



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

Produced fortnightly by Paul and Hugh, with contributions from other ringers.

Monday 13th February 2012

(The next edition of Hughs News will be on Monday 12th March as I'm going to be away - Paul.)



Margaret Marsh attended the Sydney Ring School 20th - 22nd January 2012.



Greetings from Sydney! Yes I'm ringing again, and have just participated in a 'Ring School'. There are thirteen towers in regional N.S.W. and one in Canberra. Once a year some of these country ringers come to the Sydney Ring School, where they travel long distances to get to Sydney and work hard and enjoy the experience of a variety of towers and ringing with new people. Being recently resettled in Australia, I was invited to participate. It was an interesting experience. We rang in four different venues. There were several younger ringers (including pre-adolescents) who do not show any fear and who learn so quickly! On the final day we were invited to St Marys Cathedral (12 +2



bells – 34cwt), where we had the opportunity to ring rounds on ten bells. This was a lovely experience for they are beautiful bells (see photo). The original eight were cast in 1842 and hung in a detached campanile and hence escaped the fire which destroyed the cathedral in 1865. The Cathedral was rebuilt and a new central tower with new bells was added. In 1986 the old bells were rehoused in other towers and a new Whitechapel ring of 12 installed and these are now rung for service and practice. *Margaret Marsh.*

Minor Method Practice at Iffley (6) on Saturday 28th January.

Although we have been intermittently holding similar practices at Iffley for a year or so, this was something of a precursor to our upcoming minor method mini-outings that aim to concentrate on the myriad minor methods beyond Plain Bob Minor and will hopefully provide branch towers with extra ringers confident in method, so they can assist others wishing to learn. Our thanks are due to the Iffley Ringers for the use of their tower, and promise of future use for what is a vital component in bolstering the ringing standard of the Branch. *Hugh Deam.*

Stedman Triple Practice at Witney (8) on Saturday 4th February.



Six of us from the Witney and Woodstock Branch welcomed eight City Branch members and two visitors to Witney on a cold bright Saturday morning for our joint Stedman Triples practice. The picture shows 15 of the 16 happy Stedman ringers standing beneath a peal board which proclaims "Perseverance is crowned with success". Success was indeed achieved by those who variously rang their first plain courses of Stedman, enjoyed Witney's sonorous ring of 8 for the first time, and honed their Stedman touches, plus or minus singles. And those of us who feel the need to persevere a bit more are looking forward to the next joint 8 Bell Practice on March 3rd at Kidlington. *Alison Merryweather-Clarke.*



Right: A little bit more nostalgia! (The year is uncertain.) Bernard Masterman, John Pusey, John Lonsborough and Len Porter practicing on the St Giles handbells.



Dates for your Diary

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

Saturday 18th February	Branch Practice at Headington (8) 7½ cwt. (This Practice will include a short meeting to approve the end of year Branch accounts)	10.30am-11.45am
Saturday 3rd March	Stedman Triples Practice at Kidlington (8) 21cwt. (Combined Practice with Witney & Woodstock)	10.30am-12.00pm
Tuesday 6th March	Advanced Practice at Headington (8) 7½ cwt.	8.00pm-9.00pm
Saturday 17th March	10 Bell Practice at St. Mary Magdalen (10) 7cwt	6.30pm-7.45pm
Saturday 24th March	'Spring Outing' to Cambridgeshire on Saturday 24th March. 10.45am Cambridge (Trumpington) (8) 10cwt. 12.15pm Gamlingay (8) 16cwt. 1.15pm lunch at The Duncombe Arms, Eltisley. 2.45pm Great Gransden (6) 13cwt. 3.45pm Croxton (6) 10cwt.	
	(Hugh has hired a minibus for the day, so he needs to know how many people are going. The cost per person including tower fees is £15)	
Saturday 14th April	Major Method Practice at Witney (8) 16cwt (Combined Practice with Witney & Woodstock)	10.30am-12.00pm

Local Practice Nights:

Mondays:	Garsington (6), St Aldates (6).
Tuesdays:	Headington (8), Kidlington (8), Horspath (6).
Wednesdays:	Iffley (6).
Thursdays:	Wolvercote (6), St Giles (8), Stanton St John (5), Cowley (6).
Fridays:	Old Marston (6), Wheatley (6), North Hinksey (6) (6.45-7.45).

For full details go to the Oxford City Branch website: www.oxfordcitybranch.org.uk

Any information or photographs for inclusion in *Hugh's News* please email me: paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk