

Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers Northern Branch

Newsletter – July 2009

Welcome to the July edition of the Northern Branch newsletter. The deadline for the next newsletter is 30th November so if you do anything between now and then and want it reported, please let Joy or Lorraine know. Also please let us know of anything being planned for next January, February or March.

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EVENSONG RINGING
Lincoln Cathedral (12)
Sunday 16th August 2009
Meet outside at 2:15pm PROMPT

Ringling will cater for all levels, but bear in mind there are 12 bells!

North Killingholme (4)
Thursday 12th November
Ringling 7-8:30pm

Branch Practice at Laceby

Mike Scott made us welcome at Laceby in March. We had a reasonable turn out with help from the Eastern Branch and refreshments were provided. Thanks to Laceby for their hospitality and to all those who attended.

Oxfordshire Tour

It was an early start, some of us leaving before 7am! We headed once again for this lovely part of the country. The first tower we went to was Souldern, a pretty little village with a nice little ring of 6. Andrew Lord took charge of the ringing as Matthew Jeffery had work commitments. Then it was on to Caversfield, a ground-floor ring of 5, where, funnily enough we actually parked in a field (well, a lane leading down to a farm!). For lunch, we decided that, rather than eating at separate pubs in Bicester, we would use some of Simon Cole's local knowledge to find a pub that catered for 15 hungry bell



ringers at the same time. So we followed Simon to a pub on a housing estate. They had no problem catering for us all and we had a "2 for £10" meal deal. After lunch we took the scenic route back into Bicester and had a ring on the 10 there. Matthew then turned up to everyone's surprise (especially Lorraine's) and jokingly said "What are you lot doing here?" He then took the rest of the ringing for the day, much to the relief of Andrew. Bicester were a nice 10, although the ringers made a bit of a meal of them at first! We were also joined by one of the ringers from Charlton-on-Otmoor as we went on to Ambrosden, a heavy ground-floor ring of 8, not for the faint hearted. Our final tower was Islip, a much nicer 8, where we had been the previous year. We were met by Theresa at the church and finished off the day with some good ringing.

Then to the village hall where we had all brought some food for tea and Theresa provided us with tea & coffee. We thanked Simon for organizing another wonderful day and Theresa said we would be most welcome to come back in the future.

Guild AGM

The Guild AGM was held on Saturday April 25th. Several members attended the ringers Holy Communion in the Ringers Chapel at the Cathedral. The meeting was held at Bailgate Methodist Church followed by an excellent lunch provided by Dot Mason and her team. There was open ringing at Stow and Hackthorn where light refreshments were also served. This was followed by ringing at the Cathedral for Evensong and open ringing there from 6.30 until 7.30pm

The Wedding of the Century! Branch Master marries Branch Secretary

Matthew Jeffery and Lorraine Bateman tied the knot at St. James' church, Grimsby, on 2nd May and it was a wonderful occasion with ringers from the Northern Branch and beyond supporting them on their big day. A peal of Yorkshire Surprise Royal, conducted by Christopher P. Turner, was rung for them at Grimsby on 26th April with Matthew on the 6. They would like to thank all those who rang so beautifully for them on their special day and hoped they enjoyed the champagne and cakes with which they were provided in the ringing chamber. At the reception at Hotel Elizabeth, Grimsby, all the tables were named after ringing methods. Orion was the top table, and others included Lessness, Glasgow, Belfast and Scientific. It is perhaps worth mentioning that Matthew and Lorraine first met five years before on a University of Aberystwyth ringing tour in Manchester, where Matthew was living at the time, and now they are married we all wish them well.



THE NORTHERN BRANCH WITH MATTHEW AND LORRAINE AT THEIR WEDDING RECEPTION AT HOTEL ELIZABETH, GRIMSBY. L-R: SUE FAULL (GUILD MASTER), JOY LORD, DAVID HIBBERT, ROGER LORD, KAYLEIGH HOLLAND, KIM HOLLAND, ANDREW LORD, JANE DRINKALL, JOANNE SMITH, GEORGINA HARRIS, MALCOLM HARRIS, PAULINE HILL, CHARLES CADE, DOROTHY ROBINSON, JOHN CADE, LORRAINE JEFFERY, MATTHEW JEFFERY

Summary of Guild committee meeting

At the February meeting the life members' certificate designed by Sandra Rhodes was chosen.

It was recommended that the split for the 2010 subs is:

- BRF 45%
- General fund 40%
- Branches 15%.

Peal fees remain the same. The Guild AGM arrangements were confirmed as follows:

The Ridgman trophy competition will take place on 20th June, 2009 (tbc) at Rickmansworth, Herts. As it was on the same day as the WL Branch Striking Competition and a long way, it looked unlikely that we would be able to put a team forward.

