

Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers

Northern Branch

Northern Branch website

<http://members.lycos.co.uk/lincsbells/northernbranch>

Newsletter - September 2007

Welcome to the September edition of the Northern Branch newsletter. The deadline for the next newsletter is 31st December 2007, so if you do anything between now and then and want it reported please let Lorraine or David know. Also please let us know of anything being planned for next January, February or March.

Branch Committee Members

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Quarter Peal Organiser	Frank Kennington	01472 399772

If any Branch member needs any help please contact any one of the above.

Lincoln Cathedral – Sunday 19th August

From Frank Kennington, Ringing Master, Northern Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers:

Several members of the Branch and also the Master of the Cathedral Company of Ringers have expressed their disquiet and hurt at comments expressed in the recent newsletter of a neighbouring ringing society. These comments passed the writer's derisory opinion of the ringing by branch members at Lincoln Cathedral on the afternoon of Sunday 19th August 2007.

We are invited by the Cathedral Ringers every year to ring the bells on a Sunday afternoon in August. This very much treasured invitation gives **ALL** our members the opportunity to ring at Lincoln Cathedral. It gives everyone the opportunity to say: "I have rung at Lincoln Cathedral" – this is something I, personally, am very proud to be able to say and I am sure that others feel the same as I. Everyone from ringers who can only attempt to ring rounds to those who can cope with Maximus are all

made very welcome by the Cathedral ringers. They accept that our performance is not going to be up to their standards but they make no distinction between "learners" and "experts".

I know, from personal experience, that this opportunity to ring at our magnificent Cathedral means so much to those who turn up regularly at their own churches for Sunday Services throughout the branch.

Ringing at the Cathedral on Sunday 19th August 2007 ranged from rounds to Surprise Royal, Cinqes and Maximus – I thus ensured that everyone present on the afternoon had a ring. Considering most of the company who were there on the day do not ring twelve bells on a regular, or even irregular, basis, I feel that we did not disgrace the Branch. This view has also been expressed to me personally this day by the Master of the Cathedral Company of Ringers.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Cathedral when, hopefully, we receive an invitation to ring there next year.

3rd September 2007

NEXT BRANCH EVENT
Tealby
Tuesday 25th September, 2007
7:00-9:00pm

All levels of ringing will be catered for. For those that fancy a challenge, there will be a special method:
Single Oxford Bob Minor
Come along and enjoy the evening in this lovely village. This will be followed by a drink or two in the Barn.

BRANCH EVENT
Middle Rasen
Monday 12th November 2007
7:00-9:00pm

Again, all levels of ringing will be catered for. For those that fancy a challenge, there will be a special method:

Kent Treble Bob Minor (with bobs)

Please note, as previously advertised for November, there will not be a branch event at Claxby due to the lack of street lights there.

CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE
Walesby
Saturday 8th December
6:00-9:00pm

Complete your preparations for Christmas by ringing and attending this amazing spectacle. With coffee and mince pies. It really is an event not to be missed.

Make sure you check the programme for the Surprise Major practices (WL and N).

Rabbit Competition report – 10th March at Laceby

This should have been a Rabbit Competition. However, only ten members turned up, which was not enough to go ahead with the competition. I believe those who did go enjoyed the refreshments provided by those at Laceby, for whom we express our thanks, and a catch-up with members of the Branch, but we would like as many of you as possible to show your support for future events, as not everybody could have been on holiday!

Guild inter-branch 8-bell Striking Competition report

We eventually managed to get a band together for this event, even though it took a while. So thanks to those who took part. The competition was won by the Central Branch, and West Lindsey were runners-up. Guess where we came! Keep an eye on your e-mails, those who have access, as once we know the method for the next competition, we will arrange

practices in the method for all members of the Branch who wish to learn it to come and have a go, as we may as well use this competition to increase the skills in the Branch.

Branch practice – 14th May at Great Carlton

This was not greatly attended, but a few towers from around the branch were represented, but had one tower not thought it was on the wrong day, we would have had more! The tower provided a lovely drink and home-made refreshments, and it was good to meet and ring with the local tower ringers.

Branch Striking Competition – 14th June at Grasby

With help from the Branch, this event was re-arranged for a night that all possible teams could enter, although we know there are a few more of you who could put teams together, so come on for next year!!! Considering the competitive element of the occasion, all teams socialised together to make the evening enjoyable.

Unfortunately, I've misplaced the comments and results but will publish them as soon as they become

available. Thanks to David Hibbert and the team at Grasby for being the perfect hosts, keeping everyone topped up with drink and cake, and to Chris Turner, the judge, and his glamorous assistant, none other than the Guild Master, Sue Faull.

Ridgman Trophy – June 16th at Rothwell, Northants.

This is a regional competition for the eastern guilds of England, in which the LDG has taken part for a number of years. On this occasion, one member of our branch was in the team, namely Matthew Jeffery, where the set piece was a touch of Stedman Caters. The standard of ringing here was very high, and out of the ten teams who entered, Lincoln came fifth with 22½ faults. So well done to Matt and the rest of the LDG team.

Open Gardens – 17th June at Claxby

This was a busy weekend for some, but those who did make it not only had a good ring, but they also got to take in the hospitality of the village and the lovely gardens. If you didn't make it this year, you missed something special, because if you have not been before, the village is in a lovely setting. I'm sure those who went this year will be going again next year. Those who didn't go should be sure to put the date in your diary when it becomes known.

Guild Committee Meeting report

For a newsletter at this time of year, you would not find a Guild Committee Meeting report, as the meetings have been in February and March. To allow some issues to be discussed in more detail, we had an extra meeting in June. We all enjoyed a slow drive to the location via the Waddington Airfield traffic. The first item on the agenda was changed to not having future meetings clashing with the Waddington air show!

The Striking Competition rules were revised and the new rules are shown below.

The aim of the Competition is to encourage towers to improve the standard of their striking, particularly for Sunday Service ringing.

Rules:

- 1. All ringers must be members of the Guild. No-one shall ring for more than one tower.*
- 2. No tower shall enter a team containing fewer than four persons who ring for Sunday Services at that tower.*
- 3. The contest shall be on six bells and shall consist of 240 changes, either of minor or*

doubles with a cover. Where the band is unable to ring methods, they may ring call changes. No allowance is made for intricacy of method.

- 4. For methods, exactly 240 changes shall be rung. Teams ringing fewer, or more, than 240, shall be deemed to have rung out and will not be counted in the placing.*
- 5. For call changes, the first row away from rounds will be taken to be the start. The first 240 rows will be marked. Within these 240 rows, 4 different bells must be brought to lead. The changes of lead should be distributed across the whole test piece.*
- 6. A period of three minutes will be allowed to enable the band to get the feel of the bells. The bells must then be stood. As a signal to the judge, a few strokes shall be rung on the treble immediately before the commencement of ringing the test piece.*
- 7. The conductor may stop and re-start the attempt once, providing no more than thirty changes or half a minute of call changes have been rung. The band will stand and the treble rung again as a signal of a restart. A penalty of 10% of their faults shall be added on to make their final mark.*
- 8. A clock will be provided in the ringing chamber for the use of contestants.*
- 9. A steward will be available to assist, if requested, with the timing of the practice and may be asked to advise the band of the completion of the test piece.*

The judge's decision is final.

The committee looked at the child protection policy and it was suggested that really Branches and towers should revisit the policy and insure everything possible was being carried out. Should anybody need a copy of this, they should contact Lorraine.

Those of you who have seen the Womble simulator will have seen the promotional banners next to it. These cost £150 each and the Guild has suggested it may be a good idea for each Branch to purchase at least one to help them when holding events when bellringing can be promoted and, hopefully, new ringers found. So this is one to get your views together for the next AGM in January.

