

Barnes Returns to Norfolk



Lunchtime at the Spread Eagle in Erpingham (for Barnes Ringers and Friends).

Wednesday: The 'Weekend' begins with coffee in the Orchard, Grantchester, in brilliant sunshine. The first quarter is at Trumpington and then another at Burwell, where the tower captain tries to frighten us about the trebles, and the organist competes with us. But we concentrate, hard. Then the first simultaneous attempts. At Reymerston the band is defeated by Norfolk. There's a puncture, too, but the others succeed at Yaxham. To East Dereham and we book into our hotel, where taps which turn 'the wrong way' provide entertainment.

Thursday: Speedy service at breakfast: the 'Full English' arrives when we have barely started the cereal. At Aylsham, the Organisers and the ringer who came by public transport arrive on time, but everyone else gets lost. We almost ring a quarter of Grandsire Caters. At Marsham there's a lookout by an Organiser who's at another tower, but handbells (found to be anti-clockwise) provide entertainment for our wait in the sun. While some ring a quarter at Saxthorpe, the rest go to Holt where there's bunting (for James Ingham's birthday?) and the Organisers wait in vain at the Methodist Church. We lose Erin but score a birthday tea, with cake and candles. Simultaneous quarters at Wighton and Little Walsingham, then for some a visit to the Shrine, and practice at Fakenham. Finally, a curry, and James celebrates once more, with a Passion Bowl, and a flaming sambuca brought in as we sing 'Happy Birthday'.

Friday: We must leave at 8, but someone is missing: she's waiting for her alarm (set for 6pm). Either the early start or yesterday's curry puts paid to simultaneous attempts at Saxlingham Nethergate and Woodton. After general ringing at Bungay there's lunch at Somerleyton, with a goat in the pub garden. One car tours the Rectory grounds in search of the church, and the quarter peal band are greeted by Lord Somerleyton. Bristol at Pakefield, with a sheep in the churchyard, then simultaneous quarters at Lowestoft and Carlton Colville. General ringing at Beccles, with its

fascinating peal boards, then the Dereham practice, the ninth tower of the day.

Saturday: Later breakfast and a long drive ahead, so all 20 of us appear together, to the hotel's dismay. To Gorleston and Yarmouth, then Woodbastwick where there's a 'Fate', for lunch at Woodforde's brewery tap. It's a Jubilee Day Fate (We're Doin' Different) and during lunch the road is suddenly closed between us and the next tower, Ranworth. Happily the rumour that there are 300 steps is untrue. At All Saints, Norwich, the quarter's success owes much to Mike Wigney, who coached the Conductor from his hospital bed at Stoke Mandeville. The weather breaks. Dramatically. After St Peter Mancroft it's back to Dereham for the Dinner, with the Reverend Richard Ames-Lewis (Incumbent at East Dereham and former Rector at Barnes) and his wife Katharine as our guests. A mobile phone is handed round so that everyone can have a few words with Mike. We greatly miss him and Jill.

Sunday: After various combinations of service/ringing/breakfast there are quarters at Dereham ('majestic') and at East Raynham, where we are privileged to be amongst the first visitors to ring on this fine new eight. More rain, so our picnic is relocated to the village hall. We return to the church where we are welcomed by Viscount Raynham and there's a second quarter, during which HM The Queen makes a private visit to the church and watches the ringing. Three more quarters follow and today's score is six out of six!

Monday: It couldn't last. Today's score is zero out of three, but we get home safely to marvel again at the enormous amount of work and careful planning by our Organisers, Eddie and Trisha. There have been 38 different towers, 30 quarter peal attempts (including 11 simultaneous pairs) and 22 ringers (arriving and leaving at different times) but it has all gone smoothly, thanks to them. Thanks too, to all the towers and ringers who made us so welcome. We've had a wonderful 'Weekend'. C.H.N.

Trumpington, Cambs. 17 Jul, 1260 Grandsire Triples: James White 1, Stella Shell 2, Christine Northeast 3, Maryanne Roach 4, Trisha Hawkins 5, Charles Turnbull 6, Edmund Hartley (C) 7, Giles Dimock 8.

Burwell, Cambs. 17 Jul, 1280 Superlative S Major: Trisha Hawkins 1, Stella Shell 2, Charles Turnbull 3, Maryanne Roach 4, Christine Northeast 5, Gill Tomlinson 6, Jason Hughes (C) 7, Tony Nunn 8.

Yaxham. 17 Jul, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Giles Dimock 1, Stella Shell 2, Trisha Hawkins (C) 3, Mark Smith 4, James White 5, Edmund Hartley 6.

East Dereham. 17 Jul, 1280 Double Norwich C B Major: Trisha Hawkins 1, Edmund Hartley 2, Gill Tomlinson 3, Jason Hughes 4, Christine Northeast 5, James White 6, Tony Nunn 7, Mark Smith (C) 8.

Marsham. 18 Jul, 1282 Cassiobury S Major: Christine Northeast 1, Stella Shell 2, Mark Smith 3, Gill Tomlinson 4, Tony Nunn 5, James White (1st blows in m) 6, Jason Hughes (C) 7, Peter Valuks 8.

Saxthorpe. 18 Jul, 1320 Norwich S Minor: James White 1, James Ingham 2, Stella Shell 3, Gill Tomlinson 4, Roderic Bickerton 5, Tony Nunn (C) 6. 550th together: 2&3. In celebration of James Ingham's birthday today.

Wighton 18 Jul, 1260 Mixed Doubles (3m): Trisha Hawkins 1, Edmund Hartley 2, Stella Shell 3, Charles Turnbull 4, James Ingham (C) 5, Maryanne Roach 6. A further celebration of the conductor's birthday.

Little Walsingham. 18 Jul, 1272 Wells S Minor: Christine Northeast 1, James White 2, Mark Smith 3, Gill Tomlinson 4, Tony Nunn 5, Peter Valuks (C) 6.

Somerleyton, Suffolk. 19 Jul, 1320 PB Doubles: Stella Shell 1, Charles Turnbull 2, Andrew Howard-Smith 3, Trisha Hawkins 4, James White (C) 5, Giles Dimock 6.

Pakefield, Suffolk. 19 Jul, 1280 Bristol S Major: Edmund Hartley 1, Christine Northeast 2, Mark Smith 3, James Ingham 4, Gill Tomlinson 5, Monica Trow 6, Tony Nunn 7, Peter Valuks (C) 8.

Lowestoft, Suffolk. 19 Jul, 1250 Rutland S Major: Trisha Hawkins 1, Christine Northeast 2, Maryanne Roach 3, Stella Shell 4, James White 5, Tony Nunn 6, Gill Tomlinson 7, Mark Smith (C) 8.

Carlton Colville, Suffolk. 19 Jul, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Monica Trow 1, Edmund Hartley 2, Andrew Howard-Smith 3, Peter Valuks 4, James Ingham (C) 5, Charles Turnbull 6.

Gt Yarmouth. 20 Jul, 1296 LB Royal: Stella Shell 1, Christine Northeast 2, Maryanne Roach 3, Gill Tomlinson 4, Monica Trow 5, James Ingham 6, James White 7, Tony Nunn 8, Peter Valuks 9, Mark Smith (100th as C) 10.

Norwich (All Saints). 20 Jul, 1260 PB Minor: Andrew Howard-Smith (1st minor) 1, Charles Turnbull 2, Gill Tomlinson 3, Tony Nunn 4, Monica Trow (1st minor as C) 5, Peter Valuks 6. To celebrate the Conductor's retirement and a get-well compliment to Mike Wigney, the Conductor's mentor.

East Dereham. 21 Jul, 1288 Grandsire Triples: Ann Croker 1, Helen Mansfield 2, Charles Turnbull 3, Monica Trow 4, Francis Ring-Davies 5, Adrian Udal 6, Tony Nunn (C) 7, Andrew Howard-Smith 8. After the Morning Services.

East Raynham. 21 Jul, 1280 Spliced S. Major (Std 8): Trisha Hawkins 1, Edmund Hartley 2, Stella Shell 3, Christine Northeast 4, Gill Tomlinson 5, Peter Adcock 6, Mark Smith 7, Peter Valuks (C) 8. After Morning Service.

East Raynham. 21 Jul, 1260 Stedman Triples: Helen Mansfield 1, Mark Smith 2, Monica Trow 3, Francis Ring-Davies 4, Gill Tomlinson 5, Tony Nunn 6, Adrian Udal (C) 7, Charles Turnbull 8. Rung to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of her visit to the Church and Tower of St Mary at Raynham.

Litcham. 21 Jul, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Edmund Hartley (C) 1, Trisha Hawkins 2, Andrew Howard-Smith 3, Stella Shell 4, Peter Valuks 5, Christine Northeast 6. For Evensong.

Castle Acre. 21 Jul, 1272 London S Minor: Trisha Hawkins 1, Edmund Hartley 2, Charles Turnbull (1st in m) 3, Christine Northeast 4, Mark Smith 5, Peter Valuks (C) 6. For the Patronal Festival of St Mary Magdalene, Pentney.

Swaffham. 21 Jul, 1301 Grandsire Triples: Monica Trow 1, Stella Shell 2, Helen Mansfield 3, Francis Ring-Davies 4, Adrian Udal 5, Gill Tomlinson 6, Tony Nunn (C) 7, Andrew Howard-Smith 8. For evensong. £40

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The Queen watches Ringers

One might imagine that it is a very rare occurrence to encounter Her Majesty The Queen during the course of a ringing outing. That is exactly what happened to the Barnes ringers on 21st July. See report on p.922.