

Sonning Deanery Branch Newsletter



September 2014, Autumn Issue

Remembrance of World War 1



The ringers beside one of seven Easthampstead war graves and the war memorial. (l to r): Connor Bannister, Judith Bowler, Anna Barker, Barbara Wells, Sue Sargeant and Steve Wells.

Monday 4 August 2014
Easthampstead
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Sue Sargeant
2 Connor Bannister *
3 Anna Barker
4 Judith Bowler
5 Stephen Wells (C)
6 Barbara Wells

Rung half muffled to commemorate the start of World War 1 on this day in 1914.

* First inside.

Ringling Master's Update

Quarter Peal Week: This year's Guild Quarter Peal Week is from Nov 1st – 11th. Quarter peals are an excellent opportunity to consolidate methods and improve striking. I encourage all towers to ring at least one.

If your tower needs help to ring a quarter or indeed, if there are individuals who would like to ring a quarter but whose home tower can't provide it, please let me know and I will see if I can arrange it.

Joint 8-bell Striking Competition with the Reading Branch: This is to be held at Wokingham AS on Oct 18th at 16:00. Please can I encourage towers to enter themselves or join up with another tower and enter a "joint team"? The rules are available in the "Document" section of our [website](#).

Binfield Weekday Branch Practice: There is a Branch Practice at Binfield on the first Tuesday of the month, 2 – 4 pm. These are being well supported and a variety of methods are rung. Please come along if you are interested.

Diary of Events

11th October

Branch Outing (see inside)

Saturday 18th October

Wokingham All Saints (8)
4pm—6pm Joint 8 bell striking competition with Reading Branch
6pm onwards—open ringing

1st—11th November

Quarter Peal week

Saturday 15th November

Finchampstead (6)
4.30pm—6pm Business meeting
6pm onwards open ringing

Saturday 20th December

White Waltham (6)
2pm—3.30pm Branch Practice (and mince pies!)

Monthly Tuesday afternoon practices (2–4pm) at Binfield on 7th October, 4th November & 2nd December (provisionally).

Monthly Surprise Major practice at All Saints Wokingham. 2nd Wednesdays: 9th October, 12th November & 10th December.

150 year celebrations at Wokingham St. Paul

The weekend of 19th/20th July was a busy one for Wokingham St. Paul's. Whilst members of the congregation were out and about in town, the Ringers of St. Paul celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the Consecration of the Church in the only way possible. A Peal! The method was Berkshire Surprise Major. This was chosen as the first peal (and the same composition) in this method was rung in the Tower in 1934.

On Sunday 20th July the Bishop of Oxford visited the Parish, his first, to celebrate the 150th Anniversary Eucharist. This provided an opportunity for a quarter peal involving some of the towers members and regular visitors.

St Paul Wokingham

Saturday 19 July 2014 in 3 hrs 5 mins

5152 Berkshire Surprise Major

Composed by George Marriner

1 Catherine M A Lane

2 June D Wells

3 E John Wells

4 Geoffrey K Cook

5 Robert A Partridge

6 Bernard F L Groves

7 Christopher P Cole

8 Kenneth R Davenport (C)

Sunday 20 July 2014

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Dave Creasy

2 Susan E Davenport

3 Lavinia Sullivan

4 Kenneth R Davenport (C)

5 Alan K Barsby

6 Peter J Davenport

Sue Davenport, Wokingham St Paul's

Going on a Ringing Tour...

A few months ago
On the 5th of May
It was Witney + Woodstock Branch
Ringing day

An early start
We were keen to go
With itineraries and maps
And a quiz in tow

First to Wootton
With the black and yellow sally
The first six bell tower
To add to our tally

Time for some tea
At our next stop
Our first time on 8 bells
At Woodstock

Then onto Combe
And ground floor ringing
Freeland was next
Our lightest lot of dinging

A pub lunch stop
Was next on our list

*Then Yarnton for heavy bells
Not to be missed*

*The heaviest bell there
22 hundred weight
So in good bell handling
Laid our fate*

*Bright yellow sallies
Next was Cassington
Seventh was South Leigh
Then one of our band was done*

*South Leigh was home
To the oldest bell
A Sanctus from 1325
And 8 full bells as well*

*An octagonal tower
And not much space
At our next stop, Standlake
Is what we would face*

*A problem in Ducklington
For we did not know
Was it Treble or Tenor...
So an interesting show!*

*8 bells again
Tower number ten*

*We managed rounds to Queens well
Clanfield, church of St Stephen*

*Then just enough time
To squeeze one more in
Our band now half the size
Only 4 left ringin'*

*Finally to Buckland
8 bells to end
A practice bell too
And then our way home to wend*

*Tower hopping done
11 towers complete
And now all we needed
Was to get some sleep*

*So overall the best bells
Were at Buckland or Woodstock
At Clanfield we rang best
But enjoyed the lot*

*And to rate our day
We were never doubting
We would vote this
An excellent ringing outing*

Sophie Jenner, Waltham St Lawrence

The Importance of Maintaining your Bells

On Friday 1st August at Shottesbrooke we started practice as normal. Later that evening the second bell sounded decidedly odd.

