



LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Guild Officers

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

To contact any of the above please consult the Annual Report
or visit the Guild website at <http://ldgcb.org.uk/>

Newsletter No 10

Editor – Vacant

August 2007

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.

The future of the Guild Newsletter

Keith Buckingham who was my predecessor as Guild Master said in the first issue of the Guild Newsletter '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'.

Keith continued : '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'.

I agree with what Keith said above and am very grateful that John has ensured that the Newsletter has appeared quarterly for the last two years. However, in April John said that he wished to hand over the Editorship and an appeal was made at the AGM for a replacement. No one has yet come forward and John kindly agreed to produce this 10th edition. I would be most grateful if all members would give the problem of finding a new Editor urgent consideration. It would be a great shame if the Newsletter was to cease publication.

Sue Faull, Guild Master

Keith N Buckingham

It was with great sadness that we heard the news of the tragic death of Keith in a car accident on Wednesday 25th July.

Keith was active in the Guild over many years, holding numerous Branch and Guild offices, culminating in his election as Master of the Lincoln Guild in 2002. He was enormously proud of this post which he carried out with great enthusiasm and dedication. He relinquished the post when he and his wife Sue moved to Shropshire in 2005 and they were much missed throughout the county.

Keith's friendship and sense of humour were greatly appreciated by many ringers and our thoughts are with Sue and their families at this terrible time. SF

Vaughan Patrick Evans 1939 - 2007

Vaughan or "Taff" was born on St. Patrick's Day in Newark. It was when the family moved to Branston near Lincoln in 1955 that he took up handbell ringing and later tower bell ringing.

He qualified as a Woodwork Teacher in 1961 at Grantham and joined the Saint Wulfram's Society of Change Ringers and the Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers. He died in the office of Steeple keeper; a post

he held for many years. He rang 100 peals. Many of the peal boards to be found in Saint Wulfram's Belfry were made and lettered by him. He also bound copies of the "Ringing World" for the Guild Library.

He was a regular attender for service ringing until he was diagnosed with lung cancer in July 2007 but continued to climb the belfry steps until only shortly before his death.

His loyalty, friendship, humour, and wealth of knowledge will be greatly missed in the Grantham Belfry. May he Rest In Peace.

Brian Buttery – Chairman of Saint Wulfram's Society of Change Ringers

John Cook

John Cook, Churchwarden of St Peter ad Vincula, Bottesford (Lincoln Diocese) Ringer and Treasurer of the West Lindsey Guild, died on Easter Monday, aged 62. John was a native of Scunthorpe, and was a down to earth man, who would do anything for anybody.

John was a latecomer to ringing – only in the last five or six years had his wife of 41 years, Pam, persuaded him to take some lessons. It was towards the end of the last millennium that John became instrumental in the restoration of the (then) three bells in St Peter's tower, so he thought he "ought to have a go" and began lessons at nearby Holy Trinity, Messingham.

John worked tirelessly to raise the funds required to have the three bells restored. After much hard work this came to fruition in 2000, and the three bells could then be heard again, albeit only by being chime. The project continued, however, with further fundraising so a ringing platform could be installed partway up the tower, and three new bells could be cast. These were hung in 2002. John and Pam then worked hard to bring a team of ringers together for the tower, and both rang in the first quarter (Plain Bob Doubles) on the new ring of six on 2nd March 2003 – John ringing the tenor behind. On 22nd November of the same year he then rang the tenor for the first peal on the bells with Pam, ringing the treble. He became well known amongst Lincolnshire ringers, ringing regularly in his own tower, and those of neighbouring Holy Trinity Messingham, and St Peter Scotter. He was also a regular participant in branch outings...

John was diagnosed with cancer in August of last year, and yet he refused to let it get him down. He showed amazing courage in the face of what he knew was a terminal illness, and showed a deep faith in his typically quiet no-nonsense way, that inspires many. He continued his involvement in the life of the church and insisted that he kept working until two weeks before he died. Such was his determination to continue as normal a life as possible.

John continued to ring as often as his illness would allow, and I had the great pleasure of ringing with him at my wedding in December, his smile and knowing wink (together with a joke or two about married life) adding to the occasion! Even more recently, just weeks before he died, he handed me the mantle of "steeplekeeper" for the tower and we spent a happy hour or two climbing around the bells as he instructed me in their care and maintenance, still with a spring in his step and a smile on his face.

A good friend and ambassador to ringing, John will be greatly missed by all who knew him and rang with him.

Reverend Charles Thody

The guild's sixbel and wombel simulators.

On April 21st the 6 bell simulator arrived in Stow church and David showed a group of people from across the Guild how to erect it. Visitors to the church stood and watched in amazement whilst it was going up and a number came back to listen and watch when it was tried out for the first time. The following Saturday the Simulator was put to use following the Guild striking competition at the AGM. About 70 people tried out the simulator on that day. One young girl who lives near the church was so hooked that she spent all afternoon mastering the bells. By the time it came to close up the church she was ringing her bell unaided in rounds.

The following Monday and Tuesday afternoons pupils from the nearby Primary School came to try out the simulator. Following a short introductory talk about the history of bells and bellringing, the 28 pupils were split into three groups. One group were taught to handle a bell on the simulator, whilst another group played tunes on belle plates and the third group rang rounds and queens, and "lapped" changes on handbells. Each group swapped activity after about 25 minutes. All the activities were designed to give instant success and kept them very busy. They all had the chance to ring both handstroke and backstroke and a few quicker ones were able to ring both strokes together within their time.

Teachers and pupils were very grateful for the experience. Press photographers and a journalist visited the event which led to some nice publicity in the local papers. The nine ringers who helped out over the two days felt that it had been very worthwhile and that the format could easily be repeated at future events

Since the AGM the Sixbel Simulator has spent 2 weeks at Lincoln Cathedral where it was used for the Church Schools' Festival. Year 6 pupils from all over the County spent a day at the Cathedral taking part in various activities, one of which was spending an hour learning to ring on the Simulator. Nearly 100 pupils had this opportunity, many being able to handle a "bell" on their own by the end of their session. We had many interesting comments left in the visitors book by the youngsters. The Sixbel simulator created a huge amount of interest and has been booked by the Cathedral staff for a similar event in September and again next year at the Church Schools' Festival.

Meanwhile the Wombel has been up and down the county, making appearances at Messingham Show, Irnham for the Rotary club, Market Rasen Racecourse for the Guides and Brownies Festival, Sutton St Edmund Church fete and Welbourn for ringing workshops at their village fete.

An item will shortly be put on the Guild web site giving further details about the Wombel and Sixbel simulators and arrangements for booking the equipment. Contact Sue Faulk or Ian Till to discuss an event.

News from the World of Belling

A new **Ringers' Hymn** was composed for the dedication service of the new ring of 12 at Holy Trinity church, New York. Words and music can be found here <http://www.cccbr.org.uk/music/newringershymn.pdf>

I'm pleased to be able to report that work has started on the tower at **Market Rasen**. It is hoped that ringing will re-commence in time for Christmas.

The **Eastern Branch Barbeque** held at Sibsey Trader Mill has become something of a Guild institution. On 7 July after ringing during the afternoon about 80 people from the Central, West Lindsey and Elloe Deaneries Branches joined friends in the Eastern Branch for a superbly organised meal during the first rain free day for some time! This event is a marvellous means of meeting up with friends from around the Guild. As well as the food and drink there was a Raffle and Quiz and overall a total of around £400 was raised for the Branch Bell Repair Fund.

Congratulations to the three handbell ringers who on 6 May rang a peal of 72,000 Treble Dodging Minor in 100 methods. The peal took 24 hours 9 minutes and is the **longest peal ever rung**. I doubt if this record will be beaten for a very long time. Phil Earis who rang 1-2 learned to ring at Market Deeping and rang the majority of his early peals with the LDG before going up to Cambridge. For details and a photograph click here <http://ldgcb.org.uk/news/latest/longestpealever.php>

St Peter's Church Barton on Humber was reopened on 24 May after almost thirty years after a long period of archaeological excavation, conservation, repair and interpretation Tourism Project. The eight bells, which are now rung from the ground floor, were rung by Barton ringers with assistance from Lincoln and Stow. St Peter's is a very important Saxon Church – a full report and photograph can be found here <http://ldgcb.org.uk/news/latest/bartonstpeter.php>

You might be surprised to learn that **Skegness** in the 1930s had ten bells! If you would like to know more about this click here <http://ldgcb.org.uk/library/articles/skegness/skegness.php>

Those of you who have a copy of **Lincolnshire Bells and Bellfounders** might like to know that Amendment List No 2 is now available. This and previous Amendment Lists can be downloaded from the following web page <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/john.ketteringham/books.htm>

