

January 2019

Happy New Year!

A few updates for you this time and an article by Vinni Sullivan talking about recent achievements within the Loddon Hub.

Alan Bentley has worked hard over several years now developing and administering ART Hubs & Centres. He is retiring from that role in March and I am delighted to say that Morag Todd has kindly agreed to take over the work. I will ask Morag to introduce herself in the next edition.

Learning the Ropes Plus

This will be updated to its 3rd Edition in March and I intend that every Hub & Centre will have a free specimen copy – see me at the conference or send me your address.

Any ringer (existing or new) may use the scheme – you just register them as a ringer and get them a progress book of their own.

The book is divided into sections for ringers to complete – Doubles, Plain Minor, Surprise Minor, Triples & Major, Surprise Major (the core seven pickled egg methods now) plus conducting, handbells and developing skills for tower management. Each section allows the ringer to tick off the required achievements and get certificates of accomplishment.

The methods are structured at each level to develop core skills and are ideal to use as a basis for focussed practices for your ringers, or in your area.

ART Awards

I hope that you have been able to promote a group or individual in your area for one of the ART Awards. The winners will be announced on the evening of the conference. If you have not applied for one this year – think about 2020! In fact, the suggestion has been made that there is an award for Hubs & Centres in 2020 – what do you think? Which activities should this awards focus on?

Local PR

Most Hubs & Centres have a website or Facebook page – do remember to show your ringers' achievements there – LtR and 50 things certificates, quarter peals and so on. If you can get these events and activities shared on Facebook it all helps with local PR and shows a professional approach to teaching and that ringing is fun!

50 Ringing Things

We have issued many Gold certificates on the 50 Ringing Things scheme in the last few months – the result of dedicated work by those participating. The scheme has proved to be a great hit – keeping ringers interested during the long foundation skills learning period and developing a wide range of



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skills in the participants. Above all its FUN! Do encourage your new and existing ringers to register and join the 50 things trail ...

Workshops

I am dealing with quite a few enquiries particularly for the Tower Leadership and Simulator Awareness workshops. Have you booked a workshop for 2019?

Other things

Keep an eye open for information on an event in Norwich in the summer – I imagine this will prove to be a template for similar events elsewhere.

2019 was a record year for new ringers registered, LtR certificates issued, assessments, courses and workshops! More info at the ART Conference and in ART WORKS.

Tower Talk – do your new ringers get the e-magazine? Make sure they are getting the ART emails and open the link – it's a great read!

See you at the Conference – all feedback from you gratefully received!

Graham Nabb



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THE LODDON TEACHING HUB: a reflection on 2018

It seems a long time since the ART Conference in the snow, but a good time to reflect on our activities

*St Nicholas HURST; St Andrew SONNING; St Mary TWYFORD;
St Lawrence WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE; St Mary
WARGRAVE.*

Our regular quarter peal attempts have continued to provide good bonding and motivation. 48 successes and quite a few failures have seen 5 first quarters (Sally and Anne-Marie from Wargrave, Edward and Freddie from Twyford, and Catherine from Sonning) and 38 firsts of something different, maybe first on eight, away from cover, or a new method. For the less experienced it has given an opportunity for more extended practice and consolidation; for the more experienced it has given a chance to ring something different, maybe a new Surprise Minor method or call something not tried before, or not for a very long time! Donations by the quarter peal ringers has gathered funds for making an annual donation to ART as well as the towers at which we ring.

Twyford, St Mary.

Saturday, 22 December 2018 in 42m

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Edward Owen (Twyford)
- 2 Pam Elliston (Sonning)
- 3 Charles Hobson (Freddie's Grandad)
- 4 Richard Bennett (Twyford)
- 5 Simon Farrar (C) (Twyford)
- 6 Freddie Hodgkinson (Twyford)

First quarter at first attempt: 1, 6.

Dave and Vinni Sullivan (Wargrave) wish to be associated with this QP, the drones at Gatwick got a bit in the way!



The Twyford band has gone from strength to strength, their Friday practice regularly assisted by ringers from all the other Loddon hub towers. They have new recruits and more for the near future, a returner from Hurst, and regular ringing on a Sunday without outside help. They are hoping soon to be able to ring a Twyford band quarter peal. All the young ringers have progressed to change ringing and Matthew was



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invited to join the Bucks and Berks team at the RWNYC in London, to be their conductor. He really enjoyed the experience and now regularly conducts Call Changes on eight. The “helpers” are also getting stretched, with Bristol Surprise Major having been attempted at the end of the practice.

Learning the Topes successes have continued to mark progress within the Hub, Waltham St Lawrence’s Sophie and Holley both achieved LtR Level 3, and Holley rang for Berks and Bucks at the RWNYC.

Sonning have been doing a lot of teaching of basic bell handling with Karen and Ellie both gaining their LtR Level 1.

Wargrave’s youngest ringer, Imogen, passed LtR Level 1 and 2, and has rung at Berks and Bucks, Sonning and Reading young ringer practices. Two other Wargrave ringers, Anne-Marie and Sally (now at Plymouth University) also both passed LtR Level 1 and 2, and both are well on their way to Level 3.



Sally receives her LtR Level 1 and Level 2 certificates , and Anne-Marie her Level 2.

Anne-Marie was delighted to be able to ring her first quarter, at first attempt, on the centenary of the armistice.



One of our development targets was to re-establish a band at Hurst. A successful recruitment initiative, linked to Ringing Remembers, saw a group of five start to learn in September. As three of the Hub’s teachers were able to be involved, the students made good progress, starting to ring rounds on four in October. By November 11th they were all able to ring rounds on eight, a great achievement that may not have been possible if they had been just one isolated tower. They have continued to practise and are getting to grips with Call Changes, interspersed with more handling and more ringing up and down practices.



Hurst ringers on November 11th, including all five of the ringing remembers recruits



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We haven't run as many workshops this year, as the quarters have fulfilled a lot of our practice needs, and the individual towers are more able to provide their learners' needs on practice nights. One of the most memorable was at St George's Memorial church in Ypres, where, after an hour of consolidated practice, local ringers Liz (treble) and Martin (covering) successfully rang an extent of Plain Bob Doubles and an extent of Grandsire Doubles.

Well done to them.

Loddon Hub ringers involved in leper training - Vikki (Clewer/Waltham St Lawrence), and Vinni (Wargrave), with four of the leper Band, and teachers Alison and Richard. Claire, the fifth teacher of the May group took the photo



Sonning ringers Pam and Sue at leper



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