

S&BDG TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT 2014-15

It is pleasing to be able to report that the year's training courses have been well supported, with a good number of students and helpers at each training day. Unfortunately the January training course had to be cancelled through a combination of bad weather and 'flu so, in planning next year's training programme, I have avoided the winter months.

It has been a great pleasure to welcome to our training sessions ringers from neighbouring guilds as helpers and students. During the past year we have been joined by ringers from the West Wales Guild, Hereford Diocesan Guild and the Llandaff and Monmouth Association. Visiting ringers from further afield were also very welcome additional helpers on the Doubles and the Stedman training days. Following on from this, and in line with a national trend towards sharing skills, experience and enthusiasm between ringers of other areas, one training day next year is being run as a joint venture with the Clifford and Kington District of the Hereford Diocesan Guild. There are also plans for more informal co-operation in training with other guilds.

After the Surprise Minor Day in April 2014 several of the participants asked for a follow-up session, which was arranged in August and was also well supported and successful. This year ended with another Surprise Day at Llanfeugan in May at which ringers who were fairly inexperienced in Surprise Minor successfully tackled Beverley and Surfleet individually and spliced with Cambridge and others revised London which, in some cases, they had not rung for more than a decade.

At the Doubles Day, held at Talgarth and Bronllys, an enthusiastic and determined group of students rang plain courses of new methods and touches of ones they knew with great success. In March Stedman Doubles was rung at New Radnor and Stedman Triples at Knighton. With the extra assistance of helpers from Kent, Cheshire and Hereford, ringers who were new to Stedman Triples ended the afternoon ringing touches.

The practice of holding whole day courses with a pub lunch between the morning and afternoon sessions continues to be popular and the lunches add a welcome element of relaxation and sociability to these hard working occasions.

I should like to thank to all who have come as helpers on the training days; their competence, patience, encouragement and good humour is essential in helping the students to get the most out of a training day. Thanks, too, to the tower captains and incumbents who have made their towers available for training.

Can I encourage anyone who has not been on a training day to come to one. Students can make progress in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere and the satisfaction that helpers get from assisting others to achieve their goals is very great. Do give it a try!

Kath Johnson (Training Officer)