

End of an Era



Eddie with two of his daughters,
Vanessa and Elaine

On 18th April Eddie Hartley stepped down as tower captain at Barnes after 25 years. During that time Eddie has developed the band and the ringing at Barnes from a young and enthusiastic bob doubles band to being the leading London tower for Quarter Peals regularly over the past 10 years with a thriving surprise major practice each Friday. There are Saturday morning training sessions for beginners – with the tower now fully equipped with simulators on each bell and cordless headphones for ringers and trainers. There is a monthly special practice for those wanting to practice Plain Bob and Grandsire doubles – and local towers such as Fulham and Richmond have also benefitted from our facilities and from Eddie's enthusiasm and willingness to teach.

To mark the occasion there was a 4-course dinner in the church hall to which ringers and friends from the breadth of Eddie's ringing career were invited. 86 guests attended and heard handbell ringing, singing by Elaine Hartley, Eddie's youngest daughter, and speeches including Sheila Cheesman (on behalf of the Surrey Association) and Tony Nunn (on behalf of the band). Eddie was presented with an engraved glass tankard, a Geoff Willis clock and gift vouchers, and the evening finished with dancing to the disco music of Adrian Udal.



Prior to the dinner, three simultaneous quarter peals were rung at Barnes, Mortlake and Richmond:

Richmond, Surrey 18 Apr, 1260 Grandsire Triples: 'Tine Marchbank 1, James Ingham (C) 2, Lorraine Lysons 3, Helen Udal 4, Alan Marchbank 5, Irene Rich 6, Philip Pratt 7, Robert Lewis 8.

Mortlake, London SW14. 18 Apr, 1260 Stedman Triples: Sheila Cheesman 1, James White 2, Adrian Udal 3, Chris McLean 4, Francis Ring-Davies 5, Phaedra Sawbridge 6, Jeremy Cheesman (C) 7, Sarah Percival 8.

Barnes, London SW13. 18 Apr, 1250 Barnes Surprise Major: Edmund Hartley 1, Mike Wigney 2, Jason Hughes 3, Stella Shell 4, Christine Northeast 5, Gill Tomlinson 6, Tony Nunn 7, Jill Wigney (C) 8.

All rung in celebration on the Barnes Ringers' AGM Day, prior to a special Dinner to celebrate the 25 years of leadership of Eddie Hartley who was elected Tower Captain on April 6th, 1984 and who stood down today.