

GUILD SIX-BELL STRIKING COMPETITION
23rd September 2023

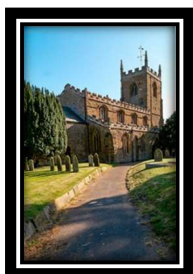
BOURNE retain John Freeman Cup
STOW overcome last year's disappointment and win the Ted Colley Plate

Northern Branch were the hosts for the 2023 Guild Six Bell – striking competition taking us to

Tealby for the method section – for the John Freeman Cup

and

Middle Rasen for the call changes section – for the Ted Colley Plate



Tealby – (6) – 11-0-24 in F



Middle Rasen - (6) – 6-3-13 in G

Tealby stands on the edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds and a walk in the churchyard reveals Lincoln Cathedral standing proudly on the horizon some 20 miles away.

The judges were a blend of the young and the young at heart. The young being Ben Meyer – who has the advantage of being a Meyer. Back in 2004 he rang a quarter peal of PB Caters at Ewerby – the average age of the band being 16 - Ben being 12. We are good at exporting our young ringers and in Ben's case Lincolnshire's loss was definitely London's gain. However the pressure was far from off at Tealby – since he found himself judging a band led by his mum.

The young at heart came in the form of Les Townsend who celebrated his 90th birthday in May this year. Indeed it is thought that the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla had to be brought forward a week to avoid clashing with Les's celebrations. He served as Guild Secretary for 17 years and was master for many years of The Company of Ringers of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Lincoln - the oldest ringing society in the world. He rang the first of his 352 peals in 1950 and went on to ring 93 peals at the Cathedral. Of his 50 peals of Stedman Cinques – 46 were at the cathedral.

5 teams from - The Rasen Group, Scotter, Belton, Barrowby and Stow took part in the Plate competition – (Nettleham sadly having to withdraw due to illness within the band)

6 teams from The Rasen Group, Messingham, Bourne, Alford, Gainsborough and Harlaxton took part in the Cup competition.

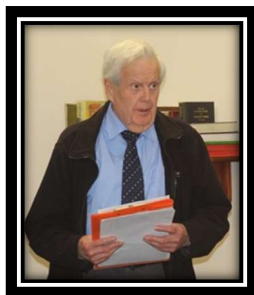
Whilst the judges deliberated Northern Branch expertly turned their skills to catering for the masses , baked potatoes with various fillings, cakes and puddings and copious amounts of liquid refreshments were devoured by the assembled multitude in Middle Rasen Village Hall as the tension mounted .

THE RESULTS

Call change Section – for the Ted Colley Plate

- 1 - STOW
- 2 - SCOTTER
- 3 - BARROWBY
- 4 - BELTON
- 5 - RASEN GROUP – Team 2 –

Stow – last year’s close runners up – were clear winners with 26 faults with Scotter (42 faults) closely edging out Barrowby (44) and Belton (46)



Les Townsend starts his review of the Plate competition



Debbie Scarf receives the runners up award on behalf of the Scotter band



Cindy Potts receives the Ted Colley Plate on behalf of the victorious Stow band

Method Section – for the John Freeman Cup

- 1 - BOURNE
- 2 - MESSINGHAM
- 3 - GAINSBOROUGH
- 4 - ALFORD
- 5 - *HARLAXTON
- 6 - *RASEN GROUP – Team 1

Bourne and Messingham found themselves in a league of their own , with Bourne last year’s victors – (and again the only team to ring minor) winning with 25 faults – from Messingham (33). Gainsborough (79) narrowly beat Alford(81) to third place. The Rasen team required a restart outside the rules and Harlaxton rang only 200 changes.



Ben Meyer starts his review of the Cup competition after reviewing his recordings of the test pieces to confirm the fate of Rasen Team 1 and Harlaxton and mindful that one of the teams was led by his mother



Jenny Kirkby receives the John Bluff Plaque on behalf of the Messingham band



A smiling Joan Payne retrieves the the John Freeman Cup on behalf of the Bourne band – a round trip of 120 miles



Even the judges get a prize !!!!

The day concluded with the monthly 100 club draw – both winners being members of the Cathedral Band - two more members signed up bringing the number at 98 tantalisingly close to Alison Jones's target of 100!!

Following this instead of a sedate raffle a hectic round of Ringers Bingo – devised by Amy Dixon took place and was enjoyed by one and all.

Thank you once again to Northern Branch for organising, running, catering and the bingo!!

The John Freeman Cup returns to the southern branch and the Ted Colley Plate will no doubt be proudly displayed in Stow Tower. October sees the Guild Branch 8 bell striking competition where if past form is anything to go by - (the last two competitions being won by the home branch) - Southern Branch must start as favourites.

Come along on 28th October to Billingborough – see updates in the diary – to support your branch

Keith Butter

