



# Lincoln Diocesan Guild Newsletter #13

JUNE 2008

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## AGM Day 2008

The last Saturday of April has a permanent significance for members of the Diocesan Guild of Bellingers. They come from all parts of the diocese to the AGM at Lincoln. The really early birds toil up the Cathedral stairs to ring before 10am Eucharist then join others in filling Lincoln's unique Ringers' Chapel where the Dean celebrates Eucharist.

Having given the day the proper beginning, we adjourned to Bailogate Methodist Church for the business of the AGM held in the Chapel itself – a great improvement acoustically on St. Giles Church. The Departed were remembered; the Apologies given (were they more absent than present?); Philip Green and Judith Williamson were elected honorary members and the statutory business of an AGM was swiftly despatched with the Guild Master in the chair, greatly assisted by Dan Meyer dashing around with the portable mic. AGM's do not just happen and we were grateful to Robin Heppenstall for giving our thanks to all who had contributed their labour to make it all work so smoothly.

We adjourned for lunch in the church hall, ably catered for by Dot and her helpers; there was a tune to socialize with those we see only once a year, then we were off to ring at Waddington and Navenby and to do our best with Yorkshire Surprise Major in the eight-bell striking competition at Harmston. The result was given in Navenby Church by Anita Blundell who had come from Pickering to be our judge. The winners were the Central Branch who will, no doubt proudly display the shield in the Cathedral belfry.

None of this happened until we had enjoyed a cup of tea and had been treated to a ritual I had not observed before- the dragging of a large dustbin up the nave! However all was revealed when Dorothy Robinson delved into the depths and extracted the winning raffle tickets. All this effort made the Bell Repair Fund £400 better off. The day ended with the Cathedral choir singing Evensong for us, as a prelude to further ringing on Cathedral bells. And so home and eventually to bed.

Ernest Orland

## Founders' Prize for the Encouragement of Young Ringers West Lindsey Branch Wins!

At the Central Council Meeting held in Newcastle on Bank Holiday Monday, it was announced that the LDGCBR West Lindsey Branch had been awarded the annual Founders' prize for the Encouragement of Young Ringers. This is very exciting news and a pleasing reward for the hard work that many members of the branch have put into raising the profile of ringing within their communities over the last few years.

Joy and Ian Till put the submission together which described the activities that had taken place over the last year or so – this was a long list but included: activities with schools, activities at village shows and involvement with scout/cub groups. Use was made of the Guild's Wombel and Sixbel simulators, belleplates and handbells at these events, as well as the usual talks and slide presentations. Also listed were details of social events that had been organised during the course of the year – the camping and activity day last summer, the Christmas Social and the ringing and skating mini outing in April.

The submission then detailed the measures of success. There are now more than 30 young ringers in Branch towers. Previous young ringers who are now in their late teens and early twenties continue to be a great support and are now beginning to teach the next generation. They are also organising their own activities independently. Quite a number of young ringers who were recruited through our various activities have brought along parents or siblings who are also now learning to ring.

Finally, the submission had to talk about aspirations for the future. There is the obvious need to maintain the current momentum and level of enthusiasm, and to try to extend this across all towers in the branch. This will mean ensuring that all towers have access to appropriate training opportunities. Continuing to develop the expertise of the older young ringers so that they can support and train new youngsters will be very important. It is hoped that the contribution made by our young ringers will be recognised and valued by the churches in which they ring.

### Guild Clothing

Hoodies, polo-shirts and rugby shirts and more in all colours and sizes are available from Sue Faull. See Guild website for more details

## PHYLLIS JOHNS

Phyllis was elected a probationary member of the Gainsborough All Saints' tower in January 1924 at the age of eleven, having started to ring in the previous year under the tutelage of her father, Charles H Baker, who was a ringer here from 1909 until 1985.

She rang her first peal (Plain Bob Major) at All Saints' in October 1927 and, three years later, in December 1930, she rang in a peal of Kent T B Major at Handsworth, South Yorkshire, which bears the footnote: "the first all-ladies peal in the north of England".

There was a lull in her ringing activity when she married and then brought up her son, but she still rang when she could during this period. After the death of her husband in 1977 ringing became her main interest.

Her son Barry was taught to ring by his grandfather and, in May 1958, Phyllis rang in a peal at St Giles, Lincoln with her son and father also in the band.

In March 1968 she rang with her father in a peal of Little Bob Major to celebrate his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Phyllis continued to ring at Gainsborough until 1999 when, at the age of 86, she began to have problems with her balance. She was elected an Honorary Life Member of the Lincoln Guild the following year.

Phyllis was always cheerful with a friendly smile on her face and, even when in the intensive care unit at Lincoln Hospital, after major surgery following a fall, she could enjoy a laugh with her visitors. Her gradual loss of strength was a sad end to her life.

A service of thanksgiving for her life was well attended with many ringing friends present. Although the bells that she had rung for 75 years had been taken out of use for repairs two weeks before her death and could not be rung the service was not without bells; the final hymn - "The day thou gavest..." - was introduced with two verses on handbells by the local ringers.

May she rest in peace.

Sutton-cum - Lound, Notts. 19 May. 1260 Stedman Triples. Debbie Scarf 1, Delia Heppenstall 2, Janet Clarke 3, David Whetton 4, Stephen Clarke 5, John Underwood 6, Robin Heppenstall @ 7, Jonathan Swatton 8. Thanksgiving for the life of Phyllis Johns.

## Canon John Swarby

Many Lincolnshire bellringers will remember with affection Canon Dr John Edwin Swaby who died in February. He was born at Withern in 1911. He served his curacy in Louth (1936-40) and he was incumbent of widely different parishes in Lincolnshire. He was at Scunthorpe from 1940 to 1953, Mablethorpe from 1953 to 60, Barton on Humber from 1960 to 71 and Uffington, Tallington and Barholm from 1971 to 76. Most of the churches in which he served had rings of bells and he was always an enthusiastic supporter of bells and bellringing. He will be greatly missed by those of us who knew him.



(l to r) Les Townsend (judge); Mary Riglar (3); Nigel Pendleton (4); Alan Haynes (5); Mike Stracey (1); Amanda Pues (2); Wendy Jeins (6)

### Guild Library

New additions to the library:

Tribute to Keith Buckingham

Central Council Collection of Plain Minor Methods (2008)

Central Council Collection of Treble Dodging Minor Methods (2008)

Please contact Delia Heppenstall

## Rabbits at Bassingham

On the Spring Bank Holiday Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> May, Bassingham played host to the annual Rabbits Competition. Over 40 people came, including ringers of all capabilities. Mick Stracey, the Central Branch Ringing Master organised them into six teams of six. Ringing began with three minutes practice and then a further five minutes of rounds and called changes for each team. Those waiting to ring were seen to be falling over each other in the church and churchyard trying to find the answers to a quiz devised by Stan Underwood.

Les Townsend who had judged the competition from his car parked outside the church, said the only thing which kept him awake was the sound of bells! He said of one team "after a shaky start, they got better as they improved!" Marking was explained in detail with several teams' faults within a point or so of each other.

The winning team was presented with certificates and prizes, and a raffle was drawn.

The quiz (also closely fought) resulted in several completely correct answers and so was decided by a tie-breaker limerick competition. The thoroughly enjoyable afternoon finished with the opportunity of some further ringing.

Thanks are due to all who were involved in hosting and organising Rabbits and especially the team from Bassingham and Norton Disney who provided the tea.  
Martin Bull



5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> September 2008  
Biggest and Best Ever  
Tickets £6 in advance  
**(Stephanie Warboys, 50  
Glendon Way, Dorridge,  
Sollihull, B93 8SY) £8 on  
the day**

## Barrow-upon-Humber Augmentation

Until the spring of 1999 the bells of Holy Trinity, Barrow-upon-Humber were silent on a week-to-week basis, with occasional ringing by visitors only. In the autumn of 1997 Barry and Heather Peachey moved to Barnetby-le-Wold, a village with a derelict 3 in a redundant church, and almost immediately took over the silent towers of Elsham and Bigby in the North Wolds Group of parishes. A band of ringers was taught, and once ringing was re-established, an approach was made to the then Rector at Barrow, The Revd Colin MacDonald, with an offer to teach a new band there. The offer was accepted, with a kindly warning that we were unlikely to find it very easy.

Since then Barrow has become a Recognised Ringing Centre under the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers' scheme and in 2002 received a small grant through the Council from the Worshipful Company of Founders to install a variety of high-tech computer and camera equipment. The Centre provides training at all levels from bell handling up to advanced 12-bell ringing and the training and subsequent support of ringing teachers.

**There was a basic project team of five people, none of whom had been involved in a major bell augmentation project before. The project leader was Rt Revd Barry Peachey who is Ringing Master at Barrow.**

**Heather Peachey** is currently Vice-Captain of Elsham, Lincs, and is the *Ringing Centre Manager and Education Officer* at Barrow, being responsible for educational liaison with outside organizations.

**Paul Wilkinson** made a brief entry into ringing some years ago, but was re-taught from scratch by Barry and Heather Peachey. He is now *Vice-Captain* at Barrow.

**Amanda Plaskitt** was taught to ring by Barry and Heather Peachey, and is now *Secretary* of the Barrow ringers.

**Patricia Donnelly** was also taught to ring at the Ringing Centre and serves as *Treasurer*.

Due to the very large increase in ringing activity in the area as a whole generated by the activities of the teaching centre at Barrow-upon-Humber, this was very limiting. The area was in sore need of a 12 bell training facility in the hands of acknowledged specialists in

order to offer 10 and 12 bell training. This fact has been acknowledged for many years, but no tower has been in a position to address it until now. Due to the strength of the Society, and the establishment of the tower as a nationally recognized Ringing Centre, the Barrow & District Society was now able to do so.

In February 2003, PCC passed a formal resolution agreeing to this augmentation but, the money had to be raised by the ringers. At this point we made a management decision to split the project into three parts. Part 1 was to rehang the existing eight in a new frame for twelve. Part 2 was two bells to augment to ten. Part 3 was two more bells to augment to 12.

The first people to step in with a major grant which was enough to enable us to carry out Part 1 were the Foundation for Sport & the Arts and with the funds that we had already raised by then, about £5000, we rehung the existing bells in the new two level frame for twelve, and carried out the tower access improvements and decoration. Stage 1 was completed on Christmas Eve 2006 and the re-hung bells rang out for the Christingle Service for the first time. It was a joyous end to the year, after which we thought it would take a year or so to find the money to order the first two new bells. We were wrong, as things started to move at an astonishing pace. Within three months we were offered the Garfield Weston Bell, donated by the Garfield Weston Foundation (Associated British Foods). We thought about augmenting to nine as an interim step, but then the Colley families of Caistor and Grasby donated the Colley Bell, to mark 60 years as a ringer by Ted Colley. The ring was augmented to ten in August 2007, and again we drew breath wondering how long it would take to find two more. We need not have worried. Next to step up were the Batty Charitable Trust and within weeks the D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust also sent us a cheque for a bell. By March 2008 the bells were in place, and the first Peal on the twelve was rung on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2008 by an all-Society band, conducted by Barry Peachey. We were delighted that Steve Colley managed to ring in the first Peals on both the ten and the twelve to represent the family. Two weeks previously the first Quarter Peal on the twelve was by an amazing coincidence Barry Peachey's 1000<sup>th</sup> Quarter Peal.

The day of the Dedication arrived. At a very well attended Service the bells were dedicated by the Bishop of Grimsby, the Rt Revd David Rosedale. Before the Service in church Bishop David, accompanied by the Vicar and others visited the Ringing Chamber to watch ringing in progress and then climbed up into the bell chamber and up the ladder to the middle frame where he sprinkled Holy Water and anointed the new 4th bell with sacred oil as he prayed over them.

After the Service the congregation were taken outside to the grass outside the tower where Bishop David gave a blessing, and on his signal the bells were rung in Rounds to complete the formal proceedings. The company then moved to the Vicar's Rooms for lunch which was donated by the Parish.

After lunch was the Dedication Peal. Unfortunately, we met short and after a quick consultation Heather Peachey kindly stood down, and the rest of the band rang a respectable Peal of London (No.3) S. Royal, conducted by Robert B. Smith, for the Dedication and as a compliment to our Churchwarden Kath Wells on her retirement after 16 years in that post.

Rt Revd Barry Peachey

## Guild Fundraising Committee

### Barn Dance

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2008 7.30pm – Upton-cum-Kexby**

**Buffet Supper / Bring your own Drinks. Tickets at £7.50 available from Branch Fundraiser**

### Guild Recipe Book

**Recipes and stories about recipes are required – please give these to your branch fundraiser or email [timerestored@aol.com](mailto:timerestored@aol.com)**

## MIAMI TO WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL

On the evening of Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April, Johny Stokoe, Lizzy Stokoe, Ben Ricketts, Ed Fiddy, Ellie Fiddy and Deborah Stokoe travelled to Witham to ring for a quarter peal of St Clements and Plain Bob Minor for Darrah Treleaven (who was on holiday from America where she has very little ringing), before she went back to Miami. After the quarter peal we were all itching to get back to Pam's for what we thought would just be a few snacks. However it turns out that Pam and husband Jim had been slaving away preparing a banquet for our comrades. This was the first time Darrah had rung St. Clement's. Here are the details of the quarter: Witham on the Hill, 1260 St. Clement's and Plain Bob Minor in 43 minutes, 1 Ed Fiddy, 2 Darrah Treleaven, 3 Ellie Fiddy, 4 Lizzy Stokoe, 5 Ben Ricketts, 6 Johny Stokoe ©.

## From the Footnotes

Congratulations to the following:

- Martin Mitchell on his 1000<sup>th</sup> Peal
- Jenny Harvey, BG Harris and Pam Cook for their first quarters as conductor
- Mark Mumby for Conudcting his first Peal of Surprise Major
- Tom Blyth for his 50<sup>th</sup> Peal
- Robin Heppenstall for his 500<sup>th</sup> Peal
- Diane Faux on completing the Surprise Major Alphabet to peals
- Bill Croft on his 700<sup>th</sup> Peal and 400<sup>th</sup> Peal as Conductor
- Ben Ricketts for his first peal of 41 Surprise Minor
- Lorraine Bateman, Andrew Courtney Thompson, Paul Smith and Frank Wyer on their first peal
- Andrew Davey on his first peal of Maximus
- Sue Faull on her 300<sup>th</sup> Peal
- Matthew Jeffery on his first peal as conductor
- Barry Jones on his 100<sup>th</sup> Peal
- Andrew Lord, Steve Caddy and Andrew Bennet on their first peal of Surprise Major
- Andrew Lord on his first peal on tower bells
- "Tuesday Night Handbell Group" for ringing the first peal on 14 for the guild.

Congratulations to all involved and if you have any footnotes for the next issue please send them to us

**Don't forget to check out the website**

<http://ldgcb.org.uk/>

## The Sixbel Simulator at the Cathedral

The Guild's Sixbel simulator has been a big attraction in the Cathedral's South Transept during the first three weeks of June. For the second year running the Sixbel has been in action at the Church Schools' Festival. On each of 8 mornings two groups of school children have been taught to ring a bell, have had a go at ringing tunes on belleplates and ringing (by lapping) changes on handbells. Over 220 children, plus their teachers have been introduced to the fun of bellringing.

The children, who have come from Church schools from all over Lincolnshire, have thoroughly enjoyed themselves – as can be seen from the comments they have left in the visitors book. It is hoped that local towers will follow this up by inviting them to see the real thing and that we may get a few new recruits. As always there are a lot of people to thank – for those involved in transporting the Sixbel and erecting it, and to those 29 people who have been involved in teaching over the weeks. Many have travelled considerable distances to support. It is hard work but good fun. If you haven't done so yet, get involved when the Sixbel or Wombel are in a place near you!

## OXFORDSHIRE DELIGHT MAXIMUS

For most, the day started before 7am as we set off in our cars in the direction of Middleton Stony, the first port of call on the tour of Oxfordshire. All went well at the first tower until a certain Matthew Jeffery managed to break the rope on the third. Luckily, Frank came to the rescue and managed to splice the rope back together (thanks, Frank!), but by this time most people had disappeared off to the next tower, Islip. Here, we were joined by two local ringers, who stayed with us for the rest of the day. Islip was a very nice ring of eight and near the Swan Inn, which did a lovely three-course meal for £10, along with a pint or two. Then it was on to Charlton-on-Otmoor, then Kirtlington and then Bletchington. At the last tower, after tea/coffee and cakes, Simon Cole was presented with a bottle of wine as a token of appreciation for organising such a wonderful tour to a very nice part of the country. It was a shame that it rained a little towards the end, but that didn't dampen our spirits.



*Northern Branch in Oxford*

If you want to submit any news or footnotes for inclusion in the next newsletter please send them to:

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## From the Footnotes

- Paul Meyer on his 1500<sup>th</sup> Quarter
- Christopher Hoare and James Hibbert for their first quarterpeals of major.
- Jo Shamma, Jean Williams, Alexander Hibbert, R E Hill, Sue Dmochowski and Chris Haarland on their first Quarters
- James Hibbert for his 100<sup>th</sup> Quarter
- Daniel Meyer his 150<sup>th</sup> Quarter
- Mandy Dawson on her first quarter of Surprise Major

**Any Comments, Suggestions to**  
[jonathanstokoe@aol.com](mailto:jonathanstokoe@aol.com)

## Striking Competitions

### The 33<sup>rd</sup> National 12-Bell Striking Competition at Lincoln Cathedral – A Visitors View

On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June, nine teams and supporters from over the UK ventured to Lincoln Cathedral to strike half a course of Lincolnshire Surprise Maximus to victory. The finalists were ASCY, Birmingham, Bristol, Guildford, Leeds, SRCY, Stockton-on-Tees, St. Paul's Cathedral and York.

At 10.15, 12 ringers rang rounds to allow the judges get the volume set for the day – they can now say that they have rung at the 12-bell final!! They can now say that they have rung at the 12-bell final! At 11am the crowds entered the cathedral through the south transept where the draw was taking place by the Dean, Revered Philip Buckler, pulling team names from the Lincoln Jack. The Ancient Society of College Youths were to go first and a good piece was rung to start the day off.

Through out the day, the Cathedral Centre was the locations where competitors and supporters were listening, eating and drinking to the sounds of the fine 12. During the middle of the afternoon, a sight that no-one could expected was seen; a Lincoln Bomber and a Hurricane at a very low level as Guildford were ringing away.

After the competition ringing had taken place, the opportunity had been available for those who wanted some general ringing before Evensong, thus, making the wait for the results more anxious. Time had now arrived when Andrew Wilby stood up and congratulated those who had made the day so spectacular, in particular, Dot Mason and her helpers dealing with catering and Sandra Rhodes who dealt with the IT. Mark Regan, the chief judge, along with David Pipe, Ian Roulstone and David Brown, were then introduced to give a detailed overview of each of the teams' ringing. But yet again, Birmingham, who produced a fantastic piece of ringing with 89% had won the Taylor Trophy.

A truly fantastic day where people had mentioned this was one the most memorable 12-bell competitions ever. Comments and recordings can be seen on the 12-bell website: [www.12bell.org.uk](http://www.12bell.org.uk)

Ben Ricketts

### Ridgman Trophy (10 bell Striking Competition)

This year marked the 20th anniversary of the first Ridgman Trophy. The venue was Gressenhall in rural Norfolk. Judges Paul Seaman and Mike Purday from Cambridge provided an ideal blend of constructive criticism and encouragement before moving on to announce the results.

Rang 4<sup>th</sup> : 1<sup>st</sup> – Bedfordshire - 37 faults / 3h 01  
 Rang 3<sup>rd</sup> : 2<sup>nd</sup> – Lincoln DG – 62 faults / 2h 56  
 Rang 5<sup>th</sup> : 3<sup>rd</sup> – Norwich – 66 faults / 2h 55  
 Rang 1<sup>st</sup> : 4<sup>th</sup> - Suffolk – 108 faults / 3h 07  
 Rang 2<sup>nd</sup> : 5<sup>th</sup> – Ely – 116 faults / 3h 02

### National 12 Bell Striking Contest hosted by Lincoln Cathedral - View from inside the Cathedral Centre.

Congratulations to Les and the Cathedral Company of Ringers for the organisation of this contest on 28<sup>th</sup> June. Especial congratulations to Sandra Rhodes for her excellent (and time consuming) work on the IT side of things and to Dot Mason for the many hours and her great expertise in organising the feeding of (not the 5000) more that 400 people, starting with a hot breakfast of sausage baps and bacon butties, through a buffet lunch and hog roast finishing with tea and cakes. Coffee and tea were continually being served, to say nothing of the roaring trade done by the beer tent!

Thanks to the generous sponsorship by local food firms we were able to be very reasonable with our charges. (Even so the TV crew who bought three bacon butties required a receipt for £3.) A hearty thank you to all the ringers from the Branch – and further field – who responded to the appeal. Even with Dot's organising ability we could not have done it without you. 8am to 9pm is a long day!

Everything went like clockwork. Although catering for so many, the only queues to be seen were for the GENT'S toilet (to the delight of the ladies, perhaps that had something to do with the Beer tent!

The setting of the Cathedral area and the Cathedral Centre made an impressive background to the ringing – there was even a medieval pageant going on in the Bail area to entertain the non ringers. We caterers could only hear the ringing in the background. When the Battle of Britain Flight (a Lancaster followed by a Hurricane) roared over the Cathedral at roof level someone commented "that will upset the judges". Thankfully it was during one of the practice pieces. Philip Dawson was using his camera at this time and was able to capture a magnificent shot of the planes by the towers. The other excitement of the day was the arrival of the Fire Brigade. We do not know how the smoke alarm was set off but as the Centre is a listed building they were obliged to attend. It gave us a breath of air as we all vacated the building for about ten minutes – then back to the kitchen.

All agreed it was a job well done!  
 Margaret Parker.



Front Row R-L: 1 Les Townsend, 2 Sue Faull, 3 Sandra Rhodes, 4 Ben Ricketts, 5 Phil Mason  
 Bottom Row L-R: 6 Matthew Jeffery, 7 Ian Till, 8 Chris Sharp, 9 Emma Southerington, 10 Chris Turner

### 12 Bell Results

1 <sup>st</sup> Birmingham	89%
2 <sup>nd</sup> ASCY	77%
3 <sup>rd</sup> SRCY	75%
4 <sup>th</sup> Leeds	73%
5 <sup>th</sup> St. Paul's Cathedral	64%
6 <sup>th</sup> York	59%
7 <sup>th</sup> Stockton-on-Tees	56%
8 <sup>th</sup> Guildford	47%
9 <sup>th</sup> Bristol	45%

## Branch Striking Competitions

### Eastern Branch

Four teams competed for the George Brewster Cup on Saturday 7th June at St Guthlac's, Fishtoft. Dot and Phil Mason judged the teams as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Swineshead	20 faults
2 <sup>nd</sup> Alford A	26 faults
3 <sup>rd</sup> Fishtoft	36 faults
4 <sup>th</sup> Alford B	58 faults

Refreshments were provided by Maggie Bennett, and they were much enjoyed. The surplus cakes were sold off and the proceeds split between Fishtoft church and the Branch BRF, together with a collection, this raised £45.45 for the bell repair fund. General ringing brought proceedings to a close, on an evening enjoyed by all present.

### Central Branch

1 <sup>st</sup> Lincoln Cathedral	31 Faults
2 <sup>nd</sup> Welton	44 Faults
3 <sup>rd</sup> Swinderby	45 Faults
4 <sup>th</sup> Scratch Team	49 Faults
5 <sup>th</sup> Sleaford	51 Faults

### Southern Branch

8 Teams took part in the Southern Branch Striking Competition for the Taylor's Shield. Here are the results:

1 Market Deeping A	11 Faults
2 Bourne	13 Faults
3 Market Deeping B	16 Faults
4 Rippingale	23 Faults

### Curry and Quiz Night in Southern Branch

I don't know whose idea it was, but putting Cambridge, curry and a quiz together on a cold day in March worked well and was very popular. It could be one of these alphabets some ringers like to work through. (I note that the next social event is a Branch Barbecue at Ben's, so don't be surprised if you are invited to ring Bob doubles beforehand).

Before I report on the workshops, my favourite quiz question for you to mull over: "Which two children's entertainers are associated with chimneys?"

So, to the afternoon workshops for aspiring Cambridge S Minor ringers - one was at Irnham led by Emma Southerington, the other at Rippingale with Mark Mumby and Alan Payne. Both were well attended and catered for different levels of interest and ability. The emphasis was on coaching through practical ringing, and splitting the groups in this way meant that all had a good chance to practise and develop new skills. A good model to adopt in the future.

