

Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers **Central Branch Newsletter No 92 Feb 2016**

2015 Ringers Quiz at St Giles

The venue for the quiz this year was at St Giles Church Hall on the outskirts of Lincoln. Before the quiz, there was a short period of ringing from 18.15 to 18.35 from call changes to half a course of Cambridge Major. Down to the hall, where the food was laid out ready for the break and though it was tempting to take a snack, we were under Mick and Betty's strict orders once again for the 2015 Ringer's quiz. Five teams appeared from the gloom of the night to compete for the Sylvia Taylor trophy. They were -

THE ALLSORTS (a sweet lot)

SAMARITAN SUPPORTERS (very helpful)

THE BUMBLIES (bumbled along fairly well)

THE RENEGADES (where did they escape from)

HOLE IN THE WALL GANG (with Butch and Sundance Burkit also James)

In the early rounds of the quiz, scoring was fairly even but by the interval for tea, two teams had established a slight lead. After being revived by the good selection of food and the copious cups of teas we continued with the quiz. Some rounds were interesting if impossible such as collective nouns for various animals. Who has ever heard of a Nye of Pelicans? Though, under the heading "Miscellaneous" we should have known what is a "Host"? Answer: Host of Angels!!!

Someone did try to "Pull the wool over Mick's eyes" – truly unintentionally. Mick's questions: "What is Onomatopoeia?"

From the audience "Can you spell it please?" Mick: "No!".

Mick: "Next question – How do you spell Onomatopoeia?"

The two top teams dug deep, put noses to the wheel, shoulder to the grindstone and left no Turnes un-stoned to maintain a lead. As the rounds continued the Hole in the Wall Gang pulled out a bit of a lead over the nearest challenger to win by a couple of points. So the trophy returned to its abode in Nettleham Belfry where it can be viewed and admired by visitors. Thank you to Mick and Betty for organising and running the quiz. Thank you to all those who helped with the teas and brought food. Thank you James for knowing a lot of the answers. Let us hope that a few more teams will enter next year. KG & GG

Proposed Ringing Meetings for 2016/2017

Feb 13 th	Martin		2.30 - 4.00pm
Mar 12 th	Leadenham		2.30 - 4.00pm
April 9th	Hackthorn	Rabbits	3.00 pm
		Fundraising Evening	
April 23rd	Hackthorn	St George's Day	1pm
April 30th	Guild AGM		
May 14th	Scothern		6.00 - 8.00pm
June 11th	Great Hale		6.00 - 7.30pm
July 9th	North Scarle	½ Yearly Meeting Ringing, Service, Picnic, Meeting, Branch Striking Contest, Further Ringing	3.00 - 8.00pm
Aug 13th	Heckington		6.00 - 8.00pm
Aug 14th	Cathedral Service	Ringing	
Sept 10th	Guild 6 Bell Striking Contest		Details to be provided.
	In the Elloe Deaneries		
Sept 17th	Branch Outing?		
Oct 1st	Guild 8 Bell Striking Contest		
	In the Eastern District		
Oct 8th	Dunston		3.00 - 4.00pm
	Nocton		4.30 - 6.00pm
Nov 12th	Dunholme	Fundraising Evening	6.30 - 10.30pm
Dec 10th	Carol Service	Welbourn	
		Ringing	2.30pm
		Service	3.00pm
Jan 14th	AGM Lincoln	St Giles	
		Ringing	3.00pm
		Service	4.30pm
		Tea & Meeting	5.00pm
Feb 11th	Carlton Le Moorland		Being arranged
	Bassingham		3.00 - 4.30pm
Mar 11th	Blankney		3.00 - 4.30pm

NB: Meeting on May 14th at Scothern:

There may be a change in venue if there is work on the bells at Scothern.

Please check with your tower correspondent for confirmation of details on the meetings.

Washingborough 8 Bell Practices 10.30-12am

27th Feb, ??th Mar, 23rd Apr, 28th May, 25th June

This practice accommodates the needs of ringers and is open to all who would like to practice their 8 bell ringing in a relaxed environment.

