

## **Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers** **Central Branch Newsletter no 94 July**

### ***There was a young ringer from Hackthorn!***

At the Rabbits at Hackthorn, people were asked to think of a limerick, starting with the above line. The results, of fingers tapping on phones or pads - or even using pen and paper, can now be read. Here's the first of four found in this Newsletter.

### ***There was a young ringer from Hackthorn***

*Who fell in a bush called a blackthorn*

*She said "Oh , that hurt!"*

*I've only a thin shirt*

*I wish I'd a thick mac worn!*

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### ***Lincoln Guild AGM at Methodist Church Bailgate, Lincoln*** ***Saturday 30th April***

As usual car parking at the Bailgate Methodist Church was at a premium, Nettleham Road proved a 5 minute walk away.

Since the new Dean had not been appointed, the Guild Ringing Master Alan Payne chaired the meeting. The meeting stood for a minute in honour of those members who died during 2015.

Roger Lord gave the financial report for 2015, explaining the published accounts which were accepted by the meeting. He reported that subscriptions would remain the same for 2017. Alan Payne reported on the BRF Fund accounts. The percentage split of subscriptions for 2016 were confirmed as General Fund 50%, BRF 25% ,Training Fund 10% and Branch retention 15%. John Nicholson presented the Guild Report for 2015, thanking those who contributed for their promptness in submitting reports, Margaret Parker for proof reading and acknowledgement of the photographs of the Young Ringers Bands. The Report was accepted by the meeting.

Election of Officers saw Alan Payne re-elected as Master for, what he has said, is his final year and Roger Lord re-elected as Treasurer. Sandra Underwood has stood down as Secretary and to date no replacement has been nominated - the Guild Committee will deal with the administration for the time being. Three of the Guild representatives on the Central Council will remain until 2017 but Robin Heppenstall has stood down.

Cont'd from the previous page:

Presentations were made to Sandra Underwood and Robin Heppenstall. The remaining members of the Guild Committee were re-elected en-bloc. Ian Till nominated Melvyn Rose from Epworth for the Roll of Honour and this was agreed by the meeting.

Future Events were reported:

- Central Council Meeting in Portsmouth on 28<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> May.
- Ridgeman Trophy 4<sup>th</sup> June.
- National Youth Striking Competition London 2<sup>nd</sup> July, where we have two teams representing the Guild.
- Guild Striking Competitions - 6 bell 10<sup>th</sup> September Whaplode and Moulton, - 8 Bell 1<sup>st</sup> October Ingoldmells.
- May 17<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> Schools Festival in Cathedral
- July 23<sup>rd</sup> Young Ringers Summer Festival based at Dunholme Village Hall and local churches

Ringers were made aware of the changes to faculties for repairs to bells which is published on the Website.

Update on Safe Guarding also on Website and Joy Lord was confirmed as Safe Guarding Officer for the Guild.

Change to Striking Competition Rules. No Ringer shall take part in two teams. Last year the rules caused issues as ringers were in both the Plate and the Cup teams. Cup will be method minor or doubles, Plate - call changes.

Concern expressed over the state of ringer numbers and how ringing within the Guild reflects the National trend. Focus on more recruitment and training.

Womble has been booked out a number of times, available for any display event as long as transport is available.

100 Club was drawn, 1<sup>st</sup> prize to Sleaford Tower, 2<sup>nd</sup> David Bennett, 3<sup>rd</sup> John Collett, 4<sup>th</sup> Dot Mason, 5<sup>th</sup> Tracy Black.

BBQ at Sibsey Mill 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

There being no further business the meeting closed and we retired to the Methodist Hall for Lunch.

Chris

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Another verse -----

***There was a young ringer from Hackthorn***

*Who was English bred and born*

*He rang and he rang*

*With a clatter and clang*

*And he didn't stop until dawn!*

## **Proposed Ringing Meetings for 2016/2017**

Aug 13th	Heckington	6.00 - 8.00pm
Aug 14th	Cathedral Service Ringing	meet 2.30pm
Sept 10th	Guild 6 Bell Striking Contest	Please give names for tea
	Whaplode - Plate Moulton - Cup	and read rules.
Sept 17th	Branch Outing Nottinghamshire area	- advert inc. on page 16
Oct 1st	Guild 8 Bell Striking Contest	
	In the Eastern District	
Oct 8th	Ruskington	3.00 - 4.30pm
Nov 12th	Dunholme Quiz Evening	6.30 - 10.30pm
Dec 10th	Carol Service Welbourn Ringing	2.00pm
	Service	3.00pm
Jan 14th	AGM Lincoln St Giles Ringing	3.00pm
	Service	4.30pm
	Tea & Meeting	5.00pm
Feb 11th	Carlton Le Moorland	Being arranged
	Bassingham	3.00 - 4.30pm
Mar 11th	Navenby	3.00 - 4.30pm

Please check with your tower correspondent for confirmation of details on the meetings.

## **Washingborough 8 Bell Practices 10.30-12am**

27th Aug, 24th Sept, 22nd Oct, 26th Nov,

This practice accommodates the needs of ringers and is open to all who would like to practice their 8 bell ringing in a relaxed environment.

**All of these are subject to change.** Check nearer the time.

## **Congratulations to:**

- Luke Boreham for his first quarter of minor and triples
- George Ellison for his first quarter of minor
- Michael Smith for his first quarter of St Simon's Bob Triples
- Michael Lawton for his first triples as conductor
- Ed Purkiss for his first quarter on ten and first of Little Bob Royal
- Luke Boreham for his first quarter of Plain Bob Doubles

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*Yet another ---*

***There was a young ringer from Hackthorn***

*Who stabbed his thumb on a blackthorn*

*His thumb it did sting*

*So he could not ring*

*That silly young ringer from Hackthorn!*

***In the last Newsletter, there was an article about the Branch Meeting at Martin and various questions were asked. There has been a request to publish a response to these questions.***

Margaret puts the question out at the end of the very first sentence "Where were the local ringers?" to put it in context the sentence began "This meeting was very poorly attended - only 12 ringers in fact".

To put some people in the picture. The Martin & Timberland bell ringers only have 3 resident ringers of their own - Janet (Tower Captain), Janet & Roger. The Practices are run and supported by the neighbouring ringers from Potterhanworth/Nocton (at the request of the local Tower Captain Janet Crafer). The vast majority of the ringers at practice coming from neighbouring Conningsby in the Eastern Branch.

So in answer to Margaret's question. Janet (Tower Captain) & Janet were present, Roger was away with work (so unable to be present, but would have been if he had been at home). Myself and Mum were present as weekly attendees of the Martin /Timberland Practices and we even provided the cakes for the Central Branch visit. So I would have said that out of the 5 possible regular weekly attendees to the Martin/Timberland practices of which we are all Central Branch members, 4 attended (80%), not bad I would say!

As it turned out the following Monday's practice night at Martin had 13 ringers present (beating the Branches attendance!) however these included a number of visitors from Washy/Waddo tower and the Eastern Branch contingent from Conningsby.

Perhaps the question should have been – Where were all the Branch Committee?

Chris Woodcock

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*Ringing a doubles method, the tenor decided to hunt down to the front. The other ringers kindly allowed him to do this. This has given a different meaning to ringing spliced minor and doubles in our tower!*

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*He had been struggling to master the 4th.*

*'Would you ring the 4th?'*

*'Never on Sunday!'*

*'Is that the 11th Commandment? Thou shalt not ring the 4th on a Sunday?'*

*'Yes. It's written in my Bible - I pencilled it into my copy!'*

## ***Celebration at Hackthorn 23rd April***

Hackthorn's peal of bells was dedicated on St George's Day 2006, the culmination of the village's Millennium Project. This year, the ringers planned to celebrate the 10th birthday of this momentous occasion by holding a bell awareness publicity event in celebration. So it was that just over 40 people gathered in the Village Hall for a St George's Day lunch.

They then adjourned to the church where six children from the Village School rang tunes and then demonstrated change-ringing by walking through Plain Hunt, using the Bell Plates which had been presented to the school as an additional part of the Millennium Project.

The Guild's OneBell (Womble!) simulator had been erected by the Church door and Jonathan had rigged up microphone and cameras in both the bell and ringing chambers, linked to a couple of monitors so that the ringing that then ensued could be seen (and heard) in the church.

For an hour, visitors mingled, watching what was happening "upstairs" trying their hand on the simulator and chatted to the ringers about what they were seeing.

The afternoon closed with a short service led by Sally, a Hackthorn ringer. Thank you Les for playing the organ. Many thanks, too, for the ladies for such a lovely lunch, to the men for fetching and assembling the simulator, and to Jonathan for installing the video link. Last, but by no means least, thank you to the Branch members who came to ring (so that we could be sure that there was something for the visitors to see!) This mutual help and friendship within the Guild is a great privilege to be treasured and enjoyed by ringers nationwide.

A good day was had by all, and we are hopeful that we have inspired a number of possible recruits.

"Watch this space."

MAP

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*And finally the last verse ----*

***There was a young ringer from Hackthorn***

*Who guzzled down far too much blackthorn*

*When we shouted "look to"*

*They needed the loo*

*And tiddled to keep the rope mat warm!*

*Thank you all for your support in putting on your thinking caps!*

## ***To Celebrate the 90th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II***

At All Saints Church Nettleham on Thursday 21st April  
The bells were rung in rounds for ½ hour by members of the Junior  
School Bell Club (with a bit of adult support)

Jade Rocha  
Sammy Cooper  
John Winterbourne  
Richard Thornton  
Trevor Hardcastle  
Margaret Parker

Each of the children have been presented with a suitable certificate “to  
show their grandchildren.”

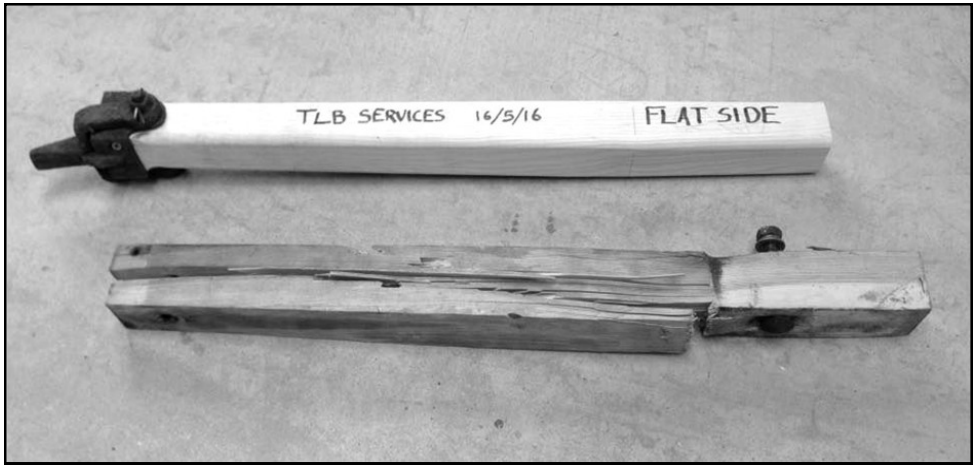
Also, bells were rung at several churches through the Central Branch to  
celebrate the 90th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II:

Lincoln St Mary	Branston
Blankney	Martin
Metheringham	Nocton
Potterhanworth	Sleaford *
Timberland	Welbourn *

\* Sleaford  
1260 Grandsire Triples  
21 Apr  
1. Jean Kay  
2. Alan D H Bird  
3. Greg Harrison  
4. Betty Stracey  
5. Anthony D Walker  
6. Michael Stracey  
7. David Fox (C)  
8. Bryan Ward

\* Welbourn  
1280 Cambridge Surprise Major  
21 Apr  
1. Alan D H Bird (C)  
2. Sylvia M Taylor  
3. Michael Stracey  
4. Christine Jackson  
5. Les Townsend  
6. Greg Harrison  
7. David Fox  
8. Anthony D Walker

More quarters, rung as a 90th birthday compliment to HM Queen  
Elizabeth II, are published further on in the newsletter.



### ***New stay for the Treble at Waddington - so what?***

One practice evening, the inevitable happened. A stay broke. On any other bells, yes it would take time and effort to make a stay but at Waddington the time and effort was as it seemed, quadrupled because the stays were Hasting stays. Anyone who does not know what a Hasting stay looks like, then look at the photo. The dimensions needed to be reproduced exactly, to enable the stay to fit into the frame.

The old one was not made of ash and had splintered with just a tap. So since it was no longer much of a pattern, how was a new one to be made? At Waddington, we were very fortunate to have the new stay for the treble to be quickly and professionally made by Tom Blyth. Tom rang Taylors who had supplied and hung the bell in 1959. They still had the dimensions of the original stay on record so the new stay is an exact match, -- very important with Hastings stays. Colin Ward

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*“There’s a knot in his rope!”*

*“Yes. It’s too long so he’s tied it in himself. It’s easier than tying a knot in his legs!”*

*“I have successfully proved there are 3 ways of ringing the method: - Wrong, completely wrong and I haven’t got a clue!”*

*Overheard*

*After a touch of call changes, one of the ringers said to the conductor  
“5 to 3 -- I think?” -- Not the most authoritative call you’ve ever made!”*

### **Central Branch Practice at Scothern 14th May**

A lovely summers evening saw fourteen people visit Scothern belfry. It was the weekend of the West Lindsey Open Churches Festival. This parish church had put on a display of Wedding photographs and wanted the building manned at all times. This gave those who did not want to ring plenty of time to prepare the refreshments. The lack of ventilation within the belfry meant that it was rather warm and stuffy and as it is only a small space, rather crowded. A wide variety of methods were rung from plain minor through doubles to surprise minor. There was a great deal of laughter between rings. Even if things did not go well. The less experienced had a chance to practise different methods with good people around them and someone to stand behind them if needed. Once the ringing had ended many stayed behind for refreshments and a chat. Any remaining cake was sold off, with the money going into the branch BRF. You may find the bells slightly different on your next visit as the tower is now closed whilst Taylor's work to strengthen the frame.

