



# Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

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

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014



## A Minibus full of Ringers, One Child and a Puppy Go to Newbury !



On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September a minibus full of ringers, plus one cuddly toy, who had promised in the *Ringling World* that he would parachute off the Grandstand at Newbury, set off for the **Ringling Road Show**.

On arrival we were told to drop off and then park in car park 4 because we were in a minibus (no reward for being environmentally friendly and not taking several cars!). Fortunately our driver must have got confused about the instructions as we conveniently found ourselves with the cars and camper vans, parked right next door to the race course, a perfect place for the cups of coffee, tea and biscuits which were served from the back of the bus before making our way in. That was a good job too, as later we were to find that getting something to eat or drink, was to prove challenging. Beer and cider were no problem though as there



was the race course real ale tent and it being such a lovely day, many people enjoyed a pint sitting at the outside picnic tables, some as early as 10am when the show opened! As usual the Road Show had a great many exhibitors but the numbers of simulators and dumbbells were the ones which had increased the most since the last time we were at Newbury in 2005. Puppy along with many of our ringers visited the Abel stall and although he didn't have a go (he was too nervous about his jump) many others did try the Saxelby Dumbbell using Abel. It was slightly surreal when the other ringers you are ringing with all look exactly the same apart from the t-shirt they are wearing alternating between two



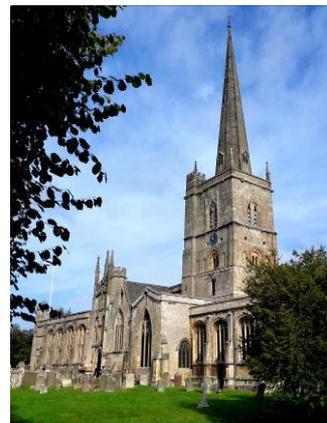
colours! You can apparently add videos of your own ringers. There were several hand bell concerts with the semi-finalists from *'Britain's Got Talent'* performing and the South East Regional Bell Orchestra giving two performances. There were also many seminars but being in the age group between 25 and 55 I wasn't allowed to speak at two of them, plus Puppy and possibly Christopher, his 5 year old owner, wouldn't have sat through them either. However, Christopher and Puppy did enjoy seeing the many mini rings and particularly enjoyed having a go on the Jubilee Peal mini-ring which had been found in a barn. At 3.30pm it was Puppy's big moment, his parachute jump. Unfortunately they didn't have a contingency plan for the wind direction and the design of the grandstand made it very difficult to throw them up in the air to catch the wind. Some of the teddies flew quite well but sadly Puppy was amongst the ones that plummeted, although luckily he didn't get stuck like one of the others did or land in a bin! Most importantly Puppy was reunited with his owner and they were both very happy! At 4.30pm we all met back at the minibus (which hadn't been clamped for parking in the wrong place) for a final cup of tea (all the biscuits had gone by now) before setting off back to Oxford. The consensus was everyone had really enjoyed the Road Show, especially Puppy, but the catering left something to be desired! **Jonathan Beale**



## A Practice at Burford (8) on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September

It's six years since our last quarter peal, and a startling ten years since our last general ringing visit to

the resplendent market town of **Burford**. The spine of the town is its steep High Street, lined with elegant houses and shops dating from the 15th century onwards. In 2009 Burford was ranked sixth in the Forbes magazine list of "Europe's most idyllic places to live". The magnificence of the church here is testimony to how the wool trade permeated the soul as well as fabric of the Cotswolds, with lofty ambition and religious fervour resulting in places of worship such as this. Almost needlessly to state, the church here is not only steeped in history, but also contains an array of fine artefacts. On a sunny day, such as we were favoured with, the view out across the valley from the ringing chamber is unforgettable, and so to be combined with such wonderful bells the assemblage is sublime. Rather satisfyingly, four of



these excellent bells were actually cast in the town. Several of our group rang methods new to them, such as Little Bob Major and Middlesex Triples, with the morning rounded off with tea and coffee in the garden of the Priory restaurant. The town has long been known as the "Gateway to the Cotswolds", but it can also be said that the bells here are the gateway to pleasurable ringing. **Hugh Deam**

## Dates for your Diary

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

- Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September Stanton Harcourt (6). 6 Bell Practice hosted by Witney & Woodstock Branch 10.30am-12noon
- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September Cowley (6) Ringing Practice with the Cowley ringers 4.30pm-5.45pm
- Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October Half Day Outing
- (Stoke Mandeville (8) 10.00am, Haddenham (8) 11.30am. Lunch at The King's Head, Haddenham. Dinton (6) 2.15pm)
- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October Branch Practice at Cowley (6) 6.30pm-7.45pm
- Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October Outing to Alton area in Hampshire with the Witney and Woodstock Branch

For more details go to the Oxford City Branch website: [www.oxfordcitybranch.org.uk](http://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)