

Ldg NEWS

NEWSLETTER TWO | JULY 2006

visit www.leicesterdg.org.uk

MEETINGS & GREETINGS



I would like to say a big thank you to those who have sent articles for the newsletter and those who let me know that you enjoyed the first one, all articles and feedback are gratefully received.

As you can see from the articles in this issue, the Guild has been very busy in the last six months. Central Council Meeting, Celebrate 80!, a new logo and a birthday party

EDITORIAL

Contributions & feedback to...

Jennie Paul

3rs@leicesterdg.org.uk
01509 260234

to name but a few of the activities. Thanks and congratulations are due to all those who have been

involved in organising these events.

I have overheard many people at Guild and District level, say they are struggling with a certain method. Get in touch with the Education Committee, they are there to help. This is your Guild make the most of it for help with any aspect of bells and ringing. On the other hand if you have any skills that can be of service to the Guild please get in touch.

INSIDE...

p2
The Singing Social
Education Committee

p3
Q&A Guild President

p4
Half Yearly Report
Sponsor Simon - BRF

p5
All new on Guild website

p6
Striking Tips
Quiz Time

p7
Hereford Ringing Course

p8
LDG 60 years old
Bells Committee

p9
Central Council 2006

p10
Celebrate80!

A SOCIAL WITH A TWIST



FESTIVE FAMILY FUN: DO IT YOURSELF STYLE

DISTRICT NEWS

MARKET HARBOROUGH

This is history, Harborough District Christmas Social, an event with a DIY flavour!

Late afternoon ringing at Lubenham followed by a service with a seasonal theme. We then moved to the Parish Hall in Market Harborough where Gill Bindley, with helpers, had prepared and cooked a three course meal followed by mince pies and coffee. Various quizzes were

passed between tables to while away the time it took to clear the debris of a lovely meal and to sell raffle tickets.

Then the entertainment, this was provided by district members, trumpet, flute, violin, clarinet, baritone tuba and tuba, piano and recorders were all played at some point. Gill had arranged carols so that some of the instruments were played as an 'orchestra', some pieces were

solo, Kathryn Hoyland danced a piece she was performing the following week and Kathryn Harter sang a solo. The audience participated where appropriate, one family joined in with four part harmony, the evening was rounded off by the playing of Belle Plates by those so inclined. A veritable feast of self entertainment, appreciated and enjoyed by all and it didn't cost a lot!!

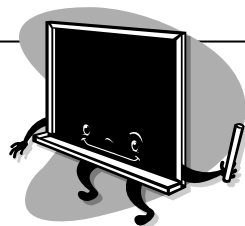
Gwen Tyler

Harborough District Chairman

PLAIN HUNT TO CAMBRIDGE

TRAINING SESSIONS: COMMITTEE HERE TO HELP

GUILD COMMITTEES EDUCATION



The Education Committee will be arranging a number of training sessions during this year.

Some will take place during midweek and the remainder on Saturday mornings. So far we have been asked to arrange a bob calling session (which we tried for the first time last autumn and it proved both popular and useful)

It is ideal for anyone who would like to have a go at basic conducting and learn one or two useful touches for Sunday morning or practice night. Other possibilities include handbells (we also ran a similar training session for handbells last December and it proved very successful and beyond our expectations), Stedman Doubles, Cambridge Minor and Plain Hunt. If your particular

requirement is not covered above, don't be put off, just let us know what you want.

We are always on the lookout for ringers to assist with these training mornings so if you feel able please contact the below and we can let you have full details in due course. If you want further information about any of the above please contact Sue or Garry Mason on 0116 270 4629.

Sue Mason

Education Committee Secretary

MR PRESIDENT, SIR

Q&A: WITH THE GUILD PRESIDENT

THE GUILD OFFICERS

Name: John Adcock

Home Tower: Long Clawson

Where did you learn to ring:
Mansfield, Notts

Why did you learn to ring:
Well it wasn't peer pressure for sure. We were short of ringers even in those days

Who taught you to ring:
Dad. Jim Poynor taught me to conduct and was a brilliant tower captain.

How long have you been ringing:
Anyone interested in a Golden Anniversary Peal?

What are your bell ringing ambitions:

To see each tower in the Guild with a full band of ringers. No pressure then! Many thanks to everyone who has joined the 3Rs Committee for sharing this ambition and for trying to do something about it

What are you most proud of in your ringing career:

LDG President. I also get pleasure from teaching anyone who becomes a long term ringer. Starting at Long Clawson with 4 novices ringing rounds at the same time was a bit challenging but fulfilling. One of them, Lin Forbes, went on to lead the successful £3m Millennium Grant application which put money into 150 bell projects around the country. Well done Lin! The inspiration behind the application was our own augmentation efforts which were successfully completed in 1997.

