

Ringling masters report 2015

As in previous years we have had regular branch practices in the first week of the month and special practices during the third week of the month, interspersed with a couple of other events.

The practices have in general been well attended (we have only had one branch practice and one special practice where we didn't have enough to ring, and in both cases the pub wasn't far away!). I am pleased to say that a few new faces have been added to those I would now consider the "regulars" which bodes well for ringing in the branch.

We have rung plenty of Grandsire Doubles and Plain Bob Doubles through the year both at branch practices and special practices, and in the latter half we have had more call changes and plain hunt than previously thanks to a few new recruits who are making great progress. We were also able to ring Plain Bob Minor and Plain Bob Major, Grandsire Triples and even managed some less well known methods such as St Simon's Doubles, Cliffords' Pleasure, All Saints Doubles and Little Bob Minor.

Our outing this year sadly didn't happen, but I hope to arrange one for 2015 - details will be made available as soon as I can.

I arranged a Ringing Up & Down course in July which was attended by 3 branch members; we rang firstly at Bicester and then (after a pub lunch) Caversfield. Feedback has been very positive and the course materials which I made available on the website have since been used in the Towcester area who have held a similar course. My thanks to Jeremy and Mike MacArthur for their help and for Hilary, Ann and Jean for attending.

We held our branch striking competition in Islip again. We only had 2 tower teams this year, one of which featured possibly the youngest average aged team for decades with two of the Caversfield team being under 14yrs! It was a very close run contest with Islip proving the victor by 11 faults. The young recruits from Caversfield enjoyed the evening and have set their sights on a win next year so the gauntlet has been laid down! My thanks to the Guild Secretary James Champion and his wife for judging, for Kathryn who graciously opened her home once again and the Islip ringers for organising the catering.

Bicester hosted the Guild General Committee Meeting in November with more than 50 Guild members attending for the ringing, a (very short) meeting and a (therefore) very early tea. My thanks to all who helped baking cakes and helping out on the day.

This coming years practices will follow a similar format with mostly two practices a month and following the success and interest in the Ringing Up & Down course we shall be repeating that again. I am proposing to have an outing in April and details will be made available as soon as possible.

A.C.Cole & J Adams