

STRIKE NOTES

Issue 80, February 2009

Central and Southern Districts' news, information and trivia

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Welcome to New Members

Since the last Strike Notes, we have welcomed several new members in our two Districts. Here is a brief introduction from each of them. Look out for a chance to say 'hello' if you meet them anywhere.

Ashbourne: Deborah Rogers

I started learning to ring in April 2005. We had recently moved house, and I thought it would be a good way to meet new people. And I did - the members of our tower are lovely. I'm not progressing particularly well, because my work commitments and activities don't always leave me with much time. However, I plan I keep learning as long as the rest of the tower will have me.

Ashbourne: Lorna Short

I started learning to ring just over two years ago. My husband and I joined together, for something new to do. Trust us to choose a tower with a massive rope drop and full visibility to the congregation!! I have been amazed at how involved ringing is and how long it takes 'rope sight' to develop but I am on my way now thanks to a very patient Tower Captain (Kath) and ringers around me who are always supportive and ready to add humour to any anxious moments. If I could only master Bob Doubles, ringing up, ringing down...

Brailsford: Linda Sharpe

We're new to the village and I answered an advertisement to get involved in the pantomime. Mary asked if there was anything else I'd like to do. I often used to stand and listen to the bells, so I tried ringing. I thought it was going to be really easy - just a question of pulling the rope. Now,

18 months later, I'm hooked. I love it. Every time I move on by just a little tiny bit I get even more excited. I've not got ropesight yet, but I think I'm starting to. The ringers are lovely - so supportive...

Melbourne: Avril Harrison

We've lived in Melbourne nearly two years. Somebody in church said come and see the ringing. I did, and had a go and was hooked. I'm gradually getting the hang of it. It's good that there are three of us at nearly the same stage. The ringers are good company. Bob and Ruth are wonderfully patient and generous with their advice. I'm a churchgoer but it had never occurred to me to ring bells. I'm glad I discovered it.

Melbourne: Margaret Brackenbury

I retired a couple of years ago and had some time on my hands. I've always enjoyed listening to the bells and I knew Bob and Ruth and was going to social events with the ringers. I asked Bob, "Is it very difficult?" You know Bob: he said, "Not at all!" - so I had a go and got hooked. We do loads of social stuff in the Melbourne band. I enjoy the bellringing and feel I'm beginning to get there, and I now ring on Sunday evenings.

Melbourne: Ann Hammond

When I moved up here I found a handbell group and joined it. When I saw tower bells being rung I thought, "I'd love to have a go on them", so I did. I find it a great confidence-booster. It's more difficult than I thought; I thought you would just pull the rope and it would go 'dong'. I've just started on call changes. You really have to concentrate. As a churchgoer but not that regular, I thought it's something I could do for the church. The company's so good: friendly, nice, patient...

Marchington:

Margaret and Tony Wragg

We started ringing in 1973 in Marchington as a result of a bellringing stand at a 'parents' pastime evening' at our son's school. Later we started going to other practices too, to learn more. The Marchington band was keen for us to go because what we learned would help the band.

Later we moved to Yorkshire and joined a good band at Beverley and District. We taught a band from scratch at Hutton, with help from other Beverley and District ringers. They're still ringing.

In 2000 we came back here and took up where we left off.

Southern District ADM

Southern District held its ADM on Saturday 17th January 2009, at Ilkeston, preceded by ringing at Stanton by Dale and West Hallam. The service was conducted by the Revd Allan Brown and the organ was played by Ian Massey, one of the Ilkeston ringers. Included in the service was a hymn by Canon H D Rawsley, a founder member of the National Trust, written to celebrate the dedication of a new tower, peal of bells and clock at Egremont parish church in 1902. Sung to the familiar tune *Austria* the words, though dated, gave cause for reflection about the changes brought about by a century of human experiences.

The tea was splendidly organised by Susan Rhodes, and was consumed after the singing of the Doxology, ably led by the District Ringing Master. The meeting which followed was attended by 29 people. One major item of business was introduced by the Chairman, who expressed his concern about the casual approach to the election of new members to the Association. After some discussion it was agreed that normally there should be four occasions through the year when such elections could be held, coinciding with formal District events. These meetings would be properly prepared and recorded and, though brief in duration, should reflect the dignity and formality of the occasion. One such meeting would be the ADM and it was then for the Committee to decide on the other dates. There are also general Association events when such elections could happen, so the overall result would be little change in the number of opportunities throughout the year.

The meeting then elected the following persons to the Committee, and Alec gave notice that after several years' service as Ringing Master he intends to stand down at the next ADM:

Chairman:	Rod Pearson
District Ringing Master:	Alec Humphrey
District Secretary:	Emma Chillingworth
General Committee:	Roger Lawson and Paul Lynch
District Committee:	Susan Rhodes, Ruth Smith and Elizabeth Heaton
Education Committee members:	John Heaton and Nick Daines
Bells Advisory Committee member:	David Marshall

Central District ADM

Central District's ADM took place on Saturday 10th January. Afternoon ringing was at Morley, Breadsall and at Duffield prior to the service, tea and Meeting there. The Service was presided over by Rev. Mark Pickles and the organ was played by Gill Heaton, wife of Luke our Ringing Master. After demonstrating her musical skill, Gill went on to show equal skill in the cooking department by providing an excellent hot meal for everyone (with lots of help, of course, from Luke, Peri, Tilly and Erin as well as Linda, Beryl and Chris).

The meeting was attended by 30 people and followed the usual format, the main purpose being the election of officers for the year - although a secondary purpose of having a sociable time with good friends is also worth mentioning. There was also a first quarter peal certificate for Sam Jopp; he rang his first quarter during the quarter peal week in November, at the early age of twelve years. The new Committee is as follows:-

Chairman:	Steve Harpham
District Ringing Master:	Luke Heaton
District Secretary:	No election made
General Committee:	Sue Peach and Mike Willis
District Committee:	Jenny Booth and Chris Willis
Education Committee members:	Gill Hughes and Keith Baines
Bells Advisory Committee member:	Chris Booth

Forthcoming Events - also check your tower notice board

12th February, Advanced Twelve-Bell Practice, Melbourne, 7.30-9pm.

21st February, Association Annual Dinner, Mackworth Hotel, Derby.

7th March, Central District Striking Contest Heats at Denby.

12th March, Advanced Twelve-Bell Practice at Melbourne, 7.30-9pm.

21st March, Southern District Striking Contest Heats, Sawley, 2.30.

23rd April, Advanced Twelve-Bell Practice at Melbourne, 7.30-9pm.

24th April, Southern District Quiz Night, Ockbrook

25th April, Association AGM - lots of ringing, tea, meeting....

9th May, Striking Contest Finals: Horsley and Denby (TBC).

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