

ldg NEWS

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FESTIVAL TIME

Another busy few months for the Guild with the Dinner in February, trip to Worcester in March and the half yearly meeting in April.

This edition of the newsletter is slightly later than planned due to illness but hopefully you will find it as informative as ever! Please make a note in your diaries of the *Ringling Festival*, we are aiming to

EDITORIAL

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have a mini Ringing Roadshow with speakers, help for learners, DVD's, refreshments, stalls and obviously some ringing! Please come along to it and encourage

all your ringers to come too, the more people that come the better the afternoon will be.

There will also be an opportunity to order your new Guild polo shirts so bring your purses with you. Good luck to all our Guild members who are in the middle of exam season at the moment, I hope it doesn't interfere with your ringing too much!

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**Leicester Diocesan Guild
of Church Bell Ringers**

ldg FESTIVAL 2009

Sat 11th, 2pm - Ashby de la Zouch

More information on back page – don't miss this brilliant new Guild event!

Be there!

LDG POLO SHIRTS

Only £13!
See more and
how to order
on page 6



PLAIN BOB MAX!

DISTRICT NEWS
LEICESTER

NEW TRIAL MEETING: NO MORE THAN PLAIN BOB SUCCESS

Dave Carling
District Ringing Master

At the Leicester District AGM last year, while discussing the calendar, it was remarked that everyone in the room could ring Surprise Major. This confirmed what a number of people have been concerned about for a while: that we as a District are not engaging with our less experienced members. Although at District meetings the Ringing Masters try to ensure that everyone present, whatever their experience, has an equal opportunity to ring, we believe there may be ringers in the District who are put off from attending District Meetings by the range of methods that can be rung. We therefore instigated a 'Not more than Plain Bob' meeting, to be held on a Saturday morning in February.

Efforts were then made to promote the event throughout the District. All of this looked to have been derailed by the snow, however a

number of our less experienced ringers did take the opportunity to sample the bells of Countesthorpe and plenty of rounds, call changes and Plain Bob were rung. Not being quite sure how many ringers might turn up we did have a number of supporting activities lined up, but they were not required on this occasion. We even made it to the Baker's Arms in Blaby for a spot of lunch.

As the report below confirms, the feedback from the morning was positive. For future events we hope other less experienced ringers from the Leicester district will take the plunge and come along.

Alan Whitmee
Learner

I and a fellow learner (John Day) from St Phillip and St James church at Ratby attended the 'Not more than Plain Bob' event that took place at St Andrew's church on Station Road in Countesthorpe

on Saturday 7 February 2009. We found the morning to be very beneficial for our learning process. The group of proficient ringers, from St Andrew's and other churches, had given up their valuable time to instruct us and made us feel very welcome. We (naturally) were guided by an experienced ringer. During our time with them we didn't feel intimidated (we had thought we might), which can sometimes happen when visiting a different tower.

We hope more of this type of learners' course will take place and that other learners are given the same excellent welcome and instruction as ourselves. We will definitely be going to the next one!

We would just like to take this opportunity to say a very big "thank you" to all those involved and we look forward to the next learners' course. We hope it will be sooner rather than later, as we learners need as much help as we can get!

JOHN HUNT HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

Gwenyth M. Tyler

John died towards the end of May, aged 88. Before Service in the R.A.F. in WW", John was a member of the Midland Counties Association. Once back the 'Civie Street' he joined the Leicester Diocesan Guild.

John rang at many towers during his long life, but his loyalty was to St Dionysuis, Market Harborough. It was at this church that John's funeral service was held on June 4th. The large congregation contained more than a few ringers.

General ringing took place before and after the service, and several quarter peals have been rung. Full details of these and an obituary will appear, in due course, in the Ringing Word.

WORCESTER SUPER CENTRE



COMMITTEES 3Rs NEWS

Jennie Higson
3Rs Chair

On Saturday 28th March a group of Guild members from the Education and 3Rs Committee's went to Worcester Cathedral to have a look and a try out of the Teaching Centre.

It is a state of the art facility housed below the main ringing chamber, with 8 dumb bells that can be rung individually or as a set.

Two of the bells have hydraulic mechanisms on them to make them more difficult to ring, which is necessary when your next step is the heavy and difficult going Taylor 12 upstairs!

Each dumb bell has a computer and a pair of headphones so you

can ring what you like and make lots of mistakes without anyone else hearing you. The bells also have 'stays' which take about 30 seconds to reset once they are broken.

The centre gives learners the opportunity for lots of rope time rather than a few minutes here and there during practice, they can be ringing almost constantly while the main practice goes on upstairs.

The teaching philosophy at the Ringing Centre is very different to our traditional view of teaching people to ring and Mark Regan, the instigator of the Teaching Centre will be giving a talk at our Guild Ringing Festival on July 11th

at Ashby de la Zouch. Please come along and hear how they do it at Worcester and get some ideas for the future of ringing in our Guild.

The facility at Worcester is open to anyone and our Rising Ringers have visited during May half term (see below). To organise your own trip just contact the cathedral ringers, this can be done through the Worcester Cathedral Website.

I would encourage everyone to go and have a look, it is a real eye opener, especially going up to see the bells and the view from the top of the tower!

RISING RINGERS AT CENTRE

On Thursday 28th May 2009 the Leicester Guild rising ringers visited Worcester to use the state of the art Worcester Cathedral ringing centre.

This consists of 8 dumb bells, linked to laptop computers for individual or group ringing, headphones for each ringer, Plasma screen, belfry webcams and a video camera to record ringing and correct handling style.

10 rising ringers representing Market Harborough, Kibworth, Thurnby, Oaks in Charnwood, Wigston Magna and Kirby Muxloe spent 3 hours at the ringing centre which included a tour of the main ringing room, bells and roof. A buffet lunch was taken at a local public house followed by afternoon ringing at St. Swithun's and 10 pin bowling concluded the day.

Let's see what they thought...

Kathryn Holyland, 13

The simulator bells felt and handled the same as normal bells and had stays that could be fixed easily if they got broken. The laptop and headphones meant that you could practice on your own or as a group. If you rang on your own you had to listen as you could not use rope sight to help you. Even the more experienced ringers found this a little challenging! Towards the end of

Mark Pendery
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the session we rang as a group. We started on the eight bells and then the computer added more. Somehow it didn't quite work. We got to see the real bells and ringing room, and the amazing view from the tower roof. After a fantastic lunch we rang at St Swithun's and then went bowling. The outing was enjoyed by everyone and we are looking forward to the next time.

Simon Brown, 9

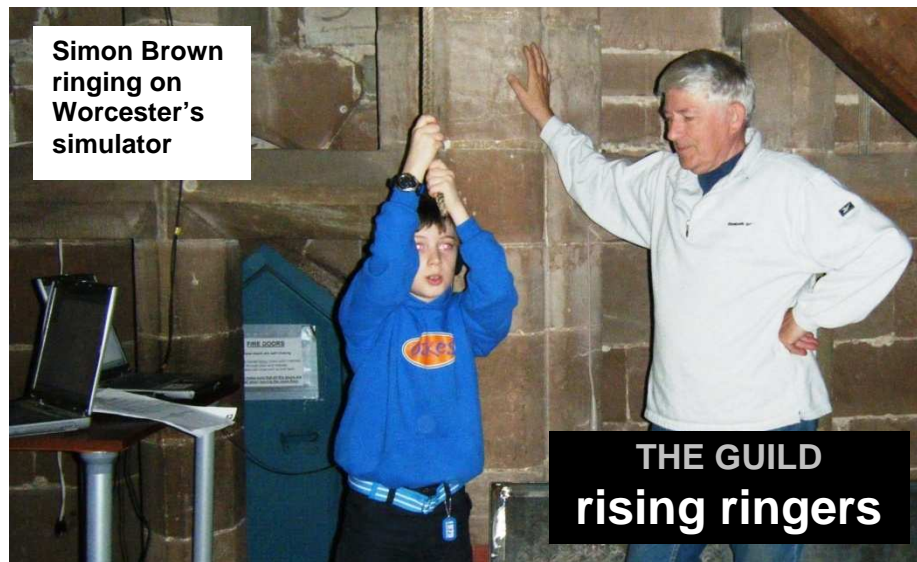
When we arrived in Worcester we firstly went and rang on the simulators at the cathedral. Then we had a tour upon the top of the cathedral. After that, we had lunch at the King's Head which was only down the road. Immediately after that, we went and rang at Saint Swithun's. The bells at Saint Swithun's were very old and very hard to pull off.

Straight after the ringing we went back to the car. Me and my elder brother followed someone else by mistake, but when we found out we ran back to the car as fast as we could. But then Mummy and Daddy, and some of the others, couldn't find the bowling alley. Eventually we found the bowling alley and we had lots of fun.

Mummy, Daddy and my brothers Edward (11) and Christopher (8) all came with me. They all had a go on the simulators at Worcester too.

My favourite part of the rising ringers was when we went bowling of course! But when it comes to ringing, my favourite part was when we got to ring on the simulators in Worcester Cathedral. But another of my favourites was when we had a tour up to the top of the cathedral tower. All the way up is 235 steps and I climbed all of them! The top is very high up and you can even see the Welsh hills.

It was fantastic. When can we go again?



Rebecca Pendery, 9

Today we went to Worcester Cathedral! I had a go at the ringing centre. I had a go at ringing rounds. I had a go at being 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 6th! Then we had some lunch at the King's Head. We had some lovely chunky chips! Also I had sandwiches, sausage roll, crisps and ribs. Next we went to St. Swithun's church which were slightly harder to ring, but were quite old. Then we did the exiting bit. We went 10 pin bowling!!! My sister won the first game and I won the second!!!

Mark Pendery, 37

7 people piled into the car and set off for Worcester at 7.45am. I was quite nervous as I had committed 30 people to attend Worcester for a day that was a bit different from the usual ringing outing. Would everyone turn up? Would we be met? Would the pub remember we were coming? Would the food be any good? Would the timings work? Would the children enjoy it??? Would the adults enjoy it??

I opened the day at Worcester Cathedral and then quickly handed over to the local expert Mark Regan. The first stay went within the first minute of ringing – great, but not a problem here as the stays aren't really stays and can be fixed in seconds – at least it wasn't me this time!!!

Lunch went down well, and the second tower of the day was a success, no stays broken here.

Just the bowling left now. I was exhausted, too many Cathedral steps! Right concentrate, you can't lose at bowling the children will never let you forget it. Guess what? I did and they haven't!

I think it has been a great day and one that we must do again. Could we do any other activities? Would this boost the number of learners? How do we spread the word about this great facility? When should we go back?

I don't need to say anymore apart from significant ringing progress was made. We even managed to teach a new ringer who had not previously handled a bell. All the children were fantastic to be with, you were a credit to yourselves, your tower and the LDG well done and thank you. Obviously the next trip will be called the 'rising bowlers'!!

If you think this type of trip would benefit your tower or local ringing community please get in touch and I will help you arrange. Watch the guild web site for further rising ringers events or send me your contact details to be included in the email distribution list.

GUILD DINNER 2009

A VERY SUCCESSFUL EVENT: GOOD FOOD & GOOD FUN

Rob Parker
Kings Norton, Harborough Dist

THE GUILD NEWS

On February 28th, about 66 ringers, friends and family came together at Birstall Golf Club for the Leicester Diocesan Guild Dinner 2009.

The venue was brilliant, with a superb room, well decorated and lit, with comfortable chairs, a welcoming atmosphere and well presented tables – each featuring a hand written place name. The ringers themselves had also managed to get out of their rugby shirts and jeans, and looked surprisingly smart and presentable in an array of suits and dresses!

The food was served promptly and was a delicious meal. Certainly everyone on our table very much enjoyed whichever of the selection they had chosen, and all were presented with an attractive, plentiful and tasty 3 course meal.

The evening passed far too quickly, with friendly chat and occasional interjections from compere for the evening, Mick Angrave. Quickly, it got on to our entertainment for the evening. A smooth performance was given by a team of Guild handbell ringers (although it was noted that the ending had a little blip, but only audible to those especially skilled) followed by some tune ringing performed by Loughborough's Sabbath Sounds. Both performances were very good, and much enjoyed.

This was followed by the speeches, which were definitely not the night's dull point! President Jennie Higson started, with a personal look at what made our Guild so great. Moving round the carefully named tables, Jennie reminded us all of the bells, ringers, committees and districts that make up the Guild and looked forward to the upcoming Guild Festival on the 11th July.

Jennie then handed over to our Guest Speaker, Steve Coleman – known to many as the 'ringing author'. Steve presented a very funny and interesting talk, beginning with various errors picked out from our Guild website and then other items from other Guilds and Associations along with various experiences through his life. Everyone there thoroughly enjoyed the talk and Steve managed get the whole room laughing.

The evening as a whole flowed extremely well, and in a nice venue, with good food and great company the evening was a really enjoyable night. Thanks are due to everyone who was involved in organising it and to Steve and his wife for coming to be with us for the evening.

A brilliant night and I look forward to going again next year!



'ESSENTIAL RINGING WEAR'!

THE GUILD CLOTHING

The shirts are now available to order for £13.00 each in Navy Blue, Bottle Green, Sky Blue and Heather and are available in a variety of sizes (with actual underarm measurements): Small: 40", Medium: 42", Large: 45", Xtra Large: 48". The shirts are also available in standard ladies and children's sizes.

You will of course now be asking "**How do I get my hands on one of these super shirts?**" - The answer is of course that you can get them through you friendly district secretary or the guild secretary, Carol Franklin.

Cash with order please and cheques should be made payable to C Franklin and orders returned to... 58 Park View, Sharnford, Hinckley, LE10 3PT. **All proceeds to the Bell Restoration Fund, so its helping out towers in need too!** For more information, please contact Carol via secretary@leicesterdg.org.uk



STRIKINGLY GOOD

THE GUILD NEWS

The half yearly took place on a warm, sunny April afternoon. During the afternoon four teams competed for the annual 8-bell Guild striking competition for the Taylor Trophy. The Churchyard judges were able to sit/stand and enjoy cups of tea provided by the locals and listen to the four test pieces of well struck Grandsire Triples. Punters were also able to join in the sweep-stake to guess the number of faults incurred by the winning team.

The Saxilby Simulator was set up for those who wanted some additional method practice before their test piece. The very enthusiastic were able to ring at Kibworth Norton.

A short service followed in Kibworth Church led by Rev'd Pike. Everyone was able to join with the readings and Prayers

Team A	6m40sec	31 faults	3 rd	Loughborough
Team B	7m5sec	37 faults	4 th	Harborough
Team C	6m30sec	22 faults	1 st	Hinckley
Team D	7m5sec	27 faults	2 nd	Leicester

which were led by members of the Guild. An excellent sandwich tea, prepared by the Harborough District ladies, followed.

In the absence of the President, John Adcock took the Chair for the short business meeting and thanked everyone for their efforts in making the day a success. He introduced the Judge, Graham Haywood, who gave the results.

The shield was presented to the conductor of the Hinckley team – Terry Astill. The short business meeting followed. This meeting adopted the accounts for 2008; reports were given on the work of the General Committee and the

other committees. A list of forty new members was read. Unfortunately no-one was present to collect their certificates. A few notices were given and the 100CLUB and raffle were drawn. The lucky winners have already been notified.

After a short break to re-arrange the room a general knowledge quiz followed. The questions were set by Arthur Rees and his decision on interpretation of the answers was final. Thanks were given to Arthur for leading the entertainment and prizes presented to the winning team.

PEALS & QUARTERS NOTEABLE SUCCESSES AROUND OUR GUILD

Sapcote, Leics - All Saints

Sunday, 3 May 2009 in 38m, 1272 York Surprise Minor

- 1 D H G Hawkins
- 2 Alison M Harvey
- 3 Jill Belcher
- 4 Jennifer A Harvey
- 5 C T Sansome
- 6 A J Rowan (C)

Rung for evening service. 3 1st in method. Rung to celebrate the 47th Wedding anniversary of Ken and Jill Belcher.

Burbage, Leicestershire - St. Catherine

Monday, 13 April 2009 in 3hrs6 (14 cwt), 5040 Plain Bob Triples. Composed by: Clatworthy

- 1 Sheila Lockett
- 2 David Manship
- 3 Anthony J Rowan
- 4 Stephen E Rowley
- 5 Robert Biggs
- 6 Stephen Aldridge
- 7 Martin Mellor (c)
- 8 Tom Duguid

First peal 1 and 8. First in method for all. First as conductor 7. Rung, except one person, by an all Burbage band. 50th peal at the tower. Celebrating 800th anniversary of the foundation of Burbage Church. Rung in memory of Martin's mother, Jean Mellor, who recently passed away.

Kirkby Mallory, Leicestershire - All Saints

Wednesday, 29 April 2009 in 2h 24m (7-3-0), 5040 Surprise Minor. 1 extent each; London, Wells, Norwich, York, Beverley, Surfleet & Cambridge

- 1 Graham R Hayward
- 2 Alison M Harvey
- 3 Jennifer A Harvey
- 4 Andrew F Alldrick
- 5 Michael Chester
- 6 Michael Angrave (C)

To celebrate 100 years of Scouting in the Hinckley District with over 50 years camping at the local site at Fox Coverts, Kirkby Mallory.

