

West Lindsey



Branch  
Newsletter

# Summer 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 [fundraising@wlb.ldgcb.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@wlb.ldgcb.org.uk)

**Guild Committee Rep:** Ian Till [committee@wlb.ldgcb.org.uk](mailto:committee@wlb.ldgcb.org.uk) 01724 764738

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

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

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*

## West Lindsey Branch Quarter Peal Month

Unusually our quarter peal month started off with a peal. Grandsire Triples was scored at Stow and was rung in farewell to Canon Alex Whitehead who has retired from the Stow group. This was a first peal for 27 years Sandra and first for 10 years for Lizzie. Neither seemed to suffer any ill effects, although a good thirst was worked up.

After this good start the quarter peal month wasn't as well supported as in the past few years. Holy Week and then the Guild AGM meant that many days were lost, so we must remember to change the timing for next year. Altogether 12 quarters were rung plus 2 performances of call changes. 42 members took part with 7 different conductors, including Rae's first of Surprise as conductor. Although not a large number, there were 9 "firsts" amongst these quarters and performances. Congratulations to them all, but particularly to Libby and Sam on their first quarter peals. Hopefully the first of many.

The quarter peal month ended where it began; at Stow, this time to welcome Canon Rhys Prosser (our Branch Chairman) who, with Rvd Steph Prosser is taking charge of the Stow group of parishes in addition to all his other duties.

**Gainsborough, Lincs.** 10 Apr. 1260 PB Triples: Debbie Scarf 1, Elizabeth Clarke 2, Alison Elwess 3, Delia Heppenstall 4, Stephen Clarke 5, Janet Clarke 6, Robin Heppenstall © 7, Jonathan Swatton 8. Half muffled on Good Friday

**Upton, Lincs.** 19 Apr. 1260 PB Doubles: Libby Pugsley (first Q) 1, Sue Faull 2, Brenda Coley 3, Stewart Sleight 4, Adam Sleight © 5, Colin Hewitt 6. Dedicated to Rhodi Galdwin, late ringer at Upton

**Messingham, N Lincs.** 19 Apr: 1260 PB Doubles: Pam Cook 1, Tracey Black (first inside) 2, Joy Till 3, Barbara Rand 4, Ian Till © 5, Jenny Kirkby 6

**Gainsborough Lincs.** 20 Apr. 1260 Stedman Triples: Janet Clarke 1, Debbie Scarf 2, Alison Elwess 3, Delia Heppenstall 4, Stephen Clarke 5, Les Townsend 6, Robin Heppenstall © 7, Jonathan Swatton 8

**Gainsborough Lincs,** 27 Apr. 1250 Lincolnshire S Major: Stephen Clarke 1, Elizabeth Clarke (first in method) 2, Les Townsend 3, Delia Heppenstall 4, Alison Elwess 5, Janet Clarke 6, David Fox 7, Robin Heppenstall © 8

**Bottesford, N Lincs.** 28 Apr. 1260 PB Doubles: Rena Whitaker 1, Pam Cook 2, Joy Till 3, Frances Thompson 4, Barbara Rand © 5, Sue Dmochowski 6

**Messingham N Lincs.** 3 May 1320 PB Doubles: Jenny Kirkby (first away from cover )1, Pam Cook 2, Joy Till 3, Frances Thompson 4, Ian Till © 5, Tracey Black 6 70<sup>th</sup> birthday compliment to Judith Willcocks

**Bottesford N Lincs.** 10 May 1260 Doubles: Pam Cook 1, Joy Till 2, Frances Thompson e, Barbara Rand 4, Ian Till © 5, Malcolm Sargeant (first fully covering) 6

**Messingham N. Lincs.** 16 May 1440 Cambridge S Minor: Joy Till 1, Philip Scarf 2, Patience Thody 3, Debbie Scarf 4, Rae Todd © 5, Ian Till 6. First Surprise as conductor

**Bottesford N Lincs.** 17 May 1260 Doubles (4m) Pam Cook 1, Joy Till 2, Frances Thompson 3, Barbara Rand 4, Ian Till © 5, Chris Harland (fist fully covering) 6

**Willingham Lincs.** 20 May 45 minutes call changes: Katie O'Dell 1, Sue Faull © 2, Rebecca O' Dell 3, Marisa Raisborough 4, Stewart Sleight 5, Brenda Coley 6 Longest length 1 and 3.

**Willingham Lincs.** 20 May 45 minutes call changes: Stewart Sleight 1, June Fray 2, Brenda Coley 3, Rhys Prosser 4, Sue Faull© 5, Adam Sleight 6

**Messingham, N Lincs,** 1260 Doubles (3m) Tracey Black 1, Joy Till 2, Barbara Rand 3, Rae Todd 4, Ian Till© 5, Sam Black (first quarter)

**Stow, Lincs.** 22 May 1274 PB Triples: Sue Faull 1, Stephanie Prosser 2, Margaret Pace 3, Sandra Stallibrass 4, John Underwood 5, Rhys Prosser (first inside on 8) 6, Chris Turner © 7 David Justham 8. Rung to formally welcome Revd Rhys Prosser, and his able assistant Revd Stephanie Prosser, as Priest in Charge of Stow .

### **West Lindsey Branch Striking competition**

We were very grateful to Philip Green and Ros Knight, Master and Treasurer of the Elloe Deaneries Branch, for travelling such a long way to be our judges. We did hold the competition in our most southerly tower – Saxilby, which saved them a few miles.

Eight teams were entered, an excellent turn out, and , as Ros said, showed that Sunday Service ringing in the branch is alive and well. They thanked Rhys and Steph (Branch President and Secretary) for the use of their kitchen table for judging, and said that they had enjoyed listening to some good ringing in comfortable surroundings.



Messingham were the winners this year of the Bingham trophy. The judges said that they were quickly into a good rhythm and had steady leading throughout. Scotter were the close runners up. Their ringing was described as steady, stately and consistent. Messingham and Scotter go through to the John Freeman Cup competition in September where Messingham will be defending their title. Stow and Belton/Epworth came in third and fourth places and will represent us in the Plate. The other teams competing were: Saxilby, Willingham, Upton and Bottesford.

A wonderful tea was provided by the Saxilby ringers in the Church Hall. The large number of teams entering meant that we had a long time to sit and munch second and third helpings whilst listening to the bands.



*Rae Todd receives the cup from the judges on behalf of the winning team*

## News from All Saints', Upton cum Kexby

### A new lease of life

Over the past couple of years, All Saints' has seen no fewer than seven people give bell ringing a try. Of those, three are very young ringers and four are not so young (in fact three qualify for a free bus pass). Five are still going strong and we also have a rejuvenated ringer who came out of retirement to join in with her granddaughter.



Towards the end of 2007 our first three started, including Libby Pugsley who was only ten at the time. Libby is the fifth generation of her family to be a bellringer at All Saints' Church. She follows in the footsteps of her Uncle, Simon Pugsley; her Grandmother, Carol Pugsley (our rejuvenated ringer); Great Grandfather, Leslie Fotheringham and Great Great Grandfather William Fotheringham. Two of Leslie's brothers, Stanley and Norman were also ringers.

Fred Stephenson, Tower Captain until about 1960, was her Great Great Uncle and Bert Roberts, also an Upton ringer was her Great Great Uncle. Libby completed her first quarter peal on Bob Doubles recently so well done to Libby.

Two of our other young ringers are Samuel and Emma Wilkins. Samuel has been ringing for about twelve months and Emma six months. It's healthy to have a bit of sibling rivalry (we keep boxing gloves in the corner) and both are full of enthusiasm for ringing.

On a less happy note we were saddened to lose one of our old ringers Rhodi Gladwin earlier this year. Rhodi was a proud Welshman who rang in the Nottinghamshire area before moving to Upton, where he rang regularly with the local band before being forced to retire on health grounds a few years ago. We dedicated Libby's first quarter peal in his memory.

Who knows, with all this new blood and a bit better leadership, All Saints' may be challenging for a top ten finish in the branch striking competition before too long.

Stewart Sleight

## SIX TOWERS IN SIX HOURS

An early start was had by all as we trekked down to Newark for a spot of bellringing, which was organized by Alison Elwess. The weather was damp but that didn't dampen our spirits. We quickly learnt that signposts don't always point you in the right direction, as a few of us found out. We all eventually made it to the first six bell tower in Norwell. The mechanisms of the clock were in full view as we were ringing, as new ringers we had not seen this before. We do think signs should maybe be put up saying ( MIND YOUR HEAD ) as we found out concrete is not flexible (ouch).

Ossington was our next six bell tower which was set in beautiful private grounds. We wondered where the bells were until we were shown behind the organ, which we quite liked because it was ground floor ringing. Our youngest ringer even had a ring at this tower and really enjoyed it. We got a bit of a history lesson on the Denison family whilst waiting to ring, as the tower was very small we couldn't all get in.

Then onto the tower at Sutton On Trent, this was our first eight bell tower. As we climbed the ladder to get into the tower we noticed they had quite a few peal boards hanging up which shows that the tower has or had been well supported with a good band of ringers.

After another good hour of ringing, lunch was taken at The Lord Nelson pub, which we're sure everybody enjoyed.

The scenic route was taken once again to the Parish Church of All Saints Coddington. This was another six bell ground floor tower but with a font taking central position. Through the day other ringers came and went. In all a total of 32 ringers enjoyed the outing. No breaks or injuries on the day, just a few minor bumps and bruises which wasn't too bad.

All Saints Church Barnby - in - the - Willows was our next stop, which was also a six bell ground floor tower. All in all we had a good variety of ringing from rounds and call changes to Norwich surprise, which we've never heard of but hope to learn at a later date!!

Our last call was an eight bell tower at Balderton, St Giles, at which we were all locked in by the Tower Captain, who came back later to find two youths asleep on the pews, whom he thought were tramps and asked them to leave, but soon apologised when told they were part of the band of ringers.

A very good day ended with a lovely meal at The Roman Way, Newark.

Finally we would like to thank Alison for organizing such a great day out. We're sure we speak for everyone, it was a really enjoyable day. Chris from Bottesford and Jenny from Messingham.



## Scotter Sun, Sausages and Surprise Minor

The weekend of 26<sup>th</sup> June saw Scotter Tower members and regular visitors head up to Yorkshire for the weekend. After assembling at The Maypole Inn in Long Preston for an evening meal and obligatory beer a darts match ensued with various surprise talents emerging from misspent youths! One match would last an hour but at least no one was treated to free acupuncture

Everyone retreated to their chosen bedtime retreat only ready to gather on the Saturday morning at Addingham – West Yorks, an interesting 6 with a strange trap door configuration, the bells were originally hung by Harrison's of Barton on Humber with a fab Church roof where if you looked closely you could find the carved mice of Robert Thompson.



We then headed to Bolton Abbey for a return trip on the steam train to Embsay. At Embsay station we were greeted by Morris dancers from around Yorkshire including a couple of ringers in disguise!



On to lunch at the Craven Heifer near Skipton then free time for everyone to go and explore, some went into Skipton, Malham Tarn and the Grassington Festival.

Back to ringing and a meeting at Thornton in Craven. A quick trip for tea and a sticky bun then the last ring of the day at Gisburn, Lancs.



*Gisburn Parish Church*

We were then lucky to be able to congregate back at Barbara Rands Lodge for a few drinks, BBQ and games.

No one made it to local Sunday service ringing but an adventure down White Scar Caves before a fabulous lunch organic lunch at a local country Harvest restaurant.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed a relaxing but fun weekend and look forward to the next.

## **Aisthorpe bells are ringing at Boothby Pagnell**

(From an article by John R. Ketteringham)

In 1867-8 Taylors of Loughborough supplied a completely new ring of five bells to St Peter's church Aisthorpe and hung them in a new wooden frame from wooden headstocks on plain bearings. These bells had been unringed according to local knowledge for about 70 years when local ringers led by Leslie Lunn put them in ringing order *circa* 1980. They were difficult to ring mainly because of frame movement. After ringing for several years it was discovered that one of the headstocks was splitting badly and it was felt that it would be dangerous to continue full circle ringing.

**At the time St Peter's was first being considered for redundancy in 2005 the Friends of St Andrew's Church Boothby Pagnell were looking for a project and as Aisthorpe bells were a perfect fit for the existing frame they quickly agreed to support the transfer of the five bells from Aisthorpe to store until the funds were available for the rehangng.**

In the meantime a local ringer, John Greenhough, started teaching ringers ready to ring the bells in their new home. Taylors, Eayre and Smith tuned the five bells from Aisthorpe and provided them with new canon retaining fittings for full circle ringing from the first floor gallery at Boothby Pagnell.

A full report and photographs of the removal of the bells from Aisthorpe, details of the inscriptions on the bells and other details can be found on

<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/john.ketteringham/news/boothbypagnell.html>

On 26th January a quarter peal of Doubles in 10 methods was rung on these bells at their new home. It had the following dedication: "Remembering those who rang these bells at Aisthorpe, especially G Leslie A Lunn, for 50 years Secretary of the West Lindsey Branch of the Lincoln Guild." John Underwood is the first person to ring a quarter peal on these bells in both locations.

The bells were rededicated on Sunday 24th May at a service presided over by the Bishop of Grantham. The bells were rung for the service by Boothby Pagnell's own new ringers, supported by Irnham ringers. Plenty of cakes were consumed by members of the congregation afterwards. (See news item on the guild website [www.ldgcb.org.uk](http://www.ldgcb.org.uk) )

### **Quarter Peal Reports**

The following reports were sent in by the Gainsborough team but missed the last newsletter... Please send any quarter peal reports you would like included in future editions.

**15 Dec 1260 Grandsire Triples.** Elizabeth Clarke 1, Delia Heppenstall 2, **Jennifer Swatton (1<sup>st</sup> in method)** 3, David Whetton 4, Janet Clarke 5, Stephen Clarke 6, Robin Heppenstall (C) 7, Jonathan Swatton 8

**21 Dec 1260 Stedman Triples. Elizabeth Clarke (1<sup>st</sup> in method)** 1, Delia Heppenstall 2, David Whetton 3, Janet Clarke 4, David Fox 5, Stephen Clarke 6, Robin Heppenstall (C) 7, Jonathan Swatton 8

**Sun 22 Feb;** All Saints' Gainsborough; Grandsire Triples.

1 Elizabeth Clarke, 2 Delia Heppenstall, 3 David Whetton, 4 Janet Clarke, 5 Alison Elwess, 6 Stephen Clarke, 7 Robin Heppenstall (C), 8 Jonathan Swatton. Rung as a compliment to Janet Clark and Sandra Benham upon being awarded an MA in Pastoral Theology.

**LDGCB - WEST LINDSEY BRANCH**

**BARBEQUE AND GAMES EVENING**

'Ring - eat - play'

On SATURDAY, 15<sup>th</sup> AUGUST

Ringling at Messingham Church 2.30 - 3.45pm

4pm - Barbeque and games  
At Tracey Black's - Black Bank Farm,  
Black Bank, Susworth  
(Between Messingham and Susworth)

Names a.s.a.p. but no later than 13<sup>th</sup> August

Maps available later

Please bring a chair and any garden games you think people would like to play. We would especially like to invite all our younger ringers to join us.

Names to Joy and Ian Till (on holiday from 9.8.09 to 13.8.09)

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## **Branch Events 2009:**

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