

THINGS to DO, PLACES to GO

Derby District Practice Meeting

Saturday June 4th

at

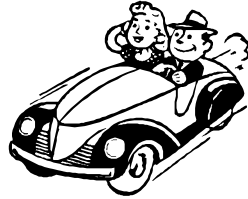
Netherseale

7 pm until 9 pm

Everyone welcome
but especially for new members elected to the district recently
- along with their proposer - look out for your personalised
invitation soon !
Looking forward to seeing you all.



Chesterfield District
CAR TREASURE HUNT
2005



Saturday June 11th

Starting point - Western entrance
to Rother Valley Country Park,
Killamarsh:

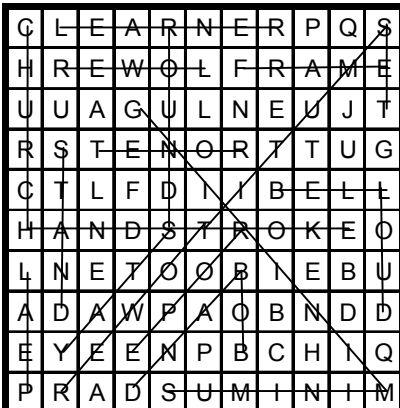
Grid Reference SK448 823

First car to leave at 5.15 pm

£4.00 per car
(profits to DDA Bell Repair Fund)

DESTINATION???? -
But a wide range of food is available

Solution to Wordsearch on Page 5



CONTRIBUTIONS for the next issue are needed by **June 13th 2005**. Please post to Jenny Booth at 51 The Plain, Brailsford DE6 3BZ, or e-mail to Strike Notes@
Strike Notes is compiled by Jenny Booth and printed by Steve Harpham

Strike Notes

April - May 2005 Issue 52

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

Association AGM

The Annual Meeting of the Association was held in the Peak District this year on St George's day, and we really did visit the High Peak. Afternoon ringing started at Fairfield; we arrived just in time for the last ring, due to collecting a friend from the train station, but understand ringing was full and varied. He was thoroughly delighted with the venue in the North of the county as he could really see the Derbyshire Countryside, and all the different train lines, mainly disused, we passed en route. Next New Mills, where the balcony was put into good use for chat while the ringing was going on in the very small ringing room. At the service, Patronal Festival Evensong, we were treated to the Sheffield University Girls choir and they did the majority of the singing for us. Tea was a wonderful hot stew, cheese & potato pie was rather delicious for the vegetarian alternative, with strawberries & cream for pudding. We really were fed very well. We had the mass distribution of the new reports and then time for the business, which was dealt with very quickly and efficiently. Officers are as follows:-

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| President | Pat Halls |
| Vice Presidents | Don Jones, David Marshall, Philip Mehew |
| Secretary | Jane Boden |
| Treasurer | Graeme Hughes |
| Membership Secretary | Don Jones |
| Trustees | Michael Mallender, Andrew Halls |
| Peal Secretary | Anthony Cotton |
| Quarter Peal Secretary | Alec Humphrey |
| Public Relations Officer | Emma St John Smith |
| Webmaster | Anthony Cotton |
| Annual Report Secretary | Hazel Jones |
| Bell Restoration Fund Treasurer | Brian Tomlinson |
| Bell Restoration Fund Secretary | Pat Halls |
| Bell Consultants | Mike Banks, Robin Lyon |

Evening ringing continued at New Mills, however we took the scenic route home, to show our guest the canal and nearby reservoir. It was good to see so many ringers from the Derby District taking the journey North to attend.

Lizzie Cotton

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It was All Right on the Night

So, with 2 weeks to go before the District Quiz, I had a grand total of 8 people coming, and all of those were from my own Tower. Things were not looking good. Was having the quiz on the 1st April a Bad Omen? In desperation, I sent out an e-mail trying to chase people up, and slowly, at first a trickle, then a deluge of bookings (well, sort of) came in. It looked as if we had decent numbers if everyone showed up, and I could also bump up the buffet.

With trepidation, I turned up about 10 minutes early on the night. The venue, The Royal Oak at Ockbrook, had been picked for its Beer and facilities. A few people were already there. Having booked food for 40, my biggest worry was that people would not turn up, and we would be left with a lot of pork pies, and not enough money to pay for them. Visions of me being strung up at the roadside by the Landlord as an example to the other Pub customers raced through my mind (Don't laugh, things like that happen in Villages like Ockbrook). However, my concerns were not justified, and I should have known that in the true traditions of reliable Ringing Folk, everyone was good to their word. In fact, we couldn't have got many more in the room. The evening started with a bit of a let-down. Tragically, our Cabinet Seat in Botswana was no longer available. (For those of you who have stumbled across this report on the internet - you had to be there). However, an individual spot prize was on offer for whoever had the nearest guess to how many quarter-peals I had rung.

