



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News!



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

Monday 26th July 2010.

As the holiday season is here, there isn't quite so much bellringing news around... So why not take the opportunity to turn *your* hand to a bit of journalism? If you would like to contribute a short piece to *Hugh's News* (max 80-100 words), along with a couple of photographs if possible, then I will be pleased to include them in future editions! Email me! *Paul Lucas*.

Helen's First Quarter Peal on Sunday 4th July 2010...

It's not often that you find someone whose first ringing lesson was on a 'mini-ring'! However, when Helen Matthews visited the Charmborough Mini-Ring at the Christ Church Open Day last year, it was enough to grab her interest. Now, less than a year after ringing a bell for the first time, and despite being hampered by her glasses comically sliding to the very end of her nose halfway through the attempt, Helen has rung her first quarter peal. Well done!

1260 Grandsire Doubles at St Aldates, Oxford. Treble: Helen V Matthews.

2. Catherine M A Lane. 3. Christopher I Griggs. 4. Stephen M Everett.

5. Jonathan Cresshull (C). Tenor: Simon A Bond. Rung for evensong, in 39 minutes.

Jonathan Cresshull.



A Quarter Peal of mixed doubles at Langford (6) St. Matthew (8cwt) on 24th July.

Susan King, Judith Kirby, Roy Jones, Alison Merryweather-Clarke, Hugh Deam, Charles Smith.

This pretty and unspoilt village is situated on the furthest western fringe of the county close to the emergent River Thames. The strategic importance of Radcot Bridge has led to major skirmishes during two English conflicts, first the defeat of Richard II by Henry IV in 1387 and later the Civil War. The present church dates to 1080 and contains a wealth of architectural interest inside and out, particularly the tunnel vault and limestone sculptures depicting the Crucifixion on the porch walls. The back five bells were cast in Witney, 1741. The bells had not been rung for over a decade until a ground-swell of local interest saw them ringing out again in 2008. *Hugh Deam.*

Margaret Marsh recalls ringing for a wedding at St Giles...

Until I came to Oxford to live, going to a wedding was a rare occasion. Now I go to many weddings and join in ringing the bells to celebrate the happy day. My most interesting wedding was last year on a very cold day when the lovely bride shivered in her beautiful silk dress. It was a mixed marriage - English and American. The American women were groomed, polished and coiffured, the English more staid, proper and warm. The service was convincing with a great choir and organist and a well-chosen reading.

We rang the bells joyously, and surprisingly were invited by the father of the bride - an American - to join the wedding party afterwards to drink a toast to the bride and groom. We were but paid entertainers and knew our place was not in at the posh restaurant on Banbury Road! Nevertheless we went along. Dressed in our everyday mediocre clothes we looked rather like the farm hands who had come in from the fields to ring and get our jug of beer in reward... or like the poor relatives who hadn't got an invitation! But the Americans mingled with us, eager to ask about bellringing whilst the English studiously ignored us... or so I observed it! We drank champagne to the couple's long and happy marriage. Then we drifted away, back to our ordinary lives, to wait for another wedding, on another day!

Margaret Marsh.

Dates for your Diary

(Full details from Hugh Deam on 07899-871079, or email: hughdeam@btinternet.com)

Saturday 7th August	Branch 'Ringing and Picnic' Aston Abbots (6) 6-2-27	5.00pm
Saturday 14th August.	Trip on the ' <i>Venturer</i> ' Narrow Boat. (Fully subscribed)	9.30am-5.00pm.
Monday 16th August.	Assisted Joint Practice Garsington (6)	7.30pm
Saturday 4th September.	Branch Practice Yarnton (6) 22-1-19 in D	10.00am
(The Yarnton bells are heavy, and not for the faint hearted!! Only come along if you think you can cope with them!)		
Saturday 25th September.	Shiplake (8)	The Guild's Michaelmas Training Course.
Full details from Katie Lane on 01865-874026, or email: kt.catchmole@googlemail.com		
Saturday 23rd October	Autumn Minibus Outing to West Sussex.	More details in the next edition.

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 beyond! The next one is **Tuesday 3rd August.**)
(Kidlington has an **Advanced Triples Practice** from 7.45-9.00pm on the **fourth** Tuesday of each month. The next one is on **24th August.**)
- 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:

<http://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