

ldg NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOUR | JULY 2007 | www.leicesterdg.org.uk

WHAT'S ON?

GUILD CALENDAR ON BACK
& NEW! ON www.leicesterdg.org.uk

ITS YOUR GUILD, USE IT!

Firstly, a big thank you and well done to all those involved in organising and running the open day in June, it was a big success and will end up making the Guild around £1000!

As you can see we have another very full newsletter, which is great, it shows how active the Guild is, although it would be nice to see more

EDITORIAL

Contributions & feedback to

Jennie Paul

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members taking advantage of what the Guild has to offer.

Thanks to the district committees for keeping their districts going, it's not an easy job and they don't get paid!

We will discuss the possibility of having 3 or 4 newsletters next year to reduce the size of document people currently have to cope with. There are some exciting events planned for the Guild so get your diaries out and make a note of the dates!

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**Leicester Diocesan Guild
of Church Bell Ringers**

www.leicesterdg.org.uk

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there's so much on the LDG website – it'd be a shame to miss out!

NEWS BITES!

THE GUILD
NEWS

RECRUITMENT - Those of you who look at the website (www.leicesterdg.org.uk) regularly will know that the President is aiming to solve the problem of the lack of ringers single handedly (although rumour has it Chris and Kathy think it's a good idea!). Congratulations to Jennie and Andrew on the birth of Grace Elizabeth, born at home on Monday 28th May weighing in at 7lb 14oz



Grace, aged 2 weeks

GUILD DINNER - Put it in your diary now! Saturday February 2nd 2008 at the Holiday Inn, St Nicholas Circle, Leicester. Plenty of parking or book a room and stay over. Tickets will be £25 each and places can be booked now for a deposit of £5, payable to a member of your district committee. Organise a table from your tower or bring a table of friends / colleagues, use this as a recruitment opportunity!

SPONSORED PEAL - On Saturday 13th October, the Guild have been invited to ring a peal at Leicester Cathedral to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Cathedral. We are going to be doing this as a sponsored peal to raise money for BBC Radio Leicester's Ruby Rainbows Appeal. To celebrate their 40th Anniversary Radio Leicester are raising money for Rainbows, we will get plenty of publicity and can use this to bring ringing to the public eye and generally raise awareness. Sponsor forms will be sent out to districts nearer the time, please try and get as many sponsors as possible. If you prefer, ring a sponsored peal / quarter locally at the same time, the more ringing and the more sponsorship, the better!

SAPCOTE - The crane arrived, it's hydraulic jacks sunk into the slabs alongside the church hall (as if we did not know they would) and also sunk more severely into the public footpath (about a foot). The operator said it was not safe to raise the jib for fear of knocking off the top of the spire and killing the man in the cage. He packed up and went home. The church hall slabs were replaced and the footpath repaired. Sapcote are back to square one; well not quite. Hopefully the crane will return on 20th July to a suitably steel plated ground at the front of the church hall (except the sewer is on that side!) and attempt the job again. Ringing could recommence within three weeks of the 20th if all goes to plan. Watch this space!

HINCKLEY JOINT MEETING WITH RUGBY - Saturday 14th July. Plans are now well underway. Ringing in the afternoon followed by a barbeque. The barbeque will be at Harecroft farm, Sapcote, (by kind permission of Michael and Kathleen Brown). There will be a bar from 6-30 till 11-00pm. I have ordered a firkin of 'What the Foxe's Hat' from the Church End brewery. If it as good as the 'Vicar's Ruin' we had last Saturday for Lynettes birthday party it will be a good evening (just ask Neil). Tickets are limited to 60 so please get in touch with Chris Sansome if you want to come. Check out the website for more details.

GUILD CHAT LIST - The Guild Chat list is proving to be a useful tool in communicating things that are happening throughout the Guild and for general ringing chat, so why not join up? There are not too many messages so don't worry about having your inbox inundated and if a subject being discussed isn't relevant to you, its not difficult to just press the delete button and you never know you might learn something useful if you do join up. To sign up go to the website and click on email list on the homepage and follow the instructions, or contact the webmaster who will be able to sign you up: webmaster@leicesterdg.org.uk

risingringers DAY - Saturday 22nd September has been set aside for a day to get all young ringers in the Guild together for a bit of ringing and a lot of socialising. Put the date in your diary and mention it to all the young ringers you know – and the people that transport them! Helpers also required please. **See p4 for more!**

TALKING WITH THE TRUSTEE

Q&A WITH GARRY MASON: GUARDIAN OF THE GUILD!

THE GUILD OFFICERS

Name: Garry Mason

Home Tower: Leicester Cathedral

Where did you learn to ring: St Margaret's, Leicester

Why did you learn to ring: My brother Kingsley had learnt to ring and he took me along one night. It just appealed to me and it still does.

Who taught you to ring: Tom Bent, now sadly deceased. A very patient man and he needed to be! I also had a lot of help from Alan Cattell and Redvers Elkington as I progressed.

How long have you been ringing: Since 1958 and the years have flown by!

What are your bellringing ambitions: To see all towers in the diocese ringable and with ringers. As far as the former is concerned we are in a fairly healthy state.

What are you most proud of in your ringing career: Seeing the progress made by ringers whom I have assisted along the way.

What is your favourite method: On 6 Norwich Surprise, on 8 Double Norwich Court Bob Major, on 10 Grandsire Caters and Bristol Surprise on 12.

What is your favourite Guild event: I love the old fashioned meeting with a wholesome tea and the opportunity to reminisce with my old cronies.

What are your other hobbies: Sue and I are both members at Leics County Cricket Ground and the Tigers. We both love travelling, gardening and wildlife and I enjoy walking.

What is your favourite food: Pretty well anything but I particularly enjoy Indian, Thai and Malaysian food with the emphasis on fish.

What is your favourite drink: Draught Bass and green tea but never together.

What is your day job: Retired but always busy. One day I may wake up with nothing to do but I doubt it!

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EDUCATION

PUZZLED QUIZ TIME

This is 'sudoku' but with letters!

Fill in the grid, so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the letters E, D, U, C, A, T, I, O, N

Don't guess - Solve the puzzle with reason and logic and the letters will fill in!

risingringers

NEW GUILD GROUP: YOUNG RINGERS NEWS!

THE GUILD risingringers

The risingringers is a brand new idea to bring together young ringers from across the Guild and to have a good time!

I have only been ringing for a few months now, and am just getting to grips with the easier methods. But I would be nowhere near this stage if I had not attended the "Rising Ringers" meetings. The format of them is wonderful - experienced ringers demonstrate and offer advice to newcomers to bell ringing. It was extremely daunting for all involved on the first meeting in Shawell Church, Lutterworth on March 17th. Most of us hadn't met each other before, and yet no-one felt embarrassed by their ringing ability. People took it in turns to ring, under the guidance of experienced ringers, such as Tony Parker and Terry Iliffe, and for those not ringing, there was a quiz on handling a bell. By the end of the morning I, and I am sure that others too, felt a lot more confident about ringing, and also ringing in front of more advanced ringers, which is always a daunting experience.

The next time we all met again was at the Oadby Ringing Centre, surprisingly enough based in Oadby on April 13th. Yes, it was a Friday, but no-one from our group suffered as a consequence! The bells at Oadby, for those who don't know, are tied, so that you can make as many mistakes as you

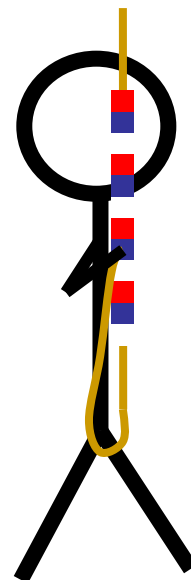
like, and not upset the local residents. The bells are attached to a simulator which provides the noise that you would normally hear. This was a very different experience, and once you got accustomed to it, really enjoyable. There was also a camera connected to a monitor in the ringing room, displaying what was going on in the belfry, which was a valuable experience and helped everyone to understand how a bell rang. Whilst Ed White added to the "Rising Ringers" ringing expertise in the ringing room, Andrew Young took another group downstairs to take part in a more light-hearted activity with bell plates, to make people visualise the orders that bells take in a method - confusing, but good fun - especially when it got faster and more complex!

The most recent "Rising Ringers" meet took place at the picturesque church of Kings Norton. To start the evening, the ringers first got to witness a Carillon in action, operated by Tony Parker, which was very interesting, and then after a further trek up the spiral staircase, we were given a first hand experience of watching how a bell rings. The tied bell was rung by Rob Parker whilst John Cook explained what was going on. After these wonderful demonstrations, the "Rising Ringers" finally got down to

business and started ringing. The main lesson was "Plain Hunt", as most of us were at that stage. These lessons were interspersed with the odd parent having a brief go at ringing. There was a large number of skilled ringers present, on hand to give help and advice to those who were in need. Amy, Roland and John Cook, The Parker family, The Iliffes and many more stood by those ringers who needed help and steered them in the right direction. Once an evening's ringing was over, those who wanted to went to the local pub, The Fox and Goose in Illston, for refreshments. It was a very good end to a very good evening. So I'm sure that I am not the only one who eagerly awaits the next "Rising Ringers" event. I would like to finish by thanking all of those involved in these events, because out of their own generosity and also their own time, have gone out of their way to help less able ringers to improve. I am sure that I am not the only one who can say that my ringing has definitely improved as a result!

If you have any young ringers at your tower or are a young ringer yourself, we want to hear from you! Please contact Tony Parker on (0116) 2596 221, John Cook on (0116) 2477 935 or email risingringers@leicesterddg.org.uk for more information!

Christian French, 16
Kibworth
Market Harborough District



GAMES GALORE

Val Baxter
Belton, Loughborough District

THE GUILD NEWS

On Saturday January 27th 2007 a fun evening was had by all; (ringers and non-ringers alike) at the Market Harborough District, Guild Social, held at St Wilfred's Church, Kibworth Beauchamp.

To start the evening off, there was ringing for those who could make it, and then it was into the church hall for the proceedings to begin.

Andrew Young gave an interesting and stimulating talk about the work of the 3Rs Committee, with slides and all the 3Rs equipment was there for us to see and try. A fish and chip supper was next on the agenda. Everyone was very hungry and waited in eager anticipation. We were not disappointed; good hot fish and chips arrived with plenty of salt and vinegar and cups of tea and coffee. Also a dish of chocolates! Next was the raffle with lots of good prizes, we had three winners on our table!

The tables and chairs were then all rearranged ready for the games to begin. Each

table had a different game; snakes and ladders, dominoes, ludo, card games and a fishing game, but all slightly different from the original, they all had a bell ringing theme. It was very exciting and great fun with everyone moving around the room like in a beetle drive. There were prizes given for the highest scores and the lowest score, which was me.....!

Thanks were given to Arthur Rees and the Market Harborough District team who had organised the evening and thought up the games and to everyone who had helped in anyway to making the evening such a success. Around 70 people showed their appreciation in the usual way.



DISTRICT NEWS LEICESTER

VROOM VROOM!

Some pictures from the Leicester District Car Outing on 14th April. Looks like a good time was had by all – especially Rebecca & Molly Pendery (right)!



CRUISE CONTROL

DISTRICT SOCIAL: BELL RINGERS TO BOATERS AT FOXTON

DISTRICT NEWS

LOUGHBOROUGH

Nicholas Parr
Loughborough
Loughborough District

I recently joined the District Committee. This was too easy! However, what isn't easy is carrying out the task of organising the calendar!

Thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of the committee and those who were called upon to help, we had a very enjoyable and successful event at Foxton. We were looking for something a little different to combine a bit of ringing and other activities to appeal to non-ringers and family members.

We started by spending an hour at the Gillett & Johnson ring. The party then regrouped with the under 8's and over 80's joining us at the museum near the old inclined plain and flight of locks. Access and facilities have been greatly improved recently. We had a short tour of the inclined plain with an enthusiastic guide explaining the history and current plans to reinstall the counterbalanced boat lift. The museum was available for us



to peruse and purchase a few items. The working models captured the interest of all age groups. We had plenty of time to see the locks in operation and it was well noted that one boat was called "Mine's a pint."

After a picnic and a pint or two, we boarded a boat used for pleasure trips and headed towards Market Harborough on the canal. Again, there was

plenty of time to chat and consume some more refreshments. The Captain turned the boat around and we headed back past the swingbridge for vehicles we navigated earlier. We arrived back at the bottom lock to complete our event. Although there was a little rain, it didn't spoil the afternoon.

PUDDING PARTY!

Saturday 21 July - 6 West End Long Clawson from 3pm - park by the Church
Please bring a Pudding (Trifle, Crumble, Pavlova, Cheesecake etc) and a drink if you want anything stronger than tea or coffee! Price: £3 with all profits to BRF. Names to John/Hazel Adcock on 01664 823035 below by Wed 18 July! See more on website!



QUARTER PEALS

Coleorton, SMV, Leicestershire
Sunday 31st Dec 2006 in 44 mins (12-3-25)
1344 Braunstone Surprise Major

1. Colin Lord
2. Anita Allsopp
3. Terence Lord
4. Mary Hale
5. Mike Tunnicliff
6. Mick Allsopp
7. Stuart Hale
8. Michael Davidson (C)

Rung to celebrate the 91st birthday of Mrs Edith Lord (mother of treble and third ringers). Also for the birthday of the sixth ringer and to mark the end of 2006.

Branston, St Guthlac, Leicestershire
Sunday 18th Mar 2007 in 23 mins
(7-1-14) 1440 Spliced Surprise Minor
(Alnwick, Carlisle, Chester, Munden, Newcastle, Northumberland, Sandiacre, Canterbury, Morpeth, Whitley, Wooler, Cambridge, Surfleet, Hexham, Beverley, Norfolk, Primrose, Hull, Berwick, Bourne, Ipswich, Durham, York) Composed by P. A. B. Saddleton

1. Hazel Adcock
2. John Faircloth
3. Mary Faircloth
4. Philip Shipman
5. Mark Boylan (C)
6. John Adcock

Rung by residents of the Melton District

Coleorton, SMV, Leicestershire
Sunday 27th May 2007 in 44 mins (12-3-25)
1344 Yorkshire Surprise Major

1. Michael Davidson (C)
2. Anita Allsopp
3. Colin Lord
4. Mary Hale
5. Mike Tunnicliff
6. Mick Allsopp
7. Terence Lord
8. Stuart Hale

Rung to mark a significant birthday for Terence.

BRAVO!

Congratulations to all the ringers and towers whose special quarters and peals are included on this and the next page! Well done to you all!

THE GUILD
TOWERS



Loughborough, All Saints, Leicestershire.
Sunday 3rd June 2007 in 50 mins (9-3-3)
1260 Doubles (4m, 1p). 300 Stedman,
240 each Grandsire, Plain Bob, St Simon's and St
Martin's.

1. Frances M Marshall
2. Brenda Parr
3. Rowan P Wilson
4. Dave W Clarke
5. Nicholas J Parr (C)
6. Les Elphee

Rung to celebrate the birth of Grace Elizabeth on 28th May 2007, daughter to Jennie Paul and Andrew Higson. First Quarter 6.

Ashby de la Zouch, St Helen, Leicestershire.
Sunday 24th June 2007 in 47 mins (21-2-24)
1260 Stedman Triples.

1. Mary Hale
2. Terence Lord
3. Colin Lord
4. Mike Tunnicliff
5. Stuart Hale
6. Peter Marriott
7. Michael Davidson (C)
8. Steve Rowley

The first quarter peal since the restoration of the bells.

PEALS

Claybrooke, St Peter, Leicestershire
Saturday 13th Jan 2007 in 3hrs 05 (13-3-7)
5184 Spliced Surprise Major (4m: 1664 Bristol; 1216
Belfast; 1152 each Galsgos, London; 92com, atw)
Comp: Glenn A A Taylor

1. Jill Belcher
2. John R Fisher
3. Richard J Angrave (c)
4. Anthony Rowan
5. Michael Angrave
6. Thomas W Griffiths
7. Terry M Astill
8. Mark A Boylan

First peal in these 4 methods; 4, 5.

Rugby, 76 Ashlawn Rd, Warks.
Weds 17th Jan 2007 in 2hrs 30 (14)
5040 Stedman Caters
Comp: W R Haynes
1-2 Thomas W Griffiths
3-4 Roland H Cook
5-6 William R Haynes (C)
7-8 Richard J Angrave
9-10 John R Fisher
Birthday compliment to Andrea Haynes.
First Stedman in hand: 7-8. First Stedman on an
inside pair: 1-2.

South Wigston, St Thomas, Leicestershire.

Saturday 27th Jan 2007 in 2hrs 45 (14-1-19)

5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Comp: Richard J Angrave

1. Winifred M Warwick
2. Carol I V Brown
3. Jill Belcher
4. Alison M Harvey
5. Christopher T Sansome
6. Ian N Robinson
7. Neil W Harvey
8. Michael Angrave (C)

Ring during Gift Day for the 114th anniversary of the dedication of this church – February 2nd 1893.

