

## THINGS to DO, PLACES to GO

### BELLOKU

Fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every three by three box contains the method types Minimus, Doubles, Minor, Triples, Major, Caters, Royal, Cinques and Maximus. (Answer next month).

Maximus	Minimus		Caters		Major		Triples	Doubles
Triples								Caters
	Major						Minimus	
		Maximus		Caters		Royal		
Major		Royal	Minor		Maximus	Minimus		Cinques
		Triples		Cinques		Caters		
	Cinques						Minor	
Minor								Maximus
Doubles	Maximus		Triples		Caters		Royal	Major

### January 7th Annual Derby District Meeting

Alvaston 2:30—3:15  
 Spondon 3:30—4:15  
 St Peters 4:30—5:00

Followed by service tea and the last meeting of the Derby District.  
 Please come and help to start up your new District  
 by voting for the new committee

**CONTRIBUTIONS** for the next issue are needed by **January 13th 2006**. Please post to Jenny Booth at 51 The Plain, Brailsford DE6 3BZ, or e-mail to [StrikeNotes@derbyda.org.uk](mailto:StrikeNotes@derbyda.org.uk)  
*Strike Notes is compiled by Jenny Booth and printed by Steve Harpham*



December 2005 Issue 59

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

### Secretary's Salutations.

I can not believe it is nearly Christmas, that another year has nearly past and that I have been Secretary for nearly a year. Time really flies.

I always like ringing for the services at Christmas; we used to ring at my old home tower for the 8 o'clock service Christmas morning. It was lovely, especially on a cold crisp frosty morning. We also used to do this for Easter Day. It was always difficult getting up then if the clocks had gone forward and we had lost an hour's sleep. We always rang in the New Year, normally after a party, and to ring the old year out we used to do 'whole pull and stand'. To do this you all ring rounds, then everyone stands, apart from the tenor, for a whole pull (handstroke & backstroke) then everyone joins in for one whole pull, standing the next for the tenor to continue on it's own and then repeating it. Once we had done this for a while we did 'fading rounds'. This is when you ring rounds and then everyone takes it in turn to stand, so the treble stands, then the second leads for one whole pull, then stands, then you have the third etc. When you have only a few bells ringing you need to spread them out so there is a big gap between them, it makes it sound solemn. We always tried to fit this in with the tenor striking twelve strokes for midnight. So once the bell before the tenor had stood the tenor continued ringing by ringing twelve strokes and then after that everyone else joined in ringing rounds. Ringing quickly made it sound joyous to welcoming the New Year rather than the sombre ringing before midnight. Have a go and see how you get on with it - you need good control to stand your bell every time.

Thank you to everyone who ordered items from the Webb Ivory catalogue. Although it seems not so many people have placed an order this year, those who did appeared to spend more. Money raised goes to the Bell Repair Fund, a good cause to spend your money on. I receive a Spring catalogue, I do not normally seek sales as it is a lot of work just after the Christmas issue but if anyone is keen to see it please contact me. If any money is made it will be passed to the BRF. Hopefully I will have balanced everything and know how much we have raised on the Christmas sales in the New Year.

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Just a reminder about the naming of the new Districts, please have a think about what you would like your new District to be called. I am collating suggestions for voting on at the ADM. I have three suggestions at the moment, not all for the same District either. Please send me your suggestions; I need them before the meeting.

Happy Christmas & New Year to everyone; hope to see you all at the ADM.

*M Elizabeth Cotton*

### Starting Over #6

Change Ringing that's the thing, doing that as well as you can is what you aspire to. The level that you attain is largely up to you but always remember that it is essentially a team pursuit and the team is only as good as its weakest member (and as a learner that's you & me!)

Like virtually everyone else Plain Bob Doubles was to be my entrée into the Art & Science of Change ringing. Initially my dodges were blurred, smudged, smoothed-out, sinuous rather than sharp. Precision, the fine control of your bell, has been the hardest thing for me to regain.

I knew I should think of the method segmented into its place bell parts and use the treble as a check. I could see where I passed the treble but I couldn't remember what it meant when I was actually ringing, so that was rather a problem!

In computer terms my ringing memory

nowadays seems to be almost entirely RAM (Random Access Memory) rather ROM (Read Only Memory) based. My learning of methods leans towards the wattle and daub technique. Weaving the wattle is not too hard, but providing sufficient daub of the required consistency is the problem. I need an extra ingredient, something stickier - I think you get the picture.

I am improving; at least I think I am. How can I tell? Well I can now see the ropes, hear the bells and remember simple methods. Gradually most things are becoming clearer and the blending of all the skills necessary to ring enjoyably is taking place. I now seem to have more time to check & perform all the tasks & skills required as a ringer.

I had forgotten so much, things that even the average ringer takes for granted, all the basics seemed almost unattainable. Of course I had gone through all this before, when I initially learned to ring all those years ago. But it has been strange to have to re-learn and practice it all over again. Especially as unlike a first time learner I knew what was required but still had to master the mental & physical skills.

Well that's about up to date now. I'm unsure what level of competence I will eventually reach but I aim to enjoy the process. So to fellow learners, stick with it, you will improve. To those who teach I hope that my description of the learning experience will help you in the teaching process. Be considerate to your learners especially if they are grey and wrinkly (that's me!).

*Geoff Peach*

### "O" What a celebration

Twelve members of the DDA admitted to having "O" birthdays in 2005, so a bit of "noughty" ringing was organised.

Jenny Booth and myself celebrated our 60ths by ringing our first peal (Bob Minor) with four willing helpers—Chris Booth, Teresa Vincent, John Heaton and Elizabeth Heaton. John was our conductor and remarked at one point that holding it all together was more stimulating than a strong cup of coffee. In the summer as many of us as possible enjoyed a ringing day and picnic at Ticknall. Unfortunately no quarters were achieved as planned, but we had good fun ringing and a very sociable day.

We ended our year with a day of ringing at Melbourne. A quarter of three Minor methods (St Clements, Plain Bob and Little Bob) was expertly conducted by Tim Peverett(40). The ringers were Mary Cox (70), George Fletcher (40), Steve Harpham (50) and Elizabeth Heaton (40). This was followed by lunch at the pub and more general ringing in the afternoon. The grand finale was to be cake and bubbly in church, but the eating of cake has been banned in Melbourne Church (too many crumbs!) so we moved to the side of the lake. This meant we could not light the candles on the cake because it was too windy, and, in hindsight, mulled wine would have been better than cold bubbly! Nevertheless a fine end to our day. We said our farewells and it was suggested we should all meet again in 2015.

Other "noughties" who took part in the celebrations were Elaine Baines, Carole Browne, Rex North and Jane Temple.

*Mary Venables*

### Hail and Farewell?

As this will be the last issue of Strike Notes under the current District structure, I would like to take a few moments to publicly express my thanks to all those who have served on the Derby District Committee during my Chairmanship.

Thanks to Lizzie, and previously Chris, for the Secretarial work; to Alec as Ringing Master; to Jenny for Strike Notes; to Gill and John for Education but ALL the members deserve not only a big thank you from me but also from the whole District, for their hard work in organising events and for giving up their time to attend our Committee meetings.

The election of new Committees at the ADMs on January 7th promises to be interesting and I sincerely hope I will have the opportunity to work with the existing members again as far as the new District structure allows.

For now then, all that remains is for me to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you in 2006!

*Steve Harpham*

