



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News



(Produced fortnightly by Hugh Deam and Paul Lucas. All contributions are welcome.)

Monday 25th July 2011

Bell Restoration Appeal for St Mary the Virgin (6), Oxford (27cwt).

Recent examination of the bells and their fittings by Whites have found that the bells are in urgent need of repair. The headstocks of the front five bells are made of elm and have splits in them; all are distorted and twisted, taking the bearings out of alignment. The bearings of the front five bells revolve in plain brass housings which are extremely worn and corroded and one of the pivots of the fourth bell has cracked rendering this bell unringable since 2009. The bell wheels are in poor condition and the rims are now starting to degrade. The pulley wheels are heavily worn. The bell frame is sound but needs to be cleaned, de-rusted and repainted. The bells are sound, but require turning due to heavy wear in the soundbow areas where the clappers strike. The proposed work is that the bells will be rehung with new fittings in the existing oak and cast iron frame which will be cleaned and repainted. Bells one to five will be turned and hung on cast iron headstocks with new bearings. The Tenor bell will be turned and rehung on its refurbished cast iron headstock and bearing housings. All the bells will have new hardwood wheels, hardwood pulley units, ash stays, sliders and hardwood runner boards. New hardwood floor rope bosses and anodised aluminium ceiling rope bosses will be installed. The total cost of the project will be around £30,000 which the Oxford Society of Change Ringers and the Oxford University Society of Change Ringers have jointly undertaken to raise, and the work will be carried out by Whites.

If you would like to consider making a donation, please get in touch with Simon Bond, 5 Hodges Court, Oxford. OX1 4NX, or email: simon.bond@gmail.com

The University Society has a Bell Restoration Fund, which is a Registered Charity (No 290086). Donations to the project will be channelled through this fund as it enables donations from UK taxpayers to be Gift Aided and thus increase the value of the donation by 25%. **Simon Bond.**



Branch Ringing and Picnic at Mapledurham on Saturday 16th July.



After a veritable dousing of rain during the morning, it seemed inconceivable that the sun would make an appearance by the afternoon, thus showing off the tight grouping of church, watermill and Elizabethan manor house at their best. We received a warm welcome, with our ringing capturing the intense interest of numerous tourists, particularly American, who took myriad photographs of us in action! The village derives its name from a spring where maple trees grow, with Mapledurham Mill, the only remaining working wooden machinery watermill on the River Thames, being the inspiration for Toad Hall in "The Wind in the Willows". It was restored in 1977 after being used as the central location for the filming of the 1976 movie "The Eagle Has Landed" (You can see a picture above from the film, starring Michael Caine!). The bells are rung from the ground floor in a room that doubles as the kitchen. After an hours ringing, some of us enjoyed a picnic among the gravestones in the churchyard! **Hugh Deam.**



Dates for your Diary

Full details from Hugh Deam on 07899-871079, or email: hugh.deam@btinternet.com

Tuesday 2nd August

Advanced Practice at **Headington (8)** 7¹/₂cwt 8.00pm

(Some of the Headington Ringers are on holiday, so your support would be appreciated!)

Sunday 21st August

Sunday Afternoon mini-outing to **Swalcliffe (6)** 13cwt and **Tadmerton (6)** 11cwt.

(1st tower 12.30pm, followed by lunch. then 2nd tower 3.00pm – this is all subject to confirmation)

Saturday 3rd September

St. Mary Magdalen (10) 10cwt. Caters and Royal Practice. 6.30pm-7.45pm

Saturday 10th September

Garsington (6) 9¹/₂cwt. Six-Bell Practice. 10.30am-11.45am

Saturday 8th October

Iffley (6) 10cwt. Six Bell Method Practice. 10.00am-11.15am

Local Practice Nights:

Mondays:

Cowley (6) (7.30-9.00), Garsington (6), (8.00-9.00), St Aldates (6) (2nd/4th week only).

Tuesdays:

Headington (8), Kidlington (8), Horspath (6).

Wednesdays:

Iffley (6).

Thursdays:

Wolvercote (6), St Giles (8), Stanton St John (5).

Fridays:

Old Marston (6), Wheatley (6), North Hinksey (6) (6.45-7.45)

Note: Most Practices start at 7.30pm, but before turning up, check the details of the Ringing Times, Tower Captains and Correspondents, by going to the Oxford City Branch website: www.oxfordcitybranch.org.uk

Any information or photographs for inclusion in **Hugh's News** (subject to space available), please email me:

paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk