

West Lindsey



Branch  
Newsletter

Summer  
2008

## Who's Who?

Branch Officers for 2008

**President:** Canon Rhys Prosser [president@wlb.ldgcb.org.uk](mailto:president@wlb.ldgcb.org.uk) 01522 702427

**Ringling Master:** Sue Faull [brm@wlb.ldgcb.org.uk](mailto:brm@wlb.ldgcb.org.uk) 01427 788092

**Deputy Master:** Alison Elwess [dbrm@wlb.ldgcb.org.uk](mailto:dbrm@wlb.ldgcb.org.uk) 07941 106064

**Secretary:** Debbie Scarf [secretary@wlb.ldgcb.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wlb.ldgcb.org.uk) 01724 764526

**Treasurer:** Janet Clarke [treasurer@wlb.ldgcb.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@wlb.ldgcb.org.uk) 01427 616463

**Guild Committee Rep:** Ian Till 01724 764738

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

**Junior Committee Member:** Rae Todd, Chris Hoare

Please remember, this is your newsletter...  
Please forward any news/stories/ideas to Charles Thody via email  
([newsletter@wlb.ldgcb.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@wlb.ldgcb.org.uk))

## West Lindsey Branch Striking Competition

Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup> 2008 - the longest day of the year - summer! Oh really... You would be forgiven for thinking it was winter (grey skies, endless rain and jumpers all round)... as eight teams of ringers bravely converged on All Saints, Belton, for the branch striking competition.

Eight teams in total took part in the competition, well done to all of them for taking part! The Judges were particularly complimentary of all the teams, stating how pleased they were to find that eight teams had entered and that all the teams rang within their own capabilities... They also said how impressed they were at the number of young ringers who participated and how good it was that a number of learners had competed, some having taken part in their first competition!

Congratulations to the team from Gainsborough for winning! Although Gainsborough won the Guild competition in 2003, they last won the branch cup in 1972! Runners up were Messingham, with Scotter third and Willingham fourth, followed by Epworth, Upton and Stow. Our teams go forward to the Guild competition to be held in September at Welton for the Cup and Dunholme for the Plate.

Judge Sandra Rhodes presents the winners cup to Robin Heppenstall. Also pictured, Delia Heppenstall and Janet and Stephen Clarke. Team members Elizabeth Ollivant and David Fox had already gone home when the cup was presented!



# Founders Prize for the Encouragement of Young Ringers

## West Lindsey Branch Wins!

At the Central Council Meeting held in Newcastle on Bank Holiday Monday, it was announced that the West Lindsey Branch submission had been awarded the annual Founders' prize for the Encouragement of Young Ringers. There were 2 other entries but our submission was judged to be the best. This is very exciting news and a pleasing reward for the hard work that many members of the branch have put into raising the profile of ringing within their communities over the last few years.

Joy and Ian Till put the submission together which described the activities that had taken place over the last year or so- this was a long list but included: activities with schools - Messingham, Sturton, Bottesford and Gainsborough schools (Sixbel, wombel and belleplates featuring), activities at village shows eg. Epworth and Messingham, and involvement with scout / cub groups at Broughton, Willingham and Messingham. Also listed were details of social events that had been organised during the course of the year - the camping and activity day last summer, the Christmas Social and the ringing and skating mini outing in April.

The submission then detailed the measures of success. There are now more than 30 young ringers in Branch towers. Previous young ringers who are now in their late teens and early twenties continue to be a great support and are now beginning to teach the next generation. They are also organising their own activities independently. Quite a number of young ringers who were recruited through our various activities have brought along parents or siblings who are also now learning to ring.

Finally the submission had to talk about aspirations for the future. There is the obvious need to maintain the current momentum and level of enthusiasm and to try to extend this across all towers in the branch. This will mean ensuring that all towers have access to appropriate training opportunities. Continuing to develop the expertise of the older young ringers so that they can support and train new youngsters will be very important. It is hoped that the contribution made by our young ringers will be recognised and valued by the churches in which they ring.

At the time of writing we haven't heard how or when the prize (£500) will be presented. More anon!

## Willingham Bell Rehanging Quiz answers

Thank you to all who entered the Willingham Bell Rehanging quiz. In total £300 was raised toward the fund and the bells should be rehung sometime this summer. No ringers were among the winners, but here are the answers to put you out of your misery!

1 patella 2 hands 3 forehead 4 ears 5 arm 6 kidneys 7 shoulder 8 legs 9 groin 10 spine 11 iris  
12 sole 13 eyes 14 bladder 15 fist 16 digit 17 colon 18 thigh 19 adam's apple 20 shin 21 brain  
23 elbow 24 heart 25 appendix

## West Lindsey Branch of the Lincoln Guild Quarter peal month

This year's quarter peal month resulted in very similar statistics to those of last year. Altogether 24 quarters and one performance were rung in 12 towers. A total of 67 ringers were involved of whom 13 people took a share of the conducting.

There were many notable achievements, but particular praise must go to our first quarter peelers: Sue Dmochowski, Chris Harland and Bob Harrison who rang covering bells and George West who rang the treble to Bob Doubles. Just to show it wasn't a fluke, George and Bob took part in a repeat performance three weeks later. Libby Pugsley and Sue Dann took part in their first 45 minute performance. Neither have been learning to ring for very long and are making excellent progress.

Jenny Harvey and Pam Cook conducted quarters for the first time, let's hope they conduct many more. Janet Clarke conducted her first of Surprise Major. Another outstanding individual achievement was by Lizzie Olivant, who has made a very welcome return to ringing after a few years rest. She rang her first quarters of surprise minor and major.

It was lovely to see some other ringers ringing their first quarters for quite a number of years – well done to Margaret and Michael Rands, Carolyn Turner and David Cooper. Altogether there were 28 firsts of some kind or another, so the quarter peal month was a great success. Thanks are due to those people organising quarters and to those who rang in support of others.

**Belton, N Lincs.** 24 Mar 1260 Cambridge S Minor: Rae Todd 1, Elizabeth Olivant 2, Melvyn Rose 3, Janet Clarke 4, Stephen Clarke 5, Ian Till © 6 First Surprise 2

**Messingham, N Lincs.** Thistle Downe Campanile 1260 PB Doubles: Joy Till 1, Christopher Hoare 2, Michael Hoare 3, Richard Till © 4, Ian Till 5, Matthew Hoare 6 first on a ceramic ring 2,3,6

**Stow, Lincs.** 28 Mar 1260 PB Doubles (678 cover) George West 1, Stephanie Prosser 2, Margaret Pace 3, Brenda Coley 4, Chris Turner © 5, Sue Faull 6, Bob Harrison 7, John Underwood 8. First quarter peal 1,7

**Messingham, N Lincs.** 29 Mar 1320 Cambridge S: Sue Faull 1, Joanna Hoare 2, Joy till 3, Brenda Coley 4, John Underwood 5, Ian Till © 6

**Messingham, N Lincs.** 30 Mar 1260 Minor (S Oxford, PB): Tracey Black 1, Joy Till 2, Frances Thompson 3, Mike Scarf 4, Rae Todd 5, Ian Till © 6

**Gainsborough, Lincs,** 31 Mar 1280 Cambridge S Major: Delia Heppenstall 1, Elizabeth Olivant 2, David Whetton 3, Debbie Scarf 4, Janet Clarke 5, Stephen Clarke 6, Paul Caruana 7, Robin Heppenstall © 8 First S Major 2

**Stow, Lincs.** 6 Apr 1260 PB Triples: Sue Faull 1, Stephanie Prosser 2, Sheila Garner 3, John Underwood 4, Shawn Lewis 5, Mark Discombe 6, Christ Turner © 7, David Justham 8

