



Newbury Branch Newsletter

Christmas 2017



DIARY

For an up to date diary , see the
Events section at

www.bellsnearnewbury.org.uk/

but coming up soon.....

January

5th BP at Shaw

February

2nd BP at Thatcham

10th to 17th Quarter Peal Week

17th Branch Dinner

March

3rd AGM at Kintbury

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Merry Christmas 19

The copy deadline for the Summer 2018 issue is 30th June. Please send contributions by email as attachments, or on hard copy by post to the Editor



mdrobins@hotmail.com

HOT OFF THE PRESS.....

Outing

Next year's Branch Outing will be in Mid-May. Further details when known.

Branch Dinner

To be held 17th February will be subsidised from Branch funds. This will probably be around £10 per-head, to be confirmed nearer the time. The venue is yet to be decided, but The Hare and Hounds at Speen is being considered.

10 Bell Striking Competition—2018

To be held at Newbury, the test piece will be PLAIN and LITTLE.

Vacancy for Guild Representative

Rosemary Evans, after sterling service as Guild Rep for the Branch has decided to stand down at the next AGM leaving a vacancy to be filled.

St Mary, Speen

We continue to ring regularly on Sundays, with stalwart help from our Kintbury friends when their Kintbury commitments permit. Practice nights have sometimes been thinner, especially during the holiday season but we are nonetheless progressing. So, nothing major to report except that good fun was had by all at the Hare and Hounds following our AGM.

Mary Hills



From The Chair

Our branch seems quite spread out. I am surprised to find (according to Google Maps) it's only 22.9 miles from Lambourn to Aldermaston. However, it would take at least 40 minutes to drive so we do face issues when trying to get together. Of course, we have this newsletter, email contacts, the bells-nearnewbury website and Facebook to help let everyone know what's going on, and there is quite a lot going on! Don't miss out.

Towers in this branch and throughout the diocese have been contacted in respect of that thorny issue of Safeguarding. The purpose of the approach was not to try to enforce some edict, but simply to find out what is actually happening. I believe that the responsibility ultimately lies with individual church PCC's so if you do have any questions about this you should approach the church officers.

I recently went on a one-day course on how to teach a person to ring a bell. It was run by The Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) and was very good. There weren't any raw beginners for us to teach to ring, but we paired up and one person acted as teacher and the other as pupil, so it was a bit artificial, but quite instructive. The day was based around the idea of breaking the whole action into lots of small steps. Just swinging a bell up to about half way was a possible starting point, with the teacher looking after the tail end, to give the learner the feel for the movement of the rope. Slow-motion 'acting out' the arm movement when transferring from handstroke to backstroke, and from backstroke to hand was practised, as well as getting the 'learner' to follow the full speed action of the teacher by shadowing. I purchased the video for the branch. It demonstrates all the ideas and I would recommend it to anyone who is teaching bell-handling.

Martin

Officers 2017/2018

Chairman:	Martin Rice	01635 30709	jmartinrice@gmail.com
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WOULD YOU LIKE HELP TO LEARN SOMETHING NEW
OR
WOULD YOU LIKE HELP TO PRACTISE SOMETHING ?

Contact Lucy at lucy.pahopkins@me.com

Suggestions:

Listening Skills	Grandsire Triples
Call Changes	Stedman Triples
Plain Hunt	Any of Std 8 Surprise Major
Ropesight	Ringing touches for any of the above
Plain Bob Doubles	Conducting any of the above
Grandsire Doubles	Rope splicing
Stedman Doubles	Tower Maintenance
Plain Bob Minor	Theory of bell ringing
Kent Minor	Ringing up and down
Cambridge Minor	

DVDs available for loan

Our Chairman has obtained some training DVDs from The Central Council, which he will be making available for loan to towers or individuals. The Subjects are: **Bell handling and Ringing up and Down and PR.**

LAMBOURN

We have been busy at Lambourn since the last newsletter.

On Saturday 19th August, our Summer outing started at St Lawrences Hungerford before moving onto St George, Preshute. At St Andrews Wootton Rivers some of us were very nervous when we realised how light the Bells were, but no problems were encountered so onward to a very enjoyable lunch at the Royal Oak, before moving onto St Mary's Collingbourne Kingston and finally St Andrews at Collingbourne Ducis.

Summer Outing—At St George, Preshute

On Thursday, 30th November in Lambourn a quarter peal, organised by Tim Pink, was attempted in memory of Steve Lowman, the 30th being the anniversary of his sudden death the previous year. Unfortunately the quarter came around when it shouldn't have because bells had crossed over, but to me, and I'm sure it was to the others, it was good to get together to remember Steve. Amanda & Jeanne along with some of the Lambourn ringers had organised coffee and cake (homemade & delicious) for the ringers when they had finished, a nice evening to remember a lovely guy, I'm sure he would have been pleased.



Steve would be proud of his ringers who still meet every Thursday evening, They are very enthusiastic and continue to improve. They always manage to ring for Sunday services and special occasions and are currently recruiting. Steve is sorely missed though and if anyone would like to pop across and help between 8 & 9pm on a Thursday evening they would be very welcome. The band hasn't enough experienced ringers to help them move on to method ringing and due to other commitments and work there isn't enough evening to travel further afield. Di Bridle joins us on occasion and her help is greatly appreciated, as is the help of Charles & Rachel Morrish whom Steve welcomed so enthusiastically when they moved to the area.

Our fundraising efforts continue and are pleased to report that we have now have £11,027.35 in the bank which is enough to commission the necessary work in 2018. We are extremely grateful to Mick, Julie and Pete for their generous donation towards our Bell Fund after a Metal Detectorist event held locally and many thanks to the landowner and everyone who helped on the day. Amanda Marchant, Nick Annetts, Maureen Tarbox and Pat Lowman provided a presence in Church on Friday 1st December as part of St Michael and All Angels Christmas Fair trying to recruit some new ringers and managed to raise a further £166.31 for our Bell Fund though donations.

Amanda Marchant

More news from Lambourn

We continue to be grateful for the co-operation and support from East Garston and further afield. Together with Charles from Didcot we have repainted the bell frame having wire brushed the metalwork which had not been touched since the 1950's. It was a very messy job and we removed about 8 sacks of rust, dust and pigeon droppings in the process.

The bell ringers have also received a marvellous donation from an unlikely source.

A frosty but bright day welcomed the 154 vehicles and their occupants to Lambourn on the 26th November. A metal detecting rally jointly organised by Mick & Julie Turrell of Leisure Promotions & Colin Silk was being held on farmland near the village, thanks to the generosity of Mr Jim Bracey. The purpose of this event was to raise funds towards the bell repair fund appeal. Colin Silk, Amanda Marchant's father, was instrumental in setting it up. The Detectorists gathered at 10a.m. near the refreshment wagon where they received instructions for the day from Mick before heading for the field. The staggering £2,800 was handed over to 2 very surprised bell ringers Amanda & Nick later in the day. A Good day was had by all with a few nice finds and the usual plough points, horseshoes, cartridge cases etc.

New muffles

For many years we have made do with rubber belting supplied by David Harris, but we have now got a brand new set of leather muffles to the pucker pattern made in the village by the racing saddlers E J Wicks of Newbury street. This is the first time they have made such a thing and we went through a prototype stage proving that the initial leather was tough enough to stand up to the impact of the bells.

Tiffany from Wicks became really interested in the project and we hope that they will get business from other towers.



Bruce Laurie

Recommendations from the Whites of Appleton report are summarised as follows:

- *Architect to inspect masonry frame mounting channels in case repointing is required.*
- *Clean and paint the Frame (already done—see above).*
- *Replace 2nd and 6th pulley blocks with new.*
- *Overhaul staple units, replacing the bolt on the 6th.*
- *Refurbish, grease and refit main bearings with new seals and new bearings if necessary.*
- *Anneal, reshape and re-bush clappers with new Tufnol bushes in neoprene mounts.*
- *Replace rotted wooden bell to headstock pads with cast resin mouldings.*
- *Replace corroded clapper adjustment screws.*
- *Replace the tenor's slider with new.*
- *Re-hang, adjust and restore the bells to good ringing order.*

The full report is held by the Lambourn ringers. MR Ed

St Mary's, Shaw—175th birthday

On Sunday the 10th of September, Shaw Church celebrated its 175th Birthday with a special Sunday Morning service taken by the Bishop of Reading. Also, as part of the celebration, many of the large numbers attending dressed in period Victorian costume, making for quite a spectacle. The service was, of course, preceded by the bells being rung which on this occasion, was to be a Quarter Peal of Grandsire Doubles.

