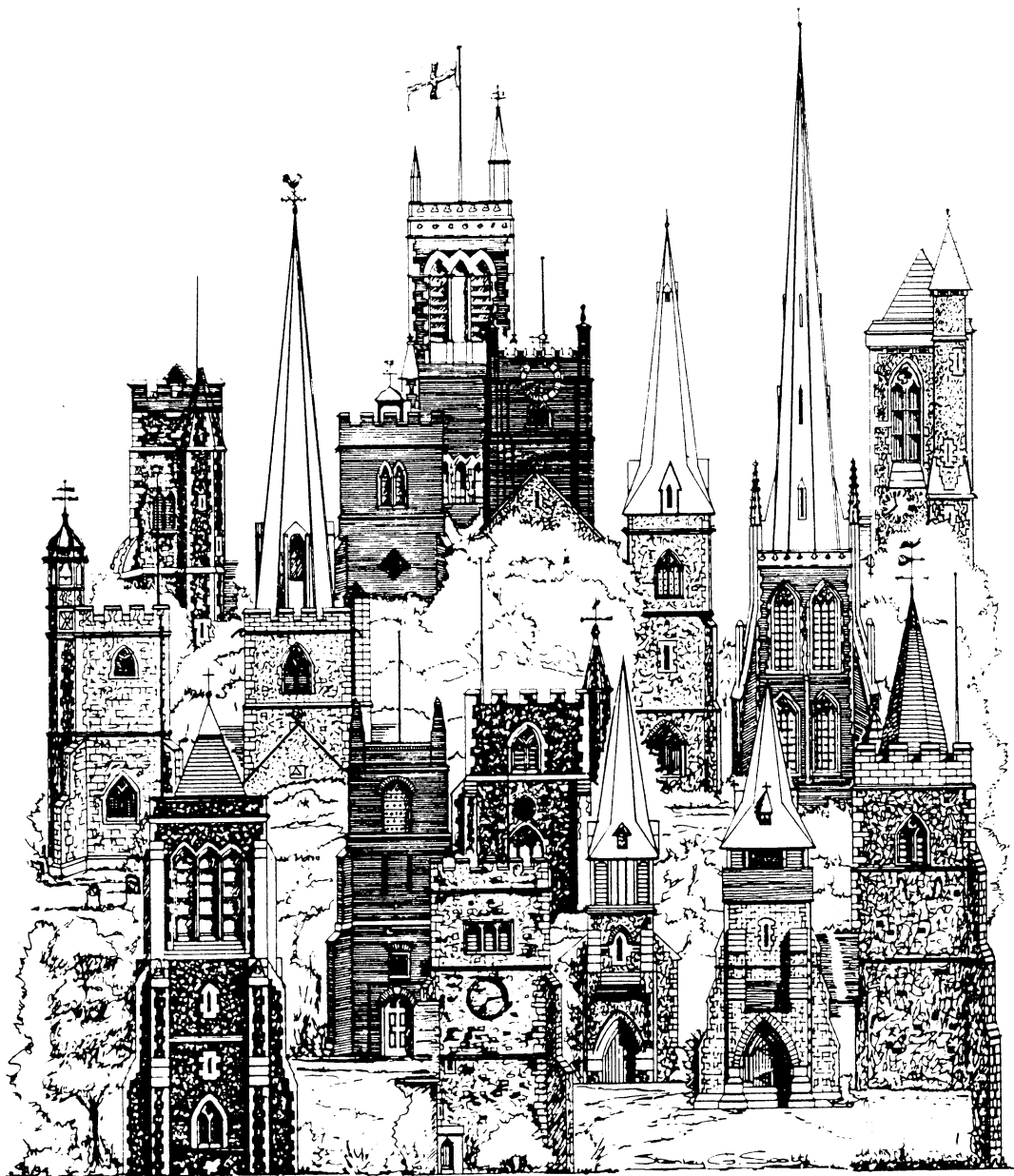


Sonning Deanery Branch

NEWSLETTER

July 2006



Oxford Diocesan Guild
of Church Bell Ringers

Ringling Master's Ramblings

The June Branch Practice was at Barkham, which has four bells. The seven people who turned up ate lots of strawberries and cream, and also rang a variety of four-bell methods, including Plain Bob, Reverse Bob, Double Bob and St Clements. Many thanks to Hillary for providing the strawberries.

The August Branch Practice will be at Arborfield (six bells). Ringing will be from 11:30am to 12:30pm, then from 1:30pm to 2:30pm. We will have a picnic in between (using the hall if the weather is bad).

The Branch eight bell striking competition is to be held on Saturday 16th September at 5:00pm, at Easthampstead. Please start to think about getting a team together, and get practising! Six bell towers (and four bell towers!), remember that you can enter this competition. It would be a good idea to use an eight bell tower for practice. The eight bell towers are: Easthampstead, Hurst, Sonning, Twyford, Wargrave, Wokingham All Saints and Wokingham St Pauls. Warfield has 10 bells. Please see the Branch website (www.sdb.odg.org.uk) or ask any Officer for contact details of these towers.

