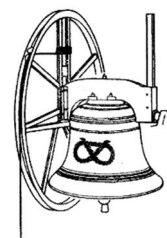


Clappertrappings



Newsletter of the North Staffordshire Association of Change Ringers

www.nsacr.org.uk

Summer 2023



We hope you enjoy this SUMMER edition of Clappertrappings, catching up with what's been happening in our Association over the past few months.

***Helen Thurstan and Charlie Ernest,
Editors.***

NSACR BUSINESS

Up-coming Events

Surprise Major Practice

Tue 9th May, Tue 13th June, Tue 11th July

This is a monthly Surprise Major practice organised by Selwyn Jones and Chris Adams. Methods range from Cambridge upwards. Please make sure you contact the Group Leaders before attending for the first time.

Saturday 3rd June

Six Bell Striking Contest Church Eaton (ST20 0AT)

3:00pm - 5:00pm Striking Contest

5:00pm - 6:15pm Tea, Results and Business Meeting

6:15pm - 7:00pm Evening Ringing

Saturday 1st July

10am Meet for a morning walk around Draycott

Please note, these walks are arranged by the Ring and Ramble activity group. Walking will be across fields and tracks so a pair of walking boots or stout shoes are required. Please contact group leaders (Chris Adams and/or Lucy Naish) if you intend to go on the walk. Further details available on the website.

The group leaders can be emailed on:

ag-ring-ramble@nsacr.org.uk

12.15-1.45pm Lunch prior to ringing meeting at Draycott Church.

Afternoon Meeting – Draycott in the Moors

Sunday 30th July, 2:30pm

St Peter's, Alton

Dedication of the new bells and augmentation by the Bishop of Stafford.

Please join us for the celebration with ringing and refreshments after the service.

Saturday 5th August

11.30am Meet for a guided walk at High Offley Church (ST20 OND)

1:15pm - 2:30pm: Picnic lunch (bring your own picnic, which will be in the church if the weather is bad) Remember those sturdy walking boots or shoes.

2:30pm - 4:00pm: Afternoon ringing

Saturday 2nd September

Ingestre (6) (ST18 ORF)

7:00pm - 8:30pm Evening ringing

RINGING FOR THE KING AND QUEEN



Ring for the King – CCCBR

[Visit](#)

So, we know there was a lot of activity everywhere with the Coronation on Saturday, 6th May, and that there was even ringing

going on over the Sunday and Monday of the Coronation Weekend, so the following

is a snippet of who was doing what and when and where of course, importantly!

North Staffs Coronation Ringing for HM Charles III and Queen Camilla

May 1st quarter at Barlaston

May 4th Call changes at Church Eaton

May 5th Peal at Stone

May 5th Peal at Stowe by Chartley

May 6th

Alton

Alstonefield

Audley

Barton under Needwood

Betley

Biddulph

Burton St Chad

Burton St Modwen (including quarter)

Burton St Paul

Butterton

Caverswall



Caverswall, St Peter's: L-R Chris Fitzpatrick, Dave Beardmore, Dave Walklate, Jason Watts, Dinah Watts, Margaret Carnall (TC), Helen Thurstan (Dilhorne) and (L-R front) Jackie Kent (TC Dilhorne), Liz Beardmore

Church Leigh

Denstone

Dilhorne



Dilhorne, All Saints: L-R Rear: Rob, Jason Watts (Caverswall), Dinah Watts (Caverswall) Middle: Linda Wait, Helen Thurstan, Sue Mason, Margaret Carnall (TC Caverswall), Laura Hulse (Draycott) with her children (new recruits?) And Front: Gill Smith, Sue Wildman, Jackie Kent (TC), Di Stubbs

Draycott



Draycott, St Margaret's: L-R: Laura Hulse, Jackie Kent (TC Dilhorne), Dave Meller, Sue Mason (Dilhorne), Gill Smith (Dilhorne), John Clarke

Eccleshall

Ellastone

Gnosall

Haughton

Ilam

Ipstones (peal)

Keele

Kidsgrove

Kingsley

Leek

Madeley

Marchington

Newcastle

Norton

Rangemore

Rocester

Rolleston

Sandon

Seighford

Silverdale

Stafford (including quarter)

Stoke

Stone



Stretton

Swynnerton

Tunstall

Tutbury

Uttoxeter

Wetton

Whitmore
Wolstanton
Woodlands

May 7th

Hoar Cross
Kingsley

May 8th

Barlaston (quarter)
Dilhorne
Fenton
Stafford (quarter)

Staffordshire Ladies



Staffordshire Ladies celebrating the coronation of King Charles III (2/2); first in method on the new bells at St Mary's

On Monday, 8 May 2023 in 46m

Stafford, St Mary

1260 Plain Bob Triples

- 1 Petula Hughes
- 2 Helen Turner-Murphy
- 3 Jan Hine
- 4 Jean Nixon
- 5 Jenny Beech (C)

- 6 Gill Wheatley
- 7 Margaret Simpson
- 8 Pat Jones

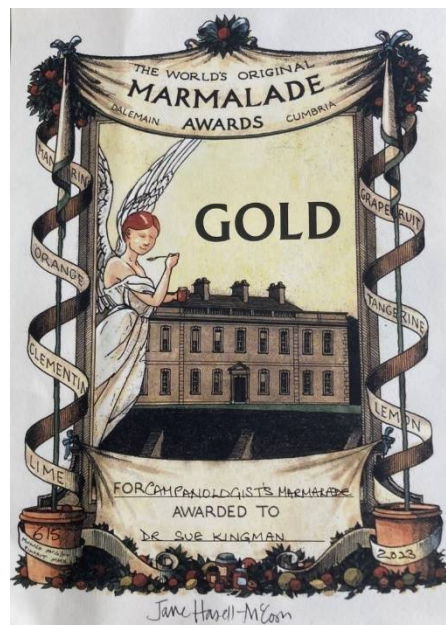
NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

Stone news

Sue Kingman wins the Campanologist section of the World's original Marmalade Awards held in Dalemain, Cumbria

St Michael's ringer, Sue Kingman is well renowned for making delicious preserves,

and enters the annual marmalade competition which attracts worldwide entries and raises thousands of pounds for Hospice at Home and local hospices. You



Sue Kingman Award 2023

will remember that last year Sue achieved silver in the Campanologists' Category. Well, this year, she's gone one better, and achieved the Gold Award, with a faultless report from the judges, saying that her marmalade had good presentation and colour, excellent flavour and harmony, with a perfect set and texture.

Excellent news, and many congratulations to Sue from all of us.

Stone ringers have been very active during the months of April and May. Plenty of work has been going on in the tower, teaching and maintenance. The steps up to the ringing chamber have been secured. Within the old frame area, the metal flooring has been fixed into position. Redundant building materials and general rubbish have been removed. The new bell frame has been cleaned and ropes checked.

At the PCC AGM Peter (Tower Captain) was elected onto the PCC and he will be working with the Church wardens to undertake fabrics works across the tower including the louvres and remaining stairs.

Ringling for the Coronation took place over the whole bank holiday weekend. On Friday 5th May Peter, Greg, John, Sue and



Stone band

Jenny were joined by five ringers from Chester, Liverpool, North Wales and Birmingham to ring a peal of Plain Bob Royal taking 3 hours and 7 minutes.

On Coronation Day itself 14 of us rang a variety of changes on all 10 bells including Hetty who rang on her own, perfectly, after only 5 lessons.

Margaret and Jenny have been ringing quarter peals with a Staffordshire ladies band. Jenny expertly called Plain bob triples on the middle eight at Stafford.

Stafford News

The installation has now been completed and the bells are better than we could have hoped.

Individual bells were tested at the start of March and all the bells were rung together for the first time in the evening of Tuesday 7th March with ringers coming who had helped with the project. We then resumed our weekly practice night the following evening Wednesday 8th March, with the first service ringing Sunday 12th March.

Since this we have been ringing back weekly, which has been really nice.

We have been teaching some new ringers (pictured above) since we started back ringing at Stafford, and they joined us for the ringing for the Kings Coronation which was a memorable occasion for all involved. We then went on to ring a quarter peal of Grandsire Caters, amongst others ringing, Derek Knowles rang, who also rang for QEII coronation.

Although the bells are ringing, we still have a little bit of work left to do in the tower. We have the electronic sound control being installed 5th June. We also have the electrician booked to make a few alterations, and the ringing chamber carpet is being installed 19th June.



Stafford Ringers, with new ringers

Kingsley, St Werburgh's

From the Kingsley ringers.

As a non-method tower, the Kingsley ringers decided to practice a simple method for the coronation weekend.

Consequently, on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th May, we successfully rang making thirds rather than ringing the usual call changes.

For those towers well used to method ringing, it will not seem to amount to much, however for us, it was a different experience.

Ipstones, St Leonard

David Jack

A Peal was rung at Ipstones on Coronation Day, being a joint effort by the North Staffs and Shropshire Association, credited to NSACR by being rung at a North Staffs Tower.

Sat 6th May 2023 2h 39 (5)

5040 Cambridge S Minor

- 1 E Ann Williams
- 2 Gail K Lawrence
- 3 David W Jack
- 4 Samantha J Martin
- 5 Trevor Lock
- 6 Matthew Lawrence

Our local band also rang Call Changes on 2 practice nights in celebration.

Liz A Fitzgibbon

Judith H Ward

Jacqui Millward

Chris J Ramsay

Liam Pointon

Robert W White

David W Jack

May has been a busy month in Ipstones. We made Bell Sunday 21st May rather than 14th as we thought the Service on that day was more conducive. A talk was given on bells and ringing and bell-shaped biscuits served with coffee after the service.

We now have our Simulator up and running and it is proving useful in identifying good and bad striking. We do not use it every week but are hoping it will help with our progress. Raising and lowering in peal is occupying our efforts at the moment.

Alton, St Peter's - Alan Walters

We are delighted that we were able to ring the bells at Alton again for Easter, having started the augmentation to 10 last October. When we gave the go-ahead for the project last year that was the target and credit is due to Taylor's that it was achieved. The try-out was on Maundy Thursday and went well, although the bells were quite loud in the ringing chamber as the belfry door had been removed to make way for the frame! We now have a temporary replacement, and a permanent solution is on its way.

There is still a little work to do on the adjustable sound control and the clock hammers, fitting a simulator and sorting out the seating in the ringing chamber.

The bells are lovely, go well (as you would hope!) and are good to hear in the ringing chamber. We are finding it interesting changing between the different sets of bells during one session as we effectively have an 8cwt ring of six and a 22cwt eight or ten in the same tower. To try to make sure we don't get stuck on 'favourite' bells, we have a chart to keep track of which bells each ringer has rung.

The band is making good progress given that most have been ringing less than 2 years. We have been able to ring call changes on 6 or 8 on Sundays as well as rounds on all 10 for Easter and the coronation, which is good given that the reason for augmenting was that we have usually rung 6 or fewer for Sunday and

practice. Some of our newer ringers are now starting to ring Plain Hunt.



Alton, St Peter's

The formal dedication of the new bells and the whole project by the Bishop of Stafford will be at 2:30pm on Sunday 30th July and we will look forward to ringers from across the Association joining us, having a ring and some refreshments.

Sara's story, Alton

When I returned to UK from living in Canada for fifteen years it was lovely to walk through Alton and listen to the church bells. So I was enthusiastic to join in March 2022 when new ringers were recruited. My daughters, Emily and Beatrice also joined, Beatrice as part of her D of E activities – learning a new skill. My daughter Ellie has recently joined the band and is learning to ring.

In October Emily and I helped when the bells, and all the fixings needed to make them work, were being removed. This began to give me an idea how everything worked above the ringing chamber when I pulled my rope.

I was able to pursue this when the frame, fixings and bells were reinstalled this year. At first, I was useful to the team fetching and carrying and passing tools. Then Alan encouraged me to be more directly involved in hands-on tasks such as operating the winch, helping to re-fit the wheels and even mixing cement! My small stature and agility help me to be nimble amongst the mechanism so I'm well suited to these tasks. As I demonstrated ability in these areas, I became accepted as part of the engineering team. Consequently, I now take part in helping Alan to tie the bells for silent practice and will help with other work in the tower.

We rarely stopped work as it was SO cold up there. One day I wore two pairs of trousers to keep warm but didn't repeat it as they made climbing stairs and moving around the frame very difficult!

Sara Davenport, Lady Bellhanger

Reflections of a new bell ringer

Nicky Green, Alton

My first visit to the ringing chamber of St Peter's, Alton was at the Open Day in March, 2022. I expressed my interest in learning to ring and soon became involved in the bell project.

During the past twelve months I have watched the bells being dismantled, helped carry endless odds and ends out of the belfry and watched two new bells being cast at John Taylors in Loughborough (a living museum if ever there was one).

This year I have watched the new frame taking shape, welcomed the bells home and marvelled as they were rehung in their new places. At times it seemed that the tower was not big enough, and the church and churchyard were definitely not designed with moving bells in mind! Too many steps!

I have also made new friends, rung at 22 different churches, rung for Her Majesty and I'm looking forward to ringing for His Majesty. I've discovered that learning to ring can be lots of fun, endlessly frustrating and curiously addictive. I've also learned that we are very lucky in Alton to have such wonderful bells!

Seighford - *Christine Sherratt*

Here at Seighford we tolled a bell for an hour prior to Queen Elizabeth II's funeral and, with the help of our Stafford friends, rang on the morning of the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. (Rounds, Kings, Queens, Grandsire Doubles).

It was lovely to play our own small part on such momentous occasions.



St Chad's Church Seighford, a grade 2 listed building

Kidsgrove, St Thomas's - Kath Lawrence

Kath, together with the Kidsgrove/Lawton/Tunstall Band (who 'do' 3 churches!) rang for HM Queen Elizabeth II's funeral and also rang for TMs King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

No photos of the band however, apologies.



No pictures of ringers, but one of Kath's house and front garden, all decked out ready for the Coronation, from , as she describes herself as 'a right royal Enthusiast'!

News from Keele 14 - Phil Gay

On February 23rd I gave a first lesson to the granddaughter of Betley ringer Terry French, whose mother did some ringing in the past and may be persuadable to start again. Very little persuasion was needed, and she clearly hadn't forgotten. On February 22nd we had a half-term visit to Woodlands from Jenny Beech and granddaughter Seren, who took to the bells with alacrity and was soon ringing both strokes.

On February 26th Tim Hine told me about a potential learner who had enquired as a result of the broadcast feature the previous week, and when I spoke to her, she agreed to visit the Keele practice on

March 1st. She came for her first lesson two days later and made a good start.

On March 7th I went to the first ringing of Stafford's new bells, which are very good indeed. The back ten are audible in the ringing chamber in a way they never were at Hanley, and the new trebles and flat sixth fit in very well.

Monday March 13th was the start of a sad week, with two funerals. David Midgley's at Madeley was well supported with good ringing and on Thursday it was standing room only at Swynnerton Catholic Church for Yvonne Pynenburg's funeral. She had been very involved in a wide range of village activities. Before the service there were just enough ringers to ring at the parish church across the road. This was my first ring on the bells since I had helped with the refurbishment of the wheels. On Sunday there was a quarter in memory of Yvonne, my first on big bells for quite a while.

North Staffordshire Association

Swynnerton, Staffordshire

St Mary

Sunday, 19 March 2023 in 43m (7-1-8 in A)

1260 Doubles (2m)

540 Grandsire, 720 Plain Bob Doubles.

1 Raymond H Daw

2 Rosemary E Wright

3 Timothy C Hine

4 Philip W Gay

5 Chris Adams (C)

6 David J Crump

Rung, half muffled, in memory of Yvonne Pynenburg, ringer and Tower Captain at Swynnerton for many years.

On Saturday March 18th I went to judge the Lichfield and Walsall Archdeacons' striking competition at Drayton Bassett. There were six teams from five towers and the ringing was good. Two days later I had a visit from the vicar of Keele and Silverdale, who told me he was under pressure from a parishioner to make sure that Silverdale bells will be rung for the coronation. They are not in good condition and have not been rung for a while, but I said we could probably ring the back six at some time over the weekend.

