



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

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

Monday 26th September 2016



Alison Merryweather-Clarke returned to ringing heights on Wednesday 21st September !

Having had to confine herself to ground floor rings over the last few months, this quarter peal at Aylesbury (8) marked the return to ringing quarter peals upstairs for Alison, being a fittingly excellent venue and set of bells to do so.

1296 Plain Bob Major.

- Treble: Alison Merryweather-Clarke;
 2. Robert Tregillus; 3. Michael Probert;
 4. Sue Haines; 5. Hugh Deam;
 6. Duncan Purchase; 7. John Pusey;
 Tenor: John Hearne (c)

Hugh Deam



A Weekend Trip to Cornwall – 17th - 20th September

Numerous demographics have been making a bee-line for the "Beloved County" in 2016, with its usual magnetic attractions bolstered significantly

by the Poldark effect, a soft exchange rate and the startling appearance in the area (since 7th May) of a Dalmatian Pelican, a species which is hovering close to the endangered list and would normally only be seen in the skies or on the lakes between Greece and China. So for a few days the bell-ringers joined the throng, and with roughly a third of the county designated as areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty it was inevitable that our travels would take us to within sight of Blue Flag beaches, secluded bays,



Penzance

Tuckingmill

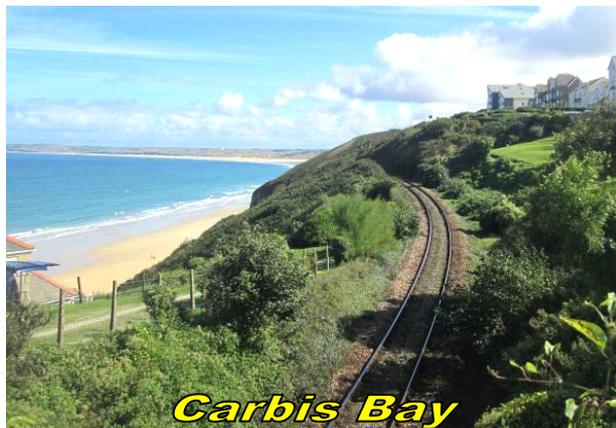


craggy tors, heather moorland and vestiges of the tin mining heritage, including the "Cornish Alps" (white-capped hills created as a result of the china clay industry). There were still multifarious tourists around despite the powers that be declaring it winter season with most rubbish bins put into storage and toilets closed. The welcome for us emmets was uniformly warm at all the towers and a wide range of methods were rung across the weekend, with Stedman Caters, Yorkshire Major, Double Norwich and Original amongst the menu. Visual highlights included the view from the

view from the



Carbis Bay

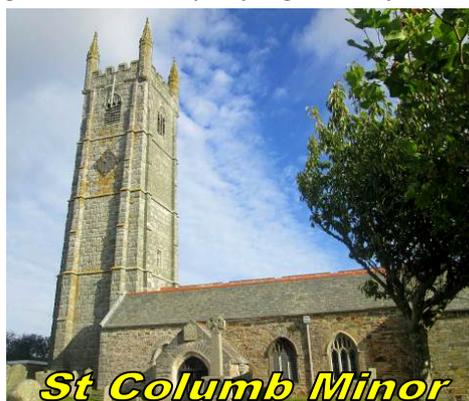


Coastal Path across **Carbis Bay**, the view up to and down from **Penzance** church, a fish and chip supper in the Dolphin Inn looking out across the harbour at sunset, the prolific greenery inside the tower of **Paul** church, the magnificence of the tower at **St Columb Minor**, and the decorous interior of **Little Petherick** church. The weather certainly assumed an autumnal hue come the Monday, but a fine buffet lunch at the Ring O' Bells across the road from church in St Issey meant the great weekend expertly organised by John Hearne ended on a high note.

