



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News



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

Monday 30th March 2015

Spring Outing to Hampshire on Saturday 21st March – Burghclere (8), Highclere (6), Kingsclere (8) and Hannington (6)

Our visit to this picturesque enclave of Hampshire, that is no doubt presently being dubbed as "Downton Abbey Country" by those charged with vitalizing the tourism sector, hopefully proved that ringing doesn't have to adopt an above stairs and below stairs posture, but can accommodate an egalitarian perspective. Although the Spring weather was decidedly closer to nascent than burgeoning, the sun nonetheless put in several appearances as we made our way eastwards across the day, with space at a premium in the first two ringing chambers, but then in abundance at the capacious tower in Kingsclere,



Burghclere



Highclere

where we rang Kingsclere Triples. Touring pastoral areas such as this may invite a censure of being a soft option by comparison with some of the more intensive

ringing events on offer these days, but far from being merely a bowdlerized 'Jolly Boys Outing', it has long been my humble opinion that a good outing can be the pinnacle of the ringing experience as well as



Kingsclere



Hannington

being an invaluable piece within the jigsaw. The great German composer Ludwig van Beethoven presciently implored "Don't only practice your art, but force your way into its secrets". True to say, bell-ringing may well not have been at the forefront of his mind at that time, but the statement equally well holds true with our endeavours, and nothing demonstrates this better than the willingness of so many to rise to the challenge of giving over an entire day trying to ring an eclectic array of bells with the fluidity of home-tower bells. Our grateful thanks go to David Parks of Swindon for once again booking the towers for our Spring Outing, and also selecting the 'Star Inn' pub at Kingsclere for our lunch. **Hugh Deam.**

Hello from Margaret Marsh!

I've just come back from a month's holiday in Australia and New Zealand, and while in Sydney, I briefly met up with Margaret Marsh while ringing for a Sunday morning service at **Christ Church St Laurence (10)** in the city. Margaret came over to the UK in around 2007 with her husband Herb, who was studying in Oxford at the time. She learned to ring at **St Giles**, under the guidance of John Pusey and Dermot Roaf, and is still enjoying ringing regularly in Sydney since returning at the end of 2011. She wants to say 'hello' to all the friends she made over in Oxford during that time!

Paul Lucas.

City Branch Striking Competition at St James Cowley – Saturday 9th May at 2.00pm

The purpose of the Striking Competition is to encourage Sunday Service and Branch Bands to improve their striking, rather than the complexity of methods rung as a primary aim. Entries to Katie Lane by Sat 2nd May.

Rules: The competition organizer must receive the name of the team by the date specified. The names of the team members and the conductor shall be notified to the

competition organizer before ringing. Every ringer taking part must be either a resident ringing member, a life member or an honorary member of the Guild. No person shall ring for more than one team. The band shall consist of members who normally ring together at the same tower for Sunday Services, whether or not they ring at more than one tower and shall be chosen by the Tower in any way it thinks fit. One substitute member shall be permitted who shall be a member of the Branch in which the tower is located. The order of ringing of the teams shall be drawn in advance or at the start of the competition. The bells will be up. Up to two minutes practice will be allowed to each team immediately prior to the test piece, after which the bells must be stood. Only the test piece which must finish with rounds will be judged. The test piece will consist of at least one minute's rounds, followed by 240 changes of any Doubles or Minor method or 240 rows of call changes. If a method is rung, then plain courses will be acceptable. If call changes are rung, then at least 30 changes must be called and at least 5 different bells brought down to lead. Any team intending to ring call changes should notify the organizer at the time of entry. **Katie Lane**



Dates for your Diary

Full details from Hugh Deam at: [hugh.deam at btinternet.com](http://hugh.deam@btinternet.com) or Katie Lane at: [kt.catchmole at googlemail.com](mailto:kt.catchmole@googlemail.com)

- Monday 6th April (Bank Holiday) Chilton (6) Specific Method Practice 10.30am-11.45am
(Plain Bob Minor, Stedman and Plain Hunt. Please let Hugh know if you are coming specifically for the Plain Hunt)
- Saturday 11th April 10.30am - 12.00noon
Bladon (6) Witney & Woodstock hosted practice.
- Saturday 25th April 10.00am
Peter & Tim's (Kidlington) Morning Outing - First Tower Rousham (6)
followed by Lower Heyford (6) and Somerton (8)
- Saturday 25th May 11.00am
Heather's Outing to Somerset - First Tower Radstock (6) followed by
Chewton Mendip (8) Chilcompton (12) and Binegar (6)

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)