



# Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

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

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2015



## Branch Practice at Horspath on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August - Plain Bob Minor and Stedman Doubles Training

Ten ringers gathered for this practice, with a good mixture of experienced and not so experienced ringers in attendance. On arrival, Isaac O'Shea decided to set his camera up to film the bells in action, and we were thankful he did, as he quickly spotted a potential problem with the stay on the 3<sup>rd</sup> bell. While not completely snapped, it was bent and one of the bolts had come adrift from the frame. It was not an issue which could be rectified on the spot, so ringing continued, but with the most experienced ringers taking turns on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Well done Isaac for noticing this – his maintenance courses have obviously paid off. The session gave us the opportunity to ring plain courses and touches of Bob Minor and Stedman, depending on our previous experience. This was particularly valuable as many of us do not have enough experienced ringers in our home towers to practice these methods regularly, or at all. Having not rung at **Horspath** for nearly two years, I had forgotten just how lovely to ring these bells are, and they certainly aided my progress. I think it's fair to say that all of us learners would like to pass on a huge thank you to all the experienced ringers who turn out for events like this and help us to progress. **Lindsay Powell**



## Update on the Roy Jones Memorial Ringing on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August

Given the abysmal state of traffic flow around the A40 roundabouts I have decided to scrub **Wolvercote** from the programme rather than try and swap first and third towers at this late stage. I somehow think most people will be more relieved than upset given how predictably awkward it would be to keep to any sort of schedule. **Islip (8)** and **Kidlington (8)** will remain as previously shown in the last edition of the newsletter.

**Hugh Deam**

## Witney & Woodstock Practice at South Leigh (8) on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August

On a glorious morning of Summer as it crosses seamlessly from village fete intermediate to vacationing latter, and with South Leigh parish church bathed in a Manoan sunlight, we could possibly count ourselves fortunate to amass sufficient ringers to make the practice more than just viable, but actually advantageous. With a cool ringing chamber inside and industrious mowing of the churchyard going on outside, the fifth essence was surely in play and this is a paradise that we would rather not be lost. **Hugh Deam**



## Outing on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October - I hope that this date is in your diary!

I have booked these towers below and will confirm the timings very soon.

**The first tower will be at 9.30am.**

**Hinton Waldrist (6); Buckland (8); Uffington (6); Shrivenham (10); Longcot (8)**

Tony Crabtree from Shrivenham has suggested a pub in Shrivenham for lunch. There is also a good one in Longcot. More information to follow! **Katie Lane**

## An Appeal for Hand Bell Ringers during St. Giles Fair

During St Giles' Fair, on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup>** and **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September**, between 4.30pm and 5.30pm, there will be some change-ringing on hand bells in **St Giles' Church**, which will be open to the public for light refreshments and a chance to sit down. The ringing on Monday will probably be a quarter-peal attempt, but the Tuesday session would be intended for learners, so anyone would be welcome to take part if they have begun to learn to ring changes two-in-hand, or even any who would like to take this chance to start learning. **John Pusey**



## How can you hear your own bell?

Always try to listen to your own bell, however hard it may seem. Some fortunate people have perfect pitch and can recognize the actual note of their own bell amongst all the other bells. What a gift! But most of us can't do this. So, it is necessary to pay attention on the part of the change where you know you should be, and work out a way of knowing which dong is likely to be yours. It is easier to hear your own bell in certain positions, so listen to your own bell: 1. at the lead; 2. at the back.

Less easily you should be able to hear yourself. 1. At the lead-plus-one; 2. At the back-minus-one

It is also easier to hear your bell if you are ringing the Treble or the Tenor, because yours is the highest or lowest note in the change.

Some ringers can hear their bell by listening to the musical interval between their bell and the one they are following. But it all needs practice so keep trying and at some point on a practice evening forget method ringing and FOCUS on EVERYONE putting their bell in the right place!

Listen to every change. Listen to backstrokes as well as handstrokes. Listen to the rounds. **Katie Lane**

## Dates for your Diary

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

Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> August	Triples and Major Advanced Practice at St Giles (8)	7.30pm-9.00pm
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> August	Roy Jones Memorial Ringing Morning. Islip (8) 9.45am Kidlington (8) 11.00am	
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> August	Surprise Major Practice on the Simulator at Headington (8)	3.30pm-5.00pm
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> August	Bank Holiday Practice at Chilton (6). St Clements and Little Bob Minor	10.30am-12noon
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Weston on the Green (6) Ringing up and down practice	10.30am-12noon
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	St Giles (8) Branch Practice	4.30pm-6.00pm
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Great Tew (8) and Charlbury (6). Mini Outing organized by the Cowley Ringers (T.B.C.)	
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Stanton Harcourt (6). Branch Practice with the Witney and Woodstock Branch	10.30am-12noon
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Morning Mini Outing to Aylesbury (8) 10.30am; and Chinnor (6) 12.15pm.	

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)