



LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Guild Officers

**Master - Mrs Susan Faull : Secretary - Leslie G Townsend : Treasurer - Ms Nicola Jones
Peal Secretary – Emma Southerington : Librarian – Mrs Judith Williamson.**

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

Newsletter No 8 Editor – John R. Ketteringham email : newsletter-at-ldgcb.org.uk February 2007

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.

Mike Crowder – A Personal Tribute

I first met Mike when his father Arthur brought him to practices at the Cathedral. The Crowder family are noted for their hospitality and after my ringing visits to the Northern Branch I often stayed with Mike's parents at Manor Farm, Barrow. Mike rang his first peal in 1954 at the age of 12 at Barrow and conducted his first peal at Elsham aged 15. The first peal I rang with Mike was Little Bob Major in 1955 at St Giles, Lincoln conducted by Jack Millhouse.

Eventually Mike and I went on several cycling tours staying at Youth Hostels with the odd peal or two along the way. After I went to work in various parts of the country we kept in touch and usually rang a peal or two when I came home to Alford. Mike became very friendly with the Cheshire ringers as the result of a ringing cycling tour in Gloucestershire organised by Brian Woodruffe and he did a considerable amount of ringing with Bernard Groves, Bob Smith and Bill Groves amongst others.

By the time I moved back to Lincolnshire with my wife and son and started organising peals Mike was heavily involved with the Squash Club at Barrow and did not do a great deal of ringing. Whenever Joan and I were in the Northern part of the county we called to see Mike and his parents.

In recent years Mike was a regular member of the band composed of ringing friends nationwide which I organised for my birthday in October. The last of these in which Mike took part was on 29 October 2005 and it was soon after this that Mike developed back pains which were eventually diagnosed as cancer. We spoke regularly on the telephone and kept each other informed of the latest news from the world of bellringing. In September last year I arranged a quarter peal at Winterton and afterwards Chris Woodcock and I picked up Andrew Lord and went to see Mike. This resulted in a quarter peal on handbells. Mike was clearly in great pain but through sheer determination the quarter, which was to prove to be Mike's last, was ring. I spoke to Mike the following day and he was absolutely delighted to have been able to achieve this.

Mike's peal total was 505 and amongst these were four peals of Surprise Royal in a day in 1967; 18000 Cambridge Surprise Royal in 9 hours 10 minutes in 1968; and 17729 Grandsire Caters in 1976 in 10 hours 21 minutes. He also took part in an attempt for 26019 Stedman Caters in 1968 which failed after 9 hours 35 minutes when another member of the band was taken ill.

Mike was born in 1942 and was the fifth generation of bellringing Crowders at Barrow and now that Arthur has moved to Barton this unique connection has sadly ceased. An indication of the esteem in which the Crowder's and Barrow was held throughout the ringing exercise was demonstrated when Barrow bells were featured in *Christmas Day Bells* by the BBC in the 1960s. The affection in which Mike was held both locally and nationally was shown by the attendance of almost 400 at his funeral on 29 December 2006.

It is hard to say goodbye to a good friend and I will certainly miss our frequent telephone conversations.

A move to Kernow by Peter Sharp

Beginnings

Joy and I moved from Lincoln to Cornwall at the end of March 2004. Our move from the Lincoln area, where we had both lived for most of our lives, had been contemplated for some time. The only thing that had been unsure about it all was to **where** would we move and **when** – which happen to be quite important matters! However, in 2002 our youngest son moved to Newquay to train and work as a chef, and naturally we started to travel down to Cornwall to visit him. We went there at all times of the year – and experienced good weather and bad and noticed that we were increasingly unhappy about travelling back home. Cornwall was beginning to exert its hold over us.

Whilst visiting Cornwall at that time we didn't do any ringing. In fact, the only time we had been there before that had been in 1964 whilst I was at College near Oxford. Jack and Betty Millhouse had brought Joy (then Joyce M Gurnhill!) from Lincoln to pick me up at Stow on the Wold and continue to the Central Council meeting at Truro. We had rung a peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major at Roche during the week and had rung at Truro Cathedral. Since then the nearest we had got to Cornwall had been a family holiday to Dorset. However, I knew a few ringers who had moved to Cornwall, principally Ted Venn and his wife and John Pladdys. I had first met Ted whilst I was at College near Oxford and we had been good friends ever since. He had been my best man and we had spent many good times together both ringing and enjoying family holidays. I had also first met John Pladdys in Oxford when he was a young ringer struggling with Stedman Doubles in the early 1960's! So the scene was set, and after a short spell in rented accommodation in Lincoln after selling our bungalow in Dunholme we moved into our brand new house in Luxulyan, halfway between Bodmin and St Austell on March 22nd 2004.

