

Ancient v Modern!

With enviable youthful confidence, the Purbrook Modern band from St John The Baptist put their bell ringing skills to the test by competing in the Catherington Striking Competition on 14th July.

The longest any of the Purbrook Moderns have been ringing is eighteen months and this was the first time one young man had even visited another tower.

The team included Ian McNally (13yrs), Matthew Nunn (11yrs), Joel Richardson (11yrs) and Esmee Richardson (10yrs). Richard Case (15yrs) from Shedfield kindly agreed to step in at the last minute to replace Max Hunt (14yrs) who injured his wrist the previous day. Blanche Hunt who is embarking on a second childhood also rang.

The Moderns were spurred on by an added pressure of competing against ringers from their own tower - the Purbrook Ancients - undoubtedly more experienced but also more wrinkly and round.

Richard Case conducted super sounding rounds and called changes, which were completed a couple of seconds inside the allocated four minutes. The bands' efforts earned them a well-deserved second place in the competition, beating the Ancients hands down. The judge gave special praise to Matthew Nunn's leading; Matthew has been ringing a mere eight months.

Purbrook is host to a thriving band of youngsters – nine at last count, whom the jolly Ringing Master, Roy Grayson, teaches. We are all delighted with their progress and enthusiasm and four now play their part in Sunday service ringing, no doubt honing their skills for the next striking competition!

The photograph shows from left to right: Rachel Byford, Matthew Nunn, Ian Hunt, Ian MacNally, Joel Richardson, Richard Case, Esmee Richardson, Kezia Richardson, Blanche Hunt, Jan Allnutt. (Rachel and Ian have been involved in teaching some of the ringers and were present for moral support, Jan acted as Timekeeper and Kezia is a ringer in waiting).

Mel Richardson



Celebrating a centenary of Scouting

No one could have failed to have noticed the massive TV and press coverage this week to mark the Centenary Of Scouting Celebrations. Jamborees took place all over the world and bells are being rung to celebrate the event.

With our strong links to Scouting and Guiding in mind, the ringers at St John The Baptist in Purbrook happily accepted the challenge and joined in with the nationwide bell ringing. The band that rang for the Sunday Service on 5th August comprised Scout and Cub Leaders, Leader Trainers, ex Scouts and Cubs, an ex Brownie and members of the Trefoil Guild. All were pleased to be taking part in the historic worldwide celebrations.

Scouting involvement is very noticeable amongst the regular Purbrook band and we have had great success in linking the two activities by inviting local Cub packs and Guide companies to the belfry. Since last September, we have hosted almost a dozen such evenings and recruited several new and enthusiastic ringers as a result.

Ringers today were past and present members of the following groups: 22nd Enfield Scouts, 54th Portsmouth Scouts, 1st Mortlake Scouts, 2nd Waterlooville Cubs and Scouts, Purbrook Guides, 5th Cowplain Brownies and the Trefoil Guild.

Mel Richardson