



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/lincsbell/frame.html>

Newsletter No 4

Acting Editor – John R. Ketteringham

February 2006

Any opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Guild Officers or represent Guild policy. Because the Newsletter is published on the Guild website any email addresses are published in a form which may help to reduce the possibility of 'Spam'. Therefore when using these addresses '-at-' must be replaced with '@'. This Newsletter is published on the first day of May, August, November and February. Contributions are welcome and are published at the editor's discretion. If any amendments are made the contributor will be consulted. Contributions need to be with the Editor four weeks before the date of publication to allow for editing etc before checking by the Guild Master.

Betty and John Cellett

Betty and John moved just before Christmas to live in Towcester. John was President of the Eastern Branch as well as being a regular Service ringer at the Stump. He was also instrumental in helping to teach new recruits and will be very greatly missed. As President of the Eastern Branch he and Betty hosted Garden Parties at their home – most recently in August 2005 to celebrate their Golden Wedding when over £1100 was raised for the Eastern Branch Belfry Repair Fund. Shortly before their departure from Boston farewell gifts were handed over to them on behalf of the Eastern Branch by Ben and Daniel Meyer from Alford and on behalf of the ringers at the 'Stump' by one of the band, Frankie Lee. Photographs can be seen on the Eastern Branch web site <http://www.eccentrix.com/members/bellringing/newsletter.htm> We all wish Betty and John well in their new home.

Mrs Kathleen Crowder – A Personal Tribute

When Kathleen Fell married Arthur Crowder in 1939 she became a member of a long established family of farmers in Barrow-on-Humber. The Crowders have been bellringers at Holy Trinity church for at least five generations and so it is not surprising that Kathleen was soon persuaded to learn. Ever since the restoration and augmentation of Barrow bells in 1953 this excellent eight has attracted ringers for peal attempts, outings and meetings from a wide area and Kathleen's hospitality became legendary. With Kathleen and Arthur and their children Michael, Margaret and James all ringing, there was a good band at Barrow which rang twice on a Sunday for many years and also practised on a Thursday. Barrow and the Crowder family became well known in the bellringing fraternity not only in Lincolnshire but further afield. Kathleen and Arthur's services to bellringing was recognised when Honorary Life Membership of the Guild was conferred upon them. Kathleen died on Sunday 9 October 2005 at the age of 91 just a week after her 66th wedding anniversary.

Apart from bellringing Kathleen took part very fully in village life and the undoubted affection in which she was held was demonstrated by the very large attendance at the funeral service. The bells were rung half-muffled after the service and two days later a quarter-peal was rung at Kirton-in-Lindsey conducted by Michael in a new method which was named Crowder Surprise Major in Kathleen's memory. It was a privilege and pleasure to have known Kathleen Crowder who in her own way did so much for bellringing.

Lincolnshire Bells and Bellfopunders

An update to the above book can now be downloaded from <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/john.ketteringham/books.htm>. Only three copies remain of the reprint. The first print is already a collector's item advertised on the net at £75!

Guild AGM

10 am Holy Communion in the Ringers' Chapel at the Cathedral. 11 am. Meeting in St Giles Church Hall
12.15 p.m. Lunch followed by Inter-Branch eight bell Striking Competition and open towers in the area.
4 pm Ringing at the Cathedral.
5.30 pm Evensong at the Cathedral followed by ringing also at the Cathedral.

Editorial

I have never been an admirer of those who cling on to office for many years. I take the view that one runs out of steam and early enthusiasm can evaporate. Often the excuse is that 'no one wants to do it'. The fact is, of course, no one wants to upset a sitting tenant by standing against them. I have in mind a particular case (nothing to do with ringing) where a person clung on to office when there was a younger person who would have been ideal for the job but eventually he moved on to higher things whilst the other person died in office. I don't intend to do that and I have now left the Redundant Churches Uses Committee where I have served as Bells Adviser to the Diocesan Furnishings Officer for over twelve years. Finding uses for redundant bells has been quite hard work but it has given me a great sense of achievement when I have been able to arrange for redundant bells to be used in an augmentation or other project.

Please forgive me for including here a personal 'thank you' to Dot and Phil Mason, Betty and Mick Stracey, Margaret Parker and John Underwood for encouraging me to ring a 720 of Bob Minor on the Branston 'Pots' - my first changeringing since 1988. I'm afraid a quarter was too much for me but just ringing changes after so long meant a lot to me.

I am also grateful for the messages of support and good wishes I have received in connection with the Newsletter - these are very much appreciated. Best wishes to you all for 2006.

Christmas Bells

The Winter edition of *This England* contains an article entitled *English Change Ringing*. Although the name of the author escapes me I do know that the intention was that this article should lead up to the recent Roadshow! In connection with the article the editor decided to publish a poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson under the above title. I had some difficulty in finding the poem but eventually discovered that it was in fact Stanza 28 of *In Memoriam*. Most readers will know the Stanza which begins 'Ring out Wild Bells' but I have to admit I did not know of the verses which I have reproduced below :

1.
The time draws near the birth of Christ :
The moon is hid; the night is still ;
The Christmas bells from hill to hill
Answer each other in the mist.

2.
Four voices of four hamlets round
From far and near, on mead and moor,
Swell and fail, as if a door
Were shut between me and the sound:

3
Each voice four changes on the wind,
That now dilate, and now decrease,
Peace and goodwill, goodwill and peace
Peace and goodwill, to all mankind.

4
This year I slept and woke with pain,
I almost wish'd no more to wake,
And that my hold on life would break
Before I heard those bells again :

5
But they my troubled spirit rule,
For they controll'd me when a boy;
They bring me sorrow touch'd with joy,
The merry merry. Bells of Yule.

Tennyson mentions four hamlets and it would seem he is recalling his time at Somersby when a boy. He was born at Somersby in 1809 and his home was there until 1837. Perhaps he chimed the two fifteenth century bells at the church where his father was vicar. There are a number of churches within a short distance of Somersby and the four hamlets are not easy to positively identify. Harrington was probably one of them as the three bells all by Thomas Mears were installed in 1814. The three bells at Tetford appear to have been rehung by James Harrison in 1794 and the six bells at Hagworthingham were restored by James Briant and John Caborn in 1802. The bells at South Ormsby were augmented to five in 1757 when a new frame was installed by James Harrison I. Unfortunately these bells are no longer ringable and Hagworthingham bells have been transferred to Welbourn. If they had still been available it would have been interesting to have tested my theory that these were the bells which Tennyson could hear from Somersby!

News from the World of Bellingring

I have had an interesting communication from Wayne Ansell who rings at Kirton in Holland. He said he had been watching a BBC4 programme about illuminated manuscripts which featured the Macclesfield Psalter. Wayne said that the manuscript depicted a Rabbit walking in front of a procession ringing two handbells. Wayne comments "This brought to mind the way in Lincolnshire we call novice ringers 'Rabbits'".

It was customary to ring a handbell in front of a funeral procession and this is illustrated in the Bayeaux Tapestry where one of the scenes is of the funeral of Edward the Confessor. Why a rabbit is depicted in the Macclesfield Psalter is unclear. My Chamber's Dictionary says the term 'Rabbit' is used to describe describe a poor performer in a sport or game! Apologies to the Central Branch 'Rabbits'.



In 1993 Michael and Betty Stracey arranged a Quiz for the Guild Festival. This proved so popular that every year since they have arranged a similar event in November for the Central Branch. This year the Quiz took place in the recently refurbished Church Hall at St Giles and was a joint event with the Up Hill Churches. We had a most enjoyable evening and we are very grateful to Mick and Betty for their hard work. Nettleham won the trophy for the ringers and St Peter in Eastgate came first of the Up Hill Parishes.



I don't exactly envy the two ringers who rang the record length of minimus (24, 000 changes) on 17 November at Portsmouth Cathedral on anklungs. Rather more noteworthy perhaps was the record peal of 22,400 Spliced Surprise Major in 10 hours 48 minutes at Loughborough Bell Foundry on 28 October. David Brown rang the tenor to this peal and the next day rang in my birthday peal at the Cathedral! He was rather tired afterwards!



The Old Church at Walesby has always been a popular venue for peal attempts and outings but the eight bells have been out of action for the last three years owing to structural problems. Fortunately through the fund raising efforts of the Friends of Walesby Old Church and Walesby Parish Council these have now been put right and it was possible to ring the bells for the Northern Branch Candlelit Carol Service on 10 December.



I understand that St Peter at Gowts Lincoln bells are not being rung at present because masonry falling from the tower inside the church.



Branston are hoping to install two floors in the tower making a meeting room on the lower floor and a ringing room above. The rope guides will then be obsolete and it has been suggested that these be installed at Metheringham.

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.

2006

4	February	Eastern Branch	AGM Ingoldmells	3.30 pm
4	February	Elloe Deaneries Branch	AGM Surfleet	3.30 pm
11	February	Central Branch	Bassingham	2.30 – 4 pm
18	February	West Lindsey Branch	Belton	230 – 5 pm
25	February	Southern Branch	Uffington (TBC)	3-5pm Plain/Surprise Minor
4	March	Northern Branch	Laceby	2 – 5 pm
4	March	Eastern Branch	Boston 6.30pm to 8.45pm.	Stedman and Plain Hunt Caters.
11	March	Central Branch	Eagle	230 – 4 pm
18	March	West Lindsey Branch	Gainsborough	630 – 9 pm To be confirmed
25	March	Joint Surprise Major Practice	Kirton Lindsey	7 – 9 pm
25	March	Southern Branch	Horbling	Workshop 2-5pm
1	April	Eastern Branch	Raithby 6.30 - 7.30pm; West Keal 7.45 - 9pm.	
8	April	Central Branch	Wellingore	
16-22	April	Southern Branch	QUARTER PEAL WEEK	
22	April	West Lindsey Branch	Bottesford – Ringing, Supper and Quiz	
1	May	West Lindsey Branch	Outing to Hull area	
6	May	Eastern Branch	Friskney Striking Competition 3pm Draw, 4.30pm Service, 5pm Tea, 5.45 Business Meeting followed by Evening Ringing till 9pm.	

13	May	Central Branch	'Rabbits' day at Thorpe on the Hill	
20	May	Southern Branch	Corby Glen (TBC)	Afternoon ringing, service
			Irnham	Meeting, tea & Striking Comp
20	May	West Lindsey Branch	Haxe	630 – 9 pm.

If you are interested in attending any of the above please check with the Ringing World or the appropriate Branch Secretary :

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 Cambridge, Yorkshire Lincolnshire, London, Littleport Little and Bristol. Spliced Cambridge, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Note :- Littleport Little will be a method to help us all to progress to Bristol Royal and further as five leads are Bristol Major. A small donation will be required to cover tower donations. Contact – Phil and Dot Mason. 01522 796079.

11	February	East Retford	23 cwt	11 March	Newark	31 cwt.
8	April	Boston	22 cwt	13 May	Saltby	12 cwt
10	June	Surfleet	12 cwt			

Joint Surprise Major Practices

Occasional Surprise Major Practices are arranged between the Northern, Central and West Lindsey Branches. If you are interested in supporting these contact the Branch Secretaries for details but do please 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. Dates where known are included in Diary Dates above

Midweek Ringing

On the first Tuesday in each month a practice is held at **Dunholme** starting at 2.00 pm. On the third Tuesday in each month a practice is held at **Stow** commencing at 230 p.m. Refreshments at the Underwood's for which we are all very grateful follow the practice at Stow.

21 February	Lincolnshire and Superlative Surprise Major	Stow
7 March	Chester Surprise Minor	Dunholme
21 March	Bristol Surprise Major	Stow
4 April	Norwich Surprise Minor	Dunholme
18 April	Rutland and Pudsey Surprise Major	Stow
2 May	Cambridge, Primrose, Ipswich and Norfolk Surprise Major	Dunholm
16 May	London Surprise Major	Stow
30 May	Away Day – Venue to be arranged	

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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

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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.

STOP PRESS I understand the new ring of six for Hackthorn is to be dedicated by the Bishop of Lincoln on Sunday 23 April at 11 am by the Bishop of Lincoln.