We did two lots of muffled ringing at Keele during Holy Week, on Wednesday for the funeral of a retired Keele professor and our usual ring for the service on Good Friday. We don't practise in Holy Week so the muffles could stay on.

I have badly misjudged the size requirements for my stay stock and had to order a new supply of ash to cut into 2" by 2" stays. On Thursday April 6th I collected six planks from the sawmill and took them to Nantwich for conversion into twenty-four stays, six of which were already spoken for. I have now sold eighty since restocking in the autumn.

On April 20th I started three new much-needed learners at Whitmore. The four I am teaching at Keele are all doing well, and

they will be able to ring for the coronation. We will be ringing at all four towers in the Keele cluster, two in the morning and two in the afternoon, followed by a drive party. Ringing at Silverdale was complicated by the fact that in the long interval since we last rung there, I had mislaid the key, and had to borrow one from the vicar for copying. Ten years ago, I was asked to judge a competition at Bodellwyddan in North Wales, and arrived to find there was much anxiety because no key to the ringing chamber was available. In desperation they asked if anyone had a mortise lock key they could try, so I handed over the Silverdale key and it worked!

In common with most ringers, we had a busy day on May 6th, ringing at all the towers in the Keele cluster, Madeley and Whitmore in the morning and Silverdale, Keele and Woodlands in the afternoon. Twenty-three ringers took part, a few ringing at all the towers but some of the less experienced only at Keele. These included Dawn Johnson, who had her first handling lesson on March 3rd, and Annie Burbank and Tilly Burgess Havard who had been ringing for slightly longer. Jane Barber from Madeley and Lisa Gillis from Whitmore are also fairly recent learners. Most of those who rang are regular Sunday, practice night or teaching session members, but we were pleased to be visited by Samantha Martin and Lorna Champney. After ringing at Keele we all went to Woodlands for a party and more ringing. A good day!

Woodlands Wednesday continued much as before, losing about half of our attempts. On May 3rd we were joined by Barry and Heather Peachey, who had come from Lincolnshire to collect a consignment of stays.

County Show

On May 31st we made our usual visit to the county show with the mobile belfry, although we didn't have a complete Woodlands band. We were pleased to include Tilly Burgess Havard in the group, which enabled us to show that ringing is not entirely the preserve of old fogies. She has been learning at Keele since early this year and is doing very well. We had a good day with the usual large number of youngsters who just wanted to chime, and I gave some back strokers to the mayor of Stafford. We were joined by ringers from Penkridge, Eccleshall and Little Aston, but didn't see either the Bishop or the Archdeacon. In the morning we rang a 720 of Cambridge in memory of Denzil Spencer, who has been a valued supporter of the belfry.

North Staffordshire Association

Lichfield Diocesan Mobile Belfry

Wednesday, 31 May 2023 (0–2–20 in D)

720 Cambridge Surprise Minor

1 Wendy Walters

2 Raymond H Daw

3 Selwyn G Jones

4 Alan P Walters

5 Philip W Gay

6 Michael Wilshaw (C)

Rung when the belfry was erected at the County Showground for the Staffordshire Show.

A celebration of the life of Betley ringer Denzil Spencer who died on May 15th. He was a valued supporter of the belfry, which has been stored in his barn for the last ten years.

Brian Carnall



Many of you will know that Margaret Carnall's beloved husband died

recently, and his funeral was held at St Peter's, Caverswall on the 17th May, where there was much ringing and support from so many of Margaret's ringing friends.

Margaret told me that Brian used to go to St Peter's with her when she first started to ring, and listened to the bells, good and bad, and she felt this was something he would have dearly appreciated.

Margaret wanted to say a heartfelt "thankyou" to all of you that were there, either at church, ringing, or at the Crematorium afterwards, and indeed all those who also took time to call or send cards. It was all truly much appreciated.

All information can be found on our website. It is recommended that you check the website regularly in case of any changes to the programme and updates on ringing, events, recruitment & safeguarding.

<https://www.nsacr.org.uk>