

Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers Central Branch Newsletter (number 81) March 2013

In the belfry in **All Saints church, Nettleham**, there hangs a board commemorating the ringing by a local band of men of a full peal on the bells on April 19th 1813. It reads :-

On Easter Monday.
In the year of our Lord.
One Thoufand and Eight hundred and
Thirteen. Was rung here Five
Thoufand and Forty Changes in
different peals in Three hours and
Five minutes on the 19 of April.
by us whofe names are here written.
1st Richard Johnfon 4th Wiliam Pattinfon
2nd Jofeph Pearfon 5th William Vickers
3rd William Clayworth 6th George Grundy

Old Nettlehamites recognise some good old Nettleham surnames there! As such a feat was rare in those days, the present ringers felt that we wanted to celebrate the 200th anniversary of this ringing. Because few of the present Nettleham band feel up to ringing - and concentrating non-stop - for nearly three hours, we have decided to attempt a quarter peal on the actual anniversary. We are also arranging for friends from the neighbouring churches to come and ring a full peal on our bells the following day – Saturday 20th April, starting at 2 pm. Dave is the only Nettleham ringer involved, and as at the time of writing he is nursing a broken arm, his fitness is in question. Time will tell, the board only tells us it was ‘rung in different peals’. Does this mean simply ‘ringing seven extents (peals in those days were often the term given to full extents)? Or did they ring in different methods? If so, how many? What were they? We have no means of knowing. We therefore have decided to ring seven extents of Plain Bob Minor - whether called differently is up to Chris who is conducting it for us. Jonathan is working on a video link so that we can see on

screen in the church what is happening among the bells, and see the ringers in action.

During this time there will be a display in the church and fun activities for those interested and, of course, there will be tea/coffee and cakes. Phil is also bringing his 'mobile belfry' so if you fancy having a ring on the pots (sorry Phil; ceramic bells!) you know where to come. There will even be a birthday cake as well! It will be cut at 3.30, to give us time to eat it before the children's service at 4. We shall certainly save some for the ringers when they emerge from up the tower! Do come and celebrate an afternoon of fun and fellowship with us! We hope any donations at this time will help towards the cost of repairs that are needed to the fabric of the tower. (Perhaps we can even raise enough for the hire of one of the scaffolding poles!)

Incidentally, 1813 seems to be a significant date here in Nettleham - the small 'calling bell' that John Ketteringham acquired for us second hand during the Millennium restoration of the bells co-incidentally has the date 1813 inscribed on it! He tells me that it was unusual to have any inscription on that sort of bell.

We know that there has been a ring of 3 bells at Nettleham since 1724. They were augmented to a peal on 6 in 1740, but although we have records of when they were restored, we have no idea of who actually rang them since the 1813 peal until 1930 when the Report that year named two members of the Guild. Suffice to say that we ringers follow in an ancient tradition of ringing each week to call people to worship. We hope to be able to continue this for many years to come - but to be able to do this we need to constantly teach new members. Anyone interested will be given training at their own pace. Ringers are a happy, friendly bunch who would love to welcome you into our midst.

Margaret Parker

Tower News

I see that the work on the tower at **Blankney** is now finished and a peal has been rung there. The ringing room is very much improved.

On the other hand, **Caythorpe** is still waiting for work to begin. There is still no ringing there until this work is completed.

Stander to ringer: Well done. You kept that right even when I was telling you wrong!

I did not make the Bob because I didn't make one the last time we tried this method.

ApPEALing Recipes Needed!

As you may already know, North Scarle are currently raising funds to install a new peal of bells. Fundraising has been going extremely well, but they are still some way off their target of £75,000. To help this project reach its goal, we are planning to print a recipe book to raise funds, however we need some really tasty recipes - which is why we need your help. Do you have a favourite recipe you would be willing to share? Is there something your mum or granny used to cook which really made your mouth water? We want to include everything from starters, through desserts, cakes, and even your favourite beverage - in fact anything food related would be very welcome. It would also 'spice' things up if you could include a bit of history about the recipe, such as 'my aunt used to make these every Christmas', or 'the recipe has been handed down from generation to generation'. The more delicious recipes we have the better so please delve deep into those recipe archives!

Please forward your favourite recipes to Soo Pendleton, 31 Chapel Lane, North Scarle, Lincoln, LN6 9EX or email to Sandra at sandra.underwood@ntlworld.com

Many thanks,

Soo Pendleton and Sandra Underwood

Also, with regard to recruitment, the Thorpe/Eagle/Swinderby /North Scarle group has been boosted by the vicar who appealed for volunteers for various 'duties' following the sudden death of Des Underwood. I haven't seen the actual article but apparently he asked for people to come forward to assist with numerous aspects of the church from cutting the grass, cleaning, maintenance work and bell ringing. This has produced 5 volunteers to learn to ring plus the return of an existing ringer. We also have plans to do talks and presentations to other local groups such as the WI in due course.

N.B. This endorses the old proverb, 'No-one's indispensable. Even though people like Des who do so much good in the community are sorely missed by their friends, their work does not stop with them. There are those ready to build on the foundations they laid, even though they never thought to take on those tasks while you were there to do them. Rest in peace, Des. M.A.P.

Is the tower moving, or is the floor sprung?

Suggested Ringing Programme for 2013 – 2014

April 13	Blankney	Conductor's course Call changes & Bob Doubles/Minor Followed by picnic tea, Then open ringing	4 .30 6 - 8
April 27	GUILD AGM		
May 11	Timberland Martin	picnic tea followed by Branch Striking Contest	3 – 4 pm 5 pm
May 27	Scothern	Rabbits contest Competition - design a Central Branch Christmas Card.	3pm
June 8	Tealby Walesby	ringing picnic and ringing	3 – 4 4 – 5 5 - 30 onwards
July 13	Outing to	Mablethorpe for a paddle and fish and chips Visiting towers t.b.a. en route.	
Aug 10		BBQ and half yearly meeting	
Aug 11	Cathedral	Service ringing	2.30 – 4.15
Sept 14	S.Branch	6-bell Striking contest final	
Oct 12	Visit to Loughborough Bell Foundry with a tower or two afterwards		
Nov 9	Brant Broughton	Quiz and faith supper	7 – 30
Dec 14	Ruskington	Carol Service followed by mince pies 2.30 ringing, 3pm Carol Service.	
Jan 11	Welbourn	AGM 3pm ringing, 4.30 service, 5pm tea & meeting followed by further ringing	
Feb 8	Rauceby Fulbeck		2 – 3 3.15 – 4.15
Mar 8	Wragby		2 – 3

These proposals were discussed at the Branch AGM in January.

Please note alterations to the proposals published in the December edition of the newsletter.

The Committee are keen to hear of any **ideas or events** which will attract more members to attend meetings.

Refreshments are usually available at these meetings.

Put all these dates in your diary!

Everyone has a photographic memory, it's just that some of them don't have the film!

There is a limit to the numbers allowed on the foundry tour. Therefore it will be a case of first come, first served. Book your place - with a deposit - as soon as possible so as not to be disappointed.

N,B. It has not found to be practical to arrange a coach for the foundry trip, so make your own arrangements. It will be possible to share cars.

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 circumstances. The next ones are : Mar 23rd (avoids Holy Week); April 20th (to avoid Guild AGM); May 25th; June 22nd; July 27th; August 24th; Sept 28th; October 26th; November 23rd and December 21st (we don't think people would come to the 28th)

Don't forget your entry for the Christmas card design. It will be judged during the Rabbits competition at Scothern on May 27th.

We do need our learners at Scothern, or the whole point of holding the competition is lost.

Arrangements for the Guild AGM April 27th

9.30 – 10.00	Ringling at Lincoln Cathedral.
10.00 – 10.30	Holy Communion in the Ringers' Chapel
11.00 – 12.15	AGM at Bailgate Methodist Chapel
12.15 – 2.00	Lunch at Bailgate Methodist Chapel
2.00 – 3.00	General ringling at Stow

2.45 – 3.45 Ringing and light refreshments at Saxilby
4.15 – 5.20 Ringing at Cathedral prior to Evensong
5.30 – 6.15 Guild members attend Evensong
6.15 – 8.30 approx General ringing at Lincoln Cathedral

Subs are now overdue

Please pay Dot **a.s.a.p!** £10 per adult, £3 per Junior.

