

Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers
Central Branch Newsletter no 93 April 2016

Central Branch Meeting at Martin on 13th February



This meeting was very poorly attended - only 12 ringers in fact - (where were the local ringers?) - although many more would have rather overcrowded this very small belfry. As it was, the younger, more agile ones among us had to sit with their legs curled up on the waist high window ledge! Was this because last time the Branch rang there we were given no key for the overflow to get into the Church and it became very cold hanging around in the church and between rings on a chilly evening? No such problem this time, however, and very enticing refreshments were provided by some of the local ringers in the church. We were very pleased to welcome two visitors and the Ringing Master did a very good job keeping the ringing going with methods for everyone. Sadly there was no-one just starting out, wanting rounds and call-changes, but there was a wide variety of methods for those on the later stages of their ringing journey. After over a hours ringing, the call of the delicious cakes downstairs won and we did more than justice to them before the brief business meeting. The wedding party that had been in the church earlier had left the floral decorations and as they needed to be removed for the next day, we divided them into 3 bouquets for additional raffle prizes or valentine gifts?

Do come to our meetings whatever level you are at and make yourself known!

MAP

Proposed Ringing Meetings for 2016/2017

April 30th	Guild AGM		
	Cathedral Ringing	9.30 - 10.00am	
	Communion	10.00	
	AGM at Bailgate Methodist Church	11.00	
	followed by Bring and Share lunch		
	Nettleham	2.00 - 3.00pm	
	St Giles	3.15 - 4.15pm	
	Cathedral	4.30 - 5.20pm	
	Evensong	5.30pm	
May 14th	Scothern	6.30 - 8.00pm	
June 11th	Great Hale	6.00 - 7.30pm	
July 9th	North Scarle	½ Yearly Meeting	3.00 - 8.00pm
	Ringing, Service, Picnic, Meeting,		
	Branch Striking Contest, Further Ringing		
Aug 13th	Heckington	6.00 - 8.00pm	
Aug 14th	Cathedral Service Ringing		
Sept 10th	Guild 6 Bell Striking Contest		Details to be provided.
	In the Elloe Deaneries		
Sept 17th	Branch Outing Nottinghamshire area		tbc
Oct 1st	Guild 8 Bell Striking Contest		
	In the Eastern District		
Oct 8th	Ruskington	3.00 - 4.30pm	
Nov 12th	Dunholme	Fundraising Evening	6.30 - 10.30pm
Dec 10th	Carol Service	Welbourn Ringing	2.00pm
	Service		3.00pm
Jan 14th	AGM Lincoln	St Giles Ringing	3.00pm
	Service		4.30pm
	Tea & Meeting		5.00pm
Feb 11th	Carlton Le Moorland		Being arranged
	Bassingham		3.00 - 4.30pm
Mar 11th	Navenby		3.00 - 4.30pm

*There was a young lady from Hackthorn
Who rang a bell on practice night and Sunday morning.
She broke a stay
To the team's dismay
"But don't worry" said Brian,
"We will have it repaired for Sunday morning".
Compliments to JS for this*

Washingborough 8 Bell Practices 10.30am - 12.00

28th May, 25th June, 23rd July, 27th August

This practice accommodates the needs of ringers and is open to all who would like to practice their 8 bell ringing in a relaxed environment.

All of these are subject to change. Check nearer the time.

Congratulations to:

- Vince Stocking for his first quarter peal
- Luke Boreham for his first quarter peal
- Keith Hildred for his first quarter peal of minor
- Hannah Watts for her first quarter peal of major
- Michael Lawton for his first quarter in major as a conductor
- Ed White for his first quarter of Rutland Surprise Major
- Richard Rodgers for his first quarter in Single Oxford Bob Minor
- Ron Everett for his first quarter in All Saints Place Doubles
- Norma Bird, Claire Howard, Graham Whitaker and Bill Booty for their first quarter of April Day
- Derek Phillips - - - 80th birthday compliments!!
- Harold and Audrey Gibson for their Diamond Wedding Anniversary
- George Ellison on his 18th birthday - Happy Birthday!
- Squadron Leader Tim Carter for his first as conductor and his MBE award

Congratulations to the winners of the Rabbits Competition --

Emily Watt, Tierny Raiment, Jean Kay, Bill Booty, Mick Stracey and Les Townsend - see later in newsletter for the report -

Welcome

- Alison and Claire Goodger from Hackthorn
-

Did anyone hear the Pancake Bell?

