



LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

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Newsletter No 11

Acting Editor John R. Ketteringham

November 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.

Goodbye and Welcome

I am very grateful to Pamela Pohling-Brown, Ben Ricketts, and Lizzy and Johnny Stokoe who have kindly agreed to jointly take on the role of newsletter editors.

Since John had already gathered together a great deal of material for this edition, it seemed logical to ask him to produce the 11th issue, which he willingly agreed to do despite having said that the 10th would definitely be his last! Thanks very much to John for the last 11 issues and we look forward to seeing the first issue from the new team in 2008.

They have told me that they are hoping to receive plenty of short news items from the branches and will, of course, make sure that the diary keeps us informed of what is going on around the Guild. I am certain they will be well supported in their endeavours.

Sue Faulf

Emergencies in the Tower

It is a tremendous help to the Emergency Services if, in the case of illness or accident in the tower, the relevant postcode can be quoted when telephoning for assistance. Please display your tower [postcode](#) in a prominent place in the ringing chamber.

Whose bells are they anyhow?

Bellringers have a responsibility to maintain good relations firstly with the local church authorities and secondly with the general public. It is easy for ringers who are so often hidden away from public view to think that the bells which they ring are their property. Even if we have given a bell to augment a ring of bells it becomes the property of the church. We cannot ring when we feel inclined. As I have said the bells belong to the church and the incumbent has the responsibility and authority to decide when bells can be rung and in his absence this is delegated to the Churchwardens. If the proper procedure is followed and good relations exist between the ringers and the PCC then usually few problems arise. Our relationship with the public is usually very good and I am often surprised that few complaints are received. Sometimes this tolerance can be stretched to the limit when bells are rung at unreasonable times or too often.

Where good relations between ringers and church can be taken for granted and I well remember when I was ringing at Creswell, Derbyshire, where peals were allowed on a regular basis, on one occasion after calling a peal there I went to thank the Vicar and he said 'Oh, have you been ringing a peal then?' It turned out that I had forgotten to ask permission! Even I make mistakes sometimes!

JRK

The first **Lincolnshire Day** was on 1 October. Unfortunately I didn't receive confirmation of the date in time to send details on the Guild circulation list. However, a quarter peal of Lincolnshire Surprise Major was rung at Welbourn and was reported on Radio Lincolnshire with a photograph of the ringers on the radio stations web site. A full report with photographs can be found here : <http://ldgcb.org.uk/links/lincolnshire/lincolnshireday.php> Please make a note that 1 October 2008 will be the day set aside to celebrate 'all things Lincolnshire' next year!

The six bells in the tower of the church at **Wainfleet St Mary** (Eastern Branch) have been retuned and rehung in the existing frame by Taylor Eayre & Smith Ltd with new fittings. The tenor now weighs 11 cwt 3 lbs Note D. The bells were rededicated on Sunday 16 September. Details and photos can be found here : <http://ldgcb.org.uk/news/earlier3/wainfleetrededication.php>

Warner Leisure Hotels are advertising **Campanology Breaks** which are held at Bodelwyddan Castle. Ringing will apparently take place at the local eight bell tower of the famous 'marble' church.

As a result of collaboration between **Broughton** (West Lindsey Branch) bellringers and the village Scout group to celebrate the Centenary of Scouting five scouts are learning to ring. Jo Hoare is Tower Captain and her husband and two sons who are ringers are involved with Scouting so it was almost inevitable that there would be collaboration to celebrate the centenary. More details and a photo can be found on the LDG web site at this address <http://ldgcb.org.uk/news/earlier3/broughtonscouts.php>

The two new bells cast for Holy Trinity church **Barrow on Humber** (Northern Branch) were hung in mid August and the first ringing on the new ten took place on Sunday 26 August. The Guild Bell Repair Fund made a grant of £1000 towards the cost of the recent rehang of the eight bells. For a full report with photographs please go to this web page <http://ldgcb.org.uk/news/earlier3/barrowaugmentation.php>

The unique ring of six bells at **Langton by Spilsby** (Eastern Branch) have not been rung for over 50 years and I am pleased to report that applications have been made for grants to restore them to full circle ringing. A Press Release attracted a lot of media interest. For full details of this project go to <http://ldgcb.org.uk/news/earlier3/langtonbyspilsby.php>

The cutting of four bellropes at **Long Bredy, Dorset** was reported in several newspapers and you might like to read the article in *The Times* <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article2189458.ece> The tower of St Peters church contains a ring of five bells with a tenor weighing 8 ½ cwt and I rather like the *Times* view of this incident published on its *Comment* page :

Pull the Other One : Isn't it time to silence the din of the countryside?

Sad news from the Dorset idyll of Long Bredy. Silence has fallen on the merry din of village life after bellringers found their ropes slashed by an unknown hand. While charitable types have suggested the work of squirrels, many suspect skulduggery from a villager unappreciative of the clanging of bells in full peal. Outrage has naturally ensued, but how harshly must we judge this vandal? In Dorothy L. Sayers' whodunit of country life, *The Nine Tailors*, a man is killed by being trapped in the belfry amid ceaseless ringing. Early on Sunday morning, roused by the kirk's thunderous call to prayer, many villagers feel the same fate may soon befall them. The clamour of country life is as yet unregulated by the noise pollution laws that make this nation's cities such bastions of peace. It is high time they were. A law enforcement squad could apply itself to the cacophonous twitter of birds which, until midsummer, wake the slumberer at the frankly antisocial hours at which the sun chooses to rise. An ASBO might be given to anyone participating in cricket during working hours. This should particularly apply on greens unwisely placed in the centre of villages, close to shops and offices where diligent workers wish to toil in peace. Environmental regulation should also be considered. The urbanite leaving town for a low carbon footprint British holiday will be horrified by the unchecked presence of cows, contributing methane to the worrying fug of greenhouse gases. Official support might be given to Ronnie Wood's neighbours who complain about his late-night jamming. What with the babble of brooks, bleating of lambs and hooting of owls, the sounds of the countryside are already deafening.

Ring for your Supper in South Lincolnshire

An unusual event took place in the Southern Branch on 22 September. Four quarter peals were rung in the afternoon before moving on to ring at Langtoft followed by a starter of soup with bread and butter. Then on to Thurlby where after ringing the main course consisting of sausage casserole and mashed potato was served. Finally seven types of dessert were available after ringing at Greatford.

The day finished with a visit to the Hare and Hounds where a discussion of suitable events for next year took place. The most popular was a six month trip to Australia by bus from Bourne. However, it was pointed out that another six months would be needed to get back!

This event with a difference raised approximately £120 for the LDG Bell Repair Fund and was a great success. It could well be copied by other branches. For a full report with photos please go to this web page : <http://ldgcb.org.uk/news/latest/ringforyoursupper2007.php> I am grateful to **Ben Ricketts** for this report

Central Branch Training morning and Onion Competition.

The Central Branch Training morning was held at Fulbeck on Saturday 8 September. Conducting was the theme this year with Mick Stracey concentrating on Kent TB and Margaret Parker on Plain Bob Minor. Phil Mason explained the intricacies of Plain Bob Doubles to one of our older members.

After about 30 minutes theory was put into practice on the tower bells and the 25 or so ringers present agreed that it was all very worthwhile and a very successful morning.

It was then time to announce the results of the onion competition which Margaret Parker had organised to raise funds for the Branch Bell Repair fund. There were a surprising number of entries and when the winner was declared to be 'Number 11 Kett' a very bemused and speechless John Ketteringham couldn't believe that he was champion onion grower in the Central Branch! Runners up were Margaret Parker and Jean Sims.

The Guild Christmas Card



Cards are packed in sets of 10 price £2.50. Branches will have initial supplies of bulk consignment stock available. For top-up, consolidated or individual orders, please email [Roy Norman](mailto:Roy.Norman@ldgcb.org.uk). Delivery within the Diocese will normally be through the help of Members. All proceeds to the LDGCB Bell Repair Fund

***Arthur Crowder – A Personal Tribute* - John R. Ketteringham**

There have been Crowders farming in Barrow-on-Humber, Lincolnshire for very many years and at least five generations have been bellringers at Holy Trinity church. Arthur lived for the whole of his 98 years in Barrow except for a short time towards the end of his life when he moved to neighbouring Barton on Humber. Ever since the restoration and augmentation of Barrow bells in 1953 this excellent eight has attracted ringers for peal attempts, outings and meetings from a wide area and the generosity and hospitality of Arthur, and his wife, Kathleen became legendary. With Kathleen and Arthur and their children Michael, Margaret and James all ringing, there was a good band at Barrow which rang twice on a Sunday for many years and also practised on a Thursday. Barrow and the Crowder family became well known to the bellringing fraternity not only in Lincolnshire but further afield. Arthur and Kathleen's services to bellringing was recognised when, in 2000, Honorary Life Membership of the Guild was conferred upon them.

