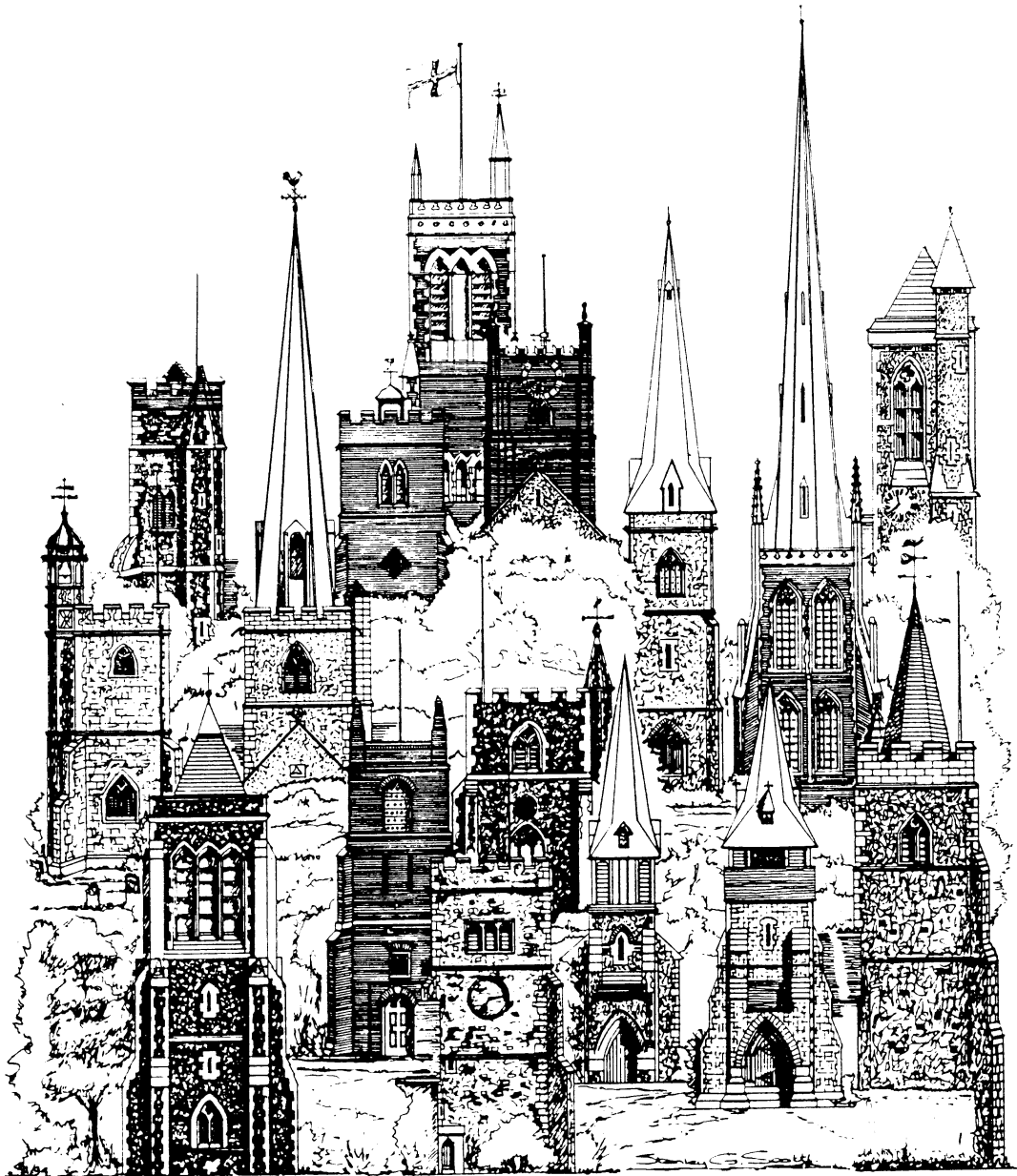


Sonning Deanery Branch

NEWSLETTER

October 2006



Oxford Diocesan Guild
of Church Bell Ringers

Ringling Master's Ramblings

No articles were received for this edition of the Newsletter! This edition therefore contains Guild information and other bits and pieces, as well as details of quarter peals.

