



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News



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

Monday 7th December 2013

Happy New Year Everyone!

Because there has been so much has been going on over Christmas, this edition is 2 pages long again!



Arthur Ernest Burrell

Many congratulations to Christian and Alice Burrell on the birth of Arthur Ernest on 10th December 2012! Arthur weighed in at a massive 9lbs 5oz! According to Christian, he is clearly destined to be a tenor ringer!

Christian and Alice lived in Oxford, before moving to Cambridge in August 2010. Christian was a ringer all round Oxford, and was a great inspiration to many new ringers in the area. We'll see Christian again when he will be joining us for the Spring Outing to Cambridgeshire in March. *Paul Lucas.*

A Peal at St Mary's Kidlington (8)

A Peal of Cambridge Surprise Major was rung on Friday 14th December 2012 following the Centenary of the first ever peal of Cambridge Surprise Major rung on the bells. Also, it was rung as thanksgiving for the life



of Edwin Randolph Snow – 'Uncle Ted' to the ringer of the third. Ringers are as follows:-

1. Ron Burgess, 2. Julie Haseldine, 3. Catherine Lane, 4. Mark Vincent, 5. Simon Edwards, 6. Anthony Ellis, 7. Ken Davenport (c), 8. Andrew Haseldine. *Ron Burgess.*

The Wolvercote Hand Bell Ringers



Jon Beale and all the Wolvercote Hand Bell Ringers put on a terrific performance of Christmas carols on 12th December for the residents of Marston Court residential home, where I work as Activities Coordinator. The residents loved every minute of the show, and were delighted to be allowed to 'have a go' themselves (on some of the slightly cheaper bells!) to a mass rendition of 'Jingle Bells'! *Paul Lucas.*

A Drama at St Mary's Kidlington!

We hope that none of us will never need to be rescued from the ringing chamber, but it is comforting to know that the Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Services have just carried out a full scale practice of what

is called a 'Top Down Lower' attended rescue at St Mary's Church, Kidlington, from the ringing chamber through the hatch down into the Church transept, which would also assist the Ambulance service. This is a confined space stretcher using a 6:1 pulley system. This was all controlled by Chris Barber, the Watch Manager, and carried out by Fire Fighters Andy Smallwood (the Training



Officer and the man on the stretcher!), Paul Roberts (with the stretcher), Owen Pates and Chris Aust.

If you have any concerns in your Tower about access, and if you have to go through a narrow or steep climb to the ringing chamber, attend to a clock, or raise and lower a flag, then I would recommend you to contact your local Fire Officer on 01865 842999 for a rescue assessment.

Ron Burgess.





Happy Birthday Alison!

The Oxford City Branch would like to congratulate the 'Renaissance Woman' – Molecular Biologist, Triathlete, Fund-Raiser, Trombonist, Archer, and of course, Bell Ringer - that is Alison Merryweather-Clarke, Ringing Master of the Witney & Woodstock Branch, who celebrated her 50th Birthday on Sunday 23rd December, culminating in a Birthday Party at the Turner Hall, North Leigh!

Hugh Deam.



Iffley Christmas Ringing and Party on Wednesday 12th December

Autumn may own the franchise for being the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, but on a cold December evening, Iffley tower provided winter with its own bon mot on a theme, namely that it has the capacity to be the season of frosts and mulled fruitfulness. This well established Iffley tradition of fusing ringing and socialising acts as an oasis amidst the hurly-burly of the Christmas build-up, and it was especially memorable this year as there were plenty of new ringers in the tower to experience this seasonal get-together for the first time. *Hugh Deam*

Recent 'Notable Achievements'

500 – not out!

On Christmas Eve, Jonathan Beale, the Tower Captain at St Peter's Wolvercote (6) rang his 500th Quarter Peal. He conducted the Quarter Peal himself, which contained 3 methods.

1.Sandra Bailey, 2.Janice Beale, 3.Roy Jones, 4.Donna Murphy, 5.Jonathan Beale (c) 6. Hugh Deam.

To The Branch Treasurer's 'Surprise'....!

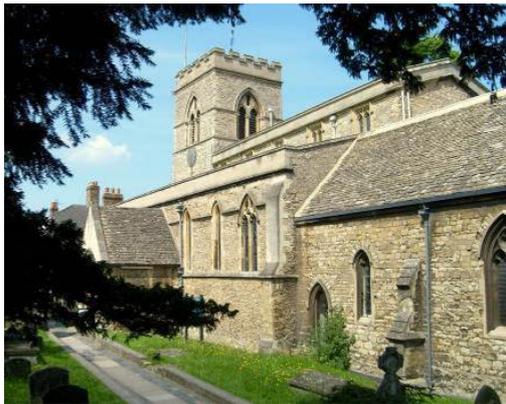
Matthew Malek rang his first Quarter Peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor at James, Cowley (6) on 16th December 2012.

1.Nicholas J Hartley, 2.Samuel Press, 3.John G Pusey, 4.Katherine A Stonham, 5.Matthew S Malek, 6.Jonathan Cresshull (c).

Congratulations to both!

TV Filming at St Giles

Julia Zantl of "interscience" films, who filmed the bells being rung at St Giles on 1st September 2012, rang me from Germany early in December to let me know that a film ready for broadcasting has now been completed, and that she felt that it had been a success. The film will probably be broadcast for the first time sometime in March this year, on one of the French TV channels, and subsequently on a German channel. The film company have said that they would let us know precise details of the broadcast(s) when they are available. It will be part of a series titled something like 'Castles and Palaces' (which of these categories includes St Giles?); the other programmes in the series will mostly relate to locations in other countries in Western Europe. It was confirmed that they intend to let us have a copy of the programme about St Giles on a DVD, but will not do so until after the first broadcast. All of this is in line with what we were told in September; but it was good to hear that things had progressed satisfactorily since then. We haven't been told yet what has been included in the programme, but what was filmed included: fairly extensive interviews with me and with Bernard Masterman; Plain Hunt on three bells plus a cover, rung fully muffled with the camera crew in the bell chamber; several repetitions of 48 changes of Plain and Little Bob Major rung on open tower bells; and Plain Hunt Major rung on one handbell each by the same eight ringers. *John Pusey.*



Dates for your Diary

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

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|--|---|-------------------|
| Tuesday 8th January 2013 | Advanced Practice at Headington (8) 7½cwt | 8.00pm-9.00pm |
| | <i>(All experienced ringers, and people who want to learn with a 'strong' band are welcome)</i> | |
| Saturday 12th January | Branch Practice at Witney (8) 16cwt | 10.30am-12.00noon |
| Saturday 2nd February | Stedman Triples Practice at Woodstock (8) 12cwt | 10.30am-12.00noon |

Local Practice Nights

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|--------------------|---|
| Mondays: | St Aldates (6). Garsington (6) (No Practices at the moment), <i>(Good news! The Garsington bells are hopefully going to be available again in April after re-hanging)</i> |
| 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) (6.30-7.30). |

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