



SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITIES GUILD OF CHANGERINGERS ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 10, 2003/2004

From the President

The bells here at St Mary's in Elloughton have rung out faithfully throughout the year – probably the most regular ringing Sunday by Sunday for many years. It is noticed and appreciated – even if only four are rung.

I am one who likes dates and looks forwards to the excuse of doing something different when the opportunity arises. As a curate in Herefordshire I had some responsibility for St James', Stanford Bishop. Its greatest treasure is an ancient chair, reputedly the chair St Augustine sat upon when he met the British Bishops in 703 AD. I would have enjoyed making something of that 1300-year anniversary. I have no idea whether the event was marked or not.

The ring of six at Elloughton was formed and dedicated in December 1973 – thirty years ago. A peal was attempted which would have been rung for the Beverley & District Ringing Society. Sadly the peal was lost just past the half way mark. Of interest to Guild members was the band. It was conducted by Rod French (elected to the Guild in 1965) who now lives in Brough and rings at St Mary's. Also in the band were two past masters, Sarah Dawson and I, and one current member, James Blackburn. James often came over from Hull to help out at practice nights. Our loss is the present Guild's gain.

Key dates for us are May 31st, 2005, for the University's Centenary and October 9th 2008, the Guild's 50th Anniversary. Many thanks to Chris Bennett and Martin Whiteley who organised the first peal weekend for the Guild, in which three peals were scored and Bristol Maximus lost. It looks like we will be on track for the 100's peal for our Golden Jubilee.

Another year comes round and another Annual Dinner beckons. St John's Ambulance will be on duty for aged rockers.... friendships old and new will be formed and there may even be some ringing. Here's to 2004 and all it brings.

Paul Cubitt



Contact the Guild by E-mail at: SUGCR@Sheffield.ac.uk
or visit the Guild web site at:
<http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/~sugcr>

NEWS FROM THE CURRENT GUILD - MEMBERS

The 2003/4 Committee

Chair – **Tim Beaujeux**, still working on his Ph.D. on protein aggregation in Motor Neurone Disease.

Treasurer – **Ruth Wilson** who is in the third year of her medical degree.

Secretary – **Katie Simms** who is also in the third year of her medical degree.

Master – **Matt Beadman** who is a second year Psychology student.

Vice Master – **Jon Collett**, still working on his Ph.D. attempting to manufacture artificial cartilage.

The Starters

After holding a stall at the Freshers' fair, we have managed to collar some "Freshers" and also some new ringers who have appeared from the woodwork so to speak! A big welcome to James Stanton, Jo Lilley, James Blackburn, Charlotte (Lotti) Ferguson, Vikki Thomas, Robin Webb and Paul Hutchins.

Jo, a first year Music student, is from Haddenham. Hobbies include the piano, tuba, walking, climbing and running, and given the choice she would drink bitter – a popular choice in ringing circles.

James B is from Hull, where he remains in charge of the Kings Town Company of ringers until January. He is studying Electrical Engineering, and apart from ringing also enjoys scuba diving and golf. As an accomplished ringer James has a preference for bitter.

Lotti is one of our non - fresher arrivals, being a 3rd year Medic. She is making very good progress in bell handling and tends to go for wine in the pub, although I'm sure after a few months of intense peer pressure she'll crack and get onto the bitters, so nothing to worry about there!

Vikki is a fresher who after gentle persuasion from hall friend Jo has come along to learn to ring. She is reading Chinese, and her hobbies include the flute, bass guitar, reading and going to gigs. As far as drinks are concerned, Vikki likes Vodka, Jack Daniels and lager, hopefully not in the same glass.

Robin has joined us after coming along for a few taster sessions late last year. Originally from Linton, Robin studies Archaeology and enjoys hill walking with the high peak society. Just for a change, Robin also likes his bitter. Where are all the lager drinkers?

Paul lives at home in Sheffield, and is in his last year of college studying A-levels in Chemistry, Maths and Economics. We've got a bright one here! Next year Paul hopes to go to Newcastle University to study Chemistry and Maths, and in the mean time is learning to handle a bell. When he's not doing complicated calculations, Paul enjoys cycling, scuba diving, playing the piano and driving. Vodka!

(James S seems to have escaped the interrogation of his background and drinking habits. Ed.)

The Leavers

The problem with being a student Guild is that whilst you can always hope that new people are going to start at the beginning of the year, you can guarantee that you will lose people at the end of it. This year has been no exception.

Natalie Williams has completed her degree in Physics and returned to Swindon where she is working as a manager at McDonald's and plans to stay for a year before going travelling. Many of you will remember Natalie as she held the post of Master for three years, but did so on the condition that she didn't have to speak at the Dinner!

Tamsin Earthy has completed her degree in French and moved to Leeds to do translation work.

Kerry Morris has completed her Ph.D. (so we now have to refer to her as Dr. Kerry) and has secured a one-year post continuing the work that she was doing at the Jessop Hospital.

We are also temporarily without **Catherine Oram** (last year's secretary) as she is spending a year in St. Petersburg as part of her Russian degree.

NEWS FROM THE CURRENT GUILD - EVENTS

Tours and Outings

The Easter tour this year took us all the way down to Sussex. Catherine Oram organised this year's tour, which was enjoyed by all who were there. Highlights included having a go on a mini-ring and playing plenty of Frisbee in the fine sunshine.

For the Intro tour we took a trip to the Peak District. This was a change from the norm as it was a public transport tour, with the group walking between towers. It even included a dip in a pond for some people. The evening's entertainment consisted of a Ceilidh.

The Northern Universities Association Meeting this year was in Liverpool. Although we missed both the striking competition and the boat race it was a very enjoyable weekend.

Congratulations!

Member Amy Smith had a baby boy, Thomas, in August. Whilst things did not go entirely to plan, both mother and baby are doing really well and we were delighted to see them both on the Intro tour. Amy is still in Sheffield in the final year of her Geography degree.

The 2003 Annual Dinner

The 2003 Annual Dinner was held at the Hilton Hotel in Sheffield city centre. Not only was the venue different from the last few years, it was also one that had not been used previously. The committee decided that, in response to comments from the last couple of dinners, there would be a ceilidh after the meal and the Sheffield University Ceilidh Society would provide the band.

The guest speaker was Dr. Michael Henshaw, Chairman of the Central Council, who was no stranger to addressing this particular gathering. Having taken the trouble to look at the photos of the Intro tour to Hull on the Guild web site before hand, he was able to entertain us with an amusing poem about the current members of the Guild, as well as telling possibly one of the worst jokes I have ever heard!

The committee was delighted to have Rev. Paul Cubitt attending in his new role of President of the Guild having been elected to take over from Heather Limbach at the 2002 Dinner. He had been thinking about what he would have said had the Dinner been a wedding, and reflected on aspects that were old, new, borrowed and blue. We were also pleased to be joined (albeit slightly belatedly!) by Father Des Sexton from St. Marie's.

Whilst most people seemed to enjoy the ceilidh after the meal, there was one person who didn't look too happy on his feet. Our dedicated newsletter editor - thanks again Chris - managed to wreck (that's a medical term, by the way) his Achilles tendon and was left hobbling around for several months. Apparently, this type of injury is usually associated with old people running for the bus. Hopefully, he is not planning a re-enactment in 2004 for those who missed it!

Apart from Chris, everyone else seemed to enjoy themselves and the Dinner was a financial success. Ticket sales were up on 2002 and we managed to turn a small profit, which we plan to put towards the 2004 event. Since all of the feedback was positive we have decided to return to the same venue with a very similar format so if you didn't enjoy yourself in 2003 you should have told us!

I look forward to seeing you at the Hilton on February 21st for another enjoyable evening.

Tim Beaujeux & Ruth Wilson

Editors Postscript; Just to confirm that I did manage to enjoy the 2003 Dinner, although spending eight weeks in plaster and four months off work were both somewhat inconvenient.

I do not intend to stage a re-enactment in 2004, so please do not be offended if I decline the opportunity to dance with you. My wife Karen, on the other hand, will be looking for potential partners as she quite likes ceilidh dancing and is not impressed with my declared intention to abstain. (I think I will be a bit more careful about running for buses in the future too!) **CB**

THE ANNUAL DINNER 2004

The 2004 dinner will take place on Saturday 21st February at the Sheffield Hilton Hotel, following a Dinner Day Ringing Tour in the Sheffield area (towers to be confirmed nearer the time, but we are hoping for Hathersage, Whiston and one other).

Following the success of the 2003 Dinner we have decided to return to the same venue. The Sheffield Hilton Hotel is located on Furnival Road, in the Victoria Quays area adjacent to the city centre. Further details about the hotel, including a location map and directions can be found at:

<http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/hotels/directions.jhtml?ctyhocn=SZDSHHN>

Menu

Char grilled Mediterranean Vegetable Terrine, served with a tomato, garlic and basil dressing

Pan Fried Pork Medallions, served with a sherry and pesto sauce

or

Filo Pastry Parcel, filled with artichokes, courgettes, mushrooms and served with a sweet garlic and tarragon cream sauce

Lemon Tartlette, served with a tangy lime dressing

Coffee and Crisp Dinner Mints

Guest Speakers

The guest speakers will be Steve Coleman, author of several ringing books including the Bellringer's Bedside Companion and (hopefully, because we haven't tied him down yet!!) Father Desmond Sexton of St. Marie's Cathedral.

The Dinner will be followed by a Ceilidh with music provided by the University Ceilidh Society Band.

Tickets are priced at £32 and can be ordered (using the booking form, copy attached or downloadable from the guild website) from;

Ruth Wilson: 11, Newington Road, Sheffield, S11 8RZ. Telephone 07734 108218.

Please make cheques payable to "The Union" and write your name and address on the reverse side.

If you are also booking accommodation at the Sheffield Hilton Hotel, please mention that you are attending the Annual Dinner and ask about any available reduction on their room rate. If you are looking for cheaper accommodation then the Ibis hotel is located just across the road and is roughly £43 per room.

THE OCTOBER PEAL WEEKEND

The Guild has scored three peals since the last newsletter, all rung as part of a peal weekend on 11th and 12th October 2003.

In the last edition of this Newsletter, I commented on the geographical distribution of the Guild's peals, with all being rung within 20 miles of Sheffield. The Guild's peal ringing activity has ebbed and flowed over the years, with periods of inactivity lasting several years, and bursts of activity when two or three peals have been rung within a week or so. However, at that time there had never been a "peal event" where large numbers of members had come together to attempt several peals, some simultaneously.

All on Saturday 11 October, 2003

DUFFIELD, Derbys, St Alkmund

In 3 hours and 9 minutes (17)

5040 Qwerty Surprise Royal

Comp. D F Morrison

- 1 John S Rank
- 2 Joanne R Fielding
- 3 Judith M Reading
- 4 Caroline J Smith
- 5 Simon J T Smith
- 6 Richard J Tibbetts
- 7 Barry D Mack
- 8 Christopher M Bennett
- 9 Alistair J E Smith
- 10 Martin J Whiteley (C)

CLIFTON, Notts, St Mary

In 2 hours and 45 minutes (8)

5184 Ullesthorpe Surprise Major

Generated by BYROC

- 1 Trevor B Elliott
- 2 Paul Cubitt
- 3 Denis G Pearson
- 4 E Susan Burchell
- 5 Trevor R Fox
- 6 Robin L Story
- 7 Philip J Simmonds
- 8 Christopher M Bennett (C)

WEST BRIDGFORD, Notts, St Giles

In 2 hours and 51 minutes (9)

5088 Ashtead Surprise Major

Comp. R I Allton & D F Morrison

- 1 Sarah E T Dawson
- 2 Keith Abbott
- 3 Joanne R Fielding
- 4 Richard J Tibbetts
- 5 Matthew E Beadman
- 6 David J Sumner
- 7 Jon G Collett
- 8 Simon J T Smith (C)

Martin Whiteley and I have for several years speculated about the possibility of arranging a Guild peal event away from Sheffield. From time to time we would revisit the idea, until finally in the spring of 2003 we decided to take action.

Having decided on a weekend that suited us both (the organisers prerogative!) and chosen the Nottingham area as convenient for both the Sheffield area and the south-east, I contacted members who might be interested while Martin looked into possible towers and methods.

We hoped to have the use of Beeston bells on the Saturday morning but difficulties arose and we had to find another 10-bell tower at short notice. Duffield were substituted, but the need to finish by midday required an 8.30 meet!

Despite the earliness of the hour and false starts due to method confusion (my fault, I was thinking of Ullesthorpe!) and an untucked rope (not my fault!), we scored a fairly straightforward peal of Qwerty Surprise Royal to get off to a successful start. The decision having been taken early on that this was not to be a "ring Yorkshire and score" event, we added simultaneous peals of Ullesthorpe and Ashtead in the afternoon. Those that were able to find it then adjourned to the Victoria Hotel in Beeston for drinks, food and chat.

Sunday afternoon found 12 of us at St Mary's Nottingham to attempt Bristol Surprise Maximus. Although this was to prove unsuccessful, the general view was that it was worth trying again in the future.

Altogether the peals and unsuccessful attempt involved over 25 members, spanning the Guild's entire history from founder members to current student members. We have rung three methods new to the Guild, for the first time scored more than one peal on the same day, and extended our geographical peal range to about 35 miles from Sheffield!

Many thanks to all of those involved, particularly Martin, and my apologies to anyone who would have been interested but was somehow missed. We hope to arrange a similar event in 2005, so please let me know and make sure that I have your current details if you are interested and want to be contacted.

The Guild's peal total now stands at 85 known peals.

Chris Bennett

AND FINALLY...

My thanks as usual to those who assisted with the production and distribution of this newsletter, and particularly Paul Cubitt, Tim Beaujeux and Ruth Wilson for providing material for inclusion.

I welcome any suggestions or contributions for the next edition, which will be produced around December 2004.

Please remember to notify me of any changes to your personal contact details. I am particularly keen to maintain records of e-mail addresses as this simplifies the production and distribution of the newsletter and keeps costs down by reducing the number of copies that need sending out by post.

You may have received this newsletter twice if your contact details are kept on both sets of records maintained by the Current Guild and myself. If this has happened please accept my apologies. I still intend to arrange for these two sources of information to be combined to avoid duplication, however I never quite get round to it before the next newsletter is due. Perhaps this will get done in the coming year!

Very best wishes for 2004 to you all.

Chris Bennett
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The Guild band that attempted a peal of Bristol Surprise Maximus at St Mary's Nottingham in October 2003. From left to right: Simon Reading, Simon Smith, Alistair Smith, Tim Bradley, Martin Whiteley, Joanne Fielding, Richard Tibbetts (C), Judith McCoy, Chris Bennett, Steff Warboys, Helen Bradley, Dick Price.

SUGCR Annual Dinner 2004 Ticket Booking Form

Number of tickets required:

Meat _____

Vegetarian _____

Names for each ticket:

1. Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms / Dr / Other (_____) _____

2. Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms / Dr / Other (_____) _____

3. Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms / Dr / Other (_____) _____

4. Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms / Dr / Other (_____) _____

5. Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms / Dr / Other (_____) _____

6. Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms / Dr / Other (_____) _____

Address to which (all) tickets to be sent:

Contact telephone number: _____

Names of people with whom you would like to sit **if possible**

(Tables are for 10 people. Please let us know if you would like to reserve an entire table)

Dietary requirements: _____

Once completed, please return this form with a cheque payable to "THE UNION" with your name and address written on the back to:

**Miss Ruth Wilson, 11 Newington Road, Sheffield S11 8RZ
Tel 07734 108218**

Please include a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** with this form.

Ticket requests should arrive by **Friday 13th February 2004**.