



Branching Out

The Oxford City Branch Monthly Newsletter



Monday 12th June 2017

As usual, lots going on over the last few weeks! Please keep your articles coming in for 'Branching Out'. Let us know about anything that's happening in your tower.

Email me with your news and photos to: paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk. The next edition will be on 10th July (Deadline for copy, 8th)

A Message from the Ringing Master

"I'm worried I'll hold everyone back at a Branch Practice"

Does this sound familiar? People sometimes feel Branch Practices must only be for really advanced ringers to ring complicated things. In fact, Branch Practices are for everyone, and especially for people who are trying to learn something new, and need a strong band to help. Thanks, then, to everyone who came to Headington last Saturday, where we rang some very successful Plain Bob Doubles, and some equally successful (once everyone knew what was coming!) Bourne Surprise Minor. So please do attend these practices!

Don't forget there's a ringing up and down practice at Marston (6) on Saturday 24th June – 4.30pm-6.00pm.

This will be a good chance to ring up and down on one bell, or in peal. Helpers will be much appreciated please. **Andrew Freer**

Branch Practices coming up in the next few months

These practices are for all Branch members who ring from call changes upwards.

If there is something you would like to practise, you can request it on the day, or email our Ringing Master, Andrew Freer in advance.

Please be assured you will all get a warm welcome. We hope to see lots of you at many of the dates below.

Saturday 8 th July	Cowley (6)	5.00pm-6.30pm
Saturday 12 th August	Yarnton (6)	5.00pm-6.30pm
Saturday 9 th September	St Mary Magdalen, Oxford (10)	5.00pm-6.30pm (t.b.c.)
Saturday 14 th October	Wheatley (6)	5.00pm-6.30pm (t.b.c.)
Saturday 18 th November	A.G.M. at Wolvercote (6)	Afternoon
Saturday 9 th December	Horspath (6)	5.00pm-6.30pm

Other Dates for your Diary

Full details from Ringing Master, Andrew Freer: andrew.freer@gmail.com or tour organizer, Hugh Deam: deamhugh@gmail.com

Sunday 18 th June	Advanced Simulator Practice at Headington (8)	3.30pm-5.00pm
Saturday 24 th June	Ringing up and down Practice at Old Marston (6) 4cwt	4.30pm-6.00pm
Sunday 9 th July	Celebrating Douglas Wilks 70 th year of Guild Membership at North Hinksey (6) 2.30pm - Ringing and afternoon tea followed by a presentation.	

(Please let Hugh know if you wish to attend as soon as possible, so the ringers know how many people to cater for)

Monday 24 th July	<u>Colin Taylor's Outing to Gloucestershire Towers</u> 9.45am St Peters, Winchcombe (8) 11cwt; Brunch in Winchcombe; 12noon St Martin of Tours, Woolstone (6) 4cwt; 1.15pm St Nicholas, Ashchurch (8) 11cwt; 2.30pm St Peters, Stanway (5) 11cwt;	
Saturday 5 th August	Witney & Woodstock Branch Practice at South Leigh (8) 10cwt.	10.30am-12noon
Monday 21 st August	<u>Outing to Wiltshire</u> 10.30am St Peters, Milton Libourne (6) 10cwt; 11.45am St Nicholas, Ashchurch (6) 19cwt; Lunch at The Tipple Inn, Collingbourne Ducis; 2.30pm St Andrews, Stanway (5) 11cwt	

For more details about everything else, please go to the Oxford City Branch website: www.oxfordcitybranch.org.uk
Any articles or photographs for inclusion in 'Branching Out' please email me: paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk

All Saints Cuddesdon (6) – an update

The bells at Cuddesdon are due to be removed sometime in August-September by Whites of Appleton, so that the frame and apparatus can be

improved before re-installation in early 2018. The removal of the bells will present a tricky problem; lowering them straight to the floor cannot be done as the organ sits squarely beneath, so a way will have to be devised to avoid this as the bells descend. Originally it was proposed to take them out horizontally through an aperture in the side of the tower, but this was thought to be too complicated and therefore expensive. When the bells do go back into the tower, the recently cast Whitechapel Treble bell will find its new home along with the other five original bells.... this is planned to happen next spring. The nucleus of a new band have



been using the bells at Horspath on which to train, and everyone is looking forward to hearing those lovely bells again in 2018... on a regular basis ! Donations towards this project are still being sought, so if you feel like giving towards this most worthy project, contact Keith Hawley on 01865

874523.. he is the motivational force behind the fundraising. **Brian Lowe, Tower Captain, St Giles Horspath.**

Adrian Gray's Trip to Essex – Saturday 3rd June

Back in November of last year when plans were being made for the 2017 outings, the aspiration to make a return excursion to Essex was as

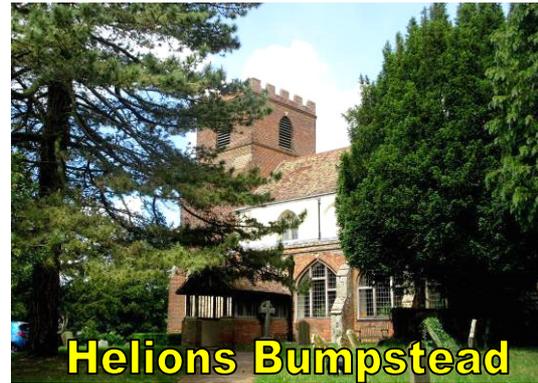
daunting as it was ambitious, but eight months on it all came together wonderfully thanks to the organizational efforts of Adrian Gray of St Peter's, Wolvercote and David Jennings from Ridgewell.

A traversal across the northern tract of Essex will be more likely to yield highway encounters with tractors rather than white vans. Although John Constable's most famous painting – The Hay Wain – is most associated with Suffolk, it actually depicts the waterway border between the counties, and there was ample evidence of "Constable Country" on



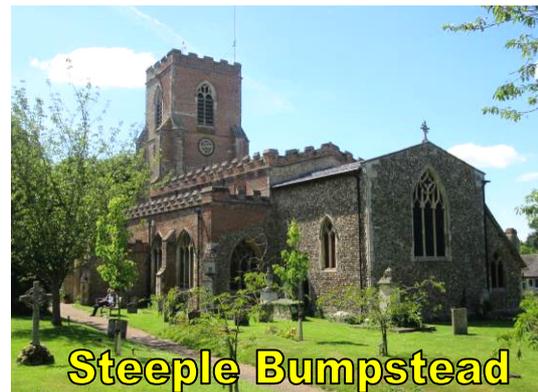
show all through the day. The area is known for spawning several artistic movements and the ceramicist Grayson Perry hails from

Great Bardfield. Despite the considerable size of the church, it has nonetheless come to be known by many as a clock with a church attached! The large blue clock on the tower having been added in 1912 to mark the coronation of George V.



The county may take its emblem from its Saxon origins, but **Helions Bumpstead** derives its unique affix from the Normans. The pioneering nurse Edith Cavell spent a year in

Steeple Bumpstead as governess to the vicar's four children. She later received acclamation for her pioneering nursing work and non-partisan treatment of injured soldiers from both sides of the conflict in Belgium during the First World War before being shot by the Germans in 1915. There are two plaques commemorating her in the village, one in the former vicarage and one in the church. Lunch was taken at the **Fox and Hounds**, a 15th century coaching inn that is as popular today as it has ever been, with such a wide array of meals to choose from that barely an order was duplicated....



The final tower was **Ridgewell**, which proved a fitting conclusion to a fine selection of bells on



the day. As a 'piece de resistance', there was an Invitation to a sumptuous teatime spread at the Tower Captain's home, which was a veritable cross between a theme park and an emporium with a guided tour of the allotment gardens, chicken runs, and views out across parkland, plus use of the hot tub in the garden, comfortable swing seats and pets galore. Thanks are due to David and his family for providing such a grand finale to our day!

Hugh Deam

Young David – known as DD – enjoying the hot tub!





A Bank Holiday Practice at Islip (8) – Monday 29th May

After visiting Kirtlington and Chilton on the first two Bank Holiday Monday mornings this year, the Spring Bank Holiday Monday venue was St Nicholas, Islip. Grateful thanks are due to Teresa Carter, their Tower Captain, for letting us book the bells at fairly short notice after our original venue fell through. *Hugh Deam*

Coming up.....

Marston's Annual Summer Evening of 'Aunt Sally'

St. Nicholas's Friday practice on July 14th will start at 7:00pm until 8:00pm, and then be followed by a game of Aunt Sally at the Red Lion pub. This is a social event that has been going since 2011 and, with the exception of 2012 being missed, it has become a Summer tradition. Marston's practice being on a



Friday, coupled with this event being scheduled around mid-July when the chances of hot and dry weather is at its best, has proven a winning formula for a bell ringing practice and an outdoor gathering. To name just a few, bell ringers from Headington, Iffley, St Giles, Kidlington, Wolvercote, and Witney, whether currently ringing or retired have joined in, and most I am pleased to say return the next year. To those who have not yet attended Marston's Aunt Sally Summer Evening, I can recommend it as a great start to your weekend, even if you are like me and have



to work the next day. To the usual rest of you, we can look forward to another couple of exciting games after a good ringing practice with Anthony and Hugh! Marston's Aunt Sally Summer Evening is a tradition now and now, not far from being a habit!

Details for the Aunt Sally Evening: Practice at St. Nicholas Church Friday 14th July. 7:00pm – 8:00pm. All welcome.

Getting to the Red Lion pub is an easy walking distance from the church and there is also ample parking at the pub.

The Aunt Sally venue does have cover, should the weather be changeable.

If you would like to have sandwiches and chips, it is £5 per person and PLEASE NOTE your order needs to be emailed to Donna no later than 8th July at: [dcmurphy2 at btinternet.com](mailto:dcmurphy2@btinternet.com) as I have to give the money in advance to the pub for confirmation.

Alternatively you can order from the bar menu on the evening before the last food orders at 8:30pm. *Donna Murphy*

Young Ringer's Half-Term Outing to Sunningwell

On the warm sunny afternoon of Wednesday 31st May, ten young ringers met to ring at Sunningwell (6, 8-2-0) and at Isaac's new mini-ring (5, 0-0-



9), in the roof space of Lisa's garage in North Abingdon. In Sunningwell, we climbed the very worn stone steps to the ringing chamber and then found we had to climb down wooden steps about six feet to reach the floor of the ringing chamber! We put the bells to good use ringing some call changes, Plain Bob Doubles, and playing a game where the ringers were supposed to stand the bells after a chosen number of rounds, causing much hilarity!



After a group photo outside the tower, we split into three teams (each with an adult) to walk nearly two miles to Lisa's house for refreshments and to try the mini-ring. On the walk the teams had a question sheet to work through. Some were amazed to find that the maximum fine for dog fouling was £1,000! Daphne had prepared some excellent refreshments with home-made scones and cake. The mini-ring was great fun and something most of the ringers had not encountered before. And lots of us had a go at playing snooker on a mini billiard table. And then there was the pogo stick.....!

Thank you to Daphne Pollard for the refreshments and opening up Sunningwell tower for us, Lisa for allowing us to visit her lovely home, and Isaac for making sure the bells worked when we arrived!

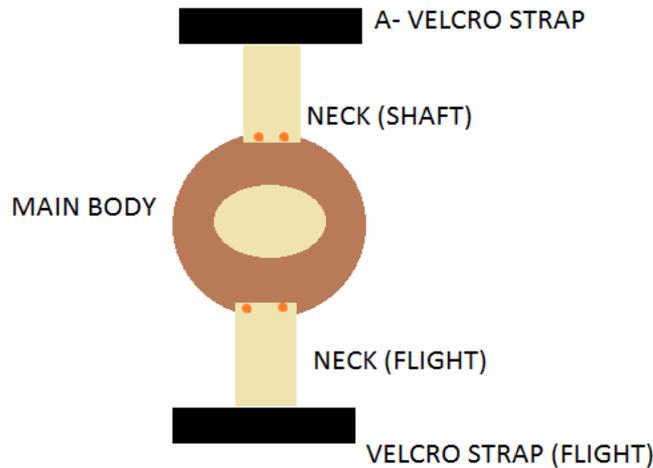
Susan Read



O'Shea Velcro Bell Muffles

Bell muffles made from high quality Cow Hide or Buffalo Leather and crafted with great precision, made to match clappers. Made using traditional saddle stitching combined with a small amount of adhesive to aid durability and treated with leather preservative for a long serving life.

High quality copper rivets are used for the attaching the muffle neck to the main body DR



Required dimensions are:

Shaft Diameter

Ball diameter

Diameter where ball meets flight

Length of flight

NB: THE MAKER CANNOT BE BLAMED FOR FAULTY MANUFACTURE, IF THE INCORRECT DIMENSIONS ARE GIVEN. Tolerance allowance + OR – 3mm.

Bells up to 12cwt, £15 each

Above 13cwt, £22 each

Please note that the waiting time for muffles can vary between 2-4 weeks

To place orders, call 07856 701133 or email [bell_ringer28 at yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bell_ringer28@yahoo.co.uk) with the subject "MUFFLES"

Isaac O'Shea