



## **LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS**

Newsletter No 1

May 2005

*It is hoped to produce this Newsletter at quarterly intervals as a means of improving communication within the very large area covered by the Guild. The intention is to distribute it by email to all towers with a ringable peal of bells of whatever number or whether the ringers are members of the Guild or not. Please let your Branch Secretary have an email contact for your own and other towers in your locality with ringers. News items or Letters to the Editor should be sent to John Ketteringham for the time being (email address : john.ketteringham27@ntlworld.com or by post to 27 Bunkers Hill, Lincoln LN2 4QS.*

### ***From the Guild Master***

I had always realised that our Guild covered a vast area but it was not until I was elected Master that I realised the problems which this caused, particularly with regard to effective communication.

I was, therefore, very pleased when John Ketteringham offered to explore the possibilities of publishing a Guild Newsletter which could be distributed by Email. To produce a printed Newsletter would be far too expensive but these days most towers will have a member of the band capable of receiving email attachments so this initiative is well worthwhile. By this means I hope members from all parts of the Guild will be able to take part in events and get to know one another.

A particularly important use of the Newsletter will be the Letters to the Editor page where members can discuss matters of concern to them.

If the Newsletter is to be successful it is essential that Branch Officers and members submit news items and notices of events to the Editor and also make sure that every tower with ringers whether members of the Guild or not are included in the circulation list.

I have always been proud to be a member of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild, and for the last 20 years, it has been a privilege to have held a variety of posts at Branch and Guild level, particularly the last 3 years as Master.

Unfortunately, I am not in a position to seek re-election at the 2005 AGM, and so I thank all the Guild and Branch officers for the work they do to further the aims of the Guild. I also pay tribute to the dedication of those that recruit and teach new members, and those that keep our bells from falling silent.

My very best wishes to you all, and for the success of this venture.

Keith N Buckingham - April 2005

### ***Why should I become a member of the Guild?***

I must admit that there have been times when I have asked myself this question. However, I will soon have completed 57 years membership so there must be something which has persuaded me to continue paying my subscription. At the time I learned to ring at Alford it was not easy to get to towers where change-ringing was practiced and going to meetings in Ivor Smith's little Austin 7 was a way to meet other ringers and learn new methods, to ring on higher numbers and even practice some conducting. All this is important to a young ringer – they need to make progress and this is often difficult in their own tower. If they stagnate they may well be lost to one of the many other attractions there are these days. It often isn't possible at the ringer's own tower to give them the encouragement and opportunities they need but this is provided by the Guild. Even more important is the opportunity to meet other ringers especially those of the same age group and perhaps at the same stage in their ringing career. As I know from my own experience, meeting other ringers through the Guild, is a great help when a young ringer leaves home to go to work or to continue his education. He will have the courage to go along to the local practice and make friends at a time when this may well be badly needed.

A recent important benefit which all paid up resident members of the Guild receive is Personal Accident Insurance. This means that paid-up members are covered whilst ringing, instructing, maintaining, inspecting or doing work of any

description other than major restoration work on towers and/or bells and their fittings and framework anywhere in Great Britain.

In my view the Insurance described above is worth the Guild Subscription alone!

If you would like to join or would like more information please email me and I will pass your details on to the appropriate Branch Secretary.

### ***Diary Dates***

If you know of any events which would be of interest to Guild members please let me know. If you are interested in supporting any of the events below please contact the appropriate Branch Secretary for further details.

30 May	Central Branch - Potterhanworth Fun Day
4 June	Eastern Branch – Ringing and Barbeque
19 July	Elloe Deaneries : Long Sutton 2 – 3.15; Gedney 3.30 – 4.30; Sutton St James 5.00 Tea and ringing.
10 September	Ringing Roadshow at Newbury
11 November	Eastern Branch Bonfire and Social
10 December	Central Branch Carol Service Swinderby 3 pm.
10 December	Northern Branch Carol Service Walesby

### ***News from the LDG***

Canon Edward Cook of Dunholme is understandably very proud of a quarter peal he rang at Kings Norton in December. It was the first quarter by Ted's grandson Robert aged 14. Other members of the band were Robert's parents Rosemary and Tony Parker and his godparents Richard Wheelhouse and Jo Field. Robert learned to ring earlier last year and his ringing in the quarter was first class. A photograph of the band can be seen here <http://homepage.nflworld.com/john.ketteringham/news.htm>

The Central Branch lady ringers and Judy Williamson have been busy. On Saturday 2 April a quarter peal was rung at Dunston conducted by Judy and for four of the five ladies it was their first. On the following Tuesday the ladies, with Judy again conducting, rang a peal of Cambridge Major at Caythorpe. Judy assures your reporter that she has never turned a tenor in top anything before! Congratulations to everyone who rang in either peal. Do you think I should send up a report of Judy's achievements to the Ringing World for inclusion in the Up and Coming Youngster's series?

