



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

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



Tuesday 7th April 2015

(Note: There is no Practice at Headington on Wednesday 15th April, because the ringers are having their AGM)

Ringling up and down practice at Islip (8) and practices at Cuddesdon (6) and Church Hanborough (6)

Without question it has been an exceedingly busy early Spring, with ringing options across a broad spectrum. If anyone harboured doubts as to

what is the most requested facet of ringing, then the phenomenal turnout for the ringing up and down practice at **Islip (8)**, at the end of February should have left no room for further ambiguity. The following Saturday (March 7th) we joined the Witney & Woodstock Branch practice at **Church Hanborough**, and then held a useful practice at **Garsington** on March 14th which was attended by



Islip



Cuddesdon



Garsington



Cassington



Church Hanborough

several ringers who had never rung on those bells before. Also in March, the bells of **Cuddesdon** tower were given the once-over by engineers from Whitechapel, which required us to gather a band to ring all six bells so that they could ascertain the state of the frame. The official report is due soon, but the general prognosis on the day was extremely positive, with the bells being easier to ring than I personally have ever known them. The Spring Outing to Hampshire on March 21st proved very popular and the following week we visited **Cassington** and **Freeland**. Encouragingly, there have been several new faces attending these events and the opportunity has been taken for ringers to take their first steps in calling method and to practice their favoured methods. **Hugh Deam**

Wolvercote's New 'Dumb Bell'!

As many of you will have read, back in September the **Wolvercote** ringers and an adventurous cuddly toy dog called Puppy, went to the ringing road show. Not only was an enjoyable time had by all but a new idea was born. For many years the **Wolvercote** ringers have been steadily raising funds towards installing a video downlink which would consist of a CCTV feed from the belfry, so that as well as seeing the ropes being pulled, and hearing the bells, everyone could see them rotating on a screen. It was then hoped that one day **Wolvercote** would go on to have a simulator but before any of this could happen important Health and Safety Works to bring the tower out of the 1950's needed to be done. However, after trying a Saxilby simulator in conjunction with Abel at the Road show, it was decided that instead of a simulator in the tower this would be a much better idea as, not only could this happen quicker, it would allow practice in addition to that on the tower bells and could also be taken to the people. After some discussion about the funding, how we could make it easy and extremely portable to use, and the biggest issue of all, where we would keep it, an enquiry with David Horrocks, who makes the simulators, took place



and it was decided that this was the way forward. David very kindly invited us to go to his place and see them being made and have a go on the larger 4ft version that he has mounted in his house, so on Saturday 21st March a small group of us took him up on his offer and travelled to the North of Birmingham to see our simulator and others being lovingly completed. As promised we had a go and after some practice, and with a great deal of concentration, we all started to get more green highlights, which meant our striking was more accurate. We ended the evening by joining David for an extremely good value carvery at a pub in Coleshill before making the journey back. Thanks to David for another great **Wolvercote** outing (including the food this time!) and also thanks to the guild for their education grant towards this fantastic project. We now have the money for the simulator but are awaiting a faculty. We continue to fundraise for our video down link which can then be installed once the health and safety works have been done. **Janice Beale**

Easter Bank Holiday Practice at Chilton (6) – Monday 6th April.

After driving past the Harwell Diamond Synchrotron at Harwell, our group was welcomed by bright sunshine, some brimstone butterflies, and Carina - the new tower captain of All Saints church Chilton. Hugh guided us through assorted doubles methods in his even-handed approach, which included several attempts at Plain Bob Minor, asking a number of us to call the changes. This traditional Easter outing ringing the well-maintained group of six bells was a pleasure as usual. **Colin Taylor**



Dates for your Diary

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

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| Saturday 11th April | Bladon (6) Witney & Woodstock hosted practice. | 10.30am-12.00noon |
| Saturday 18th April | Branch Practice at North Hinksey (6) | 4.30pm-6.00pm |
| (The Tower Captain has requested that anyone under 18 attending this practice must get written parental consent) | | |
| Saturday 25th April | Peter and Tim's Morning Outing. Rousham (6) 10.00-10.45am; Lower Heyford (6) 11.00-11.45am; Somerton (8) 12.00noon-12.45pm. Lunch at The Bell at Lower Heyford 1.00pm. | |
| Saturday 9th May | Branch Striking Competition at Cowley (6) | 2.00pm onwards |
| Saturday 16th May | Guild AGM at Cowley – full details to follow | 2.30pm onwards |
| Saturday 23rd May | Heather's Outing to Somerset – full details to follow | |
| Saturday 30th May | Practice on the new Simulator at Headington (8) Open to everyone. | 10.30-12.00noon |

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)