

Barnes in Lincolnshire: July 2003

Recommended Listening

A new series started Wednesday 16th July 10.30am. Eddie and Trisha, back again with another weekend for Barnes ringers and friends.

This series of outings has proved popular and worthwhile in the past and this year, on a visit to Lincolnshire, experience previously gained took the programme to new heights. The inevitable problems with live shows cropped up and these were managed with great proficiency and calm by the production team.

The director, Eddie...

... had a template for the running order for weeks in advance. Not all were slotted in until the last minute. The performers (for the quarter peals) were allocated their roles and all had successfully received the changes to the running order – some as late as midnight, only 10 hours before the top of the programme.

The producer, Trisha...

All armies work better on full stomachs and sleep. This army of ringers was well catered for. Many meals were selected in advance. Here Trisha excelled. She had sent the orders off by e mail. The old adage never to work with animals or children should be extended to publicans who try to conduct business by e mail. They happily give you their menus by e mail but then fail to act on orders sent electronically. Accommodation was either in the Finch Hatton Arms in Ewerby or the adjacent former residential home. A local ringer had persuaded the proprietors to open their doors to a rather younger clientele than they were accustomed to.

Afternoon teas allowed performers to be sufficiently nourished to last till dinner. At Navenby, all were happily indulging in cherry scones and plum cake when the phone rang "You've locked me in the church". Next time, Philip, use the tea shop toilet. At Surfleet a wonderful selection of cakes was provided by local ringers led by Annette. A fast quarter at Folkingham was followed by a grand afternoon cream tea at Grimsthorpe Park near Bourne. One enormous scone each could have kept us going till breakfast (and some managed two!)

The celebration dinner at the Finch Hatton Arms showed the calibre of the venue. They had bent over backwards to assist us and pulled out all the stops for this most excellent meal rounded off by handbell ringing.

The technical problems...

Devoted ringers overcame many obstacles but that doesn't make the performances easy. At St Ives and Heydour the outside temperature was 33 C. Mercifully, by morning it had rained and cooled down sufficiently for Jeremy and his harem to ring London at Timberland. Later heat problems were relieved by ice cream whilst waiting for the correct key. Monica was unable to call Yorkshire as the key to the ringing room was 10 miles away! Her second attempt further down the running order was successful.

Grandsire Caters was scored at Ewerby, our 'local' tower for the weekend, Andrew putting in a brave performance on the tenor with its plain bearings.

Boston stump was an experience - circa 200 steps to the ringing room - and that was only about half way up the tower (we were allowed to climb a short way further - as far as the viewing platform). Several of us took photos looking through the trap door in the vault (middle of ringing room) looking down to the floor 40m below.

A lock-in at Billingborough turned out to be just a question of pushing rather than pulling a door... and there was the band thinking the striking police had finally rounded them up...B

The new feature – handbell quarters

On location you know where you are with tower bells, but producing handbell events offers greater diversity. There's the park with a convenient park bench, Mike is in his wheelchair so all you have to do is lay out a blanket for the other two ringers to sit on the grass. Inexplicably Eddie forgot to bring his animal extermination team. But this band of players was not to be thwarted – one performer manfully extracted the offending wildlife from the stage and the performance went ahead without a hitch.

The Ferryboat Inn at Washingborough happily accommodated Mike's wheelchair and three others in a far corner of the lounge for an attempt of Plain Bob in hand. Lunch had successfully been pre booked. Three courses from the end, enter barmaid stage left.



Jill, coursing, asked "Do you want to say something because you need to say it NOW". (while I'm still coursing)

Barmaid: "Yes, can I put the lunch out?"

Jill: "Please do" (but stop trying to talk to me)

There then follows much squeezing past backs of ringers chairs and banging plates on tables Enter Guardian Angel stage right.

GA: "Don't disturb them now, only 5 minutes to go"

Jill thinks: "Who is this person? He's been standing at the bar for a while watching. How does he know what we're doing and how long it will last?"

Quarter peal success. GA introduced himself to Jill - John Ketteringham, formerly ringing captain at Barnes who had been invited to join us for lunch.

