

## THE R.N.G.B. TRAFALGAR WEEKEND TOUR 2017

### HULL and DISTRICT

This year the report is being written from the perspective of a very green learner who at 72 yrs. is trying to come to grips with rounds. Huge joy when it sort of works, abject despair when I fail. On my first tour in 2016, listening to this obscure language the group was using, tail ends, sallies, Bobs, singles, methods, April day Stedman on and on. The sound from the bells was wonderful and it left me wanting to be a ringer. Fear made me put it off for a long time.

The tour started at St. Giles church Balderton with an attempt at a Quarter Peal on the 8 bells. The Conductor was Michael White (R. A. F.) with his own composition of Plain Bob Minor. John Dodd, a local ringer, ably helped out as Joe Kidd had hurt his back. Sadly this attempt failed. The tired band trundled off to have a convivial lunch at The Chester Arms opposite the church. They did wonder if they had lunched before the attempt that maybe the result would have been different.

From Balderton they drove to Barton-upon-Humber. Whilst in slow moving traffic they were treated to a flying display by The Red Arrows.



At Saint Mary's Barton we were greeted by welcome cups of tea, coffee and cakes baked by Rose. The church, it is thought, was a chapel of ease for Saint Peter and dedicated to All Saints. There were various changes and additions over the centuries until it evolved into the spacious Parish church it is today. There was a gallery with a large



ringing chamber containing 8 bells and a television showing the bells as they were rung. This I found most interesting.

Here Little Bob Major, Stedman Triples, Plain Bob Triples and Yorkshire Grandsire Triples were rung.

We then moved on to All Saints Hessele. The 6 bells were refurbished and augmented to 8 in the early 21<sup>st</sup>. century. This church with Saxon origins has a most distinctive Spire which is a beacon for miles, particularly along the south bank of the Humber. Here we rang Stedman Triples Double Norwich and Plain Bob Triples.

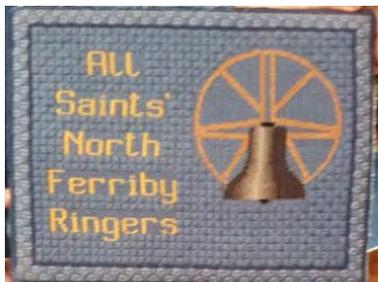


After very long journeys everyone was very tired, so we left earlier than planned to go to our hotel in Beverley, a very welcome dinner and a good night's sleep. Even the Jazz band playing could not keep us awake.

We rested, we breakfasted early and walked a few minutes down the road to our coach. First stop was All Saints North Ferriby with 6 bells. The Domesday Book recorded there was a church and a priest here in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. After negotiating a very steep spiral stairway we rang Beverley Surprise Minor, Cambridge and Plain Bob Doubles.



Here in the church I discovered kneelers sponsored by the Bellringers. The first commemorated the ringing in of the 3<sup>rd</sup>. millennium and the method shown is All Saints. Another has a church bell with its wheel and part of the words and music of Ding Dong Merrily on High, which they hoped the person on that kneeler would think of the bell calling them to church.



We clambered back into the coach and were taken to the next church of St Peter and St. Paul Howden Minster with its 8 bells which had a lovely deep tone. Poppy, our beautiful mascot member seemed to love this with her tail wagging all the way along the parapet of the transept roof on the way to the tower stairs of 53 steps.

Here we rang Plain Bob Major, call changes, with Joe managing to take part in these, Stedman Triples and Kent Major.

This tower had a moving war memorial to ringers who were killed and injured.



The Guild now moved on to All Saints North Cave with its 6 bells. Parts of this church date back to the 12<sup>th</sup> Century. The church has been designated as a ringing centre for East Yorkshire. Here we were met by Lord Nelson regenerated as a woman. She raises much money for the Jubilee Sailing Trust.



The bells here were difficult to ring up but once we got going we rang Stedman Doubles, St. Clement, Plain Bob Minor, Cambridge and London Minor. Here one of our one of our ringers was stung by a wasp and had an allergic reaction. A call to 999 was required but after a jab with her Epi Pen and a ride in the ambulance to Hull Royal Infirmary for a check-up she was fine.

The next Church was All Hallows Walkington dating back to the 13<sup>th</sup> Century with its 6 bells. A high proportion of men from Walkington lost their lives in the Great War and there is a memorial tablet commemorating this. We rang Beverley, Grandsire Doubles, Cambridge and Bob Doubles. This was felt to be the best ring of the day particularly the ringing up and down.



On to our last ring of the day at St Mary's Beverley with its 10 bells. We were greeted here with an ensign flying atop the tower. This is a wonderful church dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> Century and includes the spectacular ceiling of Kings also the statue of a rabbit which it is said inspired Lewis Carroll's white rabbit.



81 steps had to be climbed before we could ring Changes on 10 of Roller Coaster and Tittums, Plain Bob Caters, Plain Hunt on 9, Grandsire Caters and some very pleasant rounds. These bells were a little heavy but we were really pleased with ourselves.

Back to the hotel for an excellent dinner and chatting over our weekend of ringing around Hull, City of Culture 2017.

On Sunday some of us had a rare treat with a visit to H.M. S. Pickle moored in Hull. This is the ship that brought home the News of Nelson's death but that we had won the battle of Trafalgar.



An exciting end to this amazing weekend.

Helen Hall



The Minerva pub and Royal Navy Memorial on Hull's waterfront.

