**Bicester Branch Training Officer’s Report 2023**

2023 has been a very busy year, with good progress by several of our ringers. Both Christine Redford and Julie Penny achieved their first treble and tenor quarter peals, respectively, consequently they have passed their ART Learning the Ropes Level 3. Congratulations to them!

In addition to our regular branch and ten-bell practices we have continued very successful monthly focused practices at Bletchingdon, supported by experienced ringers to help improve trebling, covering and ringing inside to doubles methods. Following attendance of these practices, several ringers have achieved their first quarter peals on treble, tenor and inside to doubles.

A number of Bicester Branch members have attended the Oxford Diocesan Guild Radley and Steeple Aston Training courses as students. Branch members have also supported these events as helpers and tutors.

2023 has seen recruitment of several new ringers across the branch, and their progress to become regular ringers at their towers. Three new branch recruits: Liping Liu, Tracey Rowan, Pam Holley and John Mayo have successfully passed their Learning the Ropes Level 1 assessment. More recruits are currently receiving handling tuition and are progressing towards becoming regular service ringers and Guild members.

On the teaching front, Andy Dudley attended the ART handling skills teaching course in November 2023 and has started teaching with Oxon Ringing School. Also last year Andrew Wilkinson and Judith Vickars gained their ART accreditation in M1 handling and M2F Foundation teaching, respectively. Many congratulations to them.

I am most grateful for all the help and support that ringers within and outside the branch have provided to the various practices, training sessions and first Quarter Peals that have been held in the past year. I look forward to continuing these useful events that help our ringers make progress.

I am encouraged that our branch’s capability and confidence to teach handling, Foundation, hunting and method ringing skills to new and improving ringers, is continuing to grow steadily and look forward to this continuing.

Steve Vickars

January 2024