I first came to know Arthur and his eldest son Michael when attending ringing meetings in the Northern branch of the LDG and later when I moved to work in Lincoln and they attended practices at the Cathedral. Eventually I was invited to stay for weekends at Manor Farm and we all three took part in several peal attempts.

Arthur and Kathleen were married for 66 years. Sadly both Kathleen and Michael predeceased Arthur. Michael died in December 2006 and so sadly there are no longer bellringing Crowders living in Barrow.

Arthur's funeral was at Holy Trinity church on 13 July 2007. The number of those attending amply demonstrated the affection with which he was held in Lincolnshire and beyond.

A Corringham Custom

In *The Bell News and Ringers' Record* dated Saturday November 4, 1905 the following article headed A QUAIN RINGING CUSTOM was published:

"Having heard that for three or four consecutive Sundays the bells of the parish church, Corringham, Lincolnshire, were rung at the close of the morning service, my curiosity prompted me to ascertain the cause. Meeting a parishioner, I interrogated him, and the following conversation took place:- "Why were Corringham bells rung last Sunday after morning service?" -"Because there was a 'spurring'".

"A 'spurring'! What do you mean? I don't understand you." -"Don't you know? I thought everybody knew what a 'spurring' is. Why, a 'spurring' means an 'axing' in Church. Mr. S the 'churchwarder,' can tell you all about it, because he is a ringer."

"Later, I interviewed the 'churchwarder,' who explained that for many years it has been customary at Corringham, whenever the 'banns of marriage' are published for the first and third times, for the ringers present to repair to the tower immediately after service and ring a short touch.

"He also informed me that, an old and respected inhabitant of that village was in the habit, during his lifetime, when present at church, immediately after the publishing of the banns, to rise, and in an audible voice say, "God speed them well."

"Undoubtedly there exist in various places many curious ringing customs, accounts of which would possibly interest and amuse many of your numerous readers. May I suggest that those who know of the existence of any such quaint customs, be invited to forward accounts of the same to you for publication in 'THE BELL NEWS' P. O. BIXBY"

Robert Sutton 1954 – 2007

Robert was the eldest of the five sons of Margaret and Dennis Sutton of Waddington and was born in 1954. Sadly Margaret died in 1978 at the age of 46 and Dennis was left to bring up five young sons. Robert being the eldest played a full part in conscientiously helping his father in this difficult task.

In 1966 he was taught to ring at Waddington by Raymond Smith and earned the Scout Badge for Bellringing. His father was already a ringer at Waddington and Robert's twin brothers, Brian and Richard, also learned as did David the youngest ringing member of the Sutton family. Paul the youngest brother had no interest in learning to ring. Eventually five of the six bells at Waddington were rung by Suttons!

Robert, Brian and Richard rang their first peal on 14 October 1972 at Waddington and Dennis also rang. This was the first peal by a local band on the bells. On 27 October 1984 Robert conducted a peal at Waddington arranged to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first peal on the bells since augmentation to six. The band included Dennis (who had rung in the original peal) and his four ringing sons and the sixth member of the band was Jacqueline Bocket who was to marry David.

Robert was a quiet person but his advice and friendship was valued by all who came into contact whether during his working life as a civil engineer or as a local historian. In 1999 he took over the tower captaincy from his father and taught many ringers including his son Alastair. He was a very good instructor and he called a number of first peals. He rang 161 peals for the Lincoln Diocesan Guild and four for other Guilds making a total of 165 of which he conducted 22.

Sadly he was diagnosed with cancer in November 2006 and died on 26 June 2007. Our sympathy goes to His wife, Maureen and sons Alastair and Sean, to his father Denis and Robert's four brothers.

Some measure of the respect with which he was held and his popularity was demonstrated by the large number who attended to pay their respects at his funeral which was held at Lincoln Crematorium on 9 July 2007. After the service Waddington bells were rung by a number of friends including his brothers and his son Alastair from 1230 until 1630.

JRK

The Guild Striking Competition

The Final of this year's Guild Striking competition took place in the Southern Branch. Eight teams took part in the Cup competition which was held at Rippingale. David Phillipson, a former Lincoln ringer now living in Olney was the judge. Seven bands took part in the Plate competition which was held at Irnham and was judged by Chris Turner of Stow.

The competition was held in beautiful weather and in a spirit of friendly rivalry. Results were given at Kirkby Underwood Village Hall, where ringing on the four bells had taken place earlier in the afternoon. Much needed refreshments were also provided, thanks to a team of kind volunteers.

The large number of ringers in the Village Hall heard Market Deeping A had been judged the winners of the John Freeman Cup and were told that, having rung first, they were a hard act to follow. Kirton in Holland were the runners up with Bourne, last year's winners, in third place.

