



Lincoln Diocesan Guild Newsletter #12

FEBRUARY 2008

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From the Master

This is the first edition of the guild newsletter under the new editorial team. I would like to thank them very much for volunteering for this job. Communication within this large Guild has greatly improved over the last 5 years, as more and more of us are using the internet. With this newsletter, and the excellent Guild website (www.ldgcb.org.uk) in case you didn't know) we have publications we can be proud of. However, they are only as up to date and interesting as members make them. So please keep the news coming. It has been a busy time across the guild this last month, with AGMs taking place in each branch. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Branch Officers for their work over the last year and to send my best wishes to all those who have agreed to take on Officer jobs over the next year. I'm sure they can count on your support at your branch meetings.

Sue Faull

41 Surprise Minor!

I can remember very clearly the practice night where I was given my first "Criblines" – a small pocket book containing all the 41 truly regular surprise minor methods. It was in Braunston-in-Rutland, I was 14 and had just learnt to treble-bob. John Beadman, one of the local ringers, passed me a slightly battered book and said, inspiringly "it's a spare one, you can have it if you like". Clearly a challenge!

16 years later, I was sat in a pub in Deeping St Nicholas with a peal band, after a successful peal of 12 surprise minor. As we neared closing time, conversation had turned to "Plans of a Bellringing Nature" and it was fairly clear that the band had consumed enough alcohol to agree to any crazy idea mentioned, so I thought I'd try my luck with my long held desire to conduct "the 41".

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Forthcoming Event

AGM 26/04/2008

9:30 Service Ringing at Cathedral

10:00 Communion in Ringers' Chapel

11:00 Meeting at Bailgate Methodist Church Hall

LUNCH

PM 8 Bell Interbranch Striking Competition

17:30 Evensong

18:30-20:00 Ringing

Farewell

Farewell and thanks to Judith Williamson who has supported the Guild and the Central Branch of the Guild for a number of years and is the current Guild Librarian.

12 Bell Competition

The Cathedral Company are the proud hosts of the 2008 National 12 Bell Striking Competition to be held 28/06/08 with the draw at 11:30. The Judge is Mark Regan and there will be a Hog Roast and Beer Tent

41 Surprise Minor cont'd

Over the next few peals, we progressed fairly rapidly to 18 spliced surprise minor, pausing along the way for Mark Mumby's first as conductor, until disaster struck and two of our original band Jim Benner (shoulder) and Jonathan Clegg (elbow) quite suddenly became seriously unringable. Help was at hand at short notice from Ian Dawson, who stepped in and rang his first of treble bob with Lois being promoted from the treble to inside duties. To say "thank you" to Ian for stepping in at a few hours notice, we arranged a peal for him to ring inside – to 4 surprise minor methods. As he rang so well, we arranged another for a fortnight later – 3 more methods and Ian's first of seven surprise.

Around this time, I was fortunate enough to be invited into a Lincoln DG handbell peal of "the 41" with Philip Earis and David Pipe – a thoroughly enjoyable evening and peal. I left feeling invincible and sure that our Southern Branch band could achieve the same on tower bells. After all – Ian had just learnt six new methods in a fortnight – what's another 34?!

The Winter of 2006 and start of 2007 saw a few more peals being rung, introducing some of the Norwich above methods – although we didn't progress with our "number of methods" total, we did score a "most methods" footnote for Lizzy Stokoe and Stuart Butler. At the end of January 2007, I was again fortunate in being asked in a Lincoln DG towerbell peal of "the 41" by Chris Turner at Wellingore. I was still fairly buoyed up from handbell success – but this peal, although rung with barely a mistake, felt far tougher; I realised quite quickly how effortless David and Philip had made it for me to ring; and the size of the task facing the Southern Branch band. A rethink was in order – the Norwich above methods were put on hold temporarily, while we got to grips with the Carlisle above methods – four peals and 3 months later we'd reached 19 methods! It was clear we'd benefit from ringing peals together more frequently; and at the start of the summer 23 spliced minor was achieved! – All 12 of the Cambridge above and all 11 of the Carlisle above methods – most methods for Lois, Terry, Ian and Mark.

The summer saw holidays and additional members of our branch assist us in ringing, and although our method repertoire stayed fairly steady. In addition, Ian conducted a peal to mark 5 years since he and the Inham band learnt to ring – a band taught to ring by Terry and Lois – and I was lucky enough to be able to drive a car full of under 21s (and me) to Alford to ring Ben Meyer's first inside – to seven surprise minor. It was one of those peals, where half way through, I felt very old indeed – adding together my age with that of the only other over-21 ringer I realised that our combined age was at least another ringer older than the combined ages of the other 4! In November 2007, we eventually pushed past our previous high of 23 methods by reintroducing the Norwich above methods – 24 methods then 32 methods!

And so to January 2008 – and a New Years Resolution to finally 'go for it' – peals of 37 and finally 41 methods we scored in back-to-back weeks! After two years of planning and 49 peals in total involving 25 ringers and 20 different towers, I am very, very proud to present the band that rang the "standard 41" spliced surprise minor, and would like to take the opportunity to tender grateful thank-yous to the ringers who have helped us reach this milestone, through both peal ringing and practice nights. I would particularly like to thank Terry and Mark for arranging many of the towers and our fellow Southern Branch tower representatives and incumbents who kindly granted us permission to ring in their churches so readily.

I would finally like to thank and congratulate the band – firstly to thank Andrew for ringing the treble so very well – an expert treble ringer was required, and that's exactly what we had; and secondly to the other insiders: to move from your first treble bob, or from just twelve methods to ringing "the 41" is outstanding and has enabled me to complete an ambition that I've had since I was a young and keen ringer – thank you!



From left to right: Mark Mumby (4), Lois Webb (2), Emma Southerington (6), Terry Maddison (5), Andrew Davey (1), Ian Dawson (3).

Every Click

Everyclick.com is a search engine (like google, or yahoo) that passes a proportion of its profits to your chosen charity – like the LDG Bell Repair Fund – typically around 1p for every search that you make.

Over the past four months, 4 Guild members have raised over £60 just by using this search engine, without having to make any other effort at all. If we could increase the number of people using this one website to just 8 people per branch – we could be raising in the region of £2,000 each year. Please consider using everyclick.com to raise money for your chosen charity. In order to do so, go to <http://www.everyclick.com> and follow the links to register and choose your charity.

Learning to Teach – The Simulator at Stow

On 10th November at 10.30, 7 brand new learners and 8 trainee teachers met at Stow church where the Sixbel simulator had been housed for a couple of weeks. Whilst Chris Turner took the new learners up to have a look at the bells in the tower, the trainee teachers familiarised themselves with ringing on the simulator.

Ian Till and Sue Faull demonstrated the early stages of teaching bell handling which the trainee teachers then tried out on their learners using the simulator. After about an hour and a half using the simulator, all went up into the tower, where the new skills were then transferred to normal, tied bells. Lunch – sandwiches and hot drinks was eaten up in the tower to save time and more practice followed. Some of the quicker learners were starting to put both strokes together by the 3.30 finish time.

All participants thought that the format of the training session had been very successful and fun. It can be daunting teaching bell handling for the first time, but trying it out on the simulator first meant that many of the fears were allayed, thus giving confidence to both learners and trainee teachers. It is pleasing to be able to report that our learners are making excellent progress, all are still learning! An increased number of experienced and confident teachers will be a great asset over the years.

Lyn Hall's First Peal

It was very, very cold in Greatford church - unfortunately no electricity, so no heat! Luckily it was a sunny day outside - unluckily it fell in our eyes! Lynn rang exceedingly well, (there were only one or two miniscule errors). A gang of ringers came to hear the last 1/2 hr or so and applauded her as we came out. Thanks to them for their support. Then celebrations in the Hare and Hounds.

Lyn has only been ringing for a few years and has put in a great deal of time and effort to reach this achievement by going to many different towers' practice nights and Sunday services. She has rung several quarter peals and one half peal. It just goes to show that if you are determined you will succeed.

Greatford, Lincs
 5 Thomas Becket
 Saturday 2nd February 2008 in 2h45 (6)
5040 Plain Bob Minor
 1 Lynda J Hall
 2 Lois M Webb
 3 Stuart L Butler
 4 Julian P van Geersdaele
 5 P Barry Jones
 6 Terence Maddison (C)
 First peal: 1



The Band (from left to right): Terry Maddison (6), Lyn Hall (1), Julian van Geersdaele (4), Lois Webb (2), Barry Jones (5) Stuart Butler (3)

First peal - Rae Todd

Broughton, North Lincs 1st Jan 08

Was Rae Todd (14) the first person to ring a first peal in 2008? A quick browse of campanophile suggests this to be the case. Rae learnt to ring at Messingham and had previously rung a number of quarter peals, including a quarter of Plain Bob Minor which he called. Rae was joined in the quarter by his uncle and cousin, Ian and Richard Till. The peal had been organised by Jo Hoare of Broughton, with Jo's son Chris ringing the treble to his first peal of minor after having previously rung peals of doubles.

Ian Till – Messingham

From the Footnotes

Congratulations to the following:

- ▶ Andrew Davey for his 300th Peal and completing the Std 8 Surprise Major
- ▶ Ben Ricketts on his first Stedman Cinques, 50th Peal and 1st Handbell Peal
- ▶ Nick Faux on his first Surprise Major Peal, and first Spliced Surprise Major Quarter
- ▶ Ian Dawson on his 50th Peal
- ▶ Rae Todd, Dan Meyer and Lyn Hall on their First Peals
- ▶ The Tuesday Night Handbell Band that rang the 1000th hand bell peal for the Guild
- ▶ Mandy Dawson for her First Peal of Surprise Major
- ▶ Aidan Mcqueen on his First Quarter
- ▶ Mike Kennedy on his first Quarter inside
- ▶ Gill Hardy on her first quarter of Spliced Surprise Major
- ▶ Paul Meyer on his 800th Quarter as Conductor
- ▶ Siobhan Rattigan on her First Quarter
- ▶ Nick Jeins on his First Quarter
- ▶ Ian Evans on his First Quarter
- ▶ Derek Bunting on his First Quarter

Any news, comments or suggestions please contact us on:-
jonathanstokoe@aol.com

Northern Branch News

This year members were sad to see Ringing Master Frank Kennington and newsletter editor David Sykes retire from their posts. This means for the Northern Branch we welcome new Ringing Master Matthew Jeffery and News editor Joy Lord. We wish them both success in their new positions. The other committee positions remain with Secretary Lorraine Bateman, Treasurer David Hibbert, Guild Committee rep Matthew Jeffery, Guild BRF Dorothy Robinson, Guild Simulator rep Joy Lord and Guild web site rep Lorraine Bateman.

This year the Branches Alan Hewitt Shield was awarded to Middle Rasen tower, not only because of their healthy progress during 2007, but also because of their overall friendliness. The Branch Ringing Master arranged a quarter peal to celebrate this on Sunday 10th February.



Daniel, Sam, Harry, James, Philip, Alex, Joe, Rae, Chris, Sam, Matthew, Emily, Jordan, Alix, Harry, Alex, Katie, Marisa, Meghan, Matt, Kieran, Olivia, Caitlin, Libby, Rebecca, Ellie, Tiffany, TJ

Surprise Royal Practice

Surprise Royal practices are held every second Saturday morning around the County. Whilst February's meeting should have been at the Cathedral unfortunately the clappers were still being refurbished so at the last minute the venue was changed to Ewerby. This meeting was very well supported with twenty one ringers attending. All the standard methods were rung. After some of the ringers went for lunch at "The Kitchen", or more commonly known as Nocton Truck Stop. Next month it will be at Saltby and we would ask you to look at Bristol Royal.

Phil Mason, Central Branch.

Don't forget to check out the website

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

Latest Story: West Lindsey ringers make music at Beverley Minster

New Year Honour for Ringer



The London Gazette in a supplement announcing the New Year Honours included the appointment of Mrs Bridget Cracroft-Eley, Lord-Lieutenant for Lincolnshire, as a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (CVO).

Mrs Cracroft-Eley learned to ring prior to the installation of the ring of six bells at Hackthorn and has enthusiastically supported bellringing in the Central Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild.

Young Ringers New Year Get Together

On the final Friday before the start of the new term, 30 young ringers met up in Scunthorpe for an hour of 10 pin bowling. Along with a few adults, we took up 6 lanes and made a lot of noise.

The large party then made its way to Bottesford where the young ringers were divided into two groups – one group went up the tower to ring on the easy going, light six whilst the others rang changes on handbells by standing in a line and changing places. Plain hunt maximus was achieved!

We then all squeezed into Messingham church hall for tea – chips plus sausage rolls, salad etc and loads of cakes. Some very silly games were played, one of which resulted in faces covered in flour, and a mouthful of jelly babies. We then went into Messingham tower to join their normal practice night, but with the addition of Twister and other games being played in the Nave.

It was brilliant to see so many young ringers (the vast majority are under 14 years old) and shows that the future of ringing in the branch is looking very promising. Everyone agreed that it had been a brilliant day and were very grateful to the organisers and food providers.

One young ringer's reaction to the day

I had a great time that night. The bowling was good and ringing at Messingham. I didn't realise that there are so many people who ring. The hand bells were good for leaning something new-Alix 13©

Central Branch Mid-week ringing

The Mid Week Ringers meet every first Tuesday at Dunholme 2-0 – 3-30pm and every third Tuesday at Stow 2-30 – 4-00pm but on a fifth Tuesday we have an "Away Day". So on the 29th January 2008 twenty one rather mature ringers had a day out.

We started at Wellow, a very nice new ring of six, easy to ring and nice to listen to. One phone call was received from a member who was lost, the local ringer soon told her where she was and which way to go. So in no time she was ringing with us. We then went on to Norwell where we found the builders digging up the floor of the entrance porch, this we negotiated and climbed the stairs to the ringing room. Again these were a nice six to ring.

The Plough at Norwell had been recommended for lunch so this we had pre-booked. As we had given the landlord both names and requirements there was no problem with ringers who had forgotten what they had ordered. The tables were all reserved and the piping hot food was served almost immediately. The food and service was excellent and we would recommend you visit it.

We should have rung at Caunton in the afternoon but this was a lock out, well not quite. We could get into the church but were met by a builder who declared the church as a building site and we would have to leave straight away. (Where was his hard hat then I asked myself) So unfortunately the day finished earlier than expected. We all had a good ring at the two towers, Bob Minor to spliced surprise and anything that was wanted in between.

We all had an enjoyable day and the next "Away Day" will be on 29th April again in the Newark area. Come and join us.

Dot Mason, Branch Sec, Central Branch.

Forthcoming Events

Date	Time	Branch	Place Title	Description
01/03/08	15:30-17:30 19:00-21:00	Eastern	Croft then Friskney	Learners Practice then Advanced Practice
08/03/08	14:30-16:00	Central	Thorpe on the Hill	General Ringing
08/03/08	10:30-12:00	All	Saltby	Surprise Royal Practice
12/03/08	19:30-21:00	Northern	Waltham	Branch Practice
15/03/08	10:30-12:00	Central	Washingborough	Surprise Major Practice
23-30/03/08	All Week	Southern	Various	Quarterpeal Week
26/03/08	14:30-16:00	All	Market Deeping	General Ringing
29/03/08	19:00-21:00	West Lindsey	TBA	Surprise Major Practice
29/03/08	10:30 onwards	Southern	Kirkby Underwood	Afternoon Training at Irnham and Rippingale followed by Curry and Quiz Practice
05/04/08	18:00-21:00	Eastern	Algarkirk then Frampton	Practice
12/04/08	10:30-12:00	All	Boston S Botolph	Surprise Royal Practice
12/04/08	TBA	Central	Swinderby and Eagle	TBA
15/04/08	14:30-16:00	All	Stow	Surprise Major Practice
16/04/08	14:30-16:00	All	Quadring	Mid Week Ringing
19/04/08	10:30-12:00	Central	Washingborough	Surprise Major Practice
19/04/08	PM	West Lindsey	Gainsborough	Supper and Quiz at Knaith Park
19/04/08	19:00-21:00	Southern	Stamford St. Martin's then Stamford All Saints	General Ringing
26/04/08	9:30am	All	Lincoln	AGM Day
03/05/08	15:00-21:00	Eastern	Mablethorpe	Ringing, Service, Tea and Business Meeting
05/05/08	All Day	West Lindsey	Outing	Branch Outing
10/05/08	10:30-12:00	All	Surfleet	Surprise Royal Practice
10/05/08	PM	Central	Norton Disney	Striking Competition, TBA
17/05/08	All Day	West Lindsey	Stow	Ringing Open Day
20/05/08	14:30-16:00	All	Stow	Surprise Major Practice
21/05/08	11:00 onwards	All	Gosberton then Pinchbeck	Mid Week Ringing with Lunch at the Mermaid in Surfleet
24/05/08	10:30-12:00	Central	Washingborough	Surprise Major Practice
24/05/08	PM	Central	Bassingham	Rabbits Comp. TBA
24/05/08	15:00 onwards	Southern	Denton then Harlaxton	Open Ringing followed by Striking comp, tea and meeting

