

Charlotte Furneaux's reflections on her ringing weekend back in Oxford on March 18th and 19th:

Cowley's Saturday afternoon practice was enjoyable, plus it was lovely to catch up with everyone again (including Cowley, Iffley and Marston ringers).

We had the opportunity to practise Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles as well as time spent ringing the bells up and down, which helps with developing bell control and precision. All in all it was a productive session and I enjoyed



being able to ring at Cowley again! I wish Cowley lots more ringing in your tower this year.

On Mothering Sunday I had the opportunity to ring, with the Marston ringers, a quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles. This was challenging to ring in trying to remember what happens when bobs are called as well as being able to sustain concentration for that length of time. I also enjoyed the challenge of ringing an inside bell.

Being surrounded by experienced ringers helped me so much. Thank you to everyone! *Charlotte.*

Our First Ringing Trip of 2023

Our first full scale outing since the autumn of 2019 was hearteningly well attended with 22 of us – a healthy mix

of long time attendees, new friends, returning friends and, with the future of ringing in mind, several participants who only started ringing since the Covid hiatus. Virtually all the methods we did (and there was quite a selection) ran their full course, and there was a wealth of different conductors. Despite the three towers all being within a 30 minute drive of Oxford, it was only **Thame (8)** that we had visited before as part of an outing. For nearly everyone it was their first visit to

Chearsley (6), with their bells being as reassuring as one could hope for as the first ring of the afternoon, thus we rang Plain Hunt, Cambridge and much in-between. Thame gave us the chance to ring some fluent Stedman Triples, Grandsire Triples and Plain Bob Major. We have visited **Great Haseley (6)** in the past for quarter peals, but on this our first outing visit we were greeted with refreshments, and a chance to gaze at the great stained glass window, before we started ringing, with our method selection including Ipswich Surprise Minor, the first time we have rung that on any of our many outings.

We are sure everyone who came along would like to thank the representatives of the towers who let us in and showed us around their towers for being so exceptionally amenable.

Earlier in the day, four of our group who had travelled up from the south coast, rang a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor with Colin and Hugh at **Weston on the Green (6)**. Andrew Wilkinson was immensely accommodating and our visitors were impressed at the work that has been done in recent times to transform the tower and its bells.



Upcoming Events:

Saturday 1st April. City Branch Practice at St Aldates (6). 3.00pm – 4.30pm

Monday 10th April. Easter Monday – Kirtlington (8) Open to all practice. 10.30am – 12.00noon