

Annual report 2015 – Bicester Branch

We held our 2015 AGM in Launton on 21 February and welcomed three new members to the Branch (plus one during the year) but overall our membership is down. However we had a very encouraging summer/ autumn at Islip and Kirtlington with twenty potential new recruits, many of whom are making excellent progress thanks to enthusiastic and expert help from those in our own Branch and also our Oxford City Branch friends.

Our branch outing was held on 18 April when 14 ringers started the day at Haynes in Bedfordshire in homage to our Branch President, Willie Haynes (who had recently been in the news having celebrated being Tower Captain and Steeple Keeper of Charlton on Otmoor for 50 years)! Anthony Cole, who had arranged the outing, also organised a second Ringing Up and Down course at Bicester in July as well as the monthly branch practices which have been attended with varying numbers. Three teams entered the branch striking competition in September, held at Islip. Congratulations go to Caversfield who were the winning team – and especially so since they are a young band.

On a sadder note Bill Knapton, a Bicester and Caversfield ringer for many years, died in May at the age of 92. A quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles was rung in Bicester in his memory.