



# LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

## Guild Officers

**Master - Mrs Susan Faull : Secretary - Leslie G Townsend : Treasurer - Ms Nicola Jones  
Peal Secretary - Michael W. Crowder : Librarian – Mrs Judith Williamson.**

To contact any of the above please consult the Annual Report or visit the Guild website at  
<http://members.lycos.co.uk/lincs bells/frame.html>

Newsletter No 3

Acting Editor – John R. Ketteringham

November 2005

### *Presentation to Sue and Keith Buckingham*

To thank Keith for all his hard work as Guild Master, and to Sue for her support, they were given a pair of cut glass wine glasses which were inscribed "Keith Buckingham, Master of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers 2002 - 2005" and "Sue Buckingham, With thanks from the LDG". The following letter has been received from Keith and Sue by the Guild Master :

Dear Sue,

I am writing to thank you so much for arranging our farewell card, and the excellent glasses, from the Lincoln Guild. Thanks to Paul and Caitlin Meyer, they were delivered the evening before we moved, so we could keep them safe until we got straightened out. They are now on display, either side of an engraved bell that Geoff Parker gave to Sue for her work on the Centenary Committee.

As you know, we couldn't plan our future until we had 'sold up', but now we have settled in Shropshire, we're looking forward to a new challenge! You would have thought that we had got used to the idea of moving away from the area, but it really hit us when we rang for our last Sunday service at Spilsby, and got the gifts that we shall treasure, with many happy memories of Lincolnshire and of the Guild.

We will keep up to date with the news through the RW, and the Guild Newsletter, and have no doubt that Guild Members will continue to benefit from all the hard work that you, and the other officers, do for them.

All the best Sue, and please pass on our thanks and best wishes to all our friends in LDG

Keith and Sue Buckingham

### *Guild Publicity and Training Opportunity*

Those present at the village hall in Messingham following the striking competition will know that the Guild is purchasing the ring of six simulator dumb bells built by David Horrocks and Tom Blyth. This is being financed by an interest free loan from a generous Guild member. A portable tower will be built and high quality display information will be produced. It is envisaged that the frame and dumb bells will be relatively easy to erect and move so that it could provide the focus for a publicity and recruitment drive in various parts of the Guild. Members of the public could be encouraged to have a go – the bells ring very much like a lightish ring of six. The installation could also provide a training facility should branches wish to use it in this way.

The simulator's first location will probably be the 20/21 Arts Centre in Scunthorpe, formerly St John's church which will be holding a display in Spring 2006 entitled "Automata". The Centre is a popular venue so it is hoped that the dumb bells will receive a considerable amount of interest from the general public. The West Lindsey branch would undertake to man the "bells" on a number of occasions during the time of the exhibition - possibly linking it with ringing on the eight tower bells. Other venues will be needed once the exhibition is over. As a rough idea, the space needed for the simulator will be about 5 feet by 8.

Would you consider holding a fund raising event, or giving a personal donation towards the cost of this very exciting project? It is expected that the cost of simulator, frame and exhibition materials to be around £3500. As an aid to public relations and publicity, hopefully it will be money very well spent. Nicola Jones, the Guild Treasurer will be happy to receive contributions. Cheques should be made to LDG as usual, but make sure she knows that the money is for this project. The fund was started by the Messingham, Bottesford and Scotter ringers who donated the proceeds of the Striking Competition teas.

If anyone has any initial ideas for venues, suggestions for display materials, ideas for fundraising etc. I would be very pleased to hear from them.

**Sue Faull** Guild Master.

### *Editorial*

I am grateful to all those Tower Correspondents who have agreed to print out a copy of the Newsletter for their towers. The Newsletter is sent to around 130 Tower Correspondents and to 82 individuals and I would like to thank all those who responded to the questionnaire. The response to this confirms that the Newsletter fills a need and is appreciated by most readers. I had two negative replies. The first asked for 'information on how to progress, tips, tricks, techniques, open towers or sessions where intermediates could join in without being intimidated by the experts on Cambridge Surprise Minor, etc.' This is beyond the scope of the Newsletter but I am pleased to say the ringers concerned are now receiving the assistance they required. Any other ringers who feel frustrated in this way do please contact your Branch Ringing Master. The second adverse comment was a little more worrying. The writer considered that the Newsletter was 'about as dull and tedious as The Ringing World, He continued – 'Sorry to be so blunt but it has very limited appeal'. That did rather surprise me but I did realise that when I suggested the Guild have a Newsletter I was 'opening a can of worms'. I did invite the writer to put his opinions in the form of a 'Letter to the Editor' but he declined.

You will see in this Newsletter I have included details of all the meetings, special practices and other events for which I have been able to find details. I do hope this will help ringers from all over the Diocese to get to know one another.

There is a tremendous amount going on in the Guild and it is very encouraging to see the number of quarter peals being rung. Some are in very advanced methods as well as the more usual 'bread and butter' methods. I don't usually mention individual performances but I would like to mention the performance of 30 minutes of rounds and call changes at Potterhanworth by a band with an average age of just under 11 years. This was rung during the Central Branch Quarter Peal Month. I am sure this meant a great deal to the band and I congratulate them on an excellent achievement. We all know how difficult it is to keep youngsters interested especially where most of the band are much older. Events such as the Young Ringers Activity Day arranged by the West Lindsey Branch provide an excellent opportunity for youngsters to ring together and make friends of their own age (a full report with photos was published in the *RW* for 23 September).

Finally, as this is the last issue of the Newsletter before Christmas I have published one of a remarkable series of articles written by Rodney Meadows. I thought this might provide something for you to read over the holiday period when you have nothing else to do! If you would like me to publish more of these articles occasionally please let me know. Best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year.

### *Ringing at the Lincolnshire Show*

It has always been hoped that one day the Guild would be represented at the Lincolnshire Show and this year it actually happened.

Dot and Phil Mason's mini-ring of six ceramic bells were moved out of their garage roof and hung in a wooden 'tower'. Unfortunately it was discovered that the second 'bell' was cracked and with only two days to go a frantic search began for a garden centre which stocked the right make of pot as a replacement. Eventually one was found but it needed tuning! But much careful work with sandpaper eventually produced the correct note and the tower was erected in the Cathedral tent and the bells hung.

The mini-ring proved to be a great attraction and visitors included the Bishop and Dean of Lincoln but neither could be persuaded to have a ring. However the Lord Lieutenant Bridget Craycroft-Eley, who is learning to ring ready for the installation of Hackthorn bells, did ring and the MP for Gainsborough, Edward Leigh tried the bells but was more interested in the mechanics of how they worked. Over the two days many had a ring and some were lapsed ringers and we tried to persuade them to return to the exercise. Two quarter peals were rung, Cambridge S.Minor and Oxford TB Minor.

### *Philip Herbert Reynolds*

Philip was born in Swineshead in 1929, one of three children. He lived in Swineshead for the whole of his life except for two years at Blandford Forum on National Service. In 1948 he learned to ring at Swineshead and soon became a proficient, enthusiastic and reliable change-ringer. In 1955 Philip rang in a record multi-method peal of Surprise Minor at Frampton where, ringing next to him, and conducting the peal, was a young Miss Rhoda Brown. After much 'hunting and dodging', they were married in November 1955.

Phil rang in 310 peals, many of which he conducted, and with many local youngsters ringing their first peal. In the 1970's he was a Central Council representative for the LDG. For many years he bound the Guild's copies of The Ringing World, he produced magnificent church notice boards, not only for Swineshead, but also for other local churches, and local belfries contain numerous peal boards, all painted and written by Philip. He had been a chorister, server, cross bearer, sidesman and churchwarden, also a member of the Lincoln Diocesan Synod and Lay Chairman of the Deanery Synod.

Philip and Rhoda were elected to Honorary Life Membership in recognition of their work for the Guild and in 1998 both he and Rhoda were awarded the Borough of Boston Civic Award for outstanding contribution to the Parish of Swineshead, the Parish Church and to bellringing. Philip and Rhoda were responsible for amassing over £10,000 towards the cost of rehangng Swineshead bells and, in 2003 with a bequest this was done and Phil was able to see this work completed. However, his illness advanced rapidly and within a few weeks he could ring no more.

Philip died on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September and the funeral took place at Swineshead on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2005. This abbreviated tribute is taken from an obituary with photograph which can be found here <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/john.ketteringham/news.htm>. Acknowledgements to John Collett and Michael Belcher.

