanders 6, Harry Peart 7.

Bray:

Sun 7 May, General Ringing: Margaret Carlyle, Claire Boyles, Mary Cross, Oliver Cross, James Gladwyn, Tim R Palmer, John Noakes, Maggie Ross, Amelie J Smith, Mike Trimm, John Payne, Charles M S Botting, James White, Sean Wright.

Burnham:

Sat 6 May, General Ringing: Tania Pell, Robert Dunster, Toby Palfry, Monica Houghton, Emma Warburton, David Pickles, Rob Taylor-Ailes, Cliff Blundell, Jackie Botley, Trevor Andrews, Sheila Warburton, Lisa Warburton.

Chalfont St Giles:

Sat 6 May, Call Changes: Angela Bass, Siegfried G Bonhomme, Lucy Clayton, John C Davidge, Kathy Douthwaite, Louise Gill, Kathy Jackman, Caroline E Jackson, Cheryl Spriggs. Congratulations to Cheryl Spriggs who having joined six weeks ago to "Ring for the King" rang well throughout without assistance.

Chalfont St Peter:

Sat 6 May, 30 Call Changes: Steven Ridlington-White (C), Gerald Diss, Valerie Robbins, Hilary Jelly, Jill Cordell, Sheila Wood, Rita Blyth, John Lever, Nicola Blyth, Ben Blyth.

Chesham:

Sat 6 May, General Ringing: Keith Bond, Lottie Drew, Stuart Galloway, Neil Lynch, Frances Mathew, Joseph Mathew, David Neale, Godfrey Reynolds, Timothy Yates, Martin Whitaker, Margaret Woolley, Kate Yerby.

Clewer:

Sat 6 May, 120 Plain Bob Doubles: Kerry Baker 1, Lesley S Cross 2, Jane Cockman 3, Jacqueline M Hazell 4, Simon D Smith (C) 5, Charley Smith 6; Call Changes: Di Darren 1, Niamh Bulbeck 2, Jane Cockman 3, Pamela Walters 4, Rob Taylor-Ailes 5, Lesley S Cross 6; Call Changes: Di Darren 1, Susy Shearer 2, Kerry Baker 3, Jane Cockman (C) 4, Ann Thompson 5, Lesley S Cross 6; Call Changes: Rob Taylor-Ailes 1, Charley Smith (C) 2, Jane Cockman 3, Noel Lobo 4, Kerry Baker 5, Simon D Smith 6; Call Changes: Di Darren 1, Sarah Gardner 2, Pamela Walters 3, Ann Thompson 4, Lesley S Cross 5, Rob Taylor-Ailes (C) 6; Call Changes: Charley Smith 1, Kerry Baker 2, Jenny Symon 3, Rob Taylor-Ailes (C) 4, Simon D Smith 5, Ann Thompson 6.

Sun 7 May, Call Changes: Di Darren 1, Emma Bryden 2, Jane Cockman 4, Kerry Baker 5, Lesley S Cross 6.

Cookham:

Sat 6 May, Rounds and Call Changes Based on Kings: Marcia L Dieppe (C), Mandy R Salter, Ruth J Daniel, Freddie Daniel, Martin H Gostling, Shirley A Gostling, Joan E Mantle, Timmy Mallett, Roger A Webb, David M Brookes, Kay Weallans, David Smith, Gillian Read, Erin Margetts, Tracy Tysoe, Helen Story. Our four new recruits (Gillian, Erin, Tracy & Helen) were able to ring some assisted rounds. A huge achievement given the very short time they have been learning.

Tue 9 May, 5120 Spliced S Royal (4m: 1520 London No. 3; 1200 Bristol, Cambridge, Yorkshire; 113 com; atw) 3h12 (13) Comp. J S Warboys: 1 E John Wells, 2 June D Wells, 3 Beryl R Norris, 4 Martin J Turner, 5 Timothy G Pett, 6 Jack E Page (C), 7 Douglas J Beaumont, 8 Ian G Campbell, 9 Ian Roulstone, 10 Claire F Roulstone. The ringers of the treble and the third rang peals for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. First peal of Royal on the bells.