If you were listening to Radio Lincolnshire on 9th February you may have heard Amanda White's report on the Scothern Pancake Bell.

At 10.55am on Shrove Tuesday, organist Philip dutifully climbed the stairs to Scothern ringing chamber to carry out the age old custom outlined in the sign on the wall:

"On Shrove Tuesday at 11.00am the fourth bell shall be rung 10 minutes as the pancake bell."

I've never seen this anywhere on an aged document on the wall entitled "Ringing Customs". Do other towers have similar documents and if so are they all the same? We'd be interested to hear.

On February 14th 2015 I got "THE CALL".

My bag, which should have been packed, wasn't. I felt that if it was packed I might never receive that very important phone call. I had been placed on the "live" register for an organ transplant and although it seemed like a lifetime while I was feeling so poorly in reality it was only a few months.

I had time to make a couple of phone calls and say goodbye to my wife and 3 sleeping sons when the transport arrived to take me on what was going to be a life saving journey. Thankfully my sister arrived at Addenbrookes Hospital as soon as she possibly could, a great relief as she was to be my constant support. Waiting to see if the donor organ was satisfactory, that I was well enough or the match was suitable seemed endless. Looking back it was very difficult, to be pleased and terrified at the same time !! Thank goodness Becky was there.

Eventually at 5pm I went to the operating theatre still wondering -was I going to recover and go home to my family and friends. Maybe it was the end of the story for me.

In the early hours of the next morning I was in Intensive care following successful surgery. Meanwhile Becky had started on what was an endless marathon of knitting and crochet to help pass her seemingly endless waiting time. All the family were relieved to hear that I was ok, now at last they could get some sleep. I was told to expect to be an inpatient for a month, in the event I was discharged home on the 11th day and was able to knock on my own front door to surprise everyone. Thanks to the wonderful care at Addenbrookes Hospital I had an uneventful recovery and was already feeling much much better. I had always intended to dedicate some ringing to my unknown 'donor' and family. Valentines Day exactly one year later seemed to be very suitable occasion. Most importantly the band included my sister Becky and my Mother, we were joined by five friends and rang a successful quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples, at Heckington.

I didn't expect any more recognition it was just a very simple way of saying 'thank you' for the gift that allowed me to live again. Initially I was pleased to see a reaction on Facebook ringing sites but to be a featured performance on Billboard exceeded everything.

Hopefully it will serve to make more people aware of how important it is to carry a donor card. I will never forget the sacrifice made to give me precious new life.

- May I ask everyone to think about carrying a Donor card.
I am a witness to say that it saves lives. -

None of us knows when we, or our nearest and dearest, may live to be eternally grateful. Finally thank you to all my family and the friends who supported and sustained me through very difficult days.

Quarter peal rang by Greg and his family and friends at Heckington

Sunday, 14 February 2016

1260 Plain Bob Triples

1. Sylvia Taylor
2. Rebecca M J Carr
3. Audrey L J Harrison
4. Richard Rogers
5. David Collin
6. Anthony D Walker
7. Greg Harrison (C)
8. Alan Bird

Dedicated to the "unknown" donor and family who one year ago today donated precious "new life" to the conductor.

Remembered always.

RIP

Central Branch Practice at Leadenham 12th March from two points of view.

From the sweepers' point of view:----

There was a new carpet in the ringing room at Leadenham, unfortunately it was a carpet of dead insects.

Two brooms and a vacuum cleaner were used to find the original floor beneath. Whilst this happened, Phillip Dawson went and oiled the bells. Then there were the clock hammers. To pull off the hammers you climb a ladder to reach a beam supporting the clock case. There are three hammers and they seemed to be off already. Phillip was despatched again to look among the bells for clarification.

We raised the bells singly and before they were all up a breathless vicar appeared at the ringing room door. "I wondered why the bells were ringing", she gasped, "I thought I'd missed a service!"

Now the bells were up it was time to find out how well they went. Phillip had already mentioned to anyone who would listen that the Hastings toggle on the treble was very stiff. This was borne out when the first treble ringer couldn't pull the bell off. After a brief exchange of personnel a course of Cambridge was beaten into submission.

Various other methods were rung and the bells began to ease up a little.

We rang Plain Bob, Single Oxford and Grandsire Doubles. Norwich Surprise was followed by Primrose and Double Court, and a course of Oxford Treble Bob.

The back five bells were cast in 1723 by the Lincoln bellfounder Daniel Hedderly. A treble by Mears was added in 1855 and the same firm recast the tenor in 1866. Taylors rehung the bells in an unusual pedestal frame with plain bearings in 1917.

There was a modest turnout of 16 ringers. In the chat between ringing someone mentioned the untimely death of a local clergyman. "Only the good die young" mused Phil Mason. "Yes", came the reply, "That's why you and I are still here!"

CW

And now, from those who say "Thankyou sweepers":-

As we walked through the churchyard we were greeted by Margaret Parker sitting happily in the Spring sunshine. She appeared to be reading the bellringers 'comic'. What else?

She advised us to loiter just a little while, as a vigorous sweeping party was preparing the tower for the afternoon ringing. I took the hint and avoided the dust cloud by spending some time admiring the stained glass looking especially brilliant in the sun.

It wasn't long before the bells were being rung up and there were a few murmurings about Hastings stays and dingle boxes but in the event all went well. The afternoon ringing commenced with Cambridge and was followed by a good variety of methods that included Plain Bob, Norwich, Single Oxford, Grandsire and, most aptly for the season, Primrose.

Fiona reminded us that the 'Rabbits' competition is at Hackthorn on April 9th. The Onion competition this year is for the best jar of homemade marmalade.

Everyone can join in and round off the day with fun and fundraising. Do try and attend.

The bells were not the easiest but they were put to good use by the 15 or so ringers present. As I left they were still ringing out over the village and hopefully being enjoyed by the local population.

Finally.

Thank you 'sweepers', your efforts were appreciated.

AH

*They all looked on as she struggled with opening the door to the Church.
"That door sieves out the ringers from the non-ringers!"*

Mid-week Ringers Away Day, Tuesday, 29 March

The Tuesday ringing group have made a tradition of having an away day out of our area if a 5th Tuesday falls in any month and this March was no exception. I volunteered to 'do the deed' when it was suggested that we visit Leicestershire border churches, Sproxtun & Saltby with Harlaxton to finish.

Organising the churches and times was so easily accomplished I should have been on my guard for last minute hiccups, but I wasn't. So when my contact from Sproxtun got in touch the weekend before our visit to say we couldn't ring at St Bartholamew on health & safety grounds I was totally unprepared. Following a moment of panic I took a deep breath and tried to come up with possible solutions to prevent the day being cancelled.

Regrettably Long Clawson's offer that we could ring there came too late, though some may say just as well. I understand it has one of the longest draughts in the country and the bells are notoriously hard to ring. Bottesford, my other 8-bell alternative did not reply, so no hope there.

However, the day was saved when Saltby willingly agreed to let us ring longer at St Peters. A happy solution as it turned out because the bells are a light and relatively easy ring of ten that a number of us hadn't rung before and everyone seemed to enjoy ringing. Thanks to Sylvia and Dot, since when we arrived we were greeted with hot drinks, delicious pastries and cake. Who could wish for more?