FD

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### **Central Branch practice at Great Hale on 11th June**

24 people attended this meeting , a good turnout aided by the full support of the Heckington ringers. Thank you Audrey for the 3-line whip! We were pleased to welcome a visitor from Yorkshire who came in his van the back of which published his name, business and telephone number in the usual way, with an extra line at the bottom proclaiming 'I ALSO RING CHURCH BELLS' - original that! We had known in advance that the bells (hung on plain bearings) were not easy to handle, and Greg told us that when he unlocked he went upstairs to oil them but 'there wasn't any oil up there so I didn't'. You can guess the result! Nevertheless we kept them ringing with a variety of methods, mainly ones that didn't have excessive dodging. However one brave (or foolhardy?) group refused to be intimidated and asked for a course of Norwich. With all that double and three pull dodging they beat the bells into submission and rang a very respectable course - but having made their point, didn't repeat the effort! Congratulations to Sue Waterfall on winning the raffle and many thanks to Rebecca for making copious cups of tea to keep us lubricated and to the Harrison family for letting us in and making us welcome.

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*Anxious learner: 'I can't do it. If you make me try I'll hate you!'*

*Expert ringer: 'Why not?'*

*Anxious learner: 'I'll make a mess of things.'*

*Expert ringer: 'So? Nobody's died horribly, have they!'*



## ***A letter from the Branch President***

I am writing this as the Referendum 'debate' is reaching it's climax. How confrontational is politics! Sadly it seems to me that in our Branch we too have been getting that way - rival factions have developed which do not really seek to understand those whom they disagree. We are too ready to attack persons, not the issues they represent, all of us fiercely (and sometimes unreasonably) defending our pitch in active conflict instead of trying to find common ground.

But we are not politicians. We are servants of the Church, charged, in our rules, with 'striving to provide a service to the church and the community'. We do not own the bells; they are not for our delight or power. It is not for us to say when they should be rung or who should ring them. They are under the direct care of the Incumbent and the PCC. Let us combine our strength to help each other and be prepared to learn from each other. All have a duty to welcome to promote fellowship and give the best service we can give - all of us, not just the officers. Let us put aside rivalry and join together in the promotion of bellringing in harmony in our service of God in the call of the bells. Sermons at our AGMs frequently remind us of this and thank us for our service and we all come out in a 'holy glow'. Let us strive to deserve it. We are all guilty. Re-read the words of the ringers' hymn 'Unchanging God'. Lord help us to listen. Margaret.

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## ***The Waddo, Washy visit to Harby***

This year, the Waddington & Washingborough Church Bell Ringers decided that we should enter two teams into the Central Branch striking competition. This meant we needed to practice & polish our skills. We wanted to book the bells, the competition is to be held at (North Scarle), but we were not able to get the bells on a day which we all could make. So we decided to practice at Harby which are similar bells to North Scarle. We enjoy ringing these lovely bells! Saturday 11th June was The Queen's Birthday and there was a village barbecue taking place in the field opposite the church that afternoon. Hopefully the bells ringing in the background would make for a nice setting for the event. But... the weather turned into torrential rain, unfortunately for the village barbecue. The inflatable slide they'd hired for the children became a water slide! The children liked it even more and must have gone home soaked and dirty. The weather didn't bother us too much apart from it making driving conditions interesting. We had a great practice on Harby bells and are looking forward to taking part in the competition. May the best team win! Many thanks to Will Turner, who I have known for several years for his support & encouragement. Sue Waterfall

## ***Poem written by J A Sutherland***

In 1938 Farmer Givern said to my Dad  
I've got a farm in Walesby Lincolnshire  
Will you come with me and bring your wife  
And also your daughter and that young lad

In 1946 I left the modern school  
Farm work was not for me  
A Gent's hairdresser I'd like to be

I was bound apprentice in Market Rasen Town  
I worked 6 months before my wages was a pound  
I didn't care  
That's where I learnt to cut, shampoo  
And sing the gentlemen's hair

When I was 18 year's old I heard the bugle call  
I had to join the army the long, the short and the tall  
I was sent to Scotland the place of my birth  
To report to Fort George on the Moray Firth

T'was there I learnt to fire the rifle and the bren  
Then they send me to Germany  
Square bashing all over again  
To Berlin and Hamburg to see the damage the RAF had done  
To pay back bad old Adolf for the war he had begun

When my 2 years were over I was mighty glad  
To be back in Walesby with dear old Mum and Dad  
To hear the church bells on the hill telling the time of day  
And calling the people to worship on every holy day

It was at Caistor town I meet Margaret – the apple of my eye  
I left behind all the other girls, I hope I didn't make them cry  
So of we went to Grimsby to buy the wedding ring  
We got married at Grimsby church on a Saturday in the spring

