



# Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

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

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014



## The City Branch AGM at St Aldates. A note from Katie Lane, our new from our new Ringing Master!

My thanks go to everyone at the City Branch AGM for supporting my election as Branch Ringing Master. As I mentioned briefly at the meeting, I



know that I am not the most competent ringer in the branch, there are a good number of other people who have the skills required to do the job extremely well, and I acknowledge my weaknesses. However, I have known all our towers for well over 25 years and I know, and have rung with many of you and look forward to meeting the rest of you soon. I also have the Guild high on my list of priorities and represent them as Trustee, Steward and Children's officer. I have asked to be stood down as Guild Steward for the three branches I represent so that I can focus more effectively on our own. Hugh has done a splendid job, especially arranging mini outings and interesting ringing events. I hope we all expressed our thanks to him adequately at the meeting. I also hope that he will continue play a role in many of the branch social events as well as continuing his outing schedule. I have asked him to email me all the events he has already planned so that I can put in place our



future branch practices. Inevitably there will be changes. Hugh and I have different ringing interests; I like ringing peals and have set myself some goals, don't hold that against me, but my repertoire of doubles and minor methods is more limited. Most of all I have a very strong desire to make sure that City Branch ringing can be respected for its Sunday service ringing attendance and very good striking. I have struggled with striking myself; I learnt in a tower where it was not often mentioned and it has been a hard road to improvement. After 30 years I am getting better but, like many of us, it has not been easy, so it is a challenge we will face together. My intention is to visit regularly every tower in the branch, to arrange branch practices and the branch yearly outing. Please email me your tower correspondent's address so that I can be in contact. Please consult your tower members on how they would like my help: it may be an extra ringer at practices, it may be a handling problem, it may be that added incentive to secure a new method or arrange a quarter peal, and I hope it will always be with good striking in mind to support progress. I will also need the help of our branch members who can call touches and quarters. I can't, yet, and this will be my own learning curve. *City Branch Ringers, we are in this wonderful exercise together, let's work as a team so that everyone benefits.* **Katie Lane**

(P.S. I will know if you have read this because I will hear back from you. I have a little book.....contact me: [kt.catchmole at googlemail.com](mailto:kt.catchmole@googlemail.com))

*(Full details of the Oxford City Branch AGM on 15<sup>th</sup> November will appear in the next edition of Hughs News.)*

## The Steeple Aston Course

A group of bell ringers from towers across Oxfordshire recently attended the Steeple Aston One-Day course on Saturday 25th October. The course was a great opportunity to learn methods in small groups and ring alongside experienced ringers and tutors at different towers. The methods that were being taught on this course were Plain Hunt/Bob Doubles, Plain Bob Doubles and Grandsire Doubles. The morning involved a theory session in the groups with the tutors and then onto the first tower to ring before lunch in one of the local pubs. After a well earned break it was onto the next two towers before a hearty homemade meal at Steeple Aston village hall. The course was a very enjoyable day, as well as physically demanding (about four and a half hours of ringing was rung on the Saturday). A big thank you to the organisers, tutors and experienced ringers who gave up their time to come and ring and support the students. Also a thank you from me to Robert Walton, Gareth Richard and Adrian Gray from our group - you were a fun lot to ring with (including a couple of mishaps during the day which we won't mention but it made the day more memorable!). **Charlotte Furneaux**



## Kathy's First Quarter Peal inside

**St. Giles** ringer Kathy Xu (*far right in the picture*) rang her first quarter peal of 1260 Plain Bob Doubles on an inside bell at St. Nicholas Church, **Marston** on Sunday 2nd November. This was prior to a special evening Memorial Service, an added pressure with which she coped admirably. Treble Judy Kirby; 2. Douglas Wilks 3. Kathy Xu 4. Susan King 5. Hugh Deam (c) Tenor. Anthony Hughes. **Hugh Deam**

## Kidlington's Ringing Trip

Some of the ringers from **St Mary's Kidlington** ventured north in October to the neighbouring county



of Warwickshire along with fellow ringing friends from **Woodstock** and **Marston**. Starting in Warwick we enjoyed a good day ringing at four towers as we travelled back south through towards Oxford taking time for the obligatory hearty lunch (and good ale) at the White Hart Inn at Newbold on Stour. All the towers had bells much lighter, with longer drafts than we're used to, but our scratch band eventually managed to master the required techniques and we were warmly welcomed by tower representatives along the way. Towers were St Nicholas Warwick (8), St Peter Wellesbourne, (8) St Mary & Holy Cross Alderminster (6) and finally St Peter & St Paul Butlers Marston (6) which we all felt had some of the most tuneful bells we have rung to date. **Christine Fenn**



## Dates for your Diary

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

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)