



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News



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

Monday 3rd February 2014

Joan Beale - 1936 - 2014

Although Joan was not a tower bell ringer herself, many of you will have known her through ringing. Joan was a local girl from North Oxford, the daughter of Mary, a teacher at Wolvercote and subsequently Marston School, and John Morton, a lay preacher, organist, piano teacher and tuner.

In 1955 she met John Beale at a choir/servers supper and their relationship was cemented through attending old time dancing classes organised by Margaret and Wilf Godwin to raise funds for the recasting and rehanging of the bells and the restoration of the organ. As Wilf was also tower captain there was a distinct ringing connection even then! They married in 1957, unfortunately the day before the rededication of the bells, and after living in Kidlington, Cassington and Templar Road they moved to the bungalow named 'Birchdale' in Upper Wolvercote which many ringers will know as the location for numerous garden parties involving ringers from the city branch, including the wedding of Janice and Jonathan in 2007. Joan did try tower bell ringing and decided it was not for her, but she was a key member of the Wolvercote hand bell ringers, regularly performing at venues around the city and at some city branch events. She was also a keen participant at many of the branch social events and along with John, Jonathan, Janice and more recently Christopher, she took part in the many bowling, skittles, quizzes, Aunt Sally, darts, picnics and punting evenings organised for the ringers. She will be greatly missed. **Janice Beale.**



Doubles and Minor Practice at Freeland - Saturday 25th January

It is three years since the first shared ringing practice with **Freeland** and local **Witney & Woodstock Branch** ringers, an informal event which we always hoped would be both enjoyable and of benefit to all concerned. Since 2011 there have been three or four of these get-togethers per year and unarguably after this first meeting in some six months they have lost none of their efficacious results for tower and visiting ringers alike. **Hugh Deam.**

The Headington Ringers 'early' late Christmas meal !

The Headington ringers usually leave their Christmas meal until the middle of February of the New Year! Realising just how ridiculous this was, Clare and Wendy made a snap decision that we should have it a month



earlier than last year! A very sensible decision! And so it was that we took the Wednesday evening of 22nd January off, and gathered at La Cucina at St Clement's in Oxford once again, for a very pleasant evening. There were 14 of us altogether, which included some of our new recruits, and regular visitors to our Practices on Wednesday evenings. A very good time was had by all! **Paul Lucas.**

Dates for your Diary

Full details from Hugh Deam at: [hugh.deam at btinternet.com](http://hugh.deam.btinternet.com) or phone: 07899-871079.

Wednesday 5 th February	Advanced Practice at Headington (8). All experienced ringers welcome.	8.00pm-9.00pm
Saturday 8 th February	Surprise Major Practice with Witney & Woodstock Branch at Woodstock (8)	10.30-12noon
Thursday 13 th February	Advanced Practice at St Giles (8). All experienced ringers welcome.	7.30pm-9.00pm
Saturday 15 th February	Headington (8). General Ringing followed by a short finance meeting.	10.30am-12noon
Tuesday 18 th February*	Advanced Practice at Kidlington (8). All experienced ringers welcome.	7.30pm-9.00pm
<i>(Note: The Kidlington ringers have changed their Advanced Practice from the 25th (4th Tuesday) to 18th for this month only)</i>		
Saturday 22 nd February	Kidlington (8). General Ringing Practice with the Kidlington ringers.	10.30am-12.00noon
Saturday 22 nd February	Cassington (6). General Ringing with the Cassington & Eynsham ringers.	3.00pm-4.30pm
Saturday 22 nd March	Spring Outing to Wiltshire.	
10.00am. Royal Wootton Bassett (8), 11.00am. Lyneham (6), 12.15pm. Lydiard Tregoze (6), 2.30pm. Lydiard Millicent (6).		

One last seat has become available for the Spring Outing on the minibus. It should be possible to upgrade the 15 seater minibus to a 17 seater, but this will depend on anyone else thinking of coming to let me know within the next fortnight. The original four towers have been confirmed, the intention is to add a fifth tower to the itinerary to adequately accommodate the numbers who have confirmed they are coming. Hugh Deam.

Local Practice Nights

Mondays:	St Aldates (6), Garsington (6)
Tuesdays:	Kidlington (8), Horspath (6).
Wednesdays:	Headington (8), Iffley (6).
Thursdays:	St Giles (8), Wolvercote (6), Stanton St John (5), Cowley (6).
Fridays:	Old Marston (6), Wheatley (6), North Hinksey (6) (6.30pm-7.30pm).

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)