



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News



(Produced fortnightly by Hugh Deam and Paul Lucas. All contributions are welcome.)



Monday 13th June 2011

**St Nicholas Garden Party
Saturday 11th June.**

It is an accepted fact that garden parties can be blissful to attend, but are liable to be fraught with stress in their organisation given the vagaries of the weather and the likelihood of multitudinous other summer events on the same day. Fortunately the weather was about as beneficent as we could have dared hope and a fine turnout



complemented the soiree. Abounding thanks are due to Lucy and Anthony Hughes for availing us the privilege of their magnificent garden for this event that should last long in the memory of all who visited. Thanks are also due to Donna Murphy and Ailsa Reid for keeping the refreshments diffusing for three hours, and also to the Wolvercote hand bell ringers for entertaining us during the afternoon. **Hugh Deam.**



Quarter Peal of Plain Bob Minor on Monday 30th May at All Saints Chilton (6) 7cwt

Treble: Roy Jones. 2.Hugh Deam. 3.Charles Smith. 4.Donna Murphy. 5.Bernard Masterman (c). Tenor: Judy Kirby. (*First Quarter for Judy - turning in the Tenor*).

The quarter peal was called by Bernard Masterman, and the band enjoyed lovely and manageable bells that were a pleasure to ring. An unusual feature at this church were the chickens in the churchyard! Being out on the Bank Holiday for a ring, and lunch with ringing comrades in a nearby farm shop is strongly recommended! **Donna Murphy.**

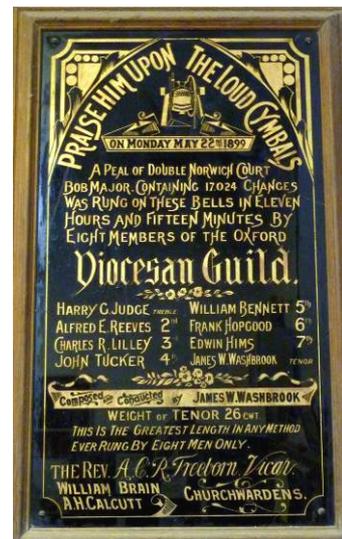
The Longest Peal of Bells

Many years ago I read with disbelief about a band of eight bell ringers, including Lord Peter Wimsey, who completed a peal of bells of over 9 hours duration. This was at Fenchurch St Pauls Church in the Fens on

New Year's Eve and it was fiction*. But last month when I was in a tower watching the shortest of rings - a striking competition - I saw these words on a Peal Board: "This is the greatest length of any method ever rung by eight men only". Not a fictional tale, but ringers at St Mary the Virgin Kidlington, Oxford. The date on the Peal Board is 22nd May 1899, and the composite peal was rung by the Oxford Diocesan Guild on eight bells with 17,024 changes and lasted 11 hours and 12 minutes (ringing Double Norwich Court Bob Major), and they are heavy bells with a tenor of 21cwt. rung in the English style of full circle ringing. As an outsider I was impressed by the sheer difficulty and endurance of this feat by eight Englishmen over a hundred years ago. I was reminded of the fictional tale. How many years did this record for this composite method stand? How many more amazing feats like this are recorded on Peal Boards and sit unseen and uncelebrated in churches across England? **Margaret Marsh.**

(* Dorothy L Sayers, *The Nine Tailors*, 1934.)

(** Some research informed me the record was broken in 1904 at *South Wigston, Leics (8) (14cwt)*, with 17,104 changes in 10 hours 35 minutes, and in 1964 at *Llanfeugan, Powys (8) (12cwt)*, with 20,160 changes in 11 hours 6 minutes)



Dates for your Diary

Full details from Hugh Deam on 07899-871079, or email: hugh.deam@btinternet.com

Saturday 18th June

Summer Outing to **Shaftesbury Area.** (Contact Hugh for any further details)



Silton, Dorset. St. Nicholas (6) 10cwt.

10.30am

Gillingham, Dorset. S.M.V. (8) 24cwt.

12.00 noon

Lunch at 'The Grove Arms', Ludwell, Wilts. (menu: www.grovearms-ludwell.co.uk/food-drink)

1.30pm

Donhead, Dorset. St. Marys. S.M.V. (6) 9cwt.

3.15pm

East Knoyle, Wiltshire. S.M.V. (6) 12cwt.

4.15pm.

Stedman Triples and Caters Practice at **St Mary Magdalen (10) 7cwt.**

7.15pm

'Aunt Sally' Evening at **Wolvercote** (following their Practice)

8.00pm

O.D.G. Guild Festival. Details from Katie Lane: kt.catchmole@googlemail.com

Branch Practice at **St Thomas, Oxford. (10)**

6.30pm

Branch 'Ringing and Picnic' at **Mapledurham (6) 7cwt.**

4.00pm-5.00pm

Monday 20th June

Thursday 30th June

Saturday 9th July

Saturday 2nd July

Saturday 16th July

Local Practice Nights:

Mondays:

Cowley (6) (7.30-9.00), Garsington (6), (8.00-9.00), St Aldates (6) (2nd/4th week only).

Tuesdays:

Headington (8), Kidlington (8), Horspath (6).

Wednesdays:

Iffley (6).

Thursdays:

Wolvercote (6), St Giles (8), Stanton St John (5).

Fridays:

Old Marston (6), Wheatley (6), North Hinksey (6) (6.45-7.45)

Note: Most Practices start at 7.30pm, but before turning up, check the details of the Ringing Times, Tower Captains and Correspondents, by going to the Oxford City Branch website: www.oxfordcitybranch.org.uk

Any information or photographs for inclusion in **Hugh's News** (subject to space available), please email me:

paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk