



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News



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

Monday 1st April 2013

(There will be no edition of Hughs News on 15th April as I'm going to be away then. The next one will be on 29th April. Paul.)

The Spring Outing to Cambridgeshire on Saturday 23rd March



Over (8) 13cwt



Willingham (6) 11cwt



Oakington (6) 5cwt



Longstanton (8) 7cwt

On what had the unalloyed visage of a Winter Outing as opposed to a Spring Outing, it is to the eternal credit of all those indomitable ringers who braved the snowy conditions that none could ever be considered as slugabeds on Kipling's Ballad of East and West has long since become defined by its opening line, but students of Kipling will point you to a later line as to the true purport of the poem. "But there is neither East, nor West, Border, nor breed, nor birth." So it was that, whilst it would be stretching a point

exactly thin to describe Oxford as westerly England, our band of ringers felt at home in the easterly fenland of Cambridgeshire. This affinity being augmented by meeting up again with Christian and Alice Burrell and being introduced to their new arrival Arthur, born just before Christmas. Our thanks are due to Christian and Alice for booking the towers and selecting the excellent pub for lunch, this being the **White Horse** in **Oakington** whose name could hardly have been more homologous set against a snow-laden landscape. I would also like to express

gratitude for the live traffic cameras that are available to view on the internet for providing incontrovertible evidence that the snow was nowhere near as invasive as it appeared to be on the television weather forecasts and thus saving us from calling the whole thing off at the very last moment. East Anglian churches are renowned for being ornate and roundival having generally been constructed and furnished at the height of the wool trade epoch, and the four towers that we rang at were no exception to that opinion, something which helped keep minds distracted from the chilly air when not actually ringing. At **Longstanton** church there is an eye-catching stained glass window that is a memorial to the RAF servicemen who served at the local air base during the Second World War. Due to low flying aircraft, **Oakington** church was periodically closed for services in the latter half of the 20th century. The decommissioned RAF land is earmarked for development into England's first 'eco-town', to be known as Northstowe.



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That we could rally an attendance similar to last year's outing on the equivalent Saturday, when the temperature was over 70f, and drought orders were being drawn up, is indubitably encouraging! Hugh Deam.



Dates for your Diary

Full details from Hugh at: [hugh.deam at btinternet.com](mailto:hugh.deam@btinternet.com) or Jonathan at: [jonathan at cresshull.co.uk](mailto:jonathan@cresshull.co.uk)

Tuesday 2 nd April	Advanced Practice at Headington (8) (All experienced ringers welcome!)	8.00pm-9.00pm
Saturday 6 th April	Stedman Triples Practice at South Leigh (8)	10.30am-12noon
Saturday 13 th April	Branch Practice at Stanton St John (5)	6.30pm-8.00pm
Saturday 20 th April	Freeland (6). Minor and Doubles Method Practice with the Freeland ringers.	4.00pm-5.30pm
Saturday 27 th April	Minor Method Mini-Outing to Wiltshire	
	Lacock (6) 3.00pm and Langley Burrell (6) 4.30pm (to be confirmed)	
Saturday 4 th May	Cowley (6). Practice with Cowley ringers.	6.00pm-7.30pm
Saturday 11 th May	Branch Half Yearly Meeting and Striking Competition (venue and time are still to be arranged)	

Local Practice Nights

- Mondays: St Aldates (6), Garsington (6) (No Practices at the moment).
- 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) (6.30-7.30).

For more 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](mailto:paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk)