



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News!



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

Monday 3rd May 2010.



Outing to Berkshire by Margaret Marsh.

Little did we know that our bell ringing outing to Berkshire would provide such contrasts. From the seldom rung bells of Beedon, to the new rehanging at Peasemore, we enjoyed the lows and highs of bell ringing experiences!

Down a lonely road outside Beedon, somewhere near World's End, is an old 13th century rather charming church of knapped flint. The timber framed bell tower is situated inside and at the rear of the church. The jackdaws had been nesting in the bell chamber and there were cobwebs on the walls. Even the experienced ringers amongst the group found the bells, with their long ropes and small wheels, very challenging to handle.

Then it was on to St Mary the Virgin at Chieveley with its extensive very old graveyard and squat 13th century tower and up the wooden spiral stairs to eight rather nice bells which proved a much more enjoyable experience for the eleven Oxford ringers.

Finally, on to St Barnabas at Peasemore where we were the first visiting band to ring since the rehanging of the bells, and they were beautiful to ring. It was as if these six bells could 'ring themselves'! We found the church full of beautiful flowers and learnt that a prestigious wedding was to be held later that day for David Cameron's sister!



Then it was on to a pub for late lunch – the excellent Bell Inn at Aldworth, which has not been ruined by alterations for smart tourist types, and is favoured by visiting bikers and old car enthusiasts. Like them, we enjoyed the sunshine and beer, and a good Ploughman's lunch!

Dates for your Diary:

Saturday 8th May	Cowley (6)	Half Yearly Branch Meeting.	3.30pm
		6 Bell Striking Competition.	6.00pm
Saturday 15th May	Bicester (10)	Grandsire Caters Practice	10.30am
		(Prospective Quarter Peal band only)	
Saturday 5th June	Headington (8)	Branch Practice	10.00am
Saturday 19th June	Summer outing to towers around the New Forest (full details to follow later)		

Please note: The Branch 'Pudding & Dessert' Evening has had to be postponed until the end of June or the beginning of July because the Hall is not available on the 22nd May. A new date will be announced very soon.

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

Future events:

Saturday 25th September Shiplake (8) The Guild's Michaelmas Training Course.
(Details as a poster for you to put in your Tower are attached to the bottom of this Newsletter)

Local Practice Nights:

- Mondays:** Cowley (6) (7.00-9.00), St Aldates (6) (2nd/4th week), Garsington (6) (8.00-9.00)
- 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 **tomorrow - Tuesday 4th May.**)
(Kidlington has an **Advanced Triples Practice** from 7.45–9.00pm on the **fourth** Tuesday of each month. The next one is on **25th May.**)
- 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 at hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk)

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers Michaelmas Training Day

Saturday, September 25th 2010

10.00 – 20.00

Shiplake Ringing Centre

Cost £20

The aim of the day is to provide the opportunity for students to learn more advanced methods than those offered on the Radley and Steeple Aston one-day courses.

The day will start with group tutorials followed by 4½ hours of practical ringing in nearby towers. The day will end with an evening meal and course round-up.

Groups will be formed to cover the following range of methods:

1. Surprise Minor
2. Stedman Triples
3. Basic Surprise Major (e.g. Cambridge, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Superlative)
4. Advanced Surprise Major (e.g. Pudsey, Rutland, London, Bristol, Spliced)

Further details and application forms can be obtained by sending an SAE to Katie Lane, Catchmole Cottage, 12 High Street, Wheatley, OX33 1XX or by email to [kt.catchmole at googlemail.com](mailto:kt.catchmole@googlemail.com) by **19th July 2010**.