

LDG NEWS

NEWSLETTER – FORTY FIFTH / SEPTEMBER 2019 / www.leicesterldg.org

EDITORIAL

With the passing of Roland H Cook the Guild has lost one of its most loyal ringers. He will be long remembered by all who knew him.

As September comes to a close another Guild Ringing Course has been and gone. This important weekend in our calendar could not take place without a lot of hard work by many people so our thanks must go to them.

Please make a note of the Guild AGM on the 26th October and try to attend if you can.

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B.R.F. 100 CLUB DRAW RESULTS

July

1 st Prize	Nos. 80	2 nd Prize	Nos 43	3 rd Prize	Nos 19
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August

1 st Prize	Nos 44	2 nd Prize	Nos 104	3 rd Prize	Nos 114
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September

1 st Prize	Nos 77	2 nd Prize	Nos 22	3 rd Prize	Nos 63
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THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM

This is the story of one man's dream, all 479 pages describing the Charitable Foundations at Church Langton, worked out in the minutest detail, the aims, the costings, the staff requirements. This man was the Reverend William Hanbury, Rector of Church Langton from 1750 to 1777. Rev. Hanbury was a keen and knowledgeable horticulturist and established large tree and shrub plantations at nearby Gumley and Tur Langton. His intention was to use the income from this enterprise to fund the Charity which in his First Proposals specified church improvements, for example, a new two manual organ, "as good and large as the

room will admit of “and “three new bells to be added to the five to make a peal of eight.” However, this relatively modest scheme quickly morphed via successive deeds into an enormous project, including when the income amounted to £10,000, a gigantic cathedral complex, square with sides each 600feet long plus three towers, “the tallest shall be less than one hundred yards high”.

As an additional fund raiser, Rev. Hanbury proposed to stage the Messiah in St. Peters church, all properly done with top class performers directed by Dr. Hayes, Professor of Music at Oxford University. There was enormous opposition to this; some from his trustees who “got cold feet” in contemplating that they might be liable for any losses. What about the horses and where would the patrons “park” their carriages, bearing in mind Church Langton is a rural village? Rev. Hanbury overcame all objections, even local inflation-he tells us “prices of fowls, butter etc nearly tripled.” With his gardeners dolled up as flunkies (with white breeches, stockings and blue garters) and forming a guard of honour at the church door, the Messiah went ahead. The date was September 27th 1759 the first time this had been performed in a church. Afterwards the patron gentry repaired to “a booth” to enjoy a “cold collation” with ham pies “more than a yard in diameter.” The distinguished guests remained until evening when most, excepting the hard core departed for their homes. The latter moved to the rectory greenhouse for a ball where he tells us “Sir Francis Skipwith entertained us with the Cushion Dance.” Just what this was, readers, I will leave to your wildest imaginations. Meanwhile the “common people” were allowed into the booth “where they drank wine and punch in the plenty.” After all of this he unfortunately had his sums wrong as they just about broke even. Many of his tickets – some 2000 of them issued at 5 shillings each were not sold.

As I mentioned, the opposition to all of this was colossal, in particular from two ladies, Mrs Byrd and Mrs Pickering. The three additional bells and the organ (the latter purchased on credit) the former added in 1762 were controversial. These ladies wanted to “take them down” but he prevailed again. With his persistence and tenacity I cannot help being reminded of a film I saw years ago. “The man of La Mancha” its theme tune and two of its verses.

This is my quest
To follow a star
No matter how hopeless
No matter how far

And I know I'll only be true
To this glorious quest
That my heart will be peaceful and calm
When I'm laid to my rest.

Reverend Hanbury followed his quest despite all but was unfortunately laid to his rest in 1777 at the age of 52 years and with his passing the fire went out of the Foundations. He had made an enormous effort, but the income never reached anywhere near £10,000. I'm told he paced the proposed outer walls of the cathedral complex, placing corner stones at its extremities. I like to think they are perhaps still there today in the fields of Church Langton, reminders of what was to be, but never was – the Impossible Dream.

John Bennett

Post Script – Inspired by our Gedney summer outing on June 22nd, when we visited Foxton, Church Langton, Illston and Kings Norton. At Church Langton the three new bells were added as proof that Rev. Hanbury was not pocketing the proceeds – he wrote, “They said, I had quitted my trustees on purpose that I might put the money into my own pocket.” The two manual organ survived until 1936 when it was rebuilt, but his three bells remain to this day, some 257 years later and still giving good service. The charity also remains though not on the scale envisaged by Rev. Hanbury in his great dream.

NO LONGER WITH US

ROLAND H. COOK :- Sadly Roland Cook died on Tuesday 16th July 2019 after a short illness.

Anyone who was unable to attend and wishing to hear the funeral service go to :-
stcuthbertschurchgreatglen.blogspot.com > Links > Sermon Recordings > 31.07.2019 Roland's Funeral

A.R.T. - Have you tried kaleidoscope ringing?

Once a learner can ring rounds successfully, they are often moved onto Call Changes. Obvious to us, but for the new ringer (who is using at least 90% of their brain concentrating on handling their bell safely and keeping it in synch with everyone else) there's not much processing power left to remember the order of the bells, translate a verbal instruction to the whole band into a specific one for them (do I or don't I move place, if so do I need to move up or down and who will I follow) and then think about what they need to do with the rope to make the bell make that move ... all in less than 4 seconds. And that's without the occasional conductor who decides to mix calling up and down. This is where kaleidoscope ringing can help – a series of changes all made within two places. Perhaps not an immediately helpful definition so in this case I think a picture speaks a thousand words. And the benefits:

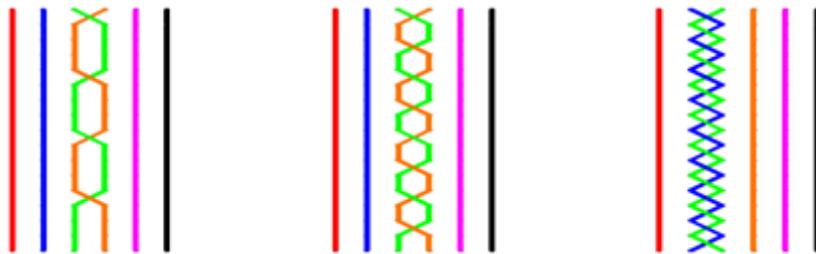
Breaking the learning into small, easy understandable steps. Kaleidoscope ringing allows the learner to practise moving their bell up or down a place without having to remember the order of the bells or knowing which bell is following which as they are always moving from rounds.

It is easier for a learner to hear their bell and correct their striking. Kaleidoscope sequences move out of and back into rounds all the time. Because the sound of rounds is familiar it is easier for the new ringer to identify their bell, listen for gaps and clips and correct their striking.

It can sound nicer. Bands with insufficient ringers to ring methods can make up their own sequences (even naming them after people e.g. Sheila's Shuffle) and ring them for service making a more pleasing sound than Call Changes gone wrong or Plain Hunt struck badly.

Kaleidoscope ringing can grow with the band. Long places (four blows) lead onto short places which lead onto dodges or dodgy places, all of which can start at handstroke or backstroke. Then why not more complex sequences such as the bells in 2-3 making long places whilst the 4th stay in fourths place and the 5th and 6th make short places?

Why not introduce kaleidoscope ringing into your practices? More information about kaleidoscope ringing is available at www.ringingteachers.org/resource-centre/teaching-tips



Leslie Belcher

A.R.T. Chair

RESTORATION OF THE BELLS AT ST LEONARD'S SWITHLAND 2019

The bells date from the early 1760s, a gift of Sir John Danvers, the lord of the manor, with the exception of the 3rd which was recast in 1793. There are some interesting inscriptions on the bells with some leaf motifs and also on the 4th and tenor cannons there are unusual flower motifs as well.

The bells were hung on the original wooden headstocks and the last major work undertaken on the bells was in 1920, when the current frame was built. The bells were quarter turned in the early 1960s.

Following an inspection by Andrew Higson in 2015, it was suggested that the bells should be rehung with modern fittings within the next 5 – 10 years as there was some denaturing of the 4th and 5th headstocks. For some years we had been saving towards any possible restoration work by putting half of our wedding fees into the bell fund and also our contribution each practice night.

In May 2018, we launched the Bell Restoration Project, with the aim of raising £25,000, to top up our bell fund to £40,000, to allow the work to be undertaken. The fund already stood at £15,000 with our wedding fees and a donation from the PCC. Thanks to generous donations from the local community, grants and fundraising events, this was achieved by the end of November 2018 and Whites of Appleton came to remove the bells from the tower at the beginning of February 2019.

Over to Chris Newman for the technical bit:

Out with the Old, in with the New

On the 22nd November 1919 there was a peal attempt that was stopped 'due to the go of the Tenor' this is in the footnote of the January peal. On the 31st January 1920 a peal of PB Minor was rung (Feb 20th RW466 P88). Obviously during the interval, the original wooden frame had been replaced and a metal frame manufactured by Kemp installed. The last peal before refurbishment was rung on 19th January 2019, organised by Richard Bimson, recreating the peal of 1920 (Feb 8th RW 5264 P132).

A few years ago, the 5th started 'clunking', the head stock bolts were tightened, after several weeks ringing, it started again. Andrew Higson was asked to investigate and ensured all was OK. On a subsequent annual inspection, the 4th headstock was found to be delaminating, bolts were tightened, and the bell left canted back slightly.

Work started in early February, 4 hours were spent on Saturday 9th February removing wheels, stays, sliders & bars and opening the floor under the Tenor to expose the trap. The ropes had previously been removed, the Ringing room carpet lifted, and the floor hatch raised. Monday 11th February, Graham Clifton from Whites arrived, introductions were made, tea consumed, and work commenced. All the hatches were opened, and all the equipment hauled up into the belfry.

The Tenor was down first, followed by the Treble, 3rd, 2nd, 5th and finally the 4th. By the end of Monday, all the bells were out of the tower – the team consisting of Graham and John from Whites, Chris Newman, Nick Cunningham, Sean Waring, Andy Bimson with other members of the band in attendance, taking photos, making refreshments etc. The headstocks were removed from the 2nd and Tenor. There was a big problem with moving the tenor through the screen out of the vestry but finally by Tuesday lunchtime, all the bells were lined up on the south aisle of the church, with a wheel, rope and stay fitted to the Treble. The next day was spent removing all the wheels, stays, sliders and pulley blocks from the tower. Arthur Rees collected the pulley blocks for use at Gaulby, everything else was moved to the Beeby farm down the road.

On Wednesday a start was made on cleaning down the frame. It was soon apparent that when the frame was installed no red lead had been used. And there was considerable amount of rust under the paint which wire brushes would not remove. We decided it was too big a job for the band to undertake and asked a local tradesman, James Toone, to de-rust the frame with Nitromors, apply red oxide and then paint it. On the Thursday the village school children visited during the day and the church was open during the afternoon and evenings for others to visit.

On Friday, Graham returned with the lorry and with assistance from Brian Beeby and his forklift, everything was loaded. Various band members enjoyed standing in the road stopping the traffic to enable this to occur. After a few months the builder cut the sockets in the stonework for the new RSJ to underpin the frame and Graham spent two days installing it.

The big day arrived, the bells returned on Friday 14th June and lined up on the south aisle of the church, with the new wheels. There was a dedication service on the Sunday morning. Everything else was placed in the tower. Work started in earnest on the Monday, by the end of the day the 4th and 5th were in their pits and the 2nd had been dropped in its pit by Janet & Christine, with assistance from Graham. On Tuesday the rest were in, bolted down, wheels and stays attached. A week later Graham with his assistant returned, the pulley blocks and clappers were fitted, ropes attached and the 'Twiddle Pins' were used to remove the odd-struckness. Chris Newman assisted Graham during the rehanging of the bells with assistance from Guy Jibson and Nick Cunningham. There was a half hour try out at the end of the day.

Tower Captain's thanks:

Prior to the return of the bells, the ringers visited Whites near Oxford, where we saw our bells and were shown how the new wheels and fittings were made. A big thank you to Whites for making us so welcome and returning our bells so hopefully they will require no more work in our lifetime.

Thanks must go to the individuals and organisations who donated money to enable this project to be undertaken. We had grants from the Leicester Diocesan Guild Bell Restoration Fund, the Central Council, Sharpe Trust, Historic Churches Trust, All Churches Trust, Leicester and Rutland Masonic Charities Fund,

Jack Patston Trust, Swithland Flower and Vegetable Show, Rothley and Soar Valley Lions. We must also thank the COMOT team for organising two concerts and also Peter Tyrell for printing our tickets and posters. Thanks must also go to our local volunteers and in particular Chris Newman, whose hard work incurred an appreciable saving on our final bill.

We hope to have a thanksgiving service and celebration in the near future.



Swithland New Bells and Wheels.

ROLAND H. COOK, Aged 77, 25/06/1942 – 16/07/2019

Roland was born in 1942, the youngest child to Harry and Doris Cook, in Asfordby, Leicestershire. He left Melton boys school at the age of 16 and entered employment at a firm of chartered accountants where he learnt his trade. He met his future wife Amy through bell ringing and they were married at St Mary's Church, Barkby, Leics. in 1973. His son John was born in 1980, followed not long behind by daughter Jane in 1982. He taught both of his offspring to ring at Great Glen Church and both are life members of the Leicester Diocesan Guild. Following his retirement at the age of 63, he and Amy set off on several adventures across America and Europe, usually via train rides of some sort and where possible even getting some 'grabs' at towers in Vancouver, Victoria and Boston for example.

Roland was taught to ring at Asfordby, Leics by his father and rang his first peal on his 13th Birthday at Twyford, Leics. He progressed very quickly, ringing his 20th peal a year later; a peal of Stedman Caters at Melton Mowbray under the watchful eye of Philip Corby, and conducting his first peal at the age of 15. With a father keen to see him progress and the support of Philip Corby, Roland had much encouragement in his early years and was given many opportunities to ring with experienced teams and well known ringers from other parts of the country.

On June 25th 1990, on the 35th anniversary of this first peal he rang his 1000th peal at Leicester Cathedral, and in 2005, on the 50th anniversary of his first peal, he returned to Twyford to celebrate his retirement

from full time employment, this time including his son in the band. In total he rang 1868 Peals and conducted 389, two of which were a peal of Spliced Surprise Major 32 Methods and a peal of Spliced Bristol Max and Stedman Cinques.

He rang his 1st handbell peal in 1970 and soon became very proficient in the art. He rang peals of maximus, fourteen and sixteen, but was most prolific in royal and in the 1980s and 90s, along with Rupert Clarke, Bob Smith, John Jelly & David Marshall, he took part in several record lengths of surprise royal in hand; 10,440 Bristol S. Royal; 15,120 London S. Royal No.3; 12,120 4-Spliced S. Royal ATW; 11,880



Superlative S. Royal; 15,120 Yorkshire S. Royal; 13,680 Rutland S. Royal; 13,680 Pudsey S. Royal; 13,680 Lincolnshire S Royal.

He joined the Leicester Diocesan Guild in 1954 and was an active member for 65 years at various points holding the roles of District secretary, Peal Sec, Central Council Rep, Guild and District Ringing Master and Guild President. He rang in the Leicester Team which won the second national 12 bell striking competition in 1976 and the first Worthington cup in 1978 and rang and conducted a winning Tewkesbury shield band.

He was elected a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths in 1962 and felt very privileged to be invited to ring in a peal at St Pauls Cathedral in 2003. He also maintained contact with other ringers from the Class of '62 and rang a peal in 2012 with them to celebrate 50 years membership of the society.

Despite his many achievements, Roland always made Sunday service ringing his first priority, holding the role of Tower Captain at Asfordby, Queniborough and Great Glen; He also served the church in other capacities as Treasurer to the PCC, Churchwarden and Chorister amongst his roles.

The day after his 77th birthday he and Amy set off on another adventure across Europe; initially by train to Budapest with the intention of cruising on the Danube. He was taken ill on the train and diagnosed with meningitis on arrival in Budapest and soon after was in a coma. He was repatriated back to Coventry hospital where he passed away on the 16th July 2019 with his family present.

His funeral was held at St Cuthberts, Great Glen, Leics on the 31st July and was so well attended it was standing room only. With over 150 ringers present there was ringing both before and after the service and during the service a band rang 120 Kent Treble Bob Royal in hand. The congregation were in fine voice and gave Roland a rousing send off.

Amy, John and Jane have been so touched by the hundreds of cards and messages received following Roland's death and have found great comfort in the words and memories from so many. We are just sorry that we cannot possibly reply to them all. His legacy will live on through those he taught to ring and supported over the years and through his grandchildren, Harry, Martha and Rebecca.
J.R.C

St Cuthberts, Great Glen, Leicester.
Wed 31st July
120 Kent Treble Bob Royal
1-2 Simon C Melen
3-4 Emma J Southerington (C)
5-6 Paul Jopp
7-8 Simon Humphreys
9-0 David J Marshall
Performed during the Funeral

A Tribute to Roland H. Cook.

Every generation has its ringers of outstanding ability and the County of Leicestershire has had more than its fair share.

During many years of ringing I have been fortunate to know and ring with such masters of our art as John Jelly, Redvers Elkington, Bill Lacey, Peter Staniforth and Alan Cattell (There are others but I am bound to offend if I inadvertently omit a name)

Sadly, all the above have departed this life but memories they have left in abundance.

I first met Roland Cook over 60 years ago. It wasn't difficult to be friends with Roland because he had a lovely, amicable disposition accompanied with a keen sense of humour.

Even as a teenager it was obvious that Roland had a ringing ability denied to most of us. He could put you right before you even realized that you had gone wrong. He rarely made mistakes himself and that gift of being able to be in total control of a piece of ringing just got better as he grew older and became more experienced.

Yet, Roland was the loyal ringer that every tower, District and Guild needs and relies on. Sunday Service, Practice Night, District and Guild meetings, Roland would be there and, more often than not, ably supported by his wife, Amy.

Asfordby, where he learnt to ring, Queniborough where Roland and Amy lived for several years and, latterly Great Glen where Roland, Amy and their family lived, all benefitted from his expertise and dedication but, above all, his loyalty. If a local band was struggling or needed a bit of know how to help them progress. Roland would be there, week by week, helping out.

As I struggled to get to grips with handbell ringing I asked Roland how he had learnt to become so proficient. He explained to me that he had been given a pair, listened to the music of the method and fitted his bells in accordingly. The peal records will show that Roland became an excellent handbell ringer and participated in many record lengths.

On tower bells Roland never bothered which bell he rang; his excellent, accurate striking never changed. In 1987 the eight bells at Church Langton had not been rehung. The Treble was arguably the most odd struck bell in the Diocese. We turned up for a peal of Stedman Triples on 7th March, some of us dreading that we might be asked to ring the treble. We breathed a sigh of relief as the conductor, John Pladdys, asked Roland to ring it. By the third blow he had the bell and its oddities sorted out and struck it perfectly throughout.

In common with many ringers here and further afield I have countless fond memories of ringing with Roland in over 150 peals, quarter peals, practice nights, outings and so on. But socially Roland had a treasure trove of memories which he would share with us. It seemed he knew pretty well everybody and everybody knew him. Always excellent company.

He would be acutely embarrassed to read this next bit but as a ringer Roland was not the best; he was the best of the best.

Garry Mason

AROUND THE DISTRICTS

Hinckley ;-

Following on from my last report, the Hinckley District was going to Orton on the Hill and Market Bosworth. Well we did and it was like good. Like, Graham and his colleagues did us proud at Orton providing tea. It was just like the feeding of the 5000, I gave 9 names for tea, nearly 20 turned up, and yet there was like still enough. To those people who put themselves out to put on a tea at our meetings, may God bless you all. I swear there are few better things in life than a Ringers Tea. The ringing at Market Bosworth was good, and we thanked our Ringing Master for the day, Tony Rowan, with a rapturous round of applause. Somehow we ended up playing a game of "Late arrivals at the Bellringer's Ball" with such families as "Mr and Mrs Major and their son Little Bob. Mr and Mrs Surprise Minor and their daughter Primrose. There were many others, but they elude me as I type.

Our August Meeting, planned to be a "Ringing Festival" was just that, like we rang at 4 towers. Dunton Bassett (3 Bells) Leire (6 Bells) Frolesworth (3 Bells) and Claybrooke (8 Bells) Somehow it also turned out to be a Cathedral Meeting as we had visitors from Leicester, Coventry and Derby Cathedrals. Having, in the previous paragraph, thanked those who provide teas, I am now a bit stuck, because Val and the Claybrooke team provided possible one of the best teas I have ever had. In my e-mail to the District I thanked them from the bottom of my stomach, because it was like worthy of Masterchef. Tony stood outside in a howling gale and Bar-b-que'd Sausages and Burgers that tasted beyond words. Some of us repaired to the local hostelry "The Pig in Muck" afterwards and got outside of a pint or two of good ale to round off a most enjoyable day. Like in fact you could say we were as happy as a "Pig in Muck"

You will be reading this after we have been to our delayed September meeting, due to the ringing course, and we will have been to Kirkby Mallory and Barwell. Like I wonder how many of you, who rely desperately upon Computers will know of Ada Lovelace? Well I will tell you. Lord Byron's daughter Ada Lovelace, is listed as one of the top 20 women who changed the world'. The Scientist Ada Lovelace is often regarded as the world's first computer programmer. She has an international day named in her honour, her portrait hangs at No 10 Downing Street ... and now Lord Byron's daughter Ada Lovelace has been voted as the fourth most influential woman in history. She was polled by BBC History magazine readers just behind scientist Marie Curie, civil rights heroine Rosa Parks and suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst. Popular history remembers her as the assistant of Charles Babbage, pioneer of the computer. Ada Lovelace's grave is at Kirkby Mallory. Like now there is a thing. I don't know about you, but I never cease to be amazed about what you can see and learn when like you go and ring somewhere else.

Our October Meeting, try to remember the 12th of October, will be at Desford and Thurlaston, and I look forward to seeing some, if any, of you there. Look out across all of the social media platforms for further details.

I leave you with a piece of breaking news, A man has worked out how to do Origami backwards, I will have more on this story as it unfolds. Also, a word of caution, never stop to bend down and tie your shoelace in a revolving door

Does anyone have any more pills because I think I might need them.

May your rope never break

Martin Mellor

Leicester :-

30th September

July started well with a well attended District meeting at Knighton which gave a number of ringers the opportunity to develop their ringing skills. The tea and cake provided by the local ringers was appreciated. A quarter peal was completed at St Margaret's the following Saturday allowing Michael Parker to ring his first of Surprise Major.

August found the District joining the practice at Bitteswell where more tea and cake was consumed. The focus of the practice was to provide the local band with as many opportunities as possible to progress and overall the evening was very successful.

The St Margaret's practice in early September welcomed the District where a variety of methods on 8, 10 & 12 were rung on these tricky bells. One ringer had their first experience of 12 bell ringing and plenty of others took the opportunity to progress. The following morning a quarter peal of Grandsire Cinques was rung at the Cathedral giving Jenny Ace and Kiera Boylan the opportunity to ring their first on twelve. A very enjoyable quarter was scored.

Dave Carling

Loughborough :-

On the hottest day on record the Loughborough District held a meeting at Belton. Ringing in the cool church came as a welcome relief from the heat outside and Val's flapjacks were enjoyed by all, even if few folks fancied a warming cup of tea. In August we paid a visit to Ibstock and enjoyed ringing on the rehung bells - what a difference to the last time we were there! September saw us at The Oaks for a morning of 'Project Pickled Egg' Surprise Major. It was an enjoyable couple of hours trying to get to grips with Turramurra and Painswick, with everyone getting something out of the morning even if the two methods were starting to blur into one by the end.

Market Harborough:-

Market Harborough District

Roland Cook

The District, along with colleagues in the Guild, and indeed nationwide were shocked and saddened by Roland's passing. Roland was formerly District ringing master, and more recently deputy ringing master. Of course, irrespective of official office, he was always ready to offer help and encouragement to ringers at all levels. Above all though he was a great friend, and will be very sadly missed. Many towers in the District organised special ringing, dedicated to Roland's memory: quarter peals were rung at Oadby (immediately before Roland's funeral), Kings Norton, Illston on the Hill, Billesdon, Great Bowden, Husbands Bosworth and Church Langton. A number of bands also dedicated specific touches to his memory: Billesdon, Gilmorton, Illston, Lubenham, Shawell group.

Congratulations to Colin Lopes and Sam Horn who both rang their first quarter at Great Bowden.

“StrikeFest”

How do you make up seven 6-bell striking competition teams from ten ringers? That was the dilemma facing the Ringing Master at the Harborough District striking competition. However, such is the format of the StrikeFest, that that is just what he did, with most of the attending ringers ringing in five bands. Each band rang something different for their test piece, with the Ringing Master placing ringers in each band so that everyone was stretched a little in at least one of the bands. After the competition ringing, judges Garry and Sue Mason delivered some constructive criticism and the results. They commented on the general quality of the ringing, with every band producing at least some very good ringing: what separated the bands was how much of the test piece achieved this standard, and how quickly they managed to settle the ringing after trips. They commented particularly that the leading tended to be a bit erratic, particularly at back stroke – everyone take note! They also commented that none of the bands used all their practice time- indeed one band (the eventual winners) did not have any practice. This was fair comment, but because of the late start we were forced to cut down the practice time in order to finish on schedule. The results were:

1	Cambridge Minor	(ringing 7 th)	16 faults
2	Kent TB Minor	(ringing 4 th)	22 faults
3	Call Changes	(ringing 1 st)	33 faults
4	Plain Bob Minor	(ringing 5 th)	34 faults
5	Stedman Doubles	(ringing 2 nd)	35 faults
6	Plain Bob Doubles	(ringing 6 th)	60 faults

Unfortunately, no tower bands were able to enter this year, so the trophy remains with last year's winners, Gilmorton. The improvers trophy was awarded to Mike Price, who rang in the winning band, despite still being quite shaky in Cambridge. He also rang in the bands placed 3rd, 4th and 5th.

Harborough Anglican Team Quarter

Friday, 13 Sept; All Saints, Lubenham, Leics. 1260 Doubles (7 m/v) in 45m.

1 Janet Donaldson, 2 Alison Iliffe, 3 Daniel Iliffe, 4 Richard Holyland, 5 Terry Iliffe (C), 6 Alistair Donaldson Rung on the first anniversary of Alison's installation as vicar of the Parish of the Transfiguration, part of the Market Harborough Anglican Team. All the churches were represented in the quarter, i.e. St Nicholas (300), St Hugh (240), St Dionysius (240), All Saints (120), St Peter (120), St Paul(120), and Transfiguration (120) – this included ringing a previously unringed method and naming it Transfiguration Place (method cc874, using Wainfleet Bobs)

Andrew Young

Melton :-

The Melton District meetings have been well attended over the past quarter, July was at Eaton - very nice bells that we haven't visited for a while. August was a welcome return to Sproxtton which has had significant work on the church over the last couple of years; the bell chamber is now behind a glass screen which should make winter ringing more comfortable. We welcomed Sue Measey from Burrough on the Hill as a new member at this meeting . The September meeting was at Bottesford with another good turnout of about 20 people.

It's Melton's turn to host the AGM this year at Ashby Folville on Saturday 26th October. Posters with the details for this have been distributed and are on the Guild website - if you need a copy or would like to book in for tea at £5 per person please contact Peter Brown (pbrowntwyford@yahoo.co.uk), we hope to see you there.

Peter Brown

CENTRAL COUNCIL REPORT 2019

The 2019 Council meeting followed the 'new' format and was held over the 1st weekend of September in London. Social gatherings and some 'tower grabbing' took place on the Friday afternoon and evening. Only two of our representatives attended this year.

The Ringing World

The first meeting event was the RW AGM on Saturday morning. The previous minutes were approved and the accounts explained. The RW is now in a good financial position. The success stories were that Bell Board users have increased by 17%, the quality and admin of the paper has improved. There will soon be a new wrapper for postal subscribers, 2020 merchandise will shortly be on sale; the app is not yet available. ART and the RW are working together – the RW offers a discount for ART f/b readers. However, the 2019 half year accounts show an increase in expenditure.

After much discussion a motion was passed to revise the charitable objects of the paper from religious to educational as it was felt that it would be easier to get funding in the future.

Four Directors were elected, three of whom are new. Nigel Orchard, the Chairman, was one of the retirees; a presentation was made. Thanks were also extended to Bill Hibbert. Rev'd David Grimwood is the new Chairman.

Nigel then made a Director's presentation to Robert Lewis who is retiring after 19 years' service as editor.

The Council Meeting

The pre-lunch session quickly went through the introductory business. All papers had been available on line and reps had been given a paper copy on enrolment. There were no applications to affiliate. New members were welcomed. It is now very easy to resign and elect a new rep if someone cannot attend. Fees must be paid 6 weeks before the meeting in order to allow the reps to vote. Members stood in memory of those departed since the last meeting, including John Jelley and Roland Cook. The Trustees report was updated –

there are now a record 23 vacancies. Reports and updates on the Executive and Workgroups were given – there is no longer a vote to accept them or to elect members of work groups. The Trustees were elected unopposed with Simon Linford becoming the new President.

A new Safeguarding co-ordinator is sought by the Stewardship and Management Group and there will be a Recruitment and Retention Seminar in March 2020 led by the Volunteer and Leadership Group. The Communication and Marketing group are working on a co-ordinated VE75 celebration.

The Executive Forward Plan 2020 includes work on Building Partnerships, being Efficient and Effective, doing data gathering and analysis to deliver a focused Service.

The 2020 meeting will be based on the Jubilee Campus at Nottingham University on 4-6th September. All welcome.

A short Service was held before the formal Reception and Dinner.

Mini Roadshow

Sunday took the form of a mini roadshow which was open to all ringers. There were stalls (as at previous shows), 3 mini rings and a series of seminars.

I attended presentations on Project Picked Egg, The Story of 1400 Ringing Remembers Biographies and Safeguarding. Stephen attended Insurance and Bell-ringing - Sound Control within and outside your tower, Making Bells – combining old and new approaches. We have notes and slides if anyone is interested.

CNJF

GUILD DINNER 2020

The Annual Dinner 2020 will be held on
Saturday 29th February 2020 at Leicestershire Cricket Club.
Tickets are priced at £27 and will be on sale shortly.

ROBERT B. SMITH 12 BELL TROPHY 2019

The competition this year was held at Towcester on Saturday 28th September.

The trophy was won by Nottingham University; Leicester came a very creditable 2nd.

Full details below :-

- 1 Howell Williams
- 2 Nicky Carling
- 3 Alison Godfrey
- 4 Jenny Ace
- 5 Robert Watson
- 6 Angela Preston
- 7 Dave Carling
- 8 Paul Mason
- 9 Terry Astill
- 10 Tim Peverett
- 11 Andrew Preston
- 12 Mark Pendery

The test piece was 216 Little Bob Maximus.

23456 W M B H
23456 s – x 2*

x=18. 2*=sb.

Judges were Paul and Kate Flavell. Teams representing Sheffield, Melbourne, Leicester, NUSCR, Towcester and Welsh Colleges

Melbourne. 3hrs17. 65 faults

Towcester. 3hrs22. 63 faults

Leicester. 3hrs18. 50 faults

Sheffield. 3hrs09. 73 faults

NUSCR. 3hrs16. 38 faults

Welsh Colleges. 3hrs08. 67 faults

SNIPPET

Congratulations to Eric Leeson of Twyford who was nominated for The Westley Award for Church Bell Maintenance. He came second and was highly commended (The award is made to a person who has become involved in the maintenance of tower bell installation, used for English Style change ringing, for the first time in the last five years and shows the most commitment to developing and using their own skills and those of others).

Leicester Guild Ringing Course 2019

The 2019 course took place from Friday 13th to Sunday 15th September. This was again at Copt Oak Memorial Hall. The courses on offer were progressing from Plain Hunt, Doubles, Plain Minor, Plain/Surprise Minor and Surprise Minor. 20 students attended allocating 4 per group ensured that plenty of practical rope time was achieved. Significant progress was made across all the groups. A big thank you must go to the tutors Paul Atkins, Sally Brown, Graham Haywood, Andrew Young, Pam and Garry Mason for their efforts throughout the weekend.

Saturday night, the main social evening, saw an excellent quiz hosted by Jett Semak and Mark Pendery and was organised by Natalie Boylan. A fantastic buffet of food was prepared and served by Ruth Jackson. It was very close at the top of the leader board with only a few points between the teams. The William's family team won for the second year running, going for the hat trick next year! As usual cries of 'we were robbed' came from the team with Paul Atkins in. Robbed due to not getting enough questions correct!!

I would like to thank Peter Brown (Course Administrator) and Nicky & Dave Carling (Helpers coordinators) for their fantastic organisation of the course and Mick Angrave for the domestic organisation of the Towers. Also a massive thank you to all the helpers without you it would not have happened.

Mark Pendery, Chairman - Recruitment & Education Committee

Some pictures
Plain/Surprise Group





Leicester Diocesan Guild AGM

Saturday 26th October 2019

St Luke's - Gaddesby

2:30 to 3:30 Ringing

St Mary's - Ashby Folville

4:00 to 4:30 Ringing

4:30 to 5:00 Service

5:00 to 6:00 Tea in Ashby Folville Village Hall

6:00 to 7:00 LDG AGM in Ashby Folville Village Hall

7:00 to 8:30 Evening Ringing

Names for tea to Peter Brown by Sunday the 20th of October please.

Cost is £5 per person :

melton@leicesterdg.org.uk or text / call 0774 813 5086