



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.



Sheffield Hallam University

## *Newsletter January 2007*

# Sheffield Universities' Guild of Change Ringers

CONTENTS.....Tours...Dinner Tickets...President Elections...New people... It's all going on!

### NOTES FROM A PRESIDENT..... Rev Paul Cubitt

I am usually asked to write a few thoughts for the Guild newsletter in December which is the busy season in Church life. Being wise now - it has taken 5 years - I doodled a few thoughts in November! To get me into the Christmas mood I had playing 'Christmas at St Peter's, St Albans', a tape produced in 1992 which contains a selection of the choral work by the choir and a touch of Grandsire Caters on the old bells. Earlier that afternoon I spent an hour at the local school talking about Advent and getting ready for Christmas and for the coming again of Jesus at the end of the age. As part of that I played some Christmas music and spoke of the Advent ring (why do I always think back to the Blue Peter Advent wreath made with 2 coat hangers?). The familiar carols on the tape are wonderful to hear, and listening to the bells I can place the ringers and the occasion of the recording. Fond memories.

For many of us Guild members we have fond memories of those we rang with at St Marie's and other towers on various outings and the pubs in which we drank. For those who can make a Guild practice or a ring on the dinner weekend there is the familiar smell of St Marie's with a faint hint of incense and candle, and the spiral steps that go the wrong way round (with mandatory light out?). The ringing chamber has gone through a few transformations of green and cream; brown and cream; yellow and now blue, no doubt other colours over the years. Sallys have changed from green, red and white; green; and blue and gold (I heard once that the Cathedral authorities said green was the correct liturgical colour so the ropes should be green so they had them all changed.....who knows, but a nice story). For all those changes and for all the countless students and friends of the Guild down the years the bells are still just the same. Never easy, always a challenge and ultimately rewarding they bring their own memories.

This is my last dinner as president of the Guild. It has been a privilege and pleasure to be part of the 'active' Guild, made possible by being an hour away. Five years has passed and the time comes to hand the baton to the next president. To he or she will fall the 50<sup>th</sup> dinner in a few years time. Do think about who you would like the next president to be. There is no pattern to follow. Some presidents have been very local, others mid-distance and some far flung. Some have been able to help and support through their proximity to the Guild and others via the telephone. Each has brought and offered something of themselves to the Guild which have been appreciated.

The end of my term as President ties in well with out next move to Norfolk. From 17 April our address will be:

The Rectory, 10 Oak Wood, Blofield, Norwich, NR13 4JQ. Tel....01603 713160

***Paul Cubitt***

**Who are we? - "The Committee" 06-07**

**Chair** - Catherine Oram; studying towards an MA in International Relations.

**Master** - Jenny Crabtree; in the second year of her Chemical Engineering and Chemistry degree.

**Vice Master** - Tom Scase; a third year Town Planning student.

**Secretary** - Peter Mansbridge; also a third year Town Planning student.

**Treasurer** - Nick Jolliffe; in the third year of his medical degree.

**New members**

This year we have been fortunate to gain several new members including both experienced ringers and beginners.

**Philippa Gullett**, has been ringing for nine years and is in her 2<sup>nd</sup> year at Sheffield, studying Biology with Conservation and Biodiversity. She comes from Kent and learnt to ring at Rochester Cathedral.

**Suzy Fellows**, originally from Street in Somerset, graduated with a BA in Social and Political Studies in 2004 and now works at Sheffield Hallam University as an Access Development Officer, working on student recruitment and raising aspirations projects. Suzy is one of our star learners, having been talked into having a go by a friend, and is getting on very well.

**John Prebble** hails all the way from Doncaster and is in his third year of a Material Science and Engineering degree. He learnt to ring at Bawtry and has been ringing for seven years.

**Claire Monk**, our token Fresher, is in the first year of her Biochemistry and Genetics degree. Claire has been ringing for 8 years, having learnt at Walsham le Willows, and we've already roped her in to organising our Easter Tour in Suffolk with the current Vice Master, Tom.

So, quite a good year for new people! We've also had a couple of 'Give it a Go' sessions to attract attention to our society and encourage students to come and have a go at ringing and see what it is we actually get up to. These events have been surprisingly popular and thanks must go to Jenny Crabtree, Tom Scase, M-J Strong and Richard Farnsworth for all their help with teaching at these events.

**The Leavers**

Unfortunately, as usual with student guilds, we also lost several members as people graduated and fled the SUGCR nest! Past Master, **James Blackburn** graduated with a degree in Electrical Engineering and is currently back in his home town of Hull working at BP.

**James Stanton**, having gained a degree in Physics is now working for the Law Society and is based in

Alvechurch near Birmingham with his lovely new wife, Nikki. **Nikki Stanton** (nee Bennett) graduated from Hallam with a Psychology degree and is now doing teacher training.

**Jo Lilley** graduated this year with a degree in Music and is now still in Sheffield, working as a postlady!

**Ruth Wilson**, a past Treasurer and Chair who graduated from medicine in 2005 and continued to support the ringing at St Marie's, is now working up in Hull. Fortunately, she still comes and sees us every so often (particularly supporting us on Sunday evenings) as her fiancé, another past Guild member – see below – is still based in Sheffield.

We are also temporarily without last year's Master, **Katy Idle**, who is on a year abroad studying in Atlanta, Georgia. Fortunately, she's still doing lots of ringing, so we're looking forward to her return in September!

### Past Members Update...

**Matthew Beadman**, is now in a London prison – No not like that! After returning to the UK after some travelling adventures, Matt is now living in London, and working in a Forensic Psychology team in a London Prison. Any old friends wanting to send Matt a note can contact him on MatthewBeadman@hotmail.com.

### An SUGCR Wedding...

On 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2006 several members headed to Castle Bromwich to attend the wedding of two of our members, **James Stanton and Nikki Bennett**. Having rung a peal at the Castle Bromwich to celebrate their engagement back in February, we were delighted to be able to share their special day with them.

Congratulations to James and Nikki as they start their new life together in Alvechurch.

### ...and an engagement

Congratulations also go to Ruth Wilson and Philip Medlock on their engagement.

### This year's tours

The **Easter Tour**, organised by Ruth Wilson, took us down to the Liverpool area, where we rang in Great Crosby, Wigan, St Helens, and, the grab of the tour, Liverpool Cathedral!



The **Summer Tour** in 2006 took the Guild to Katy Idle's home town of Rugby. No sooner had we all arrived then we were off to St Andrew's in Rugby which provided not one, but two grabs, with a ring of 5 in the West tower and an 8 in the North East tower.

Saturday started with us setting off from the hall, only to be stopped in our tracks by a rather irate resident living next door who had called the police during the night as she didn't think there should be people staying there! Fortunately, the boys in blue weren't too bothered and left us to it!

So, having dodged the police and neighbours we headed off to our first tower, Stretton on Dunsmore, where we were joined by two more ringers, taking us to a total of 13. From Stretton, we went on the 8 at Ryton on Dunsmore and the 6 at Bubbenhall. A good lunch, a few beers, and a couple of rugby games later (well, when in Rome...!) the day's ringing ended with two more grabs at Monks Kirby and Claybrooke.

After an evening of sampling the pubs that Bilton had to offer, we all still managed to make it to Sunday morning ringing at several local towers, before heading to Katy's house for a summer barbeque with the local ringers. Having been very well fed and watered, we all headed back to our various parts of the country. A great tour with great weather and good bells.

This year's **Intro Tour** gave our new members a chance to see what the local area had to offer as we headed into the Peak District, with ringing planned for Bamford, Hope, Castleton and Hathersage.

It started well, with us all catching the correct train, arriving in time and having a good ring in the very small chamber at Bamford. However, Castleton had cancelled on us due to a preference for flowers over bellringers and so, whilst the villagers of Castleton enjoyed a Flower Festival we settled down for what was a very long, relaxed and satisfying lunch in the pub across the road!

Following what turned into a four hour lunch, we headed on to Hope where, yes – believe it or not, we did actually do some ringing!



Our last tower of the day was Hathersage; a grab for several members of the band so we traipsed up the ridiculously large hill to the church in the middle of a thunderstorm, eagerly awaiting a new tower. Typical - a lockout! Time to find another pub or two!

So, in the end we managed to ring at only two out of four churches and visit four pubs instead of just the one for lunch. However, despite a lack of ringing, being drenched in a thunderstorm and probably a few more pubs than is deemed appropriate for a ringing outing, a good time was had by all and thanks was given to Jenny Crabtree for a very entertaining tour.

SUGCR also attended this year's **NUA**, hosted by Warwick. On the Saturday, we met up with all the smug lot that had the sense and funds to spend Friday night at a lovely warm hotel, whilst the rest of us thawed out from spending the night in an extremely cold scout hall!

We grabbed several towers including Berkswell, Allesley, Coventry St. Michael (Stoke), Wolston, Lillington and Warwick (St. Nic). Our ringers, and particularly our beginners, rang very well at these new towers. Special mention, though, has to go to Pete Mansbridge, who, on missing his sally at a tower with a very long draught, calmly stepped halfway across the tower to retrieve it and just carried on ringing as if nothing had happened, completely unfazed! If only more people could ring so calmly!

Sheffield took part in the striking competition, held at Cubbington, coming a respectable 4<sup>th</sup> – not a bad effort! We also managed to come 4<sup>th</sup> in the boat race, even though John had to take two positions in the race as we were somewhat lacking in suitable drinkers!

A good weekend was enjoyed by all and we're looking forward to next year's escapades in Nottingham.

GUILD EVENTS COMING UP SOON.....

**ANNUAL DINNER Saturday February 24<sup>th</sup> – Hilton Hotel, Sheffield**



Guest speaker and entertainment

The guest speaker will be Mr. Ronald Warford, former President of the [Durham & Newcastle Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers](#). After dinner entertainment will be provided by the [University of Sheffield Ceilidh Society Band](#).

Accommodation

If you are planning on staying at the Hilton discounted prices of £70 for a single room and £90 for a double are available for members. Please mention you are attending the Sheffield Universities Guild of Change Ringers Annual Dinner when booking.

Cheaper accommodation is also available at the Ibis Hotel, located across the road from the Hilton. All rooms are £48 per night.

How to book tickets:?

Tickets are £33 and £30 for students. Please complete the booking form attached and return it to:

**Catherine Oram, 257 Whitehouse Lane, Walkley, Sheffield. S6 2WA**

Please make cheques payable to: **University of Sheffield Union of Students.**

Please include a stamped addressed envelope with your booking form. The closing date for booking forms (and Presidential nominations!) is 19<sup>th</sup> February 2007.

We all look forward to seeing you on 24<sup>th</sup> February!

## **GUILD TOURS**

### **DINNER DAY TOUR ~ 24<sup>th</sup> February 07 ~ Peak District**

This will be held in Derbyshire. We plan to ring at:

Matlock 8 14-0-0  
Darley Dale 8 15-2-2  
Stanton-in-the-Peak 6 4cwt  
Youlgreave 10 23-2-24

Please be aware that some of these towers are yet to be confirmed. **Final details will be confirmed and sent out via email and posted on the website** in the next few weeks.

### **EASTER TOUR ~ 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> April 07 ~ Suffolk**

This will be held in Suffolk on 13th-15th April. If any alumni would like to join us on this, or any of our tours, please do come along! You are all very welcome! Further details of this tour will be available shortly.

### **\*\*\* WANTED! NEW PRESIDENT – Nominations required please! \*\*\***

Don't the years fly by... nominations are invited for the office of President of SUGCR.

Nominations should be sent to [sugcr@shef.ac.uk](mailto:sugcr@shef.ac.uk) or:

SUGCR,  
University of Sheffield Union of Students,  
Western Bank,  
Sheffield S10 2TG

Or included with your dinner ticket order (see order form attached)

The closing date for nominations is 19 February 2007.

General rules for nominations and voting:

1. Nominees, proposers and seconders must be past student members of SUGCR
2. Only past student members of SUGCR in attendance of the 2007 Annual Dinner may vote (no postal votes).

NOTES FROM A WWWEBMASTER GEEK..... Dr Stu Wrigley

## [sugcr.union.shef.ac.uk](http://sugcr.union.shef.ac.uk)

### Domain Name Trouble

As some of you may know, Fast24, the UK broadband ISP and domain registrar, recently (and suddenly) ceased trading. Unfortunately, the Guild's domain names were registered with Domainbuster (a trading name of Fast24) and this has had an adverse effect on our email distribution lists. We are currently liaising with Nominet, the Internet registry for all .uk domain names, for the issue to be resolved but it is turning into a lengthy process. We stress, however, that the website remains available via the Union's servers at <http://sugcr.union.shef.ac.uk/> and email contact with the Guild should be made via [sugcr@shef.ac.uk](mailto:sugcr@shef.ac.uk) which is checked regularly.

