

*Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers*  
*Central Branch Newsletter No 88 February 2015*

*Testing Times* — *What?*



**On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November we had our annual quiz and faith supper**, which was held at Brant Broughton village hall. There was a good turnout from members from seven different towers across central branch with ringers from Nettleham, Welton, Dunholme and Scothern being particularly well represented. It was a very enjoyable evening, with plenty of laughs and light hearted banter as the five teams endeavoured to recall the answers to Betty's carefully prepared questions, which were expertly read out to us by Mick our Quiz Master. Tease the brain they certainly did, especially the one that had something to do with the number of changes in a peal of bob minor and the internal angles of different geometric shapes – that had me completely baffled and I'm still none the wiser! There were questions on a wide variety of topics, including the animal kingdom, sport and entertainment, science, words and grammar and famous buildings, designed to challenge us all. However, even the youngest amongst us was able to contribute with several answers including the identification of a number of famous TV dogs. As ever, deciding which was the best round on which to play the joker caused some debate amongst the teams, but this added to the fun of the event as the jokers were played and the fortunes of individual teams varied. At the end of the evening, the winning team were Missing Strictly Again and James received the Sylvia Taylor trophy on their behalf.

For supper there was a fantastic spread to choose from, and plenty to go round. Some people had obviously been very busy baking, so a particular thank you to them from those of us who are not so expert in that department! There was also a raffle with lots of prizes, so thank you to all those who kindly contributed to that.

However, an especially big thank you must go to Betty and Mick Stracey for organising the quiz. Everyone had a great time and I'm sure that I'm not alone in saying that I'm already looking forward to next year's one!

S Watt

## ***Proposed Ringing Meetings for 2015/2016***

Feb 14 <sup>th</sup>	Sleaford	3 – 4.30pm
Mar 14 <sup>th</sup>	Lincoln St Botolphs	2.30 – 4pm
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Day	
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	Timberland	2.30 - 4pm
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	Guild AGM	
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	VE Day 70 <sup>th</sup> Dunholme	6-8pm
May 25 <sup>th</sup>	Rabbits – Nocton	3pm
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	½ Yearly Scothern/Welton	3 – 8pm
	Ringling, Service, Picnic, Meeting, Ringing	
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	Joint Meeting with Southern Branch	
	Claypole	2.30- 3.15 pm
	Hough on the Hill	3.30 – 4.30pm
Aug 8 <sup>th</sup>	Swinderby	5-6pm
	Eagle	6.30-8pm
Aug 9 <sup>th</sup>	Cathedral Service Ringing	
Sept 12 <sup>th</sup>	Guild 6 Bell striking competition	In Northern Branch (towers tbc)
Sept 19 <sup>th</sup>	Branch Outing to be notified	
Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>	Caythorpe 5-8pm	
Nov 14 <sup>th</sup>	Quiz-Lincoln St Giles	
Dec 12 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Service Lincoln St Giles	
	Ringling 2.30pm	
	Service 3.00 pm	
Jan 9 <sup>th</sup>	AGM Sleaford	
	Ringling 3.00pm	
	Service 4.30	
	Tea and Meeting 5.00pm	
Feb 13 <sup>th</sup>	Martin	2.30-4.00pm
Mar 12 <sup>th</sup>	Leadenham	2.30 – 4.00pm

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*Who was it who, after the quarter, could not find his glasses amongst the holly?*

*Overheard - compliment to the TC for the fine job made of the new rope and sallies at Washingborough - not too thick for small hands.*

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## *Obituary*

### *Dennis Sutton 1921 -2015*

There was standing room only at the Lincoln Crematorium as friends and colleagues gathered to say goodbye to Dennis Sutton. A bell rope coiled among the flowers on his coffin was a fitting tribute. Immediately after the service, local ringers rang a quarter at Waddington while mourners gathered at the Three Horeseshoes, next to the Church at which Dennis was Tower Captain. Dennis, a well-known and greatly respected bellringer, started to ring at St Michael's Church Waddington not long after he moved to the village in the mid 1950's. It was a hobby he enjoyed for the rest of his life. He was Tower Captain at Waddington between 1973 and 1999. During this remarkable 26 year period of service, Dennis taught many ringers to master the art at Waddington, including family members. He still found time and energy to assist in the training of a new band to ring on the newly furnished bells at South Scarle in Nottinghamshire from 1991 to 1999.

