

## THINGS to DO, PLACES to GO

### Southern District: Going South Car Tour

South of Derbyshire

Saturday 9th September 2006



Austrey St Nicholas	13½ cwt	5 bells	10.00—11.00am	SK296063
Market Bosworth St Peter	14½ cwt	8 bells	11.30—12.15pm	SK407033
Lunch Break				
Higham on the Hill St Peter	10¾ cwt	6 bells	1.30—2.15pm	SP383956
Shustoke St Cuthbert	10½ cwt	6 bells	2.45—3.30pm	SP243910
Kingsbury St Peter & St Paul	17¼ cwt	8 bells	4.00—5.00pm	SP214963

Contributions towards tower donations will be £1 per tower or £5 for the full day

**We look forward to seeing you on the day**

**September 2nd Central District Meeting Heanor 4:30—6:00**

#### Congratulations

To Eliza Dawson, who rings at Horsley. She rang her first Quarter Peal, at the age of eleven, on Sunday June 12th. She began learning about a year ago. Although she had spent many years watching her mother Debbie and sister Amanda before she was big enough to have a go herself.

#### Welcome

To Jennifer Peckham, born on June 26th, daughter to Christian and Rachael, both ringers at Derby Cathedral.

Also to Caitlin Gainsbury born on June 13th, second daughter to Andrew and Merial who used to ring at Derby Cathedral and Ockbrook.

#### All Hands to the Bells!

To help publicise the Derby Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers and to celebrate 60 years of the Association we are putting the Lichfield Mobile Belfry on Derby Market Place for a day. **The date chosen is Saturday the 9th September.** To make this day a success we will need lots of helpers. The idea is to give a short talk and demonstration on the hour every hour followed by general have a go sessions for the public. This means we will need people to ring the bells, people to teach on the bells, people to talk to the general public and people to man the displays. If you can help in anyway for 2 hours on Saturday 9th September please get in touch with Gill Hughes 01773 823115.

**CONTRIBUTIONS** for the next issue are needed by **September 15th 2006**. Please post to Jenny Booth at 51 The Plain, Brailsford DE6 3BZ, or e-mail to [Strike Notes@derbyda.org.uk](mailto:Strike Notes@derbyda.org.uk)  
*Strike Notes is compiled by Jenny Booth and printed by Steve Harpham*

# Strike Notes

July/August 2006 Issue 66

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

#### Chairman's Chatterings

Pot Luck Contest 2006 at Brailsford  
Saturday 15th July 2006.

This annual contest was a joint meeting of the Central and Southern Districts of the Association, organised by Rod Pearson. The event is a 6 bell striking competition based on the rules of the Arthur Ashby Cup, but there the similarity ends. Each participant is fully engaged throughout the meeting as both ringer and judge. The teams are drawn by lot (from a Moroccan fez) at the start of the afternoon and stay together for the whole contest. There was only one instance of team fixing by the organiser, so blatant that even an Italian football referee would have blushed.

There were 33 ringers in all, 15 from Central, 17 from Southern District and one visitor. This was enough for six teams, an ideal number for the time available from 3 to 6 pm. The team leaders were Gill Hughes, Luke Heaton and Chris Booth from Central and Alec Humphrey, John and Elizabeth Heaton from Southern. The order of ringing was also drawn, this time from a Breton fisherman's cap.

As usual for this contest the weather was very warm and sunny. This allowed teams to sit in the churchyard when not ringing, hearing the bells as they are intended, away from the grunts and shouts of the ringing chamber. This was probably the most instructive part of the afternoon,  
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#### LIMERICK COMPETITION

Thank you to all who entered. It was difficult to pick the best ones.

##### First Place:

Young Shelley's a ringing disaster,  
Plain Hunting she just cannot master,  
You'd think she must know  
That you must hunt out slow-  
But her ringing gets faster and faster.

##### Second Place:

A campanological gent  
Bred a family of similar bent  
His young daughter Dinah  
Rang Doubles and Minor  
While his son knew the blue line to Kent  
Congratulations to **Pat Halls** (1) and Peter Harris.

**Highly commended** was this entry from Mike Willis:

There was an old ringer from Tideswell,  
Who when touches are called just hides well,  
but when blaming bad striking  
Or any back biting  
at arguments he always takes sides well.

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having to listen and score the results of the ringing of others. How much latitude can you give for errors, are we being consistent or becoming tougher or softer as the afternoon wears on? There was a lot of interesting discussion around these points. Any major aberrations in scoring were overcome by averaging the scores of individual team members and then combining the scores of all the teams. One can understand the problems faced by judges marking more serious competitions on their own. How do they retain consistency of marking? How can they sleep at night?

Happily the victorious team was the winner by a clear margin. John Heaton's team of Chris Willis, Ida Platt, Peter Harris, Ruth Smith and Brian Tomlinson, each received a 'certificate', a winner's medal and a small (very small) bottle of whisky. The writer's team was the loser by an even clearer margin. The other teams were somewhere in-between. Our youngest contestant was Emma Bates, from Brailsford. At the end of the meeting she was elected to membership of the Association, with the great approval and congratulations of all present.

The abiding memories are of a busy and rewarding afternoon, held in brilliant weather in a lovely setting. Thank you to everyone who attended - all the success is due to your efforts. And a big thanks to the church and ringers at Brailsford for making us so very welcome.

*Rod Pearson.*

## FOUR TOWERS OUTING

July 8<sup>th</sup> 2006

We ventured into Staffordshire and Shropshire for this outing, and had a most interesting selection of towers; all had a very decided character of their own.

Haughton are a light six (7 cwt), rung unguided from the ground floor, but nonetheless some of the band managed creditable Cambridge here.

Gnosall is a lovely medieval building with a central tower above a Norman arch. This nice bongy eight (15 cwt) were more to my taste but extremely noisy, although it is a Ringing Centre, as is Newport, the next tower.

Newport were a similar bongy eight (14 cwt), also very loud, and with the remains of an enormous carillon mechanism in the ringing chamber. They were not very tuneful either, despite being recast in about 1947. We decided they must be a postwar Utility ring, "made from melted down Spitfires?" Mike suggested helpfully. Newport is an old market town and there were plenty of pubs, coffee shops, or simply places to sit and picnic.

Edgmond are a lighter eight (10 cwt), rung from the ground floor but with guides, and pleasant to handle.

Chetwynd, the last tower, are Rudhall bells of 1735, but in a Victorian church which replaced the one they were first hung in. A bit difficult to find places to stand to ring, the clock case and so on taking up a lot of room.

We had our evening meal at the Saracen's Head in Weston, Staffs, who use local produce as much as possible; the ale is very good too.

Many thanks, Sandra, for a grand day out.

*Sue Peach*

## The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Derby Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers

Well, in a way it isn't the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Derby Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers! Because in 1946, when the old Midland Counties Association, which was much too large and unwieldy, was split into four smaller Associations, the part which was centred on Derby was called 'The Derby and District Association of Change Ringers'. Evidently that name was soon found to be unpopular, as in 1947 the Association was renamed and called 'The Derbyshire Association of Change Ringers'. This name lasted rather longer than the previous one and it was not until 1963 that the name was changed to the present name: 'The Derby Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers'. According to the General Secretary's report for that year, there were a few objections to the change, but there was a large majority in favour of the new name.

Things have changed considerably in the last 60 years. In 1946, the total subscriptions for all the ringing members of the Association amounted to £9.6s. 6d (£9. 32.5p)!! There was a Bell Repair Fund, but it was made up of collections taken at meetings rather than peal fees and subscriptions from P.C.C.s. The Bell Repair Fund in the form we know it today started in 1961, when 41 parishes responded to an invitation to subscribe annually to the BRF. Striking contests did not commence until 1961, when the first one, which attracted

eleven teams, was held at Horsley. Alvaston were the winners, but in the Annual Report for 1961 it is written of the contest 'The ringing however was generally poor.' In 1946, only eight peals were rung for the Association - three of them by the Darley Dale band. The first Dinner did not take place until 23rd February 1953, since when it has become an annual event.

When the Midland Counties Association was disbanded its assets were divided between our Association, the Leicester Guild, the Southwell Guild and the Midland Counties Guild, which was based at Burton on Trent. In addition to a cash sum of £70, our Association was presented with the handbells which had belonged to Sir Arthur Heywood. These are the handbells which were refurbished recently - perhaps we should have refurbished them to celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

It is planned to ring at least one peal and one quarter peal by each District to celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. These are being arranged by the District Ringing Masters. If any one else would like to arrange either a peal or a quarter, it would be very pleasing, especially if it was done by a Sunday service band or contained 'firsts' of any kind.

If your band rings a special peal or quarter, please send it to Strike Notes for publication.

*Pat Halls*