



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News



This is the last edition this year – the next one will be on Monday 2nd January. Happy Christmas!

Monday 12th December 2011

Well, I'm back from my holiday in Australia now, so here we go again with another Hugh's News!

On my voyage around parts of Oz, I rang at five towers in Sydney, four in Adelaide and two in Perth! While it wasn't a 'ringing' trip as such, once you've contacted a local correspondent, you just seem to end up being sucked into loads more ringing than you intended!! I actually rang for two weddings in Adelaide at each of the two cathedrals, and went out for a Chinese meal with fourteen ringers in Perth! While in Sydney, I met up with regular visitors to these shores, Alan and Marylon Coates when ringing at St Philips, Church Hill. They are both planning to come to Oxford again next Summer. On my return to Heathrow, I was just leaving the terminal building at Heathrow at 6.30 in the morning, when who should be coming in the opposite direction...? Margaret Marsh, on her way back to Australia! What an amazing coincidence! In fact I got on the same X70 bus that she had just got off!
Paul Lucas.



St Philips, Church Hill, Sydney.

St Giles latest....

The bells at **St Giles (8)** are now back in regular use again, after retuning at Whitechapel and rehanging by Whites. A special arrangement with the builders allowed the bells to be rung half-muffled on Sunday 13th November, before the open-air service for Remembrance Day, and they were rung again both before and after morning service on Sunday 4th December. That service included a celebration of the completion of the work, with members of the St Giles' band doing the readings and intercessions, and the singing of relevant hymns ('Set them nobly in the steeple', 'Ring out, Holy Bells', and 'We have a Gospel to proclaim'). The Vicar's sermon, together with the readings, was intended to acknowledge how the generosity of the donors and the skills of craftsmen and of ringers all contribute to the enhancement of worship. Everyone who has commented seems to agree that the bells sound significantly different - better, as we had of course hoped - and also noticeably louder, which we hadn't really expected! As also expected, they are now easier to ring - and less odd-struck - though the tenor weight, now more precisely measured as 14cwt 1lb (after retuning), indicates that a certain amount of physical



effort is still required. In future, we shall be missing two people who have in the past been among our most regular attenders, so we now need more recruits, even more than in the past. We should also welcome visitors from other local towers, either at practices or perhaps for Sunday evening ringing. Ringing times are: Sunday 09.45-10.30am and 17.45-18.30pm (excluding the 1st Sunday in the month), Thursday 19.30-21.00. Members of the St Giles' band, and from three other Branch towers successfully rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles on the back six at St Mary Magdalen (10) on Sat 26th November as a farewell for Margaret Marsh. It was her first quarter peal, at her first attempt! The rest of the band were: Jonathan Cresshull (conductor), Katy Routh (Headington), Keith Godfrey (Iffley), John Pusey, and David Ingrouille. Margaret had managed to ring on the retuned bells at St Giles on Remembrance Day, but was booked to fly back home to Sydney, NSW, a couple of days before normal ringing resumed at the celebration service. After the quarter-peal, she wrote: "The belief from all of you that I might possibly be able to ring a quarter peal gave me the courage to turn up and give it a go. Thanks especially to Jonathan for giving attention to my progress the whole way through the quarter. The whole band seemed to will me to keep going, and to keep concentrating, and I want to say a big thank to all of you for that positive unconditional belief. Before we started to ring, I thought I might last ten minutes, but as the time passed I did come to think there was a small possibility of finishing. I could feel that no one was putting barriers in my way and that I could keep going. I could not tell how much time had passed and when Jonathan said "That's All", I could not believe that I had finished a quarter peal. It was a very good way to finish my residency here in Oxford, to leave with a positive accomplishment, and a further incentive to keep ringing in Australia. I shall miss you all. Thanks to all you gave me training and practice with their patience and persistence. I hope to see some of you in Australia someday - and I will be back in Oxford in the Spring or early Summer." We shall miss Margaret's contributions to almost every issue of Hugh's News, but perhaps she will send us some description from time to time of ringing in Sydney! *John Pusey.*



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The 2011 Branch AGM.

This year the **AGM** was hosted by St. Peter's, Wolvercote (6) on Saturday 19th December, and was well attended by a mixture of new and long-standing members. For quite a few people, this was their first time on the bells here and it proved an ideal opportunity to hone their technique, with call changes through to Norwich and London being rung in the time at our disposal. The meeting and tea were both held in the spruce new church hall, with a peerless spread provided by the Wolvercote ringers. We now have a new Branch Secretary – Katherine Stonham, ([Katherine.stonham at btinternet.com](mailto:Katherine.stonham@btinternet.com) – Tel: 01865-723939) who has now taken over from Katie Lane. A set of minutes of the AGM will be sent out to all Branch members very soon. *Hugh Deam.*

News of changes to some weekly Practices...

Cowley ringers have now moved their practice nights to **Thursday** - 7.30pm – 9.00pm. Your support for these practices would be much appreciated! Also, **St Aldates** are now practicing every Monday, using a recently installed simulator, which we will be using on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. *Jonathan Cresshull.*

Dates for your Diary

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

- Tuesday 2nd January **Advanced Practice at Old Headington (8)** 7½ cwt. 8.00pm-9.00pm
- Saturday 21st January **Branch Practice at St Giles (8)** 14cwt. 10.30am-12.00pm
- Saturday 24th March **Spring Outing to Huntingdonshire. All towers to be confirmed...**

Local Practice Nights:

- Mondays:** Garsington (6), St Aldates (6).
- Tuesdays:** Headington (8), Kidlington (8), Horspath (6).
- Wednesdays:** Iffley (6).
- Thursdays:** Wolvercote (6), St Giles (8), Stanton St John (5), Cowley (6).
- Fridays:** Old Marston (6), Wheatley (6), North Hinksey (6) (6.45-7.45).

For full 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)