



Produced by Hugh Deam and Paul Lucas

MARSTON UPDATE

Monday 23rd October 2023 – edition no: 273

A particularly hectic schedule for the Marston ringers over the past fortnight began on Saturday 7th October with



us accepting an invitation to have a stall at the autumn Marston Market held at the village hall, where we rang the handbells and offered locals the opportunity to have a go themselves. The event being open from morning to late afternoon meant that we were only able to fully staff the stall for the



first half due to our having to dash away to represent the City Branch at the Guild 6-Bell Final at **Shipton under Wychwood**.

Fortunately, Roy Peach was able to continue running the stall and potential recruitment throughout, this being especially useful given that the market was double the size of last year and with attendance equally increased. With a '*ringing up and down*' competition being held simultaneously nearby, and the two competition results being announced together at Shipton, then it meant that it was into the early evening before we could head for home. As we were drawn to ring fairly early then it meant several hours of hanging around, but this afforded the time for us to have a group photo in the churchyard and enjoy the substantial refreshment on offer, not just cakes, but also bacon baps and such like!

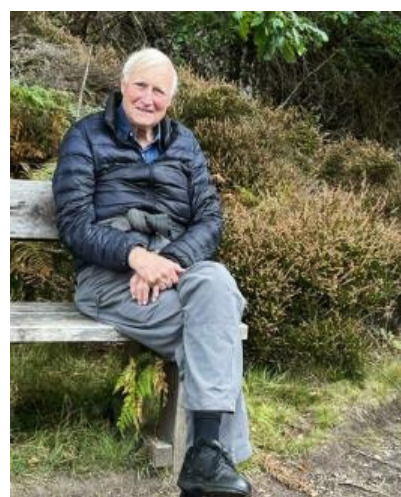
This last week has been even busier, starting on Saturday 14th October, with our last scheduled Outing of the



year, when we ventured into Warwickshire for the first time in several years by way of the richly endowed church in **Tysoe**, a tower which we had not visited before despite its location only just over the border from Oxfordshire.

Thank you to Mary Carroll from **Iffley** for suggesting we centre an outing around Tysoe and for putting us in touch with the tower. Once again, besides Marston and Iffley ringers, we managed to attract ringers from further afield and hence we were able to ring plenty of Minor methods on the two six bell towers we visited, the other being **Swalcliffe** where we concluded the afternoon. In between was **Wroxton**, a 5 bell tower, but set within one of the most quintessentially picturesque villages to make up for being a Doubles only session. Further photos of the afternoon are available to view on the Outings page of the Oxford City Branch website.

Our quarter peal last Sunday was in the evening due to Marston being an integral part of the Oxford Half Marathon route, and which incidentally had a record number of runners this year, estimated at over 13,000. Fortunately a small evening service was arranged to substitute for the absence of morning service due to the road closures, and thus we were able to dedicate this quarter peal to Sir Brian Smith, whose interment the



previous day we were not in a position to ring for. Members of his family were present in the church whilst we rang this quarter and gathered for a photo on the seat in the churchyard.

**Sunday 15th October. St Nicholas, Marston
1260 Doubles (21m/v):**

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

Sir Brian's wife, Regina, has kindly composed a
special message for us:-



"Sir Brian Smith, a long-time resident in Old Marston died in May 2023 and was recently interred in St Nicholas church cemetery. He moved to Apple Tree House on Boults Lane in 1966 with his former wife Peggy and their children - Caroline, Mark and Nick, and quickly became active in village life. In 1988 he became Master of St Catherine's College, Oxford, followed by a move to Wales for himself and his second wife, Regina when he became Vice-Chancellor of Cardiff University. He was awarded a knighthood in 1999.

On his retirement in 2001, he and Regina returned to their much loved Apple Tree House.

Throughout his years in Old Marston, the sound of St Nicholas bells had a special place in his heart."

On the Tuesday afternoon of 17th October, we were pleased to be able to make our bells available for our good friend Alison Merryweather-Clarke to tick one box closer to completing her quest of having rung a quarter peal on every date of the year. Then for good measure the same band went over to Bletchingdon to ring another quarter peal!

**Tuesday 17th October. St Nicholas, Marston
1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor:**

Hugh Deam, Michael Haynes, Alison Felton, Michael Probert,
Peter Felton, Alison Merryweather-Clarke (c)



**Tuesday 17th October. St Giles, Bletchingdon
1260 Plain Bob Minor:**

Alison Merryweather-Clarke, Michael Haynes, Michael Probert,
Hugh Deam, Alison Felton, Peter Felton (c)



Upcoming Events

Saturday 25th November. 3.00 - 4.30pm, the St Peters, Wolvercote bellringers welcome you to join them in the launch of their belfry cameras, where you will be able to view the bells turning whilst you are ringing. Tea, coffee and cake will be available throughout. For more information visit:-

www.youtube.com@wolvercotebellringers