Phillack



St Columb Minor



Carbis Bay



A long drizzly journey back to Oxford was broken up by overhearing a couple of bells being rung up as I was passing through **Collingbourne Ducis** in Wiltshire and so I popped in and was welcomed to join their Branch Practice on a lovely set of six bells. *Hugh Deam*

10.00am-11.00am West Hanney (6)

11.30am- 12.30pm Marcham (6)

1.00pm-2.30pm Lunch at 'The Plough' in Appleton

If you are coming along, the menu is on the right, so could you email your food order to me in advance please? ([dcmurphy2 at btinternet.com](mailto:dcmurphy2@btinternet.com))

3.00pm-4.00pm Stanford in the Vale (8)

Donna Bennett

SANDWICHES and BAGETTES

All served with Salad Garnish and Chips

- Glazed Ham and Mustard £5.75
- Locally Produced Pork Sausages £5.95
- Mature Cheddar Cheese with Branston Pickle £5.25
- Prawns in Seafood Sauce £6.45
- Tuna Mayonnaise £5.45
- Bacon Lettuce and Tomato £6.95
- Brie and Cranberry £6.25

PLOUGHMAN,S (crusty bread salad apple celery onion and pickle)

- Cheddar or Stilton £8.95
- Honey Roast Ham £9.25

FILLED JACKET POTATOES (served with salad garnish)

- Cheese and Beans £5.45
- Chilli or Four Bean Chilli £6.25
- Tuna Mayo £6.95

OMELETTE served with CHIPS AND SALAD

- Cheese £6.95
- Cheese and Mushroom £6.95
- Cheese and Ham £7.45

LIGHT BITES

- Whitebait served with salad garnish and crusty bread £6.50
- Bubble and Squeak mashed potato, cabbage and onion served with Free Range Egg and Bacon £6.65
- Pan Fried Tiger Prawns Red Onion, Tomato, Chilli and Coriander served with crusty bread £7.95

The Wheel of Light

Most of you will know that in July 2015 works commenced to renovate and turn



Marston's bells, and that is when I became the proud owner of the redundant treble wheel. Soon after my acquisition of this beautiful piece of history, the Beales (Wovercote ringers) came over for dinner and discussion of its fate ensued. Whilst it was thought that it would make a lovely garden feature, there was concern that,

even with several coats of yacht varnish and regular maintenance, the beautiful oak and elm timber would eventually be ruined by the damp Oxford winters.

Various ideas of how to make this rather large wheel fit in our small house without being too imposing were suggested until eventually the concept of a ceiling light fixture was born. A couple of weeks later, on a hot summer's day myself, Richard and godson Christopher started sanding down the bell wheel. However, despite gallant efforts the job was nowhere near completion. Hence, the wheel spent the winter in the shed but the vision remained. Richard and I



decided to get married in May 2016, preventing further work on the wheel that spring. Nevertheless, the Beales came up with another gem! Offering to finish the bell wheel for us as a wedding present, an offer we couldn't refuse.

In August of this year the wheel saw light again and made its way to the Beale's where it was sanded, cleaned with meths and given several coats of Danish oil to bring out the grain of the timber. Finally, came the exciting part of installing colour changing LED strip lights where the rope used to be and brass chains were added to hang it from the ceiling. This strikingly transformed wheel now has pride of place in the middle of our lounge

ceiling, imposing enough to be noticed but not so intruding that it looks out of place. The result is captivating. In daylight the handsomely refurbished wood provides a magnificently historic feature to the room. At night, when lit, the assorted colour changing, or just white light settings create a very mellow ambience. Photos don't do it justice but we hope you get the idea.

Donna Bennett & Janice Beale

Witney & Woodstock Practice at Stanton Harcourt (6) – Saturday 24th September

For those on their first visit to Stanton Harcourt church there are several unusual and probably unexpected aspects to celebrate upon before you

get down to the business of ringing. The presence of two broad towers (one for the church and one for the adjoining manor house) so close together is the first surprise, leading one to think that a mistake may have been made in the documentation of there merely being six bells up aloft. Despite the decidedly rural location the mind errs that perhaps a printing error had been made with the 'teen' missed off the end of six as this is in the proportions to be found in a metropolis. The substantial size of the ringing chamber is perhaps not a surprise given the outside girth, but the distance



between ropes is something rarely to be witnessed and can take some settling into, another strand which makes this a set of bells worth appreciating. To make matters even better it was good to see the practice supported by some new local ringers.

Hugh Deam

Dates for your Diary

Full details from Hugh Deam at: [hugh.deam at btinternet.com](mailto:hugh.deam@btinternet.com) or mobile: 07899-871079, or 07484-223014

- Saturday 1st October Outing to South Oxfordshire (see details above)
- Saturday 8th October Triples and Major Practice at Milton (8) 10.30am-12noon
- Saturday 15th October Witney & Woodstock Branch Outing to Painswick (12) and Leonard Stanley (6) (full details to follow)

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)