



Clappertrappings



Newsletter of the North Staffordshire Association of Change Ringers
Ringing the changes across the county

www.nsacr.org.uk

February 2008

Forthcoming Events

1 March: New members and Business Meeting, Leek
Ringing for new members will commence at 3pm, followed by open ringing from 4pm then tea and Business Meeting will follow. Evening ringing takes place from 7:30pm to 9pm.

5 April: Training Day Gnosall and Haughton

We have provisionally booked Gnosall for a training afternoon between 3pm and 5pm, followed by tea at 5:30pm then evening ringing at Haughton. Full confirmed details will be available on the website or from the Ringing Master (number below) nearer the time. Anybody who would like to attend the Training Day with particular requests, please contact the Ringing Master prior to the event.



Tuesday Daytime Band

19th February 2008:

Penn (8) [S0894954] 11 - 12:15
Wombourne (8) [S0877932] 2 - 3:15

25th March 2008:

NB This is the 4th Tuesday, as the 3rd is in Holy Week.
Alton (8) [SK073423] 11 - 12:15
Rocester (8) [SK112394] 2 - 3:15

For the latest on TDB activities contact Marian Owen:
e-mail tdb.

2008 Association Officers

President: Venerable Godfrey Stone

Committee members:

Chairman: Frank Beech
Secretary: Peter Wilshaw
Treasurer: Jan Hine
Ringing Master: Peter Sharp
Deputy: Ben Hockenhull
Bell Adviser: David Jack
Peal Secretary: David Simpson
Education Officer: Tim Hine
Public Relations: Lee Cooke
Central Council Representatives:

Peter Burgess
Frank Beech
Jenny Beech

General committee members:

Ray Ballard
Lynne Grant
Barbara Johnson

Non-committee posts:

BRF Trustees: Paddy George
Jeff Pearson
Lichfield Diocesan Mobile Belfry Trustees:
Marian Owen
Phil Gay
Newsletter Editor: Lee Cooke
Tuesday Daytime Band Coordinator:
Marian Owen
Handbook / Report Editor:
Sue Kingman
Web Page Editor: Ant Allen

For contact e-mail addresses please visit our web site at www.nsacr.org.uk. Other contact details will be published in the 2008 handbook.

Message from the Secretary

I am proud to have been asked by the Association to be its Secretary as it enters its 126th year.

Any society that can boast a membership of over 350 can only be described as a strong and vibrant one. My job, working alongside our new Chairman Frank Beech and a new and impressively enthusiastic committee, is to ensure that the Association does everything it can to support all ringers, of all levels of ability in every tower in our area.

The new committee has a terrific balance of very experienced hands, a number who are still learning and some great young talent. Such a membership should be able to represent the needs of all, for the benefit of all.

I would not have made the progress I have over the past few years without the help of a number of key members of this Association and I am looking forward to doing whatever I can to continue the high traditions of teaching, friendship and mutual support that is the bedrock of the NCASR.

Peter Wilshaw (Secretary)

More events and RM things

Quarter Peal Week:

This year the Quarter Peal week will take place between April 28th and May 3rd. It is my aim to try and encourage every (ringable!) tower in the Association to attempt at least one Quarter Peal during the week, and a group of volunteers



are happy to support towers who may need reinforcements (more volunteers welcome!). The week will end with Quarter Peals followed by an evening social in a centrally located hostelry (location to be confirmed) on 3rd May. I shall be writing to as many towers as I can to gauge interest, but any enquiries can be directed to the Ringing Master.

Striking Competition(s):

We have decided this year to trial both the 6-bell and 8-bell Striking Competitions on the same day. These will take place this year on 7th June, with the 8-bell competition being held at Eccleshall, and the 6-bell at Seighford. Tea will be afterwards at Eccleshall followed by evening ringing at Broughton. Details nearer the time, but all towers should be aware that the proposal to ring Devon style Call Changes have been dropped following feedback from numerous towers.

Special Methods:

Any requests for Special Methods should be sent to the Ringing Master. I shall be issuing copies of our Spring Special Method at the Leek event on March 1st.

Contact details:

I look forward to working with you all during the forthcoming year. If anybody wishes to contact me regarding ringing or any of the events, please drop me an email (ringingmaster), or call me.

See you all soon.

Peter Sharp (Ringing Master)

Inventory of Association Property

I have been tasked by the committee to produce an Inventory of the Association's property. If anyone has possession of any of the Association's property, for example books, bells, trophies or memorabilia, either at their home, their tower or elsewhere would you please let me have details by email at secretary. Many thanks

Peter Wilshaw (Secretary)

A Spectacular Achievement

At the close of our 125th Anniversary year it has certainly been a busy one for quarter peals. No other event has reached every ringable tower in the Association (and several more besides) and included 222 ringers. Our target, to ring 125 quarter peals, was well and truly smashed with a grand total of 178 successes recorded. Details of each and every one of these quarters is on the Anniversary section of our website (www.nsa.org.uk), and also in their own section of the NSA peals database.

