

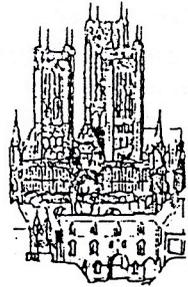
Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers Central Branch Newsletter (number 80) December 2012

Celebrating Four Hundred Years

What was going on in 1612? The previous year the King James Bible was produced which revolutionised the worship of the English church.

Could this have sparked the renewal which led, the following year, to the founding of the Lincoln Cathedral Companie of Bellringers? This is the oldest ringing society in existence having 400 years of uninterrupted life.

To celebrate the occasion the present company invited former members and friends to an informal gathering in the Cathedral Centre. This was a very pleasant occasion where a lot of old memories were recalled, and a lot of friendships renewed. Here's to the next four hundred years!! - (although we shall none of us be there to listen to the speeches!)



Also in 1612, the Tenor at Thorpe-on-the-Hill was cast. Thank you Roy for this report.



'All year I had been promising our 400 year old tenor - (William Oldfield - 1612) - a special birthday celebration. With so much happening in a year of celebrations I had to explain to her that something special would be arranged in the autumn. The PCC readily agreed that this particular anniversary should not pass unmarked. The Commemoration took the form of a special Evensong on Sunday 28th October, taken by the Rev. Jim Rooke, himself a very

experienced bellringer, having rung his first peal at the age of seven! Jim prepared a full Order of Service with two illustrations

of our old lady. 'Bell' readings took the place of Old and New Testament and Jim's sermon included many ringing anecdotes. Several members of the Branch were kind enough to support the locals in an hour of ringing before the service and briefly afterwards. The objective was to share with our small congregation some of the excitement which I feel in having in our village community such an antique sound. Our old lady was young 30 years before the Battle of Edgehill launched the English Civil War and having no modern turning or retuning this must be the sound of 1612. I am still involved with archaeology as I have been for most of my life and although pot shards are about the lives of people, conventional archaeology cannot bring you the sounds!

Many thanks to those members who supported what several of the congregation said was an enjoyable service, and to Victoria and Rachel for arranging refreshments.

Roy Chapman

Belfry Safety (or Don't Panic! Don't Panic!)

The band at Dunholme were ringing quite happily but were suddenly left in complete darkness when the electric lights failed. When this happens so suddenly, it comes as a complete shock. Luckily the more experienced members of the band were able to set their bell immediately. The younger member found this more difficult, and no-one dared approach too closely to help him as the darkness was complete, and we were more likely to poke him in the eye or send the rope flying. When told 'you're alright' he replied 'I'm not!', but even so kept calm enough to be able to set aside his growing fear and continue ringing his bell in a controlled manner until it did set Well done! If he had panicked and lost control, the thought of a rogue bell rope flying around in the dark makes me shudder! When this was reported to the churchwarden he offered us a torch which lights at the touch of a hand, but who will be able to find it quickly enough to help in sudden darkness? Some form of immediate emergency lighting is needed in every belfry!

Tower News

Caythorpe bells are temporarily out of action because masonry has been falling from the tower. Someone is coming in the Spring to assess the damage to the tower and the church roof with a view to working on both at the same time, so it will be quite some time before they are made safe to ring again.

They were ringing Bob Doubles and he didn't run in.

'You called a Bob when I was in 6ths and I didn't know what to do!'

But the Tenor's in 6ths.'

'Oh. I must have reverted to Minor!'

Suggested Ringing Programme for 2013 – 2014

Jan 12	Heckington	AGM	
Feb 9	Bardney*		2.30 – 4.00
Mar 9	Nettleham		2.30 – 4.00
April 13	Blankney	Conductor's course	4 .30
		Call changes & Bob Doubles/Minor	
		Followed by refreshments,	
		Then open ringing	6 - 8
April 27	GUILD	AGM	
May 11	Timberland	Picnic tea followed by	
	Martin	Branch Striking Contest	5 pm
May 27	Scothern	Rabbits contest	3pm
June 8		Branch outing to	
	Tealby	ringing	
	3 – 4		
	Walesby	picnic	4 – 5
		and ringing	5 onwards
July 13	Outing to	Mablethorpe for a paddle and fish and chips	
		Visiting East Keal, Raithby and Alford	
Aug 10	Ring for your supper	Eagle/Swinderby/North Scarle	

Aug 11	Cathedral	Service ringing	2.30 – 4.15
Sept 14	Southn. Branch	6-bell Striking contest final	
Oct 12	Visit to Loughborough	Bell Foundry with a tower or two afterwards	
Nov 9	Hackthorn	Quiz and faith supper	7 – 30
Dec 14	Ruskington	Carol Service followed by mince pies	
Jan 11	Welbourn	AGM	
Feb 8	Rauceby		2 – 3
	Fulbeck		3.15 – 4.15
Mar 8	Wragby		2 – 3

Please note : these are **proposals to be discussed** and confirmed (or otherwise!) at the Branch AGM in January. The Committee are keen to hear of any ideas of events which will attract more members to attend meetings.

Refreshments are usually available at these meetings.

*In Bardney church there is a well presented archaeological display of remains from the Abbey which may interest some of you when you are not actually ringing.

We are grateful to Sue Waterfall for arranging Surprise Major Practices at Washingborough. They are held 10-30 – 12 on the 4th Saturday in the month unless otherwise arranged to suit the church. Full details to follow.

Getting away from it all (or at least some of it!)

Once again a group of ringers, guided most ably by Sandra, set off on a week's holiday with ringing - this time to Derbyshire/Staffordshire. We had booked 'The Forge', one of a group of converted farm buildings, at Somersal Herbert from Monday to Monday, and 'The Stables', in the same complex, from Friday to Monday to accommodate those poor souls who had to go to work during the week. David and Val brought their caravan and stayed nearby. We got off to a shaky start when Sandra was told that we could not ring at the first tower after all. She quickly rang and e-mailed the news before we set off - all except David and Val who were already there with mobiles not switched on. A quick call to the campsite office soon had a

friendly warden knocking on their door at breakfast time! The cottages were down little winding lanes and not easy to find, especially as Satnavs assured us we had reached our destination outside a run-down farmhouse at the other side of the postcode area. 'Surely not!' was the dismayed reaction! At the end of the week when the second group joined us we were inundated with calls from the second group saying 'We're lost'. Not easy to give directions when we didn't know exactly where they were! 'Turn off at the gypsy roadside encampment (no, not David and Val's campsite!) helped us pass on useful directions. Everyone did make it!

It was an interesting start when Jonathan declared his intention to go for a walk after tea the first night. By the time those who opted to join him had gathered it was nearly dark, so most took a torch 'just in case'. A good job too, for the route followed footpaths which had been ploughed over, and after two hours a tired and muddy party returned amid much banter - especially from those who had stayed behind! The 'night walk' became the joke of the week.

We rang at five varied towers on Tuesday and Thursday, and had Wednesday and Friday off. Sandra's tower list included useful information alongside grid reference - such as where to park, and if there was a toilet in the church! Each day included pub meals - pre-ordered. Sandra had asked the local ringers at the tower before and the tower after the meal break for recommendations. If both suggested the same pub, good, if not she resorted to looking on the internet for menus at each (and prices). It worked extremely well! Our numbers were slightly depleted this year, and we were glad to have had the two days off to explore the area, and the 'Stable crowd' joined us like cavalry coming over the hill providing reinforcements! After a couple of quarters on the Friday evening we rang at six towers on Saturday with one group ringing up and ringing together till the second group were left to finish and ring down, thus fitting everyone in the extended time. On Sunday we were recommended a selection of churches where we were invited to

join the local bands for service ringing, and then a final three towers on the way home.

It had rained heavily on Sunday night and Jonathan had trouble with his motorbike on Monday morning. He was able to limp to the pub for lunch with us, and as he ate the heat of the engine dried it out and he was able to get home. Ironically he was wearing the shirt which read 'One bike on the road is worth two in the shed! - how appropriate! (Those who don't know Jonathan's shirts, look out for them. Reading his shirts was an interesting pastime!)

