



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

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

Monday 1st June 2015



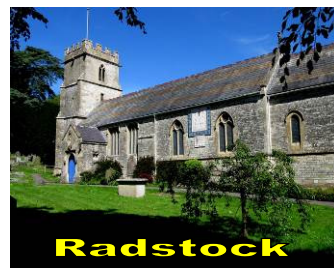
Two reports on Heather's Ringing Trip to The Mendips – Saturday 23rd May

On Saturday the 23rd May, a minibus full of excited ringers headed out of Oxford early in the morning. We stopped off at Bradford on Avon, a



Chilcompton

historic town with steep winding roads, much like Bath, before arriving at **Radstock** for our first tower, a balcony ring of 6. The tower captain of Radstock also joined us at our next tower, the jewel of the day and arguably the nicest 8 in the country, **Chewton Mendip**. Not only did they sound wonderful, but the tenor (24cwt) was easier than some 10cwt's I've rung. My favourite part of the day was at the **Old Down Inn**, where I had divine Mushroom Stroganoff at a very reasonable price. Kathy, our enthusiastic St Giles ringer, may disagree as she doesn't mention the pub, but let's see what she remembers! **Heather Banyard**



Radstock



Chewton Mendip



Binegar



The Old Down Inn

The weather was lovely on Saturday 23rd May! And how smoothly the minibus was running, with Paul as the driver! We saw the big graveyard at **St Nicholas' Church in Radstock**. I've never seen a graveyard like that anywhere in Oxford. So I asked Susan King if there was a similar graveyard at St Mary the Virgin Church on the High Street in Oxford, and Susan said there wasn't.

This was a rare experience of ringing on challenging ropes for me! We were made very welcome at the second tower, **Chewton Mendip** with its 8 bells. As if to reward our braveness in ringing the dancing ropes of the previous tower, the ropes in Chewton were beautifully steady and easy to handle. **Chilcompton** treated us to 12 bells, a rare opportunity for us to ring on so many at one time. At **Binegar**, we were welcomed by the churchwarden, who told us that the big birch tree was at least two hundred years old, and he said the tree was that size when he first saw it, adding proudly "I am 80 years old now". He told us that the beautiful cherry tree was planted to celebrate the Queen's Coronation in 1953. He particularly mentioned the little yew tree, about half a metre high, growing from the cutting of a yew two thousand years old. We practised a lot of rounds and call-changes amid the advanced methods. Isaac O'Shea, our youngest ringer, showed me what perfection could be, and actually made a video of his own ringing! Thank you to Heather who helped organize and guide us in the outing, and to Heather's friend, Ollie Challoner, who joined us at Bradford on Avon and conducted a lot of the ringing for us. **Kathy Xu**

Branch Practice on the simulator at Headington – Saturday 30th May



One of the best things about a simulator is the advantages it has for beginners. And so it proved at this Branch Practice. There was a good mix of experienced and the not so experienced people, all of whom managed to move up a grade in the space of one and a half hours – and all that without disturbing the neighbours! Altogether a very productive morning's ringing – enjoyed by all, as you can plainly see! **Paul Lucas**



Marston Garden Party at Cross Farm - cancellation

Unfortunately, the much anticipated Garden Party at Anthony Hughes' lovely home, which was to have been on Saturday 13th June, has now had to be cancelled, because of Antony's ill health. Antony is currently out of ringing for a few weeks because he has contracted a nasty dose of Shingles. It goes without saying that we all wish Antony well, and hope that the Garden Party can take place once again next year.

The Aunt Sally season is back again !

Thursday 4th June. Aunt Sally at the White Hart in Wolvercote – 7.30pm.

There will be no ringing at Wolvercote on that night. If you would like food, then chips or sandwiches will be available at **£5 per person** – payable in advance. Please contact Donna if you would like to come along....

Friday 3rd July. Aunt Sally at the Red Lion in Wolvercote – 8.00pm.

There will be ringing from 7.00-8.00pm, then the Aunt Sally starts just after 8.00. Bar snacks – which were very good last time, will cost just **£3.50**. Once again, please let me know if you're planning to come along. **Donna Murphy** [dcmurphy2 at btinternet.com](mailto:dcmurphy2@btinternet.com)



Dates for your Diary

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

Saturday 13th June

Branch Practice at Kidlington (8) Open to ringers of all abilities

10.30am-12noon

Saturday 20th June

Practice at Shipston on Stour (6) Open to all ringers

10.00am-11.30am

(We have been kindly invited to join their regular Saturday morning practice)

Saturday 11th July

All Day Minibus Outing to Essex

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11.00am Finchingfield (8); 12noon Wethersfield (8); Lunch at The King's Head, Gosfield; 2.15pm Gosfield (6)

Hugh will send out the full details of this trip within the next couple of weeks. To all those on the email list, he would appreciate a straight yes or no as to whether you are coming, at least a week before the outing, so as to gauge financial and ringing viability.

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)