



# Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

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

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014



## A Ringing Practice at Chipping Norton (8)

Continuing our run of visiting towers relatively close to Oxford where surprisingly few of us have ever rung, or at least cannot recall for certain having rung at, our destination was Oxfordshire's highest situated town, namely **Chipping Norton**. We were in some ways grateful for the weather being somewhat less than glorious as it clearly kept the expected level of traffic down on the roads, with the CLA Game Fair taking place in Woodstock, directly on the obvious route to *Chippy*. The gloomy forecast seemingly also deferred some of the Saturday shopping crowd, thus making it easier to find a parking space. Thankfully there was nothing subdued about the ringing, with a really healthy turnout,



especially as this was the start of the famed 'Great Summer Getaway'. Just to the west of the bustling High Street and its Saturday market is the primarily 15th century church, with adjoining earthworks being the only reminder of the castle that once stood adjacent. As could be expected from a town largely built on the affluence accruing from the wool trade, the church is endowed with a wealth of rich detail, with this other '*Chipping Norton Set*', namely the set of eight bells cast in 1907 at Whitechapel, being a good test of confidence in ones handling. **Hugh Deam**

## A Branch Practice at Kidlington on 12<sup>th</sup> July

As is well known, the vast majority of ringing within the City Branch is Doubles and Minor, so regular access to our 8-Bell towers for method practice is of inordinate value. Although it is still early days, the number of ringers actively seeking to make the step up to ringing Triples and Major is on the increase and hopefully this will translate into our being able to book a few more 8-Bell towers for outings in the near future. Presciently, there are always a couple of substantial fans oscillating steadily in the ringing chamber at **Kidlington** at this time of year in order to prevent a nascent heat-wave from making the task of ringing almost untenable. **Hugh Deam**



## Aunt Sally at the Red Lion in Marston!

A number of local ringers came out for another challenging game of Aunt Sally on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July, this time at the Red Lion at Marston. Surrounded by glorious flowers and food, they enjoyed playing the game on the pub's renovated patio, and were quite impressed with the improvements. Two teams were made up by drawing names as usual, but came out quite lopsided as the scores will prove. After three legs, the **Cyclepaths** had a measly 3 points, and the **Car Jackers** knocked down 11. The photo shows all the players, both teams showing no division so as to protect the innocent, and not accuse the guilty! **Donna Murphy**

## A Fund-Raising Day at Wolvercote

In a brainstorm for fundraising ideas for our neighbouring tower of Marston the idea of parachuting teddies off the tower was one of the suggestions! Marston chose to do other fundraising ideas instead, but 4 year old Christopher Beale thought it might be a possibility for the **Wolvercote** Church Fete. However, it was thought unmanageable to parachute teddies due to 'health and safety' reasons, i.e. teddies landing on the heads of the people or even worse lost forever on roofs or in trees, so the teddy bear zip wire idea was born instead. Over the next year plans were made and preparation was done. Christmas was spent making harnesses. Christopher had a zip wiring 5<sup>th</sup> birth party where all his friends brought their cuddly toys so we could see what sort of toys might turn up on the day and as the day got nearer excitement started to grow. Unfortunately on the actual day a forecast for thundery down pours was given out. (The one thing we couldn't control was the weather!). The rest of the Fete moved inside, but luckily we were able to borrow a very good gazebo. The morning was spent setting the zip wire up and despite the weather there was great British camaraderie among the ringers as, with cups of tea in hand, we all huddled under the gazebo to have our picnic lunch, watching the pouring rain and wondering if anyone would turn up. The Fete was due to start at 2.00pm and miraculously (perhaps St Peter had decided his Patronal



Festival Fete was not going to be rained off!). At 1.45pm the sky cleared and the sun shone, and it continued to shine for the rest of the fete, and 94 daring teddies zipped down the wire to the delight of a crowd of happy, cheering people. After the fete was over, as the ringers huddled yet again under the gazebo as the heavens reopened, we all reflected on what a wonderful success the zip wire had been and what fun had been had by all. A write up of the zip wire made page 2 of the Oxford Mail and we have had a great deal of positive feedback from everyone. The question they all ask is..... Will we be doing it again next year? Our response at the moment is..... We'll see! **Janice Beale**



## Dates for your Diary

Full details from Hugh Deam at: [hugh.deam at btinternet.com](http://hugh.deam.btinternet.com) or phone: 07899-871079.

Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> July	Eynsham (6). Specific Doubles Methods Practice	10.30am-12noon
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> August	Yarnton (6). General Ringing Practice hosted by the Yarnton ringers	10.30am-11.45am
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> August	South Leigh (8) Branch Practice hosted by the Witney and Woodstock Branch	10.30am-12noon
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> August	Iffley (6) Minor Method Ringing Practice with the Iffley ringers	10.30am-11.45am
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Ringling Roadshow at Newbury Racecourse (more details later)	All Day

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