

Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers Central Branch Newsletter (number 61) May 2008

Proposed Ringing Programme 2008/2009

26 May	Rabbits at Bassingham	2,30 start	
14 Jun	Heckington Ringing	7.00 - 9.00	
12 Jul	Bardney Ringing, Service etc	3.00	then BBQ at Apley
9 Aug	Ring for your supper based on Sleaford area		
5 & 6 Sept	RINGING ROADSHOW at Stoneleigh		
13 Sept	Waddington Training morning and onion competition	10.00 - 12.00	
Sept 13	Guild Striking finals at Dunholme & Welton		
11 Oct	Lincoln St Mary & St Botolph	2.30 - 4.00	
8 Nov	Hackthorn Quiz night	7.30	
13 Dec	Quarrington Carol Service	3.00	
10 Jan	Washingborough	AGM	3.00
4 Feb	Nettleham Ringing	2.30 - 4.00	
14 Mar	Timberland Ringing	2.30 - 4.00	

October will again be our **quarter peal month**.

Branch Surprise Major Practices at Washingborough will be on the 4th Saturday in the month from 10.30 - 12, 24 May, 20 June, 26 July, 23 August, 20 September, 18 October, 22 November and 20 December 2008.) Put these dates in your diary! Any queries to Sue Waterfall 07925 149104.

These are subject to change during the year. It is wise to check.

* Do support the **Ringing Roadshow at Stoneleigh** on September 5 & 6. There is something there for everyone - especially those who are not particularly experienced. There are camping/caravanning facilities on site for those wishing to make a weekend of it. If you get your ticket in advance it will cost £6 - and £8 at the gate, so it will pay to make up your mind beforehand and book in advance. Every tower should have the advertising material on the belfry wall for details.

News from the Towers

I would personally like to congratulate the **Martin** ringers who on 31st March, after meeting only six on practice night, decided to attempt a quarter - which was successfully scored after 41 minutes good ringing. This was a great achievement as it was the first time they had all rung a quarter together as a local/regular practice night band. This is the result of many years hard work and perseverance.

Many of them had learned to ring for the Millennium, establishing a local band at Martin. Judy Williamson was the leading light, teaching and guiding them and I know her support over the years is much appreciated. Since her move I have been going to their practice nights and have been impressed by the standard of ringing. It is always a pleasure to go and ring with them. Well done! You should all be proud of yourselves. Keep up the good work!

Christopher Woodcock

Future events at St Giles

- May 18 A service of thanksgiving for the life of Chad Varah, founder of the Samaritans, who was a Curate at St Giles, will be held at 3pm. If anybody wished to come along they will be most welcome.
- June 6 The 70th Anniversary of the dedication of the bells in this tower will be marked by a peal attempt on Friday Evening.
- June 8 To mark this event the music at the Sunday Morning Service at 10.00 will be on bell themes. Once more if anyone would like to come they would be most welcome. **Mick Stracey**

Jim Sutherland, correspondent for **Wragby** has now moved, too late for his new address to appear in this year's report. If you want to contact him or his tower write to him at Mill Side, Bardney Road, Wragby, Market Rasen LN8 5QZ. We all wish you well in your new home, Jim.

Further work is being done on the dumb bells at **Wragby**. If anyone knows of any old Church Clock weights lying around, Jim or Mick Day would love to hear from you.

We wonder

- - - - which prominent member of the Branch is secretly proud of the fact that he was once presented with a large wooden spoon by his colleagues because of his reputation as a stirrer!

The quarter at **Washingborough** on 3 May was rung during the unveiling of a new piece of artwork on the 'Spires & Steeples Trail' which passes through Washingborough. This was part of a relay of ringing along the route of the Trail starting at **St Mary-le-Wigford**, going through **Washingborough, Branston, Heighington, Nocton, Dunston, Metheringham, Blankney, Digby** and **Dorrington**. The Trail goes on through Ruskington to Sleaford. Sounds interesting.

Welcome

- - - - to **Sarah Dean, Elizabeth Leggett, William Morris, Samantha Richardson** and **Vicki Parnham** of Navenby; **Sue** and **Emily Watt** of Welton; **Helen Burberry** of Swinderby; **Colin Watson** of Martin; and **John Nicholson**, unattached, who were all elected at the meeting at Thorpe-on-the-Hill.

Handy Hints.

'If you make a mistake, put it behind you and concentrate on what you're doing next.'

'It's no good. When I'm lost, I'm lost!'

'Pick up your signs. It's not like when you're driving and take a wrong turn and the rest of the route is different. When you're ringing, once you reach your next dodge you're back on the same course so you can carry on from there.'

Apology

I am sorry for misleading you in the last Newsletter. In editing what John Ketteringham wrote (because of lack of space,) and being completely computer illiterate I confused the campanophile address with that of the Guild website. You can find campanophile on <http://www.campanophile.co.uk/Default.aspx>
There is now a page on the Guild website on which most quarter peals rung by branch members are recorded. The address is <http://www.ldgcb.org.uk/cb/qp.20080224.pdf>
I hope I've got it right this time!!!

A fault recognised is half corrected.

Guild AGM 28 April

Holding the AGM in the morning is proving to be very popular. Nearly 70 people squeezed into the Ringers' Chapel at the Cathedral for the Corporate Communion service before going down the road for the meeting. This, too, was very well attended. Bailgate Methodist Church was acclaimed as the ideal venue, providing the answer to the problem that has beset us for many years. It was warm and comfortable, and the accoustics were very good. As the Dean, our President, was unable to be there the Master, Sue Faull, took the chair. She did a fine job, keeping things moving while giving people chance to have their say, and managing to keep light hearted what could have been very boring, albeit necessary, business. Congratulations as well to Dot and her team of helpers who provided an excellent lunch for 90 people in the adjoining hall afterwards.

The bells at the two open towers for the afternoon (Waddington and Navenby) were put to very good use while the inter-Branch striking contest was held at Harmston. Sadly only 4 of the 6 branches were able to field a team. Congratulations to the Central Branch team who won the trophy. This is specially noteworthy as it had been a great rush for the team to get there in time, as most of them had not only spent all morning preparing the lunch but also had to wash up and clear the hall afterwards. If we want the competition to continue perhaps we ought to look seriously again at when it is held; whether it ought to be hosted by different branches as is the inter tower contest; and what the teams should be asked to ring. If you have views on any of this, tell them to a member of the Guild Committee (Dot, Les, Margaret, Trevor etc) before its next meeting on 31 May.

Even then the day was not yet over. After a welcome cup of tea at Navenby (thank you Jenny), some managed to get back to Lincoln to attend Evensong at the Cathedral, and the Cathedral belfry was quite full during the ringing there until 7.30.

A full day; a tiring day; but a very enjoyable one exchanging news and views with ringers from the rest of the Guild whom we do not often get the chance to meet.

M.A.P.

Someone tried to put the ropes on the new 'spider' at the end of ringing and was told, 'We leave them down so we know we haven't left them up.'

Notes from the Guild AGM

- * Philip Green and Judith Williamson elected **Honorary Life Members**.
- * Dina Reed, Claire Sissons, Lilja Helgadóttir and Faith Pearce added to those in Guild Report transferred to **NRLMs under Rule 2c**.
- * In presenting the **accounts for the BRF**, Dot pointed out there are still a lot of grants outstanding.
- * The new format of the **Report** welcomed and Trevor thanked for the hard work this entailed. Someone asked if the names of the ringers could be printed in full as in the peal reports. It was suggested we might include practice nights by the day of the week as in previous reports in addition to help ringers visiting the area. (Any views?)
- * **Officers for the coming year are:-**

President : The Dean of Lincoln	Master : Sue Faull
Secretary : Les Townsend	Treasurer ; Roger Lord
Peal Sec : Emma Southerington	Librarian : Delia Heppenstall
Report Sec : Trevor Hardcastle	
- Accounts Examiners: Barbara Rand and another to be appointed.
- Grants Committee : Robin Heppenstall and Ian Dawson
- Trustees to the BRF : Sue Faull, Roger Lord and Dot Mason.
- * **2009 subs** to be unchanged : Adults £10, Junior £3 Ass/NRLM £5
Peal booking fee 25p
- 2008 subs** - Gen Fund 50%, BRF 35%, Branches 15%
- * **Future Activities**
 - a) 5 & 6 Sept - **Ringing Roadshow** at Stoneleigh, Warks
 - b) 13 Sept - **Guild Striking Contest Finals** at Welton & Dunholme
 - c) **6-bell simulator** in the Cathedral June 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 17, 18, 19 for the Church Schools Festival - help needed.
 - d) 28 June - Cathedral Company host **National 12 bell Finals**
 - e) 18 Oct - **Barn Dance** at Upton Village Hall for BRF
- * **Guild 100 club draw** : £100 won by Penny Fountain,
- * **AOB**
 - * Items for the **Guild Newsletter** to jonathanstokoe@aol.com Deadline 8 June
 - * John Ketteringham has produced a book for the library concerning the achievements of **Keith Buckingham**.
 - * Nearly £150 raised from **sweatshirts** etc. Orders still being taken.
 - * **The BRF Challenge Shield** to Deeping-St-Nicholas for raising over £900 from the sale of Christmas cards, thanks to Philip Green.

Awayday 29 April

The retired ringers (plus a few) have been at it again. Our 'Fifth Tuesday in the month' awayday took us this time into Nottinghamshire in lovely sunshine, despite having been promised rain. We started at the nice light eight at Sutton-on-Trent - home of the legendary Burchnall twins whom the older ones among you will remember. They not only lived together all their 80 odd years, but also did everything together. (I don't think we shall ever see again the footnote to one peal recording the 300th peal for two of the ringers as well as their 300th together!) Access to the rather compact belfry was via a steep (but thankfully short) ladder. When a latecomer stood on the steps looking over the edge of the protective box

structure, older ringers were put in mind of 'Chad', the war-time cartoon character (I'm showing my age again, but then, we are retirees!!) Jim had visited the local butcher and bought a sausage roll straight from the oven. As the smell drifted among us we all began to drool - but managed to keep concentrating on the ringing which was good (except for the last touch, but let's draw a veil over that!)

Then on to Ossington, a delightful six in a small Georgian Estate church. It is approached through an impressive gateway down a long (rather overgrown) winding driveway through the trees. Sadly the estate which had once boasted nine gardeners now has none because of death duties. Six ringers at a time squeezed into the groundfloor ringing chamber behind the organ. Was Mick the only one who noticed that grand statues on either side of departed owners of the estate were facing away from each other in a manner suggesting they had fallen out?

Some thought the next venue was the highlight of the day. 26 of us sat down to an excellent pre-ordered meal at 'The Plough' at Norwell (discovered on an earlier awayday). As the sun continued to shine one ringer remarked, 'Where's this rain they promised us?' She was hastily shushed, but too late! Just as we were about to leave, the heavens opened. There were many cries of, 'I've left my umbrella in the car'. Chris fetched her car to the pub door to keep her passengers (and her car upholstery) dry. - I was only joking when I told her to, honestly!

Some of the party went direct to the final tower while others followed the driver in front via 'the scenic route', but we all reached North Muskham (except the two who left us to go shopping!). Once we had all negotiated the enormous final step into the ringing room, we ended the day with more good ringing on this slightly heavier six.

It was a great day out. Many thanks to Phil for organising it, and to Dot for organising Phil. They certainly know how to do things. Good ringing, good food and good company - what more can anyone want?

I am a new bellringer
Who tries her very best
My hands are warm and sweaty
Unlike all the rest.

My master gave me lots of time
He tries his best with me
As I progress he shouts, 'Well done'
He says it with such glee.

This day I rang I felt so good
I tried so very hard
My top got caught in my tail end
A 'flasher' now I'm tarred.

My face went red and my master's too
O how I wished to cry
'Pop them away' he said straight faced
'And have another try.'

Vicky W.

[Seen on a belfry wall, apparently recounting a true incident!]