The year included one or two surprises, not least a quarter peal at Muckleston – the bells at Muckleston have been unringable for decades and still are, but the secret to this mysterious quarter peal was somewhat more portable. Some of the quarters were rung by regular quarter peal ringers, many of whom took it upon themselves to visit the far corners of the



Association and take on some of the more difficult rings of bells. Of particular note though are the local tower bands who would probably never dream of ringing a quarter peal together under normal circumstances, but rose to the challenge of NSA125 success all on their own. It would be wrong to single out any individual tower or local band, but throughout the year I was very pleasantly surprised to hear of neighbouring towers joining forces for their 125 quarter, and some bands taking 5 or 6 attempts but sticking at the challenge laid before them to ensure their success. Our hearty congratulations go to each and every one of them.

Ant Allen (ex-RM)

January Meeting

If the January Ringing Meeting of the NSACR is anything to go by, then 2008 promises to be a varied and enjoyable year, ringing-wise, for our Association. Held at St. Michael's Church, Rocester, on Saturday 5th January, a pleasingly high attendance allowed a broad range of ringing to take place. The playlist, which included rounds, Yorkshire and Rutland(ish) S Major, and Plain Hunt, Grandsire, Stedman and Bob Triples, is evidence of the wide choice of ringing on offer, and a great time was had by all. Visitors from nearby, non-association towers also came along, and one of our own new members, attending a meeting for the first time, remarked upon how very much he had enjoyed the whole affair. A visit to the local hostelry rounded off a most successful and rewarding evening's ringing experience.

Keele Ringing Centre

Keele Ringing Centre is pleased to announce some new activities for 2008 to operate alongside our well-established Tuesday evening learners' practice:

We intend to hold a regular improvers' practice, initially once a month on Wednesday afternoons. This will provide an opportunity for a small number of students at a time to ring with a strong band and advance their method-ringing capabilities.

Bring-a-learner sessions: many people have the task of teaching bell handling thrust upon them with no preparation or support. We will be happy to arrange sessions for such people to bring a learner along and learn to teach them under the guidance of an experienced teacher.

Raising and Lowering: I am still surprised by the number of otherwise fairly experienced ringers who are not confident at raising and lowering. We will be happy to put on sessions for raising and lowering both alone and in peal.

If you are interested, please contact Phil Gay.



The Gift of Ringing

A while before Christmas an approach was made to Lee Cooke from Linda Davies who wanted to buy her husband, Brian, a bell ringing lesson for Christmas; an unusual request that I have not come across before! It seems he had always wanted to ring ever since a friend had suggested he should join 30 years ago in North Wales but he works in construction and is away from home all week so it has not been practical for him to join a local band. They live in Uttoxeter and Lee passed on the details to us at Alton so, after a few surreptitious phone calls and clandestine meetings in car parks, a plan was hatched. We prepared a voucher which was given to Brian on Christmas day and a date was fixed for him to come to Alton on Saturday 5th of January.

We met in the early afternoon and had an initial look at the bells and one being rung. We arranged for some recent recruits from Alton and Denstone to come along as well; this was of benefit for them because it is useful to have a session on a tied bell without having to think about ringing with others and also for Brian because he could see and meet ringers at different stages – and it could be a bit stressful having 2 ½ hours of one to one tuition!

Brian got on really well. After a couple of sessions of the individual strokes he was able to have a go at ringing both strokes and quickly got the overall rhythm and hand coordination sorted out. A few more goes and we were sorting out the details like getting the tail end in the right place at handstroke – usually one of the last things to get right. Within 2 ½ hours he managed to get to a stage where he rang a few whole pulls unaided. I think this is quite an achievement for one lesson.

We had a cup of tea and some cake (the other ringers think we should do this kind of thing more often!) and then untied the bells and Brian heard his bell for the first time and we rang a few rounds on the front 4.

Conveniently, the Association meeting was at Rocester in the evening so Brian was able to come along and see the general ringing and to take part in some rounds on 8. It would be unreasonable to expect much after such a short training time but he did very well and only needed some guidance on the handstrokes to keep the bell in place.

Linda came to Rocester and was pleased that Brian had clearly enjoyed the afternoon. When we have another tied session we will give him a call to join us and perhaps he may be able to join a band regularly when his work does not take him away in the week,

but in any case it seems to have been an inspired and successful Christmas gift.

Alan Walters



Letters to the Editor



Dear Aunt Tail-End,

I am one of the many new members that you attracted through your highly successful 125 Anniversary recruiting campaign. I am proud to be part of such an illustrious Association, and enjoy ringing at my home tower, but know little or nothing about other towers and ringers in the NSACR. How can I find out more?