The quiz began, with Geoff Peach as top question master, and it has to be said

he marshalled the evening in a very professional fashion. Thirty seconds a question and no more, which really focussed the mind. The first four rounds whizzed by, and at the break, Alec Humphrey, Mike Willis and co had a small lead, with my team and Rod Pearson's team only just behind. It was clear that whoever was going to win was going to have to display a really good breadth of knowledge, with subjects ranging from Sports and Games to Entertainment and Derbyshire. (Although it was almost embarrassing to admit to knowing the Coronation Street questions). The only dubious moment came when the question 'What's the dedication of the Cathedral?' was asked. Just a coincidence it came up, I'm sure. We broke things up for half an hour to partake of a really excellent buffet, which seemed to satisfy even the hungriest of competitors. Then back into the quiz. Gradually, Rod's team clawed back the lead and managed to nab it in the last round. Liquid prizes were the order of the day, both for 1st and 2nd, which went to Alec's team, who were just pipped at the post. My team came in third, choccies all round. A hotly contested last place went to the Gilberts, who, quite literally, won the wooden spoons. Credit though, for only just coming last with a team of two, when everyone else had 4 or more.

Margaret Crouch won a bottle of Scotch (her favourite tippie, no doubt!) for coming nearest with her guess of 32 for my quarter-peals (The actual answer is 29). All in all, an enjoyable evening, with good company, food and beer.

Thanks must go to Jean and Steve at the Oak for the great buffet and very

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trapdoor that I always find awkward! This is a very good 11 cwt, 8, although the ropes were a bit short. Amongst some very interesting peal boards was one for the first Yorkshire Association tower bell peal conducted by a woman, Molly Davenport, in about 1927 I think. The rope spider here is a jolly wrought iron creature with 8 legs & a big grin.

The last tower was Dronfield, another fine large medieval church. Guesses at the uses for the large net in the corner ranged from butterflies & spiders (Dore sized ones presumably) to pigeons, who however were sitting complacently outside on the window sills. This 13 cwt 8 handle well but sound plonky. Tower treasures here include a photo featuring a very slightly more youthful pair of Goodall brothers, and a colourful illuminated peal record from 1964.

For the evening meal we were booked into the Viceroy Indian restaurant in Duffield. The food was excellent, as was the attentive service, & we had good value for money.

Thanks to all who came along to make this an enjoyable day, and to Alec for making the arrangements. Watch this space for Sue's Walk & Ring on Sept 17th (tbc).

Sue Peach

Pot-Luck Ringing Contest

16th July 2005

All Saints Brailsford

3.00 pm - 6.00 pm

This is an open striking competition for ringers at all levels, from near-beginners to experienced ringers. Towers are invited to send as many participants as

possible; beginners and less experienced ringers should be accompanied by experienced ringers from their own tower. The only requirement is that ringers must be able to follow call changes on six bells. We aim to provide an enjoyable introduction to ringing competitions in co-operation with a mixed bag of experienced ringers.

In addition all participants will listen to and assess the efforts of all other teams as a gentle introduction to the joys of judging.

Teams of six will be selected on the day, drawn from all participants (pot-luck). Each team to be led by an experienced ringer who will call the changes. The leader will also help his/her team to mark the other efforts, the scores being totalled to produce an overall winner. There will be a prize for each member of the winning team.

The teams will be drawn at 3.00 pm and ringing will start straight away.

When not ringing, teams can remain in the church or can do their judging outside, if the weather is fine. But important that they remain in their groups to share their opinions of the other efforts.

This is not intended as a "heavy" competition, but it has a serious intent, to improve and assist the striking and also the listening abilities of newer ringers.

Hot and cold drinks will be available at the tower. Bring a picnic meal.

Names of participants (indicating beginner or experienced) to Rod Pearson at dgen2@derbyda.org.uk or phone no. in Annual Report.

St Peter's, Derby, Outing Saturday 30th April 2005

Friends old & new turned up for a very pleasant trip to North Derbyshire. Rain and mist in the morning gave way to a sunny afternoon.

First was Wormhill, a pretty Victorian church on a hill side, with a lovely little broach spire. The inside is largely unchanged since Victorian times, including the ornate oil lamps in the nave. Catherine Gilbert remembers this church well; her dad was vicar here for 11 years. The celebrated canal engineer James Brindley who was born at nearby Tunstead is remembered by an information plaque on the tower screen. Not all braved the ladder to ring the tiny stayless 1 cwt 6, for many years the lightest church ring in the country, but those who did liked them. They are tiny but tuneful, sounding a little like Alpine cow bells. Sheila got into an argument with one, however, and bravely rang for the rest of the day with a nasty cut on her finger.

