



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

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



Monday 29th April 2013

Wiltshire Outing to Lacock (6) and Langley Burrell (6)

Most everyone will doubtless have heard of the expression "taking a step back in time", and if one was searching for a location that epitomises



this then **Lacock** would be jostling for pole position, awash as it is with thatched and stone cottages that transport you back as far as Tudor times. This is the home of film and television period drama on location. With the likes of Cranford, Pride & Prejudice, Emma, The Other Boleyn Girl, Moll Flanders, The Mayor of Casterbridge, and the ubiquitous Harry Potter franchise all filmed here,



Lacock



Langley Burrell

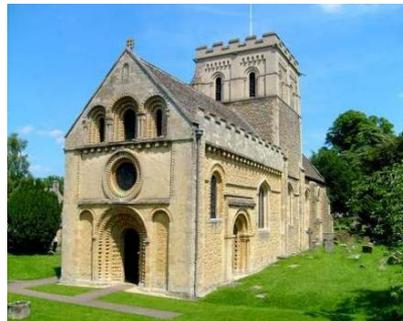
one could easily feel improperly dressed for the occasion. Lacock has been in the possession of the National Trust since 1944, with the Abbey here originally founded in 1229 by Ela, Countess of Salisbury. A good photograph to record the visit here is essential as this is the spiritual home of British photography, **William Fox-Talbot**, one of the pioneers of the photographic process, having lived in Lacock. The museum here bears his name, with the Abbey adjacent also having been remodelled by him. The bells of the magnificent 15th century church are in keeping with the perfection of the village. Moving on to **Langley Burrell** was switching from novelists to essayists, with the great diarist **Francis Kilvert** having been Rector of St. Peter's church. It would have been a small Wiltshire village surrounded by woods such as this that inspired the fictional village of Puddleby-on-the-Marsh in Hugh Lofting's Doctor Doolittle stories, although the film was shot in nearby Castle Combe. His memorable animal creation, the 'pushmi-pullyu', essentially the front half of two 'camelids' stuck together, could essentially encapsulate the yin and yang of bellringing. As the song goes in the movie "I've Never Seen Anything Like It In My Life", you may have seen something like these two locations and sets of bells, but you are unlikely to have experienced anything to exceed them. The whole afternoon was a case of Ringers Welcome. *Iconoclasts Need Not Apply... Hugh Deam*

Practice at Freeland (6)

The show of daffodils in the churchyard, sunshine, and the Freeland ringers made the visitors very welcome at this splendid tower. Once everyone had ascended to the ringing chamber business was started promptly with some Plain Hunt. The afternoon included three sequences of St Clements, some All Saints and some Bob Minor. The bells in this tower are a pleasure to ring and react sensitively to changes of ringing speed. *Colin Taylor*

Practices at Iffley (6) and Stanton St John (5)

Saturday, 13th April saw a splendid minor methods practice at **Iffley**. We learners were encouraged to



do a lot of rounds and plain hunt as well. The ringing attracted a group of seven tourists from the village hotel, who climbed the tower to satisfy their curiosity. The Saturday was also a treat for me because there was also a ringing session at **Stanton St John** in the evening. It was the first time for me to see just five bells, and we rang rounds to accommodate the learner (myself). To my delight, the same church featured pews embellished with carvings in the form of chessmen. My knowledge of bell towers was enhanced when we passed the church in Elsfield that, as Hugh pointed out, had only two bells, which Anthony Hughes - who is Church Warden at Elsfield - amazingly, rings both of them by himself! *Kathy Xu*

Dates for your Diary

Full details from Hugh at: [hugh.deam at btinternet.com](mailto:hugh.deam@btinternet.com) or Jonathan at: [jonathan at cresshull.co.uk](mailto:jonathan@cresshull.co.uk)

- Saturday 4th May** Cowley (6). Practice with Cowley ringers. 6.00pm-7.30pm
- Tuesday 7th May** Advanced Practice at Headington (8) (All experienced ringers welcome) 8.00pm-9.00pm
- Saturday 11th May** Horspath (6). Basic Skill Practice. For those ringing Call Changes and Plain Hunt. 10.30am-12.00noon
- Saturday 11th May** Branch Half Yearly Meeting and Striking Competition at N. Hinksey (6) 5cwt
(The Striking Competition will start at 3.30pm and the Meeting at 6.00pm. Katherine Stonham will send out full details later)
- Saturday 18th May** Method Mini-Outing to Somerton (8) (2.30pm) and Lower Heyford (6) (4.00pm)
Grandsire, Plain Bob and Plain Hunting. (Could those intending to come, please email me in advance please?) *Hugh Deam*
- Saturday 29th June** All day Summer Outing to East Hampshire in the Alton area. (Full details next time)
Holybourne (8) 6cwt. Chawton (6) 6cwt. Lunch at The French Horn, Alton. Alton (6) 6cwt. Herriard (6) 7cwt.

Local Practice Nights

- Mondays:** St Aldates (6), Garsington (6) (No Practices at the moment).
- 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) (6.30-7.30).

For more 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 at hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk)