

Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers Northern Branch

Newsletter – January 2012 (Branch AGM report edition)

Happy New Year. Welcome to the January edition of the Northern Branch newsletter. The deadline for the next newsletter is March 16th so if you do anything between now and then and want it reported, please let Joy or Lorraine know. Also please let us know of anything being planned for next April, May, June and July.

Branch Officers

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Secretary:	Lorraine Jeffery	☎ 01472 690460
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Treasurer:	Roger Lord	☎ 01652 635337
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Newsletter editor:	Joy Lord	☎ 01652 635337
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**NORTHERN BRANCH AGM
(Including dedication of Peal Board in memory of Ted and Nan Colley)
Saturday 28th January 2011
Caistor (8)**

2-3:30 pm ringing, 3:45 pm service, 4:15-4:45pm tea in hall, 5 pm business meeting.
Names for tea by Wednesday 25th January on email to Lorraine or by phone to Joy Lord.

Guild November committee meeting

Next year the Guild 6 bell Striking competition will be held in the Easter branch. 8 Bell striking competition in Elloe Deaneries. With regard to Child safety, there is no reason why CRB's be accepted across the guild, so if anybody is getting a CRB, they should not just put their tower, they should put the Lincoln Diocesan and Guild, then this will cover them for the guild. The guild thinks it is import to encourage Junior members, so ideas on how are needed. Change ringing for the future, a course is to be run in 2012. It was confirmed that the Branch secretaries should make up the Guild Website committee members.

Diamond Jubilee celebrations, the Guild will look into organizing an event for this, perhaps a picnic.

St. Mary's Bellringers, Barton-upon-Humber

The St Mary's bell ringers send their congratulations to Andy Bennett on his appointment as Tower Captain after election by the ringers and approval by the PCC.

Andy recently led a “silent” practice using the newly installed simulator. Everyone found it a very different but enjoyable approach to learning but it has to be said that the younger members of the tower generally found it easier than some others amongst us! It is hoped that this type of practices will become regular events.

A new learner, Robert, is progressing very well since his first lesson during the school summer holiday; he has now reached the stage where he can join in for practice night and service ringing.

Walesby Candlelit Carol Service.



This lovely service, which many of us consider as our start to Christmas, was supported well by ringers and led by deputy ringing master Andrew Lord. The vicar gave a special vote of thanks to them at the end of the service. John Goodchild led the Claxby handbell ringers in playing a carol during the service, which was much appreciated by the large congregation.





St Thomas, Market Rasen

The St Thomas, Market Rasen, band would like to publicly congratulate David Morris on completion of a quarter of Bob Doubles on Sunday 18 December. It was rung to celebrate his recent 80th birthday. Congratulations David.

Peals

Congratulations to Andrew Lord who rang in a peal of 7 minor methods at Bigby on 2nd November and also a peal of 3 spliced Surprise Major at Stow on 27th December. This was a first for him.

This edition of the newsletter is mainly to get out all the information you will need for the AGM, so hopefully the day's proceedings can flow a little quicker. We will have a few copies of the reports and minutes for anyone who wishes to see them on the day. These will be available from the start of ringing.

Lincoln Diocesan Guild – Northern Branch AGM Agenda
At Caistor, January 28, 2012
Arrangements ringing 2-3:30pm

Service 3:45pm (including dedication of peal Board in memory of Ted and Nan Colley)

Tea 4:15

Business meeting 5pm

President's Welcome and Opening Prayer

Apologies for Absence

Loss of members by death

4. Adoption of Minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting (previously circulated)

5. Matters arising from the minutes

6. Reports (circulated previously)

Ringling Masters Report & Hewitt Shield presentation

Treasurer's Report

Fund Raising Committee Report

7. Election of officers

President

Ringling Master

Deputy Ringling Master

Secretary

Treasurer

Newsletter editor

Guild committee representative

Branch Committee Reps

Independent examiner of accounts

To be elected by committee members at the next meeting:

Guild fundraising committee representative

NB rep on Guild Simulator Committee

8. Election of new members

10. Bell Repair Fund

12. Notices & forthcoming events

13. Additional agenda items that branch members have requested prior to the meeting. (see note below)

14. Closing Prayer

Please could you send any nominations for the officers listed in point 7 to Lorraine Jeffery by Saturday 21st January. If possible please could you pass your nominations for new members to Lorraine in writing prior to the meeting (this will just help the proceedings run more smoothly). We welcome any more items to be added to the agenda by branch members but please send to Lorraine by 21st January.

Reports from the branch officers

Presidents Report 2011

I would like to start my report by thanking all of my fellow committee members for their hard work and enthusiasm over this last year. Unfortunately I have been unwell since mid June and so not able to join them at meetings and events so without their hard work many of the Branch activities would not have taken place and so to all of the committee, thank you.

The Ringling Master will cover the ringling highlights of the year in more detail later so I will concentrate on the work of the committee, which this year has focused on a few main areas:

- Supporting ongoing ringing in all our towers by a varied programme of visits

Throughout the year Branch practice visits have been planned to several towers, and I am sure that this has been appreciated by all the towers visited, and I would encourage those who have not yet ventured to one of these practice nights to think about doing so over the coming year.

- Supporting young ringers in our Branch

We are very lucky to have several young and enthusiastic ringers in our Branch and as you may recall two of these George Thompson and Daniel Young represented the Branch in London in March at the Centenary celebration competition. Several of the committee went with them as supporters and were delighted when the team came joint 4th. We are very proud of George and Daniel and hope that many more young people will be inspired by their success.

- Organising various social events aimed at bringing all ages of ringers together.

We have had several social events this year and the committee's enthusiasm for organising these has not diminished; unfortunately, however, these events are not always well supported by the Branch members. I have written to all Tower Captains in the Branch to ask for suggestions and feedback from the towers so that future events can be planned to suit a variety of tastes and ages.

Money raised at our social events goes towards the bell repair fund, so I hope that you will all agree that it is important to continue to fund raise for this purpose.

Finally, I have enjoyed being your Branch President since May 2008 but my recent period of ill health and the need to focus my energies into my work and family life mean that I informed the committee earlier this year that I would not be able to stand again as President. I would like to thank you all for your support over the last 4 years and particularly thanks to my fellow committee members, and to the new President, when elected, my very warmest wishes for the future.

To all the ringers of the Northern Branch thank you on behalf of the clergy for your continued enthusiasm for ringing and most particularly for your dedication to ringing for services and special events in our Christian calendar.

Rev. Elaine Turner
Northern Branch President

Secretary

By early January, the snow was finally going, so we were able to have our Christmas Carol service and social at Middle Rasen, It was a fun event, enjoyed by all that attended and thanks to Andy and Jenny Bennett for all their hard work in organizing this for us. The AGM at Tealby was well attended with an excellent tea. Market Rasen were presented with the branch's Hewitt Shield in recognition of the band which has been rebuilt since the bells have been ring able again. In March we had a branch practice at Claxby. In April we had a Treasure Hunt at Barton with ringing followed tea Thanks to Joy and Roger Lord and Geoff Bryant for all their hard work in putting this together for us and Thanks to the members of out neighboring branches who also joined us. In May and June we rang at Walesby for the open churches and Trinity Sunday, thanks to all who support the ringing for these events.

The 6 bell striking competition was well attended at Tealby with five teams entering and a scrumptious tea was provided by the hosts. In July we had our half yearly meeting at Great Carlton. In late July Matthew Jeffery organized an excellent car tour to Huddersfield and included a nice little pub for lunch complete with a great menu and the biggest burger we had ever seen. The Branch attendance to ringing for Cathedral evensong was excellent with ringing for all levels. In September

we had an enjoyable practice at Market Rasen. The year was rounded off nicely with the candlelit carol service at Waleby, which was well support by our ringers. We also saw a performance by the Claxby hand bell ringers during the service.

Lorraine Jeffery
Northern Branch Secretary

Newsletter

Simulator committee

Please read these prior to the meeting.

Lincoln Diocesan Guild – Northern Branch AGM Minutes

At Tealby, January 22, 2011

Arrangements ringing 2-3:30pm

Service 3:45pm

Tea 4:15

Business meeting 5pm

1. President's Welcome and Opening Prayer

The meeting opened at 6:15pm with a prayer.

2. Apologies for Absence

Celia Amble, Frank Kennington, Mick Day, Chris Turner, John Fox, Sue and George Thompson, Daniel Young, Stuart Cooke, Linda Bromfield, Alan Payne

3. Loss of members by death

We remembered Edward Colley who had enjoyed attending the half-yearly meeting at Legbourne, meeting up with friends and enjoying coffee cake. Nan had been pleased to hear that he had had an enjoyable last day with ringers. Soon after, Henry Conyers, who had also joined us at Legbourne, passed away. After a long illness Nancy Colley passed away less than 6 weeks after her husband. The branch had also lost John "Jack" Parker of Grimsby.

4. Adoption of Minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting (previously circulated)

There were no amendments. The minutes were proposed by Matthew Jeffery and seconded by Joy Lord.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

6. Reports (circulated previously)

The president's, secretary's, newsletter and website reports had already been circulated to allow this meeting to proceed more quickly. When asked, the floor agreed that having the reports in advance was a good idea and a help to them.

- Ringing Master's Report & Hewitt Shield presentation

Branch practices were, in general, well enough attended without having to rely on support from outside the branch. Apart from one incident in March (which was pretty shameful, it has to be said), they were happy, sociable occasions. The practice repertoire was much the same as in 2009, ranging up to surprise minor at the 6-bell practices. We haven't been having a lot of special methods, but this coming year, we will have more. I would encourage as many ringers, not just branch members, to come along. The more we have, the more we can ring.

It was nice to see a good turn-out for the annual evensong ringing at Lincoln Cathedral in August. After a minute's silence for Ted and Nan Colley, we concentrated mainly on call changes and plain hunt, and it's always very encouraging to see people fairly new to the activity wanting to have a go at ringing on higher numbers than what they're used to. We couldn't enter a team for the guild 8-bell striking competition as there aren't enough surprise major ringers in the branch. I find this rather sad. So I propose that we hold special practices devoted to surprise major, probably on a monthly basis, with a view to hopefully ringing the standard 8, and who knows, maybe beyond. I am aware that there are similar practices going on elsewhere in the guild, but I would like something exclusively for the Northern Branch. It is my ambition to have a branch touch of 8-spliced at an AGM, and indeed a branch quarter of 8-spliced. If anybody is interested, please let me know so that we can discuss it in more detail. Anybody who hasn't rung surprise major before, but would like to, would be very welcome. This year it will be this branch's turn to host the 8-bell competition, and the set piece will not be a surprise method, so please give it some thought. Thanks once again to Andrew Lord, the deputy ringing master, for taking charge of the ringing in my absence or lateness, particularly for the Oxfordshire tour, which I couldn't attend as I was judging a striking competition. I am assured it went well (the tour, that is). There were fewer peals rung by branch members and quarters rung in branch towers, but there were more actual branch members ringing peals. One peal in particular stands out, the one at St. Mary's in Barton in late November, which was rung by 8 members of that tower. This peal involved a few firsts: George Thompson's first on 8 bells, Linda Howden's first on tower bells and Roger Lord's first for more than 20 years. Congratulations to George Thompson and Daniel Young for ringing their first peal and conducting quarters for the first time, and also Kim Holland, Amy Dixon and John and Alice McNeil for ringing their first quarters. May you all go on to ring many more. Please ensure that everything you have rung is recorded on Campanophile, with the appropriate footnotes, otherwise it may not be accounted for. If you need help with doing this, please let me know.

With the Alan Hewitt Shield, I had a few ideas as to who I thought should get it, there was Claxby for ringing in the new year after having their bells done up, there was Barton again for that fantastic aforementioned peal of theirs, but in the end I decided to give it to a tower whose bells were unringable for a long time, and the local band had to practice in the next village. Since their bells were made ringable again there has been a flurry of activity, including 4 quarter peals and a branch AGM. They rang a quarter for their Carols by Candlelight service and 2 of their ringers rang a quarter for the first time. So without further ado, it's my great pleasure to award the Hewitt Shield this year to the tower of St. Thomas, Market Rasen.

- Treasurer's Report

- **General fund**

Total guild membership for 2010 was 119, which includes 9 junior, 3 non-resident and 2 honorary life members. There were 6 new members elected and we lost 11. I would just like to remind members of a change to the guild rule re. payment of subs. At the guild AGM last year it was agreed that anyone who had not paid their guild subscription by Dec 31st of the current year shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the guild. Such a ringer wishing to

rejoin the guild must submit to re-election, such re-election to be subject to confirmation at a branch meeting.

The general fund had a surplus of £101.05 for the year and a balance of £1,409.55 will be carried forward to 2011.

The guild quota for 2011 based on branch subscriptions of £1,077 is £430.80 (40%) and the Guild BRF quota is £484.65 (45%).

Bell restoration fund

Income from collections/raffles etc. was down on 2009 to £98.50, and bank interest was also down as expected.

A grant was given to Legbourne (£100) and a donation of £50 was given to Walesby (new church) for their restoration projects.

The balance of £1,676.75 will be carried forward to 2011.

Thanks to David Hibbert for examining the accounts.

Roger proposed the accounts, Margaret Roach seconded them and the floor voted in favour of accepting them. Elaine thanked Roger for everything he does with the accounts and she thanked David Hibbert for being our independent examiner.

- **Fund Raising Committee Report**

As a branch we need to insure that we sell as many guild AGM raffle tickets as possible. This year the guild had not published the Christmas cards so that has left a gap in fundraising for the guild bell repair fund. Money and stubs need to be back to Dorothy by the beginning of April. Also please return any unsold tickets as it may be possible to sell them elsewhere in the guild. Dorothy has plenty of extra tickets should any tower need more due to high sales.

7. Election of officers

President: Elaine Turner – proposed by Norman Palmer, seconded by Simon Cole. All voted in favour. Elaine thanked the committee for all the behind-the-scenes work that they do and had done today in providing the tea for everyone.

Ringing Master: Matthew Jeffery – proposed by Andrew Lord, seconded by David Hibbert. All voted in favour.

Deputy Ringing Master: Andrew Lord – proposed by Matthew Jeffery, seconded by James Hibbert. All voted in favour. Elaine thanked Andrew for the good job that he'd done over the last few years.

Secretary: Lorraine Jeffery – proposed by Jenny Bennett, seconded by Joy Lord. All voted in favour.

Treasurer: Roger Lord – proposed by Joan Barton, seconded by Margaret Roach. All voted in favour. Roger has done a sterling job and has had a few bank account problems to sort, which he has done through a lot of patience.

Newsletter editor and guild committee representative: Joy Lord – proposed by Andy Bennett, seconded by Harry Minns. All voted in favour.

Guild fundraising committee representative, bell restoration fund trustees, NB rep on Guild Simulator Committee, NB rep on Guild Web Committee: These positions will be allocated from the current committee.

Branch Committee Reps: Linda Patrick, a new member to the committee, was proposed by Joy Lord and seconded by Simon Cole. All voted in favour and we are delighted to welcome her to the committee. James Hibbert will return to his post, proposed by Harry Minns and seconded by Andrew Lord. All voted in favour.

Independent examiner of accounts: David Hibbert – proposed by Roger Lord, seconded by Andy Bennett.

8. Election of new members

Neil Mangan of Grimsby and, on checking the records, Alex Sutcliffe of Waltham joined in October at Ulceby. There were no new members to join at this meeting. New members are always welcome and can be elected at any branch practice during the year. Subs is £10 for adults and £3 for children.

9. Peal Board for Ted and Nan Colley

It was very sad to lose Ted and Nan Colley last year. Members of the branch have asked for a lasting memorial. The committee has spoken to Stephen and John Colley, their sons, and they would be happy for a peal board to be donated by the branch to Caistor church in their memory, for the peal which was rung after the memorial service in September. John Colley has donated elm from Ted's workshop for the peal board to be made from. David Prescott (ex headmaster at South Kelsey school) has offered to make the board, only charging for any extra materials needed (no labour charge). So, including writing, the board should cost £60. Elaine proposed that perhaps people might like to place a donation for this, then the branch funds could top up any shortfall. All voted in favour of this.

Harry Minns then read out a few words in tribute to Ted and Nan which he had composed:

"It is fitting to call to mind how fortunate we are to have known Ted and Nan Colley in the world of bellringing. They both gave of themselves in the friendship and camaraderie when we met in practice nights, on outing and at meetings, taking the work of the committee including the sometimes difficult task of being officers.

On the practical side, Ted did so much for the local towers of Grasby and Caistor, rehangings and organising with many willing helpers the augmentation of the rings in Grasby from five to six and Caistor from six to eight. He was always there when work was done here in Tealby and other churches including Claxby. Nan was always there to support him in their efforts and in the money raising for their projects.

I cannot speak of the number of peals he rang in but I know they were many and he encouraged me to take part in a few quarter peals and I am grateful. Both he and Nan encouraged many to join in this delightful exercise and we honour them with love and gratitude."

In the next newsletter we will publish written obituaries for: Henry Conyers, written by Derek Wright, Ted Colley, written by his sons, John and Stephen Colley and Nan Colley, written by her sister, Margaret Parker. Also when the peal board is ready a get-together will be arranged at Caistor.

10. Bell Repair Fund

- Claxby (10% £236.30) At the half-yearly meeting in July, this figure had been reported wrong. So just to clarify, for the bell repair fund, providing the fund is healthy, the grants will be issued for bells at 10% with a maximum of £400 per grant and a minimum of £100. Therefore the Claxby grant was correctly proposed as £236.30 by Roger Lord and seconded by Matthew Jeffery. All voted in favour. John Goodchild said after the work, the Claxby bells are very much improved, they are still Challenging, but less challenging than they used to be.

11. Ringing World Centenary Celebration

Elaine asked Sue Faull to explain this to us. For its Centenary celebrations, the Ringing World are having a celebration weekend in London, with Ringing access to towers including free access to West Minster Abbey. As part of the day, there will also be young ringers striking competition (under 19). The Lincoln guild has two teams to put forward, one from south Lincolnshire and the other from the northerly parts of the guild, which includes Daniel Young and George Thompson of Barton, So it was asked if the Branch could help our young ringers with the cost of this day. They each had to pay £10.00 entry fee and their train fare is £41.20. So in total to have George and Daniel represent the guild, it will cost £67.20. Simon Cole proposed that branch pay the whole lot as it is wonder to have young ringers able to represent the branch, Norman Palmer seconded this and every body voted in favour. We will ask the boys to give a report at the half yearly meeting of their day. Of the 12 teams that have entered the competition including Chester and Devon, it is great the Lincoln Guild are able to enter two teams and of the twelve only 3 teams will be ringing a method and Lincoln Guild will provide one of these teams. The competition will take place at Pimlico 700 weigh 8. Joy mentioned that along with Roger and Andrew, Geoff Bryant had played a key role on bring on these boy's with their ringing. Sue Faull also advertised the Guild wear which members are able to purchase, she intends to place and order in the next month or so. Elaine thanked Sue for her support to the our branch.

12. Notices & forthcoming events

A list of events had been put out. Lorraine asked if Branch members would support a tour to Huddesfield, however, the date of Saturday 30th July, seemed to be an issue, so this will be looked into at the next branch meeting.

13. Additional agenda items that branch members have requested prior to the meeting. (see note below)

Matt announced a new award for the branch, which was in recognition of the tower which over the year had best supported branch events. So a box of celebrations was awarded to Barton Tower.

Elaine thanked everyone for coming and for especially those who had helped to set up the room and arrange tea.

14. Closing Prayer _____

All joined in to say the grace. The meeting closed at 6:05pm.

Lincoln Guild Clothing

You may have seen a few branch members wearing their Lincoln Guild Bellringers tops. You too can have one of your own. The range includes Polo shirts £15, Sweat shirts £16, Rugby shirts £22.50 and Hooded tops in various colours and sizes. And a small donations goes to the Guild Bell repair fund. If you are interest in finding out more/placing an order, please contact Sue Faull sue.faull@btopenworld.com

Northern Branch Programme

2012

Date	Location	Event
Sat 28 th Jan	Caistor (8)	Ringing 2-3:30pm 3:45 - 4:15 service, tea 5pm business meeting.
Sat 24 th March	Grasby TBC	3:00 - 4:30pm branch practice (Cake)
Sat 28 th April	Lincoln afternoon Towers -	Guild AGM
Sat 12 th May???	Walesby (8) (TBC)	4pm open churches
Sun???	Walesby (8) (TBC)	2pm ringing for the ramblers Trinity Sunday service.
Fri 22 nd June	Waltham(6)	6:00 - 9:00 pm branch striking competition
Sat 30 th June	Tour	
Sat 28 th July	Goxhill (6)	From 3:00pm ringing and $\frac{1}{2}$ year meeting
Sun 19 th Aug	Lincoln Cathedral (12)	meet at 2:15pm , ringing to Evensong
Saturday Sept		Guild 6 Bell Striking Competition
Saturday 22 nd September	Laceby (5)	3pm - 4:30pm ringing. Cake

Sat 8 th Oct.		Guild 8-bell Striking Competition
Sat ?? th Dec	Walesby (8)	6:00pm candlelit carol service at 7:30pm

2013

Sat 26 th Jan	Grimsby	AGM
Saturday 23 rd March	Ulceby (TBC)	3:00 - 4:00pm branch practice

1 st Wed of month	Ladies Practice	1.30 – 3.00pm. Contact Dorothy Robinson 01673 843400 for details of locations
2 nd Wed of Month	Simulator Practice at Wragby	10.30am – 12.00pm. Contact Jim Sutherland 01673 858492
Last Fri of Month	Simulator Practice at Louth	10.30am – 12.00pm by arrangement only contract Mick Day 01507 603998