I know some people are interested in learning to ring on ten bells. If this is you, please book a place on the Guild Ten Bell Training Day, which is advertised opposite.

If you can already ring on ten, please let me know so that we can enter a Branch team for the Guild Ten Bell Striking Competition, which is advertised on page 4.

On page 3 is an article about the Guild Young Ringers' Award Scheme. If you are under 18, please consider giving this a go. If not, please tell a young ringer about it!

The article on page 5 ("A Cautionary Tale") concerns a tower band which wishes to remain anonymous! The band wanted to share this story with the Branch so that other towers could avoid being in a similar situation.

Eight Bell Striking Competition

The Branch Eight Bell Striking Competition was held on 16th September at Easthampstead. Many thanks to Aidan Hopkins for stepping in at the last minute to judge the competition, and for delivering such a quick decision! The results were as follows:

1	Wokingham All Saints	Yorkshire S Major
2	Easthampstead	Grandsire Triples
3	Sonning	Grandsire Triples

The Branch Practice which followed the competition was poorly attended. We rang various methods, including Cambridge Major, Oxford Bob Triples and mixed doubles.

Quarter Peal Week

Quarter Peal Week starts on Saturday 4th November, and finishes on Sunday 12th November. If you need any help with arranging a quarter peal (getting ringers / conductors / bells etc), please let me know and I will be happy to help. Good Luck!

Louise Marshall

Ten Bell Training Day

A One Day Course organised by the ODG Education Committee for Ringers who would like to start developing their Royal ringing.

Saturday, 11th November

9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

at

ASTON CLINTON RINGING CENTRE

St. Michael and All Angels

Aston Clinton

Tutors

Pat & Robert Newton

Methods will initially include:

Bastow, Plain, Little and Kent Treble Bob

Cost

There will be a charge of **£3.50** which includes refreshments and administration.

Own arrangements for lunch

(a suitable hostelry is quite close to the Church)

Contact

Alan Bentley on **01296 581 965**

or email arb99net@netscape.net

if you would like to attend

Young Ringers' Award Scheme

Aim of the Award Scheme

The aim of the Young Ringers' Award scheme is to encourage young ringers to take as full a part in the range of ringing activities as possible and so develop a life long interest in church bell ringing. It is designed to help them find out more about bells, ringing, the Guild and the Exercise as a whole.

Format of the Award

The scheme, which will be open to all ringers under the age of 18, will run annually for a complete calendar year. During the year, entrants will be expected to keep a 'Log Book' providing evidence of progress and commitment to ringing. In order to reflect the Objects of the Guild and to provide a framework in which the young ringers and their trainers can work, the Log Book should contain records of activity in the following eight sections:-

- Frequent and regular attendance at service ringing and practices
- Effort and progress in practical ringing
- Level of involvement in other Tower and Church activities
- Knowledge of Guild and Branch Structure and involvement in Branch and Guild events
- Level of interest in, and knowledge of, the bells and the church of their home tower and others visited
- Knowledge of basic bell maintenance
- Efforts to interest others in ringing
- General knowledge of the world of bells and ringing

All entries will need to be endorsed by a Tower Captain or a Branch or Guild Officer.

Entries will be judged by the members of the Education Sub-committee and each entrant will be seen in a ringing environment by at least one member of this committee during the year.

Gold, silver or bronze certificates will be awarded to those entries which achieve a suitable level with the best entrant being awarded the Young Ringer of the Year Shield. The Shield and certificates will be presented at the Guild AGM and the shield will be held for one year.

How to enter

Entry forms can be obtained from **John Wells**, 15 Lytham End, Tilehurst, Reading. RG31 6FG. Tel. 0118 9410061. E-mail wellsej@waitrose.com. Together with the entry form, all entrants will be sent fuller details of the scheme together with ideas for approaching the various sections and how these will be assessed.

TEN BELL STRIKING COMPETITION



OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

SATURDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2006

The 2006 Ten Bell Striking Competition will be held at **St. Mary, Banbury (17-1-9)** on **Saturday 25th November 2006**, starting at **10.00 am**. Teams will be notified in advance of the outcome of the draw which will be made on 18th November.

The Closing Date for entries is **Friday, 17th November**. This date will be strictly enforced.

The Test piece will be: **269 Grandsire Caters**

23456789
62354798 1 2s 3s
42365798 1s 4s
(34265879) 1 4

Hilarie Rogers, Hon. General Secretary

If you can ring Grandsire Caters and are available on Saturday 25th November, then please let me know so that we can put forward a Branch team for this competition.

Louise Marshall

A Cautionary Tale

A tower band decided to ring a quarter peal on a different night from the normal practice night. Due to ringers' outside commitments, they knew that ringing would start late, but they thought that they would be finished by 9pm. However, one of the ringers arrived late, and so the quarter peal did not start until 8:30pm.

The quarter peal went well until about 9:10pm, when the lights in the ringing chamber suddenly went out. There was some panic, but the lights came back on after a few seconds and the ringing continued. The lights went out again, for longer this time, but the ringers continued, with some difficulty, until the lights were on again. The lights then went out a third time (with only a couple of minutes left of the quarter peal), and did not come back on until confusion and panic led to the loss of the quarter peal.

The ringers went downstairs to determine the cause of the defective lighting, and were confronted with a disgruntled neighbour, who was complaining that his children couldn't sleep due to the noise of the bells. He had found the main trip switch box in the church, and had used the trip switch to turn out the lights in the ringing chamber.

Lessons Learned

- Plan to start quarter peals *before* the latest possible start time, to allow for lateness or restarts.
- Always lock the church door as well as (or instead of) the tower door when ringing peals and quarter peals.
- Never ring after 9pm (unless the tower has sound control fitted).
- Where possible, restrict ringing to publicised ringing times (practice nights, Sunday services and weddings).
- If ringing is to be carried out at extraordinary times, it is best to let local residents know beforehand (especially where there is a history of complaints). A poster explaining the purpose of the ringing could be displayed outside the church, for example.
- Make sure emergency lighting is present and in good working order.

Louise Marshall

Quarter Peals

Reading, St. Mary

Sunday, 24 September 2006 in 49 mins
1250 Cambridge Surprise Major

1. Alex Byrne
2. Bobbie May
3. Jennifer Herriott
4. John Harrison
5. Ken Davenport
6. Andrew Smith
7. Nigel Herriott (C)
8. Jon Tutchter

Rung for the ordination of Emma Antoine Flood (Wokingham, All Saints), Jo Harrison (Wokingham, St Paul) and Chris Leslie (Benefice of Loddon Reach) by a band drawn from all three churches.

Sonning

1st October 2006
1260 St. Clement's Minor

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

Sonning

15th October 2006
1260 Grandsire Triples

1. Ken G Baker
2. Claire Hodnett
3. Brian Snell
4. Joyce Vernon
5. Pam Elliston
6. Rob Needham
7. Robert Partridge (C)
8. Keith Vernon

Wokingham, All Saints

Sunday, 1 October 2006 in 45 mins
1260 Stedman Triples

1. Nigel A L Mellor
2. Jill Galloway
3. Stephen R Smith
4. Lucy Bricheno
5. Andy Smith
6. John A Harrison
7. Simon C Farrar (C)
8. Evan Kozakiewicz

Rung for evensong, to mark Emma Antoine Flood presiding at her first Parish Communion earlier in the day, after her ordination as Priest the previous Sunday.

Sonning

8th October 2006
1344 Plain Bob Major

1. Brian Snell
2. Pam Elliston
3. Claire Hodnett
4. Rob Needham
5. Ken G Baker
6. Andrew Elliston
7. Chris J Brown
8. Michael Dane (C)

Sonning

17th October 2006
1260 Plain Bob Minor with cover

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

Rung before the Confirmation service.



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Forthcoming Events

Saturday 4th to Sunday 12th November			Quarter Peal Week	
Tuesday	14th Nov	Branch Daytime Practice TBC	Wokingham, All Saints	2:00-4:00pm
Saturday	18th Nov	Branch Committee Meeting	Wokingham, All Saints	5:00-7:30pm
Saturday	18th Nov	Branch Practice	Wokingham, All Saints	7:30-9:00pm