The Quarter Peal band

1 Angela Brown, 2 Diane Bridle, 3 Jo Waller, 4 Ben Waller (c), 5 Mark Robins, 6 Roy Pratley.



A glance back 36 years—St Mary's bells, Retune and Rehang, February to April 1981

The following letters were published in the Ringing World following the work at Shaw:

“At St Mary's, Shaw, Berks our bells are back having been retuned and rehung with all new fixtures and fittings. We are now trying to accustom ourselves to them. They certainly go much more easily and are more lightly set. When Henry was asked for his opinion he said “I'd say: before, they were unique, now they are just ordinary” From the dismantling at the end of January to being rehung in the tower before the end of March was only eight weeks, and credit should go to Whitechapel Foundry for such a speedy turnaround. We also had to order two new lengths of rope, as the existing six had been repaired as far as possible. These were ordered from Peter Minchin late on Monday afternoon and were delivered by post Thursday morning, with tails left ready for splicing onto the sally. Excellent service! Much to our surprise, the following week when the bells arrived, another complete new set of ropes came as well! **H.M.**”

“We seem to be in restoring mood at the moment. Newbury and Chieveley were overhauled and rehung respectively last year, now Shaw are just back from Whitechapel, retuned and rehung with new fittings. First impressions are of a much mellower tone, with the “go” improved out of all recognition. Congratulations to all involved, especially those who were implicated in the hard graft of lowering the old bells and assisting with the re-hanging. I hear that Boxford tenor has been in and out of its pit like a yo-yo. I gather that they've now got her just about sorted and she's ringing very sweetly—a fine reward for all the hard work. **J.J.D.**”

Details supplied by Roy Pratley



Ever heard of CCCBR, CRAG, CRO, CoRe?

What's happening in my tower? What's happening in my branch? What's happening in my diocese? What's happening nationally?

The CCCBR is the Central Council of Church Bell-Ringers and is the current body of people that looks after ringing at a national (and international) level. There are moves afoot to reform the CCCBR.

So... we move on to CRAG: Council Review Action Group.

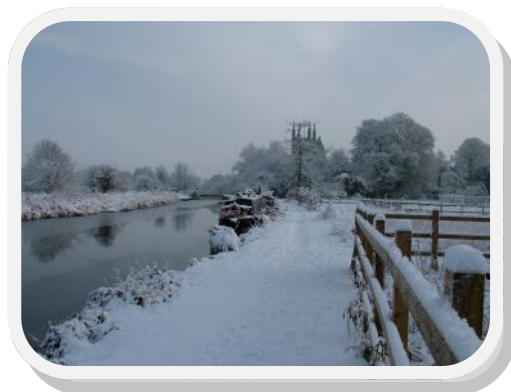
Among other things CRAG have done is try to find out what 'ordinary' ringers think of the CCCBR. The results of this consultation and internal discussion reveal that the CCCBR is considered to be hard working and has a very important role, but it is slow-moving, doesn't show leadership or have vision, has a culture of nit-picking and is not open to new ideas. CRAG have come up with a vision statement that mentions leadership, public voice of ringers, standard-setting and promoting ringing. So that's what any reformed Central Ringing Organisation (CRO) should have at the back of its mind to inspire its actions.

CRAG proposed a structure for the new CRO. The CCCBR has 14 committees and they report to the CCCBR annually at its AGM. The new CRO is to have a relatively large 'Council of Representatives' (CoRe) but day-to-day running will be entrusted to a small Executive. There will still be committees, but there are fewer of them, and they are called workgroups and will be in continuous contact with the Executive. Each workgroup has a leader, and the leader of the Technical and Taxonomy workgroup is Graham John, who rings at Thatcham. His Executive contact is Christopher O'Mahony, who is the current President of the CCCBR. The other local ringer who is active at a national level is Lucy Hopkins-Till (who rings at Kintbury) who is one of the representatives of our Oxford Guild on the CCCBR and is also secretary of the existing CCCBR Education committee.

The latest newsletter from the emerging executive lists three priorities: The need to recruit and develop new learners and new leaders; The need to engage maturely with church and community leaders; The need to raise public awareness of our art. It's difficult to argue against this list.

So now you know all that perhaps you will be inspired to go to the CCCBR annual meeting at Lancaster University in late May 2018 to see if the CCCBR disbands itself and CoRe is officially established.

Martin Rice



RINGING MASTER'S NOTES

On the face of it the Branch seems to be very active - monthly Branch Practices getting an average of 12 - 15 members, monthly daytime practices followed by a pub lunch attracting again 12 - 15 people, Thatcham St Mary winning the Guild 6 bell striking competition, entering a team for both the Guild 8 bell and 10 bell competitions and a surprise practice just started joint with the Andover Branch.

But delve a little deeper and is this the case. The old way of every tower having a band ringing all services with an ongoing supply of recruits and everyone on the path to reach their potential at whatever level, does not seem to happen now. A lot of towers nowadays don't get enough to hold a regular practice, or if they do practice, often not enough to progress.

So how can the Branch help to either get back to every tower have a thriving band or should we be looking at alternatives such as encouraging towers in the same area to combine bands. Certainly individual towers need to ensure they can cover service ringing with either their own band or by asking other ringers to help.

Therefore, one of the aims of the Branch must be to enable recruitment and retention by (a) helping as much as possible to advertise and promote ringing to the general public to enable recruitment and (b) making ringing as exciting and fulfilling a hobby as possible and so retaining ringers but at the same time respecting those whose only wish is to serve their church and just ring for services.

I do feel that with the Church congregations declining we have to look elsewhere for recruits and the Branch should be the repository for ideas on recruitment, information leaflets, games, where handbells and mini-rings can be borrowed, and to be aware of local and national events for which ringing can be advertised.

The Branch holds general practices and can, if notified, hold courses in particular skills i.e. refining bell handling, learning Grandsire Doubles or Cambridge Surprise Minor/Major. Unfortunately the people who would benefit from these practices/courses do not seem to be forthcoming. We all know that life is pretty hectic nowadays and ringers may not have the time to attend extra practices. An alternative is to try to encourage towers to share practices and ask one or two extra people to attend preferably on a regular basis. If ringers are learning something new, from ringing accurate rounds to Surprise, this needs to be done weekly and not just would enable people who would like to progress to h Branch members need to shout loudly to tower captains get things moving. In the meantime Branch officers are trying to visit towers on their practice nights to see what help can be given.

Next year there are a number of exciting national events taking place, I.E. the birth of another Royal baby, a Royal marriage and the 100 year anniversary of the end of the First World War. Lets all do our best to advertise and ring as much as possible for these events and, if we do get new recruits, make them as welcome as possible to show what a fascinating and companionable hobby ringing is.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Di Bridle



Di's daytime ring and pub outings

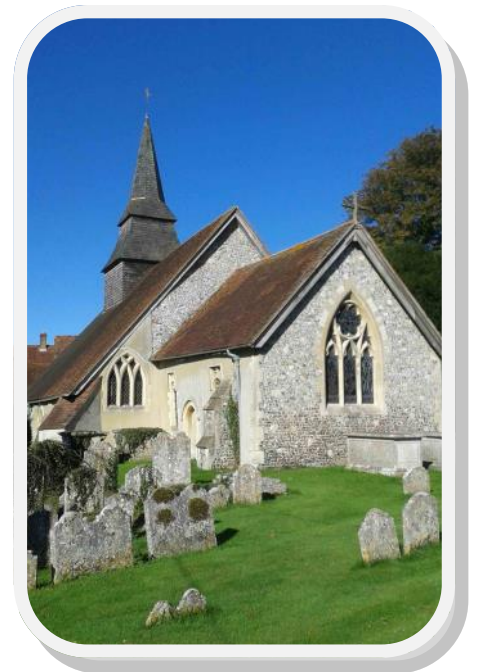


Beenham



Hannington

Milton



Newbury Tower

Although our Monday night practices have suffered some last-minute cancellations recently, we are making steady progress. Lorraine's breakthrough came when she was persuaded to say out loud where she was in each row. Julia managed to ring a bell down (on purpose!) and her Stedman Doubles is pretty reliable: quarter peal in Quarter Peal Week we hope. And we have two new members: Debbie and David Bebbington. We recently had a very good meal at The Hare and Hounds, Speen, for our annual dinner. My thanks go to Julia for making this happen. The church roof is in the process of being repaired and scaffolding is in place. Thankfully, this has not interfered with our tower access like the previous work did.

Martin



Now that we have Andrea and Maurice back ringing again, our Sunday morning band has been boosted so that we often ring all eight. Their

daughters Amelia and Jessica are now learning and progressing well with Amelia now joining us some Sunday mornings and they also bring Lolly the dog. We continue to be well supported by our loyal Sunday band for which I am very grateful as, I am sure, the vicar and church as a whole is. When I asked Rev'd Saunders what he would like from us shortly after he arrived in Hungerford, he said "ring every Sunday morning" and, apart from a couple of Sundays, we've done just that. Dave does sterling work as Steeple Keeper and Kathy looks after our accounts in a professional manner. Our Wednesday practices are a somewhat varied affair these days with regular visitors from Ludgershall, Pewsey, Newbury, Speen, Ogbourne St George to name just some, making for a busy, if sometimes challenging practice, with anything from Plain Bob Doubles up to Surprise Major being attempted. Regular quarters are still on the agenda on Sunday evenings and at other times to mark certain occasions such as the one featured, now an annual event, popular with people in the town. Looking back at our records, we seem to be a bit stuck on Grandsire and Single Oxford Bob Triples, not a problem to me though, as good ringing is the aim with the method choice only a secondary concern. Just recently, I arranged a "ringing up and down" session for our less experienced Sunday morning ringers, to work towards a respectable raise and lower in peal for the service. This went very well and Jean, Sarah, Minna and Amelia gained valuable tuition and experience with a reasonable lower, the end result on the day. Thanks also to all the helpers for supporting this. In between Christmas and New Year, our annual Winter outing will be taking place, this year arranged by Andrea who is taking us to the Cotswolds, which we are eagerly looking forward to. And finally:

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all at Hungerford.

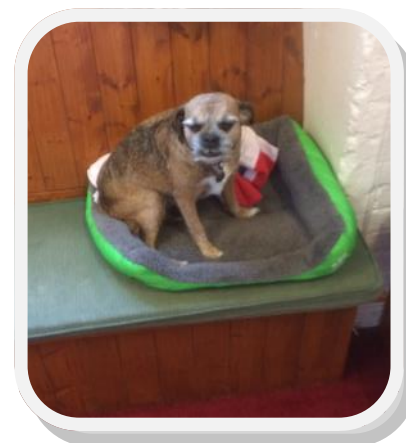
Oxford Diocesan Guild
Hungerford, Berkshire
St Lawrence
Saturday, 11 November 2017 in 47 minute
1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Cath Fittell
- 2 Angela Brown
- 3 Michael Hurst
- 4 Andrea Barletta
- 5 Rebecca Browning
- 6 Mike Winterbourne
- 7 Mark Robins (C)
- 8 Dave Thorpe

Rung half-muffled, immediately following the two minutes silence.
In memory of the fallen.

Mark Robins

**Lolly enjoying the ringing
(more fun than chasing rabbits)**



THATCHAM

The most rewarding event to occur was Thatcham winning the ODG 6 Bell Striking Competition at North Leigh. See separate report.



Amanda is making rapid progress and can now ring Stedman from Doubles to Caters. Congratulations Amanda.

Some quarter peals have been rung for special occasions – Evensong, Harvest Evensong and Thatcham Festival of the Arts.

We went to the Hinds Head at Aldermaston for our Annual Dinner. Upon arrival we were greeted by a lovely roaring fire and a table which was beautifully laid up with candles and a bowl of cut flowers. Thanks go to Janet, assisted by Graham, for organising the evening. Graham organised a competition of the total weight of Thatcham bells including the Sanctus bell. Interestingly Tony's (Tower Captain) estimate, was the lowest and Richard's (Steeple Keeper) was the highest. Both were totally wrong. Ros Durham won a box of chocolates for being the nearest. Richard had an interesting competition of riddles which caused some amusement, but nobody had full marks for that. We all had a very enjoyable dinner with good food, surroundings and company.

