



The Carlisle Diocesan Guild

Bell Ringers' Newsletter

February 2008

Issue 13

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

Ceilidh

23 February 7.30-11pm
All Saints Hall
Cockermouth.

Western Branch AGM

1 March 3.30pm
Cockermouth

Eastern Branch AGM

25 March 7.30pm
Penrith

Guild AGM

19 April
Egremont

Striking Competition

June (date tbc)
Brampton

Guild Dinner

11 October 2008

Surprise Practice

23 February 5-6.30pm
Cockermouth

St Andrew's Penrith

is undergoing alterations in the church. Ringing is suspended until Easter. In the meantime Tuesday practices are alternately at Shap and Great Salkeld, thanks to the kindness of ringers at both towers.

Attending a Ringing Course

14th-17th August this year I plan to be in Berkshire. This is so I can attend, for the fifth time, the Crowthorne ringing course, which in 2008 will be at Bradfield. It is a weekend I anticipate with pleasure. One reason is that there is a nucleus of regular attendees so it is an opportunity to catch up with friends; another is to become acquainted with many ringers from all over Britain – and, indeed, the world - whom I haven't met before.

There are around 150 ringers in all, with about equal numbers of students and helpers (I have been a student twice and a helper twice.) and groups cater for all abilities from Call Changes and Plain Hunting to Surprise Major and Conducting. Group Tutors are chosen not so much for their ringing as their ability to give encouragement and confidence to their students who are often extremely

nervous at first. Of course people make silly mistakes but I have never heard anyone belittled.

Each group has six teaching sessions and students ring one at a time, the other bells being taken by competent ringers, so a group can realistically include those just beginning a plain course of the chosen method and those already ringing touches. Each session takes place in a different tower which makes for interest and variety. Most are well chosen and easy to ring but I have spent time at a few towers I hope never to visit again!

Just organising the towers must be an enormous task but, in addition, there are numerous discussion groups, talks and practical tutorials e.g. handbells and rope splicing. I would not miss the opportunity to see, yet again, Steve Coleman's video of ropes breaking and slipping wheel, stays break-

ing and other ringing misfortunes. One evening there is "fun" ringing – last year the whole group went to Guildford Cathedral – and another evening there will be a short service which has always included some superb handbell ringing. There are frequent coffee breaks, a bar, a "cocoa lounge" and a late-night chat room for the important business of talking to other ringers.

Accommodation is in a school, single rooms (twins for couples) and cafeteria meals (usually good) so the cost is not too prohibitive, £120 for helpers and about £150 for students. Everyone is so welcoming and it is such a good fun weekend that I don't understand why I am the only person from this Guild to go. Why not join me this year?

Wendy Graham

www.crowthorne-ringingcourse.org.uk

The Ringing Roadshow 2008

The 2008 Ringing Roadshow will be held on

Fri 5th and Sat 6th September 2008 at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire.

The Roadshow will be the largest ever gathering of ringers and all other bell enthusiasts and promises to be an excellent day out for all the family. Several Guild members went to the Roadshow in Lincoln and enjoyed themselves!

It encompasses a trade show, a range of learning opportunities, ringing-related entertainment, hands-on activities, shopping and the chance to meet hundreds of other people with the same passion for bells and bellringing.

Publicity leaflets will be sent to us soon. In the meantime put the date in your diary and look up the details on the Roadshow website.

www.ringingroadshow2008.org.uk

50/50 Draw Winners!

The draws for the 50/50 Club took place at the special Kent and Cambridge practice at Greystoke on the 8th December. Several draws were due and as a result there were over 20 lucky winners who received an early Christmas present! The names will be published in the next newsletter.

The 50/50 Club raises a considerable amount each year for the Guild Bell Restoration Fund. Any tower that is affiliated to the CDGCBR can receive a grant from the BRF. Thank you to Chris for organising the Draw!

Don't forget that the subscriptions to the Draw are due on 1st May. If you don't have a standing order please contact Chris Ellison (01768 483361) to subscribe. Contact Chris as well if you would like another number or want to start a subscription. Some people are lucky winners quite often but as Chris points out they are frequently those who have two numbers. **Pay more .. win more!**

Surprise Practices

The Surprise practices that I arrange for the WHOLE of the Guild have continued to be well attended – many thanks to all, especially the “stalwarts”! I am currently putting together a programme to run right through the year and into the first two months of 2009 with the aim of making the date a fairly regular “4th Saturday in the month”. A good level of attendance has enabled us to ring most of the standard 8 at some time during the year as plain courses and in spliced.

Can I re-emphasize that the practices are for ALL Guild members, not just Eastern branch, and of course visitors are always welcome too. I would always expect to ring Yorkshire and Cambridge at least once and

for those taking their first steps into treble bob major we will ring Kent. The aim is to ensure that ringers get the opportunity to ring things that would probably not be rung at their local practices and as a result to improve their method knowledge, experience and striking. We don't always succeed in the last one so maybe it should be one of our particular aims for 2008.

I look forward to seeing lots of you during the next twelve months and hopefully pushing everyone's horizons a little.

