



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News

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

Monday 21st March 2016



(Remember: Because it's Holy Week this week, there will be no practices at any of the towers in our Branch)

Abseiling Alison!

On Saturday 12th March, Alison Merryweather-Clarke had to leave the Church Hanborough practice (*below*) early to abseil down the

tower of St Mary Magdalen Church, Oxford, to raise funds for Christian Aid. For the last few years she's harboured the ambition to marry two different church tower experiences and abseil down the outside of a tower for charity, and then do some celebratory ringing inside the tower at a later date. She had set herself the ambitious target of raising £1260 for Christian aid so that she can celebrate there later by ringing one change for every £ raised. She would be very grateful if you feel able to grasp this opportunity to provide generous sponsorship which Christian Aid can transform into practical support for the world's most needy communities which we could never reach ourselves.

You can donate online at her Just Giving page:

<http://www.justgiving.com/Alison-Merryweather-Clarke>

If you prefer to donate offline at a later date, that is also most welcome!



A Practice at Church Hanborough (6) with the Witney & Woodstock Ringers – Saturday 12th March

On the same day as Alison's sponsored abseil, we joined with ringers from the Witney & Woodstock Branch for a most enjoyable practice on the lovely bells at Church Hanborough.

There was something for everyone, including: Cambridge Minor, Double Oxford, Stedman Doubles and Eynsham Doubles (St Simons with a Grandsire Single).

It was a well-attended practice, and everyone there benefitted – and luckily, Alison managed to stay just long enough to be in the photograph before going off for the 'Abseil!' **Paul Lucas**

A Practice at Tetsworth (6) – Saturday 19th March

Some four years on from our last visit to Tetsworth, and visually little had changed

inside and out, although the churchyard can surely not have exhibited such a populous and flaxen display of primroses. Such stasis by way of personnel could not be stated, with nine new faces since last time. Tetsworth

long held claim to being the lightest six bell tower in Oxfordshire, that was until Freeland swung back into action a few years ago, but again little else has changed and the bells remain a rewarding set to ring. Our thanks are due to John Hearn for making the bells available to us so close to Holy Week. **Hugh Deam**

A Quarter Peal at St James Cowley (6) – Saturday 19th March

After the early ringing exertions at Tetsworth and a short break for refreshment at the excellent Little Milton village hub, there was still the little matter of a quarter peal at Cowley to attend to by way of rounding off the morning. Having become adept at trebling and ringing tenor behind to several quarter peals over the last year or so, Charlotte Furneaux (*wearing the pink scarf*) successfully stepped up to the plate of ringing her first quarter on an inside bell, and congratulations are most certainly in order to her.

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Treble. Susan King; 2. Charlotte Furneaux*; 3. Lindsay Powell; 4. Rosanna Cretney; 5; Hugh Deam (c); 6 Jonathan James. **Hugh Deam**

Dates for your Diary

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

Monday 28th March

Bank Holiday – Minor Methods Practice at Chilton (6)

10.30am-12noon

Saturday 2nd April Colin's Spring Outing to the North Cotwolds.

Chipping Camden (8) – 10.00am; Blockley (8) – 11.30am; Lunch at Blockley Village Café; Bourton on the Hill (6) – 2.15pm; Long Compton (6) – 3.30pm.

(If you are planning to have lunch with everyone at Blockley, please let Hugh know so he can tell the café how many are coming)

Saturday 9th April

A Quarter Peal morning at North Leigh (6) and Church Hanborough (6) (*all the places are filled for these*)

Saturday 16th April

Stedman Doubles Practice at Sunningwell (6)

10.30am-12noon

Saturday 23rd April

Practice at Freeland (6)

4.00pm-5.30pm

Sunday 24th April

Triples and Major Practice on the Simulator at Headington (8)

3.00pm-4.30pm

Monday 2nd May

Bank Holiday – Marston (6) Doubles and Minor Practice

10.30am-12noon

Saturday 7th May

Kidlington Outing to Banbury and surrounding towers

Saturday 14th May

Half-yearly Meeting and Striking Competition

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@hotmail.co.uk