Our parish church is about ten minutes walk from home and has one of the two anticlockwise rings of bells in the county. There is a ring of six in the tower with the tenor weighing just over 9 cwt. The church is dedicated to Saints Cyriacus and Julitta, two of the many "Cornish Saints". The Saints Way runs through the village. This is an ancient footpath running from Padstow on the north coast of Cornwall to Fowey on the south coast. It is 26 miles long and is variously described as an ancient trade route and the route taken by Celtic Saints on their journeys between Wales, Ireland and Brittany. Nowadays it is a popular walking route. Ted and Judy Venn had visited us a number of times in the first weeks after we moved in, and on one of these visits we went for a walk down to the church where by chance we met Betty Hunter, who was at that time one of the Church Wardens and the tower secretary. She told us there was no ringing at Luxulyan apart from occasional visiting bands. Ted told her that Joy and I were ringers and had moved into the village. Within a day or so she had arranged for a few ringers to come over from the next village (Lanlivery) which enabled us to ring for morning service on the next Sunday – Easter Day.

Two months after moving – on a Monday, our door bell rang. Imagine our surprise on opening it to find Frank and Gwen Bloomfield standing on the doorstep. They had heard we had moved to Luxulyan and as they were with a group of ringers visiting the county they had come to the village, gone to the post office and had found out where we lived. Later that week we went with them to an eight bell practice at Lanhydrock house near Bodmin.

A few weeks after that we rang a quarter peal at Luxulyan, in three doubles methods, to "welcome us to Cornwall" as Ted Venn put it. The question of getting ringing started again was raised and Joy and I offered to help in any way we could. However we felt that we shouldn't be the ones to force the issue, being newcomers (or incomers) to the village and the county. All the vibes were good. The vicar Malcolm Bowers was an able ringer and keen to get the bells ringing again – a practice night would be revived and learners would be recruited but as 2004 progressed nothing "got off the ground". We started to ring elsewhere.

At this point I suppose it is time to describe the ringing "scene" in Cornwall. In some ways it is certainly very different from anything we had encountered in our lives before, but also both fascinating and challenging – and also very welcoming.

To be continued

Guild AGM – The AGM day will commence at 10 am with the traditional Holy Communion in the Ringers Chapel at the Cathedral. At 11 am the business meeting will take place at St Giles followed by Lunch. At 1345 There will be an eight bell striking competition and there will be several towers open for general ringing. The Guild six bell simulator will also be available. At 1630 refreshments will be available and the competition results will be declared. The Cathedral bells will be available from 1830 until 1930.

Southern Branch Leave it to Levy - Seven members of the Southern Branch made an appearance on the BBC Look North regional news program on Wednesday 17th January in an appeal to recruit new ringers to the Rippingale/Billingborough group of churches. We appeared on the "Leave it to Levy" slot, where we appealed to the presenter Peter Levy to find us some more ringers. The whole thing came about from a paragraph written for the Rippingale parish magazine asking for new ringers. The Grantham Journal sent a reporter to take a photo of the local ringers and wrote a short article. This was published on Friday 12 January, following which a call was received from the producer at Look North asking to send a reporter the following Wednesday.

After numerous phone calls asking for advice from a number of people – thanks to Sue Faull, Les Townsend and Judith Rogers - we turned up at Horbling on the Wednesday and met Hannah Moffat the presenter and reporter from the BBC.

We spent two hours putting a script together, deciding on the best choice of camera shots, testing for sound, test run and final shoot. Hollywood stars please note - we only needed one take to do the job! We also discovered that Hannah does not like climbing steps when she wanted to take a shot of the bells themselves!

It was great fun working with the BBC to produce the piece which was broadcast that evening, and hope that we were able to generate some interest across the Look North region - time will tell if anyone responds to Peter Levy.

Those taking part were Nigel Saxton-Howes, Tina Wells, Mark Mumby, Ian and Mandy Dawson, Jim Benner and Sarah Andrews.

My **Bell Recordings** web site receives a lot of visitors worldwide and I am anxious that this work should not be lost when I am no longer able to maintain it. The Central Council has agreed to take it over and the new address is <http://cccbr.v.serveloccity.net/bellrecordings/>

A new word? In the report of a recent quarter Peal the conductor in recording the qualities of the composition said that it 'Contains 18 2468s uncluding Queens & Whittingtons'. This caused some correspondence on *Ringers Chat* including a message from the composer. Did the composition include Queens and Whittingtons? Never mind Chris, 'U' and 'I' are adjacent on a Qwerty keyboard and they're only jealous really!

When **Market Rasen** bells were rededicated in 1999 after rehangng in a new frame lower in the tower the ringers expected that the bells, after having been silent for so long, would be rung for many years without problems. It must have been a great shock when ringing had to stop in 2004 because of falling tower masonry.

The money required to make the necessary repairs amounting to £250,000 had almost been raised when, in November 2006, a further massive fall of masonry occurred. This obviously means that much more money needs to be raised but it is hoped to make a start on the tower repairs in spring 2007. This is not the first time that the tower has caused problems. In 1884 the ringers were instructed 'not to pull the bells up as formerly' until the tower was restored. The necessary repairs must have been made by 1887 when two more bells were added to form the present ring of eight bells.

I am sure everyone will join with me in hoping by this time next year ringing will have recommenced at Market Rasen.

A particularly interesting peal -The first peal in Lincolnshire was rung at Boston on 7 December 1738 and was of Grandsire Triples. The second peal was not rung until 1756 and was at St Peter at Arches Lincoln. This church was demolished in the 1920s and some of the artefacts including the bells were transferred to the new church of St Giles on a new estate on the east side of the City in the late 1930s. In the tower is a peal board recording the peal rung on 20 June 1756, as 'Garthon's Triples'. In fact this was Grandsire and the composition was by John Garthon. The conductor, John Foster, is believed to have come from Coddtenham, Suffolk where Thomas Eccleston of Crowfield Hall had given a ring of eight bells. Foster had called a peal of 'Gathrines Triples' in 1741 at Coddtenham. Unfortunately details of the band at Boston are not recorded but it seems possible that Foster may have called this peal as well.

On the 250th anniversary of the peal rung at St Peter's, 20 June 2006, Chris Woodcock called Garthon's composition at St Giles. It is thought to be the first true peal of Grandsire Triples ever composed or performed and it is based on three lead courses. It is a twelve part with the 6th bell observation. There are three different calls used, a traditional bob, a fifth's place bob and a fifth's place bob single. In total there are 276 calls.

This and all other peals rung by the LDG in 2006 can be found here <http://www.ldgcb.org.uk/peals/2006/>

Greetings from Texas – After the Southern Branch September meeting at Morton Jim Benner, the Branch Ringing Master, was told that a local resident was demanding to see who was in charge. Fearing the worst Jim and a few supporters went to see the gentleman far from complaining about the ringing as expected, produced a bag with two bottles of wine in it. He explained that he had been speaking on the telephone to a friend in Texas who could hear the bells down the line and was so impressed with the ringing that he asked his friend to buy the ringers a drink!

Candlelight delight at Walesby - It is a long-standing tradition for bellringers to support the annual candlelit carol service at Walesby. This year's service was on 9 December and there was a good turnout from Northern Branch with supporters from several other branches of the Guild. Ringing started in good time but the gaslight soon faded out. Nothing daunted ringing continued by candlelight!

As is usual the service was very well attended and the Gainsborough Salvation Army band played a lovely medley of Christmas tunes. They quickly responded to a request from a rather loud Matthew Jeffery for "Ding dong merrily on high".

It's always a lovely occasion and it is well worth the trek up the muddy path. Thanks to the Friends of Walesby Old Church for providing the ringers with coffee and mince pies. Lorraine Bateman

Ladies quarter peal at Ewerby – Congratulations to the ladies who rang a quarter peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal at Ewerby conducted by Judith Williamson on 25 November. Nine of the ringers were from the Central Branch with Mary Faircloth making up the band. Although not resident in the Branch Mary is a regular visitor. This was a considerable achievement and it is probably the first Quarter Peal of Surprise Royal rung by an all Ladies band for the Guild! Sincere congratulations to all the band – perhaps the ladies will now ring a peal for the Guild!

Congratulations John! At a Welton practice night we were looking at a peal board on the wall and someone asked John Bundy if it was him who was ringing the second. John said it was and we realised that it was nearly 50 years ago. So the idea for a repeat performance with a local band was born. William learnt seven different callings and these were practised in a couple of quarters around Christmas.

We met at 10 a.m and a peal was rung with few trips. By careful pacing of the extents we were able to exactly match the duration of the original peal with John ringing on the same bell. Although no "firsts", it was the first peal for several years for some members of the band. Phil Dawson

This and all other peals rung by the LDG in 2006 can be found here <http://www.ldgcb.org.uk/peals/2006/>

'Master' of the Guild – An article with this heading featuring the Guild Master, Sue Faull, was published in the January 2007 edition of *Lincolnshire Life*. I thought it was very well written with none of the usual gaffs which appear in articles about ringing by journalists. However, I did spot one (deliberate) mistake which would probably only be noticed by a ringer! The full article can be found here <http://www.ldgcb.org.uk/news/latest/MasterOfTheGuild/>

Diary Dates			
--------------------	--	--	--

3	February	Eastern Branch	Swineshead - AGM	
3	February	Elloe Deaneries Branch	Whaplode - AGM	1530
10	February	Central Branch	Welton	1430 - 1600
13	February	Central Branch	Washingborough – Surprise Major	1900 - 2100
17	February	West Lindsey Branch	Belton	1430 – 1700
24	February	Southern Branch	Langtoft	1800 - 1930
			Deeping St James	1930 – 2100
3	March	Eastern Branch	Old Bolingbroke	1830 - 2030
10	March	Central Branch	Nocton	1430 - 1600
10	March	Northern Branch	Laceby Rabbit Competition	1400 - 1700
13	March	Central Branch	Washingborough – Surprise Major	1900 - 2100
17	March	West Lindsey Branch	Broughton	1830 - 2100

24 March	Southern Branch	Training/Workshop Day – Details 0776 525 6261.	
31 March	Joint Surprise Major Practice at Stow		1900 – 2100
8 – 16 April	Southern Branch – Quarter peal week		
14 April	Central Branch	Dunston	18:30 - 21.30
		Metheringham	19.30 - 21.00
14 April	Eastern Branch	Wrangle - Learners Practice	1530 – 1730
		Old Leake - Advanced Practice	1830 – 2030
21 April	West Lindsey Branch	Upton, ringing pm., supper & quiz (proceeds to Branch B.R.F.)	
28 April	Guild AGM	(See <i>News from around the Guild</i> above for further information)	
5 May	Eastern Branch	Gunby – Ringing followed by Service	1530 – 1630
		Burgh-le-Marsh – Tea, Meeting, Ringing	1715 – 2100
7 May	West Lindsey Branch	Outing to Pontefract area	
12 May	Central Branch	Hackthorn - Striking contest	
14 May	Northern Branch	Great Carlton	1900 – 2100
19 May	Northern Branch	Walesby Open Churches	1600
19 May	West Lindsey Branch	Messingham	Striking contest
28 May	West Lindsey Branch	Epworth Festival	Fundraising cake-stall
28 May	Central Branch	Eagle	Rabbits Day

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

Central Branch : Mrs D. Mason 01522 796079

Elloe Deaneries Branch : Roy Norman 01945 700798

Northern Branch : Miss L. Bateman 01472 690460

Southern Branch : Ian Dawson 01476 550968

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.

10 February – Lincoln Cathedral

10 March – Saltby

14 April East Retford

12 May Boston

Midweek Ringing

1st Tuesday in each month from 2-00 to 3-30 pm at Dunholme.
at Stow.

5th Tuesday is an away day!

3rd Tuesday in each month 2-30 to 4-00 pm

6 February	Dunholme	Berwick and Hexham	1400 - 1530
7 February	Ladies Group	See note below	
20 February	Stow	Bristol.	1430 - 1600
21 February	South Lincs Group	Folkingham - London, Oxford Bob	1430 - 1630
6 March	Dunholme.	London	1400 - 1530
7 March	Ladies Group	See below	
20 March	Stow	Woodstock (8th Place Yorkshire)	1430 - 1600
21 March	South Lincs Group	Uffington – Primrose, Plain Bob	1430 - 1630
3 April	HOLY WEEK	No Ringing	
17 April	Stow	Rutland	1430 - 1600
18 April	South Lincs Group	Harlaxton	1430 - 1630
1 May	Dunholme	Cambridge, Primrose, Ipswich, Norfolk	1400 - 1530
15 May	Stow	Countesthorpe (8th Place Lincolnshire)	1430 - 1600
29 May	Away Day - Destination to be announced		

The idea of the above programme is to try and advance our ringing but not to frighten people away We will still continue to ring our usual methods and include the new methods wherever possible

Other Practices

Occasional Surprise Major Practices are arranged in the Northern 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

The **South Lincolnshire Group** meets on the third Wednesday of each month, except in December. Ringing is from 14.30 pm until 1600 pm. 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. The organisers are Canon E. Orland (01778 380724) and Ron. Noon (01775 722671)

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

The **Ladies** have their own practice on the first Wednesday of each month starting at 1330 pm. If you are eligible and would like to attend please contact Revd Stephanie Prosser rhysprosser06-at-aol.com for details of the venue.

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.