What is your favourite method:

Stedman Triples, but anything rung really well is a pleasure.

What is your favourite Guild event:

Ray Martin's barn dances (not technically a Guild event. but great fun and for the BRF – put the date in YOUR diary). They just push the friendly banter of General Committee meetings into 2nd place.

What are your other hobbies:

Football and cricket, but restricted to spectating these days. (MTFC / NCCC) Snooker, country walks, surveying hostelries, anything to do with history. Not shopping.

What is your favourite food;

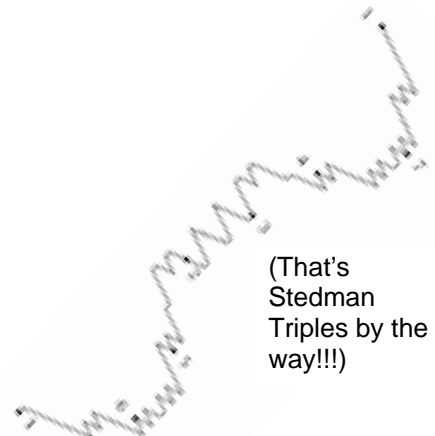
Anything served up by Hazel. (This bit edited by HJA)

What is your favourite drink:

Real Ale (*Hmmm, I see a pattern emerging with our Guild Officers and their drinking habits! Ed*)

What is your day job:

Business Development Manager for Age Concern Leicestershire & Rutland.



(That's Stedman Triples by the way!!!)

HALF YEARLY MEETING



THE GUILD NEWS

John Adcock
Guild President

This year's half yearly meeting took place at Great Glen on Saturday 22nd April

As usual it was preceded by the annual striking competition, which attracted entries from 4 districts. Despite some initial concerns all 4 managed to complete the "split tenors" touch of Double Norwich and the results were:

Hinckley	6 faults
Leicester	12 faults
Mkt Hboro	13 faults
Milton Mbray	27 faults

Congratulations to Hinckley District, and indeed to all those who took part. Many thanks to Mick Angrave and Roland Cook who were both involved in organising the event, and to Brian and Winnie Warwick for judging.

The General Committee's decision to appoint Stephen Franklin as the new Guild Treasurer was ratified. Welcome back Stephen. It was reported that the Guild had adopted the Central Council's Child Protection policy, whilst acknowledging

that any final decision on both policy and its implementation was the ultimate responsibility and decision of individual PCCs. The Guild also has a new policy statement on the control of its finances that has been advised to all District and Sub-Committee secretaries.

There was general approval of the Guild's new logo (see front page) which had recently been decided upon. Many thanks to Rob Parker. It was hoped that this would present the LDG with a more up to date image and so help with its recruitment drive.

SPONSOR SIMON

GUILD COMMITTEES BRF

Simon Harrison, Gail's other half, has very kindly agreed to run the Barrow Classic 10 mile race as a fundraiser for the BRF. Anyone wishing to **sponsor him** can do so by giving him a ring on 0116 2753801 or by contacting the Guild Secretary. The race takes place on 2nd July, but both pre and post race pledges of support are very welcome. Good luck Simon with both the race and the fundraising.

Each District Secretary now has a supply of **Gift Aid envelopes**. If you would like the BRF to benefit from your donations at monthly meetings or at other times then please ask your Secretary for a supply. NB Your donation will then be worth an extra 28.2%.

The Guild has extra commitments this year in hosting the Central Council

WHOOSH!



and also through various initiatives of the 3Rs committee. It has therefore been decided to defer any new major BRF drives. Possibilities for next year include an Open Day and a sponsored bike ride. If anyone wishes to put forward ideas, or wishes to get involved with the committee then please let us know. Alternatively, you may have a fundraising idea that you could run with at District level.

NEW FOR NET

www.leicesterdg.org.uk: ALL NEW ON GUILD SITE

THE GUILD WEBSITE

Your ringing website has just got better! From recruitment and retention to a BRF project – now it's all on the Leicester DG website.

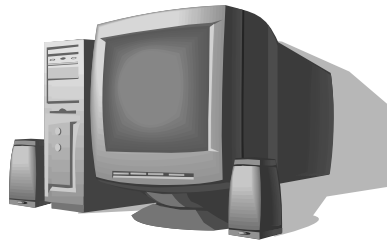
The site has now been enlarged and redesigned with new content added in many sections during 2006.

The **3Rs** Section now has the full 3Rs **Best Practice Ideas** with ideas on how the 3Rs can work in your tower. The new **Ringers Resources** area is now offering information, advice and a wide selection of resources to help you and your tower with the recruitment and retention of ringers. Items available to download FREE include posters, handouts and leaflets. A full Central Council Publications Price List is accessible from here. Details of 'What the 3Rs Committee Can Do For You', plus contact details for all your 3Rs matters are on the 3Rs pages. Check it out!!...

The **BRF** section has been extended, with new pages and lots of new information. The BRF Annual Report, containing accounts and details of grant

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A
COMPUTER EXPERT TO READ THIS!!

allocations and their progress is now available free for everyone to see – have a look where your donations are going! There is also a new look standing order and gift aid form for your continued donations. The Fundraising Committee now



has full and comprehensive details on fund raising for a BRF project, while the Allocations Committee have the latest Grant Application form available from their page. The BRF 100CLUB numbers for each month are also shown here, check your lucky balls!

The **News** page has the latest and all previous versions of IdgNEWS available for you! You can download extra copies for your tower, your ringers or yourself. Also any recent news regarding the Guild will be put on this page. Contributions are always welcome – please send your news stories/articles to

webmaster@leicesterdg.org.uk
(as well as IdgNEWS of course!!)

The **Events** page is continually updated with events listings for everything going on in the Guild as a whole and the districts. If you have any events info, please tell us - send an email to webmaster@leicesterdg.org.uk

The **Links** page, as always, has specially selected links to the best, most helpful ringing pages on the web.

Not to be left out - the website design has also have a facelift!! The new look is designed to be more modern and to incorporate the new Guild logo. Pages have a new navigational menu bar with links to the site pages and another menu with extra links. Have a look!!

Thanks to Chris Rudge, webmaster, for all his help and skills.

While the website is now far better than previously we still want your comments and ideas, particularly for items we can make available from Ringers Resources. Contact Jennie Paul, see details on cover.

BECOME A BELL RINGER

A new section to come to the site is the 'become a bell ringer' area. This is a new division of the site dedicated to providing helpful and interesting information to possible recruits. Please advise anybody interested in learning to ring to check out the site – www.leicesterdg.org.uk.

CRASH CRASH, BANG BANG

SOME HINTS AND TIPS TOWARDS... BETTER STRIKING

Ringers of all standards occasionally need reminders that every time they ring it is a public performance. Slipping in some striking exercises on practice night keeps everyone on their toes and leads to a higher general awareness of good striking and helps people to realise the importance of listening to their ringing.

Central Council Publications have two CDs that are very useful in listening to ringing, without having to worry about controlling the bell. Why not have

THE 3Rs EDUCATION

a theory session one practice night and spend time listening to one of the CDs and see if you and ringers get the same answers as to which bell is out of place. When you have discussed the ringing and revealed the correct answer, listen to the clip again and make sure everyone can hear which bell is wrong. If necessary clap the rhythm and get the ringers to see if

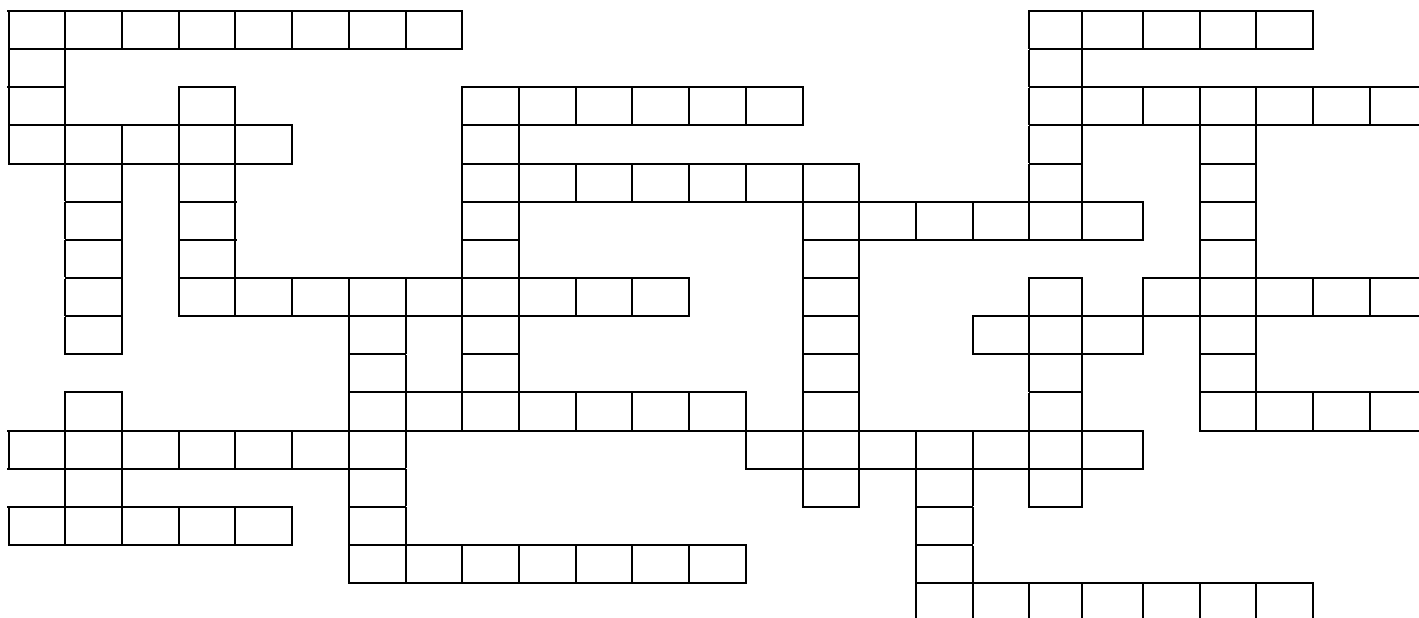
they can spot the bell that is not on the beat.

Back in the tower try ringing with one or two ringers facing the outside of the circle, start with rounds and move on to call changes and plain hunt, encourage the ringers to count each row with the emphasis on the place they are in : one two **three** four five six etc. If you are feeling brave have all the ringers facing the outside! If you are a learner who wants help with striking or if you are a teacher who wants more ideas, contact the Education committee.

PUZZLED QUIZ TIME!!

Fit the words listed below into the grid

The words are listed under the number of letters they contain



3
Bob

4
Bell
Erin
Hunt
Snap

5
Major
Minor
Place
Plain
Stand

6
Course
Little
London
Method
Rounds
Single

7
Bristol
Doubles
Meeting
Reverse
Spliced
Stedman
Triples

8
Catsears
Striking

9
Committee
Education
Grandsire
Principle

FULLY BOOKED & FULFILLING

44TH HEREFORD RINGING COURSE: 45TH HERE WE COME!

RINGING NEWS SPECIAL

Tony Parker
Market Harborough District & Course Helper

Now in its 44th year, this well established event was fully booked again and, as in previous years, was enjoyed by over 80 students with a wide range of ringing abilities

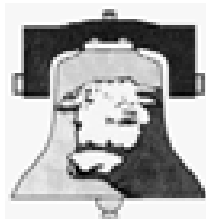
The Course is held in the Royal National College for the Blind, on the outskirts of Hereford. The main building is a fine architectural structure with post war additions probably not enhancing its elegance, but contributing to the fine range of facilities. The accommodation is in the student rooms just across the road from the main hall and classrooms. It is comfortable and more than adequate for the short time that you spend there when you have taken part in all the activities.

The Course is run largely by the enthusiasm of the Moreton family, with Wilf, whose initial foresight began it, still there, although now sadly unable to participate fully. Mrs Jo Moreton is the course secretary with a great deal of experience, son Adrian is the director, helped this year by brother Ralph, while sister Frances sorts out everybody's accommodation.

There are also many others from the Hereford Diocese and surrounding areas who take leading roles in making things run smoothly. Over 100 visits are made to surrounding churches over the weekend, which runs

from Thursday afternoon to Sunday afternoon. The highlight for many learners is to ring on the Cathedral bells on the Saturday evening. This year close to 100 ringers were able to at least ring rounds for 3 or 4 minutes, and to watch while a couple of touches were rung by the experts.

There were 17 groups of students this year with



The 'Bull in a Bell' course logo

aspirations ranging from ringing plain hunt to those trying out Surprise Major. In addition to ringing on tower bells tuition is given on hand bell ringing, rope splicing, running a tower, making a method, reading a blue line, basic conducting, talks on Dove's guide and lots more. The choices are arranged so that no subject or session is too long to get boring or too short to be of little value.

Needless to say, the day starts early with breakfast at 8:00am, first discussion groups at 9:00 and then on to practical sessions with coffee, lunch and dinner breaks interspersed. Meal times are great for mixing up the helpers, students and tutors and listening to the

different accents, including several Americans who really appreciated the beautiful Herefordshire countryside, as did we all.

The final session of the day is in the natural habitat of the ringer, the bar, where lots of socialising is done, a folk band usually gathers and performs, a raffle for the Hereford Bell Fund is organised and, well, you can guess the rest!

Sunday morning most gather in the Main Hall for a service conducted by Rev John Baldwin, followed by a debriefing led by Adrian Moreton. Then it's another fine lunch, out on the last practical session, when progress is assessed, and goodbye for another year.

Rob and I went for the second time this year and we also took our neighbour Sally as a first time student. Both Rob and Sally were impressed by the quality of the tuition, and the helpfulness and of the people in the groups. As a helper, it is great to watch the progress of the students over the Course, to hear their stories of life in different towers and Guilds, with often hints that their tower captain could learn a thing or two from a course!

A brilliant weekend but some weary muscles and brains by the end! Hope we can go back next year!

60yrs OLD AND STILL GOING STRONG!

John Adcock
Guild President

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: LDG 60TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

24 founder members of the LDG and numerous friends met at St James Church, Birstall, Leicester on Monday 13th March to celebrate 60 years' membership of the Guild. Ringing took place either side of a short celebratory service, which was led by Rev Shakespeare. Jill Staniforth, daughter of Harold Poole the original driving force behind the formation of the Guild, read

THE GUILD NEWS

the lesson, and Gladys Goulton in her 100th year, was the star of the ringing.

Lunch at the Royal British Legion gave everyone a not to be missed opportunity to reminisce about life in post

war rationed 1946 Britain and to say how much they were looking forward to the next 60 years of Guild membership! Guild President John Adcock made presentations of long service certificates. Special thanks were given to Richard Carter of Wigston Magna, the instigator and main organiser of what everyone agreed had been an excellent day out.

Nonagenarians William Newton and Gladys Goulton at the anniversary party



A DIRTY (BUT VITAL) JOB

GUILD COMMITTEES BELLS

Each year members of the Bells Committee visit a number of churches in the Diocese to look at bells and make an historical record of what we find. We also point out any obvious problems that we may find. This year we shall be making our visits

during the morning of the following two Saturdays - 8th July and 12th August.

We normally meet at the first church around 10am and conclude our visits by midday. If any guild member wishes to

join us on any of the above dates please contact Garry Mason on 0116 270 4629 for further details.

You will be most welcome and you are advised to bring overalls with you.

Garry Mason
Bells Committee Secretary

WHAT A WEEKEND!

CENTRAL COUNCIL: 109TH ANNUAL MEETING IN LEICESTER

THE GUILD
CC SPECIAL



Gail Wade
Guild Secretary

'Central Council woz 'ere 26th – 30th May 2006'!!! They came, they saw, they liked!

LEI
06

The Holiday Inn was to be the base, with orange being the colour of the day or should that be weekend. The helpdesk was planned to be manned 24/7 or that was how it felt; although it was never more than 14 hours of the day. Helpers were always ready, willing and more than able. By 4.00pm Friday the desk was in place and about 30 people booked in and drifted off to practice nights at St Margaret's and Ratby or spent a quiet night in the hotel 'catching up' with old friends.

Saturday morning saw us into changes by 8.55am for the first peal of the weekend – Yorkshire S Maximus. Unfortunately the peal attempts at Countesthorpe and Towcester came to grief but the other four peals were scored. Also during Saturday there were open towers up the A6 to Loughborough and a tour of The Bellfoundry. Saturday was finished off with a popular local delicacy – an Indian meal. We were even treated to the local costume being worn by our leader. Shame the sari wasn't orange though!

Sunday morning involved Sunday Service ringing at a few local towers, and a tour arranged around the lovely surroundings of Foxton Locks. Sunday afternoon was based at St Margaret's from 2 till 5.30. The Open Meeting about 'Framework for Teaching' kicked off proceedings and was supported by about 80 CC reps and locals, although it felt like at least 150 cups were washed up after the meeting! Also during open ringing before the Songs of Praise the 'Wobble Meter' was erected in the tower for all to see. The Songs of Praise service sounded exactly that, 'Songs of Praise'. It was then a quick dash back to the Holiday Inn for the dinner. By 7.30 Peter Staniforth our MC had managed to ensure everybody was assembled ready for the speeches from The Lord Mayor, the Bishop of Leicester, our own President and the President of the CC. The meal was reported to be extremely nice.

