



## LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

### Guild Officers

[Master - Mrs Susan Faulf](#) : Secretary - Leslie G Townsend : [Treasurer - Ms Nicola Jones](#)

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To contact any of the above please consult the Annual Report or visit the Guild website via <http://ldgcb.org.uk>

Newsletter No 5

[Editor - John R Ketteringham](#)

May 2006

*Any opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Guild Officers or represent Guild policy. Because the Newsletter is published on the Guild website any email addresses are published in a form which may help to reduce the possibility of 'Spam'. Therefore when using these addresses '-at-' must be replaced with '@'. This Newsletter is published on the first day of May, August, November and February. Contributions are welcome and are published at the editor's discretion. If any amendments are made the contributor will be consulted. Contributions need to be with the Editor four weeks before the date of publication to allow for editing etc before checking by the Guild Master.*

### *From the Guild Master*

At the Guild Committee meeting I asked Branch representatives to discuss with Branch members their feelings about the current structure of the Guild. In particular I wondered what members feel about the Officer structure, the meetings cycle, the relationship between the guild and the branches. In short, is the Guild doing what members want it to do and is it fulfilling the Guild Aims? Having attended most of the branch AGMs I realised that it was very difficult at these busy meetings to find the time to talk about such matters (or run the risk of not having time for any ringing!) So I would like to invite individuals to make their observations known to me. By talking to me at meetings or on the phone or by sending me an email. My address is [suefaull-at-topenworld.com](mailto:suefaull-at-topenworld.com). I would like to be able to feedback these views to the next Guild committee meeting in November. Of course, it maybe that everybody thinks that things are fine just as they are.

Sue Faulf

### *From the Editor*

I made a decision that, because this is a Newsletter for the whole of the Guild, I would not single out any individual ringers for special mention. It is very difficult for me to keep to this resolution, as I do like to congratulate people on their achievements. I keep a close eye on Campanophile, the *Ringling World* and Branch Newsletters but it is so easy to inadvertently miss someone and accidentally cause offence. However I am very impressed with the number of Quarter Peals and Peals which are being rung at the present time many of which include a first of some sort or the other. It is good to see so many handbell performances. This all indicates that the Guild is stronger than it has been for some time and also a very good sign for the future of ringing in Lincolnshire.

### *My first month on the other side of the world - Letter from Lilja*

Lilja is a young ringer from Willingham by Stow. She is spending 5 months of her gap year in Australia. She is taking part in various voluntary projects and trying to do a little ringing too. She has sent the following report:

G'day to everyone back home. After 30 hours of travelling I finally made it to Australia, very tired and suffering from jet lag. Having crossed the international date line on the second leg of my trip from LA to Melbourne, I ceased to exist for the whole of the 17th January!! Having missed out on a day of my life I'm now making up for this by trying to fit as much as possible into the days I have left which seem to be flying by. Melbourne is a great place and definitely sports capital, I don't think I've had a day yet without sport of some sort to watch!! It is also a city known for having 4 seasons in a day, and although at first I only saw the very hot 43°C season, I now know what they mean.

Fitting in around penguin spotting, koala searching, sunbathing and now working I have managed to find some time to check out the local ringing in Melbourne. The first tower I made it to was St James' Old Cathedral (8, 13-0-7). Here I met a great crowd of ringers of all ages and abilities, I have also met 2 other ringers from England on working holiday visas like myself. The bells at St James' are hard work which is not great when it's

so hot, and the bells certainly don't feel like 13cwt! I was disappointed, having only had 2 blisters in the whole of my ringing life, to develop a blister within 30 minutes of starting ringing here.

A few of the ringers from St James also ring at the other 2 Cathedrals in Melbourne City and I was quickly put on the wedding list for St Patrick's Cathedral (8, 12-1-10). Within a week I was invited to ring for a wedding which was great as they don't have a practice night, so this was a perfect opportunity to ring the bells (and earn some more money!!). These bells are very nice and easy going- however, not only did the spiral staircase go the "wrong way", the bells are an anti-clockwise ring. Here I also got to meet some more of the locals who were all very friendly.

