



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

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

Monday 16th February 2015



Mini Outing to King's Sutton (8 - 14cwt) and Brackley (8 - 13cwt) on Saturday 7th February

Despite this being the time of year known to farmers as the 'hungry gap', a description that could equally well apply to bell-ringing in a 'fill-

dyke February', an autumnal sowing of tower booking managed to come to harvest. Long-range weather forecasting may well have advanced a long way in recent years, but booking early to avoid the Christmas and New Year distractions is still a leap of faith unless one is a devotee of counting the abundance of berries on holly trees, squeezing seaweed or consulting Old Moore's Almanac as to how things may transpire at the hind end of winter.



King's Sutton

Brackley

St. Peter's church in King's Sutton boasts one of the most magnificent spires of any parish church in the country, rising to a height of nigh on 200ft, and completes the triumvirate of mighty towers that stretch in a straight line from Bloxham in the west, across to Adderbury and over the county border to here.



Although the church in Brackley has no spire, the 13th century west tower is furnished on its exterior with some fine niches of seated figures. Both towers possess bells that gave everyone a fair chance to burnish their triples and major ringing, whether it be inside or trebling. Instead of decamping to a pub for lunch we went to 'Rachel's Farm Shop' where most of what is on the menu is sourced from their long-established farm. **Hugh Deam**

'First Peal 2015'

The Central Council is supporting a nation-wide plan called 'First Peal 2015', with the aim to get 300 ringers through their first peal this year (double the usual number). It's not too soon to start thinking about who we could encourage to ring their first peal. **FirstPeal2015** is a yearlong initiative to mark a special year for ringing. It has three aims:

- As many ringers as possible to ring their first peal during the year.
- A lot of special ringing to mark the anniversary, on or near 2nd May.
- A concerted publicity effort to tell the public about the heritage skills and cultural importance of bell ringing.

The peal on 2nd May 1715 at **St Peter Mancroft, Norwich (12)** was a landmark event during a period when ringers were making great progress. The previous century had seen change ringing develop to the point that many of the concepts and terminology familiar to modern ringers were already in place. Ringers had devised new methods, and they had moved to ringing on progressively higher numbers of bells. At each stage they placed great emphasis on finding ways to ring every possible row (sequence) without repetition – what we now call an extent but which they called a 'complete peal'. **It would be very satisfying for The City Branch to contribute to this landmark year and so please contact me if you would like to rise to the challenge!** **Katie Lane**

Another 'First' for Charlotte!

On Sunday 1st February, Charlotte Furneaux from **Cowley** rang only her second quarter peal, having rung her first at Cowley just a few months ago. Not only did she hunt the treble to five methods (the previous quarter having been just one method), but also this was the first time she had ever rung on the Marston bells.

On the previous Sunday, a quarter peal of six methods was jointly conducted by five of the band, with this being Judy Kirby's first stint at conducting. Congratulations and thanks, in equal measure, are due to those who took part in both quarters. **Hugh Deam**



Sunday 1st February

- 1.Charlotte Furneaux;
 - 2.Douglas Wilkes;
 - 3.Judy Kirby (J/C);
 - 4.Susan King (J/C);
 - 5.Hugh Deam (J/C);
 - 6.Anthony Hughes
- (5 methods)

Sunday 25th January

- 1.Hugh Deam (J/C)
 - 2.Ailsa Reid (J/C)
 - 3.Judy Kirby (J/C)
 - 4.Donna Murphy (J/C)
 - 5.Bernard Masterman (J/C)
 - 6.Peter Lloyd
- (6 methods)

Dates for your Diary

Full details from Hugh Deam at: [hugh.deam at biinternet.com](http://hugh.deam.at.biinternet.com) or Katie Lane at: kt.catchmole at googlemail.com

Saturday 21 st February	Cowley (6) Practice hosted by the Cowley ringers	4.30pm-6.00pm
Saturday 28 th February	Islip (8) Ringing up and down practice, hosted by the Islip ringers	10.30am-12noon
Saturday 7 th March	Church Hanborough (6) 13cwt	10.30am-12noon
Saturday 14th March	Garsington (6) Branch Practice – open to all ringers	10.00am-11.30am
Saturday 21 st March	Outing to Hampshire. All towers now confirmed. 10.30am Highclere, followed by Burghclere, Kingsclere and Hannington. Lunch at The Star Inn, Newbury Road, Kingsclere. Menu available on their website. Lunch orders to Hugh by Thu 19th March. 15-seater Minibus booked. Seats £13, which includes tower fees. Names to Hugh.	

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