



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News!



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

Monday 5th April 2010.

Chichester Cathedral Outing by Margaret Marsh.

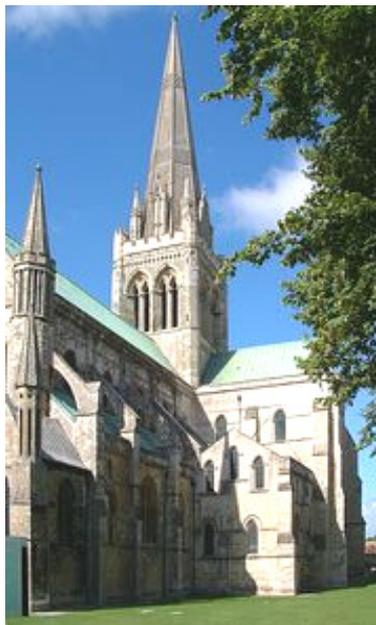
My first bellringing outing was to Chichester Cathedral on a wet and grey day when the early daffodils were showing their colour and spring was in the air. What a great English experience it was, and a valuable personal one!

Many years ago as an undergraduate I studied the great English Cathedrals as part of my architecture degree in Australia. I never imagined that one day I would ring in one of them, which makes the experience all the more valuable.

I was late coming to bell ringing being in my sixties when I started at St Giles Oxford, and found my progress slow and hesitant. So when we entered the tower and up 85 steps of a narrow circular stair into the ringing room I felt daunted by the scale of the room and the long draught of the ropes. But with encouragement and help I managed to ring and began to understand why these eccentric people travel across the country and some around the world collecting towers to ring in!

We travelled by minibus, and in the latter stages through narrow English roads. The smaller churches were set in very green graveyards and held fascinating accumulations of architectural history from Saxon, Norman, Early English and Gothic eras. And each set of bells was so different.

Thank you to Hugh Deam and Roy Jones for organising this outing and allowing me to have this unique experience.



Dates for your Diary:

Saturday 10th April	St Giles, Oxford (8)	Branch Practice	10.00am
Saturday 17th April	St Thomas, Oxford (10)	Grandsire Caters Practice.	6.30pm
		Practice for prospective Quarter Peal band.	
Saturday 24th April	Morning Outing – Berkshire	10.15 St Nicholas. Beedon (6). 6cwt	
		11.30 S.M.V. Chieveley (8). 11cwt	
		12.30 St Barnabas. Peasmore (6). 8.5cwt	
		(Minor and Triples methods only.)	

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

Future events:

Saturday 8th May	Cowley (6)	Half Yearly Branch Meeting.	3.30pm
		6 Bell Striking Competition.	6.00pm
Saturday 15th May	Bicester (10)	Grandsire Caters Practice	10.30am
		(Prospective Quarter Peal band only.)	
Saturday 25th September	Shiplake (8)	Michaelmas Training Course.	
		(Full details from Katie Lane on 01865-874026)	

Local Practice Nights:

Mondays:	Cowley (6) (7.00-9.00), St Aldates (6) (2 nd /4 th week), Garsington (6).
Tuesdays:	Headington (8), Kidlington (8), Horspath (6). (Headington has an Advanced Practice from 8.00–9.00pm on the first Tuesday of each month. Stedman Triples and beyond! The next one is tomorrow - April 6th .) (Kidlington has an Advanced Triples Practice from 7.45–9.00pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The next one is on 27th April . <i>All experienced ringers are welcome at both.</i>)
Wednesdays:	Iffley (6).
Thursdays:	Wolvercote (6), St Giles (8), Stanton St John (6).
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:

<http://www.oxfordcitybranch.org.uk>

Any information or photographs for possible inclusion in **Hugh's News** (subject to space available), please email me: paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk