



George and Martha Wiles

Our three grandsons Ben Norton, Jamie and Ryan Shaw have all been baptised at Hickling. David and I have now retired to the East Coast in 2012 however Hickling will always be home.

### Peet

The family name of Peet first came to Hickling in 1940 with the marriage of our parents Richard Peet of Kinoulton to Eva Wiles. The Wiles family had been in Hickling since 1813. Our great grandfather George Wiles married Martha Millward at St Luke's church. Both were employed by Canon Skelton at the rectory, George as a groom, Martha as a cook. Their two sons Thomas and Herbert were educated at Hickling Academy and Thomas farmed the Glebe land. Thomas went on to marry Katherine Doubleday and they had seven children, all with the exception of Eva were born in the cottage next to the church.

Eva, our mother, was born and died at Home Farm. She lived there all her life and had three children, Antony, Christine (Norton) and John. Although no longer a farm, Antony still lives at Home Farm and runs a family business with his son James and daughter Catherine selling multifuel stoves. John lives in a property on Bridegate Lane on

the orchard which belonged to the farm.

Although the Wiles family have only been in Hickling for two hundred years, the maternal side of the family goes back much further with the Doubleday, Stokes, Daft, Morris and Milner families (research still ongoing).

Anthony, Christine and John were all baptised in St Lukes church, attended Sunday school and were pupils of Hickling School.

### The Quorn Hunt

The Quorn Hunt has been privileged to support its farmers and to hunt in the Hickling area for over 300 years. Long may it continue and long may the bell chime.

[www.quornhunt.co.uk](http://www.quornhunt.co.uk):

"The Quorn Hunt has a claim to be the oldest hunt in the country, being founded in 1696 by Mr Thomas Boothby of Tooley Park, Leicestershire. The hunt takes its name from the village of Quorn, where the hounds were kennelled from 1753 to 1904. The Quorn became probably the most famous hunt in the world and attracted visitors from all corners of the globe. Indeed at one time there was a waiting list of people



wishing to subscribe. The then Prince of Wales (Edward VIII) met Wallis Simpson after a day's hunting at Burrough Court and the present heir to the throne became a frequent visitor before the ban.

"Things are not quite the same these days, the biggest blow being the ban on hunting with dogs. However, the hunt has survived and is now flourishing again and in rude health, albeit a tad more egalitarian, with members from across the spectrum of trades and professions and attracting many younger subscribers. With the goodwill of our farmers and landowners, who would not allow this traditional country sport to sink without trace, the hunt is still welcome to cross the land and jump fences, following hounds descended from Tom Boothby's, but now following a pre-laid trail."

The Quorn Hunt area is defined by Cosby in the South, Ashby-de-la-Zouch in the West, Beeston in the North and Melton Mowbray in the East with boundaries defined mostly by roads and rivers such as the Trent, the Wreake and the Smite although, "There has been, and still is, incursion of modernisation into the countryside, with the roads becoming busier (and) village populations increasing with many newcomers not immersed in local traditions ... The country currently hunted has inevitably changed in places due to road-building (notably the M1), house building around Leicester and industrial development ..."

Hickling falls in the 'Monday' section comprising the villages to the North and East and includes local Hickling coverts such as Herrick's Thorns and Parson's Thorns on Hickling Glebe (part of The Standard) - "Monday country is to the north of Melton ... on grass, with smaller fields but more hedges and possibly more jumping."

**John Robinson**

**Annie Robinson**

**Suzy Lyon** (nee **Robinson**) – daughter

**Ben Robinson** – son

John and Annie bought Meadowcroft on Bridegate Lane in September 1973, renovated it and moved in after being married in June 1974. Suzy was born in 1977 and went to Play School in Hickling Village Hall. Ben was born in 1980 and also went to the Play School. John joined the Village Hall Committee in 1982 becoming Hon. Treasurer in 1983, a position he still holds.

Both Suzy and Ben were christened in St. Luke's. Suzy was married in St. Luke's in August 2006. Meadowcroft is still our home.



The family of the late **WA and Mrs D Robinson**

Mr William Geoffrey and Mrs Susan M **Robinson** (son and daughter-in-law)

Mr David John **Robinson** (son)

Mr Arthur Henry **Robinson** (son)

Mrs Susan Kathryn **Watson** (daughter)

We are the third generation of the Robinson family to live and work at Oak Farm, Hickling. Our grandparents, Mr Arthur Henry and Mrs Catherine Annie Robinson moved the family from Stonesby, Leicestershire. This family consisted of our father, William Arthur, and his two brothers, Harry and Arnold plus three sisters, Eva, Nancy and Mary. Originally a wheelwright by trade, land was subsequently acquired and a thriving farm was developed by our father William Arthur and his brother, Harry.

This farm has continued to operate to this day and is now farmed by William Arthur's three sons and daughter, Geoffrey, David, Arthur and Sue.



**Susan and Robert Rooke**

Susan was born in November 1959 to a Welsh father, Grenville Davis and mother Patricia who was from Bristol, they divorced and her mother died when Susan was 14. Susan has two sons by her first marriage, Rhys and Ellis Jenkins. Susan has a third son, Samuel by her present husband, Robert. Bob was born in Birmingham in 1955 to Dorothy and Peter Rooke. Bob has two children, Simone and Ben from his first marriage. Sue and Bob met in Bristol, moved up to Mansfield in 1991. They became landlord and landlady of The Plough Inn, Hickling in April 2011.

**Mark Samworth**

**Caroline Samworth**

**Thomas Samworth**

**Ben Samworth**

We moved to Hickling in November 2004, so have been in the village for just over 8 years now, in the Old Rectory. We married in 2005 at St. Luke's and went on to have Thomas and Ben who were both christened at St. Luke's. We are very happy in Hickling with great friends, neighbours and our 2 black Labradors, Bracken and Barley.

**Mr J Scarborough**

**Mrs S Scarborough**

**Miss L Scarborough**

**Master O Scarborough**

Mr and Mrs J Scarborough purchased Canal Farm in 2006. Prior to this they lived locally to Hickling and farmed around the Vale of Belvoir. On moving to Hickling we have involved ourselves with both farming and the community. Both our children attended Hickling Pre-School and Kinoulton Primary School.

Memories of 2012:

~ The Harles Acres street party and torch lighting for the Diamond Jubilee ~ The Olympic Torch Relay ~ Competition at Kinoulton Primary School to make an Olympic Torch, won by Lauren Scarborough!! ~ Maypole dancing at the Jubilee Festival and Country Fair ~ Hickling Produce Show ~ the Church penny collection (a mile of pennies to raise funds for the Church) ~ Weather – rain, rain, rain etc for the summer & haw frosts and snow in the winter ~





### Philip Shipman

A fifth generation farmer from Croxton Kerrial Leicestershire, I learned to ring at Croxton when I was twelve and have been a regular ringer ever since. Links with Hickling are a little sporadic being over the border in Nottinghamshire. I occasionally went to practices in the early 1980s. Then somehow after a long gap I started going to some 8 bell practices on the first Thursday of the month, this went on to meeting up with Dave Bloor and Richard Collishaw who I knew from Young Farmer days. I am now looking forward to ringing on the eight bells of Hickling once again.

### Roger J and Pat L Stanley

(DOB 22/2/47 and 20/7/48 respectively, married)

We moved to Hickling in July 2001 at which time Roger worked in Nottingham Land Registry and Pat for Aviva Insurance Group. We have both since retired!! We live at Wolds Cottage, Bridegate Lane. We wanted our name on the new Bell to commemorate our Ruby Wedding Anniversary in 2012.

Hickling is a very friendly village with a good mix of age groups. We enjoy the good atmosphere at the Pub under its current management. Pat belongs to the local WI and is a keen flower arranger in which capacity she is on the Church Flower rota. Roger is on the Village Hall Committee and we are both on the Village Hall Breakfast team which is great fun with a good atmosphere once a month.

### Alan and Alex Thomas

Juniper Cottage, Main Street

We arrived in Hickling in October 2005 having just retired from jobs in St. Albans. We came to the area because one of our 3 daughters and her family live in Ruddington. We soon discovered that the village is a great place to live. It offers a wide range of activities, there are many friendly, active and enterprising people and it was easy to get involved and feel at home.

As a result Alex has been treasurer of St. Luke's for 3 years and is on the WI committee, while Alan is on the Village Hall committee and supports all their activities by his maintenance, support of the cleaners and many events. He set up the sound system in St. Luke's and often runs it. We are both on the Village Hall Breakfast team.

Thank you to everyone who works hard to create the community spirit and life that has made this new bell possible and made living here so full and rewarding.



### Timms

The name '**Timms**' was brought into the village when Edward Robert Timms married Marguerite Helen Soar, daughter of Joseph Thomas Soar and Helen Burton.

Marguerite Helen Soar became known as 'Granny Timms'. Her sister, Zoe Madge, was the mistress of Mr Parr, the butcher. Her other sisters were Ethel May (known as Poppy) who married Harry Armstrong and ran the Plough, Winifred Ivy (known as Auntie Winnie) came to Hickling at weekends, and Dorothy Holland (Dolly) who kept the sweetshop and married Tom Starbuck.

Edward Robert Timms and Marguerite Helen Soar had 7 children. Burton (Buller) married Annie Thompson, Barbara married Reg Knight, Robert married Joan Daft, Donald married F. Bagelman, Dorothy married George Holbrook, Stuart Armstrong married Diana Wilkinson - their son, Bobby, gave the information for this booklet. Then there was Edward Thomas (Uncle Tom) who married Bessie Woolley (known as Auntie for the last half of her life - and the actual aunt of Ian, Ebb and Joe Woolley, Great Aunt of Lynn, Jo, Jim Woolley and Patricia & David and great great aunt to Jon Martin .

Auntie (born on Halloween 1902) lived in Hickling for much of her life. She was born in Malt House Farm and it was there she chopped off the ends of her fingers in the meat slicer and was taken by pony and trap to Colston Bassett to receive medical attention. She was a keen pianist in spite of this injury. She went to Derby Teacher Training College to become a teacher. She eventually settled down with Tom after many years 'courting' and ran the village shop and Post Office, which she eventually sold to her nephew, Ian Woolley. She was heavily involved in village life, publicising church services with her hand written notices - she was proficient at calligraphy, and always going to Church. She delivered letters into her 80s when finally a fall forced her to retire properly. Both were keen card and dominoes players and organised whist drives and other games evenings. However, Auntie would never go to things like WI and Silver Jubilee because she didn't want to mix with all those 'old people' - even though she was old enough to have been a mother to many of them.

Tom, a keen pipe smoker, died of lung cancer in 1980. Auntie lived with the Woolleys in her later years until she died of old age.

Keith and Hazel **Wadkin**  
Patrick and Claire **Wadkin**  
Donald and Ann **Wadkin**  
Fiona **Smart**

Keith and Donald are brothers and Hazel and Ann, their wives. Patrick is Hazel and Keith's son and Claire is his wife, Fiona is Hazel and Keith's daughter.

Keith and Donald's Great Grandparents moved to Hickling in the late 1800s from Cotgrave to set up a butcher's business and their grandmother was born in Hickling. Their mother, Margaret, was born in Rose Cottage, Hickling in 1908 and she lived in a further 5 houses in the village; after Rose Cottage there was a cottage up Mucky Lane then the family was one of the first tenants in the new Council Houses on Main Street, she then moved to Bridge View, Yew Tree Cottage and finally a bungalow on Main Street where Patrick now lives. Margaret was President and Secretary of the WI, chapel organist and for years was a local correspondent for the Melton Times, a job which took lots of time, paid an absolute pittance but which she thoroughly enjoyed. Keith and Donald's father came from Burbage to manage the Farm at Bridge View for Mrs Carte whose husband had died.

Keith has served on the PCC and has been secretary, vice captain and captain of the Cricket Club. Donald has worked in the RAF and the Police Force and now lives in Thulby, Lincolnshire. Patrick and Fiona were both brought up in Hickling where Patrick still lives. Fiona now lives in Widmerpool. Patrick's wife, Claire, was born in Widmerpool and has a farming background, they married in 1994 and Claire works in Keyworth.

Hazel's family came from a farming background in Upper Broughton and she was born in Hickling, in the Cottage currently known as Church Cottage. Before that the house was known as Church Gates and was named as Sulney Cottage (referencing their Upper Broughton roots) by Hazel's family. Before this, the cottage was a shop owned by the Dickmans.

Hazel has put together an exceptional collection of local history material based on Margaret Wadkin's press cuttings and notes of her memories of village life. Hazel has accumulated files and files of local material and published 3 books; Scrapbook of Hickling, Reflections of Hickling and, most recently, Maggie's Memories (transcribed from Keith and Donald's mother's handwritten notes).

The Wadkin family business started in 1959 carrying out contract tree felling and now working as tree surgeons. The business has gradually built up and both Keith and Patrick work together alongside two sub-contractors.

#### **Wainer, Stephen A (Steve)**

Born in Melton in 1952, I came to live in the village of Hickling in 2005 from Nottingham as a 'stop gap' measure for an initial 6 months, staying in Mill Lane at the annexe of Bob and Barbara Herd's 'Little Orchard' whilst looking to relocate back to the area due to difficult times. I never dreamt that seven years later I would still be there! However, in 2012 I did move. But only less than a mile away to Hickling Lane Kinoulton!

Hickling was always well known to me through the 1970s and 80s, often socially visiting the canal and basin, and occasionally the pub. The village was also quite well known by me at this time due to my job then as a sales rep. However, the friendship, support and warmth I received from the people of Hickling from the moment I moved here in 2005 has been truly amazing. It is a wonderful community and God willing, long may it continue.

I have thoroughly enjoyed getting involved and helping with many village social events, particularly musical ones, including the 'Open Mic' nights, which we held for a time at the village hall but now back at its 'home', - the Plough Inn. I have also been called upon many times to capture some village moments on my cameras!

I am honoured, proud and fortunate to be able to sponsor the new replacement 6<sup>th</sup> bell for St. Luke's and do so for my loving and supportive family:

Wainer, Eileen (1924) – My Mother.

Musson, Ann Ruth (1947) and Pete (1948) – My Sister and Brother-in-Law

Wainer, Cara Dee and Katie Louise (1983) – My twin Daughters. And Katie's children, my beautiful Grandchildren:

Bonnie Emily (2005), Seth Stephen Wainer (2009) and Yvie Leigh (2011)

#### **John Watson**

Susan Kathryn **Watson** (nee **Robinson**)

Christina Joanne **Watson**

Alexander John **Watson**

Susan Watson was born and bred in Hickling, part of the WA Robinson farming family of Oak Farm. She married John Watson in 1987 at St. Luke's, Hickling and they went on to have two children, a daughter Christina and a son, Alex.

They live in the Jackscroft Cottages on Pudding Lane, the place where Sue was born.

John is a keen bellringer and has spent many happy hours ringing at St Luke's, so the new bell is therefore very close to his heart.

John has a brother, Kevin, now living in Perth, Australia with his wife and family but to whom Hickling is still a special place.



GJ **Watts** (20/2/73, son)

R **Watts** (10/10/39 – 05/02/2013, mother)

SJ **Watts** (29/8/39 – 27/8/2006, father)

Garry learnt bell ringing at Hickling, rang for some years and was occasional sidesman. Garry works in Ground Care and has mowed the churchyard for many years.

Rita was WI President for 3 years and then Group Secretary for 3 years and has gone to, and supported, many events in the Village.

Stanley was sidesman at Hickling for many years and helped at various Church events. He was also on the Scout Committee helping to organise things behind the scenes. He also spent many hours helping Garry in his work, especially in the Church yard.

Memories of 2012: January, February and March were the driest on record after then it rained, rained and rained again. The following nine months record rain falls added up the wettest year ever.

Christopher John **White**

Karen **White**

Joseph Benjamin **White**

Christopher John and Karen White have lived in the village at The Homestead since 1984.

Chris, originally from Mansfield, is a retired maths/science teacher and worked in Nottingham secondary schools for all his teaching career. He is also a musician and has played in several bands since his early 20s.

Karen was born in Wilford and is a solicitor working in local government as a Director at Newark and Sherwood District Council.

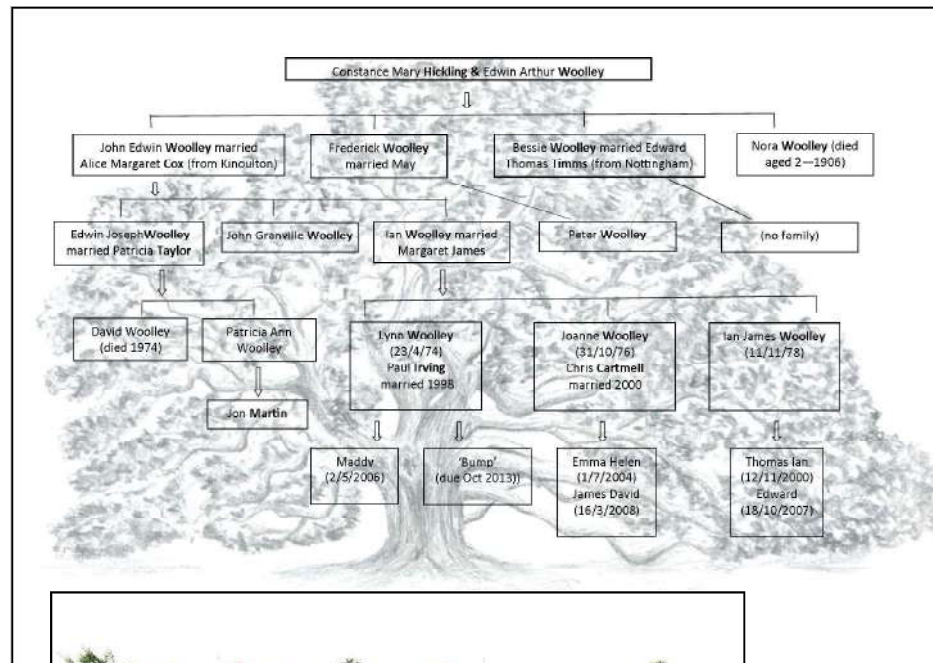
Their son, Joseph Benjamin White, was born in 1995 and attended the local primary school in Kinoulton. He is currently studying for “A” levels at The Beckett School, Wilford.

The **Timms** and **Woolley** families.

Jack Woolley and Alice, with Miss Hopkins, lived at Malt House Farm. When Miss Hopkins died, they sold up and moved from Hickling in the late 1940s to Lincolnshire. John Woolley still lives in Manor Farm, Bucknall, Lincs.

Bessie and Tom Timms took on the running of the Post Office from Tom's aunt, Mrs Starbuck who was then at the Beer-off next door. They got married and moved in to the general store in the early 1950s and retired from the Post

Office in 1963 when Bessie's nephew, Ian and his wife, Margaret took over the running. They retired and the shop and Post Office closed in 2000 leaving the village without a shop or Post Office. The Post Office had been in the Timms/Woolley family for 65 years.



