



MARSTON UPDATE

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AIN'T NOTHING LIKE THE REAL THING - Our Friday (4th September) evening handbell practice this week concentrated on Plain Bob Minor for the first time. Every week we continue to discover that there seem to be rather more variables to cope with in handbells as opposed to tower ringing. As much as we are appreciative of having handbells to keep us going, there cannot be one of us who isn't desperate to get back to the "real thing".



Top Left – Buxhall
Bottom Left –
group at Tostock
Photos to right -
Woolpit



Back in the Day Saturday 9th September 2006 - Outing to Essex

This outing afforded us the opportunity to ring again with our good friend Neville Whittell from Hadleigh, Suffolk, whose contacts with other towers also spreads well into Essex, this taking care of arrangements. All three churches we visited were of notable distinction. At Tostock four of the bells cast during the 16th century in Bury St Edmunds were stored from 1960 until augmentation and rehangings in 1999. Woolpit is a village of considerable historical significance, taking its name from the 12th century ditches constructed here to act as wolf traps. The village sign depicts a girl and boy, the church and a wolf, attesting to the local legend of two green pigmented children appearing from one such pit at harvest time. On being brought to the village they would only eat green vegetables, but eventually changed colour when encouraged onto a diet of bread. The church is one England's most glorious examples, including 200 angel carvings. On the tower door post at Buxhall church is a carved cipher containing five and a bit rows of single pair changes dating to fifty years before Fabian Stedman's *Tintinnalogia* of 1668, which is generally considered the inception of change ringing. Unfortunately, the tenor clapper sheared off early on the piece here, but they were great to ring whilst it lasted.

More photos and detailed information on the towers (including the Woolpit children story) and our lunch venue - The Bull Inn, Woolpit - are on the City Branch Outings pages.