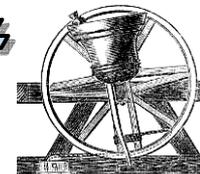




# Branching Out

## The Oxford City Branch Newsletter



Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016

My apologies for the sizeable gap since producing the last newsletter ! There are various reasons. I've been on holiday in Australia for the whole of November, and since the last AGM we now have a brand new Ringing Master, Andrew Freer. The Committee has decided to make a few changes to the newsletter for the first time since it started in February 2010. It now has a new name, and a slightly new look! It goes without saying that we all thank Hugh for his many contributions to the newsletter over the years, and that we hope that he will continue with many more! We know that he has been planning a number of ringing trips for 2017, and we will publicise all these in due course. We would also very much like to receive articles and information from all Branch members.

Please let us know your thoughts on this 'new look' newsletter. Any comments will be gratefully received! **Paul Lucas**

### Basil John Townsend. 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1924 – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016

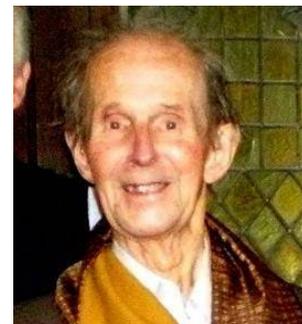
A true stalwart of Garsington village and of bell-ringing in Oxford, Basil Townsend followed in the footsteps of his Uncle Jack in guiding the ringing in Garsington and served as Chairman, Secretary and Branch Representative for the Oxford City Branch. Basil worked at Pressed Steel in Cowley for nearly fifty years and served as an Independent on the South Oxfordshire District Council as well as being a parish Councillor.

St Mary's Church was fittingly full to mark his life of dedicated service to so many organisations and after his committal in the churchyard memories of Basil were shared in the Townsend Room of the village hall.

On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November a peal was rung in honour of Basil at St Mary's Garsington:

5040 Surprise Minor in 2 hrs 46 mins

(1)Alwick (2)Bamborough (3)Carlisle (4)Netherseale (5)Lightfoot (6)Ipswich (7)Bourne  
Treble. Lesley J Belcher; 2.Julie A Haseldine; 3.Christopher C Stokes; 4.Richard Haseldine;  
5.Richard A Horne; 6.Andrew Haseldine (C) **Hugh Deam**



### A Message from Andrew Freer, our new Ringing Master

Hello everyone and thank you for electing me as Ringing Master for the City Branch. We had our first Branch Practice of the year on Saturday 3rd December at St Giles and I'm glad to say a fair few of you were able to make it at relatively short notice. I mentioned at the AGM that I'd like to run a 'ringing up and down' practice this year, as well as 8 and 10 bell practices, and some Q&A sessions to share tips. The first few practices are already confirmed (see below) and we'll be ringing anything from called changes upwards, so please do come along. I'm also grateful for your suggestions if you have them. As well as these, Katy Routh is thinking of organising a series of 'calling' practices for those wishing to learn to call touches of basic methods. Look for more information in future newsletters! Finally, congratulations to Adrian, Lindsay and Leon on their achievements. Are you looking for a chance to ring a quarter or a peal? Let me know! I hope to see as many of you as possible at next year's practices in 2017! **Andrew Freer**

The following Branch Practices for 2017 are now confirmed:

Garsington 14 <sup>th</sup> January	5.00pm-6.30pm
Kidlington 11 <sup>th</sup> February	10.30am-12.00pm
St Aldates 11 <sup>th</sup> March	5.00pm-6.30pm
Headington 17 <sup>th</sup> June	5.00pm-6.30pm
Cowley 8 <sup>th</sup> July	5.00pm-6.30pm
Horspath 9 <sup>th</sup> December	5.00pm-6.30pm

### Adrian's first Quarter Peal

Congratulations to Adrian Gray on getting his first quarter peal at Wolvercote on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Treble. Susan King; 2. Ailsa Reid; 3. Hugh Deam (C); 4. Adrian Gray; 5. Donna Bennett; Tenor. Judy Kirby.



### Lindsay's First Peal

Congratulations also go to our Branch Secretary, Lindsay Powell who rang her first peal at St. James Cowley on Saturday 19th November in 2 hours 37minutes.

5040 Surprise Minor

720 each of London, York, Norwich, Bourne, Beverley, Surfleet, and Cambridge.

Treble. Lindsay Powell; 2. Catherine M A Lane; 3. Rosanna Cretney; 4. Julie A Haseldine; 5. Kenneth R Davenport; Tenor. Andrew Haseldine (C).

(First peal: 1. First of Minor: 3.)

In memory of Basil Townsend of Garsington.



### Congratulations on Leon Thompson's 600<sup>th</sup> Quarter Peal

1260 Plain and Little Bob Minor on Handbells in the Ringing Chamber at St James, Cowley.

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December in 30 minutes.

1-2. Leon G Thompson; 3-4. Rosanna Cretney; 5-6. Joe Norton (C)

Leon is a long-standing member of the branch whose early ringing career was nurtured by Roy Jones. He learned to ring at Cowley, so it was particularly apt that his 600th quarter peal was scored in the ringing chamber there during the church's Christmas Tree Festival. Congratulations must go to Leon: we look forward especially to more "double dong" handbell quarters on his way to 700! **Rosanna Cretney**



## Another Trip 'Down Under' !

As it says at the top of the newsletter, I've just got back from an excellent, month long trip to Australia – taking me from Perth to



Monkey Mia, Darwin to Alice Springs on 'The Ghan', Cairns to Brisbane on the 'Spirit of Queensland' train, and finally ending up in Sydney! It was great to ring with the Perth ringers at The Swan Tower, St Georges Cathedral, and Christ's Church in Mandurah, about an hour south of Perth. Some of you may know that the bells at Mandurah were originally from St Mary Magdalen Church in Oxford, and were installed over there in 1996. I also rang in Sydney, and it was great to meet up again with Alan and Marylon Coates, who ring at St James, Queen's Square, and also to Margaret Marsh, who you will remember was taught to ring by John Pusey at St Giles in Oxford, when she and her husband were living here. She now very much enjoys her ringing, and rings regularly on the lovely 10 bells at Christ Church St Laurence in Sydney. She would very much like to say "hello" to everyone who she got to know in Oxford, and is hoping to come over here in the Spring! **Paul Lucas**



## A Message from Andrew Ling in Perth WA.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading your newsletter and congratulate the Oxford City Branch, and Paul, for an informative Hugh's News. It was good to catch up and ring with Paul whilst on his travels through Perth, hence why you have managed to get a readership in the



Colonies. I am the editor of *Look To!* the newsletter of the Western Australian branch of the Australia and New Zealand Association of Bellringers (WAANZAB). It was in this capacity that I met up with Paul on his travels to Australia. I encouraged him to send me an article about his trip for my 'Letter to The Colonies' section. Thus, by way of reciprocation, I couldn't really decline Paul's request to similarly provide this article for Hugh's News. One might say that the respective publications are now twinned and we thus look forward to joint updates on the happenings of both regions. The WAANZAB region comprises nine rings of bells; eight towers plus our mobile belfry, the Cygnet Ring. Our preeminent tower is the Swan Bells, thus the smaller offspring was christened The Cygnet. This has further spawned the unofficial Black Cygnet group of ringers for various underground tours and nefarious ringing exploits in the same vein as the term Black Sheep. As well as the



Perth metropolitan region, we have several more remote towers including Bunbury and Rockingham to the south and York to the east. Hopefully with the addition of a second Bunbury ring now that the bells of St Leonard's Shoreditch are sitting on display in the nave of St Boniface Anglican Cathedral. These of course are the famous 'Bells of Shoreditch' to accompany the existing 'Bells of St Martins' which comprise the back 12 of the Swan Bells ring of 16, all as referenced in the London nursery rhyme. In a land the size of Australia, where the state of Western Australia is much the same size as Europe, distance can be somewhat of a challenge. Perth ringers have been assisting with the training of a new band of ringers in Bunbury; even though Bunbury is over two hours' drive south. Whilst we consider this to be local, it is akin to Oxford ringers training a band of learners in Manchester. I'm originally from the UK and learned to ring at St Peter's in St Albans. Both my parents were ringers, having met each other in the belfry. My father had learned to ring in Gloucester and rang throughout the West Country. I lived in a couple of different villages in Hertfordshire so was a regular ringer at Benington and Codicote. With a couple of mates, one summer we managed to ring at all of the towers in Hertfordshire, which by default included visiting most of the pubs in Hertfordshire as well. My job as a civil engineer presented plenty of opportunity for travel such that I have lived and worked in Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, New Zealand and now Australia. For a period of 15 years I was living in far flung locations that didn't have any bells. It was only when the opportunity of moving from Darwin to Perth presented itself that I discovered the Swan Bell Tower five years ago, and thus became hooked again. Enthusiasm was increased when my teenage daughter, Gabby, also got involved and has progressed to become a competent member of the WA ringing scene. One of the benefits of ringing in Perth is that we enjoy meeting a steady flow of overseas visitors, especially ringers from England. As such, you can be assured of a warm welcome if you are ever in this part of the world. **Andrew Ling**



## Dates for your Diary - 2017

Full details from Andrew Freer: [andrew.freer@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.freer@gmail.com) or Hugh Deam: [deamhugh@gmail.com](mailto:deamhugh@gmail.com)

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Bank Holiday Practice at Wheatley (6)	10.30am-12noon
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	Witney & Woodstock Ringers Practice at Witney (8)	10.30am-12noon
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	Advanced 8 Bell Practice at St Giles (8)	7.30pm-9.00pm
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	Branch Practice at Garsington (6)	5.00pm-6.30pm
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Advanced Simulator Practice at Headington (8)	3.30pm-5.00pm
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Practices at Cassington (6) 10.30am – 11.45am, and Eynsham (6) 12noon-1.30pm	
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	10 Bell Practice at Bicester (10)	10.30am-12noon
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Advanced 8 Bell Practice at St Giles (8)	7.30pm-9.00pm

For more details go to the Oxford City Branch website: [www.oxfordcitybranch.org.uk](http://www.oxfordcitybranch.org.uk)

Any information or photographs for inclusion in 'Branching Out' please email me: [paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk)