



SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITIES GUILD OF CHANGE RINGERS ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 7, 2000/2001



The President writes.....

I really cannot believe that five years have gone past since my election as President! As time allegedly goes faster the older you get, it is surely time for a new President.

I must say that I have felt very honoured to be SUGCR President for the last five years, and have really enjoyed my contact with the various "current" committees. It has been good to see new friendships developing and the Guild continuing to provide social and ringing activities to students in Sheffield.

During the next five year period Sheffield University will celebrate its centenary in 2005, and it would be good to think that the Guild will be able to play some part in those celebrations. I guess that we will also start the build-up towards the Guild's own fiftieth anniversary celebrations in 2009. I am sure that these will be every bit as exciting and well supported as the fortieth anniversary. Obviously the new President will bring their own ideas for these events, and I look forward to that.

I hope that we will have a good turn out at this year's Annual Dinner to elect the new President, and that members will be considering the post with a view to either standing themselves or proposing and seconding suitable candidates.

The main duty of the presidential post is to preside at the Annual Dinner, and support the Guild and current committee in the dinner arrangements. I have also attended the Guild's Annual General Meeting and the first practice of the academic year, because I thought it good to meet and get to know the current members. Obviously it is easier to do this if you live within a reasonable striking distance of Sheffield, but this is not an essential requirement.

Other than this, it is up to the President themselves and their committees to decide what the President will do. So please do give some thought to the Presidency if this kind of involvement interests you, or you can think of somebody who you think would be particularly suitable.

Finally I would like to thank all of the Guild committees with whom I have served and worked, and wish them, the new President, and all members and friends every success in the future.

Heather Limbach

Contact the Guild by E-mail at: SUGCR@Sheffield.ac.uk

Or visit the Guild web site at: <http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/~sugcr>

ANNUAL DINNER

SATURDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2002

The 2002 Annual Dinner and Presidential Election will take place on Saturday 23rd February at Whirlowbrook Hall, Ecclesall Road South, the venue of last years successful dinner. The Dinner Day Ringing Tour will be in the Chesterfield area, including ringing on the 25 cwt ring of 10 bells at St Mary & All Saints, Chesterfield - home of the famous "crooked spire".

Menu

Duo of Melon With Strawberry and Mango Salsa

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Roasted Tomato Soup with Oregano

**

Roast Loin of Pork with a Port and Juniper Sauce

Or

Roasted Pepper filled with Vegetables and Rice served with Tomato Coulis and Char-Grilled Polenta

**

Chocolate and Orange Roulade with Grand Marnier Cream

**

Coffee and Mints

Guest Speakers

Reverend Patrick Wooster, from Evesham and a member of the Guild of Clerical Ringers.

Father Desmond Sexton, from St. Marie's Cathedral.

Tickets priced at £34 each can be ordered (using the booking form, copy attached or downloadable from the Guild web site) from;

Jon Collett, 72 Tennyson Road, Walkley, Sheffield, S6 2WE, Tel 0114 233 4951

A group discount has been negotiated with the Beauchief Hotel, Abbeydale Road, who will offer a reduction on their current list price of £36 per person per night for Bed & Breakfast, and £46 per person per night for Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Details of the discounted rate will be available in January from:

0845 300 2000 (Corus & Regal Booking number) or at www.corushotels.co.uk.

Presidential Election

Nominations for the new President should be submitted (using the official nomination form, copy attached or downloadable from the Guild web site) to arrive by Friday 15 February 2002.

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 2002 Annual Dinner may vote (no postal votes).

For up-to-date information on the Annual Dinner or Presidential nominations visit the Guild web site or contact Jon Collett at: SUGCR@Sheffield.ac.uk, or on telephone number 0114 233 4951.

MEMBERS

The 2001/2002 Committee

Jon Collett - Chairperson

Astri Robinson - Secretary - In her final year of a psychology Ph.D

Kerry Morris - Treasurer - In her final year of an embryology Ph.D

Natalie Williams - Master - A second year physics student

Sarah Dawson - Vice Master - A final year medic, due to be let loose on the public in August

At the start of 2001/2002 academic year, we welcomed a number of new members.....

Maria-Teresa Chu, a second year student in Psychology and Philosophy, who is just starting to learn.

George Collett, father of the current Chairperson. A first year Ph.D. student, registered in Sheffield, but mainly based at BRE in Watford.

Tessa Gent, a first year nursing Student at Sheffield Hallam University.

Chris Hewitt, a first year Medicine student from Lincolnshire.

Catherine Oram - yet another Oram in the Guild, but not related to any of the others. Originally from Suffolk, has just started a degree in Russian.

Amy Smith, increasing further the number of Smiths who ring with us. Amy learnt to ring in Durham and has just started a degree in Geography.

.....and we said goodbye to.....

Paul Ward, who after graduating from his business studies degree and organising our summer tour in July, has been on a round Europe trip and should now be searching for a job, if he can get up in time for it!

.....And the following just stayed around.

Tim Beaujeux, after finishing his Masters degree, has started a Ph.D at the Hallamshire Hospital studying Motor Neurone Disease.

Jon Collett, after finishing his undergraduate degree in June, has gone on to start a Ph.D in chemistry and biomaterials in an attempt to make artificial cartilage.

Have we got your latest postal address, telephone number and E-mail address?

PEALS RUNG DURING 2001

DORE, S. Yorks, Christ Church (11)

on Sunday 4 February 2001 in 2h 53m
5056 Cambridge Surprise Major
composed by C Middleton

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Paul F Ward | 5. Judith S Metcalf |
| 2. Sarah E T Dawson | 6. Christopher M Bennett |
| 3. Natalie J Williams | 7. Simon J T Smith |
| 4. Timothy P Beaujeux | 8. Caroline J Smith (C) |

First Treble Bob: 1. First in Method: 2,3,4.
To celebrate the ordination to the Diaconate of Robert S Dawson, father of 2, on Saturday 27 January at Nottingham RC Cathedral. Also in memory of Frank H Daffurn, grandfather of 2, died Saturday 3 February.

SHEFFIELD, S. Yorks, St Marie (25)

on Sunday 25 February 2001
5088 Ipswich Surprise Major
composed by J M Goldthorpe

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Patricia Hitchens | 5. Jeffrey Kershaw |
| 2. Natalie J Williams | 6. Philip J Simmonds |
| 3. Judith A Mack | 7. Richard J W Tibbetts |
| 4. Joanne R Schofield | 8. Martin J Whiteley (C) |

Rung on the day following the Annual Dinner and in fond memory of John Hartley (founder member) and Kit Brookes.

SHEFFIELD, S. Yorks, St Marie (25)

on Saturday 3 June 2001 in 3h 1m
5024 Cambridge Surprise Major
composed by T B Worsley

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Jonathan G Collett | 5. Robin L Story |
| 2. Timothy P Beaujeux | 6. Peter R Elliott |
| 3. Paul F Ward | 7. Simon J Reading |
| 4. Simon J T Smith (C) | 8. Christopher M Bennett |

First Surprise: 3. A farewell compliment to Paul Ward.

The Guild continues to accumulate peals at a steady rate, with four peals rung since the previous newsletter.

On the Sunday following the 2001 Annual Dinner, a peal of Ipswich Surprise Major was rung at St Marie's Cathedral by a band containing members from each decade of the Guild's history.

Three peals of Cambridge Surprise have been rung during the year by Sheffield-based bands. Peals of major at Dore and St Marie's Cathedral were each arranged to enable current members to ring "firsts" of Cambridge.

In August a band made up of Past and Associate members who had decided that they wanted to do something "a bit different", rang a peal of Variable Hunt Cambridge Minor at Thrybergh.

This peal was the normal length of 5040 changes, and not 5043010 as reported in The Ringing World!

