

Belfry Bat May 2022

Mass at Chesterton took longer than usual on May 1st so two of us were fifteen minutes late for ringing. But the other four had raised the bells and we rang well once we got started. On Monday I played croquet for the first time this year, and really enjoyed it. On Wednesday our garage band failed to ring both a peal and a quarter peal but the ringing was good. In the evening seven ringers were joined by a prospective learner from Madeley and we had a good practice.

On Saturday May 7th I went to the North Staffs Association meeting at Horton. I always enjoy going to Horton, not just for the bells, which are excellent, but also for the journey, the last part of which is along the edge of a beautiful valley just north of Endon. The six bells were cast by Rudhalls of Gloucester in 1753, and are a very good example of how well bells from that foundry respond to modern tuning, in this case when they were re-hung by Taylors in the 1970s.

Rowena had her postponed knee replacement on May 11th, and this time it went ahead as planned. It was done at Stafford hospital, which we prefer to Stoke for a variety of reasons in spite of the greater distance. She was discharged on Thursday May 19th. There were five for ringing at St John's on May 22nd, and unusually we rang two different fives. We started with the front five, because they are the lighter five, but the treble clapper fell out, so we switched to the back five, which have a deeper note. I wonder if anyone noticed. On Tuesday Steve Mellor and I replaced the clapper without much difficulty.

On Wednesday May 25th our regular band rang a quarter peal instead of a peal, on the day of the funeral of Ian Taylor, a Cheshire ringer who rang regularly with us for several years. I didn't go to the funeral, as Ro had an appointment at the surgery for the removal of her stitches. There were six at the practice, so it was hard work but rewarding. Six again on Sunday, and the ringing was very good. I was hoping to play croquet for the first time in several weeks on Monday, but for the third week in a row the weather intervened. On Tuesday I went with the mobile belfry to the County Showground, and erected it in readiness for the show.

Phil Gay