Phil took charge of us all in masterful fashion and ringing started with rounds and call changes to give everyone a chance to get a 'feel' of the bells. Thereafter Phil kept us going with something to suit everyone's varied abilities including plain and surprise methods. Undoubtedly some of us showed more enthusiasm than skill and we are grateful for the patience shown by our betters at these moments.

From Saltby a small group of us preceded in a speeding convoy, desperately trying to keep pace with Nev our navigator, to Harlaxton and St Mary & St Peter. Our aim was to get the bells rung up ready for when the rest of the group joined us. The church, looking majestic and bathed in sunlight was open and welcoming, not so the tower which was securely padlocked. After an anxious 10 minute wait a disturbing premonition that we had been forgotten crept in. A phone call to the key holder confirmed this to be the case but fortunately he lived close by and was soon with us and all systems were go again. By the time the rest of our party arrived we were ringing a course of Cambridge minor.

Richard took charge of us at Harlaxton and ringing continued with great variety and again there was something for everyone – even rounds for the 11 year old grandson of the key holder.

Lunchtime arrived and 15 hungry people made their way to the Farrier where my final organisational hurdle awaited, had the pub remembered to reserve us a table? A sigh of relief from me as we all fitted around the long table set ready for us and lunches were ordered. Food, drink and a great deal of pleasant chatter occupied us all until we started to depart around 3pm. I hope everyone enjoyed the day and arrived home safe and sound. Some of you may even be left looking forward to the next away day.

I would like to thank each and every one of you who came on the day, your support was greatly appreciated.

And finally, my special thanks to Sylvia and Dot for the baking and refreshments and Phil and Richard for the sterling job they did taking charge at the churches.

JK

The Ringers' AGM

A century of tradition
 A ritual well observed
 The Branch's Annual meeting
 A heritage preserved

Packed ringers in the tower
 Breaking the old decree
 By talking whilst the bells speak
 As friends old and new they see

And then the final service touch
 And 'That's all' and 'Stand'
 Quick down the stairs to worship
 Timeless ageless band

'Unchanging God' to Belfry Praise
 And then the parson's talk
 On calling folk, (or Aaron's robe!)
 And make a little walk

To village hall or nearby pub
 And take the ringers' tea
 And sit in rows for the AGM
 The way things have to be

The sunlight through the windows
 Is barely a distraction
 The chairman smiles to say
 'Apologies for absence'

Arising matters follow on
 All propose and second
 Rustling paper, all in favour
 Next item, the Belfry Fund...

At last, 'Now, any other business?'
 And then the meeting parts
 To talk and chat of this and that
 And sidle by fits and starts

Back to the ringing chamber
 For just another ring
 After all the talking
 At last the bells can sing

Captain Tower

'Rabbits' Central Branch Meeting at Hackthorn, 9th April

To quote Mr Colin Ward "It was like an episode of Eastenders!! Drama, excitement, extremely bad acting and an unbelievable plot!!!"

Let's start with the bells... It is no secret that I LOVE Hackthorn's bells. They sound lovely and go wonderfully, so the scene was set for a great competition. I confess to making sure I was up the tower in plenty of time to help ring up (and shoved a couple of people out of the way to make sure I was there to ring down too!) The draw was made, there were 4 teams with 'Rabbits' in them and a 5th team that was made up of, shall we say, the more 'senior' members of the branch?

Team one got the event off to a good start and then it came to team two. Well, what can I say? Somehow, to start with, I got volunteered as 'Head Bunny'!! Who?? Me?? I can just about call 6 into Queens and back and please don't ask me to call up or down, I end up calling them all ways, including sideways. Anyway, we got there (eventually) and back into rounds, I asked the time keeper how we were doing and got told we were almost at time. So I called 'stand' and grinned. We had rung really, really well. I was proper chuffed and proud of my team.

Team three got underway, and I took over the quiz questions and headed out into the churchyard. Team three sounded good and then I got the news.. oh no! Team two had only rung for three minutes. Two minutes short of the allocated time, what was going to happen? We would have to wait and see. Team four did their bit and then came the fabled team five. Well, we knew who was going to win at that point!

So, to the judging. Team one, 35 faults. Team two, only 5 faults, oh WOW!! But hang on, Oh NO.. DISQUALIFICATION!! We didn't ring for long enough for that score to count. Team three, 30 faults and team four, 38 faults. Then finally, team five. A whole 4 faults in 5 minutes of ringing... but wait, would you believe, there was yet another twist in the plot? Team five withdrew themselves from the competition as they didn't have any 'Rabbits' in their band (what a really sporting gesture) so the winners were... TEAM THREE!! PHEW!!!

By comparison, the competition for the 'onion trophy' (this year, marmalade) was a lot more straightforward (although I really should have read the labels before trying them, 2 of them contained ginger! YUK!!) There was a clear winner. Richard Spencer. Again! That's the second year running. We cannot let him make it a hat trick next year?!

Thank you to all who came and made the afternoon great fun and well done to all the ringers in team three! Finally, special thanks to Dot for doing the cakes and teas, Margaret and Richard for the organisation and presentations, Phillip for the judging and, of course, Brian for the use of the bells.
Claire H (Head Bunny, team two!)

Branch Quarter Peals

Cathedral 31 Jan
1311 Stedman Cinques
1. Rose Hancock
2. Delia Heppenstall
3. Sylvia Taylor
4. Michael Stracey
5. Les Townsend
6. David Fox
7. Heather Grover
8. Alan Bird
9. Jeremy Wheeldon (C)
10. Philip Grover
11. Robin Heppenstall
12. Bob Hancock
For Evensong and as a compliment
to the Very Reverend Dr Philip
Buckler, Dean of Lincoln, on his
retirement.

Silk Willoughby 28 Jan
1260 Doubles (2 Methods)
300 Grandsire, 960 Plain Bob.
1. Vince Stocking
2. Richard Short
3. Alan D H Bird (C)
4. Sylvia M Taylor
5. Bryan Ward
6. Keith Hildred
First Quarter Peal, 1

Sleaford 7 Feb
1344 Rutland Surprise Major
1. Michael Stracey
2. Sylvia M Taylor
3. Anthony D Walker
4. Betty Stracey
5. Alan D H Bird (C)
6. Michael J Smith
7. Ed White
8. Phil Mason
For Evensong
1st Rutland Surprise 7
Circled the tower to quarter peals 1

Eagle 9 Feb
Single Oxford Bob Minor
1. Sylvia Taylor
2. Dot Mason
3. Richard Rodgers
4. Alan Bird
5. Betty Stracey
6. Michael Stracey (C)
1st quarter peal in the method 3.

Eagle 12 Feb
1260 All Saints Place Doubles
1. Derek Phillips
2. Soo Pendleton
3. Michael Stracey (C)
4. Ron Everett
5. Betty Stracey
6. John Nicholson
1st in method 4. 80th birthday
compliments to Derek Phillips

Cathedral 14 Feb
1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major
1. Delia Heppenstall
2. Heather Grover
3. Jeremy Wheeldon
4. Les Townsend
5. Michael Stracey
6. Philip Grover
7. Robin Heppenstall
8. Michael Lawton (C)
First major as conductor
For Evensong

*He especially whitened his
teeth for the method he was
learning - so he could be
seen when he wanted help!*

Branch Quarter Peals

Cathedral 28 Feb
1282 Yorkshire Surprise Royal

1. Michael Lawton
 2. Sylvia Taylor
 3. Michael Stracey
 4. Robin Heppenstall (C)
 5. Heather Grover
 6. Les Townsend
 7. Alan Bird
 8. Jeremy Wheeldon
 9. David Fox
 10. Philip Grover
- For Evensong

Cathedral 13 Mar
1259 Grandsire Caters

1. Rose Hancock
 2. Delia Heppenstall
 3. Michael Stracey
 4. Robin Heppenstall
 5. Les Townsend
 6. David Fox (C)
 7. John Nicholson
 8. Jeremy Wheeldon
 9. Bob Hancock
 10. Phil Mason
- For Evensong.

Sleaford 6 Mar
300 Grandsire and 960 Plain Bob
Doubles

1. Luke Boreham
2. Jean Kay
3. Sylvia M Taylor
4. Richard Rodgers
5. Alan D H Bird (C)
6. Peter Boreham

Rung for Evensong
1st Quarter Peal 1. Peter Boreham travelled from Lyminge, Kent to Lincolnshire to ring in his Grandson Luke's first quarter peal. Luke is the 5th consecutive generation of the Boreham family to take up bellringing.

Silk Willoughby 15 Mar
1260 Plain Bob Minor

1. Keith Hildred
2. Sally-Anne Caunter
3. Richard Short
4. Sylvia M Taylor
5. Alan D H Bird (C)
6. Bryan Ward

Arranged and rung by the members of the Silk Willoughby band to congratulate Tim Carter on the presentation of the MBE earlier today. Tim is also a regular ringer with us at Silk Willoughby.
1st quarter peal of Minor 1.

Barkston 16 Mar
1260 Plain Bob Minor

1. Cora Townson
2. Sylvia Taylor
3. Alan Bird
4. Greg Harrison
5. Tim Carter MBE (C)
6. Bryan Ward

First as conductor.
Arranged and rung in celebration of the award and presentation of an MBE to Squadron Leader Tim Carter.
Presented by Prince William, Duke of Cambridge on 15th March 2016.

Ringing in a local six bell tower, he asked "What are we ringing?" "Plain Bob Minor" "On six!"

Branch Quarter Peals

Lincoln St Giles 10 April
1280 Plain Bob Major
Composed by J E David
1. Hannah Watts
2. Sylvia Taylor
3. David Burkitt
4. Betty Stracey
5. Alan Bird
6. Colin Ward
7. Michael Stracey (C)
8. Michael Lawton
First quarter on 8 bells 1. For the Service to celebrate, with the Bishop of Grimsby, the 80th anniversary of the consecration of St Giles Church.

Cathedral 10 April
1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major
1. Heather Grover
2. Gillian Gladman
3. Delia Heppenstall
4. John Nicholson
5. Jeremy Wheeldon
6. Philip Grover
7. David Fox
8. Robin Heppenstall (C)
For Evensong and with best wishes to Harold and Audrey Gibson for their Diamond Wedding anniversary.

Eagle 16 April
1296 Plain Bob Minor
1. Sylvia Taylor
2. Alan Bird
3. Michael Stracey (C)
4. Phil Mason
5. Betty Stracey
6. Bryan Ward
Arranged at the request of Bryan Ward to celebrate the life of Steve Selby of Epworth.

Waddington 19 April
1260 April Day Doubles
1. George Ellison
2. Norma Bird
3. Claire Howard
4. Graham Whitaker
5. Colin Ward (C)
6. Bill Booty
Eighteenth birthday compliment to George Ellison.
First April Day for all except conductor.

From the Editor:

When I am ringing, you may see me wearing ear-defenders.

This is because I sometimes suffer from tinnitus and loud noises bring this on. Unfortunately, or maybe fortunately as far as others are concerned, I do not hear the odd comments and remarks which bring a smile across the faces of others.

Trying to find out what was said, so I can add it to the Newsletter, becomes very difficult. So, please help me. Please pass on those funny comments. Any names will be removed to avoid embarrassment. Thank you for the articles, news and funny comments and to those who do allow me access to their pictures and news. Without all these I would not be able to prepare a Central Branch Newsletter. Please note: the Editor reserves the right to edit articles to allow their inclusion in the Newsletter. PS Thank you to all the readers!! Gill Gladman