



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

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



Monday 4th May 2015

Peter and Tim's Morning Outing to North Oxfordshire – Saturday 25th April

This was a Kidlington led morning outing to surrounding towers which followed the path of the River Cherwell. This is a theme we intend to pursue



in coming years, making our way from Kidlington along the Cherwell valley. Our visit to the well-presented church in **Rousham** village, saw a band of mixed abilities willing to improve and ring unfamiliar bells.



Then it was on to the picturesque **Lower Heyford**, a short journey later when the sun came out to greet us. This second ground floor ring



gave more of a challenge to those of us not pulling straight and true! A further stop along the Cherwell saw us at **Somerton**, an 8 bell tower this time giving us opportunity for Grandsire Triples for some and honing plain hunt skills for others. We came out for the photo shoot under the glorious tree blossom, and for some retrace our steps for lunch at The Bell Inn at Lower Heyford. It was a good morning's ringing. I hope many more can join us as we continue our journey on future outings. **Tim Hillsdon**

Alan Coates

We've just received some unfortunate news from Sydney concerning our friend and regular visitor to Oxford, Alan Coates. On the 23rd April he had a heart attack while ringing at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney. Thankfully, because he was given CPR very quickly by two of the ringers who were with him, they actually saved his life. He had to be lowered down through the trap door in the tower by the Paramedics and Fire Service, and he was immediately taken to St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney. His wife Marylon was there when this happened, and thankfully he has now made a good recovery. This was the second time that Alan has had a heart attack. He had had another one in 2001. I recently rang with Alan when I was in Sydney, and he seemed in the best of health, so you can imagine what a shock it was for me to receive this news last week. I'm sure I speak for all the people who know Alan from his regular visits to Oxford, that we hope he maintains a speedy recovery. He was due to visit Oxford in June, and Hugh had arranged for him to ring a number of times while he was with us. We all hope he will be able to come back to the UK again soon when he's made a full recovery. **Paul Lucas**



A Practice at Alvescot (6) with the Witney & Woodstock ringers

On Saturday 2nd May, we had an enjoyable branch practice at **Alvescot**, an easy going six that have a pleasing tone. Not that the village of Alvescot probably hear very much of their bells as they sit a stone's throw away from the end of RAF Brize Norton's runway! **Witney and Woodstock** joined with the **City Branch** to make just seven of us, but quality not quantity is what counts, or at least that's what Hugh said. Methods ranged from doubles of Plain Bob, April and May Day, Grandsire and Stedman. Minor methods included Little Bob, St Clement's, Cambridge - including a few 'first attempts' at Cambridge. Striking was good in the most part, those who



wanted had a go at calling touches and we got plenty of opportunity to try new things. Our allotted time came round very quickly. **Neil Ephgrave**

Ringing World National Youth Contest

Following successful days in Worcester, York and London, Oxford is hosting the striking contest for young ringers on 11th July. There will be many open towers in the city centre as well as hand bell sessions, a quiz/treasure hunt, refreshments and finally the results in Merton College Chapel. City branch ringers are warmly invited to take part in the day. Local ringers under 19 are welcome to join for the activities. Older ringers who would like to volunteer should contact Michael O'Hagan [michaelohagan at gmail.com](mailto:michaelohagan@gmail.com), with any restrictions on your availability. We're expecting a very busy day, so we're looking for lots of help with marshalling the towers, baking cakes, serving refreshments etc. It's a great way to encourage the next generation of ringers. Look out for more details in the Ringing World, and if you have any questions, please contact me. **Dorothy Hall** [dorothy at twiddlepin.org.uk](mailto:dorothy@twiddlepin.org.uk).

Towards better striking: Part II

How Can You Hear Each Change? There should be a gap at backstroke which marks the end of each backstroke change. Always listen for this and note it. When ringing on odd numbers, e.g. Grandsire Doubles, the heaviest bell with the lowest and often loudest note, the tenor, always rings last and therefore marks the end of each change. If the ringing becomes confused, or you yourself become confused, you may need to look at the ropes to see the end of the change, which occurs when all the ropes have come down at one stroke. You must always know when each change begins. Make a habit of listening to the sixes in doubles and minor or eights in major or triples and count the 6-beat or 8-beat to yourself. Do this when you are ringing and when you are sitting out so that it becomes second nature. **Katie Lane**

Dates for your Diary

Full details from Hugh Deam at: [hugh.deam at btinternet.com](mailto:hugh.deam@btinternet.com) or Katie Lane at: [kt.catchmole at googlemail.com](mailto:kt.catchmole@googlemail.com)

Saturday 9th May
Saturday 16th May
Sunday 17th May
Saturday 23rd May
Saturday 30th May

Branch Striking Competition at Cowley (6)
Guild AGM at Cowley – full details to follow
Headington (8) Surprise Major Practice on the new Simulator
Heather's Outing to Somerset – See full details below on the extra page
Practice on the new Simulator at Headington (8) Open to everyone.

2.00pm onwards
2.30pm onwards
4.00pm-5.30pm
All Day
10.30-12.00noon

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)

Heather's All-Day Outing to Somerset – Saturday 23rd May

First Tower: 11.00am Radstock (6); 12.00 Chewton Mendip (8); Lunch at The Old Down Inn, Emborough; 3.00pm Chilcompton (12); 4.00pm Binegar (6).

Please contact Hugh by phone (07899-871079 or 01865-247574) or email Hugh: hugh.deam@btinternet.com if you wish to come on the outing and he will pass on names to Heather.

There are three seats left available on a 9-seater VW Shuttle that has been booked. Please contact Hugh to book a seat.

Here are the two routes people can take.

From the M4, either take the Exit and junction 17 (via Bradford on Avon, easier) or Junction 18 (via Bath, more fiddly)

From Junction 17, take the **A350** towards Chippenham, but stay on the A350 until the 5th roundabout, when you take the **A4** (Bath road) towards Corsham and Bath. Stay on the A4 through Corsham and two roundabouts, but just after the second roundabout, bear left to go on Bradford road, **B3109**. Stay on the B3109 until you get to Bradford on Avon. You will pass 3 roundabouts, Take the 3rd exit, first exit and then 2nd exit. Then you will be back on the **B3109**, now Frome road. Go over the bridge, past the railway and out of Bradford on Avon. At the cross roads, take a right onto the **A366** towards Farleigh Hungerford and Norton St Philip. Stay on the A366 through those towns (you will have to turn left onto the **A36** for a short while, and then right back on to the A266). A while later turn right onto Frome Road, **A362**. In Radstock take the 1st exit at both roundabouts to get onto **Fortescue Road**, which turns into **Church Road**. The Church is on the right.

From Junction 18, Take the **A46** towards Bath. At the roundabout take the 3rd exit onto **A420**, and then turn left onto **Freezing Hill Lane**. When you get into Bath there are a variety of ways, and it might depend on the traffic at that time, but you want to leave Bath on the Wells road, **A367** towards Peasdown St John. Stay on the A367 round Peasdown St John until you get into Radstock. In Radstock there are two roundabouts. Stay on the A367 to the second one, then take the first exit - **Fortescue Road**, which turns into **Church road**. You will find the church on your right. **Heather**