



# Clappertrappings



Newsletter of the North Staffordshire Association of Change Ringers  
Peace on earth and good striking to all bands.

[www.nsacr.org.uk](http://www.nsacr.org.uk)

December 2005



Christmas is almost here, the season of goodwill, and we wish all of our readers a merry and peaceful one. 2005 has, like most years, held events of both sadness and joy within its twelve months. As the bells throughout the land ring out the old and ring in the new, let us all move on together to enjoy the opportunities, and to face the challenges, that 2006 will doubtless also bring.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
Lee

## Forthcoming Events

### Saturday Meetings

**7<sup>th</sup> Jan 2006:** There will be an eight bell training session at Draycott in the Moors, followed by a pub lunch. Afternoon ringing is at Church Leigh (6), 2:30 to 4:30pm. At the time of writing our new Education Officer has not yet been elected so I can't tell you who to contact for January's training session. If you're not at the AGM then check out the NSA web page ([www.nsacr.org.uk](http://www.nsacr.org.uk)) during December for more details.

**4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2006:** Three towers of Eastern Promise. First off we go to Rangemore (5) from 2:30 to 3:30pm, followed by Hoar Cross (6) from 3:30 until 5pm. After that there's a ringers' tea, with ringing from 6:30 till 8:30pm to finish, at an as yet undetermined location. Check the Ringing World, or our web site, in January for final confirmation.

### Tuesday Daytime Band

#### 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2005:

Uttoxeter (8) [SK093334] 11:00 - 12:15  
Marchington (6) [SK138308] 2:00 - 3:15

#### 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2006:

Albrighton\* (8) [SJ809044] 11:00 - 12:15  
Shifnal\* (8) [SJ747075] 2:00 - 3:00

\* To be confirmed

For the latest on TDB activities contact Marian Owen, xxxxx xxxxxx or e-mail tdb.

## Suitably Fine Nosh



When reflecting upon this year's NSA Dinner, the words resounding and success spring instantly to mind. The Fitzherbert Arms at Swynnerton was an excellent choice of venue, and the Celebration Menu offered a delicious and varied selection of dishes. An

interesting and informative talk on the merging of the two companies, Taylors, and Eayre and Smith, was given by the guest speaker Andrew Higson, a director of that recently spliced enterprise. And according to KA

and JN, both of whom enjoyed the bubbly and sparkling style, it was delivered with impeccable timing too. The assembled company was of the finest, and the conversation erudite, stimulating and informed. (*Which table were you sitting at? Deputy Ed.*)

For the second year in succession, all credit for this highly enjoyable evening must go to Frank and Jenny Beech. A lot of behind-the-scenes organisation had obviously taken place, to make all aspects of the event so successful. On behalf of all those who attended the dinner, may we extend a big vote of thanks to both Jenny and Frank for all their hard work.

THANK YOU, FRANK and JEN!!!

Right, who's going to organise the next one???

## Information needed

The 2006/2007 handbook is about to be produced, but before it goes to press we need to know if anything has changed. Could someone from each tower please check the details in the 2005 handbook, and send any amendments to Jeff Pearson (xxxxx xxxxxx or e-mail handbook). This is for tower contact details and ringing times only - changes in membership must go via the treasurer as usual. The deadline for publication is December 24<sup>th</sup>.



We would also be delighted to hear from anyone wishing to advertise in the 2006 handbook. Prices are very reasonable, with full page, half and quarter options available. Particularly suitable adverts are those which may appeal to visiting ringers - pubs, B&Bs etc.

### Need an extra copy?

This and other recent editions of *Clappertrappings* are available for download from our web site:

[www.nsacr.org.uk](http://www.nsacr.org.uk)

Download editions also contain more colour than their photocopied and distributed equivalent.

## 250 Peals at Broughton

On Friday 14th October a peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major was rung making it the 250th peal rung at Broughton. After 3 previous attempts of trying to ring London S Major then Stedman Triples it was decided to go for something slightly easier. Michael Wilshaw conducted it and he chose a musical composition of Yorkshire by Michael Bruce with split tenors. The band comprised some of the people who have rung in most of the peals in the past 25 years or so.

I thought it would be interesting/astounding/boring, depending on one's interest in these things, to use the Staffordshire Peals database to compile some statistics. They are not comprehensive and are subject to my ability to count.

The first peal rung at Broughton was Grandsire Triples on 13th May 1922 by the Shropshire Association. It wasn't until 28th November 1931 that the first peal was rung by the North Staffs Association: Oxford Treble Bob Major conducted by Charles Page. The busiest decade for the tower was the 1990s when 75 peals were rung. Due to the war years, only 1 peal was rung in the 1940s. Surprisingly, only 5 peals have been rung in the 2000s. The total number rung for the North Staffs Association is 155.

The most prolific conductor at Broughton, by far, is Brian Burrows conducting 48 peals, including one of 23 spliced S Major all the work. Barnabas Key is next having conducted 23 peals followed by Selwyn Jones (19), Michael Wilshaw (17), Frank Morton (16), Tim Davies (14), Arthur Pritchard (8) and Chris Adams and Norman Sherratt 6 apiece.

The commonest method is Grandsire Triples, being rung 26 times. There have been 37 peals of spliced surprise major, including 13 of 8-spliced. Yorkshire is the most common single surprise major method at 18, followed by London, Cambridge and Rutland, all at 15. Stedman Triples comes next at 14. Broughton Surprise Major was

### World Wide Web Wanderings

It goes without saying that every member of our readership is thoroughly au fait with our own web site, [www.nsacr.org.uk](http://www.nsacr.org.uk), but why not check out the local competition too?

- 🔔 The Derby Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers: [derbyda.org.uk](http://derbyda.org.uk)
- 🔔 Lichfield & Walsall Archdeaconries Society of Change Ringers: [www.lwascr.org.uk](http://www.lwascr.org.uk)
- 🔔 Chester Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers: [www.chesterdg.org.uk](http://www.chesterdg.org.uk)
- 🔔 Shropshire Association of Church Bellringers: [www.sacr.org.uk](http://www.sacr.org.uk)

run for the first time in 1991. In 1989, to honour the Ven John Delight, the president of the Association at the time, a new method, Archdeacon Delight Major, was named and rung to a peal for the first time. He was presented with a framed copy of the peal at the annual dinner. (He was, of course, delighted).

The combined total of peals rung by the band for the 250th peal is 518 (*I think Selwyn means 519, but who's counting? Ed*) and the total number of peals rung by each person at Broughton is indicated in brackets in the details below. Other ringers who amassed significant numbers of peals rung there are Brian Burrows (61), Fred Wilshaw (38) and Norman Sharp (31).

### Broughton, St Peter

Friday October 14, 2005

5056 Yorkshire Surprise Major in 2hr45

Comp: Michael Bruce

- |                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Margaret Jones (103)     | 5. David J Baskerville (38) |
| 2. Michael Wilshaw (C) (66) | 6. Selwyn G Jones (104)     |
| 3. Philip W Gay (83)        | 7. Ralph B Mitchell (70)    |
| 4. Timothy C Hine (23)      | 8. Andrew W Gordon (32)     |

### 250th peal on the bells

The band would like to associate the peal with Chris Adams (36) and Tim Davis (22) who rang in previous attempts of the 250th peal. Peal totals at Broughton for each person shown in brackets.

*Selwyn Jones*

### First Quarters

Congratulations to Andrew Thomson of Rolleston, and Matthew Boam of Winhill & St Modwen's Burton, who rang their first quarters in recent weeks. Andrew trebled to mixed doubles on Sunday 23rd October, and Matt covered to mixed doubles on Sunday 20th November.



Do you know of anyone else who has recently rung their first quarter? Perhaps you know of a peal or other piece of special ringing to celebrate some landmark or event that has taken place in your area. We will be happy to print details of any such ringing. Please send details by post, phone, or e-mail. (newsletter)

### LDMB Bookings

Paul Lewis has taken over from Marian Owen as the new co-ordinator for Lichfield Diocesan Mobile Belfry bookings. Paul can be contacted on xxxxx xxxxxx or e-mail pro at the Shropshire e-mail domain.

## Dave Simpson rings at Church Stretton

At work one day I was calculating how many more days until retirement. My disappointment at finding this was only one day less than when I had carried out the same calculation on the previous day was alleviated by receipt of an email dictated by Kath Adams to her typist which invited me to a bellringing outing to Shropshire.