In 1997, he became President of the Central Branch of Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers for 3 years and his services to ringing were duly recognised when he was elected Honorary Life Member of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild in 2002. Dennis was a passionate and enthusiastic ringer, albeit not a prolific peal ringer, ringing 11 peals in total. He rang his first peal in February 1958 (Grandsire Doubles), and his last one in April 1989. A peal in 1984 was particular pleasing for him as he rang it accompanied by four of his sons and a future daughter-in-law.

Dennis had a dry sense of humour and his genuine personality will remain in our thoughts for many years to come. The many ringers who benefited from his support and dedication will be his lasting legacy. Our thoughts are with his family.

May he rest in peace.

Below are details of the quarter Peal: rung on Friday 30th January in memory of Dennis Sutton, for many years Tower Captain of St. Michael's, Waddington.

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- |                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Sue Stead     | 4. Christopher C P Woodcock |
| 2. Jean Williams | 5. Jonathan P Clark (C)     |
| 3. Angela Holt   | 6. Susan L Waterfall        |

## ***Notes from the Guild Committee November 2014***

- \* Guild 6 Bell Competition will be an open competition - it is not necessary to hold branch competitions.
- \* Plate: anything up to Plain Bob Doubles
- \* Cup: Set method Plain Bob Minor with 240 changes being rung.
- \* 6 Bell Competition will be in the Northern Branch on 12th September
- \* 8 Bell Competition will be in the Southern Branch - date to be confirmed.
- \* To be discussed at the Guild AGM: Training fund will be set up in January 2015 - proposed that, of the subscription paid, 10% education, 25% Belfry Repair Fund, 50% General Fund, 15% Branches.
- \* What do Branches want from the training fund?
- \* New Guild Event on 25th July: Ideas please for this new event - where and what type of event do we want? It could be a Ringing Festival or a Young Ringers' Day.
- \* The posts of Training Officer and PR Officer are still vacant. The Guild Committee need feedback from members.
- \* For the Guild Review to progress, need to discuss the name of the Guild. This will be brought up at the Guild AGM.

## ***Notes from the Branch Committee November 2014***

- \* Formal Ringing Workshops did not take place through lack of interest.
- \* Believe that work has started on the bells at North Scarle.\*\*
- \* Carlton-le-Moorland have encountered problems and more work is needed.  
\*\* *See below for more information.*
- \* Work on Wragby simulator has been completed. Good job done. Thanks go to John Nicholson and all those who helped to achieve this.
- \* Onion trophy will be judged on sausages which will be awarded at the Rabbits meeting in 2015.
- \* Ringing programme discussed for 2015 - 2016 and to be ratified at the AGM.
- \* There has been a grant requested from Blankney. Proposal will be ratified by members.

Information update:

\*\*North Scarle: Bells at Whitechapel.

\*\*Carlton-le-Moorland: All is well! The bells are being reinstalled complete with a new treble. Stan Underwood

- *Congratulations to Stan and everyone who have been involved .-*

*Central Branch Bell Ringers Carol Service December 13th Norton Disney*

The Central Branch Carol Service was held this year in the beautiful medieval church of St. Peter in Norton Disney. It couldn't have been held in a more fitting place as the lack of pomp and splendour brings home to us what Christmas is really all about.

There was a half hour of ringing before the service began and although there seemed to be a general reluctance to remove coats, scarves and gloves, Plain Bob, Grandsire and Cambridge were rung.

27 members donned their thermals and braved arctic temperatures (inside the church) to attend the service where the story of the nativity was told and interspersed with fitting carols.

Thanks to Mick and Betty Stracey for the service planning and organisation and to Les Townsend for playing the organ so beautifully. I noticed that there was a small fan heater directed at his ankles and he emerged after the service with red hot feet and stiff hands.

There was a general shuffle towards the tea, coffee and cakes after the service in order to thaw out and fend off hypothermia. Fortunately, with having 9 carols our knees hadn't quite seized up, but it was a close run thing. It's not every day we get the chance to ring, sing worship and workout with a jolly good story into the bargain.

