



# Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

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

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015



## Ringling Up and Down Practice at Weston on the Green on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September

If you weren't already aware of it, Weston on the Green is one of the county's most interesting villages, with a heartening variety of amenities



beyond the expected, such as an ice-cream parlour, Antique Centre & Café, RAF base and glider club, two business parks, an historic hotel and a Grade 2 Listed set of stocks. A host of phraseology (being taken out of your comfort zone, what doesn't kill you makes you stronger) or verbs and adjectives could be trailed out to illustrate the challenge posed for those taking relatively early steps in negotiating the intricacies of ringing up and down on a set of bells that determine a perplexity in themselves, but on balance it might well be a Coldplay lyric which best encapsulates the task that was at hand. Having checked the latest YouTube figure of its viewing, 100 million +, there is a reasonable chance that you may have seen the video that accompanies the Coldplay song called The Scientist, but if you haven't then probably the most notable line is also the most apposite for our morning - Nobody said it was easy, no one ever said it would be this hard. Those who have seen the music video will know that the story-board runs from the end to the beginning, and hopefully those who took part in the ringing session discovered a narrative rather than came away

from a surrealistic Twilight Zone. The bells in the 11th century tower were mostly silent for several years, due to an unsafe frame, until they were rehanging and augmented to a set of six just three years ago. **Hugh Deam**

## Bank Holiday Practice at Chilton (6) on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August

For anyone who has recollection of the 1978 movie set at the fictional Rydell High then it is supposedly Grease which is the time, is the place, is the motion, and resultantly, the way we are feeling. Transpose this to bell-ringing, and more precisely ringing events away from home towers, then the triumvirate of time, place and motion would inevitably have to expand to a pentad, with personnel and weather joining the lyrics by way of the component parts of a perfectly satisfying whole. Fortunately, the last of these, within reason, is also the least, and a soggy embodiment of Bank Holiday Monday murkiness only restricted us by way of the group photo having to be taken inside rather than outside. A commendable turnout of ringers from seven different towers made light of the poor weather to attend, and we meticulously worked our way through Stedman, Little Bob Minor and St. Clements Minor. Grateful thanks are due to our hosts from Chilton, Kate and David, who rang with us and generously allowed us to slightly stray over the scheduled finish time. **Hugh Deam**



## Isaac O'Shea shows us all how it should be done!

At the tender age of 15, **Isaac O'Shea** from Abingdon is fast becoming a bit of a 'prodigy' in bell ringing circles! At the Chilton practice above, he rang a touch of Plain Bob Minor 'two in hand' – on the Treble and 2nd! There are not many ringers of any age who can do that, but at 15 – that's impressive! If you can go to Isaac's Facebook page, you will see a video of him doing it – it's worth watching! Well done Isaac! **Paul Lucas**

## Sheila Browne – R.I.P.

**Sheila Browne CB** (in the blue and white top below) sadly died on August 26<sup>th</sup> at the age of 90. Born on Christmas Day 1924, she had a very

distinguished career in education as a Fellow of St Hilda's College and as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools (one Civil Servant said "I have met God and her name is Browne") and Principal of Newnham College, Cambridge 1983-1992. Upon retirement, she moved to Oxfordshire, where she took an active part in issues such as monitoring health services, and she learnt to ring in **Chalbury**. She moved to Oxford in 1999 and joined the band at St Giles. She was keen and a regular attender. In 2002 she accepted the advice of her cardiologist that she should stop ringing, but in 2005 she decided that she would take the risk and returned to ringing. In 2008 she left the



tower because she feared that dying in the belfry would inconvenience the rest of the band and disrupt the service. She attended Church regularly and kept in touch with us, and made a generous donation towards the rehanging of the bells at St Giles in 2011. John Pusey says that according to the Charlbury ringers, when they took her with them to the pub after their practice, she told them that (then aged about 70) it was the first time she had ever been in a pub! **Dermot Roaf**

(In the picture above, taken in around the year 2000, you can see – clockwise from bottom right – Thelma Sanders, Sue White, Sheila Browne, Rodney White, John Lonsbrough, Simon Edwards, Rachel Hands, Bob Benstead, Dermot Roaf and John Pusey.)

## Dates for your Diary

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

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|---|---|----------------|
| <b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September</b> | <b>St Giles (8) Branch Practice</b>   | 4.30pm-6.00pm  |
| <b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September</b> | <b>Bodicote (8) 10.00am; Great Tew (8) 11.30am; Lunch at the Falkland Arms, Great Tew</b>         | 1.00pm.        |
|   | <i>(A Mini Outing organized by the Cowley Ringers. Names for lunch to Lindsay or Hugh please)</i> |                |
| <b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September</b> | <b>Stanton Harcourt (6). Branch Practice with the Witney and Woodstock Branch</b>                 | 10.30am-12noon |
| <b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October</b>    | <b>Morning Mini Outing to Aylesbury (8) 10.30am; and Chinnor (6) 12.15pm.</b>                     |                |

For more details go to the Oxford City Branch website: [www.oxfordcitybranch.org.uk](http://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)