I finally managed to ring at the last tower in the City at their Wednesday practice night, St Paul's Cathedral (12+1, 29-1-12) and another "wrong way round" staircase. I was a little late arriving as I am now reliant on the very exciting trams which cover the city, and are usually excellent, except on this occasion when a tram collision caused a large detour!! However as practice nights in Melbourne are 2 hours long there was still plenty of ringing left to do. Here I also met a large group of new faces, many from West Heidelberg, St Pius X (8, 5-3-27) a Melbourne Metro tower ( a bit further out of the city). The new faces were all very welcoming, and this also meant an opportunity for some more advanced ringing, and a chance to catch up with the Ringing World. First though I was thrown in at the deep end- the tenor!!

I have now been invited to ring in two quarter peals which is very nice, especially as one is at West Heidelberg which will be a tower grab for me and a chance to meet some Sydneysiders who are visiting. I have been made to feel very welcome here and have met a lovely bunch of people. With the prospect of more weddings and quarter peals, the ringing here is looking good.

*To be continued!*

***Letter to the Editor (first published in the Central Branch Newsletter)***

Dear Editor

**There's room for us all**

Like any other group of people enthusiastically committed to their chosen pursuit, we bellringers each have our own particular reason for devoting so much of our time to bellringing. For many of us, bellringing gives us enjoyment and satisfaction for a combination of reasons: the physical and mental activity involved, the challenge and satisfaction of open-ended learning, the enduring friendships we make, the irrelevance of age and gender, the readiness to share knowledge and expertise, the opportunity to offer a meaningful service to the church and local community and, for many, just because we love it or because it's been part of our life since early youth.

There is a great range of experience and expertise among ringers, and, in most towers and on most occasions, the learner - whether teenage or middle-aged - is welcomed and encouraged by the more established ringers; that's the joy of it. But ...many ringers soon become bitten by the personal record bug. The real addict builds up a hugely impressive collection over the years; from the simple list of towers rung at, to numbers of towers circled, the number of methods mastered - of ever increasing complexity - and of course if you're really hooked, the ever luring build-up of quarters and peals. And why not? It's a source of great enjoyment and satisfaction.

It does, however, seem that sometimes advancement in method ringing and notching up ringing statistics has become a measure by which to judge other ringers. This is unfortunate. The Central Branch Committee's expectation over the last two years, for example, that 'every tower shall ring a quarter' can bring uninvited and unreasonable pressure on local ringers.

The reality is also that of the 45 'ringable' towers in this area only 28 have members. There are also a good number of local ringers who, for whatever reason, are not members. Yet we are all church bellringers. Indeed the first two objects of the Guild, as stated in the Guild Rules, are quite clear on this: 1. to encourage the recognition of ringers as church workers 2. to promote the ringing of church bells for worship and on other suitable occasions. It seems therefore reasonable to look to the Branch Committee to celebrate and support that aspect of ringing too, and to recognise that many people make their commitment to ringing as a church and community activity, one of the minor ministries to the Church in fact, without wishing or needing to ring quarter peals or collect statistics. After all, not all who travel by rail wish to become train spotters. Let's not impose our own particular enthusiasms. admirable though they are. on others. To adapt John Milton, 'They also serve who simply come to ring'.

Yours sincerely,  
Stan Underwood

**From the Central Branch Ringing Master :**

I feel that Stan would like a response from the Branch Committee to his letter in the January 2006 Central Branch Newsletter. As the Branch Ringing Master I feel that we try very hard to cater for ALL ringing needs of the ringers at our towers. It is a free world and all ringers are entitled to either join the Guild or not, but whether they do or not they are very valuable members of the ringing community and especially as members of their own church.

The suggestion that quarter peals be rung at all the towers in the branch was intended to ENCOURAGE people to join in with everybody else. In no way was it intended that all local ringers SHOULD ring them, but that if anyone wanted to, and the local band as a whole was not able to, they could ask for assistance, which would have been readily available, and this offer still applies.

This year's suggestion is that we try to ring a quarter peal, or equivalent length, for the Patronal Festival of each church and record the event in the next newsletter.

We have another reason to ring quarter peals or something similar to celebrate the 80th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen. For the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar at Potterhanworth, Bardney and Thorpe-on-the-Hill where the ringers wanted to join in but could not manage enough change ringing they rang an appropriate length of rounds and call changes.

So, ALL OF YOU, whether change ringer or not, please keep up your ringing on Sunday for Services, just because some of us want to do more complex things doesn't mean that your ringing is any less important. So keep ringing, AND ENJOY.

Mick Stracey

*Editor's note : You should have all seen details of the Rabbit's Day at Thorpe on the Hill – if you would like further details please ring Dot Mason on 01522 796079. Do try and come along – it's a good day out even for someone like me who can only ring on Dot's Pots these days!!!! Come to think of it even my wife enjoyed last year's event and she can't even ring a bike bell!! For the youngsters there is the Young Ringers Activity Day on 29 May (see Diary Dates below).*

### Web Ringing Diaries

For those of you who like to travel further afield for your ringing this is a good web site for you <http://www.ringingdiary.co.uk/>. Chris Woodcock has volunteered (!) to arrange for LDG events to be posted in this Diary (maintained by Graham Nabb) and also in the Campanophile Events Diary. Please send Chris any amendments or additions to the information given in the Annual Report. His email address is [chriswoodcock-at-fsmail.net](mailto:chriswoodcock-at-fsmail.net).

### Diary Dates

If you know of any events which would be of interest to Guild members please let me know. If you are interested in supporting any of the events below please contact the appropriate Branch Secretary for further details.

1	May	West Lindsey Branch	Outing to Hull area
6	May	Eastern Branch	Friskney Striking Competition and Business Meeting General Ringing 3 – 4.30. Service, Tea and Business Meeting. 6.30 Draw and Competition followed by General Ringing until 9 p.m.
13	May	Central Branch	Striking Competition at Blankney
13	May	Northern Branch	11 am Middle Rasen 1 pm Walesby 3 pm Claxby
20	May	Southern Branch	Corby Glen (TBC) Afternoon ringing, service Irnham Meeting, tea & Striking Comp 6.30 – 9 pm.
20	May	West Lindsey Branch	Haxey
20	May	Northern Branch	1 pm Walesby
27	May	Young Ringers Activity Day	Please contact Chris Woodcock if you are interested on <a href="mailto:chriswoodcock-at-fsmail.net">chriswoodcock-at-fsmail.net</a> . Based around Potterhanworth there will be quarter peals and general ringing. A visit to the Branston 'Pots' and to the ten pin bowling rink.
27	May	Joint Surprise Major Practice	Caistor (Special Method Lothbury 36X14X38.14X14.38X34X38-18 )
29	May	Central Branch	'Rabbits' Striking Contest and Games evening Thorpe on Hill
3	June	Eastern Branch	Mablethorpe Learner's practice 3.30-5 pm Alford Advanced practice 7-9.00 pm
10	June	Central Branch	Wragby Practice 7 – 9.00 pm
11	Jun	Northern Branch	Trinity Sunday Ringing at Walesby 2 – 3 p.m. before service followed by further ringing. Picnic tea and meeting
17	June	West Lindsey Branch	Striking Competition Saxilby
21	June	Northern Branch	Striking Competition Waltham, 7.00pm
24	June	Southern Branch	Tower Tour Full day – outskirts of branch

1	July	Eastern Branch	BBQ Sibsey Windmill	
8	July	Central Branch	To be arranged	Ringing, Service, Tea
15	July	Southern Branch	West Deeping	Activity Day
15	July	West Lindsey Branch	Epworth	630 – 9 p.m.
29	July	Joint Surprise Major Practice	Caythorpe	
6	August	Southern Branch	Lincoln Cathedral	General ringing for evensong
12	August	Central Branch	Lincoln High Street Towers	
14	August	Southern Branch	Peterborough Cathedral	10/12 bell practice night 7.30
19	August	Southern Branch	Peal/Quarter peal day	
20	August	Northern Branch	Lincoln Cathedral	Ringing for evensong
28	August	Northern Branch	Coach/car outing in Sleaford area	

If you are interested in attending any of the above please check with the Ringing World or the appropriate Branch Secretary :

Eastern Branch : Mrs C. Meyer 01507 462625  
 Elloe Deaneries Branch : Roy Norman 01945 700798  
 Southern Branch : Ian Dawson 01476 550968

Central Branch : Mrs D. Mason 01522 796079  
 Northern Branch : Miss L. Bateman 01472 690460  
 West Lindsey : Mrs D. Scarf 01724 764526

### ***Surprise Royal Practices***

These are held on the second Saturday in each month from 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon. Methods to be practiced are Cambridge, Yorkshire Lincolnshire, London, Littleport Little and Bristol. Spliced Cambridge, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Note :- Littleport Little will be a method to help us all to progress to Bristol Royal and further as five leads are Bristol Major. A small donation will be required to cover tower donations. Contact – Phil and Dot Mason. 01522 796079.

13 May Saltby 12 cwt    10 June Surfleet 12 cwt    8 July Grantham

### ***Midweek Ringing***

2 May	Cambridge, Primrose, Ipswich and Norfolk Surprise Major	Dunholme	2.00 p.m
16 May	London Surprise Major	Stow	2.30 p.m
30 May	Away Day – Venue to be arranged		
6 June	Lincoln Surprise Minor	Dunholme	2.00 p.m.
20 June	Lincolnshire and Pudsey Surprise Major	Stow	2.30 p.m.
4 July	Annable's London Surprise Minor	Dunholme	2.00 p.m.
18 July	Spliced Bristol and London Surprise Major	Stow	2.30 p.m.
1 August	Durham and York Surprise Minor	Dunholme	2.00 p.m.
29 August	Away Day – Venue to be arranged.		

After the ringing at Stow refreshments are provided at the Underwood's for which we are all very grateful.

### ***Joint Surprise Major Practices***

Occasional Surprise Major Practices are arranged between the Northern, Central and West Lindsey Branches. If you are interested in supporting these contact the Branch Secretaries for details but do please remember that they are **Surprise Major** practices, so do not turn up expecting to ring Bob Minor! We need to look after and challenge our more advanced ringers and these busy practices serve that need across a wide area. Dates where known are included in Diary Dates above

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The **South Lincolnshire 'Geriatrics'** meet on the third Wednesday of each month, except in December. Ringing is from 2.30 pm until 4pm. except in May and September when the start is at 11am. Lunch is at 12 and this is followed by ringing at a second tower in the afternoon. Programme details for 2006 can be obtained from Canon E. Orland (01778 380724) or Ron. Noon (01775 722671)

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On the second Wednesday in each month from 1030 to 1200 a practice is held on the six bells at **Wragby** for 'mature' students as Jim calls them. After lunch the practice continues on the eight simulated bells. This practice consists of the better known Triples and Major Methods. For more information contact Jim Sutherland on 01673 858492

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The **Ladies** have their own practice on the first Wednesday of each month starting at 1.30 pm. If you are eligible and would like to attend please contact Margaret Parker on 01522 753412 for details of the venue.

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**If you are thinking of attending any of these special practices do please consider the aims and objectives as detailed. Time is short and it is usually not possible to deviate from the programme. As well as helping to advance method ringing these are very enjoyable social events. If you are not a regular attender at any of these practices it might be as well to check beforehand to make sure the venue etc hasn't had to be changed.**

