



Branching Out

The Oxford City Branch Monthly Newsletter



Sunday September 10th 2017

Please keep your articles coming in for 'Branching Out'. This edition is out a little earlier and a little smaller, because I'm going to be away in Australia until 14th October. The next edition will come out soon afterwards – just as long as people keep sending me material! Let us know about anything that's happening in your tower that may be of interest to others.

Email me with your news and photos to: paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk. The next edition will be out around the 22nd October. (Deadline for copy, 20th October)

Ringling Master's Report

Andrew Freer has been away, so he has very little to report, apart from inviting people to attend the second Thursday of the month Advanced Practice at St Giles (8) on 14th September, starting at 7.30pm.

This will include Stedman Triples, up to Surprise Major methods, depending on who turns up.

Please inform Andrew about what you would like to ring a few days in advance: andrew.freer@gmail.com

Branch Practices coming up till the end of the year

These practices are for all Branch members who ring from called changes upwards.

If there is something you would like to practise, you can request it on the day, or email our Ringing Master, Andrew Freer in advance.

Please be assured you will all get a warm welcome. We hope to see lots of you at many of the dates below.

Saturday 14 th October	Wheatley (6) (9cwt)	10.30am-12noon (note change of time)
Saturday 18 th November	A.G.M. at Wolvercote (6) (8cwt)	Afternoon (t.b.c.)
Saturday 9 th December	Horspath (6) (5cwt)	5.00pm-6.30pm

Other Dates for your Diary

Full details from Ringing Master, Andrew Freer: andrew.freer@gmail.com or tour organizer, Hugh Deam: deamhugh@gmail.com

Thursday 14 th September	Monthly Advanced Practice at St Giles (8)	7.30pm – 9.00pm
Sunday 24 th September	Advanced Practice on the Simulator at Headington (8). Stedman Triples, Cambridge Major and beyond. If you want to practise anything else, then please inform Tower Captain, Clare Fairbairn at: clare.tucker20@ntlworld.com	3.30pm – 5.00pm
Monday 23 rd October	Kempford (6) (16cwt) + 2 more towers in the Cotswold Water Park area. (Details to follow)	
Saturday 17 th March 2018	Outing to Gloucestershire towers including Pucklechurch, Dyrham, Marshfield and Nettleton – all to be confirmed.	
Monday 9 th April 2018	Colin Taylor's Spring Outing.	

(For full details a bit nearer the time, and post codes for any of the above, please contact Hugh Deam)

Coming up - a 'Mystery Outing' !

Richard Bennett is planning an All Day 'Mystery Outing' on Saturday 30th September. There will be 4 towers in total, 3 six bells and 1 eight, with lunch in between, at a suitable venue for the theme of the trip. A menu will be sent out in advance for food orders in due course.

If there is sufficient interest, a minibus could be arranged costing around £15 per person.

Please email: richardjamesb@btinternet.com if you are interested. We will otherwise plan a convoy at a local starting point to be confirmed.

For more details about everything else, please go to the Oxford City Branch website: www.oxfordcitybranch.org.uk

Any articles or photographs for inclusion in 'Branching Out' please email me: paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk

Our Regular August Bank Holiday Visit to Chilton (6)

On what was unbelievably reported to be the UK's hottest Bank Holiday Monday – apparently since records began, we concluded our visits for

this year to Chilton for yet another year, and as usual the warm welcome from our hosts, Kate and David, got the morning off to a convivial start.

Fourteen years after our first outing to Chilton the pleasure of ringing the bells has not diminished. Thanks to all those who came along which made it possible to fit in five Minor and four Doubles methods, plus have the group photo taken, during the hour and a half.

Hugh Deam



A Trip to deepest Wiltshire!

On Monday 21st August, I had the privilege of visiting three Wiltshire towers with 15 other bell-ringers and friends. David Parks, from Swindon, kindly organised the outing; and I am personally grateful to Colin Taylor for generously giving me a lift. First we rang at **Milton Lilbourne (6)** (10cwt), where I gained some experience in Plain Hunting on a bell with a very long draft!

Chris and Anne Wardell were the perfect hosts, and made us all feel welcome. Next we moved on to **Collingbourne Kingston (6)** (19cwt), where I was impressed by the beauty of St Mary's Church. We didn't let a little drizzle stop us from taking some lovely group photos in the churchyard!



Milton Lilbourne



Collingbourne Kingston



Collingbourne Ducis



After a break for a nice lunch at the aptly named 'Tipple Inn', we concluded the outing at **Collingbourne Ducis (6)** (11cwt). Thank you to everyone who came for making it such a great day! **Paulina Fishman**

A Visit to some Old North Berks towers – Monday 4th September

A relatively short distance to travel to the first tower at the distinctively manorial village of **East Hendred (6)** (22cwt) resulted in everyone being in place for a prompt start, and the tower captain was also on hand, but no key to get into the church, cue delayed start. The girth of the tower lends one to expect more than six bells, but this is compensated for by some considerable weight across the eclectic set all the way to the 22cwt tenor.



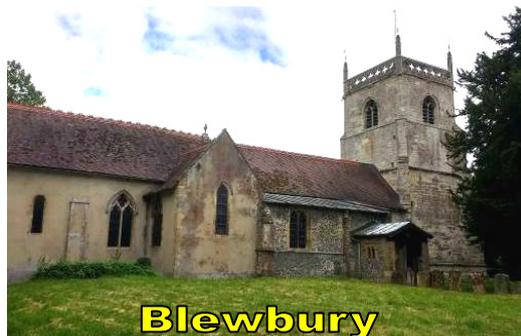
East Hendred

At **Blewbury (8)** (19cwt), we were back in business in regard of everyone feeling at home with the fluent bells. It was a pleasure to meet up again with Gillian and Richard Lloyd, who run the ringing at Blewbury, almost a year after mooring the possibility of visiting during the memorable ringing weekend in Cornwall.

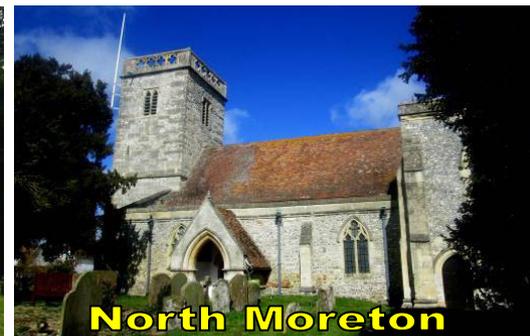
For the three of us who rang at **North Moreton (6)** (13cwt) just a couple of months ago it was akin to Groundhog Day as we were once again greeted on our arrival by tower correspondent Beryl Jones, with tea, coffee and biscuits ready and waiting.

Prior to 2014, this was a daunting set of five bells, but now it is a ring of six to wax lyrical about.

Hugh Deam



Blewbury



North Moreton