

THINGS to DO, PLACES to GO

Saturday 3rd July DDA Summer Meeting & 8 Bell contest

1:55 Draw for contest at
Eckington

Afternoon ringing

2:00 - 3:30 Killamarsh

2:30 - 4:00. Beighton followed by
Service at 4:30

Tea and meeting at Eckington.

Evening Ringing

7:00 - 8:30 pm. Chesterfield

Numbers for tea to Hazel Jones
(0114248 4206) by Wed 30th June.

There is an unconfirmed wedding at
Killamarsh at 1:30 so ringing will not
start until that finishes!

Saturday 10th July Croquet & Ringing



Come and have a ring at Overseal from
5:45 to 6:45 (if you are not too tired
after your bike ride - see below)

Then

Spend the evening playing croquet at
Ashby Croquet Club.

See notice in your tower for details.

*NB You need a ticket in advance from
Chris Willis*

'District Meeting? - on yer bike!'



If you are planning to come to the District Meeting on 10th July in Overseal come a bit earlier and join the local band when we participate in the 43rd annual Overseal Gala parade. We will be on our bikes as part of our float themed as 'get me to the church on time'. All dressed in choir robes, bridal gowns or vicars cassocks (no, true). Why don't you join us? All you need is a bike, if you don't have a costume we've loads of recently replaced choir robes you can borrow. The parade assembles 12.30 at Rickman's Corner and the Gala that follows, including a best dressed bike competition, goes on through the afternoon. So instead of just coming late afternoon for the District Meeting make a day of it! We will even try to fit in a few quarter peals if we can. So come on, literally get on your bike. Phone Mary on 01283 761874 if you'd like to join us.

CONTRIBUTIONS for the next issue are needed by **July 17th 2004**. Please post to Jenny Booth at 51 The Plain, Brailsford DE6 3BZ, or e-mail to Strikenotes@derbyda.org.uk

Strike Notes is compiled by Jenny Booth and printed by Steve Harpham

Strike Notes

June 2004 Issue 42

News, Information and Trivia for ringers in the Derby & Ilkeston Districts

St Peter's, Derby, Outing, May 1st 2004

We decided this year to go just over the border into Leics/Warwicks, comfortably within reach, but still not very familiar territory. First were Appleby Magna, an anti-clockwise 11 cwt 6. They are quite good, with a remarkable ancient belfry ladder made of massive old chunks of timber pegged together. I did not manage to look inside this church, being busy sorting out the orders for lunch.

Down a little lane is Grendon, a lovely 12 cwt 6 with a fine deep hum, my favourites of the day. I had a look inside: rather dark, but lots of excellent Jacobean woodwork including canopied family pews and galleries, complete with trumpets and cherubs.

We had lunch at the Red Lion, Pinwall, in a pleasant bright and airy restaurant, and had plenty of time to wander around the little market town of Atherstone before ringing there. This is Chris Gilbert's old home tower, and his dad Fred welcomed us in. There are lots of goodies in this church: East window glass by Kempe, a medieval bell standing on the floor, a good reredos with saints, and an ornate marble side altar in icecream colours of pink, white and green from a local convent which closed. The window above features a modern

Annunciation with a very grumpy Gabriel; Mary doesn't look too chuffed either. The attractive central tower is octagonal and the bells are a light 8 cwt 8, going very nicely.

Mancetter, just down the Roman road, were the novelty item on the programme: 5, 20 and a half cwt, and anticlockwise. They are now rung from upstairs and not the dark cave I remembered. They were actually very nice, just BIG. One bell dates from around 1350, another about 1450. Fantastic.

Downstairs: medieval glass in the East window, and a very jolly toothy lion and unicorn over the door, looking like refugees from a cartoon or a fairground. Market Bosworth are a good 15 cwt 8; perhaps we were getting tired after Mancetter, as I don't think we quite did them full justice. There are lovely old

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cottages and gardens around the church.

Congerstone were last, a low squat tower with a loud 7 cwt 5 rung from a long, thin ringing chamber. I once worked with someone who rang here as a teenager in the 1960's (the church was locked and it isn't in Arthur Mee.)

We had our evening meal at the Navigation, Spring Cottage. I had researched several venues and this was by far the best. Even so, although it was good to have a room to ourselves again, it was rather too warm, and the helpings of meat from the carvery were a bit miserly, not normal Swad size at all. The fried ice cream is only worth trying once, to see what it's like.

Thanks to everyone for coming along and making it a really pleasant day; it was particularly nice to have three little kids around too. Especial thanks to all who provided lifts or helped to run the ringing.

Sue Peach

The ones that got away

In the year 2000 when the members of the Association were attempting to ring a peal and a quarter peal in every tower in Derbyshire, one band decided to make their peal attempt very early on in the year. They assembled in the tower on a cold Saturday. There were six bells so the peal was to be seven extents of Minor. The church had a ground floor ringing chamber and it was renowned for being a chilly place at the best of times. This was no exception.

The band prepared themselves for the

peal, adjusting ropes as necessary. The bells had been inspected prior to the attempt. It was a good band with a competent conductor. Nothing had been left to chance. The peal commenced, with everyone confident that they would not be disturbed as there were only two keys to the church. One was safely in the tower with them and the other was with the church warden who knew all about the peal attempt.

The ringing was good: a steady rhythm and few errors. The extents rolled by: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Sure, the church was cold, but peal ringers get used to that - the ringing was good, so they were happy. But during the sixth extent, there was another sound, apart from the joyous sound of the bells pealing forth. The sound came from the church door. Surely no-one could come in - the door was locked. But someone did come in - a smiling lady bearing a tray with steaming cups of tea came in to the ringing chamber. "I thought you'd be getting cold by now and that you'd all enjoy a lovely cup of hot tea" she said kindly. In the lapse of concentration caused by the unexpected intrusion, the conductor missed a bob and the peal was lost! The kind lady was the church warden's wife who didn't realise that in peals the bells can't be stopped, even for a nice cup of tea!

Pat Halls

Email addresses

The address for Strike Notes has changed to

strikenotes@derbyda.org.uk

Have a look at Page 39 of the new Annual Report for information about the new DDA web site and email addresses.

Osmaston Restored

The Osmaston Bells were restored to life on 17th May. They had been out of action since mid-January when the installation was stripped down for refurbishment by Eayre & Smith.

The work involved removing all the old fittings and cutting off the canons, and then fitting new headstocks, bearings, clappers and pulleys and sliders. Robin Lyons from Mugginton and Chris Booth from Brailsford provided volunteer labour to assist Matthew Smith from E&S in the task. New ropes will be installed as soon as they arrive.

One big challenge was to get the new cast-iron headstocks up the narrow spiral staircase (there is no access to the belfry from below). A slightly more interesting problem was to get the clock hammer to hit the rehung tenor. A lot of jumping onto the hammer shaft to try to bend it enough to strike the bell failed to produce results. Matthew then disappeared into the innards of the clock and shortened the wire to the clock hammer and managed to produce a strike. A second attempt at shortening the wire produced a strike that could be heard outside the tower!

In celebration of the restoration, the Brailsford band (who support the local ringers for all Osmaston services) rang a quarter peal on June 1st:

Osmaston St Martin's:
1260 Plain Bob Doubles. Marian Tayler 1, Mary Cox 2, Jenny Booth 3, Rosemary Chesshire 4, Chris Booth (C) 5, Rex North 6. First QP on the bells since refurbishment.

CJB

The Pub with No Beer ...

On a warm but hazy June 5th afternoon a rambling group of bellringers assembled at Darley Bridge for the 2004 Walk and Ring. The numbers were swelled by a visitor from South Wales and three (non-bellringing) dogs.

The walk set off along a gated road beside the Derwent to Oker and then through a field with lots of cows and calves to reach Wensley Dale. A steady climb led us to the Red Lion at Wensley where a welcome refreshment stop was taken. A notice on the bar door gave a sense of foreboding - "No dogs, No boots, No smoking" - and, when we got into the bar, no (draught) beer! However, they did have canned and bottled beer and soft drinks. Entertainment was provided by one of the dogs attacking and subduing a small pebble!

On then to the steep drop down through Cambridge Wood and along a courtesy path back to Darley Bridge.

Ringing was just along the road at Darley Dale. The experience of the group limited the ringing to Grandsire Triples and Doubles and Plain Bob plus rounds and calls changes.

The group then retired to the Square and Compass at Darley Bridge for liquid and solid refreshment.

Last year's walk was memorable for the fields of glorious poppies. This year we had to make do with meadows of bulbous buttercups! The District Secretary had brought her book of wild flowers which led to some interesting discussions about the identities of some of the other flowers and grasses.

CJB