Before going I must say a word about how well Dot catered for us in the cottages. As usual she bulk bought supplies and, with the sterling assistance of Geoff and Mary, produced some superb evening meals (they were supposed to be snacks as we ate well at lunch time, but they were the sort of meals I would have for my main meal of the day - oh my waistline!) Many thanks to Dot, and to Sandra for their hard work on our behalf. And commiserations to Mick and Betty who had had to withdraw at the last minute - you missed a treat!!

Another super holiday with good ringing in a wide variety of towers, good food, and above all good fellowship! I recommend such a venture to everyone!

Margaret Parker

Holiday quarters:

MARCHINGTON, Staffs Sept 21
1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor

1. Mary Riglar
2. Mary Faircloth
3. Sandra Underwood
4. John Underwood
5. Geoff Riglar
6. Jonathan Clark ©

ALTON, Staffs
1280 Cambridge
Surprise Major

1. Graham Colbourne
2. Anne Pope
3. Heather Blacklock
4. Heather Grover
5. David Fox
6. Philip Pope
7. Philip Grover
8. Andrew Blacklock ©

Both rung to wish Mick Stracey a speedy recovery and also a birthday compliment to his wife, Betty.

Just a smile!

When ringing a tower captain at a 'very nearly lockout', Sandra got the answer phone : 'I'm sorry I'm not in, but the dog's in. Please leave a message and we'll get back to you. It will probably be me because the dog's legs aren't long enough to reach the phone'!!

The 4th WELGOB Outing

Having heard many tales of the previous three outings to which we were invited but, unfortunately could not join, we made sure that this time the date was marked on the calendar in good time.

The day dawned with bright sunshine and not too cold and we drove to Wellingore, to the Red Lion, where bacon rolls and coffee made a very pleasant start to the day. We felt rather under-dressed when we saw all the WELGOB (Wellingore Guild of Bellringers) resplendent in bright red polo shirts with embroidered badge with their Motto SENTIO PONDUS - (in Latin of course) 'feel the weight'. Nine members plus and honorary member of the Guild, and six supporting ringers boarded the mini-bus right at the designated time. We also had one non-ringer with us who kindly agreed to deal with the finances and provide mid morning coffee.

Once in the bus we were issued with a leaflet showing the itinerary for the day, a map of the area we were to visit in Rutland, and pictures of each church we were going to.

The towers we rang at were around Rutland Water at Edith Weston, Wing, Uppingham, Exton, Cottesmore and Langham. Only one tower was a ground floor ring, three from balconies and two upstairs. Of these FOUR were at churches dedicated to SS Peter and Paul, which we thought was a little unusual - there are no towers in the Central Branch with that dedication!

Our bus driver for the day was Nick, who normally drives HGV's. I should imagine that he was glad to get back to loads

which do not make comments about his driving - even though they were made tongue-in-cheek - and Nick got us everywhere on time, with only one bit of reversing!

At lunch in Empingham we had a room to ourselves, and with our order phoned ahead by our non-ringing helper, seventeen lunches were efficiently served.

The programme included a post-tour drink in Langham followed by Community singing on the bus on the way home. Once we were all comfortably seated song-sheets were handed out so no-one had excuses that they didn't know the words to Jerusalem, the Lincolnshire Poacher among others. But the best was The Twelve WELGOB Practices sung to the tune of The Twelve Days of Christmas with the Motto (see above) sung in the Five Gold Rings part.

So we returned to the Red Lion for further refreshment before departing home after a very pleasant day in a lovely part of the country with very friendly company. Thank you to the organisers and driver for a very good day

An afterthought - When did YOUR tower last do something like this?

It should have been a 3-pull dodge and he came away too soon.

'You missed a dodge!'

'Which one?'

'The last!'

Guild Committee Meeting November 10th

Youth Striking Contest in Birmingham was a great success.

Next year's to be in York on June 6th.

Ringing Centre at Stow moving forward very slowly.

Guild 6-bell contests very successful with 16 towers represented. Next years in S. Branch First Sat in Sept.

