



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://www.ldgcb.org.uk/>

Newsletter No 9 Editor – John R. Ketteringham email : newsletter-at-ldgcb.org.uk May 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.

Stop Press – Guild AGM

At the Annual Meeting of the Guild it was agreed that Honorary Life Membership should be conferred on Jim Benner, John Ketteringham and Terry Maddison in recognition of all the hard work they have put in for the Guild over many years. The new Dean, the Very Reverend Philip Buckler was formally elected President of the Guild. Sarah Andrews has decided not to stand for re-election as a Guild Representative on the Central Council and unusually a ballot was required to elect the four Representatives for the three-year term commencing next year. The result of the ballot was announced by the Dean and the four representatives are : Sue Faull, Robin Heppenstall, Judith Rogers and Les Townsend. Roy Norman reported on the activities of the new Fundraising Committee and a raffle organised by the Committee produced £158. Members were shown the new and very attractive Guild web site and were encouraged to use it. David Sykes was thanked for his work on the old web site, John Ketteringham, Aidan Hopkins and Peter Trotman were thanked for the work on the new one.

After a lovely lunch at St Giles the second Guild eight bell Striking Competition took place at Stow judged by Aidan Hopkins who declared the Central Branch winners and received the Henry Law James Shield from Denis Frith who had very kindly donated it to the Guild. West Lindsey Branch were runners up. Members of the Guild were able to try out the Guild Bellringing Simulator which had been erected for the first time in the church. Good use was made of it particularly by one young lady resident in the village who learned to ring from scratch and was able to ring rounds on her own by the end of the day! Everyone agreed that the simulator is a beautiful piece of engineering and will be a great asset to the Guild in its quest to recruit more ringers. The Guild is very grateful to *Awards for All* for the grant and to those committee members who have worked so hard to get this project off the ground.

During the afternoon there was ringing at St Giles and Lincoln Cathedral. Willingham and Hackthorn bells were available for those not taking part in the Striking Competition. A busy but very enjoyable day.

Framework for training ringers

The Education committee of the Central Council has spent some years developing a Framework for good practice in the training of ringers. The Framework provides a starting point for a systematic approach to training your band. Its headings cover all aspects relevant to training, and the statements under each heading describe objectives that good practice will achieve.

The easiest way to use the Framework is as a checklist. For each aspect, does the way you do things take account of it? Is it practical (taking account of your situation)? Do you need to do anything about it? Could you explain why you do what you do, if anyone asked? It is of course neither compulsory, nor prescriptive; instead, what it offers is a toolkit which towers can use as the basis for checking that they, given the constraints of their local situation, do what they can to follow good practice. It can additionally be used where desired to

build a tower's own training framework which can be used to reassure any interested third party of the standard and safety of training on offer.

A paper copy of the Framework has been passed to each Branch Ringing Master but the original *Ringling World* explanatory article and the documents which comprise the Framework itself can be found at <http://www.cccbr.org.uk/edc/fwkw.php>.

Mary Underwood (1932- 2007)

Mary lived with her husband John at the Post House under the shadows of Stow Minster in Lincolnshire and in latter years spent many happy hours sitting in the conservatory admiring the view. She was able to observe ringers and visitors as they went to and from the church.

Very few ringers were able to leave Stow without paying a visit and it is at this point were Mary made a significant contribution to the ringing fraternity in the way of sustenance and friendship. She was the perfect hostess and the kettle had been switched on before entering the property. It is no exaggeration to say food was placed in front of you within seconds! She had this sense of knowing ringers' requirements. If you failed to eat all in front of you, then the remainder had to be taken home along with more from the pantry.

Mary had learnt to ring in the 1960's and had been a faithful member of the Stow band. She was rather nervous and did not achieve the competence she had in singing, gardening and cooking. She was a great behind the scenes supporter of John her husband and his ringing activities. Mary and John enjoyed bell ringing holidays together and were members of the Pulling for Pleasure group.

Mary was known by a wide circle of ringers and she had a mischievous sense of humour which will sadly be missed. While the enthusiasts rang Mary would be around the card shops where she found appropriate cards for friends, always funny and often naughty! It is my birthday tomorrow and one card will be missing!

Thank you Mary for your friendship and for being the perfect hostess. Perhaps on a humorous note - our diets may now stand a chance!
MELVYN ROSE

Donations in memory of Mary totalled £1330 and were presented to the East Midlands Pace-Maker Fund.

If you would like to read another account of Mary's life from which you can also read the very moving address given by Janet Bull at the Thanksgiving please go to the Guild web site <http://www.ldgcb.org.uk/news/latest/Underwood/>

Historic Photographs

On the LDG website there is a page of photographs which I have come across in towers mainly in the Lincoln area. One of the most interesting shows the six bells at Washingborough ready for transport to Loughborough prior to rehangng and augmentation to eight in 1896. The 111 year old photograph has reproduced very well indeed and I am sure there must be many more photographs hanging in ringing chambers across the Diocese which would be well worth reproducing. If you would like to look at the photo gallery it can be found here <http://www.ldgcb.org.uk/library/gallery/>

Pots and Nosh

A tradition of ringers meeting to ring and lunch on New Year's Day has developed over the past few years. These lunches have raised quite a lot of money for various bell fund projects. This year saw no-one taking up the challenge so a group of us decided to go "potty" instead. The day started with the ringing of the first quarter on the Chedburgh Campanile – the peal of eight ceramic bells (plant pots to the uninitiated) hung in the annexe of Sandra Rhodes' home. We got off to a false start when one of the cats dashed across the ringing circle. They had been shut away, but being the sort of clever cats you would expect for a ringer, they can open the bedroom door! Once they had been caught and returned to banishment a good quarter of Yorkshire Surprise Major was scored. Not only was it the first quarter on the "pots", but also Sandra's first touch as conductor on eight bells. Does that mean that you have to install a peal of bells if you want to conduct?! By the end everyone else began to arrive, bearing gifts of good things to eat. After twenty-four ringers and wives had devoured a superb buffet lunch we spent a pleasant afternoon, moving between sitting and talking in the lounge, ringing handbells (sometimes tunes and occasionally changes) in the dining room and of course ringing the "pots". At about five o'clock we adjourned to Branston where we enjoyed a buffet tea and again experienced much chat and the

Woodside "pots"; Santa Claus had given Phil a sound system for them and all agreed they are much easier to hear. Taking advantage of this, one of the younger members of the group secreted one of their number in to the loft among the bells. When the next touch came round a disembodied voice called "Go Little Bob" to the great surprise of most of the band. Of course we didn't "go" anything, for the ringing collapsed in waves of laughter! As people began to leave for home Phil declared that we ought to finish the day as we started by ringing another quarter. Sue was delighted therefore to score her first on eight "pots" (Cambridge Surprise Major) - a lot harder to do that than the Minor she had previously rung.

Many thanks to Sandra and the Masons for their hospitality. Everyone agreed that it was a really good way to spend the day. Ringing, food and general socialising is an excellent start to the New Year.

MARGARET PARKER

A QUIZ
(Answers on page 6)

1. Where were the so-called "Westminster Chimes" first installed?
2. A famous author was a ringer who was he and where did he ring?
3. In which ring of 12 is the eleventh bell half the weight of the tenor?
4. Where and by whom was "Big Ben" originally cast?
5. A ring of eight hangs beneath a golden ball, where?
6. Who "had taken much delight in ringing but my conscience beginning to be tender, I thought such a practice was but vain and therefore forced myself to leave it....."
7. What four brothers rang hand-bell peals of: (a) Superlative (b) London?
8. Who was first to ring over 100 peals in a year and when?
9. What is the longest false peal to have been rung?

First published in *Western Branch News* - Worcester and Districts Association Spring 1974 (Editor JRK)

Vernon Taylor

The announcement in a local paper that 'Vernon Taylor of Market Overton had died in Grantham Hospital on 1 December 2006 at the age of 92' will not mean a great deal to most present day ringers.

His first peal was of Plain Bob Major at Swineshead on 6 October 1934 and he conducted his second peal which was of Plain Bob Minor at Old Leake three weeks later.

Vernon learnt advanced method ringing under Horace Day of Market Deeping and he took over the conducting of the band based on the recently augmented bells at Algarkirk concentrating on Spliced Minor.

Vernon corresponded with the composer, A. G. Driver, and in 1935 he conducted peals in 20 and 27 methods. In the following year they competed with a Cheshire band and increased the number of methods as compositions became available ringing peals in 30, 38, 42, 48, 51, 57, 60, 61 and 70 methods. Vernon was teaching at Winchester College but when he received a composition for a new extent he posted copies to the band and on the next available Saturday he travelled the 150 miles each way to call the resulting peal.

In 1937 the Cheshire band regained the record with a peal in 73 methods. Most of the Algarkirk band had left the village by then but on 4 December 1937 they reformed to regain the record with 80 methods. The band was George Burrell 1, Arthur Young 2, Vernon Taylor (Conductor) 3, Harvey Burrell 4, Harold Barsley 5 and Cyril Burrell 6.

One of the band, Harold Barsley, told Roger Bailey that Vernon had all the methods on a clipboard on the handlebars of his bicycle and used to learn them as he cycled round the area.

Emma Southerington tells me that Vernon Taylor lived two doors down the road from her home in Market Overton but never said that he rang more than the usual Bob Doubles etc. at the Thursday night practice.

At a branch practice at Cottesmore after some badgering he agreed to ring in some Cambridge, which he hadn't rung for over thirty years and he kept everyone right. Later on he called a touch of Spliced Minor.

Another reminiscence which Emma reports was at Christmas when she was about fourteen and just learning to ring methods he said "now Emma, we pass this way but once"

"Yes Mr Taylor" replied young Emma expecting some Christmas themed saying.

"So please try your best not to go wrong on the front!" "Yes Mr Taylor!" from the astonished Emma.

Vernon Taylor rang a total of 35 peals (including one in hand) for the LDG conducting 19 the last being on 27 June 1939.

It would appear that he was a schoolmaster for a short time before the Second World War and then joined the Army as an officer. Of his career after the War I have no knowledge and if anyone who knew Vernon can help to fill in the gaps in this tribute to a remarkable man I would be most grateful.

How I wish I had known that Vernon was still around - I would have loved to have had the opportunity to have interviewed him.

Diary Dates

5	May	Eastern Branch	Gunby – Ringing followed by Service Burgh-le-Marsh – Tea, Meeting, Ringing	1530 – 1630 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	
26	May	Central Branch	Washingborough – Surprise Major Practice	1030 - 1200
28	May	West Lindsey Branch	Epworth Festival - Fundraising cake-stall	
28	May	Central Branch	Eagle - Rabbits Day	
2	June	Easter Branch	Addlethorpe – Striking Competition	1800 – 2100
3	June	Northern Branch	Walesby – Ramblers Service	1400 – 1500
9	June	Central Branch	Brant Broughton	1930 - 2100
16	June	West Lindsey Branch	Gainsborough	1430 – 1600
17	June	Northern Branch	Claxby	1330 – 1530
23	June	Central Branch	Washingborough – Surprise Major Practice	1030 - 1200
30	June	Central Branch	Outing	
30	June	Joint Surprise Major	Kirton Lindsey	1900 - 2100
5	July	Northern Branch	Grasby – Striking Competition	1900 – 2100
7	July	Eastern Branch	Sibsey – Trader Mill BBQ	
14	July	Central Branch	Boothby Graffoe – ringing, Service, Tea, Meeting Navenby – Ringing	
21	July	West Lindsey Branch	Corringham	1830 – 2100
28	July	Central Branch	Washingborough – Surprise Major Practice	1030 - 1200
28	July	Joint Surprise Major	Barton on Humber	1900 – 2100
11	August	Central Branch	Branston – Ringing, Treasure Hunt and Woodside Campanile	
19	August	Northern Branch	Lincoln Cathedral – Service Ringing (meet 1415)	
25	August	Central Branch	Washingborough – Surprise Major Practice	1030 - 1200
26	August	West Lindsey Branch	Lincoln Cathedral – Service Ringing (meet 1415)	

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 (unless otherwise noted below). 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.

12 May Lincoln Cathedral (1130-1300). 9 June Surfleet 14 July To be Arranged 11 August To be Arranged

Midweek Ringing

1st Tuesday in each month from 2-00 to 3-30 pm at Dunholme. 3rd Tuesday in each month 2-30 to 4-00 pm at Stow. 5th Tuesday is an away day!

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		
5	June	Dunholme	Lincoln Surprise Minor	1400 – 1530
19	June	Stow	London Surprise Major	1430 – 1600
3	July	Dunholme	Annable's London	1400 – 1530
17	July	Stow	Doncaster (8ths place Rutland)	1430 – 1600
31	July	Away Day – Destination to be announced		
7	August	Dunholme	Bourne and Hull	1400 – 1530
21	August	Stow	Pudsey	1430 - 1600

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 mad include the new methods wherever possible

South Lincolnshire Group

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)

16	May	West Deeping	Hull and Childwall	1100 – 1200
		Lunch	Red Lion West Deeping	
		Greatford	Bourne and Thelwall	1400 – 1600
20	June	Surfleet	Whatever is possible	1430 – 1600
18	July	Witham on the Hill	Wells and Single Court	1430 – 1600
15	August	Edenham	Lincolnshire Royal and Stedman Caters	1430 – 1600

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.

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. 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 rhyssprosser06-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.

QUIZ ANSWERS
(Some surprises here!).

1. At Great St Mary's Cambridge composed by Dr Crotch (1793). Correctly called the "Cambridge chimes".
2. John Bunyan author of *Pilgrims Progress* who rang at Elstow, Bedfordshire.
3. St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol.
4. At Stockton-on-Tees by John Warner & Co.
5. At St Laurence, West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.
6. John Bunyan in *Grace Abounding*.
- 7(a) Alfred, Ernest, George and William Pye.
- 7(b) James E., Joseph A., R. Alder and Thomas T. Gofton.
8. James W. Washbrook in 1888 (127 peals).
9. 18,240 Kent Treble Bob Major at Mottram 10th June 1922.

Signing Off

This is my final Newsletter as Editor. I seem to have spent most of my time in one way or another on work for the Guild and ringing in general for a very long time and I feel I would like a break to get on with my other interests. The Newsletter came about as a means of improving communication over the very wide area covered by the Guild and I hope eventually this will be achieved. I have been disappointed that so often I have to obtain information on what is happening in the Branches from items published in the *Ringling World*. I hope that contributors of such articles in the future will remember to send copies to my successor as Editor. Do remember to send notices of events or alterations in plenty of time to be included – any Editor can only publish what he receives.

I have been a member of the Guild for almost 60 years and no doubt I will continue to take an interest in what you all do – good luck and best wishes.