Location troubles

Eddie picked up a key from a vicar who allowed him to walk through the vicarage into the churchyard. The vicar then proceeded to leave to make some house calls. The rest of the band was on the road outside with a fence separating them from Eddie and the tower. Stella decided to climb over. The JP followed but just as she was atop the vicar reappeared. The potential headlines don't bear thinking about. But at least a successful quarter!

Prop problems were successfully overcome. Rule number one for tower grabbers is to be in the first band. Thankfully they were. Two touches in, a rope broke. Fortunately no quarter had been planned here. Ringing at Horbling required moving the choir stalls. There Mike conducted his first quarter on tower bells for some time.

Changing the script

There's always someone who wants to push the boat out and extend the repertoire beyond the plan. This time Barnes Cyclic Bob Major (not officially named yet) was given a dress rehearsal. It will need more rehearsal before a quarter can be achieved. Quadring saw completion of a quarter of Intrepid Treble Place Doubles - a method associated with Mike Wigney's annual 'Intrepid' narrow boat tour.

Grandsire Cinques at Surfleet unfortunately 'went west' (the tower leans in this direction). An impressive lower on all 12 bells compensated for the failure.

Critic's comment

Thank you to all the team for putting together a programme of good food, accommodation, company and (mostly) good ringing. None of this could have happened without the enormous support and help from ringers and incumbents of the churches visited. The greatest vote of thanks has been reserved for them.

The next episode is reported to be July 2004 – don't miss it.



St Ives, Cambs. 16 Jul, 1260 Erin Triples: Sheila Cheesman 1, Edmund Hartley 2, James White 3, Christine Northeast 4, Trisha Hawkins 5, Monica Trow 6, Jeremy Cheesman (C) 7, Giles Dimock 8.

Silk Willoughby, Lincs. 16 Jul, 1260 Mixed Doubles (4m): Giles Dimock 1, Gill Tomlinson 2, Tony Nunn 3, Jeremy Cheesman 4, James White (C) 5, Christine Northeast 6.

Timberland, Lincs. 17 Jul, 1272 London Minor: Christine Northeast 1, Gill Tomlinson 2, Maryanne Roach 3, Monica Trow 4, Sheila Cheesman 5, Jeremy Cheesman (1st in m as C) 6. 1st as C.

Washingborough, Lincs. 17 Jul, 1280 Lincolnshire S Major: Monica Trow 1, Trisha Hawkins 2, Stella Shell 3, Edmund Hartley 4, Maryanne Roach 5, Sheila Cheesman 6, Jeremy Cheesman 7, James White (C) 8.

Washingborough, Lincs. 17 Jul, 1264 PB Major: Jill Wigney 1-2, Jeremy Cheesman 3-4, Mike Wigney (C) 5-6, Sheila Cheesman 7-8.

Lincoln. (S Peter at Gowts) 17 Jul, 1260 Mixed Doubles (3m/p): Stella Shell 1, Edmund Hartley 2, Trisha Hawkins (C) 3, Sheila Cheesman 4, Peter Valuks 5, Giles Dimock 6.

Blankney, Lincs. 18 Jul, 1320 Mixed Doubles (6m/v): Giles Dimock 1, Edmund Hartley 2, Gill Tomlinson 3, Philip Pratt (most m as C) 4, Tony Nunn 5, Trisha Hawkins 6.

Ashby-de-la-Launder, Lincs. 18 Jul, 1260 Mixed Doubles (5m/1p): Philip Pratt 1, Tony Nunn 2, Gill Tomlinson 3, Peter Valuks 4, James White (C) 5.

Harmston, Lincs. 18 Jul, 1260 Stedman Triples: Edmund Hartley 1, Philip Pratt 2, Sheila Cheesman 3, Trisha Hawkins 4, Maryanne Roach 5, Francis Ring-Davies 6, Jeremy Cheesman (C) 7, Giles Dimock 8.