### *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.

#### **2005**

5 November	Eastern Branch - Learners afternoon at Butterwick – 230 – 4.00 pm
12 November	Central Branch Quiz Night St Giles Church Hall Lincoln 730 pm
19 November	West Lindsey Practice – Kirton Lindsey 6.30 pm. Special methods Bristol and St Clements Major.
26 November	Southern Branch Colsterworth Group Morning practice (2/3 towers)
3 December	Eastern Branch Frampton/Sutterton - Ringing, Carol Service and Meeting 3.30 onwards.
10 December	Central Branch Carol Service Martin 3 pm.
10 December	Northern Branch Carol Service Walesby Old Church 6 pm
17 December	Southern Branch – Bourne. Plain/Surprise Minor

#### **2006**

14 January	Central Branch AGM Welbourn
21 January	West Lindsey AGM Willingham Ringing at Stow after meeting.
28 January	Northern Branch AGM Louth
28 January	Southern Branch AGM Grantham 3:30
4 February	Eastern Branch AGM Ingoldmells 3.30
4 February	Elloe Deaneries Branch AGM Surfleet 3.30

If you would like further details of any of these events contacts are as follows :

Eastern Branch : Mrs C. Meyer 01507 462625	Central Branch : Mrs D. Mason 01522 796079
Elloe Deaneries Branch : Roy Norman 01945 700798	Northern Branch : Miss L. Bateman 01472 690460
Southern Branch : G. Pearce 01476 860357	West Lindsey : Mrs D. Scarf 01724 764526

### *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.

12 November	Lincoln Cathedral 23 cwt Meet 1015 Allow time to park
14 January	Ewerby 15 cwt
11 February	East Retford 23 cwt
March 11	Newark 31 cwt.

### *Joint Surprise Major Practices*

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.

26th November Northern Branch – Caistor 7 pm.

For future programme please contact Debbie Scarff (01724 764526)

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.

### *Other 'Open' Practices*

On the first Tuesday in each month a practice is held at **Dunholme** starting at 2.00 pm.

3 January Cambridge, Primrose, Ipswich and Norfolk Surprise Minor  
7 February London Surprise Minor  
7 March Chelsea Surprise Minor

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. The **South Lincolnshire 'Geriatrics'** meet on the third Wednesday of each month, except in December. Ringing is from 2.30 pm until 4pm. except in May and September when the start is at 11am. Lunch is at 12 and this is followed by ringing at a second tower in the afternoon. Programme details for 2006 can be obtained from Canon E.Orland (01778 380724) or Ron. Noon (01775 722671)

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On the second Wednesday in each month from 1030 to 1200 a practice is held on the six bells at **Wragby** for 'mature' students as Jim calls them. After lunch the practice continues on the eight simulated bells. This practice consists of the better known Triples and Major Methods. For more information contact Jim Sutherland on 01673 858492

On the third Tuesday in each month a practice is held at **Stow** commencing at 2 p.m. Refreshments at the Underwood's for which we are all very grateful follow the practice.

17 January Pudsey and Superlative Surprise Major  
21 February Cambridge, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, and Superlative Surprise Major  
21 March Bristol Surprise Major

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The **Ladies** have their own practice on the first Wednesday of each month starting at 1.30 pm. If you are eligible and would like to attend please contact Margaret Parker on 01522 753412 for details of the venue.

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**If you are thinking of attending any of these special practices do please consider the aims and objectives as detailed. Time is short and it is usually not possible to deviate from the programme. As well as helping to advance method ringing these are very enjoyable social events. If you are not a regular attender at any of these practices it might be as well to check beforehand to make sure the venue etc hasn't had to be changed.**

### *Betty and John Collett's Golden Wedding*

Betty and John Collett, decided to celebrate their golden wedding on 20th August 2005 by having a party in their garden in Boston.

The day started appropriately with a quarter peal of Boston Surprise Royal at the 'Stump'. Luckily the weather was just right and the 170 guests and there were a variety of games and other events including the Priory Handbell Ringers, led by Tom Freeston, Tower Captain at Boston 'Stump'. There was an excellent pig roast, provided by Mrs Ann Beever, tower Captain at Bicker.

Phil and Dot Mason's mini ring was in almost constant use during the afternoon. Unfortunately a quarter peal attempt was lost when the ringers were bombarded with crab apples thrown by some 'young gentlemen' over the garden fence. A painful and very sudden experience for several of the band.

There was also a raffle and plant sale and the total raised for the Eastern Branch Bell Repair Fund was over £1100. A full report has been published in the *Ringing World* (21 September) and it can also be read with photos on my Newpage.

