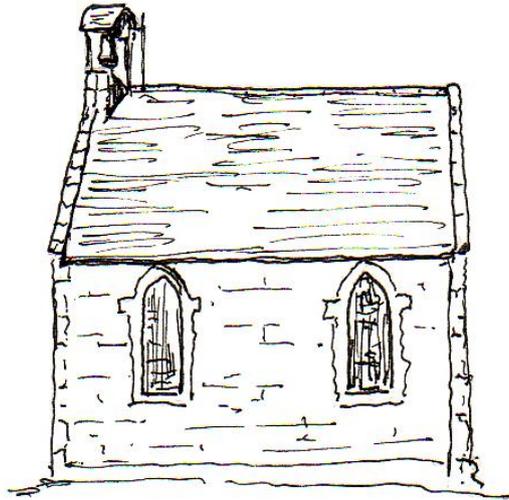


Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers Central Branch Newsletter (number 62) August 2008



St Andrew's Church, Apley

The Branch meeting in July started with a few ringers at Bardney, never a popular tower as they are so loud, but the numbers built up until there was a good attendance for the Service led by Mr Harry Jeffery, reader in the parish. The singing was led by Mrs Margaret Gooseman on the organ - it made a change to sing the Ringers Hymn to a different tune.

Following the Service we made our way to Apley - was this the first ever bell ringers event here? - for the barbecue held in Phil and Jane Smith's garden. Here we were joined by some from Southwell, their previous home, and neighbours. A very enjoyable evening was had by all, bearing in mind that the weather forecast had been for showers, or worse! Watching the barn owls over the fields was one activity enjoyed by some, while others played garden games. During the evening a short Branch meeting was held during which votes of thanks to Phil and Jane, the reader and organist were passed.

St Andrew's Church at Apley is reputed to be the smallest church in regular use in the Diocese, our number at the service would not have fitted in! It houses a single bell dated 1792, which we did not ring. This bell predated the building by about a hundred years - what is its previous history one wonders!

Mick Stracey

Notes from the Guild Committee Meeting

- * **Central Council posters** advertising ringing, for display in public places available. If you know a good place to put one see Dot.
- * **Competition to design a certificate for Honorary Life Members** to be judged at the November Committee Meeting. This should be A4 size, in black & white or in colour. The Guild title/logo must be LDGCBR or, if in full, the words Bell Ringers must be two words (see notes from the November Guild Committee Meeting in February Newsletter). Entries to a member of the Committee by the end of October.
- * Problems with tower contact details on the website to be sorted.
- * A long discussion on the wording of the Archdeacon's Guidelines to PCCs for Bellringing. The Master to prepare a new draft document taking into account all the amendments and suggestions for further discussion at the November meeting of the Committee.
- * Arising from this we need to raise the profile of Child Protection Guidelines for ringers. These constantly being updated on the Central Council website.

- * It was overwhelmingly agreed that the Inter-branch 8 Bell Striking Contest be held at a time other than the AGM day, being hosted in turn by the different branches. To be held either
 - on the same day as the 6 bell contest final.
 - or as another Guild activity at a different time of year
 - or each branch to host it on its meeting day in October.
 The last option agreed. The next to be October 2009.
- * It was agreed that the AGM should stay in Lincoln.
- * It was asked if **names** of all those competing in the Striking contest finals and the winners be printed in the Annual Report.
- * Profit of £572 in the AGM Grand Draw.
- * Design and costing of a new Guild badge being investigated.
- A Guild Recipe Book to be produced. Each recipe submitted should be accompanied by something (writing or pictorial) relevant to the recipe to be printed on the opposite page so that the book will be interesting as well as useful.
- * Guild Christmas cards are to be produced again - look out for them!
- * Poster for the Guild Barn Dance (Upton) on 18 October available on the web.
- * The Central Council is changing its appointments of committees to a roll-over of members during the 3 years membership. Ought we to elect the Guild Reps on the same basis?
- * Our rep on the council, Robin Heppenstall has been made a member of the new Foundation Committee on the Council.
- * The suggestion that minutes of the Guild Committee meeting should be published on the website was overwhelmingly rejected - branch reps report back to their branches.

