

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD
OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS**



Newsletter
September 2014

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*It's nice to see reports from so many contributors this time.
Please keep this going by keeping notes of activities in your branch.*

*The deadline for the next Newsletter is : 28th February 2015
Please make a note of this date in your diary*

Please send your contribution either through your
Branch Press Correspondent or direct to :
e-mail : christopherpearson@btinternet.com or Tel : 01536 420822

The President's Prelude

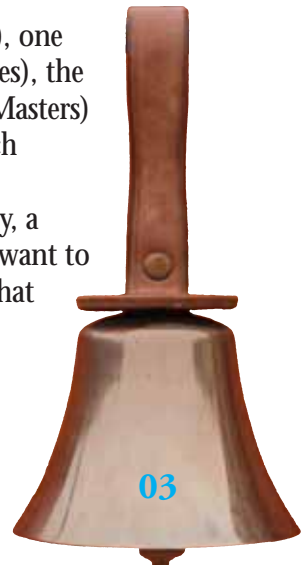
It is with some trepidation that I follow Brenda's ten hard years as your elected President. The impressive synchronised alacrity with which hands shot up to second my candidature, makes me think that there may be a higher expectation than Guild Rule C10 requires of me – "take the Chair at all business meetings of the Guild and the Guild Management Committee". I wonder what the other 95% of the membership are expecting of me, if anything? I must get out and try to find out!

I am keen that our clear committee structure is used effectively for us all to share and make progress in all respects – physical, mental and social!

The power house of the Guild is the Finance and General Purposes Committee ('F&GP') which is convened by the Guild Secretary and is attended by the branch secretaries (and treasurers) and the Guild Treasurer. It is here that different strengths and experiences from each branch in organising meetings, social events and fund raising can be brought together and shared to common advantage. Similar functions occur at the Recruitment and Training Committee (Branch Ringing Masters) ('R&TC') and the Restoration and Maintenance Committee (Branch Stewards) ('R&MC').

I want the General Management Committee ('GMC') to sift and progress new ideas from the F&GP, R&TC and R&MC for the membership to accept, reject or amend at the Annual General Meeting in June. The GMC has a large membership consisting of all Guild Officers (9), our Central Council of Church Bell Ringers ('CCCBR') representatives (4), all Branch Chairmen (10) and one other Branch Representative (10), one representative each (3) from the F&GP (Branch Secretaries), the Recruitment and Training Committee (Branch Ringing Masters) and the Restoration and Maintenance Committee (Branch Stewards); and five representatives, clerical or lay, elected triennially by the Diocesan Synod (currently 1). Recently, a branch or two have not had anyone present. Next year I want to clear the routine business as quickly as possible and see what things we can do next to enthuse more of our current members and gain new ones! Wishful thinking?

Some of you will already know that I collect numbers (started with bus spotting) and find spreadsheets fascinating! To start you thinking, here, in reverse order, are the Guild's aims with a few numbers taken from the 1978 Guild Report (the first one that I bought!) and the most recent, 2013.



Guild Aim	1978		2013
E Care and restoration of bells and their fittings.			
<i>Towers with 3 or more bells</i>	276		271
<i>Of which unringable</i>	44		19
<i>No. that have 10 or more bells</i>	4		7
D Helping ringers to improve their standard of ringing.			
<i>No. ringing first quarter peal</i>	41		18
<i>No. ringing first peal</i>	14		2
C Encouraging the art of change ringing.			
<i>Quarter peals rung for services</i>	88		69
<i>Other quarter peals</i>	217		219
<i>No. of towers in which rung</i>	92		102
<i>No. of ringers taking part</i>	366		441
<i>No. of peals rung</i>	79		35
B Recruiting and training ringers.			
<i>Towers with equal or more ringing members than bells (Omitting members marked as in arrears in 1978).</i>	52		62
<i>Ringling members of the Guild</i>	797		917
<i>Average age of members</i>	no data!		no data!
A Ringing for Service.			
<i>Percentage of 'ringable' services preceded by ringing</i>	no data!		no data!

I can't claim that the numbers I have used are particularly relevant, but give an indication. One thing that sticks out is the reduction in the number of towers that are unringable. I was pleasantly surprised to see the increased number of different ringers taking part in quarter peals in c) and the details for b), so perhaps it is the average age of the membership that makes me perceive that we need increased recruitment!

Then look at a) - our prime aim and nothing to measure ourselves by! It is made more difficult to measure in these days of united benefices and team ministries where services can rotate during the month and sometimes to seemingly random patterns?

How can we let our members enjoy their ringing more?
 How can we make ringing more interesting to our members? How can we get ringers, who do their bit but are not members, to join us?



Do ponder on these numbers. Go along to your annual branch meeting in January and let your Chairman and GMC rep. know so they can make your points at the GMC in March 2015.

Geoff Pullin

News from the Branches

Culworth Branch -no news this time

Daventry Branch

PEOPLE

Richard Waddy was elected Daventry tower captain in March when Hugh Johnson retired after over 40 years in post. On Sunday, June 8, a quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples was conducted by Jim White to mark Hugh's retirement. At a gathering of ringers and representatives of the congregation at the Saracen's Head after the quarter peal and evensong, Hugh was presented with mementoes including a small bell, suitably engraved.



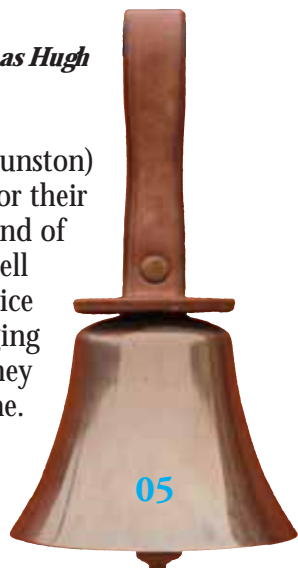
The Revd Canon Michael Webber, Rector of Daventry, looks on as Hugh Johnson reads the inscription on the presentation bell.

Lots of people were able to wish Elizabeth Gwynne (Braunston) and John Harding (formerly of Newnham) all the best for their wedding on June 7 at social events in Braunston at the end of



May. Elizabeth made a farewell appearance at Daventry practice on May 20. They will be ringing at Lyme Regis but we hope they will drop by from time to time.

John and Elizabeth Harding on June 7, 2014.



At the Guild AGM in June, Gwynneth White proposed Hilda Collins as a Life Honorary Member of the Guild. This was approved with acclamation to Hilda's obvious pleasure. Sue Jones proposed Geoff Pullin (who was actually there!) as President and hands from the Daventry Branch shot up in unison! I can't recall that Carole was given the chance to vote against! Gwynneth and Jim White were elected as joint Report Editors. Ted Garrett retired as Peal Secretary, a post he has held since the post was created – over 40 years.

Abi Buck became a verger at Peterborough Cathedral from July 1. Maternal arrangements for her future ringing were put in hand during tea at the Guild AGM!

Sarah Hyatt (Farthingstone) rang her first quarter of minor at Staverton on July 22, Double Oxford conducted by Phil Saunders, sadly in thanksgiving for the life of Michael, her husband who died unexpectedly in June. First in the method for all except Phil.

John Davies (Ashby St Ledger) went into Northampton General with a suspicion of sciatica. It eventually turned out to be Guillain-Barré syndrome. He has been unable to walk, so rehab. will take some time.

We were very sad to hear that Pauline, wife of Barry Thompson (Byfield), died on August 7 after years of successful treatment for cancer.

MEETINGS

This period has been characterised by the Chairman and Ringing Master missing 40% of events due to holidays and visits for the Barrow-in-Furness project. Our thanks to Gwynneth, Jim and Ian for filling-in very efficiently and reporting afterwards.

At Hellidon in March, 27 rang. The service was taken by the Rev Sarah Brown of Braunston who compared bells with trumpets, but did not take the analogy too far because 'blow the bells' is what her husband says on Thursday evenings! Mary Williams welcomed the evening ringers to Southam, where 17 rang before retiring to the Countryman at Staverton. In April, 21 rang at Everdon and soon got used to the easy-going, slow turning bells, with a 9cwt treble. The service in the cathedral-like choir stalls was cosy with the Rev. Michael Houghton leading it but Barbara still suffered with cold fingers at the organ. Tea was masterminded by Jan Clark. Cecil Swann met us at St Peter's, Northampton in the evening. We were just eight, so the ringing was relentless and the world was set to rights afterwards at the Kings Arms Farthingstone.

Badby was the only team from our branch to enter the Guild Spring Festival held at Crick in April and was typically placed fourth – "in the diocese".



Our July meeting at Great Brington attracted 21 and 5 more didn't ring. After a good tea, it was agreed to obtain a Wombel simulator and that raffles to raise money will be put in hand. At Whilton in the evening 18 rang, including Cambridge, Yorkshire and Bristol. A minimus band met afterwards at the White Horse, Norton.

Litchborough attracted 25 in August, including eleven visitors. The Rev. Carolyn Oley took our service, in which we remembered Pauline Thompson and Michael Hyatt. After tea provided by Litchborough ringers and friends, the meeting started with Tom Roast, a friend from Norwich for over 30 years, 'voluntarily' proposing the vote of thanks before the rector left. Tom announced that after thirty years of visits to the Pullin household he had completed a ring at every Daventry Branch tower the previous day and thanked members for their assistance. We agreed to postpone the planned Walk and Ring to Ashby until the morning of November 22 or 29 and to walk in the Blisworth and Stoke Bruerne area ending with a pub lunch. The long run up the A5 to Crick was thankfully easy, where ringing ranged from plain hunt triples, to a course of Bristol S Major. Fifteen rang, including visitors from Rugby and Kent. Now unringable due to carpal tunnel treatment, Geoff Brown met us and held court in the Red Lion afterwards!