8-bell contest disappointing - only 4 teams entered. Why?

Method ?

Review group to look into it. Next year's to be October 3rd in WL Branch.

Ridgeman trophy to be at Surfleet in June - with other towers available.

Fund raising committee to organise another Grand Draw, but no quiz or Christmas cards this year.

Accounts - cost of **web-site** hosting queried. Can we reduce it?

There has been no movement on acquiring a **trailer** to transport the simulator. When it is based semi-permanently at the centre at Stow this will be less urgent.

Rising cost of postage makes cheque signing expensive. Do we make the current account need only one signature? To protect the treasurer this is undesirable. Can we name a further signatory who lives nearer? Review group to look into it.

Suggestion of making it possible to **pay subs** by standing order. Review group to discuss the implications.

Safeguarding update. There is some confusion about the whether CRB can be made Diocese-wide. Ongoing discussions! The **membership form** having teething troubles over wording. Noted concerns and refer to review group.

Review groups. In December a document will be circulated via branches to every member explaining their object with a specific questionnaire to engage with the membership as a whole, giving necessary feedback to the members of the groups.

Discussion about the format of the **2013 Guild AGM.** Agreed that it will be as previous years. Possibility of changing it in future years to make it more 'user friendly' for those travelling from further points of the County.

Overheard

Ringer 1, with enthusiasm, 'Follow me - - - - -'

Now clear off and find someone else!'

Notes from the Branch Committee Meeting November

The Secretary and Ringing Master both reported **declining attendances** at meetings, there being mostly the same few people there every time. This led to discussion on why this is and what to do about it. We agreed that the most popular meetings involved food in some way! Is this a pointer for the future? **We need to know what you would like to see**, and what would tempt **you** to join us. The benefits are twofold - fellowship and learning opportunities. The Master then showed the proposed ringing programme for next year, (see above) **to be discussed at the AGM in January.**

There was long discussion about the request by the **Guild Master** regarding the business **plan for the Guild** that is under discussion. We asked the **secretary to write on behalf of the committee** expressing our unease about what is being proposed and required of us.

The fund raising report was discussed. We discussed the possibility of producing our own **Christmas card**. We are looking for **a design**, either drawn or photographic, and the onion trophy to be presented for the design chosen. Christine to put out feelers for the printing.

Grants : Bassingham are looking for a grant from the BRF for re-furbishment of their bells. We will sanction the amount of our contribution when we get the figures.

Thorpe are replacing all six ropes. We sanctioned the cost of one rope

The Guild Committee rep reported on the last meeting (see above.)

Two officers announced they would **not be standing for re-election** at the forthcoming AGM, and Sandra felt she ought not to be a member of this committee as there was a conflict of interest in discussions as she is also Guild Secretary

Quiz Night at Hackthorn November 10th

Another enjoyable quiz was organised by Mick and Betty. Sadly, not quite so many people attended this year - Why? Is the quiz, like so many of our activities running its course? (I hope not, for those who do go have an enjoyable evening of fun and laughter!) It was a terrific evening, with impromptu humour - when asked which codeword was used for one of the letters in radio communication was an alcoholic drink one team started going through the alphabet with ale?, beer? claret? dandelion and burdock? eggnog? fried eggnog? !!!) They did find whiskey before going any further on this tack - what would you have chosen? As usual the faith supper refreshed us all and the many raffle prizes were well appreciated. Do we want another quiz next year? I very much hope so!

Carol Service Swinderby December 8th

A well attended Carol Service was enjoyed at Swinderby where we nearly filled this compact church. The Vicar, Rev George Goalby, welcomed us and thanked us for inviting him to share with us, and he accompanied us for one of the carols with his guitar, giving Les a rest on the organ. The service was rather more traditional than last year, bible readings being interspersed with carols and thought provoking readings expressing the thoughts of some of the people who witnessed the nativity. There were plenty of seasonal refreshments to follow, sending us cheerfully on our way. Thank you to Mick and Betty for sorting out the programme, to the readers and organist, to Derek and the vicar's wife for looking after the food side of things, and, not least, to those of you who swelled the congregation and sang so lustily!

Obituary

Ralph Desmond Underwood (Des) 1930 - 2012

Des passed away September 2012 in Swinderby where he had been the Churchwarden and bell ringer for over 40 years. Until two years ago he had been an active ringer in the parishes of

Swinderby, Eagle and Thorpe-on-the-Hill. He was also very involved with the 'Old Churches Trust', becoming its general secretary. When his wife Thelma, who was the church organist, passed away in 2005 Des sold the business (Halfway House on the A46 at Swinderby) and moved to the cottage opposite the church in Swinderby. He played a very active role in coffee mornings in church, and all other church functions, He was a perfect gentleman, a lovely man who will be missed in so many ways.

Derek Phillips

Congratulations- - - - to **Mrs P Williams** and **P Allen**, both from North Scarle who won the quiz sold in aid of the North Scarle bell fund. 240 of these sheets were sold and 48 returned. Only one sheet had all 60 correct answers, and one had just one wrong. Thank you Mick for your efforts in producing this to aid the fund. - - - also to **Cathy Andrews**, ringer at Hackthorn, on being presented with the West Lindsey District Council 'Volunteer of the Year' award. She was nominated by the parish council in recognition of all the valuable work for the community which she does for the church and village.

Why is it called after dark, when really it's after light?

Christmas Card

As the Guild Christmas cards seem to now have become a thing of the past, the branch committee wish to produce one of our own for next year. **We are looking for a design**, and will present the 'onion trophy' for the design we use. If you have a good idea, but like me cannot draw it all that well, don't be put off as a former ringer who is an artist is willing to work up your idea to give it that professional look. **Bring your ideas to the Branch AGM at Heckington on January 12th**, or give it to a member of the branch committee before then. We need you!

Branch Quarter Peals

St. Giles, LINCOLN 8 Sept

1260 Grandsire Triples

1. Heather Blacklock
2. Sandra Underwood
3. Phil Mason
4. Betty Stracey
5. Dot Mason
6. Mick Stracey ©
7. John Underwood
8. Andrew Blacklock

Rung before the Service of Celebration for the life of Margaret Wiseman (nee Chambers), Churchwarden of this church, and daughter of Jack Chambers who rang here in the first peal in 1940. Also remembering Iris Creasey, a member of this congregation, and Joyce Hauser, half-sister of Betty Stracey, who have both died recently.

EAGLE 9 Sept.

1320 Plain Bob Doubles

1. Ron Everett
2. Derek Philips
3. Mick Stracey ©
4. Martin Pearson
5. Betty Stracey
6. Willy Turner

For Evensong and in memory of John Bushell, retired organist and choirmaster, Elsie Kitchen, chorister, and Des Underwood, bellringer at Swinderby.

HACKTHORNE 27 Sept

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1. Margaret Parker
2. Sally Turnbull
3. Fiona Dawson ©
4. Helen McGurk
5. Brian Smith
6. Robert Cox

Rung prior to the installation of Rev Adrian Smith as Rector of the Owmby and the Springline groups of parishes.

SWINDERBY 16 Sept

1260 Seven Doubles methods (Reverse Canterbury, St Nicholas, Winchendon Place, Plain Bob, St Martin and Grandsire

1. Derek Philips
2. Sandra Underwood
3. Betty Stracey
4. John Underwood
5. Mick Stracey ©

For Harvest Festival Songs of Praise, and to celebrate the life of Des Underwood, for many years ringer and churchwarden at this church.

WELBOURN 28 Sept.

1280 Cambridge Surprise Major.

1. Margaret Parker
2. Fiona Dawson
3. Sylvia Taylor
4. John Nicholson
5. Dot Mason
6. Mick Stracey
7. Les Townsend
8. Phil Mason ©

For Harvest Festival Service.

THORPE-on-the-HILL 1 Oct.

1269 Cambridge Surprise Minor

1. Mick Stracey ©
2. Betty Stracey
3. Colin Reed
4. Beryl Reed
5. John Underwood
6. John Nicholson

For Lincolnshire Day.

‘Who’s ringing the tenor?’