Approximately 75 people arrived at Kirkby Underwood village hall and started bagging tables and jostling to be with those who looked like they might know the answers to the dreaded sports or pop music rounds, but who also had remembered to bring their own drinks with them. The kitchen was open plan, and looked like it had been on the go for a few hours already, certainly to judge by the pink faces of those stirring huge appetising looking pans of curries. The air was heavy with warm smells and the windows were running with condensation. The curries were indeed delicious and judged just right. Hot (in degrees Celsius), spicy enough to know it was a curry but not so hot as to put off the timid, and plenty of variety. The sort where it is worth suddenly declaring oneself a vegetarian just to get a taste of what they are having too. Thank you to Linda & David Hall, Lois Webb and Terry Maddison in the kitchen.

The puddings looked good too but we weren't allowed to taste until we had answered the first 40 questions. Full marks to Anne Madison and Ben Ricketts who set the questions and ran the quiz. There was a certain amount of (fairly) light hearted argument, especially centering around Hampshire ("Through which city does the Itchen flow?" and "Which is first - Cowes week or Wimbledon"), but Anne's word was final, and Ben agreed.

So, thanks to all involved. These things do not happen without a lot of hard work and it was very much appreciated. It was later announced that £300 profit was raised for the Southern Branch bell repair fund. Oh yes - the children's entertainers associated with chimneys? Sooty and Sweep of course!

Nick Faux

### Northern Branch

On the lovely June evening of Monday 9<sup>th</sup>, Seven teams ventured to Goxhill to take part in the Northern Branch Striking Competition. The teams received a warm welcome from the tower with spread of food and hot drinks. Due to there being so many teams entering the competition, unusually for the Northern Branch, in order to finish on time all teams rang 120, rather than 240.

The judge firstly said well done to the 42 ringers who had taken part. It was a very enjoyable evening for all and the BRF raffle gave a nice finish to the evening.

The results were as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Barrow
2 <sup>nd</sup> Barton B
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grimsby
4 <sup>th</sup> Caistor / Grasby

### West Lindsey

8 teams took part in the West Lindsey branch striking competition which was held at Belton. Gainsborough came first, Messingham 2nd and Scotter 3rd. They each rang Plain Bob Doubles. Willingham came 4th ringing call changes. We were grateful to Sandra Rhodes and Sylvia Taylor of the central branch who were our judges, and to the local ringers for lovely refreshments. The Final Results were

1. Gainsborough
2. Messingahm
3. Scotter
4. Willingham

**The Finals for the Edward Colley Plate and the John Freeman Cup will be on September 13<sup>th</sup> at Dunholme and Welton.**

### Thomas Evans from Alford

He was runner up in Damian Trust Lincolnshire Young Achievers Award (Administered by Children's Lincs). Thomas was acknowledged for his fundraising efforts in the community including organising Red Nose Day Sponsored Bell Ringing at Alford last year, organising St George's Day Service and Family Services and a Choir Concert with funds raised for Bell maintenance.



The West Lindsey Young Ringers

### Competition

**Are you studying Art or technical drawing for GCSE or A-level? Win a Guild "Hoody" by designing an A4 certificate for Honorary Life Membership ... Must include Guild logo.**

**To be judged in November 08**

### West Lindsey Branch Young Ringers Outing

The Young Ringers' Day started off at Walkington (East Yorkshire) where we spent an hour ringing. They are a lovely light ring of 6 with a tower exposed to the rest of the Church (so the ringers aren't shut away behind a closed door!). The ropes are also placed round the font which makes ringing good fun. After the ringing we headed back to the Humber Bridge Visitor Centre, where we had lunch watching the skies get increasingly darker, hoping it wasn't going to tip it down! After lunch we all went ice skating at Hull Arena. Here we spent 2 hours whizzing around the ice ring (well some of us were!) This was great fun as the Hull children were all at school so there weren't many people on the ice. We then went back to Ian and Joy's house where we had Fish and Chips and rang on the pots while everyone then played out in the rain! Five of us rang a Quarter Peal on the pot bells (1260 Plain Bob Doubles). We then all headed to Bottesford for their practice. I had a really good day and got a lot of ringing in, but we were all shattered by the end of the day.