PRACTICES

The branch ten-bell monthly practice on Tuesdays, from 8pm, have allowed members to get more used to ten-bell ringing. We have been able to ring Little Bob and Yorkshire S Royal besides call changes, plain hunting and caters. Attendances in March and after were: 16, 12, 15, 15. The July practice never had more than 11 at Jim's disposal so most rang all the time, thus maximising (or is it royalising?) their ten-bell on-rope time. Morning practice at Staverton, Hellidon, Litchborough and afternoon practice on Braunston simulator keep running usefully with varying numbers. Byfield ringers have had practices on the simulator at Braunston.

MORE QUARTERS

The branch ringing master continues to pursue a monthly programme of 8 and 10 bell quarter peals on Sunday afternoons and of targeted six-bell daytime quarter peals.

These have included:

Plain Bob Royal on March 9 at Daventry, conducted by Ian Willgress.

Plain Bob Minor on March 14 at Clifton upon Dunsmore, conducted by Gwynneth.

Superlative S Major on April 6 at Byfield, conducted by Ian to mark Hilda Collins' birthday.

Kent TB Minor at Yelvertoft on May 8, conducted by



Gwynneth for Michael Haighton.

Spliced Plain Bob, Little Bob and St Clements Major at Weedon on June 1, conducted by Ian Willgress calling 72 changes of method, and celebrating the first grandchild for Anne and Brian Foley.

Plain Bob Minor at Staverton on June, 6 conducted by Gwynneth. We noted that it was rung on the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

Plain Bob Royal on July 13, conducted by Ian, marked the 70th birthday of Brian Foley, graduation compliments to two of our treasurer's offspring and it was advertised as part of the Daventry Arts Festival!

Plain Bob Minor at Badby on August 1, conducted by Gwynneth, first of minor for Peter Wilkins.

Plain Bob Triples at Crick on August 3, conducted by Ian Willgress, first on 8 bells for Brian Clark.

Yorkshire S Major at Whilton on August 8, conducted by Jim White for Tom Roast to complete ringing at all branch towers.

Plain Bob Triples at Daventry on August 9, conducted by Jim White, to meet the Daventry Bellringers' offer of ringing for a special occasion bought at an Auction of Promises, in aid of restoration work. It coincided with the Daventry Commemoration of WW1 which was taking place in the town and church.

On the previous Monday, Weedon rang four bells from 10.40pm to 11.50pm and tolled the tenor until 11pm as part of the British Royal Legion's Lights Out vigil.

Mike Harvey rang the ninth to **Plain Bob Cinques** as his first quarter on 12 bells for Peterborough Cathedral Evensong on July 20, conducted by John Riley,

Brian Foley organised a quarter peal of **Cambridge S Major** at Weedon on July 28 as part of the celebrations for the 25th anniversary of the dedication of its Chapter House.

A quarter peal of **two doubles methods**, conducted by Phil Saunders, was rung at Litchborough on July 30 as a belated celebration of the confirmation of Dorothy Fitzgerald and Allison Holland on March 9.

OUTINGS & SOCIAL

The traditional Badby May Day Monday ringing rally was promoted to 'super' this year. Several had expressed a wish to see what I had been up to in Barrow-in-Furness and a visit to Liverpool Cathedral was mooted. So, a party of 14 stayed from Friday at Leyland. On Saturday we rang at Cartmel Priory, Flookburgh, Barrow-in-Furness, of course, then Dalton-in-Furness and Milnthorpe. We were joined by Jim and Gwynneth White for two days, Richard Piner and three Lancashire friends for Saturday only.



On Sunday, we rang for service at Moss Side and then drove to Liverpool Cathedral where we were made very welcome. Some initial ringing on the front 'light' eight introduced the high 'circus ring' on which you stand. Ken Ramsbotham was then sent to the tenor box and covered some Grandsire Cinques and eventually stopped. We all had a ring on the 12. An extraordinary experience! Afterwards we rang at St Andrew's, Leyland for the modern evening service.



Ken Ramsbotham takes hold of the tenor (82cwt) at Liverpool Cathedral

On Monday we rang our way home at Stretton, Weaverham and Hartford, followed by a swift lunch. At Wybunbury ("Winbury" - a secular tower - since the attached church was demolished in 1976) and Barthomley, we were joined by Ed Mortimer (our Canadian narrow boat member who had recently boated north from Braunston) and finally we sped along the A50 to Rolleston on Dove in Staffs. Despite a late end for the weekend, the whole party trooped into the pub next door for a final drink! Coincidentally, we hear that a couple of Rolleston ringers have just moved into Weedon!

The Spread Eagle, Rolleston on Dove after the last tower.



***Left to right:
Andy Timms,
James Grennan,
Alison Buck,
Dorothy FitzGerald, Jo
Chappell, Jill Harvey,
Mike Harvey, Helen
McWilliams, Geoff's
empty chair,
Carole Pullin,***

Chris FitzGerald, Eleanor Ramsbotham, George Wrycroft, Ken Ramsbotham.

After the branch decided to go to Berkshire for its coach outing, Janet reported that nothing would go right. However 29 of us set off on May 10 down the A5 and A43 until we found it closed and had to detour by 13



miles. We arrived at Wantage, to find nobody to meet us. Jim White, who spent his early ringing career at the tower, found the key holder who had just returned from A&E. We had a quick ring and admired the photo of Jim in short trousers and the poem as written by John Betjeman that hang in the belfry. Then nobody met us at Hungerford - despite Janet's reminders! Many keys came from the vicarage, but the ringing room padlock remained shut. We decided to have lunch, own arrangements, in the town and reconvene later. The key arrived at 1pm but many got soaked as the heavens opened during the walk back. A very pleasant easy-going eight made up for it. Keys now appeared on time everywhere. During the day, only a few bells were down and fewer had to be lowered. Many call changes, plain hunting, various triples, major and the odd half course of surprise major kept us all happy. To assuage the ghost of Fred Hutt, we were allowed the luxury of 45 minutes at the pub in Stanton-in-the Vale before setting off for home. Thanks go to Janet for worrying and organising; Dominic for driving Hunter's Coach and the five ringing masters for the day.



Awaiting the key at Hungerford. L to r: Eileen Thompson, Jane Rands, Margaret Dean, Hilary Aslett, Simon Creasey, Andy Timms, Shirley Waterhouse, George Wrycroft, Chris Lund, Carole Pullin, Nikki Butt, Jim White, Gwynneth White, Alison Willgress, Rev Michael Haighton, Bella, Sue Merrett, Barbara Haighton, Alison Buck, Geoff Pullin, Barry Thompson, Janet Bowers, Jo Chappell, Helen McWilliams, Jackie Bailey, Ian Willgress at Hungerford hoping for the key. (Missing Alan Bailey who took the photo, Pauline Thompson, Brian Thompson, taking another photo and Dominic Sinclair parking the coach.)

RECRUITING

Daventry tower took a stall to recruit new ringers at the Daventry Leisure Centre on July 5 at the opening of the Daventry Arts Festival. The stall and open tower day on July 19 was enthusiastically organised by Mara Grif-fiths and brought forth help from local ringers but the



public attendance was a bit unrewarding. However, it will act as a stimulus for further recruiting events. There was a Celebration of Braunston Village Arts and Crafts on August 16 - 17 in Braunston church which included a ringing display, exhibition and other recruiting activities. When we get our Wombell, we should be able to make greater impacts!

In the forlorn hope of retaining one or two, all 18 of Badby School Year 6 undertook bell handling sessions within the curriculum. Two or three could just manage to keep their bells in rounds for a few whole pulls unaided after an accumulated average rope-time each of about 60 minutes!

One of the attractions of bellringing that I haven't seen mentioned, is sitting outside the pub in a fine summer after practice with I-pads, Galaxies et al naming the individual stars, the transit of the international space station, the fleeting glimpse of Iridium satellite transits, lightning strikes in the area and trying to identify aircraft passing over, headlights on, aiming at Birmingham or Coventry airports. My neck is getting stiff!

UP THE TOWERS

Brian Foley (Weedon) was elected as branch steward at the March meeting and was put to work straightaway by Everdon. The summer weather has been good and no repeats of the substantial rainwater ingress that occurred in several, preciously dry, towers last winter. A full inspection of Daventry by John Taylor & Co revealed nothing serious. Weedon clappers are going to Taylors on August 27 for 12 days for refurbishment. You will have found out by the time you read this whether they were back in time for the Guild Summer Festival!

Geoff Pullin - Daventry Correspondent

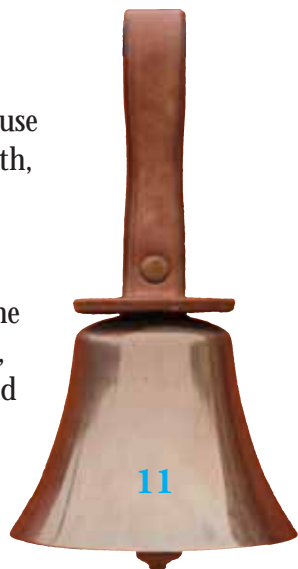
Guilsborough Branch

Richard Johnson, Branch Ringing Master has moved house within Brixworth. Address : 7 Hawthorn Road, Brixworth, NN6 9WP. Mobile 07970 542930.

Guilsborough Branch Website

This new site has now been active since March 2014. The content pages uniquely contain a mix of tower locations, brief histories, events & other topics. The website, owned & maintained by Nick Hiams, draws no funding or running costs from the Branch.

We welcome all tower captains or contacts to forward their own tower news for publication. We would also be very interested in hearing feedback from Guild members



views, suggestions, additions etc. So far, we have responded positively to several ideas put forward & have integrated them into the site accordingly. Rob Palmer, who administers the site, can be contacted via email :- rfrfp@outlook.com or by phone on :- landline : 01788 860419 mobile : 07926151811.

Lilbourne, All Saints Church

A ringing practice on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month established in January 2014, has proved worthwhile & successful. Dove's Guide & the Guild tower directory have been updated to reflect the changes. 4th Sunday ringing is now a reality with the possibility of adding another Sunday when there are sufficient ringers available.

During the year our "Band" took part in "Ringing for England" on St. George's Day, April 23rd. Many thanks to all those individuals who assisted with this venture. We anticipate that in the coming months, we are able to encourage revival of other celebratory ringing occasions.

Incidentally, Lilbourne has now got its own public house on Station Rd. Converted from two cottages, its is named "Head of Steam".

Marston Trussell, St. Nicholas Church.

Following on from the blessing ceremony of November 2013, a further re-dedication for the bells occurred on May 3rd 2014. The Bishop of Brixworth conducting the service. Many thanks to Janet & Geoff Armitage for the arrangements & refreshments.

A quater peal was rung on 8th July. The first to be rung on the six bells and rung in memory of Paul Amitage.

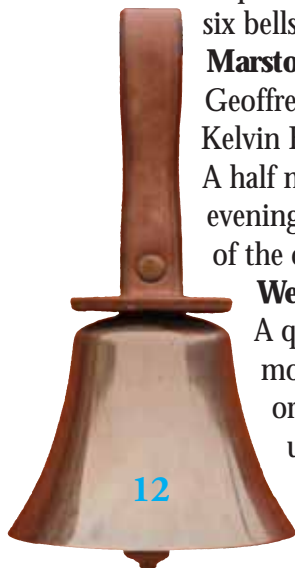
Marston Trussell, Northants 1440 Plain Bob Minor.

Geoffrey D Armitage 1, Claire S Johnson 2, Janet M Armitage 3, Kelvin Broad 4, Michael J Price 5, David P Westerman (C) 6.

A half muffled quarter peal successfully took place on the evening of August 4th, to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the outbreak of The Great War.

Welford.

A quarter peal service ring on the 2nd Sunday of each month instead of the usual half hour ringing has been organised by Alistair Donaldson. This has proved to be useful in allowing rising ringers to gain experience of future similar events. If you wish to take part, please telephone Alistair on 01858 575101.



Quarter Peal Day, October 11th 2014

Please let Alistair know if you wish to participate in this event on

Tel : 01858 575101

At the time of writing , there are no tower location details available, but they will be posted on our website or sent directly to entrants.

Dorothy Westerman - Guilsborough Correspondent

Kettering Branch

We have held some interesting meetings over the past few months so we hope you enjoy reading about them.

In February we had 22 members and visitors sign in for our practice at Rothwell on the simulator. It was good to see some of the new members elected at the AGM the previous month, as well as old friends.

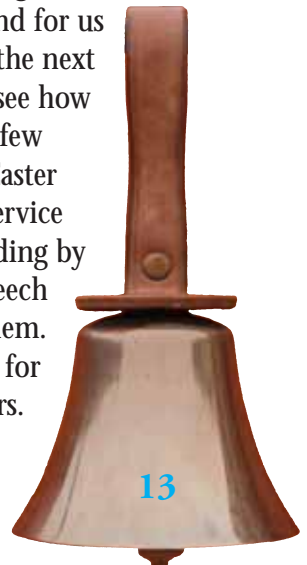
In March our new Treasurer and her band welcomed 21 of us to Isham and we were able to sample their legendary refreshments - the haggis sausage rolls were particularly memorable. Thank you to our Isham friends for their hospitality.

In April we were delighted to be able to join the new ringers at Ashley. For some months Nick and Helen Churchman had been working with a group of ten learners who were aiming to ring for service for the first time on Easter Sunday.

During the preceding few weeks some of us had been meeting with them in smaller groups to practice their rounds. The April meeting was the opportunity for them to meet more of the Branch and for us to celebrate their achievements and give them a feel for the next stage of their bellringing journey. We were delighted to see how well they were doing and even more delighted to hear a few weeks later that they had achieved their ambition. On Easter Sunday all of them were able to ring in rounds for the service with a good crowd of impressed family and friends standing by to watch. During the service one of the band made a speech thanking everyone who had given up time to support them. Congratulations to all and especially to Nick and Helen for achieving this milestone with such a big group of learners.

We hope the band continues to go from strength to strength.

