



Oxford City Branch

Hugh's News

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

Monday 15th December 2014



This will be the last edition of 2014, so Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers!

A Christmas Message from Katie Lane, our Ringing Master

A father arrived early to collect his daughter from a party. Whilst he waited he stood quietly at the back of the hall and watched with interest. The music was loud and small groups were head to head trying to carry on conversations. Then the music changed and everyone surged onto the floor to dance with tremendous enthusiasm. A complete transformation had come over the scene, which did not go unnoticed by the father. Later, on the way home he asked his daughter why that particular CD could have such electrifying results. "Because it's No. 1 in the charts, Dad" was the withering reply. "Really? What makes a single like that No. 1?" "It's the message, of course", she said, as though everyone should know. "But," protested the father, "You couldn't even hear the words!" "That doesn't matter", smiled his daughter, "You don't have to use words to get a message across. You just let the music carry it into your mind." Her father pondered this statement for a while and then realized his daughter was right. There are many different ways of carrying messages without using words. Artists use brushes and paint, musicians their instruments, beacons can be lit and flags can be raised. When God wished to convey his message – his 'Word' so to speak – that he loved us, he sent it in the person of Jesus Christ his Son. Amongst all the festivities and celebrations let us not forget that it is our bells, our ringing, our skill that sends out this message loud and clear, far and wide, across our city, country and around the world. For many, many people the sound will bring comfort and joy, and for others it will remind them that Christmas is a Christian festival and together we are celebrating the Birth of Jesus. **Katie Lane**

All good wishes to the City Branch for Christmas and 2015!

Eva's First Quarter Peal!

Congratulations to Headington ringer, Eva McGrowder (in the middle of the picture), who rang her first quarter peal on the Tenor to 1260 changes of St Simon's Bob Doubles on Sunday 30th November.

The band was: Treble. Darren Washington; 2. Jonathan Cresshull (C); 3. Clare Fairbairn; 4. Richard Lewis-Skeath; 5. Paul Lucas; Tenor. Eva McGrowder.



Eva joined the Headington ringers around eighteen months ago. She had previously learned to ring at **All Saints in Edmonton, North London (8 – 15cwt)**, but had only learned to ring rounds and call changes at that time. She says she originally took up ringing to overcome the stress of doing her PhD Thesis, and eventually it became a really nice hobby for her! She moved to Oxford in February 2013, and now works in the Oncology Department at the Old Road Campus in the Churchill Hospital. Eva joined the ringers at Headington in March of that year. She has moved on from strength to strength, and is now a valuable asset to ringing at Headington on Sundays and practice nights. It won't be long before she is up for another quarter peal, this time on the treble to doubles, and after that, who knows what she may achieve? **Well done Eva! Paul Lucas**

The Great Wolvercote Quiz!

Thursday 4th December was the date for Wolvercote's most recent social quiz. As usual many of the ringers did us proud by creating an excellent spread of food which was washed down with, what I was told was, a deliciously festive glass of mulled wine. Disappointingly I was not able to partake as I was on antibiotics for a serious case of tonsillitis but from past experience of Donna's mulled wine I am sure I missed a treat! After munching our way through most of the scrumptious food provided, Hugh, our quiz master for the night, challenged us with 26 interesting questions based on the alphabet, whilst Adrian and Ailsa had done an exciting picture round of places around Oxford. Thanks to Sandra and Elaine, the team I was on actually won, but more importantly everybody agreed that it had been another wonderful friendly, social event and we are looking forward to more shared gatherings in 2015. The less knowledgeable amongst us are considering organising a beetle drive next, so watch this space if you fancy joining in! **Janice Beale**



The Festival of Christmas Trees

Now in its second year, the 'Festival of Christmas Trees' at **St. James' Church in Cowley** not only provided the opportunity to admire several dozen decorated trees of various sizes, but also offered carol singers, a gala concert and a carol service at the weekends to fully immerse oneself in the Christmas Season. All proceeds once again go to local charities, **Rosy** and **SeeSaw** - the former providing respite nursing for sick youngsters and the latter providing grief support for children. **Hugh Deam**



Dates for your Diary in 2015

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

Saturday 10 th January	Yarnton (6) Branch Practice hosted by the Witney and Woodstock ringers	10.30am-12noon
Saturday 17 th January	Kidlington (8) Practice hosted by the Kidlington ringers	10.30am-12noon
Saturday 24 th January	Abingdon (10) Royal, Caters, Major and Triples with the Abingdon ringers and Benson (8)	10.00am-11.00am 11.45am-12.45pm
Saturday 31 st January	Iffley (6) Practice hosted by the Iffley ringers	10.30am-12noon
Saturday 7 th February	King's Sutton (8) 11.00am; Brackley (8) 12.30pm; Triples and Major mini-outing	

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)