



Produced by Hugh Deam and Paul Lucas

MARSTON UPDATE

Sunday 19th November 2023 – edition no: 275

On Saturday 28th October, Paul Lucas helped Group 2 of the **Steeple Aston Ringing Course**, with five students

and seven helpers, tutored by Steve Vickars, practising Plain Bob Doubles at **Wigginton, Swalcliffe** and **Tadmarton**.

All the students got a lot out of the day and made good progress in learning and ringing the method. Two students rang their first observation and affected touches, while the others made big strides towards overcoming their fear of the method.



Everyone enjoyed ringing '**Thingummy**' to practise their 3/4 dodges!

(Pictured right is the beautiful church at Swalcliffe)

Quarter Peals rung on Sunday 29th October

St Giles, Oxford. 1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major:

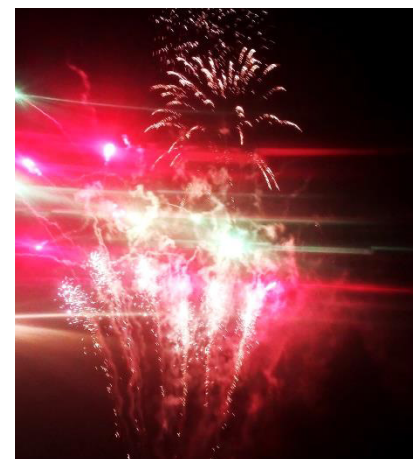
Lindsay Powell, Alison Felton, Caroline Flockton, Peter Felton, Craig Robertson (c), Simon Edwards, John Pusey, Stuart Flockton

St Marys, Iffley. 1260 Doubles Plain Bob, Grandsire:

Mary Carroll, Susan King, Elizabeth Miullett, Martin King, Hugh Deam (c), Jamie Brown
(This was the first quarter peal on an inside bell for Iffley ringer, Martin King.)

On Saturday 4th November, the **Red Lion pub** in **Old Marston** once again hosted a firework display to seriously rival any of the other displays in and around Oxford.

Now organised by the parish council, it drew a large crowd to the centre of the village and managed to find a rare dry window for the pyrotechnics to be viewed at their optimum!



The following day on Sunday 5th November, we rang a quarter peal prior to a Choral Evensong at **St Nicholas**, which brought together the choirs from Marston and Iffley. With the use of some '**Old Singles**', we were able to introduce several asymmetric group variations, new to us, into the quarter peal, including some strikingly named examples such as St Chrysostom, Olympic and Scorpio.

St Nicholas, Old Marston. 1260 Doubles (29m/v):

Susan King, Maarit Kivilo (c), Jane Hedges, Steve Davies, Hugh Deam (c), Judith Kirby

On Saturday 11th November, Hugh took a drive up to Northamptonshire do some scouting for potential towers for an outing next year, and found an apposite photo for Remembrance weekend close to the church in **Greatworth**.



Remembrance Sunday was marked at both Old Marston and Headington with half-muffled quarter peals, before morning service at Marston and in the afternoon at Headington.

Sunday 12th November

St Nicholas, Old Marston. 1260 Doubles (16m/v):

Kathy Xu, Jane Hedges, Andrea Rowley (c), Maarit Kivilo (c), Hugh Deam (c), Judith Kirby

St Andrews, Headington. 1260 St Simon's Doubles:

Stephen Everett, Tertia Softley, Paul Lucas, Clare Fairbairn (c),
Rachel Croft, Malcolm Fairbairn

(This was the first quarter peal in the method for Tertia)

We were very lucky with the two days booked for extra ringing last week, being by far the best for equitable weather, and there was more



midweek quarter peal success on Wednesday, with

Dan and Ruth from **Witney** ringing their second quarter peal together, just three days after their first at Witney on Remembrance Sunday. Yet again, Ruth raised her number of method variations, along with adding Reverse Canterbury to her repertoire.

Afterwards the band decamped to the nearby eatery - **The Milk Shed** - for some warming beverages, and then a cupcake each to take away with us, courtesy of Ruth!



BMV, Weston on the Green. 1260 Doubles (13m/v):

Peter Felton (c), Alison Felton (c), Ruth Leatherdale, Steve Vickars, Hugh Deam (c), Dan Neal

Then on Friday a half permuted band rang a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor at **Sunningwell (6)**, on what was our second visit there this year, plus it was a first time on these bells for three of the band. Once again we were able to wind down afterwards at the nearby café – **The Barn** – and we sat outside at the same table as we did back in July!

St Leonard, Sunningwell. 1260 Plain Bob Minor:

Andrea Rowley, Alison Felton, Colin Taylor, Hugh Deam,
Peter Felton, Alison Merryweather-Clarke (c)



Upcoming Event

This coming Saturday, 25th November. 3.00pm - 4.30pm.

There is going to be the latest **Oxford City Branch Practice** at **St Peter's, Wolvercote (6)**, which will take place at the same time as the launch of the installation of their new 'belfry cameras', which will allow you to see all the bells turning whilst ringing is taking place.

Tea, coffee and cakes will be available throughout the afternoon.

(Open to ringers of all abilities, so please come along!)

(Pictured on the left is the Wolvercote 'Dumb Bell', used to train new ringers)

