

Derby District Carol Service
11th December at Netherseale

Ringling 3:30 - 4:30
At 4:30 a Service of
Carols, poems and
readings in preparation
for Christmas



Afterwards,
more ringing,
hot mulled wine
and
mince pies

RINGING ROADSHOW 2005



will be held at Newbury Racecourse, Berkshire on 10th September 2005.

The 2005 Roadshow will follow the pattern set at Lincoln last year. It is expected that around 80 exhibitors will attend (over 60 have already signed on) ranging from the major bellhanging companies to small

groups of fund raisers and there'll be a variety of attractions such as mini-rings for ringers to try out. There will be a number of computer-based exhibitors with software, CDs, and videos for sale. Most of the Central Council Committees will be represented, offering advice on a whole range of topics.

Newbury is centrally located with good communications to motorways and the Racecourse has its own railway station. The event will be held in the new Grandstand. Current plans are for the ground floor to be occupied by larger exhibitors, the first floor by smaller, single-unit exhibitors and the second floor will accommodate seminars and handbells. Seminars planned include talks on a variety of topics and workshops on subjects of interest to ringers, for example rope splicing, tower maintenance, simulators etc. There will be handbell performances as well as opportunities to try ringing both tunes and changes.

Refreshments will be provided by the Racecourse at reasonable cost or you can bring a picnic. Liquid refreshments will also be available. There will be free parking for cars and caravans and disabled facilities. Everything, in fact, for a day, or even a weekend, out!

CONTRIBUTIONS for the next issue are needed by **December 13th 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

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

Derby District Quarter Peal Day

Many thanks to those who helped to make Saturday 6th November a success; the incumbents for permission to ring, the tower correspondents who were extremely helpful when making arrangements, the ringers who rang in several quarters sometimes of the same method, the conductors who nursed their bands through, the reserves who stood in at the last moment, all of the participants, and of course the organisers. Thirteen quarter peals were scored out of fifteen attempts, there were at least 20 firsts including some serious personal milestones, so congratulations to Peter Browne of Overseale on his first quarter peal, to Paul Lynch of Derby Cathedral for his first inside, to Anthony Keeley of Melbourne for his first of Plain Bob Minor, to Mary Venables of Overseale for her first of treble bob, to Mary Cox, Carol Browne, Lynn Betts, Keith Baines, Chris Booth, Catherine Potter, Irene Clarke and Hazel Jones, who all scored new methods, along with a few of the most experienced participants.

Alec Humphrey

Belper, 3 Becksitch Lane, 1280 Plain Bob Major: Elizabeth Heaton 1-2, Caroline Peverett 3-4, Gill Hughes 5-6, John Heaton (C) 7-8.

Belper, The Campanile, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Graeme Hughes 1, Catherine Potter (1st in m) 2, Gill Hughes (C) 3, Paul Bradley 4, John Booth 5, Don Newing 6.

Belper, St Peter, 1260 St Simons Bob Triples: Graeme Hughes 1, Maurice Starkey 2, Hazel Jones 3, Mike Willis 4, Jack Chadwick 5, Chris Gilbert 6, Alec Humphrey (C) 7, Paul Bradley 8. First in the method for all the band.

Brailsford, 1320 Baden-Powell Delight Minor: Keith Baines 1, Elizabeth Heaton 2, Maurice Starkey 3, Irene Clarke 4, Alec Humphrey (C) 5, Jack Chadwick 6. First in the method for all the band.

Church Gresley, 1272 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: Mary Venables (1st of TB) 1, Mary Cox (1st in m) 2, Elizabeth Heaton 3, Keith Baines 4, Jane Boden 5, Alec Humphrey (C) 6.

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Lullington, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Peter Browne (1st quarter) 1, Carol Browne (1st in m) 2, Lynn Betts (1st in m) 3, Brian Tomlinson 4, John Heaton (C) 5, Rex North 6.

Mugginton, 1260 Plain Bob Minor: Jenny Booth 1, Chris Booth 2, Steve Harpham 3, Chris Gilbert 4, Anthony Keeley (1st of minor) 5, John Heaton (C) 6.

Thanks to Steve for standing in at the last minute, the organiser failed to organise the sixth ringer.

Netherseale, 1260 Plain Bob Minor: Gill Hughes 1, Chris Willis 2, Caroline Peverett, Pam Timms 4, Graeme Hughes (C) 5, John Booth 6. Steve Durow was ill and unable to take part in this QP, thanks to Chris for standing in at the last minute.

Newhall, 1260 Plain Bob Minor: Lynn Betts 1, Mary Venables 2, Teresa Vincent 3, Caroline Peverett 4, Mike Willis 5, John Heaton (C) 6.

Repton, 1280 Lincolnshire Surprise Major: Peter Marriott 1, Gill Hughes 2 Maurice Starkey 3, Mike Willis 4, Arnold Morley 5, John Booth 6, Robert Marchbank 7, Jack Chadwick (C) 8.

Sutton on the Hill, 1272 Kent Treble Bob Minor: Irene Clarke 1, Keith Baines (1st in m) 2, Chris Gilbert 3, Chris Booth (1st in m) 4, Steve Harpham 5, John Heaton (C) 6.

Ticknall, 1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor: Caroline Peverett 1, Chris Willis 2, Hazel Jones 3, Graeme Hughes 4, Elizabeth Heaton 5, Alec Humphrey (C) 6.

Winshill, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Jane Boden 1, Paul Lynch (1st inside) 2, Hazel Jones 3, John Booth 4, Pam Timms (C) 5, David Mitchell 6.

Practice Night Possibilities

Tower captains always hope that there will be a sufficient number of capable ringers arriving promptly for every practice. It is a vain hope! Very often ringers are late, for very good reasons and sometimes they don't turn up at all - again for a variety of good reasons. So what do you do when there are hardly any ringers? Do you discuss the weather, the political scene, last week's practice or the price of beer? NO! Such topics can be saved until the visit to the pub afterwards. You are at the practice to ring the bells. If you don't make a start on the ringing almost as soon as you get into the ringing chamber, then the following week, people are likely to arrive even later.

But what are you to do while you wait for enough people to arrive to ring all the bells? This series of ideas has been put forward following a suggestion at the course 'Towards Better Practice Nights' which was held on May 8th.

Of course what you are able to do varies considerably according to the capabilities and numbers of those present. Let's take the worst scenario first. Only two of you have appeared: the tower captain and one learner. The learner is a very important acquisition for any band and therefore it is most important that (s)he must not feel his time is being wasted or he will become bored and find something else to do on practice night.

What you do will obviously depend on the stage your learner has reached, in particular whether he can ring safely

by himself. Has he learned how to ring up and down satisfactorily? If he can do both safely by himself, now might be a good opportunity to learn to ring up and down in peal.

Can the learner lead yet? If not, then he could practise leading.

Is your learner ready to start call changes? Show him how to call the bells from rounds to queens and get him to write out what each call will produce. Then, when the other ringers arrive, be sure to give him a chance to put his new skill into practice.

Perhaps the learner is further advanced and is nearly ready to start change ringing. If so, you can practise leading and making seconds, encouraging good striking as you do so. Dodging practice, both up and down, is another very useful exercise. It is hard work on two bells!

Time can also usefully be spent showing how to write out plain hunt on various numbers of bells.

If you are fortunate enough to have a simulator in the tower, the possibilities for progress are still greater.

Pat Halls

Learning to Ring - An Alternative Approach

I'm sure that like me, most people reading this piece will regard a normal progression in learning to ring as: -

- Learning to control a bell
- Ringing in rounds
- Call changes
- Change ringing

Very few of us question this sequence and in all probability it is what we ourselves have experienced. One person who **has** questioned it is Gordon Lucas of the Essex Association, a ringer with a long experience of teaching others.

A number of readers will have heard of the detached glass tower of the church of St Martin of Tours which is directly outside the town hall in the centre of Basildon, the bells and ringers are visible to the public as they wander through the town. A regular instructor at the annual three-day Essex course, Gordon has, since the tower's completion, had the responsibility of training from scratch a new band of ringers there and he is doing so without following the traditional route above.

Over the years Gordon has reached the conclusion that if the objective of the instructor is to teach a learner how to ring methods the approach outlined above is not as effective as it should be. He argues that many of the skills needed for change ringing are not learnt at the call change stage, and indeed that call changes are an unnecessary intermediate stage that can be dispensed with. The Basildon band is therefore learning to ring without the call changes stage. The approach that Gordon, with the help of some others, has developed to teach the skills needed for change ringing in a carefully designed series of exercises has become known as kaleidoscope ringing.

Further explanations will follow.

Alec Humphrey