

Winter 2006/7

Published & Distributed
By
Stephen N Hough

Tel
(023) 9252 3650

Email
steve.hough2@ntlworld.com

PORTSMOUTH CHIMES



The Newsletter of the Portsmouth District of the Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild

<http://www.portsmouthringers.org/>

Inside this issue:

- Joel makes the grade!
- Editorial
- Clap & Squeeze, Clap & Squeeze
- How do you fancy a free Canal Holiday?
- Curdridge Ringers Minute Book 1916-74
- Things that go CRASH in the night!
- The Fellowship of Narnia Youths, the birth of a new society
- Guild Bell Stock Survey
- 4,6,8,10 & 12 in 11 Hours 59 Minutes
- Alverstoke Ringers Outing
- District Outing '06 – Bath
- Portsmouth District Quarter Peal Month 2006
- Steve Irwin 1962 –2006
- And Finally!

JOEL MAKES THE GRADE!

Joel Richardson, a probationer at St James Without The Priory Gate, Southwick, has used his bell ringing skills to attain his Chief Scout's Silver Award.

The award, which is the highest available to Cub Scouts, is earned by meeting a series of diverse challenges over a period of three years including learning outdoor skills such as compass and map reading, fund raising, and performing to an audience. Joel's final tasks required him to improve at bell ringing for two months and to arrange an activity for his fellow Cubs. Fortunately for Joel, two of his ringing teachers Roy Grayson and Alan Yalden are themselves ex Scout Masters and enthusiastically helped him take 20 Cubs to St John The Baptist in Purbrook for an evening of bell ringing activities.

After exploring the belfry, the Cubs aged 8 to 10 climbed the vertical ladder to see the bells themselves. Alan described how bells are made and how they operate whilst two 13 year old ringers, Max Hunt and Ian McNally, explained the intricacies of the impressive clock mechanism. Roy enthusiastically entertained Cubs, parents and Cub Leaders with bell ringing anecdotes and the mechanics of our art.

After being instructed to keep hands firmly in pockets, the boys were treated to a live demonstration of rounds, which one Cub described as 'totally awesome!' Roy had one more surprise in store though, a real hands on grand finale. The bells were rung down and the Cubs were invited to chime them. The church was filled with a wonderful babble of excited voices exclaiming 'I really rang one!' and 'That was me mum, did you hear?'.

Everyone had a brilliant evening and the amount of interest shown by the boys and their parents leads us to hope we may have enticed one or two new learners.

Joel's fellow bell ringers who turned out especially for this event were Jan Allnutt (Tower Captain), Roy Grayson (Ringing Master), Allan Yalden (Steeple Keeper) and Ian McNally. Joel who obviously has a bell ringing gene or two also included his Grandma Blanche Hunt, his Uncle, Ian Hunt, his cousin Max Hunt and mum Melanie Richardson in his band. His grandfather the late John Hunt would have been so proud.

Mel Richardson

