

Sonning Deanery Branch Newsletter



June 2014, Summer Issue



Sonning Bellringers' 'scarecrow' banner

Over the late May bank-holiday weekend Sonning held its biennial Scarecrows and Open Gardens event. Sonning bell ringers, both tower and handbells, usually support this event, and this year was no exception.

There was no theme for the scarecrows for 2014, so we used a very familiar WWI recruitment poster picture and modified it for tower bell ringers. Our 'scarecrow' is a very large and flat one (except for the peak of the cap and the pointing finger), as you will see in the photo! We hung it from the battlements of the tower and fixed guy-lines at the bottom to peg it out taut.

This wonderful recruitment poster is now resting in a ringer's garage roof space, but it is available (with a bit of notice) to any tower in the branch that wants it for their open tower event. The banner is roughly 20 foot long and 8 foot wide but rolls up! Unfortunately the heavy rain on the bank holiday Monday loosened some of the pieces of material, so a bit of restoration work will be needed before it is displayed again but don't let this put you off!

Rob Needham, Sonning

Diary of Events

Saturday 19th July

Hurst (8)
10.30—12 Branch Practice

Saturday 16th August

Barkham (4)
10.30am—12 Branch Practice

Saturday 20th September

Shottesbrooke (6)
10.30am—12 Branch Practice

Monthly Tuesday afternoon practices (2-4pm) at Binfield on 1st July, 5th August & 2nd September (provisionally).

Monthly Surprise Major practice at All Saints Wokingham. 2nd Wednesdays: 9th July, 14th August & 10th September.

11th October—Branch Outing

Visitors always Welcome

The summer is ahead of us with its light evenings. Please take the opportunity to visit other towers.

Ringling on other bells is excellent experience, especially for those who only ever ring in their own towers! I always try and take some of my learners, especially those at school, to a practice somewhere during the school holidays. They find it great fun and can meet others of the same age.

It also enables towers to develop their own bands. I have always been made very welcome by towers I visit. Even if it means ringing rounds and call changes all evening, someone is benefitting and, as such, it is always rewarding. Some even go down the pub!

All towers appreciate visitors on their practice nights but in particular, Arborfield, Shottesbrooke, White Waltham and Warfield would all appreciate visits from ringers of all standards. You can find details of tower practice nights on the Branch website:

<http://odg.org.uk/sdb/towers/index.html#Top>.

Have a good ringing summer!

Steve Wells, Easthampstead



Saturday 6th September—10am—5pm -

Newbury Racecourse

- ◆ The biggest event for ringers in 2014
- ◆ Mini-rings
- ◆ Handbells
- ◆ Seminars
- ◆ Exhibitors

Buy your tickets (£10 in advance) from the website:
www.ringingroadshow.co.uk

To belong or not to belong?

Following on from Jackie's article about belonging to more than one tower time there was a bit of discussion.

Elizabeth O'Brien from St Paul's Wokingham, (with 100 years of family association in the Branch), said that allegiance could come in many forms, whether as a visitor at a tower or seeing family members' names on peal boards. She also made the point that we rely on volunteers to run the Branch and collecting subs was not always a straightforward task already without any more complications!

However following this, John received clarification from the Guild Master. John has summarised this as follows:

I have been asked to clarify the issues raised by Jackie Hazell in the Spring Newsletter. Belonging is indeed an excellent thing but belonging to a band is different from belonging to the Guild. Each is like being a member of a club, with duties and privileges, activities, voting rights, etc.

A ringer may choose to join as many bands as (s)he wishes. Most tower bands don't charge a membership fee but some do (I pay £5 per year to Reading St Mary & St Lawrence band).

The Guild is a very large club that operates as a federation of branches. All Guild members are registered in a branch which receives part of their Guild subscription (currently £3 out of £8). You can only be a member of the Guild once so you only need to pay one Guild subscription, but in the rare cases where a member wishes to register in a second branch (s)he pays an additional £3 to that branch. For example the Master pays £8 to EBSB and £3 to South Oxon.

For historic reasons the Guild lists members by branch and tower (apart from a few 'unattached' members who are only listed by branch). The Guild also collects its subscriptions via towers so in the Guild report members appear under the tower through which they pay their Guild subscription. Using myself as an example again, the Guild lists me under Wokingham through which I pay my Guild subscription, but it doesn't list me under Reading where although being a member of the band (and paying a tower subscription) I don't pay any extra Guild subscription.

John Harrison (Chairman)

6-bell striking competition

Five teams entered the 6-bell competition at Arborfield, judged by Chris Griggs and Mike O'Hagan, on a typical April afternoon – bright sunshine and sharp showers.

The judges commented on the good overall standard of the ringing. It was close competition as the results demonstrate. The winners are pictured below.

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Arborfield & Barkham | 44 | Rounds |
| 2 | Wokingham All Saints | 46 | Grandsire Doubles |
| 3 | Sonning 49 | | Plain Bob Doubles |
| 4 | Twyford & Hurst | 52 | Plain Bob Doubles |
| 5 | Easthampstead | 56 | Plain Bob Doubles |



Branch Outing - Saturday 11th October

Keep the date free!

Towers TBA but will be announced shortly!

Quarter Peals

Sunday 23 April 2014
Waltham St Lawrence
1300 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Jennifer King
- 2 Jacqueline Hazell
- 3 Richard Hazell
- 4 Vikki Bulbeck
- 5 Simon Farrar (C)
- 6 Benjamin King

First Quarter 1

First Quarter 6

To celebrate (belatedly) Jennie and Ben's 1st wedding anniversary, married in this church 23rd March 2013.

To celebrate St George's Day.

Sunday 4 May 2014
Sonning
1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Pam Elliston
- 2 Geoffrey M Harvey
- 3 Rob Needham
- 4 Lavinia Sullivan
- 5 Andrew Elliston
- 6 Alan K Barsby (C)

For Holy Communion and to celebrate the 45th wedding anniversary of Rob & Pauline Needham the previous day.

Sunday 11 May 2014
Wokingham St Paul's
1260 Stedman Triples

- 1 Susan E Davenport
- 2 Pamela A Elliston
- 3 Barbara E Wells
- 4 Elizabeth J O'Brien
- 5 Stephen C Wells
- 6 John A Harrison
- 7 Kenneth R Davenport (C)
- 8 Andrew C Elliston

For the united service for Christian Unity & Christian Aid.

Sunday 1 June 2014
Sonning
1260 Plain Bob Triples

- 1 Peter Kemm
- 2 Joyce Vernon
- 3 Geoffrey M Harvey
- 4 Pam Elliston
- 5 Andrew Elliston
- 6 Alan K Barsby (C)
- 7 Simon Milford
- 8 Keith Vernon

For Holy Communion and in memory of W A K (Gus) Gray, bellringer at St Giles Reading and Checkendon.

Sunday 8 June 2014
Wokingham St Paul's
1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Dave Creasy
- 2 Susan E Davenport
- 3 Geoffrey Cook
- 4 Andrew Elliston
- 5 Alan K Barsby
- 6 Kenneth R Davenport (C)
- 7 John A Harrison
- 8 Peter J Davenport

For Civic Service.

| | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
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| Ringling Master | Steve Wells | Easthampstead | 01344 452202 | dbrm@sdb.odg.org.uk |
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