

## THINGS to DO, PLACES to GO

**July 15th**  
Joint Central & Southern  
meeting  
Fun Pot Luck Striking  
Competition  
Brailsford  
3:00—6:30

**July 22nd**  
Surprise practice  
at Derby St Peters  
6:30—8:00

**August 26th**  
Surprise practice  
at Derby St Peters  
6:30—8:00

**September 2nd**  
Central District Meeting  
Heanor

**September 9th**  
Southern District Car Tour

**September 23rd**  
Surprise practice  
at Derby St Peters  
6:30—8:00

### Bells on Sunday, 11th June, 5.43am

"St. Leonard's Church, Bledington, Gloucestershire. 6 bells, Tenor 9½ cwt (8-0-13 according to Dove) Cambridge Surprise MAJOR"

No, I don't get up to listen.

*Steve Harpham*

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pause, ring three times again ( this is the 'Nine Tailors') and after a long pause ring the age of the man.

Sometimes the bell is rung once every 30 seconds or minute for 15 minutes instead of ringing the age.

The practice originated to enable villagers who were working away from the village in the fields to identify who had died. It is still rung in some areas today, I believe. - although today's farm workers might find it difficult to hear the bells over the sound of their tractors and on board radios!  
*JMB*

**CONTRIBUTIONS** for the next issue are needed by **July 31st 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*

# Strike Notes

June 2006 Issue 65

News, Information and Trivia for ringers in the Central & Southern Districts

### Secretary's Salutations

Finally summer is here with the very hot weather and lots of time needed in the garden and at the allotment, with the first new potatoes eaten and even some raspberries.

The first meetings of the new district have taken place, at Netherseal in May and then to Newton Solney and Winhill in June. The Netherseal meeting had 6 members, with 4 visitors, at Newton Solney 10 members and Winhill 17 members and 3 visitors. Thanks to those involved in hosting the district at these meetings, refreshments were greatly appreciated at them too!

We welcome Laura-Jane Johnson, from Winhill, who was elected as a junior ringing member at the meeting there. We look forward to seeing you again at our meetings, and thanks for your wonderful array of baking you did for the refreshments there.

In May Elizabeth Heaton, Rachael Eagle, Joshua and I were involved with the days held at the Cathedral for school children. These took place over two days with three sessions a day involving ten children, along with their teachers/class room assistants/parents. Our sessions were about bells, taking in the various different bells, how they are made and rung and having a go at ringing them. The children had a go at chiming

the fourth, no problem, and tenor, which one of the head masters managed but quite often I couldn't! They also looked at the simulator and how it worked, watched a bell being rung full circle, this also involved a monitor so they could see what was happening at the other end of the rope.

We showed them the carillon room, where they had great delight in watching and hearing the clock, and also up to the viewing window for the bells.

They were all keen to explore the ringing room to do their work sheets and take information home. They were thoroughly enjoyable days, it was so pleasing to see what joy the children got out of them and how interested they were in everything. It was also a good keep fit exercise with climbing the 83 steps to the ringing room six times! Luckily Joshua only did it once, staying in the ringing room the rest of the time with Rachael, as we didn't want it to bring on the early arrival of her baby. These events are fairly new to me, John

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Heaton has done a super job developing them and I know a lot of ringers at various towers have assisted with them too. The sessions really made the children aware of what goes on in the tower and what we as bellringers do. I was pleasantly surprised that a lot of the children were aware it was a young persons art too.

Maybe this is something you could look into doing at your church and get involved with. A lot of schools visit churches, if you did something similar I am sure they would go away finding the bells the most interesting. We are lucky, some of our ringers have spent a lot of time developing such excellent facilities for us to show off our art to non ringers.

We are unable to attend the next meeting of the district, the joint fun pot luck, but I am sure it will be a very beneficial day.

*Lizzie Cotton*

### **Aunt Sally's Problem Page**

Many of us have problems in our lives and in our ringing. Wouldn't it be nice to get advice on these from someone experienced in the ways of the world and of ringing?

Strike Notes is pleased to announce a new service for its readers

#### **Aunt Sally's Problem Page.**

Send in your problems to

[auntsally@derbyda.org.uk](mailto:auntsally@derbyda.org.uk)

or write to Aunt Sally at the usual Strike Notes address.

Anonymity guaranteed if requested!

### **...and then, there were two girls....**

It was after the pub following a ringing meeting at Huyton, Liverpool, when the incident of the two girls happened. Late one autumn night I was waiting for the last bus (which I'd already missed as it happened). Owls were hooting, bats were flying around and wolves were prowling the streets. Actually, that last sentence is pure fiction but it sets the mood. As time passed I wandered up and down the street and into and out of a dark bus shelter.

Suddenly two slightly merry girls appeared and were laughing, giggling and dancing around in the road. As it happened I was just on one of my passages through the bus shelter and was innocently resting in the corner when one of the girls came into the shelter. Apparently she hadn't realised that I was there. She was wandering around and eventually walked backwards towards me and was actually standing on my feet! Some seconds later she turned round and found herself looking straight into my bloodshot, staring eyes from a distance of about 6 inches! (The wife has to do this every morning to check for signs of life.) The blood-curdling scream which resulted must have been audible in Birkenhead and she ran off "quite quickly". At that point her friend, who was still in the road, looked into the shelter and saw me there. Another blood-curdling scream and she was off into the night.

Moral of the tale? When lurking in dark bus shelters make sure you've got earplugs!

And then there's the pigeon muck story.....

*JEH.*

### **A Note from Alvaston Tower**

Many thanks to those ringers who came to support us at Alvaston on the 18th June.

St Michaels and All Angels Alvaston are celebrating 150 years anniversary of the current church building.

There are lots of events but we wanted to celebrate with a quarter peal.

We rang 1260 changes of Bob Doubles.

With thanks to:

- |                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1. Sally Archer       | Alvaston  |
| 2. Janet Foulds       | Cathedral |
| 3. Pat Halls          | Cathedral |
| 4. Elizabeth Heaton   | Cathedral |
| 5. John Heaton (cond) | Cathedral |
| 6. Mike Willis        | Duffield  |

It was a good achievement - we'll have to do it again sometime - perhaps with another Alvaston ringer.

*Sally Archer*

### **Competition**

It's been a while since we've had a competition so here's one for all you budding poets - Compose a Limerick. All the best ones will be published in Strike Notes with a prize for the winning entry. Depending on the quality of entries, a rhyming dictionary perhaps? Basic marking will be on rhyme, metre and humour (yes, subjective I know but, as usual, the editors decision will be final) but additional marks will be awarded for inclusion of bellringing terms such as dodge and method. Contrary to the usual limerick style, marks may be deducted for rhymes with, for example, plain-hunt and lockout.

Please send your entries to the usual Strike Notes mail and email addresses to arrive by 31st July 2006. The winner will be announced in the August issue.

### **Centralisation**

Many thanks to all to took part in the Central District's first 2 solo events on 29th April and 15th June. A total of 15 members and 2 visitors enjoyed ringing at Doveridge and Tutbury and 20 members and 2 visitors attended the District Practice at Mugginton. A great start to our programme! If our next midweek meeting (18th October at Ashbourne) is as well attended, we'll certainly be including more in the future.

At the short business meeting at Tutbury, Andrew Collier from Ashbourne and Daniel Birkin from Marston-on-Dove were elected members. Welcome to them both.

There will be a number of peals and quarter peals rung this year to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Association. If you would like to take part, please contact our Ringing Master, Luke Heaton.

That's all for now.

*Steve Harpham*

### **Did You Know? Ringing for a Funeral**

If a child dies  
ring the treble (if on 6 bells) three times, then leave a long pause, and ring the bell to the number of the age of the child.

If a woman dies  
ring the 3. you ring it three times, a short pause, ring three times again and then leave a long pause, and then ring the bell to the age of the woman.

For a man  
ring the tenor, ring it three times, a short pause, ring three times, short

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