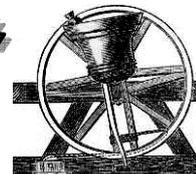




# Branching Out

## The Oxford City Branch Monthly Newsletter



Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017

As usual, lots going on over the last few weeks! Please keep your articles coming in for 'Branching Out'.

Let us know about anything that's happening in your tower that may be of interest to others.

Email me with your news and photos to: [paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk). The next edition will be on 9<sup>th</sup> September, a bit earlier than normal, because I'm going to be away for a month until the middle of October. (Deadline for copy, 7<sup>th</sup> September - no later!)

### Ringling Master's Report

It looks like Summer's back for a little while yet. Perfect then, for a trip out to Yarnton (6) 22cwt. Their weight makes them an interesting challenge for those of us used to the lighter City sixes, but all the better to practise on! Don't forget, next month is the 10 bell practice at St Mary Magdalen in Oxford. I was pleased with the 10-bell ringing at the Half-Yearly Meeting, and now's the time to think about Grandsire and Stedman Caters if you can already ring Triples. There will be called changes and Plain Hunting too, so do come along.

**Congratulations to Rachel and Fergus Colquhoun, who got married in July!** Rachel learned to ring at St Giles, and Fergus is a member of the University Society. Several of the ODG ringers joined the OUS to ring a quarter peal in celebration at St Mary Magdalen in Oxford (10).

Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> July 2017. 1264 Plain Bob Major, in 38 minutes.

Treble. Lindsay Powell; 2. Andrew R Freer; 3. David S Phillips; 4. Jonathan D Wright; 5. Craig M Robertson; 6. Wilfred J M Lewis; 7. Rosanna Cretney; Tenor. Joe Norton (C)

### Branch Practices coming up in the next few months

These practices are for all Branch members who ring from called changes upwards.

If there is something you would like to practise, you can request it on the day, or email our Ringing Master, Andrew Freer in advance.

Please be assured you will all get a warm welcome. We hope to see lots of you at many of the dates below.

Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	St Mary Magdalen, Oxford (10) (7cwt)	4.00pm-5.30pm (note: earlier time, because of a service)
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Wheatley (6) (9cwt)	10.30am-12noon (note: change of time)
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	A.G.M. at Wolvercote (6) (8cwt)	Afternoon (t.b.c.)
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Horspath (6) (5cwt)	5.00pm-6.30pm

### Other Dates for your Diary

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

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August

#### Outing to Wiltshire

10.30am St Peters, Milton Libourne (6) 10cwt; 11.45am Collingbourne Kingston (6) 19cwt;  
Lunch at The Tipple Inn, Collingbourne Ducis; 2.15pm Collingbourne Ducis (6) 11cwt

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August

Bank Holiday Practice at Chilton (6). Open to ringers of all abilities.

10.30am-12noon

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September

#### Morning Outing to Berkshire

10.00am St Augustine of Canterbury, East Hendred (6) 22cwt; 11.15am St Michaels, Blewbury (8) 19cwt;  
12.15pm Lunch at Style Acre Café, Savages Garden Centre, Blewbury; 1.30pm All Saints, North Moreton (6) 13cwt.  
(For full details and post codes for any of the above, please contact Hugh)

### Coming up - a 'Mystery Outing' !

Richard Bennett is planning an All Day 'Mystery Outing' on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September. There will be 4 towers in total, 3 six bells and 1 eight with lunch in between at a suitable venue for the theme of the trip. A menu will be sent out in advance for food orders in due course.

If there is sufficient interest, a minibus could be arranged costing around £15 per person.

Please email: [richardjamesb@btinternet.com](mailto:richardjamesb@btinternet.com) if you are interested. We will otherwise plan a convoy at a local starting point t.b.c.

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

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

### The Bells of All Saints, Cuddesdon - an update...

The bells at Cuddesdon (6) are due to be removed in the middle of October by Whites of Appleton, after the two tiers of scaffolding have been erected within the church from the 2<sup>nd</sup> October, the plan is to get the bells through two floors to above the organ, on to scaffolding, and the second tier to move them sideways to clear the organ, into the north transept!

The plan is to lower the bells by this route during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October, and it is hoped there will be an 'open evening' on the 18<sup>th</sup>, for everyone to view the bells before they go over to Appleton, where they will join the recently-cast treble from Whitechapel. It is likely that the existing treble (5cwt. 1795, cast by John Briant of Hertford) will be sold for bell metal. We have no firm date as yet for the installation of the bells after Whites have done all the preparatory work in the belfry, but it's most likely to be in early spring next year - Whites envisage three months from start to finish.

Donations towards this project are still being sought, so if you feel like giving towards this most worthy project, please contact Keith Hawley on 01865-874523. He is the motivational force behind the fund-raising.

**Brian Lowe, Tower Captain, St Giles, Horspath**



## Colin Taylor's Trip to Deepest Gloucestershire

About 15 ringers from the Oxford area visited four towers on the Gloucestershire/Worcestershire border on 24<sup>th</sup> July. Just before 10.00am, the

eight bells of **Winchcombe** church, rang out over the Cotswold town whilst the macabre gargoyles outside made appropriate faces. We also enjoyed the amenable bells at **Woolstone (6)** and **Ashchurch (8)** each set in quiet and pleasant countryside below the Cotswold scarp in the Avon Valley.



**Winchcombe**

Woolstone has a leaning tower.

The **Stanway** bells (5) were challenging and loud; however the church and manor stand close to each other and many of us explored the gatehouse, the watermill and the yew trees; the most alert spotted

the dramatic vertex of the 300ft gravity-fed fountain over the manor house, and the extensive spray it created on the leeward side. All good company, in warm weather, with pleasing ringing. **Colin Taylor**



**Ashchurch**



**Stanway House**



**Woolstone**



**Stanway**

### And Kathy's Chinese Friends came along too!

It was a great opportunity for my former swimming coach, Professor Chi (in the blue top), his wife, and his assistant to see our 'national art' of bell-ringing, and the beautiful churches, and quaint English villages and towns!



They were touched by the warm welcome they received, the pleasant journey kindly arranged by Colin, and the invitation to be in the 'team' photographs by Paul and Hugh. Professor Chi was delighted to find that he was the first person from mainland China to leave his name in some of the churches' visitor's books!

Thank you, Alison, for your enthusiastic Mandarin, Russian, and English, which contributed much to Professor Chi's satisfactory linguistic experience in England! Your multilingual conversation with him was a stimulant and greatly enjoyed by him. My guests indeed admire the courtesy characteristic of British ladies and gentlemen, well known in China but rarely mentioned or in our awareness here, and you have all become ambassadors of Britain for them.

Professor Chi, who is a professor of swimming in Guangzhou Sports University, held the 100m breaststroke youth records many times in his city, his province, Beijing, and Beijing Sports University each year from 1957 to 1963 in China. As recently as 5 years ago, Prof. Chi was also a champion in senior (age 25+) swimming competitions in China. **Kathy Xu**

### A Message from our Branch Secretary

There are two training courses currently open for applications for members of the Branch, and run by the Oxford Diocesan Guild. The Steeple Aston course provides groups from Plain Hunt to Plain Bob Major, and will allow you to develop your skills in six and eight bell method ringing. The 10 bell course is for 10 bell ringers who would like to work on Grandsire Caters.

Please look at the attached posters below for application details. Don't forget the Branch can help with costs of courses.

For further details on this, contact our Treasurer, Dorothy Hall: [dorothy@twiddlepin.org.uk](mailto:dorothy@twiddlepin.org.uk).

**Lindsay Powell**



## TEN BELL COURSE

A One Day Course organised by the  
Guild Education Committee

## STEEPLE ASTON ONE-DAY COURSE

Saturday 28th October 2017

9.15 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.

This course will provide tuition & practice on basic methods from Plain Hunting to Plain Bob Major.

Applications are invited from Guild Members only.  
Priority will be given to members who have not attended before.

Cost: £25

For further details and an application form please email  
[steepleastoncourse@odg.org.uk](mailto:steepleastoncourse@odg.org.uk)

or write, with SAE to

Richard Stanworth, 11 Valley Road, Buckingham MK18 7BW

The Application Form will also be available on the Guild Web Site  
[www.odg.org.uk](http://www.odg.org.uk)

**Closing Date For applications is 15th September 2017**

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.  
at  
St Michael and All Angels, Aston Clinton

A course on  
**Grandsire Caters**

for Guild Members who would like to develop their 10 bell ringing.

There will be a charge of £12.00 to cover a tower donation  
and refreshments. Own arrangements for lunch.  
(Pub/restaurant facilities available quite close to the Church)

NUMBERS WILL BE LIMITED SO BOOK EARLY  
TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

The closing date for applications will be 7<sup>th</sup> October.

Preference will be given to ringers who have not attended previous  
ten bell courses.

To apply for this course please contact Patricia Newton  
Tel: 01844 352926 email: [steward@southoxon.odg.org.uk](mailto:steward@southoxon.odg.org.uk)

### And finally.....!

### A few Games of 'Aunt Sally' at Old Marston !

Although, with the exception of the period when the bells were away for refurbishment, it is many years since a weekend has gone by



without ringing, or ancillary events taking place at St Nicholas or including Marston ringers, it has been a particularly composite weekend gone by. Friday evening saw us once again manage to accommodate both our weekly practice and an enjoyably social couple of hours at the Red Lion pub reacquainting ourselves with the quintessentially Oxfordshire game of 'Aunt Sally'. Thanks to Donna's organizational efforts this has become a yearly fixture on the Marston calendar. **Hugh Deam**