**Bottesford, N Lincs.** 6 Apr 1320 PB Doubles: Joy till 1, Pam Cook © 2, Barbara Rand 3, Frances Thompson 4, Ian Till 5, Sue Dmochowski 6 First quarter 6, first as cond 2. Wishing Michael Whiting a quick recovery

**Gainsborough, Lincs.** 7 Apr 1260 Grandsire Triples: David Whetton 1, Delia Heppenstall 2, Elizabeth Olivant 3, Debbie Scarf 4, John Underwood 5, Janet Clarke 6, Robin Heppenstall © 7 Stephen Clarke 8 First in method 3

**Kirton in Lindsey, Lincs.** 10 Apr. 1260 Minor (Cambridge, PB,7,8 cover): Margaret Rands 1, Pam Johnson 2, Joy Till 3, Sue Faull 4, Ian Till © 5 Pat Horton 6, Michael Rands 7, Fred Bartle 8

**Belton, N Lincs.** 12 Apr. 1260 PB Minor: Angie Mackenzie 1, Melvyn Rose 2, Ian Till 3, David Cooper 4, Bryan Kitson 5, Christian Burrell© First minor and first Q for many years 4.

**Willingham by Stow, Lincs.** (14 High St) 13 Apr. 1320 Minor (Cambridge, St Clements, PB): Sue Faull 1-2, Richard Till 3-4, Ian Till ©5-6

**Messingham, N Lincs.** 13 Apr. PB Doubles: Rena Whitaker 1, Christopher Hoare 2, Andrew Lord 3, Joanna Hoare © 4, Ian Till 5, Tracey Black 6 First as cover 6

**Bottesford, N Lincs.** 13 Apr. 1272 PB Minimus (5,6 cover): Joy Till 1, Pam Cook 2, Frances Thompson © 3, Ian Till 4, Chris Harland 5, Philip Scarf 6. First quarter 5

**Gainsborough, Lincs.** 14 Apr. 1280 Oxford TB Major: David Whetton 1, Stephanie Prosser 2, Robin Heppenstall © 3, Debbie Scarf 4, Delia Heppenstall 5, Janet Clarke 6, Jonathan Swatton 7, Stephen Clarke 8 First in method 2

**Messingham, N Lincs.** Thistle Down Campanile 15 Apr, 1260 PB Doubles: Pam Cook 1, Christopher Hoare 2, Joanna Hoare 3, Ian Till 4, Ian Till © 5, Matthew Hoare 6. First on a ceramic ring 1, First quarter double handed 4/5

**Stow, Lincs.** 18 Apr. 1260 PB Doubles (6,7,8 covering): George West 1, Stephanie Prosser 2, John Underwood 3, Brenda Coley 4, Sue Faull © 5, Margaret Pace 6, David Justham 7, Bob Harrison 8

**Stow, Lincs.** 19 Apr. 1250 Yorkshire S Major: Elizabeth Olivant 1, Tom Blyth 2, Brenda Coley 3, Ian Till 4, Stephen Clarke 5, Janet Clarke © 6, John Underwood 7, Chris Turner 8 First SM 3, First SM as cond 6

**Saxilby, Lincs.** 20 Apr. 1320 PB and Grandsire Doubles: Colleen Turner 1, Emily Turner 2, Margaret Pace 3, Tom Blyth 4, David Turner © 5, David Birkett To welcome Bishop John Brown former bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf

**Willingham by Stow, Lincs.** 20 Apr 1320 PB Doubles: Laura Bates 1, Sarah Webster 2, Jenny Harvey© 3, Sue Faull 4, Mark Discombe 5, John Underwood 6 First as cond 3.

**Clayworth, Notts.** 21 Apr. 1260 St Clements College Bob Triples: Elizabeth Olivant 1, Delia heppenstall 2, Debbie Scarf 3, David Whetton 4, Janet Clarke 5, Stephen Clarke 6, Robin Heppenstall © 7, Jonathan Swatton 8 First in method by all. To mark the award to Jonathan of a bar to his Scouting Silver Acorn.

**Saxilby, Lincs.** 24 Apr. 1320 Single Oxford and PB Minor: Colleen Turner 1, Rev Stephanie Prosser 2, Alec Wilson 3, Canon Rhys Prosser 4, John Nicholson 5, Chris Rainthorpe © 6

**Upton, Lincs.** 24 Apr. 45 minutes of call changes: Libby Pugsley 1, Adam Sleight © 2, Sue Dann 3, Bob Harrison 4, Stuart Barrow 5, Brenda Coley 6 First performance by 1 and 3

**Messingham, N Lincs.** 27 Apr 1260 PB Minor: Sue Colbeck 1, Joy Till 2, Pam Cook 3, Sue Faull 4, Barbara Rand 5, Ian Till © 6 21<sup>st</sup> birthday compliment to Jemma Till.

**Stow, Lincs** 3 May 1250 Yorkshire S Major: Carolyn Turner 1, Sue Faull 2, Brenda Coley 3, Janet Clarke 4, Ian Till 5, Stephen Clarke 6, John Underwood 7, Chris Turner © 8 Prior to the Service inaugurating the Friends of Stow Minster. 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the addition of the two trebles. Get well to Debbie Scarf and thanks to Carolyn for standing in at very short notice.

### **Congratulations to:**

In addition to all the congratulations mentioned in the quarter peal report, the following achievements are noted:

**Margaret Pace and Shelia Garner** for their first quarters of major - they rang Plain Bob Major at Stow on 14/3/08

**John Nicholson** of Saxilby for his 65 years as a bell ringer. A quarter peal was rung there in his honour on 2<sup>nd</sup> May

**Tom Blyth** who rang three peals whilst on a trip to Lundy Island. These were his first of Caters (Grandsire), Royal (Treble to Yorkshire) and first Royal inside (Cambridge). It was also his 50<sup>th</sup> peal - so very good use was made of those days in Lundy! He didn't have too much time for walking or bird watching though.

**Sue Faull** for her 300<sup>th</sup> peal.

## West Lindsey Branch Ringers Outing.

Very early on a May Day Morning we started out day out to south of Nottingham. As it was a Bank Holiday there was little traffic and we made good time, arriving at the first church, Holy Rood, Edwalton. A pretty little church with a light ring of 6 bells. The Tenor being only 5cwt. These bells were rung from floor level and were a delight to ring.

From there we moved on to St. Peter at Ruddington, a much bigger church with a ring of 8 bells. These bells were rung from an upstairs ringing chamber which was not big enough to take the whole group as by now it numbered 33, several of them being juniors. These bells are very old, in fact according to the information in the church the second bell is dated 1540.

On then to the last church before lunch. St. Mary at East Leake, another church with a light ring of 6 bells, the Tenor being slightly heavier than at Edwalton at 7cwt. An interesting church, very light and airy, where the pews had been replaced with comfortable bright blue padded chairs. Very comfortable, ideal for sleeping if the sermon gets too boring! Again we were ringing from the ground floor, what a relief.

Our lunches had been booked at a very convenient Inn, the Three Horseshoes, just across the road from the church. Sue Faull and her three young ringers ate their packed lunch on the grass (or in a convenient tree) outside while those who had ordered a pub lunch of sandwiches went inside to be served with excellent sandwiches with chips and salad. This pub should be noted as having the friendliest lady's toilet we have ever come across. The old toilets, i.e. the ones across the yard, often had 'two seaters' side by side but this cubicle had two flush toilets facing each other across a narrow room. One can't help thinking Why?

After our lunch we headed further north to St. John, Stanford on Soar. This was the heaviest ring of the day, being an 8 15cwt ring. This, our second 8 bell ring was rung from an upstairs ringing room, even higher than the other one with more uneven steps. After everyone had rung at least twice we moved on to St. Winifred at Kingston on Soar with its 6 bells rung at ground level through the narrowest door I've ever seen. Even so, everyone managed to ring.

One more to go! On to Barton in Fabis and St George. Another 6 bells rung from round behind the organ. Here we were greeted with tea or coffee and biscuits and also some of us went on a toilet tour to the village hall just across the way. All very welcome after what had been a long day. Finally we set off for home.

Six very different churches, six very different rings of bells, 33 very tired, happy ringers, one beautiful, sunny day. Here's to the next time. Many thanks to everyone who organised it and made it possible.

Doreen Hancock

## Lincoln Diocesan Guild AGM – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2008

The last Saturday has a permanent significance for members of the Diocesan Guild of Bellringers. They come from all parts of the diocese to the AGM in Lincoln. The really early birds toil up the Cathedral stairs to ring before the 10am Eucharist then join others filling in Lincoln's unique Ringers' Chapel. This year the chapel was packed and around 70 people were present at the Service, which was conducted by the Guild President, Dean Philip Buckler with Jonathan Clarke, a ringer at Washingborough, as server.

Having given the day the proper beginning, we adjourned to Bailgate Methodist Church for the business of the AGM, held in the Chapel itself - a great improvement acoustically on recent venues. The Departed were remembered; the Apologies given (were there more absent than present?) and Philip Green and Judith Williamson were elected honorary members.

Philip has been a very active member of the Elloe Deaneries Branch for many years and has held most offices in the Branch. Perhaps his greatest contribution to the Guild is his printing of the Annual Report for a number of years and last year he produced, at no cost to the Guild, a Christmas card which raised over £800 for the Guild Belfry Repair Fund. Philip has also printed a number of publications for the Central Council.

Judith Williamson, until her recent move out of the County, was Guild Librarian, and was responsible for much reorganisation of the Library, and in particular for the revised and updated Library Catalogue. She has also been very involved in compiling a record of peal boards throughout the Diocese.

The rest of the statutory business of an AGM was swiftly dispatched with the Guild Master in the chair, greatly assisted by Dan Meyer dashing around with the portable mic. All the Guild Officers were re-elected with the exception of the Treasurer and Librarian. Roger Lord replaces Nicola Jones in the former office and Delia Heppenstall replaces Judith Williamson.

The Guild finances were reported to be in a healthy state, thanks to the efforts of the Guild Fund raising Committee. This also applies to the Guild Belfry Repair fund although there are a number of grants waiting to be paid out. The revitalised Fund Raising Committee has been very active in their first year with Guild Clothing for sale raising around £100, a raffle which has raised a surprising £400, and other initiatives in the pipeline.

Les Townsend, the Guild Secretary, spoke about a Tribute to Keith Buckingham, immediate Past Master who had died last year, which had been compiled and edited by John Ketteringham. A leather bound copy had been presented to Sue, Keith's widow, and a similar copy had been presented to the Guild Library.

AGM's do not just happen and we were grateful to Robin Heppenstall for giving our thanks to all who had contributed the labour to make it all work so smoothly.

The meeting was followed by an excellent Lunch in the adjacent Hall, prepared by Dot Mason and her helpers, and then it was the Guild eight bell Striking Competition which this year was held at Harmston. For those not taking part in the competition there was ringing at Waddington and Navenby. Tea was served by the Navenby ringers in the church, and we were treated to a ritual some had not observed before - the dragging of a large dustbin up the nave! However, all was revealed

when Dorothy Robinson delved into the depths and extracted the winning raffle tickets. It was then time to draw the Guild raffle and then the results of the Striking Competition were announced by Anita Blundell from Pickering. The Central Branch were the winners.

The day finished with Evensong at the Cathedral, followed by ringing until 1930.

Altogether a most excellent day and all concerned with the arrangements are to be heartily congratulated. The number of young ringers taking part was very noticeable and gives a very good indication of the continuing strength of the Guild.

*JRK/EGO*

### *West Lindsey's Newest Recruit??*



Is this our youngest recruit to date?  
Francis Elwess has a go on the simulator!

## Ring, skate, ring – Out and about with West Lindsey Young Ringers Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2008

The final Tuesday of the Easter Holidays saw 16 of our very youngest ringers and several not so young supporters heading over the Humber Bridge for an hour of ringing at Walkington. After a picnic lunch and a climb (up a tree-like sculpture!) the real business of the day began - two hours of ice-skating at Hull Arena. The youngsters were somewhat surprised at seeing the older generation remaining on their feet and more than holding their own. That is all except Sue, who used the pretence of having a dodgy ankle and looking after the bags as her excuse!

The day finished with most people going to Bottesford practice. The young ringers were so tired after such a busy day that they all went to sleep on the floor and it was one of the quietest practices ever!



**Chris Hoare from Broughton has written the following report about the day.**

The Young Ringers' Day started off at Walkington (East Yorkshire) where we spent an hour ringing. They are a lovely light ring of 6 with a tower exposed to the rest of the Church (so the ringers aren't shut away behind a closed door!). The ropes are also placed round the font which makes ringing good fun. After the ringing we

headed back to the Humber Bridge Visitor Centre, where we had lunch watching the skies get increasingly darker, hoping it wasn't going to tip it down! After lunch we all went ice skating at Hull Arena. Here we spent 2 hours whizzing around the ice ring (well some of us were!) This was great fun as the Hull children were all at school so there weren't many people on the ice. We then went back to Ian and Joy's house where we had Fish and Chips and rang on the pots while everyone then played out in the rain! Five of us rang a Quarter Peal on the pot bells (1260 Plain Bob Doubles). We then all headed to Bottesford for their practice. I

had a really good day and got a lot of ringing in, but we were all shattered by the end of the day.



**Finally the view of a slightly older first time skater - Pam Cook from Bottesford.**

We were all booked in and very soon the young ones had their skates on and were soon off to the rink. I now began to feel rather apprehensive, asking myself why I had agreed to have a go.

By the time I reached the rink (with a bit of help) most of the young ones had already done a few laps.

Even the least experienced were soon skating quite well. I gingerly got on the ice and held on to the side for dear life. I began to pull myself round holding on to the side. I could hear shouts of encouragement as one by one the other skaters skated by. I managed to get half way round when along came Ian and Rae. With one each side of me, I soon got quite a speed up.

It was a great afternoon and we all had a good time, with lots of laughs. Once again we saw more talent in our Branch, not to mention Ian and Joy. Have we got a new Torvil and Dean in our midst?

I'm sure we would like to say thank you for a most enjoyable day. Here's to the next one!

Joy, Chris and Pam

## Happy 90th birthday Harold.

On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July two quarter peals were rung to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Harold Judd, one of the great characters of the West Lindsey Branch. Harold rang a course of Grandsire Triples with the band at Kirton Lindsey and was then taken downstairs to listen to a quarter peal being rung in his honour.



Actually he only had half an ear on the quarter peal because, as usual, he entertained the rest of us listeners with stories from his ringing past, poems he had written many years ago and even sang us a song. Despite being four score years and ten, Harold's wit and memory remain sharp (and occasionally quite wicked!)

In the meantime a quarter of minor was rung at Messingham

and then all the ringers plus many other WL members and friends gathered at the Till's house for a great ringers' tea. Loads of cake, scones, strawberries and cream were consumed. The sun came out long enough for us all to gather in the garden for a glass of sparkling wine and a piece of birthday cake (baked by Robin H for our cake stall 3 weeks previously, and very good it was too.) Chris was prevailed upon to make an impromptu speech and he reminded us all of the brilliant speeches that Harold has made over the years. They were always the highlight of the branch AGM.

Harold has many fascinating tales to tell of his earlier days as a ringer and of the years spent in the middle east during and after the war where his ability to quickly learn foreign languages was put to good use. Harold's stories and friendliness has made him a popular figure at branch meetings over very many years and we wish him all the best for the next decade.

(See branch newsletter Oct 2003)