We made our home at Wragby  
Raising 2 girls and a boy  
Retired we live on Bardney Road  
Living in harmony and joy

Everyone is very welcome to call  
To have a chat about this and that  
Of the sights we've seen and the bells we've rung  
With as always the kettle on the boil!  
JAS

### ***Ringing World National Youth Contest 2nd July***

An early start was required for the Ringing World National Youth Contest, which included catching the train as early as 6.55am (which did not go down well with a bunch of teenagers!). Wearing our brand new fluorescent orange team t-shirts, we were greeted with some wonderful heat and lovely sunshine, and made our way to St Mary le Bow (which was our headquarters for the day).

After our team was registered, and given our wrist bands (along with a record 23 other teams!), we headed down towards St Pauls Cathedral (before our test piece at St Dunstan in the West) for our tower tour, as we weren't scheduled to ring our test piece till 11.40 am. After a rather hot and sweaty tube ride, we arrived at St Pauls Cathedral and received warm welcomes from the regular ringers of St Pauls. We were guided through a long walkway that is only accessible to the bell ringers and other St Pauls workers, and were greeted with the sight of the famous spiral staircase that was featured in many of the Harry Potter films (which everyone, especially a certain few loved to see). Once we had finally managed to pry away the intense Harry Potter fans we were guided up to the ringing room which was an incredible sight! We were greeted with the sight of peal boards painted on the walls and a tenor box that had a set of stairs leading up to it (Yes, it really was that big!). After our educational talk on the ringers of St Pauls Cathedral, we were guided up to the bells and got to see some fantastic views of the Shard, London Eye and the River Thames. What amused most people was seeing the treble bell next to the 6 tonne tenor bell, the size difference was crazy!



After seeing the 12 bells we made our descent of the tower, and back to the entrance where our 'responsible' adults were waiting for us. What awaited us next was our test piece, and as conductor I was rather nervous as I'd only begun conducting 3 weeks prior to the competition!

Once we arrived at St Dunstan in the West (having first located the nearest McDonalds for afterwards) and had our team photo taken, we headed upstairs to ring on the back 8 of the 10 bells. After a team talk, and a brief reminder that we were to ring Queens and Whittingtons we began our practice piece which involved changing to Queens and standing after a few rows in Queens. The practice was rather shaky as the bells were hard to control, but after rope adjustments were made and boxes were handed out, and we all took a deep breath, we did the 1212 1212 signal and began our test piece. Everyone handled the bells incredibly well throughout the test piece and you'd wonder whether it was the same team during the practice piece! The piece went incredibly well and everyone came out very proud, so we signed the books, grabbed our bags and ran (with the exception of a couple) to McDonalds and rewarded ourselves with the lovely taste of fast food, which was well deserved. Once we were stuffed with food, we made our way back to St Mary le Bow to await the results of the Qualifier to see which teams would go through to the final. Only 2 teams from each tower can go through one for call changes and one for method ringing. Sadly, we did not make it through to the final, but we still had no idea how we did or if we had just missed out on a place in the final.

So we headed up to ring on the famous Bow bells, which were hard but very enjoyable to ring. And a mention to Laura Watt who rang so well on the 12 bells and managed to master the second in only a couple of rows, well done! Next on our list was St James Garlickhythe (which was one of the other towers to hold one of the heats) which was a rather light ring of 8, and were the Jubilee bells that were ringing on a barge for the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations, they were one of the nicest rings of 8 I have ever come across and many would agree! The other towers we rang at included St Botolph, Bishopgate and Christ Church, Spitalfields, both interesting rings of 8.

We then ventured back to Mary Le Bow for the results and took our seats as a team and all the adults unfortunately had to stand at the back. They gave comments to each of the teams from the qualifiers and then comments on the rings at the final. Our feedback was that we had a good ring with a strong tenor beat to it, but we appeared uncertain in our changes and that is where our faults occurred (something to remember for next year guys, be more confident!) We nervously awaited our results which, as every year has been so far, graded between C – A\*. We were expecting to come away with a 'B' grade again like we had done for the past 5 years, however our team wasn't called up during the 'B' grades, and we were stunned that when our team was announced we had achieved a fantastic grade 'A', which was followed by a rather large "WOOHOO" by yours truly! After hearing the rest of the results it turned out that only 2 teams from our qualifier tower had achieved an 'A' grade and that meant that we had narrowly missed out on reaching the finals and were slightly out performed by the Three Spires who were the lucky ones who got through to the final!

Despite that, we were thrilled with our result, so once the results had been finished we left the church to find our team leaders to celebrate our result with many team photos that now include the medal we all were given. I couldn't have been more proud of our team, the way they rang, the team spirit we all had throughout the day and the way they coped with the competition scenario.