The 6-bell Striking Competition will be held at Tealby (cup) and Middle Rasen (plate) on Saturday 12th September 2009.

The 8-bell Striking Competition will be held at Market Deeping (Southern Branch) on Saturday 24th October, 2009 at 5pm. There will also be two nearby towers open on this day for general ringing. It was requested that people continue to submit items for the Guild newsletter.

The Guild has been asked to produce a criteria for youngsters wishing to use bell ringing as either a skill or service while taking part in the Bishop's Award. A team will look into this."

At the May Guild committee meeting Arrangements for the 8 bell striking competition at Market Deeping where discussed and the method was chosen as 2 plain courses of Plain Bob Doubles.

Due to issues and guideline changes as a guild we need to make sure that our branches and towers are aware of the Child protection guidelines. Going forward we should look in to ensuring that each branch as a Child protection officer, preferably 2 one male, one female to ensure that each branch is following the guidelines, consent forms should be completed for all ringers under 16 years of age and separate forms should be completed they go out on outings. In addition to this in the future arrangements such as regular lifts for younger members should be registered with the child pretention officer and when giving lifts ideally 2 adults (preferably one male and on female) should be present at all time. We should remember the Child protection guidelines are not only to protect children and vulnerable adults, but also by following the guidelines, we help to protect ourselves. So it is important the each tower prints a copy of the current guidelines off the LDGCBR website, but also the you keeping checking for any changes over the next few months. The plan to organize a meeting with the Lincoln Diocesan protection officer on Saturday 24th October 8 bell striking competition day for Guild committee members and members of each branch who are considering holding the position of child protection officer within their Branch. So you branch needs your, if anybody would like to look into being child protection officer for the branch, they should contact Lorraine Jeffery to put their names forward. The meeting then went on to discuss the guild website and said news items are welcome, but that they should be sent via the guild website.

Summary of Branch committee meeting

At our February and June committee meeting we said that we would like branch members to put forward nominations for the Hewitt Shield due to be presented at the branch AGM in 2010, so if you have any suggestions, please give you nominations and reasons to one of the committee members in time for the November committee meeting. In the future we will look at holding social events such as a quiz night and a treasure hunt, so we will plan these on the 2010 programme. We plan to hold another Christmas social and quiz in January, so look out for details on email.

The Guild 6 bell striking competition will be hosted by our branch this year on Saturday 12th September at Tealby (cup) and Market Rasen (plate). Teas for the ringers will be offered at Middle Rasen. Help will be needed from branch members on the day, so any member that is available to help on the day should contact committee members.

The CRB guild lines will continue to be an item on our agenda and we will pass on information to the branch to make sure that we are following the current guide lines.

We had received updates with regard to work on the Bell repair fund requests from Ulceby and Barton.

Walesby ringing for open churches and Trinity Sunday.

Due to members being on holiday or having to wait for gift list deliveries, or having to go to Civic events at their local church, the ringing at Walesby was perhaps not as well attended as it should have been. So a big Thank you to all those who did support the ringing and for the rest of us we need to make a bigger effort to attend next year.

Branch six bell striking competition.

It was great to have seven teams enter the Striking Competition this year, plus two “improver teams”. We had a lovely Summer evening and Middle Rasen looked after us well with a selection of nibbles, cakes, tea and coffee. Thanks to everyone there who did a fine job catering for us. As we had so many teams it was decided that the teams should ring only 120 changes as opposed to the normal 240. This was to ensure that the competition did not over run.

Chris Woodcock from the Central Branch came up to judge the competition, he gave the results in a positive way, so he just summarized the faults, which included problems with lighter bells, backstrokes dropping, sallies not being pulled hard enough, smaller bells not giving space to bigger bells and rushed leading. The following comments are those of the judge:

Team 1 (Caistor/Grasby) scored 77% and came 7th. They used 2’15” of their practice time. They rang Plain Bob Doubles and had one minute of rounds before they started the piece. They settled into a good rhythm straight away. A good pace was set by the tenor and it was impressive how quickly mistakes were put right. Small bells were rung well over the big bells.

Team 2 (Grimsby) scored 88% and came 5th. They used their full 3 minutes practice time. They also rang Plain Bob Doubles, they took 30 seconds to get a good rhythm going, they had cartwheeling which made it hard to keep it consistent, but the tenor kept a good pace which made the rhythm steady and consistent and mistakes were corrected quickly.

Team 3 (Barton A) came 4th. They practiced for 2’5” and rung Plain Bob Minor at a good pace. They rang rounds for 23 seconds and it sounded like plain courses. The piece sounded confident and the small bells were well rung, the second half settled down nicely and any mistakes were corrected quickly.

Team 4 (Barrow) scored 92% and came 3rd. They practiced for 1’56” and should really have used their full allotted time. They rang Plain Bob Doubles, it was a confident, quick, good rhythm. They rang rounds for 21 seconds, they had very few mistakes and any that did occur were corrected quickly and the piece had a good pace.

Team 5 (Middle Rasen) scored 93% and came 2nd. They practiced for 3’2”. They rang a confident piece of Grandsire Doubles. They rang rounds for 20 seconds

and then went into the piece. It had a steady but good, restrained rhythm. It was clear that the band all worked together. It is not easy to ring steady with good striking but the piece was very enjoyable to listen to with hardly any mistakes.

Team 6 (Market Rasen) came 1st. They used 3'20" of their practice time, but it could have been the judge's watch that may have not been working properly! They rang 1.5 minutes of rounds before going into cartwheel Devon-style call changes very confidently. This was a joy to listen to with very few faults and the changes were clean.

Team 7 (Barton B) scored 87% and came 6th. They used their full practice time where they got used to the slight odd-striking of the bells. They rang half a minute of rounds before going into call changes. They had a good pace for the bells, starting with cartwheel leads, then changed to open handstrokes, but once they settled down there were few mistakes and any mistakes were soon rectified.

Middle Rasen Improvers Team: It was good to see 2 improvers' teams take part. This team had good leading, good tenor ringing helped out by the middle bells, a few backstroke problems but nice handstrokes and some clean ringing.

Market Rasen Improvers Team: A confident piece of ringing, good pace and excellent rounds and nice Queens.

So congratulations to Market Rasen and Middle Rasen who go through to the cup competition at Tealby, and Barrow and Barton A who go through to the plate competition at Middle Rasen, Both of these will be held on 12th September.

I think all who were there will agree that Middle Rasen made us all feel very welcome, and it was a nice enjoyable social evening. We had a successful raffle for the bell repair fund. A bottle of wine was presented to Chris Woodcock as a token of thanks for coming up to judge the competition.

Branch Practice at Market Rasen – Wednesday 17th June

After a period of silence from this tower for the past three years or so, the Northern Branch was kindly invited by Norman Palmer to ring on these bells. It was nice to see a few of you there. The bells are a very nice easygoing light 8, a pleasure to ring. Dorothy Robinson provided refreshments for us all before we headed off to the Aston Arms for a pint. Norman thanked everybody for allowing the team to practice over the last few months on their own while they were getting used to their bells again. Now that we have had the branch practice, Market Rasen now welcomes visitors to their tower on their practice night. One or two would be great on any such night.

Summary of Branch half-yearly meeting on 4th July at Caistor

For the ringing we had enough to ring the 8 bells, and with a few reinforcements we eventually managed Cambridge Major. Everybody had brought a plate of food for the table so we had a lovely spread and Nan had arranged some tea and coffee to keep us all watered. After being all peaceful at a retreat all day, Elaine came to chair the meeting.

We began by discussing new members' certificates. As we have now rung out of the large Guild members' certificates, Joy has kindly agreed to design an A4-size certificate for new members.

Elaine explained that there has been a CRB issue within the guild. Lorraine explained that at the last Guild committee meeting it was pointed out that as a guild we need to ensure that we follow the guidelines within our towers. There are currently guidelines on the guild website and we should check for any updates as the central council are in the process of updating them. The guidelines are not only to protect young ringers, but also venerable adults and the guidelines also protect us as ringers. 2 adults should be present when giving lifts to younger ringers. The guild have suggested that each branch has 1 or possibly 2 Child protection officers (preferably one of each gender) to keep the paperwork and ensure that towers have all the information they need. It is planned that there will be a meeting with the Lincoln Diocesan Guild Child protection office are the guild committee along with a branch member who may be interested in becoming a Child protection officer. Elaine also said that there should be someone in each parish who has been on CRB training should any tower need addition help or information.

We then went on to talk about the guild six bell striking competition. It is our branch's turn to host the six bell striking competition finals, which will be held on Saturday, 12th September. Market Rasen and Middle Rasen go through to the cup competition, to be held at Tealby, and Barrow and Barton A go through to the plate competition, to be held at Middle Rasen. The competition will be held from 3pm until 6pm. This was a preferred time of the towers/villages involved. Tea will be served ongoing at Middle Rasen church hall and as a branch we will require help from members. At this point the timing of our own branch competition was mentioned, as some of the younger ringers did not get home until 10:30pm. Perhaps as a branch seeing as we have more teams entering we should look at having the competition at a weekend afternoon. Matt then went on to say that ringing today was good, considering that there weren't a lot of people a wide range of ringing was done, from call changes to Cambridge S Major. Elaine thanked Sue Faull for all the help she has given to our learners and Lorraine added that the recent branch practice at Market Rasen had been a success too.

Roger then reported that the branch bell repair fund currently stands at £2339.47. Ulceby have had work completed on their wheels and bearings and we now have a receipted invoice. At our last committee meeting it was decided to recommend that we give Ulceby £150. Barton are half way through their restoration project, and the committee recommend that £400 is awarded to them on completion of the work.

Elaine thanked Caistor for hosting the meeting and went on to congratulate Matthew and Lorraine on their wedding. Matthew then mentioned that the Guild 8-bell striking competition will be held on Saturday 24th October at Market Deeping in the Southern Branch from 4:30 until about 8pm. The set piece will be two courses of Bob Major. He mentioned that he knew it was a long way to travel but as we did not enter last year we really ought to do so this year, and that he was prepared to give lifts down if necessary. Practices will be arranged possibly at Barton and Caistor. Prior to the

competition a CRB meeting will be held at 3pm. Lorraine thanked Elaine for chairing the meeting.

Please ensure that any peals or quarters you may ring are on www.campanophile.com, otherwise they may not be accounted for. If this cannot be done, please inform the Ringing Master who will sort it out.

Lincoln Guild Clothing

You may have seen a few branch members wearing their Lincoln Guild Bellringers tops. You too can have one of your own. The range includes Polo shirts £15, Sweat shirts £16, Rugby shirts £22.50 and Hooded tops in various colours and sizes. And a small donation goes to the Guild Bell repair fund. If you are interested in finding out more/placing an order, please contact Sue Faull.

Barton upon Humber (St Mary's)

The work on our bells is now completely finished and they are ringing to full capacity. Thanks to Hayward Mills and everyone who helped.



Roger and Andrew admire the newly refurbished bells.

Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers – Northern Branch Policy for visiting ringers

The Northern Branch of Bell Ringers in the Diocese of Lincoln warmly welcomes visiting ringers to come and experience our beautiful churches and to ring our church bells by prior arrangement.

Whilst the majority of ringers take great care when ringing unfamiliar bells, we have unfortunately had a few experiences of visiting ringers causing damage to our bells and frames. For that reason we would like to draw your attention to the following policy on the Use of Bells by visiting Ringers which has been adopted within our Branch. Please sign and return one copy of this form to the Tower Captain or Tower Representative of each church where a visit is planned. Thank you

We hope that you will enjoy your time in our beautiful area of Lincolnshire and look forward to welcoming you to our churches.

**Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers
Northern Branch
Policy on use of bells by visiting ringers
January 2009**

1. This policy applies to all visits by groups of ringers from outside the Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers. It may, by agreement with the Tower Captain or nominated Tower Representative (in towers without a captain), be waived under certain circumstances.
2. All visitors should arrange the details of their visit with the Tower Captain of the parish church (or the nominated Tower Representative) in advance of the visit.
3. Visiting ringers should ensure that they are sufficiently experienced to cope with local conditions in a tower. eg at Walesby All Saints a long rope drop. Advice should always be taken from the Tower Captain or Tower Representative.
4. It is suggested that a minimum donation of not less than **£10.00** is paid to the tower fund of each church in advance or at the time of the visit.
5. Damage: In the case of damage e.g. broken stays it is expected that costs for these will be charged at the discretion of the Tower Captain.
6. More substantial damage will be assessed and be charged accordingly.

Please return a copy of this slip to each church being visited.

Tower visit to: (Name of church, village)

Visitors from : (Guild and Tower)

Approx No of Ringers / Visitors

Range of experience

.....

We agree to abide by the policy above in relation to our visit on (date)

Signed

Tower Captain (visiting band)

Contact address and phone no.....

.....

Northern Branch Programme 2009

Date	Location	Event
Sun 16 th Aug	Lincoln Cathedral (12)	meet at 2:15pm , ringing to evensong
Saturday 12 th Sept	Tealby (6)/Middle Rasen (6)	Guild Striking Competition Finals
Thurs 12 th Nov	North Killingholme (4)	7:00 - 8:30pm branch practice
Sat 12 th Dec	Walesby (8)	6:00pm candlelight carol service at 7:30pm

2010

Sat 23 rd Jan	Market Rasen (8)	AGM
WC Mon 10 th Mar	Immingham (6) tbc	7:30 - 9:00pm branch practice

1 st Wed of month	Ladies Practice	1.30 - 3.00pm. Contact Dorothy Robinson 01673 843400 for details of locations
2 nd 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 only contract Mick Day 01507 603998