Many thanks to those who provided cakes and refreshments. Richard Spencer must have been up at the crack of dawn baking that delightful fruit loaf!!

Happy New Year to all!

Jan Riley

*Dear Richard: Please may we have the recipe for the fruit loaf. From the Editor*

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*The visiting ringers asked "Is there a toilet in the Church?"*

*"Yes" said the local, pointing to a door on which was written "The Cistern Chapel."*

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*The ringer said after attempting a new method "I was looking at it this morning but I forgot what I was trying to remember!"*

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*The belfry door rattled and the ringer looked out. Seeing no-one, he asked "Is anyone there?"*

*"No. It's the invisible man." A voice from in the belfry said. "Oh, the invisible man? I haven't seen him for ages!"*

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## ***Annual General Meeting of the Central Branch of Bellringers. Jan 10th 2015***

Service ringing at St John's Washingborough, for the Annual Central Branch AGM was well organised, covering a range of abilities, from rounds and call changes through Grandsire Triples to Lincolnshire Surprise Major. Thank you to Revd Les Whitfield, retired – but still going – for taking the service, Jonathan Clark (the Guild webmaster) who led the prayers and David Radwell who played the organ. Revd Les Whitfield preached about the human factor in ringing the bells and their importance in making the church present in the community.

After service, ringers made their way round to the Methodist Church Hall for the looked forward to bangers, mash and peas with seconds only when Dot allowed. Gill was first in the queue for this! Husband has required a special mention for the particularly succulent bangers. Then followed variations of assortments of crumble and custard, washed down by lovely cups of tea. More please was echoed not because we were hungry but due to the food being scrumptious.

Margaret P, President, called the meeting to order.

- Votes of thanks were given (see first paragraph) and to those who made the lovely tea.
- There was a minute's silence while we remembered those who passed away during the last year.
- After apologise, Minutes from the last Meeting were read out and accepted with no matters arising. The Secretary, then the Treasurer gave their reports.
- Officers were elected as follows:
  - President: Margaret Parker      Secretary: Fiona Dawson
  - Treasurer: Dot Mason      Ringing Master: Richard Spencer
  - Safeguarding Officer: Jonathan Clark
  - Guild Fund Raising Rep: Christine Jackson
  - Branch Committee Reps: Mick Stracey, Sue Waterfall, John Nicholson, Jean Kay
- Representation to the Guild Committee meeting is Fiona but if Fiona could not make the meeting, then either John Nicholson or Jonathan Clark would represent the branch.
- New members: 5 adults and 1 junior were all voted in by the members.
- From the Treasurer's report concerning the Belfry Repair Fund: Grants were made of £500 to Bassingham, £75 to St. Mary-le-Wigford and £160 to Thorpe-on-the Hill.
- Central Branch Ringing Master, Richard, gave an account of the ringing meetings during the year and provided a programme of events for the year 2015 – 2016. (*See details given earlier in the Newsletter.*)
- Richard would welcome suggestions for the branch outing in September. He thanked all the Incumbents and Tower Captains who have welcomed the

Branch to their Churches and to those members who have given their support in 2014.

Under AOB, 2 items were brought up.

- The training fund and how it would be financed was discussed. Alan Payne (the Guild master) asked that before the AGM, the branches decide what they want from the training fund. This needs some thought. Margaret asked that everyone should think and talk to the local committee members before the February Committee Meetings.
- The proposed change to the name of the Guild – there were some discussions on this. Advantages and disadvantages were voiced. No formal vote was taken since this is an issue to be decided at the Guild Meeting in April. See below from Margaret Parker, the Central Branch President.
- When the meeting closed, there was further ringing at Washingborough tower.

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***From Margaret Parker***

“At the Branch AGM, one item for discussion was the change of the name of the Guild being proposed by the Guild Committee.

This was a contentious issue. **Please** think about it and discuss it among yourselves and go to the Guild AGM meeting on 25th April and make your opinions known.

Our Present Name: Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers

The Proposed Name Change: Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Change Ringers

There will be a chance to discuss this within the Branch at the Central Branch meeting on 14th March at Lincoln St Botolph 2.30pm to 4pm.”

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***Sale of Books and other items  
at***

***½ Yearly Central Branch Ringing Meeting on June 13th:***

The late Walter Froggat left his books and other related items to the Branch Bell Repair Fund. Margaret P. proposes to take them to the ½ yearly meeting in June to be sold at reasonable prices for the Branch BRF. All are welcome to bring along any ringing related items to the stall to be sold for the Branch BRF.

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## *A Noughty Quarter*

Yes, I have spelt it right. Our behaviour was absolutely impeccable! Earlier in the year we realised that of the dozen Nettleham ringers, four of us would have a birthday ending in a nought during 2014 (one of us would be 50, one would be 60, one 70 and one 80). This seemed rare so we resolved to ring a quarter together to celebrate. As the plan took shape we found that a Cathedral ringer who lives in the village was going to be 50, and a ringer in the same benefice at that time with whom we rang regularly would be 60, so we made up a band of 'noughties'. Bob Doubles was chosen as the method and we each had a turn of conducting one or more extents. We managed to agree a date and a time that we could all get - two members took an afternoon off work to accommodate the one who found herself working a night shift that day. So, just before the year was out, on the 17th December, we rang a very good quarter. We found that the frequent changing of the conductor kept us on our toes and made the time pass surprisingly quickly. I wonder how many other towers might find themselves in a position to ring a 'noughty' quarter with local ringers!

Margaret Parker

*To save readers flicking through the pages, this is the quarter peal:*

Nettleham 17 Dec

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1. Margaret Parker (C)
2. Fiona Dawson (C)
3. Heather Blacklock (C)
4. James Stevenson (C)
5. Keith Gladman (C)
6. David Burkitt (C)

A 'Noughty Quarter' where each of the ringers celebrated a birthday ending in nought in 2014. (2 were 50, 2 were 60, one was 70 and one 80). Each of the ringers called part of the quarter.

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*Husband enters chamber while there is ringing. Says to learner ringing -  
"Dodge with wife!" Wife behind him on stairs, puzzled.  
He said "She looked like my wife."*

***Apologies from the Editor:*** For the quarter peal dated 17 September 2014 at Welton, typed incorrectly in the previous newsletter (no 87 November 2014). Les Townsend was omitted from the quarter peal band. Details have now been corrected and included in this newsletter.

## *Branch Quarter Peals*

Welton 17 Sept

1260 Double Oxford Bob Minor

1. Les Townsend
2. Michael Stracey (C)
3. Richard Short
4. Betty Stracey
5. John F Underwood
6. Richard Spencer

Rung by members of the RAF Guild of Bellringers to mark the planting of a tree in the churchyard to commemorate the men and women of Welton, who served in the Great War 1914 to 1918.

Lincoln Cathedral 9 Nov

1259 Grandsire Caters

1. Fiona M Dawson
2. Sandra Underwood
3. Heather B bellBlacklock
4. John F Underwood
5. Harold F Gibson
6. Michael E Stracey
7. Graham JN Colborne (C)
8. Jeremy Wheeldon
9. David Fox
10. Philip Mason

For Evensong

Lincoln St Giles 20 Nov

1280 4 Spliced Surprise Major methods  
320 each, Cambridge, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Rutland

1. Les Townsend
2. Phil Mason
3. John Underwood
4. Betty Stracey
5. Sylvia Taylor
6. Alan Bird
7. Michael Stracey (C)
8. David Fox

Dot Mason would like to be associated with this quarter. Rung to celebrate the 80th birthday of Margaret Parker MBE, in the church where she learnt to ring, by some of her very many friends.

Lincoln Cathedral 23 Nov

1282 Yorkshire Surprise Royal

1. Delia Heppenstall
  2. Sandra Underwood
  3. Heather Blacklock
  4. John Underwood
  5. Michael Stracey
  6. Jeremy Wheeldon
  7. Phil Mason
  8. David Fox (C)
  9. Robin Heppenstall
  10. David Braunton
- For evensong

Surfleet 29 Nov

1280 Yorkshire Surprise Royal

1. Claire C Nicholson
2. Sandra Underwood
3. Heather B Blacklock
4. John F Underwood
5. Sylvia M Taylor
6. David Fox
7. Philip R Wild
8. David Braunton
9. Peter Wakefield
10. Bjorn E Bradstock (C)