Fulmer:

Sat 6 May, Rounds: Celia Thomas (C), Valerie Foa, Grania Wright, Rory Haines. Although we could only manage 4 ringers all 6 bells were rung although, to paraphrase Morecambe & Wise, not necessarily in the right order or at the same time.

Hambleden:

Sun 7 May, Call Changes: Theo, Sam, Jon (C), Helen, Lindsay, Chris, Pippa, Brian, Ulla, Gay, Sandy. Our band included our newest "Ring for the King" recruits

High Wycombe:

Sat 6 May, Rounds on 8, Call Changes on 12 Including Double Queens, Queens and Kings, and Full Kings, Grandsire Caters: Francoise Allen, Gillian Blair, Peter Blower, Rebecca Bruce, Sheila Bruce, Ann Davies (C), Tom Davies, Sheila George, John Hearn, Rosie Lake, Patricia Newton (C), Robert Newton (C), Caroline Pritchard, James Vockins. Rosie & Caroline are new recruits who signed up to Ring for the King.

Sat 6 May, 2023 Stedman Triples: Ann Davies 1, Verity Nicholls 2, Sheila Bruce 3, Kenneth Darvill 4, Patricia Newton 5, Tom Davies 6, Robert Newton (C) 7, Peter Blower 8. Longest touch of Stedman: 2,3 & 6.

Sun 7 May, Grandsire Triples, Stedman Triples, Call Changes on 10: Francoise Allen, Gillian Blair, Peter Blower, Ann Davies (C), Tom Davies, Sheila George, John Hearn, Patricia Newton (C), Robert Newton (C), Verity Nicholls. Ringing prior to the Civic Eucharist, celebrating Community, Faith & Service.

Mon 8 May, 5040 Cambridge S Royal 3h18 (26) Comp. A M Barber/M C W Sherwood: 1 Tom Davies, 2 Ann Davies, 3 Christopher M Tuckett, 4 Patricia M Newton (C), 5 Charles M S Botting, 6 Euan R M Thomas, 7 Kenneth J Darvill, 8 Christopher M Mundy, 9 Matthew R Johnson, 10 Robert H Newton First on ten:1.

Mon 8 May, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Francoise Allen 1, Christopher Parkinson 2, Sheila Bruce 3, James Vockins 4, Patricia Newton 5, John Hearn 6, Robert Newton (C) 7, Gillian Blair 8. 1st on eight: 8.

Hitcham:

Sat 6 May, Call Changes: Janet Gillard, Jo Baetke, Mike Quincey, David Brookes, Phil Whittaker, Tom Berry, Roger Webb.

Hughenden:

Sat 6 May, Rounds and Call Changes: Geoff Ames, David Carroll, David A Cornwall, Clifford Davies, Ian J Desborough, Laura Griffen, Susan Harris, Daniel Hipwell, Tracey Jones T J, Diane Monroe, Keith Monroe, Liz Mundy, Verity Nicholls, Andrew Ottaway (C), Jack Rippon, Phil Waterton, Hannah White. The following are new recruits who signed up just a few months ago to Ring for the King: Geoff, David Carrol, Daniel, Diane, Keith, Jack, Phil & Hannah. NB: Revd Tracey Jones is the Great-great-granddaughter of the Archbishop of Canterbury Geoffrey Fisher, who officiated at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

Sun 7 May, 1260 PB Doubles: Tracey Jones 1, Verity Nicholls 2, Tom Davies 3, Ann Davies (C) 4, Clifford Davies 5, Andrew Ottaway 6. 1st Q for 45 yrs 1. 1st Q as C for 51 yrs.