South Wigston, St Thomas, Leicestershire

Saturday 24th Feb 2007 in 2hrs 42 (14-1-19)

5040 Stedman Triples

Comp: F H Dexter (No 2)

1. Winifred M Warwick
2. Carol I V Brown
3. Felicity S Warwick
4. Richard J Angrave
5. Andrew F Alldrick
6. Michael Angrave
7. David A Warwick (C)
8. Anthony Mann

Ring in memory of Brian G Warwick following Requiem Mas at St Hugh's, Eyres Monsel by members of the family and friends.

Leicester, St Margaret & All Saints, Leics.

Sunday 1st April 2007 in 3hrs 01 (15-3-27)

5040 Yorkshire Surprise Royal

Comp: James Clatworthy

1. James R Packer
2. Gail L Wade
3. Nicola D Mason
4. Anthony J Rowan
5. John R Cook
6. D Paul Mason
7. Michael Angrave (C)
8. Terry M Astill
9. Christopher M Rudge
10. Mark A Boylan

Rung in affectionate memory of Nick D'a Laffoley on the tenth anniversary of his death. Nick donated the treble to this light ten in memory of his father. Also in memory of Lindsay Ann Hawker who tragically died in Japan, related to Tony Rowan.

Loughborough, Bellfoundry, Leics

Monday 12th March 2007 in 2hrs 28 (6)

5040 Naylestone S Royal

Comp: B D Constant

1. Winifred M Warwick
2. Patricia A M Halls (C)
3. Canon David H Sansum
4. Rev Reginald J Stretton
5. Carol I V Brown
6. Francis W Fisher
7. Harry Poyner
8. Raymond H Daw
9. Philip J H Hudson
10. Anthony R Mann

1st in method for all except 1 and 9. 400th peal 5.

Claybrooke, St Peter, Leicestershire

Saturday 28th April 2007 in 2hrs 58 (13-3-7)

5122 Bristol Surprise Major

Comp: Richard J Angrave

1. Michael Angrave (C)
2. Jill Belcher
3. Elizabeth M Griffiths
4. John R Cook
5. Steven J Harvey
6. Neil W Harvey
7. Terry M Astill
8. Mark A Boylan

Get well wishes to Margaret Butterfield, home now from a short spell in hospital. Birthday compliments to Terry Astill (30/04/07)

Orton on the Hill, St Edith, Leics.

Saturday 5th May 2007 in 2hrs 30 (8)

5040 Doubles

14 extents each of Plain Bob, St Simon's and St Martin's.

1. Graham P Titley
2. Christopher T Sansome
3. Neil W Harvey
4. Terry M Astill
5. Michael Angrave (C)

Rung for the Festival Weekend. First peal on the five. First peal at first attempt 1. First peal of doubles as conductor. First peal of doubles 2.

Sutton Cheney, St James the Greater, Leics.

Saturday 12th May 2007 in 2hrs 27 (6-0-27)

5040 Seven Surprise Minor

One extent each London, wells, Durham, York, Beverley, Surfleet and Cambridge.

1. Christopher T Sansome
2. Jill Belcher
3. Alison M Harvey
4. Terry M Astill
5. Anthony J Rowan
6. Michael Angrave (C)

First peal on the augmented bells. Believed to be the first peal rung by all members of the Hinckley District Committee.

KINGS ON TOUR!

KINGS NORTON MAY DAY TRIP: ALL BOXED UP



Coming from a ringing family I have been on lots of these outings, but I don't remember much about the first one, as I was only 4 weeks old!

This year we went to Herefordshire and were based in Leominster. Although most people went on Friday evening, we travelled down on the Saturday morning.

After a tasty bacon cob for breakfast in Bromyard, we met the other ringers at the first tower on a sunny morning at Bodenham. The others rang their special method of Bodenham Alliance Minor while I concentrated on Plain Hunt and Bob Doubles. There was more ringing at Canon Pyon and then at Burghill, the first 8 bell tower. Tony had arranged a brilliant lunch at Burghill Golf Club, but some ringers got lost on the short trip from the tower, including Tony!

In the afternoon, I was in charge of the navigating in our car and we successfully found our way to Holmer, an interesting detached tower,

Lugwardine, and Sutton St. Nicholas. The last was something new for me. It is an anticlockwise ring. It was alright when we were ringing methods but you had to remember which way to look when you got back to rounds! It was good fun ringing on lots of different bells and some were easier than others.

After a long day, we finally arrived at the hotel in Leominster. All the ringers had an evening meal together where Ed taught me a trick with a glass of water, which my Mum was not impressed with!