Yours enquiringly

Miss R Keene

Dear Really,

I do so understand your predicament. I struggle to tell my Horton from my Norton, and our Dear and Glorious Leader, Chairman Frank, gets his rs well and truly rolled when referring to Rolleston and Rocester. Luckily for us all, young Ben Dickinson has come up with an excellent idea, to be seen elsewhere in this issue under the heading Meet the Team. I hope this will become a regular feature, as other towers contribute their details, and would be very pleased to receive a photo of the band which you have so recently joined. Perhaps you could even organise it.

Yours snappily

ATE

(PS: And there are pics of all the Association's churches, along with a wealth of other information, on our website, at www.nsacr.org.uk - Dep Ed.)

Dear Aunt Tail-End,

I noticed in your sister publication (The R.W.) reference to CRU what is this, as a lover of things to drink am I missing out on some premier vintage, and if so where do I buy it?.

Also when ringing some surprise major the conductor stated that here comes a roll-up but we are a non smoking tower, how come?

Puzzled

Barlaston

Dear Puddled,

If your conductor is asking you to enjoy ringing and listening to tuneful 7 8 major surprises at Barlaston, then I can only assume that he has either been indulging in a spot of Premier Cru tipling, or is a secret wacky-baccy Rizla roller. Never mind rolling up your combinations, better make sure all your nether garments are well and truly secured, as these major sounds are notoriously elusive on 6, and you may be ringing for quite some considerable time before you capture the rapture.

Yours bloomerily

ATE

PS For those in the Association who, unlike my good self, are not sure what the acronym CRU signifies, (That's a laugh, you had to ask at least four people before you found out what it meant - Dep Ed) I add the following:

A Combination Roll Up (CRU) is when the bells "roll up" into a "nice" order on the backstroke - eg a change ending in 4678 or 5678

Aunt Tail-End

Our new Central Council Representative: Peter Burgess

As a new committee member and also a new ringer to the area, I would like to introduce myself to you.



Born in Lancashire and coming from a ringing family, I learnt to ring at Rainford (13cwt, 8) within the Wigan Branch of the Lancashire Association of Change Ringers (LACR).

While attending university in Liverpool, I was able to expand my ringing opportunities to include the LACR Liverpool Branch activities, university scene and of course the Cathedral. During my time in Liverpool I occupied the Master's position within the university society, which was a most enjoyable and educational experience.

Work has led me to visit various destinations within the Midlands over the past few years, enduring the delights of many bed and breakfast accommodations and towers. 2007 brought a new challenge in the form of Stone (no I don't mean the ringers!!!) new house, new location. Pleasantly surprised, I find myself within a community of ringers who have been friendly, helpful and indeed welcoming.

Joining the committee of an association celebrating its 125 anniversary is certainly daunting, but also a challenging experience. Those who know me will confirm that I consider Sunday service ringing a priority, but also see ringing as more than just the ability on the end of a rope - team development and social aspects go hand in hand to keep the art successful for the future.

So you now know a little about me, but more importantly - I know nothing of you and your expectations for the association activities and committee. Visiting practice nights and association meetings will I hope bridge this gap of understanding. Working in partnership with Frank and Jenny the other Central Council representatives, I hope we can identify any issues or changes which the Central Council could implement to support NSACR. Please find below my contact details should you wish to discuss any matters arising and I look forward to meeting you in the future.

Peter

Email: CCRep1

Hot off the Press

Don't forget, a freshly printed and dazzlingly technicoloured copy of this and every issue of *Clappertrappings* may be downloaded easily from our website at www.nsacr.org.uk
Why not print one off for your tower notice board?

Meet the Team

Horton ringers are the first to appear in what we hope will be a regular feature, wherein bands from throughout the Association send us a photo, and perhaps a sentence or two, (or more? Ed.) for publication in our Meet the Team slot. Please send a contribution from your tower, to the usual address.



Horton St Michael

Dear Clappertrappings,

I am sending you a photo of Horton Church (a different one from the usual view from the lych gate) and a shot of the ringing team (plus a regular visitor). Regular visiting ringers may like to know that there is now an excellent, substantial protective rail which can be erected instantly across the opening to safeguard against falling out of the gallery!

Ben Dickinson



(L to R) Malcolm Cartlidge, Eric Moss, Derek Sillito (TC), Rob Barcroft, Roy Lovatt, Visitor Penny Lawton from Leek, Phil Wood and Ben Dickinson.

Puzzle Corner

Mr Ben Evolent died recently, and left instructions that a sum of just under £8000 be paid to the ringers at the local ten-bell tower, for ringing a half-muffled quarter peal of Stedman Caters in his memory. He stipulated, though, that the ringers of the front 5 bells should each receive three times as much as the 4 bells next below them, and that the ringers of these 4 bells should, in their turn, each receive twice as much as the ringer of the tenor. The precise amount of the legacy was £7,999.97. How much did the poor old "bonger-behind" receive? Answers to the usual address - See below.

For the next issue ...

The deadline for inclusion in the April edition is Monday 10th March.

Please send your *Clappertrappings* submissions to:
Lee Cooke, Tel: 01283 561444
45 Dover Road, E-mail: newsletter
Burton on Trent, DE13 0TD