



RON APPLEWHITE'S 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!



The Potterhanworth Quarter Peal band, L-R: Janet Risdale, Christopher Woodcock, Yvonne Woodcock, Christine Jackson, Ron Applewhite - "the birthday boy", John Nicholson.

Tuesday 26th January 2010 marked a very special occasion, it was Ron Applewhite's 90th Birthday! Ron is a long standing and loyal member of the local band that rings at Potterhanworth, Nocton & Branston in Lincolnshire. The local ringers knew that they could not let this great milestone go past without marking it and so towards the end of 2009 plans were being put together for ringing and celebrations in the form of Peals, Quarters Peals & a Surprise Party!

It was decided early on that there needed to be ringing at the following three towers which all have special connections to Ron's ringing, (*Washingborough, Branston & Potterhanworth*).

Ron learnt to ring on the eight bells at St. John's Washingborough (*Lincs*) during the 1930's and it is from here that his life long love of ringing began. In the 1950's & 60's Ron joined the band at All Saints Branston (*Lincs*) who at the time were known as the "Branston Surprise Minor Peal band". They were one of the leading Minor bands in the county during the 50's & 60's and they rang many Peals all over Lincolnshire, but the vast majority of them were rung at Branston, with a total of 52 Peals being rung at Branston between 1950 & 1970 (*out of the 77 Peals which have been rung on the bells to-date*). Ron rang both his first & last Peals on the bells at Branston and in total rang 111 Peals for the Lincoln Diocesan Guild. Ron also has a very strong connection with St. Andrew's Potterhanworth (*Lincs*) which is his home tower. When Ron came to live in Potterhanworth they only had three bells but he maintained them and kept them ringing for special occasion's. Then in 1999 it was decided to have the bells re-hung and augmented from three to six to celebrate the Millennium.

Between 1999 & 2004 Ron was a great supporter of the fund raising effort and he was thrilled to see the completion of the project in September 2004, something which he never thought he would see.

In 2004 he was made an Honorary Life Member of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers and he is now the oldest living member of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild. He is still ringing regularly each week at Practice Night and on Sunday mornings for service ringing. On top of this he is still ringing Quarter Peals on a regular basis and still managing to climb the 45 steps up to the ringing chamber at Nocton, not bad at 90!!!

On Sunday 24th January 2010 the first of the celebratory ringing took place in the form of a Peal of Grandsire Doubles rung at Potterhanworth by an all local band.

Lincoln Diocesan Guild

St. Andrew's, POTTERHANWORTH, Lincolnshire,
Sunday 24 January 2010 in 2 hrs & 34 mins (6-3-24)

5040 Grandsire Doubles

*3 x 240 (Comp: L. W. G. Morris) 3 x 240 (Comp: B. D. Price)
30 extents (10 different callings)*

- 1 Jayne A. Palmer
- 2 Janet M. Risdale
- 3 Yvonne A. Woodcock
- 4 John Nicholson
- 5 Christopher C. P. Woodcock (C)
- 6 Clive Brooke

Rung also for the Saint Andrew's and All Saints Society of Church Bell Ringers.

Rung by the local band to celebrate the forthcoming 90th Birthday of our dear friend and local ringer Ron Applewhite (26th Jan).

Then on Tuesday 26th January 2010 (*Ron's actual 90th Birthday*) a Peal of Surprise Minor in seven methods was rung at Branston. This was the first Peal to be allowed to be rung on the bells at Branston for 25 years. Ron heard the start of the Peal from his home but it was not long before he had walked down to the Church and was sat outside counting off the extents and enjoying the ringing. After sitting out and listening to the ringing for an hour he went next door to the Pub for a Birthday meal with his friends and listened to the end of the Peal from there. He was then joined in the pub by the Peal band where he thanked them and bought them all a drink. He thoroughly enjoyed listening to the Peal which brought back many happy memories for him of his Peal ringing days at Branston and he was thrilled that a Peal had once again been rung on the bells at Branston!

Lincoln Diocesan Guild

All Saints, BRANSTON, Lincolnshire,
Tuesday 26 January 2010 in 2 hrs & 38 mins (9-3-23)

5040 Surprise Minor (7m)

*(7 methods; 1 extent each: London, Netherseale, Surfleet,
Westminster, Bourne, Norwich, Cambridge)*

- 1 Martin F. Mitchell
- 2 Ruth Curtis
- 3 Christopher P. Turner
- 4 Ian Butters
- 5 Paul F. Curtis
- 6 Christopher C. P. Woodcock (C)

Rung with the bands best wishes to local ringer & resident Ron Applewhite on his 90th Birthday.

However the highlight of the celebratory ringing was the Quarter Peal rung in the evening on Tuesday 26th January 2010 at Potterhanworth. The local band had the privilege of ringing a Quarter Peal of Single Oxford Bob Minor with Ron ringing the fourth on his 90th Birthday, and he rang it faultlessly!!!

Saint Andrew's and All Saints Society
St. Andrew's, POTTERHANWORTH, Lincolnshire,
Tuesday 26 January 2010 in 45 mins (6-3-24)
1440 Single Oxford Bob Minor

- 1 Janet M. Risdale
- 2 Christine J. Jackson
- 3 Yvonne A. Woodcock
- 4 Ron Applewhite
- 5 John Nicholson
- 6 Christopher C. P. Woodcock (C)

Rung by the local band to celebrate the Birthday of our dear friend Ron Applewhite who is 90 today! Happy Birthday Ron!!!

On Saturday 30th January 2010 a Quarter Peal was rung at Washingborough by a Central Branch band of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild. A new method was specially chosen and named Applewhite Treble Place Major and a fitting composition of 1290 changes was chosen.

Lincoln Diocesan Guild
St. John's, WASHINGTONBOROUGH, Lincolnshire
Saturday 30 January 2010 in 44 mins (12-1-11)
1290 Applewhite Treble Place Major
Composed by: Matthew Sorell

- 1 John Nicholson
- 2 Sue L. Waterfall
- 3 Fiona M. Dawson
- 4 Betty F. Stracey
- 5 Philip H. Dawson
- 6 Jonathan P. Clark
- 7 Michael E. Stracey
- 8 Christopher C. P. Woodcock (C)

Rung by a Central Branch band to celebrate the 90th Birthday of local ringer & Central Branch member Ron Applewhite (26th Jan).

First blows in the method: X38X14X58X1236X14X58X1678X78-12
which the band wish to provisionally name: Applewhite Treble Place Major.

The final part of the celebrations took place on Sunday 31st January 2010 and consisted of a Surprise Birthday Party which had been organised by the local Potterhanworth ringers. Twenty five local ringers, partners and friends from the surrounding local towers (*Martin, Timberland, Metheringham, Potterhanworth, Branston, Washingborough, Waddington, Bardney & Wragby*) gathered at the Woodcock's home in Potterhanworth and waited for Ron to arrive. He had no idea what we had lined up for him, he just thought he was coming over for a cup of tea! but oh no...

When Ron arrived at 5.30pm he was greeted with cheers and applause from his ringing friends from all the local towers. Up to very recently Ron was out ringing at all these local towers every night of the week supporting their practice nights and so it was lovely to have them all here to celebrate his Birthday. I know there were many more that would have liked to have been there but were unable to get due to other commitments!

A splendid tea had been laid on by Yvonne Woodcock (*Tower Captain at St. Andrew's Potterhanworth*) and a very enjoyable evening was had by all. There was much reminiscing, chatting, eating, drinking and celebrating in front of the fire in the Woodcock's front room. It will certainly be a night that not just Ron will remember but that we will all remember with fond memories.

During the night there was the presentation of a couple of gifts. The local ringers at Potterhanworth had got him a bottle of Bells Whisky (Ron likes his tipples!!!) and a framed photo of the Potterhanworth Quarter Peal band with details of the Quarter which Ron rang in on his Birthday. (*In fact Ron ended up with at least three bottles of Whisky by the end of the night so that should keep him going on these long cold nights!!!*). The celebrations went on late into the night with people still milling about at 9.30pm.

Everyone agreed what a great night it had been and how pleased they were that they were able to celebrate Ron's Birthday. Ron has given so much to the local ringing that it was an honor for us to do something for him! And so came to an end the celebrations for Ron's 90th, or should I say for the time being as other pieces of ringing are still planned for 2010 including a Quarter Peal of Plain Bob Minor, 1290 changes and a Date Touch of 1920 changes (*the year Ron was born*). There is also a Peal of Applewhite Treble Place Major, 5090 changes planned, which is to be rung at Washingborough, so the celebrations are still continuing!!! I think we can safely say Ron's Birthday was properly celebrated and the memories will remain with us all for many years to come!



*The Surprise Party, Standing L-R: Ernest Jackson, Jayne Palmer, Janet Crafer, Jonathan Korejko, Ron Applewhite, John Nicholson, Iris Armstrong, John Holt, Raymond Cucksey, Sue Waterfall, Barbara Cucksey.
Sitting L-R: Christine Jackson, Yvonne Woodcock, Jean Williams, Angela Holt, Barbara Nicholson, Amanda Poes, Jim Sutherland, Christopher Woodcock, Margaret Sutherland.*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY RON!!!

*Christopher C. P. Woodcock
(Ringing Master at St. Andrew's Potterhanworth)*