### *News from the World of Bellringing*

Neville Sharpe writes 'There have been 62 peals at Skillington rung by 136 different ringers and thee bells are the most pealed five in Lincolnshire. All but one peal has been rung since 1951. Peal number 62 which was rung on 23 September was in nine methods conducted by Emma Southerington. With this peal Neville has circled the tower seven times and has rung 36 peals on the bells. The peal was rung as a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday compliment to his mother Mrs Emily Sharpe'.

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A CD of the National Twelve Bell Striking Contest in 2003 at Surfleet is now available. As is to be expected the ringing on this excellent light twelve is first class with only minimal differences in the quality of the ringing

between each team. Included are the judge's remarks and the presentation of the trophy to the winning team by Mrs Enid Wayman daughter of Rupert Richardson one time Master of the LDG. The CD is available Adrian Udall to whom cheques for £16 (including postage) should be made payable and sent to Disbrowe Cottage, 1 Disbrowe Road, London W6 8QG.

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The masterly letter by Rev. Brian Harris in a recent *Ringing World* reminded me of a series of articles by Rodney Meadows on Belfrymanship. When I was Secretary of the Western Branch of the Worcestershire Association with permission I published them in the Branch Newsletter and more recently in a Tribute, which I compiled to Rodney. I have reproduced the first of these as an Appendix to this Newsletter. If you would like to read more of these I will reproduce them in future Newsletters.

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On Sunday morning 4 September there a special service was arranged at Potterhanworth to celebrate the first anniversary of the dedication of the bells and to celebrate village life and the community. All the different organisations and groups in the village were invited to attend. Afterwards there were refreshments and the local band rang the first peal on the bells with a local band. Many congratulations to all the band for this outstanding achievement and especially fifteen-year-old Rachel Woodcock who was ringing her first peal and to Jayne Palmer who hadn't rung a peal for 20 years. Three members of the Woodcock family took part – Yvonne (mother) Rachel (daughter) and son Christopher who conducted.

Especially remembered were Libby Bailey to who the third bell is dedicated, Sue Scouller to whom the fourth bell is dedicated and Molly Applewhite whose birthday it would have been.

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In September the Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths arranged a tour for overseas ringers. I was able to meet ringers from Australia, Canada, Germany, New Zealand, South Africa and USA in Nottingham at the ASCY country meeting on 17 September and again the following day when they rang at the Cathedral, St Giles and Stow. It was good to put faces to many whose names I had come across over the years.

## *Annex*

### ***Belfrymanship (Or Manners Makyth Man)***

by Rodney B Meadows

From *The Ringing World* of 23rd February 1951.

Belfrymanship is defined as the Art of being "Top Man" in the belfry. There are "rabbits" in every tower; you need never be one of them. In fact, as a belfryman, you should seldom fail to inspire awe and respect whenever you cross the threshold. In introducing this subject I gladly acknowledge the pioneer work of S. Potter in the allied spheres of Lifemanship and Gamesmanship, and wish to explain that to compress so vast a subject as Belfrymanship into this small compass forces me at the moment to confine this article to what are little more than random jottings.

First, let us consider the belfryman's entry into a strange tower. The welcome is nearly always courteous: "What would you like to ring?" Stop this nonsense with, "Oh, I'll fill in for anything" or, if definitely aggressive at the start, "Anything suits me. I am quite happy with rounds provided they are well struck". (You know full well that for some reason they seldom are). This draws attention to your superiority at once and puts you as it were "one up". But a warning is necessary at this point that this opening can sometimes come unstuck. The locals are not always so docile. The following exchange illustrates one possibility:-

"What would you like to ring?"

"Don't let me upset the routine. I'll just fill in"

"Well, if you don't mind my saying so, you are the least good, of those here tonight, so we had better fit in with you, hadn't we?"

Though even this drastic cutting of the knot was not the end of the matter. The visitor promptly asked for Cambridge Major, and the locals found that they did not have a band. But fortune is not always so genial when it comes to regaining the initiative.

When selecting your bell, choose a large rather than a small one. There is a theory that little bells must "ring round" big ones. This means in practice that the little ones are, in the absence of any obvious cause, blamed for indifferent striking.