A noteworthy achievement by an individual member also deserves mention this year. Richard Tibbetts was a member of the Hertford County Association band that recently rang a handbell peal of Spliced Surprise minor in 233 methods, setting a new record for the most Surprise Minor methods rung in a peal.

The report of this peal took up an entire column in The Ringing World, perhaps a record in itself!

THRYBERGH, S. Yorks, St Leonard (8)

on Saturday 4 August 2001 in 2h 33m
5024 Cambridge Surprise Minor
composed by A J Cox (Variable Hunt)

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Simon J T Smith | 4. Peter R Elliott |
| 2. Jane F Boyle | 5. Caroline J Carter |
| 3. Judith S Metcalf | 6. Christopher M Bennett (C) |

The Guild peal total now stands at 80 known peals.

TOURS AND THINGS!

An Easter Tour was originally planned in the Bedfordshire area, but had to be cancelled due to the Foot & Mouth situation. A fun day at Alton Towers was arranged instead. Not to let Paul get away with it, we told him that he could organise the summer tour instead!

Thursday night - start of summer tour. Jon and Kerry arrived at Carlton (my home village). No one else did. Oh well!

Friday - Arrived at Stoke Goldington to find that we now had a grand total of 7 people, 3 of whom were SUGCR, the rest local ringers invited to bulk out the numbers. Eventually the numbers began to balance more when Tim and Natalie arrived. After ringing at Hanslope had lunch at the Navigation Inn at Thrupp Wharf, and had many strange looks from people when Tim and Nat produced water pistols purchased on the way over. We explained that they were students!

Afternoon towers at Potterspury and Wicken, and then back to Carlton (some via Milton Keynes to buy bigger and better water pistols). Checked out our accommodation at Chellington whilst still daylight. Very cool ex-church, now used by youth groups, etc. for trips. Very big and spacious with showers, toilets and a kitchen, good views and field for playing in next door.

Arrived back home for relaxation and drinks. Found that Tim had managed to lock his keys inside his car, and had to wait for nice repair man to arrive and break in. Whilst he did this the rest of us went off to Harrold for practice night. Failed! Managed to break clock hammers (Not our fault really, honest!). Tim arrived just as we gave up and left. Went back to house to have barbeque and wait for others to arrive.

Very nice barbeque (applause to Martin Barratt for cooking skills) was eaten, and some alcohol drunk. Others arrived during evening, and general chilling out was had by all. Went to Chellington quite late, and managed to get everyone settled fairly quickly, with only a modicum of horseplay. (i.e. finally got to bed by about 2.30am).

Saturday - went to first 2 towers of the morning at Oakley and Biddenham. Had lunch in garden at the 3 Tuns in Biddenham. Generally chilled in the sunny weather for a couple of hours, then went to Bromham,

Stagsden and Felmersham for afternoons quota of ringing!

Went back to Chellington and played fun games involving Jon and I having big new water pistols and three others having tiny little water pistols. I think we won! Other (boring) people played games involving bats and balls and no water. Some takeaway food was ordered and consumed. Then, with night drawing on (and five of us shivering in totally sodden clothes by now - the three with small water pistols having stolen ours when we weren't looking) we moved inside to play much more sedate games. Eventually, however, the frolics ended and sleep was called for, although I believe some people managed to stay up virtually all night talking and watching sunrises).

Sunday - Managed to get people up and moving for 9am service ringing at (now repaired) Harrold. Then had breakfast, followed by Carlton Service ringing and then food at The Bell in Odell (suitable name, innit?). After this there was much chilling in Harrold and Odell country park, where people either chilled in the shade or played games involving bats and balls.

Some people left to get back to Sheffield in decent time, but others came along to (supposed) final tower - the only lock out of the tour. Doh! Tim's car managed to lose its exhaust pipe, and had to be driven (very slowly) to the nearest garage to be fixed. After this it was decided that people had to go, and that they would make a stop off on the way at Sarah's place to have cake (as you do)!

Paul Ward

This years Freshers' Tour visited towers in the Hope Valley and Derbyshire.