Lane End:

Sat 6 May, Rounds and Call Changes: Catherine Hopkins, Colin Meakes, Ian Sparrowhawk, Katrin Gaska, Peter Rose, Roger Hagon, Susannah Clements

Maidenhead:

Sat 6 May, General Ringing: Charley Smith, Martha C Hazell, Doreen Young, Jacqueline M Hazell, Sean Wright, Simon D Smith, Rorie Dempster, Edward Westlake. Doreen ringing at her second coronation, having rung for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

Marlow:

Sat 6 May, 2023 Doubles (2m): Andrew Carter 1, Mike Spracklen 2, Mick Francis 3, Sian Robinson 4, Peter Jasper (C) 5, Nathaniel Christopher 6. It is believed 2 rang for the Coronation of HM Queen Elizabeth II in the same tower in 1953. 1st date touch: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 & as C

Sun 7 May, General Ringing: David Baker, Jon Boughton, Sam Boughton, Sheila Bristow, Andrew Carter, Jack Francis, Mick Francis, Jonathan Gallop, Tristan Hart, Peter Jasper, Rosie Lake, Sian Robinson, Athene Ruff, Mike Spracklen. Sheila Bristow & Rosie Lake are "Ring for the King" recruits.

Mon 8 May, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Mike Spracklen 1, Peter Jasper 2, Jonathan Gallop 3, Sian Robinson 4, Jon Boughton (C) 5, Andrew Carter 6. 1st Q inside: 3. 1st Q as C.

Old Windsor:

Sun 7 May, Rounds and Call Changes: Malcolm Bunce (C), Lovaine Bunce, Tony Howe, Gill Hurdle, Joanna Wattis, John Bauld. Rung after the normal 11 am Service. 1st ring by 3 & 5 for a significant occasion.

Stoke Poges:

Sat 6 May, Call Changes: Judy Sever (C) 1, Anthea Wright 2, Layla Ballard 3, Anne Milne 4, Anne Frank 5, Naomi Wordsworth 6, Ralph Bagge 7, Philip Geary 8.

Turville:

Sun 7 May, Rounds and Call Changes: Mike Spracklen 1, Rachel Wallace 2, Ellie Gowers 3, Ann Lazur 4, Ann Turnbull 5, Nigel Page (C) 6. Rounds & Call Changes inc. Kings & Queens.

West Wycombe:

Sat 6 May, Rounds and Call Changes: Lyn Lee, Lucy Lee, Timothy Walker, Gill Marman, Hazel Stansbury, Sara Eaglesfield, Alys Eley, Bob Hewson, John Davidge. 1st celebration ringing in the tower for over 3 years.

Windsor (Curfew Tower, HM Free Chapel of St George, Windsor Castle):

Sat 6 May, 6 Plain Hunt Singles: (omitted) 1, Vikki Bulbeck 2, John Payne 3, James White (C) 4. On Coronation Day morning, at the conclusion of the ringing up, ready for ringing after the Service at Westminster Abbey.

Sat 6 May, 5040 Grandsire Triples 2h58 Composed by R. B. Pullin: 1 Tim R Palmer, 2 James White (C), 3 Vikki E M Bulbeck, 4 Margaret H Ross, 5 Edward C Westlake, 6 Stephen R Smith II, 7 William J Stungo, 8 John F Payne. To celebrate the Coronation today at Westminster Abbey of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Possibly the first peal at The Curfew Tower by the eight Full Members of the Band.

Windsor (S John Bapt):

Sat 6 May, General Ringing: Rob Taylor-Ailes, Jacqueline M Hazell, Martha C Hazell, Jane Cockman, Pam Walters, Charley Smith, Susy Shearer, Simon D Smith, Lesley S Cross, Diane Darren, Vikki E M Bulbeck.

