



Clappertrappings



Newsletter of the North Staffordshire Association of Change Ringers
When splicing blue lines beware of those found in road atlases

www.nsacr.org.uk

June 2006

Forthcoming Events

Sat 1st July 2006: Mini-outing

Wybunbury (6) [SJ700499] 11:00 - 12:00
Pub lunch

Barthomley (8) [SJ767524] 2:00 - 3:00

Betley (6) [SJ756484] 3:30 - 5:00
Tea

Audley (8) [SJ799509] 7:00 - 9:00

Definitely one for the diary. In a combination of traditional outing and traditional meeting, with a variety of interesting and attractive towers, a pub lunch and a ringers' tea, this day offers something for everyone to enjoy. Our Secretary is soon to commence the onerous task of selecting a suitable venue for the lunch, and teas should be booked with Phil (01782 XXXXXX) please by Tuesday 27th June.

Sat 5th August 2006:

A training meeting at Cheadle RC (8) followed by open ringing (for the evening Mass) 4:30 to 5:30pm. All are welcome to come along to ring during this hour long slot, but we have been asked to minimise the number of people departing as Mass starts at 5:30pm, so from about 5:15 onwards a service touch will be rung and everyone else can head towards the tea queue. Ringers leaving their cars in the school / church car park may find themselves blocked in until the service ends at around 6:30, but we are welcome to use that car park if we so wish. Tea is from 5:30 in the RC parish room with evening ringing from 7:00 until 9:00 at Cheadle CofE (6). For the benefit of anyone who has not rung in Cheadle before, St Giles RC (8) is the one with the spire and is down-hill from the High Street, and St Giles CofE (6) has a tower and is up-hill from the High Street. Names for tea to Ant Allen (01283 XXXXXX) by Wednesday 2nd August please.

Teas for any of the monthly meetings can also be booked by e-mail to teas.

Tuesday Daytime Band

20th June 2006:

Stone (8) [SJ904338] 11 - 12:15

Ingestre (6) [SJ977247] 2 - 3:15

18th July 2006:

Shrewsbury, S Chad (12) [SJ488124] 11 - 12:15

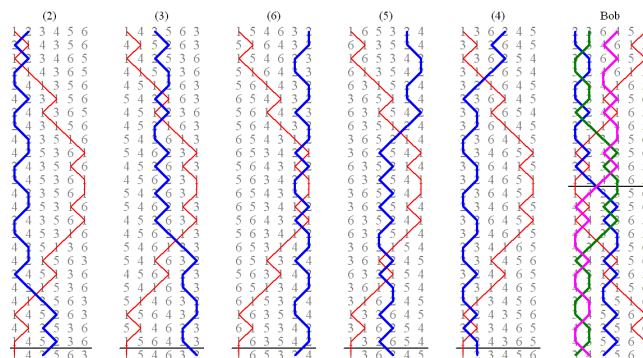
Atcham (6) [SJ541092] 2 - 3:15

For the latest on TDB activities contact Marian Owen, 01785 XXXXXX or e-mail tdb.

Meetings with a theme

The ringing theme for the July outing will be St Clement's College Bob Minor and Major, and some fairly straightforward splicing of that with Plain and / or Little Bob. Those with a mind for conducting such things might like to scribble out their favourite touch to try out on the day.

In August we're off for a double helping at Cheadle, so the theme for the evening ringing is Cheadle Surprise Minor. The blue line is shown below.



As ever there will also be a melodious mix of general ringing, from rounds and call changes upwards, as at all monthly meetings, so everyone is of course welcome to come along and join in at whatever level they feel comfortable with.

Ant Allen

Training

It was a pleasure to meet and ring with the Mayfield band at the training day on April 1st. Everyone enjoyed the ringing, and positive feedback suggests that it was regarded by all as being a helpful experience. (And we're fairly confident that the bullet holes in the church door were there before we arrived, and were not provoked by our ringing.) A delicious tea was also provided, and generally a good time had by all.

The focus for the training at Cheadle on 5th August will be Triples. There are 5 places available, so if you're keen to develop your skills in ANY aspect of Plain Hunt, Plain Bob or Grandsire Triples, and would like the chance to practise with a steady band, please contact me (01785 XXXXXX or e-mail education).

Tim Hine

Quarter Peal Week 2006

This event, now in its second year, was once again a very successful one. Full details are given below, but, in a nutshell, a total of 21 quarters, involving 58 people and 12 towers, were rung. These included 14 methods, ranging from Bob Doubles to Grandsire Caters with lots of variety in between, and produced a grand total of 8 "firsts".

The evening of Saturday 6th May saw quarter peal week brought to a most enjoyable conclusion, with a Quiz Evening held at Stone Church Hall. The questions covered a broad spectrum of topics, and were at times mind-bogglingly brain-bending, but there was something there to suit everyone and the competition was fierce. With a final FAB flourish, Parker and Lady P managed to pull their team to an audacious snatching of last place from a Madeley team who had until then been confident of winning that accolade for themselves. A generally knowledgeable Keele team were triumphant on the oche with a resounding top score of One Hundred and Eighty, while a tense play-off for runner-up sent the 2nd prize, lots and lots of chocolate, in a promisingly Eastern direction.

Thanks must go to the following people: To Phil, Tim and Ant for arranging the helpers and Saturday



quarters; to Ant for collating and analysing the results; to the helpers who went out to support and augment local bands; to Frank, Jenny and the Stone ringers for hosting the quiz evening; to David Powell for compiling such a superb range of quiz questions; and to everyone who participated in any way in helping to make the whole week not only possible, but such good fun.

Keele, Staffs (St John). 29 April, 1260 PB Doubles: Jane Gardiner 1, Pauline Mellor 2, Rowena Gay 3, Phil Gay (C) 4, Steve Mellor 5, Steve Hickey 6.

Keele, Staffs (St John). 30 April, 1260 Stedman Doubles: Ruth Eagle (1st Stedman) 1, Rowena Gay 2, Phil Gay (C) 3, Ralph Mitchell 4, Steve Mellor 5, Dan Viggars 6.

Stoke upon Trent (St Peter ad Vincula). 30 April, 1259 Grandsire Caters: Geoff Burton 1, Margaret Burton 2, Vilma Pugh 3, Pat Bishop 4, Rowena Gay 5, Phil Gay (C) 6, Bernard Ongley 7, Wendy Daw 8, Ray Daw 9, Geoff Edwards 10. In memory of Ewart H Edge.

Whitmore, Staffs. 1 May, 1272 Norwich S Minor: Phil Gay (C) 1, Kath Adams 2, Ray Daw 3, Lee Cooke 4, Tim Hine 5, Chris Adams 6.

Burton upon Trent, Staffs (St Modwen). 1 May, 1288 Grandsire Triples: Scott Wheaver 1, Zoe Ogden 2, Louise Twigg (1st in method) 3, Lee Cooke 4, Richard

Gibson 5, Antony Allen 6, Mick Webster (C) 7, Stewart Bannister 8.

Seighford, Staffs. 1 May, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Heather Eyre 1, Ann Hodgkins 2, Mary Clifford 3, Yvonne Pynenburg 4, Ray Daw (C) 5, Yvonne Rawsthorne 6. Rung to celebrate 800th anniversary of granting charter for Borough of Stafford.

Stretton, Staffs. 2 May, 1272 PB Minor: Sarah Leverington (1st in minor) 1, Sarah Gibson 2, Antony Allen 3, Lee Cooke 4, Peter Marriott 5, Scott Wheaver (C) 6.

Stoke upon Trent (St Peter ad Vincula). 3 May, 1250 Superlative S Major: Ray Daw 1, Kath Adams 2, Wendy Daw 3, Warren Griffiths 4, Helen Brown 5, David Simpson 6, Chris Adams 7, Ken Brown (C) 8.

Winshill, Derbys. 3 May, 1260 PB Doubles: Matt Boam (1st on treble) 1, Antony Allen (C) 2, Lee Cooke 3, Frank Beech 4, Rod Glover 5, David Mitchell 6.

Keele, Staffs (St John). 3 May, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Joanna Ashby (1st quarter) 1, Ben Hockenhull 2, Phil Gay (C) 3, Rowena Gay 4, Phil Langford 5, Ralph Mitchell 6.

Keele, Staffs (Woodlands). 4 May, 1250 Yorkshire S Major: Phil Gay 1, Scott Wheaver 2, Ro Gay 3, Ken Brown 4, Kath Adams 5, Tim Hine 6, Helen Brown 7, Chris Adams (C) 8.

Rolleston upon Dove, Staffs. 4 May, 1260 PB Minor: Andrew Thomson (1st in minor) 1, Sarah Gibson 2, Lee Cooke 3, Colin Whieldon 4, Rod Glover 5, Antony Allen (C) 6.

Swynnerton, Staffs. 5 May, 1320 Plain B Doubles: Heather Eyre 1, Yvonne Rawsthorne 2, Mary Clifford 3, Yvonne Pynenburg 4, Scott Wheaver (C) 5, Ann Hodgkins 6.

Keele, Staffs (St John). 5 May, 1272 Kent & Oxford TB Minor: Ray Daw 1, Jenny Beech 2, Bill Harris 3, Frank Beech 4, Warren Griffiths 5, Phil Gay (C) 6.

Broughton, Staffs. 5 May, 1260 Stedman Triples: Margaret Jones 1, Chris Adams 2, Rowena Gay 3, Selwyn Jones 4, Phil Gay 5, Andrew Gordon 6, Michael Wilshaw (C) 7, Tim Hine 8.

Barlaston, Staffs. 5 May, 1260 Barlaston Bob Minor: Philip Wood 1, Ken Brown 2, Lee Cooke 3, Helen Brown 4, A S Bill Harris 5, Ray Daw (C) 6. Rung to celebrate 800th anniversary of the Charter which granted Borough status to Stafford.

Broughton, Staffs. 6 May, 1280 Yorkshire S Major: Ben Hockenhull (1st major) 1, Kath Adams 2, Rowena Gay 3, Scott Wheaver 4, John Bradshaw 5, Frank Beech 6, Ray Daw 7, Phil Gay (C) 8.

Stoke upon Trent (St Peter ad Vincula). 6 May, 1259 Grandsire Caters: Geoff Burton 1, Margaret Burton 2, Vilma Pugh 3, Ray Daw 4, Scott Wheaver 5, Bill Harris 6, Ken Brown (C) 7, Wendy Daw 8, Phil Gay 9, Peter Wilshaw 10.

Rolleston upon Dove, Staffs. 6 May, 1260 Single Oxford Bob Triples: Frank Beech 1, Tim Hine 2, Jenny Beech 3, Lee Cooke 4, Antony Allen 5, Warren Griffiths 6, Chris Adams (C) 7, Stewart Bannister 8.

Burton upon Trent, Staffs (St Modwen). 6 May, 1260
Plain Bob Triples: Stewart Bannister (1st treble to triples) 1, Antony Allen 2, Tim Hine 3, Lee Cooke 4, Warren Griffiths 5, Frank Beech 6, Chris Adams (C) 7, Jenny Beech 8. Rung after a wedding.

Seighford, Staffs. 6 May, 1296 Cambridge S Minor:
Pat Bishop 1, David Simpson 2, Wendy Daw 3, Helen Brown 4, Ken Brown 5, Ray Daw (C) 6. Rung before a wedding.

Do you have an article for publication?

The deadline for inclusion in the August edition is Monday 17th July.

Please send your *Clappertrappings* submissions to:

Lee Cooke,

Tel:

45 Dover Road,

01283 XXXXXX

Burton on Trent,

Staffs,

E-mail:

DE13 0TD

newsletter

Stafford Celebrates 800th Birthday with the Queen and a Peal

This year is the 800th Anniversary of the granting of the Royal Charter to the Borough of Stafford by King John, so naturally the bells played their part.

As part of the celebrations the Queen visited Stafford on 31st March. She arrived at Stafford station by Royal Train and the bells were used to signal her arrival here until she got to the end of the churchyard. Simple enough you would think. However, all the ringers had to be vetted for security purposes, the tower had to be checked and sealed and we were to have a person with a walkie-talkie to communicate the Queen's arrival. Except that, on the day before, we were told that one of the ringers was expected to use the radio. Then on the day itself, there was no walkie-talkie. We resorted to a council steward waving a clipboard at the back of the church so that one of the ringers could look down and tell us when to start and stop the ringing.



Because the Queen had to walk up the road to the church, the ringers had plenty of time to see her arrival from a good vantage point outside the ringing chamber door. The service included the unveiling of a new stained glass window dedicated to the shoe makers of Stafford. After the service the ringers again rang as she began her walkabout around the town. A reception was held at the Civic Centre to which the ringers were invited (but not the posh one where the Queen was). There was plenty of food and wine to be had - not that we drank very much of course (*Of course - Ed*). Afterwards, we rang a very good quarter peal of Grandsire Triples which was apparently heard by the VIPs and the Queen at their reception.

