

West Lindsey



Branch  
Newsletter

# January 2009

## Who's Who?

Branch Officers for 2009

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

**Ringing 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:** Steph Prosser [secretary@wlb.ldgcb.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wlb.ldgcb.org.uk) 01522 702427

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

**Fundraising Rep** Brenda Colley

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

**Committee members:** Richard Till, Joy Till, Pam Cook, Melvyn Rose

**Junior Committee Members:** Rae Todd, Phil Scarf

A belated Happy New Year to you all! We have something of a bumper edition of the Branch Newsletter to launch us into 2009. It's been a busy year, with prizes won and restoration projects undertaken. Well done to all.

Thank you to all who have sent me contributions for this edition - please continue to send me any items for consideration, via email, to [newsletter@wlb.ldgcb.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@wlb.ldgcb.org.uk).

We are undertaking to email the newsletter to towers, to save paper and costs. Unfortunately we do not have the gift of free photocopying for towers that may have no email contact. Any offers of assistance with printing a few copies of the Newsletter would be very welcome. Alternately, if you know a tower that does not receive the Newsletter by email, perhaps you could print them a copy. Any suggestions/offers of assistance much appreciated!

*Thank you. Charles Thody*

## Ringing Master's report for 2008

The following is a summary of the report given to those attending the Branch AGM at Messingham in January. 2008 was a busy and very full year, thanks to the many people who worked hard on behalf of the Branch.

### Highlights of the year:

- **The founders prize for the encouragement of young ringers** this was presented to the branch at the Ringing Roadshow in September. 29 members went to Stoneleigh by coach, others went by car. £500 prize which we will be using to help fund future events for the young ringers
- **Willingham rehang** Following various fund raising activities, the bells at St Helen's were rehung on ball bearings, quarter turned, clappers reshaped, new pulley blocks, additional rope guides and sound control. A large number of branch members helped out during August, the volunteers were ably led by Tom Blyth of HMA. All monies have now been raised.

**Meetings:** Attendance at monthly meetings was the same in 2008 as in 2007. Most were well attended. Average attendance at meetings was 24 (30 if you include the AGM and outings) Minimum attendance 17, max 62. The Surprise major practices were not very well attended and the committee has taken the decision that these should be widened. The best attended meetings were those where a social event was included - Xmas Social, Quiz or Striking Comp

**Outings:** Once again Debbie organised two. The May outing to the South Notts area was a great success, The mini outing to Retford was less well attended due to the evening Barn Dance.

**Quarter peal month:** 24 Quarter peals scored with 67 different ringers, 12 towers and 13 different conductors, both statistics slightly up on last year.

**Quarters:** There were 5 first quarter peelers during the year: Sue Dmochowski, Chris Harland, Bob Harrison, George West and Marisa Raisborough. Jenny Harvey, Pam Cook and Rae Todd conducted their first QPs. Well done to them and to all those who rang "firsts" of other kinds.

**Peals:** Only 1 branch peal this year - rung at Broughton. This was a first peal for Rae Todd. However, many peal ringing individuals rang quite a lot of peals this year with other members of the guild. Quite a few peals with predominantly WL members.

**Striking competitions ;** This year West Lindsey branch was unplaced in the 8 bell competition In the 6 bell competition Messingham won the John Freeman Trophy, their excellent leading being commented on. Gainsborough came 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the Plate competition Scotter came 5<sup>th</sup> with Willingham 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Young Ringers' Days:** In January there was a very well attended Bowling tea and ringing afternoon. In April Ring Skate, Ring was again very successful. The trip to Stoneleigh has been mentioned. In December a young ringers' handbell group practised and then performed at the Christmas social.

**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 spent an afternoon. The Wombel has been at Messingham, Belton and Gainsborough. As a result of these activities we have gained a considerable number of recruits.

**Workshops:** Bob Doubles workshops were held at Broughton and Messingham in March and an Up and Down and Plain Hunt workshop was held at Bottesford in November. Both were well attended and useful

### A new initiative

Rhys, Patience, Ian and Sue developed a power point presentation to be used with groups of clergy. This was trialled successfully in December with the Corringham Deanery Chapter, will be amended and then hopefully used with other groups of clergy.

### Other notable events:

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

Good additions to the bell repair fund were made through various fund raising events - quizzes and cake stall brought in very useful income.

Celebrations - John Nicholson's 65 years as a ringer, Harold Judd's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and the centenary of the rebuilding of the tower at St Botolph's Saxilby.

### On an unhappy note

Unfortunately the bells of Broughton have not been rung since April. It is hoped that the situation will be resolved in 2009.

**West Lindsey Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild  
Founders' Prize for the Encouragement of Young People in Ringing – 2008**

Following an excellent Young Ringers' Forum at the Ringing Roadshow, members of the West Lindsey Branch of the Lincoln Guild were formally presented with the Founders' Prize for the encouragement of Young Ringers. This was a very proud moment for the coach load of ringers from the Branch who were delighted to be presented with a cheque by Mr Martin Shenton of the Worshipful Company of Founders. The fourteen young ringers who went along had a great day, enjoying the trails and collecting as many freebies as they could! Several of them got very wet as a result of sampling the mini rings in heavy rain.

For the past eight years this relatively small Branch has had a thriving junior membership of more than twenty members. Those who started ringing seven or eight years ago are currently in their late teens or early twenties, at university or in employment but most are still active members, with some now playing a proactive part in recruiting and encouraging the next generation, teaching, organising and conducting. We realised we could not afford to sit back and be complacent; we needed to build on our earlier successes and act now to recruit and train the *next* group of young ringers for our area, avoiding the generation gap that had previously crept into the membership profile. Further inspired and re-energised by the acquisition of the LDG 'Sixbel' Simulator and 'Wombel' in 2006/7 from David Horrocks and the production of associated display material, in which Branch members played a key role, we were keen to further develop our involvement in recruiting and training new ringers.

Armed with 'simulators', handbells and Belleplates as appropriate, the last year has seen an emphasis on taking ringing out into our local communities. The opportunity was taken whenever and wherever appropriate to bring ringing into the public eye. Involvements in village functions and shows, church functions and open days, Local Authority organised events, providing workshops for schools, Scouts, Guides and other groups, were all given high priority by a growing group of volunteers determined to make a difference. Feedback from the schools and event organisers has been excellent. The new young people we have recently recruited range in age from eight to fourteen with a significant cluster of eleven year olds. However, engagement with young people has also resulted in Mums, Dads and Grandparents learning to ring too!



*Half term handbell workshop at Messingham – left to right – Jacob, Meghan, Sophie, Tiffany, Alix, Abbie, Rae, Caitlin.*

We recognise that young recruits need to be active and feel they are progressing. Initial bell handling has been taught quickly in sessions away from the main practice with teaching sessions for youngsters often being held two or three times a week. Three sessions have seen the quicker learners mastering both strokes. In some cases the opportunity for them to ring back stroke in rounds on the first visit to the tower provided a real sense of achievement and being part of the team. We found those first handling a bell via the simulator transferred their skills very quickly to handling tower bells with no apparent problems.

There has been no pressure to attend every week. We recognise youngsters have many commitments and interests and we don't want them to feel in any way pressurised to give these up for ringing. Many sports activities now take place on Sunday mornings and the young ringers and their parents have existing commitments. Those who regularly ring for Sunday Services come because they want to and are able; the ultimate aim being to build up big enough pools of ringers in towers so that the new young ringers can fit everything, including ringing, into their busy schedules of sports activities, music, school activities etc.

Handbells have played a very significant part in recruiting and retaining the learners. Initial contact in some cases was made through 'hands on' handbell workshop sessions at local tower open days, in schools or as a group activity taking place alongside the simulators. We have found handbells and Belleplates are good for fostering team spirit and provide constructive activity when not ringing. They are used at some practices for simple change ringing, games and tune ringing. Young ringers from towers involved have played tunes at their local church services for special occasions and we are now looking forward to forming a Branch Young Ringers' Handbell team in time for the Branch Christmas Carol Service. The Branch has recently bought a set of Belleplates which are available for hire to schools or churches. Several Primary and Secondary schools have recently acquired their own sets.



*Canon Rhys Prosser and West Lindsey Branch members receiving the Founders' prize from Mr Martin Shenton of the Worshipful Company of Founders at the Ringing Roadshow*

An introductory course for teachers and Heads of Music was requested by the Music Advisory Team for North Lincolnshire Council and provided by Branch members. There have also been requests to return to schools for further handbell workshops and training. Engaging with the local community in this way has raised awareness of ringing and may attract further recruits some time in the future.

We don't expect to see 'quiet' children patiently waiting their turn. Our practices are lively, fun and can occasionally be a little noisy! The young ringers bring along games or sometimes ring handbells while they wait to ring. We know from experience that the social side of ringing is very important. We have had regular Young Ringers' Days for several years, involving ringing, quarter peals, barbeques, bowling etc. In January 2008, thirty young ringers all under age fourteen, including fifteen who had only been ringing for a few months, enjoyed a New Year 'Get Together' with bowling, games, ringing and handbells. This brought together some of our very newest recruits for the first time and for several it was the first time they had rung away from their home tower. Other recent activities included a day with ringing, mini sports and barbeque last Summer, when the older ones enjoyed camping overnight before Sunday Service ringing at local towers the next morning. We have also had a mini outing and ice-skating in addition to normal Branch and tower events. Some young ringers now visit their friends in other towers for their practices so the links between towers continue to grow.

A key aim for the future is to develop capacity in the Branch for all towers to be able to respond to the potential gains of proactively engaging with young people. Our apparent emphasis on young people has not distracted from engaging with and



teaching older learners; on the contrary it seems to have supported this aspect of our work! Several adult learners have come along as a result of seeing the activity and interest in their towers. In recent weeks five more young ringers have learned to handle a bell and ring rounds and other recent learners are plain hunting and ringing covering bells to Plain Bob Minimus and Doubles etc. The 'older' young ringers are enjoying supporting and teaching the new ringers and integrating them into existing activities. They have been a great help with everything taking place over the past year. However we recognise there is lots of hard work ahead to maintain the momentum and enthusiasm, make further progress, challenge the more able and experienced and continue to retain our new learners.

*Young ringers on the West Lindsey Branch outing to the Ringing Road Show Left to right – Jemma, Jenny, Laura, Marisa, Rae, Meghan, Philip, Kate, Adam, Libby, Alix, Tiffany, Daniel*

No doubt the young ringers will have their own ideas about how we should spend the prize money! We hope to be able to use the money in the near future for ringing outings, training opportunities and to continue our very popular social activities.

Here in the West Lindsey Branch we are very optimistic about the future of bellringing.

Sue Faull– Branch Ringing Master – on behalf of the many West Lindsey Branch members who have supported this recruitment and training project in many different ways.

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## **Ringing outing to Nettleham, lunch and open air ice-skating at Waterside, Lincoln Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2009**

Last April young ringers from the West Lindsey Branch enjoyed an afternoon of ice-skating at Hull Arena, so when it was discovered that an open air ice-skating rink attraction would be available in Lincoln over Christmas we decided to give it a go!

Twelve young ringers from the Branch along with seven 'oldies' met up at Nettleham for an hour of ringing before lunch. The ringing ranged from several opportunities for rounds and call changes for the very newest learners, *Cambridge*, which included three of the young ringers, to a course of *London*.

After a leisurely lunch at *The Poacher* we made our way to Waterside, Lincoln for the serious business of the day – the ice-skating. We had booked a session for 2pm. Our skaters were feeling confident and only three individuals needed towing around until they found their skating feet. This time Pam decided to join the support team instead of skating and was in charge of tickets, bags etc which let her off nicely. Sue was in Iceland so no further excuses were needed this time! We were disappointed that the session only lasted about forty- five minutes and this seemed to pass so quickly. It was a very different experience skating in the open air in the middle of Lincoln and everyone really enjoyed it. We think we may be ready to tackle the more challenging slopes of The Dome at Doncaster later in the year!

Thank you to everyone who provided transport for the young ringers and support for the day.

Joy Till

The nearest we got to them all being vertical and in the same place at the same time for a picture!

Meghan, Marissa, Sam, Rae, Rebecca, Richard, Katie, Phillip, Caitlin – missing from the picture – Jemma, Adam, Ellie



Adam in training for 'Dancing on Ice'

# ST BOTOLPH'S CHURCH SAXILBY

## TOWER CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

One hundred years ago, Saxilby Church tower was in a sorry state. The only way to save it and its four bells was to completely take it down and rebuild it. This was a major project for the church and the village which would have had to raise the funds for this complete reconstruction.

A substantial pole and rope scaffolding was erected around the tower, the bells and bell frame were removed and then the tower was dismantled stone by stone, so that the original stones could be used in the rebuilding. Putting all of this back together again would have been like doing a gigantic 3 dimensional jig saw puzzle. So getting everything to fit back together again would have been a real challenge. But it was a challenge that was met, and by September 30<sup>th</sup> 1908 all was ready for the rebuilt tower to be dedicated by the Bishop.

Now, a hundred years later, the tower is still standing as strong and sound as when it was put back together again all those years ago, a fitting tribute to the dedication and skill of the people who rebuilt it. To celebrate the centenary, and give thanks for the workmanship which made it possible, a whole series of events was arranged from Friday 26th September up to the day of the anniversary itself, Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>.

Things started on the Friday night with a concert in church, which was a fun occasion. On all four days there was a beautiful Flower Festival in church, which formed an amazing backdrop to all the celebrations, with many very inventive displays celebrating life in Saxilby over the past hundred years. On the Saturday we had a Family Fun Day with plenty of traditional games, tours of the church conducted by Saxilby History Group, dancing from Botolph Belles, refreshments in the church hall, tower tours and demonstrations of ringing by the Saxilby band. A bright sunny day added to all these celebrations.

The church, flower festival and exhibitions were still open on Sunday and Monday. On the Monday afternoon a peal of Single Oxford and Plain Bob Minor was rung to celebrate the life of the tower and the bells it contains, which have called people to worship for the last hundred years.

This all culminated in a service of thanksgiving for the life of the church, and rededication of the tower with the Bishop of Lincoln, The Rt Revd Dr John Saxbee. This was a beautiful and moving service led by the Bishop, who climbed the tower stairs, overlooking the chancel for the prayer of rededication.

All in all a fantastic weekend, celebrating the life of St Botolph's Church, and its bell ringing. Thanks are due to David and Colleen Turner whose organisational ability and sheer hard work made it all possible, to Sue Faull who organised the Monday afternoon peal and to the ringers who rang it, Chris Turner the conductor, Janet Clarke, Tom Blyth, Rhys Prosser, Ruth and Paul Curtis. Now for the next hundred years!!

Rhys Prosser, Vicar, St Botolph's Church, Saxilby.

## St Andrew's Church, Epworth Restoration Successes

The comprehensive restoration of the church rolls on at a pace and the third phase is nearing completion. The fourth phase to concentrate on the north aisle is fully funded and will be starting in the spring. At the conclusion of phase 4 approximately £700,000 will have been raised to fund the restoration project. English Heritage will have funded to the value of £500,000 via the scheme Repair Grants for Places of Worship which is money administered on behalf of the Heritage Lottery Fund. The remaining £200,000 is from other funders and the community via the Christmas Market etc.

During the spring of 2006 the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) awarded a project planning grant of £27,700 to prepare a conservation, audience development and access plans which were prepared by consultants. Close scrutiny of the plans by the restoration committee indicated the way forward for the proposed fifth phase which was to embrace conserving and sharing the building with the wider community. A proposal was subsequently endorsed by the Parochial Church Council and has the outline support of the Diocesan Advisory Committee, English Heritage and the Council for the Care of Churches. The scheme includes reordering the Church to facilitate different styles of worship, heritage events, musical concerts, appropriate drama, out of classroom learning by local schools and enriching the visitor experience. Included in the proposal is the employment of an Education Officer to engage with local schools and the more mature student. For the campanologists a new ringer's gallery is included along with a Womble Simulator.

A significant reduction in the carbon foot print is also proposed. This will take the form of a ground source heat pump to supply heat for under floor heating and the use of photo voltaic cells to supplement the electrical supply.

A first round application was prepared and submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund during the summer months. Confirmation has been received that a grant is to be awarded to the value of £28,900 to develop the scheme to round two application standards. This will be to stage D of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) procedures. HLF will also provide a mentor to aid the process and an allowance has been made for the production of display material. A display will be of considerable benefit to communicate the project proposals to the wider community whose views will aid the scheme development.

A round one grant does not guarantee success at round two, but confirms all of the HLF criteria have been met and there is a high chance of receiving a grant.

It is envisaged a period of twelve months will be required to develop the project to round 2 application stage. Indicative financial requirements presented to the HLF are a total project cost of £588,000 and the envisaged grant request will be £457,000.

Further information:

Melvyn Rose – Chairman, Restoration Committee  
1 Garden Court  
Epworth  
North Lincs  
DN9 1GA  
01427 872080



## Willingham by Stow, St Helen's

It is now 103 years since our bells were installed at St Helen's. They are a 12cwt Taylors ring of 6 bells, rung from the ground floor with a 50 foot draft. The bells had been hung on plain bearings and using Hastings stays. Over the years only routine maintenance had been carried out and it had become apparent that some work was needed to overhaul the bells. Recently new housing had been built very close to the church and the bells were very loud outside.



The impetus to improve the bells came from Tom Blyth, who lives in Saxilby, only 8 miles away from Willingham. Following work experience with Hayward Mills, he was taken on by them as a professional bellhanger three years ago. In discussion with the local ringers Tom suggested that the bells should be rehung on ball bearings, the clappers rebushed and reshaped, regular stay and slider mechanisms be installed on the front bells, pulleys renewed and wheels treated. At the same time he suggested that the louvres should be blocked up so that the sound would leave the tower at the top through the fine sound lantern, to ensure that the bells would be quieter in the immediate area but the sound would be projected further through the sound lantern. For

good measure Tom suggested that additional rope guides be put in the intermediate chamber.

Major works like this are expensive. The ringers of the 1930's wanted to rehang the bells on ball bearings but the vicar turned it down because it was too expensive. It was £70 then. To reduce costs considerably, it was agreed with Hayward Mills that Tom would oversee and supervise all the work but that local volunteers would be found to assist him.

As can be expected, the faculty took a considerable number of months to come through. However, eventually it did and a start date of August 1<sup>st</sup> was agreed. In the meantime a number of fund raising events were organised by the ringers and members of the congregation and generous grants from the guild and Branch were promised. A very tight schedule of work was put together with the aim that all the work would be done within a month.

### **The rehang**

The first weekend was very busy. On the Friday Tom plus 6 local ringers (Jenny, Sarah, Doreen, Katie, Harry and Sue) started scraping and cleaning the old oil off the bells and frame. On Saturday Tom plus 5 more experienced volunteers from across the branch (John, Ian, Richard, Chris and Mark) removed the clappers, headstocks, pulleys and wheels and lowered them all to the ground floor. The bells were put up on blocks of wood on the frames. On Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> wheels were lowered over the tower roof as they didn't fit through the trap doors. Everything fitted neatly into the Bates' pickup and Laura, Tom and Adam took them safely to Nottingham.

**A very busy weekend but we were ahead of schedule.**

During the next week Tom worked flat out at the works on the headstocks, clappers and pulleys. A few late nights were put in. Meanwhile the painting crew, consisting of Andrew, Katie, Jenny, Sue and Doreen wire brushed the frame, painted the first coat of red oxide onto it then two days later put the undercoat on. On Friday Sue and Helgi met Tom at Hayward Mills and brought back the Stirling boards needed for the sound control on the louvres.

**First week over and we were still ahead of schedule.**



During the second weekend large Stirling boards were hauled up to the middle floor where they were creosoted. Battens were fitted to the walls around the louvres ready for fastening the boards.

During the second week the frame had a top coat of gloss painted, Marisa joining the normal painting team. Tom was away in Ireland with Hayward Mills so the volunteers were left in charge. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend the shuttering to 3 of the 4 louvres was completed, Julian, Helgi and Mark having to conquer nerves to clamber up high enough to reach the top.

**2<sup>nd</sup> week over and we were still on schedule.**

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> The headstocks etc were brought back from Nottingham in a van and the pieces unloaded into the church. On Friday these were hauled back up the tower by Tom, Lilja, John and Sue and the headstocks soon went back onto the bells. The following day Charles and Andrew helped refit the clappers and the fittings were made ready for the pulley blocks.

On Sunday whilst most of the branch ringers were up at the Cathedral ringing for Evensong, Tom, Lilja and Helgi were back up the tower. The 4<sup>th</sup> louvre covering was completed and the gale breaker around the sound lantern started. Monday 25<sup>th</sup> was no Bank Holiday for us. Tom, Charles, John, Helgi, Lija and Sue were flat out all day. The extra rope guides were installed in the intermediate chamber, the sliders were put in place and the pulley blocks attached.

On Tuesday the bells were balanced, the wheels returned and were installed. On Wednesday the bells were rung up individually and tested. All was well. A massive clean up operation was needed to get the church ready for our normal practice.

**7.30 normal practice - all bells rung and their sound was much admired, both inside and out. Cake and sparkling wine was consumed to celebrate the completion of the work. All done to schedule, thanks to everyone's hard work - especially Tom.**

On September 20<sup>th</sup> September a rededication service was held at St Helen's. Members of the congregation joined West Lindsey Branch members for the service and then for tea and a slide show in the village hall afterwards, Tom was thanked for the great job he had done and was presented with a painting of himself under the 2<sup>nd</sup> bell and an album of photos showing work in progress. Tom presented Sue with a mounted old gudgeon so she will still be able to remember what it was like to have to oil bells.

450 volunteer hours went into the rehang, with 22 voluntary helpers. It was an amazing, but exhausting team effort. We are very proud to know that our bells are now in great order for the next 100 years. (Tom says they are the best 6 in Lincolnshire! Come and see if you agree!)



# The Guild Barn Dance

The Guild Barn Dance, held on October 18th at Upton Village Hall, was a spectacular success. More than 110 people enjoyed the music of the River Head Ranters and the dancing barely stopped from 8.00 until 11.30. The band, who are based in Louth, consisted of a caller plus three musicians. Apparently they really enjoyed themselves too, as there was so much enthusiasm for their music and for dancing. There was no need for any coercion when it came to getting people up to dance. Despite being a very large village hall, occasionally it was impossible not to step on someone's toes. (That was my excuse anyway.)

The dancing only stopped for the excellent raffle and buffet supper and the evenings proceedings ended with a fiercely fought auction to buy two giant sunflowers. Altogether £470 was raised for the Guild Bell Repair Fund. Congratulations to Brenda Coley and her team of helpers for a superb evening. Quite a number of people were heard to ask whether this was going to become an annual event. So watch this space!



A few familiar young faces

The Riverhead Ranters

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## SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

**Can members of the branch please ensure they pay their subscription for Guild Membership immediately (preferably by the end of this month).**

**Subs for 2008 are still outstanding and we are in 2009!**

**Non-payment will result in cessation of insurance cover for members and non-inclusion in the list of members in the Guild newsletter.**

**Please ensure subs are paid to Janet Clarke (contact details on the front page).**

## **Branch Events 2009 (provisional):**

Jan 17<sup>th</sup> – **AGM** at **Messingham**, p.m. and evening  
31<sup>st</sup> - 8-bell practice at **Kirton**, 7.00 – 9.00 p.m.

Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> – afternoon practice at **Upton**, 2.30 – 5.00 p.m.

March 21<sup>st</sup> – **Winterton**, open day and general ringing

April 18<sup>th</sup> – “rabbits” competition at **Willingham**, supper & quiz at **Knaith Park**  
25<sup>th</sup> – **Guild AGM**

May 4<sup>th</sup> – Branch outing to **Southwell** area (all day)  
16<sup>th</sup> – evening practice at Kirton, 6.30 – 9.00 p.m.  
30<sup>th</sup> - 8-bell practice at **Stow**, 7.00 – 9.00 p.m.

June 20<sup>th</sup> - striking contest at **Saxilby**

July 18<sup>th</sup> – evening practice at **Corringham**, **6.30 – 9.00 p.m.**

August – mini-outing to be arranged by young ringers

Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> - full meeting at **Epworth** and **Belton**, p.m. and evening

Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> – Branch social event – barn dance  
31<sup>st</sup> – 8-bell practice at **Stow**, 7.00 – 9.00 p.m.

Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> – evening practice at **Burton upon Stather**, 6.30 – 9.00 p.m.

Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> – Christmas social event and carol service at **Messingham**

January 16<sup>th</sup> 2010 – A.G.M. **Gainsborough and Lea**, pm & evening

### **Other dates:**

**April 2009** – quarter-peal month.

Young ringers’ activity days and other training sessions to be arranged.

Possibility of arranging fundraising quiz at Upton and cake-stall at Gainsborough Riverside Festival to be investigated.

## And Finally...

### Congratulations to:

**Messingham band** who won the John Freeman Cup at the Guild's annual 6 bell striking competition. The judge placed them first of the 7 bands competing and commented on the excellence of their leading. It is great to have the Cup back in the branch.

**The bands from Gainsborough, Scotter and Willingham** who all performed well at the striking competition, and ensured that West Lindsey, as ever, had their full quota of teams entering.

**Steph Prosser** on her first peal on 8 bells. This was rung on her birthday 16/11 at Stow. Steph rang the 2<sup>nd</sup> to Bob Major.

**George West** for his first quarter peal on 8 bells. He rang the treble to Bob Triples on 2/11

**Marisa Raisborough** for her first quarter peal. She rang the treble to Bob Doubles at Willingham on 7/12

**Jenny Kirby** for her first quarter peal. She rang the tenor to Bob Doubles at Messingham on 2/1/09

**Robin Heppenstall and Sue Faull** who took part in the Guild's first ever peal of Sextuples. Robin rang 1 -2 and Sue rang 13 -14 to Stedman Sextuples on handbells on 13/1/09

**Mike Scarf** who rang his first peal during the year.