



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News



(Produced fortnightly by Hugh Deam and Paul Lucas. All contributions are welcome.)

Monday 7th March 2011



Paul Foote – 1926-2011.

Very sadly, I have to announce that Paul Foote passed away last Tuesday 1st March at the age of 84. He had been a ringer at Old Headington since the early 1970s, and was a regular ringer with the band up until two years ago when ill-health forced him to retire. He originally learned to ring at St Mary's in Swanage at the age of 15. His funeral is to be held next **Thursday 10th March at 2.15pm** at the Oxford Crematorium, followed by a funeral party at his house in Hill Top Road. Everyone is welcome to attend. His daughter Gillian has asked that there are no flowers, and any donations should be made to the R.N.L.I. *If anyone has any memories of Paul, please could you send them to me, as we are planning to send a piece to the Ringing World.* A Quarter Peal is to be rung by the Headington ringers next Sunday. **Paul Lucas.**

Christchurch Cathedral in New Zealand.

The earthquake struck at 1.00pm in the New Zealand city of Christchurch and destroyed the spire and upper part of the tower of the Cathedral. The twelve bells of the tower crashed down. A group of sightseeing tourists who were at the top of the tower at the time or descending met their death. It is not known how many died. The Cathedral was designed by British architect, George Gilbert Scott in the second half of the 19th century. The spire reached 61 metres above the ground. After the September 2010 earthquake, the Cathedral was deemed safe by engineers. The bells, which were up when the quake struck, were heard ringing and presumably rang themselves down. This quake in 2011 has caused the bells to crash to the ground. Our thoughts go to the people of Christchurch in this great tragedy. As bell ringers we also mourn the loss and damage to the church and its bells and our thought also go out to the bell ringers of Christchurch. **Margaret Marsh.**



Ringling Trip to Bedfordshire. Felmersham (8) 20cwt (pictured), Harrold (6) 13cwt, and Carlton (6) 9cwt.

Although the weather may have been rather wet and overcast for the greater part of the day, the sun did make its presence felt after a pleasant lunch in The Bell at Odell. The ringing was the very antithesis of such, with only a couple of methods rung more than once across the day. The opportunity to reacquaint ourselves with London and Norwich for instance, a pleasure only matched by some superb bells and the chance to ring with Christian Burrell again. **Hugh Deam.**



The OGD Guild Festival is hosted in Oxford every five years; **Saturday 9th July** is this year's date. Traditionally the City Branch has been responsible for the whole organisation but in more recent times the responsibilities have been shared with Guild officers. The Master, Robert Newton and the Guild Secretary, Hilarie Rogers, and I have put together the day's schedule which will shortly be circulated to all Guild members. Meanwhile there is still much to organise and I am

calling upon all members of the City Branch to volunteer to make the day run successfully and smoothly. I have arranged for lunch to take place in the Newman Rooms at the Catholic Chaplaincy in St Aldate's. The WI will be doing the catering but we have to provide the man/woman power to set up the dining facilities and to clear up after the meal. This is a most important role and I would appreciate volunteers, towers or individuals to let me know very quickly if they can help on the day. We will also need a number of people to act as stewards at the towers, counting ringers into the ringing room, organising queues on the stairs etc. This, again, is a most essential and important role as there are usually crowds of visitors who need guiding. I know that July seems a long way ahead and you may query my urgency in getting this sorted out. I really do need to have these arrangements completed early because not only can I not leave it to the last moment but I am all too aware that our situation at home is likely to deteriorate rapidly and render me unable to deal with any matters other than immediate family concerns. So please get back to me if you, or your tower, will help on the day. Please contact me by email kt.catchmole@googlemail.com or my mobile **07885 586104**. The landline, **01865 874026**, is also available but can disturb a resting patient! Thank you very much indeed. **Katie Lane.**

Dates for your Diary

Full details from Hugh Deam on 07899-871079, or email: hugh.deam@btinternet.com

Saturday 12th March

6 Bell Practice Horspath (6) 5cwt.

9.45am

Saturday 19th March

Spring Outing to the Milton Keynes area.

1.30pm - Lunch at the Shoulder of Mutton, Calverton.



Great Brickhill. St Marys (8) 14cwt. 10.00am
Shenley, Church End. St Marys (6) 17cwt 11.15am
Whaddon. St Marys (6) 14cwt. 12.30pm
Calverton. All Saints (6) 10cwt. 3.00pm
Cosgrove. SS Peter and Paul (6) 11cwt. 4.15pm

Saturday 9th April

6 Bell Practice Hillesden, Bucks (6) 9cwt. 10.00am

Saturday 11th June

6 Bell Practice Watlington (8) 24cwt.

(Time to be confirmed)

Saturday 9th July

O.D.G. Guild Festival Details from Katie Lane (see article above).

Local Practice Nights:

Mondays:

Cowley (6) (7.30-9.00), Garsington (6), (8.00-9.00), St Aldates (6) (2nd/4th week only).

Tuesdays:

Headington (8), Kidlington (8), Horspath (6).

(**Headington** has an **Advanced Practice** from 8.00-9.00pm on the **first** Tuesday of each month. Stedman Triples and above. The next one will be on **Tuesday 5th April**)

Wednesdays:

Iffley (6).

Thursdays:

Wolvercote (6), St Giles (8), Stanton St John (5).

Fridays:

Old Marston (6), Wheatley (6), North Hinksey (6) (6.45-7.45)

Note: Most Practices start at 7.30pm, but before turning up, check the details of the Ringing Times, Tower Captains and Correspondents, by going to the Oxford City Branch website: www.oxfordcitybranch.org.uk

Any information or photographs for possible inclusion in **Hugh's News** (subject to space available), please email me: paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk