

Barnes Ringers in Devon — Again

This was the sixth year that Colin Yandle had invited Barnes ringers and friends to his cottage near Bampton, and what with the 13 people in the cottage (it remains a mystery to me where they all sleep) plus some 9 others at the Exeter Inn and elsewhere, it was one of the best-attended yet. The pattern of quarters and general ringing has become well established over the years, and this year a number of cumulative landmarks were reached. On Friday, we scored our 50th different Devon tower (Yarnscombe) and our 100th different tower overall (Tawstock). Various other personal milestones can be gleaned from the quarters printed below.

For the first time, the "weekend" began on a Thursday, with the 9th of June seeing cars from all over London converging on Trowbridge. Here the small ringing chamber soon became rather crowded, with ringers spilling over onto (but luckily not off) the church roof. There were half as many bells, but twice as much room, at Steeple Ashton, where this fine 20 cwt six were much enjoyed.

After lunch, the serious business began, with four quarters scheduled for the afternoon. Of these, only Marston Bigot was not a success, and this was due to the very late arrival of the key, rather than any performer errors. Highlights of the other quarters were the giant "duvet" on the ceiling at Edington (a much-needed form of sound control, since the bells hang directly above the ringing chamber); the petrol-mower in the tower at Wanstrow, the fumes from which nearly had half the band collapsing on the floor; and the TV film crew at Evercreech, who delayed the start of the quarter more than somewhat.

Friday was officially described as "a light day!", but seasoned weekenders are never fooled by this sort of thing. With five quarter attempts, plus general ringing at Littleham, and two further local practices for the real head-bangers in the evening, it didn't seem that way to everyone! Centered around the Exmouth area, it was one of the most successful, with a quarter of Yorkshire Major at East Budleigh being the only failure of the day.

Perhaps this made us over-confident, for it is tempting to draw a discreet veil over most of Saturday's performances. Quarters at South Molton (Lincolnshire), Chittlehampton (Grandsire), High Bickington (8-Spiced), St Giles-in-the-Wood (Plain Bob Minor) and Great Torrington (Lincolnshire *again*) all failed for one reason or another. Also unsuccessful was an impromptu attempt of Plain Bob Minor on handbells in the car park of the Dartington Glass Factory, but judging by the number of packages coming out of the factory shop, this part of the day was generally felt to be a success! Also worth waiting for was the magnificent cream tea at Tawstock, which left even the most gannet-like ringers satisfied.

Fortunately, one of Saturday's two successful quarters was that of Grandsire Doubles at Yarnscombe, which was our host Colin's first quarter away from the tenor, at the first attempt. As if to prove that this was no fluke, he repeated the feat at Bampton prior to Matins the following morning. In another action replay, the handbell band lost Plain Bob again, in the annual "Sunday Morning on the Lawn at Broom Cottage" attempt.

After a salad lunch at the cottage, some people took the opportunity to join the local ringers at St Peter's Tiverton to ring for their D-Day Memorial Service. Others preferred for some reason to lie on the lawn in the sun drinking beer.

Following one final quarter at Wiveliscombe, and general ringing at Holcombe Rogus, the weekend ended as it had begun, with ringing on 12 bells, this time at St Mary Magdalene Taunton. This challenging ring used up any last vestiges of energy which anyone may have had left, but by being conservative in the methods rung, we did not disgrace ourselves.

So another weekend came to an end. Although the final total of 13 tower-bell quarters scored out of 20 attempted was not the best average we have managed, overall it was one of the most enjoyable, with good company enjoying good weather and some fine bells. Many thanks to Colin for his hospitality, and to Eddie for the incredible feat of



The group at Otterton

organisation. Incidentally, I've already put in my request for next year — a re-run at South Molton! Donation; £15 D.H.

The above was written by David Holdridge who was missing, as was Ruth Harrison, at the time of the photo-call at Otterton. They were subsequently found in the Cream Tea Shop and a breakdown in communications was blamed for their absence. However the recent announcement of their Engagement leads us now to wonder if they had more important matters to discuss! Everybody in the group was pleased to hear their news and the next scheduled quarter was rung in celebration.

Barnes, London SW13. 15 Jul, 1250 Cambridge S. Major: Mike Wigney 1, Jane Haslam 2, Edmund Hartley 3, Mark Gosden 4, Liz Stanley (1st S. Major inside) 5, Francis Ring-Davies 6, Lucinda Reeve 7, Jill Hupman (C) 8. An engagement compliment to Ruth Harrison and David Holdridge.

Edington, Wilts. 9 Jun, 1296 Grandsire Caters: Amanda Lysons 1, Ruth Harrison 2, Patricia Chapman (1st Grandsire Caters) 3, Jennifer Doughty 4, Jill Hupman 5, George Doughty (C) 6, Lucinda Reeve 7, David Holdridge 8, Clive Buswell 9, Nicholas Ley 10.

Wanstrow, Som. 9 Jun, 1260 P.B. Minor: Nicholas Ley 1, Patricia Chapman 2, Siobhan Chapman 3, Ruth Harrison 4, David Holdridge 5, Clive Buswell (C) 6. These two quarters were rung in celebration of the birth of Grace Hannah May Beaney, born May 13th 1994.

