



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

Produced fortnightly by Paul and Hugh, with a few contributions from other ringers
Monday 21st September 2015



Charlotte and Lindsay's trip to Bodicote (8) and Great Tew (8)

A misty morning greeted us as we arrived in the North Oxfordshire village of **Bodicote** to ring at St John the Baptist, the first of two eight bell



towers within the Banbury Branch of the ODG. This visit was a trip down memory lane for me, as this is where I learnt to ring as a child and was taught by Ron



Thorne. On my arrival I was passed a copy of an old photo of the ringing crew to help remind me of those times - which was a lovely gesture. From here we travelled on to the magnificent church St Michael in the picturesque village of **Great Tew**. A point of interest for me was the 14th Century wall paintings displayed. In comparison to Bodicote, these were heavier bells with a long draft but rang surprisingly smoothly. Due to being at eight bell towers, this presented the opportunity for us to ring Grandsire Triples, Plain Bob Major, Plain Bob Triples and Plain Hunt on seven.



For one ringer this was their first visit to an 8 bell tower. We were greeted with glorious sunshine at Great Tew for the group photo which included the 'team mascot', Charlie, Lindsay's loveable dog, who enjoyed the walks at the towers as much as everyone else did the ringing! To finish off the day we had a pleasant lunch at the cosy pub - **The Falkland Arms** in Great Tew.



A big thank you to everyone who came on this trip and for making it such a success! *Charlotte Furneaux*

A Wedding at Cuddesdon (6)

Earlier this year, moves were made to determine the state of the bells at All Saints church in **Cuddesdon** with a view to a planned wedding in



October. Officially listed as unringable, the last wedding (as far as I am aware) to have bells accompanying it was some three or four years ago when we chimed the bells. The last wedding with full circle ringing was a couple of years before that and only four of the six ringers made it past five minutes before giving it their best, so with that in mind, it was probably without much positive expectation that engineers from Whitechapel were booked to carry out an assessment. After a few hours of palliative work, their prognosis was surely better than could have been hoped, with a hastily concocted band finding them comfortable to ring, with Plain Bob Minor



being readily achievable. As it turned out, the wedding was cancelled, but this opened the door for the other wedding scheduled for this year and after having to cast the net pretty wide we managed to recruit six ringers for the big day. Although considerable work will be required to return this set of bells to their original majesty, wheels have been set in motion by way of making this happen. Clearly this is no more than is deserved, given the history, architecture and commanding location of the church, plus the affiliation with the theological college across the road. **Hugh Deam**

Vale of the White Horse Trip on Saturday 10th October - cancelled

There was to have been a ringing outing on 10th October to The Vale of the White Horse, including: Hinton Waldrist, Buckland, Uffington, Shrivenham and Longcot. This was being organized by Katie Lane, but unfortunately, due to a lack of numbers of people prepared to commit themselves to coming on the trip, Katie has unfortunately now had to cancel it.

Dates for your Diary

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

Saturday 26 th September	Stanton Harcourt (6). Branch Practice with the Witney and Woodstock Branch	10.30am-12noon
Saturday 3 rd October	Morning Mini Outing to Aylesbury (8) 10.30am; and Chinnor (6) 12.15pm.	
Saturday 17 th October	Practice at Freeland (6)	3.00pm-4.30pm
Saturday 31 st October	Witney & Woodstock Branch Practice at Woodstock (8)	10.30am-12noon
Saturday 21 st November	Practice at Iffley (6)	10.30am-12noon

(Followed by a Planning Meeting for 2016)

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)