Only four faults separated the top four teams in the Edward Colley Plate competition, with Sleaford being pronounced winners. Market Deeping All Stars were runners up with Alford coming 3rd.

It was particularly pleasing to note the number of young ringers taking part in the competition: there were 13 young ringers in the Plate competition and about 5 more in the Cup. This is good news for the future ringing in the Guild.

Thanks were given to all those who had helped with arrangements in any way, but particular thanks were given to the judges and participants, without whom there would be no competition.

Sue Faulf

Diary Dates

3 November	Eastern Branch	Wigtoft	6 bells 8 cwt	0930 - 1100
10 November	Central Branch	Hackthorn	6 bells 8 cwt	1845 - 1915
	followed by Quiz in Village Hall. Licensed Bar and light refreshments available.			
12 November	Northern Branch	Middle Rasen	6 bells 7 cwt	1900 - 2100
24 November	Central Branch	Washingborough	Surprise Major Practice	1030 - 1200
24 November	Joint Surprise Practice	Caistor	8 bells 14 cwt	1900 - 2100
1 December	Eastern Branch	Halton Holegate	6 bells 15 cwt	1500 - 1615
		Spilsby	6 bells 12 cwt Carol Service, tea, meeting	
			Ringing	1630 - 2100
8 December	Central Branch	Lincoln Holy Cross	Carol Service with D.I.Y. carols on	
			handbells afterwards.	1500
8 December	Northern Branch	Walesby	8 bells 12 cwt	Candle Light Carols 1800 - 1930
15 December	West Lindsey Branch	Christmas social event and carol service		
22 December	Central Branch	Washingborough	Surprise Major Practice	1030 - 1200
2008				
19 January	West Lindsey Branch	Saxilby	6 bells 12 cwt	
		Stow	8 bells 9 cwt	AGM.
12 January	Central Branch	Harmston	8 bells 10 cwt	AGM
26 January	Northern Branch	Grimsby	10 bells 18 cwt	AGM
26 January	Central Branch	Washingborough	Surprise Major Practice	1030 - 1200
2 February	Eastern Branch	Kirton in Holland	8 bells 18 cwt Ringing, service, tea, AGM	1500
		Sutterton	8 bells 12 cwt	After AGM until 2100
2 February	Elloe Deaneries	Long Sutton	8 bells 15 cwt	AGM
9 February	Central Branch	Claypole	5 bells 11 cwt	1430 - 1600
23 February	Central Branch	Washingborough	Surprise Major Practice	1030 - 1200

If you are interested in attending any of the above please check with the *Ringling World* or the appropriate Branch Secretary. In the case of the Surprise Major Practices at Washingborough telephone 01522 820470

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

8 December - No Practice; 12 January - Ewerby; 9 February - Lincoln Cathedral; 8 March - Saltby

These are held on the second Saturday in each month from 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon (unless otherwise noted). 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.

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!

6	November	Dunholme	Stamford and Rossendale
20	November	Stow	Harleston and Superlative
4	December	Dunholme	Durham and York
18	December	Stow	Spliced Surprise
15	January	Stow	Cambridge and Primrose
29	January	Away day – to be arranged	
5	February	Dunholme	Cambridge, Primrose, Ipswich and Norfolk.
19	February	Stow	Yorkshire and Woodstock

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

South Lincolnshire Group

21 November	Spalding (8 – 14 cwt)	Superlative and Grandsire
December	No practice	
16 January	Irnham (6 – 13 cwt)	Beverley and Kent T. B.
20 February	Baston (6 – 8 cwt)	Surfleet and Plain Bob

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)

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](#) 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. Where at the time of publication a venue has not been arranged please see the [on-line diary](#).

The Ringing World

Bellringers are very lucky to have their own weekly journal. If you are not a subscriber do consider supporting this very important publication. [\[RW website\]](#)

...and finally

This *Newsletter* is due to be published on 1 November. Just four days before it will (*d.v.*) have been my seventy-eighth birthday. I am very pleased, therefore, that at last a new editorial team has been appointed and the future of the *Newsletter* is assured.

Although anything can happen in the next two years it would be nice if I could take part in a quarter peal on the six bells in my namesake tower in Norfolk. A peal was rung there for my seventy-fifth birthday and I am grateful to the band for thinking of me on that occasion. It was at Ketteringham where early change-ringing was first practiced (see *Change-Ringing* Vol. 1 p. 44). **A Happy Christmas and successful New Year to you all.**