

SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITIES GUILD OF CHANGE RINGERS ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 9, 2002/2003.

The President writes....

So near - so far. That is how it feels at times. Sheffield is just short of an hour from Elloughton, but just too far to get there often. It has been good to join the Guild on a few occasions, and a delight to welcome them here as part of the Fresher's Tour to Hull.

Ringling has its ups and downs in towers across the country. One year things go well and then a few ringers move away and things struggle. This is often felt the most with university towers especially if a large group leave at the end of their courses. There is often a feeling of pressure at Fresher's Fair to get more ringers - who will join us and what can they ring? You just never know. I remember arriving early at St. Marie's' one summer term at the end of my second year to get ready for the practice when a visitor turned up. I assumed she was visiting or had moved into the area, but no, a second year undergraduate - who could ring! But where had she been for the best part of two years? You can never tell where ringers may come from. It only takes one more to make a difference.

We struggle here at Elloughton but with two competent ringers appearing on the scene things are starting to happen. Bob Doubles is giving way to Grandsire and Bob Minor with bobs and singles. We still have much to do. It was wonderful to hear the bells here ring for our Christingle service on Christmas Eve, but sadly we could not raise a band for Midnight Communion later that evening. It is a shame because the bells really do call people to worship. I had a phone call from a father enquiring about how to book his daughter's wedding. Nothing unusual about that, but his first question was, 'where is your church?'. It was a good question. This area has grown so much that new houses hem off the church building. It cannot be seen until you have found it. He had come with his family to the Midnight Communion service on Christmas Eve looking for St. Mary's church. He made it to the village, saw the United Reformed Church on the corner with lights off and doors shut, he concluded it was St. Mary's church and turned round and went else where. If only the bells had been ringing I thought, if only they had been ringing, and he would have found his way in.

I am looking forward to the Dinner this year. As always it is good to catch up with your own 'year' group and see who has been up to what. It is also good to see those who were 'oldies' before we were! It is nice to see the next generation of 'oldies' returning. Most importantly it is good to have the present Guild present for they are the ones responsible for keeping the Guild alive and the bells ringing week by week in term time and when able in the vacations. They are the ones who do all the hard work to make the Dinner Weekend a success.

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>



ANNUAL DINNER 2003

The 2003 Annual Dinner will take place on Saturday 22nd February at the Sheffield Hilton Hotel, following a Dinner Day Ringing Tour in the Tideswell area of the Derbyshire Peak District.

The Sheffield Hilton is a new venue for the Dinner, and 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/local_maps.jhtml?ctyhocn=SZDSHHN

Menu

Warm Mushroom and Onion Tartlet, with a roast garlic cream sauce

Leek and Potato Soup, flavoured with chives

Roast Leg of Lamb, served with a rich red wine sauce, garnished with oyster mushrooms, smoked bacon and baby onions

or

Baked Courgette with Stilton, sprinkled with parmesan and served on a spicy tomato sauce

Brandy Snap Basket, filled with a wild berry mousse with a red berry confit

Coffee and mints

Guest Speakers:

Michael J. de C. Henshaw, Chairman of the Central Council

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 web site) from;

Catherine Oram, 257 Whitehouse Lane, Walkley, Sheffield S6 2WA. Telephone 0114 2316746.

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.



NEWS FROM THE CURRENT GUILD

The Guild Committee 2002-3

Chair - Jon Collett; in the second year of his Ph.D. in tissue engineering of cartilage.

Master - Natalie Williams; in the final year of her Physics degree.

Secretary - Catherine Oram; a second year Russian student.

Treasurer - Tim Beaujeux; in the second year of his Ph.D. looking at familial Motor Neurone Disease.

New members of the Guild.

This year has seen a pleasingly (and surprisingly!) large number of new members who have all attended regularly. We have had four previously unseen faces join our ranks, and one lost sheep has returned after an extended absence (spent mostly in France).

The only learner brave enough to undertake the SUGCR teaching experience is **Katie Simms**, a second year Medicine student from Surrey. Despite never having seen a bell-rope before, she is making good progress.

Ruth Wilson is a second year Medicine student, from Liverpool.

It's been a while since we have had a student from Hallam University, so we were delighted to welcome **Sarah Elliott** from Ashbourne in Derbyshire. She is studying Law and Criminology (so I'd better not be too rude then!).