May was our spring half day outing. We don't need to go far to find some interesting bells. Seventeen of us



assembled to ring at Arthingworth, Kelmarsh, Maidwell and Draughton and a good afternoon was enjoyed by all. Thanks are due to Murray for arranging this trip out for us.

In June we decided not to hold a meeting as our regular second Saturday in the month coincided with the Guild AGM.

In July we held our annual pre-summer barbecue. This time for the first time for many years we decided to hold a treasure hunt as well. Four teams assembled at Aldwincle on a very hot and sticky afternoon for a trail around the village. It was an interesting route and enabled us all to learn something new about this corner of Northamptonshire. We then had a ring at Aldwincle and were due to move on to Pat Edkin's home for the barbecue but unfortunately Pat had a fall a few days previously, shortly after preparing the treasure hunt for us, and was laid up with a broken hip so the venue was moved to the Wallis garden in Desborough. Twenty people assembled for our customary cook and share feast after which the results of the treasure hunt were announced. It was a closely fought contest but the winning team consisted of Bill Adcock, Jane Marsh and Murray Coleman. We had managed to locate the branch treasure hunt trophy which hadn't been seen for many years so this now stands proudly in Desborough ringing room. The celebrations continued throughout a very pleasant evening. Thanks are due to Pat for the organisation of this event - we wish you a speedy recovery - and to the Wallis's for offering to host the barbecue at short notice.

We will look forward to telling you more of our exploits in the next edition.

Meanwhile, if you want to keep up to date with the Kettering Branch please email : thewallisfamily@hotmail.com and ask to be put on the circulation list for our monthly newsletter. You are always welcome to join us at any of our events.

Deb Wallis - Kettering Correspondent

Northampton Branch - no news this time

Peterborough Branch

In April our Ringing Master organised a striking workshop at Bulwick. The afternoon began with a theory session then the students were divided into two groups. One group went to the bells for practical instruction with six experts giving each student the opportunity of



ringing rounds and then a method of their choice with a crack band and an expert beside them to correct any faults as they occurred. The other group retired to the Chancel with an ipod and James to listen to ringing on varying numbers of bells with deliberate mistakes which they had to identify. The afternoon concluded with tea and chat plus a huge vote of thanks to the experts who made it all possible.

May saw another Ring for your Supper, this time visiting Benefield, Oundle and Polebrook. As usual it was a well attended event with a wide variety of ringing on bells which were unfamiliar to many. The food was excellent and plentiful and the company stimulating. As the ringing came to an end at Polebrook the rope on the second cascaded to the floor leaving the Branch Steward with a job to put things back to rights before a wedding later in the week!

The eight bell practices at Castor on the first Friday of each month have continued to be well attended and have attracted learners ringing rounds to spliced surprise experts. In May and August the practice became a six bell practise at Easton and Glinton to encourage the bands there and to give an opportunity for those who found eight bells somewhat daunting.

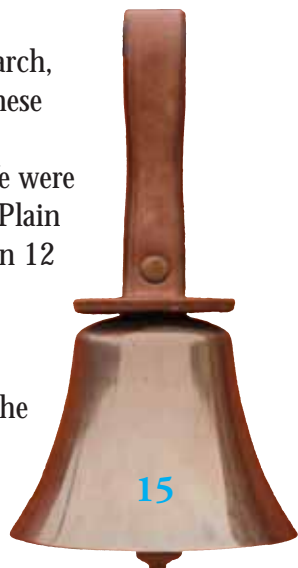
We rounded off the summer with a branch ringing outing to a selection of six and eight bell towers in Leicestershire with an excellent pub lunch part way through. The weather was good and the scenery around the five villages was spectacular so the day held much promise. Everyone agreed at the end of the day that the bells had exceeded expectations and the churches had all proved to be particularly interesting.

Peterborough Cathedral

We have rung seven quarter peals for Evensong since March, generally trying to keep the ringing simple and good. These were mainly Plain Bob from triples to cinques with one Grandsire Caters and one of Rutland Surprise Major. We were pleased to organise and ring a very good quarter peal of Plain Bob Cinques for Mike Harvey (Weedon Bec), his first on 12 bells.

We always try to ring quarters for Cathedral special occasions and recently succeeded for the Ordination of Priests, St Peter's Day Evensong and the Installation of the new Mayor. We rang a quarter for Soundscape, an event about the sounds of the Cathedral.

It was particularly pleasant for the Bells Master to welcome Alan Cozens (Roade) with his party to ring



for Evensong as he was very much instrumental in teaching Robin method ringing over 50 years ago; it is thought that he did a good job! The Ely Diocesan Association also rang a quarter peal (Stedman Triples) for Sunday Evensong.

We also welcomed Michael and Jane Spencer (Somerset) to a practice night; they were former ringers at St Mary's Peterborough. Pauline Champion and party on tour also joined us on a practice night.