Millennium Tractor Run: Ian & Margaret Woolley, Keith & Hazel Wadkin, John Walker.



Ian & Margaret Woolley in the old Post Office.

# Taylor's Bell Foundry.

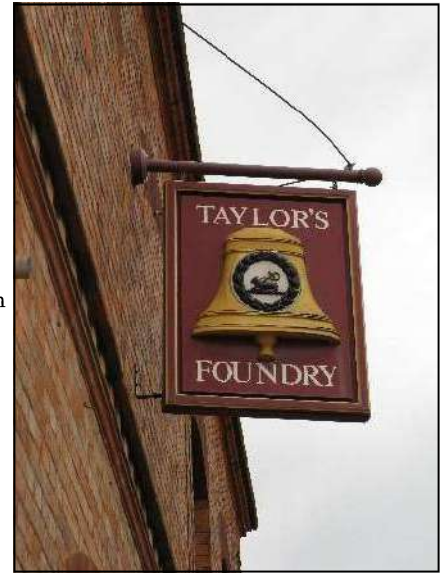
John Taylor & Co.  
Freehold Street,  
Loughborough,  
Leicestershire,  
LE11 1AR.

Church bells were first cast in Britain by monks from about 800AD. They are usually cast in bronze – 'bell metal' – an alloy of 23% tin and 77% copper. The clapper is usually made of iron and the bell is mounted on a horizontal beam (the headstock) which is pivoted on the supporting bell frame. The bell is swung using a rope attached to a lever or wheel.

John Taylor & Co. continues a line of bell-founding which has been unbroken since the middle of the 14th Century, when Johannes de Stafford was active only 10 miles from the site of the present foundry.

Since 1784 the business has been in the hands of the Taylor family. In 1839 the business settled in Loughborough and is now proud to operate the largest bellfoundry site in the world, one of only two in Britain. For over 200 years, the firm has cast bells – including Great Paul, in St. Paul's Cathedral, which at over 16 tonnes, is the largest bell in a church in the British Isles.

Centuries of experience, together with up to the minute advances in technology, has put Taylors at the forefront in the design and manufacture of bells, their fittings and frameworks. Taylors produce single bells, peals of bells, chimes and carillons, together with sets of musical handbells and other small bells for customers worldwide.



## Taylor Five Tone Principle - Beautiful Harmonically Tuned Bells:

Taylor's introduced their five tone principle of bell tuning in 1896. This produces purity and sweetness of tone and allows the bell to sound with full and rich mellowness. This gives Taylor bells their special characteristic and sets them apart from all other cast bronze bells. The Bell Master and the Bell Tuner work on five principal harmonics, the hum, fundamental, tierce, quint and nominal but these in turn influence and affect many others. When the correct frequency for each of these harmonics has been achieved, the bell is in tune with itself. In a set of bells, each bell is tuned using the same standards applied to its own frequencies and thus each bell in the set is not only in tune with itself, but also with each bell in the set.

## Change Ringing Bells

Peals of bells from Taylor's bellfoundry ring out from towers all over the English speaking world, with many of the world's most experienced change ringers regarding them as the finest instruments of their kind ever to have been created – beautiful sounding bells hung in immensely strong bell frames on perfectly balanced fittings for ease of handling. The number of complete Taylor change ringing peals now exceeds 625, and this total is greater than the combined output of all other bellfounders.

Each bell is a bespoke product, with a unique mould that is broken up as the bell is extracted from it. Where appropriate, and before casting, new bells can be designed to a variety of profiles to match existing 'old style' bells. These can then be tuned to give a seamless match when extending an existing ring of bells or when a bell has cracked within a ring.

## The Technical Detail:

**Bell Frames** – Taylor's design, manufacture and install bell frames made from treated hardwoods, cast iron and galvanised steel, or galvanised fabricated steel. Bell frame designs give straight rope drops from the roller boxes to ensure ease of bell handling for the ringers, and are very strong and rigid to ensure that a ringing peal of bells imposes the minimum forces on the tower in which it hangs.

**Headstocks** – Hollow box section cast iron headstocks give excellent rigidity to weight ratios and have proved to be very durable. If customers request it, headstocks can be made from galvanised steel or hardwood.

**Bearings** – Double row, self aligning bearings are fitted as standard. These are housed in our own cast iron bearing housings.

**Bell Wheels** – Completely crafted from hardwoods, using stainless steel screws when attaching the shrouding to prevent timber splitting. Profiled metal wheel strengthening irons are also supplied to ensure rigidity.

**Rope Roller Boxes** – Hardwood rope rollers from traditionally seasoned timbers, running on sealed ball bearings fixed to stainless steel joint pins are supplied as standard.

**Stays & Sliders** - These are manufactured from traditional hardwoods. Sliders are steam bent to ensure a long lifespan.

**Clappers & Crown Staples** – Clappers are made from spheroidal graphite cast iron, and supplied with 'Oilite' clapper bushes with lubricant points. Composite clappers with either hardwood or nylon shafts are also supplied where appropriate or on request. Crown staples are made from cast iron and steel, and are supplied with castellated nut and split pin.

**Ceiling Bosses** – Cast iron ceiling bosses are supplied as standard and are fitted to every floor the bell ropes pass through. These prevent rope wear and are almost silent as the ropes pass through them. Nylon bosses can be supplied for fitting on belfry floors where there is a lot of wetting.

**Bell Ropes** – Taylor's manufacture their own bell ropes with traditional red, white and blue salleys. Other colour combinations are available when requested. Bell ropes are supplied with pre-stretched polypropylene top ends as this gives the rope a longer lifespan and eliminates the problems of shrinkage in wet weather.

## Casting a Bell:

**Preparing the Core:** The core of the bell is prepared on a base-plate. The mould is formed around a core of coke and shaped brick. This helps the escape of gases during casting. On top of this, a layer of moulding material, or loam, made from sand with a high clay content with chopped hay & horse manure for binding, is built up by hand. It is shaped as it is built up



using a crook which is rotated on a spindle fixed through the centre of the core, to produce the correct size, shape and profile. The core is then dried in the oven at 150°C. Cracks often appear and these are filled and the core is dried again. Finally, a 'non-stick' coating of graphite is painted on.

**Preparing the Case:** The case for the outer mould is turned upside down and the loam is built up and shaped, using the crook, this time inside the case. Loam oozes out of the holes in the case, and prevents the loam from dripping out when the case is turned over. A small hole is left so that the molten metal can be poured through. The mould is then dried, inscribed and coated with graphite.

**Inscribing the Bell:** Decorations and inscriptions for the bell are impressed in 'mirror writing' on the inside of the outer mould and and, at the same time, coated with graphite (you have to be very sure of your spelling backwards!).

The outer case is fitted over the inner core and is clamped accurately and firmly to the base-plate. The assembled mould is then buried in the sand pit and fitted with a pouring box to receive the molten metal, a mixture of copper & tin. The sand will help to cool the metal slowly.

The bell metal is heated in the furnace to 1200°C. The furnace is then tilted and the alloy is poured into a large ladle hanging from the overhead crane. The molten metal is then stirred with a willow pole to help remove pockets of gas and bring impurities floating to the top. The ladle is tilted and the impurities are skimmed off.



Hickling villagers watch the casting of the new bell in 1999.



Eva Parkes assists with the casting of the Hickling bell in 1999.

The ladle is then carried by the crane over to the sandpit, and the molten metal is carefully poured into the mould through the pouring box. It is now that we see the importance of careful drying; if there is any moisture in the loam, it will instantly turn to steam, expand and cause an explosion.

**Cooling:** The bell is then left to cool for three or four days (Great Paul, cast in Loughborough in 1888 weighing 16 tonnes and now in St. Paul's Cathedral, took two weeks to cool). The mould with the bell inside is lifted from the sandpit and laid on its side, the clamps are removed and the core broken up carefully with a crowbar. The loam is discarded, the bricks are re-used. On raising the mould again and gently shaking it from side to side, the bell will drop from the mould.

**The Erecting & Fitting Shops:** Here the bell frames are assembled. They are made from cast iron and are accurately machined and fitted to a base grillage of structural steel. The wooden bell wheels, stays, sliders and runners are made in the joiners' shop and the ropes are made at the rope-maker's – a separate firm, but in the same building complex. All the

various parts are put together here, and sometimes the bells are fitted to the bell frames.

**The Clapper:** The clapper should not strike the bell until it stops swinging at the top or bottom of its arc. The flight helps to provide the correct dynamic (force and speed) so that it strikes the bell at the correct moment during each rotation.

**Tuning the Bell:** If you get the chance to see very old bells, you may see evidence of attempts to tune them by chipping off small amounts of metal – bell metal is hard and brittle and can be chipped off with a chipping hammer. It would have been a noisy business working with a hammer with your head inside a bell!

Every bell produces more than one note when it is struck. The main note (the fundamental) is the loudest, but the overall sound is also made up of harmonics – extra, quieter but very important notes which affect the tone of the bell. For the last 120 years Taylor's bellmasters have used vertical borers to remove the metal during the tuning process. Bells are cast to sound slightly higher than the notes eventually required; small amounts of metal are then turned from different parts of the inside of the bell to tune down all the harmonics. The bellmaster uses tuning forks, electronic equipment and his highly sensitive musical ear to assess the frequencies of the bell's notes and decide when a bell is correctly tuned.

(Reproduced with the kind permission of John Taylor & Co. from their website <http://www.taylorbells.co.uk/web/> and booklet, 'Look at Taylor's Bell Foundry and Museum')



Collecting the new bell: May 21st 2013





# Change Ringing

The origins of change ringing lie in the sixteenth century when church bells began to be fitted with a full wheel. This gave ringers control of their bell, allowing sets of bells (rings) to be rung in continuously changing patterns. Music is created by altering the order in which the bells sound. This is done in defined sequences of changes called methods. Learning a few simple methods allows ringers to join in with other bands in towers around the world. Today there are more than 40,000 change-ringers in the British Isles and smaller numbers in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Southern Africa and the USA.

The bells are tuned to a normal (diatonic) scale and it is usual to start with ringing down the scale, a sequence which ringers call "rounds". The order in which the bells sound is then altered to give different sequences called "rows" or "changes".

Changes may be called out individually by the conductor, and this style is known as call-change ringing. Alternatively, the changes may be made to a pre-set pattern or "method", and each ringer must learn that method in order to know when his or her particular bell must sound in each row. This style is known as method ringing.

Call changes and a few standard methods are rung in most towers and this makes it very easy for ringers to visit and ring with other bands. There are many more advanced methods which provide a continuing challenge as ringers gain proficiency over time.

<http://www.cccb.org.uk/> (Central Council of Bell Ringers)

In 1934 Dorothy L Sayers published her famous detective novel, *The Nine Tailors*. The book explores the mysterious events of a small country parish in the Fens and is completely constructed around and described through its church bells, called the Nine Tailors. Each event and each chapter is headed by a reference to bell ringing and its history; here is a selection to give a flavour of English Bell Ringing in all its variety!

The coil of rope which it is necessary to hold in the hand, before, and whilst raising a bell, always puzzles a learner; it gets in to his face, and perhaps round his neck ...

*(Troyte. On Change-Ringing)*

When mirth and pleasure is on the wing we ring; At the departure of a soul we toll.

*(Ringers' Rules at Southill, Bedfordshire)*

Thou shalt pronounce this hideous thing

With cross, candle, and bell-knelling.

*(John Myrc: Instructions for Parish Priests (15<sup>th</sup> Century))*

The bell that the treble takes from lead makes thirds place and returns to lead again; while the bells in 4, 5 and 6, 7 dodge when the place is made.

*(Rules for Ringing Grandsire Triples)*

'Dodging' is taking a retrograde movement, or moving a place backwards out of the ordinary hunting course ... She will be seen to dodge with a bell, and pass a bell alternatively through-out her whole work.

*(Troyte)*

The remaining bell ... does nothing but plain hunting, and is therefore said to be 'in the hunt with the Treble.'

*(Troyte: On Change-Ringing)*

I will again urge on the young conductor the great advantage that it will be to him to write out touches or even whole peals ... whereby he will gain a great insight into the working of the bells.

*(Troyte: On Change-Ringing)*

Using the bell changes as a code:

We, by taking the movements of one bell and writing the letters of your message in the appropriate places and then filling up the places of the other bells with arbitraries. For instance. Take a Plain Course of Grandsire Doubles, and suppose you want to convey the simple and pious message "Come and Worship". You would select one bell to carry the significants —

let us say, No 5. Then you would write out the beginning of your plain course, and wherever No. 5 came you would put in one letter of your message ... Then you could fill up the other places with any sort of nonsense letters ...

123456

213456

231456

324156

342516

435216

453126

541326

514236

152436

125346

215436

251346

523146

532416

840

By the Part Ends

561234

341562

621345

451623

231456

Treble the observation.

Call her the last whole turn, out quick, in slow, the second half turn and out slow. Four times repeated.

*(Troyte)*

The work of each bell is divided in three parts, viz. the quick work, dodging, and slow work.

*(Troyte: On Change-Ringing)*

Here Lies the Body of SAMUEL SNELL

That for fifty Years pulled the Tenor Bell.

Through Changes of this Mortal Race

He Laid his Blows and Kept his Place

Till Death that Changes all did Come

To Hunt him Down and Call him Home,

His Wheel is broke his Rope is Slackt

His Clapper Mute his Metal Crackt,

Yet when the great Call summons him from

Ground

He shall be Raised up Tuneable and Sound.

MDCXCVIII

Aged 76 years

5,376

By the Course Ends

65432

34562

23645

35642

42356

8<sup>th</sup> the Observation

Call her before, middle with a double, wrong with a double and home; wrong with a double and home with a double; middle with a double, wrong and home with a double; before, middle with a double, wrong and home with a double, before, middle with a double and wrong with a double. Twice repeated.

*(J Wilde)*

*(From the Oxford Book of Quotations)*

Keeping time, time, time,

In a sort of Runic rhyme,

To the tintinnabulation that so musically wells

From the bells, bells, bells.

*(The Bells, Poe, 1849)*

In summertime on Bredon

The bells they sound so clear;

Round both the shires they ring them

In steeples far and near,

A happy noise to hear.

*(Housman, Bredon Hill)*

*(From Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase & Fable)*

**Passing Bell:** The hallowed bell which used to be rung when persons were *in extremis*, to scare away evil spirits which might be lurking ready to snatch the soul while passing from the body. A secondary object was to announce to the neighbourhood that all Christians might pray for the safe passage of the soul into paradise. The bell rung at a funeral is sometimes improperly called the 'passing bell'.

**Ring the bell backwards:** Is ringing a muffled peal. A muffled peal is one of sorrow, not of joy, and was formerly sometimes employed as a notice of danger.

**Ring the hallowed bell:** Consecrated bells were believed to be able to disperse storms and pestilence, drive away devils and extinguish fire. It is said that as late as 1852 the Bishop of Malta ordered the church bells to be rung for an hour to 'lay a gale of wind'.

**Sound as a bell:** Quite sound. A cracked bell is useless.

# The Royal Jubilee Bells

## For the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant and the Church of St James' Garlickhythe

The Royal Jubilee Bells were cast at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry during February and March 2012:

Bell	Title	Name	Diam. (in)	(cm)	Weight (cwt-qtr-lbs)	(kg)	Note	Inscription
Tenor	The Vintners' Bell	Elizabeth	37"	94	9-1-25	481	G sharp	PRESENTED BY THE VINTNERS' COMPANY. VINUM EXHILARAT ANIMUM. THE ROYAL JUBILEE BELLS - RING TODAY TO THE GLORY OF GOD (Also bears the arms of the Worshipful Company of Vintners)
7th	The Dyers' Bell	Philip	33¼"	84	7-0-12	361	A sharp	PRESENTED BY THE DYERS' COMPANY. DA GLORIAM DEO. WE RANG ON THE RIVER THAMES FOR THE DIAMOND JUBILEE OF HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II (Also bears the arms of the Worshipful Company of Dyers)
6th	The Glass Sellers' Bell	Charles	30¼"	77	5-1-22	277	B sharp	PRESENTED BY THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF GLASS-SELLERS AND LOOKING GLASS MAKERS OF LONDON. DISCORDIA FRANGIMVR (Also bears the arms of the Worshipful Company of Glass-Sellers)
5th	The Parish Bell	Anne	29¼"	74	4-2-11	234	C sharp	ST JAMES GARLICKHYTHE (Also bears the arms of St James the Apostle)
4th	The Bettinson Bell	Andrew	27¼"	69	4-0-11	208	D sharp	CHARLES VERDEN BETTINSON. QUI SERA SERA (Also bears the arms of the Bettinson family)
3rd	The Grace Bell	Edward	25¾"	64	3-2-2	179	E sharp	GRACE. FORTITER. GIVEN BY JOANNA WARRAND PARISHIONER AND FREEMAN OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF PAINTER-STAINERS AND FREEMAN OF THE CITY OF LONDON
2nd	Katherine	William	24¼"	62	3-1-8	169	F double sharp	KATHERINE. TONY F. R. STOCKWELL MASTER JOINER CEILER 1990/1991 PARISH CLERK HOLY TRINITY THE LESS (Also bears the arms of the Worshipful Company of Joiners and Ceilers)
Treble	Nicole Marie Kassimiotis	Henry	23¾"	60	3-0-21	162	G sharp	NICOLE MARIE KASSIMIOTIS. A PRICELESS AND ANGELIC TREASURE, HAPPY MEMORIES OF THE PAST, JOYFUL MOMENTS OF THE PRESENT, AND THE HOPE AND ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE. (Also bears the arms of the Worshipful Company of Musicians)

In addition, each bell bears the Royal Arms and the Royal Name. Names of key officials from the church also appear.  
<http://royaljubilee bells.lovesguide.com/bells.htm>

### A royal ding-dong on the Thames (Kate Mansey Published: 6 May 2012)

IT WILL stand 20ft above the water, weigh 12 tons and hold a ring of eight bells as it leads a flotilla of 1,000 vessels on the Thames next month for the Queen's diamond jubilee. The design of the floating belfry, has been a carefully guarded secret. A steel tower will hold the bells on board a 94ft-long barge emblazoned with the royal cypher in gold on a bright red background. It is thought to be the first time a belfry tower with full-scale church bells has ever taken to the water. As the belfry moves down the Thames and its bells ring out, churches along the route will echo its peal. Around the country and the Commonwealth church bells will chime in.

The barge decorations, in black, red and gold, have been designed by Philippa Broadhurst, a former art director on the set of Downton Abbey, the ITV drama. Paul Ashwick, partner in the firm Steel the Scene who designed the belfry, said: "We've held trials on the river without the bells to make sure it will fit under the bridges."

The eight bells, which will be hung from the belfry, have been named after the senior members of the royal family with the biggest, the half-ton tenor bell, called Elizabeth in honour of the monarch. They were cast at the Whitechapel Foundry in east London, the same company that produced Big Ben.



Dickon Love, captain of the royal jubilee bell ringers, said the main challenge will be to manage the momentum of the bells as the belfry sways on the river, "The secret of English bell-ringing is for it to sound absolutely rhythmical but the conditions will not be exactly as they would be in the church so we are presented with some unique difficulties."

The belfry will be on board the Ursula Katherine barge, currently being used to transport goods to and from the Olympic Park. After the pageant, the bells will be installed at the church of St James Garlickhythe in central London.

[http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk\\_news/Olympics/article1032324.ece](http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Olympics/article1032324.ece)



For the pageant, eight leading change ringers, all members of the Ancient Society of College Youths and led by Love, will ring a quarter peal — which involves 1,260 changes and lasts about 45 minutes — with churches along the route providing an answering peal. Each is to be named after a senior member of the Royal Family (the great bell is to be christened Elizabeth). Ringing on the river will be no easy task. "The biggest bell weighs half a ton and will be swinging through 360 degrees," Love says. "Ringers can quite easily detect tower movement of a few millimetres — anything more than that makes a bell very difficult to control. We will have our work cut out because the movement on the river is more likely to be measured in inches." To make the floating belfry more stable the Thames will be closed to river traffic beforehand. Moreover, the barge carrying the Royal Jubilee Bells will be bolted on to a tug, which will push — rather than pull — it along the river.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article3316300.ece>



# Hickling Church & Bell Tower

## The Church Building.

The village is not recorded as possessing a church or priest in the Domesday Book of 1086, but the Anglo-Saxon coffin lid (found in the churchyard in 1821) indicates that the village was certainly a settlement capable of supporting a wealthy nobleman.



↑ Views from the Bell Tower →

The list of rectors dates back to 1227, and some sort of church building must have existed here at that time. This may have provided the nucleus for future construction, much of which is in the early-English style.

The oldest and least reconstructed section of the current church – the south aisle, which is entered from the porch – is believed to date from the first half of the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. Built in the early-English architectural style, the impressive timbers which form the ceiling are said by local legend to be re-used ship timbers.

The rest of the Church has been substantially altered after this. The tower – originally wooden and housing a wooden clock mechanism – was replaced in 1873 with the current tower. The chancel and the nave were also originally constructed in the early-English style, probably at a similar time to the south aisle. However, substantial re-building and restoration work carried out in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries has erased most traces of the original building. The roof of the nave was originally high-pitched, as can be seen on the east wall of the tower. A gale on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1887 stripped off the old roof, which was subsequently reconstructed. The timbers, even after this rough treatment, still retain traces of their beautiful original painting. The east wall and buttress of the south aisle were partially reconstructed in 1736 from a yellowish stone.



The original church was dedicated to Saint Wilfred, although this was later changed to Saint Luke, almost certainly during the Reformation of the 1530s.

## The Church and the Village.

Located on top of a slight rise (placing it above the marshland that then covered the Vale of Belvoir) Hickling has always been a good prospective site for habitation; it is believed to have been the site of a Roman settlement and the village is first mentioned in written records in the 9<sup>th</sup> Century when it was called Echeling and is further recorded in the Domesday Book. Valuations in historical records show the village becoming increasingly prosperous. An inventory during Edward VI's reign shows the Church in possession of several valuable items including a silver chalice and silks. The Civil War came to Hickling in dramatic form with Charles raising his Standard in Nottingham, battles fought on the Standard and musket holes in the main Church door as well as gargoyles defaced by soldiers. A will in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century put Hickling under the perpetual patronage of Queen's College, Cambridge, a relationship which continues to this day.

## The Bells.

There have been bells in Hickling since at least the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, when the Church possessed two large bells and a third smaller one. In 1740, three more substantial bells were added. These five larger bells were all re-hung with ball bearings in 1935, and one was also re-cast. This arrangement of five bells remained in use until a bell was purchased from Kinoulton in 1987 because it proved unsuitable for their Church. Cast in 1794, it was one of five originally placed in the new Kinoulton Church tower. However, the ring of all these bells proved too great a strain for the brick tower and produced large cracks in the brickwork. Consequently, they fell silent and were not re-hung for many years, by which time the wheels and frames had fallen into decay and had to be removed. One of these bells – the number three bell – was thus purchased by Hickling when it was found to fit the tower. A seventh bell was hung in 1997 and, after a long fund-raising campaign by parishioners, an eighth was added in 1998.

## Bell Inscriptions:

E. ARNOLD OF LEICESTER 1794

J TAYLOR & CO. FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH 1873

GOD SAVE HIS CHURCH 1722 (re-cast 1935)

My roaring sound doth warning give that men cannot heare always lyve (1618)

BE YT KNOWNE TO ALL THAT DOTHE ME SEE THAT NEWCOMBE OF LEICESTER MADE MEE 1602

All men that heare my mournfull sound repent before you lye in the ground. (1618)

Cast by J. Taylor, Founders of Loughborough in 1997.

(the eighth bell bears no inscription and was cast in 1998 by J. Taylor, Founders of Loughborough.)

A treble no.1 was brought here from Kinoulton in 1987 and the mounting on which they are all placed dates to 1810. The Church also possesses a small Sanctus bell from the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

## Extracts taken (with his kind permission) from:

'St. Luke's Church, Hickling; a description' by Rory Naismith (Aug 2000).

## The Bell Team in 2012:

Lynn Irving (Tower Captain)

Paul Irving

David Bloor

John Watson

Phil Graves

Robert Graves

Seona Baillie

Richard Collishaw

Andrew Bulmer

Peter Greenwood

Anita Kirkman

Frequent visitors and emergency  
back up:

Trevor Kirkman

Phil Shipman

Peter Corbett

We are also visited once a month  
by a contingent from Long  
Clawson who will help us with  
weddings and special occasions.



# Hickling Diamond Jubilee Bell Arrives



While ringing for the Diamond Jubilee last year, everyone could hear something was wrong. Further investigation revealed that one bell, cast in 1618, had finally cracked and now sounded like a hammer on a bath tub. This is a potentially devastating blow for a church and a ringing team as repairs or a new bell cost many thousands of pounds – insurance doesn't cover wear and tear, the Henry Oldfield Foundry that cast it no longer exists and warranties (which

probably never existed) would have long since expired. However, in the pub and at various village events it was quickly decided to replace the bell with one commemorating the wonderful year that was 2012, and also provide a snapshot of the present day village. More than 40 families representing about 150 people from or close to the village, and the Quorn Hunt (representing many more) put in at least £180 each to have their name cast for all eternity into the new bell. Many other villagers contributed by supporting village events and helping out. The tricky process of applying for a faculty (permission from the diocese) then began.

The Bell was cast at Taylor's Bell Foundry in Loughborough, one of only two left in the country, on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March. The casting was attended by nearly 50 people from the village who also enjoyed a tour of the foundry, which is about as far removed from the sterile environment of modern factories as it is possible to be. Casting itself is a raw fiery process with the bell metal being heated to 1200°C and being poured into a buried cast to be cooled over several days.



Work preparing for the arrival of the new bell started on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May. It was established that the floor of the ringing chamber was in fact a ceiling and therefore could not be used to support the weight of the bell, or even the volunteers, so as ever, Plan B was implemented. The tenor was removed allowing us access under the bells



and the frame to get to the trap door. The Old 6<sup>th</sup> was lifted over the bell frame then suspended under the bell frame through the gap left by the tenor and along the floor to the trapdoor. All work was manual – there is no





access for machines in the tower and the bell weighs 7cwt (equivalent to the weight of 6 or 7 adult men!). By Tuesday night we were way ahead of schedule, with the Old 6<sup>th</sup> in position in the clock chamber and everything in place for the new bell to be fitted.

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Richard Collishaw and Phil Graves collected the bell from the Foundry, accompanied by a note informing police that they really were legitimate – honest. On arrival at Hickling it was transferred by tractor - there had to be a tractor - onto a pallet so that it could be wheeled into the church. It spent the



rest of the afternoon being visited by many people from the village. The Preschool came and had a run round the church and a tour of the tower to see the work going on. They also got themselves covered in the black graphite that coats the bell to make it easier to take out of the cast. It was great to see so many people come to see the bell – not so great that they stayed to watch the bit of the operation we were really worried about; swinging it through the vestry door, you could taste the tension. All's well that ends well though. The new bell was in place and the other bells rehung by the end of the night, ready for our practice on Thursday, where we all crossed everything that it was the

right note.

We were hugely fortunate to get the best bell hangers in the country on a voluntary basis – Andrew Mills and Peter Hayward

– both crazy bell ringing fanatics themselves, and partners in Taylor's Bell Foundry, Loughborough. They were joined by Chris Birkby and George Dawson, also very experienced in the field of bell work and part of the Southwell and Nottingham Guild Bell Repair Team –







also on a volunteer basis. We then had our own 'muscle' David Bloor, Richard Collishaw, Philip Graves, Paul Irving, John Watson, Peter Greenwood, Andrew Bulmer, Phil Shipman, David Herrick and to his own amazement as much as anyone else's Andrew Whitney – better known for running the [www.hicklingvillage.org.uk](http://www.hicklingvillage.org.uk).

The atmosphere in the bell chamber was very convivial and no one would leave once replacements had arrived – far too much enthusiastic clamouring over the bell frame and bonding over the block and tackle going on, meaning a lot of the time we actually had enough to

have two teams working at once. No wonder they were quick.

Thanks to all who helped out with keeping everyone fed and watered – it was greatly appreciated and lots of compliments were received about the quality of food and drink (booze) provided so thanks to all who helped out there particularly Seona Baillie, Jo Cartmell, Margaret Woolley and Gill Bloor. The provision of food meant we could keep the workers going throughout the evening and the job was over within just two nights.



Thanks go to all who gave up their time and made the bell hanging such a jolly experience, and to those who came along to support. Also thanks to Jane Fraser for putting together this booklet – a project needing saintly amounts of patience, also to Steve



Wainer who is providing a visual journey of the project, and to Phil Graves (Sherwood Labelling Ltd) and his printing friends for giving us such a great deal on the printing costs – allowing us to have a lovely memento of a fabulous village project and year. We must also thank Mick Exton, George Dawson, Peter Hill and Jonathan Pickett for their help guiding us through the Faculty process.

We hope the project has informed many more people about bell ringing and inspired them to have a go and also that it has captured the spirit of Hickling at this time. We also hope the bell will last many

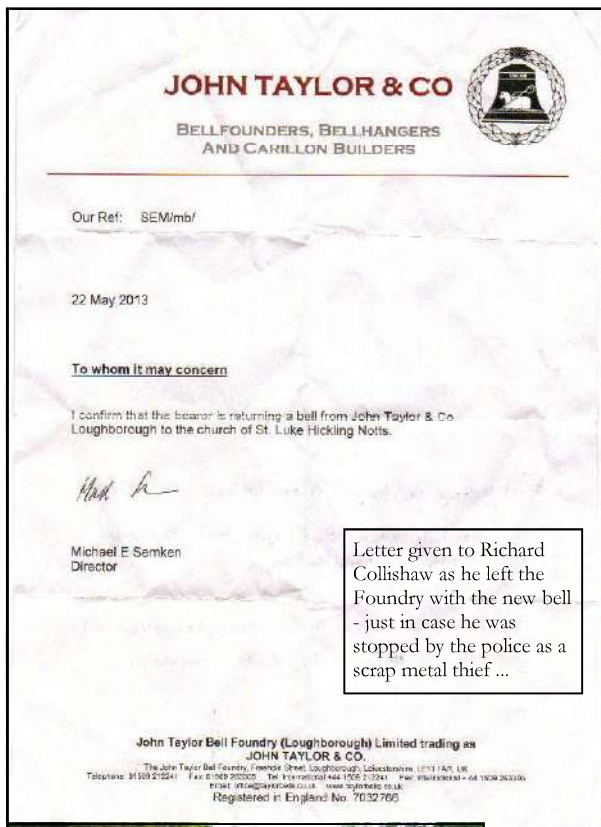
centuries and that it, along with the accompanying booklet, will provide an interesting snapshot for future generations, of the village and the Diamond Jubilee Year.

Lynn Irving  
June 2013









Text message exchange between Paul Irving & Richard Collishaw on the morning of 22nd May 2013:  
PI: "Good luck, collecting bell, it's a great honour—like bringing the World Cup back to Hickling!"  
RC: "It makes me feel very hum-bell"  
PI: The only person smiling on the early morning London commute! Apparently RC has quite a store of 'bell' jokes & puns ...