My delight at the invitation was tempered by the knowledge that there would be no relaxing call changes on this trip because this had been arranged for members of the



Broughton Surprise Major Practice band following unsubtle hints from our leader David "Three credits bricklayer" Simpson that he would like to ring at Church Stretton.



For my chauffeur and myself the outing started on Friday with an enjoyable but wet walk around the delightful town of Ludlow. Delightful that is except for the public toilets where a disembodied woman threatens the unwary with an unintelligible fate should they dare to linger longer than 30 seconds. Lunch at De Grey's prompted the chauffeur to remark that a black dress with frilly white apron and cap should be compulsory dress for serving all lunches but he seemed slightly less keen when I pointed out that serving lunch was usually his job!



After meeting up with Kath and the typist we took part in the Trafalgar Day ringing at Church Stretton after which two of the local ringers entertained us with a politically correct rendition of the events of two hundred years ago. The evening was rounded off by an excellent meal in a posh restaurant.



The following morning the first tower of the day was Much Wenlock. The locals here are not only blessed with a wonderful ring of bells and a picturesque town but a butchers shop which is so popular that customers were seen queuing down the street!

The next tower was Stanton Lacy. Here Hazel Wilshaw was trying to convince us that it was the ability to stand on one leg, not the ability to ring spliced surprise, that determined mental agility.

Lunch was at The Lion Hotel, Leintwardine. Good food, cheap price and excellent service leave no more to be said. Leintwardine is a "scheduled village" which means that residents are not permitted to dig their gardens to a depth in excess of 3 feet for fear of

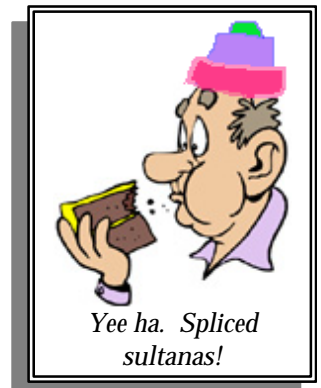


disturbing the roman remains beneath. Some ringers were alarmed at the amount of tower movement here but Paul Lewis found the rocking motion soothed him off to sleep. Jenny Beech amused herself by leaning out of the tower window attempting to photograph the bald heads of some of the ringers assembled below.

The last two towers were Wistanstow followed by Church Stretton.

If you want to know anything about the ringing on this trip you will have to ask someone else. By the time we arrived at Wistanstow my mind was numb and my brain ached so much when we returned to Church Stretton that I opted to return to Kath and the typist's flat and never actually saw the bricklayer fulfil his desire to ring at Church Stretton.

How many ringers can you seat in one flat? Quite a lot if you prevail upon the neighbours to lend you some chairs. The neighbours warmed to the task until the flat was swamped with chairs of all shapes and sizes and moving the dining table and the Shropshire contingent into the bedroom meant there was plenty of room for every one to enjoy the tea and cakes on offer. Frank Beech's favourite fruit loaf was baked by Warburtons but other delicious offerings were provided by Kath, Margaret Jones and Rowena Gay, although it will be news to Ro that her bara brith found its way to Church Stretton. By this time Hazel, somewhat miffed that the typist could stand on one leg (apparently due to wide feet!), had raised the measure of mental dexterity to standing on one leg with eyes shut whilst completing a sudoku puzzle and a cryptic crossword or some other impossible task.



A wonderful sunset which bathed the Stretton Hills in a fabulous orange glow provided a lovely end to the day.



The chauffeur and myself enjoyed Church Stretton hospitality for another day with Sunday morning ringing followed by a walk in the beautiful countryside of Ashes Hollow and a pub lunch before returning to calculating the days to retirement.

Thanks to Kath and the typist for a wonderful weekend.  
*Pat Bishop*

## Stafford do the 2005 double

Warm congratulations to the band from Stafford, who were well-struck at Tunstall and carried off the Eight-Bell Shield for a second consecutive year. Well done, too, to the ringers of Stone, Eccleshall and Burton St Modwen, who successfully fielded teams to enter this annual contest.



Why not start thinking about entering a band from your tower in next year's event. (The Six-Bell too, come to that.) It really is a case of "the more, the merrier", and, speaking from personal experience, is good fun even for those teams who, with outstanding consideration for others, nobly and selflessly place themselves somewhat towards the foot of the rankings.

Go on, give it a try why don't you?

### For the next issue ...

Do you have an article for publication?  
The deadline for inclusion in the  
February edition is Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January.

Please send your *Clappertrappings* submissions to:

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

Tel:  
01283 561444

E-mail:  
newsletter

## Time to Help?

At the Roadshow I visited the stand of the Antiquarian Horological Society, which is trying to compile a record of all the turret clocks in the country. They were giving away copies of their booklet *The Turret Clock Keeper's Handbook* to anyone who promised to fill in an information sheet on the turret clock they look after. Since I needed two copies of the sheet, I made a photocopy, and while I was at it I did several, in case anyone else out there would like to record details of their clock. Let me know if you would like a sheet.

*Phil Gay*



## 'ere, call us a touch will ya, Bob.

Many's the time when, as the rounds are beginning to settle down, someone turns to the ringer on the tenor and says, "Will you call it, please?" Of course, they've previously announced that we're ringing Plain Bob Minor, and the ringer on the second needs to practise

their bobs and will probably panic at the very hint of the S word. (That's "Single", not "Stand"!) Less than a hundred changes and it'll be too short, but more than a couple of hundred and the band will start to get impatient. 180 would be about right. So how many choices are there?

Well actually there are quite a few. Sticking to 180 changes in length, bobs only, there are exactly 50 different touches you could call. Fear not though, you only need to remember four of them, as the rest are just variations on a theme. The four basic compositions are:

Option 1:	Option 2:	Option 3:	Option 4:
Plain	Plain	Plain	Plain
Plain	Plain	Plain	Plain
Plain	Plain	Plain	Bob
Plain	Plain	Plain	Bob
Bob	Bob	Bob	Plain
Plain	Plain	Plain	Bob
Plain	Bob	Bob	Bob
Plain	Plain	Bob	Plain
Plain	Bob	Plain	Bob
Bob	Plain	Plain	Plain
Plain	Plain	Bob	Bob
Plain	Bob	Plain	Bob
Plain	Bob	Bob	Plain
Plain	Plain	Plain	Bob
Bob	Bob	Bob	Bob

Option 1 is probably very familiar – three bobs, equally spaced. As it's written here the tenor will be in 5/6 down (Home) at each bob, but by removing plain leads from the start and adding them on at the end, you can call it with any of the five working bells in the 5/6 down position. That's 5 of our 50 compositions.

Calling one of the other touches is probably best done by counting the leads as you go along, and learning the pattern of bobs and plain lead ends. Each of these three touches can be started at any of the bob or plain leads listed. Using option 3, for example, you could begin at the Bob, Plain, Bob, Bob ... and rotate the four plain leads to the end. Or, begin with Plain, Bob, Plain, Bob, Bob ... and end with three plain leads, or have two plain leads at the start and two at the end. In this way there are 15 places to begin each touch, and therefore 15 different touches. (Option 3, beginning at the 5<sup>th</sup> lead, is a mirror image of option 2, but unless you're particularly skilled at reciting your alphabet backwards, it's probably best to ignore that fact and learn them as separate touches.)

So, by remembering the four touches shown above, and starting them part way through, we have a total of 50 compositions. Five variants of option 1, and 15 each of options 2, 3 and 4. That's almost a different 180 of Plain Bob Minor for every week of the year. No repetition, two weeks off for good behaviour, and with not a single single in sight.

*Ant Allen*



## Puzzle Corner

Back in October we asked for captions to go with the back-page photograph of Phil. After a bit of prompting in various corners, the following ideas were received:



*Wendy Daw:*

🔔 Just practising.

*Louise Twigg:*

🔔 This wasn't quite what the band had in mind when they told Phil to "Lie Behind".

*Lee Cooke:*

🔔 Oh no, Phil's on the bier again!

🔔 The Phil-Officer's Stone?

🔔 I'm not sure if the Queen's here, but I've just seen Plinth Philip.

*Rebecca Last:*

🔔 Phil forgot to lie behind, so he lay down instead.

*Stewart Bannister:*

🔔 Oh no, not another "Dead Ringer"!

*Ant Allen:*

🔔 Yes Sir, I think we're almost there with the length, but we must ensure the final version is a tad taller.



Here's the judge's take on the matter:

The photo which appeared on the website was the most recent in quite a long series – whenever I see a table tomb I seem to have an irresistible urge to check it for size. Two other locations to have been captured are Edgmond and Keele. I was very impressed by both the number and quality of the suggested captions, some of which bear the hallmark of half-term pub hilarity. The entries from Wendy Daw and Ant Allen are a bit too near the bone, and of course anything which so much as hints that my method ringing is less than perfect must also be ruled out!

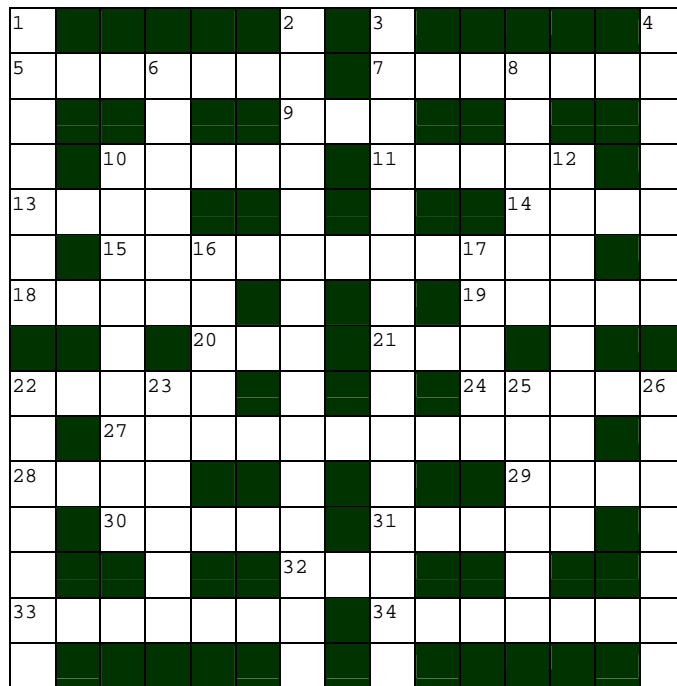
After much agonising, my decision for the prize goes to Stewart Bannister, and a suitable bottle will be presented next time I see him.



For what it's worth, my suggested caption is: Gay's Effigy in a Country Churchyard.

*Phil Gay*

**This month** we bring you a brain-taxing crossword, courtesy of Wendy and Ray Daw. We don't have the official answers yet, and we're a bit stuck with 17 down, so if anyone manages to complete the challenge, please send us your solution! As a secondary puzzle, can you identify the last clue & answer entered into the grid by the compilers? To quote one of them, "Well I know it doesn't make much sense, but if we'd changed that one, we'd have had to change the whole thing!"



### Across

5. Virtuous (7)
7. Go ahead (7)
9. One of three on the 27th December (3)
10. Ministerial rank? (5)
11. Pottery decoration (5)
13. Returning to eat her (4)
14. Drop one to keep in touch (4)
15. Cold weather travel system (4,7)
18. Non-U deputy?Written! (5)
19. Cutting edge .... (5)
20. .... But not so sharp! (3)
21. Garland (3)
22. Step round a point and keep this (5)
24. Greet a young bird (5)
27. Arrange nicer lights for a seasonal service (11)
28. Seasonally a fir (4)
29. Drug addict (4)
30. Play (5)
31. Did the penny drop? (3,2)
32. French king (3)
33. Pain in the back (7)
34. Nothing in New York is misbehaving (7)



### Down

1. An important chap (7)
2. Dickens of a tale (1,9,5)
3. Grinding label with an empty lunch is a favourite pastime (8,7)
4. Dutch painter (7)
6. Hinge or Bracket? (6)
8. Spring flowering shrub (6)
10. Dices palm arranged wrongly (9)
12. Composers teabreak (5,4)
16. Stranger (5)
17. Morning person making music (5)
22. Unsuspected danger (7)
23. Revolutionary polish for young angel (6)
25. Sticking (6)
26. Fattened for Christmas (7)