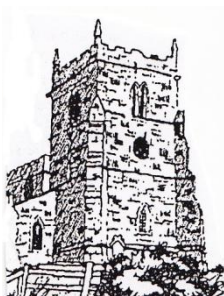


Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers

Central Branch Newsletter (number 73) March 2011



In 1913 a new church, St Mary's, was built in the heart of Walesby as the old church, All Saints, stands on the hilltop away from the village. The New Church contains an 8-bell carillon, chimed from a baton clavier. In 1934 a 12 cwt peal of 8 bells, hung for full circle ringing, was put into the Old Church as part of its restoration as the 'Ramblers Church'.

Jim tells us of his early days learning to ring at Walesby.

'I was one of the first ringers at Walesby New Church as far as I know. Mr Arthur Holbrook was in charge and when he died in 1938 his son, also Arthur Holbrook took over. When he had to go into the army his brother Terry carried on the family tradition. (There are no more sons, but Arty's daughter Margaret married John Bundy, a grand man who now rings at Scothern). As there were no more sons and Terry had to do his National Service the Rev Sharpe asked me to learn. It is an 8 bell carillon, but not like the ordinary board for the ropes hung numbered left to right 12345678, not 87654321. I was about eleven years old, and rang them for the 11 am service and the 6 p.m. For this I was paid £5 a year, which bought me a new set of clothes. A Mr Lazenby (who ran the post office and village shop) wrote me some music. My favourite was 'Now the Day is Over', and when one Sunday morning I was happily ringing it the Rev Sharpe came running down the aisle saying, 'Not that one Jim. That's for the Evening Service!' When I went to Market Rasen Senior School, we went to church on Wednesday mornings. The verger found out I was a ringer. He didn't know it was only a keyboard, and he made me pull a bell up half way. I hadn't a clue what I was doing - I still don't! The vicar asked me 'Why do you not stop to the Morning Service?' I said, 'Do you want a lie or do you want the truth?' His reply was, 'The truth.' 'Well,' I replied, 'I go ferretting for rabbits.' 'So why don't you stop for the Evening Service?' 'Well, all the lads of the village go to RAF Binbrook pictures'. 'And what do your Dad and Mam say about that?'. 'They're not very pleased'. was my reply. 'Well tell them fresh air on a Sunday morning and company with your pals is what you need after working in that shop all week. It's more good for you than listening to my dry sermons. But please make time to ring for our service.' he said.

When my time came to put on uniform I said, 'No more ringing for me when I come home.' Don't you believe it. Mr A Wilkinson got the lads of the village to learn how to ring the Old Church bells and they dragged me along. I made a lot of excuses - a girl to meet; blisters on my hands, (being a hairdresser I couldn't cut hair with sore hands could I?) Eventually the bug caught me. The lads from Claxby and Normanby used to come and we went to Claxby, Grimsby and Caistor. Mr Tom Richardson from Caistor would come home with me to give us lessons. We gave 6d each to the person who took him home for their petrol. It was 'one bell before you; two bells before you etc.' We had to stand our bell and wait till the right bell had rung before us! We had to watch where we passed the Treble and do our next duty or make 2nds. You soon got rope sight as whilst ringing his bell he stepped across the tower and said, 'Pull now'. When we got to lead he did not teach us open handstroke leads. For years I didn't know what they were. We did not learn as we do today, but from the bell down. 'Pull a bit harder' he would say, or not 'Pull ropes well down.' As anyone who has rung at Walesby knows, the bells are more than a little flighty. I used to ring with one hand at the top of the sally and the other at the bottom.

In 1963 I got married and Margaret and I made our home at Holton cum Beckering. We had the shop at Wragby. They only rang rounds and queens there, calling straight from one to the other - no called changes then! After we'd rung in the New Year we used to go to the Adam and Eve. There was a silver threepenny bit on the windowsill for the ringers, and we didn't have to pay for drinks. We were legal even though we were drinking after hours, because it was a 'private party'. In the summer we used to go to Ingoldmells in the caravan on a Saturday. I used to go and join them nearly every Sunday. I got more interested there and I went with them to a meeting at Wainfleet where I met Horace Bennett from Horncastle, and that's where I took off. I kept going to Caistor. but I was invited to join them at Horncastle too. Tom Richardson told me 'Stop coming to Caistor, but go to Horncastle and learn all you can, then come back and teach us' and that's what I did.' Ron Chafer and Jack Bray in the Northern Branch helped me a lot too. I remember one time they told me to ring closer, and not knowing what they meant, I moved so that I stood closer to the ringer next to me!

