

Saturday 17th September

Walk & Ring

Meet: Alstonefield (SK133553) at 2:15pm

Arrive at Wetton to ring at 4:00pm

Arrive back at Alstonefield to ring at 6:00pm

Dine at The George at 7:00pm

Everyone will be welcome on the walk and at the meal, but if you do intend to dine please contact Sue Peach on 07815 437265 or at sueplpeach@hotmail.com so that sufficient places may be booked



Did you know that, as part of the celebrations to mark the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar, the Central Council Public Relations Committee is coordinating the ringing of bells throughout the world on 21st October?

The committee would like as many towers as possible to mark the occasion by general ringing, peals and quarter peals either on Friday 21st October (if possible at noon) or over the following weekend. Their aim is to have two hundred towers ringing for the 200th anniversary!

Please let Richard Offen know if your tower is planning to take part, and what you will be ringing, by e-mailing him at richard@s4h.biz.

CONTRIBUTIONS for the next issue are needed by September 19th 2005. Please post to Jenny Booth at 51 The Plain, Brailsford DE6 3BZ, or e-mail to Strike Notes@derbyda.org.uk Strike Notes is compiled by Jenny Booth and printed by Steve Harpham

Strike Notes

August 2005 Issue 55

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

Secretaries Salutations.

How many ringers do you think will be at the Roadshow? How many of you really know what it is about? With this in mind I thought I would try and find out a little bit more, especially after speaking to a ringer recently who didn't know what I meant when I referred to "The Comic". We all use ringing jargon but must remember not all ringers know what we are talking about.



Firstly, "The Comic" is used to mean the "Ringing World" which is a weekly paper dedicated to ringing and associated topics. This organisation held the first Roadshow at Keele in 1997, since then a similar event has been held every two years at various locations in Great Britain.

The organisers of the event on September 10th have called it a Roadshow, but they actually describe it as a ringing festival. It is to be held at Newbury racecourse. There is free parking and tickets cost £5 adults, £3 children, £12 family, with 20% off if 25 tickets and over are ordered in bulk. The event covers two floors, along with some stands outside, and will also have refreshment facilities available.

There will be stands from various groups and organisations, including eight representing Central Council committees. The Central Council is the representative body of all who ring bells by rope and wheel in the English tradition. It was founded in 1891 and has 66 affiliated societies, including ours.

There will be various founders and bellhangers there (one is bringing a 11 cwt ring of 8, prior to being installed at Loddon, Norfolk); the Keltek Trust (acquires surplus and/or redundant bells for re-use); people representing bell accessories (ropes, stays etc); ringing software, simulators, C.D.s, music, videos, publications, also fund raising stands and of course mini-rings for you to have a go on. In total there are nearly 90 stands.

Towers are open along routes from all
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directions to Newbury for general ringing. These start at 9am and some routes finish at 11am, they then have more towers available from 4.30pm, going on until 6.45pm. It will certainly be a very full day out. Will you be there?

For more details, visit www.ringingroadshow2005.org.uk

Elizabeth Cotton



Is a subscription only newspaper. It is published weekly, usually delivered on Friday. Apart from articles of general interest to ringers it also carries a record of all Peals and Quarter Peals rung anywhere in the world.

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One copy, 12 months £52.00

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Contact details:

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The ones that got away

Sometimes it is very hard when you lose a peal. This story is almost enough to put off a ringer hoping to ring his or her first peal. I'll call the hopeful first pealer in this story Mark and the tenor ringer James.

This episode occurred on one District Peal Day. Mark was a schoolboy, very

keen to ring his first peal and quite an able ringer. He had already rung a variety of methods to quarter peals and Cambridge Surprise Minor was the method chosen for his first peal attempt.

The attempt was to take place at a heavy six, not far from his home tower. As you will recall, there are seven extents (720s) of Minor in a peal. The band assembled and the ringing commenced; it was very creditable, the striking was acceptable and there were not many mistakes. The peal was being conducted from the treble. Towards the end of the fifth extent the conductor became aware that James, who was ringing the tenor, was waving his right arm about in a rather peculiar manner. It wasn't obvious what he was doing, but he was doing it every time when his hand was not on the sally. The tenor, as previously mentioned, was fairly 'meaty' and needed the ringer's full strength to control it. But James seemed to be concentrating more on something else. A bob required the tenor to 'run in' and at that point James, right hand waving frantically in the air, ran in - then the bell went into minus 1 position, then minus 2 instead of simply staying on the front. It was then that the conductor realised that James was trying, unsuccessfully, to grab his trousers to stop them falling down, and as the tenor hunted off into infinity, the peal came to an untimely end. Luckily Mark was not put off by this experience and did ring peals at a future date.

Pat Halls

Starting Over #3

I made my introduction, Roy and Frances already knew I was coming and hadn't tried to dissuade me! Then I sat down, both to get my breath back and also to watch and listen how the bells went.

Soon (too soon?) it was my turn. How hard could this be - I already knew that the woolly thing was a Sally which you pulled and let go every other stroke whilst you pulled the somewhat ratty doubled rope end each alternate stroke but never let go. Hand Stroke and Back Stroke - piece of Cake!

Well it was like a cake, a rock cake and a stale one at that. I had forgotten just how multi-tasked the physical act of ringing a bell was. Don't pull too hard, don't pull too lightly, pull just right. A bit of a Goldilocks situation really. Then pull at the right time, pull the rope straight, stand in the right place, not too far forward, not too far back - can't you just smell that porridge?

Bear (sorry) in mind that I knew all this before but I have had to relearn both the rules and the physical actions required. This has given me an insight into just how much a learner has to assimilate and it's not easy. I found even catching the sally very hard, you don't catch it on the way down but after it has bounced!

I was clutching the tail end so tightly it was difficult to time the catching of the sally correctly, my hands were two fists punching the sally forward rather than welcoming it into my correctly cupped digits. Everything happened so quickly there didn't seem time to fit it all in.

Even the short draught caused by the raised ringing chamber was a problem because the sally flew in and out of sight more quickly than before. It was like the amusement arcade game where you whack the rabbits with a mallet when they pop out of their burrows. There were too many rabbits or not enough mallets or both! Next time covering on the tenor and ringing call changes. I/you can hardly wait!?

Geoff Peach

DID YOU KNOW?.....

Did you know that the oldest bell in Derbyshire is at Hognaston? It is not hung for ringing, but is suspended by a chain. It weighs about 56 pounds and is thought to be one of the ones mentioned in the church inventory in 1552. It is not dated, but the shape of it indicates its age.

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.....

At Whitnash in Warwickshire the bells are rung from a gallery reached by a short wooden staircase. At the foot of this staircase is an old wooden door fronting the spiral stairs to the bells and on the door is a notice which reads

'DO NOT ENTER IF YOU DO YOU
WILL BE KILLED BY ORDER OF THE
TOWER CAPTAIN'