At first we thought the bell had been rung up wrong. The bell was lowered and raised again. But the result was still the same.

It was then that an inspection be was carried out, whereupon it was found that one of the locking nuts securing the clapper had come free. One of the nuts was missing and the other was still on the bell. Another ringer then spotted the nut on the floor below the bell.

The clapper was found to be only hanging by half of the other nut. A near miss!

So our ringing was curtailed that evening.

Simon and Bob arranged time to get together to correct the alignment of the clapper and to make sure it was secure and swinging correctly.

Also whilst they were working on the bell they decided to carry out a full overhaul checking all the nuts and greasing all the bearings throughout.

Simon's attendance on the bell maintenance course proved really useful.

Like any piece of machinery bells do require maintenance.



Photos: Top : The clapper on the four receives its grease. Left: Simon Graves securing the offending nuts on the 2nd bell. Right: Bob Packer looking on.

Bob Packer, Shottesbrooke

Branch Ringing Outing—Saturday 11th October

All welcome. Please contact Pam & Andrew Elliston (0118 969 5967) (email: pam.elliston@talktalk.net) to let them know if you are planning to attend/ or for more details. More details available on the [website](#).

10 - 11 am Beenham (6)

11.15 – 12.15 Bucklebury (8)

Lunch at a pub in Aldermaston

2.30 – 3.30pm Aldermaston (8)

3.45 - 4.45 pm Padworth (GF 6)

Quarter Peals

Sunday 13 July 2014
Easthampstead
1260 Grandsire Triples

1 Rachel Moss
 2 Barbara Wells
 3 Tom Hinks (C)
 4 Helena Mattingley
 5 James E Hibbert
 6 Stephen Wells
 7 Anthony Perry
 8 Tom Helyer

Rung as a farewell to Alison Twigg, minister in training, and to Tom Hinks as he leaves for Bromley.

Monday 4 August 2014
Wokingham St Paul's
1260 Grandsire Triples

1 Lavinia Sullivan
 2 Susan E Davenport
 3 Elizabeth J O'Brien
 4 Geoffrey K Cook
 5 Dave Creasy
 6 Alan K Barsby
 7 Kenneth R Davenport (C)
 8 Ashley R Gray *

Rung half muffled prior to the Vigil Service commemorating the 100th anniversary of Britain entering the First World War.

* First quarter

Wednesday 20 August 2014
Wokingham All Saints
1250 Cambridge Surprise Major

1 Barbara G Smith
 2 Siân Haseldine
 3 Julie B Goodchild
 4 Jane A Mellor
 5 Steven R Smith
 6 Jonathan P Goodchild
 7 Nigel A L Mellor (C)
 8 Jon P Tutcher

Rung to celebrate the forthcoming marriage of Siân Haseldine and Joshua Moorhouse.

Saturday 13 September 2014
Wokingham All Saints
1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major

1 Christopher P Cole
 2 Christopher M Tuckett
 3 Jonathan P Goodchild
 4 James M Champion
 5 Ellis N Thomas
 6 Kenneth R Davenport (C)
 7 Kelvin R Britton
 8 John A Harrison

Rung to celebrate the wedding day of Siân Haseldine (former All Saints ringer) and Joshua Moorhouse.

Sunday 14 September 2014
Wokingham All Saints
1260 Plain Bob Minor

1 Mary Spence
 2 Kristin L Fitch
 3 Ian Taylor
 4 Jane A Mellor
 5 Steven R Smith
 6 Nigel A L Mellor (C)

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Saturday 20 September 2014
Wokingham All Saints
1260 Grandsire Triples

1 Barbara G Smith
 2 Mary Spence
 3 Jane A Mellor
 4 Stephen C Wells
 5 Nigel A L Mellor
 6 Stephen R Smith
 7 John A Harrison (C)
 8 Oliver James

Rung at the wedding of David Jaques to June Warner-Horne

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