One Monday we transferred our practice to St Mary's where special method Glasgow was successfully rung with several "firsts" achieved.

We rang all 12 bells for two weddings, one mid-week.

We extend a warm welcome to you all across the Guild, please come and ring your bells here when you can.

Robin Rogers

Peterborough, St. John's

Sunday service ringing continues to draw in regular ringers from various parts of the city and beyond.

Our monthly practice (2nd Wednesday) also continues to be well attended and everyone present has the opportunity of a good ring which stretches them in one way or another. We are mostly ringing Plain Hunt, Plain Bob, Little Bob, Grandsire and Stedman, in all stages from doubles through minor, triples and major. We also occasionally get to ring surprise as well, dependant on who turns up.

The monthly quarter peals are also proving to be a good opportunity for our ringers to progress, be it getting to grips with a new or more advanced method, or just consolidating on recently acquired abilities. July's quarter peal was dedicated to the birth of Graham and Catherine Hill's first child Briony Charlotte.

Earlier in the year we lost a clapper from the treble. Colin Weld, our Steeple Keeper, did a fantastic job of getting a replacement from Taylors within a couple of days, just in time for the planned quarter peal of Yorkshire Major later that week.

Peterborough City Council recently put on a whole evening of events in Cathedral Square to mark the anniversary of the start of WW1. We had the honour of providing the finishing touch to the events, the



tolling of St John's half-muffled tenor at 11pm providing a most atmospheric finale to the evening.

Nick Elks - Tower Captain

Peterborough, St. Mary

It has been a relatively quiet few months in and out of the tower at St Mary's. Back in the spring we had a quarter peal of St Clements Major to mark Gillian Christie's 50th birthday followed by a surprise party. We rang a quarter peal to welcome Lady Victoria Leatham, who gave a very entertaining talk entitled 'Burghley through the ages.' At the end of May Alex Dyer, our Ringing Master, arranged an entertaining outing in and around Norwich. Norwich itself has at least one church for every week of the year and similarly it used to have a pub for every day of the year. Some ringers stopped over to sample but a few!

Tony Evans organised two outings to Toleshorpe this year. One was to see Alice in Wonderland and Alice Through the Looking Glass when some of us sampled the very good Toleshorpe supper. The other was to see The Taming of the Shrew when we all had our usual picnic.

Ahead of practice night on 17th July we rang a quarter peal to mark the anniversary of Geoff Davis' sudden death. The tower and the pub are a lot quieter without him and we realise how much we miss this Peterborian character. On 9th August we rang a peal of 12 Doubles methods, with local ringers, which was Tom Stevenson's first peal. He accomplished this with ease and confidence and has recently clocked up his 25th quarter peal.

What next? Our annual visit to the Peterborough Beer Festival and a hook up with the Bulwick ringers to savour a few beers!!! St Mary's has slots available for peals. Please get in touch if you would like to bring a band and Alex is also looking to schedule in regular peals in addition to quarters. The best slot is either Saturday mornings or afternoons (bells@peterborough-stmarys.org.uk).

Andrew Christie

Bulwick

We were pleased to be asked to host the branch striking workshop in April. It proved to be a very worthwhile event and a good social time as well.

We have been very grateful over the summer months for all the visitors who join our practices. Almost every



week one or more of our local couples have been away on holiday but our quality and range of ringing has been maintained throughout. A number of new methods have been added to our repertoire including King Edward, Carlisle, Stamford, Yaxley, Hedwardine and St. Nicholas. We have taken advantage of our ringing Master's absence on a couple of occasions to ring Stedman.

The start of WW1 was commemorated by a special service on August 4th which began with the tolling of 100 strokes on a muffled bell.

Work is due to start shortly on repairs to the church clock. This encouraged us to tackle a long overdue spring clean in the belfry and the clock chamber removing the twigs which the birds had kindly brought and the millions of spiders webs which bound them to the bells. I don't think our labours made much difference to the feel of the bells but the cleaning of the sallies and tail ends certainly made handling them more pleasant.

The reward for all this hard labour was the annual outing to the beer festival - no ringing but plenty of exercise to strengthen the arms! I am told that the ladies polished off four bottles of wine and still were able to visit the shoulder of mutton on the way home!

Pat Teall

Castor

St. Kyneburgha's bells and its ringers seem to have been more than usually occupied for the first eight months of this year. Firstly three tails needed replacing, and without Steve Reed anymore to exercise his skill at splicing, and Edward not yet trained, Robin Rogers stepped in and did a brilliant job for us. Well the ropes have been used 2,500 times since new. Secondly, the priest room, adjoining the ringing chamber, possibly one of the oldest continually used rooms in Peterborough, 1310, was redecorated after the Church Trust repaired a water leak in the lead roof. The room is used as an additional ringing training area.

Sadly we have lost another four ringers, but have been rejoined by two, which brings us up to just eleven regulars, plus we are helped by Joan Parker, Nick Elks and Mandy Loveder. David Banks with Stuart Weston are challenging us with new methods.

