



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News



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

Monday 24th January

Branch Practice at Kidlington (8) on Saturday 22nd January.

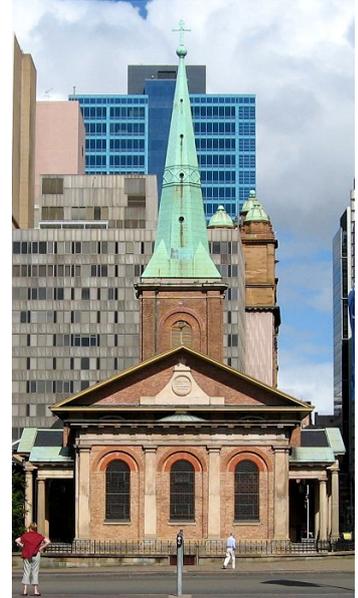
Roy Jones, Paul Lucas, Hugh Deam, Andy Dunn, Bernard Masterman, John Pusey, Judy Kirby, Jonathan Cresshull, Phil Sampson, Jane Burgess, Simon Edwards, Ron Burgess.

After a longer than usual break from Triples and Major ringing caused by the snowy weather in December, it was inevitable that some rust would need to be coaxed off as we reconvened for 2011. The hour and a bit was definitely put to good use as we reacquainted ourselves with Plain and Little Bob, Grandsire, Stedman, Single Oxford and Cambridge. *Hugh Deam.*

Margaret Marsh, with another report from her native Sydney.... St James, King Street (8).

This is the oldest church in Sydney, in use since 1824.

The names of church bells evoke interest especially in a church 12,000 miles from the home of bell ringing in a penal colony established in 1788. This is true of St James Church Sydney, where the bells are named after people of the early settlement of Sydney. Bell number 6 is named after Governor Lachlan Macquarie, the last autocratic Governor of the penal settlement of NSW from 1810-1824. A strong hand was needed as disorder following the Rum Rebellion had caused the previous governor to depart prematurely for England. Macquarie restored orderly lawful government and discipline amongst army troops. He revoked many of the pardons and land grants issued by the army officers. Convicts were set to work developing skills and abilities to prepare them as free settlers. Macquarie, the enlightened despot, played an important role in shaping the Penal Colony into a functional prosperous settlement which attracted many new non-convict settlers. This beautiful church is where I first rang bells in Australia after my initiation and apprenticeship as a senior citizen into the cult of bell ringing in Oxford! *Margaret Marsh.*



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400th Birthday at Horspath!!

Celebrations are in order at St. Giles, Horspath (6), where the ringers celebrate the 400th birthday of their Tenor bell. Although not the oldest bell in the tower - the fourth is 8 years older - the Tenor sounds the best, and when rung 'off the top' possesses a wondrously sonorous note, which resonates round the tower for a good minute after standing. This year also sees the 400th anniversary of the King James Authorised Version of the Bible, so the bell was cast in an appropriate year - by William Yare, of Wokingham, at just on 6cwt, has been rehung just twice during its life in the tower. It bears the inscription "**This bell was made in 1611. W.Y.**" and is in the key of B. Come and enjoy it at Horspath sometime... on Tuesdays at 7.30! *Brian Lowe - Tower Captain.*



Dates for your Diary

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

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|---|--|----------------|----------|
| Monday 24th January - tonight. | 6 Bell Practice | St Aldates (6) | 7.30p.m. |
| Tuesday 8th February | <i>No Practice at Headington this week, because the Ringers are going for a late Christmas meal!</i> | | |
| Saturday 12th February | 8 Bell Branch Practice | Headington (8) | 10.00am |
| <i>(This Practice will include a short Branch Finance Meeting necessary to ratify the Branch Accounts for the year)</i> | | | |
| Saturday 19th February | 6 Bell Branch Practice | Iffley (6) | 10.30am |
| <i>(This Practice is for methods Little Bob and above)</i> | | | |
| Saturday 19th March | Spring Outing to the Milton Keynes area. (All Towers are now confirmed) | | |

1.30pm - Lunch at the Shoulder of Mutton, Calverton.



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| Great Brickhill. St Marys (8) 14cwt. | 10.00am |
| Shenley, Church End. St Marys (6) 17cwt | 11.15am. |
| Whaddon. St Marys (6) 14cwt. | 12.30pm |
| Calverton. All Saints (6) 10cwt. | 3.00pm |
| Cosgrove. SS Peter and Paul (6) 11cwt. | 4.15pm |

Local Practice Nights:

- Mondays:** Cowley (6) (7.00-9.00), Garsington (6), (8.00-9.00), St Aldates (6) (2nd/4th week)
- Tuesdays:** Headington (8), Kidlington (8), Horspath (6).
(Headington has an **Advanced Practice** from 8.00-9.00pm on the **first** Tuesday of each month. Stedman Triples and above. The next one is on **Tuesday 1st February**)
- (Note: Kidlington's Advanced Practices on the first Tuesday of each month are still suspended until further notice.)*
- 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 possible inclusion in **Hugh's News** (subject to space available), please email me: paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk