



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

Produced fortnightly by Paul and Hugh, with contributions from other ringers.

Monday 12th March 2012



Report from Guild training meeting held sat 4th February at Thame (8) 11cwt.

John Harrison hosted this meeting which was designed to share experiences of training issues from branch and tower level, so that we could learn something from each other and the guild could continue to develop its strategy. Ron Burgess and I attended. The morning started with a discussion on the need to develop teachers of ringing. Most commentators told how once you had been on a 'teach ringing' course - however good - that taking the next step back in the isolation of your own tower, that this was where the support was required. It was felt that technology/mail/video or blog might be a way forward. The discussion moved on to include the best way to run a practice night, that a targeted practice ie just ringing Call changes or Stedman were the way forward rather than trying to please everyone (and failing) on an evening. Or targeting one individual's development! Later in the morning we moved to **S.M.V. at Thame (8)** for some informative practical demonstrations by John Harrison. This included a first lesson technique he employs of starting with the bell down rather than up, and allowing the learner to progress from this safe situation, gradually raising the bell up. This has the advantage of both the teacher and learner growing in confidence in each other right from the start and allowing the learner to 'feel the bell' in a safe manner. There were many other tips which we have taken away from this session to aid teaching, at Kidlington - not least John Harrison's bye word for teachers, that using a variety of techniques is the way to maintain progress in the student, and not to labour a point for too long!! *Tim Hillsdon. (Kidlington)*



A Meeting with Margaret!

I've just come back from a two week holiday in Australia to attend my nephew's wedding in Cabramatta, South Sydney. I took a sight-seeing trip round the City, and gave 'recently returned' Margaret Marsh a call, and met up with her at Circular Quay, near the famous Harbour Bridge and Opera House. Margaret is very well and glad to back with her family, and wishes to be remembered to all her ringing friends back in the UK! She kindly treated me to a very nice lunch at a café in the shadow of the Opera House. Thanks Margaret... it was good to see you again! Don't forget to keep in touch with more stories about life 'down-under' for Hugh's News!! It was also good to meet up with Alan and Marylon Coates at the practice at St Philips Church Hill. Alan is coming over to see us all the UK in June... *Paul Lucas.*



St. Denys Northmoor (6) 11cwt, and St. Giles Standlake (6) 11cwt.



On **Saturday 25th February**, the first of our Minor Method mini-outings conclusively achieved what it set out to do, allowing those starting out on Reverse Canterbury Minor and St. Clements to get the nuances engrained whilst still affording the opportunity for emergent minor ringers to hone their trebling skills within the informality of an outing rather than a practice. The weather was kind to us, as well as the receipt of a warm welcome at both towers. The next time we convene we should have several more ringers available and expand our repertoire by a couple more methods. *Hugh Deam.*

(Picture taken at Standlake, by Donna Murphy)

Branch Practice at Kidlington (8).



On Saturday 3rd March, a warm welcome from our hosts - the Kidlington ringers, awaited ringers from the Oxford and the Witney & Woodstock Branches for this joint ringing practice, with plenty of Stedman and Grandsire Triples interspersed with Cambridge and Little Bob Major. We were delighted that Paul Lucas was able to attend so soon after suffering a broken collar-bone whilst swimming in Australia, ringing and acting as mentor to other ringers. Thank you Paul, and wishing you a speedy recovery. *Roy Jones.*

Dates for your Diary.

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

Saturday 17th March
Saturday 24th March

10 Bell Practice at St. Mary Magdalene (10) 7cwt.
'Spring Outing' to Cambridgeshire.

6.30pm-7.45pm

10.45am Bourne (8) 14cwt. (changed from Trumpington). 12.00noon Gamlingay (8) 16cwt.

1.15pm lunch at *The Duncombe Arms, Eltisley.* 3.00 Caxton (6) 7cwt. 4.00pm Great Grandsden (6) 13cwt.

(Please note: A few amendments have been made since the last edition. £15 per person. Please tell Hugh if you want to come along)

Saturday 14th April Note: The **Branch Practice at Witney has now been changed to South Leigh (8)** 10.30am-12.00pm
(Combined Practice with Witney & Woodstock)

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@hotmail.co.uk