The Branch website contains all sorts of useful information, including: Branch Newsletters; Officers' details; tower details; information about Branch events, and useful ringing links. Please have a look. If you have any information you would like to put onto the website (or suggestions for improvements), please inform any Officer, or email Aidan Hopkins at webmaster@sdb.odg.org.uk.

Louise Marshall

Your striking competition team

Several tower captains say they always get caught out because in July it seems a long way away, then there is the holiday season, and before they realise it, it is well into September. They end up trying to arrange a team in a bit of a rush, and find people have already made plans for other things that they might not have done if they knew they were ringing. So now is the time to plan your team for the Branch 8-bell competition.

All towers may enter, including six bell towers. If you want to practise on eight, why not ask one of our eights if you can visit them before the competition. If you are short of numbers, you can 'borrow' someone from another tower, and Branch rules also allow joint teams.

The competition is from 5 - 7pm on 16th September at Easthampstead, which are light, easy going bells.

John Harrison

Radley - Saturday 8th April 2006

This was a weekend I had been looking forward to for some time as I had been on a previous Radley course, making a shaky start on Bob Doubles. Now, 2 years later, I was lucky enough to get a place to learn Grandsire Doubles WITH BOBS AND SINGLES! We were sent a booklet on the theory to read as pre-course homework and a list of the three towers we would ring at during the day. I looked mine up in my copy of Dove and noted with some trepidation that one of the towers was classed as 'unringable'. I should have looked at the on-line version as, needless to say, the bells in this particular tower had just been re-hung and it was a lovely ring, as were all the Towers used for the course.

We all met up at Radley, where we were welcomed with tea and coffee, a chance to look at the bookstall and the promise of a reward after a hard day's ringing (more about that later). There were five people in each group, and five groups learning from Plain Hunt to Plain Bob Major. There was plenty of opportunity to ring. In my group three people would ring at a time, one on the treble, one on the tenor behind and one ringing the method inside. We also had a chance to try some 8-bell ringing. At every Tower there were lots of helpers, all very knowledgeable, helpful and encouraging. How **do** people know where someone **should** be when they are in the wrong place? And all whilst happily ringing their own bell!!

Lunch, in our case at a local pub, was very enjoyable and then on to more ringing and discovering more lovely villages which we wouldn't normally have seen.

Around 6pm we all had our reward - a lovely cooked meal back at Radley – with 3 choices and the legendary sticky toffee pudding – not to be missed. Most people stayed on for the evening options which included Bell Handling, Ringing with a Simulator and Listening Skills.

I am sure that everyone who came on the course would like to join with me in thanking all those who made such an enjoyable day possible.

I thoroughly recommend it!

Tricia Amos
St James' Finchampstead

Training Matters

Daytime practices

This is our most recent Branch initiative, and with five successful practices under our belt, it has proved itself. We are a smaller than Reading, which has had daytime practices for some while, but there are enough of us interested to make the practices viable and enjoyable.

Training courses

There has been a lull in courses recently, but I would like to organise more over the coming months. I need to update the list of who wants what. I need to know:

Your name, phone number, e-mail (if you have it) and which of the courses listed below you would be interested in. You can contact me by e-mail or phone (see details on the back cover).

Elementary bob calling	Ring with a simulator
Conducting	How to learn a method
Bell handling	Heavy bell handling
See yourself handling on video	Change ringing on handbells
Raising and lowering in peal	Teaching bell handling
Leading up and down in peal	Calling changes
Listening skills	Ringing handbells
Bell maintenance	Anything else (state what)
Rope splicing	Specific methods (state which)

Did you know?

Sonning Deanery was one of the first Branches to start running Branch training courses, when Hugh Baxter was Ringing Master 15 years ago? He had the brilliant idea of organising courses around what members wanted, which is what we have done ever since. At Branch level, it works much better than rather than just thinking of a course, advertising it and hoping people will sign up.

The Learning Curve

Do you see 'The Learning Curve'? It is a series of articles about training and learning, published in *The Ringing World* every month (on the first Friday). If you don't see a copy, and you have Internet access, you can download recent articles from www.cccb.org.uk/edc/tlc.php. You can also buy collections of past articles as booklets from CC Publications

www.cccb.org.uk/pubs/ccpb.php

John Harrison

Apologies

Some of you may have noticed there was no June edition of this newsletter; this was due to a lack of content and I was too busy moving jobs to chase people. Sorry about this. I hope you all found something else to read/do to while away these long summer evenings!

Daniel Chafen

Hello Everyone.

I would like to send you all my apologies with regards to my absence in attending other practices. This has been due to problems with my right shoulder. In the past I had frozen shoulder and ever since then it has been playing up. It can be very painful and restricts my ringing when it is really bad. Minimising the amount of ringing helps, though I want to believe that it is not the ringing that is the main cause. I have attended the some branch practises earlier this year but the pain in my shoulder increased.

I am currently taking tablets to help the pain and I am due to see a consultant in July and it is hoped that later in the year I will be able to attend other practices. I do still ring at my own tower of White Waltham and also at Shottesbrooke for practices and Sunday morning ringing. This is mainly on a light bell.

One thing I would like to say is that I never want to give up bell ringing. Hope to see you later in the year.

Regards

Lesley Graves

Quarter Peals

St. Andrew's, Sonning, Berkshire

26th March 2006

1260 St. Nicholas Bob Triples

1. Andrew Elliston
2. Brian Snell
3. Rob Needham
4. Joyce Vernon
5. Pam Elliston
6. Ken G Baker
7. Michael Dane (C)
8. Keith Vernon

Rung for the Mothering Service

White Waltham, Berkshire

Sunday 26 March 2006

1260 St Simons Bob Doubles

1. Richard Hazell
2. Lesley Graves
3. Jacqueline Hazell
4. Derek Smith
5. Simon Smith (C)
6. Roger Martin.

For Mothering Sunday, To celebrate the engagement of Simon Smith to Emma Wells. To commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the ODG.

More Quarter Peals

Twyford

Friday 31st March 2006
1260 Grandsire Triples

1. Peter Munday
2. Sue Davenport
3. Joyce Vernon
4. Pam Elliston
5. Lavinia Sullivan
6. David Sullivan
7. Michael Dane (C)
8. Keith Vernon

In celebration of the life of Elsie Smith, for many years a ringer at Twyford and at Wargrave.

Shottesbrooke

Sunday 16th April 2006
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1. Robert Packer
2. Roger Martin
3. Jo Pocock
4. Jacqueline Hazell
5. Derek Smith (C)
6. Derek Brayne

For Easter Sunday.

Easthampstead

Thursday 25th May 2006
1260 Single Oxford Bob Triples

1. Stanley G Scott
2. Louise Marshall *
3. Margaret Bearne *
4. Steve Wells
5. Daniel Chafen *
6. Judith Burbidge
7. Rachel Moss (C)
8. Paul Fox

* First in method

Rung for the baptism of Louis Wood on Sunday 21 May 2006.

Sonning

Sunday 4th June 2006
1260 Grandsire Triples

1. Peter Kemm
2. Pam Elliston (C)
3. Brian Snell
4. Alison Clayton
5. Louise Marshall
6. Andrew Elliston
7. Ken G Baker
8. Keith Vernon

For Whit Sunday Evensong

White Waltham

Sunday 16th April 2006
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1. Roger Martin
2. Lesley Graves
3. Jacqueline Hazell
4. Derek Smith
5. Caroline Andrew (C)
6. Derek Brayne

For Easter Sunday.

Sonning

Sunday 28th May 2006
1260 Middlesex Triples

1. Pauline Needham
2. Pam Elliston
3. Brian Snell
4. Judith Burbidge *
5. Rob Needham
6. Andrew Elliston
7. Michael Dane (C)
8. Ken G Baker

* First in method

Rung to celebrate the birth of Louis Joseph Edward Daniels-Smith to Ann & Alan, ringers at this tower

Even More Quarter Peals

Shottesbrooke

Friday 21st April 2006

1320 Plain Bob Doubles

1. Roger Martin
2. Lesley Graves
3. Simon Graves
4. Jacqueline Hazell
5. Caroline Andrew (C)
6. Robert Packer

To Celebrate the 80th Birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Sonning

25th June 2006

60 Stedman, 240 Grandsire, Plain Bob, St. Simon's, St. Martin's, and Reverse Canterbury Doubles

1. Andrew Elliston
2. Pam Elliston
3. Brian Snell
4. Rob Needham
5. Ken G Baker (C)
6. Keith Vernon

Peals

ST. Paul Wokingham

Saturday 29th April 2006 in 2 h58

5024 Wokingham Surprise Major

Composed by: Rodger Bailey (No. 4)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Bobbie May * | 5. Timothy G. Pett * |
| 2. June D. Wells * | 6. Christopher P. Cole |
| 3. Geoffrey K. Cook * | 7. E. John Wells |
| 4. Peter J. Munday * | 8. Kenneth R. Davenport |

Rung to celebrate the wedding of Kenneth Flood, Community Priest, and Emma Louise Antoine, taking place at this church later in the day. Also to mark the first anniversary of the licensing of Father John Connell as Parish Priest

* First peal in method

Oxford Diocesan Guild

Easthampstead, Berks

St Michael & St Mary Magdalene

Saturday, 8 July 2006 in 2h49

5088 Lincolnshire Surprise Major

Composed by: W Barton

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Nigel F Bearne | 5. Rachel Moss |
| 2. Judith M Burbidge | 6. Stephen C Wells |
| 3. Dominic J Travis | 7. J Alan Ainsworth (C) |
| 4. Antony J Allen | 8. David Burbidge |

Rung to celebrate the forthcoming wedding of Jonathan Bowler & Judith Burbidge. Also for the 40th anniversary of the augmentation of the bells.



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Forthcoming Events

Tuesday	8th Aug	Branch Daytime Practice	Wokingham, All Saints	TBC
Saturday	19th Aug	Branch Practice (with picnic)	Arborfield	11:30-2:30pm
Saturday	16th Sep	8 Bell Striking Competition & Branch Practice	Easthampstead	5:00 - 7:00pm 7:00 - 8:30pm