Matthew Beadman, or Matt as he is lazily known, hails from Guildford and is a first year Psychology student.

Last, but by no means least, is **Tamsin Earthy** - our returning sheep. After spending a year in France she has returned for the fourth and final year of her French degree. She comes from Dursley in Gloucestershire.

The Guild is stronger now than it has been for a few years with several experienced (and capable) ringers as well as considerable potential for the future. Long may it continue.

Leaving members:

Sarah Dawson graduated from medicine in the summer of 2002. After five years in Sheffield, she is now working in Hull.

Astri Robinson has finished her Ph.D. early, and has got a job in the civil service and is currently living in Leeds.

Events

On the Easter tour we went to Northampton. The tour was organised by past-member Fiona Addie, who organised an enjoyable tour which was topped off by a trip to a theme park.

The intro tour went a bit farther afield than normal this year, and we went to **Hull**. A trip to "The Deep" in Hull made an enjoyable day and a nice break from the ringing during the day.

The Northern Universities Association meeting this year was in **Birmingham**. Although we had no success in the striking competition and boat race, the weekend was highly enjoyable and included trips to the Bullring, and Moseley which has the old ring of steel bells which hung in the tower at St. Marie's until 1873.

Tim Beaujeux & Jon Collett





OBITUARIES

It is with regret that I have to report the deaths of two prominent Guild members since the last edition of the newsletter.

Clive Longden died on 20 December 2001 after a long battle with emphysema. He was born in Chesterfield in 1944, learning to ring as a teenager at the famous Crooked Spire. An engineer by trade, he worked for local firms before setting up his own Chesterfield based company with contracts worldwide.

Clive had a long association with the Guild, starting in the 1960's when the practice at St. Marie's was one of several that he supported on a regular basis. He was elected an honorary member in recognition of the generous support that he gave during those early years.

In 1970, he married Patricia (Trish) Rogers, who had just completed her course at Sheffield University, and had been Guild Ringing Master during 1967/68. After a couple of years abroad, they returned to the Sheffield area, setting up home in Dronfield in April 1972. Once again, Clive became a regular face at various local practices, including that at St. Marie's, and I well remember my first encounters with him in the autumn of 1974!

Sadly this first marriage did not last, and in 1985 Clive married his second wife Loretta, with who he had two daughters, Michelle and Nicole. He continued his interest in the Guild, and attended the Annual Dinner on many occasions, most recently during the 40th Anniversary year in 1999.

Clive rang 18 peals for the Guild over a period of nearly 20 years, ranging from minor to cinques, and including the Guild's first peals on 10 and 12 bells. Among the many peals rung in his memory were peals of Superlative major by a Guild band at Dore and Bristol major by a Yorkshire Association band at St. Marie's.

Clive was one of ringing's characters, with a distinctive laugh capable of reducing a crowded pub to silence! He will be fondly remembered by those who knew and rang with him. A detailed obituary appeared in Ringing World No. 4743, March 22 2002.

Jeff Kershaw died unexpectedly on 05 July 2002 at the age of 60. Jeff was an early member of the Guild, being a student in Sheffield from 1960 to 1964, and studying Physics and Chemistry before undertaking a Diploma in teaching. He held the posts of Guild Secretary and Ringing Master in turn, and rang in the Guild's first peal of surprise major, Yorkshire at St. Marie's in 1966.

Born in Walsden near Todmorden, Jeff spent his entire working life teaching in Rotherham. However, he always considered the Todmorden area to be his home, returning there at weekends and holiday times.

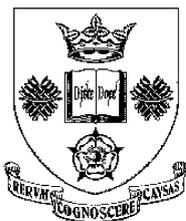
His ringing activity was firmly based in Todmorden, where he was a great champion of local ringing, and he held numerous positions within the Lancashire Association over the years. An avid collector of towers, he rang in 5,635 different towers around the world.

Jeff got back in touch with the Guild in 1998, in the run-up to the 40th Anniversary celebrations, ringing in the peal to mark the anniversary of the inaugural meeting, and attending the Anniversary Dinner in February 1999. He subsequently rang in two further Guild peals in May 1999 and February 2001.

