



# Clappertrappings



Newsletter of the North Staffordshire Association of Change Ringers  
*Chairmen do it in the Dead Sea!*

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

April 2006



## Clappertrappings: Where do you read yours?

### Forthcoming Events

#### Quarter Peal Week

**Sat 29<sup>th</sup> April - Sun 7<sup>th</sup> May:** Quarter peal week forms have been issued with this newsletter, and the format is identical to last year, though obviously there will be far more quarters and many many more ringers too! During the week the plan is for local bands to arrange their own quarters: whatever they like, wherever they like, and whenever they like (so long as it's roughly around April 29<sup>th</sup> to May 7<sup>th</sup>). If you haven't got quite enough ringers to make a quarter viable then don't worry, there's a space on the forms where you can ask for helpers. That also means we need volunteers who are willing to whiz out to a band-in-need and fill in that vital gap. Please make yourself available, if you can, by adding your name to the form, and don't forget to say what you can ring and when you're free. Still with it? Good!

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May there's a traditional style Quarter Peal Day intended to tempt people to try a few more advanced quarters. Firstly you're asked whether a quarter can be attempted at your home tower. Then we need a list of ringers who'd like to be included in a quarter at one of the towers, and details of what each could ring. People, places and methods will then be arranged centrally for that day's ringing. See page 2 for details of a quiz in the evening.

Please direct your questions to Ant Allen (Tel: 01283 569899, e-mail [ringingmaster@nsacr.org.uk](mailto:ringingmaster@nsacr.org.uk)) Please return your completed forms to Ant Allen, 8 Kingsmead, Stretton, Burton on Trent, Staffs, DE13

0FQ, to arrive on or before Tuesday 18th April. Extra copies of the forms can be downloaded from our web site under the events section ([www.nsacr.org.uk](http://www.nsacr.org.uk)) or obtained from Ant.

#### Six-bell Striking Competition

**Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> June:** Entries for the six-bell competition have been increasingly affected by weddings over the last few years, with the result that some bands who would like to enter have not been able to, and others are constrained with respect to the times they are able to ring. In a bold attempt to avoid such problems, we have decided to turn competition day upside down this year: there will be general ringing in the afternoon at Gnosall for those who can manage it, 3pm until 4:30, followed by tea at Seighford and the business meeting. Competitive ringing will begin at 7.00, which should give plenty of time for everybody to get there. So let's have a good turnout - wouldn't it be good to have to ask if we could ring beyond nine o'clock to accommodate all the bands! Entries and names for tea to Phil (01782 XXXXXX) please by Wednesday May 31st. Teas can also be booked by e-mail: [teas@nsacr.org.uk](mailto:teas@nsacr.org.uk)

#### Tuesday Daytime Band

##### 18<sup>th</sup> April 2006:

Repton (8)	[SK303272]	11 -	12:15
Ticknall (10)	[SK351241]	2 -	3:15

##### 16<sup>th</sup> May 2006:

Astbury (8)	[SJ846615]	11 -	12:15
Gawsworth (8)	[SJ890697]	2 -	3:15

For the latest on TDB activities contact Marian Owen, 01785 XXXXXX or e-mail [tdb@nsacr.org.uk](mailto:tdb@nsacr.org.uk)

## Association Handbook



Members should by now have received the new edition of the Association handbook. The handbook has been edited with great care and skill by Jeff Pearson for the last eight years, and he has now decided to take a well-earned rest. As a result, the committee is looking for a volunteer to take on this task. Please bear in mind that you would not be starting from scratch – all the files are available for ongoing use and the main task is to implement the amendments to the tower details and incorporate the new officers' reports. Large quantities of keyboarding are not involved. Anyone who thinks they might be willing to do this job, not necessarily for as long as eight years, is advised to speak to Jeff Pearson (01538 XXXXXX or e-mail handbook@nsacr.org.uk).

*Phil Gay*

## Handbook corrections

- Some handbooks were poorly printed on p18. Replacements are about to be ordered. If this affected your copy and you'd like it replaced please contact Phil Gay by Fri 21<sup>st</sup> April (01782 XXXXXX) or e-mail secretary@nsacr.org.uk.
- Stretton practices are held on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays, not Thursdays as published.
- The tower correspondent for Rocester should be: Mr S G Glover, 9 West View, Rocester, Staffs, ST14 5JY (01889 XXXXXX)
- Apologies to Chris Adams for the inclusion of an out of date advert for his Method Master software. The correct advertisement is shown below:

Draw & print methods in almost any format with just a few mouse clicks.

Show method statistics, falseness and copy methods to your word processor.

### METHOD MASTER 3

Now includes lots of new features like:

- Handles up to 16 bells
- Main library of over 14,000 methods
- Extensive library of bobs and singles
- Your own personal method library
- Finds new unrun methods
- Extracts inter-method falseness

Method Master 3 costs just £20 or £10 for an upgrade from:

*Chris Adams, 12 Badgers Croft,  
Eccleshall, Staffs, ST21 6DS  
(01785) XXXXXX*

For examples and an order form visit  
[www.shropshirelad.idps.co.uk](http://www.shropshirelad.idps.co.uk)

## Meetings with a theme

The theme for the ringing at Gnosall in June will be Superlative Surprise Major. Diaries out, get swotting!  
*Ant Allen*



## March '06 Meeting

A very successful New Members Meeting was held in March, with around 10 new members in attendance, as well as members of the committee and our hosts, the ringers of Stoke Minster, who also laid on a delicious tea.

The evening ringing, too, was well attended, and included, as well as the usual call changes and assorted methods, the promised opportunity to ring Cambridge and Yorkshire Royal.

All in all, an excellent day, with extremely positive feedback received, for both sessions, from several of those involved.

## Advance Notice

Annual Dinner 2006, The Crown Hotel at Stone in the ballroom, Saturday 18th November. Reserve the date in your diary now!!

This is an "early doors" note that this year's annual dinner has been moved back to its more traditional time of 18th November by popular request - and this is a Saturday. The surroundings will be the elegant ballroom at the Crown Inn, Stone. This offers a barrel vaulted ceiling and a private bar. Members of the Committee are looking forward to seeing as many of the Association and friends as possible. Comments received so far - "The barrels in the vaulted ceiling are full of real ale, right?" Reserve the date now to avoid missing this event.

*Tim Hine*

## QUIZ EVENING



**Quarter Peal Day - Saturday 6th May  
St Michael's Church Hall, Stone**

Beginning at 6:30pm with a bar licence till 11pm.

The menu is Chips with one of...

- Fish • Veggie burger • Sausage
- Mushy peas also available

The cost, £7.50 for adults, £4.50 for Juniors  
All profit to the NSA BRF

Bookings and menu choices to Frank and Jenny  
Beech, 01785 XXXXXX or e-mail quiz@nsacr.org.uk  
Deadline: Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2006

## First Peal Congratulations

Our congratulations go to Helen Coxon of St John's, Horninglow, for successfully completing her first peal. A truly magnificent achievement, and a first for the tower's bell installation too!

**North Staffordshire Association  
Burton on Trent, Horninglow  
St John the Divine**

Saturday, 28 January 2006 in 2h53 (11.0.4)  
5040 Plain Bob Minor

- |                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Lance G Hill   | 4. Steve Rowley          |
| 2. Andrew C Ogden | 5. Philip W Gay          |
| 3. Helen C Coxon  | 6. Stuart C W Hutchieson |

First peal by Helen C Coxon.

Conducted by Stuart C W Hutchieson

40<sup>th</sup> birthday compliment to Helen and 21<sup>st</sup> to her daughter, Emma Louise Thomas. First peal at St John's since 1978 and first since the installation of the Batley Carr bells in place of the previous steel bells.

## Keith Swingewood

We are sorry to report the death of Keith Swingewood, a member of the band at Norton. He was sixty-two and had been in poor health for some time. As a young man, Keith worked as a clock winder for Pidducks of Hanley, who were responsible for the operation of most of the public clocks in the city in the days before automatic winding, and it is likely that his interest in bells was kindled by his many visits to church towers in the course of his work. He learned to ring at Hanley in the early 1960s, at a time when there was a very competent band, several of whom were ringing peals on a regular basis, many of them for the Hanley-based St John Society. Keith took readily to peal ringing, and rang thirty-six peals in the years 1961-1963, including one of Hanley Bob Major, a method devised by him. In addition to his tower-bell peals, Keith rang a handbell peal with Peter Jones, Charles Webb and Geoffrey Davies, who all featured in many of his early peals.

Following the break-up of the Hanley band in the late sixties, Keith withdrew from ringing for a while before joining the Norton band about thirty years ago. While there he was also a regular supporter of the practices at Horton. During the period 1986-88 Keith rang a further nine peals before his deteriorating health made it difficult for him to ring longer than quarters, which he continued to enjoy.

Apart from his ringing, Keith was a very good pub pianist, and Peter Jones, who was also a member of the Hanley band at that time, tells a story of them going to a ringing meeting at Horton, which involved getting a bus to Endon and then walking. On the way home, they arrived back at Endon with time to spare

before the next bus, and went into the Black Horse for a drink, where they found a wedding party making merry. Keith found his way to the piano, and Peter spent the rest of the evening consuming half of the continuous supply of free drinks which kept arriving at the piano. With some difficulty they remained sober enough to catch the last bus back to Hanley.

Michael Wilshaw remembers an amusing incident involving Keith's newly-purchased scooter, which had a two-stroke engine with a tendency to backfire and run backwards if the kickstarting was not done with care. On one occasion at a local campsite, John Hall was trying the scooter out and set it in motion backwards, much to the amusement of everyone present except himself.

*Phil Gay*

Two quarters have been rung in Keith's memory, and it is hoped to ring a peal later:

**Keele (Woodlands):** March 1st, 1260 Stedman Triples: Ralph Mitchell 1, Peter Jones 2, Harold Dowler 3, Rowena Gay 4, Dennis Latham 5, Raymond Ballard 6, Michael Wilshaw (C) 7, Phil Gay 8. Paul Atkins, Ian Friend and Barbara Johnson wish to be associated with this quarter.

