



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

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

Monday 7th December 2015



Ringer's Planning Meeting held at Iffley (6) on Saturday 21st November

After having packed the pre-requested method ringing, and more, into a very well attended 75 minute practice on the Iffley bells, the morning was rounded off with a planning meeting for an array of ringing events throughout the forthcoming year. We were extremely gratified to have our new Guild Steward, Tony Crabtree, in attendance and huge thanks are due to Susan and Simon King for yet again hosting our informal gathering and providing a generous array of refreshments. Our get-together may have owed more to the informal ambience of a 'cottage industry' rather than 'corporate' formality, but the focus on providing a broad spectrum of social and educational ringing opportunities in 2016 was not in the least bit blurred or diminished. The meeting marked the climax of a year where virtually every event we posited back at our January gathering came to fruition, and the bare few which didn't were due to circumstances beyond our control rather than lack of support. Although our set-up is nebulous in that it has no name or official status, the primary aim is clear in it being a regular practical resource for ringers in Oxford and beyond to access as a supplement to that which they may be trying to learn on practice nights or as a primer for the Guild ringing courses. Hopefully the facts and figures listed below should amply illustrate what we have been doing in 2015.



(Details of next year's proposed events are attached to the bottom of this newsletter)

Towers Visited (outside of City Branch) – 29 (26 in 2014); Participating Ringers – 74 (55 in 2014); All Day Outings – 3 (organisers, David, Heather, Adrian); Morning Outings – 7 (organisers, Peter, Tim, Charlotte, Lindsay, Darren); Ringing Up & Down Practices – 2; Specific Method Practices – 4; Special Practices hosted by City Branch Towers - 6; Witney & Woodstock Branch Saturday Morning Practices – 7; Total Number of Events – 28.

Thanks are due to all those who have organised and publicised the events during the year.

If you are interested in attending any of the 2016 ringing opportunities, upcoming events will be circulated on the City Branch website, in the newsletter, via email, and in many instances on tower notice boards. *Hugh Deam*

The Marston Bells are back!

On the afternoon of Friday 6th December a short service was held at St Nicholas Church, Old Marston to celebrate the rehanging and initial

ringing of its refurbished peal of six bells. The Tower Captain, Anthony Hughes welcomed the bell hangers from White's of Appleton, Marston and Oxford City Branch ringers, and visitors to this rare occasion. The Vicar and his wife, Tony and Alison Price, were unable to attend and sent their apologies. Anthony gave a brief history of the peal of bells at Marston and of the ringing, finishing with heartfelt thanks to all the people who helped to raise funds over the last three years to enable the refurbishment to take place. He highlighted the enormous contribution made by the previous tower captain, the late Roy Jones, who not only started ringing at Marston in 1948 continuing until 2014, but also made a financial pledge to complete the rehang.



After a minute's silence to remember that St Nicholas Church had housed a peal of bells for nearly two centuries, the Curate, the Rev. Rob Glennie, read the Belfry Office. A band including the Appleton ringers rang a couple of extents of Stedman Doubles on the bells, and then making a few small adjustments afterwards. Finally, the Marston and City Branch ringers undertook the ringing of several extents. It was announced that a formal Dedication Service would be arranged in 2016 and the health of future ringers of the peal was celebrated with a glass of wine! **Anthony Hughes**



Raffle Prizes!

We are hoping to hold a raffle at the Half Yearly Meeting as well as the AGM in 2016, and with Christmas just around the corner, this seemed an opportune time to mention that any donations of raffle prizes in the New Year would be most welcome. **Hugh Deam - Fund Raising Officer**

The Final Date for your Diary in 2015

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

Saturday 12th December

Branch Practice at Wheatley (6)

10.30am-12noon

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

2016 – Ringing Programme

Sat 9 th January	10.30am Iffley (6) Branch Practice
Sat 16 th January	10.30am Marston (6) Ringing Up & Down TBC (sound controlled)
Sat 23 rd January	10.30am Headington (8) Grandsire Triples & Plain Bob Major Practice (on the simulator)
Sat 30 th January	10.30am Witney (8) Witney & Woodstock Branch Practice
Sat 6 th February	10.30am St. Giles (8) Grandsire Triples touches & Plain Bob Major Practice
Sat 13 th February	10.30am Cowley (6) Ringing with Cowley band for Snowdrop Festival Weekend
Sat 20 th February	10.30am Kidlington (8) Grandsire & Plain Bob Triples
Sat 27 th February	Mini Outing 10.30am Hambleden (8) and 12.00noon Marlow (8)
Sat 30 th April	10.30am Eynsham (6) Witney & Woodstock Branch Practice
*Sat 5 th March	Outing to Wiltshire (Trowbridge area) (organised by John Hearn) TBC
Sat 12 th March	10.30am Church Hanborough (6) Witney & Woodstock Branch Practice
Sat 19 th March	9.30am Tetsworth (6) Basic Method Practice TBC
Fri 25 th March	(Good Friday) - Imber, Wiltshire (6) TBC
Mon 28 th March	10.30am Chilton (6) Minor Method Practice
*Sat 2 nd April	Spring Outing to Northern Cotswolds towers (organised by Colin)
Sat 9 th April	Quarter Peal Morning
*Sat 16 th April	10.30am Sunningwell (6) Stedman Practice
Sat 23 rd April	4.00pm Freeland (6)
Mon 2 nd May	10.30am Marston (6) TBC
Sat 7 th May	Kidlington Outing (organised by Peter & Tim)
Sat 14 th May	OCB Half-Yearly Meeting, possibly with Striking Competition, probable mini-ring available.
Sat 21 st May	Kirtlington (8) Practice with the Kirtlington ringers TBC
Sat 28 th May	
Mon 30 th May	10.30am Chilton (6) QPA
Sat 4 th June	
Sat 11 th June	Quarter Peal Morning
Sat 18 th June	10.30am Join Shipston on Stour ringers (6) for their Saturday morning practice TBA
Sat 25 th June	(alternative date for above) TBA
Sat 2 nd July	10.30am South Leigh (8) Stedman Triples QPA TBC
Sat 9 th July	Morning Outing (organised by Adrian)
Sat 16 th July	(alternative date for above)
Sat 23 rd July	4.00pm Freeland (6) TBC
Sun 24 th July	Afternoon Tower Visit possibly Chadlington (6) TBA
Sat 30 th July	
Sat 13 th August	
Sat 20 th August	Roy Jones Ringing Morning (organised by Hugh)
Sat 27 th August	4.00pm Freeland (6) (alternative date to Sat 23 rd July)
Mon 29 th August	10.30am Chilton (6) Doubles & Minor Method Practice
Sat 3 rd September	
Sat 10 th September	
Sat 17 th September	Cowley Ringer's Outing (organised by Charlotte & Lindsay)
Sat 24 th September	
Sat 1 st October	"Blast from the Past - 1996" Morning Outing (organised by Donna)
Sat 8 th October	Witney & Woodstock Branch Outing (possible date)
Sat 15 th October	" " (possible date)
Sat 22 nd October	
Sat 29 th October	
Sat 20 th or 27 th November	Ringing Practice & Planning Meeting at Iffley

2017

Sat 18th or 25th March Spring Outing (organised by David Parks)