



Produced by Hugh Deam and Paul Lucas

MARSTON UPDATE

Wednesday 3rd January – edition no: 279

As we move into the New Year, and the generally long and dark terrain of January, this can provide a valid excuse



to feel a bit warmer by setting aside time for recollection of Christmas highlights and those little stocking fillers, or in our case, the opportunity to feature some festive seasonal pictures that space precluded in the previous issue.

Firstly, another photo from Yorkshire supplied by Charlotte, this time one of the special decorative features in the grounds of Harewood House in the shape of festive reindeer. Then, rather closer to home, some more reindeer next to the lake at the Oxford Science Park. Finally, there is the Kidlington Concert Brass performing Christmas Carols in the lobby of Sainsbury's at Heyford Hill on 23rd December.

Boxing Day was celebrated at Cowley with a quarter peal, being the only one rung in Oxfordshire on Tuesday.

Tuesday 26th December. St James, Cowley – 1260 Grandsire Doubles:

Elizabeth Mullett, Lindsay Powell, Catherine Lane, Tracey Cooper, Alison Merryweather-Clarke (c), Laura Cooper



On the following day, 27th December, we were pleased to make our bells available for the **Ladies Guild** to ring a quarter peal – the 50th to be rung at **Old Marston** in 2023. This was Andrea's first quarter peal with the Guild, and also the 50th quarter this year for Lisa Ryan.



Wednesday 27th December. St Nicholas, Old Marston – 1260 Grandsire Doubles:

Catherine Lane, Lindsay Powell, Andrea Rowley, Julie Minch, Alison Merryweather-Clarke (c), Lisa Ryan

The 51st, and final, quarter peal of the year on the Old Marston bells was rung on the Friday morning of 29th December, especially arranged as the

first trebling to Minor for Ruth since starting up ringing again. Afterwards, we once again decamped to the *Victoria Arms* for a convivial post-quarter coffee and chat.

Friday 29th December. St Nicholas, Old Marston - 1260 Plain Bob Minor:

Ruth Leatherdale, Alison Felton, Colin Taylor, Peter Felton, Alison Merryweather-Clarke, Hugh Deam (c)





The tradition of ringing in the New Year fortunately still continues at **Iffley**, and three of us from **Old Marston** went over to join in the pre-midnight half-muffled, and post-midnight, open ringing.

This time it was Brian's turn to ring the tenor bell twelve

strokes to midnight, and this was followed by an uncorking of some bubbly and the unscrewing of a large carton of fruit juice!



On Sunday 31st December, Paul Lucas from Headington was invited by Andrew Davis to join some of the local ringers for a quarter peal at the beautiful church of **Berrick Salome (6)**, near Watlington in South Oxfordshire. We had last rung there for a wedding back in June 2022, during the Jubilee Weekend.

That was the first wedding ring for Old Marston ringer, Lydia Poole.

Sunday 31st December. St Helen's, Berrick Salome – 1260 Grandsire Doubles:

Wendy Simon, Kay Bartholomew, Simon Devenport, Gordon Smith, Andrew Davis (c), Paul Lucas



We were able to get the first quarter peal of the year under our belt at Old Marston in the morning, this being our first on New Year's Day since 2020. Last year we had to wait an extra day due to 1st January falling on a Sunday.

Monday 1st January. St Nicholas, Old Marston – 1260 Doubles (30m/v):

Susan King, Jane Hedges, Michael Haynes, Maarit Kivilo (c), Hugh Deam (c), Judith Kirby

Some New Year Messages

"Have a lovely Happy New Year, and wishing everyone health and happiness too." – Charlotte Furneaux

"Happy New Year! All the best." – Ruth and Dan

Also relating to the Ladies Guild quarter peal last week (re: Update issue 273, a quarter peal on Sunday 15th October in memory of Sir Brian Smith)

This is a message from his widow, Regina:

"On Wednesday 27th December, all of Brian's family joined us for a post-Christmas celebration, and in the afternoon went to visit his grave in the churchyard.

Just as they reached it, the church bells started to ring. Magical! It was very special and a greatly appreciated coincidence.

I just wanted to tell you how much everyone loved it. And could you please pass this message on to the bell ringers. With thanks and warm wishes for a Happy New Year." – Regina Smith

Upcoming events

The next Oxford City Branch Practice is to be held at St Andrew's, Headington (8) on Saturday 6th January. 10.30am - 12.00. Ringers of all abilities are very welcome!

The Oxford City Branch AGM is to be held on Saturday 3rd February at St Giles, Horspath. The time is still to be confirmed, but is likely to be 2.00pm - 4.00pm (full details next time).