Mick Stracey has rope tops for sale at £1.20 per metre. They come highly recommended - they have been fitted at Branston with its notoriously long draught and those who have rung on them are now full of high praise! If they don't stretch there, they will not anywhere else.

Branch AGM, Heckington January 12th

Election of Officers:

President Margaret Parker **Treasurer** Dot Mason
Secretary Fiona Dawson **Ringing Master** Richard Spenser
CB Rep to Guild Fund Raising Christine Jackson
CD Rep to Guild Committee Heather Blacklock
Branch Committee members Mick Stracey, John Nicholson,
Stan Underwood, Sue Waterfall

Hon Accounts Examiners John Carr, Alan Haines

Safeguarding Officer Jonathan Clark

8 new members were elected.

The Secretary, Treasurer and Master gave their reports, the first two of which will appear in the forthcoming Guild Report.

Proposed programme for the forthcoming year were discussed, and certain amendments have been made **Please look above for the final proposals.**

Guild Committee Report given

AGM arrangements for 2013 were given (see above)

The Guild Master told the meeting of the reasons for the questionnaire which is being circulated and he urged us to fill it in completely honestly, so that the committees charged with bringing the Guild up to date will know exactly what the members want of the Guild.

Guild Subscriptions are now due (£10 per adult and £3 for Juniors).

Your Newsletter subscription is due after this edition. (I am collecting the money from now on!) A free copy will be sent to each tower, and anyone wishing to have their own copy is asked for £2 for the year to cover printing costs. It will also continue to be published on the web-site.

Meeting at Bardney February 9th

This afternoon meeting was well attended. Good use was made of the (very noisy) bells and the Bardney ringers produced a never-ending supply of cake, biscuits, tea and coffee. Thank you ladies. We missed Christine, and wish her a speedy recovery. The exhibition of stones recovered from the ruins of Bardney Abbey were well displayed and we were fascinated by them. A good use to make of the back of this large and interesting church. We were pleased again to welcome new members - keep it up, the Guild is not yet dying on its feet as some lead us to believe - but it does take a lot of commitment by those teaching them. It seems that the branch is in fine fettle. Well done. Keep up the good work.

Welcome

to **Rowan Booth** of Brant Broughton, **Richard Rogers** of Sleaford, **Audrey Harrison**, **Rebecca Carr**, **Peter Davies**, **Vince Stocking**, **Bob Hodges** and **Sylvia Collett** all of Heckington, who were elected members at the AGM at Heckington, and to **Michael Laiton**, **Tierney Rayment** of Washingborough and **Andy Ellinson** and **George Ellinson** of Waddington who were elected members at the meeting at Bardney.

From the Branch Committee on February 27th

* The **ringing programme** discussed. See above. The towers to be visited on the outing in July were queried. To be arranged nearer the time, but the destination to remain the same.

* There is a problem over the towers suggested for the **Ring for your Supper**, so we propose a BBQ at the half yearly meeting on August instead – the venue to be decided nearer the time.

* **The foundry visit** has certain limits, to numbers in the group, and each child to be accompanied by a specific adult. Only those who

have booked will be able to go to the foundry. **First come, first served, each booking to be accompanied by a deposit.** The proposed coach is not practical because of cost, therefore make own travel arrangements.

* We decided on the judging of **Christmas Card Design Competition** for the Onion Trophy at the 'Rabbits' on May 27th at Scothern.

* We proposed a **grant of £500 to Bassingham** from the branch belfry repair fund towards the refurbishment of their bells.

* Mick showed us the **rope** he has bought **for replacing top ends.** £1.20 a metre if you want some.

* Heather gave us a report from the Guild Committee meeting - see below.

Thank you Betty for this piece:-

When we are ringing we often say, 'We don't know who is listening'. As we locked up after the afternoon practice at Washingborough a lady approached us and told us that she was the lollipop lady from Heighington school and she had been with the family visiting a very new grave of a six year old girl who had died of cancer. She said the family were very pleased to hear the joyful sound of the bells as it reminded them of the happy times they had had with the little girl. Being a practice we had had the usual problems but if something went wrong the bells were quickly brought into rounds before another attempt. To the people outside it all sounded good!

Guild Committee Meeting February 16th

Membership form: wording on the website has been amended.

A new electronic system of **CRB checks** is being brought in.

45 **Questionnaires** returned so far. Master analysing answers.

Peal Secretary considering whether compositions need to be published in the Report, as there is a higher number of peals this year which will result in higher printing costs.

Suggested **Guild events** in the report be brought nearer the front.

Jonathan Clark recommended to continue as **Webmaster** for ratification at AGM.

Guild will cover cost **of hire of the hall (£45) for the AGM, outside caterers to provide the food.**

Sue Faull gave notice that she did not wish to stand as CC Rep when members are elected at the AGM.

Striking competitions

Guild 6 Bell - September 14th at Denton - cup and Barrowby - plate.

Guild 8-bell - October 19th at Kirton Lindsey. Test piece two courses Plain Bob Triples (either a touch or two plain courses)

Ridgman trophy June 15th at Surfleet. Andrew Blacklock organising team and practices.

RW National Youth Competition July 6th in York. It is hoped Guild will enter at least one team again. Sue Faull and Ian Till to assist with this and requested names of ringers from Branch Secretaries as soon as possible.

It was asked whether the Guild would be producing a **Christmas card** this year. Fund Raising Committee to look into this. (NB This will **not** affect our Branch Card.)

Let there be light!

There has been much interest shown on the matter of being left ringing in the dark.

John Ketteringham writes:- With regard to the item 'Belfry Safety'.

Surely the easiest solution is to have a two or three way light fitting? If one bulb fails then there will be one or two that will still be alight!!. This is what we had at Alford.

Yes, John, but that does not help in the case of a power cut.

Walter Froggatt writes, 'Ref to Dunholme's problem, if there is a 13amp (switched) socket in the belfry, it should be possible to obtain a light with a light sensitivity on P.I.R. sensor which will play into the socket. This is switched in when ringers enter, to off again when they leave. If the belfry is suddenly plunged into darkness, this light will immediately come on; if it is sensitive only to light/darkness this is automatic, but if it is a P.I.R movement is also required, but if ringing is in progress this would be more than sufficient to bring the light on. His letter then gives diagrams for those who understand such things. If you want to go into this I will show you the letter.

At Nettleham we have a lantern torch plugged in which automatically lights if the power fails.

Yes, but that is not on the lighting circuit and will not work if the fuse trips, which is what happened at Dunholme.

The emergency light at Hackthorn is on the same circuit as the lights, as the new one at Dunholme is going to be.

But what if someone switches off the light, whose switch is downstairs, away from the belfry?

They have purchased a table lamp which is lit as a second source of light.

We cannot think of any other worst case scenario waiting to catch us out. Can you? I find the only fail-safe answer is always to make new ringers ring with their eyes shut, with a trusted mentor standing by their side before they are let loose on their own. I have done this for many years, they complain that they don't like it, but it does prove to them that they can set a bell without having to look at it, so that they are less easily fazed in an emergency. The unexpectedness of sudden darkness leads to panic, which itself causes the problem. Any comments or additions to this debate? **It is important to consider this potential problem in the interests of safety.**

Obituary Gill Bland

We were very shocked by the sudden death of Gill Bland. She and Ian learned to ring in the Nottingham area, and on retiring they moved to Heckington to be nearer their family. Once there, Gill threw herself into her new life, always busy, caring for her grandchildren, and doing many good works in the village, and particularly in the church. She was an experienced ringer, going with Ian to ring around the Guild, never pushing herself forward and often having one ring and then content to sit and watch us all. She and Ian worked hard to teach a band of ringers in Heckington, and she formed a hand-bell group there, taking the bells and their tunes to entertain around the area. They performed at several of our branch carol services. She was an avid designer and knitter, and we all enjoyed the fair-isle jumpers worn by both of them -

particularly those with ringing themes. Our sympathies go to Ian and the family. She will be greatly missed by many people. R.I.P.

