



# Oxford City Branch Hugh's News



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

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011

Many thanks for all the nice comments about the last edition featuring the London Ringing Tour. All very much appreciated! Unfortunately this will be the last edition of Hugh's News until the middle of December, as I'm having a three week holiday in Australia in November! The next edition will be out on 12<sup>th</sup> December. Please send me any news of your 'Christmas activities'! *Paul.*



## Paul Bayes.

A regular visitor to Oxford towers, sadly Paul died suddenly on Tuesday 11th October in Bexhill, Sussex. He was born in Woodford, Essex and introduced to ringing by his brother, learning on the eight bells at St. Margarets, Horsmonden, Kent. Although employed in various jobs over the years, his main focus was in horticulture. Paul rang over 100 peals and around 1000 quarter peals. He was unfortunately unable to fulfil his last objective which was to join us on the recent London Ringing Tour, where he had intended to ring with John Adams and Roy Jones with whom he rang his first quarter peal of Lincolnshire in 1980. We send our condolences to all the members of his family. *Hugh Deam.*

## AGM at Wolvercote on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November. Starting with ringing at 3.30pm.

At the end of November this year I will have completed 16 years as Secretary for the City Branch and I would like to step down so that I can focus on different aspects of ringing and other committees that I have found myself representing. Of course I will continue to be closely involved with the City Branch in many ways, including

being our Guild Steward. Below I have highlighted some aspects of the role of Branch Secretary:

*He/She arranges Branch meetings; keeps records and minutes of Branch events; keeps records of Branch towers and membership; liaises with Guild Officers, circulates Guild information and co-ordinates Guild events including the Guild Festival; is an ex-officio member of the Guild General Committee and a Governor of the ODG Bell Fund and attends meetings of the Guild; plays an important part in collating the information for the Annual Guild Report; provides copy for Odd Bob and information for the Guild website. The secretary should keep the Guild Webmaster informed of Branch events.*

Please call me if you would like to find out more, or if you think that you could take on part, or all, of the role. I have enjoyed working more closely with the Guild Officers and realise how much ringers owe to the ODG of Church Bell Ringers who do so much to make sure we have bells to ring! Our subscription is well spent, never forget that! *Katie Lane.*

## Farewell to Steve and Aneka Everett!

By the time you read this, Steve and Aneka will have headed off back to Turkey on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October where Steve will be continuing with his job teaching English. They will be back for about two weeks in February next year, but then off again soon afterwards! Steve has always been a valuable member of the City Branch, and an inspiration to new ringers during his time in Oxford - at Iffley, Headington and Marston and many others. We will all miss him! Damaris will be continuing to ring with us at Old Headington, and she is progressing very well. *Paul Lucas.*

## St Giles update.

Whites will be bringing the bells back to the church on Monday morning 7<sup>th</sup> November, and (depending on how much progress Whites have made during that week) there is an odds-on chance that we shall be able to ring them exceptionally the following Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> Nov, 9.45am -10.45am, half-muffled, before the open-air service and parade for Remembrance Sunday. After 13<sup>th</sup> Nov, there will still be a lot of builders' work (and possibly some bell hangers' work) still to be completed, so we don't expect any more ringing until a 'try-out' under White's supervision on one of the first few days of December. On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December, we plan to have a celebration of the completion of the work, centred on the main morning service, probably with ringing both before and afterwards. Regular service ringing and practices should resume from then onwards. *John Pusey.*

## From a News Digest in the U.S.A.

### The Bell of St. Mary's... before it was stolen by crane in plain sight of a high-rise!

"Someone made off with the 122 year-old bell at St. Mary's Cathedral, Baltimore sometime in the last month. Nobody noticed it was missing until Sunday morning. Forged in 1889 here in Baltimore, the bell survived the great San Francisco earthquake of 1906... and a fire at the church in 1962. After the fire, the bell was moved from its tower to a wooden platform on church grounds... so the thieves didn't have to climb dizzying heights. Still, at 2.7 tons, the bell required a crane and a large truck to haul away. Made of 80% copper and 20% tin, the melt value is roughly \$75,000. It's hard to pawn something that distinctive, we'd imagine... but if the thieves have the resources to haul it off, perhaps they have the resources to melt it down, too. Strange days!" *Alena Ptak-Danchak.*



## Dates for your Diary

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

Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Advanced Practice at Old Headington (8) 7½ cwt. (Tomorrow.... All experienced ringers are more than welcome!)	8.00pm-9.00pm
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	8 Bell Practice at Woodstock (8) 12cwt. (Stedman Triples practice shared with Witney & Woodstock Branch - followed by a Pub Lunch at the King's Head, Park Street)	10.30am-12.00pm
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	London Surprise Minor Practice at N. Hinksey (6) 5cwt.	4.45pm-6.00pm
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Branch AGM at Wolvercote (6) 8cwt.	From 3.30pm onwards
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	10 Bell Practice at St Mary Magdalen (10) 7cwt.	6.30pm-7.45pm
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	London Surprise Minor Practice at N.Hinksey (6) 5cwt.	4.45pm-6.00pm
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2012	Spring Outing to Huntingdonshire.	

(Towers to be confirmed. Hopefully the 10 bells at St Neots (29cwt) can be included if enough experienced ringers come along)

## Local Practice Nights:

Mondays:	Cowley (6), Garsington (6), St Aldates (6) (2 <sup>nd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> week of the month only).
Tuesdays:	Headington (8), Kidlington (8), Horspath (6).
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).

For full details go to the Oxford City Branch website: [www.oxfordcitybranch.org.uk](http://www.oxfordcitybranch.org.uk)

Any information or photographs for inclusion in *Hugh's News* please email me: [paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk)