



Produced by Hugh Deam and Paul Lucas

MARSTON UPDATE

Thursday 18th January – edition no: 280



Marston hand bells for a practical demonstration with the **40th Oxford (Kennington) Beavers**, where sixteen of their group had the chance have a go at ringing on hand bells.

The week and a bit just gone has seen what looks like a New Year resolution to ring lots of peals and quarter peals around Oxford, with plenty of firsts being achieved in the process:

Saturday 6th January. St Giles, Oxford (8) – 5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major:

Stephen Everett, Alison Merryweather-Clarke, John Pusey, Sara Jones, Craig Robertson (c), Catherine Lane, Daniel Watson, Peter Spain

Sunday 7th January. St Nicholas, Old Marston – 1260 Doubles (23m/v):

Susan King, Jane Hedges, Andrea Rowley (c), Maarit Kivilo (c), Hugh Deam (c), Judith Kirby

Sunday also saw the start of a big ringing week for our friends Dan and Ruth, from **St Mary's Witney**, with a quarter peal at **Bletchington**, which was Dan's first away from covering on the tenor.

Sunday 7th January. St Giles, Bletchington – 1260 Plain Bob Doubles:

Dan Neal, Alison Felton, Ruth Leatherdale, Peter Felton, Steve Vickars (c), Debra Scrimshaw

And during the week, we were able to incorporate our friend Charlotte Furneaux's short break down in Oxford into the plan for Dan to score his first quarter peal on an inside bell and for he and Ruth to ring inside bells together similarly for the first time. Thank you to Brian Lowe for sorting out the availability of Cuddesdon and Horspath and for opening up at both towers.

Charlotte writes:-

"Thank you for a great week of QPs for experienced and new ringers from various towers, and I myself enjoyed the opportunity to get my grey matter fired up again, especially with ringing on an inside bell."

On Wednesday 3rd January, the first Daytime Doubles session of 2024 took place at **Bletchington (6)**, with Jane and Hugh from Marston being amongst the numerous helpers at what was once again a very well attended (and catered for) session.

On Tuesday 9th January, Jane and Roy took the 3-case set of Old



It was nerves and brain fog to me when we switched to Grandsire, so we rang rather more Plain Bob than originally planned. More practice for me should hopefully reinforce my knowledge when I'm back in Yorkshire again. The bells at Cuddesdon have an incredible hum to them! The Horspath quarter was a significant achievement for Dan, as this was his first QP on an inside bell. The ringing was concise and accurate, congratulations to Dan and to his journey of many more to come! Finally, on Sunday morning at Marston I enjoyed the challenge of asymmetrical trebling again and its fast pace on these bells."

Tuesday 9th January. All Saints, Cuddesdon Doubles (8m/v):

Ruth Leatherdale, Alison Felton (c), Charlotte Furneaux, Peter Felton (c), Hugh Deam (c), Dan Neal



Thursday 11th January.

St Giles, Horspath – 1260 Plain Bob Doubles:

Charlotte Furneaux, Steve Vickars (c), Ruth Leatherdale, Alison Merryweather-Clarke (c), Dan Neal, Hugh Deam



On Thursday 11th January, 6 committee members from the **Oxford City Branch** held a meeting at The White Hart in Headington, in preparation for the **Branch AGM to be held at Horspath on Saturday 3rd February**, with a quarter peal before the meeting, rung on the simulator at **St Andrews**.

Thursday 11th January. St Andrews, Headington – 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor:

Craig Robertson (c), Simon Edwards, Paul Lucas, Elizabeth Mullett, Lindsay Powell, Rachel Croft

And again on Thursday, on his first week back at Southampton University, **Old Marston** ringer, Benjamin Poole rang his first quarter peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor – this also being his first QP for the **Southampton Universities Guild**.

Thursday 11th January. St Nicholas, North Stoneham – 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor:

George Vant, Philippa Garraway, Henry Morley, Samuel Senior, Benjamin Poole, Joshua Watkins (c)

Last Sunday was equally busy for quarter peals, with Charlotte Furneaux concluding her week by trebling for our band in the morning.

Sunday 14th January. St Nicholas, Old Marston – 1260 Doubles (16m/v):

Charlotte Furneaux, Ailsa Reid (c), Andrea Rowley (c), Jane Hedges, Hugh Deam (c), Judith Kirby



Also on Sunday, quarter peals were scored at **Headington** and **:St Giles:**

St Andrews, Headington – 1288 Plain Bob Triples:

Colin Taylor, Tertia Softley, Rachel Croft, Clare Fairbairn,
Stephen Everett, Paul Lucas, Malcolm Fairbairn (c), Gregory Rose

(This was Tertia's first QP on triples)



Sunday 14th January. St Giles, Oxford – 1344 Double Norwich Court Bob Major:

Steve Everett, Simon Edwards, Elizabeth Mullett, Alistair White-Horne, Craig Robertson (c), Lindsay Powell,
Peter Spain, John Pusey



In the afternoon, Jane and Hugh went over to **Bletchington** to act as helpers for a specially arranged Plain Hunt practice run by Steve Vickars, who writes:-

"Fourteen ringers came to our practice, and our two least experienced ringers got a real idea of the rhythm of hunting out and in during Churchyard Bob, and mixed up orders. Plus, we got to ring touches of Grandsire for Vikki and Charlie who are now feeling more confident to ring their first QPAs at treble, and Judith got a plain course of Bob Minor, and might try a touch in the near future.

Another really successful practice. Many thanks to all our helpers who made this possible."

Upcoming Events.

Don't forget, the Oxford City Branch AGM, is being held at Horspath on Saturday 3rd February, 2.00pm – 4.00pm, with ringing beforehand, and afterwards, if anyone wishes to stay on when the Meeting is over.

The Minutes and The Agenda will be sent out to all members shortly.

Do your best to come along!