



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

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

Monday 24th October 2016



The Oxford City Branch AGM is to be held at Kidlington on Saturday 19th November

1.30pm – Ringing; 2.30pm – Service; 3.00pm – Tea; 3.45pm – AGM.

(Because of another event in the church later, there will be further ringing at another tower after the AGM - to be confirmed)

Please make every effort to attend.

Congratulations!

Our congratulations must go to our Branch Secretary, Lindsay Powell, who has just passed the assessment for Module 1 of the ART training scheme. As such, she is now accredited to teach bell handling, and is eligible for Associate Membership of ART. Well done Lindsay! Rosanna Cretney

Witney & Woodstock Branch Outing to Gloucestershire – Saturday 15th October

The thumbnail sketches of the Cotswolds, primarily for tourist consumption, generally concentrate on the tracts of land either side of the A40,



more often than not venturing only as far south as Cirencester to illuminate upon, but indisputedly there is plenty of Cotswold majesty to be discovered in and around the Stroud Valley. This is an area which has much in common with the Royal Forest of Dean on the far west of Gloucestershire, with it being true to say that the formative influence of the wool trade is evident, but the later industrial heritage is unmistakable. The common



Minchinhampton

land that surrounds **Minchinhampton** is now managed by the National Trust, with medieval rights

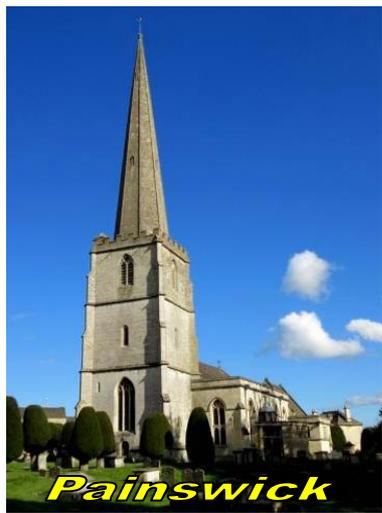
to graze cattle and for horses to roam under structured management. The tower of Minchinhampton church is made that more memorable due to its' original broach spire having been removed in the late 16th century and replaced by a crenellated coronet with crocketed pinnacles. The first sight of the bell-ropes adorning the chancel crossing in **Leonard Stanley** church might give a novice ringer a touch of the collywobbles, but



Leonard Stanley

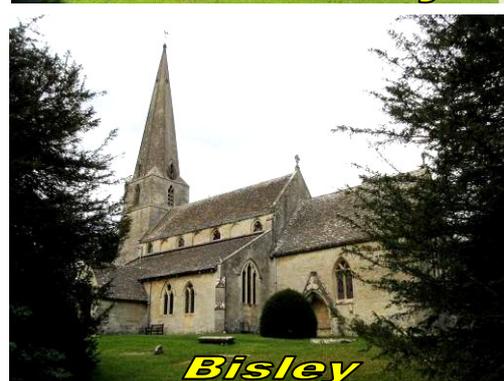


Watermoor



Painswick

excellent guiding makes ringing a rewarding experience on wonderful bells which were not rung for the greater part of the 20th century. Affectionately known as the 'Queen of the Cotswolds', Painswick not only provided our lunch venue at the 16th century hostelry, **The Falcon Inn**, but also our twelve-bell tower across the road in the classic Perpendicular church of St. Mary. The quality of the bells at the final two towers (**Bisley** and **Watermoor** in Cirencester) easily kept up the high standard for the day. This area is nowadays most widely known for being the setting for Laurie Lee's semi-autobiographical novel 'Cider With Rosie', which was the first part (and undoubtedly the most famous part) of a trilogy, and given how uniformly good the bells were there could easily be a trilogy of outings to other towers bordering the Slad Valley. Our thanks are due to Anthony Williamson and Julie Minch for organising the day and for opening up the event to ringers outside their branch. **Hugh Deam**



Bisley



Leonard Stanley

Dates for your Diary

Full details from Hugh Deam at: [hugh.deam at btinternet.com](http://hugh.deam@btinternet.com) or mobile: 07899-871079, or 07484-223014

Saturday 5th November
Saturday 19th November
Saturday 26th November
Saturday 3rd December

General Method Practice at Iffley (6) at 10.30am - followed by a 2017 Planning Meeting at 11.45am
Oxford City Branch AGM – see details above
Witney & Woodstock Practice at Woodstock (8) 10.30am-12.00noon
Witney & Woodstock Practice at Bladon (6) 10.30am-12.00noon

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)