

Ringling Master's report 2016

We have had a pretty busy year with a branch practice each month and (apart from August) a special practice each month as well. In the main attendance has been good though we haven't always managed the nominated methods at the special practices. I suppose a highlight for me was the Grandsire Triples and Little Bob Minor at Bicester in May as it pushed our boundaries a little (something I am sure you know I am keen on as I feel it helps makes ringing more interesting).

As well as the regular practices we had our branch outing to Bedfordshire in April where we had 14 ringers (11 from the branch), plus a couple of hangers on and two dogs. It turned out to be a lovely day and the tea room at the end (whilst a surprise to the organiser) was a lovely way to finish.

A week later members of the branch (mostly a Caversfield outing, but with members from Launton as well) visited the Leigh End mini-ring in Wheatley – a fun evening and perhaps one the branch might like to visit again?

In July Bicester hosted a Ringing Up & Down course attended by 4 pupils and a number of helpers and this proved to be a useful afternoon for those attending so thanks to everyone who came and helped.

Islip (and in particular Kathryn) hosted the striking competition and BBQ in September. We had 3 teams all with relatively recent recruits among them which made for a very close competition, with Caversfield coming out victorious – thanks to Louise and Alison from the W&W branch for judging, and Kathryn for opening her home once again.

We sadly lost one of our eldest and long serving ringers (Bill Knapton) in May, and a quarter peal was rung in tribute:

Oxford Diocesan Guild

Bicester, Oxon

St Edburg

Monday 25 May 2015 in 42 mins (15-0-7)

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Janet Smith
- 2 Sarah Cole
- 3 Simon White
- 4 Jeremy Adams
- 5 Anthony Cole(C)
- 6 Steve Walker

Rung to celebrate the life Bill Knapton, ringer at Bicester for many years, who died recently aged 92.

This year we are hoping to have a couple of outings (Herefordshire in April, and a “mini-tour” of the 3 and 4 bells of the Bicester branch in the autumn). The ringing course in July this year will be on rope splicing, most likely in Bicester tower.

Finally a challenge! At the January branch practice we rang plain courses of Stedman Doubles and one member reminisced we used to ring Stedman Triples years ago so the challenge for the branch is to ring a plain course of Stedman Triples before the year is out!