



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

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

Monday 19th October 2015



(As there won't be quite so much going on in the Branch for the rest of the year, Hugh's News will be a bit more 'intermittent' after this edition!)

Witney and Woodstock outing to Pershore, and surrounding area – Saturday 10th October

No doubt it has been punned before, that Pershore is a plum location for a ringing outing to be centred upon, but ultimately that doesn't make it



Pershore Abbey



The 'Cage'!

any the less true given that there are two excellent eight bell towers adjacently situated at its heart. The truncated, yet still lofty abbey dominates the skyline with 125 steps (123 upwards and 2 downwards) to negotiate by way of reaching the famous ringing 'cage' up above! Somewhat reminiscent of one of the birdcages from Jurassic Park, fortunately there are no Pterosaurs itching to be let loose, just a unique ringing experience. In the shadow of the abbey is St. Andrew's Centre, formerly the parish church, which is now rented by the abbey at the cost of a pound of Pershore plums per year. Our lunch was at **The Pickled Plum** pub on the High Street, further evidencing the significance of fruit farming to this area. The climb to the ringing chamber at the penultimate tower (**Great Comberton**) is also one of the great idiosyncrasies to be found in ringing, being a winding and particularly cramped set of steps. At the final tower (**Fladbury**), we were met by the tower captain who immediately noticed the St. Peter's, 'Wolvercote' logo on my sweater, and was proud to let us know that he hailed from Wolvercote! **Hugh Deam**



The 'Pickled Plum'

First Quarter Peals at Headington (8)

Congratulations go to Rachel Croft from Headington for achieving her almost faultless first quarter peal on the treble to 1260 changes of Plain Bob

Doubles on Sunday 11th October. Left to right in the picture (taken in the White Hart!): Paul Lucas, Katy Routh, Clare Fairbairn, Rachel Croft, Jonathan Cresshull (c) and Chris Griggs.

Further congratulations go our youngest ringer at Headington, Emma Vincent, who also rang her first quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles on the treble a few weeks earlier, on Sunday 20th September. In this picture - left to right: Katy Routh, Malcolm Fairbairn, Clare Fairbairn, Ed Nicholson (c), Emma Vincent and Paul Lucas.

Paul Lucas



A Practice for people of all abilities at Freeland (6) – Saturday 17th October

We had a nice afternoon practice on the lovely bells of Freeland, designed for all those who turned up, and very productive it was too!



With methods rung, varying from Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob Minor, Grandsire Doubles, Reverse Canterbury, Little Bob, St Simons and Cambridge Surprise Minor – there was truly something for everyone!

Practices like this are very beneficial; especially on light, easy to ring bells, like those at Freeland.

So if you are interested in learning new methods on bells like these, let us know!

Paul Lucas



Dates for your Diary

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

Sunday 25th October

Surprise Major Practice on the simulator at Headington (8)

3.30pm-5.00pm

Saturday 31st October

Witney & Woodstock Branch Practice at Woodstock (8)

10.30am-12noon

Saturday 14th November

Branch AGM at Horspath (6) (more details of times to follow later)

2.30pm onwards

Saturday 21st November

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

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