



The Carlisle Diocesan Guild

Bell Ringers' Newsletter

February 2006

Issue 9

If you or your tower have any items of news for the July issue they can be posted or emailed to Anne East, 65 Scotby Road Scotby, Carlisle CA4 8BG aeast65sr@btinternet.com

Dates

W Branch AGM

Sat 4 Mar 2006

Cleator Moor

E Branch AGM

Tues 21 Mar 2006

Penrith

Guild AGM

Sat 1 April 2006

Hensingham

Striking

Competition

Sat 10 June 2006

Guild Dinner

Sat 7 Oct 2006

Mobile Belfry

We plan to hire the Litchfield Mobile Belfry for a day to promote ringing in our area. It will be set up in Carlisle city centre where it should be seen and heard by as many people as possible. Lots of ringers will be needed both to ring and to talk to spectators.

The proposed date is **Sat 17 June 2006**

Please reserve the date if you can help. It should be fun!

Commemorating the Battle of Trafalgar

At the time of Trafalgar, Whitehaven was one of the most important ports in the British Isles. With many seamen resident there, we assumed that some of them may have been present at the great battle. We were astonished to discover that at least 50 local men were involved and that we could not only name them but discover their rank and status on their various ships.

One group were of particular interest. Historically the use of the Press Gang was illegal in Whitehaven. Nevertheless, we found that seven men were pressed into service in Whitehaven and all served in the same ship - the *Tonnant*. Formerly a French ship, the *Tonnant* was captured by Nelson at the Battle of the Nile and joined the British fleet, after refitting, under command of Sir Edward Pellew.

We decided to ring 1805 changes on Trafalgar Day and dedicate the ringing to those Whitehaven heroes who manned the *Tonnant*. They were:

Able Seamen: Abraham Adamson, George Bell, and Robert Brown;

Quarter Gunners: Walter Ferguson, William Porter and Josh Tison;

Quarter Master: Joseph Fletcher.

The 1805 is an interesting touch of Grandsire Triples. It consists of about 4 ½ parts of Morris's 12 part peal with additions on each part. The standard of ringing was very high - worthy of the occasion - and was reported both in the parish and the town.

Jack McTear

Arlecdon bells ring out again!

In July 2005 we rang for the last time on centurion clapper bushes; the smoothed sides of clappers would no longer strike their well known bells. Renovation was upon us.

Since the bells re-started ringing in the early 1990s it had been our wish to restore the Arlecdon bells to their 1905 glory; we made fun of the oddstruckness and of the overwhelming noise in the ringing room that was associated with ringing - but we knew what we *really* wanted.

To coincide with major works on the exterior of the bell tower and the roof of the baptistry we decided the time was right to embark on a programme of renovation. The bell fund was a little short but with a generous grant from the Bell Restoration Fund we started to place orders. The clappers went to Taylors for new bushes and twisting, new ropes were ordered from Outhwaites, the ground pulleys were rebearinged and shafted locally but the highlight was a new ceiling. With advice from Ron East the church have installed a new ceiling with state of the art soundproofing.

Thursday 5th of January arrived and our first practice on the bells, the first time all eight were to be rung together. Wow.... have you ever spent a practice floating 12 inches above the floor? They are fantastic (possibly a little too quiet but that's just a case of adjustment). There are now only one or two teething problems to overcome and we shall have 1905 redelivered. The wait was worth it.

John Wilkinson

Surprise Major Practices

There will be a series of Surprise Major practices held once a month on (roughly) the first Saturday. The practices are designed to introduce more of the standard eight (and beyond ?!) to more ringers.

The basic starting point will be Cambridge Major, but if you can ring Surprise Minor and want to move onto Major this is the place for you. If you can ring Kent or Treble Bob Hunt the treble on six then there will be opportunities to move onto eight and expand your capabilities. The Surprise Minor practice in June is to make a change and encourage new faces. If the practices are not adequately supported they will cease, so please support them! We will not be ringing Plain Bob, Grandsire or Stedman, so please do not expect to!

See overleaf for dates/methods and also the notices in your tower
If you have any questions please call Nick Tithecott on 01931 715438

50/50 Draw Winners!

We have lost a few members this year, but fortunately have gained a similar number to replace them, so we still have 84 members. **New subscriptions are due by 1st May**, so that I can determine the amount of prize money for each draw. Last year, there was still so much to come in that we only drew 12 winning numbers instead of 16 at the Striking Competition. Quite a few of you now pay by Standing Order, and I would urge the rest of you to do so, if at all possible. If you insist on paying by cash or cheque please let me have your 2006/7 subscription at the AGM, or post it to me before the end of April. Ring me on 01768 483361 for a SO mandate if your Tower Captain hasn't got any left. We were able to draw the extra numbers at the Training Day, but prompt payment would have saved a lot of hassle!
Chris Ellison

PRIZEWINNERS

I try to pay winners in cash immediately after each draw, or sometimes give it to someone from the same tower to pass on to them. Please let me know if you haven't had your money. All members are given a different Draw number each year.

1st DRAW - STRIKING COMPETITION

£12 Harry Whittaker(C); Frank Harland; Allan Ellison(G); Anne Hogarth(K). £10 Beverly Pink(L); Mary Snape(Wi); Lesley Coan(Wh); Ann Cooper(G). £8 Jack McTear(Wh); Jenny Humphreys(K); John Proudfoot(H); Eileen Dunning(L)

2nd DRAW - TRAINING DAY

£12 Ken Twentyman(P); Kathleen Wivell(K); Appleby Ringers; Wendy Graham(Wi). £10 Alison Last(As); Isa Baildon(P); Gordon Gray(He); Alan Shead(P). £8 Champa Sadler(C); Eric Martin(Wo); Chris Ellison(G); David Gray(As). £7 Pat Evans(Wo); Albert Walton; Dorothy Forsyth(As); Richard Green(Co); Kate Telford(Wi); Chris Reay(Wh); Rachael Rodway(C); Eileen Smith(Wo).

Key: Appleby(A); Aspatria(As); Cathedral(C); Cockermouth(Co); Greystoke(G); Harraby(H); Hensingham(He); Irton(I); Keswick(K); Lazonby & Gt. Salkeld(L); Penrith(P); Shap(S); Whitehaven(Wh); Wigton(Wi); Workington(W).

A Hitchhiker's Guide to Call Changes

My first brush with call changes was 35 years ago when tentatively learning rounds. Suddenly someone bellowed "four to two" (they DID bellow in those days). What did this mean? No one had explained that call changes existed, never mind how to do them. This was the "throw them in deep end" school of teaching. Despite that, and often hearing disparaging references over the years to call changes as "Graveyard Bob" (because it doesn't lead anywhere), I have long been a supporter of them. When I worked for a while in Devon I rang with some call-change bands, and their precision utterly amazed me.

For us at St. Bees they are the main-stay of our Sunday ringing. Call changes is one the best ways of getting good striking, which is important, not least because I get real feedback from villagers. They will say when the bells sound good, and will make no comment when the sound "rocky".

Quite often I find call changes are "made up" by the caller "on the fly", possibly because it is not regarded as something a caller should practice. Consequently they often get in a tangle (as the caller gets lost), and bells have to be stood before getting back into rounds, or it ends up in protracted, unmusical changes.

The system I operate gets to Whittingtons first. Next we go to Queens, and then to Tittums. Why Tittums last? Because it is the most difficult to strike, and by this time everyone has woken up and is fully tuned in to the bells.

I do not learn the change sequences, but have an overall strategy using the least number of calls. I have this as a handout; "A hitch-hiker's guide to call changes," that explains the strategy and lists the changes. Some towers already have copies after I demonstrated the system at the 2000 training day. If you want a copy, please email me at doug.sim@btinternet.com, or write with SAE to 31 Main Street, St. Bees, Cumbria. Alternatively you can drop in on practice night to join in – but be warnedI call the bells forward; but more about that some other time. Doug Sim

Surprise Practice dates

4 February, 3.50pm; Cathedral (Yorkshire)
11 March, 4pm; Penrith (Lincolnshire and London)
8 April, 4pm; Wigton (Superlative)
May, no practice
3 June (tbc); Greystoke (London and Hexham minor)

Other dates for your diary (place to be confirmed)

1 July	4 November
2 September	2 December
14 October	

Reminders

Young Ringer's Award

Please nominate your young ringers for the Award presented annually at the AGM. Nomination forms have been sent out to tower correspondants. The forms should be sent to Mary Snape as soon as possible!

Annual Report

Please send items for the Annual Report to Anne East as soon as possible. Please make especially sure you have sent in any alterations to tower details!

Website Website Website Website Website Website Website

The address for the Guild website is www.carlisle-dgcbr.org.uk

If you have access to the Web, keep an eye on our website and let Gareth know if anything needs updating. Lots of visitors use the site so its important to be up to the minute!