Congratulations to the band all of whom had attained or were about to attain the **age of 75** who rang a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor at Wragby on 4 June. For full details and a photograph please click here <http://ldgcb.org.uk/news/latest/wragbyseniorband.php>

Alford and Willoughby young ringers raised £400 on **Red Noise Day for Comic Relief**. Congratulations!! Photographs are on this web page <http://ldgcb.org.uk/news/latest/rednose2007.php>

Finally, congratulations to **Colin Turner** of Milton, Oxfordshire who has recently rung his 5000 peal! He is the first person to reach this total. The Lincolnshire connection is that when Milton bells were remodelled recently five of the old bells were transferred to Hackthorn and Colin and his wife were present at the dedication of the new ring at Hackthorn. For a photograph of the band click here [photo moved]

Rabbits at Eagle

One of the highlights in the Central Branch Diary for me is the Rabbits Ringing Competition which this year took place on Spring Bank Holiday Monday at Eagle. Although the weather was wet and windy, nearly forty ringers and friends braved the elements. Those not ringing were able to try and find the answers to a quiz with clues in the church and churchyard which had been devised by Sue and Gordon Kobish.

After an excellent tea in the Village Hall provided by the Eagle bellringers and friends the results of the ringing competition were announced by the judge, Chris Woodcock. Chris had obviously gone to a great deal of trouble and gave a full and detailed account of each team's performance. He said that it had been a very close competition with a good standard of ringing from all the teams and chocolate rabbits were given out as prizes! The quiz was won by Stan Underwood, a selection of limericks was read out and the raffle was drawn. To conclude the day, a number of people took part in the ever-popular and enjoyable Beetle Drive. Thank you again to Eagle and all concerned for hosting the event and thank you too to everyone who took part and helped make the day so enjoyable.

Central Council - Cheltenham 2007

I should have guessed ... that, after one of the shortest meetings on record last year, this year's would be one of the longest, I should have guessed ... that the personal attacks that were made (and defused) last year would surface again in 2007.

I should have guessed ... that all those Council members who identified themselves in Philip Earis' article in the R.W. would do their utmost to continue to epitomise all that he thought wrong with the Council.

So, what will people remember about the Whit Bank Holiday in 2007? That England won a Test Match? Yes, the announcement of that late on Monday afternoon earned the biggest round of applause of the day.

That it was an awful cold and wet weekend? Yes, and that atmosphere seemed to pervade the meeting which largely lacked its usual warmth and humour.

The venue was excellent and the first hour showed no sign of what was to follow. The usual preliminaries were got through, including the election of Honorary Members, in which Judith Rogers came near the top of the poll.

The first of the motions before Council - to establish a Ringing Foundation - had been well trailed in the R.W. and there had been a good exposition and a serious debate at the Open Meeting on the preceding afternoon.

The debate in the council was to the point; serious doubts were expressed about whether the Foundation would achieve the aims set for it, but there was agreement that "nothing venture, nothing gain" and the motion was overwhelmingly carried. The difficulty of the task facing the Trustees had been expressed during the debate; realisation of this seemed to have hit home and, of the 15 people who on Sunday had expressed a willingness to be nominated, 7 had withdrawn when time came to elect them. (Note : Robin Heppenstall was elected a Trustee).

So far, so good.. but things went rapidly downhill for the next 1½ hours.

The next motion was a follow-on from 2006; "that subs paid to the Council by Guilds/Associations shall be proportional to their membership (at a figure of 10p per member). This would have the effect of reducing the subs for smaller societies and increasing them for larger ones, but the maximum amounts were small and it was pitiful to hear the representative of a Guild with a membership of 1400 paying a sub of £8 (£2.50 for senior citizens and junior members) saying that the increase of £40 in their C.C. sub would make them consider withdrawing from it. After about 30 minutes the motion was put and narrowly defeated.

The next motion was also a follow-on from 2006 and was an attempt to help the efforts of quarter-pealers. However, the motion had been poorly drafted and after 40 minutes of needless debate the Council moved to next business without a vote.

Unfortunately, next business was the motion to abolish the committee for redundant bells - another follow-on from 2006 and again bringing out the worst of the personality clashes. The motion brought together an unholy alliance, with the motion being proposed by Laith Reynolds, epitomising all that Philip Earis objects to about the Council, and seconded by Philip himself.

Claim and counter-claim were bandied across the room in a pantomime-like fashion ("O, yes, you did; O, no, I didn't") but eventually the motion was lost and the committee lives on.

Lunch was taken half-way through this debate and as we left the building comments were being made about how far off the committee reports were when we are usually well into them by lunch-time.

In fact, it was about 3.45 pm when Council finally started to consider the committee reports; I have said before that this is where the bulk of Council's work is done and the reports are worthy of more discussion time; this year the reports of 17 committees were debated and approved in 1½ hours - an average of 5½ minutes each!!

The reports are all printed in full in the "RW"; mention should be made of the results of the pilot survey by the Ringing Trends committee, showing the decline in the number of young ringers, and the information about the extension of the survey to all Guilds/Associations; the comment by the Tower Stewardship committee of the need for ringers to have full and proper lines of communication with incumbents, churchwardens and PCCs, who are the authorities who own and are responsible for the church buildings and their bells; the imminent publication by the Peals Compositions committee of a collection of compositions specifically for handbells, and of the intention to publish pages of quarter peal compositions in the "RW" from time to time. And so we came to the end of a long day.

Perhaps the best humour of the day came right at the end when Council was informed of the arrangements being made for the 2008 meeting. "Please come to Newcastle, but increase your life cover first".

Whether that was a warning about Geordie nightlife, or a reflection of the day's events, who knows. ARH.

A Cautionary Tale

The new ropes were ordered at the beginning of last year and we were told, with apologies, that we would have to wait until November for delivery. We decided we could make the old ones last till then, but November came and went, but still no ropes. We were promised them definitely in time for Christmas, but without success. Then the new deadline of February passed with a firm promise that we should have them in time for Easter. The pinch of salt with which we took all these promises was getting to be the size of a spoonful when we rang again on the Monday before Holy Week to be told 'your ropes are on the ropewalk at this very minute as we speak.' Imagine our delight (and surprise), then, when they really did come by the end of the week. Eagerly we unpacked them after Sunday morning ringing and draped them over a rail to let them hang out. Early in Holy Week our new steeple keeper and his deputy put them on ready for Easter.

This was our big mistake. We should have waited just a little longer, but after so long a wait you can understand our impatience. The snag was, as it was Holy Week, we had no chance to try them out before we rang half-muffled as the congregation were leaving the Good Friday service. What a disaster! Although in theory the lengths matched those of the old ones, three ropes were so short that only our ringer with the very long reach could get them anywhere near the balance. They were so stiff that they tended to wander off on their own and even among the most experienced of us catching the sally became a game of hide and seek. To

compound the problem, as the bells were half muffled, it was impossible to hide the chaos of our ringing. I'm afraid we rather spoiled a solemn occasion. Since then the ropes have now softened and the lengths adjusted and we are very happy with them.

Our advice to you is when you next get new ropes make sure you have their first try on a practice night to give them chance to bed in before service ringing - but if ours last as long as we hope they will, we shall probably have forgotten by then!

On the subject of ropes, we have recently had a spate of relatively new ropes breaking without warning signs being shown. They have all been found to have been rather powdery and we wonder if the very dry weather, and the increasing heating of belfries has taken the nature out of the fibre. What is the answer to this?

Reproduced from LDG Central Branch Newsletter No 57 June 2007

Diary Dates

11 August	Central Branch	Branston – Ringing, Treasure Hunt and Woodside Campanile		
19 August	Northern Branch	Lincoln Cathedral – Service Ringing (meet 1415)		
25 August	Central Branch	Washingborough – Surprise Major Practice	1030 - 1200	
26 August	West Lindsey Branch	Lincoln Cathedral – Service Ringing (meet 1415)		
1 September	Eastern Branch	Croft 6 bells 11 cwt. Learners practice 1800-2030		
8 September	Guild Striking Competition			
8 September	Central Branch	Fulbeck	6 bells 12 cwt	Training morning/Onion Comp
15 September	Elloe Deaneries Branch	Lutton	6 bells 5 cwt	Branch Practice 10 - 1130
15 September	West Lindsey Branch	Haxey	6 bells 19 cwt	
		Owston Ferry	6 bells 12 cwt	
22 September	Central Branch	Washingborough – Surprise Major Practice	1030 - 1200	
25 September	Northern Branch	Tealby	6 bells 11 cwt	1900 - 2100
29 September	Joint Surprise Practice	Burton Stather	8 bells 12 cwt	1900 – 2100
6 October	Eastern Branch	Coach Outing – Beverley District.		

7-13 October	Eastern Branch	Quarter Peal Week	
13 October	Central Branch	Lincoln Cathedral 12 bells 24 cwt	1900 - 21.00
20 October	West Lindsey Branch	outing to Hull	
20 October	Central Branch	Washingborough – Surprise Major Practice	1030 - 1200
3 November	Eastern Branch	Wigtoft 6 bells 8 cwt	0930 - 1100
10 November	Central Branch	Quiz	
12 November	Northern Branch	Middle Rasen 6 bells 7 cwt	1900 - 2100
24 November	Central Branch	Washingborough – Surprise Major Practice	1030 - 1200
24 November	Joint Surprise Practice	Caistor 8 bells 14 cwt	1900 – 2100

If you are interested in attending any of the above please check with the *Ringing World* or the appropriate Branch Secretary. In the case of the Surprise Major Practices at Washingborough telephone 01522 820470

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 : Ian Dawson 01476 550968

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 (unless otherwise noted below). 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 August No practice

8 September No practice

13 October Newark 10 bells 31 cwt

10 November Grantham 32 cwt.

8 December No practice

Midweek Ringing

7 August	Dunholme	Bourne and Hull	1400 – 1530
21 August	Stow	Pudsey	1430 - 1600
4 September	Dunholme	Cambridge Primrose Ipswich Norfolk	1400 – 1530
18 September	Stow	Cheltenham (8ths place Pudsey)	1430 – 1600
2 October	Dunholme	Beverley and Surfleet	1400 – 1530
16 October	Stow	Superlative	1430 – 1600
30 October	Away Day	To be arranged	
6 November	Dunholme	Stamford and Rossendale	1400 – 1530
20 November	Stow	Harleston (8ths place Superlative)	1430 – 1600
4 December	Dunholme	Durham and York	1400 – 1500
18 December	Stow	Spliced Surprise Major	1430 - 1600

The idea of the above programme is to try and advance our ringing but not to frighten people away We will still continue to ring our usual methods and include the new methods wherever possible

South Lincolnshire Group

The **South Lincolnshire Group** meets on the third Wednesday of each month, except in December. Ringing is from 14.30 pm until 1600 pm. 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. The organisers are Canon E. Orland (01778 380724) and Ron. Noon (01775 722671)

15 August Edenham (10 – 15 cwt) Lincolnshire Royal and Stedman Caters

19 September Lutton (6 – 5 cwt) Norfolk and St Clements

Lunch The Olde Black Lion Gedney

Holbeach (8 – 14 cwt) Yorkshire and DNCB

17 October Silk Willoughby (6 – 9 cwt) Cambridge and Little Bob

21 November Spalding (8 – 14 cwt) Superlative and Grandsire

Other Practices

Occasional Surprise Major Practices are arranged in the Northern 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.

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. For more information contact Jim Sutherland on 01673 858492

The **Ladies** have their own practice on the first Wednesday of each month starting at 1330 pm. If you are eligible and would like to attend please contact Revd Stephanie Prosser rhysprosser06-at-aol.com for details of the venue.

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.

Not the Editorial

Yes – its me again – very reluctantly I can assure you! I'm surprised that from a Guild membership of around 760 there is no one who is prepared to take on the Editorship.

I know some of you find it a nuisance being reminded periodically to submit corrections, additions and other copy but any worthwhile Editor has to do this. Deadlines are published, in the case of the LDG Newsletter, at the head of every edition but still a reminder is necessary. It would have been a great help if those sending items for publication in the *Ringling World* or *Branch Newsletters* had sent copies of suitable items for publication here as well.

I have tried in this Newsletter to include reports of events which have been successful in the Branches as an aid to other Branches who might consider arranging similar events – the Central Branch Rabbits Day is a particularly good example.

I am grateful to those of you who have sent messages of appreciation – even if the Newsletter should cease publication at least the contact list will remain I hope. I believe this has been a real help in passing on urgent information.

This is definitely my last Newsletter so best wishes to you all.

Stop Press

You might find the following article which was published in a recent issue of the *Daily Telegraph* interesting : <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/portal/main.jhtml?xml=/portal/2007/07/28/nosplit/ftbells128.xml>