The actual date of the signing of the Royal Charter was 1st May 1206. Celebrations were planned in the Market Square on the day and the Council asked us and other churches in the Borough to ring a "bell peal". Naturally, we took them at their word and organised a peal of Grandsire Caters, which we were successful at ringing.

STAFFORD, Staffs, S Mary

Mon May 1 2006 3h13 (19)

5039 Grandsire Caters

Comp. A M Tyler

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Margaret Jones | 6. Christopher Adams |
| 2. Raymond H Daw | 7. Selwyn G Jones (C) |
| 3. Rowena Gay | 8. Philip W Gay |
| 4. Timothy C Hine | 9. Ian Friend |
| 5. Edward J Fairbrother | 10. John C Evans |

Rung for the 800th Anniversary
of the granting of the Royal Charter
to the Borough of Stafford
by King John on 1st May 1206.

Selwyn Jones

Ewart Edge

We are sorry to announce the death on April 19th of Ewart Edge. Ewart's funeral, held on Friday April 28th at Odd Rode Church, was attended by ringers from near and far. Two memorial peals and a quarter peal have been rung in Ewart's memory:

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD

BROUGHTON, Staffs, St Peter

Fri Apr 28 2006 2h55 (15)

5088 Uxbridge S Major

Comp. BYROC

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. William H Dowse | 5. Frank Osbaldiston |
| 2. Christine Broadley | 6. Ian Friend |
| 3. Harold Dowler | 7. Raymond H Daw (C) |
| 4. Clive Calton | 8. Philip W Gay |

In memory of Joan Broadley (died April 22nd) and
Ewart Edge (died April 19th).
Michael Orme wishes to be associated with this peal.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION

KEELE, Staffs, Woodlands

Wed May 3 2006 2hr (103 lb)

5040 Surprise Minor

(8m: London; Wells; York; Durham;
Beverley & Surfleet; Cambridge; Norwich)

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Lance G Hill | 4. Ian Friend |
| 2. Philip W Gay | 5. Ralph B Mitchell |
| 3. Paul J Atkins | 6. Michael Wilshaw (C) |

A thanksgiving for the life of Ewart Edge.

Details of the quarter peal on Sat 30th April at Stoke are included in the Quarter Peal Week article in this issue.

Phil Gay

Ewart Harold Edge

9th February 1926 to 19th April 2006

Ewart was born and grew up in Wolstanton, North Staffordshire where his father was the headmaster of a local church school. He attended Wolstanton Grammar before leaving for Oxford University, though after just one year he entered the RAF as an Aircrew Cadet and completed his basic flying training just as the war ended. Following demob he worked as a temporary school teacher before returning to St Edmund Hall, Oxford in 1948 to complete his degree. His attendance at the universities of Cologne and Poitiers during this time fostered his love of northern European culture, particularly German. His headmaster and the principal of his Oxford College recognised that Ewart was a hard worker of more than average academic ability but it was at university that his many other interests developed. One of these was church bell ringing and I understand that he learnt to ring at St Thomas' Oxford.

Ewart met Julia, a fellow linguist who was to become his wife, on an OUS tour of Suffolk. They married in 1957 and after a short spell in Wolstanton moved to Scholar Green, Cheshire though he continued to ring at St Margaret's Wolstanton until approximately 1989. Thereafter, he rang at Astbury for a short while until joining the Congleton band, whose companionship he continued to enjoy in the pub after practice long after arthritis in his hands obliged him to stop ringing regularly.

Ewart contributed much to the North Staffs Association - he was secretary between 1953 and 1959 and Central Council rep from 1960 to 1965 and he wrote a history of the association for its centenary in 1982. He rang 52 peals in a wide range of methods for the North Staffs, but also rang peals for the Shropshire Association, the Cheshire Guild and the Universities Association which he was a member of for many years, holding several offices and organising many of their summer ringing weeks.

