

Sonning Deanery Branch Newsletter



June 2017, Summer Issue



Ringling Master's message

Summer is here and the evenings are light. Why not visit another tower one evening - or attend a Branch Practice? The next one will be at Waltham St Lawrence (above) on 15th July from 7.30pm—9pm.

The Young Ringers Practice on the second Sunday afternoon of the month have really taken off under the stewardship of Josh Slade. It is surprising how many young ringer we have! Wargrave, Arborfield, Twyford, Waltham St Lawrence and Easthampstead all have teenage ringers. Please encourage your youngsters and bring them along. Indeed, with the school holidays approaching, why not take your youngsters to other towers where they will meet other young ringers?

Have a good ringing summer.

Steve Wells

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 15th July

Waltham St Lawrence (6)
7.30pm –9pm Branch Practice

Saturday 19th August

White Walthm (6)
4.30pm—6pm Branch Practice

Saturday 16th September

Sonning (8)
4.30pm—6pm Branch Practice

Young Ringers Practice (2nd Sunday of the month, 2.30 –4pm) 9th July, 13th August and 10th Sept.

Monthly Tuesday afternoon practices (2-4pm at Binfield) on 4th July, 1st Aug, 5th Sept (provisionally).

Surprise Major practices (Wednesday 8pm –9.30pm) at Workingham All Saints on 12th June, 9th Aug & 13th Sept (provisionally).

Ringling to celebrate & commemorate



Friday 2nd June was **Stan Scott's 90th birthday** and a peal was rung to celebrate this the next day by the Easthampstead ringers and friends. It was also Joan and his 67th wedding anniversary. Stan first moved to Bracknell in 1957 and has rung at Easthampstead ever since including considerable periods as Tower Captain and was one of the instigators of the recasting and augmentation to 8 in 1966. In recent years ill health has stopped him from coming up the tower, however he can hear the bells from home and comment on the striking. So beware!

It was also an opportunity for two members of the Easthampstead band to ring their first peal – Danny Chafen and Bradley Herrington. Well done to them. Birthday cake and bubbly was taken at Joan and Stan's after the peal.

Easthampstead, Berkshire

SS Michael and Mary Magdalene

Saturday, 3 June 2017 in 2h 46m (6–0–12 in C)

5056 Plain Bob Major

Composed by J R Pritchard

- 1 Anthony C F Perry
- 2 Bradley Herrington
- 3 Judith M Bowler
- 4 Daniel C M Chafen
- 5 Lynne G S Jordan
- 6 Peter Jordan
- 7 Graham N Scott (C)
- 8 Stephen C Wells

First peal: 2, 4

Rung as a 90th birthday compliment to Stanley Scott, long serving member and former tower captain by members and friends of the local band. Also for his and Joan's 67th wedding anniversary today.

Marking the 150th anniversary of the rebuilding of the present church.



Wokingham, Berkshire

St Paul

Saturday, 3 June 2017 in 3 hrs 1min (15–2–7 in F)

5088 Yelling Delight Major

Composed by Donald F Morrison (No.7115)

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 J Alan Ainsworth | 5 Geoffrey K Cook |
| 2 Stuart F Gibson | 6 Alan K Barsby |
| 3 Roger Baldwin | 7 Christopher P Cole |
| 4 Catherine M A Lane | 8 Kenneth R Davenport (C) |



Rung to celebrate the 30th wedding anniversaries of Chris and Sarah Cole and Alan and Helen Barsby

David Fawcett

Binfield, Berkshire

All Saints

Thursday, 22 June 2017 in 2h41 (9–0–2 in G)

5040 Surprise Minor (7 Methods)

1: Lightfoot, 2: Westminster, 3: London, 4: York,

5: Bourne, 6: Beverley & 7: Cambridge

1 David A Cornwall

2 J Alan Ainsworth

3 Catherine M A Lane

4 Timothy G Pett

5 Kenneth R Davenport

6 Stuart F Gibson (C)

Rung to celebrate the life of Dave Fawcett long serving ringer at this tower, whose funeral took place on the 19th June

Binfield, Berkshire

All Saints

Tuesday, 6 June

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1 Liz Harris

2 Rob Needham

3 Mary Spence

4 David J Creasy

5 John A Harrison

6 Steve Wells ©

Rung in memory of David Fawcett, a Binfield ringer

Bell Handling Course

On Saturday 18th June, the branch hosted an ART Module 1, 'Teaching Bell Handling' at St Mary's Twyford. As the temperatures steadily rose even at 8:30am we wondered if this was such a good idea. A good idea it certainly proved to be, as ringers with hugely varied teaching experience were guided through the complex process of learning a new motor skill. Graham Nabb, who led the course, also got us to think about how the expectations from "outside" in the "real world" have changed, and how we as ringers need to adapt, as the CRAG survey has recently highlighted.

The day had been initiated by the Loddon Ringing hub on behalf of the Sonning Deanery Branch of the ODG, and we were pleased to welcome three ringers from Hambleden, two from Clewer, and one who had braved the traffic to join us from Essex. 8 Sonning Deanery ringers attended, some as Teachers, some as Mentors, although sadly Jane from All Saints Workingham could only be with us in the morning.

As the two ringers from Clewer (who also ring at Waltham St Lawrence) went upstairs to help Simon Farrar the tower captain at Twyford, put clapper ties on the bells, welcoming refreshments were provided. Our thanks go to Martha and Sue, who manned the kitchen and kept us well fed and watered during the day.

After introducing us to the principles of the ART approach and the Learning the Ropes scheme, we went up to start putting these into practice in the belfry. The first session was quite intensive as we practised some of the early exercises from Learning the Ropes. For experienced teachers it gave an opportunity to reflect on how we do the early stages, for those with no previous teaching experience it was a steep learning curve! Some delegates really took the need to practise the skills learnt so seriously that they stayed in the belfry at the end, even risking missing coffee and cake!

Graham had stressed the need to be flexible when teaching, and then had to put this into practice as the technology decided to be uncooperative. Having shown us the published ART material, and with the IT still being unhelpful, we went upstairs for a second practical session, practising teaching the skills that an effective learner would need. This was followed by the theory after Kate had worked her magic with the machines.

Over lunch we browsed through and purchased some of the excellent resources for teachers and learners. We made use of the opportunity to socialise and share experience which is always so valuable.

As teachers and mentors we were taught the importance and use of prompts, observation and effective feedback. We were also introduced to the use of the whole-part-whole approach to mastering a motor skill. A final practical session allowed the mentors to be inventive, developing a variety of handling faults for their 'teachers' to correct.

Overall it was a useful and informative day and very good value for money; and worth having to climb the spiral staircase backwards on crutches four times! It was good to be reminded that there are different ways of doing things, and that we as teachers can learn new things, including making use of research in other sporting disciplines. Now we just need to go and put in to practice what we have learnt as we develop our new ringers!

Thanks go to Graham Nabb for delivering the course, Simon Farrar for the use of Twyford Bells, Jacquie Hazell for co-ordination with ART and Twyford, and provision of the refreshments. Photos of the day available here:

<https://smartringer.org/blogs/2017/06/24/art-module-1-course-at-st-mary-twyford-berkshire/>

Vinni Sullivan (Loddon Hub Local Organiser)

Quarter Peals

St Marys, Twyford

25 March

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Matthew Steele
- 2 Martha Hazell
- 3 David Sullivan
- 4 Jacqui Hazell
- 5 Simon Farrar (C)
- 6 Rob Needham

First quarter aged 12 – 1. 25th quarter and a 25th birthday compliment to 2

SS Peter & Paul, Shiplake

17 April

1288 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Freddie Gingell
- 2 Rebecca Gingell
- 3 J Chapman Knott
- 4 Pam Elliston
- 5 Anthony W Gordon
- 6 Lavinia Sullivan
- 7 David Sullivan (C)
- 8 Kitty Gingell

First triples away from tenor 1 & first triples as cover 8

All Saints, Wokingham

3 June

1280 Cambridge Surprise Major

- 1 Andrew L Smith
- 2 Jeremy R Pratt (C)
- 3 Jennifer M Herriott
- 4 John A Harrison
- 5 W Nigel G Herriott
- 6 Stephen R Smith
- 7 Nigel A L Mellor
- 8 Jon P Tutcher

Ruby Wedding compliment to Stephen & Barbara Smith

St Mary, Wargrave

18 May

1288 Plain Bob Triples

- 1 Lavinia Sullivan
- 2 Sue Portsmouth
- 3 Joyce Vernon
- 4 Jacqui Hazell
- 5 Pam Elliston
- 6 Rob Needham
- 7 David Sullivan (C)
- 8 Anthony W Gordon

First inside on 8—2.

Remembering Andrew Elliston (d. May 2016)

St Andrews, Sonning

21 May

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Joyce Vernon
 - 2 Pam Elliston
 - 3 Sue Portsmouth
 - 4 Andrew CP Gunstone
 - 5 Alan K Barsby (C)
 - 6 Keith Vernon
- Rung for evening service.

St Andrews, Sonning

4 June

1288 Plain Bob Triples

- 1 Rob Needham
- 2 Pam Elliston
- 3 Sue Portsmouth
- 4 Tim Hayward
- 5 Peter Kemm
- 6 Alan K Barsby
- 7 David Sullivan (C)
- 8 Robert Partridge

Rung in memory of David Fawcett of Binfield.

Waltham St Lawrence

12 May

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Jacqui Hazell
- 2 Sue Portsmouth
- 3 Lavinia Sullivan
- 4 Rob Needham
- 5 Anthony W Gordon
- 6 David Sullivan (C)

First Minor inside—2

All Saints, Binfield

25 May

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Rob Needham
- 2 Lavinia Sullivan
- 3 Sue Portsmouth
- 4 Dave Creasy
- 5 Anthony W Gordon
- 6 David Sullivan (C)

Rung to show support for the victims of the Manchester concert terrorist attack

All Saints, Wokingham

11 June

1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Stephen C Wells
- 2 Barbara E Wells
- 3 Susan E Davenport
- 4 Kenneth R Davenport
- 5 Alan K Barsby
- 6 Stephen R Smith
- 7 John A Harrison (C)
- 8 Stephen C Bates

Rung for evening service on Trinity Sunday

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