



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

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



Monday 10th June 2013

Change of Practice Night

From 1st July, the Practices at **Headington (8)** will move from **Tuesdays** to **Wednesdays**. At our AGM on 28th May, our members decided almost overwhelmingly to change the day, because with only three 8 bell towers in the City Branch, it didn't seem sensible to have two of them – **Headington** and **Kidlington** – both practicing on the same night. Hopefully now, ringers from both towers will be able to support each other on the separate nights. This of course will also mean that the monthly **Advanced Practice** will also change to **Wednesdays** as well. We obviously realize that some people go to other towers on **Wednesdays**, but we hope that many of you will still be able to support us! **Paul Lucas**.

Garsington Bells update...

This picture was taken by Hugh on 1st June, when the bells were brought back from White's. Mark Hunter reports that the bells have been hung in the bell-frame, but obviously there is a certain amount of 'ancillary work' to be carried out. He's not expecting the bells to be ready to ring until the 28th June, which he's hoping will give them enough time to practice for a wedding on 29th!!



I say old boy! Matthew has become a Brit!



Matthew Malek moved to the UK from New York in March 2006 to accept a research scientist position at Oxford University. Working across the street from St. Giles Church, he couldn't help but notice the sound of the bells every Thursday evening. Not knowing what change ringing was, his curiosity eventually got the better of him, and he went round to investigate. He was handed a rope by John



Pusey, and offered to have a go, and has been ringing ever since! Matthew is delighted to be British now, and thinks that ringing his first peal of Plain Bob Major at St Giles was a most appropriate way to celebrate!

Practice at North Leigh (6) – Saturday 8th June

If the historiette of last weekend's locations could be said to have primarily aggregated toward the 17th century then to provenance **North Leigh** one has to leaf back many pages in the book of history with there having been a large Roman villa at East End that was once a fine country residence with its own heating system and mosaic floor. Many centuries later several Oxford colleges used the quality building stone that was quarried here, especially Oriel College. The Saxon tower is one of the oldest surviving towers in the county. Our last outing here was in 1998, but I'm sure that it won't be anywhere near as long before we may reconvene here as everyone soon felt at home on the bells and a raft of method requests were fulfilled. **Hugh Deam**.



Mini Outing to Yarnton (6) and Bletchington (6) – Saturday 1st June

Scholars of the English Civil War will be aware of the connection between the two towers being more than the fact that both churches



adjoin manor houses. Yarnton Manor (now the Oxford Centre for Jewish and Hebrew Studies) was utilised as a Royalist military hospital and Bletchington Park (Bletchington Hall as it was then) as a Royalist garrison that witnessed one of the many iniquities of those divided and perfervid years. The governor Col. Francis Windebanke surrendered the house to superior Parliamentary forces, fresh from their victory at Islip, at the first summons to avoid further unnecessary bloodshed, but was soon after court-martialled and shot by his own side. In a year where the first day of June appeared to have coincided with the commencement of summer we had the chance to stand in the churchyard at Yarnton and take in a shoal of melodious birdsong that surely contrasted with the malodorous events of some 450 years ago. Anyone who has encountered the bells of Yarnton will happily acknowledge that these are bells of substance, both in terms of their weight and consonance. By way of a parallel with haute couture as an instance then the bells here would be firmly in the plus size category on the catwalk as opposed to

heroin-chic. Visits such as this are invariably enhanced by the camaraderie formed by meeting fellow travellers in bell-ringing and this afternoon was a shining example with friendly and enthusiastic ringers from both **Yarnton** and **Bletchington** augmenting our group. **Hugh Deam**.

Dates for your Diary

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

- Saturday 29th June** All day Summer Outing to East Hampshire in the Alton area. (times will be given later)
Holybourne (8) 6cwt. Chawton (6) 6cwt. Lunch at *The French Horn*, Alton. Alton (6) 6cwt. Herriard (6) 7cwt.
- Wednesday 3rd July** Advanced Practice at Headington (8). 8.00pm-9.00pm
(All experienced ringers, and those wishing to ring more advanced methods, are welcome to attend)
- Saturday 13th July** Branch Practice at Garsington - first Practice on the newly rehung bells. 6.30pm-8.00pm

Local Practice Nights

- Mondays:** St Aldates (6), Garsington (6)
- Tuesdays:** Kidlington (8), Horspath (6).
- Wednesdays:** Headington (8) (from the beginning of July), Iffley (6).
- Thursdays:** St Giles (8), Wolvercote (6), 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)