**Norton-le-Moors:** March 17th, 1280 Superlative 5 Major: Geoffrey Burton 1, Margaret Burton 2, Raymond Daw 3, Helen Brown 4, Wendy Daw 5, Scott Wheaver 6, Ken Brown 7, David Jack (C) 8.

### For the next issue ...

Do you have an article for publication?

The deadline for inclusion in the June edition is Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May.

Please send your *Clappertrappings* submissions to:

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

*Tel:*

01283 561444

*E-mail:*

newsletter@nsacr.org.uk

## Association 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

As you all know, we will be celebrating our 125th anniversary in 2007. The committee, with much appreciated help from members, has been discussing what we might do to make next year a special year of celebration.

The one thing all the suggestions have in common is that we want to involve as many of the members as possible, while having a mix of events which not only provide an enjoyable year to look back on but benefit the Association in a forward-looking way as well.

So, in no particular order, here are some of the things we want to do:

- Celebrate with a special dinner, with an attendance of at least 125.
- Extend the concept of the quarter peal week to the whole year, with quarters in all our towers, whenever possible to celebrate significant local events, and involving at least 125 of our members.
- Elect 125 new members, from as many of our towers as possible, so that we can enter the next phase of our history in as healthy a state as possible. This will involve a lot of recruiting and teaching, but everyone will benefit.
- Go on a special outing - Lundy Island has been suggested.
- Update the history of the Association, and publish it as a commemorative booklet.
- Resurrect our merchandising, with possibly some new items. At the moment, we have a supplier of sweat shirts and polo shirts with the Association logo embroidered on them, but they haven't been marketed very vigorously for the last few years, and many of our newer members are possibly not aware of them. We hope to remarket them with additional commemorative wording, and also to investigate the possibility of commissioning and selling commemorative mugs.
- We are also looking into the possibility of marketing some special beer, with a competition to find a good name for it.

We appreciate that we can't expect all our members to support all our activities, but it would be very pleasing if everyone supported something.

The formal launch of the anniversary programme will be in June, but we want members to be as well-informed as possible in the meantime.

## Further Adventures of Lady Penelope

The Eccleshall winter outing, ably organised as ever by Ian Mackintosh, took place on 18 February 2006 in the delightful Cheshire countryside with a wonderfully resonant tower list of Wymbunbury, Wistaston, Bunbury and Wrenbury.

The initial journey with Parker to the first tower was enlivened by an entertaining radio feature about a couple from "near Stoke on Trent" who apparently have a ring of bells in their garage! However Parker said he was unable to stay for the whole day, muttering something about "subgrams" and "Clappertrappings", and left me to travel to the rest of the towers with Kath and the typist, although the typist, somewhat overwhelmed by the feminine charms of his three glamorous passengers, soon abandoned us in favour of the organiser.



Two of the towers swayed gently in the breeze, one had bells too light for some (me) and just right for others (Kath). Bunbury's cathedral-like proportions

and its tomb of a 7ft tall knight contrasted with its two brightly coloured modern windows and modern vicar. Wymbunbury had acquired an impressive freestanding wooden spiral staircase since the last time I visited and Mary Sharp had acquired an equally impressive hat!



The ringing was mixed although my ringing was appalling (the daily round of international rescuing is taking its toll).

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Lunch was at the "Nags Head" Haughton Moss. Here our hosts gave us large cards, printed with our ages, to produce when ordering our meals and insisted that anyone who coincidentally had the same surname as anyone else present should pay for their lunch!

An underlined note on the itinerary cautioned us not to confuse the lunch venue with a hostelry of the same name in Bunbury but one family ignored the warning and arrived late. It would be unfair to reveal names but if this is indicative of the standards we can expect from a headmaster and a senior police officer it is perhaps fortunate that they have retired!

Ian and Jill kindly allowed us once again to invade their home for tea and there I met up with Parker again. He greeted me rather alarmingly with "great panic" and "prang car", although it looked ok to me. On the way home he was strangely silent uttering only "late spring" and "lapping cat" and as I retired for an early night I said "Goodnight Parker."

"Ppppraaclingset M'lady" he replied.

FAB

Lady P.

## Puzzle Corner

### Subgram solutions:

Congratulations go to Matt and Sam "Brainbox" Boam, whose subversive activities in the realms of Clappertrappings subgrams have netted them the prize for finding the highest number of words. The Dauntless Duo did not quite find all of the 2580 possible words, but were nearer that awesome figure than any other entry received. They will be able to enjoy the reward for their magnificent achievement on their next visit to the Association Bookstall, so there you go, twins, it was worth all the effort, wasn't it? Wasn't it??



### Caption time:

Yes, it is Alan, yes, he is in the Dead Sea, and yes, he is indeed engrossed in the February edition of Clappertrappings. The more observant reader can't help having noticed the photograph on the front cover of this issue, a clearer version of which is available on our web site. But what's the caption? Answers, for publication on the web and in the next edition, to the usual address: e-mail newsletter@nsacr.org.uk