

STRIKE NOTES

Issue 78, September 2008

Central and Southern Districts' news, information and trivia

Editor's Notes

It's been a bit too long since the last issue of Strike Notes (apologies) and there seems to be plenty of material, so here is a double-thickness issue. I'll aim for thin and often in future. Please keep the articles coming, since Strike Notes is what you make it by sending in interesting stuff. Some pictures would be welcome too.

Some ringing jargon inevitably gets into Strike Notes and some of it might not mean much to the uninitiated. Why not write and say "What's That?", and we'll explain in a future issue.

This summer we have lost two stalwart local ringers: in June Arnold Morley of Belper; and in July Walter Soar of Ticknall. Both are remembered with affection. There will be more about them in the next Strike Notes.

Elizabeth Heaton

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Strictly Come Ringing - Brailsford 2008

'Anyone interested in coming to Brailsford on Saturday for an afternoon of fun?' said Ruth, our tower captain, one practice night. This sounds good - yes please we chorus. A 'clanger' of novice bellringers piled into the car that Saturday, and set off in plenty of time to get to Brailsford for 2.45 pm. However we missed the turn, and having heard that the church was out of the village, we carried on regardless. Eventually we did a U

turn and upon re-entering Brailsford, spotted the sign for the church and made it to All Saints with a few minutes to spare. We were in the middle of nowhere (obviously no coincidence!) - well actually halfway between Brailsford and Ednaston. How does the congregation get there? The answer appeared to be 'on a horse' and here is the the stable , or was that just for the Rector - we passed the Rectory miles back!

Now what have we let ourselves in for? 'Sign in, cough up and write your names on a pad please.' says chairman Rod. Everyone was most welcoming and very friendly (as we are beginning to learn ALL ringers are) and we recognised a few faces - the hierarchy of the DDACB and US! - what are WE doing here?

Names were pulled out of the FEZ - oh my life, it wasn't going to be the cosy little Melbourne Six we had imagined - and then we learned we were to be MARKED, and WE had to mark everyone else! It turned out to be rather like scoring at cricket, but without the fours and sixes! Two words came to mind - LAMBS and SLAUGHTER! In the event the marking part of it was great sport, and very satisfying when you found you had given the same marks or thereabouts as the

experienced ringers who had done it many times before. But the ringing! Our team's best was not very good, especially when nerves came into the equation, and you knew everyone could HEAR what was going on!! I thought that maybe there should be some sort of handicap for this type of competition and then I realisedWE were the handicap!

We found some light relief in a dear little boy named Stuart. He was so placid and smiley, and sure has the temperament and connections to become a great ringer.* We are going to watch his progress with great interest and wish that we had had the opportunity to begin ringing at an early age, and then we could have knocked spots off you all!! Ruth Smith might think it's fun, but to a group of aforesaid 'clangers' it's a terrifying ordeal! Would we all come again next year? You bet your bottom dollar we will Ruth. It IS a bit of fun, especially once our turn to ring was over and we could relax and listen to good ringing. Thank you to the organisers and to Brailsford ringers for letting us meet in their wonderful historic church.

Christine Franks from Melbourne

* The Editor likes this bit!

Tower Stewardship

The Central Council's Tower Stewardship Committee was formed in order to give guidance in the areas of tower management within the wider community recognising Church and Common Law.

Various external factors now impinge on the activities of ringers. As responsible bellringers, we must be aware of these factors, be able to communicate effectively with the relevant authorities and be able to manage these factors to the benefit of ringers.

Particular areas of concern have been identified and the Committee has produced an initial set of guidance notes on these topics. The documents are not being widely distributed as hard copies but a summary leaflet is being sent to towers, and the guidance notes are available to everyone to download as .pdf documents free of charge from the Central Council website: www.cccbr.org.uk/towerstewardship.

The topics covered are:

GN1 - Insurance: including: What about the insurance my church has? Don't ringing associations have insurance? How is bell restoration and maintenance work insured?

GN2 - Tower Management: The good management of a bell tower is

important to ensure that (a) the bells & fittings, which are the property of the Church, are used and maintained correctly, and (b) the quality and quantity of ringing is controlled so that the Church is able to maintain a good relationship with the wider community.

GN3 - Child Protection In Towers: including: concerns about a child's behaviour or another ringer's behaviour, CRB checks and the Sex Offenders Register.

GN4 - Health and Safety: This guidance note tells you how to meet your responsibilities quickly and easily; it includes a simple to use risk assessment tool.

GN5 - Church Law: Topics touched on include who is the legal owner of the bells and tower, Diocesan Advisory Committees and Faculties, the *de minimis* rules and who can grant permission to ring bells.

