

## All Along Down Along Out Along Lea

Barnes ringers and friends returned to Devon for their summer tour after a gap of four years. Momentous things have happened during those years – being locked in the bar in Abergavenny, or watched by HM the Queen as we rang Stedman Triples in Norfolk. Would the old stamping ground live up to expectations?

The advance party opened the score sheet on Wednesday with a quarter on the anti-clockwise six at East Knoyle before proceeding westwards, via further successes at Stockland, Honiton and Exminster, to Ashburton. The Dartmoor Lodge is not the most photogenic of hotels and best described as functional but it served as an adequate base for the week's activities.

Setting out across Dartmoor in the morning, we were quickly reminded that Devon miles are twice as long as anywhere else's. St Pancras, Widdecombe-in-the-Moor, is a prominent landmark. [My mother tells a tale of cycling there at night, just after the war. Her relief when the tower finally loomed out of the darkness was somewhat tempered by the discovery that their lodgings in the vicarage were infested with large rats which carefully licked all the chocolate off a box of peppermint creams during the night.] But there were no sweet-toothed rodents in evidence this time and a good quarter of Grandsire was scored. Funny how preconceptions can take hold of one's mind – convinced Buckland-in-the-Moor was a six, I managed to take part in the raise and listen to ten minutes of Lincolnshire before noticing that there were actually eight bells.

A leisurely afternoon was spent at Buckfast Abbey, thanks to Giles, whose brother-in-law is one of the monks. Soon after lunch the tinkling of handbells could be heard emanating from the Physic Garden, while others marvelled at the displays of healing and harmful herbs and the Repository of Obscure Information informed all who cared to listen that purslane was highly esteemed as a remedy for blastings by lightning. Then the time came to ascend the tower and Philip, the hero of the hour, carried Mike up the spiral stairs on his back while others followed with bits of wheelchair. [This operation was repeated several times, albeit at a lesser height, and came to resemble those performances at military tattoos where a gun carriage is dismantled, carried over an obstacle and reassembled with great speed and precision.] Whilst the twelve were enjoyable to ring, the highlight was surely seeing the great bourdon bell Hosanna swinging in slow motion and hearing the rich harmonics of its majestic voice reverberating around the tower.

Quarters at Buckfastleigh and Dartington were lost, spoiling the hitherto unblemished record but Yorkshire at Ashburton put us back on course. The menu at the Exeter Inn proved to be a little unimaginative (item n: three sausages and chips, item n+1: four sausages and chips). Friday was spent in and around Torquay, including Cockington, a popular choice for local weddings. The obligatory cream tea was taken in one of those pretentiously unpretentious tea rooms with an art gallery attached. If such places are asking to have their tone lowered, Jim was happy to oblige by asking for a tub of water to bathe his throbbing feet.

Saturday's ringing centred on Newton Abbot and the Teign valley. After an excellent buffet lunch, Plain and Little was abandoned at Highweek and Bob Major rung both inside and outside the tower. James Ingham chalked up a personal milestone at Kingsteignton. The Dinner was perhaps subdued compared with previous years (no jilted brides flouncing around to liven the place up) but the food was good and plentiful. Eddie and Trisha were heartily thanked for their superb organisation, it being noted that Eddie's mobile never stopped ringing, even during quarter peals.

After a quarter of St Clement's College Bob Minor on the excellent bells at Dunsford, Sunday's tea venue was at the Canonteign Falls, where we found St Clement's cake on the menu; the successful band tucked in! Sadly there was not time to view the waterfall but other entertainment was forthcoming, for scarcely had we sat down when a fat duck waddled up to our table. It soon transpired that the creature was inordinately fond of scones and probably spent most of the café's opening hours indulging its addiction. A waitress shooed it out, only for the duck to re-enter by the other door the moment her back was turned, to continue its life's work of voluntary fois gras production.

A little drama occurred at Trusham where the fourth failed to set, burning Lucy's hands. Fortunately the kind lady in the neighbouring cottage was able to administer first aid. Subsequent inspection revealed that the slider had been removed. Although the tower was covered in scaffolding, we had been assured that it was safe to ring and that indeed the local band had rung for service that morning. We can only assume that they were "proper" Devon ringers (i.e. up, call changes and straight down).

By Monday numbers had dwindled more than anticipated and, although locals were pressed into service at Ilsington and Seavington, the final tower had to be cancelled. Nevertheless, it was by any standards a successful venture: 31 towers, 21 quarters out of 27 attempts, plus two in hand, plenty of beer and enough clotted cream to keep the old cholesterol happy for weeks.

A.N.



Some of the Barnes group enjoying St Clement's cake at Canonteign Falls (round the table from front centre left): Lucy Bricheno, Andrew Howard-Smith, Eddie Hartley, Anne-Marie Crocker-Smith, Mark Smith, Francis Ring-Davies, Liz Stanley, Helen Mansfield, Adrian Udall, Gill Tomlinson, Tony Nunn, Mike Wigney, Jill Wigney; Behind the camera: Trisha Hawkins

**East Knoyle, Wilts.** 14 Jul, 1260 Doubles (2m): Charles Turnbull 1, Edmund Hartley 2, Gill Tomlinson 3, Tony Nunn 4, James White (C), 5, Giles Dimock 6.

**Stockland, Devon.** 14 Jul, 1280 Doubles (5m): Giles Dimock 1, James White 2, Edmund Hartley (C) 3, Gill Tomlinson 4, Tony Nunn 5, Charles Turnbull 6.

