



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

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

Monday 19th January 2015



Headington Surprise Major Practice – Sunday 4th January

The prototype Sunday afternoon Surprise Major was a great success! We had 14 ringers, some making a first attempt at Surprise Major, some welcoming the additional practice, and some providing support and encouragement. We rang several whole courses of Cambridge and Yorkshire and everyone left with a smile of satisfaction. I was even tempted to suggest that we add Lincolnshire into the mix when we next meet at St Giles (14cwt) on Sunday 29th March at 3.00pm. New Surprise ringers and experienced ones will find a warm welcome!

Katie Lane

Yarnton Practice – Saturday 3rd January

The City Branch ringers were delighted to be able to join Witney and Woodstock ringers for the practice at **St Bartholomew, Yarnton**. The Tenor bell, at 22cwt, weighs rather more than the total of all six bells in some of the City Branch towers and several of us were grateful that younger and more athletic ringers were available to turn it in! There was a good turn out and opportunities to everyone to extend their skills. We rang a



variety of methods from call changes, to New Bob, to Cambridge and everyone seemed happy and confident, even when the dodges required considerably more effort than usual!

Notes on Yarnton bells taken from *The Church Bells of Oxfordshire*: "The inscriptions on the five oldest bells in the ring state that they were the gift of Sir Thomas Spencer in 1620...the superstructure, which could hardly be termed a frame as it was completely solid, was found to have been made in two parts: that in which the second bell hangs having been added to the earlier portion containing the treble...rings of six bells were then very rare and Sir Thomas may have only realized that a ring containing this number was possible after the five were installed." **Katie Lane**

Kidlington Branch Practice – 17th January

Despite encountering our first dusting of snow overnight this winter, the practice hosted by the **Kidlington** ringers was hearteningly well attended, with the time primarily apportioned to Grandsire, Stedman and Plain Bob Triples. Since our last time at Kidlington it was easy to track that several ringers had moved ahead in their Grandsire (inside and trebling), plus the morning provided two firsts for ringing Stedman Triples. **Hugh Deam**

Congratulations to Phil Sampson !

It was with great pleasure that we were able, on the same day, to present Phil Sampson with a Testimonial of his 50 years' service to the Oxford Guild. Phil has been a loyal and steadfast member of the Guild, and at St Mary's Kidlington especially. He has consistently supported service ringing and practices, Guild and branch events. He always welcomes friends and visitors alike, he answers every call to provide hospitality at ringers' teas, and I am certain that he rolls up his sleeves and does the washing up too! Phil takes a leading



role in looking after Kidlington tower and bells. He is a master craftsman and his skilled handiwork can be seen, among other places, in the door furniture at the bottom of the tower, the huge and beautiful replacement key and the intricate model bell. **Katie Lane**

Up Coming Events in the near future

Saturday 24th January. 10.00am St Helen's Abingdon (10); 11.45am Benson (8); 12.45pm lunch at Waterfront Café, Benson.

Due to the extra time needed for ringing on higher numbers there is unlikely to be time to fit in any rounds and call changes, but if you are looking to hunt the treble to method please don't be afraid to come along, and we will fit in Plain Hunting on 7, 8 and 9 bells also. It would be much appreciated by way of making maximum use of the time available if you can inform Hugh in advance that you are attending rather than turning up on the day unannounced. *(The nearest parking for the church in Abingdon is in West St. Helen's Street. Try and share transport if you can.)*

Saturday 7th February. 11.00am King's Sutton (8); 12.30pm Brackley (8).

Although mostly method ringing and some plain hunt, anyone coming who is at call change level will get at least one ring at both towers. Please let Hugh know of your plan to attend in advance.

1.45pm lunch Rachel's Farm Shop, Turweston

Although they do not serve alcohol they are happy for anyone lunching there to bring their own wine and they will provide the glasses.

Meals in either instance need not be booked in advance, but please state if you intend to stay for lunch when contacting Hugh.

Dates for your Diary in 2015

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

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| 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)