

# Burghill Ringers and Friends Outing

It was still dark as I walked to Burghill Church to meet the rest of the tower bell ringers early on Saturday morning, October 29<sup>th</sup> at the start of our tower outing to Staffordshire. Here there were 9 ringers, Brian, a non-ringing husband and the big Green Frog, who never misses a tower outing, all gathered in the church car park ready to leave. Then followed a 2 hour drive through the early morning mist and beautiful autumn colours to our first tower at St John the Baptist church, Armitage, near Rugeley. Here we met Jason, Kris and Anne with her non-ringing husband, Philip. The bells, a very light 6, with the tenor weighing only 4-2-20 cwt. are a ground floor ring. They were easy to ring and we rang from rounds and call changes to an attempt at a plain course of Norwich. We all enjoyed ringing at this tower where Jason had learnt to ring and the local ringers made us most welcome with coffee and cakes.



*St John the Baptist, Armitage*

Next we drove to St Nicholas, Mavesyn Ridware, (8-3-7) an 8 bell tower, in beautiful surroundings. Once again the bells were a pleasure to ring and we rang something for everyone including Grandsire Triples for Mary, Ann and Henry. There followed lunch at the pub, interestingly named “the Bull and Spectacles” where we were joined by members of Jason’s family and enjoyed an excellent ‘value for money’ meal. As an antedote to an afternoon nap, we set off for The Church of the Holy Angels, Hoar Cross and the magnificent heavy 6 bell tower (28-1-17), third heaviest 6 in the world. I am not sure whether it was the food or inattention but Stuart and Liz managed to lose their way despite a sat nav



*Holy Innocents, Hoar Cross*

and only finding the church by winding down the car windows and following the sound of the bells. Needless to say we missed the impressive spectacle of Jason ringing up the tenor which had left our two beginners, Abby and Tim almost speechless. However undaunted, they rang good rounds on the six and both Abby and Liz (the two smallest members of the group) had a go at ringing the tenor! Nicky declared later that this was her favourite tower and the Green Frog seemed to enjoy it as well.

Leaving Hoar Cross and this time relying on an ordinance survey map we drove to the attractive town of Abbots Bromley and the delightful ring of 8 bells at the church of St Nicholas. Here we rang good rounds, triples and Cambridge with our beginners increasing in confidence throughout the afternoon.



*Nicky, GreenFrog, Jason, Liz, Abby, Kris, Tim, Henry, Mary, Ann, Anne & Stuart*

Before leaving Charlie took a group photo Frog included, and we then set off for our last tower at St Mary the Virgin, Colton, where Jason had begun to ring at the age of 10 and we were warmly welcomed by his family and friends and lovely cakes and tea. The ground floor ring of 6 bells, (tenor 8-0-19), meant we could alternate eating with ringing and we rang a touch of Stedman as well as other doubles methods and call changes. Eventually we all had to set off for home as we knew we had a long drive back but we had all enjoyed a wonderful day of ringing with excellent company and good food. Our grateful thanks to Jason for organising such an enjoyable tower outing.



*St Mary the Virgin, Colton*