Evercreech, Som. 9 Jun, 1289 Stedman Caters: Jill Hupman 1, Lucinda Reeve 2, Elaine Gosden 3, Jennifer Doughty 4, Mark Gosden 5, Ian Church 6, Mike Wigney (C) 7, Edmund Hartley 8, George Doughty 9, Amanda Lysons 10. 1st Stedman Caters: 3.8.

Clyst St George, Devon. 10 Jun, 1260 Stedman Doubles: Jill Hupman 1, Patricia Chapman 2, Lucinda Reeve (C) 3, Siobhan Chapman 4, George Doughty 5, Colin Yandle 6.

Withycombe Raleigh, Devon. 10 Jun, 1260 P.B. Royal: Amanda Lysons 1, Clive Buswell 2, Elaine Gosden 3, Mark Gosden 4, Ian Church 5, Nicholas Ley 6, David Holdridge 7, Edmund Hartley 8, Ruth Harrison 9, Mike Wigney (C) 10.

Otterton, Devon. 10 Jun, 1296 Cambridge Minor: Adrian Udal 1, Siobhan Chapman 2, Jennifer Doughty 3, Ruth Harrison 4, David Holdridge 5, George Doughty (C) 6.

Topsham, Devon. 10 Jun, 1296 Cambridge Minor: Lorraine Lysons 1, Francis Ring-Davies 2, Ruth Harrison 3, Liz Stanley 4, Mike Wigney 5, David Holdridge (C) 6.

Yarnscombe, Devon. 11 Jun, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Colin Yandle (1st away from cover) 1, Siobhan Chapman 2, Edmund Hartley 3, Nicholas Ley 4, Mike Wigney (C) 5, Francis Ring-Davies 6.

Swimbridge, Devon. 11 Jun, 1272 Wells S. Minor: Ruth Harrison 1, Edmund Hartley (1st in m) 2, David Holdridge 3, Lucinda Reeve 4, Clive Buswell 5, Mike Wigney (C) 6.

Bampton, Devon. 12 Jun, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Colin Yandle 1, Amanda Lysons (1st G. Doubles) 2, Jill Hupman 3, Patricia Chapman 4, Edmund Hartley (C)(250th Q) 5, Nicholas Ley 6.

Brushford, Som. 12 Jun, 1320 Cambridge S. Minor: Lorraine Lysons 1, Ruth Harrison 2, Clive Buswell (C) 3, David Holdridge 4, Mike Wigney 5, Lucinda Reeve 6.

Morebath, Devon. 12 Jun, 1260 P.B. Minor: Adrian Udal 1, Francis Ring-Davies 2, Edmund Hartley 3, Ian Church 4, Nicholas Ley 5, Mike Wigney (C) 6.

Wiveliscombe, Som. 12 Jun, 1264 P.B. Major: Mark Gosden 1, Patricia Chapman 2, Jill Hupman 3, Elaine Gosden 4, Edmund Hartley 5, Adrian Udal (1st Bob Major) 6, David Holdridge 7, Mike Wigney (C) 8.

7 IN A DAY AROUND NORTH AMPTONSHIRE

Burton Latimer. 9 Jul, 1280 Superlative S Major: Rhoda Reynolds 1, Paul Meyer 2, Adrian Clifton 3, Alison Willgress 4, Philip Reynolds 5, Philip Reynolds 6, Anthony Walker 7, Peter Waterfield (C) 8.

Finedon. 1280 Lincolnshire S Major: Freda Willgress 1, Caitlin Meyer 2, Alison Willgress 3, Philip Reynolds 4, Anthony Walker 5, Adrian Clifton 6, Peter Waterfield (C) 7, Ian Willgress 8.

Irthlingborough. 1280 Pudsey S Major: Philip Reynolds 1, Rhoda Reynolds 2, Paul Meyer 3, Alison Willgress 4, Anthony Walker 5, Peter Waterfield (C) 6, Adrian Clifton 7, Ian Willgress 8.

Irchester. 1280 DNCBM: Rhoda Reynolds 1, Caitlin Meyer 2, Freda Willgress 3, Alison Willgress 4, Philip Reynolds 5, Ian Willgress 6, Peter Waterfield (C) 7, Anthony Walker 8.

Wellingborough. 1280 Yorkshire S Major: Freda Willgress 1, Paul Meyer 2, Alison Willgress 3, Philip Reynolds 4, Anthony Walker 5, Adrian Clifton 6, Ian Willgress 7, Peter Waterfield (C) 8.

Rushden. 1280 Cambridge S Major: Paul Meyer 1, Rhoda Reynolds 2, Philip Reynolds 3, Peter Waterfield (C) 4, Adrian Clifton 5, Ian Willgress 6, Alison Willgress 7, Anthony Walker 8.

Higham Ferrers. 1260 Grandsire Triples: Ian Willgress 1, Caitlin Meyer 2, Freda Willgress 3, Anthony Walker 4, Philip Reynolds 5, Alison Willgress 6, Peter Waterfield (C) 7, Adrian Clifton 8. A birthday compliment to Cathryn A Walker. £3.50