



# Clappertrappings



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

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

June 2008

## Forthcoming Events

### Saturday 5th July

Come along and stretch your legs. Saturday 5th July is a walking day. (3 to 4 miles in all.) The plan is to meet at Barlaston parish church at 2pm, then walk to Downbanks, and back along the canal for tea at Barlaston at 5.30pm. Evening ringing is from 7pm. Names for tea to Mrs Ellen Evans (e-mail them to teas) by the previous Wednesday please.

### Saturday 2nd August

We have another training day, this time on the 6 at Sheen from 3pm to 5pm. If you would like to pre-book a place on the training day, please contact the Ringing Master. Tea will follow at Alstonefield at 5:30 followed by evening ringing there from 7pm till 9pm. Names for tea to Peter Wilshaw (e-mail them to teas) by the previous Wednesday please.

### Names for Tea

Please try to get your tea orders in by the appointed time. Last minute requests can make things very awkward for the food organisers. We are very grateful for their efforts, and should do all we can to forewarn them of our cake needs!

## Tuesday Daytime Band

### 17<sup>th</sup> June 2008:

Barthomley (8) [SJ767524] 11 - 12:15  
Betley (6) [SJ756484] 2 - 3:15

### 15<sup>th</sup> July 2008:

Details not available at time of going to press.

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

## Roadshow 2008

The 2008 Ringing Roadshow will be held on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th September 2008 at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. Opening times are 1000-1800 on Friday and 0930-1700 on Saturday.



The Roadshow will be the largest ever gathering of ringers and all other bell enthusiasts and promises to be an excellent day out for all the family.

It encompasses a trade show, a range of learning opportunities, ringing-related entertainment, hands-on activities, shopping and the chance to meet hundreds of other people with the same passion for bells and bellringing.

The roadshow website contains information about all aspects of the show including how to buy tickets - [www.ringingroadshow2008.org.uk](http://www.ringingroadshow2008.org.uk)

## Quarter Peal Week 2008

It's not only Heinz who have 57 varieties it seems, as this number holds the same significance when it came to this year's NSA Quarter Peal Week. Organising an event such as this is no small task, and so preparations all began with 57 letters being typed and sent to towers inviting them to participate in this year's Quarter Peal Week. By remarkable coincidence (and a fact I hadn't realised when first gathering my statistics for writing this article), there were also 57 different people taking part in Quarter Peal Week this year! For the number crunchers amongst us, here are some more of the ingredients that made up this year's Quarter Peal Week:

- 68 - Phone calls I made in connection with the event
- 46 - Emails I exchanged during organisation of Quarter Peal Week (perhaps I should have emailed 11 of the people I rang!!)
- 19 - Towers taking part in Quarter Peal Week.
- 30 - Quarter Peals attempted for the week.
- 22 - Quarter Peals achieved. This is a truly magnificent success rate and reflects the good standard of ringing across the Association.

Within those 22 Quarter Peals were a number of individual successes for ringers. First Quarter Peal congratulations go to Anne Curwen from Madeley. Several ringers scored their first Quarter Peals in methods, including Alan Dutton, who fulfilled a lifetime ambition to ring Little Bob Major. He achieved this at his home tower of Stone on Quarter Peal Day, a Quarter that was rung in memory of his wife Eileen who passed away earlier in that week. We all send Alan our congratulations and best wishes at this time.

And so to the results, listed below in order of when they were rung:

**Keele, 27 April**, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: John Griffiths 1, Rowena Gay 2, James Scott 3, Steve Hickey 4, Phil Gay (C) 5, Dan Viggars 6. Rung before morning service as a 70th birthday compliment to Bev Stringer, churchwarden.

**Norton-in-the-Moors, 27 April**, 1260 Plain Bob Triples: Dave Crump 1, Rowena Gay 2, Peter Sharp 3, Steven Harvey 4, Frank Beech (C) 5, David Simpson 6, Phil Gay 7, Jim Cooke 8. Rung in memory of Evelyn Davey, mother of the rector of this church, who passed away on April 23rd 2008, and in memory of the wife of Alan Dutton, ringer at St Michael Stone, who passed away this morning.

**Broughton, 28 April**, 1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major: Jean Nixon 1, Rowena Gay 2, Frank Beech 3, Sue Kingman 4, Phil Gay 5, Warren Griffiths 6, Jim Nixon 7. Peter Sharp (C) 8. 1st 1/4 in method: 4. Rung as a Birthday Compliment to Christopher Brown, cousin of the conductor

**Burton-Upon-Trent (St Modwen), 28 April**, 1260 Plain Bob Triples: Stewart Bannister 1, Lee Cooke 2, Louise Twigg 3, David Hall 4, Antony Allen 5, Richard Gibson 6, Scott Wheaver (C) 7, Richard Austin 8.

**Eccleshall, 29 April**. 1260 Grandsire Triples: Frank Beech 1, Jean Nixon (c) 2, Peter Sharp 3, Ben Hockenhull 4, Warren Griffiths 5, Jim Nixon 6, Derek Knowles 7, Denis Owen 8.

**Keele, Woodlands, 29 April**. 1296 Cambridge S Minor: Ray Ballard 1. Rowena Gay 2, Peter Sharp 3, Frank Beech 4, Jenny Beech 5, Phil Gay (C) 6.

Stretton, 29 April, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Janet Royall 1, Sarah Gibson 2, Lee Cooke 3, Barry Gooding 4, Richard Gibson (C) 5, Richard Austin 6.

**Swynnerton, 30 April**, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Heather Eyre 1, Yvonne Pynenburg 2, Susan Lewis 3, Alan Dutton 4, Chris Adams (C) 5, Yvonne Rawsthorne 6. Rung to congratulate Mrs Ruth Cheadle on her forthcoming 90th birthday.

**Rolleston on Dove, 1 May**, 1272 Single Oxford, and spliced Plain and Little: Stewart Bannister 1, Lee Cooke 2, Louise Twigg 3, Richard Gibson 4, Scott Wheaver 5, Antony Allen (C) 6. Rung 6.30am for Ascension Day.

**Rolleston on Dove, 1 May**, 1260 PB Triples: Richard P Austin 1, Barry Gooding 2, Lee Cooke 3, Colin Whieldon 4, Alan Faiers 5, Scott Wheaver 6, Antony Allen (C) 7, Stewart Bannister 8. 1st Triples: 2

**Keele, 1 May**, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Phil Gay 1, John Griffiths 2, Rowena Gay 3, James Scott 4, Ben Hockenhull (C) 5, Steven Harvey 6. 1st inside: 2. For Ascension Day

**Stafford, 1 May**, 1280 Rutland S Major: Margaret Jones 1, Jim Nixon 2, Denis Owen 3, Ted Fairbrother 4, Peter Sharp 5, Derek Knowles 6, Selwyn Jones (C) 7, Nigel Horritt 8. 1st of surprise major inside: 3. 1st in Method: 5.

**Marchington, 3 May**, 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor: Jean Nixon 1, Judy Yates 2, Jim Nixon 3, Keith Brooks 4, Ben Hockenhull (C) 5, Peter Sharp 6.

**Stone, 3 May**, 1296 Little Bob Major: Margaret Simpson 1, Pat Bishop 2, Sue Kingman 3, Alan Dutton 4, Bill Harris 5, David Simpson 6, David Crump 7, Michael Wilshaw (C) 8. Rung in memory of Eileen Dutton, wife of the ringer of the 4th.

**Horton, 3 May**, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Joanna Ashby 1, Philip Wood 2, Rowena Gay 3, Rob Barcroft 4, Len Venables 5, Phil Gay (C) 6.

**Uttoxeter, 3 May**, 1280 Rutland Surprise Major: Kath Adams 1, Ben Hockenhull 2, David Crump 3, Frank Beech 4, Scott Wheaver 5, Peter Sharp 6, David Simpson 7, Chris Adams (C) 8. 1st in Method: 2. Rung as a Birthday Compliment to Barbara Parker, wife of the tower captain.

**Rolleston on Dove, 3 May**, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Barry Gooding 1, Jean Nixon (C) 2, Peter Marriott 3, Lee Cooke 4, James Went 5, Chris Wilton 6, Jim Nixon 7, Richard Austin 8.

**Burton-on-Trent (St Chad), 3 May**, 1260 Plain Bob Triples: Ben Hockenhull 1, Barry Gooding 2, Chris Wilton 3, Lee Cooke 4, Scott Wheaver 5, Chris Adams 6, Peter Sharp (C) 7, Stewart Bannister 8.

**Keele, 3 May**, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Anne Curwen 1, Rowena Gay 2, Marion Lawrence 3, Alan Dutton 4, Phil Gay (C) 5, Frank Beech 6. First quarter attempt for Anne Curwen.

