

## Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers Central Branch Newsletter (number 84) February 2014

In the last Newsletter we were encouraged to have a special ring of Stedman to mark the tercentenary of the death of **Fabian Stedman**. Ringers responded by ringing a special quarter of 1300 Stedman Caters at the Cathedral, and three performances as follows:

**SLEAFORD** 7 Nov  
300 Stedman Doubles  
1. Sylvia Taylor ©  
2. Jean Kay  
3. Alan Bird  
4. Richard Rodgers  
5. Bryan Ward

**DUNHOLME** 20 Nov  
300 Stedman Doubles  
1. Margaret Parker ©  
2. Fiona Dawson  
3. John Bundy  
4. John Nicholson  
5. Philip Dawson  
6. Helen McGurk

**NAVENBY** 15 Nov  
300 Stedman Doubles  
1. Les Townsend  
2. Paul Jackman ©  
3. Mick Stracey  
4. Betty Stracey  
5. Tony Branson  
6. David Randall

### Proposed Ringing Programme 2014

Feb 8 <sup>th</sup>	Rauceby	2 - 3
	Fulbeck	3.15 – 4.15
Mar 8 <sup>th</sup>	Wragby	2.30 – 4pm
Apr 12 <sup>th</sup>	Bassingham	2.30 – 4pm
Apr 26	GUILD AGM	
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Wellingore	Striking Contest 5pm
May 26 <sup>th</sup>	Thorpe	Rabbits 3pm
Jun 14 <sup>th</sup>	Hackthorn	6 – 8pm
July 12 <sup>th</sup>	Branston	6 – 8pm
Aug 9 <sup>th</sup>	Ewerby	Half yearly 3 – 8pm
	Ringing, Service, Picnic, Meeting, Ringing	
Aug 10 <sup>th</sup>	Cathedral	Service ringing 14.30 – 15.45
Sept 13 <sup>th</sup>	Guild 6-bell final in Central Branch	
Sept 27 <sup>th</sup>	Louth/Wragby Joint with Northern Branch	
Oct 11 <sup>th</sup>	Waddington	5 – 8pm
Nov 8 <sup>th</sup>	Brant Broughton QUIZ	
Dec 13 <sup>th</sup>	Norton Disney	Carol Service Ringing 2.30
		Service 3pm
Jan 10 <sup>th</sup>	Washingborough	AGM Ringing 3pm
		Service 4.30pm
		Tea and Meeting 5pm
Feb 7 <sup>th</sup>	Ruskington	2.30 – 4pm
Mar 7 <sup>th</sup>	Lincoln, St Botolph	2.30 – 4pm

## **Guild AGM, Sat 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

As in previous years:

Holy Communion in the Ringers' Chapel at the Cathedral followed by meeting in Bailgate Methodist Chapel.

Own arrangements for lunch followed by ringing in Lincoln towers.

Ringing for Evensong at the Cathedral followed by Cathedral Evensong.

Details of times etc on the website after the Guild Committee meeting in February.

## **Washingborough Surprise Practices 10.30-12am**

Saturday Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, Mar 22<sup>nd</sup>, April 12<sup>th</sup>?, May 24<sup>th</sup>, June 28<sup>th</sup>, July 26<sup>th</sup>, Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sept 27<sup>th</sup>, Oct 25<sup>th</sup>? Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>, Dec 20<sup>th</sup>.

**These are subject to change.** Check nearer the time.

## **Notes from the Guild Committee 9<sup>th</sup> November**

### **Striking Contests**

Ridgeman Trophy - Lincolnshire team came 2<sup>nd</sup> Well done!

15 teams took part in the 6 bell competition

The 8 bell competition was a successful day. 2 teams over-ran their practice time and were penalised accordingly.

Discussion about the event starting times. Arrangements may be different next year.

2 teams entered the National Youth competition. Next year it will be held in Worcester. Concerns and discussion about funding and level of support given to teams.

2014 will see both the 6 bell and 8 bell competitions held in the Central Branch. Proposed method for the 8 bell Grandsire Triples.

### **Fund Raising**

Philip Green produced Christmas cards and calendars. Every branch should have a Fund Raising rep. Sue Faull reluctantly agreed to lead this group.

### **Guild AGM**

Timetable under review. Suggested people made their own lunch arrangements within the uphill area of the city with some ringing elsewhere in the afternoon. Emphasised **we do need a good attendance at the meeting** to vote on any changes. Details later.

Talk of a meeting to review ringing, but not feasible. Original proposal for seminars to be more local not popular.

### **BRF**

Dot expressed a desire to retire at the end of the year. Will produce a job description for whoever takes over. Suggested BRF fees could be managed locally. Bell repair/grants – government gives money for 'bell work' which includes ropes. You can get VAT back but have to spend over £1000 to get this. Further details on Diocesan website.

There will be a summarised account of the White Papers for the Guild Review being sent out to be discussed by members.

## **Notes from Branch Committee Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> November**

Discussion about the **striking contest** in view of poor response– do we hold one? Do we have a league system, pairs of towers competing on practice night, to find our representative at the Guild SC?

There may be more **candidates for posts of Branch officials** – come to the AGM to vote for your choice.

**Grants** – St Giles given £50 to help replace a clapper. Thorpe are still awaiting their ropes. Carlton-le-Moorland to be restored and encouraged to ask Branch for help.

**Correspondence** – Chris Woodcock outlined work that has been done to improve the go of the bells at St Botolph's and has invited the Branch to ring there.

## **Branch Quiz, Brant Broughton November 9<sup>th</sup>**

The 9<sup>th</sup> November was the evening of this year's Branch Quiz night. On what was predicted to be the coldest night of the 2013 winter so far 6 teams, including St Giles, the Cathedral and (of course) Nettleham, ventured out to Brant Broughton to compete for the coveted title of quiz champions. The Nettleham team, or 'Missing Strictly' as we were on the night, was undoubtedly led by James, whose bountiful quiz knowledge was only let down by a lack of appreciation for flags. Dave was a force to be reckoned with, while Margaret, Gill and myself openly admitted to just coming along for the evening out.

The rounds were an interesting mixture with our knowledge of everything from Entertainment and Hollywood Movie stars to Science and Great Britain being tested. Missing Strictly managed to get consistently mid-to-high scores and at the interval; we found ourselves tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> place. After a short break filled with delicious cheese scone, mouth watering cake and copious amounts of pork pie it was back to the serious stuff.

Every team was given a joker which, when played, gave them double points for each correct answer that round. Being from All Saints church, it seemed like fate when one of the rounds was titled 'Saints and Sinners' and so we tried our luck. Whether it was fortunate questions or true saintly wisdom, the Nettleham team scored maximum points on the round, With that we were home and dry, even the grammar mishaps and the flag failures that were to follow couldn't stop Missing Strictly, and victory was ours. So too should have been the trophy but since last year's winners forgot to bring it along, a replacement was made from a wine glass and kitchen foil. Unfortunately the glass belonged to the village hall, but Nettleham's triumphant quiz team still returned with heads held high and a victory tin-foil in our pockets

**Laura Knight**

## **Branch Carol Service at Ruskington December 14<sup>th</sup>**

A cold winter's day saw members gather at Ruskington for our annual carol service. The vicar welcomed us and the service began,. The readers were seated at the front, but I think the Angel Gabriel had been miscast. The readings were short and we barely had time to sit down before we were on our feet again. Singing was the order of the day and some of us were hoarse by the end. The afternoon rounded off with excellent tea and refreshments giving members a chance to have a chinwag. Thanks must go to Mick and Betty for organising the event and Richard Short for the use of the bells and his hard work in organising the refreshments,

**Pippa Dawson**

## **Christmas Quarters 7<sup>th</sup> December**

Yes, it was that time of year again. It must be nearly ten years since Phil started to arrange quarters of Surprise followed by lunch on the morning of the Branch Carol Service. These have gradually become more and more ambitious, and ever since the chosen pub proved unable to cater for the number involved (although they had assured us they could) and half of us didn't have time to make it to the carol service that year, we have based the quarters in the area centred on Surfleet, where Annette has provided us with sumptuous food in the church hall (where we could all sit down together in a festive atmosphere.) Thank you Annette!

This year the aim was to ring simultaneous quarters of Surprise Royal, Major and Minor - twice! Phil did a magnificent job organising the two dozen ringers needed into viable bands, with extras to cover for those who only wanted to ring in one, and a standby for anyone who had to drop out at the last minute. Everything came together beautifully. In the first wave two were successful, and in the second the Major morphed into Grandsire Triples, but we all were pleased with the outcome, (five and a half out of six). In fact six ringers topped up the total by ringing an extra quarter of Minor at Gosberton on the way home! You may also have noticed that this year we were a week early (deliberately!) so that we did not have to rush away from the socialising for the Carol Service!

Thank you Phil for the headache and hard work of planning it all, (and to Dot for her unending support). You gave us a great end to 2013!

## **A New Year**

On coming down from ringing in the New Year, a ringer said, "When I climbed these stairs I thought 'I shall retire next year'. Now I'm saying 'I shall retire this year - in 33 weeks, .... Not that I'm counting!' "

On New Year's Day the conversation went something like this :

'I shall be 60 this year', said one.

Two more said, 'I shall be 70.'

Yet another, 'I shall be 50.'

Finally one said, 'I shall be 80. Five of us with a big O.'

'Hawaii 5 O?

'We ought to ring a quarter together to celebrate. Is there a method called Hawaii?'

Watch this space!!!

## **Wednesday January 1<sup>st</sup>.**

As Christmas ended and 2013 drew towards a close, many of us would have had New Years Eve celebrations or ringing to keep us busy - but how to start 2014 is the next question! Well the answer for some of us was to have a day of pottiness - a days activities that kick starts the year and this year was no exception.

On 1<sup>st</sup> January about 14 of us gathered at Dot & Phil Mason's Branston Villa - with the aim of ringing some ceramic bells (a.k.a. Pots) clearing away the fuzziness from over indulgence and topping up with some lovely lunch. We set off with the aim of ringing a few quarter peals on the Woodside Campanile – little did we know how many attempts we'd need at simple spliced, and even some simple methods before finally scoring two quarters (one on 6 to get our attention and one on 8 bells to stretch our concentration!!) 1st January Branston (Woodside Campanile) 1320 Cambridge S. Minor  
1st January Branston (Woodside Campanile) 1250 Yorkshire S Major

A delightful lunch, or two, was then had by all – good ole sausage and mash and Dot even found her pink sausages hidden the night before by someone who just won't be named:-

We then went on to our other potty residence – that of Sandra and John Underwood, taking with us anything not eaten so far to add to the huge array of food prepared by Sandra and John. More or less immediately the bells were in action with the number of ringers wanting to score a quarter – either 'just because' or because they missed the morning's event – we had by this time, been joined by those that couldn't face getting up in the morning!

Quarters.....well, we did try a few and scored.....ONE

1<sup>st</sup> January Lincoln (Chedburgh Campanile) 1250 Yorkshire S Major

(The full details can be found elsewhere in this report.)

Before, during and after....we were treated to some excellent refreshments, both food and drink (Tea & Coffee of course). There were also a number of other activities to take part in within themed rooms! There was high speed Scalextric in the hall, the thrill of horse racing in the living room and watching paint dry – sorry playing with trains - in the spare room.

Everyone started to drift off from about 8pm with the hardened ringers trying to get another QP until rather late in the night. By then, however, handling styles fed by more tea and coffee were beginning to suffer, the result being no more quarters. BUT, we did all have a fantastic day and are looking forward to next year already.

## **Branch AGM Navenby January 11<sup>th</sup>**

After ringing and service at Welbourn, about 50 members adjourned to 'The Venue' at Navenby for tea and meeting.

After the welcome and a pause to remember Gill Bland and Gerald Audis, members who had died during 2013,

**The minutes of the last AGM** were presented and accepted as correct.

**The Secretary's, Treasurer's and Master's reports** were received.

Arising from this it was suggested **grants from the Belfry Repair Fund** should be decided at open meetings rather than by the Committee as at present. After much discussion no definite conclusion was reached.