The young ringers have also been busy. Following on their earlier achievements which you will find on my News page on 31 March ringers from the West Lindsey, Southern and Central Branch rang a peal of Lincolnshire at Bicker conducted by Chris Woodcock. Unfortunately at the last minute one of the band had to drop out and Revd Brian Harris stepped in. The average of the young ringers was 17.57. Congratulations all round.



I would be very pleased to publish short news items such as those above. Although there is not space here to publish longer articles with photographs I would be quite happy to publish them on my web site News page. Articles (most of which have been published in the *Ringing World*) can be viewed (and downloaded) here : <http://homepage.nflworld.com/john.ketteringham/news.htm>.

*Prince Charles in Lincoln 1979*

*All Saints, Wragby*

*Prime Minister meets Lincoln Cathedral Bellringers*

*Haxey Hood*

*The longest peal ever rung*

*Festival of the Plough, Epworth*

### ***Surprise Royal Practices***

These are held on the second Saturday in each month from 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon. Methods to be practiced are Ewerby, Cambridge, Yorkshire Lincolnshire, London and Bristol. Spliced Cambridge, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.

14 May	Newark 31 cwt. Allow time to park.
11 June	Ewerby 15 cwt (Central Branch meeting 7-9 pm)
9 July	Surfleet 12 cwt
13 August	Southwell 25 cwt (Meet under west tower 10.15 am.)
	No practice in September
8 October	Boston 22 cwt.

## *Ringling for the Sixtieth Anniversary of the end of World War II*



In the Ringing World dated 18 February a letter was published from the Ministry of Defence asking that bells throughout the country should be rung on Sunday 10 July at 5 pm to mark the sixtieth Anniversary of the conclusion of the Second World War. This request has been endorsed by the President of the Central Council, Mike Henshaw who suggested that ringers should endeavour to make sure that the general public will understand the significance of this particular ringing through parish magazines, newsletters and local media.



Isn't it amazing how time flies? It will soon be time for the next Roadshow. This year it will take place on 10 September at Newbury Race Course. I am sure all of you who have been to previous Roadshows and especially that in Lincolnshire will already have the date in your diary. The Central Branch is hoping to run a coach so it might be worth contacting Dot Mason ([phil-dot.mason@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:phil-dot.mason@tiscali.co.uk)) to see if there are any spare seats.

### *Grumble to the right person!*

I recently had to listen to a long-standing member of the Guild who was complaining that he would like to have had a go at conducting. He said that his tower captain did it all and never gave anyone else a chance. I asked him if he had ever asked if he could call the bobs. Of course he hadn't and expected the tower captain to know by instinct that our friend would like to have a go. Remember a tower captain has a lot to think about – he has to try and please everyone so that he has a band for Sunday Service ringing. The same applies to Branch Ringing Masters. If you would like to try conducting or ring a new method or even learn something about composition ask. If all else fails speak to the Guild Master – he won't bite I promise! Do grumble but to the right person.

### *Joint Surprise Major Practices 2005*

Following the success of these Practices in 2004, it has been decided to follow the same format for 2005. The following programme has been agreed between the Northern, Central and West Lindsey Branches. They will all be from 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm unless otherwise notified.

4th June Northern Branch – Tower to be notified

30th July Central Branch - Welbourn

24th September West Lindsey Branch – Epworth

26th November Northern Branch – Tower to be notified

Please do support these practices, but remember that they are **Surprise Major** practices, so do not turn up expecting to ring Bob Minor! We need to look after and challenge our more advanced ringers and these busy practices serve that need across a wide area.

