Oxford City Branch
Hugh's News

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

Monday 14th May 2012

(The next edition will be out on 4th June, as I'm going to be away – Paul.)

Results of the O.D.G. 6 bell Branch Striking Competition at Horspath on Saturday 12th May.

1st - Marston-Headington

2nd - St Giles

Judges - Simon and Bob

Anyone who has ever rung on the 6 bells at **Horspath (6cwt)** will know that even novice ringers can quickly feel at ease on this fluent set, and this combined with a delicious tea provided by the Horspath ringers, made for a fine afternoon. Our thanks also must go to the judges, **Simon Bond** and **Bob Wallis**, both former Ringing Masters of the Oxford University Society.

The results were as follows: 1st - Marston-Headington 85%, 2nd - St. Giles 80%, 3rd - St. Aldates 74%, and 4th - Iffley 49%.

The half yearly meeting clarified that the format used this year, namely General Ringing, the Striking Competition, Tea, then the half yearly Meeting, will be repeated next year in May 2013. *Hugh Deam.*

ODG 8-bell Striking Competition at Benson (8) 8cwt.

The May Bank Holiday Monday saw the ODG 8-bell Competition at **Benson** and a set piece of Plain Bob Major, where members of the **Oxford City Branch** scored an admirable third place out of nine teams. The judge, Mike Chester of Coventry, said that despite a couple of method mistakes, the second half of our test piece had provided some of the best ringing of the day. *(L-R : David Barrington, Paul Lucas, John Pusey, Richard Youdale, Jonathan Cresshull (C), Katie Lane, Robin Hall, Dorothy Hall.)*

Branch Practice at Woodstock (8) 12cwt.

Around 14 of us squeezed the 8 bell Branch Practice at **Woodstock** on 5th May into a busy Saturday of weddings and other activities. During a practice topped and tailed by steady plain courses of Grandsire Triples, many of us needed concentration and frequent encouragement to keep the fine old bells *(the back six were cast in 1708)* moving. Some of us preferred to play it safe and consolidate steady trebling, while others enjoyed significant success in ringing first courses of Grandsire inside. We also conquered Plain Bob Triples and Major, and touches of Grandsire with varying degrees of accomplishment, before suffering defeat at the hands of a touch of Stedman Triples. Much comfort is to be found from Woodstock's most famous son*: "Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm."* With Winston's words ringing in my ears, I look forward to seeing you all at the next shared Branch Practice!

Alison Merryweather-Clarke.

'Reid All About It' !

Ailsa Reid from Marston (right - in the green top) scored her first quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor inside at her first attempt on Sunday 29th April 2012. Well done Ailsa! *Hugh Deam.*

Update on practices at Garsington (6) 9½cwt.

We are going to run our Monday practices at **Garsington** from **7.30pm to 8.30pm** from now on. We originally ran them at a later time so that Richard Jeffery could get there. All ringers are more than welcome to join us! Also, we are expecting the bells to be taken out for re-hanging later this year, so I will update you when we have the actual dates. *Mark Hunter.*

Dates for your Diary

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

Saturday 19th May	**Mini Outing to Shabbington (6) 5cwt. (Doubles moving to Minor Practice)**	11.30am-12.30pm
	(Can you contact Hugh in advance if you plan to attend, so best use of the time can be made in targeting which methods to concentrate on.)	
Saturday 26th May	**6 Bell Method Afternoon Mini Outing. (Plain Bob Minor and above only)**	
	Coleshill (6) 7cwt 2.30pm **Hannington (6) 10cwt**	3.45pm
Tuesday 5th June	**Advanced Practice at Headington (8) 7½cwt.**	8.00pm-9.00pm
Saturday 16th June	**6 Bell Practice at Charlton on Otmoor (6) 14cwt.**	(Time still to be confirmed)
Saturday 23rd June	**Branch Summer Outing to South Wiltshire towers.**	
	10.45am Zeals (6), Hindon (6), Codford St. Peter (6) and North Tidworth (6).	(Subsequent times to be confirmed)
Saturday 30th June	**Doubles moving up to Minor Practice at Tetsworth (6) 4cwt**	11.45am-1.00pm
Saturday 7th July	**Stedman Triples Practice at South Leigh (8) 10cwt**	10.30am-11.45am
	(Combined Practice with Witney & Woodstock)	
Saturday 14th July	**Branch 10-Bell Practice at St. Thomas (10) 11cwt.**	6.30pm-7.45pm

Local Practice Nights

Mondays:	**Garsington (6) (See note above), 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