GN6 - Fire Assessment and Protection: Since the introduction of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, the onus for fire risk assessment has moved from the local authority and the fire brigade to the owners of buildings. Also, all churches have now been brought into the scheme for fire risk assessment - so understand your legal requirements.

On behalf of JEB, DDA Gen. Sec.

Bess of Hardwick

Bess of Hardwick was born in 1527 and died on 13th February 1608. Various events have been held this year to commemorate the 400th anniversary of her death, and of course this has included some ringing at places associated with her, including two rare peals at Edensor; prior to these two there have only been six peals rung at Edensor, in 1933, 1950, 1963, 1965, 1990 and 2000.

The first of this year's peals was rung four hundred years to the day after Bess's death:

EDENSOR, Derbyshire, St Peter
Wednesday February 13, 2008 in
2h47 (13cwt) 5040 Surprise Minor
(7m): (London, York, Beverley,
Bourne, Norwich, Ipswich,
Cambridge)

- 1 Canon David H Sansum,
- 2 Mike Lilley,
- 3 Philip J H Hudson,
- 4 Anthony P Cotton,
- 5 Simon Humphrey (C),
- 6 Timothy J Peverett

Especially rung to mark today's 400th anniversary of the death of Bess of Hardwick, who built the original Chatsworth House.

Throughout the peal a local sat in the Church and listened. The

band were invited to the rectory for refreshments afterwards and met the new incumbent who said that the Dowager liked bells. When Chatsworth House were told the peal was going to be rung, they thought it such a lovely idea they wanted a full peal rung to mark the opening of their new season, so...

EDENSOR, Derbyshire, St Peter
Saturday March 15, 2008 in 2h47
(13cwt) 5040 Surprise Minor (7m)
(720 each Ipswich, Bourne, York,
Durham, Beverley, Surfleet,
Cambridge)

- 1 Elisabeth A G Bowden,
- 2 Frances E Haynes,
- 3 John E Heaton,
- 4 Andrew Thackeray,
- 5 Michael Maughan (C),
- 6 Roy A Meads

Rung at the request of Chatsworth House to mark the opening of the 2008 season.

Bess of Hardwick was the fourth daughter of John Hardwick, a Derbyshire squire. She started her life relatively poor but married four times, each one richer than the last, and had eight children and many step-children. She was known as a moneylender, property dealer, exploiter of iron works, coal mines, and glass works, who ended up the

richest woman in England after the Queen, for whom she was later lady-in-waiting. Bess's character was said to be shrewd, charming, scheming, powerful and ambitious. She was sent to the Tower twice by the Queen for her attempts to promote herself in wealth and prosperity.

With her second husband, Sir William Cavendish, she rebuilt Chatsworth House - though she never knew the building we know today. The Hunting Tower, on the hill overlooking Chatsworth, is now all that remains from her time. Bess's great-grandson William Cavendish, 1st Duke of Devonshire, built the current Chatsworth House, a hundred years after her death.

During her fourth marriage, to the Earl of Shrewsbury, they had the care of Mary Queen of Scots during her long imprisonment in and around Derbyshire. Following the Earl's death Bess built almshouses in Full Street for twelve poor people of Derby. It was at this time that her tomb vault was built under All Hallows Church (now Derby Cathedral).

Discontented with the magnificent mansion she'd already constructed around the house where she was born, Bess

abandoned it in favour of building a new and much more impressive Hardwick Hall, a fabulous confection of lacy stonework and huge windows. This is where she died on 13th February 1608.

Brought in solemn procession after her death to Derby Cathedral, she was buried in the crypt at the east end on 4th May, with a grand and imposing black and pink marble monument in the body of the Church above. A memorial service took place four hundred years later, preceded by a quarter peal:

Derby, All Saints, Cathedral, Sunday, 4 May 2008 in 47 mins (19 cwt), 1259 Grandsire Caters: Pat Halls 1, Janet Foulds 2, Jane Boden 3, Brian Tomlinson 4, Jane Temple 5, Philip Hudson 6, John Heaton (C) 7, Michael Foulds 8, Christian Peckham 9, Roger Lawson 10. Rung prior to the 400th Anniversary Memorial Service of Bess of Hardwick, Countess of Shrewsbury.

A&E Cotton



First Quarter Peals

Two members from St Peter's Derby have rung their first quarter peal; one of them, Antoinette, was also celebrating completion of her Key Stage 2 S.A.T.s. Both rang with aplomb and congratulations are due to them both. Paul Hathaway of Netherseale has also rung his first quarter peal, and did an excellent job on the tenor. Details are:-

St Peter's, Derby, 19th May 2008, 1260 Doubles (780 Plain Bob, 360 April Day and 120 Rev. St Bartholomew): Antoinette Abel 1, Rachel Attaway 2, Christine Cope 3, Christopher Gilbert 4, Alec Humphrey (C) 5, Thomas Watkins 6. First quarter peal: Antoinette Abel and Tom Watkins

Overseal, 13th June 2008, 1259 Grandsire Doubles: Chris Gilbert 1, Rachel Attaway 2, Peter Browne 3, Alec Humphrey (C) 4, Nick Daines 5, Paul Hathaway 6. First quarter peal 6. 1st in method 3. 50th together: 4&5.

AH

Antoinette's assessment: "I have enjoyed this experience and I am glad I have had this opportunity. I'm really pleased I didn't say no to it. It's done and I'm proud of my achievement."

How encouraging! If you are asked to ring a quarter peal, take the plunge and do it. The quarter peal day/week in November could be a great opportunity - ask your tower captain.

Outdoor Ringing

In July we had our Bellringers' Open Day at the Cathedral. This is an occasion when we welcome members of the public into the tower and show them what ringing is about. People always seem interested when they see it; the difficult bit is getting them into the tower in the first place. In spite of all efforts at advance publicity, the most effective

method seems to be to attract the attention of passers-by on the day.

This year two brave bands rang handbells outside the Cathedral entrance, right next to the pavement where they could be seen and heard. A peal and two quarter-peals were rung there. I asked the ringers afterwards if many people had stopped to listen, and they said they didn't notice because they were too busy concentrating!

Anthony Cotton (1-2), Christian Peckham (3-4), Pat Halls (5-6) and Simon Humphrey (C) (7-8) rang 5056 Plain Bob Major in 2h19. This peal also welcomed Cameron James Edward Peckham, born 20th July, and was sent up as 'first in public by all'.

When the peal band had finished, Sally Bramson (1-2), Pat Halls (3-4) and Alec Humphrey (C) (5-6) took their place outside the Cathedral and rang two quarter peals of Plain Bob Minor (1260 and 1320) one after the other.

EPH

Aunt Sally

Dear Aunt Sally,

I've been trying to ring spliced Plain Bob and St Clement's Minor and I just don't get how to know what to do when the method changes. Can you give me some advice?

Yours, Mavis Coconut

Dear Mavis,

The trick is to know exactly what all the starts are for every method that you learn. There are no short cuts. You also need to know that running in, out or making the bob mean that you end up as 2nd's, 3rd's or 4th's place bells respectively and that what you do afterwards depends on the works of the bells that start from Rounds in these positions. "But the method always changes at a single" I hear you say. Doesn't matter. If you make 3rds you will be 3rd's place bell and if you make 4th's

you will 4th's place bell. What you do afterwards depends only on what the 3rd or 4th normally do when starting from Rounds.

If the touch is correctly called the change of method will be called at handstroke. This will usually be at the handstroke following the calling of any bobs or singles. Ring the first method (including any calls) for the next backstroke, which is the first blow of the new method. The first blow that might be different from what it would have been without the change of method is the next handstroke.

Aunt Sally

Aunt Sally likes nothing better than other people's problems - so if you have any ringing questions or difficulties that need the advice of a wise old lady, send them in care of the address on Page 8. Anonymity is guaranteed unless you choose otherwise - Ed.

Saved by the Bell - History from the 1500s

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a 'bone-house' and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realised they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the 'graveyard shift') to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be 'saved by the bell' or was considered a 'dead ringer'. Now, whoever said that History was boring!!!

Peter Harris

Late Sports Results

The Arthur Ashby Cup and the Horsley Cup are retained by Overseale and Derby Cathedral respectively.

The Derbyshire band came third of eight teams in the Tewkesbury Shield ten-bell competition.

Forthcoming Events - also check your tower notice board

9th September 7.30-9.00pm: Central District practice at Heanor.

20th September from 12.45pm: Worthington Cup competition at Derby Cathedral. Come and hear good ten-bell ringing by bands from all over the country.

4th Oct afternoon and evening: Association 8-bell striking competition and Quarterly Meeting in the Chesterfield District. Come and enjoy ringing in different towers, meet new people, enjoy a good tea and take your rightful place in the meeting. Come to part of the day if you can't come to all of it. This one is 'no name, no tea' so make sure your name is sent in if you want tea - details on the poster on your notice board.

18th October: Association Training Day - an opportunity for teaching and lots of practice. Check your notice board for details.

9th-16th November: Central District quarter-peal week.

15th November: Southern District quarter-peal day.

Contributions for the next issue please to Elizabeth Heaton
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