

Guild Report/ Secretary Report

At our AGM in February 2022 we were able to elect five new members (and one additionally in the year) but sadly during the year, said goodbye to John Hadfield (Bicester) and Willie Haynes (Charlton-on Otmoor) who died in February and September respectively. Both are much missed with an obituary appearing in *The Ringing World* and 7 quarter peals plus one peal (a first for Steve Vickars) rung in memory of our long-standing President, Willie.

Three of our more recent members have rung their first quarter peals (Christine Redford, Sally Cross, and Julie Penny) aided by the branch practices and focussed practices arranged throughout the year by our training officer, Steve Vickars who also organised the Branch outing in April to five towers west of Oxford. With Guild members from both the Old North Berks and Witney and Woodstock branches, he launched a Ringing School at Kirtlington in October to help train future teachers as well as bell handling for the younger – and not so young – members.

Throughout the Branch most towers were able to toll or ring for the death of HM The Queen and the Proclamation of His Majesty King Charles III – many reported appreciative comments from members of their communities. Wedding ringing, particularly in Bicester, has been in demand and we've been lucky that two of our new members are experienced ringers which has helped considerably and for Branch practices.

Finally Bletchingtondon achieved Gold in the Tower Maintenance scheme which, along with a further Branch donation to Kirtlington in recognition of the increased use of the bells, reminds us of the need to look after the bells as well as the ringers.