## Officers elected for 2014 were:-

**President** Margaret Parker      **Ringing Master** Richard Spencer  
**Treasurer** Dot Mason      **Secretary** Fiona Dawson  
**Guild Fund Raising Rep** Christine Jackson  
**Guild Committee Rep** Heather Blacklock  
**Branch Committee** Mick Stracey, Sue Waterfall, John Nicholson, Chris Woodcock  
**Honorary Accounts Examiners** Alan Haines and John Carr  
**Safeguarding Officer** Jonathan Clark

## Nine new members were elected.

The Guild Master said a few words about the **Guild Review** White Papers. These can be found on the Guild web-sit. We were urged to give our responses to the master or our Guild Rep, preferably before the Guild Committee meeting in mid February.

The meeting discussed the paper produced by the committee concerning **Guild AGM arrangements from 2015**, and formulated our branch's preferences, i.e. The AGM to continue at the same location as previously, but there is a need to examine holding it in a different format.

The meeting closed in time for members to adjourn to Navenby tower for further ringing.

## Congratulations

- - - to **Jordan Williams** on ringing his first quarter, the treble to Grandsire Doubles at Navenby on 24<sup>th</sup> January.

## Welcome

- - - to new members elected at the AGM at Navenby  
**Sister Maureen Pike** of Metheringham, **Eleanor Maude** of St Botolph's, Lincoln, **John Fry** of Nocton, **Laura Knight** of Nettleham., **Tracey Chamberlain**, **Terry Markham**, **Clifford Mayfield**, **Genie Lowe** and **Alan Bird** all of Heckington and to two members transferred from the Southern Branch, **Honorina** and **Paul Ball**.

People were asked at the AGM if anyone was interested in coming to a **Seminar for Tower Captains**. If anyone is interested in coming to share ideas for helping their tower to flourish, please let a member of the Branch Committee know so we can see if it is feasible.

## News item

**Sandra Underwood** has some **ash** available for any members who need to replace a **broken stay**.

Jane was assured that it was not her fault but when the rope broke, Rob couldn't resist this!

Although Jane has been assured that she will not pull the bell out of the tower if she over pulls. Rob was not so sure!



When trying to master the rhythmic flow in neat handling :

He : 'It's like playing a yoyo'

She : 'I was never any good with that either!'

'Why were you late for lunch after the practice?'

'Well it usually happens to 3 old ladies, not one old man!'

If you really want to do it you will find a way. If you don't you will find an excuse!

When they played their 'Saints and Sinners round Joker on the Quiz night, Mick asked 'Are you Saints or Sinners?' He received the reply, 'Just look at us, Mick. What do you think?'

Ringer: (after a choppy piece of ringing)

'If the bells in front of you are in the wrong place, just ring in front of the bells behind you'.

Learner: how can I ring in front of the bells behind me?'

Ringer: 'Well you'll find it hard to ring after the bell behind you!'

## **Apologies**

To anyone who gave me material for this Newsletter that I have not printed. I had a computer malfunction and lost the lot!

## **Stop Press**

I have just heard that John Carr of Thorpe-on-the-Hill, our Guild and Branch Inspector of Accounts, died last night. Our thoughts are with Tina at this time.

## Branch Quarter Peals

CATHEDRAL 27<sup>th</sup> Oct

1296 Grandsire Caters

1. Rose Hancock
2. Dot Mason
3. Fiona Dawson
4. Sandra Underwood
5. Michael Lawton
6. Mick Stracey ©
7. Les Townsend
8. John Underwood
9. Phil Mason
10. Bob Hancock

For Harvest Evensong

1<sup>st</sup> on 10 and in the method – 5

NETTLEHAM 1<sup>st</sup> Nov

1260 All Saints Doubles

1. Graham Moule
2. Margaret Parker ©
3. Helen McGurk
4. Dave Burkitt
5. John Bundy
6. Jerry Truscott

Rung on the Feast of All Saints  
for the Patronal Eucharist.

CATHEDRAL 10 Nov

1259 Grandsire Caters

1. Heather Blacklock
2. Delia Heppenstall
3. Les Townsend
4. Graham Colborne
5. Sandra Underwood
6. David Fox ©
7. Mick Stracey
8. Robin Heppenstall
9. Andrew Blacklock
10. John Underwood

For Remembrance Sunday Evensong.

CATHEDRAL 17 Nov

1300 Stedman Caters

1. Robin Heppenstall ©
2. Delia Heppenstall
3. Les Townsend
4. Heather Blacklock
5. Michael Lawton
6. Andrew Blacklock
7. Mick Stracey
8. Phil Mason
9. David Fox
10. John Nicholson

For St Hugh's Day, also marking the  
Tercentenary of the death of Fabian  
Stedman, and remembering  
Michael Whiting and Ros Knight,  
members of the Lincoln D.G., whose  
funerals took place in the last week.  
First quarter in the principle - 5

EAGLE 19 Nov

1260 Doubles (300 Stedman,  
240 each Grandsire, Plain Bob,  
St Simons and St Martins)

1. Richard Short
  2. Mick Stracey
  3. David Fox
  4. Betty Stracey
  5. Richard Spenser
- By 4 RAF and 1 Army Guild members  
on the morning of the funeral of  
RAF Guild member Colin Johnson.  
(Doubles after meeting short for  
Minor)

CATHEDRAL 24 Nov

1282 Yorkshire Surprise Royal

1. Les Townsend
  2. Dot Mason
  3. Heather Blacklock
  4. Sandra Underwood
  5. Fiona Dawson
  6. Mick Stracey ©
  7. John Underwood
  8. Phil Mason
  9. David Fox
  10. Andrew Blacklock
- For Evensong

EWERBY 7 Dec

1280 Yorkshire Surprise Royal

1. Les Townsend
2. Fiona Dawson
3. Dot Mason
4. Betty Stracey
5. Sylvia Taylor
6. Bjorn Bradstock ©
7. Mick Stracey
8. Claire Nicholson
9. Jonathan Clark
10. Phil Mason

BILLINGBOROUGH 7 Dec

1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major

1. John Nicholson
2. Rhoda Reynolds
3. Heather Blacklock
4. Val Wild
5. Janet Clarke
6. Michael Lawton
7. Stephen Clarke
8. Andrew Blacklock ©

SURFLEET 7 Dec

1282 Yorkshire Surprise Royal

1. Les Townsend
2. Bjorn Bradstock
3. Heather Blacklock
4. Fiona Dawson
5. Sylvia Taylor
6. Phil Mason
7. David Fox
8. Claire Nicholson ©
9. Peter Wakefield
10. Andrew Blacklock

BICKER 7 Dec

1260 Grandsire Triples

1. Dot Mason
2. Sandra Underwood
3. Heather Grover
4. Betty Stracey
5. John Underwood
6. John Nicholson
7. Mick Stracey ©
8. Michael Lawton

QUADRING 7 Dec  
1269 Cambridge Surprise Minor  
1. Janet Clarke  
2. Caitlin Meyer  
3. Neville Sharp  
4. Stephen Clarke  
5. Richard Spenser  
6. Jonathan Cark ©

GOSBERTON 7 Dec  
1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor  
1. Bjorn Bradstock  
2. Jonathan Clark  
3. Janet Clarke  
4. Claire Nicholson  
5. Stephen Clarke  
6. Andrew Blacklock ©

EAGLE 8 Dec  
1320 St Nicholas Bob Doubles  
1. Robert Harvey  
2. Mick Stracey ©  
3. Michael Lawton  
4. John Nicholson  
5. Betty Stracey  
6. Willie Turner  
First in method - 1 & 3  
For Evening Carol Service.

HARMSTON Dec 28  
1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major  
1. Rose Hancock  
2. Sandra Underwood  
3. Heather Blacklock  
4. Michael Lawton  
5. Chris Woodcock  
6. John Underwood  
7. Bob Hancock  
8. Andrew Blacklock ©  
First Yorkshire - 4  
To celebrate Christmas

GRANTHAM Dec 31  
1280 Yorkshire Surprise Royal  
1. John Underwood  
2. Dot Mason  
3. Sylvia Taylor  
4. Fiona Dawson  
5. Sandra Underwood  
6. Mick Stracey  
7. David Fox  
8. Andrew Blacklock ©  
9. Matthew Jones  
10. Paul Mason  
The band would like to associate  
this quarter with the organiser,  
Phil Mason, recovering from minor  
surgery ....we wish him well.

BRANSTON, Woodside Campanile  
1 Jan  
1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor  
1. Sandra Underwood  
2. Mick Stracey  
3. Heather Blacklock  
4. John Underwood  
5. David Fox  
6. Andrew Blacklock ©  
First on a mini ring – 3  
For New Year

BRANSTON, Woodside Campanile  
1 Jan  
1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major  
1. Dot Mason  
2. Sandra Underwood  
3. Heather Blacklock  
4. Andrew Blacklock  
5. David Fox  
6. Betty Stracey  
7. Phil Mason  
8. Mick Stracey ©  
Another for the New Year!  
Rung on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of first learning to ring

LINCOLN, Chedburgh Campanile  
1 Jan  
1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major  
1. Dot Mason  
2. Michael Lawton  
3. Heather Blacklock  
4. Graham Colborne  
5. Phil Grover  
6. Heather Grover  
7. Phil Mason  
8. Andrew Blacklock ©  
First on a mini ring – 2

WASHINGBOROUGH Jan 4  
1280 Rutland Surprise Major  
1. Rose Hancock  
2. Sandra Underwood  
3. Heather Blacklock  
4. Michael Lawton  
5. David Fox  
6. John Underwood  
7. Bob Hancock  
8. Andrew Blacklock ©  
First in method - 4  
Birthday compliment to  
John Underwood.

BRANSTON, Woodside Campanile  
11 Jan  
1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major  
1. Dot Mason  
2. Mick Stracey  
3. Heather Blacklock  
4. Sandra Underwood  
5. Phil Mason  
6. Betty Stracey  
7. John Underwood  
8. Andrew Blacklock ©

HARMSTON 15 Jan  
1280 Spliced Surprise Major  
(Cambridge & Rutland)  
1. Rose Hancock  
2. Sandra Underwood  
3. Heather Blacklock  
4. Michael Lawton  
5. Christopher Woodcock  
6. Graham Colborne  
7. Bob Hancock  
8. Andrew Blacklock ©  
First Spliced – 4.  
Remembering Richard Till.



STOW 18 Jan  
1280 Spliced Surprise Major  
(Cambridge, Yorkshire, Rutland)  
1. Rose Hancock  
2. Christopher Turner  
3. Heather Blacklock  
4. Michael Lawton  
5. David Fox  
6. Christopher Woodcock  
7. Bob Hancock  
8. Andrew Blacklock ©  
Most Spliced – 4

LINCOLN, Chedburgh Campanile  
18 Jan  
Cambridge Surprise Minor.  
1. Sandra Underwood  
2. John Underwood  
3. Michael Lawton  
4. Heather Blacklock  
5. Christopher Woodcock ©  
6. Andrew Blacklock

LINCOLN, Chedburgh Campanile  
18 Jan  
1282 Lincolnshire Surprise Major  
1. Heather Blacklock  
2. Michael Lawton  
3. John Underwood  
4. Sandra Underwood  
5. Betty Stracey  
6. Andrew Blacklock  
7. Christopher Woodcock  
8. Mick Stracey ©  
First of Lincolnshire S Major – 2

LINCOLN, Chedburgh Campanile  
18 Jan  
1344 Cambridge Surprise Major  
1. Michael Lawton  
2. Andrew Blacklock  
3. Heather Blacklock  
4. Sandra Underwood  
5. Betty Stracey  
6. John Underwood  
7. Mick Stracey  
8. Christopher Woodcock ©

NAVENBY 24 Jan  
1260 Grandsire Doubles  
1. Jordan Williams  
2. Paul Jackman  
3. William Branson  
4. David Randall  
5. Tony Branson ©  
6. Nick Williams  
Dedicated to Carol Williams for her  
50<sup>th</sup> birthday, the perfect occasion  
for her son Jordan to ring his  
first quarter,

CATHEDRAL 26 Jan  
1287 Stedman Caters  
1. Delia Heppenstall  
2. Sandra Underwood  
3. Heather Blacklock  
4. Robin Heppenstall  
5. Michael Lawton  
6. David Fox ©  
7. Mick Stracey  
8. John Underwood  
9. Andrew Blacklock  
10. Phil Mason  
For Evensong.  
First Stedman Caters as Conductor.