



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

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



Monday 1st December 2014

(This edition includes an extra page)

10 Bell Striking Competition held at Long Crendon (10)

On Saturday 22nd November, the **Oxford Diocesan Guild** held their annual 10-bell Striking Competition at **Long Crendon**. With eight branches competing for the trophy, the competition has never been so popular, and with another two branches only one person short of being able to enter a band, it is a vast improvement on its early days when only Reading and High Wycombe would take part. The test piece was a short touch of Grandsire Caters, which we practised at St Thomas in Oxford on the previous evening. Our practice was a little frayed, with a miscall in the first run-through, and a bit of difficulty in steadying our rhythm on the light bells.

However, Long Crendon are a fair amount heavier, so we were confident that we would be able to improve and smooth out the inconsistencies. Drawn to ring first, there was no opportunity to listen to other bands and establish a sensible speed, but this was not a problem as we settled into some confident rounds and an entirely



Jonathan Cresshull

respectable test piece, with only a couple of minor hesitations. The final result? We were placed fourth. Not a bad effort at all, considering it was our first appearance at this competition. Many thanks to all those that took part, particularly to Simon Bond and Wilf Lewis for supporting our practice session on Friday evening.

Our outgoing Branch Secretary will just have to beat her parents next year instead!

Front Row (1-6): Jonathan Cresshull (C), Katie Lane, Katherine Stonham, Hazel Rothera, Catrin Morgan
Back Row (7-10): John Pusey, Chris Griggs, Simon Edwards, Mark Tarrant, Paul Lucas

Results: Central Bucks (85%), Reading (81%), EBSB (80%), Oxford City (79%), Vale of the White Horse (78%), Old North Berks (77%), Newbury (72%), Banbury (70%). (Judges: Paul and Kate Flavell)

Graduated Practice at Freeland (6) – 22nd November

In the old days, I would drive Susan to the annual practice at Freeland and enjoy a pint at the Oxfordshire Yeoman next to St Mary the Virgin while she rang, but it's different now. Hugh put me on treble "to find out what progress I had made since last year". After being called briskly up to five and back, followed immediately by two courses each of plain hunt on five, Grandsire and Bob Doubles, I was relieved to discover that the answer was "quite a lot", although it does help so much to have a strong band around one. There were eleven of us (which makes something of a crowd at Freeland), including four ringers I'd not met before. Perhaps by our next outing to Freeland I'll have learned to ring by place, in which case I'll be back to the Oxfordshire Yeoman to celebrate. **Simon King**

This Year's Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees

After the great success last year, the 'Cowley Festival of Christmas Trees' is taking place again this December, with even more trees due to be on display throughout the church this year.



Hugh Deam



The festival runs from Saturday 6th to Sunday 14th December, the church being open most afternoons and all day on the Saturdays. There is a gala concert on the first Saturday, a family fun day on the second Saturday and a closing carol service on the 14th. Proceeds go to charity and full details are available online at:

<http://www.cowleyteamministry.co.uk/>

Dates for your Diary

Full details from Hugh Deam at: [hugh.deam at btinternet.com](http://hugh.deam.btinternet.com) or phone: 07899-871079

Thursday 4 th December	Wolvercote. Quiz hosted by Hugh in the church hall.	7.00pm onwards
Saturday 10 th January 2015	Yarnton (6) Branch Practice hosted by the Witney and Woodstock ringers	10.30am-12noon
Saturday 17 th January	Kidlington (8) Practice hosted by the Kidlington ringers	10.30am-12noon
Saturday 24 th January	Abingdon (10) Royal, Caters, Major and Triples with the Abingdon ringers and Benson (8)	10.00am-11.00am 11.45am-12.45pm
Saturday 31 st January	Iffley (6) Practice hosted by the Iffley ringers	10.30am-12noon
Saturday 7 th February	King's Sutton (8) 11.00am; Brackley (8) 12.30pm; Triples and Major mini-outing	

For more 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 at hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk)

Too late for Hugh's News – here is Katie's Post Script!

As I write I can hear the Wheatley bells ringing for the morning service. I regret that I cannot be there with them as it is the sound that first drew me to ringing.

I have had my grandchildren staying with me for over a week. Many of you know that they live in Sweden and I seldom see them so when they are with me ringing takes a back seat while I endlessly read Thomas the Tank Engine to the three year old and stop the 15 month old from chasing the cat.

Hugh has sent me all the dates that he has arranged for various ringing activities. Hopefully the dates leave the second Saturday each month for a City Branch Practice but the second Saturday often clash with a variety of Guild events and courses too so we may have to do a bit of juggling to accommodate all we want to achieve.

I have arranged a meeting with other officers and will also be in contact with Hugh – first I will need to wave the family back home so I can think straight!

Meanwhile I would be so grateful if Tower Correspondents/ Captains could send me their current email addresses so that I can keep in touch. I requested this in the last edition of Hugh's News: how many replies did I receive? NONE! I do so hope that this is just an oversight and not a general malaise. Hopefully Paul can hyperlink my address so that all you have to do is click onto it.

[kt.catchmole at googlemail.com](mailto:kt.catchmole@googlemail.com)

The towers that have no confirmed up-to-date contact for are:

Marston, Horspath, Garsington, North Hinksey, Cowley, Stanton-St-John, Wolvercote and Iffley.

The weeks leading up to Christmas are a busy time for all ringers. I have a number of work-related commitments which sneak into evening ringing such as school carol services, governors' meetings and escorting youngsters to Heathrow; I will be lucky if I get to any practices, but I will try, otherwise you will begin to doubt my existence. Despite all this please contact me if you are going to be short for some special event in your church and I will do my best to help you. *Katie Lane*