

# Sonning Deanery Branch Newsletter

July 2009, Summer Issue



## Dates for your diary:

### July

Branch Practice Saturday 18th July  
Easthampstead 7.00pm – 8.30pm

### August

Branch Practice Saturday 15th  
11.30am – 2.30pm with picnic at  
Waltham St Lawrence

St Michael and All Angels, Sandhurst

## Chairman's Observations

Number of Sonning Deanery Branch Members – 176 (as per 2008 Guild Report)

Number of people who come to Branch Practices regularly – 8

That works out at only 4.5% of the branch membership regularly supporting the monthly Branch Practices.

Possible reasons:

•'The time keeps changing.' The time does change sometimes. This was done to try and attract people who could not come in the evenings due to other commitments

•'We don't know when the practices are.' They are on the 3rd Saturday of each month. The meeting card, which has been sent to all towers, also has the details.

•'You ring things that are too complicated.' We will ring what the members want to ring. If you come to a practice wanting to ring Plain Bob, we will ring Plain Bob.

•'There is not enough surprise.' If you want to ring surprise try and encourage some others who can also ring surprise to come with you.

At the present time, those who do come along regularly are beginning to lose the will to carry on. **These practices are an excellent opportunity to meet with experienced ringers who are committed to helping others learn every month.** It would be a huge shame if they were to discontinue through lack of interest.



## Farewell to Peter and Anne Munday

Since Mike Dane left this area on his retirement, Twyford ringers have been under the guidance of Peter and Anne Munday. The ringers have been steadily improving their skills under the excellent training of Peter and Anne, and enjoy the practice sessions twice a month on a Friday evening.

Peter and Anne are now moving away to live near Abergavenny, where I am told there is an excellent ring of 10 bells. The Twyford band will sorely miss them, but extend their thanks for all the guidance provided by the Mundays and wish them the very best in their retirement.

With thanks from the Twyford band.

Rob Needham

I appreciate that we all lead busy lives but please ask yourself if two hours a month is a possibility to commit to so as to keep the branch going.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members who do regularly turn up to branch practices. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Any suggestions and responses to the above will be gratefully received by the Chairman who can be contacted in the following ways:

Email: [chairman@sdb.odg.org.uk](mailto:chairman@sdb.odg.org.uk)

Post: 25 Brownrigg Crescent, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 2PY

Rachel Moss

## Spiders

These days, many towers have a spider to draw the ropes up out of the way when they are not in use. Spiders come in all shapes and sizes — some are big and grand, with others little more than a few hooks on a block of wood.

On this year's branch outing, the spider at one tower drew particular comment as 'several coat hangers and a door knob'. It was indeed made out of coat hangers, but they were formed into gracefully curved hooks, all carefully made to be the same. The door knob was an old fashioned metal one, rather inelegantly tacked on underneath to give it enough weight to come down when empty. Sadly I didn't think to take a picture of it at the time, so you will have to imagine it.

I took pictures of several spiders on the previous year's outing though. Bats seemed to be in fashion in the area we visited — several towers had a bat hanging underneath the rope spider, like the one shown here. Another tower had a more ingenious design, which I liked most. It had a lurid green spider sitting in the middle of a web beneath what would otherwise have been a rather utilitarian affair of wood and pot hooks.

Nearer to home, the spider at All Saints Wokingham is unique, but quite different in style from these, with no attempt to mimic nature. It is cast aluminium, and if you look closely at the surface, you can see a granular structure, which gives a clue to how it was cast. A model of the spider, made of expanded polystyrene, was packed in foundry sand, and liquid aluminium poured in. As soon as the molten metal made contact with the polystyrene it vaporised, leaving its imprint in the sand as the mould for the metal. Look carefully at the eight legs' and you might recognise the shape of the little curly pieces of polystyrene that are often used to fill the space around delicate objects.

If you are interested in other metal casts, including the Branch striking competition trophies, see: [www.jaharrison.me.uk/MetalSculpture/](http://www.jaharrison.me.uk/MetalSculpture/)

The most dramatic view of this rope spider is from below, when it becomes a tiny body, with the eight sallies forming the legs of a giant spider.

Have you seen any interesting or unusual spiders on your travels?

John Harrison



The Guild AGM this year was hosted by the Central Bucks Branch. Various towers were open during the day for people to visit prior to ringing at Stewkley in the afternoon. The Priest in Charge of Stewkley, Rev'd Michelle Morton gave the congregation some things to think about during her sermon with an ecological theme. The local ringers provided an excellent tea before the business meeting.

The meeting progressed quite smoothly with all reports etc. having been circulated before hand. All officers, other than Guild Stewards, were re-elected to their positions.

Master – Robert Newton

General Secretary – Hilarie Rogers

General Treasurer – Brian Gatward

Two of the Guild Stewards, Shirley Haines and Martin Crick stood down this year. The remaining Guild Stewards, Rachel Moss, David Joyce and Chrissie Cable were all re-elected and were joined by Ed Houghton and Lorna Smale.

The Master presented the Striking Competition Certificates to all those that had taken part – representatives from Sonning were presented with their certificate for the 6 Bell Striking Competition. The other presentation to take place was the Young Ringers' Award. Three young ringers received this award (for more information on this contact John Harrison – Education Officer).

The most contentious issue of the AGM was the proposed rule change regarding Honorary Ringing Membership. Following a vote, where 58 were in favour of the change, 2 against and 2 abstained, Honorary Ringing Membership has been replaced by Distinguished Membership (See separate article).

A second rule change has made a change to the payment of subscriptions. If your subscription is unpaid by 31st March (previously 31st December) then your membership will cease until the subscription is paid.

Following the meeting there was further ringing at Stewkley.

Rachel Moss

## Guild Rule Change

Following the Guild AGM on 16th May the Honorary Ringing Membership no longer exists. Any current Honorary Ringing Members will keep their status.

Honorary Ringing Membership has been replaced by Distinguished Membership.

For a person to qualify for Distinguished Membership they must fulfil the following criteria:

1. Be a resident ringing member of the Guild for at least 30 years
2. Given meritorious service to the Guild or Branch

The procedure for this is as follows:

1. Proposal by 2 members of the Guild, with a citation to be sent to the General Secretary
2. The Guild Master, General Secretary and Deputy Guild Master will consider the proposals received.
3. If approved, the proposals will go forward to be ratified by the membership at the Guild AGM.

There will be a form available on the Guild Website to be completed should you wish to put anyone forward for this. Anyone who receives Distinguished Membership of the Guild will receive a certificate for this. Distinguished Members will still have to pay their annual subscription to the Guild.

Rachel Moss

## Quarter Peals

**27 March 09 Easthampstead**

**1280 Yorkshire surprise major**

1. Antony Perry
2. Rachel Moss
3. Nigel Bearne
4. Ann Martin
5. Barbara Wells
6. Judith Bowler
7. Eddie Martin
8. Steve Wells (c)

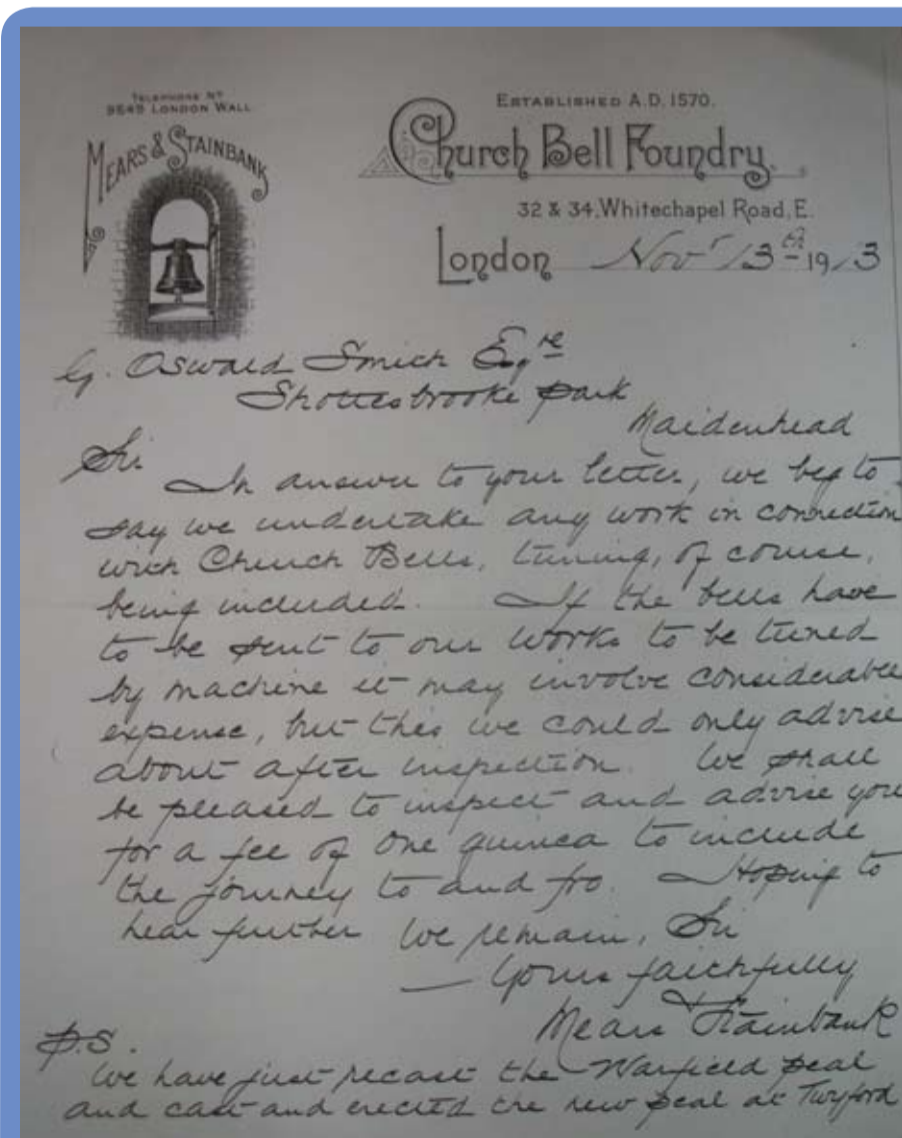
**Rung to celebrate the forth-coming marriage of Emma Burbidge (Judith's sister) to Chris Green on 4th April 09 in Cardiff .**

**29th March 2009**

**St. Andrew's, Sonning, Berks.**

**1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

- 1 Rob Needham
- 2 Joyce Vernon
- 3 Brian Snell
- 4 Pam Elliston (C)
- 5 Andrew Elliston
- 6 Keith Vernon



A response to a letter of enquiry for work to be carried out on the Shottesbrooke Park church bells in 1913, kindly sent in by Robert Packer ( Shottesbrooke Park).

In answer to your letter, we beg to say we undertake any work in connection with Church Bells. If the bells have to be sent to our works to be tuned it may involve considerable expense, but this we could only advise about after inspection. We shall be pleased to inspect and advise you for a fee of one guinea to include the journey to and fro.

PS We have just recast the Warfield peal and cast and erected the new peal at Twyford.



## Quarter Peals and Peals continued...

**Wokingham, Berks**

**All Saints**

**Sunday, 5 April 2009 in 46m**

**1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major**

- 1 Barbara G Smith
- 2 Graham E Slade
- 3 Richard J Woodward
- 4 Jonathan P Goodchild
- 5 Neil G Curnow
- 6 Stephen R Smith
- 7 Richard H Johnston
- 8 John A Harrison (C)

For evensong on Palm Sunday. Also for the marriage of Rebecca Woodward (daughter of 3) to Stephen Jones on 4th April, and 18th birthday complement to Emily Mellor, and 16th birthday complement to Mhairi Miller.

**18th April 2009**

**St. Paul, Wokingham Berkshire**

**5024 Cambridge Surprise Major**

- 1 Geoffrey K Dodd
- 2 Helen J Piper
- 3 Richard H Johnston
- 4 Hugh Baxter
- 5 John A Harrison
- 6 Alan K Barsby
- 7 Christopher P Cole
- 8 Kenneth R Davenport (C)

In thanksgiving for the life of David Carpenter, past Church Warden and PCC Treasurer

Circled tower to peals 3

**Wokingham, Berks**

**All Saints**

**Sunday, 17 May 2009 in 43m**

**1280 Plain Bob Major**

- 1 Susan E Davenport
- 2 Mhairi C Miller
- 3 Nigel AL Mellor
- 4 Stephen R Smith
- 5 Jon P Tutcher
- 6 Kenneth R Davenport
- 7 Richard H Johnston
- 8 John A Harrison (C)

For evensong

**9th April 2009**

**St. Andrew's, Sonning, Berkshire**

**1288 Grandsire Triples, 47 mins.**

- 1 Jacqueline Hazell\*
- 2 Pam Elliston
- 3 Rob Needham
- 4 Alan K Barsby
- 5 Peter Munday
- 6 Andrew Elliston
- 7 David Sullivan (C)
- 8 Peter Kemm

\* First Triples quarter peal

**19th April 2009**

**St. Andrew's, Sonning, Berkshire**

**1260 Grandsire Triples**

- 1 Rob Needham
- 2 Alison Clayton
- 3 James R Milford
- 4 Joyce Vernon
- 5 Pam Elliston (C)
- 6 Richard Bennett
- 7 E John Manley
- 8 Andrew Elliston

**24th May 2009**

**St. Andrew's, Sonning, Berkshire**

**1260 Doubles: Stedman, Grand-sire, Reverse Canterbury, Plain Bob, St Simon's, St. Martin's**

- 1 Andrew Elliston
- 2 Brian Snell
- 3 Rob Needham
- 4 Pam Elliston
- 5 Robert Partridge (C)
- 6 Roy Russell

**Wokingham, Berkshire**

**St Paul**

**Sunday, 14 June 2009 in 44 mins**

**(15)**

**1260 Grandsire Triples**

- 1 Mary Spence
- 2 Susan E Davenport
- 3 David Creasy
- 4 Pam Elliston
- 5 Jon P Tutcher
- 6 Alan Barsby
- 7 Kenneth R Davenport (C)
- 8 Andrew Elliston

For Civic Service

**10th April 2009**

**St. Andrew's, Sonning, Berkshire**

**1260 Plain Bob Minor**

- 1 Pam Elliston
- 2 Judith Bowler
- 3 Rob Needham
- 4 Alan K Barsby
- 5 Andrew Elliston
- 6 David Sullivan (C)

Rung for the Good Friday service conductor, ringer 7

**25 April 09 Easthampstead**

**1260 Grandsire Triples**

1. Margaret Bearne
2. Barbara Wells
3. Ann Martin
4. Steve Wells
5. Nigel Bearne
6. Paul Fox
7. Eddie Martin (c)
8. Judith Bowler

Rung in memory of Tony Greenhow, who used to ring with us at Easthampstead, and was a member of the congregation.

**Wokingham, Berks**

**31st May 2009**

**St. Andrew's, Sonning, Berkshire**

**1260 Plain Bob Minor, with cover**

- 1 Alison Clayton
- 2 Joyce Vernon
- 3 Brian Snell
- 4 Rob Needham
- 5 Pam Elliston (C)
- 6 E John Manley
- 7 Andrew Elliston

**All Saints**

**Sunday, 31 May 2009 in 44m**

**1260 Plain Bob Minor**

- 1 Barbara G Smith
- 2 Mhairi C Miller
- 3 Mary Spence
- 4 Jon P Tutcher
- 5 Stephen R Smith
- 6 John A Harrison (C)

For evensong on Whitsunday

**12th April 2009**

**All Saints, Wokingham, Berkshire**

**1260 Grandsire Triples**

- 1 Mary Spence
- 2 Elizabeth J Davenport
- 3 Susan E Davenport
- 4 John A Harrison
- 5 Stephen R Smith
- 6 Kenneth R Davenport (C)
- 7 Simon C Farrar
- 8 Peter J Davenport

For Easter and in memory of Joan and John Rance (Parents of 3) who were married at this Church 15th April 1939.

**3rd May 2009**

**St. Andrew's, Sonning, Berkshire**

**1260 Plain Bob Minor**

- 1 Joyce Vernon
- 2 Cyril Crouch
- 3 Peter Kemm
- 4 James R Milford
- 5 Pam Elliston (C)
- 6 Andrew Elliston

Rung to celebrate the Ruby Wedding Anniversary today of Rob & Pauline Needham, ringers at this church

**All Saints**

**Saturday, 9 May 2009 in 2h51m (15-2-11)**

**5088 Kirkby-in-Ashfield Surprise Major**

Composed by: Donald F Morrison (No 3835)

- 1 Martin J Kirk
- 2 John A Harrison
- 3 Kenneth J Darvill
- 4 Nigel AL Mellor
- 5 W Nigel G Herriott (C)
- 6 Christopher P Cole
- 7 Kenneth R Davenport
- 8 Jon P Tutcher

Rung to mark 50 years since John Harrison learnt to ring at Kirkby-in-Ashfield. First in the method for all inside bells.

Chairman	Rachel Moss	25 Brownrigg Crescent, Bracknell, RG12 2PY	01344 459978	chairman@sdb.odg.org.uk
Ringing Master	Ken Davenport	47 Brookside Wokingham RG41 2ST		brm@sdb.odg.org.uk
Deputy Ringing Master	John Manley			dbrm@sdb.odg.org.uk
Treasurer	Eric Bowes	7 Wield Court, Earley RG6 3TF	0118 9268076	treasurer@sdb.odg.org.uk
Secretary	Andrew Moss	25 Brownrigg Crescent, Bracknell, RG12 2PY	01344 459978	secretary@sdb.odg.org.uk
Training Co-ordinator	John Harrison	2 Murdoch Road, Wokingham, RG40 2DA	0118 978 5520	training@sdb.odg.org.uk
Branch Reps	Pam & Andrew Elliston	142 Butts Hill Road, Woodley, Reading RG5 4NS	0118 969 5967	committee@sdb.odg.org.uk
Bookstall	Rob Needham	15 Bodmin Road, Woodley, Reading, RG5 3RZ	0118 926 7724	librarian@sdb.odg.org.uk
Newsletter Editor	Sarah Boys	24 Tyler Drive, Arborfield, RG2 9NG	0118 9762413	editor@sdb.odg.org.uk
Webmaster	Aidan Hopkins	14 Harpesford Avenue, Virginia Water, GU25 4RD	01344 206173	webmaster@sdb.odg.org.uk