Always be on the lookout for the faults of others. You can, of course, become a Hisser. The disease is catching. One big Hisser in a band breeds several little hissers. It is a form of self-defence, the non-hissers being, as it

were by definition, hissed at. When everybody hisses the ringing will no doubt reach an acme of perfection. But then there will presumably be no need to hiss. The belfryman requires a better weapon. More subtle is the gesture of stretching out the arm and hand horizontally and making slight but majestic waves upwards or downwards. This indicates to the person at whom you gesticulate that there are slight but distinct imperfections in his striking, audible and painful to you (but not to him), which he will please adjust at once. The downward motion is the more effective, suggesting, as it does, the patting of a tolerated but misguided dog. The victim has no redress. He is probably having trouble with his bell anyway, and to retaliate by imitating the gesture will be fatal or, at best futile. He can only try next time to lure his tormenter onto a difficult bell and pray that the rope will slip wheel.

Good striking is a matter of cohesion and mutual confidence within the band. Personalities do not dominate good striking, but only in the mess-ups. So, when the ringing becomes at all shaky, hasten the process by rasping, in the most vinegary tone you can muster, "watch your striking". This commits you to nothing and can be devastating. I am thinking of trying it out on the dance floor, when things are not going well: "Watch your dancing, dear".

For defensive purposes an impassive countenance should be cultivated. One distinguished ringer always used to betray his mistakes by turning red in the face. This was eventually pointed out to him and, like a good belfryman, he cured it, though I believe an operation was necessary. Now he never seems to go wrong. But one defends best by attacking. Particularly in ringing on the larger numbers of bells, when (as one of the foremost exponents of Belfrymanship so beautifully described Stedman Cinques going amiss) trouble begins to spread like a wet patch on the ceiling, then is your time to act. "You're too high" is a fair-sounding piece of useless advice, just the means to upset the conscientious dodger, who knows exactly where he should be, but has no one to dodge with. It induces panic and adroitly shifts the blame from yourself when trouble threatens. And, since the topic of useless advice has cropped up, the purely attacking functions of this must not be overlooked. It has even been used by belfryman against belfryman with good effect. If you are faced by a tough adversary who persists in remaining "one up" and will not go wrong, tell him something that he obviously knows already e.g. "You're 6th place bell" or "Two blows and lead", or "In slow next time". In racking his brains for a suitably crushing retort, he will probably forget what he is doing.

When asked to call a touch, remember that you thereby become ex-officio "Top Man". All that is necessary is to preserve the status quo. A novice of Belfrymanship (and of conducting) once called a bob in Stedman Caters while in 4-5 and made it there himself. The ringing fired its way to a standstill, and in the ensuing discussion, the novice found two culprits and argued them into accepting the blame - and in all innocence too. Poor conducting this, but good Belfrymanship. It was myself, anyway.

Sometimes it does pay to show the white flag. This can bring enormous dividends. A sharp dispute between two members of a North Country Association over an unsuccessful touch of Double Norwich, that seemed likely to end, if not in blows, at any rate in refusal to ring together again, was once sweetly resolved by a lady member of the band, well versed in Belfrymanship, who confessed that it was all her fault. The response was electric. By the end of the evening one had asked her to stand in a peal, the other was taking her out to dinner.

One final hint on the practical aspect of Belfrymanship: close your eyes intently when dodging or assume the air of one whose attention encompasses place-making, dodging, leading and, in fact, all the bells work at once. This gives your dodging partners the humble feeling of being interviewed in an outer office on a matter of minor importance. They will then meekly accept the blame for any clashes.

Belfrymanship is not, one need hardly add, confined to the ringing chamber. In pubs and cafes and places where they talk, keep on top of the discussion. There are some who, particularly if not feeling lively or energetic, employ the Super Plain Man approach: "I know that sort of thing is all very well, but just give me a good-going six-bell tower and some enthusiastic learners and I am quite content teaching them plain hunting". These tactics succeed only against feeble or exhausted opposition. Several replies are available, the following being reasonably terse: "You did say enthusiastic, didn't you? No, the belfryman should not fight shy of theoretical discussion. Learn up the technical terms. Import "Q Sets" into the conversation whenever a depth charge is called for. Casual mention of "In Course Singles," too, can often freeze a promising discussion among weaker brethren and leave you with the field free to air your own pet views. The use of "Grid Analysis" for this purpose is not recommended. You may be asked to enlarge upon it, and lucidity is not the most effective means of being impressive. You are trying to clear the stage, not to clear the discussion.

And now as letters to *The Ringing World* so incongruously conclude, good wishes to all. And may you go on making unnecessary enemies.