The six-bell simulator was at Lincoln Cathedral for two weeks for a special event where many of the C of E schools in the Lincoln Diocese go along to carry out activities. For next year's event, we need to encourage many of our C of E schools to put the

simulator down as one of their activities, in the hope that the children may be interested in going to their local tower to learn to ring, so long as the bells are ringable! If any of you have the contact details for your local C of E school, you can pass them onto Lorraine, and at around Christmas time the Guild will distribute letters to ask the schools if they will choose the simulator.

Good news for those of you who are over (I think it was) 75, as people up to the age of 85 are now insured under the Guild liability insurance.

LDG Christmas cards

This year we have an LDG Christmas cards in aid of the Guild BRF. At £2.50 for a pack of 10, these very attractive cartoon style cards are excellent value for money. Please place orders with Lorraine either by email or at the Tealby Branch Practice.

In preparation for our next A.G.M. when dates and towers will be agreed for Branch Practices I should be pleased if any tower happy to invite us for Branch Practice Evenings during 2008 would let me know as soon as possible. This is due to problems encountered with one of the towers previously agreed for 2008.

MOBILE BELFRY AT MARKET RASEN.

The Northern Branch were able to borrow the Mobile Belfry for the two day Steam Fair at Market Rasen Racecourse held on September 15th and 16th.

The mobile belfry proved very popular and an enormous number of people tried their hand and we are hopeful of some recruits. Most of those who "Had a go" were given printed details of contacts should they wish to have another try. This event proved what a tremendous asset to the Guild the mobile belfry is. Branch members were kept very busy over the two days introducing the art of bellringing to young children through to senior citizens!

The two days were blessed with lovely weather. Our thanks are extended to Dorothy Robinson for her foresight in enabling us to borrow the belfry.

Whilst the amount of funds raised is not yet available, at the service at the end of Sunday's show

the Vicar of Market Rasen extended his sincere thanks to all the bellringers who helped out over the two days.

Being able to use the belfry in this way proved a very enjoyable exercise for all the ringers involved and it was lovely to meet so many old friends working together for such a worthy cause. F.K

Subscriptions

This year subs are £10 for all adult members and £3 for children and students. The subs for this year were due in January, so please forward any outstanding to David Hibbert asap, either by post or at the next branch event. Please make cheques payable to LDG Northern Branch.

The Books

Lorraine Bateman has the branch stock of books which are for sale. They include:

Triples / Major for beginners	£2.50
Bell Restoration	£2.00
DIY Project	£1.50
Place Notation	£1.00
Maintenance Handbook	£1.25
Collection of Plain Minor Methods	£3.00
Major Compositions	£3.20
Doubles Collection	£2.00
Doubles & Minor for beginners	£2.50
Ringling Skills	£2.00
Minor Methods	£2.00
Ringling Jargon	£0.20
Raising / Lowering	£2.00
Service Touch	£1.00
Posters	£0.20
Follow on Book	£0.72
Dove	£13.00
One per Learner	£0.72
Learning Curve	£3.00
Sherbourne Exercise Book	£0.65
Notices	£0.20

*The prices quoted are the prices of the current stock, should a re-order need to be made the price may vary.

Northern Branch Programme for 2007

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION & TIMES
Tue 25 Sep	Meeting and Practice	Tealby (6) (7.00pm - 9.00pm)
Sat 29 Sep	Surprise Major Practice	Burton on Stather (7.00pm - 9.00pm)
Mon 12 Nov	Meeting and Practice	Middle Rasen (6) (7.00pm - 9.00pm)
Sat 24 Nov	Surprise Major Practice	Caistor (7.00pm - 9.00pm)
Sat 8 Dec	Candlelight Carol Service	Walesby (8) Ringing 6.00pm - 7.30pm, service and further ringing
Sat 26 Jan	AGM	St James Grimsby
March	Meeting and Practice	Tower and date to be arranged
1st Wed of month	Ladies Practices	1.30pm - 3.00pm. Contact Dorothy Robinson 01673 843400 for details of locations
2nd Wed of month	Simulator practice at Wragby	10.30am - 12.00pm. Contact Jim Sutherland 01673 858492
Last Fri of month	Simulator practice at Louth	10.30am - 12.00pm by arrangement. Contact Mick Day 01507 603998