**Honiton, Devon.** 14 Jul, 1288 Grandsire Triples: Edmund Hartley 1, Charles Turnbull 2, Jennie Curzon 3, Gill Tomlinson 4, Jim Shepard 5, James White 6, Tony Nunn (C) 7, Giles Dimock 8.

**Exminster, Devon.** 14 Jul, 1260 PB Minor: Edmund Hartley 1, Charles Turnbull 3, Christine Northeast 3, Gill Tomlinson 4, Tony Nunn 5, James White (C) 6.

**Widdecombe in the Moor, Devon.** 15 Jul, 1302 Grandsire Triples: James White 1, Charles Turnbull 2, Christine Northeast 3, Trisha Hawkins 4, Monica Trow 5, Gill Tomlinson 6, Tony Nunn (C) 7, Giles Dimock 8.

**Buckland in the Moor, Devon.** 15 Jul, 1250 Lincolnshire S Major: Mike Wigney (C) 1, Edmund Hartley 2, Monica Trow 3, Trisha Hawkins 4, Charles Turnbull 5, Christine Northeast 6, James White 7, Philip Pratt 8.

**Ashburton, Devon.** 15 Jul, 1250 Yorkshire S Major: Trisha Hawkins 1, Gill Tomlinson 2, Christine Northeast 3, Maryanne Roach 4, James White 5, Charles Turnbull 6, Tony Nunn 7, Philip Pratt (C) 8.

**Torquay, Devon.** (S Marychurch) 16 Jul, 1289 Stedman Caters: Jill Wigney (C) 1, Christine Northeast 2, Monica Trow 3, Trisha Hawkins 4, Mike Wigney 5, Edmund Hartley 6, Gill Tomlinson 7, Philip Pratt 8, Tony Nunn 9, James White 10.

**Cockington, Devon.** 16 Jul, 1260 Doubles (2m): Maryanne Roach 1, Stella Shell 2, Jim Shepard 3, Francis Ring-Davies 4, James Ingham (C) 5, Helen Mansfield 6.

**Ipplepen, Devon.** 16 Jul, 1280 PB Major: Christine Northeast 1, Tony Nunn 2, Lucy Bricheno 3, Maryanne Roach 4, Francis Ring-Davies 5, Monica Trow 6, Philip Pratt 7, James White (C) 8.

**East Ogwell, Devon.** 17 Jul, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Gill Tomlinson 1, Lucy Bricheno 2, Andrew Howard-Smith 3, Christine Northeast 4, James Ingham (C) 5, Mike Wigney 6.

**Wolborough, Devon.** 17 Jul, 1250 Yorkshire S Major: Francis Ring-Davies 1, Maryanne Roach 2, Helen Mansfield 3, Monica Trow 4, James White 5, Adrian Udall 6, Philip Pratt 7, Mark Smith (C) 8.

**Highweek, Devon.** 17 Jul, 1280 PB Major: Trisha Hawkins 1, Gill Tomlinson 2, Edmund Hartley 3, Maryanne Roach 4, Lucy Bricheno 5, Monica Trow 6, James White 7, Tony Nunn (C) 8.

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

**Teignmouth, Devon.** 17 Jul, 1280 Spliced S Major (4m): Gaby Cowcill 1, Mike Wigney 2, Sheila Cheesman 3, James Ingham 4, Jeremy Cheesman 5, Mark Smith 6, Jill Wigney (C) 7, Philip Pratt 8.

**Bishopsteignton, Devon.** 17 Jul, 1320 Cambridge S Minor: Mark Smith 1, Lucy Bricheno 2, Gaby Cowcill 3, Jeremy Cheesman 4, Francis Ring-Davies 5, Philip Pratt (C) 6.

**Kingsteignton, Devon.** 17 Jul, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Adrian Udall 1, Maryanne Roach 2, Gill Tomlinson 3, Helen Mansfield 4, Monica Trow 5, Tony Nunn 6, James Ingham (C & 2000th QP) 7, Andrew Howard-Smith 8.

**Ashburton, Devon.** 17 Jul, 1260 PB Minor: Lucy Bricheno 1-2, Mike Wigney 3-4 (C), Jill Wigney 5-6.

**Moretonhampstead, Devon.** 18 Jul, 1344 Rutland S Major: Helen Mansfield 1, Philip Pratt 2, Sheila Cheesman 3, Jeremy Cheesman 4, Francis Ring-Davies 5, Gaby Cowcill 6, Mark Smith 7, Adrian Udall (C) 8.

**Dunsford, Devon.** 18 Jul, 1260 St Clement's Minor: Andrew Howard-Smith 1, Lucy Bricheno 2, Mike Wigney (C) 3, Jill Wigney 4, Gill Tomlinson 5, Tony Nunn 6.

**Trusham, Devon.** 18 Jul, 1260 Doubles (2m): Francis Ring-Davies 1, Edmund Hartley 2, Trisha Hawkins (C) 3, Gill Tomlinson 4, Tony Nunn 5, Adrian Udall 6.

**Ilsington, Devon.** 19 Jul, 1260 Grandsire Minor: William J Harvey 1, Edmund Hartley 2, Trisha Hawkins 3, Robert D Brown 4, Gill Tomlinson 5, Tony Nunn (C) 6.

**Seavington St Mary, Som.** 19 Jul, 1260 Mixed Doubles (8m): Trisha Hawkins 1, Edmund Hartley 2, Jim Shepard 3, Gill Tomlinson 4, Tony Nunn 5, Chris Cox 6.