

# **Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers**

## **Central Branch Newsletter (number 81) July 2013**



### **St Chad's, Welbourn**

A quarter peal was rung at Welbourn on 1<sup>st</sup> June to celebrate the golden wedding anniversary of Reg and Frances Brealey. We often ring quarters for such occasions, but this one was very special for, as well as being tireless workers for the church, the Brealeys were responsible for there being bells at Welbourn. The tower originally housed three bells dating from 1662, cast by William Sellars of York. The largest bell had long been cracked. In 1978 all three bells were replaced, the two smaller of them being stored at the back of the church. The church of Holy Trinity, Hagworthingham (in the Wolds), had a peal of eight rather poorly tuned bells. In the early 1970's Ted Colley felt it was a pity that Lincolnshire should have an unringable peal of eight and went to the tower to assess the problem in the hopes of being able to remedy the situation. He returned satisfied that the problem was too great for him to tackle. As the tower was unsafe a strengthening beam had been fitted diagonally across it, passing through the pit of the tenor! Then one stormy night in 1975 the tower collapsed, leaving the bells (still in their frame) exposed to view. They were immediately declared redundant!

Meanwhile, the Brealeys were looking for bells for Welbourn, and agreed to pay for the restoration of Hagworthingham tower in exchange for the bells. Taylors were brought in who solved the problem of how to recover the bells safely by arranging with the RAF to lift them out,

complete in the frame, by helicopter. All this would have been impossible without the finance provided by Mr Brealey.

Using second-hand bells presented a new problem. They were poorly tuned, two adjacent bells actually sounding the same note as each other! The drastic tuning required meant that the wall of the 6<sup>th</sup> is now so thin that you can actually see daylight through it! Needless to say, at that point they stopped tuning! The late Bill Holmes used to declare that that bell was full of music, it has to be 'because there's none coming out!' Actually, when they are ringing in peal the dullness of its sound is not really noticeable. The bells in their new home were dedicated on Ascension Day in 1987. On returning home after a test ring before the dedication, Geoffrey was asked how they had fared and replied, 'I broke a stay' he then went on in self defence to explain that it was not the stay on the bell he was ringing. The space is rather limited upstairs, and as they went into changes, the tenor bell (which had plenty of room when being swung alone) clipped the stay of the 6<sup>th</sup>, and broke it. Now the stay on the 6<sup>th</sup> has a kink in it so that it can be kept out of the arc of the tenor's swing at all times. When a band was being taught to ring, the learners were not allowed to ring that bell! Mending that broken stay would have been a much bigger job than normal!

Mrs Brealey and their daughter Clare were among the new recruits, but unfortunately the old story applied. Mrs Brealey was too busy to keep up the commitment and Clare grew up and left home. However the family still show great interest in 'their' bells and love to hear them rung. There is always a warm welcome at Welbourn. Sadly there is no longer a local band, but the bells get well used to help ringers gain experience on eight, and they are rung for service by nearby ringers. **Many thanks from the exercise in general to the Brealeys**, and in particular from the ringers who have come to know them. It was a great pleasure to try to repay them in some way by ringing to celebrate their special day.

WELBOURN                      1 Jun  
1250 Lincolnshire Surprise Major  
1. Margaret Parker  
2. Dot Mason  
3. Sylvia Taylor  
4. John Underwood  
5. John Nicholson  
6. Alan Bird  
7. Mick Stracey ©  
8. Phil Mason

Specially arranged to celebrate the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Reg and Frances Brealey who were married fifty years ago this day.

## Suggested Ringing Programme 2013-2014

July 13	Outing	Ringing W. Keale	12.30 – 13.30
		Alford	14.00 -15.00
		Mablethorpe	15.30 – 16.30
Aug 10	Barbecue and half yearly meeting		
Aug 11	Cathedral Service ringing		14.30 – 15.45
Sept 14	Guild 6-bell Striking Contest Final in Southern Branch Cup at Denton, Plate at Barrowby		
Oct 12	Visit to Loughborough Bell Foundry with a tower or two afterwards		
Nov 9	Brant Broughton	Quiz and faith supper	
Dec 14	Ruskington	Carol Service followed by mince pies	
		Ringing 2.30 for 3 o'clock service	
Jan 11	Welbourn	AGM 3 p.m. ringing 4.30 service	
	Tea Navenby(?) Further ringing in that area.		
Feb 8	Rauceby		2.00 - 3.00
	and Fulbeck		3.15 - 4.15
Mar 8	Wragby		2.00 - 3.00

The Committee are keen to hear of any **ideas** or **events** which will attract more members to attend meetings.