Several members also attended the 2001 Northern Universities Association meeting at York in November. The York University ringers had organised a very enjoyable weekend and a selection of very nice (though normally very light - particularly compared to St. Marie's) rings.

We came 6th out of 12 bands in the striking competition and lost the boat race, but a very good time was had by all.

Jon Collett

Having a reunion? Let us have a report!

THE LAST PAGE!

Early/Mid 90's Annual Reunion

The 4th annual reunion of the early/mid 1990's SUGCR took place over the weekend of 16th-18th November 2001, based at the Club Mill Youth Hostel in South Shropshire. People started gathering in the White Horse public house in Clun from early Friday evening, where we were treated not only to splendid home-cooked food and delicious local ale, but also to the delights of a rather noisy band!

Saturday dawned reasonably early, but we were admirably catered for by Julian Beaney and his assistants, who provided us all with an excellent cooked breakfast before it was time to set off for the first tower of the day, nearby Clunbury. Once the vertical ladder had been negotiated, this pleasant six were put to good use under the leadership of Mrs S.J.T. Smith. From Clunbury we travelled to Wistanstow where the very long ropes meant that some of the party could ring sitting down. After ringing, presided over by Judith Metcalf, a stroll down the lane brought us to our lunchtime venue, The Plough, home of the Wood Brewery. Bill, Andrea and Estella Haynes joined us here followed later by Andy Simpson who was recovering from a stag night the previous evening. A filling lunch was enjoyed by all which was fortunate, since some fit individuals had to push-start Jo Dowsett's car afterwards!

The final tower of the day (yes that's right - we managed three towers in a day!) was Stanton Lacy where the ringing ranged up to 8-spliced. It was then back to the Youth Hostel for the evening where head chef Alistair Smith and his willing volunteers cooked up a fabulous chilli followed by apple crumble. The rest of the evening was spent socialising and imbibing in front of the very cosy wood-burning stove.

It was an early start on Sunday that saw 11 of the party at Clun church for ringing at 9am. The locals very kindly gave their bells over to us and the recently augmented 10 were enjoyed by all, with some very nice Grandsire Caters and Cambridge Major. On our return to the Youth Hostel we were again treated to a cooked breakfast before it was time to clean up and pack up.

Thanks very much to Alistair Smith for arranging the accommodation and food. The 3rd weekend in November has been booked next year for a similar event, possibly in the Midlands.

Simon J.T. Smith

And Finally

How much effort should we as a Guild take to keep in touch with Past Members? This question has exercised me on numerous occasions since I took on the task of producing and circulating the newsletter.

I have a list of over 100 addresses covering about 130 members. Around 65% of these have been provided by the members themselves, the remainder passed on by third parties who were in touch with the members concerned. Many newsletters go out to members who have had no contact with the Guild for some years, and do not acknowledge receiving the newsletter. Although it can be tempting to stop sending to these people, we were contacted during the run-up to the 40th Anniversary Dinner by several of these "silent" members, who expressed their appreciation of the efforts the Guild had taken, and in some cases went on to attend that dinner.

Once the newsletter has been produced the extra effort involved in sending out additional copies is marginal. It would be a great pity to stop sending to members who welcome the newsletter (even if they have no other contact with the Guild), however there is little point in sending out copies which go straight into the bin due to lack of interest or because the intended recipient has moved on elsewhere. We have no magical way of tracking members movements, and each year I have several newsletters returned marked "addressee gone away". I rely on members themselves to keep me up to date on their whereabouts and let me know if they are no longer interested in receiving the newsletter.

If you are moving, have moved, (or know of other members who are on the move), please let me know. As long as promised technological advances have now caught up with me, how about dropping me an E-mail to let me know that you have received this newsletter, and that you wish to keep on receiving it.

My thanks once again to those who have provided material for inclusion in this newsletter. As usual I welcome any contributions and suggestions for the next newsletter, which will be prepared during autumn 2002.

Chris Bennett

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