

# Sonning Deanery Branch Newsletter



October 2013, Autumn Issue



## Wedding Bells

The bells rang Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September to celebrate the marriage of Elizabeth Davenport to Charlie O'Brien.

As Elizabeth is the first a member of St Paul's Tower to be married locally extra ringing was the order of the day. A celebratory peal was rung Saturday morning, conducted by Ken Davenport (proud father) from 10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. which left just enough time for him to get changed and escort her up the aisle. All went well as can be seen from the photograph. Ringing was also included in the ceremony with handbells being rung during the signing of the register. Elizabeth was unable to take part as she would have liked. Normal ringing took place after the service by several of her friends.

The day continued with a reception and evening entertainment at Bearwood Lakes Golf Club. A successful and memorable day was enjoyed by all.

*(continued overleaf)*

## Diary of Events

### Saturday 19 October

Easthampstead  
4-6pm 8 bell striking contest  
General ringing to follow

### Saturday 16 November

White Waltham  
4—5.30pm Business meeting  
5.30—7.30pm Branch Practice

### Saturday 21 December

Sonning  
10—12 noon Branch Practice

Monthly Tuesday afternoon practices (2-4pm)  
at Binfield on 5 November, 3 December, 7 January (provisionally).

*Thanks to Andrew Dugdale from Aborfield who has kindly offered to print the newsletter for us free of charge.*

## Wokingham, Berks, St Paul

Saturday, 21 September 2013 in 2 hrs 51 mins

5056 Yorkshire Surprise Major

- 1 June D Wells
- 2 Catherine M A Lane
- 3 Geoffrey K Cook
- 4 Christopher P Cole
- 5 John A Harrison
- 6 E John Wells
- 7 Kenneth R Davenport (C)
- 8 Bernard F L Groves

Rung to celebrate the marriage of Elizabeth Davenport to Charlie O'Brien which took place at this Church later in the day.

600th peal, 2

## Binfield, Berks

All Saints

Thursday, 26 September 2013 in 42 mins

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Ruth Fawcett
- 2 Susan E Davenport
- 3 Dave Creasy
- 4 Alan Barsby
- 5 Kenneth R Davenport (C)
- 6 Peter Davenport

A wedding compliment to Elizabeth Davenport & Charlie O'Brien married 21st September.

**Sue Davenport , St Paul's Wokingham**

## Tercentenary of Stedman's death

Ringling World readers will already know about this, but for those who don't, it is an important anniversary.

We all know Stedman the method, but the Fabian Stedman after whom it is named did much more than invent it. He published the first two books on change ringing: *Tintinnalogia* in 1668 (a joint effort with Richard Duckworth who supplied much of the content) and *Campanalogia* in 1677 (which Stedman wrote as well as published). At the time, change ringing was still evolving, and was confined to a few places in England. Writing things down was a key step in helping change ringing to spread and develop.

The exact dates of Stedman's birth and death aren't known. He was baptised at Yarkhill, Herefordshire on 7 December 1640, second son of the Reverend Francis Stedman. He was apprenticed to a master printer in London where he became a prominent ringer, first with the Cheapside Scholars and then with the College Youths, of which he was Master in 1682. In later life he became auditor to Customs and Excise for the Crown, and appears to have dropped out of ringing. He died in 1713 and was buried on 16 November at the parish church of St Andrew Undershaft in the City of London.

The 300th anniversary of his burial is this year on Saturday 16 November. Ringers everywhere are being encouraged to mark the occasion by ringing, and to use the event to create publicity, both for their own bands and also for the art of ringing. The Central Council has produced material that you can re-use for local publicity along with your own stories, and also lots of compositions of Stedman in meaningful lengths: Short touches of 300 (years since his death), quarter peals of 1300 (ends in 300), Date touches of 1713 (year he died) and peals of 5300 (ends in 300).

Locally we are hoping to arrange some Branch ringing, possibly before or after the business meeting. Some towers are already making their own plans for ringing during the day. If your tower hasn't done so yet, try to arrange some ringing - Stedman if possible, or something else if you think that would be easier. Ring on the day if you can, but if that's not possible then ring shortly before or after.

Above all, make sure you publicise what you are doing, to your parish and your village or town, as well as local press. Tell them in advance – don't be modest and wait until afterwards. If the local press want to come along to take a picture of the band so much the better. This is a great opportunity to publicise ringing.

If you need help to make up band, or need a conductor, please let us know. If you have some good ideas about publicising the event that you think might be of interest to others, then let us know.

Information for Stedman publicity and touches of 300 Stedman: [cccbr.org.uk/stedman/](http://cccbr.org.uk/stedman/)

Advice on working with the media: [cccbr.org.uk/pr/advice/media/](http://cccbr.org.uk/pr/advice/media/)

General advice on ringing PR: [cccbr.org.uk/pr/advice/](http://cccbr.org.uk/pr/advice/)

**John Harrison, All Saints Wokingham**

## Twyford & Hurst ring the Royal Jubilee Bells, 31 August



The idea for a walking ringing tour of the City of London started following the fascinating talk given by Dickon Love at Twyford in April this year. Dickon gave a thoroughly entertaining lecture about the genesis and eventual resting place of the Royal Jubilee Bells that played a central role in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee pageant.

Looking at the bell map of the City, I decided that a day's outing would be manageable, for the relatively inexperienced bands of the Twyford and Hurst Benefice, centred around St James Garlickhythe where the Royal Jubilee Bells now hang.

The outing commenced at Twyford Station at a very respectable 11:00am and following safe delivery by First Great Western and the London Underground, our first tower was the ground floor ring of six bells at St Katherine Cree. The ringing here was made that much more challenging by the procession of orchestra members who insisted on coming through the ringing circle to attend their practice in the church.

After a short walk through the quiet streets of the City we arrived at St Olave Hart Street. The 8 bells here are regularly rung by the University of London band and despite it being holiday time, we managed to find a student to meet us and let us in. Ringing at this fine ring went with a spring as the ropes had been recently replaced.

Our next tower was a short notice replacement and so we found ourselves at the foot of the magnificent tower of St Magnus the Martyr. The bells were ringing as we arrived and we waited patiently at the foot for the previous band to descend. The bells here are in a different league from those with which most of the band is familiar; 12 bells, tenor of 26¾ cwt. Starting with some rounds on the light 6 to get the measure of them, we progressed through ringing on the back 8, then 10 and finally on all 12. This was a terrific achievement and everyone, for whom it was a first on 12, should be very proud.

And so to our final tower, and the original purpose of the trip – to ring the Royal Jubilee Bells. The instructions to make our way up to the ringing room took a little unravelling, but we soon found ourselves in the very smartly decorated ringing room and ringing on these famous bells. Details of this ring can be found at <http://royaljubileebells.lovesguide.com/>.

The party posed for the official photograph (above) after ringing and then repaired to a fine hostelry to revive ourselves before returning on the tube and train to Twyford. Thanks to all the participants for making a memorable day trip to London.



Figure 2 St Magnus the Martyr

*Graham Slade, Hurst Tower Captain*



## Goodbye to Ann and Eddie Martin



In July, Easthampstead said goodbye to Ann and Eddie Martin who were returning to Washington DC. They had been key members of the band for 6 years. Ann was Tower Captain for two years and they led a local surprise major, hand bell band. They also rang regularly at Guildford Cathedral.

During their time at Easthampstead, not only did they help train several new ringers but many tower members learnt to ring handbells.

A farewell BBQ was held on a glorious sunny afternoon, when most of us came inside to get out of the heat and watch Andy Murray win Wimbledon!

We will miss them but send them our best wishes as we look forward to them organising a tower outing for us in Washington!

**Steve Wells, Easthampstead**

## Tower Maintenance Award

*Odd Bob* always publishes the "current awards" list of the [Tower Maintenance Award Scheme](#), and as editor of *Odd Bob* I see the latest list every 6 months. It shows all the towers in the ODG that have an award, and all the towers whose award has expired after its 2-year life. I see St. Andrew's, Sonning rising to the top of the *Expired* list, and when I get sufficiently embarrassed I arrange another inspection!

In this way St Andrew's has had three inspections since the scheme started. At the first inspection we achieved a Bronze award, at the second a Silver, and this time a Gold. This progression clearly shows the benefits of the inspection scheme, which shows you what needs attention in the ringing room and belfry. Going for an award ensures that all the bells and fittings get checked for wear, looseness, misalignment and damage, which in turn makes ringing a more pleasant and safer activity. The inspection process also reduces the chance of expensive repairs to tower fittings, so your PCC should be interested in supporting the scheme. It would be great if all the towers in our branch could gain a Tower Maintenance award.

As an aside, we found several spider webs on the wheel or headstock of some of our bells. I reckon that spiders don't get as dizzy as humans because I didn't notice any peculiarly shaped webs!

**Rob Needham, Sonning**

## In Memoriam – John Harper 1931 - 2013

On July 15th, Binfield ringers were joined by many others from the area for the ringing of the bells at the Service of Thanksgiving for John's life. On July 23rd, a quarter peal was also rung at All Saints to commemorate and celebrate his time with us as a bellringer.

John joined the All Saints ringers in the early 1980s when younger daughter, Lindsay was already a member of the band. He quickly became a very keen and active member of the tower and the local Guild and a great enthusiast for ringing. In 2007 he was elected Tower Captain, and spent many hours training new ringers, several of whom are now valuable members of a revitalised band.

We were sorry that Susan, John's elder daughter was unable to join us for the quarter peal as planned, but pleased that his wife, Jill, was there to listen. We were also pleased that it went as well as any quarter peal we have ever rung at Binfield. John would have been proud of us!

Another quarter peal in memoriam was rung at Wokingham, see right.

**Steve Wells, Easthampstead**

**Tuesday 23 July 2013**

**Binfield**

**1260 Bob Doubles**

- 1 Liz Harris
- 2 Ruth Fawcett
- 3 David Creasy
- 4 Barbara Wells
- 5 Stephen Wells (C)
- 6 David Fawcett

First quarter 1.

**Sunday 21 July 2013**

**All Saints, Wokingham**

**1260 Grandsire Triples**

- 1 Rob Needham
- 2 Mary Spence
- 3 Barbara E Wells
- 4 Geoffrey K Cook
- 5 Stephen C Wells
- 6 Nigel A L Mellor
- 7 John A Harrison (C)
- 8 Andrew Elliston

**9 August 2013**

**Easthampstead**

**1320 Wells Surprise Minor**

- 1 Barbara Wells
- 2 Judith Bowler
- 3 Thomas Hinks (C)
- 4 Stephen Wells
- 5 Graham Scott
- 6 Anthony Perry

Rung to celebrate the birth of Eloise Sophie Curtis Wells on Aug 8th, granddaughter of 1 and 4.

**17 August 2013**

**Easthampstead**

**1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor**

- 1 Paul Fox
- 2 Sue Sargent
- 3 Ali Wood
- 4 Barbara Wells
- 5 Rachel Moss
- 6 Stephen Wells (C)

Rung for Fr. Guy Cole, Rector of Easthampstead, to celebrate his 50th birthday and the 25th anniversary of his ordination.

**14 September 2013**

**Easthampstead**

**1260 Bob Doubles**

- 1 Connor Bannister
- 2 Sue Sargent
- 3 Tom Helyer
- 4 Anna Barker
- 5 Stephen Wells (C)
- 6 Barbara Wells

First away from tenor, 1.

Rung for National Heritage Day

**22 September 2013**

**Easthampstead**

**1260 Grandsire Triples**

- 1 Thomas Helyer
- 2 Stephen Wells
- 3 Anna Barker
- 4 Thomas J Hinks (C)
- 5 Barbara Wells
- 6 Judith Bowler
- 7 Paul Fox
- 8 Claudia Sommer

First in method, 3.

Rung for Bracknell Forest's Civic Service.

|                       |                                 |                                       |               |                          |
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