



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

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

Happy New Year!

Monday 5th January 2015



Christmas Eve Early Evening Service ringing at Marston

Come Christmas Eve most of the churches suddenly find their pews fully occupied, and it's standing room only for the latecomers, and consequently bell-ringers are but one of the component groups which have their resources tested. This is a time when even the most efficient email pooling of ringers within branches can be undone by the simple fact that the majority of services are all at the same time. Although the churches may have swelled their congregations on Christmas Eve, the roads are still plenty busy enough with people going to and fro from shopping, or heading off away from it all, thus making the plan to help with ringing during the afternoon at Church Hanborough, Wolvercote and Marston somewhat more frantic than appeared on paper. **Hugh Deam**



Ringling in the New Year at Iffley !

With ten ringers and a dozen or so spectators in the tower, the ringing in of 2015 at Iffley was particularly ringing-laden, with several methods capable of being on the agenda, and a round of applause from the assembled for the post-midnight Plain Bob Minor. **Hugh Deam**

This Year's Planning Meeting for 2015

On an exceptionally gloomy morning, even by the standards of midwinter, it is encouraging to report that whilst long-term weather forecasting is still to become an exact science then the outlook for a busy and varied year of ringing can be relied upon. Thanks to the generous hospitality of Susan and Simon King of Iffley, providing us with a cosy venue and equally warming refreshment, we have been able to draw up an Events Diary for 2015 that is the most wide-ranging that can ever have been envisaged within this Branch. In what is possibly unique anywhere in the country, just about every month will give ringers of all abilities the opportunity to augment their weeknight ringing with the continuation of our partnership with Witney & Woodstock Branch on 1st Saturdays, Branch Practices on 2nd Saturdays, bi-monthly Surprise Practices on Sunday afternoons, and a mixture of outings (all day and morning), specific method events, ringing up & down practices, picnic + ringing, and local tower hosted practices. It is commendable as it is encouraging that we have so many local ringers who have stepped up to the plate to organize outings for the first time and I hope you will give them your support across the year. **Hugh Deam**

A Surprise Major Practice at Headington (8) on Sunday 11th January

At the Planning Meeting, we decided to hold a series of Surprise Major Practices for all those people (like me!) who are anxious to try and learn to ring Cambridge and Yorkshire Major etc. These practices will be held every other month, and will always be on Sunday afternoons.

The first of these is to be next weekend at Headington on Sunday 11th January, between 3.00pm and 4.00pm.

We have been promised help from some of the Oxford Society of Change Ringers (O.S.), as many of them are apparently available on Sunday afternoons, so please, everyone who wishes to improve their Surprise Major ringing, support these practices! The next one will hopefully be at St Giles in March, but the time and date has yet to be confirmed. **Paul Lucas**

(Please note: There will be no practice at Headington on 14th January, because the ringers are going for a late Christmas meal!)

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
Sunday 11 th January	Headington (8) Surprise Major Practice hosted by the Headington ringers (See details above)	3.00pm-4.00pm
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	
Saturday 14 th February	Headington (8) Branch Practice – open to all ringers	10.30pm-12noon
Saturday 21 st February	Cowley (6) Practice hosted by the Cowley ringers (t.b.c.)	4.30pm-6.00pm
Saturday 28 th February	Islip (8) Ringing up and down practice hosted by the Islip ringers (t.b.c.)	10.30am-12noon

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)