



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

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

Monday 21st December 2015



A very Happy Christmas to all our readers !

A Quarter Peal on the newly refurbished bells at Marston on Sunday 13th December

After a break of almost exactly five months, the villagers of Old Marston were able to start their Sunday morning with the familiarity of a quarter peal emanating from the tower. The unanimous opinion, ranging from the organist to those summoned to worship, was that the bells are unmistakably more harmonious after their refurbishment. This is a great relief as Marston bells peal more regularly than just about any other six bell tower in the world, with some 1,500 or so quarter peals having been rung on them and approaching 200 peals (virtually all of these being since World War Two), this alongside the practising and general service ringing that takes place. **Hugh Deam**



1260 Doubles.

Reverse Canterbury, Plain Bob, St.Simon's, St.Martin's, All Saints, Grandsire.

Treble: Robert Bruce; 2. Ailsa Reid (J/C); 3. Judy Kirby; 4. Donna Murphy (J/C);

5. Hugh Deam (J/C); Tenor: Peter Lloyd.

All Saints Church, Cuddesdon (6)

These bells are now ringeable again, and a new band of ringers is being trained for the near future. In the meantime, Brian Lowe, Tower Captain at St Giles, Horspath, has taken over temporary responsibility for Cuddesdon, and any requests to ring there should be addressed to him. Ringing at present will mainly be confined to service ringing when possible, and for weddings, etc.

Brian can be contacted on 01865-873342, or email: [bewol at tiscali.co.uk](mailto:bewol@tiscali.co.uk)

Next Year's Oxford City Branch Striking Competition

At the AGM last month, there was a good discussion about the future of the Striking Competition. It was decided that the format needed to change, to make it a more inclusive day for all Oxford City Branch members.

Here is a summary of what was agreed:

The striking competition will still be held on the same day as the half yearly meeting – in 2016, this will be **Saturday 14th May**, and the venue is likely to be **Old Marston (6)**, but this will be confirmed in the New Year.

The more formal competition for entry into the Guild Six Bell Competition will be on the same day.

There will also be an informal competition, for tower bands, or individuals from the City Branch, who can ring rounds, call changes or a method.

There will be relaxed rules – the informal competition is designed to allow people of all abilities to have fun ringing together.

For the individuals who want to take part there will be a draw a couple of months ahead. This will allow teams to have a chance to get together and practice if they want to. It's the ideal opportunity to meet ringers from other towers and try some different bells.

When the call for entries comes out, we will ask if people are able to call changes or conduct a method, so we can ensure all teams have someone capable of doing this.

People will be drawn to ring in one team, except where the numbers don't add up to 6, 12 etc, in which case some names will be drawn twice to make sure everyone who wants to ring can be included in a team.

We have also kindly been offered the use of a mini ring (pictured right), which is owned by Tony Crabtree, the new Guild Representative for Oxford City.

In order for this event to be a success, we need the support of as many branch members as possible, so please put 14th May in your diaries, and come along to support the day. **Lindsay Powell**



A big 'thank you' is in order to all those who have participated in or facilitated the numerous ringing events across the year, and with 2016 being a leap year, hopefully the heightened status of resolutions during such years may result in a continued burgeoning of numbers. There will certainly be no shortage of ringing opportunities in the year ahead, with events and times already confirmed for most Saturdays up to April. Also in 2016, the Guild Festival will be in Oxford, providing the opportunity (if you can handle the queueing!) to ring at city centre towers that you may not have ever had the chance to before. **Hugh Deam**

Dates for your Diary in 2016

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

Saturday 9 th January	Branch Practice at Iffley (6)	10.30am-12noon
Saturday 16 th January	Ringing Up and Down Practice at Old Marston (6)	10.30am-12noon
Saturday 23 rd January	Grandsire Triples and Plain Bob Major Practice at Headington (8) - on the simulator	10.30am-12noon
Saturday 30 th January	Witney and Woodstock Branch Practice at Witney (8)	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 at hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk)