

EBSB NEWS

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October 2007

Cookham win the Lorna Newton!



Cookham's Marcia Dieppe with Graham Firman and the judges



The winning Cookham team

This year's final of the Lorna Newton competition was held at Winkfield with six bands taking part. The Winkfield bells are not easy and our judges, Sheila Bruce and George Whiteside, had a very challenging task. Many thanks are due to them for excellent judging and also to the Winkfield band for providing us all with a magnificent tea. Cookham won this cup for the first time in 1998 and were highly delighted to win for a second time, with only 29 faults, and see the cup once more displayed in their tower, after a minor hiccup. Last year's winners, Beaconsfield, were unable to locate the cup in time for the presentation on Saturday so it was duly presented to Cookham on their practice night the following Tuesday. Beaconsfield were the runners up so for a short time both cups were in their possession! The half yearly meeting took place after the competition followed by some very nice general ringing organized by Fred Reynolds.....(More pictures on page 3)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

26 October	Friday Daytime Practice at Hughenden (8)	2.30 – 4.30pm
27 October	Branch Practice at Cookham (10)	7 – 9pm
10 November	Branch Practice at Hambleden (8) <i>Special Method: Double Norwich Court Bob Major</i>	7 – 9pm
17 November	Listening Skills Course at Chalfont St Giles	10 - 4.30pm
24 November	Branch Practice at Lane End (6)	7 – 9pm
8 December	Branch Practice at Bray (8) Followed by Christmas Social	6 – 7.30pm

Please note that this is a change from the venue published in the diary card

28 December Post Christmas Ringing Outing: Cranleigh (8), Warnham (10) and Horsham (10) - towers to be confirmed.

Branch Summer Social



Saturday 30 June was hardly auspicious weather-wise for a summer social but this didn't dampen the enthusiasm of those who gathered at The Greyhound Eton Wick for our skittles evening. We were also joined by an opportunist cat from the neighbourhood, not the pub cat, who fancied an evening in the dry of the skittles alley making a cosy bed on someone's coat and also looking very hopefully at the food table.



We started playing lads against ladettes with a series of 5 legs. It proved to be very energetic, not only throwing the bowls but also having to do all the clearing and setting up at the skittle end by hand. Heavy work. Despite the girls' best efforts, with most of the highest individual scores being on their side, they were not consistent enough to beat the boys who managed to take each leg – just!

We then had a break for refreshments, a very convivial cold buffet supper after which we were ready for something more challenging – a game of killer! Everyone took turns to throw one bowl and the 9 pins were only reset after they had all been knocked down. Miss a pin and lose a life – three lives in total. As you can imagine affection for the person throwing before you fluctuated according to the number of pins they left standing for you to aim at. Losing a life is very easy when you keep having only one pin to aim at, especially as the alley seemed to develop a distinct camber away from the direction in which the bowl was aimed – this also seemed to vary according to the side you were aiming at! Killer definitely gave the game an edge and had the advantage of moving very much more quickly.

Everyone agreed we had had a really super evening – and not a bell in sight!

More Lorna Newton Pics.....



Ken Darvill receiving the runners up trophy from Graham Firman. The Beaconsfield band are pictured below – 2nd place with 30.5 faults.



top row l-r: 3rd Lane End (34 faults), 4th Bray (40 faults), 5th Chesham (44 faults) and 6th Winkfield (49 faults).

Congratulations to all the teams taking part for reaching the final and well done.

NEW ARRIVALS

There have been two recent arrivals connected with our Branch.

HARRY JACOB DARVILL, born 5th September to Chris and Andrea, a brother for Natalie and grandson for Ken and Angela Darvill of Beaconsfield.

ETHAN MATTHEW CRUMMACK born 15th September, first child for Jennie and Dave and first grandchild for Marcia Dieppe of Cookham.

Congratulations to the proud parents and grandparents.

6 BELL COMPETITION

The results of the Guild 6-bell competition on 6th October at Spelsbury, Chipping Norton Branch, were as follows. High Wycombe had the disadvantage of ringing first, always difficult, and only just missed out on the 3rd place. Thank you for representing us.

- 1st St Aldates, Oxford - 17.5 faults
- 2nd St Mary & St Lawrence, Reading - 20 faults
- 3rd Hanslope - 42 faults
- 4th High Wycombe - 45 faults
- 5th Easthampstead - 45.5 faults
- 6th Linslade - 82.5 faults
- 7th Hook Norton - 99 faults
- 8th Aston Rowant - 101.5 faults
- 9th Faringdon - disqualified (didn't ring enough changes)

TOWER NEWS

Obituary

Gill Hazell of Hughenden died on Sunday 30th September, at home, after a long illness. She will be very much missed by all her friends in the branch. Our deepest sympathy goes to Roger and Gill's family.