Leicester - Collegiate Church of St Mary de Castro

Saturday, 28 March 2009 in 3hr 7m (16), 5067 Stedman Caters. Composed by: John Pladdys

- 1 Rosemary Mason
- 2 John Pladdys (c)
- 3 Nicki Mason
- 4 Rupert A. Clarke
- 5 Richard H. Hopper
- 6 Martyn J. Marriott
- 7 Christopher M. Rudge
- 8 Peter L. R. Hayward
- 9 R. Kingsley Mason
- 10 Simon E. Adams

First peal on the ten (501st in the tower). First peal on ten 1. A 58th wedding anniversary compliment to Peter and Jill Staniforth (26.3.2009)

Knighton, Leics - St Mary Magdelene

Sunday, 22 March 2009 in 45 mins (10 Cwt), 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Beverley Jarrom
- 2 Heather Morris
- 3 Helen M Roberts
- 4 Emily Tamhne
- 5 Anthony Haywood (C)
- 6 Adri Cook

Rung primarily because Adri is 80 today! Also for Mothering Sunday and Morning Service

Coleorton, Leicestershire - St Mary the Virgin

Sunday, 8 February 2009 (12.3.25), 1344 Somerset Surprise Major

- 1 Peter Rose
- 2 Terence Lord
- 3 Mary Hale
- 4 Richard Clifton
- 5 Nicholas Parr
- 6 Stuart Hale
- 7 Colin Lord (C)
- 8 Michael Davidson

A Golden Wedding compliment to Janet and David Stevenson. Also a belated birthday treat for Mary

Coleorton, Leicestershire - St Mary the Virgin

Thursday, 5 March 2009 in 46 minutes (12-3-25), 1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Martin Welch
- 2 Michael Davidson
- 3 Jonathan Moore
- 4 Mary Hale
- 5 Mike Tunnicliffe
- 6 Stuart Hale
- 7 Colin Lord (C)
- 8 Terry Gooch

In fond memory of Brian Hoden, former ringer at Coleorton and Hugglescote, and Brian Robinson of Whitwick.

South Wigston, Leicestershire - St Thomas

Saturday, 31 January 2009 in 2h 47m (14-1-19), 5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Composed by: Mark B Davies

- 1 Carol I V Brown
- 2 Michael Angrave (C)
- 3 Alison M Harvey
- 4 Francis W Fisher
- 5 Pamela J Fisher
- 6 Ian D Thompson
- 7 Neil W Harvey
- 8 Andrew F Alldrick

Circled the tower to peals 2. Rung during Gift Day for the 116th anniversary of the dedication of the church.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...



More information always available on www.leicesterdg.org.uk

JUNE

Sat 13th	Hinckley	A Trip Down the Fosse - District Outing.
Sat 13th	Loughborough	Mini-outing to the Melton area
Sat 20th	Harborough	District Outing
Sat 20th	Melton	Meeting at Sproxton, 7:00pm - 8:30pm

JULY

Sat 4th	Leicester	District Meeting at St Mary de Castro, Leicester
Thu 9th	Harborough	Surprise Major Practice at Kibworth
Thu 9th	Syston	Practice at Tilton on the Hill

Sat 11th  **Ringling Festival** - Ashby de la Zouch

Opening at 2.00pm with David Taylor

Featuring, 3Rs equipment, 10 bell ringing demonstrations and a series of interesting talks during the afternoon. Open ringing from 5pm.

PLUS... handbells, a ringing help desk, Guild simulator, Willoughby Campanile, library displays, refreshments, shop stall and even more displays!

More information to come – don't miss this brilliant new Guild event! Be there!

Mon 13th	Hinckley	Meeting at Enderby
Sat 18th	Harborough	District Meeting at Allexton, Hallaton and Church Langton.
Sat 18th	Melton	Meeting at Stathern, 7:00pm - 8:30pm

AUGUST

Tue 4th	Leicester	District Meeting at Groby. 8pm onward, all welcome
Mon 10th	Hinckley	Out-Of-District Meeting at Netherseale
Thu 13th	Harborough	Surprise Major Practice at Oadby
Sat 15th	Harborough	District Meeting at Peatling Parva, Picnic Tea and Misterton
Sat 15th	Melton	Stoke Rochford from 6:00pm - 7:00pm & Skillington, 7pm - 8:30pm
Sat 22nd	Loughborough	District Practice at Lockington

COMING SOON...

Saturday Dec 5th 'Tasty Bingo' 7pm onwards at St Margarets, Leicester.

Adults £8, children £5. Price includes hot supper and wine / juice tasting. Come along and try out your bingo skills and your tasting abilities with wine, juice and crisps, all in one fun packed evening!