



MARSTON UPDATE

March 3rd , 2021

Hugh Deam
Compiled by
Donna Bennett
Issue #189

March 6th Saturday - Oxford City Branch practice (online) A historic event, our first Virtual Tower outing

Focus: Grandsire - doubles and triples, plain courses & touches

Conference room:

<https://meet.jit.si/OxfordCityBranchpractice>

10 am for a session on "how to survive in Ringing room and Jitsi"
for all learners of technology or 1st timers, we think this will be a big help

10.30 for main practice

Once gathered will break up into smaller groups (as numbers dictate)

Duration - up to 12 pm - but people welcome to take part for
only 30 mins if that helps

Ringing Room:

https://ringingroom.com/765184239/oxford_city_branch_room_1

Be great to see you there - Steve

For Now Until Then

Provided that there are no unforeseen bumps in the road between now and then, we hope to be back somewhere outdoors utilizing the handbells for method ringing for the first weekend in April as a precursor to getting back in the tower and resuming outings.

In the meantime Benjamin has set up a Friday evening Ringing Room practice for Marston and visitors to complement the online City Branch practices being organised by its new Ringing Master, Steve Everett.

A Scene (or Sound?) To Come Soon in Oxfordshire And Beyond...

AN EXCERPT FROM ANN RADCLIFFE'S LATE 18TH CENTURY GOTHIC NOVELS

SUPPLIED BY JUDY KIRBY - THE MYSTERIES OF UDOLPHO

One of the grand passes of the Pyrenees into Spain: lost walkers encounter a Mystery of Udolpho. They continued to travel long after twilight had obscured the road. The moon was rising, but her light was yet too feeble to assist them. While they stepped carefully onwards they heard the vesper bell of a convent. The twilight would not permit them to distinguish anything like a building, but the sounds seemed to come from woods that overhung an acclivity to the right. They began to ascend towards the woods, guided by the convent bell. The moon now threw a faint light over their path, and soon after enabled them to distinguish some towers rising above the tops of the woods. Still following the note of the bell they entered the shade of those woods lighted only by the moonbeams that glided down between the leaves and threw a tremulous gleam upon the steep they were winding. The gloom and silence that prevailed (except when the bell returned upon the air), together with the wildness of the surrounding scenery struck Emily with fear.

Back in the Day - Saturday 1st March 2008

Marcham, All Saints 1260 Plain Bob Minor
1 Claire Wright 2 Janice Beale 3 Maarit Kivilo
4 Hugh Deam 5 Simon Edwards 6 Christian Burrell (c)

Since 1996 we have enjoyed 8 outings / special practices and 8 quarter peals, our most recent visit being in 2016, as part of our autumn Outing organized by Donna. Being one of the few counter clockwise rings in this part of the country means that there is always the impetus of this extra challenge. Another plus point from several of our visits has been that we have been able to meet up again with former Marston ringer, Julia Davies (Phipps) who was a core member of our large teenage band from the 1980s. (2 photos attached)

Ringers who started out at Marston have a good track record of carrying on their enthusiasm for ringing even after moving to pastures new. Another of our alumni is Tim Keyes, now tower captain at St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury. The bellringers were recently featured in the Ledbury Reporter (with pre-covid photo) with regard to their having been given permission to form a rota to toll a single bell every evening at 6pm in response to the pandemic.

