



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

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

Monday 6th July 2015



Joining the Saturday Practice at Shipston on Stour (6) on 27th June

Of all the market towns around the Cotswolds none is so readily identifiable with the wool trading history of the area as Shipston on Stour, its



name literally being the Anglo-Saxon description for a "sheep-wash town". The classic Georgian inspired town centre is a paean to individuality being replete with independent shops, cafes, and hostelryes, yet not as overtly tourist-driven as most of the neighbouring market-towns. The parish church is a mid-19th century rebuilding in the early 14th century style, with its brownstone tower surviving from the 15th century. Whereas most of us are attuned to our attendance at practice being something of a coda to our day, Shipston is atypical in having a Saturday morning practice to wake up to, but in every other respect it is archetypal



in striving to pass through the gate of polished horn rather than that hewn from sawn ivory, which is particularly apt given the need to be an early bird for ringing here. Our visit may have been a week later than originally envisaged, but the bells were well worth waiting for, and the weather was a world away from the gloom of the previous Saturday. Our matinal ringing with the friendly local band was complemented by light refreshment at Mrs Brown's Tearoom, which proved no mere appendage to the morning.

Hugh Deam

An All Day Trip to Essex - Next Saturday - 11th July.

(There are still spaces available on this trip if you would like to go.)

Pease contact Hugh: hugh.deam@btinternet.com or mobile: 07899-871079



Finchingfield



Wethersfield



Gosfield



Toppesfield

1st Tower 11.00am Finchingfield (8) St. John the Baptist 15cwt Directions to 1st Tower - Approaching from the west on B1053 (Brent Hall Road), from village centre the road becomes Church Road, church on right. 12.00noon Wethersfield (8) 1.00pm Lunch - The King's Head, Gosfield 2.15pm Gosfield (6) 3.30pm Toppesfield (8)

The Pub menu is available at: www.thekingsheadgosfield.co.uk Names and food orders to me please. **Hugh Deam**

Back By Popular Demand - The Wolvercote Teddy Bear Zip Wire !

Many of you will have read about Wolvercote's first ever teddy bear zip wire in Hugh's News last year!

In April, the fete committee asked whether we were happy to do a rerun and after some debate, due to impending tower works, it was decided



that as we didn't even have a faculty yet the tower works were unlikely to clash with the fete, so we would go ahead. This time we were able to set up in the sunshine, using our gazebo for shade rather than protection from the rain for our picnic and excitement did start to grow as people stopped to enquire about when the zip wire would be taking place. The fete was due to start at 2pm and the procession, led by the Morris dancers almost caught us out by arriving at 1.45pm! Fortunately they did some more dancing,

giving our tower captain a chance to get up the tower (after a quick trip to the loo, he was to be up there for well over two hours!) and the first teddy peered his head out of the tower window just after 2pm before making his descent down the wire to the delight of the watching crowd. He was followed by a steady procession of brave cuddly toys who this year all popped their head out of the window first. Some of them looked a bit scared and had to check a couple of times before they would come down, others just checked their owners were watching, many of them waved which was met with laughter, cheering and waving back from the audience, a naughty cat entertained as he thought he might climb down the tower instead but then thought better of it and Squawk, the noisy parrot, wondered why he couldn't just fly down but decided the zip wire would be more fun in the end. Fewer teddies went down the zip wire this time, but the flow was steadier and the one short lull allowed the man from the Oxford Mail to set up a great picture which appeared in the paper last Tuesday. An enjoyable afternoon was had by all and many people have told us how they have listened to young children's excited recounts of their teddy waving at them from the tower and a member of the St Peter's Players even dashed out of rehearsal to let us know that it had made her neighbour's day and that she had really enjoyed it too. We have decided to finish on a high and whilst the zip wire may make a comeback in the future, next year our hope is that our new simulator, which we hope to get into use soon, (as we now have our faculty and our tower will be out of action) might be the talk of the fete. **Janice Beale**



Dates for your Diary

Full details from Hugh Deam at: hugh.deam@btinternet.com or mobile: 07899-871079

Sunday 19th July Surprise Major Practice on the Simulator at Headington (8) (Open to all advanced ringers) 4.00pm-5.30pm
Saturday 1st August Practice at Horspath (6) - Stedman Doubles and Plain Bob Minor 10.30am-12 noon

This is specifically for those who are already ringing these methods and are looking to ring or conduct touches.

Saturday 22nd August Roy Jones Memorial Ringing Morning. Kidlington (8) 11.00am and Wolvercote (6) 12.15pm

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@hotmail.co.uk