



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

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

Monday 2nd November 2015



The Steeple Aston Course 2015

This year the Oxford City Branch had eight members from four different towers attending the Steeple Aston Course, plus one member as a tutor. We were represented in all of the groups except Grandsire Doubles. I thought it would be nice to reflect some of our experiences of the day here.

Elaine Chaston from Wolvercote was in the Plain Hunt group, tutored by another Oxford ringer, Jonathan Cresshull. She writes "Thanks must go first to all those that made the day so enjoyable. Organisation was spot on, the tutor was clear and informative and the helpers were wonderful. Visiting other towers was a real eye-opener and made me realise I need to get out more! All seemed to go well at **Rousham** once my knees had stopped knocking together. Alas, this was undone when my handling technique was just not up to it at **Tackley**. "Heavy bells, you'll get on much. And indeed, I did get back on track at the wonderful Rachel Croft from Headington was one of two Oxford Ringers in the Plain Bob Minor group, and says that: "Learning to ring plain bob minor was a very enjoyable course, resulting in some unaided touches by the end of the day. It was a great opportunity to meet other ringers from throughout Oxfordshire." And Kathy Xu, who was learning Grandsire Triples said "What scene could be more pleasing in drizzling weather than a huge rainbow after good ringing at three towers? That was exactly what we were rewarded with! We were full of gratitude for the instructor Robert Newton, his wife Pat, and the volunteering helpers. Without their assistance, we could not have practiced Grandsire Triples. Thanks for the tea/coffee and the traditional dinner - delicious indeed".



Rousham



Tackley



Bletchington

better at the next tower" reassured tutor Jonathon. **Bletchington** tower. A good day was had by all."

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I was also fortunate to be in the grandsire Triples Group; and this was my third time on the Steeple Aston Course. We rang at Steeple Aston, Islip and Kirtlington. I had rung at Steeple Aston and Islip before, so knew what to expect from the bells, but never at Kirtlington. These proved to be a really pleasant, fairly heavy ring of eight. The most disconcerting thing here was the fenced off part of the ringing chamber, where a great chunk of floor was missing as it had been found to be rotting. The hole in the floor gave some very odd acoustics if you were ringing on that side of the room. I must echo everyone else's sentiments about the quality of the course. The tutors and helpers as always were amazingly patient, and so good at explaining things. I came away feeling I had learned so much. As well as the ringing, I always find the theory session in the morning very useful, and although I tried (and failed) to put some of the theory tips into practice on the day, I know that over time they will stand me in good stead. **Lindsay Powell**

Recruitment Morning at Wheatley (6)

The recruitment/open morning at Wheatley on 17th October was aimed not only at attracting new ringers, but also to encourage any members of the community to come up and see what we do. After advertising on local noticeboards and in the village newsletter we were delighted that nearly 30 people came for coffee and biscuits, and the chance to come up to the ringing chamber. Ages ranged from 5 to *mature*, and has probably yielded a couple of recruits, plus another three or four who may be tempted in the future. The youngest recruit is Oliver aged 8 – in the picture on the left! Wendy Keely is the first ringer to have taken up ringing following the open day. She is being expertly taught by Adrian Coates, Zillah de Paiva, Celia Pagel and Juliet Vale. Overall the morning was fun, involving the vicar and his wife (both lapsed ringers), members of the congregation, and many villagers, and it was a great team project for us, the current ringers. **Peter Bayliss**



Oxford City Branch A.G.M. – Saturday 14th November

2.30 - 3.30. Ringing

3.30 – 4.00pm. Service (to be confirmed)

4.00pm - 4.30. Tea

4.30 - 5.30. A.G.M.

5.30 - 6.30 - more ringing if required

Please can we have a good turn out for the A.G.M. !

Lindsay Powell - Secretary

Dates for your Diary

Full details from Hugh Deam at: hugh.deam@btinternet.com or mobile: 07899-871079

Saturday 14th November

Branch AGM at Horspath (6) (details above)

Saturday 21st November

Practice at Iffley (6) (Followed by a ringing events planning meeting for 2016)

2.30pm onwards
10.30am-11.45am

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@hotmail.co.uk