### 2008 Sleaford Outing to Stratford-Upon-Avon – Evesham

This year's outing organised by Yvonne and Richard took place on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> May on the few hot days we've had this year. Thanks to Mick and Betty, the Alcester "Travelodge Mole" (no names Sandra) and to Cherie Renauld for their inputs. The first tower was Alcester. These are an upstairs ring which were reasonably light and easy to ring making it a good start to the outing. From Alcester we ventured to Bidford on Avon, a ground floor ring of 8 where you had a job to hear the 4<sup>th</sup> and the tenor required pulling before the 7<sup>th</sup>. Next came lunch. After lunch it was on to Salford Priors, another ground floor 8 with a longish drop and pleasant sounding. Next on the list was Pebworth a light ring of 10 with a short draft and tight ringing circle. The ringing chamber was upstairs with entry through a trapdoor so it was difficult to escape and barely enough room to accommodate all of us. Last ring of the organized day was at Bretforton, a ground floor ring of 8. The bells sounded better inside than out. The front 2 had new ropes and were best described as lively.

Monday evening saw the Alcesterites going in different directions to beef up local practice nights at Badsey, a ring of 8. Others in the party went to Worcester Cathedral where there they had a visit by some 40 members of the Martley Guild. All were made very welcome. Lastly a trip on to the roof taking in the views of Worcester was followed by a visit to the local hostelry.

Day 2 started bright and early for us all as we traveled to the fire services guild tower: Moreton in Marsh (8) for ringing at 9am. Next tower was Blockley, again an upstairs ring of 8 which went well although there was a considerable draft. Next on the list was Saintbury originally one of our standby towers. The 8 bells were easy to ring and went well. It was now time for lunch taken in various places. Some found a pub in the location of the next tower: Mickleton. These were a downstairs ring of 8 with a long draft. Lastly came Ilmington - another downstairs ring. These bells had been augmented from 6 to 8 for the millennium and again went well. Unfortunately the tower captain mentioned that Robert Thomson of Yorkshire fame had carved mice into the majority of the furniture. This resulted in some of the party going on a mouse hunt. 11 of the 13 were found.

## Forthcoming Events

Date	Time	Branch	Place	Description
05/08/08	14:00-15:30	All	Dunholme	General Ringing
09/08/08	TBA	Central	Sleaford Area	Ring for your Supper
09/08/08	10:30-12:00	All	Grantham	Surprise Royal Practice
11/08/08	19:30-21:00	Southern	Peterborough Cathedral	General Ringing
19/08/08	14:30-16:00	All	Stow	Surprise Major Practice
20/08/08	14:30-16:00	All	Edenham	General Ringing
23/08/08	10:30-12:00	Central	Washingborough	Surprise Major Practice
30/08/08	18:00-21:00	Southern	Horbling then Billingborough	Branch Practice
02/09/08	14:00-15:30	All	Dunholme	General Ringing
<b>05-06/09/08</b>	<b>All Day Both Days</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Ringling Roadshow 2008</b>	<b>Ringling Roadshow</b>
06/09/08	16:00-21:00	Eastern	Wainfleet St. Mary	Learners Practice
<b>13/09/08</b>	<b>PM</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Dunholme, Welton and Sothern</b>	<b>Striking Competition Final</b>
13/09/08	AM	Central	Waddington	Training followed by Onion Competition Judging
16/09/08	14:30-16:00	All	Stow	Surprise Major Practice
17/09/08	All Day	All	Horbling, Plough Inn Horbling, Billingborough	Mid Week Ringing with Lunch at the Plough Inn Horbling
20/09/08	10:30-12:00	Central	Washingborough	Surprise Major Practice
20/09/08	PM	West Lindsey	Lea and Willingham	Meeting and Ringing
27/09/08	Evening	Southern	Deepings	Ring for your Supper
30/09/08	All Day	All	TBA	Away Day
04/10/08	All Day	Eastern	Norfolk	Coach Outing
07/10/08	14:00-15:30	All	Dunholme	General Ringing
11/10/08	10:30-12:00	All	Newark	Surprise Royal Practice
11/10/08	14:30-16:00	Central	Lincoln	General Ringing
11/10/08	14:00 onwards	Elloe Deaneries	Elloe Deaneries	Open Day
15/10/08	14:30-16:00	All	Colsterworth	Midweek Ringing
18/10/08	10:30-12:00	Central	Washingborough	Surprise Major Practice
18/10/08	19:15-23:30	West Lindsey and BRF	Kexby Village Hall	Barn Dance
21/10/08	14:30-16:00	All	Stow	Surprise Major Practice
25/10/08	18:00-21:00	Southern	Folkingham and Silk Willoughby	Evening Ringing

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