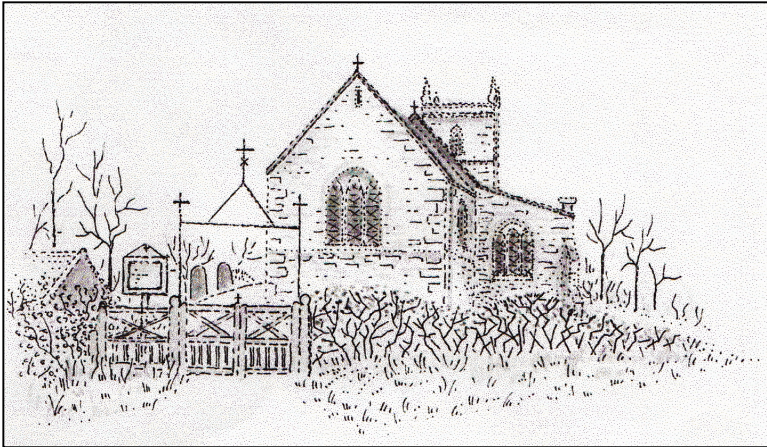


# Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers Central Branch Newsletter (number 76) April 2012



## All Saints North Scarle

It is good news that after years of planning and fund-raising, North Scarle has at long last received a Faculty from the Chancellor in May 2011 allowing them to proceed with the Bell Project. Sadly, although they did originally have enough money, the frustrating delays mean that inflation has caused costs to be very much higher than originally quoted. Consequently the last six months have been dedicated to raising the necessary funds. As expected, this has not proved to be an easy task and the current state of the economy has added to the problems. Whereas there has been some success, there have also been very many disappointments, but we have had to remain positive. The Guild BRF has pledged approximately £10,000 towards the cost of the project; consequently the fund now stands at around £49,000 with £56,000 being the sum needed for the work to the bells/bell-frame. There are other (as yet unknown) costs regarding the cutting of pockets and the casting of level pad stones in the tower walls – plus the preparation/construction of trap-ways in all floors to facilitate raising/lowering of bells, frames etc.

On a happier note, there has been some interest in learning to ring the bells. Sandra Underwood is currently training two people from North Scarle but obviously we shall need more ringers to cope with our planned ring of six bells. Even here there have been set-backs. One of the recruits, having made a good start, fell on the ice and broke her

wrist. Her first reaction was, 'Oh, I shan't be able to ring now!' We wish her well, and hope that she has developed enough enthusiasm to want to come back in the future!

Nigel Pendleton worked tirelessly throughout to forward this project and was often frustrated by the repeated delays caused by the heritage authorities. His final words at the last meeting were, 'I probably shan't be still here to see it! Sadly he was right, dying soon after, and I think we owe it to him to make it all happen.

There are various activities planned to publicise the project, not only as a recruiting drive, but also help raise the remaining funds. Do look out for news of various events, and lend our own wholehearted support, as individuals and a group.

**Please note** that there are now quiz sheets being sold at £1 each in aid of the North Scarle bell fund - available from Fiona and all committee members, plus the usual suspects. Remember to get yours as soon as you can. You have till the end of June to complete them.

## **Suggested Ringing Programme for 2012 – 2013**

Apr 14	Lincoln St Giles maintenance, splicing etc	
May 12	Blankney rabbits	
Jun 5	Queen's Jubilee Guild ringing	
Jun 9	Lincoln Cathedral	7.00 – 9.00
Jul 14	Norton Disney striking contest, service, followed by BBQ at Chedburgh Campanile	
Aug 11	Ring for your supper at Waddington, Woodside Campanile and Washingborough	
Sep 8	Guild 6-bell striking competition	
Oct 13	t.b.a	7.00 – 9.00
Oct 27	Guild 8-bell striking Competition	
Nov 10	Hackthorn Quiz Ringing (6.30 - 7.30)	7.30
Dec 10	Swinderby Carol Service	7.30
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. They are held 10-30 – 12 on Saturdays 21 April (to avoid AGM), 26 May, 23 June, 28 Aug, 29 Sept (many of us will be away on 22), 27 Oct, 24 Nov, 22 Dec.

**Put all these dates in your diary.**

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

The Olympic torch will be passing through Lincolnshire. Can you ring if it comes near you.

All special ringing for the **Jubilee** and the **Olympics** is a good opportunity to publicise ringing. **Make sure the press know what and why you are ringing!**

### **Guild AGM arrangements:**

- 9.30 – 10 Ringing at Cathedral
- 10.00 Holy Communion in Ringers' Chapel.
- 11.00 Meeting Bailgate Methodist Hall
- 12.15 Lunch Bailgate Methodist Hall (Names **essential**)
- 2 – 3.30 Ringing St Giles, Lincoln
- 4 – 5.30 Ringing Cathedral
- 5.30 Evensong in Cathedral
- 6.30 Ringing Thorpe and Eagle including light refreshments.

### **Notes from the Branch AGM at Sleaford 14 Jan**

- \* Officers Reports will be in the Guild Report for 2011.
  - \* Officers for 2012 elected were:  
President , Sylvia Taylor : Treasurer , Dot Mason  
Secretary , Fiona Dawson : Ringing Master , Richard Spenser  
Guild Fund Raising Rep : Chris Jackson  
Guild Committee Rep : Margaret Parker  
Branch Committee Reps : Sandra Underwood, John Nicholson,  
Mick Stracey and Paul Jackman.  
Hon Accounts Examiners , John Carr and Alan Haines.  
Jonathan Clark is appointed as our Safeguarding Officer.  
Thanks were expressed to Mick for his many years of hard work as Ringing Master, and to Dot who has relinquished her role as Secretary although we are grateful that she still looks after our money.
- N.B. All unpaid 2012 subs are now overdue!**
- \* Discussion on how to encourage towers to enter the Striking Competition.
  - \* Les to see where we can get another reel of terylene tops for ropes. Is the new brand pre-stretched enough to be of use?

- \* The collection at Brant Broughton carol service paid to the Church to help with heating costs came to £70.

## **Branch Meeting Lincoln High Street Towers, 11 Feb**

It was a pleasant surprise to see such a good attendance at the February meeting in the Lincoln High Street towers on such a cold, snowy day, including 2 visitors from North of the Humber, who were attracted by the chance to visit St Botolph's after many years. Sadly the go of these bells after many years of neglect made it a mixed pleasure! It was good too to see two local ringers, one a ringer who has recently moved into the parish, and one of the new Uni ringers. May this be a good opening trend for the new year!

## **Branch Meeting Dunston, 10 March**

17 members attended this afternoon meeting where we put the five bells (muffled for Lent!) to good use, (One ringer who has not had much ringing on 6 bells said that he had worked out all by himself that he wouldn't be made to try Bob Minor!) Refreshments and cakes were sold in aid of the Metheringham bell appeal.

Be sincere whether you mean it or not!

## **Notes from the Branch Committee Meeting 22 Feb**

- \* Only towers near the **Olympic torch route** are Sleaford and High Street, Lincoln. Please publicise any ringing.
- \* **Diamond Jubilee weekend:** Wragby Townhall booked from mid afternoon 5<sup>th</sup> June. A couple of mini rings, handbells, belle plates, lighthearted games and interbranch cricket/rounders suggested. Proposed ringing arrangements for Central Branch : Caythorpe 10.00 – 10.45, Welbourn 11 - 11.45, Wellingore 1.00 - 1.30. Proposed lunch stop at pubs in Wellingore. Branston 2. - 2.30, Washingborough 2.50 - 3.30. Then on to Wragby, Cups of tea and coffee supplied but no food.
- \* It was reported that **Sleaford** are now only ringing six bells because of trouble with the 7<sup>th</sup>. Dot to contact the Sleaford secretary to try to move forward.
- \* **Raffle tickets now available for BRF**, to be drawn at Guild AGM.
- \* **Discussion on 6 bell Striking Contest.** Put forward to Guild proposals for two competitions; first for Change Ringing - Minor and Grandsire Doubles, the second call changes and Bob Doubles.

Bands to nominate their category at beginning of competition. At Branch level we would continue with one competition, but would consider overall results for the Guild Competition.

\* Proposed to offer £20.00 towards travel expenses to any junior from the Branch in the youth event.

## **Welcome**

- Andrew Kiddle of Caythorpe, Ann Sampson of Fulbeck. Millie Randall and Jordan Williams of Wellingore, and Andrew and Heather Blacklock, unattached, who were elected as members of the Guild at the AGM at Sleaford.

## **We wonder**

- - - which Guild Committee member suggested a 5 bell tower for the 6 bell striking contest!

Ringing a new method and not very sure how to make a Bob.

Conductor : 'Bob.'

Ringer (in high pitched squeak) : 'Ooh!'

Conductor : 'That's all.'

Ringer, with contented sigh : 'Aah!'

## **Notes from the Guild Committee Meeting 18 Feb**

\* Ian Till reported progress between the Guild and the authorities on responsibilities and access at the former St John's Scunthorpe. There is to be a big heritage event here for the Jubilee and ringing to feature prominently.

\* Officers' reports for the Guild Annual Report finalised.

\* Subs for 2013 to be unchanged; distribution to be 45% Guild, 40% to BRF and 15% branches.

\* BRF Committee : Master, Secretary, BRF Administrator, Mick Smith, Robin Heppenstall.

\* Diamond Jubilee celebrations: On June 5 each Branch to organise towers leading towards Wragby where everyone will gather for a picnic. (The idea of a hog-roast impractical). Each branch to notify Sandra so that maximum publicity can be arranged. There will also be ringing down the Welland finishing at Surfleet on the Saturday.

Please publicise as widely as possible any Jubilee ringing you have arranged over the weekend.

\* Safeguarding update : It is now possible to get CRB for the Guild, not just a particular tower. (Apply for Lincoln Diocese.)

\* Ringing Membership form discussed and finalised. New members will now be asked to fill in so that data can be rationalised.

\* Change Ringing for the Future forum: Need to act nationally to improve the situation. A young peoples' forum set up. Everyone must take responsibility for recruiting and encouraging.

\* Striking contest 6-bell Butterwick (cup) Wrangle (plate)

Tea and results at Butterwick.

8-bell back 8 at Surfleet 20 October.

Ridgeman Trophy Bedford (Provisionally Surfleet in 2113)

\* National Youth Striking contest to be at Birmingham 30 June. Contestants must be under 19 on the day of the competition.

\* Next Committee meeting to discuss the Guild Striking Contest. How can we make it more relevant and attractive. Suggestions invited.

What do you think?

\* ITTS – another module 1 session (teaching to handle a bell in the pipeline, followed later by a module 2 (teaching method ringing)

The learner was ringing far too quickly and was asked, 'What's the matter? Is there something good on telly tonight?'

## **A Happy New Year!**

After all the mad rush and over indulging of Christmas and New Year a group of ringers from the Lincoln area, and beyond, were invited to take part in a relaxed day of 'Pottiness' and yet more over indulgence! The day started at 11.30am at the house of Phil and Dot Mason where the early risers soon got to grips with the superb campanile installed in the garage – those that had been before clearly remembered how cold the floor was and we were treated to a fine array of fluffy slippers.

Two special methods (Woodside and Chedburgh) had been devised for the day (thanks a lot Mick!!) and once there were sufficient ringers we decided to give Woodside a go. Several attempts of less than a lead then ensued before we worked out that the treble ringer (I'll mention no names but she was sitting on a stool) was ringing the wrong line and trying to dodge at the back rather than make places! Once she had stopped laughing, it was several further attempts that saw us finally

managing to ring an entire course – well done to all involved. After more ringing, including 8-spliced, we retired for a well earned lunch of pie, mash and peas, courtesy of Dot and Betty, followed by desserts brought by all and cheese and biscuits.

Some afternoon ringing saw some two handed potty ringing before a few of us left to travel to the second ring of the day, leaving 8 behind to attempt a quarter of Yorkshire.

Arriving at the home of Sandra and John, we were welcomed to yet more food and the well installed ringing of 8 garden flower pots, sorry, 8 wonderful ringing pots. The afternoon more or less followed the 'Course' of the morning, ringing Surprise Major including Chedburgh, the sister method to Woodside, before being allowed 10 minutes to learn the 2012 Olympic 'Music' known as 5 Rings Triples. Several of us tried to grab either the tenor or treble but it was agreed, during the afternoon, that 10 minutes just wasn't enough to learn such a peculiar blue line. Having not long moved into the Lincolnshire area we have been overwhelmed by the friendly welcome and hospitality shown to us by not only the Cathedral Ringing Master – Les Townsend, its ringers and the central branch, but also ringers from as far afield as Grantham and Grimsby.

Our particular thanks go to Dot, Phil, Sandra and John for their superb hospitality and use of their campaniles – those who were not here – missed it!!

We hopefully look forward to a repeat visit next New Year!!

*Heather and Andrew Blacklock.*

## **News from the towers**

**St Mary's, Lincoln.** A University band has been started up at St Mary's. Practice night Fridays at 6.15pm. They have made an excellent start, providing ringing for the opening of the Christmas Market by ringing 40 minutes of Call Changes, as well as enjoying a Christmas Social after Practice night. Thank you Chris! We hope they have a happy and successful time ringing and studying in Lincoln, and look forward to meeting them at Branch functions.

John Ketteringham tells me that The **Monday Quarter Pealers** have had a successful 2011, with a wide variety of methods rung with a very high standard of striking. Although not a Branch activity some branch members have certainly benefited from these, and branch towers have been used. Thank you John. If we want to get a much out of ringing, we need to take all opportunities to help us progress.

The last major work to be done on **Metheringham bells** was in 1912 when 3 trebles were added to make an 8. In this their centenary the bells are becoming increasingly difficult to handle. The back 4 date from 1620 and are listed for preservation due to age and rarity and an estimate for refurbishment has been given for £10,000 - £15,000. It is also planned for the bell frame to be cleaned and painted by the local band. At this point the two trebles (which are still ringable) will remain untouched. If funds allow at some point they will be refurbished too and either a ringing floor with one set of rope guides be installed (or to remain a ground floor ring with two sets of guides).

**St Peter at Gowts** have been unringable for the past six years owing to questions about the safety of the tower. The Vicar and PCC have arranged for the Architect to inspect the tower, having been given access to full reports covering the past 50 years. It is good news that after his inspection, including a test ring, he has decided that limited ringing can now take place, happily in time to be able to ring as the Olympic torch passes down High Street. We now await his full report and his suggestions for dealing with tower issues. He has asked for bell hangers to give their suggestions too. In the meantime ringing is severely restricted, by arrangement at all times, no full peals or visiting bands permitted.

It is disturbing to note that the bell chamber, the intermediate chamber and the ringing chamber were all found to be infested by pigeons, resulting in masses of pigeon guano and a lot of pigeons, dead and alive all over the place.

## **Ringling Circles.**

Apart from an old peal board dated 1813, the ringling records in Nettleham church don't go back very far. In fact the first recorded quarter peal was in May 1960, that of 1260 plain bob minor. Rung for a royal wedding and as a compliment to D. Burkitt. Like many youngsters today, I left home, not to go to university but to join the Navy, and other than going for a ring when I was home on leave there was a lengthy lapse in my ringling career. Just a couple of months before that I rang my first peal, pretty well with the same band of local regular ringers, all of them characters, mostly men in their 50's and 60's. Names of that older generation of today's ringers will remember well: Geoff Parker and his father Bob - I can still remember Bob's wry smile sitting over a pint. There was Charlie Cade from Scothern, one of several generations of a ringling family. He was quite deaf in his later years and when the whole thing fired a smiling Charlie would remark 'Did someone call a bob



there?' That reminds me of someone today! Two of the Welton ringers of the time taught me at William Farr School - Harry Bartlett and Angus Dixon our science teacher. A small group of us rang regularly at St Mary's for school services.

I was actually taught to ring at Nettleham by Charlie Jeffries, the ringing master, whose brother Harold was church organist and also one of the Sunday band of ringers. Charlie was a joiner by trade and some of his workmanship can still be seen in the tower today, the donation box with an ingenious locking device was made by him. Sadly Charlie had a stroke whilst ringing for evensong. It took them ages to carry him down from the ringing chamber and he spent the rest of his life at home in the cottage on the green, paralysed.

The male domination of the 60's changed though. A number of youngsters, both boys and girls, learnt to ring, and throughout the 70,s and 80,s a number of quarters and full peals were rung. In 1974 a band of youngsters, three males and three females, average age just 14, rang a 5040 of plain bob minor at Nettleham, the youngest band in Lincolnshire, although I seem to remember that record was broken some years back. It as conducted by a young man called Colin Drabble.

So, at Nettleham anyway, we are back with an older band, but a mixed group which nearly always fields a full team for Sunday ringing. Minor methods are being practiced more frequently and newcomers to the village have even remarked that the standard of ringing has improved. I suppose like any other activity, ringing will always go through different phase, through its highs and lows, and whatever statistics show I don't think it is all doom and gloom in the ringing world. By all accounts Chris Woodcock's young band of university ringers are coming along nicely. They too will eventually leave the area and go their own separate ways. Hopefully most of them will stick with it, those that don't might one day return to the ringing circle as I once did.

*Dave Burkitt*

You don't stop doing things because you grow old,  
You grow old because you stop doing things!

## **Ringling Jargon Again**

(Things don't always mean what you think!)

When 'go' is called we don't depart;  
At 'stand' it's time to sit.  
Our hunt does not involve a fox;  
By blows no-one is hit.  
Royal for us involves no king,  
Though queens may there be found.

No-one is tempted to revolve  
When comes the call 'go round'.

When striking we are hard at work;  
Our covers don't conceal.  
Five courses do not make a feast  
But just a quarter peal.

A single ringer may be spliced,  
A spliced one still unwed;  
And when we shout to someone 'Bob'  
It may be Joe or Fred.

When leading wrong, we may be right;  
When in we're not at home.  
Delight may bring us all to grief,  
Surprise may be well-known.

So if you watch us at our task  
And hear the words we call,  
There's only one you'll know and love'  
The merciful 'That's all!'

We had been ringing Grandsire then Bob Doubles was called for.

The 4<sup>th</sup> failed to come in to the front and was asked:

'What method are you ringing?

For the rest of us are ringing Plain Bob!'

Learner : I seem to be going three steps forward then one step back.'

Mentor : 'Well done. That's just like Treble Bob!'

Every year the belfry suffers infestation of little flies.

Tower Captain : 'Oh dear', the little flies are back!'

Ringer : 'That's a sign of Spring.'

Tower Captain : 'Oh! Goody,goody. The little flies are coming back!'

## **Don't Forget**

The Guild AGM

Support North Scarle

Ring for the Jubilee and let the Guild Secretary know so she can publicise it in advance.