As a tower, we are having problems with numbers. There have been occasions where there have only been six ringers at a practice and service ringing. Bill can no longer climb the tower steps at all but can manage to ring occasionally at ground floor rings. Janet is completely out of action with a painful shoulder and cannot now ring handbells either. If anything her condition is worse. We hope she soon gets the treatment which she obviously needs. Rosie, John K, Margaret and John R have also not been well. On a brighter side Ron is managing to get up the stairs for some practices and it is good to see him.

We thank our regular visitors, particularly Angela, Di, Pete, Roy, Martin, John D and Ros, for their help in our practice ringing, service ringing and quarter peals. Also thanks to Mark Robins who comes to conduct quarter peals for us.

The band sends best wishes to Branch members for a Happy Christmas and a Healthy, Prosperous New Year.

Sue Smith

STOP PRESS:

Janet had an operation on her shoulder on 7 December which appears to have been successful. We understand she has to do a number of exercises before returning to normal and we look forward to seeing her ringing again soon.

S.S





6 Bell Striking Competition
Winners—Thatcham



Thatcham Annual Dinner



ODG SIX BELL STRIKING COMPETITION 2017

This year's ODG Six Bell Striking Competition was held in the Witney and Woodstock Branch at St Mary, North Leigh on Saturday the 7 October attracting entries from 10 teams representing their branches. Thatcham represented the Newbury Branch having won the Branch Striking Competition.

Ten teams entered the competition and it was decided there would be no heats and the Competition commenced with North Leigh at 2.00 pm. Thatcham was drawn to ring in tenth place which gave us plenty of time to have tea and cakes in the hall. The test piece was one minute of rounds and 240 changes of a method of the band's choosing. We rang Grandsire Doubles and felt we had not disgraced ourselves.

Everyone assembled in the Village Hall for the results. The chief judge was Phil Ramsbottom from Birmingham accompanied by Rosanna Cretney from Oxford, who came in at extremely short notice, because of illness.

First	Thatcham	26 faults
Second	High Wycombe	28 faults
Third	Tilehurst	29 faults
Fourth	Wallingford	32 faults
Fifth	Shrivenham	45 faults
Sixth	Drayton St Leonard	52 faults
Seventh	North Leigh	55 faults
Eighth	Aylesbury	61 faults
Ninth	Shenley & Loughton	73 faults
Tenth	Oxford St Giles	80 faults

The Chief Judge commented very briefly on each team. Thatcham – Nice way to finish off the day. A lovely piece of ringing. We were of course delighted to have come first having been placed second on five previous occasions.

The Cup was presented to Tony, Tower Captain of Thatcham, by the Judges. Tony Crabtree, Deputy Master of the ODG, thanked Rosanna Cretney for coming in at short notice. He then congratulated Thatcham on winning the cup and much clapping ensued.

Sue Smith



Guild 10 Bell Striking Competition—Held at Olney on Saturday 25th November

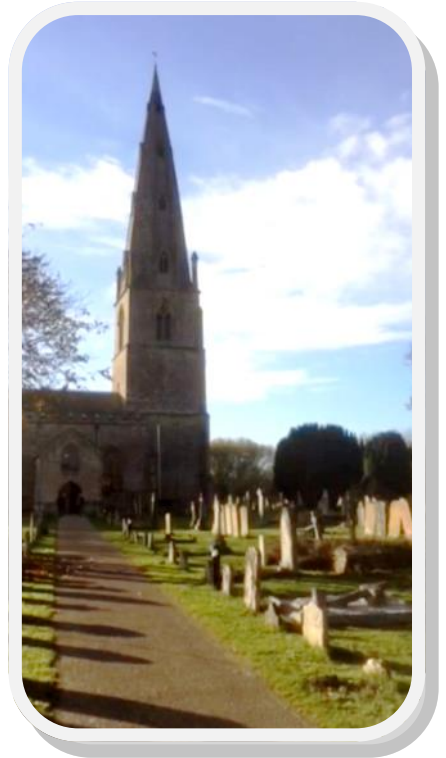
I'm sure some, if not all of us, were thinking "how on earth did I get involved in this" as we drove to the furthest reaches of our Guild. Olney, a place I'd never heard of, is 85 miles from Hungerford and I wouldn't have said anywhere so far away could still be in the ODG, but it is. The previous evening at Newbury, we spent an hour rehearsing the test piece (240 Stedman Caters—2 parts with roller coaster half way) monitored by Martin's home-made striking analysis software. This proved surprisingly informative and useful to a sceptic like me and others among us, and we were able to pick up pointers for the real thing the next day. Here is a note sent by our chairman to the band following our performance:

"Well done everyone and many thanks for joining in, indulging me and my software last night, making the journey to Olney, not firing out and not miss-calling the touch. Possibly slightly disappointing result, but we are on home turf next year. Perhaps we could ring a quarter of the method sometime before the event next year in order to get more comfortable with the method, whatever it will be.