All of these are subject to change. Check nearer the time.

Congratulations to:

- Nick Millward for his first quarter peal on 8 bells ringing the tenor to Bob Triples.
- Claire Howard, Gill Gladman & Jonathan Clark (C) for their first quarter of St Clements College Bob Minor.
- For the ringers who, for all of them, was their first quarter of St Andrew Bob Triples.
- Bjørn E Bradstock (C) for the unusual quarter of Cambridge Surprise Minor x 2 - unusual because it was 2 quarters rung at the same time on 12 bells rang at Surfleet.
- Michael Lawton for his first quarter on Cinques and for his first of Surprise and Royal as a conductor.
- Jeremy Wheeldon for his first quarter, conducting Stedman Cinques
- John Nicholson for his first quarter of Cambridge Surprise Royal

Welcome

- Gregory Harrison - Heckington
 - Luke Boreham - Sleaford
 - Alec Crawford - Sleaford
 - Evelyn Rice - Waddington
 - Colin Ward - Washingborough (re - election)
 - William Booty - Washingborough
-

Stand was called.

Treble and 2nd didn't stand -

"It's a long way for the call for "Stand" to travel!"

"When it is practice night - you can make mistakes - when all your friends are there to help you make mistakes!"

Obituary

Dr. John R Ketteringham MBE BA MPhil PhD 1929 - 2015

We were very sorry to hear that John died on Christmas Eve. He had been suffering with failing health for some time. He learned to ring at his native Alford when he returned home after a two year course at Lincoln Technical College. While in Lincoln he had spent many hours talking with fellow student John E Cook, where (in his own words) 'he got to hear about the antics bell ringers got up to before he even handled a bell rope'. After an unpromising start he became very enthusiastic and cycled to many practices at local churches in the area. He was elected a member of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild in February 1948, became the Peal Secretary for the Guild 1985 - 1986, the President of the Central Branch from 2000 to 2001 and was made an Honorary Life Member of the Guild in 2007.

After coming to live in Lincoln he came to the notice of Jack Millhouse and, as were many others, was given every opportunity to progress. He went onto compose, call and organise many peals of Surprise Major. Among other achievements, he arranged the ringing of peals completing the alphabet of Surprise Major. Altogether he rang 1,050 peals including 30 in hand and conducting 161. He was always mindful of how he very nearly gave up ringing himself in the early days and so took a keen and active interest in encouraging new ringers. Because he had polio when he was little, he did not start school until he was eight and so was left behind academically. This led to a strong urge throughout his life to prove himself that he was not a dunce. He researched and published a number of local history books, including the History of Lincoln Cathedral Bells, and finally, when studying for a PhD, he chose for his thesis to research and publish an updated version of North's Church Bells of Lincolnshire, (Founders, Inscriptions, Traditions and Peculiar Uses) which had been published in 1882 and was therefore, not only out of print, but seriously out of date! John collected information from local records and ringers and he had a group of enthusiasts visiting out-of-the-way places to follow up any relevant information. He finally published his first edition in 2000 and continued to update it ever since. (I hope someone will continue to publish new information as bells are continually worked on). This led to his being awarded the MBE in the Queen's birthday honours list in 2002 for all his efforts for Lincolnshire Heritage, especially the bells. The Guild can also thank him for collating information and producing a book to honour Jack Millhouse, recording the names and photographs of the many people for whom Jack called their first peal. Thank you, John. May he rest in peace. MAP

Report of Guild Committee Meeting - Nov. 2015.