Boothby Graffoe, Lincs. 18 Jul, 1264 PB Major: Jill Wigney 1-2, Peter Valuks 3-4, Mike Wigney (C) 5-6, James White 7-8.

Fulbeck, Lincs. 18 Jul, 1260 Mixed Doubles (4m): Giles Dimock 1, Judith Williamson 2, Sheila Cheesman 3, Francis Ring-Davies 4, Jeremy Cheesman (C) 1, Christine Northeast 6.

Heckington, Lincs. 18 Jul, 1280 Bristol S Major: Edmund Hartley 1, Trisha Hawkins 2, Jill Wigney 3, Gill Tomlinson 4, Maryanne Roach 5, Philip Pratt 6, Mark Smith 7, Peter Valuks (C) 8.

Kirton, Lincs. 19 Jul, 1280 Glasgow S Major: Christine Northeast 1, Gill Tomlinson 2, Sheila Cheesman 3, Mark Smith 4, Jeremy Cheesman 5, Tony Nunn 6, Philip Pratt 7, Peter Valuks (C) 8. 1st in method on the bells.

Frampton, Lincs. 19 Jul, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Francis Ring-Davies 1, Edmund Hartley (C) 2, Andrew Howard-Smith 3, Monica Trow 4, James White 5, Trisha Hawkins 6.

Quadring, Lincs. 19 Jul, 1320 Intrepid Treble Place Doubles: Trisha Hawkins 1, Mark Smith 2, Jill Wigney 3, James White 4, Peter Valuks (C) 5, Monica Trow 6. 1st in m for all the band except C.

Bicker, Lincs. 19 Jul, 1260 PB Triples: Philip Pratt 1, Andrew Howard-Smith 2, Helen Mansfield 3, Maryanne Roach 4, Christine Northeast 5, Francis Ring-Davies 6, Tony Nunn (C) 7, Adrian Udall 8.

Sutton, Lincs. 19 Jul, 1261 Original Triples: Jill Wigney 1, Helen Mansfield 2, Philip Pratt 3, Gill Tomlinson 4, Monica Trow 5, Peter Valuks 6, Tony Nunn (C) 7, Adrian Udall 8. 1st quarter in principle for all the band.

Ewerby, Lincs. 20 Jul, 1313 Grandsire Caters: Ann Crocker 1, Christine Northeast 2, Francis Ring-Davies 3, Philip Pratt 4, Monica Trow 5, Gill Tomlinson 6, Peter Valuks 7, Tony Nunn (C) 8, Mark Smith 9, Andrew Howard-Smith 10.

Horbling, Lincs. 20 Jul, 1260 PB Minor: Trisha Hawkins 1, Mike Wigney (C) 2, Jill Wigney 3, Edmund Hartley 4, Adrian Udall 5, Helen Mansfield 6.

Billingborough, Lincs. 20 Jul, 1250 Yorkshire S Major: Trisha Hawkins 1, Edmund Hartley 2, Helen Mansfield 3, Christine Northeast 4, Francis Ring-Davies 5, Jill Wigney 6, Monica Trow (1st in m as C) 7, Peter Valuks 8.

Folkingham, Lincs. 20 Jul, 1280 Grandsire Doubles: Adrian Udall (C) 1, Philip Pratt 2, Andrew Howard-Smith 3, Mark Smith 4, Gill Tomlinson 5, Tony Nunn 6.

Rippingale, Lincs. 20 Jul, 1284 PB Minor: Andrew Howard-Smith 1, Christine Northeast 2, Gill Tomlinson 3, Monica Trow 4, Mark Smith 5, Tony Nunn (C) 6.

Semperingham, Lincs. 21 Jul, 1260 PB Minor: Edmund Hartley 1, Christine Northeast 2, Trisha Hawkins 3, Gill Tomlinson 4, Monica Trow (C) 5, Tony Nunn 6.

Thurlby, Lincs. 21 Jul, 1260 Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Bob Doubles: Christine Northeast 1, Trisha Hawkins 2, Edmund Hartley 3, Gill Tomlinson 4, Tony Nunn (C) 5, Monica Trow 6.