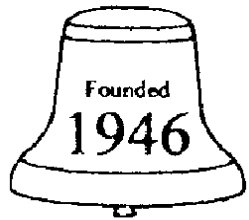


The Derby Diocesan Association of Church Bellingrers



October General Meeting October 2nd at Ashover
 Ringing at

Crich (8) 2 - 3 pm
 Brackenfield (6) 3 - 4:30 pm
 Ashover (10) 5 pm

followed by tea and meeting

Evening ringing at Ashover to 8:30pm

Names for tea to Mrs Angela Mehew 01246 590990 by 28/9

DERBY DISTRICT MEETING October 9th

The Quiz Night has been postponed until 2005

The Thirty Second Annual Young Bell Ringer's Cycling Tour 2005 -
 Bedfordshire, Sunday 24 July - Saturday 30 July

The YBRCT is a moderately paced cycling/ringing tour. In 2005 the tour will be based at Buckden Towers near Huntingdon. The accommodation is either "youth hostel" style 20-bed dormitories or more luxurious twin-bedded or family rooms in the adjacent Retreat House.

The ringing normally consists of about 6 towers each day spaced out over a route of about 25 miles. The terrain is fairly gentle, rolling and mostly rural. Whilst a semi-invalid couch-potato would not enjoy the tour, any reasonably active person should find it no problem.

Our ringing includes everything from rounds/call-changes to eight-spliced and as long as you can ring a bell safely and strike it in rounds you will get on alright. Our party normally number around 35 and includes people in the early stages of their ringing career. I believe we are a sociable crowd and enjoy the social side of the event as well as the ringing and cycling. We have been delighted to witness an increase in young families in recent years but on the other hand, quite a few young people turn up on their own and quickly fit in to the company. We have quite a few "older people" too!

I arrange everything for you, from supper on the Sunday night to breakfast on the Saturday morning, including booking towers and insurance. Bed, breakfast & evening meal are included in the charge. You just pay me your money and turn up - as simple as that.

Cost inclusive of B & B and evening meal, all administrative costs and insurance.

Over 12 - £130 in the dormitory accommodation (For Retreat Centre e-mail me)

For more information send an SAE to:

Rev. G. Stickland, Quedgeley Rectory, Gloucester GL2 4PN

Or look on my church website at quedgeleychurch.org.uk (see "cycle tour")

CONTRIBUTIONS for the next issue are needed by **October 16th 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

September 2004 Issue 45

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

Down a long lane in the county of Lincs....

That was where most of the towers were on the Derby District Chairman's Car Tour on Sept 4th. The weather was delightful (almost too warm in the ringing chamber at times), and this was the Cliff area of Kesteven, not particularly flat and quite pretty, with villages of honey coloured stone and red pantiled roofs. Even the garden walls have roofs.

We got the heaviest over with first: the 23 & a half cwt 6 at Brant Broughton (pronounced Bruton; not a reference to the bells, which were not brutish, simply very big, much like Hoar Cross.) Longer tail-ends would have given better leverage. This was also the best church of the day, in an area of richly decorated medieval churches: two wonderful porches carved with strange creatures, like Kilpeck, Herefs, but a few centuries later. On closer inspection they include a Sheila-na-gigh and a mooning man! The angel ceiling and screen are original, but a Victorian rector added further medieval-style fittings which blend very well, including a gorgeous font cover with doors standing open to show saints including St Nicholas with three children in a tub (a wicked butcher had killed & salted them, but St Nick brought them back to life...)

They went in a lot for crocketing round here in the Middle Ages (pointy knobs for decoration. Round ones are called ball-flower and resemble a precursor of the local brussels sprout.) Welbourn, like Brant Broughton, has a soaring crocketed

spire. This 11 cwt 8 was the only ground floor ring of the day. They were not too skittish however, and the cups of tea & coffee provided by the local ladies were very welcome. Two of the old bells, with their original cannon loops, stand guard either side of the ringing chamber door.

Harmston has a Saxon tower. The 10 cwt 8 were very good, but sadly there have been thefts here; the locals told us that a lot of York paving slabs recently disappeared from the church yard.

We had lunch at the appropriately named Bell Inn, Coleby. We were not ringing here, just as well because the tower was heavily covered in tie bars and is "unsafe" according to Dove. Despite the posh decking in the beer garden, this pub, unlike some, produced excellent food without inflated prices the beer was good too.

Nocton is a completely Victorian church (1862, Gilbert Scott.) A new mosaic pebble path leads to it, a Heritage Lottery project; tiny plaques are let into it as memorials to loved ones. The whole has a pleasing, vaguely Roman effect. The 6

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bells sounded heavier than 8 cwt, and somewhat loud & clangorous. The ringing chamber has an oil lamp evidently still in use, and unusual multiple recessed arches giving a ribbed effect.

Blankney is an attractive estate village. We had a pleasant wait outside the tower, sitting in the warm sun on a very comfortable tombstone. On sunny days like this, lockouts can be the best bit ... However, an apologetic lady turned up with the key, and we were in. A pleasant 8 & three quarter cwt 6, given by local farmers as a Great War memorial. The church was locked.

Ruskington is quite a large village, with a stream flowing through it. An attractive new bridge and culvert look like Millennium features. Lots of shops too, including a Co-op from which to obtain an ice-cream. These bells are an 11 cwt 6, but the go and sound are much heavier. The ringing chamber has atmosphere, with old correspondence from Taylors on the wall, relating to the recasting, and a splendid photo of the chaps who were ringers here in 1935.

The last tower was Ewerby (10, 1 5cwt.) When I last rang here on an outing in 1971 they were rung from the ground floor around the font, like Repton. I had not been ringing very long, and had to be relieved of, I think, the 5th; I was somewhat comforted by being told after that it was "a pig of a bell!" The ringing chamber is upstairs now (much more civilised); quite a long way up, so no wonder they were hard to control before. Like Ruskington, they sound much deeper and heavier than their actual weight. These were my favourites of the day; no longer porcine, but awesome. Oddly, the old bell ropes still hang round the font "for show", and presumably for chiming, as we had to re-attach the real ropes to them after ringing. I have never seen "false" bell ropes like this before. The lady who let us in said it had been the churchwarden's

golden wedding party that day, and he and his wife would be very pleased to hear the bells.

Just in case you were wondering, we did not ring at Kirkby with Muckby cum Sparrowby cum Spinx. I think they were unavailable (and probably unringable.)

Thank you to Steve for making all the arrangements. I enjoyed it and I'm pretty sure everyone else did too.

Sue Peach

The Ones that Got Away

This story is enough to make an aspiring peal ringer give up and go fishing on Saturdays!

London Surprise Major is a hard method and you have to spend a lot of time learning it and practising it to ring it properly. It doesn't look that bad when you see the blue line, but the fact that most of the leading is backstroke followed by handstroke, rather than the other way round, can make it tricky.

A young man, whom we will call Geoffrey, was to ring his first peal of London Surprise Major one evening. He had rung about ten peals already, but London was a big challenge for him. He was good at learning methods, so he was looking forward to the attempt. The peal started and the ringing settled down. The conductor called the bobs accurately and the band developed a steady rhythm. Geoffrey began to enjoy the ringing as he became more confident about the method. One hour passed, then two. The third hour came and went. The band could hear the clock trying to strike nine, though it couldn't as the chimes had been taken off. Only a few minutes left, Geoffrey thought, we're supposed to finish at nine o'clock. Then suddenly, without any warning, the rope on the seventh bell snapped. Just like that. Over three hours of ringing - and no peal!

Pat Halls

Treble Place Methods

Following the July article on method classification, I was asked about a group that I had put into the table but had not described, they are Treble Place methods.

These methods have a fixed treble and in each lead it strikes four blows in each position, just like treble bob methods, but it does so without ringing treble bob.

Instead of ringing in the positions 1212 3434 5656 6565 4343 2121 - as in Cambridge S, Kent TB, and so on, there are a number of options and the treble may strike in these positions:

1212 3434 5665 5665 4343 2121
- 140 methods named

1212 3456 6543 3456 6543 2121
- 149 methods named

1212 3434 5566 6655 4343 2121
- 9 methods named

1212 3344 5656 6565 4433 2121
- 5 methods named

1234 5665 4321 1234 5665 4321
- 2 methods named

There are even two named methods in which the fixed bell is not the treble!

Option 1 is almost the same as treble bob, but the treble makes 6ths, 5ths and 6ths again instead of dodging at the back. This means that a method like Cambridge, which has the same bell doing both of the dodges in 5-6 with the treble has an associated and almost identical treble place method. Compare Cambridge Surprise and Cambridge Treble Place :

Surprise
x36x14x12x36x14 x56 lh12

Treble Place
x36x14x12x36x1456x56 lh12

Option 2 methods are not similar to the familiar treble bob methods because although it dodges in 1-2, the treble then rings plain hunt between 3rds and 6ths place. Have a look at Westham Treble Place

x34x16x16x1456x16x36 lh16

Option 3 has the treble ringing Kent type places in 5-6 (it looks as though it's making the bob in 5-6). Methods like Kent can be converted to treble place methods like this, but many people won't like the idea of three blows in 6ths place, which is probably why there are not many named methods in this group.

In *Option 4* the treble makes Kent places in 3-4. One of the 5 named methods is a double method - Double Oxford Treble Place

x34x16.34x34.16x34x56 lh12.

As with option 2 both Kent and Oxford can be converted to treble place methods using this technique.

Option 5 is a bit of a fiddle because the treble rings plain hunt twice in each lead, but if you look at what the other five bells do in Brocket Treble Place, you will see that it bears a striking resemblance to some of the work in treble bob methods:

Brocket Treble Place

x16x16x1256x36x14x14 lh12

(and at least it has plain bob lead heads).

However www.ouscr.org.uk Treble Place is ten leads of Plain Bob, with alternating bobs and plain leads - now that really is cheating!

Alec Humphrey