### *Simulator Practices*

Wragby (6 bells – simulator 8 bells) Second Wednesday in each month. 1030 to 1200 Contact : Jim Sutherland 01673 858492

Louth (8 bells – simulator 10 bells) Last Friday in each month 1030 – 1200 Contact : Mick Day 01507 603998

### *Bells on Sunday*

I recently came to an arrangement with the Producer of the BBC Radio 4 programme *Bells on Sunday* which allows me to reproduce recordings from this programme on my Bell Recordings web site. If anyone is contemplating submitting a recording for this programme please let me know so that I can give you some guidelines and contacts at the BBC. The relevant web addresses are :

Bells on Sunday : <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/religion/bells.shtml>

Bell Recordings : <http://www.eccentrix.com/members.johnketteringham/index.html>

### ***Susan Agg (nee Tyrell)***

Susan died on Monday 7th February at Woking Hospice. She learned to ring at Spalding and was actively involved in ringing at Cambridge while at University there. She married David and they moved to Guildford where they joined the Cathedral band in 1987. She had two children - Jonathan and Katharine. Jonathan is also ringing at the Cathedral, while Katharine is about to start learning.

Susan rang at Spalding on Christmas Day.

The funeral was on Friday 11th February at St Luke's, Burpham, and a thanksgiving service to celebrate Susan's life, was held at Guildford Cathedral on Thursday 17th February at 3.30 pm.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to her husband and children and to her parents Lynda and Bernard who live in Spalding.

A comprehensive Obituary for Susan was published in the *Ringing World* on 15 April 2005.

### ***Letters to the Editor***

Dear Friends,

I do hope you will use the Newsletter to write a Letter to the Editor if you have any aspect of ringing either in the Guild or wider afield which you would like to discuss with your fellow ringers. As with the ringer who grumbled about not getting a chance to conduct there is little point in complaining in the pub to one of your cronies. If you haven't the courage to write under your own name then use an alias so long as the Editor knows who you are and it is not intended to be malicious or hurtful in any way.

Of course you can also write to the editor with a compliment or thank you!

All I ask is that items are fairly short otherwise most people will not read them!

I do reserve the right as editor to correct grammar and poor English.

I cannot emphasise too much that this is *your* Newsletter and intended to be a means of communication throughout the vast area served by the LDG. It would be very helpful to me if I could be put on the mailing list for Branch Magazines and other items circulated in the Branches.

Yours sincerely,

Acting Editor.

### ***Lincolnshire's first mini-ring***

I think the first appearance of a mini-ring in Lincolnshire was at the Horncastle Ringing School and at the 2003 Ringing Roadshow Lincolnshire ringers had the opportunity to try out their rope handling on several examples of this new bellringing craze. Perhaps its not really that new as I well remember ringing on farmer Jarvis's ring which was hung above his washhouse at Balscott in 1954 and on Frank Mack's ring erected above his garage in Exmouth ten years later in 1964. In those days mini-rings were quite a rarity.

Last year the Lichfield mini ring was erected at the Epworth Plough Festival and the Willoughby Campanile was an important part of the Ringing Study Days in Lincoln Cathedral last September.

But now thanks to Dot and Phil Mason and their son Paul Lincolnshire has its own resident mini-ring which has been hung in the roof of the garage at their home, 25 Woodside in Branston near Lincoln. The official opening was on 5 March when the ring of six ceramic 'bells' with a tenor weighing 5½ lbs was rung from mid-day by ringers from across the county and beyond concluding with a quarter-peal of Norwich Surprise Minor commencing at 7 pm.

Also available for visitors was Paul's new portable ring of 8 ceramic bells which had been erected on the patio. The event raised £35 for the Potterhanworth bell fund and visitors are very welcome.

### ***The next Newsletter***

Please send me items for the next Newsletter no later than 22 July.

### ***Stop Press***

At the Annual Meeting of the Guild it was agreed that Honorary Life Membership should be conferred on Ted Colley of Caistor in recognition of his exceptional service to bellringing. He becomes the nineteenth person to be awarded this honour by the Guild since Denis Frith (one time Guild Master and Guild Secretary) was nominated in 1999.

Sue Faull of Willingham was elected Master and is the first lady to hold this office. Mike Crowder of Barrow-on-Humber was elected Peal Secretary. All other Guild Officers were re-elected.

It was agreed that with effect from 2006 the subscription for adults will be £10 per annum. Junior members and those in full-time education will pay £3. Associate and Non-Resident life members will pay £5. The peal fee will remain at 25p per rope.