



SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITIES GUILD OF CHANGERINGERS ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 11, 2004/2005

From The President

As a curate I took up rugby again. I played twice for Sorby Hall and twice for Barnet in the late 80's. To get the boots on again was good fun, but daunting. How long would I last before the low level of fitness took its toll? It was great fun. There were times though, when face down in the mud with half of the opposition sitting on your head that you did question your reasoning for playing!

I was covering for a peal of Plain Bob Caters at Knottingly in the New Year. Having already rung a peal of Plain Caters and with Christmas still spinning in my head, covering was the sensible place to be. When covering the mind can wander – and little harm is done when you do. With one eye on the clock – I set out to ring a sub three-hour peal (the peal board behind the tenor celebrates a peal of Stedman in 2.45). Three hours 12 will probably be the slowest on the bells and were it not for good striking many could be forgiven for thinking what they were doing ringing in such a peal. Debbie Scarf (nee Machell, originally from Dore) was in the band.

There are times ringing outings become tedious, and others when they are great fun. Some peals are rewarding from start to finish – others, when the blisters have started before half way we perhaps silently hope someone will fire it up. That is the challenge of ringing. It may be the quality of the bells we ring. It may be the friendships within the band. There are the times we wonder why we ring and are tempted to give it up – but there are plenty of times when it is rewarding.

Here at Elloughton the bells rang for our main carol service on the Sunday before Christmas. They also rang out after the first Christingle service as that congregation left and as the second sitting came in. They even managed to ring for midnight Communion. It is the most the bells have rung over Christmas since I have been here and helped make a memorable festive season.

For many of us our time at university and St Marie's was an informative time. Our love of the bells, our enjoyment of the city of Sheffield and the friendships we formed will always be with us. I was wondering the other day how many other university clubs and societies have an annual get together for present and past members? (Any answers?) Long may ours continue! I look forward to seeing you at the dinner in February.

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 gained, lost and found

This academic year we have been lucky to welcome many new faces to St Marie's, with 5 new Freshers joining us; Katy John, Pete, Tom and Nick. This is the greatest number we have had in recent years and means we can ring on 8 bells far more often for Sunday service ringing, not to mention there being lots of people to share the round with in the pub after ringing. We also very pleased to welcome Mary-Jane (aka MJ) Strong, a PhD student joining us from Leeds. We knew MJ already from NUA weekends and trips to Leeds; she is a very strong ringer who will certainly be Leeds' loss and our gain! Finally, Catherine Oram has returned after enjoying a year out in Russia. Catherine is entering her 4th and final year, and we are delighted she will be around for this year.

So, we've really done very well this year! We're hoping to attract some new learners in a months time when we are taking part in the Student Union's 'Give it a Go' campaign. We will be running an evening when some students interested in ringing will come down to St Marie's and see what it is all about; the event will be a great opportunity to change some of the common misconceptions about bell ringing and hopefully improve the band with some new recruits.

Earlier this year we said goodbye to Jon Collett. When Jon first arrived in Sheffield he was ringing rounds and call changes, and now with a PhD (nearly) under his belt, and is a strong ringer, learning Bristol Maximus. Jon hopes to put his PhD to good use, possibly in the role of stock-replenisher at the local Asda (!!!). We wish him all the best, and hope to see him again soon in Sheffield.

Easter tour 2004- Worcester

The 2004 Easter tour was in based in Worcester, Peter Elliott kindly offering to organise it and provide free accommodation for the weekend.

We arrived at Peter's house on Friday evening to a nice surprise of chilli and potatoes and a barrel of beer!! The provisions were so good that Friday evening was spent at the house and there was plenty of entertainment - highlights included a sword fight in the back garden, a singing dancing penguin, and even hand-bells. We also managed to drink our way through the best part of the barrel of beer!

Saturday morning was a late start, appreciated by the drinkers of the night before! The first tower was Pershore Abbey, where the tower correspondent had gone on holiday and forgotten to tell anyone we were coming. We did manage to get in eventually! Pershore Abbey are an unusual ring, the ringing chamber being in a cage suspended from the middle of the tower, which some of us found less than appealing. The rest of the day passed without incident, ringing at Hanbury, Dodderhill and Hallow

In the evening we braved the torrential rain, and struck gold with a pub that did good beer, had sport on the TV for the lads and a games room (although this was not a very safe place to stand due to the darts flying everywhere but the direction of the dart board).

Sunday was Palm Sunday, and so the group was split up to ring at various towers around Worcester centre including All Saints, St Swithun's and Worcester Cathedral. This was much appreciated by the ringers of Worcester as they could ring extra towers that would otherwise have been silent. After lunch Hayley Morris had kindly organised ringing on the new bells at Kidderminster. These are, thankfully, a massive improvement since their replacement.

A good thing about the tour was the number of past members who came, and we could ring methods that would not have been possible otherwise, and that it was nice to have a bigger crowd of people. We hope that as many, if not more of the past members will be on next year's tour to Guildford.

Ruth Wilson

Intro tour 04

This year the intro tour stayed local with ringing at Wortley, Bolsterstone, Bradfield and Ecclesfield.

One member, Charlotte, liked the church at Wortley so much that she started planning to have her wedding there!! (All she needs to do now is find a willing bridegroom). The towers we rang at seemed to have worse than usual taste in bell chamber carpet, and so most of the photos taken were of Lump (our mascot) and the carpets.

There was a very amusing conversation at lunch about different people using abbreviations differently – Dr Claire was talking about how BS could stand for bowel sounds or breath sounds, but the non-medical ringers were thinking of a completely different choice of words!

The tour was well attended with lots of Freshers as well as the usual suspects and the day was enjoyed by all. None of the freshers could make it in the evening as the Freshers ball fell on the same night, but that didn't stop everybody else from going for noodles and drinks in the Devonshire Cat

Ruth Wilson

Northern Universities Association Meeting

A year ago SUGCR members, alongside those from other University ringing societies, massed in a pub near Liverpool city centre, just as the Northern Universities Association weekend of 2003 was drawing to a close. The implications of that evening will remain with SUGCR forever. Maybe it was because we'd enjoyed the weekend so much.....maybe it was the alcohol, maybe it was just a moment of weakness.....or maybe sheer madness. I guess we'll never know. Somehow, Sheffield University ringers were volunteered to host the NUA weekend of 2004, from 19th – 21st November!

SUGCR catapulted itself into action immediately. We had 365 days to organise a ringing event attended by over 120 people, belonging to over 15 different ringing societies, coming from all over the country ('Northern Universities' now encompasses Cambridge, Bristol and even Exeter, apparently). Initially 365 days seemed a long time. However after consideration was given to holidays, rest days, periods when one is far too hung over to move, and more rest days (all essential parts of the student lifestyle) we realised we didn't have that much time at all. Before we knew it, we waiting in the accommodation hall, hoping at least a few people would turn up.

On the Friday night people arrived and were nudged in the direction of St Marie's, where we had some good ringing, followed by a well-needed pint in the Devonshire Cat. People then stumbled back to the accommodation hall; a spacious Scout hut available through Ruth's Scouting links.

The next day passed without incident, with excellent ringing throughout the tour, which included Rawmarsh, Rotherham Minster, Beighton, Handsworth, Norton, Ranmoor, and Sheffield Cathedral. A striking competition was held at Dore during the afternoon. Congratulations to Birmingham for winning and many thanks to Stephanie Warboys and Andrew Aspland for judging the competition.

Later that evening, after some well needed food from the Heroes at Aslan's curry house, we enjoyed a quiz followed by the infamous boat race drinking competition. To make a mark on the competition SUGCR had decided to introduce a new trophy, a very flash wooden spoon awarded for 'appalling drinking ability' You can imagine our mixed feelings of pride and embarrassment when Sheffield A and Sheffield B shared the silverware, coming first and....ahem, last. Continuing with the general theme of the weekend we then went to the pub, only to find it was closing for refurbishment in 2 hours. Not overjoyed with the thought of a pub without beer, we went back to the Devonshire Cat!

Very many thanks to everyone who helped make the NUA Sheffield weekend such a success, it took a lot of work from a lot of people and we are all very grateful. We all really enjoyed the weekend, and we wish Manchester University ringers, the hosts of 2005, loads of good luck.

Matt Beadman

Congratulations!

To Steve & Erica Oram on their adoption of Aidan Michael Jack on 30 November 2004, the day after his 1st Birthday.

To Simon & Caroline Smith on the birth of Isaac Charles Tilden on 27 October 2004.

THE ANNUAL DINNER 2005

The 2005 Dinner will take place on Saturday 19th February at the Sheffield Hilton Hotel, following a Dinner Day Ringing Tour (details to be announced). 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

Chilled Fan of Seasonal Melon garnished with selected fruits drizzled with an Orange Liqueur

Stuffed Chicken Breast with a Stilton mousse and garlic cream sauce

or

Caramelised Shallot and Plum Tomato Tartlet glazed with feta cheese, and served with a chive and sun-dried tomato salad

Crème Brulee Tartlet with a fruit of the forest compote

Coffee and Petite Fours

Red and White wine

Tickets are priced at £33 (£30 for current students) and can be ordered (using the booking form, copy attached or downloadable from the guild website) from:

Ruth Wilson: 36 Hunter House Road, Sheffield, S11 8TW. 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, the Ibis hotel is located just across the road.

The 2004 Annual Dinner

Have you ever considered how nicely a reflective aluminium thermal blanket might complement your Dinner Jacket or new Evening Dress?

You probably won't have unless you were one of those members or guests who, on the evening of the 2004 Annual Dinner, found themselves standing in the cold outside the Hilton Hotel listening to the muffled ringing of a fire alarm from within the building. Having had my jacket commandeered to supplement someone's thermal blanket (and she wasn't even my wife!), I can personally testify that it was very cold.

Fortunately it was only a false alarm, and the subsequent offer of free bottles of wine went some way towards recompense for the now cold food that we had been forced to abandon on the tables.

The rest of the evening passed without further interruption, overseen by President Paul Cubitt, with supporting acts from Guest Speakers Steve Coleman and Father Des Sexton, and committee members Tim Beaujeux and Matt Beadman.

So, another memorable Dinner, if not for the best possible reason! I suppose the chance of another fire alarm this year is pretty slim, so it's probably not worth spending too much time debating whether your outfit will go with a thermal blanket!

Do have a look at the photos on the Guild web site!

Chris Bennett

A SIGNIFICANT PEAL FOR THE GUILD

Following last years successful peal weekend, this year has been a quieter one. However, the single peal scored since the last newsletter does represent a significant achievement for the Guild.

Members may recall that a peal attempt of Bristol Surprise Maximus was arranged as part of the 2003 peal weekend. Although unsuccessful, the consensus was that it had been a worthwhile experiment and that another attempt should be organised. Martin Whiteley agreed to make the arrangements, and suggested that we diary the attempt for the same weekend in 2004 – Saturday 09 October.

Having transferred the date to my new 2004 diary, I didn't give the matter much thought until, about a month before the set date, I received emails from a couple of the prospective band. Was the attempt going ahead – did I have any details? The word from Martin was that everything was organised for an attempt at Worcester, All Saints, starting at 10.30. He went on to say that the bells were available for

“as long as we like” and that if we lost the peal “within the first couple of hours” we should “have the resolve to have a quick break and try again”!

In the event any visions of a lengthy detention in Worcester were unfounded, and we scored a creditable peal at the first attempt, and were able to get to the appointed lunchtime pub before they stopped serving lunches.

Thanks to all of those who participated, and particularly to Martin for making the arrangements.

Chris Bennett

WORCESTER, Worcs, All Saints (20)

Saturday 08 October, 2004 In 3 hours and 14 minutes

5040 Bristol Surprise Maximus

Generated by BYROC

1	Richard J Tibbetts (C)	7	Neil Donovan
2	Martin J Whiteley	8	Alistair J E Smith
3	Stephanie J Warboys	9	Christopher M Bennett
4	Joanne R Fielding	10	William R Haynes
5	Simon J T Smith	11	Mark A Humphreys
6	Helen P Bradley	12	Timothy P Bradley

The band would like to associate this peal with Jeffrey Kershaw, former member and supporter of the Guild.



UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD CENTENARY



The University of Sheffield celebrates its 100th Anniversary during 2005.

The Royal Charter establishing the newly independent University of Sheffield was signed by King Edward VII on 31 May 1905, and arrived by train at Sheffield Victoria Station on 03 June 1905, to be met by the Officers of the University and all 114 registered students. King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra visited the City to formally open the new buildings on Western Bank on 12 July 1905.

Sheffield has seen many changes in the subsequent century. Sheffield Victoria Station, once located near the Wicker Arches, closed many years ago, although the Victoria Station Hotel remains as the Sheffield Holiday Inn. The University of Sheffield now has over 23,000 students and 5,500 staff. In 1992 Sheffield City Polytechnic became Sheffield Hallam University, which now has over 28,000 students and 3,000 members of staff.

Special Centenary events are planned throughout the year, and details may be found on the University of Sheffield web site. These include a Charter Day Service at Sheffield Cathedral on Tuesday 31 May 2005, and “Centenary Day” celebrations on Tuesday 12 July, to mark the Anniversary of the Royal visit.

Plans are in hand to celebrate these events with various peal attempts.

Chris Bennett

PEAL WEEKEND 2005

Martin Whiteley and I are planning to organise another Guild Peal event, on the weekend of Saturday 08 and Sunday 09 October.

As yet the location is undecided, but it is likely to follow the same format as the 2003 Peal Weekend, with several peal attempts, some simultaneous, on Saturday, and further attempts on Sunday afternoon if there is sufficient interest.

If you are interested in taking part please put the date in your diary now, and contact me (details on the back page) to register your interest. We can then make sure that you receive further information as it becomes available. We are hoping that those members who participated in the 2003 event will want to join us again, but also want to welcome any others who were unavailable then, or who were missed when the original circulation list was drawn up.

Chris Bennett

AND FINALLY...

Thanks once again to those who assisted with the production and distribution of this newsletter, and particularly to the current members of the Guild for their news and information.

Please remember that the newsletter is not just about events staged by the student members of the Guild. If you arrange an event for past-members, or are aware of any noteworthy news about any member, please let me have details. I welcome any suggestions or contributions for the next edition, which will be produced around Christmas 2005.

Although e-mail is a convenient way of keeping in touch and distributing the newsletter where possible, the communications market place is constantly changing. Every year I have e-mails returned, as the addresses are no longer live.

This problem has been compounded this year by a sudden irretrievable failure of my own computer hard drive some months ago. Yes, I know all about backing-up important information, but I am not a very disciplined computer user, particularly when dealing with information that I normally only use once a year! As a result, I am using a saved address list that is probably about two years out of date.

If you are in touch with other past-members, please find out whether they have received a copy of this newsletter. If not (and they wish to keep in touch), please let me have their contact details, or suggest that they do so, and I can update my records again.

As always, please let me know of any changes to your own details, if you wish to stay in touch.

Very best wishes for 2005 to you all.

Chris Bennett
56 Carterknowle Road, Sheffield, S7 2DX.
Tel 0114 2819899.
E-mail; chrismbennett.sheffield@virgin.net