‘I’ll take the tenor. I’ll do anything for a tenner.’

‘Anything?’

‘I’ve been ringing all day.’

‘Wringing? Was it wash day?’

WELBOURN 1 Oct
1250 Lincolnshire Surprise Major
1. Margaret Parker
2. Christine Jackson
3. Heather Blacklock
4. Mary Faircloth
5. Les Townsend
6. Sylvia Taylor
7. Davd Fox
8. Andrew Blacklock ©
For Lincolnshire Day.

HARMSTON 1 Oct.
1260 Lincolnshire Surprise Major
1. Beryl Reed
2. Fiona Dawson
3. Betty Stracey
4. Colin Reed
5. Les Townsend
6. Mick Stracey
7. David Fox ©
8. John Underwood
For Lincolnshire Day.

CATHEDRAL 20 Oct.
1254 Grandsire Cinques
1. Heather Blacklock
2. Delia Heppenstall
3. Fiona Dawson
4. Sandra Underwood
5. Les Townsend
6. Mick Stracey
7. David Fox ©
8. Robin Heppenstall
9. John Underwood
10. Graham Colborne
11. Andrew Blacklock
12. Phil Mason
To celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the
founding of the Lincoln Cathedral
Companie of Ringers (18/10/1612)

I can't remember when to dodge.'
Carry on till you hit the treble,'
Treble ringer : 'Don't do that!'
'Why not?'
'Because it would hurt me!'

CATHEDRAL 11 Nov
1253 Grandsire Cinques
1. Graham Colborne
2. Delia Heppenstall
3. Dot Mason
4. Fiona Dawson
5. Les Townsend
6. Sandra Underwood
7. Sue Faull
8. David Fox
9. Mick Stracey
10. John Underwood
11. Robin Heppenstall ©
12. Phil Mason
Rung for Remembrance Sunday.

CATHEDRAL 25 Nov
1260 Stedman Triples
1. Delia Heppenstall
2. Fiona Dawson
3. David Fox
4. Les Townsend
5. Mick Stracey
6. Phil Mason
7. Robin Heppenstall ©
8. Dot Mason
For Evensong

TIMBERLAND 30 Nov
1280 St Andrew Place Doubles
1. Sylvia Taylor
2. Dot Mason
3. Mick Stracey ©
4. John Underwood
5. Phil Mason
6. John Nicholson
First in method for all. Rung for the
patronal festival. Wishing Andrew
Blacklock a speedy recovery.

GOSBERTON Dec 1
1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor
1. Margaret Parker
2. Fiona Dawson
3. Betty Stracey
4. Mick Stracey ©
5. Neville Sharpe
6. Richard Spencer

WASHINGBOROUGH Nov 28

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1. Robert Harvey
2. Yvonne Woodcock
3. Christopher Woodcock
4. Graham Whittaker
5. Jona than Clark ©
6. Sue Waterfall

Rung in thanksgiving for the life of Mrs
Patricia Enstone.

SURFLEET Dec 1

1282 Cambridge Surprise Royal

1. Les Townsend
2. Sylvia Taylor
3. Heather Blacklock
4. Sandra Underwood
5. John Underwood
6. Heather Grover
7. Jonathan Clark
8. David Fox ©
9. Peter Wakefield
10. Philip Grover

SWINDERBY Dec 6

1260 St Nicholas Bob Doubles

1. Ron Everett
2. John Underwood
3. Betty Stracey
4. Les Townsend
5. Mick Stracey ©

On St Nicholas' Day for the meeting of the
U3A Churches and Chapels group.
Marking the 30th anniversary of the
ordination of the Rev George Goalby.

NAVENBY Dec 9

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1. Robert Harvey
2. Lindsey Arkley
3. Yvonne Woodcock
4. Ian Hasman
5. Jonathan Clark ©
6. Christopher Woodcock

Rung in thanksgiving for the life of Mrs
Patricia Enstone.

He was not very happy about
standing on a box to ring, but was told
'You'll just have to stand still.'
At which another ringer added,
'And if you fall off it and break both
your legs, don't come running to me
for help!'

