



# Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

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

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014



## 50<sup>th</sup> ODG 6 Bell Striking Competition

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October, it was the day of the 50<sup>th</sup> ODG 6 Bell striking competition, and a band from St Giles travelled down to Cholsey to represent the Oxford City Branch in the heats. There were 11 teams altogether and 5 in our heat.

Our band was:- 1) Dermot Roaf; 2) Beatrice King; 3) Kathy Xu; 4) Bernard Masterman; 5) John Pusey; 6) Andrew Freer (C).

The judges were Tony Crabtree and Joe Norton. They commented on our bravery in choosing to ring called changes (I certainly found it difficult to keep my head straight for all 30+ calls). The St Giles band rang at a consistent speed and were the fastest entrants, with a projected quarter peal time of 41 min. Although we lost in the heats I think we showed an improvement since the branch competition. **Andrew Freer**



## Half Day Outing to West Bucks on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October

Despite in recent weeks having basked in balmy days there can be no dissembling the drawing in of the nights, and so as the autumn leaves of

umber hue around the park and pavement throng, preparedness is made countryside to soon hear old winter's song. Such preoccupations notwithstanding, it was obvious that the threshold of a different season was travelling above us as the clouds scudded by and like some legerdmain, such as the seemingly smashed into pieces wristwatch trick, being at work beneath the handkerchief of a conjuror, by the final tower, the sun shone and normal service was resumed, if a few degrees cooler than of late. Surprisingly for a tower so relatively close to us, not one of our party had ever rung at **Stoke Mandeville**, a distinctly

Victorian era church in its construction. Although the ringing chamber is relatively small for an eight-bell tower there is ample room between ropes with the exception of the second which occupies a decided corner niche. **Haddenham** is one of England's few "wichert villages", with the older houses at its heart constructed of this hard compressed chalk marl. The parish church has featured in numerous television and film productions due to its positioning adjacent to the huge village pond and overlooking the largest of the three village greens spread across Haddenham. On our arrival, the churchyard was as populated with

ducks as was the pond, namely heavily, although the Aylesbury ducks seemingly kept their counsel on the water rather than on land. The ringing chamber of the church is as one may have expected to find a century or more ago, with a mighty clock mechanism on high and the centre table dominated by a tower-door key of immense size. An agreeable lunch was enjoyed at the King's Head pub in Haddenham and then it was off to the final tower of the day. **Dinton** also has several examples of wichert housing, with the church and manor house of Dinton Hall set picturesquely close together. The bells here are hung counter-clockwise and despite possessing the weight to convey gravitas they flow serenely, all in all a fitting cirque for our last outing of what has been a busy and bittersweet year, with the loss of Roy Jones amidst the emergence of a host of new and enthusiastic travellers. The coming few months may see us return to ring within the quadrangle



Stoke Mandeville



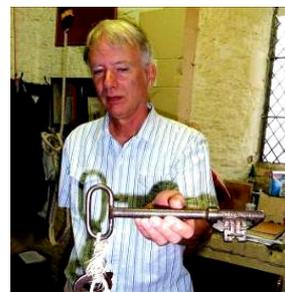
Haddenham



Dinton



where the home fires burn, but fret not this be retrenchment or any such, merely an opportunity to recharge the batteries and anticipate building on our momentum in 2015. **Hugh Deam**



(Simon holds the impressive key to the tower at Haddenham!)

## 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 18<sup>th</sup> October Outing to Alton area in Hampshire with the Witney and Woodstock Branch  
Bentley (6) 10.00am. Holybourne (8) 11.15am. Lunch at The Swan, Alton. Alton (8) 2.30pm. Chawton (6) 4.00pm

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November BRANCH AGM at ST ALDATES (Times to be confirmed)

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November Freeland (6) Graduated Ringing Practice 3.00pm-5.00pm

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December Wolvercote. Quiz in the church hall. (Questions set by Hugh on this occasion!) 7.00pm onwards

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)