

## **Nottingham District**

This year has been another successful year for the Nottingham district with four new members being elected taking total membership to 178.

Eleven events were held within the district this year, a reduction on the number held last year as a result of the mid-week meetings now being organised at Guild level. A Plain Bob educational morning was organised using two district towers simultaneously; one focussing on Triples, the other Doubles. Both were well attended with both learners and helpers. In addition, during the last year, six district practices have been held along with two afternoon mini outings and the district's Crawford Cup heat.

The district's Crawford Cup heat at Bramcote was very well attended with eight teams (six method ringing and two called-change teams) ringing. Attenborough and St Peter's, Nottingham, went through to join Beeston in the final with Attenborough successfully bringing the trophy back to our district.

Attendance at the district meetings remains strong with on average 20 people attending. The barn dance at Nuthall was very successful raising £171 for the bell fund and 36 people attending the ringing. Thank you to the Nuthall ringers for working hard to ensure this event was so successful.

As ever, district practices have tried to be as inclusive as possible with 42 different methods rung at these sessions during the year. It is encouraging to see that, whilst the most popular method rung was Plain Bob Doubles, closely followed by Rounds and Called Changes on 8, a whole range of different methods in increasing complexity was rung with 8-spliced surprise major, Yorkshire Royal and touches of Stedman Caters featuring on occasions. This shows the range of abilities catered for at the meetings.

The district continues to organise Saturday afternoon quarter peals at Basford on an ad-hoc basis with the objective being to develop individuals wishing to ring something that may not otherwise be possible at their local tower. Well done to Michael Varney, Ed Walker and Adam Wilmott who rang their first quarter and first quarters of Superlative Surprise Major and spliced surprise major respectively. Anyone interested in a future Saturday afternoon quarter peal at Basford should contact one of the ringing masters. Elsewhere in the district, first quarters were rung by John Broom, Heather Clarke, Linda Cooke, Alan Cropley, Emma Mutie, Sue Oldfield and Alex Speakman. Well done to all of them. In total there were 68 tower bell quarters and 73 handbell quarters rung in the district.

We are grateful to all those that have helped organise these events, the ringers and clergy at the towers that have hosted events as well as all those that have attended the district events.

**Chris Field and Ed Nicholson**

## Newark District

Membership fell slightly from the previous year, with 117 members comprising 112 Full, 3 Honorary and 2 Junior members. The District heat of the Crawford Cup was held at Coddington on Saturday 17th March: Balderton, Southwell, Winthorpe and Coddington all competed. Balderton won the heat and went through to the Final at Everton in May where Attenborough were declared the winning team.

At the Annual District Meeting in January 2018, it was decided to move away from formal agendas and minuting (other than for the ADM), the rationale being that an inordinate amount of unnecessary work was being created for very little benefit. With meeting attendance numbers in decline the burden of the task had become disproportionate. Significant events would be recorded in a District Book and produced at Annual District Meetings held in the January.

Emphasis was also given to more collaboration between neighbouring Districts and in May a joint event was held at Cuckney hosted by the Mansfield District. Sadly only four of our members attended the evening ringing however with a total of 14 present some enjoyable ringing was achieved.

In June, Newark District hosted ringing at Staunton and Balderton together with the Bingham District. Tea was provided but even so turnout was minimal. Clearly having tried something new, the format was not attractive enough to motivate members to participate.

District Ringing was advertised to take place at South Scarle (5) on Sat 21 July and five members attended.

Bingham District reciprocated in September by arranging four towers throughout the day fitting in strategic pit stops at The Crusty Cob, The Lord Nelson and Newfield Dairy Ice Cream Parlour; Clarborough, Tuxford, Sutton on Trent and Norwell incidentally were the towers.

A Guild Meeting was held on 17th November and hosted by Bingham District having been put back one week due to Remembrance Day ringing. This clashed with Newark District calendar date but members were encouraged to visit Langer, Cropwell Bishop, Cotgrave and Colston Bassett with a Beetle Drive in the evening. Disappointingly only five of our District members attended. 112 members didn't!

The eliminator round of the National 12-Bell Contest was held at Southwell Minster on the 24th March. Organised by the local band, teams from Wimborne, Norwich, Melbourne, Oxford, Bristol and Guildford visited over the preceding weeks to practice prior to the eliminator on the 24th. The event was a huge success with top quality ringing of the 12 bells being heard throughout the day. It is hoped that Southwell will be chosen to host the Final in a couple of years' time.

Ladies' Ringing is still well-attended with an average of 15-17 coming to meetings from throughout the Guild. Methods ranged from call changes to Cambridge Minor. Four 12-bell practices for the whole Guild membership were held at Southwell throughout 2018 with good attendance.

### *Armistice Ringing*

All 23 towers, five bells and upwards, rang for the Armistice on Sunday 11th November, 2018. 119 people took part at differing times of the day. Nine new *Ringing Remembers* recruits were trained at the Balderton, Elston, South Scarle, Southwell and Sutton-on-Trent. Two successful quarter peals were rung, one at Balderton the other at Southwell. Both were Grandsire Doubles but significantly the one rung at Balderton included family members from four generations. Well done Tyler Dodd (aged 11), Emma Dodd, John Dodd and Beryl Reed. Thanks to Elizabeth Harrison for doing much of the organising, collating and all the reporting.

### *District Outings*

Coddington's outing on 8th September was a coach trip to Shropshire visiting the following five towers; Calverhall, Meole Brace, Upton Magna, Shawbury and Stanton-upon-Hine Heath, with lunch in Shrewsbury.

### *Tower News*

South Scarle have completed their St Helena's tower works and now have a beautifully crafted Ringing Floor which is solely for the use of the bellringers. One of the objectives driving its installation is to use the floor to support more outings, events and recruitment drives at St Helena's. Hawton's four bells are now at John Taylor's Foundry and the old bell frames have been removed and the new frame is prepared and awaiting fitting.

### *Coddington Events*

- Quiz Nights: Again, well supported and always good night out! The February one raised £355 donated to Kelham tower works. The November one raised £220, ideas for where this money will be used include new bell ropes for Barnby, new muffles for Coddington.
- Ringing and coffee afternoon 22nd September raised £128: £64 was given to Coddington Church and the other £64 was used towards the November quiz food and hall hire.
- One year to the day after having their first pull of a rope at Coddington Open Ringing afternoon Jess Parkhouse and her dad Theo Parkhouse rang their first quarter on 23/9/2018 at All Saints Coddington. Well done!

On Tuesday 12 June 2018, Derek Tysoe rang his 1000th peal by ringing the 7th to a peal of Amber Surprise Major at Burley, Leeds. Derek has previously held the positions of District Secretary, District Ringing Master, and District Chairman and is currently an active member of Barnby in the Willows tower. This achievement makes Derek the first member of the Newark district to ring 1000 peals. Congratulations Derek.

Bell ringing is a voluntary pastime, we pay a subscription to belong to the Diocesan Guild that grants us the right to be a part of those activities but it is still voluntary and no one can dictate when or how often we choose to partake bell ringing. The more members who actively participate does mean that the load is shared. My comments about low attendances at some events are not meant to be seen as me complaining, but I do wish to draw attention in my report to the facts. It may appear that I am grumbling about attendance throughout 2018, please be assured I'm not. Should this report duly reflects the facts? I believe it should.

Finally, thanks to everyone who has helped the District in any way during 2018, to the incumbents and Tower Captains for the use of the bells and especially to those who have organised and attended meetings, outings, events and training days.

**Trevor Bryan**

## Mansfield District

2018 membership has remained similar to last year with 87 adults but an increase of juniors to 11. In May, we received the sad news of Mary Beach's death, aged 83. Mary was a founder member of the Guild in 1946 and, throughout her life, continued to ring and support the District. She will be greatly missed.

Bi-monthly meetings took place during the year with an average attendance of 12. In May, we were pleased to welcome members of the Newark District to a Joint Meeting with an attendance of 16. The ringing at meetings has varied greatly, with something for everyone, from Call Changes through to Surprise Major.

In early April, the 60th anniversary of the dedication of Hucknall bells was celebrated by a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples. Later in the month quarters were rung at Eastwood and Farnsfield in celebration of the birth of a son to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. The marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex was also marked by quarter peals rung at Eastwood and Farnsfield on 19th May. The District was represented at the Crawford Cup this year by a team from Eastwood.

In September, the bells were rung at three towers as cyclists passed by during the Tour of Britain: Blidworth, Edwinstowe and a quarter scored at Farnsfield. September also saw the District Quarter Peal week take place for the first time in many years with six successful quarters rung, including two "firsts". We hope to build on this next year and involve more ringers.

According to my records, 13 District towers rang their bells half-muffled before morning service on Remembrance Sunday. To celebrate the end of World War I, two peals were rung, at Eastwood and Edwinstowe, as well as a quarter at Farnsfield. A quarter was also rung at Blidworth on the following day as a mark of respect to all who fell in the war.

Blidworth, Edwinstowe and Farnsfield undertook to ring a quarter peal on the centenary of the death of each serviceman from their respective village who lost his life during the war. This has now been completed with a total of 82 quarters honouring 112 servicemen. Blidworth rang 36 quarter peals with 17 ringers involved; Edwinstowe, 23 quarter peals with 14 ringers; and Farnsfield, 23 quarters involving 18 ringers.

Once again, thanks go to all incumbents, tower captains and contacts for allowing us the use of their bells, and to those members who regularly support the District.

**Nicola Eves**

## **Bingham District**

his year we have explored several new patterns to the way our monthly meetings are organised. These have included morning meetings, sometimes with a pub lunch, outings and a quarter peal day, as well as a couple of more “traditional style” meetings. The morning meetings and outings have been very popular and we plan to continue to include these in the programme in future. It was difficult to say why the quarter peal day was unsuccessful but only two towers attempted quarters and only one succeeded. The outing run in September was much more successful and our thanks to Lyn who put on a good selection of towers and excellent stops between ringing. This was well attended and ringing was for all abilities. Partners and friends came along which made it an enjoyable day for all. The Holme Pierrepont ringing on six, in December was very well attended with lots of new faces, we hope to see many of them again as we move onto a similar programme next year.

