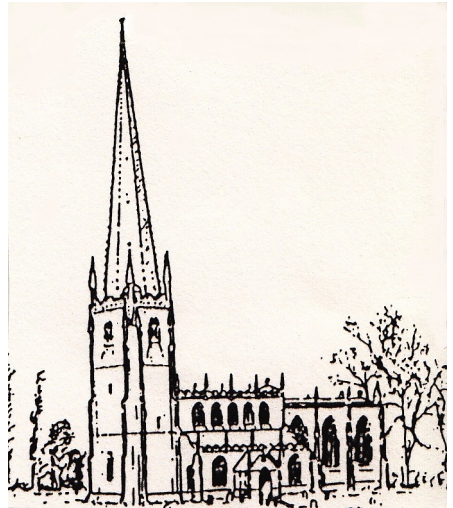


Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers Central Branch Newsletter (number 76) 2011

Carol Service St Helen's Brant Broughton 10 Dec

A cold, dark December Saturday afternoon was the ideal time for the central branch to hold their annual carol service. The introduction called it an alternative carol service and that's exactly what it was. Gone were the traditional readings we hear every year about the story of Jesus' birth, instead we heard poems and stories coming at the Christmas story from a completely different



angle. Making us think how we prepare for Christmas and whether we put aside the true meaning of the season to concentrate on the commercial, consumer side of the festivities.

I had come to the service from a venture into Lincoln to do some Christmas shopping, and because the car parks were full and there were lots of people about it put me in a bad mood! I'm pleased I got to St Helen's in plenty of time to put the shopping experience behind me!!

The readings, carefully chosen by Mick, seemed to bring home and question our commitment and preparation for the real meaning of Christmas. And so we came to Bethlehem in a round about, but very significant way. The opportunity to share fellowship and worship together, to take time out from our busy lives, and to be made aware of the so many talents, other than bell ringing all helped make the service special. The organist, accordion players, flautist, soloists, handbell ringers and readers (*yes Sally, and the 'Vicar'*) all demonstrate what a talented lot bellringers are! All evidence of the incarnation and God at work in us today.

With every Blessing for Christmas

Sally Turnbull

She made a cheeky remark about her ringing.

Mentor : 'I wouldn't say that.'

Ringer : 'You're mellowing then!'

Suggested Ringing Programme for 2012 - 2013

Jan 14	Sleaford	BRANCH AGM	
Feb 11	Lincoln High Street towers	St Mary	2.30 - 3.15
	St Botolph		3.15 - 4.00
Mar 10	Dunston		3.00 - 4.00
Apr 14	St Giles	Maintenance ?	
May 12	Blankney	Striking Contest	Draw 3.00
<i>June 5</i>	<i>Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee Guild event</i>		
Jun 9	Lincoln Cathedral		7.00 - 9.0
Jul 14	Norton Disney	Half yearly meeting with service	
		BBQ at Sandra's	
Aug 11	Ring for your supper	Waddington, Branston, Washingborough	
Sep 8	<i>Guild Striking Contest Finals</i>		
Oct 13	Harmston		7.00 - 9.00
Nov 10	Hackthorn	Quiz	7.30 start
Dec 8	Swinderby	Carols	Ringing 3.00 Service 3.30

2013

Jan 12	Heckington	AGM	
Feb 9	Bardney		2.30 - 4.00
Mar 9	Nettleham		2.30 4.00

We are grateful to Sue Waterfall for arranging **Surprise Major Practices at Washingborough**. Although these are not Guild or Branch practices, anyone wishing to ring Surprise Major are most welcome. They are held from 10.30 - 12, on Saturdays Jan 28, Feb 25, Mar 24, Apr 21 (to avoid AGM), May 26, Jun 23, Jul 28, Aug 25, Sep 29 (many of us away on 22), Oct 27, Nov 24, Dec 22.

Any queries to Sue Waterfall 07925 149104.

Put these dates in your diary!

Another Surprise Major practice will be held on the first Saturday of each month, from 19.00 to 21.00 at either Heydour or Caythorpe.

These meetings are subject to change during the year. Do check.

The Olympic torch will be passing through Lincolnshire June 26 -28 and July 3 4. Can we ring if it is near you?

Notes from Guild Committee Meeting 5 Nov

- * Quotations for increase of **personal accident cover** discussed; no change.
- * **Scunthorpe** ringing/maintenance agreement out of date. Local ringers to talk informally with manager of the centre.
- * Do the **Striking Contest** rules on who goes to the cup and who to the plate need further thought? Also be an improver's award?
- * **2012 8-bell contest** to be in Elloe Deaneries Branch, in October. Method a course of Oxford Treble Bob Major.
6-bell contest final in the Eastern Branch.
- * Can **CRB** be extended to cover anywhere in the Diocese? If so can it be done retrospectively?
- * A group of young members to attend the Ringing Foundation workshop to discuss what they want in relation to the problems of **attracting, retaining and development of young ringers.**
- * What do young ringers really want? Should there be a **young rep** on the Committee? Or should they have a committee of their own?
- * **Membership entry form** to be produced to collate information.
- * **Membership and Life Membership Certificates** approved.
- * 2011 **Guild Report** will be Trevor's last. John Nicholson willing for his name to be put forward.
- * **Diamond Jubilee Ringing proposals.**
 - i) Guild ringing tours from all branches to converge at a central point and bring a picnic. (or share a hog roast, but this would put more onto the organisers with need for numbers etc.)
 - ii) There will be a lot of ringing in local communities. Publicise in the press as widely as possible.
 - **Olympic torch** will pass through Lincolnshire. Could we ring it through? Publicity again.

- * **Guild AGM** arrangements to follow same pattern as before. Suggested Thorpe/Eagle/Swinderby towers open simultaneously in the afternoon, with tea and cakes laid on at one venue.
- * Robin explained the workings of the **Ringling Foundation** and how it is helping the exercise by funding **training courses**, the forum on **youth activities** etc. Needs funds. How can we help? Voluntary contributions?
- * **More ITTS training courses** are to be held.

Now we'll do it again with listening this time!

Lincolnshire Day 2011

Members of the Central Branch, with the help of a few friends, celebrated Lincolnshire Day on October 1st. Where possible we all tried to wear something 'yellow'.

Ten ringers met at Grantham St Wulfram for a quarter peal of Lincolnshire Surprise Royal. This took 55 minutes and was very enjoyable with some good ringing on these glorious bells. At the same time eight ringers went to Caythorpe St Vincent where they rang a good quarter peal of Lincolnshire Surprise Major in 44 minutes. Our thanks go to Philip Dawson who stood in at the last minute and agreed to ring the tenor.

We then all met at the Red Lion at Wellingore for an excellent pre arranged lunch and an hour of talk about the morning's ringing and what the afternoon might bring.

At 2.00 we left the pub and eight ringers went to Welbourn to ring a quarter peal of Lincolnshire Major but at about half way there was a misunderstanding and the conductor stood the bells. Six ringers went to Fulbeck where they rang a quarter peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor as there is no Lincolnshire Minor.

Our thanks go to Margaret Parker for being our reserve. (That's O.K. Phil. I only go to these do's for the lunch!)

All the ringers and friends then met up at Welbourn for coffee and cakes and a good chat over the day's events.

We had a Happy Lincolnshire Day!

Phil Mason

N.B. It was a day of wet shirts and wet skirts - ringing heavy bells in enclosed belfries and a glass of orange spilled into someone's lap at lunch time. Still, on what was claimed as the hottest October day for a hundred years (remember it?) we soon dried out! The spare ringers were delighted that, at two towers passers by, on asking why the bells were ringing, said how much they enjoyed hearing the bells.

The local band always refers to ringing jargon as 'talking in Russian', so when he said, 'I printed it off but it all came out in Russian,' we were ready to explain it, only to find it really did look like an alien script. Has he got his computer confused as well?

Back to Surfleet! December 10

Over the past few years it has become a tradition for Phil to organise a quarter peal morning, followed by lunch at Surfleet Church Hall. This year was no exception, and three simultaneous quarters were arranged at Ewerby, Sutterton and Surfleet. Finding enough ringers sounds a daunting task, but we still managed extra ringers, Margaret and Dot who had volunteered as reserves, plus Mick who was unable to ring this year on health grounds. (It is not surprising, considering how well Annette (a local ringer) looks after us, that they were keen to join for the lunch!) We came from around the Guild and beyond, illustrating what a fraternity ringing is. When we had eaten, Mary and Geoff were presented with an engraved glass bell as a farewell gift. They were moving a couple of days later to live in Oxfordshire, having at last sold their house after 18 months trying. We shall miss them. We also gave Annette a bouquet as a thank you for the welcome she always gives us, and Phil was thanked for managing the logistics of such a venture so well (and Dot for supporting him!) Those who are Central Branch members then went on to our Annual Carol Service at Brant Broughton - a good day out!

Ewerby. The Cambridge Royal unfortunately was not successful. The ringers were Phil Mason, John Nicholson, Dan and Caitlin Meyer, John and Sandra Underwood, Janet and Stephen Clarke, and Fiona and Philip Dawson.

Surfleet. Grandsire Cinques. 1. Sylvia Taylor, 2. Mary Faircloth, 3. Bjorn 4. David Braunton, 5. Les Townsend, 6. Heather Grover, 7. David Fox (C). 8. Alistair Cherry, 9. Jonathan Clark, 10. Philip Grover, 11. Peter Wakefield, 12. Claire.

Sutterton Cambridge Major. 1. Mary Riglar, 2. Rhoda Reynolds, 3. Heather Blacklock, 4. Betty Stracey, 5. Val Wild, 6. Neville Sharpe, 7. Geoff Riglar, 8. Andrew Blacklock (C)

A sharp-eyed ringer noticed in a recent TV programme showing bells being rung that, although the sallies the ringers were pulling were blue, where they went through the floor to where the bells were actually ringing, they were striped. I have never seen ringing in both places at once - do they actually change colour when they go through the floor? If so what is the science behind that!!! Or have the media got it wrong again?

News from the towers

A peal was rung at **Dunholme** on November 5th for the 100th Anniversary of the first peal on the bells, and the 50th Anniversary of David's first peal, also on these bells. The band included Julie Bell, daughter of Harold Radley who was Churchwarden and Tower Captain here for many years, and her husband Stephen. The rest were local service ringers. The band were: 1. John Bundy, 2. Julie Bell, 3. Fiona Dawson, 4. David Fox, 5. Phillip Dawson, 6. Stephen Bell (C) John is making 2 peal boards, one to record this peal, and the other the peal that was rung for Harold and Beryl's Golden Wedding in 1998, as Julie felt it fitting that his name should be recorded in the belfry.

On November 24th, Ron Applewhite as the oldest member of **Potterhanworth** band, presented Church Children's Achievement Awards Credit Certificates for climbing the tower at Potterhanworth CE Primary School's Celebration Assembly. David Rose the Diocesan Children and Youth Officer was also present. About forty year 5 and 6 children had climbed the belfry to hear about the bells and bell ringing from Yvonne and Christopher Woodcock. In all they gained credits for climbing

the tower, for naming parts of the bell, and for naming the dedication of each bell. Ten credits are required for an award and it is hoped that more will be gained by learning to ring a bell. Previously the Award Scheme had applied only to teenagers and this was an attempt to include younger children.

When the **Hackthorn** ringers went on their outing in August, they were intrigued by the old clappers that hung in the belfries at Scothern, Dunholme and Welton. When someone said, 'I wish we had one', Cathy said, 'But we have!' It seems that when the 'new' bells were hung in 2006, the ancient clapper from the old original Hackthorn bell had been left behind in the church. She had been carefully cleaning round it for 5 years, not realising its significance! We have been assured that it dates back to 1380, and Brian mounted it on a board on which John has painted 'Hackthorn Bell Clapper: 1380 - My duty done in belfry high, Now voiceless tongue at rest I lie'. On 20 November, the vicar, Rev Peter Godden dedicated it, after the morning Eucharist, so now it duly hangs 'in belfry high'. He said that at this time when many people's retirement is being deferred the clapper really did deserve to be retired, and he gave thanks for all the people it had called to worship for so many years.

Nettleham ringers and their 'other halves' enjoyed their annual supper on December 6th. Amy and Dave invited us to the lovely historic house that Dave has so lovingly restored over the last 30 years. We met early to have time for the hotpot and lasagna joined by, not your ordinary sausage and mash, but Delia Smith's exotic version! When it came time to go and ring no-one seemed willing to move, so we abandoned practice night, and did our best to finish the lovely puddings. As we cleared up someone was heard to say, 'I thought the Bob Minor went well tonight, didn't you!' It is good to have the chance to just socialise together sometimes without our conversations constantly interrupted by the RM telling us to get hold to ring again!

Lincolnshire's oldest peal board commemorates two peals rung at St Peter-at -Arches church in the 1750's. The board was transferred with the bells to St Giles Church where they now live. The first of the peals was the second peal rung in the county (the first was at Boston).

The board had had some restoration work by the North Lincolnshire Guild in 1897. For some time it had been thought that the board could do with professional attention and John Ketteringham contacted various restorers/conservators for estimates for the work (to restore the board to 'as new' would cost over £2100.) Current thinking on this type of artefact is to conserve rather than restore for which the estimate of £1000 was a slightly better option. A start at fund raising was made but the income was very slow, though a nice donation from the Collis family was a help, but there was little hope of raising enough. St Giles church had no money for such a thing so John approached a number of organisations for a grant and, eventually the Cory Environmental Trust agreed to fund the project. Dian Hall Conservators were tasked with the work and they collected the board in April and it was returned to St Giles on 8 December 2011. The final result is very pleasing. Many thanks to John, Cory and Dian Hall for a job well done. The board was dedicated at morning service on 11 December.

The visiting vicar asked the ringers, 'What fancy knitting are you going to do up there this morning? Or are you just sticking to Plain Bob?'

Quiz night, November12

Hackthorn Village Hall was once again the venue for the Quiz night. We arrived to the sound of the bells from the local church and at 7.30 were joined by the ringers. Faith supper was laid out, raffle tickets bought, many thanks to those who donated prizes, there was a wonderful selection.

With a drink from the bar we all sat down in our teams, jokers decided, hopefully for the right category - we all racked our brains to find answers to each set of ten questions. This section also included a sheet with picture of old cars, a real trip down memory lane.

Time for a well earned break for supper, which was plentiful, and time to draw the raffle.

We all settled down again and back to answering questions with our extra sheet of Dingbats. This produced the loudest groan of the evening, who guessed **PEPPERMINT** was 3-piece suite!!? On the final category 'Dogs' should have known better than to feel confident. What was Roy Rogers' dog called? - yes! he did have one! called Bullet! - goes with Trigger I suppose?

Once again Mick and Betty Stracey did a wonderful job compiling the questions, keeping the teams in order - no mean feat - and producing the scores so efficiently; a very big thank you to them. We all had a very enjoyable evening. The winning team was St Giles. Well done to them. Thanks also to Brian for organising the bell ringers and Jonathan for running the actual ringing and to Cathy and Lindsey for running the bar.

Lexie Brown

Congratulations

- - - - to the band representing the **Central Branch** on winning the inter-branch 8 bell striking contest at Barton-on-Humber.

- - - - to **Phil** and **Kathleen Pitchford** on celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary. Phil was for many years a member of the Cathedral company of ringers, and is still very interested in all we do.

'Will you stand there and take it off me if I don't do it properly?'

'No I'll just sit here and nag you. I'm good at that.'

'That's right. Stick to what you're good at!'

What do you think?

Branch meetings.

As I understand it the October meeting at Great Hale was not very well supported - unfortunately I was unable to go due to illness. This got me wondering about the aim of these meetings. Is it to ring at towers within the branch that do not have a regular band and are consequently not rung often - if at all? Or is it to encourage struggling bands to meet others

who can help them advance? I have always thought of ringing as a social occasion and consequently had fun. Is it fun to ring on bells that are poorly maintained through lack of a regular band? Could the timing of the meeting be altered enabling more people to attend? I think it would be fair to say the afternoon meetings at the beginning of the year are more popular as are those events which combine ringing and a social. What are your thoughts/comments?

Fiona Dawson

What's in a name?

We were ringing Spliced.

After a false start, the Conductor said 'Go again!' to be greeted by the chorus 'Go **what?**'

What do you get Dad for Christmas?

He's got plenty of socks, handkerchiefs, ties, pullovers etc. so when he said there was a trip to Whitechapel bell foundry in London, only two seats left on the coach, and he had been invited it seemed to be the answer! With both sisters out of the picture, one in Scotland and the other in America, and the wife willing to 'mother sit' I said I would accompany him on his trip. With the coach leaving Market Rasen at 7.30am on 26 November we headed for the 'Big Smoke'. Stopping at Peterborough for a much needed comfort break, we made good time. The driver gave us an impromptu tour of the eastern fringes of London, and then took us in past the Olympic village and stadiums. We arrived in Whitechapel around 11.45 giving us time for a walk around to stretch our legs, and a coffee break before our tour at 1.30pm. The tours are strictly ticket only, and need to be booked well in advance. With our group part of the 30 people on this tour, and the foundry taking 3 tours each Saturday, they show about 4500 people around per year, turning many away. Obviously very popular!

The tour starts in the foyer with a quick history of the foundry from 1570 through to the present, followed by a brief health and safety notice, before heading off round the foundry itself. First stop was the foundry area, where the mould making and

casting take place. Although this is the foundry that originally cast 'Big Ben', due to changes in the foundry since, a bell of that size could not be cast there now. Next to this is the tuning area for the bigger bells, where the bells are turned taking material from the inside of the bell to get the sound required. Then to the 'Frame Room', where the hanging arrangements are put together. After this, a trip to 'the gods', or the joinery workshop in the highest point of the factory, where the wheels are made for ringing the bells. On the way down to the ground floor again we stop off at the handbell tuning shop, then a handbell mounting and finishing shop.

Finishing the tour in the gift shop you get a real sense of admiration at how well the team get all this done on such a small site, as the whole premises sits on approximately one third of an acre. This makes a very interesting day, whether or not you are a campanologist, but with the waiting list for tours being longer than the waiting list for bells, get booked early!

(the website for the foundry is www.whitechapelbellfoundry.co.uk)

Robin Sutherland (Son of Jim Sutherland)

The doubles fired out and the usual 'inquest' ensued :-

'I was at the back!'

'No you weren't. I was at the back.'

Tenor ringer :- 'I can settle it. I was at the back!'

They were trying to explain how to ring a certain method, and he became more and more confused. Finally he pointed to his head and said, 'You don't know what's going on in here!', only to be told, 'It sounds as though you don't either!'

When preparing to ring a well-known variation of a method :-

'Which method is it?'

'Just make places all over the place!'

Don't Forget

Come to the **Branch AGM** at Sleaford on 14 January. Not all the Branch Officers will be standing for re-election, and we need everyone there to make their wishes known.

Dot has not heard from a number of people about whether they want Newsletters next year. Does this mean that those people do not want their own copy? Please tell us for that is what we shall assume unless we hear otherwise. If you want one, we would like your £2 a.s.a.p.

Branch Quarter Peals

WELBOURN 30 Sept
1280 Rutland Surprise Major

1. Dot Mason
2. Fiona Dawson
3. John Underwood
4. Mick Stracey
5. Sylvia Taylor
6. John Nicholson
7. Philip Dawson
8. Phil Mason (C)

For Harvest Festival Service.

GRANTHAM 1 Oct
1282 Lincolnshire Surprise Royal

1. Dot Mason
2. Beryl Reed
3. Les Townsend
4. Heather Grover
5. Colin Reed
6. David Fox
7. Philip Grover
8. Alistair Cherry
9. Peter Wakefield
10. Phil Mason (C)

CAYTHORPE 1 Oct
1282 Lincolnshire Surprise Major

1. Rose Hancock
2. Sylvia Taylor
3. Fiona Dawson
4. Betty Stracey
5. John Nicholson
6. Neville Sharpe
7. Mick Stracey (C)
8. Philip Dawson

FULBECK 1 Oct
1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor

1. Mick Stracey
2. Heather Grover
3. Neville Sharpe
4. Philip Grover
5. Sue Waterfall
6. Alistair Cherry (C)

EWERBY 16 Oct
1250 Pudsey Surprise Major

1. Sylvia Taylor
 2. Sandra Underwood
 3. Fiona Dawson
 4. Heather Grover
 5. Dot Mason
 6. John Underwood
 7. Philip Grover
 8. Phil Mason (C)
- For Evensong.

NEWARK Oct 30
1280 Cambridge Surprise Minor

1. Sandra Underwood
 2. Geoff Wells
 3. John Underwood
 4. David Fox
 5. Robert Wilson
 6. Phil Mason (C)
- For Gopher month, on the front 6.

WELLINGORE Nov 3
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1. Ron Everett
2. Paul Jackman
3. David Randall
4. Geoff Cottingham
6. Tony Branson (C)

CATHEDRAL Nov 13

1344 Lincolnshire Major

1. Dot Mason
2. Sandra Underwood
3. Fiona Dawson
4. Les Townsend
5. John Underwood
6. John Nicholson
7. David Fox
8. Phil Mason (C)

Rung on Remembrance Sunday,
on the light 8.

CATHEDRAL Nov 12

1320 Grandsire Cinques

1. Les Townsend
2. Delia Heppenstall
3. Dot Mason
4. Fiona Dawson
5. Sandra Underwood
6. Heather Grover
7. David Fox (C)
8. John Underwood
9. Jonathan Clark
10. Phil Mason
11. Philip Grover
12. Philip Dawson

Following the enthronement of the
Rt Rev Christopher Lowson as the
72nd Bishop of Lincoln.

CATHEDRAL Nov 27

1331 Grandsire Caters

1. Delia Heppenstall
2. Robin Heppenstall (C)
3. Fiona Dawson
4. Dot Mason
5. Sue Faull
6. Sandra Underwood
7. Graham Colborne
8. David Fox
9. Les Townsend
10. John Underwood

For Advent, and for the 70th
Wedding Anniversary of Phil and
Kathleen Pitchford.