



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

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

Monday 20th April 2015



Alison's Adventures on Lundy!

I've just enjoyed a memorable ringing trip on the inspirational island of Lundy, where visitors are advised to 'pack their sense of adventure'. I thought I had, but certainly got more than I bargained for (perhaps a first caters quarter peal, although I was happy with two well-ish struck quarter peals on the back 8). However, while appreciating the rugged West Coast scenery, I lost my footing and my head collided with a rock. Thankfully I didn't lose consciousness - only pride, and an irritating quantity of blood. I applied admonishment, pressure, prayer and tissues, walked back and took a shower, not being a fan of the blood-stained hair look! Toying with the idea of seeking help, the lure of a 10 bell practice proved irresistible, as did the subsequent whacky singing workshop at the top of the lighthouse. I



finally sought 'first' aid 5 hours later and so became the 2nd head case in as many days to be helicoptered from Lundy to Barnstaple A&E! They glued my head together, decided I was talking no more gibberish than usual, and discharged me to the only hotel with a vacancy - the 4 star Saunton Sands beach resort hotel! I am one lucky ringer!

Alison Merryweather-Clarke

Peter and Tim's Outing coming up on Saturday 25th April

Peter Trowles and I are hosting a morning mini tour on Saturday 25th April. Our aim is to follow the course of the River Cherwell with towers like: **Rousham (6)** 10.00am; **Lower Heyford (6)** 11.00 am and **Somerton (8)** at 12.00 noon. Then on our return, for those that would like to go for a lunch stop, we are planning to go to **The Bell Inn at Lower Heyford** at 1.00pm. I have made a provisional booking here, but I will not take orders, as the tour finishes at lunch time, and there is no time constraint, but a show of hands by return to this address please so that space can be reserved for us would be appreciated. Tower costs will be covered by £5 per person please also on the day. We're looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible.... Anyone wanting a lift from Kidlington on the day please let me know as we will try to coordinate transport. Please email me if you are interested in coming along. *Tim Hillsdon* [kidlingtonbells at tiscali.co.uk](mailto:kidlingtonbells@tiscali.co.uk)

Witney and Woodstock Hosted Practice at Bladon (6) – Saturday 11th April

St Martin's Church in Bladon near Woodstock, is the Church of England parish church of Bladon with Woodstock. It is also the mother church of St Mary Magdalene at Woodstock, which was originally a chapel of ease. It is best known for the graves of the Spencer Churchill family, including Sir Winston Churchill, in its churchyard. I can remember being taken to see Churchill's grave as a young boy, when it was still covered in floral wreaths sent from many of the world's greatest leaders at the time. The queue to see the grave stretched right round the village, and it was a very moving occasion. This was a very well-attended morning practice on Saturday 11th April, with a mixture of ringers of all abilities from both the Oxford and Witney & Woodstock Branches. We rang a complete cross-section of methods from basic doubles to more advanced minor methods. *Paul Lucas*

Branch Practice at North Hinksey (6) – Saturday 18th April

It was a lovely spring, late afternoon for our Branch Practice at **North Hinksey**.

We were warmly welcomed by



Ray Rook who stayed to swell the numbers as there were only seven branch ringers and one visitor attending. There was some very respectable ringing with touches of Doubles, Cambridge and uncondacted silent Stedman, along with a foray into Double Court Bob Minor.

A few more ringers attending the Surprise Major Practice at Headington on Sunday 17th May would not only be a bonus - but essential! We will focus on Cambridge, Yorkshire and Bristol. Details of the timings are below. *Katie Lane*

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)

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 2nd May

Alvescot (6) Practice hosted by the Witney & Woodstock ringers

10.30-12.00noon

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

Sunday 17th May

Headington (8) Surprise Major Practice on the new Simulator

4.00pm-5.30pm

Saturday 23rd May

Heather's Outing to Somerset – full details to follow

All Day

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)