

THE WINCHESTER ROUNDS

The Newsletter of the Winchester District

No 2 Summer 2010

SO we venture into issue two.

DISTRICT NEWS

It is pleasing to be able to report that we now have two ringing masters. Their co-option was ratified at the District Quarterly Meeting (QDM) held on 8th May at Broughton. This being in accordance with the authority given at the annual meeting.

Joint Ringing Masters.

Edmund Wratten, 10 Rozelle Close, Littleton, Winchester. SO22 6QP (01962 880462)

Lucy Walpole, 425 Worting Road, Worting, Basingstoke, RG23 8PT (01256 350718)

At the meeting an appeal was again made for a Secretary or Treasurer, Rosemary being willing to change roles if that made the finding of a secretary easier.

Since the meeting Michael Till of the Cathedral has volunteered as secretary, so subject to ratification at the next QDM:

District Secretary

Michael Till, 425 Worting Road, Worting, Basingstoke, RG23 8PT (01256 350718)

Rosemary taking the position of District Treasurer

Districts are normally represented on the Guild Executive Committee by their Secretary, districts with over 100 members may have a second representative. We therefore may still technically appoint an Executive Committee Representative. However as the District at present has, in other roles, three others on the Committee this is not seen as an urgent vacancy to fill.

THE DISTRICT STRIKING COMPETITION

This was held at Broughton during the afternoon of 8th May.

Call Change Competition

1st Romsey with 25 faults
2nd Hursley with 29 faults

The Methods Competition

1st Hursley with 7 faults
2nd Lockerley with 20 faults
Both bands ringing Plain Bob Doubles

The trophies were presented during the meeting to representatives of both successful towers.

As you will gather from these results only three towers entered teams for the competitions. To make the judge's travel from Dorset worthwhile and also to fill out time each band rang twice. The call change bands rang Plain Hunt with Hursley ringing Cambridge as their second method and Lockerley repeating their Plain Bob Doubles.

We had great difficulty in finding a venue for the competition. As the competition had been held at Broughton only a couple of years ago, Broughton was not high on our list of towers. However, weddings, concerts and festivals all intervened to bring us back again.

Various towers expressed difficulties due to a number of causes, primarily weddings, in raising a competition band. Could this, together with our difficulty in finding a tower, indicate that the time of year is wrong. However, it cannot be that all towers had this difficulty so is there a problem with the competition format.

We **need your feed-back** on the District Striking Competition. Do you want one; could/should it be in another form; should the date be changed? This will be discussed fully at the QDM at Awbridge in August.

EDUCATION

Both the District and Guild hold education days, which can be very constructive. However, all too often the student returns to their home tower and for

whatever reason the method leant is not rung for another six months by which time the student has forgotten everything imparted during the day.

Hursley run regular Surprise practices which district ringers are welcome to attend, which obviously caters for the more advanced ringers. A regular 'Beyond Bob Doubles' event would seem to fill this void although this working title need not be fully descriptive. As a 'tester' and to gauge support for such event the first of possibly many is planned for the afternoon (2:00 – 4:00ish) of 22nd May at Micheldever.

We do need to know the interest in such an event. Please contact Edmund, details above, if you are and what you would like to ring. That is either to learn a new method or consolidate one already rung some time in the past.

BEST KEPT TOWER

Despite the poor response last year, we are again running the 'Best Kept Tower' competition in the belief that it does inspire some bands to look at their surroundings and consider the well-being of their ringers, learners and visitors, particularly with tower safety in mind. More details later, with the judging being in September. In the mean time if you would wish to see a check list of items the judges will be considering please contact John. We would also be grateful to hear from anyone who would like to help with the judging.

DISTRICT REFECTORY DUTY

Four times a year the District provides assistance in the Cathedral Refectory. Duties include serving behind the counter, taking and delivering food orders and clearing tables. This year's remaining dates are:-

Tuesday 1st June

Tuesday 14th September and

Tuesday 30th November

The contact is Jackie Downham
Tel. 01962 862345

DISTRICT PRACTICES

These are intended to be multifunctional, just how 'multi' being dependant upon the experience of the tower in which it is held and of course upon those who attend.

It can provide the learners and improvers of the 'Home Tower' with the chance to ring in a stronger band than normal, improvers from other towers the chance to experience ringing in a different tower and again possibly with a stronger band and for the more experienced ringers possibly the chance to ring something different.

It is proposed, that call changes and plain hunt will always be rung together, hopefully, with a named method chosen by the home tower in consultation with the ringing masters. The method chosen method by Cheriton for 9th June being 'London'. Other ringing will naturally be subject to the requirements and abilities of those there on the night,

RINGING FOR ENGLAND

Crawley, Kings Somborne, Lockerley and Romsey rang call changes, plain hunt and touches of Grandsire and Plain Bob. Bishopstoke rang a peal of Bristol Surprise Royal whilst Hursley rang touches of both St George Bob Minor and The Dragon Bob Minor

THE GUILD AGM

The Guild AGM this year is to be held in Basingstoke on 3rd July. This is the year when all the officer posts come up for election. Although a number are willing to stand again. Pam Thompson has indicated that she will not be seeking re-election as secretary, nor will Frances Mitchell be standing again for minutes secretary. In addition the post of Vice Master is already vacant, the Education Committee has no Convenor, and the BRF Fund Raising Committee has no members.

Could you fill any of these vacancies?

GUILD ANNUAL REPORT AND HANDBOOK

The 2009 Report and Handbook for 2010, the one with the red cover, has been circulated to all towers in the district. Copies are provided for all ringers except probationary members, if you do not have your copy please see your tower secretary.

Quickly donning my Report Editors hat, my apologies to Avington who have experienced an unexpected additional augmentation to six bells.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

15 th May	Guild Inter Tower Striking Competition Swanmore Draw 10:00 Dinner - Southampton
22 nd May	Education Afternoon – beyond Bob Doubles Mitcheldever
1 st June	Refectory Duty
9 th June	District Practice – Cheriton Special method - London
3 rd July	Guild 8 Bell Striking Competition – Bramley Guild AGM – Basingstoke
22 nd July	District Practice - East Tytherley
14 th August	Walk, ring, picnic and District Quarterly Meeting. – Mottisfont, Awbridge (Ringing & QDM) and Romsey
1 st September	Annual Cathedral Practice
11 th September	District Outing to Oxford
14 th September	Refectory Duty
1 st – 8 th October	District quarter peal week
9 th November	District Practice - North Stoneham
13 th November	Education afternoon - Hursley District Quarterly meeting
30 th November	Refectory Duty
4 th December	District Carol Service - Mottisfont
18 th January	District Practice – Crawley
12 th February	Annual District Meeting – New Alresford
March	District Practice

Regular events

2nd Tuesday - Surprise Major practice - Hursley
4th Friday?? - Beyond Bob Doubles - ??

NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

Bishopstoke

On 10th April a band all of whom had April birthdays rang a peal of ‘April Surprise Major’

Cheriton

Now practicing only on 2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesdays

Hursley

Unfortunately neither Hursley nor Southampton’s Bittern Park bands were amongst those to go forward from the National 12 Bell Competition eliminators held at St Martins-in-the-Field and Shoreditch respectively on 27th March

Edmund Wratten will be ringing for St Martins-in-the-Field at the finals to be held at Crediton on 26th June

Lockerley

Thirty excited Brownies and their leaders arrived at St. Johns Church Lockerley on the evening of 16th March. A month later it was the turn 20 ‘Beavers’ to visit the church. They had been invited to an open evening of activities at the church that included a visit to the bell tower.

On arrival the girls were put into three groups, one led by the vicar the Rev. James Pitkin and one of the churchwardens Sally Masters, they had a treasure hunt-quiz and brass cleaning in the chancel end while the second group at the back of the church rang call changes on handbells with Jen Churchill. They were amused by a photographs of ringers in 1920, the ladies wearing ankle length skirts, a high necked blouses and compulsory hats.

The third group climbed the spiral stairs to the ringing room where they met Joy Scanlan and Tower Captain, David Strong. They watched a bell being rung full-circle and could see the bell swinging round up in the belfry through an open hatch. All the Brownies and leaders took up the challenge of chiming the treble and in some cases the tenor. All received a certificate to commemorate their visit.

The groups changed activities during the evening so that everybody had taken part in all the fun on offer.

Micheldever

On the first Saturday of the month the Wonston ringers visit Micheldever for their practice. They have expressed an interest in ringing handbells and so John Croft was able to get the use of St Mary’s lovely set of 12 handbells.

So to begin it was getting the knack of striking at hand and back stroke for those who had not tried their hand at it before. Rounds were well achieved on six and some call changes rung with satisfied smiles from all. A plain course of Grandsire Doubles was achieved with the help of Edmund Wratten (District Ringing Master). Between the tower bell and handbell sessions in the church a social break for coffee and biscuits took place. It is hoped that this form of dual practice can continue.

Romsey etc

A group from Broughton, Lockerley and Romsey spent a pleasant long week-end in April with friends from West Somerset on a tour of Mid-Cornwall.

Meeting up with old Winchester friends in the process. For those with long memories the names which came to the fore were: Andrew Palk and Ivor and Heather Truman (all ex Romsey), and Sue Wolters (ex Winchester).

Long ropes and even longer drafts were the order of the day.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Charlotte Stansbury of Hursley for her first quarter peal inside on 22nd March and to Michael Arthur also of Hursley for his first quarter on 27th April.

NEW MEMBERS

New Ringing Members

Winchester Cathedral - Ray Aldington

King's Worthy - Lynda Fletcher

Compounding Members

Owen Borlase and Furgus Strachey prior to a peal at Sherborne, Dorset

AND FINALLY

Following the publication of the first edition comment was received from three members. Two were supportive of the newsletter one slightly critical.

The 'Newsletter' is circulated to all towers and this edition will also be sent, using bcc to preserve privacy, to all district members for whom I have an e-mail address. Should you not wish this happen please contact me, likewise should you not have been sent a copy and you would wish to be included on the list please notify me.

As you will, hopefully, have read, we need your feed-back or comments on a number of matters. Please be in contact with any of the officers.

Chairman,
Public Relations Officer and Newsletter Editor:
John Palk, Penlee, Halterworth Lane, Crampmoor,
Romsey, SO51 9AN
(01794 513862)

Secretary:
Michael Till, 425 Worting Road, Worting,
Basingstoke, RG23 8PT (01256 350718)

Joint Ringing Masters:
Edmund Wratten, 10 Rozelle Close, Littleton,
Winchester. SO22 6QP (01962 880462)

Lucy Walpole, 425 Worting Road, Worting,
Basingstoke, RG23 8PT (01256 350718)

Treasurer: Rosemary Oakeshott, Dummersdene,
Saunders Lane, Awbridge, Romsey. SO51 0GP
(01794 340300)

WINCHESTER CLANGERS

or 'Wot I got wrong last time'.

The most important was the date for the District Cathedral practice; this somehow became a month early. The Guild also sprang a 10 bell inter-tower striking competition. There were also one or two typos, which hopefully have been corrected or eliminated this time.

Sorry for these slip-up, will try to do better!!