



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News!



(Produced fortnightly by Hugh Deam and Paul Lucas. All contributions are welcome.)

Monday 14th June 2010.

8 Bell Branch Practice at St Andrews, Old Headington on Saturday 5th June.
I-r: Clare Fairbairn, Katie Lane, Jonathan Cresshull, Roy Jones, Andy Dunn, John Pusey, Bernard Masterman, Judy Kirby, Hugh Deam and Paul Lucas.

Musings 'On a Carpet' - from Margaret Marsh!

There are some odd things in English bell towers! At ours, it is the carpet. After we climb the steep and narrow dogleg ladder/stairs into the ringing chamber, there it is – the St Giles Church Tower Carpet and eight ropes hanging waiting to be rung! The space is cramped with the narrow benches, ladder, clock, chairs, coat hooks and a box of old ropes. Photos and plaques hang on the thick dusty walls below exposed conduit plumbing, neon lights and a water cistern!



But it is the carpet that mesmerizes us. The original reused chancel carpet is overlaid with a patchwork of 1960's carpet. The salesman father-in-law of the brother of one of the ringers, donated multi-coloured, multi-patterned sample squares which, from time to time, the tower captain re-hammers into place. On bleak days and cold evenings the warm glow of the rich carpet is a very positive feeling. When I leave England, I will remember the carpet and the poignant experience of leaving the tower winding down the stair around the organ as the Evensong music begins... **M.M.**

Dates for your Diary:

Saturday 19th June

Summer Outing to Hampshire

9.30-10.30. Colden Common Campanile (12)

(meet at Twyford Church at 9.15am to drive in convoy to the Campanile)

10.45-11.30. Owslebury - St Andrew (6) 9-0-1 in A

11.45-12.30. Twyford - St Mary (8) 10-3-17 in G.

12.45-2.15. Lunch at The Phoenix Inn, Twyford (pictured).

2.30-3.30. Compton Street - All Saints (3) 3-2-9 in D.

3.15-4.00. Sparsholt - St Stephen (6) 7-1-20 in A.

4.30-5.15. Avington - St Mary (5) 6-1-0 in Bb

Hugh will need your food order in advance, so to look at the Phoenix's menu, click on the link below:

<http://www.thephoenixinn.co.uk/menu.htm> **Please email or phone him with your order.**



Thursday 1st July

'Aunt Sally' Evening

Red Lion at Wolvercote. 8.00pm - after ringing.

Free to take part. **£3** if you require sandwiches and chips. Please contact Donna Murphy before **Sunday June 27th** if you want food. Email Donna: donna.murphy@admin.ox.ac.uk or phone: 01865-379018. The more the merrier!!

For full details of all the events above, contact Hugh Deam on: 07899-871079,
or email: hughdeam@btinternet.com

Saturday 14th August. Trip on the 'Venturer' Narrow Boat - 9.30am-5.00pm.

The Trip is now a 'full-house'! If you would be interested in another trip later in the year, or if you would like to be considered if there are any cancellations, then email me (address below), or call me on **07778-834334**.



Saturday 25th September

Shiplake (8)

The Guild's Michaelmas Training Course.

Full details from Katie Lane on 01865-874026, or email: kt.catchmole@googlemail.com

Local Practice Nights:

Mondays:

Cowley (6) (7.00-9.00), Garsington (6), (8.00-9.00) St Aldates (6) (2nd/4th week)

(The next St Aldates Practice is **tonight Monday 14th June** at 7.30)

Tuesdays:

Headington (8), Kidlington (8), Horspath (6).

(**Headington** has an **Advanced Practice** from 8.00–9.00pm on the **first** Tuesday of each month. Stedman Triples and beyond! The next one is on **Tuesday 6th July**.)

(**Kidlington** has an **Advanced Triples Practice** from 7.45–9.00pm on the **fourth** Tuesday of each month. The next one is on **22nd June**.)

Wednesdays:

Iffley (6).

Thursdays:

Wolvercote (6), St Giles (8), Stanton St John (5).

Fridays:

Old Marston (6), Wheatley (6), North Hinksey (6) (6.45-7.45)

Note: Most Practices start at 7.30pm, but before turning up, check the details of the Ringing Times, Tower Captains and Correspondents, by going to the Oxford City Branch website:

<http://www.oxfordcitybranch.org.uk>

Any information or photographs for possible inclusion in **Hugh's News** (subject to space available), please email me: paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk