



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

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

Monday 7th March 2016

(Because everything that's been happening over the last few weeks, this edition of Hugh's News will be two pages long)



Hugh's News is now back, following my very enjoyable holiday around Australia! It was good to meet up with Alan and Marylon

Coates at St Philips in Sydney, as well as Margaret Marsh at Christ Church St Lawrence. Alan has now made a marvellous recovery from his heart attack last May, and is back to ringing again. He and Marylon are coming over to the UK in June to see us all, as well as visiting friends and family over here. John Pusey stayed with Margaret on his recent trip to Oz, and she wishes to be remembered to all the Oxford ringers! John also met Dermot Roaf's niece Derryn, who is Tower Captain at Christ Church St Lawrence. John also rang at St Georges Cathedral in Hobart, Tasmania. I rang there myself a couple of weeks later. I also went to a practice at Peters Cathedral in Adelaide, and later rang a quarter peal of



Grandsire Triples at St Georges Cathedral in Perth. You can always guarantee getting a warm welcome when you meet up with ringers in Australia - many of whom are ex-pats from the UK! Anyway, there has been a lot going on in my absence! **Paul Lucas**

Hugh's Anniversary Outing to Hambleton (8) and Marlow (8) on Saturday 27th February

First and foremost, the towers and their bells are the stars, and Hambleton and Marlow evinced their enviable finery thanks to some fine weather for this time of year, plus the Marlow Donkey was certainly not mulish in providing an excellent lunch, and



hopefully all those who came along place the morning favourably in the list of destinations since I arranged my first jaunt in 1986, the first tower of which was indeed Hambleton. When looking to put something contextual into describing anniversaries of this sort it is a likelihood that trotting out what was the Number One in the singles chart back in the day will be used, and so just to be apropos of probably not very much, thirty years ago this weekend Billy Ocean was at the summit with When the Going Gets Tough the Tough Get Going, but coincidentally it was the title music to the movie that I rented as a video to show on the coach outing I organised to Brighton the following year. I would like to thank all those who have generously taken the time to come along on these away-days across the years, and hope no one will take it as a presumptuous break from modesty to quote from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, who opined that it was a mistake to think that the practice of his art had become easy to him. Putting together outings is mere ephemera by comparison to Mozart, but his precept that it never becomes a given is universal.

Hugh Deam

Practices at St Giles (8) on 6th February and Witney (8) on 30th January

Rather like the storm force winds, rain and for some snow, that have swept across the British Isles this winter, ringing opportunities on Saturdays



have come at a similar lick, but with a far more beneficial end product. The late January practice at Witney was the first ring on the bells for several of the participants and there was unanimity in the praise for the bells and the desire to ring on them again. A week later the roadshow rolled on to St. Giles where we still managed the Grandsire part of what we set out to do despite the insipid weather and the ubiquitous Oxford Society ringing across the city that morning. Rachel Croft from Headington rang her first Grandsire Triples on an inside bell.

Hugh Deam



A Beetle Drive at Wolvercote !

The St Peter's Ringers from Wolvercote spent their usual practice time on February 18th enjoying a social evening. Tower bell ringers and hand bell ringers joined together for a 'Beetle Drive'. As hand bell practice normally runs from 7-8pm and tower bells 8-9pm we all appreciated the opportunity to share time with each other. The beetle drive was fun, and half way through we stopped for a break. Not the usual cookies, cakes and confections but pies and peas! An amazing variety of pies, both savoury and sweet to please all tastes. Everything disappeared to the last crumb! At the end of the second half it was time to count up the beetle bodies and limbs. Ailsa had collected more than 60 and was announced the winner. Our thanks to Donna for her inspiration and work in planning a splendid evening and also to Janice and Jonathan for organising everything. Thanks also go to the kitchen staff who kept everything running smoothly. The neighbours must have wondered about the silence between 8-9pm!

Eileen Wright



Grandsire and Plain Bob Triples Practice at Kidlington (8) – Saturday 20th February

Our New Year sweep of the City Branch 8-Bell towers for Grandsire and Plain Bob sessions concluded at Kidlington and proved a fitting finale. Thanks to generous support from Witney & Woodstock Branch ringers we were able to give several attendees the opportunity to break new ground and fit in some unscheduled Stedman Triples and Cambridge Minor. **Hugh Deam**

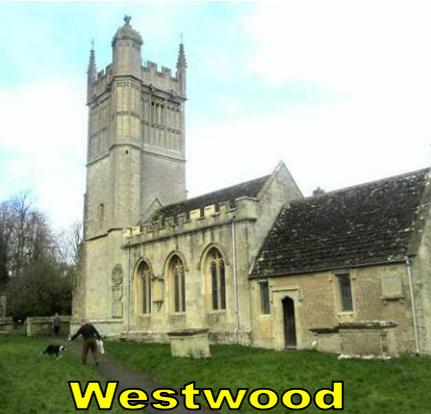


John Hearn's Trip to Wiltshire – Saturday 5th March

We may have flitted to and fro across the Wiltshire and Somerset borders throughout the

day, but this in no way had a noticeable effect on the excellent standard of bells that we encountered. At the intermediate stage of a sunny, but still winter tinged day, lunch was taken in the Dungeon of **The George Inn** at Norton St Philip, but fortunately the menu consisted of something considerably more appetising than bread and gruel. As one somehow might suspect for this neck of the woods, the welcome at the towers from the key-holders was exceptionally warm and thus made for less stress when pushing the boat out with Cambridge, Stedman, Little Bob and Double Oxford. **Hugh Deam**

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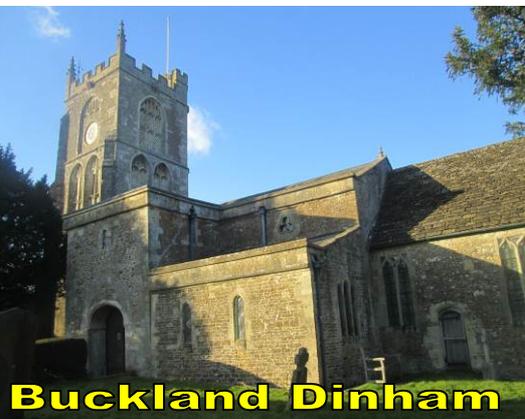
Westwood



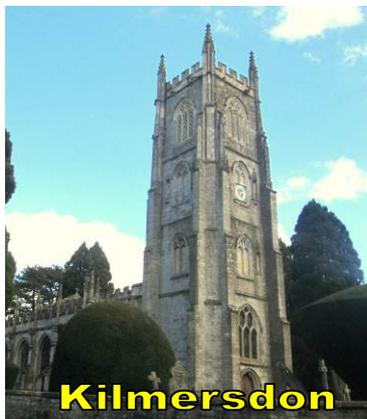
Farleigh Hungerford



Norton St Philip



Buckland Dinham



Kilmersdon



The George Inn

Coming up next month..... Colin's Spring Outing to the North Cotswolds – Saturday 2nd April – not to be missed!

Our spring outing to the North Cotswolds starts at **Chipping Campden**, a small medieval wool town with a notable market hall in its main street, surrounded by limestone buildings. The spacious St James church has 8 splendid bells (22cwt) and houses one of the largest brasses in England. SS Peter and Paul in **Blockley** is another 8 bell (16cwt) tower and this year has plans to expand to ten bells. After lunch in the café in Blockley we will visit two pleasant six bell towers – St Lawrence (11cwt) at **Bourton-on-the-Hill** and SS Peter & Paul (12cwt) in **Long Compton**.

All towers have easy to ring bells, but get a good night's sleep the night before as the heaviest bells are in **Chipping Campden**. Those who like their bell ringing, in spectacular countryside, and with many historic features, are in for a delightful day. All are welcome. Names to Hugh or Colin.

Colin Taylor

Dates for your Diary

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

- Saturday 12th March
- Saturday 19th March
- Monday 28th March
- Saturday 2nd April
- Saturday 9th April
- Saturday 16th April
- Saturday 23rd April

- Practice at Church Hanborough (6) with the Witney & Woodstock Branch
- Practice at Tetsworth (6). - open to all abilities from Call Changes upwards
- Bank Holiday – Minor Methods Practice at Chilton (6)
- Colin's Spring Outing to the Northern Cotswolds. (See above)
- A Quarter Peal morning
- Stedman Doubles Practice at Sunningwell (6)
- Practice at Freeland (6)

- 10.30am -12noon
- 10.30am -12noon
- 10.30am-12noon
- 10.30am-12noon
- 4.00pm-5.30pm

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)