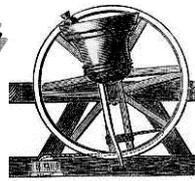




# Branching Out

## The Oxford City Branch Monthly Newsletter



Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017

Please keep your articles coming in for 'Branching Out'. This edition is a bit later because I've been away in Australia. Email me with your news and photos to: [paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk). The next edition will be out on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November. (Deadline for copy, 18<sup>th</sup> November)

**(DON'T FORGET - THE CLOCKS GO BACK 1 HOUR NEXT WEEKEND - 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER!)**

### Congratulations to James and Rachel!

Headington ringers, James Scott-Brown and Rachel Croft were married at St Andrew's Church in Old Headington last Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October. Some of the other Headington ringers and visitors attended the service and rang the bells afterwards, then went across to the White Hart pub for a celebratory drink! The weather was so mild, we were all able sit in the pub garden – where we drank a toast to the happy couple! It goes without saying that we wish them both a long and happy life together!

*Paul Lucas*



### And a Quarter Peal too....

Oxford Diocesan Guild  
St Giles, Bletchington, Oxfordshire on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017 (8-0-1 in A)  
1260 Doubles. 8 methods  
(240 St Remigius, Winchendon Place, St Simon, 120 St Martin, 60 Plain Bob Doubles, 120 All Saints, RCPD, Grandsire).  
Treble. Judy Kirby; 2. Hugh Deam (C); 3. Colin P Taylor; 4. Alison T Merryweather-Clarke; 5. Neil R Ephgrave; Tenor. Michael Probert.

Rung to celebrate the marriage at St Andrew's, Headington of two Headington ringers, Rachel Croft and James Scott-Brown.  
Most methods: 3.

*Alison Merryweather-Clarke*



### Ringing Master's Report

Hi everyone,

This month's Branch Practice was the last before the AGM, and thank you to the Wheatley ringers for making it a fun one. We were relatively few in number but I think it was a useful practice for those who were there. I knocked the rust off St. Remigius, thanks to Colin's suggestion; perhaps we could do more mixed doubles next year?

As we go into the AGM, I'd really appreciate some feedback on what you'd like to see from branch ringing. Please consider it and we can hopefully have a useful discussion at the meeting. *Andrew Freer* [andrew.freer@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.freer@gmail.com)

### Annual General Meeting – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November – St. Peter's Wolvercote (6) 8cwt

The details of the AGM are below. Please do try and attend if you can as there will be lots of opportunity to ring tower bells, handbells and the dumb bell simulator, as well as having a chance to have your say at the meeting, and meet fellow ringers from around the Branch. Tower Captains and Correspondents, please let me have the names of any new members you wish to nominate ahead of the meeting. I have circulated a draft agenda to all towers, so let me know if you want any items adding. I will be sending out a final agenda about two weeks ahead of the meeting. I look forward to seeing lots of you there. *Lindsay Powell – Branch Secretary*

**2.00pm – 3.00pm Tower bell ringing, and also Dumb Bell simulator, handbells, bell plates and children's handbells**

**3.00pm - 3.30pm Refreshments**

**3.30 - 4.30 AGM**

**4.30 - 5.30 dumb bell simulator will be available.**

### The last Branch Practice 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.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December

Horspath (6) (5cwt)

5.00pm-6.30pm

## Other Dates for your Diary

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

Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Abingdon Ringer's Young People's Half-Term Event at Witney and Ducklington (Details in Susan Read's article below)	10.00am-12.30pm
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Branch AGM. Details above. All Branch Members please attend! SOME UNCONFIRMED EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2018!	
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Ringing at Iffley (6) 10.30am, followed by a Planning Meeting for 2018, at 92a Church Way, Iffley.	
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Morning Outing organized by Hugh (TBC)	
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Outing to Gloucestershire towers including Pucklechurch, Dyrham, Colerne, Marshfield and Nettleton (TBC)	
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Morning Practice at Kirtlington (8) 16cwt (TBC)	
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Colin Taylor's Spring Outing.	

*If anyone else is interested in organizing a trip in 2018, please contact Hugh or Andrew.*

For more details about everything else, please go to the Oxford City Branch website: [www.oxfordcitybranch.org.uk](http://www.oxfordcitybranch.org.uk)  
Any articles or photographs for inclusion in '**Branching Out**' please email me: [paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk)



### Farewell to Paulina!

The St Giles ringers and others were sad to say goodbye to Paulina Fishman, who had her viva at the end of a one-year Master's course on 12<sup>th</sup> September, and flew home to her native Australia the same evening. She only started to learn to ring in the Spring, but since then she had been the most regular attender of the recent learners at St Giles', and had also managed to ring at about a dozen other towers in the Oxford area. She seems very determined to continue to ring now that she is back at home, and fortunately there are several towers with sets of English-style bells not far from where she lives in Melbourne. **John Pusey**

### Mystery Solved! Richard Bennett's 'Mystery' Outing.

There have been ringing outings where the destinations are known in advance that could be described as inverted mystery outings as they give



leave to be mystified as to whether it was all worth it, but Saturday's genuine mystery outing was something to be glad one came along to, thanks to the organisational skills of Richard Bennett, who also did the driving of the minibus. The clue 'airfields' was no red herring as all four Gloucestershire towers were located in villages with historic RAF connections.

From the lesser known airfields of **South Cerney** and **Rendcomb** we moved to **Kemble**, famous for having



been the home to the Red Arrows display team for nearly twenty years, and concluded at **Fairford** which was the base for the Concorde during its trialling in the 1970s.

After the first three beneficent sets of bells to ring, all thoughts turned to Fairford bells which are rung from the chancel crossing, a rare positioning that can pose extra questions in regard to bell-handling, but as it turned out they were kind in disposition, plus the church boasts the most complete surviving set of medieval stained glass in the country. **Hugh Deam**

## All Saints, Cuddesdon bells come out... mostly !

With the scaffolding up, Whites of Appleton began removing the six bells on the 17<sup>th</sup> October, lowering the treble first through the tortuous route from the belfry, through a previously blocked doorway, down the back of the organ and out into the north side of the nave. The plan was to remove all six bells by Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> when they were to be lined up for everyone to see. However, only the first four were on show in the evening when parishioners were invited to the church to see them; the fifth and tenor remained aloft until the next day. The fifth

descended and joined the other bells, and it remained for the tenor to be extracted.... but on reaching the last stage of lowering behind the organ, it was found that the bell was slightly too large for the aperture provided by the scaffolding! Only two options would provide a solution: to adjust the scaffolding, or to remove the canon. In the event, the former would have taken too long, so the latter was to be the course of action.... but this needed Diocesan Advisory Committee sanction, and the time ran out. So at the time of writing it is hoped that the Tenor (Whitechapel, 1863) will receive this permission, and will reach its companions for transport to Appleton around Wednesday this coming week. Then the present, porous, Treble will be disposed of for scrap and the new bell cast this year, will join the ring, and be back in the belfry early next year. **Brian Lowe**



## 2 hand bell Quarter Peals in the middle of the night!

From 9.00am on October 7<sup>th</sup> to 9.00am on October 8<sup>th</sup>, there was a 24 hour music marathon held at the Immanuel R.C. Church in Swindon to raise money for Brighter Futures. More information on the full event can be seen at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/24hr-music-marathon>

As part of this, Rosanna Cretney from our Branch, along with Joe Norton from the Vale of the White Horse and Tony Crabtree, the Guild Deputy Ringing Master rang two Quarter Peals on handbells back to back.

The first was from 2.34am to 3.04am, and the second 3.05am to 3.35am, Both were of plain bob minor. Well done to them for taking part in such a great event.

If you are involved in any fundraising events, or have any ideas as to how we as a branch could be helping with fundraising initiatives, please do let us know.

**The band with some much needed caffeine to refuel!**

**L-R Tony Crabtree, Rosanna Cretney, Joe Norton**



## Old North Berks Branch - Young Ringers Event at St. Giles on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September

Traditionally, St Giles church in Oxford is open during the St Giles Fair in early September. It provides a quiet place where people may take refuge from the noise and crowds of the fairground outside. The church has laid on tea and cakes for their visitors and this year these were expertly provided and served by ladies from the WI.



John Pusey likes to take the opportunity to invite visitors to the church to try ringing handbells with him, hoping that he may draw in some new learners for his team. And he likes to ring a quarter on handbells before the evening service. This year John was away on holiday so he asked me to organise it.

