

# Ringling Master's Report 2017

It has been another busy year and I feel quite a productive one too. We have seen the relatively new bands at Kirtlington, Stratton Audley and Caversfield improve and spread their wings attending the branch events and other bands continue making progress also. Sadly there has also been a decline in activities at some towers due to lacking numbers, a problem which is mirrored around the country.

12 branch practices have been held with average attendance of 11.6 ringers (not sure who the 0.6 ringer is :D) and 9 Special Practices with 11.8 average attendance! We have also had 2 outings, the first to Herefordshire in April (my thanks to Ian Smart and his sister Sarah Connor for organising the outing and Teresa for sorting out the transport), and the second in October around the 3 and 4 bell towers of the branch and to the mini-ring in Wheatley.

Our training course this year was held in a sunny Stratton Audley where 6 ringers got tied up in knots splicing ropes.

In September Bicester, and Helen & Rob Parkinson hosted the annual Striking Competition and BBQ which was contested by 3 teams, and judged by Richard White from Woodstock. It was a rather damp evening, but we had a very warm welcome, and the trophy ended up staying in Bicester this year.

We have also managed a few notable firsts – 2 first quarter peelers (Anne Martin and Steve Vickars) and one first as conductor (Jeremy Adams) so well done to the three of them.

Let's hope 2017 is equally productive!