



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

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

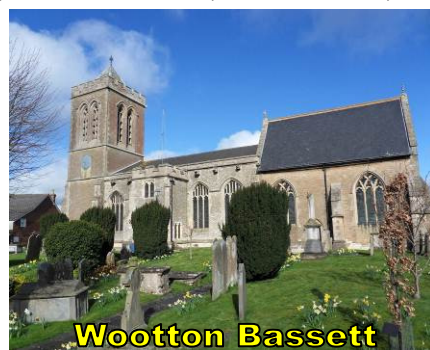
Monday 31st March 2014



Spring Outing to Wiltshire – 22nd March 2014

On a day that offered a photographers' sky, we were fortunate enough to be visiting an artists' backdrop, all within five miles, south and west, of

the oft maligned urban sprawl of Swindon. A juxtaposition of classicism and modernity has probably never been so apparent during the course of an outing, although this is likely to increase in the coming years as villages fight to retain their rural integrity. After a winter of sustained rainfall and swollen aquifers the land has borne a riot of colour so vibrant as to lay down a challenge to the resolution of the most advanced Super HD equipment to convey its lustre. Those bringing paints, pastels and easels to capture the scene we encountered here may well have found it too glossy and gaudy to replicate, with daffodils, grass and sky bordering on the vividness of psychedelic colouration. **Wootton Bassett** exemplifies several eras of this country's history, from its



Wootton Bassett

sacking by the Vikings in the 11th century, through the industrial age ushered in by canal and railway, and most recently for the informal tributes paid during military repatriation processions which led to it becoming only the third town in the country to receive Royal status in its name. **Lyneham** too played a central part in the processions, the RAF base being the starting point of the route which culminated, and still does, at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. The Lydiard villages are a vivid statement of the manorial heritage of England's hinterland,



Lyneham

and still does, at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. The Lydiard villages are a vivid statement of the manorial heritage of England's hinterland, the house and 300 acres of Lydiard Park are now administered by Swindon Borough Council, and are surrounded by a labyrinth of new housing and grid-pattern road system reminiscent of Milton Keynes. As would be expected the church in the park is richly endowed.



Lydiard Tregoze



The 'Sun Inn'

Lydiard House having been the home of the St. John family, who were at their height of influence during Tudor times. The house and 300 acres of Lydiard Park are now administered by Swindon Borough Council, and are surrounded by a labyrinth of new housing and grid-pattern road system reminiscent of Milton Keynes. As would be expected the church in the park is richly endowed.



The 18th century **Sun Inn** at **Lydiard Millicent** did a sterling job in coping with the influx of nearly thirty hungry ringers, with, as a by the by, one of the staff being a ringer at the church here. The most obviously astounding church exterior of the



Lunch at 'The Sun'



Lydiard Millicent



Purton

day, even to an untrained eye in architectural matters, was **Purton**, possessing as it does two towers, being one of only three such examples in the country. Having trawled through the archives of outings, I had to track back to the 1980s to find such a well-attended outing for this branch, and one can only praise the forbearance of the ringers given that the keenness to get on a rope is so much greater than in many a year.

Our thanks must go to David Parks for arranging and organizing all the towers! Hugh Deam.

Dates for your Diary

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

- Saturday 5th April General Ringing Practice at Witney (8) hosted by Witney & Woodstock Branch 10.30am-12noon
- Wednesday 9th April **No Practice at Headington this week because the ringers are holding their A.G.M.**
- Thursday 10th April Advanced Practice at St Giles (8) All experienced ringers welcome. 7.30pm-9.00pm
- Saturday 12th April Kidlington (8) Grandsire Triples & upwards Practice with Kidlington Ringers. 10.30am-12noon
- Monday 21st April (Easter Monday) General Ringing Practice at Garsington (6) 4.00pm-5.00pm
- Saturday 26th April Doubles & Minor Method Mini-Outing to Stowe (6) and Lillingstone Lovell (6). 11.00am-12noon
- Tuesday 29th April Advanced Practice at Kidlington (8) All experienced ringers welcome. 12.30pm-1.30pm
- 7.45pm-9.00pm

Local Practice Nights

- Mondays: St Aldates (6), Garsington (6)
- Tuesdays: Kidlington (8), Horspath (6).
- Wednesdays: Headington (8), Iffley (6).
- Thursdays: St Giles (8), Wolvercote (6), Stanton St John (5), Cowley (6).
- Fridays: Old Marston (6), Wheatley (6), North Hinksey (6) (6.30pm-7.30pm).

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)