Ewart and Julia's great love however was for "tower grabbing" and Ewart was not beyond in the early years turning his collar round, pretending to be a man of the cloth and knocking on the vicarage door to ask if we could have a ring! He loved to tell the story of one tour when a stranger who wanted to look at the ringing was welcomed into the belfry - the gentleman turned out to be John Betjeman. When our children were small, the tours were local but in 1978 I organised an autumn tour of the Lake District which they and many other old and new ringing friends joined; Ewart followed this with an Easter tour of Somerset and this was to set the pattern for the next 28 years. He rang in approximately 4800 towers - the total would have been higher but for his intense dislike of ringing chambers accessed by ladder!

Ewart was a man of the old school; good manners mattered to him both in the belfry and elsewhere. His

food also mattered to him and his tours were noted for their appropriately lengthy lunch breaks! His interests were eclectic, in particular he was an accomplished artist but he was also an expert on local and medieval history, Charles Rene Mackintosh and ceramics. He played bridge, collected stamps and at the time of his death was teaching art, calligraphy and German.

Ewart spent his working life in the pottery industry, initially with the British Pottery Manufacturers' Federation, then as company secretary to Wm Adams of Tunstall, the second oldest company still in private hands in the UK before Wedgwoods took them over. He transferred to their Barlaston factory where he was export sales manager and it was whilst he was at the Frankfurt World Trade Fair that, in his 40s, he had a serious heart attack. Subsequent health problems led people to believe that he would die first and it was therefore a great shock when three years ago his beloved Julia became ill and after a protracted illness during which he nursed her devotedly, died, leaving Ewart bereft. However he picked himself up and with great courage and determination began to enjoy life again.

Margaret and I will miss him greatly. Our casual visits "just for five minutes" always lasted much longer - he would invariably be found surrounded by books, half finished watercolours or his pen and ink drawings, some of his hundreds of photographic slides and copious pages of notes for his next project.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to his family of whom he was immensely proud - Martin, Jane, Jessica and Georgina in South Africa, Vivien, Ken, Adam and Sophie in New Zealand and Robert, Renate, Annika and Philip in Germany. Ewart was a modest and unassuming gentleman of deep faith and integrity. May he rest in peace.

Geoff Burton

Stowe-by-Chartley

Members may recall a recent business meeting decision to make a grant from the Bell Restoration Fund to Stowe-by-Chartley towards a major overhaul of their bells. The work was done earlier this year, and the bells are now much easier to ring. The following letter has been received from the PCC:

Dear Mr Gay,

At a recent meeting of our PCC I was asked to write to thank the North Staffordshire Association of Change Ringers for the generous grant of £1500 towards the cost of repairs to our bells. We are a small community in Stowe-by-Chartley and so we greatly appreciate the help you have given us.

We are delighted with the work that has been done and hopefully, our bells will now be trouble-free for many years to come. Will you please convey our thanks to your committee.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Brown (Churchwarden)

Don't Forget

Annual Dinner 2006, The Crown Hotel at Stone in the ballroom, Saturday 18th November. Reserve the date in your diary now!! Further details from Jan & Tim Hine (01785 XXXXXX) or e-mail dinner.



Situations Vacant

Association Handbook Editor

Role: Chief editor of the NSA handbook.

Start date: January 2007

Responsibilities:

- ☞ Liaise with the committee and NSA membership to glean information snippets.
- ☞ Use aforementioned snippets to annually amend and update the handbook.

Essential criteria:

- ☞ An eye for detail.
- ☞ Good communication skills.

Desired criteria:

- ☞ Ability to cut & paste.
- ☞ Amiable temperament and pleasant disposition.

Salary: £ 0 pa (tax free)

Other benefits: Love, respect and eternal gratitude from your readership.

Apply, omitting your current CV, to Sec. Phil Gay (01782 XXXXXX or e-mail secretary).

Previous applicants are welcome to reapply.

Job satisfaction guaranteed!



Letters to the Editor

Dear Aunt Tail-end,

I feel I have to write to you to communicate some fears caused by a phone call from one whom I have come to suspect is concerned with the publication of Clappertrappings. Could the person be your private secretary? But I must not speculate. Let me make it clear that this is in no way a complaint. I have fully recovered from the trauma and hope to continue enjoying the wit, charm and erudition of the NSA newsletter for a good many years to come. But I am somewhat concerned about the individual who rang me. Try to imagine the situation: there I was, at ease in my fragrant and bubbly bath tub, my Chanel flavoured face mask anchored to my cheeks, slices of organic cucumber resting gently on my eyelids, when a reverberant and insistent cry came from my telephone. I extended a languid hand and lifted the instrument carefully to my ear. A strangled tone issued forth, gurgling words I interpreted as "Smee!" Unperturbed as yet, I replied, "Yes?" The caller was clearly in some distress. Further syllables echoed around my spacious bathroom, ruffling the fur on the polar bear rug: 'Motorway! Accident! Late! Tell Phil! Woe, woe, thrice woe.' 'Alas', I calmly replied, seeking to



alleviate my caller's panic, 'He has, not long since, departed to Whitmore where he is expecting to ring a quarter peal this very morning, not many minutes hence.' Desperate groans came from the telephone. 'I'll be there, but I'll be late,' (sob, sob, gurgle, gurgle). The caller was obviously suffering greatly, both physically and mentally. I promised to try to contact my beloved via the mobile (phone, not belfry). 'Thanks, must go, I'm late, but I'll get there.' Who was the mystery caller? Would she arrive all too late, as a mere ghost of her former self? Had she been irretrievably damaged in the motorway accident? Was she in an ambulance? A hearse?? Where was she? Who was she??

I did not expect Philip to answer his mobile. He never does. It is only in recent weeks that it has even been switched on when I need to contact him. But he must have had some intuition that all was not well with 'Smee'. The phone rang. Philip replied. 'It's me,' I said. 'What has happened to her?' he replied. 'No,' I said, 'It's me.' 'Yes, I know,' he said, 'she's not here.' 'Who?' I asked. 'Oh, never mind, you've had a phone call, there's been an accident on the motorway, she's been held up but will get there as soon as possible, probably not very long, she sounded as if she was in a hurry.' 'OK,' came the reply, 'no problem, we'll wait. Thanks for letting me know.' Click.

I readjusted my cucumber slices, having first wiped off the bath foam; smoothed the cracks in my now seriously agitated face mask; and sank back into the bubbles, the telephone clasped firmly in my sinking fingers.

Later, I heard that Smee had arrived and the quarter peal had been achieved. She had not been injured in any way and Philip was rather vague about the motorway accident. He said it had been a mistake. 'Most accidents are,' I replied.

So, dear Aunt Tail-end, please, if you know the identity of the young lady in question, would you ensure that she has fully recovered from her ordeal and give her my very kindest regards.

Yours, smooth-cheeked, wrinkle-free and utterly fragrant,
Aunt Sally

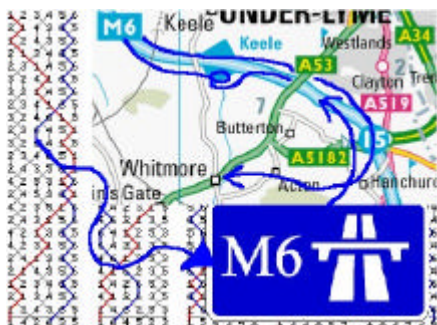
Dear Aunt Sally,

As deputy grade three stand-in and general secretarial helper-monkey to the highly esteemed Clappertrappings Editor I feel I must reply to your letter on her behalf. The events to which you refer were at the outset of the North Staffordshire Association of Change Ringers Annual Quarter Peal Week (Such a snappy title!), when a quarter of Norwich Surprise Minor was scheduled to commence at Whitmore at 10am. The band included your dear hubby (of more senior secretarial status) and our dearest of editors who you identify as "Smee". Smee had been building up to this quarter for some days, with the blue line for Norwich Surprise glued to her Ka steering wheel and maps, grid

references and scraps of place notation stuffed into her ever-expanding Dairy Diary. She had also initiated in-depth consultations with our local resident navigational expert, Steepley "Book Peddler" Stew. All Sunday night she lay awake with excitement at the anticipation of the quarter, rehearsing her Norwich and reciting the route, and by 6am she could wait no longer. Up with the cock-crowing lark she leapt into her Ka, eager to be the first to arrive at Whitmore.

Dover Road, dodge, lead, seconds, A515, double, lead, A50, double, seconds, Sudbury, dodge, Uttoxeter, fourths, lead and double, Meir, middle places, A500, triple up and down, and then it all went ever so slightly wrong! In a muddle with the map, and an unpredictable thirds and back with the potential for a Daw-esq Barrb, instead of taking the A5128 to Hanchurch Smee followed the blue line on the wrong scrap of paper and found herself tootling merrily along the M6 towards Scotland.