In November many towers rang in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice. These included four ringers who had been recruited by the Ringing Remembers campaign. Sponsorship of some of the quarters raised £900 towards the Poppy Appeal.

Overall membership fell from 138 to 119 in 2017. Sadly Colin Wightman from Holme Pierrepont died during the year. Chris and Jill Birkby have moved away. Their contributions will be missed.

Thanks are due to Bill Shanks for organising quarter peals at Colston Bassett on a monthly basis; it is good to know that even though there is no tower band, these excellent bells are rung regularly.

I would also like to thank all those who have helped, by supporting ringing and events in any way.

**Kay Green**

## **South Notts District**

2018 has been a very good year, with many well-supported District meetings and several notable events. The membership currently stands at 56, with an average meeting attendance of 18. Three new members have joined this year.

District meetings have taken place most months, with ringing for all abilities from rounds and call changes to surprise methods. We have also made some of the meetings more of a social event.

Our 25th July meeting at Normanton was followed by a foot ferry crossing and riverside walk to the Rose & Crown pub at Zouch. There were so many attendees that we had to have two ferry trips to get everyone over the river! The weather was glorious and the evening very enjoyable.

The December meeting at Gotham was attended by 20 ringers, and everyone enjoyed the mince pies and drinks afterwards.

Several of our members have been attending the weekday daytime meetings, organised by the Guild Chairman and held at various towers around the county. These meetings have been very popular, with large attendances of mixed ability ringers. Each one finishes with a pub lunch. More meetings are planned for 2019.

There were two notable events in the District during the year, in which many of our members were involved:

The OVO Energy Tour of Britain cycle race, Notts section, took place on the 8th September. At 215 km, it was the penultimate and longest stage of the tour. Bell ringing took place as the cyclists passed through at Ruddington, Keyworth and Bunny.

The Armistice Centenary took place on 11th November, with nearly all the towers in the District contributing to a tremendous day of ringing for services and/or open ringing. In order to be able to ring for all services taking place to observe the 11am Act of Remembrance, we needed to find additional ringers for our regular bands. This was done by contacting lapsed ringers who, with a little coaching and practice, were able to ring with us to mark this historic occasion. This has also had the positive outcome of bringing some individuals back to active ringing and we look forward to them becoming District members again.

The afternoon saw a nearly continuous "rolling ring" as members turned out to make a celebratory noise at Barton, Gotham, Thrumpton, East Leake, Kingston, Rempstone, Sutton Bonington and Normanton on Soar. Ringing took place for evening Remembrance services at Stanford on Soar and at Bunny, where there was a village event including the lighting of a beacon.

My thanks go to all who made such superb efforts not only to ring, but to organise transport, muffles, refreshments and general support. All the ringing contributions have been recorded on the official BellBoard site, with details of names and methods rung where possible.

As always, thanks to all incumbents, Tower Contacts and Captains for making their bells available to the District and to all members who regularly support District events along with ringing in their own towers.

**David Kerr**

## **North Notts District**

Membership has increased this year to 67 full members and 13 juniors. We welcome Rosie Woodgate, Jean Hassett, Ray James, Kelly Oughten, Talia Newton, Richard Coupe, Nancy Marris, Hayley Bethell, Carrie Turner, Robert Stewart and Diesel Frost and we look forward to ringing with you all at our monthly meetings.

Attendance at meetings have been mixed with some being well attended and others not so good. We have rung rounds and call changes up to surprise major. Bawtry bells are still unavailable due to problems with the roof. Babworth hosted a Guild training Day for Plain Bob Doubles/Minor and the members who attended found it very helpful.

In May we hosted the Crawford Cup but did not enter a team. Congratulations to Attenborough for retaking the trophy after a 6-year break. Thanks to all the ringers who took part and to Peter McCoy for the excellent judging. Thanks also to Val, Diane and Lynne for their help with the tea and the raffle.

Many of our towers have rung for special events throughout the year including St. George's day, Remembrance Sunday, Heritage Open Weekends, BBC Music day and the royal wedding. This year marked the centenary of the end of the First World War and it was good to see so many towers taking part in the Ringing Remembers campaign at 12.30 and Battle's Over at 7.05. We had a good turnout for the annual Teapot Trophy this year at Ordsall, which was judged by John Coates. There were four teams taking part, Ordsall were the winners, Misson Main, Misson Juniors and then East Drayton. Unfortunately we had to cancel the Oswy Street Cup due to lack of interest.

Thanks again to Kane Marsh and Richard Curtis who organised an excellent car outing in June this year to the Peak District where we visited Cresswell, Clowne, Barlborough Eckington and Killamarsh.

Congratulations to Bryan Birkett BEM and John Coates who were awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Guild at the AGM in May.

Thank you all for your support, the tower contacts, captains and incumbents for the use of the bells and the ringers who have supported the meetings, training days and outings.

**Annabelle Prebble**