King Charles' Rules for Bellringers

Profane no Divine ordinance.
Touch no State matters.
Urge no healths.
Keep no bad company.
Pick no quarrels.
Make no long meals.
Encourage no vice.
Repeat no old grievances.
Make no comparisons.
Lay no wagers. Maintain no ill opinions.
Reveal no secrets.
Do nothing in anger.
*[I am grateful to Jim for the above
Where do we stand?!]*

First time Cathedral Ringers !

On the 15th March Samantha Richardson, Sarah Dean, Vicki Parnham and Libby Leggett from Navenby Church rang the Cathedral bells for the very first time.

We started off by watching some experienced ringers demonstrating plain bob doubles. They were very precise and even with their ringing. Then it was our turn. We started off by two of us ringing, and only on six bells, as this is what we are used to at Navenby. As we gained in confidence and realised that they are no different to Navenby, we were joined by more bells. After we completed a few basic rounds, we were able to ring some call changes. By the end of the session we were all ringing together on all twelve bells.

After ringing we were able to see the magnificent view of Lincoln from the balcony. Following this we headed down to the ground floor using the 128 stone steps.

We would like to thank Les Townsend (who first rang at the Cathedral in 1975) who organised our visit to ring at Lincoln Cathedral!

Thank You!!!

Congratulations

- - - - to **Sam Palmer** on ringing his first quarter peal - the Treble to Bob Doubles at Blankney on 23 December.

- - - - to **Lexie Brown** on ringing her first quarter peal - the Treble to Bob Doubles at Hackthorn on 7 March.

- - - - to Jean Williams on ringing her first quarter peal - the 6th to Grandsire Doubles at Washingborough on 3 May.

- - - - to those lucky members of the Branch with winnings in the 100 Club draw - £50 to **Mick Stracey**; £25 to **Phil Mason**; £10 to **Jim Sutherland**. The drinks are on you!

- - - - to the **Central Branch team** who won the inter Branch Striking Contest at Harmston.

She never rang round the back end so was unsure of the starts. When asked to ring Spliced she said, 'I get caught out in the higher regions.'

Sign outside a local church

The Vicar has gone
But God hasn't
Do come in and meet him.

Oh how confusing!

All these incidents actually happened recently.

Reading Colin's definition of Utterby put me in mind of the following incidents :-

'Why did you go back in?'

'I was making the Bob.'

'There wasn't a Bob.'

'I heard you call one.'

'No, I was calling him to **Dodge!**

The conductor called Bob to follow him but everyone tried to make a Bob - even though the Treble was near the back!

They told Bob 'We'll have to call you by another name,' to which he replied, 'I don't care what you call me as long as it isn't late for my dinner!'

'Let's ring a touch of Bob Doubles? You'll be affected at the Bobs'

'Are there going to be Bobs in it? I thought it was going to just be ordinary.'

'I did say a touch. That means it has Bobs.'

'Oh I thought you meant just a touch - like as in a little bit

'That's all?'

'What does that mean?'

'That's the end. Ring rounds.'

'Why do you confuse us? Why don't you just say 'Rounds' or 'Circles' or something?'

When ringing call changes the last call brought the bells back into rounds. The conductor said, 'You should be able to recognise this change.'

The ringer of the third looked at the chart. 'Is it tittums?' she asked.

'No.'

'But I can't find one that starts 1 2 3.'

'You aren't listening to the bells, are you.'

'Oh! Is it rounds?!'

I admit it was a bit early on a Sunday morning when the Treble ringer said, 'Look - - - - . Oh I've forgotten what to say. After a long pause she pulled the bell off, saying, 'it's gone.'

'Let's ring Pudsey.'

'Ring pussy? What are you on about?'

We went on to ring on Sandra's pots where the cats love to join in.

Perhaps that is what he was thinking about.

When they were about to ring 'Boat Race' (Cambridge below the Treble and Oxford TB above) she said

'Remember don't make fifths under the Treble. That's the bit that always catches me out.'

'But you do make fifths under the Treble.'

'Maybe that's why it catches me out!'