Once again, a comprehensive obituary on which it would be impossible to improve appeared in the Ringing World (No. 4767, September 06 2002). However I will conclude with a quote from current member and Secretary Catherine Oram, whose family were long standing friends with Jeff. "Jeff was a kind, witty and generous man who enjoyed good ringing (and a decent pint!), and never had a bad word to say about anyone. A lovely man who I was lucky enough to know".

Chris Bennett





REMINISCENCES

Newsletter number 7 (2000/2001) included a report of the peal marking the 40th Anniversary of the Guild's first peal. One of the talking points of that day was a diary produced by Terry Hargreaves, recording events during the Guild's early years.

When Terry contacted me recently and asked whether extracts from the diary would be of interest for the newsletter, my response was swift and positive. I make no apologies for printing the following article from Terry in full. I found it to be fascinating reading, and hope that others will also do so.

Chris Bennett

Arriving in Sheffield on Friday 2nd October 1958 as a fresher from rural Hampshire, having not previously ventured north of London, was something of a culture shock. Nevertheless I found fascinating the combination of big city, large-scale industrialisation, the many small cutleries, old-style trams, soot-covered buildings, and even the pollution-induced gloom. So much so, in fact, that the first term seemed like a holiday!

However it was access to bell-ringing which did much to dispel any early feelings of homesickness. I had learnt to ring some 18 months before at a call-change tower, little knowing then that even my very limited ability could be a passport to many friendships and social acquaintances especially within the University Guild context, as well as familiarisation with much of Yorkshire and further afield.

These memories come from rather sketchy diaries and some more detailed notes on visiting new towers. Hopefully they are of interest despite the prosaic nature.

I had the temerity to go up the Cathedral tower when they were ringing for Evensong on the first Sunday. I didn't get a ring but did meet and attend the service with John Perrett, a final year student who, say my notes, was "trying to form a Society at the University".

On Tuesday 7th October I went to Ranmoor practice, also attended by John Perrett as well as John Rank who became respectively Master and Secretary when several students gathered at lunchtime on Thursday 9th at 13 Leavygreave (one of a terrace of houses near the original Union building) to form the Guild. Our first practice took place at Ranmoor at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 14th. Ringing included plain hunt on the back 6, and Grandsire Triples. Little Bob major was possible later after the local band had joined in at 8.00 pm. My records note 16 students present and 4 others.

Our first outing saw Johns Clarke, Hartley, Perrett and Rank, Sheila Schofield, Terry Hargreaves and 1 other (whose name is not recorded) visiting Bradfield on the following Saturday afternoon. Also ringing were the Vicar, another local, and "one from the Cathedral" – namely John "Jumbo" Seager who had ferried some of us out in his soon to become familiar Hillman Husky van, and was such a great friend and mentor to the Guild. The ringing included 360 Bob Minor. I was clearly impressed by the weather noting "fairly sunny" – perhaps the first since term had started. Also "although only 6 or 7 miles from Sheffield this small village is completely isolated from it". Is this still the case? John Hartley and I returned by bus enabling others to sample the Hillman.

The next away event was to Thrybergh on 22nd November. 6 students, Jumbo, and 5 locals rang Stedman, Spliced Plain & Little Bob, and St. Clements among others. Some of us went on with Jumbo hoping to grab Wentworth where, we'd been told, a peal attempt should be finished by 6.00 pm. However the ringing was "very slow" and we decided to go home.

Saturday 29th November saw our first Quarter Peal attempt on the back 6 at Dore. After some 380 of Bob Minor my (treble) rope slipped wheel, the bell setting itself at backstroke. Starting again we rang 1440 changes which did not come round. The other ringers were Sheila Schofield, Gerald Edwards, and Johns Clarke, Rank and Perrett. Indefatigably we tried again, this time 2 bells being over after some 400





REMINISCENCES



L to R: Keith Abbott, Glyn ?, John Clarke, Arthur ?, Sheila Schofield, Colin Harrison, Paul Taylor, John Rank, John Perrett.

changes. Before leaving we tried a touch of Kent and managed a course of Stedman.

On Saturday 24th January 1959 several Guild members attended a Yorkshire Association General Meeting at Doncaster, where there were also some Leeds University ringers. This may have prompted the first joint meeting of the two universities on 21st February at Barnsley, with 7 Sheffield + Jumbo, and 6 Leeds. Afterwards most of the former went in the van to a Yorkshire Association Southern District Quarterly at Wentworth, where I first encountered Yorkshire tail-ends.

The first whole day outing of the Guild was the memorable trip to Loughborough. My understanding is that on being asked if we could visit the Foundry Paul Taylor agreed and also said he was a Sheffield graduate. Little did we know how right royally we would be welcomed.

On Saturday 14th March Keith Abbott, Glyn ?, John Clarke, Arthur ?, Sheila Schofield' John Rank and John Perrett and I caught the 9.31 am train from Sheffield Victoria to Loughborough Central via the old Great Central line, For any rail buffs, the loco was ex LNER Class B1 4-6-0, 61316.

We reached Loughborough a few minutes before the scheduled time of 10.59 to be met in 2 cars by Colin Harrison, effectively second-in-charge at John Taylor's at the time I believe, and Paul Taylor. They took us for a tour of the Foundry where we were allowed to tap Grandsire Doubles with mallets on the front and then back sixes of the upturned augmented 10 for Chepstow.

We were then taken to the Great Central Hotel for a 3-course lunch and coffee served, say my notes, by "2 waitresses and a waiter (in tails)". It was then back to Taylor's to indulge ourselves ringing the foundry 10, which included some Bob Major. Next we were driven by Colin and Paul for a ring at Birstall, near Leicester, where a Leicester Guild District Meeting was taking place, followed by teal and scones at a restaurant housed in a nearby converted mill building. After returning to the Foundry campanile for further ringing we were delivered to Central Station for the 6.02 back to Sheffield. (Another B.1, 61269).

We were much in awe at Paul Taylor's arrangements and generosity in standing the days events, and felt we had really arrived as a Guild.

Terry Hargreaves, December 2002





PEALS RUNG DURING 2002

Things have been quieter in 2002 with only two peals, one at each end of the year. For the first time for several years, there were no Guild peals rung during the Annual Dinner weekend. The Guild peal total now stands at 82 known peals.

The University of Sheffield celebrates its centenary during 2005, and our President, Paul Cubitt, has suggested that this could provide an appropriate occasion for the Guild to aim to ring its 100th peal!

This requires 18 peals to be rung within a period of between two and three years. Although a considerable increase on current peal ringing activity, this is by no means an impossible target. (The Guild's quickest 18 peals so far were rung in less than four years, during the 1970s).

The majority of Guild peals have been rung by Sheffield-based bands, or on Annual Dinner weekends when past members have been together in numbers. All of the tower bell peals have been rung within a 20 mile radius of Sheffield, while the only Guild handbell peal so far rung also took place within the Sheffield boundary. Is there scope for out-of-Sheffield peals, peal weekends, more handbell peals? Such things have been suggested in the past, but have not got beyond the "talking about it in the pub" stage.

If any members are interested in taking part in or organising any peal attempts, please let me know. We can then look at the level of interest and plan ahead from there.

Chris Bennett

Dore, South Yorks. Christ Church (11)

Saturday 26 January 2002 in 2h 55m

5184 Superlative Surprise Major

Composed by Brian D Price

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Robin L Story | 5 Judith S Metcalf |
| 2 Natalie J Williams | 6 Jonathan G Collett |
| 3 Sarah E T Dawson | 7 Simon J Reading |
| 4 Christopher M Bennett | 8 Simon J T Smith (C) |

400th peal 8.

In memorium Clive W Longden, Honorary member.

Sheffield, S Yorks. Cathedral of St Marie (25)

Sunday 15 December 2002 in 3h 15m.

5152 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Composed by C P Starbuck

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Paul F Ward | 5 Matthew E Beadman |
| 2 Sarah E T Dawson | 6 Richard Farnsworth |
| 3 Catherine Oram | 7 Jonathan G Collett |
| 4 Natalie J Williams | 8 Christopher M Bennett |

AND FINALLY..

May I start (or finish, I suppose) by apologising for the error which crept into last year's newsletter, namely its incorrect numbering as No. 7, 2000/2001 - the same as the previous year! This edition restores the correct numbering.

I would like to thank everybody who has provided material for this newsletter. I welcome any contributions or suggestions for the next edition which will be prepared (hopefully) round about November 2003.

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

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

