



Oxford City Branch

Hugh's News

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



Monday 13th August 2012

Bernard Masterman's Voyage into Space!

My twin brother, Roger invited me to join him, and our friend Wendy, to take part in a 'Zip Wire' ride, to raise money for the **Leprosy Mission**. We were told to arrive at the Newport Transporter Bridge in South Wales at 2.00pm for our slot in this all day event. After being kitted out with a harness, which was to hold our full body weight on the wire, as well as a helmet, we then had to climb eleven flights of stairs to the launching platform - 50 metres high! A man launched us, one by one, to travel down the wire at 25 miles per hour into Coronation Park. Although a little scary, the descent was exhilarating!!

Bernard Masterman.

(If you would still like to sponsor Bernard and Roger on their incredible challenge, then you can contact Bernard on 01865-725534, or email: bernard.masterman@googlemail.com)



A Message from our Australian Correspondent!

Congratulations Great Britain on your wonderful Olympic Opening Ceremony - truly great! And the magnificent venues designed and built for these Olympic Games. We watched from afar and admired your achievements! I became nostalgic for my time in England by the visual cues of buildings and places and street names and the English accents and appearances of celebrities. And now even your Queen is a film star!!

I have settled into bell ringing here in Australia and wish to thank all those who taught me with such patience. It took some adjustment to new conditions. Not just handling different bells in different towers with different approaches, but at first the heat and humidity and the noise of a big city. Now I have made new friends and I am progressing, and feel needed at my home tower - **Christ Church St Laurence, (10) 10cwt**, (pictured right) here in Sydney.

Margaret Marsh.



A Brand New Key for St Mary's Kidlington!

The south door to the tower now has a smart new key! Nobody can ever remember this door being locked with a proper key... **Phil Sampson**, our Steeple Keeper, has managed to make this brand new one by taking the existing lock apart and creating a new key. (The one on a chain in the picture). Phil has also made the brass key shown and this is a spare for the Tower. We are lucky to have such a talented person in the tower, because Phil also keeps our ropes in good order by repairing and splicing them when necessary!

Ron Burgess.



The All Day Branch Outing to London on 20th October is looking good!

This is the provisional list of towers, in no particular order at the moment. Full details will follow later.

St Margaret's, Parliament Square. Parish Church of the Houses of Parliament within the grounds of Westminster Abbey (10) 26cwt.
 St James, Garlickhythe. 'The Royal Jubilee Bells'. (The bells from the floating belfry during the pageant) (8) 9cwt.
 St Magnus the Martyr, London Bridge (12) 26cwt.
 Southwark Cathedral (12) 48cwt.
 St George, Borough (8) 14cwt.

Please remember that the bells on this outing may be somewhat 'challenging' for some people because of their weight. While everyone is welcome to attend, it would be good if you are able to at least ring Grandsire Triples... There will however be a very limited amount of rounds and call-changes available for the more inexperienced ringers. **Leon Thompson.**

Dates for your Diary

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

Friday 17th August

'Aunt Sally' Evening at The Red Lion, Marston. All welcome.

Starting at 8.15pm

Saturday 25th August

(Note: The Practice at Marston will be 7.00pm-8.15pm for this week only)

4.30pm-5.45pm

Tuesday 4th September

8.00pm-9.00pm

Saturday 15th September

10.30am-12.00noon

Sunday 16th September

2.30pm-3.30pm

Saturday 22nd September

Doubles to Minor Practice at Freeland (6) 3cwt

Advanced Practice at Headington (8) 7½cwt.

Branch Practice at Wolvercote (6)

Minor Method Practice at Hatherop, Gloucs. (6) 7cwt

Minor Method Practice (Tower and time still to be confirmed.)

All Day Branch Outing to London (Details above)

Fridays:

Local Practice Nights

Mondays:

Garsington (6), (no practices for the time being), St Aldates (6).

Tuesdays:

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

Wednesdays:

Iffley (6).

Thursdays:

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

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

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