On Sunday morning I had my first ring on ten bells before the service in Leominster. A mixture of our ringers and the local band rang some Grandsire Caters. After ringing for another service at Kingsland, we had the rest of the day to ourselves. My Mum, Dad, brother and me had decided to go to the Black Mountains. We climbed a 2260ft high mountain called Lord Hereford's Knob! This is

Dan Iliffe, 12
Kibworth

Market Harborough District

easier than it seems as the road climbs to about 1780ft to start with. It was a fine day so there were good views from the top.

There were some heavy showers on Monday morning but nobody seemed to mind as we visited two 6 bell towers at Kimbolton and Bredenbury.

The last tower of the weekend was the 8 at Bromyard, where I managed to get in some Plain Hunt. Afterwards Roland, who knows about these things, suggested a pub but it wasn't open, but we managed to find one where the lady said she could cope with feeding lunch to a group of hungry ringers.

As usual we all had lots of good fun on the weekend. Thanks to Tony who organised the trip, even finding towers where there were enough boxes for me to stand on! We're all looking forward to the next one.

NO SLACKING!

John Chantry
Belton, Loughborough District

3Rs COMMITTEE: NEW WORKSHOP BIG SUCCESS

On the 17th March a small group of people, of which I was one, attended a 3R's workshop for those wishing to attract and retain ringers.

It was organised by the 3R's Committee and run by Jennie Paul at St Michael's Church Markfield. Right from the start it was clear that we were not going to be lectured at! It was to be a workshop and we were going to be doing the work!

Acting as facilitator, Jennie led and cajoled us through all the relevant issues, ranging from how to contact and interest potential new ringers to how to ensure that they become happy and confident members of the tower band, covering child protection, safety, teaching techniques and many other topics on the way. There was also an interesting demonstration of closed circuit TV showing how action in the ringing room translates into movement of the bell.

Progress through the topics was by open discussion, and everyone clearly felt comfortable in expressing their views and describing their experiences.



Jennie leading from the front at Markfield Church

Everyone benefited from sharing ideas within the group, and the resulting stimulation of interest was clearly apparent.

During the session we were each presented with a 'Recruitment Pack' containing sample documents such as consent forms, press releases, appeals for new ringers, and also some very useful and comprehensive-looking stuff on teaching. The fact that much of this pre-prepared material matched closely the items raised during the discussions is a testament to the solid thinking

which must have been done by the 3R's Committee beforehand.

The whole session took an afternoon, with two refreshment breaks. It was paced just about right from my point of view. All in all it was an afternoon well-spent, stimulating and informative.

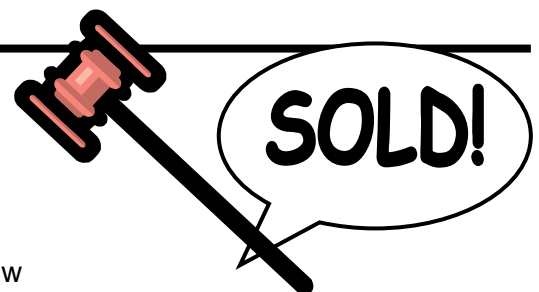
I feel sure that anyone looking to increase the numbers in their band would do well to get a place on one of these workshops. (Contact Jennie Paul, see cover!)

LEAP TO HOBY

This year's Guild AGM takes place on Saturday 27 October and will be in the Melton District, centered on Hoby - Look out for more details later!

The basic format has not changed but there is to be an extra ingredient in the shape of a

Leapfrog Auction. Those of you who were at Queniborough a few years ago when the previous one was held will know what fun this can be. Anyone who wasn't and would like details of how to get involved should contact a member of the BRF Committee or call John Adcock on 01664 823035.



Please support this event by donating saleable items (no second hand clothing please) & coming along on the day to join in the bargains, fun and fundraising.

IMPORTANT NOTICE



The Guidelines from the Central Council of Church Bellringers have been altered slightly to reflect the changes the Government has made to make Data Protection more user friendly.

It seems that only tower correspondents need to sign a

form to allow their contact details to be used, it is not necessary to sign a form if it is only your name that appears.

The General Committee will be discussing this at their next meeting in September and deciding how we will implement it.

Tower correspondents need to be members of the tower who are willing to have their contact details in the annual report, please remember this when electing positions at your tower annual meetings. After all the idea of a correspondent is that they can be corresponded with!