Refreshments are available at these meetings.

Put all these dates in your diary!

There is a limit to the numbers allowed on the foundry tour. Therefore it will be a case of first come, first served. Book your place – with a deposit - as soon as possible so as not to be disappointed. Don't forget to wear stout shoes.

N.B. It has not been practical to arrange a coach for the foundry trip, so make your own arrangements. It will be possible to share cars.

We are grateful to Sue Waterfall for arranging Surprise Major Practices at Washingborough. They are held at 10.30 - 12 on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in the month unless otherwise arranged to suit circumstances. The next ones are July 27<sup>th</sup>, August 24<sup>th</sup>, Sept 28<sup>th</sup>, Oct 26<sup>th</sup>, Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> and Dec 21<sup>st</sup>. We don't think people would come on the 28<sup>th</sup>!

## Notes from the Guild AGM, April 28

\* Mick Stracey was elected an **Honorary Life Member**

\* All the **Guild Officers** (as in the 2012 Report) were re-elected.

\* **Central Council Reps** elected were: Philip Green, Chris Turner, Chris Sharp and Robin Heppenstall.

**Grants Committee:** Alan Payne, Dot Mason, Robin Heppenstall, Michael Smith and Sandra Underwood.

**Trustees of the BRF:** Alan Payne, Roger Lord and Dot Mason

**Webmaster:** Jonathan Clark.

\* **Subs for 2014** unchanged i.e. Adult £10, Junior £3, NRLM £5

- Peal booking fee 25p
- 2013 Quota: General Fund 45%,
- BRF 40%, Branches 15%

\* Proposed **change of wording to Rule 9(b)** agreed. '28 days notice of such meeting and proposed alteration must be given to each member through the tower via the Branch secretary.'

\* **Future activities**

Sat 15 June Ridgman Trophy at Surfleet.

Sat 6 July National Youth Striking Contest in York (the Guild hopes to enter two teams)

Sat 14 Sept Guild 6-bell striking contest final Denton and Barrowby

Sat 19 Oct Guild 8-bell inter-branch striking contest at Kirton

Lindsey

\* A plea to everyone to **keep secretaries and web-site informed** when changes occur so that they can be kept up to date.

\* The **Dean thanked all ringers** for all we do, especially the witness of ringing for service.

## Conductor's Course, Blankney April 13<sup>th</sup>

It was good to see people wanting to learn to call touches. We need to pass on these skills. Richard gave a theory session in the church in the afternoon, and then after eating our picnic teas, we went up the tower so that they could put what they had learnt into practice. Soon the newly re-furbished belfry was filled with people ringing call changes or Plain Bob Doubles, all ably called by the pupils. A good meeting. We must do it again.

## Branch Striking Contest May 11<sup>th</sup>

It was a very wet day as Central Branch ringers made their way to Timberland on the afternoon of 11<sup>th</sup> May. Good use was made of the

bells, everyone getting a good ring. Please note that all, including the youngest member there, were well catered for at their own level - Jean was surprised to be asked to call the touch, but was reminded that she had learnt how to do only a month ago at the conductor's course – no hiding place!!! Why don't you join in these meetings? Ed made sure we were well supplied with cups of tea/coffee and biscuits during the afternoon - and Janet offered the use of her toilet at home to the ladies who needed it! Thank you Janet, very much appreciated!. As she put it: 'The ladies are welcome to come; the men can make their own arrangements!' We then enjoyed our picnic teas in Timberland church (it was too wet outside!), before going on to Martin as the sun came out. Sadly only two teams had entered the contest. The standard of ringing was good, and Barry Jones from the Southern Branch adjudged the Cathedral team (ringing Cambridge) to have won, with that from Welton (ringing call changes) coming second, followed by a scratch team (who rang Plain Bob).

### **Central Branch Meeting June 8<sup>th</sup>**

This meeting was held out of Branch when we ventured into the Lincolnshire Wolds. We invited the Northern Branch ringers to join us, which boosted our numbers. We had not ordered the weather and we were rather cold at our picnic outside Walesby church. We started the afternoon at Tealby, where we had some very good ringing (the one exception being when we tried to prove that the ringing is best when all the band are trying to ring the same method!) Some members decided to walk between the towers, and the person who cycled managed to arrive some time after the walkers! (I think the local ringer who gave him directions thought he was on foot too and did not account for the high stiles and 'kissing gates' along the route! The hill was typically very wet and muddy, (a shame for those in delicate summer shoes, having not been warned about the access!) A 4x4 did make it up the hill, and he supplied us with hot drinks once he had found the matches. Who was it that wanted to claim for muddy trousers?! We enjoyed these unusual bells, but finished a little early as it was cold and we'd had enough. Nevertheless, it was a most enjoyable afternoon out. Thank for arranging it.

Now we look forward to our summer outing to Mablethorpe on 13<sup>th</sup> July, when we hope the sun **will** shine.

## Notes from the Guild Committee Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> June

The **Barrow and District** have been affiliated to the Central Council **Peals** are up on last year. Discussion whether computer generated peals should be in the Guild Report as they are not stored in the computer.

Complaint about the quality of the food at the **AGM**. The day considered too **long**. Change in the format?

**Guild Review** discussed:

- i) Rules: change Resident Member to Ringing Member giving those living outside Diocese full voting rights.
- ii) Qualifying standard for members? Rounds and call changes?  
Proposed new member to attend meeting where proposed and person proposing to justify it?
- iii) Deadline for payment of subs 31<sup>st</sup> March Anyone not paid up by then be re-elected and no voting rights at AGM?
- iv) Suggestion to establish 'ringing clusters' within the branches to encourage teams support for ringers. Each Branch to select a venue.
- v) Discussion how subs should be paid. Advocating electronic ways.
- vi) What do members want of the Guild? How often should an event be held? Any suggestions to members of the Committee.

## Welcome

----- to **James Northway** who was elected a member at the Walesby meeting.

## Apologies

--- to **Peter Davey** of Heckington for spelling his name wrongly in the Welcome section of the last Newsletter.

## Congratulations

--- to **Mick Stracey** on being elected an **Honorary Life Member** of the Guild in recognition of all that he has contributed to ringing in the Branch and the Guild over a number of years.

----- to **the young ringers at Potterhanworth school** who have been presented with the **Children's Achievement Award for Bell Ringing** by the Bishop of Lincoln.

--- to **James Northway** who rung his first peal, at Potterhanworth in celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Queen's Coronation.

## Notes from Branch Committee Meeting 11th June

Foundry visit – **stout shoes to be worn at foundry**. What are our numbers? Should we open it to all members of the Guild?

Not much enthusiasm for North Scarle August meeting. Fiona looking for another venue.

Nearly all subs now collected - the same two people being the only ones to default!

Has the Guild still got a Fund Raising Committee?

Tower for ringing cluster? **Wragby** already exists, but needs funds to get the simulator working. Any additional suggestions?

What do members want of the Guild? How often should any event be held? Possibility of Hog Roast (too expensive?) Any suggestions to members of the Committee.

Jonathan to seek out the Archdeacon to establish to whom we should write to voice our concerns over the situation at Sleaford.

BRF to pay after the job completed, eliminating time lapse for receipt of paid invoices.

Christmas card entries looked at, and whilst the winning card was attractive we did not consider it commercially viable. Dot to speak to Philip Green giving him a few ideas and asking him to proceed provided they can be delivered in time for the Striking Competition. The Branch has two youngsters going to York for the National Youth Striking Contest. Committee agreed to give financial assistance if needed

The sixbell simulator going to Heckington Show.

Arrangements for branch AGM. Ringing at Welbourn. Meeting around **Wellingore** and **Navenby**, with evening ringing in that location.

Dot to organise a band for the 8-bell inter branch striking contest.

Two bells crossed over so the touch did not come into rounds.

'I must hold my hand up to it. I was guilty of a bit of cross pollination there.'

What makes you think she is a keen flower arranger?!

A garden is a thing of beauty and a job for ever.

The ringing was called round.

Conductor: The striking just got worse and worse. We didn't stand a chance.

Ringer: I just kept ringing at the same steady pace all the time.

Conductor: Maybe that's what went wrong. You were hunting, so you should have gone slower then quicker. If you rang at the same pace we were bound for disaster.

Ringer: That's not what I meant!

Jargon again!

## **Tower News**

When Cathy of **Hackthorn** became a grandmother, we decided we ought to ring a quarter to welcome the baby and wrote a note on the board to remind ourselves. Somehow we never really got round to organising it until there were others too. Finally, when we turned up only 5 at practice, on 27<sup>th</sup> May, we tried to put things right, and so we rang a quarter of Bob Doubles to welcome Cathy's grandchildren Hermione and Sebastian, Sally's grandson Sunday Wray and Brian's great grandson Joshua. Welcome all five of you!

Repairs to **Caythorpe's** tower have started, but they find that the damage is greater than first thought, and the whole job will cost a lot more. Phase 1 is going ahead, Phase II will be later in the year.

## **Thank you**

The **Nettleham** ringers are very grateful for all the help and support we received at our open day. Special thanks go to Jonathan who spent a lot of time assembling and rigging up the CCTV under the tower that enabled people to see (and hear!) what was going on as the peal was being rung. It proved very popular and was a great advert for ringing. The cheer that went up in the church as the peal finished confirmed the positive attitude of the afternoon. Thanks also to Phil and Dot for bringing their mobile belfry. It, too proved a great attraction and very good PR. We are grateful to those who came to ring for us, and of course we very much appreciated the lovely cakes that people brought! We were happy to be able to donate £335 12p to the church fabric fund, but more important to us was the buzz inside the church, and the publicity for ringing of that afternoon. Many thanks.



**Nettleham** 20 April  
5040 Plain Bob Minor  
1. Dave Burkitt  
2. Fiona Dawson  
3. David Fox  
4. Philip Dawson  
5. Brian Smith  
6. Chris Woodcock ©

Rung on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the peal rung here by a local band.

Bells are female. If you treat them gently they do what you want - if you're rough with them then you are in trouble. 'What about Big Ben? Is he a bit of a transvestite?'

He had just put a sweet in his mouth when he was asked to keep an eye on a novice. He told the novice, 'Don't go wrong until I've finished my toffee.'

## **Dambusters**

When ringers heard of the ceremonies planned to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 'Dambuster' raid. (This had set off from RAF Scampton 16<sup>th</sup> May 1943 for the night-time raid on the dams in the Ruhr valley which were vital to the German war effort, and the success of the mission shortened the war considerably) they felt that it would be appropriate to ring a peal at Hackthorn (the church closest to RAF Scampton) while a Sunset Ceremony was being held on the evening of 16<sup>th</sup> May 2013. A Lancaster bomber flew in to join the 500 invited guests, including the last three surviving crew members. Hackthorn ringers joined in the spirit of the occasion, gathering at the home of one of their members so that together they could watch the fly past of the Lancaster, together with two Spitfires, and listen to the bells from her garden. Unfortunately, the wind was in the wrong direction for them to be able to hear, but they had an enjoyable social evening together and this did mean that the bells could be heard by those attending the ceremony half a mile away. The following day saw a special service of commemoration in the Cathedral the 'welcome home' the wartime pilots rejoiced to see, knowing they had managed to return safely, and in the evening another peal was rung at Welton, the second closest church to RAF Scampton.

The footnote to the Hackthorn peal included the words 'This peal is dedicated to the memory of all those who perished, whether in the air or on the ground, as a consequence of the operation.' That at Welton was dedicated to those airmen of 617 Squadron, based at Scampton, who lost their lives in the early hours 70 years ago, when carrying out the 'Dambusters' raid.

## **A lesson in ringing Grammar**

Mick found this in the ANZAB Western Australia newsletter

I try to instil the message that 'Look to, Treble's going, She's gone' isn't just a mantra to be chanted by the treble ringer, but it is actually a set of instructions: 'Look to' – stop nattering, pick up your rope, grab hold of the tail end and stand ready to ring and pay attention. 'Treble's going' – I've brought my bell up to the balance and please would you do the same. 'She's gone' – my bells off balance and you'd better follow me pronto. (Or as the Lancashire character used to say 'Are you ready? Are you ringing? You're too late now!') Only if folks treat these instructions properly, in particular not going on to the second until everyone is ready, is there any chance of the first round sounding decent?

Look to. Treble's going - - - then nothing. 'What happened?'  
'My bell wasn't ready!'

You weren't affected at the Bob.

'When you say I'm unaffected, I find I'm more affected than ever!'

**Having lost recruits when they are disheartened to find what they thought would be easy turns out to be more of a challenge, this seemed to me as relevant to ringing as to life in general!**

When things go wrong as they sometimes will,  
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,  
When funds are low, and the debts are high  
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh'  
When care is pressing you down a bit  
Rest if you must, but don't quit.  
Life is queer with its twists and turns,

As every one of us sometimes learns  
 And many a failure turns about  
 When he might have won had he stuck it out;  
 Don't give up though the pace seems slow  
 You may succeed with another blow,  
 Success is failure turned inside out  
 The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,  
 And you never can tell how close you are,  
 It may be near though it seems so far;  
 So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit  
 It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.

## Branch Quarter Peals

CATHEDRAL 24 Feb

1311 Stedman Cinques

1. Robin Heppenstall
  2. Delia Heppenstall
  3. Michael Maughan
  4. Heather Blacklock
  5. Graham Colborne ©
  6. Sandra Underwood
  7. Robin Rogers
  8. Les Townsend
  9. Christopher Sharp
  10. David Fox
  11. Philip Grover
  12. John Underwood
- For Evensong

SWINDERBY 17 March

1260 St Martins Bob Doubles

1. Martin Pearson
2. Soo Pendleton
3. Betty Stracey
4. Michael Lawton
5. Mick Stracey ©

First in method – 4

For Evensong on St Patrick's  
 Day

CATHEDRAL 24 March

1311 Stedman Cinques

1. David Fox ©
2. Sue Fall
3. Graham Colborne
4. Delia Heppenstall
5. Robin Heppenstall
6. Les Townsend
7. Heather Grover
8. Mathew Jeffery
9. Barry Jones
10. Robert Hancock
11. Philip Grover
12. Phil Mason

For Palm Sunday Evensong

NETTLEHAM 6 April

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1. John Dent
2. Dave Burkitt
3. Margaret Parker ©
4. Helen McGurk
5. Keith Gladman
6. Trevor Hardcastle

Rung to congratulate John &  
 Frances Dent on their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding  
 anniversary.

LINCOLN St Giles 11 April  
1280 Lincolnshire Surprise Major

1. Margaret Parker
2. Dot Mason
3. Les Townsend
4. Betty Stracey
5. John Underwood
6. Mick Stracey
7. Phil Mason
8. David Fox ©

Rung in gratitude for 50 years of service of Julian Paul as organist at this church, on his retirement.

SILK WILLOUGHBY 18 April  
1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor

1. Sylvia Taylor
2. Dot Mason
3. Jean Kay
4. Mick Stracey
5. Phil Mason
6. Alan Bird ©

First of Surprise – 3

NETTLEHAM 19 April  
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1. Amy Burkitt
2. Margaret Parker ©
3. Helen McGurk
4. Ian Douglas
5. Keith Gladman
6. Trevor Hardcastle

Rung by a local band on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the peal which is recorded on a peal board in the belfry.

All SS. NETTLEHAM The  
Woodside Mobile Campanile  
20 April

1296 Cambridge Surprise Major

1. Dot Mason
2. Sylvia Taylor
3. Phil Mason
4. Betty Stracey
5. John Nicholson
6. Mick Stracey ©

Rung prior to the celebrations in church to mark the 1813 peal on Nettleham bells

WADDINGTON 28 April  
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1. Jean Williams
2. Graham Whittaker
3. Johnathan Clark ©
4. Martin Pearson
5. Sue Waterfall
6. Robert Harvey

Rung to celebrate the birth of Freddie James Crombie on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Freddie's mother, Amanda, is Tower Captain of St Michael's Waddington.

CATHEDRAL 12 May  
(On light eight)

1250 Lincolnshire Surprise Major

1. Michael Lawton
2. Delia Heppenstall
3. Fiona Dawson
4. Les Townsend
5. Robin Heppenstall ©
6. John Nicholson
7. Philip Mason
8. Graham Colbourne

First TB Major – 1  
For Evensong

CATHEDRAL 26 May  
1282 Cambridge Surprise Major

1. Rose Hancock
2. Michael Lawton
3. Heather Blacklock
4. Dot mason
5. Phil Mason
6. John Nicholson
7. Les Townsend
8. Mick Stracey ©

First Surprise inside – 2  
For Trinity Sunday Evensong

HACKTHORN 27 May

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1. Cathy Andrews
2. Margaret Parker ©
3. Sally Turnbull
4. Helen McGurk
5. Brian Smith

Rung on back 5 when short at practice night. To welcome grandchildren for Cathy & Sally

CATHEDRAL 2 June

1341 Grandsire Cinques

1. Rose Hancock
2. Sandra Underwood
3. Delia Heppenstall
4. Dot Mason
5. Fiona Dawson
6. Mick Stracey
7. Robin Heppenstall ©
8. John Underwood
9. Les Townsend
10. Bob Hancock
11. David Fox
12. Phil Mason

To mark the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the coronation of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

CATHEDRAL 9 June

1280 Lincolnshire Surprise Major

1. Delia Heppenstall
2. Dot Mason
3. Fiona Mason
4. Robin Heppenstall
5. Graham Colborne
6. Mick Stracey
7. Phil Mason
8. David Fox ©

For Evensong on the Richardson eight.

CATHEDRAL 23 June

1260 Grandsire Triples

1. Rose Hancock
2. Delia Heppenstall
3. Sue Faull
4. Fiona Dawson
5. Bob Hancock
6. Les Townsend
7. Robin Heppenstall ©
8. John Nicholson

For Evensong on the Richardson eight