Sadly, this was my last year on the team after 6 wonderful years with them all. I'm proud to call myself a Lincolnshire Poacher, and would like to thank the team for making my last year the best one yet with our best result. It was wonderful to have my first competition in London and finish my last one in London too.

Special mentions must go out to Sue Faull and Ian Till for being such fantastic coaches to us and for organising everything and most importantly for putting up with us, I know we can all be quite the hyper active bunch! And also to Jonathan Clark for providing a stash of Tolberone and sandwiches throughout the day! (It was needed after the lengthy tube walk we had to do).

Congratulations once again Lincolnshire Poachers, I look forward to becoming one of the 'responsible' adults next year for the competition in Birmingham, and whoever takes the treble from me, tell them to look after it!

The Lincolnshire Poachers team;

Written by Bridget Jones-Crabtree



The Lincolnshire Poachers!

Bridget Jones-Crabtree (C)  
Laura Watt  
Tierney Rayment  
Melissa Lannigan

Hannah Watt  
Nathan Williams  
Ellie Sargeant  
Luke Boreham

## **Central Branch Meeting and Striking Competition 9th July**

Less than a year after 6 bells were installed by Whites of Appleton, North Scarle became the focus of the new Central Branch Ringing Striking Contest. The bells weigh from the treble's 2-2-10 to the tenor's 6-1-0 and ring well. The teams from Washingborough, Waddington, Welton and North Scarle rang from Call Changes to Grandsire Triples.

After the striking competition, Mick Stracey took the service with Les Townsend playing the organ. Then the judge, Caitlin from Alford, gave her judgement. Since the marks between 2 teams were so close, (only ½ mark difference) Caitlin reviewed the marking scheme again to ensure all was correct. The atmosphere was tense.

Caitlin listened to 5 test pieces and here are her comments:

Advantages of a striking contest –

- Good reason to practice further beforehand to achieve good striking
- Motivates learners to achieve better striking
- Helps and gives credit to tower captains for their teaching since it is difficult to keep people motivated and this is an opportunity for their learners to hear good striking.

Results:

1<sup>st</sup> team: Practice good- some nerves – test piece promising - crashed out.

2<sup>nd</sup> team: Practice ok – call changes – some repeated changes had faults which were repeated – then settled. 25 faults.

3<sup>rd</sup> team: Practice time – ok – test piece – there were some unsettledness due to leading. 20 faults

4<sup>th</sup> team: Practice time ok– test piece – the best was in the first half then there were some mishaps unfortunately. 20½ faults

5<sup>th</sup> team: Test piece – good start and there was really good ringing in the last ⅓ of the piece. 13 faults

The 5<sup>th</sup> team were the winners but Caitlin did not know that this team were the 1<sup>st</sup> team, Washingborough, who crashed out but were encouraged to ring again, and rang so well!

Very graciously, Washingborough turned down the cup and the 3<sup>rd</sup> team, Welton received the new cup provided by Richard Spencer, the Central Branch Ringing Master. Congratulations to the Welton team who included 2 of the younger ringers in the branch.

Summary of the formal half-yearly meeting:

- The Central Branch President Margaret Parker wanted everyone to think about what is the way forward for ringing and meetings. Some meetings were dragging on. Suggestions included workshops instead of meetings focusing on a particular method or what the local band wanted to practice.

MP wanted everyone to talk about this before the AGM next January - "Come back to the AGM with some ideas – It's your branch -- and we provide these events for your benefit."

- Xmas card: the Guild is organising Christmas cards with cartoons and a new Calendar for the Year 2017. A branch Xmas card was suggested. A vote was made to have Xmas cards produced and sold for the benefit of the branch BRF.
- Womble: being used at Leadenham on August 6<sup>th</sup>, between 11.00am & 5.00pm. Support needed to cover each hour – people are not expected to be there for the entire event. Any support you can give, please contact the Branch Secretary Fiona Dawson.
- Future event: 23<sup>rd</sup> July Guild's Young people's festival – young people can be anyone up to 30 yrs old. There is a programme for the Young at Heart ie over 30 yrs old.
- Branch outing: 17<sup>th</sup> September – see advert on page 16.
- Cathedral ringing: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in August meet 2.30pm Ringers Chapel
- The Ringing Master Richard wanted a consensus of opinion as to whether towers should still be arranged on a monthly basis (2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in the month) since the programme needs to be drafted for the AGM. There was a discussion as to whether the time of the Meetings could be changed. However other branches have their meetings on other Saturdays in the month and changing the Saturday would mean there would be a clash. There was general consensus to continue to arrange the meetings as at present.

Thank you to Mick for taking the service, Les for playing the organ, North Scarle for the tower and refreshments, Caitlin for the judging and Jonathan for chasing the cockerels away from the church door so we could hear Margaret speak.

### ***From the Conductor's point of view!***

*Calling April Day this time with singles"*

*"Why?"*

*"Because it seems I made a hash of it last time, calling Bobs when they were making singles?!?"*

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*The Conductor went wrong with his calling - then shouted "This won't do - the striking is no good! - We'll start again!!!"*

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*"If you call any bobs, I will never speak to you again"*

*Conductor "Don't get my hopes up!"*

**Central Branch Outing  
17<sup>th</sup> September 2016**



13.15 – 14.15  
Orston St Mary  
(6) 9-1-18  
Ground Floor

14.30 – 15.30  
Granby, All Saints  
(6) 13-1-22  
Ground Floor  
Toilets in Village hall



15.45-16.45  
Colston Basset,  
St John the Divine  
(8) 22-1-4

Steepleage: £1 per person per Tower.

Meals: Own arrangements



## Branch Quarter Peals

Sleaford 23 Apr  
1260 Plain Bob Minor  
1. Cherie Renaud  
2. Jean Kay  
3. Sylvia M Taylor  
4. David Cooper  
5. Alan D H Bird (C)  
6. Greg Harrison  
Rung to celebrate St George's Day

Cathedral 23 Apr  
1280 Cambridge Surprise Major  
1. Delia Heppenstall  
2. Robin Heppenstall  
3. Gillian Gladman  
4. Heather Grover  
5. Jeremy Wheeldon  
6. Phil Mason  
7. David Fox  
8. Philip Grover (C)  
For St George's Day

Ewerby 24 Apr  
1250 Cambridge Surprise Major  
1. Dot Mason  
2. Sylvia M Taylor  
3. Alan D H Bird  
4. Diana M Street  
5. Michael J Smith  
6. Greg Harrison  
7. Ed White  
8. Phil Mason (C)  
Rung for Evensong.

*He especially whitened his teeth  
for the method he was learning -  
so he could be seen when he  
wanted help!*

Sleaford 1 May  
1260 Plain Bob Minor  
1. Luke Boreham  
2. Jean Kay  
3. Christine Jackson  
4. Phil Mason  
5. Alan D H Bird (C)  
6. Greg Harrison  
Rung for Evensong  
1st Quarter Peal of Minor 1  
Sylvia Taylor wishes to be  
associated with this Quarter Peal.  
Many thanks to Phil Mason for re-  
placing Sylvia at very short notice

Cathedral 8 May  
1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major  
1. Rose Hancock  
2. Delia Heppenstall  
3. Robin Heppenstall  
4. Michael Stracey  
5. David Fox  
6. Phil Mason  
7. Mike Lawton  
8. Robert Hancock (C)  
For Evensong

Nocton 21 May  
1260 Plain Bob Minor  
1. George Ellison  
2. Keith Gladman  
3. Sue Waterfall  
4. Colin Ward (C)  
5. Jonathan Clark  
6. Chris Woodcock  
Rung in memory of Denis Frith of  
Grantham. An inspiration to many  
ringers.  
First of Minor - 1  
Circled tower as conductor

## Branch Quarter Peals

Ewerby 22 May

1344 St Simon's Bob Triples

Composed by Donald F Morrison

1. Sylvia M Taylor
2. Dot Mason
3. Michael Stracey
4. Michael J Smith
5. Ed White
6. Phil Mason
7. Alan D H Bird (C)
8. Bryan Ward

Rung for Evensong 1st in the method 4

Although not especially arranged the band wish to associate this quarter peal in memory of Denis Frith recognising all that he did for the development of bell-ringing, The Lincoln Diocesan Guild and for the individual people amongst us in which he invested much time and expertise. RIP Denis

Welbourn 28 May

1260 Plain Bob Triples

1. Claire Howard
2. Colin Ward
3. Sylvia Taylor
4. Bill Booty
5. Sue Waterfall
6. Alan Bird
7. Mike Lawton (C)
8. Phil Hill

First Triples as conductor

Skillington 31 May

1260 Doubles

60 Stedman, 240 each of Grandsire, St Martins, St Simon's, April Day and Plain Bob.

1. Kate Morgan
2. Sylvia M Taylor
3. Alan D H Bird
4. Bryan Ward
5. J Neville Sharpe (C)

Rung in memory of Denis A Frith by ringers who regularly rang with him.

Denis conducted his first peal on these bells on 1st September 1951

Wragby 31 May

1266 Original and Plain Bob Minor and Plain Bob Doubles

1. Colin Ward (C)
2. Sue Waterfall
3. Norma Bird
4. Claire Howard
5. Bill Booty
6. Jonathan Clark

Rung to commemorate the sinking of HMS Queen Mary at the Battle of Jutland, one hundred years ago this day. In particular remembering Colour Sergeant William Frederick Howard, R.M.L.I., Great Grandfather of the ringer of the 4th, and AB Bertram Chapman, Great Uncle of the conductor. Bert was a Wragby man.

The number of changes rung represented the number of men lost on this ship.

Welbourn 10 Jun

2016 Plain Bob Triples

1. Alan D H Bird (C)
2. Kate Morgan
3. Helen Brotherton
4. Michael Stracey
5. Sylvia M Taylor
6. Bill Brotherton
7. Greg Harrison
8. Phil Mason

Rung to celebrate the Queens official 90th Birthday and The Duke of Edinburgh's 95th Birthday.

Dot Mason wishes to be associated with this date length quarter peal With grateful thanks to Mrs Brearley for allowing us to ring this tribute quarter at Welbourn at very short notice.

*They all looked on as she struggled with opening the door to the Church. "That door sieves out the ringers from the non-ringers!"*

## **Branch Quarter Peals**

Cathedral 1259 Grandsire Caters 1. Sandra Underwood 2. Delia Heppenstall 3. Les Townsend 4. Heather Grover 5. Robin Heppenstall (C) 6. Mick Stracey 7. Jeremy Wheeldon 8. David Fox 9. Michael Lawton 10. Phil Mason For Evensong and in celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday.	12 Jun	Ewerby 1296 Grandsire Caters Composed by Mark B Davies 1. Sylvia M Taylor 2. Michael Stracey 3. Dot Mason 4. Betty Stracey 5. Ed White 6. Alan D H Bird (C) 7. Michael J Smith 8. Anthony D Walker 9. Greg Harrison 10. Phil Mason Rung for Evensong	26 Jun
Heckington 1260 Grandsire Triples Composed by R. William Willans 1. Sylvia M Taylor 2. Helen Brotherton 3. Betty Stracey 4. Bill Brotherton 5. Michael Stracey 6. Greg Harrison 7. Alan D H Bird (C) 8. Bryan Ward Birthday compliment to Vince Stock- ing a ringer in this tower.	14 Jun	Sleaford 1260 Plain Bob Triples 1. Luke Boreham 2. Jean Kay 3. Diana M Street 4. Betty Stracey 5. Michael Stracey 6. Alan D H Bird (C) 7. Ed White 8. Phil Mason Rung for evensong First of Triples 1 17th Birthday compliment to Luke Boreham	3 Jul
Cathedral 1256 Little Bob Royal Composed by Quarter 500 1. Rose Hancock 2. Delia Heppenstall 3. Robin Heppenstall 4. Sandra Underwood 5. David Fox 6. Jeremy Wheeldon 7. Ed Purkiss 8. Michael Stracey (C) 9. Phil Mason 10. Bob Hancock 1st in method and on 10 bells 7. For Evensong and to mark 60 years of Friends of Cathedral Music	26 Jun	Sempringham 1260 Plain Bob Doubles 1. Sylvia M Taylor 2. Luke Boreham 3. Jean Kay 4. Alan D H Bird (C) 5. Nigel Saxton Howes 6. Bryan Ward First Quarter on an inside bell - 2 Rung as a wedding compliment to Hannah Lambert and Daniel Ash- more. Hannah is the daughter of Janet Lambert one of our local ringers.	16 Jul

## Notice of future events

November 12th Ringers' Quiz  
Dunholme  
With a new quiz master!  
Including Faith Supper and Raffle (Bar available)  
6.30pm to 10.30 pm provisional

Q. "Why don't penguins ring bells?"  
A. "They can't get their clappers off?!?!?"



-No --- we won't have those sorts of questions -  
The editor hopes the questions for the Ringers' quiz will be a little more 'serious' then this!

So put your thinking caps on  
and lets have some fun!

**Also Christamas Cards and Calendars:** these will be on sale to raise funds for the BRF, so look out for them!

**And** the BRF could do with a boost. So if you have any ideas and want to organise an event to raise funds, contact any member of the Branch Committee.

**From the Editor:** Thank you for the articles, news and funny comments and to those who allow me access to their pictures and news. Also, thank you to those who send information on quarter peals and contributions. Without all these I would not be able to prepare a Central Branch Newsletter .

Contributions relevant to the Newsletter can be handed via Margaret Parker or Fiona Dawson (Central Branch Secretary), email starting the subject/title with "Ringing". Please note: the Editor reserves the right to edit articles to allow their inclusion in the Newsletter.

Please if there is a mistake or omission - don't grumble - let me know.

PS Thank you to all the readers!! Gill Gladman

### **Finally**

*Overheard after ringing a rough touch:*

*"It was like my morning porridge - perfectly edible but a bit lumpy!"*