Cookham Annual Outing

Cookham's annual outing was to the Vale of White Horse area visiting Faringdon, Shellingford, Stanford in the Vale, Longcot and Uffington. Although there were not very many of us able to go at the last moment, we did manage some nice ringing at these towers, even venturing a plain course of Uffington bob doubles which we spotted on their notice board. Lunch was a leisurely affair at the Woodman, Fernham where the food was excellent and the refreshment breaks between towers for coffee and Ruth's delicious cakes and biscuits were a very enjoyable part of the day. We were also lucky with beautiful sunny weather.

First Quarter Peal on Refurbished Bells

Some nine months after the completion of work on our bells, it has finally been possible to get the majority of those who worked on the project together for the first quarter peal on our refurbished and augmented ring of 10. We rang Grandsire caters on Saturday 18th August: a first for three Cookham ringers: Andrew McKerlie, Freddie Daniel and Mandy Salter. The quarter was rung as a Golden Wedding Anniversary compliment to Rex and Anne Agg, married on 17 August 1957, and to celebrate the marriage of Andrew Salter to Lucy Ward on 28th July 2007. Although they were not able to take part in the quarter peal we would wish to associate Gerry Ayre of Cookham and Robert Harvey of Chalfont St Giles with the ringing as they both worked very hard on the refurbishment project.

Work is now under way to decorate the ringing chamber as the carpentry work in the belfry to construct a new walkway around the bells has been completed. Cookham ringers are keen to get their beautiful ringing chamber back in order and would welcome visitors to our practices on Tuesdays as well as hoping to see many of you at the branch practice on 27th October.



The Quarter Peal Band

From l-r: Andrew McKerlie (3); Freddie Daniel (4); Geoff Hopkinson (9); Graham Firman (8); Mandy Salter (5); David McKenzie (10); Angela Darvill (1); John Davidge (6); Marcia Dieppe (2) and Ken Darvill, conductor, (7).

Farnham Royal

Please note that the tower correspondent for Farnham Royal is now:

Mark Instone
228 Langley Road
Langley
Slough
SL3 7EF

54339101753

Penn

As part of the quarter peal week and to celebrate the centenary of the founding of the scout movement we rang a quarter peal on 1260 Plain Bob Doubles at Holy Trinity Church Penn on 31st July 2007.

This was a first quarter for Penn ringer, Judy Weaver, and a first in doubles for Stan Barlow.

The quarter peal band:

- 1 Judy Weaver 1st Quarter
- 2 Alison M Bayley
- 3 A Rex Agg (C)
- 4 Stan E Barlow 1st on 6
- 5 Geoffrey Hopkinson
- 6 Michael J Bayley

Dorney Tower Annual Barbeque



On the 8th July, Dorney held their annual barbeque, which was again hosted by Peter and Elizabeth Legge, in their lovely garden, by the stream, in Eton Wick. As in previous years, we enjoyed great fun, and fellowship, and were provided with the most delicious array of food and drink. Peter has certainly honed his barbequing skills, and Elizabeth looked after us in the most perfect way. There was a report that over 35 sausages were eaten at lunch time.

A huge thank you, Peter and Elizabeth.

We were all very nervous of the weather, but were extremely lucky, as the rain held off, and the sun made a number of appearances.

We all assembled about 12.30, and, much to everyone's amazement, it was gone 5.00 before we knew it. The day just flew by.

This was the 10th time we were able to enjoy ourselves, and as a consequence thought it would be good to have a theme. After much discussion, we decided to take "Hats" as the general theme running through the day, and it was good to see that everyone came suitably adorned.

We had Marcia in a Witches hat, which gave her a lot of trouble when trying to retrieve her drink from under the Gazebo, due to its height. That was her excuse.

Mandy was at her best as a Nymph, albeit a green one, and also had trouble keeping it on.

Leslie arrived in a hat with 10 candles lodged in it, and the clamour to set them on fire was palpable.

Janet made hers with a lot of patience, and took the shape of a complete set of bells in their frame, along with ropes, and sally's. Several attempts were made to pull them.

Claire had the biggest one in the garden, it really stood out. Brian arrived as Doctor something or other, from the Mad Hatters tea party, and certainly looked the part. That man certainly knows how to party.

Joyce had a very pretty hat on, which added a touch of class.

Roger, being the staid man he is, went oriental. Mandarin was his theme, but not the duck.

Philip and Natalie joined us from far away, they were Dorney ringers some years ago, and it was so nice to see them. Philip had a human type hat on, as opposed to his normal alien outfit, and Natalie seemed pleased to see us all, as we were her, sporting a very posh piece of headgear.

Last, but not least, were Peter and Elizabeth, who had very pretty hats on, albeit that I can't see where they actually got the time from to make them, as they had so much on their hands all day looking after us. I think Peter actually barbequed his, with Elizabeth trying to bake hers.

The original plan was to play some games, but this went by the board, as we had far too much on our hands eating, drinking, and talking. One of the most illuminating moments was when Elizabeth brought out a most superb fruit cake, and after one nano second was seen retrieving a sultana to eat, the rest of the cake having disappeared. Apparently it took hours to make and bake it, but 0.5 nano seconds for it to go. It was good though.

As mentioned, we started to drift off home round about 5.00ish, tired but very full and happy. Indeed, there were a number of doggy bags being put in cars, the owners of which not all had dogs to give them to.

Ahhh, one might think, the perfect day. They would be right.

Roger Webb

CELEBRATORY RINGING REQUESTED FOR The Queen's Diamond Wedding Tuesday 20th November 2007

Our President, the Bishop of Oxford, has suggested that the towers of the diocese make joyful music on 20th November for the Queen and Prince Philip. He goes on to say that we have a unique contribution to make to the celebration of our Sovereign's remarkable service to our country and her church.

I recommend this to you and ask that you make every effort to ensure that ringing is notified to the public in advance by poster, local newspaper or parish magazine as appropriate. I hope we will respond with enthusiasm and after the day I suggest that you send a letter to the Queen's secretary at Buckingham Palace to inform her what you did.

Jon Chamberlain, Guild Master

Beaconsfield

Many towers have visitors at their practices, but maybe because we practise on a Friday (only Hambleden shares this night with us within the Branch) we seem to attract visitors from a wide area. It is not uncommon to have ringers from six other towers joining us, a bit like a mini Branch Practice. Our most long-standing visitor has been coming along on a Friday night since 1954, but he does admit that at the time the main attraction was Enid Blyton's daughter, Imogen. Now, along with quite a few others, he turns up so regularly that he has become an honorary member of the band. Our regular visitors have been instrumental in enabling tower members to learn new methods and revise old ones. On most practice nights we can manage Spliced Surprise Major, and we are currently struggling with London. There have been times when practices would not have taken place if it had not been for our regular visitors, so to them all we say "Thank you" and "Please keep coming".

Occasionally non-ringing visitors turn up, but not many of them are as eccentric as the rather dishevelled figure that appeared in the doorway on one recent Friday night asking if he could "have a go". On being asked if he was a ringer (a rather alcoholic aura seemed to surround him) he said no, but that he was a drummer and understood that bell-ringing was another form of percussion. Having been persuaded that "having a go" was maybe not a good idea at that moment he stood in the corner for a while seemingly counting time to the changes.

Then he disappeared with effusive thanks and was passed just outside the door by a late-comer who heard him muttering "Fascinating! Fascinating!" Will we ever see him again? Will he even remember that he came? Probably not, but we enjoyed his visit.

Those of you who read the quarter peal columns in the Ringing World may have noted two quarters, one at Beaconsfield and the other at Cookham, rung to mark the Golden Wedding of Rex and Anne Agg. Tower members joined Rex and Anne, their family and friends, for a celebratory luncheon at the Fitzwilliams Centre on 12th August. Handbells were rung, the food was good and the speeches short. A good time was had by all and we wish them many more happy years of marriage.....Diamond Weddings are always good for a party!

Angela Darvill



Rex and Anne with some of their children and grandchildren

FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

Guild 125th Anniversary 2006 – we still have some of the 'special edition' mugs (£3.50) and engraved glass tankards (£9.50).

Printer Cartridges - the collection of cartridges continues to be lucrative - don't bin your empty cartridges - give them to one of the Committee members. Cartridges should ideally be in their packaging: please note that we cannot accept Epson cartridges.

Website - don't forget you can view our stock items on our website: www.bellfund.org.uk

Roadshow – there is of course a Roadshow next year, and we are beginning to look at what extra items we might be able to sell there. If you have any bright ideas we would be delighted to hear from you. We need things which would sell at under £5 and not specific to the ODG.

The Branch Questionnaire

Earlier this year the Officers decided to draw up and circulate a simple questionnaire to all towers in the branch, with the aims of helping us to prioritise training to match the needs of the towers and also, perhaps, to make branch practices more attractive to members. The questionnaire was designed to be simple and quick to complete and in this we probably succeeded, as I saw one Ringing Master comprehensively complete it in less than a minute!

The response was impressive and quick, with only five out of the thirty three branch towers not responding – although one tower sent back an empty envelope (whether by accident or design I don't know!). I would like to sincerely thank all the tower secretaries and ringing masters who took the trouble to respond.

