



Branching Out

The Oxford City Branch Monthly Newsletter

Monday 23rd July 2018



I'm planning to make a few changes to 'Branching Out' in the future.

The next edition will hopefully appear at the end of August, but will only come out if there is enough material to include.

It's becoming increasingly difficult for me to find enough material, so the next edition will only appear if and when people send me items for inclusion! So if you want anything included, please send me any items of interest before the end of August.

Paul Lucas. paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk

Dates for your Diary

Monday 20th August Hugh Deam's Branch Outing to Worcestershire

10.15am. St Nicholas, Kemerton (6) 12cwt.; 11.30am. St Faith, Overbury (6) 9cwt.; 12.30pm. Lunch at The Star Inn, Ashton under Hill.
1.45pm. St Barbara, Ashton under Hill (6) 7cwt.; 2.45pm. St John the Baptist, Beckford (6) 13cwt.

Monday 27th August Bank Holiday Practice at Chilton (6) 10.30am-12noon

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

A list of Branch Practices coming up

Saturday 11 th August: Yarnton (6) Branch Practice	5.00pm-6.30pm
Saturday 8 th September: Marston (6) Branch Practice	5.00pm-6.30pm
Saturday 13 th October: Wolvercote (6) Branch Practice	10.30am-12noon
Saturday 17 th November: Wheatley holding the AGM in the afternoon – actual time still to be confirmed	
Saturday 8 th December: Iffley (6) Branch Practice	10.30am-12 noon (tbc)

Please remember that all these Branch Practices are open to people of all abilities. Everyone is welcome.



July's Branch Practice

The heatwave continues, but that didn't stop Oxford ringers from putting the effort in at Cowley Branch Practice on Saturday 14th July.

Perhaps Lindsay's suggestion of a drink at the Jolly Postboys afterwards helped!

It's great to see how people are making progress, whether that be learning Plain Hunt, or practising Ipswich Surprise Minor.

Andrew Freer – Ringing Master

Trip to Old North Berks Towers

It was a gloriously sunny morning on Saturday 30th June as we arrived in Harwell for the Oxford City Branch summer outing to The Old North Berks Branch.



The team photo!



Harwell



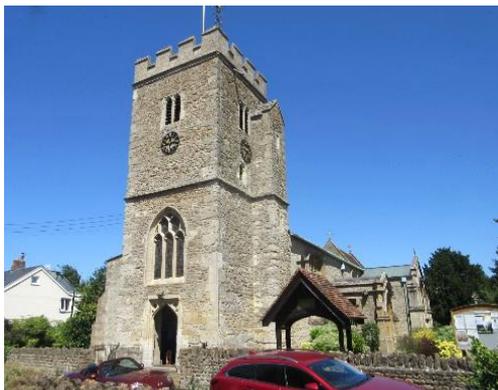
Milton

I'd rather gambled on having a more traditional British summer's day i.e. a cooler one, and booked a full day of 7 towers! Thankfully, some of the Abingdon ringers and visitors from Buriton in Hampshire joined us for a busy and rewarding day of ringing!

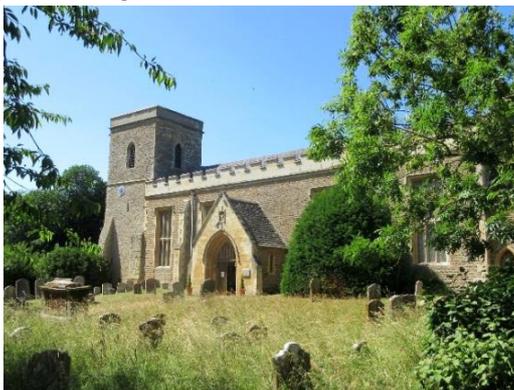


Sutton Courtney, and a 'Working' Lunch at the 'Plum Pudding' pub in Milton

Seven towers weren't enough for everyone, of course. Steve Everett brought out a set of handbells at lunchtime and soon their chimes were drifting over the garden wall from the 'Plum Pudding' pub.



Drayton



Marcham



St. Helen's Abingdon

After lunch, we continued to work our way towards Abingdon, with a detour out to Marcham. It's surprisingly hard to remember to look left for the anti-clockwise ring, but the bells were enjoyable!

By the time we reached St Helen's in Abingdon, we were flagging in the heat and glad to see reinforcements. The 10 bell ringing was very successful, and everyone trying plain hunt on 9 for the first time, did well.

We finished the day with one last tower grab at St Nicolas in Abingdon before heading home for a well-earned rest.

Andrew Freer



St Nicolas Abingdon



inside an extremely hot ringing chamber at St Nic's!

Congratulations Charlotte!

Congratulations to Charlotte

Hook, who has been taught to ring at St Giles' for the last six months or so, and who had chosen learning to ring in order to fulfil the Skills requirement of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Gold level. She has written: 'Prior to working for the award I had never participated in any kind of bellringing, and wanted to use the opportunity to learn something different. Although I am perhaps not a natural ringer, I feel that I now have a full appreciation of bellringing as an art form, and have begun to enjoy ringing as part of a group with the ringers at St Giles.'

The accompanying photo was taken before Charlotte ran a half-marathon, which she completed as part of the physical section of the requirements for the DoE award. Charlotte has already completed all of the other requirements for the DoE Award, and has now submitted certification which St Giles' provided (just before Charlotte reached an age limit), confirming that she had attended practices on 26 occasions and had made reasonable progress. She is now waiting for an invitation to be presented with the Award in person. This could have been done at Buckingham Palace, but she is undertaking an additional 'adventure', by applying to receive the award in Edinburgh, a place which she has never visited before. It is a long time since the St Giles' ringers have had any other ringing pupil who completed DoE requirements at any level, and Charlotte is believed to be the first they have ever had who has used participation in ringing at St Giles to qualify for obtaining a DoE award

at Gold level, so it is quite a significant achievement, both for her and for St Giles'. Charlotte has also just completed a course at Oxford Brookes University, and has now left Oxford, and therefore, sadly, won't be available to continue as a regular ringer at St Giles' in the future. **John Pusey**



Great News about Bernard

Just over four months since his near fatal accident outside Field House in Botley on Saturday 10th March, Bernard Masterman took up the kind offer from Paul Lucas to bring him over to the Marston practice on Friday 13th July. This was the first time Bernard had rung a bell (certainly at Marston) since the Plain Bob Minor quarter peal he rang at

St Nicholas on Sunday 25th February. Bernard rang three times during the evening, rapidly getting back into the swing of

controlling the bell and steadily regaining his memory of method. Indeed it was a good evening on which to return to the tower as it meant that he was able to feature in the Marston ringer's team photo with our vicar, Rev. Skye Denno. It was a sad irony that we learned on Saturday morning that Rev. Paul Rimmer, our vicar for over thirty years (1959-1991), passed away on Friday. After retiring to live in Wolvercote, he gained the same affection from the

congregation at St Peter's, as he continued to conduct services as cover for their own vicar for many years.

Our quarter peal on Sunday morning was dedicated to him.

Sunday 15th July - 1260 Plain Bob Minor

1. Judy Kirby 2. Ailsa Reid 3. Janice Beale 4. Toby Goss 5. Maarit Kivilo 6. Hugh Deam (c)

The funeral for Rev. Paul Rimmer is to be held at St Peter's church, Wolvercote on Tuesday 31st July at 12.00 noon. A further service and burial will be held at St Nicholas church (date and time to be announced).

Hugh Deam

The Cuddesdon Bells are now back in action!

On Wednesday 11th July, I had a brief phone call from Mark Walker of White's asking me if I would like to have a go on the newly re-hung bells at Cuddesdon! It turns out that they had just put the 'finishing touches' to the bells and wanted a team of ringers to try them out for the first time. Well as you can imagine, I was delighted to be asked, so went straight over there and met up with Hugh, Judy, Katie and members of the Whites team who had been working on the bells. There were also two members of the band that Brian is training at Horspath – Marion and Wendy who will hopefully be trained up soon to ring the bells. They are sounding absolutely terrific – even better than before, and the ringing chamber is transformed! At that stage there was no carpet on the floor, or sound proofing installed, but by now that should have all been done. And so, we all look forward to having a 'proper' ring on the bells whenever they become available. Congratulations to all concerned! **Paul Lucas**

Wolvercote's 'Zip Wire' afternoon!

After a two year hiatus the Teddy Bear zip wire made a return to the sun drenched Wolvercote church fete on Saturday 30th June).

As in the past this proved the eye-catching highlight of the event, with teddy bears accounting for only a small fraction of the toys braving the descent. The animal kingdom was well represented in soft toy form, with rhino, elephant, squirrel, ladybug, orca, turtle reindeer, and polar bear amongst the array. The unbounded exuberance shown by the young toy owners made all the forward planning done by the



Beale family worthwhile, but also meant a sizeable team of Wolvercote and Marston ringers having to be in place to ensure a continuous flow in the chain of ascent and descent. **Hugh Deam**