Nick Tithecott (Eastern Branch Ringing Master)

March Practice: 29th at Wigton

Ringling Centre News

During 2007 some very useful courses and practices were organised by Gareth both at the Ringing Centre and at other towers.

The Listening Course, held at the Ringing Centre in St Michael's, Workington was very much enjoyed by those who went. Unfortunately the numbers were small, which is a shame because we could all do with keeping our listening skills up to scratch.

The Raising and Lowering Course held in October at St Mary's, Wigton was well supported and gave the par-

ticipants a chance to practice leading up and down as well as ringing inside.

A Kent and Cambridge Minor practice was held at St Andrew's, Greystoke in December. This was well attended and a good number of student ringers were able to attempt ringing inside, or ringing the treble to these more advanced methods.

The Ringing Centre is a Guild asset that belongs to us all! It cannot run without the support of us all. Please let Gareth know if there are courses or practices you would like to see. Please also consider taking your ringers to

Workington to try ringing with the simulator. Anyone who hasn't had go should try it! Its great fun and also the resulting 'noise' cannot be heard by anyone outside the tower! Great for tentative try-outs! Contact Gareth on 01900 824647.



University of Cumbria: Inauguration Service Ringing

Saturday, 24th November was an auspicious day for Carlisle Cathedral. After years of speculation and planning the University of Cumbria came into being with a Service of Inauguration, along with the Installation of the Chancellor, The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dr John Sentamu, Lord Archbishop of York.

The bells were rung both before and after the service (which most ringers watched from the clerestory). All available Cathedral ringers, including learners, took part and some pleasing Call Changes on 10 bells were heard.

James Rowland Mossop: 19.12.1932 to 6.8.2007

The bells of St Michael's Egremont rang in 1957 for the wedding of Jim and Jennifer Mossop. Fifty years later, almost to the day, they rang for Jim's funeral.

Jim entered his first belfry, St Michael's Workington, aged 15 and was immediately hooked. He was taught by Alfred Sanderson and met with lifelong ringing friends; the writer is privileged to have been one of them. Jim rarely missed Sunday service ringing and every Christmas Day and New Years Eve he would be on the end of a rope.

Jim met Jennifer in the belfry in 1954 and passed his enthusiasm on to his children. He was a very special father to Jonathan, David and Jane and a loving grandfather to Maria and Rebecca; they formed a very close family.

Besides family, two things were important in Jim's life; his work and his ringing. He started work for Workington Town council in 1949, colouring in maps. Having gained qualifications

in Civil, Municipal and Highway engineering he served in local government offices throughout the UK before entering his beloved Planning Inspectorate in 1969. Despite suffering a few critical comments about the unsuitability of wearing cardigans in the office and about cockiness he rose steadily through the ranks, finally reaching the heady heights of Deputy Chief Planning Inspector. He had a famous maxim for training new inspectors; keep it simple and read the words.

Jim was a meticulous man paying strict attention to detail be it train timetables or times-tables he kept files on everything from sundries to sundials. His information gathering was done in such a manner it had you in stitches; maybe a trait he inherited from a distant relation who was a professional touring comedian.



Jim was tower captain at St Peter and St Paul's Parish Church, Kettering for over 20 years and taught countless students the noble art of campanology. David upholds the family tradition and, although working in Bulgaria, rings at Whitehaven whenever he is at home.

Jim retired to Cumbria and immediately became a regular and most valued member of the band at St James' Whitehaven and renewed his many friendships there. Jim was also a very talented calligrapher (shown here with a Peal Board) and some of his work is displayed in Kettering ringing chamber. A beautiful example of his work now hangs in H M Free Chapel of St George, Windsor Castle.

A line was read at his funeral as a tribute from a family friend. 'He was such a lovely man and so important for someone so small.' How very appropriate. JMT

Notices

Ceilidh

Saturday 23rd February
All Saints Hall, Cockermouth.
Music by the Crab Apple Band.
Tickets £10 including supper.

Every tower has a poster and a booking form. Please send money for tickets to Jack or Pat by 16th February.



Those who went to the Ceilidh last year will remember it was a great success. The room was packed! This year entry will be by ticket only. There will be no 'pay at the door' entry. It is hoped that this will allow more room for dancing.

Young Ringers Award

The annual award in memory of Leslie Boumphrey. Each tower will have a nomination paper. Please send nominations to Sue Smith by 16 March so the Committee have time to select the Young Ringer who will receive the Award at the Guild AGM on 19 April. If you don't have a nomination paper please ring Sue on 01768 879006

Annual Report

All material for the 2007 Report should be with Anne East by 1st March please!

Please check that the details for your tower are correct in the 2006 report. If anything needs altering please ring Anne on 01228 513622. If you wish to write a report about your own tower activities during 2007 please send it to Anne by 1st March.

Guild Website

Our website is the first place many ringers will turn to for information about ringing in the Carlisle DG. It is vitally important that it is up to date.

Please contact Gareth if you need to change any of the details for your tower that appear on the website. Keep the address in your list of favourites so you can check back regularly!

www.carlisle-dgcb.org.uk

Contribute to the Newsletter

In this issue we have pieces written by Jack McTear and Wendy Graham. Thank you to them.

Anyone is welcome to contribute to the Newsletter. The more variety we have, the more interesting it will be.