



Produced by Hugh Deam and Paul Lucas

MARSTON UPDATE

Monday 24th April 2023 – edition no: 259

On Saturday 15th April, Jane, Hugh and Judy joined the **Bicester Branch** ringers on their outing to half a dozen



six-bell towers straddling Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. Four of the towers were part of an outing we organised back in 2008, and the final tower of the day, **Eaton Bray**, we visited in 2016, but the fourth tower of the day at **Kensworth** was new to everyone, and quite hard to locate, being situated in a remote and wooded area well away from the village.



We even ended up having lunch in the same pub in **Studham** that we booked back in 2008, although the colourful post-box topper just across the road was certainly a new addition since then.

There was a very good turnout, especially given that the Radley Course was also taking place on the same day, with Cambridge and Kent being rung at several of the towers.

Last Saturday, 22nd April, the grounds of the vicarage and the church hall at **St Nicholas** played host to Marston's



contribution to 'Earth Day', with stalls for *Friends of the Earth, Wild Oxfordshire, Recycle for Oxford and Marston*



Community Gardening amongst those represented, plus freshly prepared hot food served by a group from the Oxford Hindu Temple.

We were honoured to be asked to ring our handbells by way of opening the three hour event, which was blessed with good weather throughout.

We even managed to use our presence here to coax four people up to the tower to have a brief taster session of ringing. Congratulations are due to Skye, our vicar, for organising and orchestrating the afternoon with such precision. We also received a financial remuneration for our efforts and a thank you card.

The following morning on Sunday 23rd April, our pre-service quarter peal was rung to celebrate St Georges Day, with Kathy taking the opportunity to ring an inside bell.

1260 Doubles (7m/v): Grandsire, Longparish, Newborough, Plain Bob, Seighford, Litchurch, May Day.

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

Upcoming Events

Saturday 29th April - **St James, South Leigh (8)**. 2.45pm – 4.15pm.
(Combined Practice with the Marston band - Open to All)

Saturday 27th May - Afternoon Outing.
2.00pm. **St James, Little Milton (6) (11cwt)**; 3.15pm. **St Mary, Great Milton (8) (15cwt)**,
4.30pm. **St Mary, Shabbington (6) (5cwt)**

Saturday 3rd June - 2.00pm. **Oxford City Branch Six-Bell Striking Competition** at **St Nicholas, Old Marston**,
(Tony Crabtree will be bringing his **Stallpit** mini-ring of bells for ringers to try)