- BRF Administrator is Alan Payne until a replacement is found.
 - 6 Bell Striking Competition.
 - No ringer shall ring in more than one team in either event.
 - Branch can nominate teams in the event of no local competition.
 - Cup will include all method ringing, including plain hunt.
 - Plate to be Call Changes only.
 - 2016: 6 Bell in Elloe Deaneries on 10th September
8 Bell Eastern Branch on 1st October.
 - Joy Lord appointed Guild Safeguarding Officer. To be ratified at Guild AGM.
 - AGM 2016. Same format as 2015 but having a faith lunch.
 - AGM 2017 propose to have midday communion, lunch, meeting, Cathedral ringing for evensong. The day finishing after evensong.
 - Scout International Jamboree at the Showground July/August 2017. We have been invited to attend.
 - Young Ringers Event. Saturday 23rd July 2016. Dunholme Village Hall. 10am – 6pm.
 - The Ringing World is proposing to carry out yet another survey on the future of ringing, The Guild will not support this but in the event of the survey being compiled there is nothing to stop an individual taking part.
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Visiting Band at Harby

The Washingborough & Waddington ringers wanted to practice ringing Grandsire Doubles on a different night to their usual practice night so they could practice more at the method and other things. So Harby was chosen, a nice little 6 just over the border.

We rang some plain courses and touches of Grandsire Doubles, then we took it in turns to call touches. We even tried ringing some "silent and non-conducted" but as I find it almost impossible to be silent this was tricky and I had a giggling fit which surprised nobody! Silent and non-conducted means exactly that but all the ringers must know what they are doing. As the ringing time came to an end we left our donation and departed to the local pub where we certainly weren't silent! Many thanks to Will Turner for the use of the bells, to Colin for his expertise and to the rest of the band for turning up. A great way to learn is to have fun and I look forward to doing something like that again.

See, you don't just have to ring quarter peals, you can simply book some bells and go ringing! Wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

Sue Waterfall

2015 Christmas Carol Service

2015 Christmas season started for real with the Central Branch Carol Concert at St Giles Church on the outskirts of Lincoln with ringing on 6 and 8 bells. Since at one point, it was thought that there would be no vicar at St Giles, the Carol Service was organised for parishioners and ringers together. However there was good news since Canon Nick Buck (thank you) joined the parish and led the service for us.

A total of 11 carols, one address from the Vicar and nine readings were carried out with the clarity and timing of a well struck bit of ringing. The carols were a mixture of familiar and lesser known ones, sung with gusto by all the congregation.

Readings were a mixture of bible ones and those written from the viewpoint of the ordinary people in Bethlehem, on the night of the nativity. Thank you to Mick Stracey who organised the service and providing the readings. My particular favourite reading was the one by the shepherds who had been surprised by a heavenly host while watching their flocks and despite misgivings, hot footed to Bethlehem just in case the messiah had arrived. Following the final carol there was coffee and mince pies and a natter.

It was good to see Jim Sutherland with his granddaughter Briony who had never been to a ringers' Carol Service before. Her comments "I am always one for trying something new" and "I liked the way Mick portrayed a nervous Joseph, undecided about marrying Mary in her predicament." Thank you to Mick and Betty Stracey for organising the carol service.

KG

"Ringers live on tea and cakes!"

Ringer responding, eating a piece of delicious cake : "If I say it's better than ___ 's than I'm in trouble & if I say it's not as good as ___ 's, I'm in trouble."

"Then don't say anything!"

"What happened to the treble? - it stopped."

"She fell off the wheel!"

After a well struck course of Major, the helper behind the treble learner said "I'm only here to look at the wall - my goodness what a fine crack there is in that wall. The only ring which was well struck and I wasn't in it!"

The learner replied "Well you were looking at the wall!"

Central Branch 6 Bell Striking Competition

This is a new Competition for all towers and ringers within the Central Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild. Entry into this competition does not preclude towers from entering the Guild Six Bell Competition.

Rules:

1. The competition is open to all towers and ringers within the Central Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild.
 2. A tower may enter as many teams as it likes but each team should have at least two thirds of the band who are members of the Central Branch. Towers are requested to notify the Branch Secretary that they are entering the competition together with the number of teams at least two weeks before the date of the competition.
 3. No one shall ring for more than one team. In the interest of fair play, any violation of this rule will result in both teams being eliminated.
 4. The contest shall be on six bells with each team ringing a minimum of 240 changes of either:
Rounds and Call Changes
A Doubles Method
A Minor Method
 5. A practice time of three minutes shall be permitted in order for the band to acclimatise to the bells. The bells will then be stood and the Treble rung for a few strokes as a signal to the judge that the band are about to start their competition piece.
 6. A timekeeper may be present to help with timing.
 7. The judge's decision is final.
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*She asked for someone to stand behind her when she was ringing something new. All went well until she "went off at a tangent" and she could not be put back on track. When told not to panic, She said "I wasn't panicking. You confused me. You kept telling me to do one thing when I was expecting to do something else!"
I know we tell people to "stick to their guns" but _ _ _ _ !*

Branch AGM January 9th 2016

Nearly forty ringers met at Sleaford on 9th January for the Branch AGM. The belfry was crowded and Richard did an excellent job of keeping the bells ringing, ensuring that there was plenty of variety for everyone to enjoy. How much more enjoyable the bells are to ring now that it is no longer a ground-floor belfry! Even so, certain of our experienced ringers did not find it easy to set the Tenor! (You know who you are!) For the service we sat in the choir stalls - (much more homely. We might have lost each other in the body of this large and beautiful church if we had scattered in the pews.) The Vicar gave us a very interesting talk about the value to the church of bell ringers and how important each individual one is, in the scheme of things.

We then adjourned to the church room, where the local ladies made us comfortable with cups of tea while we waited for the pre-ordered fish and chips to arrive from the local chippie. We then rounded it off with fruit crumble and custard. They too did a brilliant job, ensuring that we had a good meal, still piping hot.

The business meeting was straightforward. In answer to a query, the Master explained that when choosing the towers to be visited during the coming year, the aim had always been to visit every tower in the Branch in turn over the course of a few years, thus ensuring that the numbers of bells and the locations were fairly distributed. (The proposed programme for 2016 appears elsewhere in this Newsletter.)

MAP

From Left to Right:
Fiona Dawson
(Secretary),
Margaret Parker
(Chairman)
Richard Spencer
(Ringing Master)



Visiting Sleaford practice night, I was so pleased when I rang the tenor since it was easy to pull off and ring. It is called by some, a "Lady's bell" since it is set just on the balance.

Some may say that it is a "Lady's bell since anything could upset it. Including a certain someone who allegedly, leant on the rope and "upset it" without meaning to! Gill G

News from around - Waddington are pleased to announce that they have a new set of ropes!

While the ropes were being fitted, the tower held an open day, giving people a rare opportunity to see the bells which are hung on two levels. Now, the bells have a nice set of ropes and *the ringers* have acquired a recruit through the open day! The first practice with the new ropes saw no less than fifteen ringers in the tower. Although it was freezing outside, the belfry heater was soon turned off!



Here's the treble on the top tier with the second below. Sadly this bell is younger than I am.....

Colin Ward

Lincoln Chedburgh Campanile

The newest recruit at Lincoln (Chedburgh Campanile) - only 8 more recruits for Cat...ers!
Plus one more bell.



Looking down to place her feet on the floor accurately before starting to ring, she started to laugh. Why? She was wearing one black shoe and one brown shoe. She was told she should have gone to spec-savers!

Branch Quarter Peals

- Cathedral 8 Nov Ewerby 30 Nov
1259 Grandsire Caters 1260 St Andrew Bob Triples
Composed by S M Austin
1. Janet Clarke 1. Dot Mason
2. Delia Heppenstall 2. Betty Stracey
3. Jeremy Wheeldon 3. Sylvia Taylor
4. Heather Grover 4. Alan Bird
5. Sandra Underwood 5. Michael Stracey (C)
6. David Fox (C) 6. Ed White
7. Michael Stracey 7. Phil Mason
8. Stephen Clarke 8. John Nicholson
9. Philip Grover
10. Robin Heppenstall
For Remembrance Sunday Even-
song.
- Eagle 23 Nov
1260 St Clements College Bob
Minor
1. Keith Gladman
2. Sandra Underwood
3. Claire J Howard
4. Gillian Gladman
5. Colin P Ward
6. Jonathan P Clark (C)
First in method for 3,4 and 6.
First in method as Conductor
- Branston Woodside Campanile 24 Nov
1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor
1. Sylvia Taylor
2. Dot Mason
3. Michael Stracey
4. Betty Stracey
5. Alan Bird
6. Phil Mason (C)
First on a mini ring 5
- Surfleet 5 Dec
1296 Simultaneous Cambridge
Surprise Minor
Composed by Glenn A A Taylor
1. Dot Mason
2. Janet Clarke
3. Phil Mason
4. Stephen Clarke
5. Gregory Harrison
6. Claire C Nicholson
7. Sylvia Taylor
8. Alan Bird
9. Sandra Underwood
10. David Braunton
11. Bjørn E Bradstock (C)
12. Peter Wakefield
Different composition on the front
six and the back six
- Sleaford 6 Dec
1280 Cambridge Surprise Major
1. Sylvia Taylor
2. Michael Stracey
3. Alan Bird
4. Betty Stracey
5. Anthony D Walker
6. Greg Harrison
7. Bryan Ward
8. Phil Mason (C)
For Advent Carol Service

Branch Quarter Peals

Cathedral
1318 Stedman Cinques
13 Dec
1. Michael Stracey
2. Sylvia Taylor
3. Sandra Underwood
4. Delia Heppenstall
5. Heather Grover
6. Robin Heppenstall
7. Alan Bird
8. David Fox
9. Jeremy Wheeldon (C)
10. Michael Lawton
11. Philip Grover
12. Phil Mason
For Evensong and Installation of the
Bishop of Grantham.
First Stedman Cinques, 10.
First on twelve as conductor.

Caythorpe
1260 Plain Bob Triples
29 Dec
1. Sylvia M Taylor
2. Kate Morgan
3. Sandra Underwood
4. Michael J Smith
5. Philip Dawson
6. Alan D H Bird (C)
7. Greg Harrison
8. Bryan Ward
175th Quarter Peal 8
Specially arranged and rung in
memory of Dr John R Ketteringham
MBE, BA, MPhil, PhD
John F Underwood wishes to be
associated with this Quarter Peal
and was present in the ringing
chamber whilst the Quarter was be-
ing rung.

Branston Woodside Campanile 1 Jan
1260 Grandsire Triples
1. Phil Mason
2. Philip Grover
3. Sandra Underwood
4. Michael Stracey
5. Betty Stracey
6. John F Underwood
7. David Fox (C)
8. Heather Grover
Rung to celebrate the life of John
R Ketteringham MBE, past presi-
dent of the Central Branch and an
Honorary Life Member of the Lin-
coln Diocesan Guild.

Branston Woodside Campanile 2 Jan
1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor
1. Dot Mason
2. Sylvia Taylor
3. Alan Bird
4. Betty Stracey
5. Michael Stracey (C)
6. Phil Mason
100th quarter of the bells

Cathedral
1306 Stedman Cinques
10 Jan
1. Rose Hancock
2. Sylvia Taylor
3. Sandra Underwood
4. Delia Heppenstall
5. Michael Stracey
6. Robin Heppenstall
7. Alan Bird
8. David Fox
9. Jeremy Wheeldon (C)
10. Philip Grover
11. Bob Hancock
12. Phil Mason
For Evensong and in memory of
Dr John R Ketteringham.
Les Townsend wishes to be asso-
ciated with this quarter.
200th on the bells, 8.

Branch Quarter Peals

Cathedral
1282 Cambridge Surprise Royal

24 Jan

1. Alan Bird
2. Sylvia Taylor
3. Michael Tracey
4. David Fox
5. Heather Grover
6. John Nicholson
7. Bob Hancock
8. Jeremy Wheeldon
9. Philip Grover
10. Michael Lawton (C)

1st Cambridge Surprise Royal, 6

1st Surprise and Royal as

Conductor

For Evensong

Ewerby

24 Jan

1260 Single Oxford Bob Minor

1. Sylvia Taylor
 2. Jean Kay
 3. Alan Bird
 4. Betty Tracey
 5. Ed White
 6. Michael Tracey (C)
- For Evensong