1st ONB 68
2nd EBSB 91.5
3rd Banbury 112.5
4th Newbury 129
VOWH fired-out
Reading miss-called.

Best wishes and thanks again,

Martin"



Ed's note: A short video of one of the teams ringing (not us obviously, we were much better), accompanies the email version of this newsletter. The team photo, taken by one of the Guild Officers, has gone astray. Best efforts are in progress to track it down, but meanwhile this was the band:

Treble	Peter Bridle	6	Martin Rice
2	John Hibbert	7	Richard Marshall
3	Ros Durham	8	Mark Robins (C)
4	Gemma Hurst	9	Michael Hurst
5	John Kape		Tenor John Durham



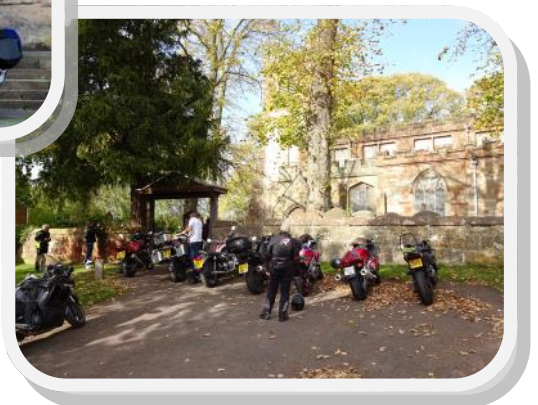
Bellringing and Motorbikes, an unlikely partnership?

Some may say they aren't a natural combination, but in practice, believe it or not, it seems to work well. There is a group made up of bellringers who also ride motorbikes, a number of whom are from this Branch, that has gone from strength to strength in the last couple of years. Assembled entirely via Facebook from all over the UK and Ireland, we have had three outings now, all of which have been well supported with upwards of 30 bikes attending, visiting Brighton last year, then The Cotswolds in the Autumn and latterly, the Bridgnorth and Kidderminster area. Next Autumn, a trip to Merseyside is on the cards which is eagerly anticipated. One curious phenomenon with this group is that it seems to have attracted a high proportion of experienced ringers, making for Spliced surprise, Bristol and London, and Cinqes and Maximus on the twelves we have visited, together with some excellent ringing of all kinds on the lower numbers. That said, all levels are present and catered for and the less experienced are an integral part of the group and there is something for everyone. The outings are also characterised by further than normal distances between towers, to allow a bit of a ride on the way. We seem to attract attention, mostly friendly, as the novelty of a herd of motorbikes turning up in a church driveway is a bit unusual. First reactions might be to call the Police, as a bunch of hooligans have arrived to steal the lead from the roof but, once explained, passers-by are interested and amused at the novelty of it. Apart from riding with the group, I find the dual-hobby very rewarding on my own and I'm not sure if going off to ring is an excuse for a spin on the bike or vice versa, but I do enjoy it anyway. So, if you aren't already in the group, but ride a motorbike and ring, why not look us up on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/689999987713841/>



Mark Robins



Obituaries and In Memoriam

John Lewis

John moved to Chieveley when he retired. He soon became an active member of the church and Frank Tuffley taught him to ring in the eighties. John was always willing, helping with bell maintenance as well as practice and service ringing for over 20 years.

Many Newbury ringers will remember going to his house for tea, coffee or other drinks while a wedding was performed between our ringing efforts. He also welcomed the local ringers and their families for drinks and nibbles on Christmas Eve.

John's wife, Eilene, became incapacitated by a brain haemorrhage. John devotedly looked after her for many years. They were both very happy to see people and always a joy to be with. During this time John's eye sight and mobility deteriorated and he could no longer ring at Chieveley.

After Eilene passed away he continued to live in the family home helped by live in carers and the support of his family. He later moved to a care home in Winchester and passed away in September 2017.

John was a gentleman in every sense of the word.

RB

Chieveley, St Mary the Virgin

Tuesday, 10 October 2017

1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 James Belshaw
- 2 Thomas Lawrance
- 3 Adrian Udal
- 4 Graham M Brown
- 5 Rupert Littlewood
- 6 Rod Brown
- 7 Stephanie Pattenden ©
- 8 Robert Lewis

Rung by friends and family immediately prior to the funeral of John Lewis, father of ringer of the 8 and grandfather of 5

Anne Ryder

It is with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Anne Ryder in September. A regular and active Bucklebury ringer and former 200 Club Officer, many branch members will know her as the mastermind behind the teas when Branch practices took place at Bucklebury. She was also one of the organisers of the annual Bucklebury Beerfest.

JD & Ed

Bucklebury, St Mary

Friday, 22 September 2017

1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major

- 1 John D Kape
- 2 Rosamund M Durham
- 3 Gemma Hurst
- 4 Angela M Brown
- 5 J Martin Rice
- 6 John J Durham ©
- 7 Graham M Brown
- 8 Michael Hurst

A thanksgiving for the life of Anne Ryder, a ringer at this tower, rung immediately after her funeral service

Quarter Peal for PC 5163 - Gareth Browning, Thames Valley Police



On Saturday, 2 September 2017 in 49m

Chieveley, Berkshire
St Mary the Virgin
Tenor: 11-0-3 in F

1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Claire Howard
- 2 Richard White
- 3 John Cousins
- 4 James M Hill
- 5 Rod Brown
- 6 Peter J Sippit
- 7 Graham M Brown (C)
- 8 Karen Dunn

Rung to celebrate the life of PC Gareth Browning who died from injuries sustained in the line of duty. Ringers 5 and 7 are family friends, other ringers are from the National Guild of Police Ringers.

Ringers left to right:

James Hill, Claire Howard, Graham Brown, Richard White, Karen Dunn, Peter Sippit, Rod Brown, John Cousins

In November 2013, I vividly remember getting a phone call telling me that a family friend, PC Gareth Browning, had been seriously hurt trying to stop a vehicle while on patrol in Whitley Wood. Gareth never recovered from the injuries, never returned home, and required constant medical care. Over 3 years later on April 1st 2017, aged 36, he died from those injuries sustained in the line of duty. On 1st June 2017 his funeral took place in Chieveley attended by family, friends and over 300 Police Officers - including Police motorbikes and helicopter escorting his coffin. After the service there was a private family cremation. I felt it appropriate to ring a quarter to celebrate Gareth's life, which we did on 2nd September, following the interment of his ashes. Originally I thought it would be good to see if there were any local members of the National Guild of Police Ringers (NGPR) that might be able to ring and then complete the band with Newbury Branch Ringers. Having contacted the secretary (Richard) I found out there were none in Newbury, Reading or Basingstoke. He sent out an email and we quickly had 6 ringers to join Dad and myself for a quarter peal. I was amazed and pleased that we got such a great band who were willing to travel from Lincolnshire, Essex, Metropolitan and Thames Valley Police Forces. After the family had attended the interment of Gareth's ashes we took his twin sons, wife plus other members of the family up to see the bells. The boys really enjoyed their trip up the tower, particularly using their hands to make the bells sound – obviously the bells were down at this stage. Once back in the ringing chamber both boys had a “swing” on the treble and 7th to feel the different weights and make the bells chime. The family then listened while we rang - I think this is the only time I have had applause at the end of a quarter peal, fortunately it was a hot day so we had the window open and could hear the clapping. This was then followed by some welcome refreshment in the church provided by the Browning family. Each of the ringers were presented with a lapel pin, that had also been given to all attendees at the funeral, featuring Gareth's epaulette number 5163 which is now retired from being used in the Thames Valley Police Force.

I would really like to express my thanks to the members of the NGPR who rang on the 2nd September, and those other members that I know would have rung if there were more bells on offer. I know that Gareth's family are also very grateful and appreciative. One of my oldest friends is a recently retired Police Officer; I always knew that the 'Police' was like a family but I have really seen that first hand over the last few months. Gareth leaves behind his loving wife, two young sons, mother, father and brother.

Graham Brown

*Wishing you all a
Merry Christmas
and a very
Happy New Year*

