

West Lindsey



Branch  
Newsletter

# FEBRUARY 2008

## Who's Who?

### Branch Officers for 2008

President: [Canon Rhys Prosser](#) 01522 702427

Ringling Master: [Sue Faull](#) 01427 788092

Deputy Master: [Alison Elwess](#) 07941 106064

Secretary: [Debbie Scarf](#) 01724 764526

Treasurer: [Janet Clarke](#) 01427 616463

Guild Committee Rep: [Ian Till](#) 01724 764738

Committee members: Fred Bartle, Pam Cook, Joe Hoare,  
Melvyn Rose, Patience Thody

Junior Committee Members: Rae Todd, Chris Hoare

Please remember, this is your newsletter...

Please forward any news/stories/ideas to [Charles Thody](#) via email

### Ringling Master's report for 2007

The following is a summary of the report given to those attending the Branch AGM at Saxilby in January. It was a busy and full year, thanks to the many people who worked hard on behalf of the Branch.

**Meetings:** There was an increase in the attendance at meetings in 2007 over 2006. Most were well attended. Average attendance at meetings was 24 (29 if you include the AGM and outings). Minimum attendance 16, max 57

**Outings:** Once again Debbie organised two, which were both well attended. The May outing to the Pontefract area was a great success, with lovely bells and interesting churches to visit. The mini outing to Hull was slightly marred by the lockout in Hull but the other two towers were much enjoyed.

**Quarter peal month:** 25 Quarter peals scored with 68 different ringers and 11 different conductors, both statistics slightly up on last year.

**Quarters:** There were 7 first quarter peelers during the year: Jill and Julian Cowan, Tracey Black, Colin Betteridge, Derek Bunting, Joe Steede and Matt Hoare. Well done to them and to all those who rang "firsts" of other kinds. Joy Till rang her first quarter on handbells.

**Peals:** Only 3 branch peals this year - rung at Kirton, Stow and Bottesford. However, many peal ringing individuals rang quite a lot of peals this year with other members of the guild.

**Striking competitions:** This year West Lindsey branch came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 8 bell competition where Grandsire Triples was the test piece. It was a lean year for the branch in the 6 bell competition, with towers taking 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> places in the Cup and 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> places in the Plate. However, as usual, we fielded 4 teams for the competition.

**Young Ringers' Activity Day** with ringing, mini sports day, barbeque and camping was a tremendous success. It's very nice to see another generation of young ringers coming through and beginning to make their mark.

### **Wombel and Sixbel**

These have been used at a number of locations in the branch- The Sixbel at Stow where groups of children from the school and the Scouts have been taught to "ring". The Wombel has been at Messingham and Epworth. As a result of these activities we have gained a considerable number of recruits.

**Brigg and Springthorpe:** These branch bells are now being rung again on a regular basis, with increasing numbers of local ringers.

**Workshops:** Whilst the Sixbel was at Stow a "learning to teach" workshop was organised. We had 7 willing guinea pigs and 8 trainee teachers. They first were taught on the Sixbel simulator and then transferred their skills up onto the real things in the tower. This format worked really well, a fun day was had, learners and trainee teachers made excellent progress. The number of new learners in the Branch at the moment is a really encouraging sign, and increasing the number of people who are capable of teaching learners is crucial to future development.

A well attended handbell tune workshop was held at Messingham, which was great fun, and at least as difficult as learning a new method.

### **Other notable events:**

A second very successful Christmas social was held at Scotter/Scotton

Good additions to the bell repair fund were made through various fund raising events

Broughton ringers made the front page of the Ringing World with their links with the local Scouts for the Centenary celebrations

The birth of future bell ringers? - Francis Elwess to Alison and Tim. Dylan Waudby to Colette and Mark (Upton).

**Remembering:** John Cook and Mary Underwood. Their support and love is much missed.

## **West Lindsey Branch - Lincoln Guild - Young Ringers' Day**

### **New ringers - new friends - great potential for the future!**

Who says that ringing is a dying art and young ringers can't be recruited?

It's a pity that those who think this is the case were not at the West Lindsey Branch Young Ringers' 'Get together' in January.

Over the past year many young ringers in our area have been introduced to ringing through various events and activities, including using the Lincoln Guild Simulator with older Primary School children, introducing handbells and Belleplates into schools and churches and generally raising an awareness of ringing in the local community through contact with various groups.

We decided it would be a good idea to get some of the new ringers together during the Christmas Holidays to meet each other and make new friends. As a result twenty-seven young ringers from the West Lindsey Branch and three friends from the Northern Branch met together at Ashby Bowl for an hour of ten pin bowling. Some didn't know any of the other ringers but they soon got chatting and having fun.

Next there was an hour of ringing at Bottesford Church. As there were so many the learners were divided into two groups. One group stayed down in church for half of the time and were able to experience ringing rounds and call changes on twelve handbells and Plain Hunt by moving places. The other group rang rounds and call changes up in the tower with the more experienced youngsters supporting the less experienced. Some had never rung away from their own tower and several were only introduced to ringing during the Summer so this was a really splendid achievement!

While we waited for the chip shop chips to arrive at Messingham everyone enjoyed some active team games including one which involved one unlucky person taking a jelly baby from a pile of flour using only their teeth!

After tea there were more games before everyone went to Messingham Church and invaded the local practice. Everyone moved around a variety of activities including

Twister and other games, tune ringing on Bellplates, simple changes on handbells and just generally doing their own thing in small groups. Some even found time to do some more ringing!

This was definitely the noisiest and most active local practice ever but great fun!

Hopefully we achieved our aim of introducing our newest ringers to each other and enabling them to make new friends. Thank you to the adults who provided all the food, including the huge tins of chocolates and biscuits, helped with transport, supported the ringing and were on hand to help when needed.

## Joy Till



Daniel, Sam, Harry, James, Megan, Philip, Alex, Joe  
Rae, Chris, Sam, Matthew, Emily, Jordan, Alix, Harry  
Alex, Kate Marisa, Meghan, Matt, Kieran  
Olivia, Caitlin, Libby Becca, Ellie, Tiffany

# Young Ringers Reviews

*I had a brilliant time. I liked bowling and the hand bells were fun. Ringing at Messingham church was different but it was good because I soon got the hang of it. At Messingham Hall we had a buffet with team games and it was a lot of fun!!! – Emily 11☺*

*I had a fantastic time. I liked the hand bells and the bowling was good. Ringing at Messingham was good.-Olivia 11☺*

*I had a great time that night. The bowling was good and ringing at Messingham. I didn't realise that there are so many people who ring. The hand bells were good for learning something new-Alex 13☺*

*I had a fab time bowling also ringing on Messingham bells even if it was difficult at first because I was not used to it.-Tiffany 10☺*

*I had a great time. Bowling was great. Even if I got a rubbish score it didn't matter. Hand Bells were fun. Twister was fun because we fell on top of each other. Me and Tiffany played operation but I kept on buzzing it. I also enjoyed ringing in Messingham church. The chips were ace. The bells at Messingham were set out different to how ours are at St Peter's church. There are more people that bell ring than I thought. First we went bowling then we went to our church to ring both tower and hand bells. – Ellie 8☺*

*The bowling was a laugh. – Alexandra – Messingham*

*It was good to have made new ringing friends. – Caitlin – Messingham*

*It was a fun experience to ring the bells at Bottesford – Megan - Messingham*

## *West Lindsey ringers make music at Beverley Minster*

Richard Till approached a number of us at the AGM in January, asking if we would be prepared to help him record the inaugural performance of a composition of his. As a part of his Music degree, Richard has composed a brand new piece of music for choir, piano and, naturally, bells! It will be easy, Richard told us, you hardly need to practice it first. OK I said, where is this performance going to take place? Oh, Beverley Minster!

For those who are unaware of what hangs in the NW tower of Beverley Minster, I can tell you they are a lovely 41 cwt 10. I think we might need a practice!

So the recording date was fixed and we met at Gainsborough for a practice 2 days before the big day (thank you Gainsborough for allowing us to practice). An eight bell tower was chosen for the practice because only the front 8 will be rung at Beverley - something about a Dorian minor mode....

Richard handed out the music and then the fun began. Rounds on 1,3,4,5,7 &8, Plain hunt on these 6, then the complicated bits, 8 to stand, 7 to stand, 6 to ring 4 blows and stand, 2 joins in, 5 stands for 2 rows, relax with some plain hunt minimus on the front 4 with 5 covering, then all 8 in for some plain bob triples and stand! Phew!

Once we had learnt all the various bell combinations - which took some time I can assure you, well it did for Barbara - it became clear that bell control was the most critical thing. Could we all set our bells on demand at the appropriate places?

We met at Beverley on the appointed day. Communication between the conductor, choir, pianists and ringers (a good 100m away up a tower!) was not easy. Walkie talkies were used and Rae was chief communicator. Commands like Go, go, go and stand, stand, stand drifted between the choir stalls and the ringing chamber. It all seemed to work.

We rang the bells up and practiced our piece. John drew the short straw, the 6<sup>th</sup> had a new stretchy rope that made setting on demand, well very demanding! Nerves, of course, play a part and we all felt far worse than at a striking contest. The dress rehearsal went OK except for poor John. We heard nothing of the choir or piano, but assume they did their bits OK.

Practices over, the time had come for the one off live recording.....

Go, go, go came through the walkie talkie loud and clear and off went 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 & 8. The command tenor setting began the complicated middle section. Ian set his bell OK, I set my bell OK, all eyes were on John, YES, well done John he did it, Barbara stood for 2 blows on cue, Joy joined in on the second, and Roger, Janet and Jo remained calm throughout, as the plain hunt minimus began. Rounds, rounds, rounds told us it was time for all 8 to join in and just as we completed our course of bob triples, stand, stand, stand echoed around the ringing chamber, and everyone stood first time. Perfect timing. Well done, I think we passed the audition.

All that now remains is for us all to hear the final recording. Where's the next performance Richard, Westminster Abbey?

**Chris Turner**

# FESTIVITIES, FOOD AND FUN!

In December we saw the Christmas meeting held at Scotter. Open ringing started the proceedings and was well attended, Ian Till stepped in to take the ringing and methods were rung from call changes to spliced surprise. It was particularly pleasing to see so many of our younger members.

A candlelit service at 4.30 was led by the vicar of Scotter Mike Burson -Thomas with Charles Thody preaching with reference to the Nativity story - those that attended were challenged to see how many Carols were included within the story. I think Pam Cook was probably the winner!

The idea this year was to try and involve as many of us all as possible, to give a service with a difference. Those that attended will I am sure say that was achieved, we had a solo from Sue Colbeck (Hibaldstow), Rae Todd played his clarinet (Messingham), we were happy to have Andrew Lord from Barton, Patience (Scotter), Debbie (Scotton) and Ian (Messingham) to read a variety of readings both secular and non-secular all to show the spirit of Christmas.

We were also lucky to have the Messingham handbell ringers play a couple of medleys for us so we still had bells even in the service.

Of course Richard Till played the organ so all in all a mixture of talents for our enjoyment. Maybe next year we should form a small choir or orchestra! Let me know if you would be interested and I will organise it!

Then on to Scotton Village Hall for the all-important social. The Scarf family and Pam Cook slaved away all afternoon to produce fantastic hot turkey rolls complete with gravy and stuffing. Everyone was greeted by hot soup which was most welcome after a shall I say cool church! and of course an array of puds topped off the meal.

Games were played, music quiz testing our knowledge on TV adverts and programs which was won by a Messingham team, a marshmallow/spaghetti tower game that all the adult men who think they are engineers presumed they would win - only to be thrashed by the young ringers that just went for it! There were other games and a "secret Santa" which threw up some unusual gifts! Pam was seen to be wearing a jester's hat and I don't think she was drunk!!

All in all it was a very successful evening that even raised money for the bell repair fund through a champagne raffle won by Mike Scarf.

A great time had by all, we welcome feedback for next years and thank all those who both organised and took part.

**Patience Thody**

## **Congratulations to:**

**Joe Steede** who rang his first quarter peal at Elsham on 1/11/07. He covered to Bob Doubles

**Matt Hoare** who rang his first quarter peal on 24/10/07 at Elsham. He covered on the tenor to minimus.

**Derek Bunting** who rang his first quarter peal on 3/11/07 at Scunthorpe. He rang the treble to bob doubles with 6,7 and 8 covering.

**Rae Todd and Andrew Groves** for their first quarters on 8 bells. This took place in the same quarter at Scunthorpe.

**Rae Todd** for his first peal. This was at Broughton on Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. He rang the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7 minor methods (and got lots of blisters.)

**Chris Hoare** for his first peal of minor - he rang the treble to the peal at Broughton.

**Jo Hoare** for her first peal on 10 bells - the 3<sup>rd</sup> to PB Caters at Barrow on 20/10/7

**Stephen and Janet Clarke** on completing the "standard 8" to peals by ringing London at Stow on 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov

**Collette and Mark Waudby** on the birth of Dylan

**To all the ringers elected as members of the guild at the AGM at Saxilby.**

### *Learning to Teach - the Sixbel Simulator at Stow*

On 10<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30, 7 brand new learners and 8 trainee teachers met at Stow church where the Sixbel simulator had been housed for a couple of weeks. Whilst Chris Turner and Lizzie Olivant took the new learners up to have a look at the bells in the tower, and to show them how a bell works, the trainee teachers familiarised themselves with ringing on the simulator.

Ian Till and Sue Faull demonstrated the early stages of teaching bell handling which the trainee teachers then tried out on their learners using the simulator. There was a lot of laughter and even more progress. After about an hour and a half using the simulator, all went up into the tower, where the newly acquired skills were tried out on the real thing -

tied bells. It was very apparent that the learners and the trainee teachers had made great strides, and that the bell handling skills are easily transferred from simulator to tower bell.

Lunch - sandwiches, cakes and hot drinks was eaten up in the tower to save time and more practice on the tower bells followed. Most of the learners were starting to put both strokes together by the 3.30 finish time. We were all getting quite tired by this time, as the session had been very intensive.

All participants thought that the format of the training session had been very successful and fun. It can be daunting teaching bell handling for the first time, but trying it out on the simulator first meant that many of the fears were allayed, thus giving confidence to both learners and trainee teachers. The only criticism was that the church and tower were very cold!

It is pleasing to be able to report that our learners are making excellent progress, all are still learning! Recruitment will continue to be very high on the branch agenda. Retaining learners relies on good teaching. An increased number of experienced and confident teachers will be a great asset to the branch over the years.

#### **Participants:**

**Trainee teachers:** Pam Cook, Adam Sleight, Patience Thody, Jenny Harvey, Brenda Coley, Derek Bunting, Andrew Groves, Stewart Sleight.

**Learners:** Libbie from Upton, Kate and Rebecca from Willingham, Harry from Gainsborough, Sue Dann from Upton, Elizabeth Johnson and Michelle Britton from Brigg.