

# MARSTON UPDATE

## December 15th<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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*Goodness  
Gracious, Great  
Bells & Fire!*



### **FOCUS TOWARDS CHRISTMAS**

Several months ago, it seemed most likely that any Christmas service ringing of substance would have to be an outdoor affair on handbells, so our Saturday practice this week concentrated on narrowing down our choice of Carols for Christmas morning service. This week to go with our warming tea we enjoyed a plateful of gingerbread biscuits, plus we managed to keep the fire alight for the entire session.



### **Roy Jones The Rebel – FYI from Susan King**

Randwick near Stroud, Gloucestershire had 4 bells until augmented to 6 in 1967. According to the "The Ringing World", (20<sup>th</sup> November 2020, page 1138), Randwick was one of the few towers that rang peals of Minimus before the Central Council agreed at its meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1961 to permit peals of Minimus. Interestingly, the rebel Roy Jones of Marston rang in two peals there prior to the Council's permission. What a long and varied career in ringing he had!



### **Back in the Day 1 Friday 9th December 2016**

For many years the boxes in Marston tower available ringers to stand on were decidedly couci-couca examples until, that was Jonathan Beale kindly made us two new boxes customised for the job. Even though these were wider than the previous makeshift boxes it became evident that it would only be fair to add a third even wider box specifically with Bernard in mind especially with his then regular participation in our Sunday quarter peals. Jonathan graciously agreed to make this special one-off box and Bernard christened it before the Friday evening practice back in



### **Back in the Day #2 Monday 12th December 1983**

From the thousands of cities, towns, villages and hamlets in the UK, only a tiny percentage have so far made top story in the national media, and by the very nature of the news-beast it will almost certainly not have been a "good news" story. For Marston it was Monday 12 December 1983, although the actual incident happened at 10.50pm the previous evening, and today hardly anyone remembers it ever occurred.

For those of you who know Marston Road you may remember the Somerset House pub (now the Up In Arms) and that directly across the road is a corner shop. Back in 1983 there were two telephone boxes situated outside and on the Sunday evening New Marston was rocked by a bomb explosion in one of them. This was the year when breakfast television began in the UK and between 6.00am and 9.00am this was prime news in the days when the "Breaking News" strapline was often more decorously known as "We are receiving reports..." or "news just in". Even though a bomb disposal unit was dispatched from Brize Norton, and a further device was subsequently found in the other box, in those stoic days before citywide lockdowns and stringent cordoning off the story had been relegated to a brief mention by the lunchtime bulletins and was non-existent by the evening news, save for the Oxford Mail.