



Branching Out

The Oxford City Branch Monthly Newsletter

Monday 28th May 2018

Please keep your articles coming in for 'Branching Out'.

Email me with your news and photos to: paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk.

The next edition will be out on Monday 25th June. (Deadline for copy, 23rd June.)



Ringling Master's Report

Hi everyone. There was no Branch Practice this month because of the Guild AGM and because I was getting married! Thank you to

everyone who rang or sent good wishes. We were delighted to have such lovely ringing on our wedding day! Don't forget the Branch Outing to Old North Berks is coming up soon - on 30th June. Please let me know if you're coming and if you want a seat in the minibus. **Andrew Freer**

Yes, Andrew and Ali were married at St Giles Church in



Oxford on Saturday 12th May. As you can see, a large number of us gathered together for some pre-wedding ringing and while that was happening, Andrew arrived with some bottles of Champagne so that we could drink a toast to the happy couple! **Paul Lucas**



After the wedding, a full peal of Grandsire Triples was rung by some of the great and the good from the Oxford University Society.

- Treble. Adam D Rebeck; 2. Cameron A Waters; 3. Isobel L Fray; 4. David S Phillips;
- 5. Craig M Robertson; 6. Christopher I Griggs; 7. Simon A Bond (C); Tenor. Wilfred J M Lewis.

Then, two days later on Monday 14th May, a Quarter Peal of Plain Bob Major was rung at St Giles, dedicated to Andrew and Ali.

- Treble. John G Pusey; 2. Dana Josephson; 3. Alison T Merryweather-Clarke; 4. Lindsay Powell;
- 5. Michael Probert; 6. Stephen Everett; 7. David Jackson; 8. Rosanna Cretney (C).

(First Quarter Peal on an inside bell to Major for Dana Josephson)

It goes without saying that we wish Andrew and Ali all the best wishes for the future – and hopefully he will be able to give us a suitable Ringing Master's report in the next edition of Branching Out!

Branch Secretary's Report

First of all, many congratulations from me to Andrew and Ali!

Don't forget the Half Yearly Meeting and Striking Competition which are both on Saturday 9th June, along with the Branch Practice as follows:-

It's at St Andrews in Headington. 10.30am – 12.00 noon Branch Practice (on the simulator)

12.00 noon – 1.00pm. Lunch in the church at Headington. (£3.50 per head – but free, if you can bring a cake to share!)

1.00pm. Half Yearly Meeting

2.15pm. Striking Competition

Please can you let me know if your tower is entering a team for the striking competition? If you do not have enough to form a team we will be forming 'scratch bands' on the day, so do please come along.

The rules are very relaxed – 2 minutes practice, followed by 4 minutes of ringing of your choice, which will be judged.

I am going to be away between 18th May and 1st June, but should have some access to emails – I will get back to you when I can. If you have any items to add to the agenda, please let me know. Certificates for new members elected at the previous meetings will be available for collection. It would be lovely if as many new members as possible could attend to collect them in person!

Lindsay Powell

Dates for your Diary

Sadly, Donna Bennett's trip to Northamptonshire on Saturday 2nd June has had to be cancelled this time because there were not enough people available to go along on the day. Donna says she will try again next year, picking a less busy time of year.

For more details about everything else, please go to the Oxford City Branch website: www.oxfordcitybranch.org.uk
Any articles or photographs for inclusion in '*Branching Out*' please email me: paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk

A list of Branch Practices coming up

Saturday 9th June: Half Yearly Meeting. See details above in Lindsay's report.
Saturday 30th June: Branch Outing organised by Andrew Freer - all day. Venues (t.b.c.), but probably Old North Berks Branch towers.
Saturday 14th July: Cowley (6) Branch Practice 5.00pm - 6.30pm
Saturday 11th August: Yarnton (6) Branch Practice 5.00pm - 6.30pm
Saturday 8th September: Marston (6) Branch Practice 5.00pm - 6.30pm
Saturday 13th October: Wolvercote (6) Branch Practice 10.30am - 12 noon
Saturday 17th November: Wheatley holding the AGM in the afternoon – actual time still to be confirmed
Saturday 8th December: Iffley (6) Branch Practice 10.30am-12 noon (tbc)

Please remember that all these Branch Practices are open to people of all abilities. Everyone is welcome.

Congratulations to Benjamin!

On Saturday 19th May, 13 year old Benjamin Poole of **St Nicholas, Marston** rang his very first quarter peal, having only taken up ringing last Autumn. Most of us will probably have rung our inaugural quarter with that being the primary reason for the quarter, so being charged with commemorating the Royal wedding, something which we could hardly retry on another day, is no mean way to start!

Congratulations Benjamin on what is likely to be the first of many quarter peals and full peals.

1260 Doubles – 5 methods: St Simon's, Plain Bob, Reverse Canterbury, All Saints, Grandsire.
Treble. Anthony Hughes; 2. Jane Hedges; 3. Maarit Kivilo (C);
4. Hugh Deam (C); 5. Judy Kirby; Tenor. Benjamin Poole

Rung to mark the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle – Duke and Duchess of Sussex.



Bernard Masterman

Some of you will remember Patrick Hobson, a retired Anglican priest who used to ring with us at St Giles. Patrick and his wife, Penny have visited Bernard several times since his accident (which happened a week before Easter), and following another visit, Patrick has just let me know that Bernard has been moved again, this time to somewhere where he is likely to stay long term. Patrick's message says: "He is now at Cumnor Hill House, a grand, newly-built home, near the top of Cumnor Hill. It seems he should be well looked after there, but of course there is a lot for him to get used to.

The staff are very welcoming of visitors, and Bernard is in an en suite room of his own. As it is a new place, they must learn how to look after their first blind resident, but they seem to want to try - and Bernard will assist them in their learning".

John Pusey



The Kidlington Practice moves to Witney – for one night only!

As Kidlington and Witney both hold their practice nights on a Tuesday night, it was suggested that we could help each other out when one tower was short of ringers. So on the 8th May, the Kidlington ringers joined the Witney practice, along with some others from Marston, Iffley, Ducklington and South Leigh.

We rang rounds and call changes, Plain Bob, Grandsire, Stedman Triples and Cambridge Minor. We also rang a very nice course of Kent which would have been good for a striking competition!

Andrew Goldthorpe is hoping to arrange a reciprocal visit to us at Kidlington in the near future. Please have a look at the Witney and Woodstock website for more information. **Ron Burgess – Tower Captain, Kidlington**

<https://www.witneyandwoodstockbells.co.uk>



Dave Jennings trip to Essex on Saturday 5th May

Coggeshall (10); Greenstead Green (6); Halstead (8); Toppesfield (8); Ridgewell (6); Haverhill (6).

There was an excellent turn out of ringers from the Oxfordshire area on Saturday 5th May, when we ventured into the lovely villages and towns in deepest Essex – all chosen by Dave Jennings who lives in Ridgewell, but has been working and ringing in Oxford for a couple of years now. He had organized an equally successful trip last year, so this one was eagerly anticipated. On both occasions we were blessed with glorious weather!



The 'team photo' at Halstead



Coggeshall



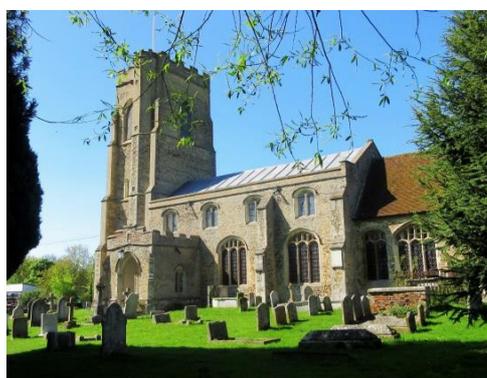
Greenstead Green



Halstead



Toppesfield



Ridgewell



Haverhill



And everyone enjoyed a lovely lunch in the sunshine at 'The Green Man' at Toppesfield!

Locally, a 'Coggeshall Job' refers to a ludicrous piece of work, originating from an incident where the church clock only struck eleven at midday and on reports of the church clock at nearby Lexton striking thirteen, villagers were said to have cycled over to try and retrieve the missing strike. Local legends are more often than not apocryphal, but there was nothing other than plain truth regarding what an excellent ringing outing this proved to be. The stars may well have been in alignment for us as well as Harry and Meghan, with lovely weather, verdant backdrops, picturesque villages, elegant market towns, some good bells to ring, a fine turnout and expert organisation by David Jennings, ably assisted by his ever helpful grandson, David 'Dee Dee' Meades. **Hugh Deam**



A Bank Holiday Practice at Chilton (6) on 28th May

For some years now ringing on the splendid bells of **All Saints, Chilton** has been a Bank Holiday staple and our late Spring Bank Holiday Monday visit once again proved a treat with which to culminate the weekend.

Not only did we have a really good turnout, but it was also gratifying that we were able to offer a first go on a bell rope to Rob, one of our party who is due to officially start learning at Newbury next week. During the morning we managed to fit in seven different Minor and Doubles methods.

A heartfelt thanks to Kate and David for their hospitality and we look forward to meeting up again on August Bank Holiday Monday.

Hugh Deam