



# Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

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



Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015

## Roy Jones Memorial Tree Planting

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January, the Marston ringers joined the Parish Council, family and residents at a short tree planting ceremony in

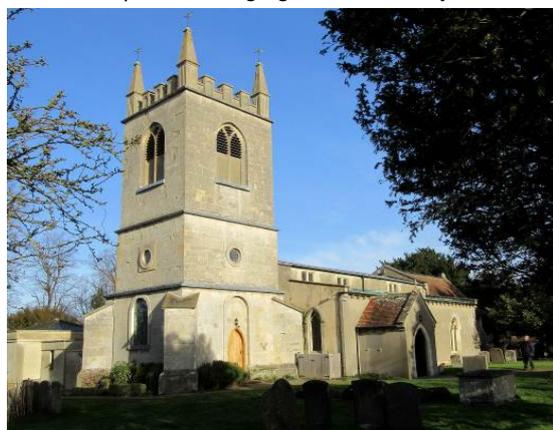
memory of ringer Roy Jones who died in May 2014. The tree is a White Willow (*Salix Alba*) and is planted in the Mortimer Hall Recreation Ground at the junction of Oxford Road and Marston Ferry Road. Not only did Roy maintain an extraordinary bell-ringing career of seventy years largely based at the tower of St. Nicholas, Marston, but had for many years contributed significantly to local affairs through the Parish and Parochial Church Councils. Parish Council Chairman, Charles Haynes, and City Councillor Mick Haines addressed the ceremony highlighting Roy's notable input. A plaque is to be made marking Roy's tree and will be attached to the adjacent railings. **Anthony Hughes**



## Abingdon (10) and Benson (8) – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January

The fact that it has been twelve years (February 2003) since the last time I booked a 10-bell tower for practice ringing, coincidentally the self-

same tower of **St. Helen's, Abingdon (10)**, attests to the rollercoaster ride that is bell-ringing. Being a Branch devoid of 10-bells towers means that it should come as no surprise that the further reaches of the diagrams book are not well-thumbed for the vast majority of ringers and equally that to book a 10-bell tower is fraught with risk as to turnout and scope of ambition, especially in the midst of winter. The absence of the safety-net of ringing on six, or even eight, may indeed add a certain piquancy to arranging a 10-bell visit, but it's also a whizz for manifesting a knot in the stomach and restless nights in the week leading up to the day itself. Fortunately a degree of contingency planning meant that the morning ultimately proved of inordinate benefit to ringers from the City Branch and **Witney & Woodstock Branch**, with grateful thanks due to the Abingdon and Benson ringers who pitched in to make method ringing possible. Within sight of the church in **Benson (8)** the morning was rounded off by lunch at the Waterfront Café overlooking the River Thames. We had reserved a table, and just as well, as this is an immensely popular eatery, boasting quite the most extensive menu I believe any of us had ever encountered! **Hugh Deam**



## A Practice hosted by the Iffley ringers – Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January

So often, anywhere you may care to go across the country, ringers at a host tower for practices such as this take the opportunity to go AWOL and leave it to the visitors to take the strain, but not so here, with **Iffley** and **Cowley** ringers enthusiastically using this collaboration to hone their various methods of choice, from asymmetric trebling, through St. Remigius and St. Simon's, to Plain and Little Bob Minor. **Hugh Deam**

## Next Saturday's Trip to Kings Sutton and Brackley

If anyone else is interested attending the outing to King's Sutton (8) and Brackley (8) on Saturday, please email me. Also, can you let me know if you are planning to stay on for lunch, which is at *Rachel's Farm Shop*. They don't serve alcohol, but are happy for you to bring your own and will provide glasses. **Hugh Deam**

## Dates for your Diary

Full details from Hugh Deam at: [hugh.deam at btinternet.com](mailto:hugh.deam@btinternet.com) or Katie Lane at: [kt.catchmole at googlemail.com](mailto:kt.catchmole@googlemail.com)

Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	King's Sutton (8) 11.00am; Brackley (8) 12.30pm; Triples and Major mini-outing	
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Headington (8) Branch Practice – open to all ringers</b>	<b>10.30pm-12noon</b>
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Cowley (6) Practice hosted by the Cowley ringers	4.30pm-6.00pm
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Islip (8) Ringing up and down practice, hosted by the Islip ringers	10.30am-12noon
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Church Hanborough (6) 13cwt	10.30am-12noon

For more details go to the Oxford City Branch website: [www.oxfordcitybranch.org.uk](http://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)