

## Brailsford Treble 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

In 1956, after the death in August 1955 of Frederick Penny of Brailsford Green some colleagues and friends perpetuated his memory by giving a new bell to Brailsford Church.

Shortly after the dedication, a band from the DDA requested to ring the first Quarter Peal on the six. The Rector, Rev. Robson, was not very welcoming to visiting ringers and refused. The group persisted and asked this time if they could come to ring for just 40 minutes or so. Rev. Robson agreed. On March 20<sup>th</sup> 1957 the first Quarter Peal was achieved! It included Patricia A M Forster (who subsequently married Gordon Halls).

In 1996, a quarter peal was rung to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the treble - this also included Pat Halls. The methods rung in both quarters were St Simons, St Martins, Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles.

To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the treble, five Brailsford ringers plus Pat Halls rang a quarter peal with the same methods as in the 1st and 40th anniversary quarters:

1<sup>st</sup> December 2006, All Saints, Brailsford

1260 Doubles (St Simons, St Martins, Grandsire & Plain Bob)

Jenny Booth 1, Mary Cox 2, Elaine Baines 3, Pat Halls 4, Chris Booth (C) 5, Keith Baines 6.

### Brailsford Church Bells

Five trebles and a tenor speak tonight  
Under ripples of far city glow  
Saying something the hedged meadows know,  
Something the margin woods keep tight,

Tumbling along their black silhouette  
The bright sound of seventeen seventeen  
Alive as then, ringing peals between  
Two manors, fields, fish ponds, and yet

Who hears but the old rooks, the kite returned  
Above the lethal road passing two ancient  
Villages? Winter evenings all watch recent  
Wars indoors: desert villages are burned

To bring 'peace and good neighbourhood',  
The very words inscribed upon one bell  
Ringing now beyond this crusader's hell  
Where it's hard to tell what's 'doing good'.

Terry Gifford

[Author of *The Unreliable Mushrooms: New and Selected Poems* (Redbeck Press, 2003)]

The poem opposite was written by a local resident, following the publication in our local Parish Newsletter of an article about the 50th anniversary of the treble.

JMB

### Overheard....

At a recent District Committee Meeting just before the Chairman called the Meeting to order -

Hostess: Would anyone like coffee?

Anonymous Member: No thanks, it'll keep me awake.

**CONTRIBUTIONS** for the next issue are needed by **March 10th 2007**. 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

February 2007 Issue 71

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

## Mercaston and Meynell Hunt

A year ago on 27th January a group of us gathered together to commemorate a place of which many have heard but few have actually seen.

We met at Mugginton since three of the band ring there and one of them actually lives near to this apocryphal place and rang a quarter peal of a previously unringed and un-named method which, in an effort to establish that location upon the map of bellringing, we called Mercaston Treble Place Minor, It has the place notation

x34x16x12x36x1456x56 lh12

This year we met again at Mugginton, on 19th January and rang another previously un-named method which we decided that we would name after another nearby amorphous place that seems to be a site almost as mysterious as the Mercaston Triangle. This method we named Meynell Langley Treble Place Minor, with the notation

34x34.16x12x16x3456x56 lh12

The band was: Gill Hughes 1, Graeme Hughes 2, Mike Banks 3, Peter Harris 4, Steve Harpham 5, Alec Humphrey (C).

This quarter is also a bit of a personal milestone for some sad anoraks because it was the 200th quarter for Steve, the 100th quarter together for Graeme, Steve & Alec, and the 500th quarter together for Graeme & Alec.

Next January - quo vadis?

Alec Humphrey

## Southern District Meeting

The February district meeting at All Saints Cathedral Derby was well attended with 26 ringers representing 9 Towers, one unattached and a visitor from outside the association.

The ringing catered for all abilities from rounds and call changes for the newest two members of the association (Christina Kampitsch and Brian Dollamor, both from Melbourne and elected at the meeting) Plain Hunt Doubles, Grandsire & Stedman Caters, Little Bob, Cambridge Royal and a final display by the experts of eight spliced Surprise Major. The warm, friendly atmosphere extended to post ringing drinks in the Old Silk Mill.

Don't forget, now's the time to be thinking about bands for the heats of the six bell striking competitions next month, both the call changes & method bands.

Chris Gilbert

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### Webb Ivory Fundraising

I am writing this after a lovely bright sunny day, spring must be just round the corner? We walked up the lane to the farm today and all the snowdrops are in flower and they have four calves just born. We have also seen daffodils at full height with their buds awaiting to open, none like that in our garden! Amazing considering the wonderful snow of the other week, what fun we had building snowmen.

We have been raising money through Webb Ivory for the Association Bell Repair Fund for the past five years. For those who are not aware, Webb Ivory is available to individuals who wish to raise money for a chosen charity, in our case the Association Bell Repair Fund. Any sales made through them qualify for a portion of that sale to go to the chosen charity, up to 25%.

We had a good year with more people buying from us. The first order I placed at the very beginning of October arrived in eleven very large parcels! I always find it's best ordering early, everything is received quickly and all items are in stock. When it gets later in the year orders take longer to be received and very occasionally some items are not available. Total sales were an incredible £1,282.87, over £550 more than last year. This brought in a profit of £209.37 which is over £80 more than in 2005.

A big thank you to those who ordered and to those who encouraged others to order. It was wonderful to receive a good order from a non ringer who had helped another charity through Webb

Ivory and supported us when her normal distributor stopped selling, when a bell ringer gave her our catalogue. Thank you.

If you have any suggestions or ideas to increase the overall profit, or to make it more appealing to people to take part in, please tell me. We again ordered labels for the cards to show they were purchased for charity and I hope everyone liked them. Thank You.

*M Elizabeth Cotton*

### Changes at the Cathedral

At the recent Derby Cathedral Ringers' AGM there was a slight alteration to the leadership when John Heaton was elected Master of the Bells (as the cathedral authorities call it). All requests for the bells should now go to him on 01332 342061 (low likelihood of success) or DerbyCath@derbyda.org.uk (much better). Many of you may not know that we have a 10-bell simulator attached to the bells. The simulator allows us to silence the bells and to replace the sound with a very realistic computer generated bell sound coming from speakers above the ringing room. As a result we can ring when we want to.

It is available (subject to availability) for normal practices (maybe to replace your cancelled practice) or individual listening and rhythm practice. I can assure everyone that individual practice is an excellent way of developing listening skills and rhythm.

To book the simulator contact the Master of the Bells. The cost of hiring the simulator is £1.00 per person per hour.

*JEH*

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOHN!

John Heaton has reached the half century. This was celebrated by family, friends & ringers on Saturday at the Travellers Rest, Ashbourne Rd Derby in a memorable party. A musical interlude was provided by an ad hoc orchestra playing a symphonic variation on "Old McDonald had a farm" and five Johns (pictured) involved in very John conducting.



The buffet featured Lancastrian specialities and culminated in the traditional cutting of the birthday cake. An enjoyable time was had by all, and all wish John many further years of enjoyable ringing and company. Happy Birthday John.

*Chris Gilbert*



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