



Oxford City Branch Hugh's News



Produced fortnightly by Paul and Hugh, with a few contributions from other ringers

Monday 26th May 2014

Roy Jones 1935-2014.

Born in North Oxford in 1935, Roy moved to Marston with his parents during the war, and it was soon

after this that he learned to handle a bell-rope at St. Nicholas church. Roy's training in chemistry saw him begin and end his working life as a dispensing chemist, with a significant period in between where he taught physics and chemistry in the Midlands and Wales. A host of village organisations have received a lasting legacy from Roy's input across the years (St. Nicholas School, the Marston Scouts, Parish Council, PCSO, PCC), but undoubtedly the bell-ringing community has benefitted from the lion's share of his time, diligence and judiciously garnered knowledge. Roy served as vice-chairman of the Oxford City Branch for several years until 2012 and belonged to, or oversaw, numerous other ringing societies throughout the country. Although the



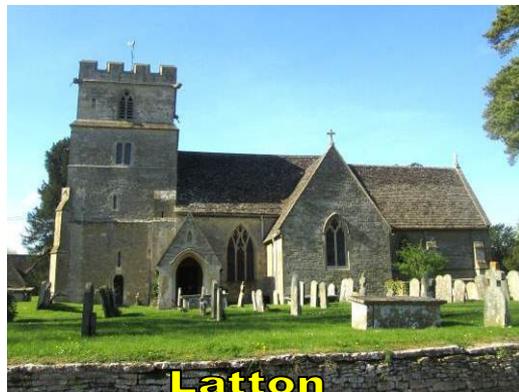
Roy and the Marston Ringers - 1961

bells at Marston have been rung since the 19th century it was not until the 1930s that method ringing came to the fore, call changes having been the norm. From having been an unassuming and quiet back-water where ringing was low-key to say the least, since 1945 the tower has become known for avowedly fostering an outgoing attitude towards ringing within the tower and visiting other towers. In terms of peals (150+), quarter peals (1000+), and record lengths, the history of Marston bell-ringing is all post-war, and in essence due to two individuals. The adoption of method ringing in the tower was orchestrated by Alec Gammon, and the proliferation of ringing that began in the 1950s, and which has continued ever since, is unarguably due to Roy Jones. He was instrumental in getting the bells in Marston augmented to a six in the 1970s and rang in two-thirds of the peals, and most of the quarter peals, rung in the tower. As much as the statistics surrounding Roy are the stuff of legend (6000+ quarter peals, peals probably in four figures, virtually every ringable tower in the world rung at), it was his evangelical approach to spreading the art of ringing, and the teaching of ringing, that will permeate through to coming generations of ringers. Some idea of the diversity of Roy's life and work could be gleaned from the fact that amongst the substantial congregation at his funeral service on Wednesday 21st May, there were not only family, but also numerous ringers, representatives from the church, parish council and voluntary organisations. *Hugh.*

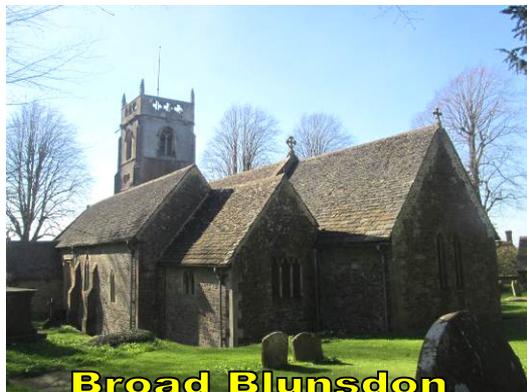
Branch Striking Competition on Saturday 10th May

Despite circumstance resulting in numerous chops and changes right up to the last minute, we nonetheless managed to get three bands to the starting line. The judging was carried out by Bernard Masterman assisted by Judy Kirby, with our hosts at Garsington providing copious cups of tea and coffee plus cake and biscuits. *The result was: 1st - St. Giles 2nd - Kidlington 3rd - Headington. Hugh.*

Mini Outing to Latton (5) and Broad Blunsdon (8) on Saturday 17th May



Latton



Broad Blunsdon

After our previous ringing excursion to five of the multifarious towers encircling Swindon, back on a sunny day in March, we were fortunate enough to return to the area for a smaller jaunt on what was the warmest day of the year so far. Both churches we visited are pastorally located and were exuding rural charm in the sunlight. The bells of **Latton** church are seldom rung and presented us with a rigorous skills challenge somewhat different to that which we advertised in advance. A book sale, plus attendant tea, coffee and cakes were awaiting us at **Broad Blunsdon** church, all of which provided a relaxing curtain raiser to the ringing to come. Augmented to an eight in recent years, the bells here left none of our group disenfranchised and provided a contrast in technique being so light. On a day made for dining alfresco, the pub 'The Heart in Hand' in Broad Blunsdon boasted a top-notch beer garden as well as appetising meals. *Hugh.*

Dates for your Diary

Full details from Hugh Deam at: [hugh.deam at btinternet.com](http://hugh.deam.btinternet.com) or phone: 07899-871079.

- Saturday 31st May Mini Outing to Lane End (6) 10.30am-11.30am and Turville (5) 12noon-1.00pm.
- Saturday 14th June Morning Method Ringing Practice at Combe (6) 10.00am-11.00am
- Saturday 21st June Special Memorial Service and interment of Roy's ashes at St Nicholas Church, Marston. 11.00am Service, preceded by ringing at 10.00am
- Saturday 28th June Basic Skills Ringing Practice at Tackley (6) 10.30am-12noon

Local Practice Nights

- Mondays: St Aldates (6), Garsington (6)
- Tuesdays: Kidlington (8), Horspath (6).
- Wednesdays: Headington (8), Iffley (6).
- Thursdays: St Giles (8), Wolvercote (6), Stanton St John (5), Cowley (6).
- Fridays: Old Marston (6), Wheatley (6), North Hinksey (6) (6.30pm-7.30pm).

For more details go to the Oxford City Branch website: www.oxfordcitybranch.org.uk

Any information or photographs for inclusion in *Hugh's News* please email me: [paulclucas at hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paulclucas@hotmail.co.uk)