



MARSTON UPDATE

June 16th, 2020

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WHAT MIGHT BELL RINGERS BE DOING DURING LOCKDOWN in their spare time?



Perhaps fulfilling dreams?



Possibly into routine exercise and meditation?



Maybe performing heroic deeds?

Back in the Day Saturday 14th June 2003
Outing to Southampton
Further photos, including a group photo, are available on <http://www.oxfordcitybranch.org.uk/outings02.htm>

This is our only outing to the purlieus of Southampton to date, and the modernity of the churches brought home the devastation that was wrought upon the city by German bombing raids during World War II. Our first ring was at Portswood church, which didn't look like it would possess a set of bells as it looked such a new building, but had accrued six, the front three of which had only recently been installed. Half of our group didn't make it to South Stoneham, one of just two remaining medieval churches in Southampton, as it is somewhat hidden amidst the extensive Halls of Residence for the city university. Then eastward across the River Itchen to the 20th century church in Bitterne Park, which had just been augmented to an eight, and was soon to become a ten bell tower. The utilitarian exterior is offset by an arresting interior, which includes a stained glass window alluding to the local maritime heritage. Then east again past the then recently built new home for Hampshire County Cricket - The Rose Bowl - to the church in Botley, which is a replacement due to a poplar tree falling onto the original rather than bombs. The front three bells here had also just been installed. Our lunch venue (The Brewery Bar) was decidedly of the "spit and sawdust" complexion, and in the car park Leon was tricked by Jonathan and Steve into getting locked in the boot of Steve's car.