Tideswell are a fine 13 cwt 8. Geoff & Eileen Goodall ring here, & they joined us, as did several butterflies. There is a splendid set of original 18th century ringers' rules on the wall, complete with long s's. They deserve a column all to themselves; see page 5.

This beautiful grand church is deservedly called the Cathedral of the Peak. The tower pinnacles always remind me of upturned ice-cream cones though, and are in a style all their own; Comic Gothic perhaps?

Bamford is another neat little Victorian

church. Inside a tiny pencil spire are a dinky little 4 cwt 6, replacing 6 derelict steel bells (a Millennium project). Not much elbow room, but they go very nicely indeed (though the steel spring stays feel a mite odd when you first catch hold.)

The Victorians were fond of inscribing the text "This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven" in their churches, but here it is proudly carved over the tower door!

For lunch, some picnicked, some tea-shopped in Hathersage, and some maybe even went to the pub?

Hathersage is a typical Derbyshire church, with battlements and low tower with a handsome spire. A new gallery (Millennium) leads to the ringing chamber and a 12 cwt 6. The sunshine brought out many walkers & sightseers, and eventually the ringing attracted a large audience - this is the great advantage of ringers' galleries. The other big attraction was Little John's grave, & it was interesting to see that nearly everyone walking through the churchyard made a detour to view this. A small prize for anyone who can remember who played him in the Richard Greene "Adventures of Robin Hood" on TV many years ago. If you're too young to remember that, the "Robin of Sherwood" (Michael Praed) will do.

Over towards Sheffield to ring at Dore, once in Derbyshire but now in South Yorkshire. The church was locked, but looked a handsome wide Victorian one with elegant pews. Those who balked at Wormhill ladder managed Dore's more easily. It's the "scrawming" across the

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generously allowing us the use of the room for free. Also to Geoff, for arranging the questions, and running things so smoothly. In total, 43 people took part, which is a really good turn-out for a District Event--hopefully we will see this level of involvement continue at other functions throughout the year. We also made a profit of £50 for the DDA, another good reason to support such events. With a bit of luck, we will run another quiz next year, only this time I might choose Cameroon.....

Nick Daines

Secretary's Salutations

Striking competitions are not everyone's idea of fun but they can prove useful. I have not taken part in one for a while, although I enjoy them, I also get very nervous about ringing in them. I could not therefore imagine anything worse than ringing in the National 12 Bell Eliminators - representing my branch in the past has been bad enough. With this in mind early one Saturday in March we left for Worcester. Joshua and I had gone along to support Melbourne, to walk by the river and do some shopping, which we never did!

There were eight teams competing to get placed in the top three, to then go into the final at Towcester in June. They were all to ring the same, a half course of Cambridge Maximus and along with these eight, eight teams were competing at Solihull and another seven at Amersham. The teams all had to be there for the draw at 11am. Finally Melbourne were pulled out to ring seventh, at 2.30pm, a long wait, but better than ringing first! It was a lovely

day for listening and the locals had provided a wonderful selection of sustenance. There was also a service at the Cathedral nearby, so we had the joy of listening to two twelves at the same time! We hoped the judges wouldn't get confused. We listened to a few of the teams, had a walk by the river, then the pub for lunch and a walk back through the city. You couldn't really hear the bells in the shopping areas and here Joshua was given a Girl Guiding balloon, and his Mum a pen, it made me wonder if I should now become a Cub Leader rather than a Brown Owl.

It was soon time for the team to meet and have their ring. Teams have 15 minutes practice which includes altering ropes and signalling to the judges they were about to start the test piece, by ringing the treble and second two whole pulls. They had to be finished by 3.00 pm. We were outside listening, along with other member's partners, friends and the opposition. It sounded good, better than Towcester I said, but not so good as the Cumberlands - but what do I know!

The church was full for the results. The eagerly awaited judges returned, John Anderson, Cath Merlane and Cathy Carter. The ringing was summarised, comments made about each team, then peal speeds and points. Peal speeds are calculated by timing the piece of ringing, and help show how quickly bands have rung. We knew they had done fairly OK by the comment 'good measured piece of ringing'. Results were announced in reverse order, they were slow telling us who had come fourth, phew, it wasn't us, it meant Melbourne had gone through. It ended up that they

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(Continued from page 3)

had won, it was very close though. An excellent achievement. The results were: Melbourne 87%, Reading and Towcester 86%, Society of Royal Cumberland Youths 85%, Exeter 79%, Cambridge University 74%, Worcester 73% and South Petherton 58%

The band are a group of people who ring at the twelve bell practices at Melbourne, and actually come from a variety of towers. The ringers on the day, along with their home tower, were:

- Treble Pat Halls (Cathedral)
- 2nd Pam Timms (Cathedral)
- 3rd John Heaton (Cathedral)
- 4th Simon Melen (Ticknall)
- 5th Andrew Cairns (Nottingham)
- 6th Anthony Cotton (Cathedral)
- 7th Alistair Smith (Beeston)
- 8th Simon Humphrey (Darley Dale)
- 9th Lorna Champney (Lichfield)
- 10th Tim Peverett (West Hallam)
- 11th Stuart Hutchinson (Armitage)
- Tenor Paul Jopp (Duffield).

Tim Peverett organises the team, and the conductor was Paul Jopp. So half of the band are from the Derby District.

Other bands in the final are the Ancient Society of College Youths (London), Birmingham, Cambridge Youths, High Wycombe, St Pauls Cathedral (London) and York. A comment made to me by a ringer after they heard this result, was that they were not good enough to ring at the Cathedral because their striking would not be up to the standard of the ringing there. Please do not let this put you off visiting the Cathedral to ring, everyone is welcome, our striking is not quite 12 bell competition standard all the time. So please come along.

Well, we now have a day out in Towcester in June, should be fun.

Lizzie Cotton

50 years ago.....

On April 2nd 1955 six ringers arrived on bicycles at a small church in Sussex: St George at Brede. Three were still at school, two had recently left and the third was in his twenties. They had all cycled about eight miles to get there and after they had completed the task that awaited them they would cycle home again - it was the only form of transport they had. The occasion was my first peal and for the conductor it was his first as conductor. The method was Plain Bob Minor. I don't remember much about the peal except that it seemed to last for a very long time - and it was the first of many!

This event was commemorated at Derby Cathedral on April 2nd 2005 with a peal of Anniversary Delight Royal, in which the band stood as follows:

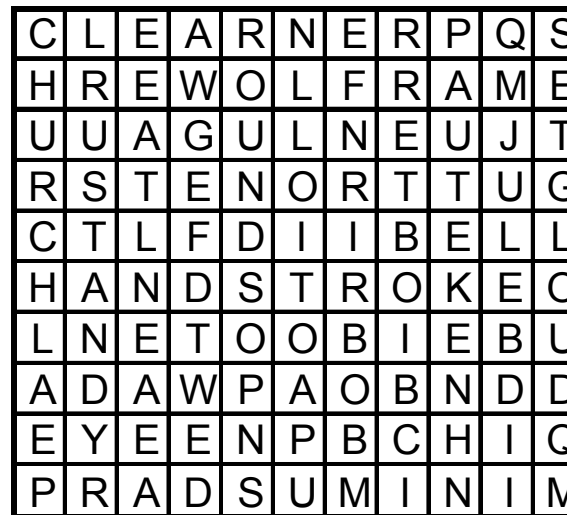
- 1 Janet S Foulds
- 2 Patricia A M Halls (C)
- 3 Canon David H Sansum
- 4 Pamela J Timms
- 5 Derek C Jackson
- 6 Timothy Wylie
- 7 Anthony P Cotton
- 8 John E Heaton
- 9 David Kingman
- 10 David Hird

Derek Jackson also rang in the peal 50 years ago, as did his wife Ruth, who no longer indulges in peals. The rest of the original band are all still alive, but no longer ringing.

This time no-one went home on a cycle and all except one went to the pub to celebrate afterwards!

Pat Halls

WORDSEARCH from Chris Gilbert



- BAND
- BELL
- BOB
- CHURCH
- FRAME
- HANDSTROKE
- LEARNER
- LOUD
- LOWER
- MINIMUS
- MINIRING
- PEAL
- ROPE
- ROUNDS
- SET
- STAND
- STAY
- TENOR
- TITUMS
- TOWER

Congratulations if you spotted the spelling mistake - but no prize for this!

Tideswell Ringer's Rules, 18th century

All Gentlemen that here Intend to Ring
 See that these Law's you keep in everything
 When first that you into the Belfry come
 See that the Ringers have Convenient Room
 For if you be an Hindrance unto them
 Fourpence you forfeit to these Gentleman
 For every Oath you swear 'eer you go hence
 You must immediately pay just Sixpence
 For every Bell turned ore without delay
 Fourpence you must unto the President pay
 And if that you'r desirous for to Ring
 With Hat or Spurs on do not touch one String
 For if you do your forfeit is for That
 Fourpence pay down or else you lose your hat
 And if you have mind to be Inrold
 A Ringer here these Orde's you must hold