**Stafford, 3 May**, 1280 Cambridge Surprise Royal: Jean Nixon 1, Kath Adams 2, Ben Hockenhull 3, Phil Gay 4, David Simpson 5, Jim Nixon 6, Peter Sharp 7, Derek Knowles 8, Chris Adams 9, Michael Wilshaw (C) 10. First Surprise Royal: 3.

**Keele, 4 May**, 1260 Doubles (Stedman, Grandsire & Plain Bob): Pauline Mellor 1, Phil Gay (C) 2, Rowena Gay 3, Ben Hockenhull 4, Steve Mellor 5, Dan Viggars 6.

**Burton on Trent (St Modwen), 4 May**, 1260 Doubles (4m): Richard P Austin 1, Louise Twigg 2, Lee Cooke 3, Alan Faiers 4, Antony Allen (C) 5, Stewart Bannister 6. A birthday compliment to Richard Gibson.

*Peter Sharp, Ringing Master.*

## Letters to the Editor

### The future of NSA striking contests

The Association's recent decision to award the Borrett Cup to the highest placed band from a 6 bell tower in the 6 bell striking contest is unfair. The very idea that it now cannot be won by regularly attending bands such as Stone, Rolleston or St Modwen's Burton is ridiculous. In all likelihood the Borrett cup will now be awarded to Keele each year, just as the main trophy usually gets awarded to Stafford. The difference is that Stafford win theirs on merit, whereas the Borrett cup is most likely to be won by default. This rule change will make the contest worse, not better.

More importantly, this decision has not addressed the much more fundamental issue of how to increase participation in the contest from across all towers of the Association. There are dozens of regular Sunday service bands in our Association. The Association needs to reach out to such bands, or more specifically to the individuals who make up these bands, and encourage them to participate. Nobody would say they're not interested in good striking, and it is the development of good striking skills that the contests should be aiming to promote.

There are several ways to achieve this. One would be the inclusion of mixed bands. I would suggest a call change contest, run in amongst entries for the traditional six bell contest. Mixed bands would be organised by more experienced ringers, containing 2 or 3 ringers from 2 or 3 other towers. The bands should be arranged beforehand by the team leader. This would encourage individuals to give it a go and to participate in a less pressured environment than

entering an entire local band for the first time. The Borret cup could tour the towers of the winning mixed band's team members throughout the year, thus promoting their success to their fellow home tower band members. When not ringing, new participants could count faults from the other bands' test pieces and see if they agree with the judge's verdict.

The second way to get people interested in contest ringing is to organise striking training sessions. This is something I piloted in 2007 and received quite a bit of interest. These events gave people the opportunity to concentrate on listening to ringing rather than actually doing the ringing. (The opportunity to listen to good striking has been denied to participants in this year's contests due to their simultaneous arrangement and the necessary travelling time.) The first step to good striking is the ability to pick out individual notes in amongst the changes, so listening to ringing is something that is well worth practising. We have a number of simulators within our Association which are ideal for use in striking training events.

If the Association is to achieve its aim of promoting high quality striking, and if the striking contests are to continue as a viable part of the annual calendar then we must act now to teach people how to strike well and we must increase participation in the contests. Minor tweaks to the existing rules, a change of date, a trophy for a restricted category of entrants, will not achieve the desired result. We have to make the contests more appealing, less formal, and more accessible. We must be pro-active and we must reach out to the more enthusiastic membership of our Association and bring them on board.

*Ant Allen*

## Where do you read yours?



*Dear and Glorious Reader*

## Congratulations

to Scott and Zoe on the birth of your beautiful baby daughter. Amber Mae Wheaver entered the world on Thursday, 29th May, weighing in at an impressive 8lb

8oz, and, aged 4 days, has just slumbered peacefully through a particularly odd-struck practice night at St Modwen's. (Hope the striking contest judge looks similarly serene and satisfied after our efforts on Saturday. Ed) Well done and the very best of wishes to all the family.

## Lady P returns to Mavesyn Ridware after 45 years

The day dawned bright and sunny for the Eccleshall ringers' 2008 spring outing ably organised as always by Ian Mackintosh who by way of a change from the Mercedes drove Kath, the typist and myself to each tower in a seven seater VW Sharan.

Once again Parker was unable to attend. On this occasion he was required to lend his support to the British track cycling team as they cycled towards a plethora of gold medals. This proved so exhausting that he completely missed the boat race.

Hazel Wilshaw was also absent. She was saying a few kind words to the shop which had apparently lost track of her mother of the bride outfit with only a week to go before the wedding. The outfit should have been in Crewe but was believed to be possibly in London or alternatively in France.

It made a pleasant change on this occasion for the wrinklies to be accompanied by two young ringers Annabel Bradshaw and Thomas Went who acquitted themselves superbly on their first outing giving real hope for the future.

For the first tower of the day we stayed within the N.S.A boundary and were thanked for some generally good ringing at Draycott in the Moors by local tower captain Ken Shelley who was unfortunately unable to join in the ringing because of the more urgent demands of lambing.

Colwich was the next tower where we were joined by a mystery guest. I thought she might have been Aunt Tail-End but some thought she was the Clappertrappings editor and others that she was the public relations officer. We may never know....

The band was not defeated by the idiosyncrasies of the bells which somehow seemed at odds with the pristine ringing chamber and new spiral staircase which apparently had been installed because ringers are not considered sufficiently hygienic to pass through the kitchen to the original entrance.

The band then moved on to Abbots Bromley where a hot lunch at The Goats Head was particularly welcome because by this time the bright and sunny day of the first paragraph had turned distinctly cold and wet.

James Went but quickly returned to pay for two meals (this is the editor's joke so don't blame me for it) so that hostage Ian could be released by the landlord.

The lovely bells at Abbots Bromley were enjoyed and an embroidery of bob doubles admired. Annabel, who had spent the whole morning trying to find the owner of a pretty handkerchief left at one of the earlier towers, gave up the search and ditched the offending article at the tower. We puzzled over the notice instructing us to "replace the boards or the clock stops" and eventually left it to the typist who seemed to have some vague understanding of what it might mean.

The last tower of the day was Mavesyn Ridware where I first (and last) rang in 1963. Since then the bells have literally gone up in the world, increased in number and acquired an embroidered peal board.

The editor was searching for ideas for future competitions and bell themed embroidery was suggested but would James Went be able to enter and win? Not to worry, of course his wife Rose would certainly be the winner.

Tea and tasty cakes at the northern residence of Kath and the typist brought to a close another enjoyable (except for the weather) day.

FAB  
Lady P.

Did the bride's mother wear jeans?  
Did Abbot's Bromley ringers return the handkerchief to Annabel?  
What vehicle will Ian be driving on the next outing? (A train was mentioned).  
Watch this space!

## Where do you read yours?



Jen the peg

## Puzzle Corner

Last edition's poser, Bing Bong, set by our Secretary, provoked a flurry of entries, which were all entered into the bi-monthly, Roll Over, Blotto, Zingo Fantabulous Prize Draw, You had to be in it to win it, and the winner was, wait for it, drum roll, oh, what suspense...yes, our very own James "Lucky Jim" Went. Read his correct extrapolation here first, in this exclusive scoop.

Dear Lee,  
Using no horological logic whatsoever but performing a nifty (not to say nimble-fingered) sweep of my trusty abacus beads, I would hazard that the question you seek is

"How many times each day does the tenor bell receive a single blow from the clock hammer?" (This assumes of course that the hammer has not been "pulled off" to allow the practice of our fair and humble art).  
Strikingly yours,  
James Went (St.H and Stone)

This was, however, only one of several potentially correct answers that might have been given:

- 1) What is the penultimate answer in the 2 times table?
- 2) How many bells will be installed on the LDMB version II?
- 3) A palindromic number whose square is also a palindrome.
- 4) What is the smallest of the three numbers for which the number of digits in the factorial of that number equals the number itself? (Imagine ringing an extent on LDMBVII!)
- 5) How many pieces of cake can be made from a whole cake using 6 straight cuts?
- 6) What is Aunt Tail-end's age at next birthday?

The puzzle for this month, targeting a certain niche sector of our membership, is this:

- 1) What is the weight of the heaviest bell in the NSACR?
- 2) What is the weight of the heaviest bell in the UK hung for full-circle change ringing?
- 3) What is the difference in their weights?
- 4) Would you like to ring them?

Entry(ies) to the usual address. In the event of a deluge, Judge's decision is final, and not much correspondence will be entered into.

### For the next issue ...

The deadline for inclusion in the August edition is Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July.

Please send your *Clappertrappings* submissions to:  
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