Ewerby 30 Nov

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1. Sylvia Taylor
  2. Richard Short
  3. Jean Kay
  4. Richard Rodgers
  5. Alan D H Bird (C)
  6. Richard Spencer
- For Choral Evensong

## *Branch Quarter Peals*

- Eagle 9 Dec  
1280 Grandsire Doubles  
1. Sylvia Taylor  
2. Jean Kay  
3. Geoffrey Wilkins  
4. Michael Stracey (C)  
5. Betty Stracey  
6. John Nicholson  
First in method 2
- Lincoln Cathedral 14 Dec  
1259 Grandsire Caters  
1. Rose Hancock  
2. Delia Heppenstall  
3. John Underwood  
4. Mick Stracey  
5. Harold Gibson  
6. Jeremy Wheeldon  
7. Robin Heppenstall (C)  
8. Graham Colborne  
9. Bob Hancock  
10. John Nicholson  
For Evensong; also remembering Philip Michael Freeman, Priest, sometime ringer at this Cathedral Church, for whose life and ministry a Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance was held at the Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick, on the previous day.
- Surfleet 19 Dec  
1250 Cambridge Surprise Major  
1. Dot Mason  
2. Sylvia Taylor  
3. Betty Stracey  
4. Alan Bird  
5. John Nicholson  
6. Phil Mason  
7. Richard Spencer  
8. Michael Stracey (C)  
For Surfleet Christmas Tree Festival
- Branston Woodside Campanile 1 Jan  
1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor  
1. Margaret Parker  
2. Phil Mason  
3. Sandra Underwood  
4. John F Underwood  
5. Betty Stracey  
6. Michael Stracey (C)  
7. Dot Mason  
To welcome in the New Year
- Lincoln Cathedral 11 Jan  
1298 Grandsire Cinques  
1. Rose Hancock  
2. Delia Heppenstall  
3. Sandra Underwood  
4. Mick Stracey  
5. Les Townsend  
6. Jeremy Wheeldon  
7. Robin Heppenstall (C)  
8. Harold Gibson  
9. Bob Hancock  
10. Phil Mason  
11. David Fox  
12. John Nicholson  
For Evensong, and to congratulate Harold Gibson on his 50 years as a member of the Cathedral Company of Ringers and Jeremy Wheeldon on his appointment as Master.
- Wragby 20 Jan  
1260 Single Oxford Bob Minor  
1. Margaret Parker  
2. Sylvia Taylor  
3. Betty Stracey  
4. Michael Stracey  
5. Alan Bird (C)  
6. David Fox  
To celebrate the life of Dennis Sutton, of Waddington, who attended practices at this church for several years. Jim Sutherland, tower captain at that time, would like to be associated with this quarter peal.

## **Branch Quarter Peals**

Caythorpe  
1260 Grandsire Triples  
1. Sylvia Taylor  
2. Dot Mason  
3. Richard Short  
4. Phil Mason  
5. Betty Stracey  
6. Geoff Wilkins  
7. Michael Stracey (C)  
8. Alan Bird  
First Grandsire Triples 6

21 Jan

Lincoln Cathedral  
1278 Grandsire Caters  
1. Rose Hancock  
2. Caitlin Meyer  
3. Michael Stracey  
4. Dan Meyer  
5. Jeremy Wheeldon  
6. Harold Gibson  
7. Michael Lawton  
8. Robert Hancock  
9. David Fox (C)  
10. Phil Mason  
For Evensong

25 Jan

### ***Workshops for the Central Branch - do you want them? -***

Sandra Underwood and Margaret Parker have a list of possible workshops which can be run for Central Branch members. Please could any members who are interested in any of these or who knows anyone who would like to come, contact Sandra on 01522 884682 or email [sandra.underwood@ntlworld.com](mailto:sandra.underwood@ntlworld.com)

Then a convenient date can be arranged.

If there is sufficient interest, the workshop may be opened up to other branches and/or neighbouring Guilds to make up numbers if need be.

Possible Workshops

- Striking and listening
- Bob doubles
- Bell Maintenance
- Learning methods
- Ringing up and down in peal
- Ropesight - first steps
- Call changes and basic conducting
- Splicing methods



*Note from the Editor: I think this is an opportunity to think what help do you want? If this does not help you - and you would like something else, let the Branch Committee know.*