

## Pot Luck Contest 2007.

They say that it always shines on the righteous, and sure enough, we were blessed with a window of sunny weather at Brailsford for the Pot Luck Striking Contest on 14<sup>th</sup> July. The contest was open to ringers from the Central and Southern Districts. Twenty ringers took part, sufficient to form four teams, aided by a certain creativity in the draw. The striking was based on the rules for the Arthur Ashby Cup, and the teams were led by Pat Halls, Alec Humphrey, John and Elizabeth Heaton. It was possible to sit in the sunshine to mark the efforts of the competing teams, a welcome relief from the rain and gloom of the preceding days.

Every ringer scored the performances of the other teams and, despite an initial calculation that produced exactly the opposite of the final result, the team led by Pat Halls was declared the winner. All members of the team (Pat Halls, Brian Tomlinson, Keith Baines, Rex North, Chris Gilbert and Rod Pearson) received their winner's medal, certificate and miniature whisky (Bells', of course).



Events in the summer season run into the demands for weddings, fetes and other activities like holidays. It would be good to welcome some of our less experienced ringers, to share in a fun afternoon which offers

ringing practice but also the opportunity to listen critically to the efforts of others, not forgetting the chance to win fabulous prizes. Many thanks to all who supported the event and to the Brailsford team for hosting the competition.

*Rod Pearson.*

*(Continued from page 3)*

**Breedon on the Hill**, on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1250 Cambridge Surprise Minor: Nigel Coupe 1, Maurice Starkey 2, Chris Gilbert 3, Paul Bradley 4, Nick Daines 5, Alec Humphrey (C) 6.

Until this summer Nigel has had a five-year break from quarter peal ringing.

**Melbourne**, on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 1264 Plain Bob Major: Peter Marriott 1, Chris Gilbert 2, Elizabeth Arnold 3, Lee Cooke 4, Morris Bates 5, Paul Bradley 6, Nick Daines 7, Alec Humphrey (C) 8.

June and July saw thirty ringers from fifteen different towers participate in these attempts, which coincidentally are the same figures as for the first five months of the year. I intend to continue to arrange quarters in and around the Southern district. If you have an ambition to ring something please let me know. You can find my contact details on pages 32 or 34 of the 2006 annual report. *Alec Humphrey*

**CONTRIBUTIONS** for the next issue are needed by **September 30th 2007**. 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

June/July 2007 Issue 74

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

## DDA Quarterly Meeting July 2007

The Southern District hosted the summer quarterly meeting on Saturday 7 July. After the four bells at Foremark Church, ringing continued on the eight at Repton until the service at 5 o'clock. This was led by the Reverend Stanley Morris, one of the Repton band, who also played the organ. He afterwards commented very favourably on the rousing singing by the twenty-five or so ringers at the service.

A substantial and very enjoyable tea was provided by the Repton ringers and families in the village hall, followed by the meeting. This included reports by Gill Hughes and John Cater on the Central Council Meeting, and by Mike Banks and Brian Tomlinson on the work of the Bell Repair Fund. Several new members were elected and it was particularly encouraging that ringers from the new eight at Hartington joined the Association. After a vote of thanks to the incumbents and ringers for the use of the bells and the tea, ringing continued at Ticknall while the residents of Repton were treated to a Brian Ferry concert. This event had caused the original ringing arrangements to be changed about six weeks beforehand, and apologies are due to anyone who turned up at Ticknall before tea, and Repton for evening ringing.

*Ruth Smith*

## Wildflowers & Wild Beasties: The Four Towers Outing 30th June 2007

The torrential deluge we were promised for Saturday turned out to be a few light showers as we satnavved our way in the Belper Community minibus around the Grantham area. A cool damp refreshing day is good for a ringing outing, after all.

All the towers were good and enjoyable. **Long Bennington** (11cwt 6) were pleasant, but the churchyard was the star: lots of special wildflower areas, all in bloom, with boards describing their names and uses.

**Barkston** (13 cwt 6) was a pretty church with ballflower on the spire, but unfortunately locked. A good, slightly heavy-going six. We rang Mercaston Treble Place here. Then onto the Roman Ermine Street near Ancaster, the ditch & bank still visible.

**Heydour** were the only eight, (13 cwt), a lovely ground floor ring & pleasant to

*(Continued on page 3)*

### In This Issue

Not Bob Doubles again.....	2
Ringling around the Southern District .....	3
Pot Luck Striking Competition .....	4

## NOT BOB DOUBLES — AGAIN?!

Plain Bob Doubles is the first step, and sometimes the only step, in method ringing that some ringers ever take, and undoubtedly Plain Bob Doubles is the most frequently rung method. Some of the more established members of a band can perhaps come to view Bob Doubles with slightly jaded eyes, however it can be made more interesting for them whilst at the same time the less experienced ringer in the band can continue to plough their own furrow completely oblivious to and unaffected by any jiggery-pokery that might be going on amongst the other bells. One way of doing this is to ring variations.

Normally, in any method, when a bob or a single is called only one row is altered and this alteration shifts the bells from one course to another (a conspicuous exception to this is a Grandsire single in which two consecutive rows are altered). It is also possible to achieve this shuffling from one course to the next by using calls from other methods; these affect more than one consecutive row and, whilst the same basic method is rung, the resultant melange is called a variation on that method and is given its own name.

Normally in Plain Bob calls are made at backstroke when the treble is in second's place (this is because of the convention of making calls two blows before they are effective). However, because in variations calls affect more than one row they need to be made earlier in order to give the same advance notice.

In order to ring some of these variations three members of the band will need to be able to ring something other than Plain Bob and probably the most likely candidates are Grandsire and Reverse Canterbury. By combining Grandsire and Plain Bob a variation called April Day can be rung (there are others too but there is less Plain Bob in them). At a Grandsire single seconds and long thirds are made while two bells double-dodge in 4-5 and at a Plain Bob plain lead seconds and long fifths are made while two bells dodge in 3-4. The common factor is seconds. If a novice ringer is making seconds it doesn't matter what is happening amongst the other bells; he or she can carry on regardless.

April Day is Plain Bob Doubles but with Grandsire singles instead of the usual bobs. To call a 120 of April Day the observation bell, which will be unaffected, will be making seconds so call singles (the three working bells will need to be told that they are Grandsire singles) just as it is leading at hand-stroke. The treble will be in thirds place and this is the normal calling position for calls in Grandsire. Any bell above thirds place when the call is made will double-dodge in 4-5 and any bell below thirds place when the call is made will either make seconds or long thirds. After completing that manoeuvre everyone reverts back to Plain Bob until the next call. Some people will feel sufficiently confident to pick up the Plain Bob easily. Some others might like to know in advance that the bell that has made long thirds will next be 4 blows behind, the bell that dodged 4-5 down will be 3-4 up next, and the bell that dodged 4-5 up will make seconds.

It is relatively straightforward to call 3, 4 or 5 to make seconds in April Day but to call 2 to make seconds you need to be aware that the rounds at the beginning and at the end occur in the middle of a Grandsire single so everyone (apart from the second) need to start in Grandsire. The convention is to call "Go April Day, Grandsire start" and at the end of the next lead dodging will be in 3-4 as usual. For the purists any other 120 ought really to begin with "Go April Day, plain hunt start" but I don't think that anyone will quibble if you don't use it.

*Alec Humphrey*

*(Continued from page 1)*

handle. If you look in the chancel you can see delicate medieval wall paintings, the blue flowers still fresh.

Lunch at The Horseshoes, **Silk Willoughby**, where heavier rain threatened but held off. This 9 cwt six were acclaimed as excellent.

What appeared to be fields & fields of lavender turned out to be borage, and we pondered what its commercial use might be. **Denton** was a very pretty village with a golden stone church. The 13 cwt six were characterful: loud & bangy with a bawling tenor (the man at Barrowby says it's cracked)! The stern Victorian ringers' rules on the wall allowed "no noisy behaviour". They clearly hadn't met some of our party....

**Harlaxton** (9 cwt 6) were very fine bells again, in another pretty village. The final tower was **Barrowby** (10 cwt 6), just a little harder work but still quite good. The young tower captain hopes to get them rehung however. He showed us the treasures of the church by throwing the secret light switches: the wonderful carved 14C font has a base with little windows you can peep into. Within is a beastie resembling a dog but allegedly a three-headed monster. It represents evil defeated by the water of baptism, but he's been there so long he doesn't look evil any more, and he probably isn't.

We had our evening meal at The Gap, Muston, basic pub grub but good value. The puddings were particularly good.

Thank you Gill for a superb selection of towers, and thank you Sally for driving us with such care and skill. A grand day out.

*Sue Peach*

## Ringling around the Southern District

There has been an increasing amount of quarter peal ringing by Southern District members during June and July giving a number of ringers the opportunity to consolidate their skills or extend their repertoire and to meet other ringers.

**Newhall**, on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Alec Humphrey 1, Emma Chillingworth 2, Tom Chillingworth 3, Steve Durov 4, Paul Bradley (C) 5, Chris Gilbert 6  
**Netherseale**, on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 1260 Doubles (Grandsire, April Day & Plain Bob): Alec Humphrey (C) 1, Lynn Betts 2, Carole Browne 3, Mary Venables 4, Teresa Vincent 5, Peter Browne 6.

**Sawley**, on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Jake Bull 1, Chris Gilbert 2, Susan Lowe 3, Alec Humphrey (C) 4, Paul Bradley 5, Chris Ebborn 6.

This was the first quarter peal for Jake. Congratulations to him.

**Alvaston**, on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Ian Webb 1, Sally Archer 2, Alec Humphrey 3, Chris Gilbert 4, Nick Daines (C) 5, Paul Bradley 6.

This was the first quarter away from the tenor for Ian.

**West Hallam**, on 13<sup>th</sup> July, 1264 Plain Bob Major: Phil Tanner 1, Alison Barnett 2, Richard Barnett 3, Colin Shaw 4, Caroline Peverett 5, Chris Gilbert 6, Paul Bradley 7, Alec Humphrey (C) 8.

This quarter was the first for several years by Alison whose ringing, until fairly recently, has been severely restricted by carpal tunnel syndrome.

**Shardlow**, on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 1260 Plain & St Simons Bob Doubles: Chris Ebborn 1, Alec Humphrey 2, Pam Postans 3, Tom Chillingworth 4, Nick Daines (C) 5, Jake Bull 6.

*(Continued on page 4)*