Branch Meeting Nettleham March 9th

It was a very wet day and we wondered how many of you would turn out, but you came in droves and it turned out to be a very well attended meeting. Well done. It was good to see a number of the local ringers, who are not conspicuous by their attendance at branch meetings. We keep saying that these meetings are for everyone! The bells were put to good use, while those not on the end of a rope spent a good time socialising around tea and cakes. This is the joy of being a member of such a group! The afternoon meetings do seem to be more popular. Come and give them a try.

Branch Quarter Peals

CATHEDRAL 13 Jan

1251 Stedman Cinques

1. Sandra Underwood
2. Fiona Dawson
3. Delia Heppenstall
4. Heather Blacklock
5. Robin Heppenstall ©
6. Les Townsend
7. Anita Blundell
8. Alan Payne
9. David Fox
10. Paul Caruana
11. Graham Colborne
12. John Underwood

For the 50th anniversary of Delia's first peal of Stedman Cinques, 29/12/63, rung on these bells.

EAGLE 13 Jan

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1. Willie Turner
2. Ron Everett
3. Derek Phillips
4. Mick Stracey ©
5. Betty Stracey
6. Sue Waterfall

For Evening Service on the Feast of the Baptism of Christ.

BLANKNEY 19 Jan

1320 Spliced Plain Bob Minor & Grandsire Doubles

1. Robert Harvey
2. Yvonne Woodcock
3. Colin Ward
4. Jonathan Clarke
5. Sue Waterfall
6. Christopher Woodcock ©

First Quarter of Spliced Minor and Doubles for all the bad.

THORPE-on-the-HILL 24 Jan

1272 Childwall Bob Minor

1. Dot Mason
2. John Underwood
3. Phil Mason
4. Betty Stracey
5. John Nicholson
6. Mick Stracey ©

In memory of Roger Bailey.

EAGLE 10 Feb

1260 St Simons Bob Doubles

1. Soo Pendleton
2. Michael Lawton
3. John Nicholson
4. Mick Stracey ©
5. Betty Stracey
6. Martin Pearson

First in method - 2. For Evensong.

SCOTHERN 15 Feb

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1. Margaret Parker
2. Margaret Neate
3. Fiona Dawson
4. John Bundy
5. Brian Smith
6. David Fox ©

Rung half muffled following the funeral of Michael John Mills. Mike was a stalwart of St Germain's church, the Scothern Chorale & 'Fusion' whose concerts provided funds for St Barnabas' Hospice.

BLANKNEY Mar 2

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1. Robert Harvey
2. Yvonne Woodcock
3. Colin Ward
4. Sue Waterfall
5. Jonathan Clark ©
6. Nick Williams

HECKINGTON 23 Feb

1260 Plain Bob Triples

1. Jean Kay
2. Sylvia Taylor
3. Dot Mason
4. Mick Stracey
5. Phil Mason
6. Alan Bird ©
7. Bryan Ward
8. Richard Rodgers

First of Triples - 1.

Rung with the bells open to celebrate the life of Gill Bland, a local ringer and all round hard worker at this church, whose funeral was yesterday.

EWERBY 27 Feb

1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major

1. Margaret Parker
2. Betty Stracey
3. Dot Mason
4. John Underwood
5. Mick Stracey ©
6. John Nicholson
7. David Fox
8. Phil Mason

Rung following the Service of Celebration for the life of Richard Cook, former churchwarden at this church.

POTTERHANWORTH 22 Feb

1320 Netherseale Surprise Minor

1. Yvonne Woodcock
2. Fiona Dawson
3. David Fox
4. Philip Dawson
5. Rodney French
6. Christopher Woodcock ©

Rung in affectionate memory of Gill Bland immediately prior to her funeral and burial just down the road at Longholt Wood woodland burial site. Netherseale was chosen because it was Gill's favourite method.

WASHINGBOROUGH 10 Mar

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1. Robert Harvey
2. Jean Williams
3. Philip Dawson
4. Colin Ward
5. Christopher Woodcock ©
6. Sue Waterfall

Rung prior to the Mothering Sunday Family service. Robert wishes to ring for Mrs Irene Veall, wishing her a speedy recovery from her illness.