### Call for website content

The Guild's website was recently given a face-lift to coincide with its new URL <http://sugcr.union.shef.ac.uk/>; we hope that you find it more pleasant to use. We are encouraging former members of the Guild to get in contact with any news or information which they think would be of interest to past and/or present members and in particular any Guild-related quarters and peals.

NOTES FROM A RETIRING EDITOR \*sob\*..... Mr Chris Bennett

It is now 13 years since I first produced the annual newsletter for SUGCR members. I claim no credit for the original idea which was simultaneously suggested by a number of members, however as President at the time I decided to set something up. Not intended it to be part of the formal Presidential role, I carried on with the newsletter when my Presidential term ended

There are certain challenges in producing and distributing an infrequent publication for an organisation with a current membership that is constantly changing, and past members (particularly immediate past members) who are often geographically mobile. Nevertheless, the experience has generally been a positive one.

However, I never intended to carry on indefinitely, and in recent years I have increasingly felt that both the newsletter and I were in need of a change. Having completed a round dozen editions it seemed the right time to step down and pass the newsletter on to new hands. Catherine Oram and Gill Codd have stepped in and taken charge of this year's newsletter and I thank them and wish them well in their task.

Many thanks also to the many members and friends who have helped and supported me over the years – to the various committees I have worked with, to Heather Limbach and Paul Cubitt for their Presidential support, and to all of those individuals who have helped in a wide variety of ways, or expressed their support and appreciation. Last but not least, to my own family who have put up with my late nights and irritability (not to mention restrictions on their computer access) for a couple of weeks each year for the last 12 years!

*Chris Bennett*

NOTES FROM THE NEW EDITOR (Eeek!)..... Miss Gill Codd

I am not usually stuck for words, however I feel my first notes as editor should be something memorable, witty, and profound., finding myself without any of the above attributes on this cold January evening I will make do by telling the story of how I first stumbled across this strange past-time.

I was 12 years old, and had recently started secondary school in my home town of Cleethorpes. In my German class I sat next to a girl I had never met before, and as part of the lesson we introduced our hobbies to each other. I said the rather dull, and predictable, Ich schwimmen (I assume no translation is required here?). Vicky on the other hand said..... Ich klingen glocken in einer kirche. That sounded far more exciting, and so I went along to the next practice and there I was – earning £5 a weekend ringing for weddings. The church was slightly unusual , though of course I didn't realise until I arrived in Sheffield and learnt that some churches had more than 3 bells, which I guess helps to explain my standard of ringing at the start (no excuses now though).

SUGCR introduced me to call changes, and methods (see previous paragraph on three bell towers!), real ale, ceilidhs, sleeping on hard wooden church hall floors, the scary challenge of a bunch of students cooking a full Christmas dinner for the guild without poisoning everyone, but most importantly I met some wonderful friends.

There's a quote on our website from Peter which reads "a social life is a by-product". I believe that for most guild members bell ringing is "almost" a by-product of SUGCR. Bell ringing is the activity that brings us all together, however it's the friendships, and everything we share together that keeps us coming back.

I would like to thank Chris on behalf of all the ringers, like me, who read the newsletter each year without sending back comments, or any thanks. I promise that your work was greatly appreciated. I would like to continue producing the letter, with hopefully a little more input from past members. I will therefore be in contact with some of you in the next few months to find out what you are up to.

I hope to see you all at the dinner in February – in the meantime email any comments you have to me at: [gillcodd@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gillcodd@yahoo.co.uk)

*Gill x*

# SUGCR Annual Dinner 2007 Ticket Booking Form

**Ticket prices:**

Non-students: £33

Students: £30

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 "**University of Sheffield Union of Students**" with your **name and address written on the back** to:

**Catherine Oram, 257 Whitehouse Lane, Walkley, Sheffield S6 2WA**  
**Tel: 0114 231 6746**

Please include a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** with this form.  
The closing date for booking forms is **Monday, 19th February 2007**.

**NOTE:** Please also take this opportunity to include in this note any presidential nominations you have, see previous section from the Guild.