Tom Richardson used to say 'A good ring up and a good ring down, no matter what you do in the middle' It was the who impressed on me that **if you want to ring methods, you must be prepared to travel.**

Jim Sutherland

Suggested Ringing Programme for 2011 -2012

Mar 26-	<i>Ringing World Centenary Celebrations in London</i>		
Apr 9	Ruskington	+Maintenance in afternoon	7.00 - 9.00
Apr 30	<i>Guild AGM</i>		
May 14	Nocton	<i>Branch Striking Competition</i>	Draw 5.00
May 30	Sleaford (front 6)	<i>Rabbits</i>	Draw 3.00
Jun 11	<i>See below</i>		
Jul 9	Navenby	<i>Full meeting; ringing, service, barbecue</i>	
Aug 13	Nettleham area	<i>Ring for your supper.</i>	
Oct 8	Caythorpe		7.00 - 9.00
Nov 12	Hackthorn	<i>QUIZ NIGHT</i>	7.30 start
Dec 10	Brant Broughton	<i>CAROL SERVICE</i>	Ringing 3.00
		Service..-..3.30	
Jan 14	Heckington	<i>BRANCH AGM</i>	
Feb 11	Lincoln High Street towers		2.30 - 4.00
Mar 10	Norton Disney		2.30 - 4.00

It is suggested ALL TOWERS try to ring a quarter peal for their Patronal Festival, rather than have a set month; also for the Royal Wedding. If help is needed to raise a band or conductor speak to any Branch Committee member.

We are grateful to Sue Waterfall for arranging **Surprise Major Practices at Washingborough** . Although these are not Guild or Branch practices, anyone wishing to ring Surprise Major are most welcome. They are held from 10.30 - 12, on Saturdays, 30 Apr (avoids Holy Week) 28 May, 18 Jun, 23 Jul, 27 Aug, 24 Sept, 22 Oct, 26 Nov, 17 Dec (to avoid Christmas and New Year) Any queries to Sue Waterfall 07925 149104.

Put these dates in your diary!

Another Surprise Major practice will be held on the first Saturday of each month, from 19.00 to 21.00 at either Heydour or Caythorpe.

These meetings are subject to change during the year .Do check_

On June 11 all in the Branch are invited to a **social evening** with the Northern Branch at 6.30 for **entertainment, food and music**. Put this date in your diary. It should be great fun!

The best reason for keeping your chin up when in trouble is that it keeps your mouth closed.

Guild AGM

- 9.30 Open ringing at Cathedral
10.00 Holy Communion Ringers' Chapel
11.00 Meeting Bailgate Methodist Hall
followed by lunch (**Names essential**)
2.00 Branston?
3.00. Ringing Washingborough with tea and drawing of
Grand Draw and 100 Club winners
4.30 Ringing Cathedral
5.30 Evensong Cathedral followed by ringing.

Congratulations

- to **Kimberley Nelson** who rang her first quarter, Treble to Bob
Doubles, at Navenby on 24 December, prior to returning home to live in the
United States.
----- to Colin Ward on celebrating 40 years of ringing.

Welcome

- to **Samantha Admiss** of Bardney, **Rudolph Rieserma** of Scothern,
Jane Sharman and **Jenny Scott** of Nettleham, and **Robert Cox** and **Elaine
Booth** of Hackthorn, all of whom were elected as members at the Annual
Meeting at St Giles.
----- to **Adrian Brangwin**, **John Garrick**, **Stella Hake**. **Ed Purkiss** and
Joanne Sharplin of Martin who were elected as members at the February
meeting at Martin.

The December Branch Meeting Day - 11 Dec

On the morning of the second Saturday in December, following the tradition
of the last few years, Phil organised three simultaneous quarters followed by
a lunch. You may remember the ice and snow at the time. It threatened to
thwart us, but undeterred we went ahead. Yorkshire Royal at Ewerby and
Yorkshire Major at Sutterton were successful, but alas, the Yorkshire Royal at
Surfleet ground to a halt after two excellent courses when a ringer who
should have known better failed to run in at the Bob. The one consolation
was that it was a great deal warmer in the Church hall with our frozen fingers
wrapped round coffee cups than in the notoriously cold ground floor belfry.
For the third year now an excellent lunch was laid on by Annette, the local

ringer at Surfleet. She does us so proud that I think she has got herself a job for life! A good start to Christmas!

This culminated as we went on to Potterhanworth. The cold and ice already mentioned took its toll and I think that is why very few ringers who had not already been to Surfleet made it there to the Branch Carol Service. However the villagers had been invited to join us and they had responded well, swelling the numbers to help fill the church. Mick and Betty had done well to organise eight readers and choose such good carols to make a very uplifting service. It was nice to finish with Hark the Herald Angels Sing, instead of the more usual O Come All Ye Faithful, (although that hadn't exactly been planned!) After the Service we were eating again as coffee and mince pies were served in the church; the bells were rung a couple of times more before being lowered and carols were rung on handbells.

Yes, a good start to Christmas, and a Happy New Year to everybody too!

Margaret Parker

RM to learner : Why didn't you shout at me when I missed that dodge?

Learner : Oh I didn't have time for that!

Local to snooty visitor before pulling off : You'll need to hold the sixth off at backstroke'

Visitor : Oh I think I am capable of working that out for myself.

Local : Yes. But how are you going to get the first backstroke right?

Hind sight is how people explain the obvious mistakes that foresight could have prevented.

Notes From the Branch AGM January 8

* The usual reports, which will appear in the 2010 Guild Report.

* Officers elected for 2011

President: Sylvia Taylor.

Treasurer/Secretary: Dot Mason

Ringling Master, Mick Stracey following a vote between Mick and Christopher Woodcock.

Guild Fund Raising Committee Rep; Chris Jackson

Guild Committee Rep, Margaret Parker following a vote between Margaret and Chris Jackson.

Branch Committee Reps: Fiona Dawson, John Nicholson, Richard Spencer and Sandra Underwood.

Hon Accounts Examiners: John Carr and Alan Haines.

- * Six new members were elected.
- * First quarter certificates were presented.
- * Proposed meetings for 2011 were agreed.
- * It was agreed that the Branch Committee should discuss the question of Training. Any suggestions from members to be given in writing to a member of the committee.
- * Report from the November Guild Committee meeting was presented.
- * Arrangements for the Guild AGM in April were presented.

Notes from the Branch Committee Meeting 16 February

* Forthcoming meetings:

Ruskington April 9; those attending **maintenance session** meet 5 o'clock, bring own tea, cups of tea provided 6 o'clock. General ringing meeting 7 till 9.

* -Would any tower like to go forward from the Branch to the **Guild striking contest**? If more than enough volunteer we will hold an eliminator.

Otherwise **May 14 at Nocton** will be an ordinary meeting.

September **training morning** cancelled.

* **Training sessions discussed** . Any tower where the need is identified to be visited by a couple of experienced ringers for 7 or 8 consecutive practice nights to help them progress to the next stage. The first such help has been arranged. If your tower would like this kind of help ask.

* Branch rang 170 **quarters** last year, down on previous years.

* Sandra Underwood has volunteered to attend **Guild teacher training** session with Margaret Parker as her mentor. We hope to extend this training within the Branch in the future.

Notes from the Guild Committee Meeting

* **Officers' reports** presented. These will appear in the Guild Report.

Discussions arising from these reports:

* **Christmas cards** again this year - need to be ready very early.

* details of **what work needs a faculty** still subject to clarification. Robin to liaise with the Archdeacon.

* does the name of the **new insurer** need to be put on the notice in belfries?

* **BRF Challenge Shield** no longer fulfilling its original purpose. Does it need redesignating?

* **2011 subs now due** : adult £10, juniors £3, Non res £5.

2012 subs : no change and peal booking fee still 25p per rope.

* **Members of grants Committee** : Robin Heppenstall, Mick Smith and Guild Master, Guild Secretary and Fund Administrator.

Trustees of BRF : Alan Payne, Roger Lord and Dot Mason.

* Arrangements for **Guild AGM** Saturday 30 April confirmed.

* **Future activities**

Ridgman Trophy : Ipswich, Sat 18 June (Grandsire Caters)

Guild Striking Contest : Sat 10 Sept, WL Branch Willingham (cup)
Upton (plate) Results Willingham.

8-bell Striking Contest : Sat 15 Oct N Branch Market Rasen
(Little Bob Major)

* The Guild entering 2 teams in the **RW Youth Striking Contest** in London Sat 26 Mar (out of only 13 entries!). £20 a head from Guild funds towards expenses.

* Material submitted to the **Guild website** needs authorisation, if a Branch matter, by Branch secretary, if a Guild matter, by the authorising committee.

Webmaster to be appointed by the Committee and ratified at the AGM.

* **Training of teachers** course to be held Wragby Sat 9 April.

* Both a **new Guild Secretary** and **Peal Secretary** needed at the AGM.

* Details of quarters rung for the **retirement of Bishop John** to be collated and presented to him in a folder.

Your tower should by now have received the e-mail advertising the 'Integrated Teacher Training Scheme'. As it says, bellringers in Britain are getting older and we need to train new ringers. This is a good way for more people to find confidence to teach them to handle a bell and elementary change ringing. You don't have to be a high flyer. Give it a go. The exercise needs you!

The Monday Morning Quarter Pealers

I started arranging Quarter Peals on Monday mornings at towers I could manage both for weight and access when I felt confident that I could start ringing again after an operation for an abdominal aneurysm. As well as helping me to keep ringing I have looked out for opportunities to help ringers

to advance their ringing and to practice conducting. The standard of ringing is high but we are a friendly group and like to consolidate this friendship by adjourning to the local hostelry for refreshments after ringing! I also arrange a quarter peal at Welbourn when there is an evening service. As word has got round the numbers wishing to ring has grown. In 2010 we rang 47 quarters in which 41 ringers took part. During 2011 I intend to encourage more ringers to have a go at conducting.

In arranging the quarters, after having selected the band, I then decide on a method to ring which will produce the best possible striking. I am sure all who have taken part will agree that this approach has been successful. If any Lincolnshire ringer would like to join us let me know what you would like to ring or conduct, and I'll do my best to fit you in but there is quite a waiting list!

John Ketteringham

Obituary

Stanley (Stan) Burns 1928 - 2010

Stan died in August 2010 aged 82. He became a member of the Guild in 1995 and was tower captain at All Saints Nocton, ensuring the bells were rung regularly for practices and Sunday services. Stan very much enjoyed his ringing, attending both Nocton and Branston practice nights each week. Even though his own ringing only got as far as plain hunting he was a loyal member of the local towers in this area, ringing for services and weddings. Stan sadly stopped ringing in 2003 due to ill health but he was still seen each week attending the service at Nocton and took a keen interest in how the ringing was getting on in the local towers. He was a true gentleman and he will be greatly missed by us all.

When caught hold to ring something the treble had not rung for some time

Second ringer : Look to, Tr...

Treble ringer : Hey! That's my bit.

Second ringer : I was just reminding you.

Treble ringer : I can remember **that** bit!

I know it in my head but I can't get my arms to ring it.'

Check your changes. Mistakes cannot be remedied afterwards

News From the Towers

A Central Branch band rang a quarter of Sandal Treble Bob Minor at Wragby in memoriam **John Ashley Freeman** who passed away 50 years ago on 11 January. He was the third Master of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild 1947 - 1961 and Master of the Lincoln Cathedral Company 1929 - 1661.

The quarter rung at **Washingborough** on 16 January was for a number of reasons : a farewell compliment to the Rt. Rev. John Saxbee, Bishop of Lincoln, on his retirement; a practice for Bridget who is ringing Bob Triples for the National Youth Striking Competition at the RW centenary : a welcome to John who has recently joined the Central Branch ; a compliment to Colin who has just celebrated 40 years ringing and, finally, to wish Robert's son good luck as he returns to active service in Afghanistan

Calling all Baby Boomers! Four people who ring at **Thorpe-on-the-Hill** are 65 this year, and are looking for 1 or 2 more to ring a quarter. If this fits you, contact Roy Chapman - or Margaret Parker.

There has been an outcrop of **rope warmers** in Branch towers. These are timed to come on half an hour before ringing to take out the stiffness caused by damp. The sallies still get wet, but the tail-ends are beautifully pliable. We recommend them!

An alternative Glossary of Ringing Terms

Alliance	Let's all keep quiet about that missed Bob.
Hunt	The attempt to find the bell you should be dodging with.
Shift	Instruction that you move your bell out of my way.
Slow	Local Tenor man.
Snap	Broken rope.
Surprise	Rounds creeping up a bit unexpected like.
Stand	Conductor's attempt to defend the truth of a peal.

Do you know the real meaning of these? Ringing is full of jargon!
Find out, and award yourself a small prize if you can find out them all!

As the ringers went into the church ready for practice, one said, 'I'll be with you in a quarter of a pipe.' A new way to measure time!

Reading the Guild Newsheet he said 'National Youth Striking Competition. Oh goodie, it's ages since I struck a youth.'

As a young ringer walked in he was warned to be careful!

Branch Quarter Peals

EWERBY 11 Dec

1282 Yorkshire Surprise Royal

1. Sue Waterfall
2. Dot Mason
3. Fiona Dawson
4. Sandra Underwood
5. Betty Stracey
6. Mick Stracey (C)
7. Janet Clarke
8. Philp Dawson
9. John Underwood
10. Stephen Clarke

SUTTERTON 11 Dec

1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major

1. Mary Riglar
2. Rhoda Reynolds
3. Beryl Reed
4. Val Wild
5. Geoff Riglar
6. John Nicholson
7. Colin Reed
8. Phil Mason (C)

EAGLE 12 Dec

1260 St Nicholas Bob Doubles

1. Derek Phillips
 2. Soo Pendleton
 3. Betty Stracey
 4. Mick Stracey (C)
 5. Sue Waterfall
 6. Willy Turner
- For Carol Service.

NORTON DISNEY 13 Dec

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1. Harold Gibson
2. Paul Jackman
3. Stan Underwood
4. Tony Branson
5. Alan Haines (C)
6. Ron Everett

In memory of Nigel Pendleton, a ringer at this tower for 30 years.

KIRTON - in - LINDSEY 13 Dec

1344 London Surprise Major

1. John Ketteringham
2. Fiona Dawson
3. Janet Clarke
4. Geoffrey Bryant
5. Robert Wood
6. Robert Jordan
7. Philip Dawson
8. Christopher Woodcock (C)

In memory of Brian Saunders, Churchwarden & local ringer.

First in method - 7

50th quarter this year - 1.

SWINDERBY 19 Dec

1260 Doubles (7m : Reverse

Canterbury, St Nicholas, Winchendon. St Simons, St Martins, Plain Bob and Grandsire)

1. Des Underwood
 2. Soo Pendleton
 3. Betty Stracey
 4. Mick Stracey ()
 5. John Nicholson
- For Carol Service.

NAVENBY 24 Dec

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1. Kimberley Nelson
2. Paul Jackman
3. William Branson
4. David Randall
5. Tony Branson (C)
6. Nick Williams

First quarter - 1. First inside - 4

Rung for Layne and Kimberley Nelson before they return home to live in the United States.

BRANSTON, Woodside 1 Jan
1250 Lincolnshire Surprise Major
1. Phil Mason
2. Sylvia Taylor
3. Graham Colborne
4. Heather Grover
5. Ben Meyer
6. Betty Stracey
6. Phil Grover
8. Mick Stracey (C)

BRANSTON, Woodside 1 Jan
1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major
1. Dan Meyer
2. Mick Stracey
3. Sandra Underwood
4. Dot Mason
5. Betty Stracey
6. John Underwood
7. Sylvia Taylor
8. Phil Mason (C)

EAGLE 9 Jan
1320 Doubles (St Martins, Plain Bob,
Grandsire)
1. Ron Everett
2. Derek Phillips
3. Soo Pendleton
4. Mick Stracey (C)
5. Betty Stracey
6. Roger Asher
First away from cover - 1
For Service of Evening Worship.

WRAGBY 10 Jan
1272 Sandal Treble Bob Minor
1. John Ketteringham
2. Fiona Dawson
3. Christine Jackson
4. David Fox
5. Philip Dawson
6. Christopher Woodcock (C)
First blows in method - 4 & 5
In memory of John Ashley Freeman,
third Master of the Lincoln Guild.

BRANSTON, Woodside 13 Jan
1260 Grandsire Triples
1. Dot Mason
2. Phil Mason
3. John Underwood
4. Sylvia Taylor
5. Betty Stracey
6. Les Townsend
7. Mick Stracey (C)
8. John Nicholson
Wishing the Rev John Saxbee (Bishop
of Lincoln) a happy retirement.

SWINDERBY 16 Jan
1260 Doubles (8 methods : Winchendon
Place, St Nicholas, St Remigius,
Reverse Canterbury, Plain Bob, St
Simons, St Osmund, St Martins)
1. Willie Turner
2. Soo Pendleton
3. Betty Stracey
4. John Nicholson
5. Mick Stracey (C)
For Evensong.

WASHINGTONBOROUGH 16 Jan
1260 Plain Bob Triples
1. Bridget Jones-Crabtree
2. Christopher Woodcock
3. Graham Whittaker
4. Sandra Underwood
5. John Underwood
6. Colin Ward
7. Jonathan Clark (C)
8. Robert Harvey
Rung for a variety of reasons!

'You'll have to shout at me.'
'Oh yes! We're good at that.'
'You can tell the Christmas spirit is over
now'.

CATHEDRAL 13 Feb

1278 Grandsire Caters

1. Delia Heppenstall
2. Sandra Underwood
3. Fiona Dawson
4. Harold Gibson
5. John Underwood
6. Dot Mason
7. Les Townsend
8. Robin Heppenstall
9. David Fox (C)
10. Phil Mason

Rung as a farewell compliment to the Bishop of Lincoln The Rt. Rev. John Saxbee, Patron of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild and a great friend of all ringers.

WASHINGBOROUGH 13 Feb

1344 Grandsire Triples

1. Bridget Jones-Crabtree
 2. Margaret Parker
 3. Graham Whittaker
 4. Christine Jackson
 5. Christopher Woodcock
 6. Jonathan Clark (C)
 7. Sue Waterfall
 8. Nick Jeins
- For Evening Service.

WELBOURN 17 Feb

1280 Lincolnshire Surprise Major

1. Sylvia Taylor
2. John Underwood
3. Fiona Dawson
4. Les Townsend
5. Dot Mason
6. Phil Mason
7. Philip Dawson
8. David Fox (C)

First in method as Conductor.

EWERBY 20 Feb

1282 Yorkshire Surprise Royal

1. Sandra Underwood
2. John Underwood
3. Dot Mason
4. Sylvia Taylor
5. Heather Grover
6. Christine Jackson
7. Phil Mason
8. Jonathan Clark (C)
9. Peter Wakefield
10. Philip Grover (C)

For Evensong

DUNHOLME 2 Mar

1260 Doubles (Grandsire, St Martins, St Simons, Plain Bob)

1. Jean Sims
2. Margaret Parker
3. Fiona Dawson (C)
4. Margaret Neate
5. David Fox
6. Jerry Truscott

Rung on St Chad's day for the Patronal service.

King Charles' Rules for bellringers

Profane no Divine ordinance.

Touch no State matters.

Urge no healths.

Keep no bad company.

Pick no quarrels.

Make no long meals.

Encourage no vice.

Repeat no old grievances.

Make no comparisons.

Lay no wagers.

Maintain no ill opinions.

Reveal no secrets.

Do nothing in anger.

I'm grateful to Jim for the above.

Where do we stand?