WE HAVE OUR BELLS BACK!

ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH: AUGMENTED & RESTORED

Work started on our historic bells on 9th January.

Before work began, however, it was important to create some ringing 'milestones'. At the end of December there were two special events: the Quarter Peal on 30th December was rung by a local band; the Peal (over 3 hours of continuous ringing!) on 29th December was rung by the Cambridge University Guild, invited by our Tower Captain, Michael Davidson, who also took part in the peal. Although the Peal Boards hanging in the Tower list several peals on the bells of St Helen's there have been none in recent years - the last being in 1996 - due to the increasing difficulty of handling our bells.

The workforce started bright and early on Monday morning. Hard physical labour was the order of the day, though slightly aided by an electric chain hoist for lowering the bells and

dismantled frame through the two trap doors (between bell chamber and clock chamber and between clock chamber and ground floor ringing chamber). By Wednesday evening, all eight bells were down on the ground floor. On Friday morning, a lorry arrived, complete with heavy lifting gear, to take the bells away to the Bell Foundry in Loughborough. Even getting the bells out of the Tower door was no mean feat - requiring heavy lifting and careful manoeuvring! All eight bells were eventually, however, taken down to the lorry by trolley, along with six large sections of the long oak beams from the bell frame.

On 30th March and 6th April 2006, many people from St Helen's made the short journey to John Taylor's Bell Foundry in Loughborough to witness the casting of our new bells - our two new trebles on 30th March and our tenor on 6th.

Julie Starky
Ashby de la Zouch
Loughborough District

Quite a crowd was gathered at St Helen's at 2 pm on Friday 22nd December 2006 as Andrew Mills rang the bells up one by one. We took our places at around 2.15 to ring our new ten for the first time - and what an amazing sound they made as they rang out over the town! Many people wandered into the churchyard, attracted - and delighted - by the sound. There's still some work to be done, but we have our bells back!!

As well as our usual Wednesday evening practice, our Tower Captain, Michael Davidson, has introduced a new ten-bell practice on the first Tuesday of every month. We ring all sorts - from simple rounds through to ten bell methods - and all are welcome.

NEW ONLINE CALENDAR! visit www.leicesterdg.org.uk

JULY

Thu 12	Tilton	Syston
Sat 14	Joint meeting with Rugby with BBQ Claybrooke, Frolesworth, Stoney Stanton	Hinckley
Sat 21	Billesdon (Tea), Skeffington or Tilton	Harborough
Sat 21	COUNTRY PUDDING PARTY! July Social – walk, hunt, ring, eat, enjoy! - see page 6	

AUGUST

Sat 4	Wistow: 3pm, Picnic Tea, Countesthorpe	Leicester
Mon 13	Out of district meeting - Wolston	Hinckley
Sat 18	Saltby: 7pm - 9pm	Melton
Sat 18	Stanford, Picnic Tea, Shawell	Harborough
Tue 21	Belton: 7:30pm	Loughborough

SEPTEMBER

Fri 7	St Margarets: 7:30pm	Leicester
Sat 8	Striking Comp - Kirkby Mallory (T), Sutton Cheney	Hinckley
Sat 8	Training morning	Loughborough
Fri 14	Striking Competition - Husbands Bosworth	Harborough
Fri 14	Syston	Syston
Sat 15	Gaddesby: 7pm – 9pm	Melton

OCTOBER

Mon 1	Thrussington	Syston
Sat 6	Evington: 11am	Leicester
Sat 6	Social event	Loughborough
Sat 13	Desford (Tea), Barwell	Hinckley
Thu 18	Packington: 7:30pm	Loughborough
Sat 20	Lubenham (Tea), Foxton	Harborough
Sat 27	AGM & LEAP-FROG AUCTION AGM with a little bit more! - see page 10	

NOVEMBER

Nov 6	Belgrave: 7:30pm	Leicester
Nov 8	Birstall	Syston
Nov 10	Stoke Golding (Tea), Higham on the Hill	Hinckley
Nov 10	AGM - Ashby de la Zouch	Loughborough
Nov 17	AGM - Illston on the Hill (Tea), Kings Norton	Harborough

DECEMBER

Sat 1	AGM – Wigston Magna: 3pm	Leicester
Sat 1	AGM - Quorn	Syston

Events listings from Guild Report 2006/Online Calendar

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THE LDG CALENDAR HAS HAD A RE-VAMP!

Take a look: www.leicesterdg.org.uk