I had been away myself and was feeling very guilty that so far I had not organised anything for the young ringers. John's request triggered the idea of taking the young

ringers to St Giles – they would love being so close to the Fair. And ringing couldn't possibly be accused of disturbing the neighbourhood whilst there was so much noise from the Fair! We met at 2.00pm with eight young ringers and nine adults. (Sadly some of our usual young ringers had already started school that day).

The standard of ringing was quite high, including some rounds and call changes, Plain Hunt on seven, Plain Bob Triples and Cambridge Surprise Major.



Old North Berks Branch of the ODG

## Young Ringers ring in Witney

Wednesday 25 October 2017

- 10.00 am Witney, SMV**  
(8) 16-3-11, OX28 4AW
- 11.00 am Walk 1.4 miles with quiz**  
Wear suitable clothes and footwear!
- 11.30 am Ducklington**  
**St Bartholomew**  
(6) 4-2-11, OX29 7TH  
**Refreshments**  
**Ringing**
- 12.30 pm Depart**



Any young ringers who can handle a bell safely by themselves will be welcome. Parents and more experienced ringers are welcome too.

Donations of £5.00 per young ringer will be collected

Please let us know if you are coming.

Please complete a permission form if not previously provided.

Susan and Brian Read  
Tel: (01235) 529 779  
Mob: 07903 011 813 & 07941 580 468  
email: [read@tesco.net](mailto:read@tesco.net)  
ONB website [www.onb.odg.org.uk](http://www.onb.odg.org.uk).

An excellent tea was provided by the ladies of the WI. I had prepared a quiz of questions about the church, but there really wasn't time to do it justice. But two of the boys had a go at it. They recognised the painting of Didcot Power Station. And the animal in the stained glass window of St Giles was identified as a sheep. I confess I wasn't sure if it was a sheep or a goat when I looked. I found out later it was supposed to be a hind!

With John's permission, we used the twelve hand bells from the tower, firstly to demonstrate how change ringing works by walking through plain hunt on eight, then to do it again by lapping, involving some of the young ringers. And then we rang some simple tunes on the handbells.

All too soon, it was 4.00pm and we said goodbye to the young people. But in honour of John's tradition, four of us stayed on and rang a quarter peal of Plain Bob Major on the hand bells before the evening service.

**The next outing is this Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> October at Witney and Ducklington (see poster attached). Susan Read. ONB Training Officer**

### Isaac O'Shea's Muffles

The first lot of muffles I made were of great success. So much so that Tim Pett highly recommended we replace our ten year old Whitechapel set at Abingdon St Helen with a new set to my design, as not one has slipped round, thus eliminating the need for tape or anti-slip paint. They also sound better than what Whitechapel supplied, so

I was wondering if you could please circulate my new advert around please?

If you, or someone you know needs new muffles, please ask them to get in touch with me. **Isaac O'Shea. St Helen's, Abingdon**

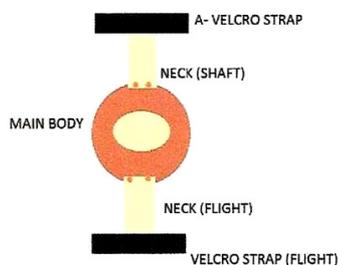


## O'Shea Velcro Bell Muffles

Bell muffles made from high quality Cow Hide leather and crafted with great precision made to match clappers. Made using traditional leather working techniques such as wet moulding and riveting combined with a small amount of adhesive to aid durability and treated with leather preservative to lock in moisture and protect against dampness for a long serving life.

High quality copper rivets are used for attaching the muffle neck to the main body

On bells heavier than 6cwt, rivets are used in conjunction with the adhesive on the central pad.



Required dimensions are:

A. Shaft Diameter

B. Ball diameter

C Diameter where ball meets flight

D. Length of flight

Bells up to 12cwt £15 each

Above 13cwt £22 each

Timber shafts £32 each

Nylon shafts £26 each

Non-Standard clapper shapes please call for a quote.

Please note that the waiting time for muffles can vary between 2-4 weeks

To place orders, call 07856 701133 or email [osheamuffles@yahoo.com](mailto:osheamuffles@yahoo.com) with the subject "MUFFLES"