At first there was much panic and mayhem in the vehicle, with rash consideration of U-turns, grassy emergency slip-roads and the frightful



thought of having to use reverse, but thankfully common sense prevailed and Keele services arrived without too much under-bonnet steam. "Whitmore is a light ring of bells, and there's a mini-ring around here somewhere", thought Smee, but a detailed internal inspection of Keele services revealed no sallies - of either the Aunt or striped variety. Perhaps she could relay a message to the band at Whitmore by semaphore from her Ka roof? The message was received over the fields at Woodlands and relayed by Aunt Sally using her tub-to-belfry technological communications device. Smee, resigned to the prospect of being late for the first time ever in her entire life, continued northwards.

Fortunately Junction 16 at Crewe presented less confusion for Smee, and the concept of learning the method on the way was now dismissed in favour of discovering whether that number five on the gear stick actually implied that Ka has more than four forward gears. At the dizzy speed of 70mph Smee headed southwards once more, arrived at Whitmore to the sound of "Here's the 4th, Look To, Go Norwich" and a happy ending ensued.



I have no doubts that Smee would far rather be setting the record straight on the events of her morning at Whitmore herself, rather than leaving the troublesome apprentice to handle the Clappertrappings mail sack, but at the time of writing she is in fact heading for Barlaston for her 5th quarter peal of the week. Fortunately the method this time is Barlaston Bob so following lines on the wrong map shouldn't cause any diversions via Norwich or the M25.

Dr Deputy

Puzzle Corner: Caption time



It was very difficult to decide on a winning caption because they are all good. Well done and thanks to all who entered. My winning caption is Chris Adams' "Alan reads the instruction manual before trying out his new inflatable legs." But Phil Gay's "I always take Clappertrappings with plenty of salt" comes a pretty close second. The remark about inflatable legs is very appropriate because it feels just like that. Trying to float upright is like trying to sit on a beach ball in the swimming pool; it was quite an experience. The remaining entries were:

Chris Adams - "Egypt Surprise Major - Dead E-Sea."

Peter Wilshaw - "It's true! Clappertrappings in hand and a fair wind and the job of Chairman is plain sailing."

Heather Eyre - "Not another Dead Ringer?"

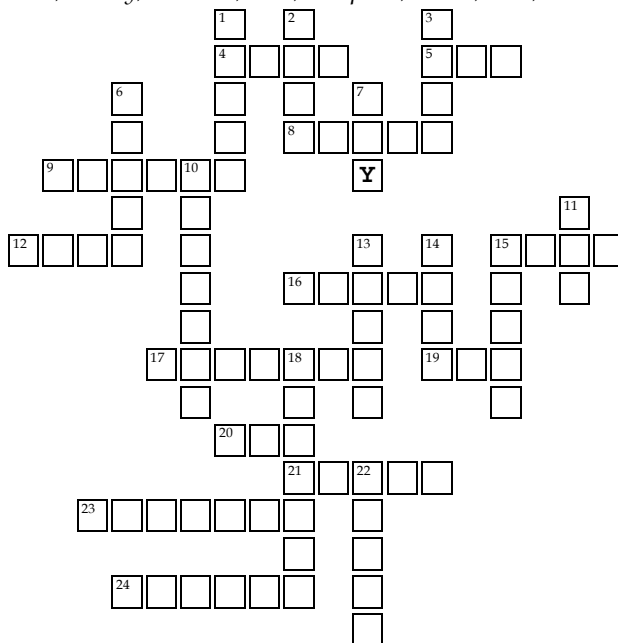
Peter Wilshaw - "I can see it all now. First, second, third, fourth, dodge big toes, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, then ... lie."

I'm looking forward to seeing where other people read their copy of Clappertrappings!

Alan Walters

Officers' Positions:

Your troublesome puzzlesome task for this edition is to complete the grid using the names of the 2006 NSA Committee and Officers. The completed grid should contain the following "familiar terms", exactly once each: Alan, Allen, Ant, Beech, Cooke, David, Frank, Gay, George, Godfrey, Hine, Jack, Jan, Jeff, Jenny, Lee, Marian, Owen, Paddy, Pearson, Phil, Simpson, Stone, Tim, Walters.



Solutions to the usual address: Clappertrappings, 45 Dover Road, Burton on Trent, Staffs, DE13 0TD or e-mail them to newsletter.