Notes from the Branch Committee meeting

- * A good turnout to meetings reported, especially the Rabbits. How to enable a better mix in teams discussed.
- * Dates for forthcoming events confirmed.
- * Training morning at Waddington in September to concentrate on ringing up and down, and Plain Bob.
- * For details of Fund Raising reps report see report of Guild Committee.
- * Proposed a grant from Branch BRF of £30 towards replacing rotten sound proofing at Ewerby.
- * Richard gave details of the Ring for your Supper in August. The starter to be soup; the main course chicken, veg and rice (a vegetarian option available on request).
- * Interest in the Book Stall reported. If there is anything particular you think we ought to include, speak to Chris Jackson.
- * Invitation to join Sutton-on-Trent on their bus outing next year (Details from Jane Smith)

Central Council Publications

Copies of most of the following will be available at Branch meetings. If you wish to order any of them please contact Chris Jackson on 01526 398377 or speak to any Branch Committee member.

Beginners Handbook	£1.00
Beginners Grandsire	£1.00
Beginners Plain Bob	£1.00
Doubles and Minor for Beginners	£2.50
Triples and Major for Beginners	£2.50
Ringings Circles	£2.50

Ringling Skills	£4.00
Ringling Jargon made Easy	20p
Raising and Lowering in Peal	£2.00
Call a Touch Please - Bob	£2.50
Easy Remembered Service Touches	£1.00
Teaching Beyond Bell Handling	£2.00
Teaching from Rounds to Bob Doubles	£1.50
Tower Captains Handbook	£2.00
Schedule of Regular Maintenance	£2.50
The Learning Curve Vols 1 to 4	£3.00 each

Rabbits at Bassingham

On the Spring Bank Holiday Monday, 26th May, Bassingham played host to the annual Rabbits Competition. Over 40 people came, including ringers of all capabilities. Mick Stracey, the Central Branch Ringing Master, organised them into six teams of six. Ringing began with three minutes practice and then a further five minutes of rounds and call changes for each team. Those waiting to ring were seen to be falling over each other in the church and churchyard trying to find answers to a quiz devised by Stan Underwood.

Les Townsend who had judged the competition from his car parked outside the church, said the only thing which kept him awake was the sound of bells! He said of one team 'after a shaky start, they got better as they improved!' Marking was explained in detail with several teams' faults within a point or so of each other. The winning team was presented with certificates and prizes, and a raffle was drawn.

The quiz (also closely fought) resulted in several completely correct answers and so was decided by a tie-breaker limerick competition. A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon finished with the opportunity of some further ringing.

Thanks are due to all who were involved in hosting and organising Rabbits and especially the team from Bassingham and Norton Disney who provided the tea.

Martin Bull

On a windy day in May
The rabbits came out to play
They hang up their coats
Take up their ropes
And ring the day away.

There was an old ringer from Lea
Who liked to ring on one knee
When Dot took the rope
She could easily cope
And said, 'please leave this rope be.'

On a day with a very strong wind
Bassingham's bells dinned
But oh what a sin
We all wanted to win
On this our hopes were pinned.

The Giles ringers had just had a curry
Which made ringing a bit of a flurry
They said, 'We're dying of thirst
But must ring them down first.'
And shot off to the pub in a hurry.

The rabbits all did very well
They all could handle their bell
The ringing was good
Then time for some food
The whole afternoon sure was swell!

There was an old man called Phil
Who was silent and ever so still
His team gave their all
And awaited his call
So he wouldn't come in for the kill.

A young tower captain called Amanda
Whose Beaver scouts all call her Panda
Her ringers at Waddington
All enjoy their Boddingtons
Now their ringing is definitely grander.

There were lots of ringers from Lincs
Who at Bassingham had high jinx
They rang and they talked
And round about walked
Till they all needed forty winks.

There was a ringer from Ancaster There was a young man from St Giles
Who needed to ring her backstroke faster Who often complained of his piles
She liked to ring eight When the bells he did ring
And so did her mate My word, did they sting
And London she was determined to master. You could hear him shouting for miles.

Striking Competition

The second Saturday in May saw members of the Central Branch meet at Norton Disney for the annual Striking Competition. It was a pleasant summer evening and people were able to wander around the churchyard sunbathing or seeking shade. It might have been different if the weather was bad as this was a ground floor ring with only a curtain separating ringers from the main body of the church. Whilst this involves ringers with the congregation, noise could be a problem when trying to concentrate. After all we are a sociable crowd and like making a noise.

Everything was very casual. The meeting started once the judges decided where to place themselves - unfortunately they were not hidden, but as we are honest folk we left them in peace. The next problem was to establish there was a team with a full complement of ringers. We were fortunate in finding six people who were willing to have a go; they had really come for the conversation with no intention of taking part. I would like to congratulate them and thank them as they had never rung together as a band and without them all teams would have been guaranteed a place in the finals for either the cup (winner and runner up) or the plate (next two runners up).

Once the scratch band had started all had arrived and drew for their place in the order of events. The Ringing Master had optimistically brought nine counters, but we could only muster five teams (including the scratch band). I have to ask why there were so few. Being in the early evening, ringing for weddings cannot be the excuse. Is it because the competitive element and the fear of letting the team down, or perhaps the rules put people off, as there has to be so many bells leading when ringing call changes? I know that this could present problems for a learner band. I hope that we know what good striking is and are aware of the people living close to the church. As I was parking the car one of the residents was interested in what we were doing and was pleased to hear some good ringing.

The results were announced in the cool of the church. Whilst the judges were making their deliberations we learned about future events within the branch. The comments made by the judges were very constructive and nobody was more surprised than me when Welton came second. We were not any better than the other teams, we merely benefitted from others mistakes. Now we find ourselves ringing in our own tower for the final and hosting the event. Do we have an unfair advantage? The rabbits event held earlier in the month had a better response with six teams entering; is there anything that can be learnt from this? I feel sure that the editor would be happy to hear from you, or you might prefer to approach any of the branch committee members.

Fiona Dawson (Welton)

News from the Towers

The quarter at **St Mary, Lincoln** in May was rung whilst the Queen's and Nijmegen companies of the Grenadier Guards exercised their right to march down Lincoln High Street with Colours flying, bayonets fixed and bands playing. They marched to the War Memorial where the Mayor took the salute. The bells had been specially requested, and there were many comments on how nice it was to hear them ringing out for the occasion. (Good publicity!)

A group from the Branch have been working at **Ewerby** replacing the sound proofing layer beneath the bells which had become rotten. This also means that they can now get under the bells for maintenance work.

The quarter at **Waddington**, rung by the regular Sunday service band on June 26 was the first on a working bell for two of the band, and first as conductor for Amanda. It was rung on the anniversary of the death of Robert Sutton, for many years tower captain, who had taught many of the band to ring and they feel it would not have been possible without him. Colin Ward and Christopher Woodcock, who have been assisting Amanda in continuing Robert's efforts and preparing the band for the quarter, wish to be associated with it; and Angela Holt who had also been learning the Bob Doubles, but was unable to ring. They say 'Well done you lot!!! Robert would have been proud!'

A peal board recording the first peal on **Hackthorn** bells was dedicated at morning service on Sunday July 11. A long time had been spent trying to find someone to paint this, and finally John Bundy, who rings regularly at Hackthorn, revealed his secret talent by offering to do it - and a splendid job he has made of it!

John Ketteringham is awaiting surgery on an illiac aneurism and will not be ringing for some time. He wishes to thank all who have supported him.

Congratulations

- - - - to **Willy Turner** on ringing his first quarter, the Treble to Bob Doubles at Eagle on 13 July.

- - - - to the **Cathedral** team on winning the branch striking contest, and to **Welton** who join them in the cup final; also to **Eagle /Swinderby** and **Norton Disney** who go on to the plate.

- - - - - to **Jerry Truscott** who recorded that ringing for Nettleham Carnival was the 1260th occasion on which he turned out to ring - a quarter peals worth!

Crown Staple Repair

On returning from holiday I was greeted with the news that the 5th bell clapper had fallen out during the 'geriatrics' practice at St Chad's, Dunholme. The bolt that held the staple crown in the headstock had fractured. The suggested quick fix was to have the broken bolt welded back onto the crown staple. The name and address of a local blacksmith who could do this was provided.

After dismantling the clapper from the crown staple and removing the broken bolt from the headstock these parts were duly delivered to the blacksmith who, although he had repaired a number of crown staples over the years, said he had not seen one of our design, but he saw no problem in carrying out a weld repair. On collection he advised that the welding had proved a little more difficult than he had anticipated. Aesthetically the weld repair appeared okay.

With the help of Brian Smith the clapper was fitted into the repaired crown staple and installed into the 5th ready to be tested. During the raising of the bell the bolt fractured again! Frustrated we were now back to where we had been two weeks earlier.

The next course of action was to contact the bell foundries to see if they could identify the crown staple and offer a repair or replacement. A detailed drawing was

prepared of the crown staple assembly to help identification if needed. The bells of St Chad's were originally installed by John Taylor's in the early 1900's so they were contacted first and were able to identify the crown staple assembly as theirs.

Arrangements were made to ship the whole clapper assembly to Loughborough before noon on the Monday and it was repaired/ modified and received back in Dunholme the following Wednesday. How was that for service? The following day it was installed in the 5th, again with the able assistance of Brian. Raising and lowering the bell proved the repair was okay and we could resume ringing again.

In hindsight, the second fracture of the bolt had occurred at a point above the weld repair. This was a stress boundary area where metal alloying had occurred during the welding process. If we have another bolt failure, because of complicated technical problems, we ought to consider if a weld repair would be the most 'cost effective' solution, or would it be better to contact the respective bell foundry for a price to repair/modify the failed crown staple? Having now inspected the repaired/modified assembly it should be possible for us to do this ourselves using the detailed drawings that have been prepared.

John Bundy

National Twelve Bell Striking Contest

(hosted by Lincoln Cathedral)

View from inside the Cathedral Centre

Congratulations to Les and the Cathedral Company of Ringers for the organisation of this contest on 28 June. Especial congratulations to Sandra for her excellent (and time-consuming) work on the IT side of things, and to Dot for the many hours and her great expertise in organising the feeding of (not the 5,000) more than 400 people, starting with a hot breakfast of sausage baps or bacon butties, through a buffet lunch and hog roast finishing with tea. Coffee and tea were continually being served, to say nothing of the roaring trade done by the beer tent! Thanks to the generous sponsorship by local food firms we were able to be very reasonable with our charges (Even so the TV crew who bought three bacon butties requested a receipt for £3!) A hearty thank you to all the ringers from the branch - and further afield - who responded to the appeal. Even with Dot's organising ability we couldn't have done it without you. 8 am to 9 pm is a long day!

Everything went like clockwork. Although catering for so many, the only queues to be seen were for the **men's** toilet (to the delight of the ladies, perhaps that had something to do with the beer tent!). The setting of the Cathedral area and the Cathedral Centre (we had the run of the whole building which also enabled us to provide a children's room equipped with lots of games and toys) made an impressive background to the ringing - there was even a medieval pageant going on in the Bail area to entertain the non ringers, although that had nothing to do with us.

We caterers could only hear the ringing in the background. When the Battle of Britain Flight roared over the Cathedral at roof top level, someone commented, 'That will upset the judges'. Thankfully it was during one of the practice pieces. Philip happened to be using his camera at the time so was in a position to capture a magnificent shot of the planes between the towers. The other excitement of the day was a visit from the fire brigade. We don't know how it was that the smoke alarm went off, but as the Centre is a listed building they were obliged to attend. It gave us all a breath of air as we all vacated the building for about ten minutes!

All agree it was a good job done!

Margaret Parker

Thank you to everyone who helped with the catering.

Proposed Ringing Programme 2008/2009

5 & 6 Sept	RINGING ROADSHOW at Stoneleigh	
13 Sept	Waddington Training morning and onion competition	10.00 - 12 00
Sept 13	Guild Striking finals at Dunholme & Welton	
11 Oct	Lincoln St Mary & St Botolph	2.30 - 4.00
8 Nov	Hackthorn Quiz night	7.30
13 Dec	Quarrington Carol Service	3.00
10 Jan	Washingborough	AGM 3.00
4 Feb	Nettleham Ringing	2.30 - 4.00
14 Mar	Timberland Ringing	2.30 - 4.00

October will again be our *quarter peal month*.

Branch Surprise Major Practices at Washingborough will be on the 4th Saturday in the month from 10.30 - 12, 23 August, 20 September, 18 October, 22 November and 20 December 2008.) Put these dates in your diary! Any queries to Sue Waterfall 07925 149104.

These are subject to change during the year. It is wise to check.

- * Do support the **Ringing Roadshow at Stoneleigh** on September 5 & 6. There is something there for everyone - especially those who are not particularly experienced. Every tower should have the advertising material on the belfry wall for details.

What our young ringers like about ringing.

Ringling at different churches gives you lots more opportunity to meet new people and to know what it is like to ring with more or less bells. Ringling in a variety of settings also gives the ringer more experience. Meeting other ringers gives chance to pick up other tips. Bell ringling seems to be a lifelong learning experience and I am pleased to be able to find out about the subject for myself.

Helen Burberry (Swinderby)

It is a fun hobby to do. We enjoy it because it makes you meet new and interesting people. It also helps your Maths! You get to go to different towers locally and get to ring on different bells.

Luke and Emily (Welton)

2008 Sleaford outing round the Stratford/Evesham Area.

This years outing, organised by Yvonne Hubbard and Richard Short, took place on 12th and 13th May. Thanks to Mick and Betty and the Alcester 'Travelodge Mole' (no name Sandra) for their input Unfortunately the whole party could not be booked in the same lodge so half stayed at Redditch. 20 people (17 ringers) came, with most travelling down on the Sunday, Sylvia and Eric leading the way to explore the area on foot. It was one of the few hot days we've had this year and our intrepid walkers managed to get a suntan. Sunday evening saw the Redditch ringers in an adjacent restaurant and the Alcesterites enjoy a carvery at Studely. Before the carvery Eric was caught sneaking a Mars bar from a vending machine, more about Eric and his eating as we go along. Over the two days ringling varied from Call Changes and Plain Bob Major for the lesser mortals to a few leads of Cambridge Royal and Stedman Caters, with lots in between.

Alcester, the first tower, is a light and easy to ring 8. Here we had a few minutes delay as the person opening up could not remember what time we had booked the tower. An upstairs ring with all eight having names; St George, Peace, Unity, Concord, Faith, Hope Charity and St Nicholas. A good start to the outing. Evidence of Eric's passionate search for good food was confirmed as he scoured Alcester for a

cream cake shop - and we'd only just had breakfast! From Alcester we ventured to Bidford on Avon, a ground floor 8 where you had a job to hear the 4th and the tenor pulling off before the 7th. Phil seemed to monopolise the tenor - or was it that the other bells were grabbed quickly? Next came lunch. This had been pre-booked in a local pub so we didn't have to wait long. A good job for some (the two Geoffs and Mary) as they had mistakenly ordered twice and the portions were large. The extra portions were soon demolished by others. Then on to Salford Priors, another ground floor ring of 8 with a longish drop and pleasant sounding. A peace bell (the 6th) was hung in 1945 with the original 6th on display in the NE aisle. Next on the list was Pebworth, a light ring of 10 with a short draft and tight ringing circle. The ringing chamber was upstairs with entry through a trap door, making it difficult to escape and barely enough room to accommodate us all. The best was still to come as John renowned for his baking, as many of you will testify, produced a large cake cut into squares. Needless to say it was delicious. I would like to know what happened to the few pieces left over. Last ring of the organised day was at Bretforton, a ground floor ring of 8. The bells sounded better inside than out. The front 2 had new ropes and were best described as lively. Most of us enjoyed this ring. Whilst we rang and eagle eyed Eric spotted a small village shop and yes, you can guess, before long everyone was clutching a milk chocolate Magnum. Poor shopkeeper sold out within 10 minutes. A bonus point to this church was the toilets, we can recommend them - very posh.

Monday evening saw the Alcesterites going in different directions to beef up local practice nights. Badsey, a ring of 8, would probably not have rung if three of our intrepid band had not attended. The lady in charge was very nice, always saying 'please' when calling stand. Others went to Worcester Cathedral where they had a visit by some 40 members of the Martley Guild. All of us were made very welcome. Ringing was on the E Major 8, C 8, the Harmonic Minor 10 and to finish of a Bob Course of Stedman Cinqes on the 12. An interesting circle with the sharp 5th conveniently positioned out of sequence about 5 ft behind the rest of the circle. Last a trip on to the roof taking in the views of Worcester was followed by a visit to the local hostelry.

Day 2 started bright and early for us all as we travelled to Moreton in Marsh for ringing at 9am. An upstairs ring, this is the Fire Services Guild tower. A superb 8 coupled with an excellent market (more shopping for Eric!) Next tower was Blockley, again a ring of 8 which went well although the draft was long considering the upstairs chamber. Next on the list was Saintbury, originally one of our standby towers. The church was set back from the road, difficult to see and entry was via a footpath that didn't seem to go in the right direction. The 8 bells were easy to ring and went well. Unfortunately, due to dwindling congregation numbers (approx 5 a month) the church is likely to close, all you tower grabbers take note. It was now time for lunch in various places. Some found a pub in Mickleton producing the most massive triple decker sandwiches you have ever seen (a quote from the 'Alcester Mole') another pub for the Bellringers Good Food Guide. After lunch it was Mickleton tower's turn. A downstairs ring of 8 with a long draft. Some of the party found them difficult to handle and opted out after an initial ring. Lastly came Ilmington, another downstairs ring. These bells had been augmented from 6 to 8 for the millennium and again went well. Unfortunately the tower captain mentioned that Robert Thomson of Yorkshire fame had carved mice into the majority of the furniture. This resulted in some of the party going on a mouse hunt. 11 of the 13 were found. A new organ had been installed in recent years and the whole inside of the church was extremely well kept. Some wealthy villagers.