Having read all the “doom and gloom” articles about the state of ringing it is pleasing to be able to report that the branch appears reasonably healthy although, in my opinion, there is one slightly worrying statistic. Out of the twenty eight towers who responded, twelve had a total membership of more than one-and-a-half times the number of bells and the same number (although not necessarily the same towers) always rang all of their bells for service. Only seven towers had less members than bells. Only five towers seldom or never rang for service meaning that over 80% of branch towers ring regularly for morning service. Half of the towers that replied rang “always” or “often” for evening services but since many churches do not have an evening service and the questionnaire did not ask the right questions it is not clear whether those who did not ring for an evening service actually had one to ring for!

The slightly worrying statistic is that half the towers that responded had no members with less than two years experience, which implies that either they taught no new members in that period, or that they lost any that were taught. In my experience, to survive long term, bands need to continually to recruit, teach, and retain new members.

One area in which the questionnaire did not meet its objective was in establishing the reason why branch practices are relatively poorly attended and thus helping us to make them more attractive, and useful, to branch members. Virtually all the answers to the question were, or were similar to, “people have other things to do on Saturday nights” which, whilst it may be true, does not help the officers plan a more interesting and useful program. The branch exists to serve its members, so I would welcome comments and constructive suggestions, particularly from those who come rarely or not at all and I can promise that all will be considered.

The final part of the questionnaire asked for indications of support for a number of possible training courses and this did provide us with a clear indication of training needs which will be used to shape the training program for the coming year. The top seven (where indications of support reached double figures) were: -

- Ringing up/down
- Improving striking
- Grandsire Doubles
- Bob Doubles
- Stedman Doubles
- Stedman Triples
- Grandsire Triples

Work has already started to meet these requirements, with a Central Council course on “listening” scheduled for November and we are currently seeking a tower to host a ringing up and down course. Obviously the training program will not just be restricted to the above list as training is needed to help people at all levels to progress; comments and requests will be welcomed as they will help us to target training where it will be most effective, so keep them coming and we look forward to hearing from you!

Once again my thanks to all those who contributed to the responses to the questionnaire.

John Davidge

EBSB Training Session

A Listening Skills Course

at
Chalfont St Giles

Saturday 17th November 2007

10.00 am – 4.15 pm

This is a practical course which aims to give insights into the listening process and how to develop listening skills. It is suitable for all ringers, especially those who are keen to understand the listening skill better or to improve their striking. It is also particularly suitable for teachers of ringers.

Please apply to:

Mandy Salter, Fair View, Wash Hill, Wooburn Common HP10 0JB

Tel: 01628 530241

e-mail: thesecretary@ebsb.org.uk

100 CLUB WINNERS

JANUARY 2007

£10	1	Valerie Simmonds	Amersham
£5	107	John Simmons	High Wycombe
£5	33	Norman Iley	Clewer
£2	16	Chenies Tower	
£2	84	Sara Thomas	ChalfontStPeter
£2	31	Jane Cockman	Clewer
£2	30	Linda Jones	Clewer

FEBRUARY 2007

£10	59	David McKenzie	Beaconsfield
£5	16	Chenies Tower	
£5	49	Corris Keen	ChalfontStGiles
£2	116	Winkfield Tower	
£2	114	Claire Fisher	Cookham
£2	6	Peter Sippitt	Amersham
£2	78	Richard Brown	Bray

MARCH 2007

£10	55	Stan Barlow	Beaconsfield
£5	106	Meryl Kennedy	High Wycombe
£5	7	Ann Collins	Denham
£2	40	John Davidge	ChalfontStGiles
£2	34	Nora Fenton	Clewer
£2	61	Angela Darvill	Beaconsfield
£2	45	Ron Moore	ChalfontStGiles

APRIL 2007

£10	108	David Leonard	High Wycombe
£5	105	Josie Martin	High Wycombe
£5	61	Angela Darvill	Beaconsfield
£2	94	Stephen Wheeler	Slough
£2	138	Martin Phelps	Marlow
£2	3	Jan Galloway	Amersham
£2	14	David and Joyce Cornwall	Hughenden

MAY 2007

£10	59	David McKenzie	Beaconsfield
£5	16	Chenies Tower	
£5	145	Ann Collins	Denham
£2	119	Tony Bish	Winkfield
£2	81	Chalfont St. Peter Tower	
£2	110	Cookham Tower	
£2	35	Sarah Roddy	Clewer

JUNE 2007

£10	66	Derek Fowles	Bray
£5	64	Penn Tower	
£5	101	Anne Davies	High Wycombe
£2	1	Valerie Simmonds	Amersham
£2	90	Roger Webb	Hitcham
£2	72	James Gladwyn	Bray
£2	71	Richard Hoey	Bray

JULY 2007

£10	159	John Couves	Wooburn
£5	126	Burnham Tower	
£5	6	Peter Sippitt	Amersham
£2	151	Carol Wadlow	Denham
£2	60	Pat Wingrove	Beaconsfield
£2	134	Evelyn Neale	Marlow
£2	86	Jo Eden	Hitcham