



The
University
Of
Sheffield.



Newsletter 17 January 2011

Sheffield Universities' Guild of Change Ringers

Contact us at... SUGCR@sheffield.ac.uk

NOTES FROM A PRESIDENT - Sue Burchell

Welcome to the 2011 newsletter and the start of another year.

Winter came early this year. Wherever you are, you're unlikely to have escaped its icy grip. As I write, the thaw is starting but we're promised further cold temperatures. Good old British weather – unpredictable, changeable. Life is all about change, really. We're constantly moving on (and growing older!), changing our aspirations, our lifestyles, our careers.

I've had a deal of change over the past few months. I have moved from being a part-time curate (and part-time council employee) to being a full-time vicar, in charge of my own parish. This has meant getting used to being in charge, no daily commute (hurrah!), living "on the job" and moving from a village to an urban setting. I'm just about getting used to being able to pop down the shops if we need anything. Quite a few changes for me and my family – and the dog and cat have had to adjust, too.

We all have to face change. The coming year will probably bring changes for all of us. Some of you will be preparing for finals and wondering what to do next, some may be moving to a new job, or getting married, or starting a family.

It's important to have some fixed points when going through periods of change. For some of us, God is an important fixed point but there are many others – home, family, friends, clubs, societies, community groups, the Guild ...

Of course, the Guild does change but the old traditions continue (e.g. freshers' walk; pancake party; ringing at St Marie's; visiting pubs ...) and it's something that keeps us together. We have the Dinner every year and other opportunities to meet up with old friends. Long may it continue!

Whatever changes you expect this year, and whatever unexpected changes you may face, I wish you all the very best for 2011.

Sue Burchell

PEOPLE NEWS!!

Who are we? – “The Committee” 10 -11

Some familiar faces...

Chair:	Helen Scarf
Master:	Claire Monk
Vice-Master:	John Prebble
Secretary:	Hannah Weston
Treasurer:	Tom Lovering
Inclusion Officer:	Helen Scarf

We also have two new freshers this year - **Emily Mellor** and **Matt Clements**

Alumni News

Fiona Addie recently got engaged to Nick Rendell.

Fleur and Stu Wrigley are now the proud parents of Freya – a sister for big brother Ewan.

Philip and Ruth Medlock became parents last year when little Emily arrived.

Congratulations to everyone – and apologies if I have missed anyone's news!

SUGCR Tours and Socials...

Summer Tour - Southwold, Suffolk

SUGCR ventured back to East Anglia, an area of the world which is fast becoming the guild Mecca with many of our members hailing from the region or moving to it. Tom Britten is from Southwold, on the Suffolk coast, so organised us another brilliant seaside tour. The whole weekend was attended by several current members, all of that year's graduates, a good handful of resident SUGCR Alumni, and a couple of Suffolk Guild chums.

We camped in a couple of tents, one of which was Chris Bennett's family camping tent. We were extremely pleased that Chris, being a well seasoned camper, brought with him all the necessary equipment for a luxury camping weekend. Bacon and eggs each morning and freshly brewed tea and coffee, just the perfect breakfast for a full ringing weekend. When everyone met at the campsite we discovered that almost everyone who drove had got a new car within the space of a few weeks - a strange coincidence but quite exciting!

Friday evening was the first ringing of the weekend. After setting up camp, we drove up the road to

Reydon (6), Tom's home tower. After a little ring, we decided to get fish and chips by the sea for dinner, and then headed to the pub. The Nelson is a quaint old coastal pub which was, unfortunately, packed. After lurking by the door with our drinks, a lovely elderly couple who were sat on a big table for six, said that we could have their table as soon as they had finished their drinks. Marvellous! We had a good night in the pub. The level of hilarity was increased when Tom Scase (now 25) was ID'd at the bar when ordering pints for himself, Pete Mansbridge (24) and Chris Bennett (a little more senior). The bar staff asked to see ID for all three people drinking, which obviously required Chris to hand over his driving license, despite Tom trying to explain that one of the three was quite clearly older than 18!

After a hearty breakfast on Saturday we headed out for our days ringing. Our band was joined by Deborah Blumfield, the Hitchins, and Richard Munnings (Suffolk Guild master). The first tower of the day was Cheddiston which are a recently installed ring of 8. When we arrived the ropes were far too high for the bells to be up at hand, and far too low to be up at back. Very peculiar indeed! Tom nipped out to find the local, after which it transpired that the ropes were all tied around the frame to allow for some maintenance. As we couldn't ring, Tom hastily organised for us to ring at Wisset which was the next village on. This is a newer ring of bells and they were glorious! After a quick ring, we came out to find two notes on our cars - one of which complimenting our ringing, the other was from a farmer saying we'd blocked his field. Oh well, you can't please everyone but it's nice to be appreciated some of the time.

Halesworth (8) and Theberton (6) were the next two towers. With the band we were able to ring a good range of methods with surprise major and minor as the general level of ringing.

After this eventful morning, we travelled to Aldeburgh (8) for lunch and more ringing. It was here that Louis Suggett, a ringer from Suffolk, met us. He was meant to be meeting us earlier but after missing various combinations of trains and busses, Aldeburgh was the best he could do. We had some posh deli sandwiches for lunch sat on the beach, leaving us refuelled and ready for the afternoon. The SUGCR team visited Leiston (8) and Blythburgh (6) to finish off the day with some brilliant ringing.

We were all shattered after the day so visited another lovely Southwold pub. This time we ate at the Harbour Inn which is (surprisingly) at the harbour, before going back to play games and chat at the campsite. Unfortunately, as it was August there were no pitches available for two nights so we had to move our tents to different pitches for Saturday night which was a little inconvenient but quite entertaining.

Sunday Morning was very relaxed, we walked through the town to join the local band at Southwold church, which is a stunning building. The chunky, old style bells aren't quite so impressive, but with a good band we rang some lovely Stedman and the band were very grateful for our help.

Before we all headed our separate ways, we finished the weekend with a sunny ice cream and a paddle, regressing to become small children of course! Huge thanks go to Tom for organising the weekend, everyone who attended - it was great to see so many alumni taking part, and the couple of Suffolk ringers who came and helped out.

Intro Tour: Derbyshire

The Intro tour this year was a joint adventure for students, recent alumni, Walkley and Sheffield Cathedral ringers. All together we had 23 happy Campanologists travelling between six towers in a few cars and a minibus. The tour was based in the Derbyshire Peak District - unfortunately this date fell in the Derbyshire peal week so getting towers was a little tricky, but we eventually managed it after lots of re-jiggling.



(Missing from the photo is Gill (taking photo), and Pete and Judith who made a quick get away!)

The minibus passengers gathered behind the Cathedral, and with the bus only a weenie bit late we were on the way to Ashover. Starting the day with a 10 bell tower may seem adventurous but surprisingly, everyone was on top form. These bells are fantastic, and with a band of ringers of such varying abilities, we rang from rounds to Stedman Caters to Cambridge Royal and much more in between. The only minor hitch really was that Helen Scarf (current Chairperson) just dropped the tail end whilst ringing rounds but she somehow caught it again and carried on without really getting out of place!

After a brilliant start at Ashover, we headed off to Darley Dale through thick fog, via 'rural' roads with grass growing up the middle. We survived the interesting journey to reach the church where we rang some 8 spliced, and some Stedman triples for those students learning it.

Winster was the third tower - an, er, interesting 5 bell tower. We unexpectedly had to get the keys from the correspondent's house which meant we started late, but most people managed to get a ring. When ringing up, these didn't sound the most tuneful bells, but something else was wrong. Except the tenor, they were muffled! Never mind, we rang on anyway. Until Helen broke the treble rope that is - it was not her day.

Winster is beautiful historic village and worth a visit, so quite a good spot for the break. We had lunch in a pub here which had Marston's beers on draught and served good hearty meals, making us quite a happy bunch.

After lunch we headed to Elton - a little 6 with a tiny ringing chamber where we all struggled to ring with full bellies. After Elton was Hartington. This is a beautiful village which is seated in the picturesque Derbyshire countryside - some people enjoyed a hot drink at the tea shop, some people had a little wander, one unfortunate load of people had to push a minibus. Yes, push it. The driver of the minibus decided to take a cross-country track marked 'Unsuitable for motor vehicles', where it gradually got more stuck until it was grounded. Meanwhile, five of us who had travelled in two cars to the tower were tapping our feet and amusing ourselves with a little 5 bell ringing. After two phone calls which were mostly just everyone on the bus giggling, two other people arrived. A couple of us thought we recognised them, and we did - the parents of Tim Jarvis who is one of our recent graduates! So we rang with them until, with 8 minutes to go, the 17-strong minibus load of people arrived. They were promptly shooed into the tower and just about all managed a grab before our very

strict time limit was up.

For those who wanted an easy tower to finish, Monyash was the last of the day. These were a lovely three which were surprisingly easy to ring, leading our ringers to be rather adventurous with Stedman singles.

All in all, the day was eventful but enjoyable. It was brilliant to see so many people there, including some SUGCRites who travelled from as far as London and Bath, and great to share the day with many Sheffield ringers. Thanks to all who came and made it such a great day, and to Vicki who kindly drove the minibus (albeit it with dubious judgement!).

GUILD EVENTS COMING UP SOON...

*** The 52nd Annual Dinner Weekend ***

Date: Saturday 26th February 2011.

Venue: Kenwood Hall, Kenwood Road, Sheffield, S7 1NQ

Time: 7.00pm for a 7.30pm Seating.

Menu

Chicken liver pate, toasted ciabata and onion marmalade

oOo

Roasted vine tomato soup finished with cream

oOo

Roast pork fillet wrapped in bacon with a whole grain mustard sauce

oOo

Dark chocolate tart with a raspberry sauce

oOo

Tea or Coffee

Vegetarian option

Tian of tomato and mozzarella served with a pesto dressing

oOo

Roasted vine tomato soup finished with cream

oOo

Roasted Mediterranean vegetable tart topped with goats cheese and tomato coulis

oOo

Dark chocolate tart with a raspberry sauce

oOo

Tea or Coffee

Accommodation: Rooms are available at Kenwood Hall, priced at £79. If you are wanting a room these must be booked before Friday 28th January to ensure that you get a room at the discounted price.

Tickets: Please take a look at the attached booking form ASAP – Thanks!

Missing Members!!!

Do you know any members who do not receive the newsletter? Or keep up to date with SUGCR? Please send an email or postal addresses to GillCodd@yahoo.co.uk so I can add them to the distribution list.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR - Gill Codd

I am writing this year as a proud bell ringer once again. I have returned to that familiar situation where you discuss hobbies with work colleagues, and receive confused looks after trying to explain the complexities of change ringing. Trying and giving up I should say.

I have been a regular ringer at Walkley now since the SUGCR 50th dinner weekend. I have graduated from plain hunt, to the infinitely more tricky (for me anyway) world of Bobs and Singles. I was even persuaded to ring 2 Quarter Peals last year. I have my bad weeks, but in general I feel I am improving which is always nice. I have to say the cup of tea and biscuit half way through the practice definitely helps, and is a tradition I would recommend more towers adopting.

Once a month the Walkley ringers head up with winding steps of St Maries to ring with the SUGCR band. This joint practice gives us a chance to ring on a “challenging” 8 (I have to admit I am always happy to return to our nice 6), and also boost the numbers at St Maries enabling everyone to ring more complex methods. In turn Walkley often have visitors from St Maries and also Ranmoor. This year’s SUGCR intro tour was a real joint effort with SUGCR, Walkley and Cathedral ringers attending from Sheffield as well as some visitors from further afield.

This sharing of practices reminds me what a great community spirit the hobby of bellringing creates. We share a common interest, help one another learn more and progress to different methods, we work as a team when ringing – dodging, nodding, pointing and shouting. And probably most importantly we are a bit odd and so have to stick together.

I hope you will join us at the SUGCR dinner this year. Often it’s the only chance we get, despite many good intentions, to get together – eat, drink and be merry.

Happy New Year to everyone, Hope to see you soon.

Gill x

SUGCR Annual Dinner 2011 Ticket Booking Form



Saturday 26th February
Kenwood Hall, Kenwood Road, Sheffield, S7 1NQ

Ticket prices:

Non-students: £39

Students: £37

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:

Helen Scarf: 6 College Street, Sheffield. S10 2PH

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

The closing date for booking forms is **Monday 17th January 2011**