



Clappertrappings



Newsletter of the North Staffordshire Association of Change Ringers
Three's a crowd, so two crowds make a six-bell team.

www.nsacr.org.uk

June 2005



Not really room to squeeze much of an editorial into this issue. There's just so much going on! With a successful quarter peal week and party behind us, a six-bell striking contest to come, and various other events either past or before us on which to report, there seems no need to make further comment here. There is, it appears, no rest for the ... ringers of North Staffordshire. Long may it thus continue.

PS Oh, just one thing, though. Does anyone have a contact in the peal board manufacturing industry? If so, could you let me have their number, please. I'd be particularly interested in any "Buy one, get one free" offers that may be running.

Forthcoming Events

Saturday Meetings:

2nd July: Walking meeting, with ringing at Denstone (4) and Alton (8). Meet at Alton church for 2:00 pm departure. We will walk to Denstone (2.5 miles) with ringing at Denstone 3:00-3:45. The return walk will be a different route (3 miles), with ringing at Alton 4:30-5:00 before tea, and 6:00-7:30 after tea. Both routes are gentle walks, mostly on the level. Those who don't want to walk both ways can organise leaving/sharing cars for one leg of the trip. Last year's walk was a great success, the best supported meeting of the year and a hard act to follow. This year's is inevitably a bit less spectacular, but still well worth while. We look forward to seeing you. Book teas by June 28th with Alan and Wendy Walters, 01538 XXXXXX, or e-mail teas.



6th August: There is eight-bell training in the afternoon, followed by get-your-own food and drink and evening ringing at Stafford 6:30-8:30. Contact Frank Beech (01785 XXXXXX, e-mail education) about the training.

Tuesday Daytime Band:

21st June:

Newcastle (12)	[SJ846461]	11:00 - 12:00
Whitmore (6)	[SJ810410]	1:45 - 2:30
Keele, St John (6)	[SJ810452]	2:45 - 3:30

19th July:

At the time of going to press, Wirksworth (8) [SK287539] has been booked, provisionally from 11:00 until 12:15. Other towers for the day are yet to be finalised. For the latest on TDB activities contact Marian (e-mail tdb or Tel. 01785 XXXXXX).

Are you, as you read this, ...

seated on a grassy hummock beneath some ancient yew, surrounded perhaps by sleeping "rude forefathers of the hamlet" (Does Ed mean the Stone band are entering after all? - *Deputy Ed*) and honing your listening skills by concentrating on the well struck notes emanating from the church tower close by?

If so, you must be at Bucknall, taking part in or simply enjoying the six-bell striking contest. (This piece assumes clement weather - equally possibly you are hunched on an unrelenting pew, listening to the sound of bells accompanied by the stormy pattering of raindrops on stained glass.)

Whatever your situation, you have the advantage over us of knowing which teams are competing, and how they are acquitting themselves. For ourselves, we can only continue to speculate. Will one of those two mighty giants, Stafford or Eccleshall, continue to grasp the Anderson Trophy in their iron grip, as they have between them thus far into the millennium? Or perhaps past masters Keele, Gnosall or Stoke will rise once more to topple them. Will Rolleston succeed in their bid to knock local inferior (Superior - *Deputy Ed*) rivals Stretton into the proverbial cocked hat, or were their desperate attempts to muster a team so to do, ultimately in vain? Will the Borrett Cup continue its lengthy sojourn in the East, or is there a North Western star-turn team in the ascent?

Doubtless, by the time the "curfew tolls the knell" of the close of that early June day, all will be revealed. For now, as the musing continues, it may confidently be said that every North Staffs tower which has managed to field a team, is already a winner of sorts. Well struck good wishes for success go out to all taking part.

Is September 17th in your diary?

Ringin', Ale, Food and Skittles.
Full details in the August edition of *Clappertrappings*.

That was a week, that was! (Well 8 days actually, but who's counting?)

Phew! It's now almost four weeks since the newly styled quarter peal week began, and, the dust having only now begun to settle from that time of frenetic activity, it is becoming clear that the event was a resounding success. It had naturally been hoped that the extended time now available for arranging quarter peals, coupled with a few administrative changes, would encourage greater participation, but it was still a fairly anxious time for the organisers as the return of completed forms was awaited. However, as can be seen below, the worries were unfounded.

First of all, let the statistics speak for themselves. 19 towers hosted a total of 29 successful quarter peals, which comprised 12 doubles, 8 minor, 3 triples, 5 major, and one maximus, in a combined total of 37,162 changes. These wonders were performed by 84 people, which is a whopping 25% of the association membership. There were 11 different conductors, 6 first quarter pealers, 9 other firsts, and 251,288 dongs (excluding ringing up and down, rounds, and false starts). Confusingly, there were even two quarter peals, one of minor and one of doubles, in the same tower, on the same day, and at the same time, both starting at 6:30. In comparison to the number of quarters rung in recent years (8 in 2004, 11 in 2003, 10 in 2002, 7 in 2001) these figures are more than encouraging, and confirm the success of the enterprise.

The party on the evening of Saturday 7th May was similarly brilliant, not so much in a number crunching, but in a good food munching kind of way, with excellent company in delightful surroundings. Only one member of the group appeared unimpressed, and frankly bored with the proceedings, but as he simply fell fast asleep in his tiny rocking chair, nobody minded. (I think Ed is referring to Isaac here, not to Chris – *Deputy Ed*)

We must express our thanks to the following: To Kath and Chris for their generous hospitality; to Ant for designing the forms; to Scott for arranging the helpers and Saturday quarters, and for collating it all afterwards; to the helpers who went out to support and augment local bands; and to all 84 people who took part on the end of a rope and helped to make quarter peal week 2005 such an enjoyable, successful and memorable one.

Keele (St John), May 1st, 1260 Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles: Ben Hockenhull 1, Ruth Eagle 2, Phil Gay (C) 3, Rowena Gay 4, Steve Mellor 5, Dan Viggars 6. Rung to welcome the Bishop of Lichfield to the church's anniversary festival.

Eccleshall, May 1st, 1264 Plain Bob Major: Kath Adams 1, Jan Hine 2, Tony Whittall 3, John Bradshaw 4, Tim Hine 5, Frank Beech 6, Jenny Beech 7, Chris Adams (C) 8.

First Quarter Peal Congratulations

- 🔔 Jane Gardiner, ringing the treble to Bob Doubles at Keele.
- 🔔 Mary Scott, covering to three Doubles methods at Whitmore.
- 🔔 John Maddison, covering to Bob Doubles at Keele.
- 🔔 Isobell Fenton, trebling to Bob Doubles at Horton.
- 🔔 Sam Boam, trebling to mixed Doubles at Winhill.
- 🔔 Lynne Grant, ringing the treble to Bob Doubles at Sandon.

Stafford, May 1st, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Gethin Hine 1, Tim Hine 2, Fred Hulme 3, Rob Harris (1st triples inside) 4, Margaret Jones 5, Nigel Horritt 6, Selwyn Jones (C) 7, Denis Owen 8. Rung as a wedding anniversary compliment to Mr and Mrs PE and PM Hine.

Barton under Needwood, May 1st, 1260 Plain Bob Minor: Steve Cooke 1, Jill Rogers 2, Lee Cooke 3, Ant Allen (C) 4, Rod Glover 5, Scott Wheaver 6.

Broughton, May 2nd, 1280 London S Major: Mike Wilshaw (C) 1, Tim Hine 2, Jenny Beech 3, Kath Adams 4, Frank Beech 5, Margaret Jones 6, Selwyn Jones 7, Chris Adams 8.

Keele (St John), May 2nd, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Jane Gardiner (1st quarter) 1, Phil Gay (C) 2, Rowena Gay 3, Tim Hine 4, Chris Adams 5, Kath Adams 6.

Whitmore, May 2nd, 1260 Doubles (3m): Phil Gay 1, Kath Adams 2, Tim Hine 3, Rowena Gay 4, Chris Adams (C) 5, Mary Scott (1st quarter) 6.

Keele (St John), May 2nd, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Phil Gay (C) 1, Rowena Gay 2, Sue Maddison 3, Peter Jones 4, Steve Mellor 5, John Maddison (1st quarter) 6.

Seighford, May 3rd, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Heather C Eyre 1, Ann Hodgkins 2, Mary Clifford 3, Yvonne Pynenburg 4, Chris Adams (C) 5, Yvonne C Rawsthorne 6.

Horton, May 3rd, 1500 Plain Bob Doubles: Isobell Fenton (1st quarter at 1st attempt) 1, Keith Swingewood 2, Penny Lawton 3, Rob Barcroft 4, Scott Wheaver (C) 5, Malcolm Cartlidge 6.

Stretton, May 3rd, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Sarah Leverington 1, Ant Allen 2, Jill Rogers 3, Richard Gibson (C) 4, Lee Cooke 5, Janet Royall 6. First not covering for Sarah Leverington. First covering for Janet Royall.

Stoke, May 3rd, 1250 Yorkshire S Major: Vilma P Pugh 1, J G Burton 2, B Margaret Burton 3, Helen Brown 4, B J Ongley 5, Wendy Daw 6, K Brown 7, R H Daw (C) 8.

Keele (Woodlands), May 4th, 1260 Stedman Triples: Ralph Mitchell 1, Norman Sherratt 2, Peter Jones 3, Ray Ballard 4, Dennis Latham 5, Phil Gay 6, Michael Wilshaw (C) 7, Paul Atkins 8.

Madeley, May 4th, 1296 Cambridge S Minor: Frank Beech 1, Dave Simpson 2, Penny Lawton (1st of surprise) 3, Jenny Beech 4, Phil Wood 5, Scott Weaver (C) 6.

Winshill, May 4th, 1260 Reverse Canterbury, Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles: Samantha Boam (1st quarter) 1, Ant Allen 2, Lee Cooke 3, Patrick Devine 4, Richard Gibson (C) 5, David Mitchell 6.

Stone, May 5th, 1344 St Clement's Major: Glenda Rowley 1, Alan Dutton 2, Frank Beech 3, Jenny Beech 4, Phil Gay (C) 5, Bill Harris 6, Bill Deason 7, David Simpson 8.

Keele (St John), May 5th, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Ralph Mitchell 1, Phil Gay (C) 2, Elizabeth Bladen-Hovell 3, Rowena Gay 4, Steve Mellor 5, Ben Hockenhull 6. For Ascension Day service.

Rolleston on Dove, May 5th, 1260 Plain Bob, St Martins, St Simons, April Day, Reverse Canterbury and Grandsire Doubles: Steve Cooke 1, Lee Cooke 2, Richard Gibson 3, Scott Weaver 4, Ant Allen (C) 5, Stewart Bannister 6. Rung for Ascension Day. Earliest quarter peal by all (6:30am).

Rolleston on Dove, May 5th, 1260 Plain Bob Minor: Stewart Bannister 1, Ray Daw 2, Lee Cooke 3, Colin Whieldon 4, Scott Weaver 5, Ant Allen (C) 6. First trebling to minor by Stewart Bannister.

Keele (Woodlands), May 6th, 1320 Cambridge S Minor: Phil Gay 1, Rowena Gay 2, Antony Allen 3, Bill Harris 4, David Simpson 5, Michael Wilshaw (C) 6.

Burton on Trent (St Chad), May 6th, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Walter Soar 1, Julia Elliott (1st inside) 2, Lee Cooke 3, Ray Daw (C) 4, Antony Allen 5, Stewart Bannister 6.

Sandon, May 6th, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Lynne Grant (1st quarter) 1, Jean Nixon 2, Jan Hine 3, Jim Nixon 4, Tim Hine (C) 5, Denis Owen 6. Birthday compliment to John Evans.

Stretton, May 6th, 1320 Kent TB Minor: Penny Lawton 1, Wendy Daw 2, Jenny Beech 3, Scott Weaver 4, Phil Wood 5, Dave Simpson (C) 6.

Madeley, May 7th, 1260 Plain Bob Minor: Wendy Daw 1, Jean Nixon 2, Rowena Gay 3, Jim Nixon 4, Tim Hine (C) 5, Scott Weaver 6. Prior to a wedding.

Eccleshall, May 7th, 1260 Plain Bob Triples: Yvonne Pynenburg 1, Frank Beech 2, Penny Lawton 3, Peter Wilshaw 4, Jenny Beech (C) 5, Phil Gay 6, Chris Adams 7, Stewart Bannister 8.

Horton, May 7th, 1296 Cambridge S Minor: Rob Barcroft 1, Lee Cooke 2, Chris Adams 3, Scott Weaver 4, Antony Allen 5, Phil Gay (C) 6.

Seighford, May 7th, 1272 Plain Bob Minor: Janet Richards 1, Frank Beech 2, Peter Wilshaw 3, Phil Wood 4, Bill Harris 5, Scott Weaver (C) 6.

Burton on Trent (St Modwen), May 7th, 1280 Plain Bob Major: Scott Weaver 1, Alan Dutton 2, Lee Cooke 3, James Went 4, Dave Simpson 5, Jenny Beech 6, Frank Beech 7, Antony Allen (C) 8.

Newcastle, May 8th, 1320 Little Bob Maximus: Jean Nixon 1, Peter Jones 2, Phil Gay 3, Mike Thomson 4, Stefan Zientek 5, Ian Friend 6, Tim Hine (C) 7, Chris Adams 8, Jim Nixon 9, Keith Brooks 10, Ralph Mitchell 11, David Friend 12. First maximus: 9, 10. First maximus as conductor.

Tell us what you think:

Use this handy tear off slip to tell the committee what you think about quarter peal week, but before you dash to the post box, turn over and give us your thoughts on something else too.

Here's what I really liked about quarter peal week 2005:

Here are my suggestions for what to do differently next year:

**Affix
Stamp
Here**

**NSA Committee Feedback Forum
C/O Lee Cooke
45 Dover Road
Burton on Trent
Staffs
DE13 0TD**

New Bishop Appointed

It was announced last month that the new Bishop of Stafford is to be the Very Revd Gordon Mursell, who is currently Dean of Birmingham. Before moving to Birmingham, he was Rector of St Mary's Stafford, and is well known to ringers in that area. His consecration as Bishop will probably take place on June 8th, followed by installation as Bishop of Stafford on July 23rd. It is not yet known where the installation will take place, but it would be good if ringing to mark the occasion could be organised in as many of our churches as possible. I would be happy to co-ordinate block publication of any such ringing if that is your wish.

Phil Gay

Congratulations

It seems like months now since I sat in the Spread at Rolleston and bandied the word "peal" across the table, but my perpetual nagging paid off in the end. On April 30th three, yes three, Rolleston ringers rang their first peal together. It was a blisteringly wonderful performance, and a magnificent achievement.

Ant Allen

Rolleston on Dove

Saturday 30th April 2005

In 3 Hrs, 5040 changes of Grandsire Triples

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Steven J Cooke | 5. Alan S Burbidge (C) |
| 2. Christopher Adams | 6. Scott Weaver |
| 3. Philip W Gay | 7. Antony J Allen |
| 4. Lee Cooke | 8. Stewart Bannister |

Composition by J. J. Parker

First peal by Steve Cooke,
Stewart Bannister and Lee Cooke
50th Peal on the bells

April ringing

Another successful training meeting took place in April, this time at St Mary's, Stretton. The students were working on ringing inside to Bob Doubles, and also in trebling to this method. Andrew Thomson from Rolleston had his first try at covering to a touch, and all were agreed that they benefited from the morning's tuition.

Thanks go, as always, to the helpers, some of whom travelled a fair distance to assist, and of course to Frank Beech for organising and running the session.

The afternoon ringing meeting at Barton-under-Needwood did not enjoy a high turnout, but enough were there to allow touches of Stedman, Grandsire and Plain Bob Triples, Original Minor, and Call Change Triples (!) to be rung, giving an enjoyable and worthwhile couple of hours for those able to attend.

For the next issue

Do you have an article for publication? The deadline for inclusion in the August edition is 18th July. Please send your *Clappertrappings* submissions to:

Lee Cooke,
45 Dover Road,
Burton on Trent,
Staffs,
DE13 0TD

Tel:
01283 561444

E-mail:
newsletter



Frank left his fancy hats at home for fear that an April shower might be in store. And what a shower he found!

NSA 125

The North Staffs Association of Change Ringers will be celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2007. The committee have already received two suggestions for ways to mark this illustrious occasion. Please give us your thoughts on these, and add further suggestions of your own, on this double sided and equally handy tear off slip.

- A ringing trip in North Devon, including a trip to Lundy Island.
- Recruit and retain 125 new Association members.
- Add your ideas here:

Yes, Minster!

On Tuesday 17th May, a special service was held at St Peter ad Vincula, Stoke upon Trent for the Inauguration of the church as Stoke Minster by The Right Rev Jonathan Gledhill, Bishop of Lichfield in the presence of The Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of the City of Stoke on Trent, Councillor Karamat Ali. There was a large congregation of over 500, including the Archdeacon of Stoke (Rev Godfrey Stone), the Rural Dean, a former Rector of Stoke (Canon Edgar Ruddock), several clergy from local churches of other faiths and denominations, children from local schools, representatives from local trade and industry, and many parishioners.

After the service, some of the ringers helped to serve refreshments of a finger buffet and a glass of wine. The bell ringers had also been actively involved over several weeks before the great occasion in the work of preparation. This included organising working parties for the removal of accumulated rubbish (including the vandalised fence around the old Rectory garden), extensive cleaning of pews, plaques and memorials, building a new storage area in the south porch and laying replacement carpet tiles in the north porch.

The designation of St Peter's as a Minster is a way of the Church affirming its importance in the city of Stoke on Trent and is also recognition of the part played by the faith communities in the everyday life of a modern city. Prior to the Inauguration service, we rang a quarter peal in a new method (composed by Ray Daw) which we have named Stoke Minster Bob Triples. Most appropriately, the new method is an adaptation of an existing method called St Peter's Bob Triples.

Ray Daw

St Peter ad Vincula, Stoke on Trent

Tuesday 17 May

A Quarter Peal of 1260 changes
in a new method to be called
Stoke Minster Bob Triples.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Vilma P Pugh | 5. Wendy Daw |
| 2. J Geoffrey Burton | 6. Ken Brown |
| 3. B Margaret Burton | 7. Raymond H Daw (C) |
| 4. Helen Brown | 8. Dennis B Owen |

Rung in 46 minutes

Centenary at Kingsley

When we rang at Kingsley at the start of the walking meeting last July, some of us (That's a royal "us" – *Deputy Ed*) spent time when we were not ringing looking at the impressive array of peal boards in the ringing chamber. One, which caught the eye for several reasons, was a 5760 rung in 1905 - the Association's longest peal at that time. Somewhat surprisingly, it was in seven methods, with the final two extents both Kent. One can't help speculating why a band which was obviously capable of ringing eight methods should

choose to ring eight extents in seven methods. Anyone who would like to suggest an explanation should send it for inclusion in the next issue. Some of us thought this was a centenary worth commemorating, and we met at Kingsley on May 20th to attempt a repeat performance. Given the unfamiliarity of some of the methods, the peal was relatively uneventful, and at exactly nine o'clock the bells came into rounds for the final time. Not the longest peal for all of the band – Michael Wilshaw had rung a 6000 of Bob Major in his youth (is there a story to that?), and several had rung longer in time, but still a significant achievement.

The original peal has a footnote which we were unable to emulate: the band were all born within a mile of Kingsley church. The best we could do was four born within the county, with two who are probably still regarded as incomers.

Phil Gay

North Staffs Association Kingsley, St Werburgh

Friday May 20th 2005, in 3 hours 27

5760 Changes of Treble Dodging Minor.

7 methods: One extent each of Violet TB, College Exercise TB, Superlative S, London S, Woodbine D, Oxford TB; Two extents of Kent TB.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Lee Cooke | 4. Scott Wheaver |
| 2. Michael Wilshaw | 5. Philip W Gay (C) |
| 3. Alan P Walters | 6. Antony J Allen |

Rung to commemorate the centenary of a similar peal, and as a thanksgiving for the lives and contributions to Kingsley ringing of Bill Edwards and Joe Mosley.

Also to mark the tenth anniversary of the induction of Revd Preb Lawrence Price as Rector.

Well Struck

Some people think that striking competitions are a bore, others that they are (as in football with the late Mr Shankly) more important than life and death. Your correspondent, having learnt to ring in Devon, is reminded of the song *The Bell Ringing*, describing the feats of the men of Northlew. This ditty evokes a time when prize ringing was the thing. Certainly the prize was quite a biggy, and Northlew were very hard to beat. Is there any equivalent band in Staffordshire, away from the land of cream and cider? While quite a lot of the NSA regard striking competitions as a bit of fun, who has won most competitions?



Well, Stafford might be a candidate. They have taken the six-bell shield home on no fewer than ten occasions since 1973, and the eight-bell also nine times since that shield started

life in 1979. Eccleshall have also achieved similarly in 7 years on each shield. Stoke won both in 1983 and Kidsgrove did this in 1988. Stafford and Eccleshall have each won the double in four years.

So are there just the big bands in dominant position? It is true that Eccleshall and Stafford have managed to get their names between them (counting October 1995 when they were joint winners of the 8 bell) onto the shields a total of 34 times. However Keele, Gnosall, Stoke and Newcastle all have honourable mentions, along with Tunstall and Madeley ringers.

There is also a cup for recognising the most improvement, and recent winners of that have included Stone, St Modwen's Burton, Stretton, and Rolleston.

Spare a thought for the judge when you next come to a striking competition. Having once judged one (one of the bands had a certain Mr Wratten in it!) your contributor can confirm that it is quite nerve jangling trying to decide what is what.

Stafford Scribbler
(Totally unbiased reporter, AKA Chairman Hine)

Brief Brain Bender

Which set of bells in the North Staffs Association has most recently been augmented from six to eight by the addition of two tenors?

Tip: No retuning was necessary, and none of the bells have been hung, Daw'd or quartered.

Find the answer on www.nsacr.org.uk



Letters to the Editor

Dear Aunt Tail-End,

I've just received an e-mail from the web editor saying I've won the April online competition, and I can claim my prize at the next meeting. I am amazed that my effort was considered the best of the myriad of entries, and I'm looking forward to receiving my prize. Is it awarded at a presentation ceremony and do I get a congratulatory kiss from the association's Chairman?

Caption Queen

PS I have looked at the new competition and it looks a bit hard to me!

Dear Miss Caption,

Well done. You deserved to win. And yes, the first prize is indeed a big slobbery kiss from our dear leader, Chairman Hine. The second prize was going to be two of the aforementioned moist salutations, but unfortunately we have been unable to persuade any of the entrants to accept this watery accolade. Would you be able to take delivery of both prizes?



Aunt Tail-End.

PS For assistance in tackling the current competition I recommend the all new, "powered by google", site search feature. I found it very handy indeed!



Puzzle Corner

Cryptic Tens and Twelves

Taken from "A Peal of Puzzles", and reproduced in the April edition of *Clappertrappings*, clues all identified a UK town or city, each being the home to a peal of 10 or 12 bells. Answers are shown below:

Twelve bell clues:

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Deer going rapidly: | Buckfast |
| 2. Adam's mate's bacon: | Evesham |
| 3. Go on horseback to the interment: | Canterbury |
| 4. Take trouble to a place in northern Scotland: | Painiswick |
| 5. Ancient pork: | Oldham |
| 6. Not an old harbour: | Newport |
| 7. Flogging a heavy weight: | Birchington |
| 8. A modern fort: | Newcastle |
| 9. Not a northern source of water: | Southwell |
| 10. A knight with a large number of boats: | Surfleet |

Ten bell clues:

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. This is the place to cross the stream: | Hereford |
| 2. A fruit which is very heavy: | Appleton |
| 3. A servant with a hard piece of rock: | Maidstone |
| 4. Store some dark red wine: | Stockport |
| 5. Not a northern entrance: | Southgate |
| 6. A prohibition, but he is in good health: | Banwell |
| 7. A pit with a leader: | Minehead |
| 8. Hurried to secure the boat: | Ranmoor |
| 9. They might provide oil or water: | Wells |
| 10. It could be the Welsh national symbol: | Leek |