

Bicester Branch Training Officer's Report 2025

2025 has been a busy year for training, with Kirtlington hosting an ART M1 teaching handling event in February, attended by 12 delegates.

This report includes activity in January 2026, when we ran two Raising and Lowering practices at Bletchingdon, attended by a total of 11 students and 15 helpers. All made good progress at ringing inside to raising and lowering, with two practicing their leading skills.

Doubles Daytime practices have been held monthly between January and November, giving up to eight students at a time opportunities to practice trebling, covering and inside to doubles and minor methods. These have been very popular among both students and helpers and aided the successful completion of a number of quarter peals.

Several branch members have made clear progress this past year: Jan achieved her ART Learning the Ropes (LTR) Level 1 (handling) award, Pam her level 2 (Foundation) award, John rang his first quarter peals on tenor and treble and so achieved his ART LTR Level 3, along with Liping.

August rang his first quarter peals on treble and tenor over the summer, afterwards ringing inside to Plain Bob Doubles with the Cambridge University Society of Change Ringers

Julie rang inside to her second doubles method in July, and thereby achieved her ART LTR Level 5. As a result, Julie has been invited to the ART Masterclass in Bristol this autumn.

Charlie has continued his progress, achieving quarter peals inside to Grandsire Triples, Plain Bob Major and Cambridge Surprise Minor. Charlie is now heavily involved in the teaching of new ringers by the Oxford University Society of Change Ringers.

In summary, teaching of ringing is progressing well in a number of towers in the branch, although is sad to see other towers falling silent. Training of new bands and individuals will require the branch to continue to develop its teaching capability.

Within our branch, Oxon Ringing School (ORS) has continued to deliver consistent, high-quality teaching throughout the year. Kirtlington, Dorchester and Abingdon ringing centres run regular handling and foundation sessions on Saturday mornings in three 10 week terms.

ORS also organises two ART teaching courses per year in the county, including the teaching of handling and foundation skills. I strongly recommend that Branch members make use of this facility to develop the skills of new ringers and teachers alongside the training and development that they receive in their own towers.

Steve Vickars

Branch Training Officer