We presumed Monday was perhaps going to be the longest day. With Holy Communion at St Mary De Castro followed by the CC meeting based at The All Nations Centre it all went smoothly with the exception of a certain member of the catering posse being the usual 'pain' and undoing the orange aprons that Carol had kindly arranged for us, but by 10.30 most of us had managed to tie double bows to



stop the scoundrel. (Nice to see Dot & Phil Mason still visit us here in Leicester). Luckily dinner was ready with half an hour to spare, as they decided to break early for lunch. We were all dreading doing the washing up, when along came Anthony Hayward with his own rubber gloves and pinny to get stuck in! Over 2 hours later we allowed him out of the sink for a breath of fresh air.

With the meeting on track to finish early, we had arranged more open towers heading towards the motorway for those that were homeward bound. Although tomorrow was still another day, and even more bells could be rung in the lovely picturesque area of Melton.

Feedback from CC members were all favourable, and even though the RW did not quite manage to put the right names to the correct faces we know who we are. A good time was had by all

A BIG DAY OUT

CELEBRATE80!: 3Rs COMMITTEE TAKE RINGING TO THE PEOPLE

THE 3RS SPECIAL

Graham Sharp
3Rs Committee

Saturday 3rd June saw the celebration to mark the 80th anniversary of the Leicester Diocese.

Bishop Tim had decided that the people of Leicester should celebrate this important day with a big day out, to be held in Abbey Park. To make the occasion he even invited none other than the Arch Bishop of Canterbury himself to attend. With up to 20 000 churchgoers expected to be there, what better opportunity could there be for the 3Rs committee to try and attract some new ringers. Even give people a chance to ring bells. To take a mini ring had to be the answer.

So the glorious warm sunny Saturday summer morning at last arrived and a group of willing volunteers gathered in Abbey Park at 8.00 am to assist George Dawson erect his 8 bell mini ring. An hour and three quarters later it was up and ready to go, and by now the rest of the committee had arrived and erected the new display boards. We were originally worried that the sound of the bells might be too much for the gathering. No chance - our bells were no match for the level of sound from the stage and from some of the adjoining marquees.

At 10.30 visitors started to be admitted to the event and we started to attract people to the stand and invited them to take a

short ringing lesson. After that we never stopped, luckily several able guild members arrived to assist in the teaching and there was a queue all day long of people of all walks of life wanting to try their hand at ringing. To mark their achievement we gave them a sticker and by the end of the event there were few people walking about without a sticker reading 'I rang the Bells'. All day long the sun shone and it got hotter and hotter the queues at the ice cream vans never ceased.

Every half hour or so an experienced band rang a short method and prior to the service at 3.00 the bells were rung to announce the service. Everyone had fun and we even managed to get some passing clergy ringing, although for some reason the Arch Bishops party gave us a wide berth. Children were particularly interested many returning several times (who said children weren't interested in ringing!). There were also a large number of lapsed ringers seeing if they could still ring and surprise many still could!



After the service people started to go home, we found ourselves dismantling the ring with people still eager to try their hand including John Florence from Radio Leicester determined to ring whilst conducting an interview. In near record time the ring was dismantled and a very weary committee and other ringer's set off home. Did we recruit any new ringers? Who knows? I am sure we must have inspired some to try, and anyway everyone enjoyed themselves and thank you to every one who helped and especially to George for lending us the Mini Ring.

COMING SOON...

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: NOT TO BE MISSED !!

GUILD SOCIAL EVENING - Saturday 22nd July

3.30 – 4.30 Anstey
4.15 – 5.15 Ratby
5.15 Ringers Tea
6.00 Beetle Drive – with a **twist!!!!**

District Committees - don't forget your nominations for **Guild Officers** need to be in by the end of July



Taylor's, Eayre & Smith Ltd
Bellhangers, Bellfounders, Engineers



Foundry Open Day **Saturday July 15th 2006 10am – 4pm**

Help us celebrate the first anniversary of our merger.

Hands on activities, quizzes, displays, museum, composite clapper project, new bells and frame for Northampton, new bells for Campton, open towers, mini ring and more!

Adults £2.00

Children £1.00

All visitors must have footwear with covered toes, no sandals.

Taylor's Eayre & Smith Ltd, The John Taylor Bellfoundry, Freehold Street, Loughborough, LE11 1AR

01509 212241

www.taylorbells.co.uk

enquiries@taylorbells.co.uk