It was now time to say our goodbyes and set off for home. Hopefully everyone enjoyed the trip, especially the newcomers, Geoff W, Jenny, Sandra, Sue and Julie who missed last year.

PS. Just down the road we passed Phil and Dot. We think they were lost, but don't tell anyone.

PPS Still not satisfied, John, Sandra and Sue stopped off at Grantham joining their practice.

PPPS 'Eric's Guide to Cream Cake Shops in the Cotswolds' will be on sale shortly.

Cherie Renaud

As usual they stood around outside the church talking after practice. Another ringer joined them, saying 'You must all be bell ringers. You are standing in a circle.'

As the non-ringing vicar came through the belfry he was asked if he would like a pull. Without hesitation he replied, 'No. I'm much too good for the likes of you!'

Nettleham Carnival Bells 12 July 2008

The village carnival programme of events mentioned at the bottom of the list that All Saints Church invited everyone to visit the church to climb the bell tower, watch bell ringers in action and try out a simulator type bell.

According to the Oxford Dictionary a simulator bell is a machine designed to provide a realistic imitation of the controls and operation of a bell. The simulator on its frame was erected the previous evening in the main body of All Saints. It stood about ten feet tall. Although the dictionary definition of the simulator is quite specific, the choir who turned up later in the evening thought it may be a type of oil rig, to raise funds for the church! On Carnival afternoon the Nettleham Tower Captain, Margaret Parker, was in charge of the simulator, where those who wished had a go at 'ringing' the bell. They were then sent to join the 'never ending' queue to climb the bell tower. Once up in the ringing chamber visitors were seated, with feet firmly on the floor (to avoid being caught up by a rope and hoisted to the ceiling). John Carr was in charge of the ringing team. With each group that arrived, he explained briefly how the bells are rung, where they are situated and their sizes.

Then he called the ringers into action, saying that they would firstly ring rounds, then go into a method called Bob Doubles, then back into rounds, before he called stand (when all the bells would be silent in order). This last move seemed to be the most impressive move of the demonstration. I estimate that we all probably rang the equivalent of two quarter peals during the afternoon.

The visitors heard the language of bell ringers when ringing - 'Trebles going' - 'Trebles gone' - 'Go Bob Doubles' - 'Rounds' 'Stand'.

The demonstration day of the Bells was the first use of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers simulator in Nettleham and more people climbed the bell tower to see bell ringers in action than on any previous occasion.

Jerry Truscott

Many thanks, not only to our own ringers for working so hard, but also John Bundy, Brian Smith and Roy Chapman who joined us to help out. It was a tired band who turned up to ring on Sunday morning, but turn up they did. What a good band we have! **M.A.P.**

She was learning to drum behind and was told, 'Well done. You're beginning to be able to pick out the last bell.' She replied, 'Well I did it by process of elimination really.' She was told, 'That's what ropesight is all about. You've cracked it!'

After a pile-up :-

‘What happened there?’

‘I made seconds.’

‘I made the Bob.’

‘I made a mess!’

When wondering what the neighbours thought of the sound of the ‘pots’ (ceramic bells to us!) someone remarked that they had thought they were windchimes. Came the reply, ‘That says a lot about the striking!’

They were ringing Grandsire Doubles.

‘You should have been dodging in 4- 5.’

‘I knew I was dodging with you but I sort of lost you somehow.’

‘That was because your bell was in about 9 - 10. I wasn’t going to join you up there!’

A copy of the Adelaide Bell News tells how they rang for a wedding as the temperature was hovering around 40 degrees! ‘The ringers toiled away on the bells for the required 20minutes and made good use of a jug of cold water kindly provided by a verger’ So let’s remember that next time we complain that it’s too hot to ring well!