Winkfield:

Sat 6 May, General Ringing: Tony Bish, Sue Bish, Henry Bish, Bram Bish, Trevor Scott, Jill Glennerster, Philip Glennerster, Brooke Bradley, Thalia Bradley, Kathryn Harris, Sarah Buchanan, Dan Brown, Ally Brown, Dom Brown, Sue Woods, Anna Smith, Rhonda Prout, George McBride, Bradley Lema Alvarez, Jake Lema Alvarez, Catherine Johnson, Chris Walker, Debby Walker, Judy Hunt, Richard Loveys, Liz (friend), Lesley Philpott, Sharon Cakebread. During the day we accommodated chiming for non-ringers up to methods for more established ringers. Ages ranged from 2 years to 80+ years.

Wraysbury:

Sun 7 May, Rounds and Call Changes Daisy (C), Emily, Rose, Ellie, Linda, Clive, Lisa

TOWER NEWS

Amersham:

Like most towers, we rang the bells for the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camila. We decided to have general ringing on the morning of the coronation, so members would be able to get home in time to watch the ceremony on television. Our two new ringers, Kate and Niamh, joined us in ringing call changes, on 8 and 10 bells. We also rang the light 8 to call changes, so all the bells except the 2 of the 12, were rung. We were joined by Mark Roberts, the town mayor (see picture below of the band with Mark). We also rang a celebratory quarter peal of Grandsire Triples, including visitors from Chesham and Berkhamsted, on Sunday 7th May.

Jan Galloway



Amersham band with Mayor Mark Roberts



Cookham Coronation ringing

Burnham:

Having had three learners start in January I was determined to make sure that they were able to ring on Coronation Day and they all did, which was an amazing accomplishment for all of them. One of them even had their first solo ring that day. The atmosphere in the tower was that of excitement and accomplishment, with all ringers wearing red, white and blue.

Although we kept the ringing simple – rounds and a couple of sets of bob doubles, it meant that everyone was able to take part. Those who heard us ringing commented on how lovely it was that the bells were part of a historic day for the country, as it was not something most of us had experienced before. Hopefully by the next coronation we will be able to try something slightly more challenging.

Emma Warburton

Cookham:

We rang at Holy Trinity, Cookham, on Saturday morning, 6th May, in celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III taking place later that day. We had all ten of our bells ringing Rounds, and Call Changes based on Kings. It was a huge privilege and honour to be able to 'Ring for the King' for this most special, and rare, National occasion. It was such a pleasure that our four new, recent, recruits (Gillian Read, Erin Margetts, Tracy Tysoe and Helen Story) were able to be included and ring a few assisted rounds as part of this momentous occasion - a fantastic achievement considering the short time they have been learning.

Also, on Tuesday 9th May, a visiting (ODG) band successfully rang a peal of 4-Spliced Surprise Royal at Cookham, to mark the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

Marcia Dieppe

Fulmer:

Like many other towers Fulmer does not have enough of its own home ringers to field a full band without borrowing from other towers. On Coronation day everyone's loyalty was naturally to their home tower but we did manage a band of four. We rang from 10.00am to 10.30 all 6 bells as requested but, to paraphrase Morecambe and Wise, not necessarily all at the same time and just in rounds with a few call changes. We felt privileged to be doing our bit for the celebration of King Charles III's Coronation.

Celia Thomas

High Wycombe:

We all enjoyed a happy, varied and very successful weekend at High Wycombe for the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Almost the entire band (14 in total) took part in the variety of activities on offer, all of which were scored. Our band included two new recruits who had been trained under the 'Ring for the King' initiative.

On the Coronation Day itself, we had general ringing before the ceremony and rang all 12 bells to a variety of changes including Kings and Queens. Later the same day, a Date Touch of 2023 changes of Stedman Triples was rung, one of only two date touches in Buckinghamshire recorded in the Ringing World.

There was a Civic Service on the Sunday morning for which there was general ringing.

On the Bank Holiday Monday, a peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal was rung, again, one of only two peals in Buckinghamshire recorded in the Ringing World. Later on Monday, we rang a Quarter Peal of Grandsire Triples involving ringers who had not had a chance to ring in either the Date Touch or the Peal.

All in all, what a great occasion and one to look back on with satisfaction for many years to come!

Sheila Bruce



One of our former High Wycombe members, Josie Martin, said she was called to help her dad in Kenya and so missed out on all of the English tower bell ringing for the Coronation. The Kenyan ringers came to her rescue and treated her (and the King and Queen) to a wonderful weekend of ringing and singing.

Our numbers were low for ringing the following week for "Bell Sunday" but the clergy gave us good coverage. The service started with a ringers' hymn at the end of which the organist "rang" changes on the organ. We then had a wonderful introduction from the curate followed by

further mention in the intercessions. Robert Newton read the lesson, James Vockins sang the responsorial psalm and Simon Arthur-Hewitt was communion assistant so we had good exposure. The service is still available to watch on the All Saints High Wycombe facebook page if anyone is interested.

For the second year running we have peregrine falcon chicks on the tower. Three eggs were laid but only two hatched and the chicks are growing stronger by the day. We are pleased to see that they are attacking our pigeon population this year. Apparently there are fewer seagulls around because of bird flu so they are having to make do with pigeons!

Patricia Newton

Windsor and Clewer:

We had several responders to the *Ring for the King* campaign, and from February this year we extended our regular practice night by starting an hour early for beginners. This gave time for Vikki Bulbeck, our ringing instructor, to give everyone a good start whilst also allowing the learners to ring with others from the outset.



On Coronation Day our more experienced ringers met at Windsor Parish Church at 5pm and rang for an hour. Then we moved to St Andrews Clewer where the new ringers joined us to ring for another hour. We rang rounds and call changes with each new starter, and also managed a touch of Plain Bob Doubles. The new ringers (and one returner) each had a photo of their band and the Bellboard certificates to remember the day.

Vikki rang in a peal at the Curfew Tower before joining us, meaning that there were bells ringing over Windsor all afternoon and early evening of Coronation Day.

Jane Cockman

The only picture to include Vikki Bulbeck, without whom none of this would have been possible.

Winkfield:

We offered "Ring for the King" to family members of the tower ringers and also the hand bell ringers and were delighted to have 28 people join in during the two sessions.

The 09.00 folk were the non-ringers who had a go at chiming before we rang the bells up and rang rounds and call changes.

At 10.00 we all dashed home to watch the Coronation before returning later in day for the afternoon ring - this was for more established ringers when we rang several methods.

Regular members of the band attended both sessions to ensure that everyone had assistance where needed.

Ages ranged from a 2 year old up to a couple of 80+ year olds.

Jill Glennerster



Coronation ringing at Winkfield

What did Burnham handbells Ring for the King?

You may not remember, but Coronation Day, on Tuesday, 2nd June, 1953, was also wet. Angela, who was a rather elderly school girl at the time, well remembered getting wet while trying to enjoy the iced lolly she had been given while watching the procession pass. I had spent that Tuesday afternoon in the tower at All Saints Church, Benhilton (then in Surrey) ringing my first peal (out of a life time total of 17—thanks Giles for listing them!). Other than the conductor, Ernest Gosden, we were all first peelers, but Ernie got the peel round successfully. I am still in Christmas card contact with Paul Richardson, also a member of that band.

You may not be surprised to read that I did not ring a peal for King Charles' Coronation this year. I did, however, ring a couple of short bursts of rounds in the tower at St. Peter's, Burnham, before going downstairs, albeit slowly, to sort out our handbells. Even when, probably sooner rather than later, I am no longer able to get up the stairs, I hope to be able to continue ringing handbells even if only to tunes, rather than the changes for which handbells are, clearly, the best instrument.

For Saturday, 6th May, 2023, I had written an arrangement of Zadok the Priest for 6 handbells, with optional extra chords and harmonies. While I did not hear Zadok during the Coronation service (nor the National Anthem either, but I swear I did not go to sleep) I, and a number of my friends (YES! I think I still have some!) played Zadok before the programme started and on several other occasions during the following 10 (or was it 12?) days (of Coronation).

Some of the performances were better than others and none was really up to performance standard. But we all Rang for the King. Even the Little Angels (Toddlers) group joined in on coloured bells (which have a remarkably good tone despite their flimsiness). All our local Residential Homes also joined in, many residents ringing my Town Crier's bell, as did one or two Market shoppers, to say nothing of the stall holders who were sorry that we were crowded out, by a new Butcher's Stall (long may he continue), on the Wednesday after.

I am not expecting to ring for the next Coronation but did enjoy both.

Cliff Blundell



St Lawrence West Wycombe

In the Autumn of 2017, West Wycombe tower recruited six brand new ringers and an improver. For anyone who has ever taught ringing you will understand that this was an epic task for many reasons. In previous years the bellringing team at West Wycombe had dwindled and our future was looking bleak and there appeared to be no interest from new ringers.

Our new ringers came from all walks of life, some were friends and some people who responded to a notice in the church porch and social media. I was also very happy to share the teaching with Alan Keen from Watlington. Together we put them through their paces, ensuring we had safe, competent ringers.

After a good six months of teaching and practice we rang together in July 2018, the aim was to ring for the 100 years anniversary of the end of WW1, but we smashed that by a few months.

There were many challenges along the way, it's not just about teaching people to ring, it's also trying to get them to ring together and with a shortage of experienced ringers this was trial and error. We had some massive pile ups and technical breakdowns, but everyone continued to come to practice every week and showed determination, perseverance and resilience.

During this time, it became apparent that there were some safety issues with public access to the tower and so it was closed to the public, but we were still ringing.

We knew there wasn't an issue with the bells. They had been rehung in 1973/74 and had been thoroughly looked after by my father, John Young, ever since.

In March 2020, lockdown happened and that was it for every tower in the country, it was so disappointing for everyone especially as our learners had all moved on so much to call changes, plain hunt, and some ringing treble to Plain Bob.

When lockdown was lifted, it didn't for us. There had been a lot of talk about the safety aspects of the tower and despite questions being asked, we were still not allowed to ring. After surveys by structural engineers and architects, it was deemed that some of the stairs were unsafe, and the architect couldn't say that it was safe for us to ring and that they couldn't gain safe access to the bells. I asked why this was as there was nothing in any reports stating that the bells, frame, or structure of the tower was unsafe in any way, but sadly this didn't get received very well and so the architect said a full survey would be needed.

Jump now to 2 weeks ago. Another ringer, Tim, and I went to the church PCC AGM, St Lawrence Church is no longer under the care of the PCC, but we were always an active part of the church community before lockdown. They welcomed us in, and it was lovely to see everyone again. We were asked what we wanted to happen, and I simply replied we want to ring our beautiful bells and ring for the Coronation, bearing in mind we couldn't ring for The Queen's Jubilee or mourn her passing.

Our churchwarden said she would speak to the Archdeacon. By the next morning I was told that if I could find someone knowledgeable to inspect the bells we could ring. After some frantic emails (down to my excitement) John Davidge very kindly agreed to come and give them the once over. He came that Wednesday afternoon and after a very thorough inspection we were ringing the next evening, much to the delight of our ringers.

The future of the church is still under discussion, but whatever happens we are part of it. We are delighted to be back and were thrilled to be able to ring 8 on Coronation morning and 7 in the evening for the celebration bonfire. The local community keeps posting on social media about how wonderful it is to hear us ringing again and this has sparked a bit of interest from a few people interested in learning to ring (not as many as before).

So many thank you's to so many people who helped get us back ringing again, you know who you are, and you know how grateful we are for your support.

And finally, sometimes it takes a long time to get there, but you have to keep picking away and eventually you get a breakthrough. It's these times you have to grab and run with as if it's your one and only chance.

Lyn & the West Wycombe bellringers



Guild 8-Bell Contest – Broadwell (between Burford and Faringdon!)

On the morning of the Guild AGM, seven branch bands assembled to do battle with one another via a touch of Erin Triples. The draw was notified to the bands in advance but, owing to significant traffic delays and the fact that there are no less than **four** places named Broadwell, the 'batting' order was amended as the competition progressed. At least three of the bands were incomplete at their allotted times.

It was a wonderfully warm, sunny day and the bells, newly restored and augmented and rung from the ground floor, were pleasant on the ear and to ring. Unfortunately there were a number of very low level fly-pasts by military aircraft from Brize Norton, which created an additional challenge for our judges (Colin Newman, Anna Sherwood and Matthew Jerome).

Our EBSB band: Annie Davies Treble, Angela Darvill 2, Patricia Newton 3, Ken Darvill 4, John Davidge 5, Matthew Johnson (C) 6, Robert Newton 7 and Martin Whitaker Tenor, had practised at Chalfont St Giles and Hughenden in the week before the contest. We thought we had learnt how to avoid slipping back into Stedman by the end of our second practice! On the day Martin managed to go to one of the alternative Broadwells and had not arrived by the time we had to ring. Fortunately, Cliff Davies was in attendance and agreed to ring the Tenor for us at the last moment – and a superb job he made of it too! Thank you Cliff.

However, our confidence that we could ring Erin faultlessly proved to be over optimistic as our test piece not only had some method mistakes but also some rather erratic striking in the early stages. The judges reported that our last two courses were the best of the whole competition, but by then it was too late.

The Results:	1 st	Newbury	3h6 'peal speed'	25 faults
	2 nd	Reading	3h1	27
	3 rd	North Bucks	3h8	43
	4 th	EBSB	2h55	44
	5 th	Banbury	3h6	45
	6 th	VOWH	2h57	53
	7 th	Oxford City	3h4	54

Congratulations to Newbury on relieving us of the trophy of which we have been custodians for the last year and commiserations to Martin who did arrive during our test piece, in a state of some panic!

Robert Newton

Programme for the rest of 2023

Sat	10 Jun	5.00 – 7.30 pm	Chesham (6)	Branch 6-bell Striking Contest
Weds	14 Jun	10.00am – 12.00	Fulmer (6)	Branch Practice
Sat	24 Jun	10.00am – 12.00	Wraysbury (8)	Branch Practice
Sat	8 Jul	All day	Oxford	Guild Festival
Sat	22 Jul	2.00 – 4.00 pm	Slough (10)	Branch Practice
Sat	12 Aug	10.00am – 12.00	Stoke Poges (8)	Branch Practice
Sat	26 Aug	10.00am – 12.00	Clewer (6)	Elementary Branch Practice
Sat	9 Sep	2.00 – 4.00 pm	Amersham (12)	Branch Practice
Sat	23 Sep	10.00am – 12.00	Old Windsor (8)	Branch Practice
Thurs	28 Sep	10.00am – 12.00	Clewer (6)	Branch Practice
Sat	30 Sep	All day	Local branches	Michaelmas Course
Sat	7 Oct	2.00 pm onwards	Chipping Norton Branch	Guild 6-bell contest
Sat	14 Oct	5 – 7.30 pm	Chalfont St Giles (8)	Final of Lorna Newton Contest followed by Half Yearly Meeting
Sat	28 Oct	2.00 – 4.00 pm	Bray (8)	Branch Practice
Sat	28 Oct	All day	Steeple Aston area	Guild Steeple Aston Course
Sat	11 Nov	7.00 – 9.00 pm	Beaconsfield (8)	Branch Practice
Sat	18 Nov	10.00am – 12.00	Marlow (8)	Branch Practice
Sat	25 Nov	All day	Banbury Branch	Guild 10-bell Striking Contest and General Committee Meeting
Sat	9 Dec	5.30 pm onwards	Hughenden (8)	Branch Practice and Social