We have already rung for five weddings at Castor, and four funerals, three weddings at Wansford and one at Thornhaugh, and one challenging one at Water Newton,



that is the bells not the wedding! This is the first time I can remember that we have had four weddings at Castor that have declined the bells which may be due to restricted wedding budgets, but at £15 per rope for at least one and a half hours still seems very competitive, as we ring before and after. We have had two weddings two days running when both brides were over 20 minutes late! This does put a tremendous strain on the ringers, choir, organist and rector when there are other services and duties to perform at fixed times after the ceremony, almost all at other churches which entails travel.

We have had five visiting bands this year, three of which rang peals. Michael Maughan has been twice with his excellent band, and the village looks forward to their visits and the superb ringing, though the parish is being spoilt when their ringing is compared with us.

On a beautifully sunny Sunday our Summer Lunch was hosted by Inga and Richard Moon in their garden, special guests were Beth Graham and Joan Parker. To make the day even better Inga announced she is expecting her first child in December, we wish them all the very best. She assures me that we will be only one ringer down for a short while and we are making the Priest Room into a crèche, as we did for Bev Rigby and her daughter Robyn sixteen years ago! We made a very special effort for the Centenary of the Great War. A new plaque with the parishes' roll of honour was dedicated on the Village Green cross with half muffled ringing before a unique service of remembrance was held on Sunday 3rd August. On the 4th we rang fully muffled for an hour in the evening, which I don't think has been done for a very long while. According to visitors who came to the church for a moment of reflection said how beautiful the sound was.

Though there were clearly audible mechanical sounds, some from the Hastings toggles, but mostly from the worn clapper bushes, nevertheless a very worthwhile and significant evening.

William Baxter

Glaphorn

The church improvements have now been completed, thanks to a donation from Waste Recycling Environment Trust (WREN) as well as a number of other charitable trusts. The changes included raising the ringing floor in order to accommodate a lavatory with disabled facilities at the base of the tower. A glass screen now surrounds the floor, and ringers can look out into the church.



Sally Collop, Claire Meads and Susan Groom rang the bells at a wedding in August, and were able to watch the bride and groom walking down the aisle! We are most grateful to Alex Dyer for his help and advice during the construction phase.

Pauline Davidson

Glinton

We have been trying to improve our ringing and renew interest by choosing a different method to focus on each week at our practise night. It was very helpful to have some ringers from Market Deeping join us in July whilst the floor in their church was being replaced; they brought expertise, energy and enthusiasm to the practice and were a young and happy group. We also hosted the 6 bell Branch practice in August which gave us a steady band to work with and helped our Alex to perfect her treble bobbing. The visitors were forbearing and very welcome.

The village has heard some near perfect ringing from 2 visiting bands, one from Devon and the other from Nottinghamshire and we have had a number of overseas visitors pop in to the church to see how the bells are rung.

We rang for St George's Day and for the local primary school's leavers' service but no weddings this year, although some of our ringers helped out at weddings in Barnack, Maxey, Oundle and Glapthorn. Bob tolled the bell on August 4th at 11pm just as a maroon was let off in the village to remember the start of the

First World War and Jill tolled the bell for our evening of remembrance in the church on August 8th.

We continue to try and recruit new ringers and we would be happy to see you at any of our Thursday evening sessions from 7.30pm to 9pm.

Shirley Hodgkinson

King's Cliffe

We have been delighted to welcome a number of visiting bands over the summer and have been treated to some high quality ringing.

We have a good record of Sunday Service ringing, often having a Surprise or Stedman band. Over the summer we have rung for four weddings with assistance from other towers for which we are most grateful.

Our practices continue on the second and fourth Monday



of each month at 7.30 and we have had a number of visitors who have enjoyed the rehung bells.

Pat Teall

Nassington

After many years of service to the tower Keith Underwood has stepped down as Tower Captain. At the end of a recent Sunday service Rev Michael Matthews thanked Keith for all his work over the years, ringing, leading practices and maintaining the bells. He presented Keith with half a dozen bottles of red wine on behalf of the PCC.

Brian Hardie has taken over as Tower Correspondent, but not Tower Captain. We have been offered, and are pleased to accept, help with inspecting and maintaining the bells from the Peterborough Guild.

We have had two new ringers who have joined us. These were 'recruited' from the Bellringing School at Castor. This has meant that we have been able to ring for Sunday morning service most weeks, even though this at the earlier than usual time of nine o'clock for a nine thirty service.

Our regular Monday evening practice nights have been well attended allowing us to attempt some methods as well as ringing rounds and plain hunt. We should like to thank the more experienced ringers who come to this practice to encourage the newer, less experienced, ringers.

We have rung for a number of weddings this summer. We also rang, with half muffled bells, to commemorate the start of the First World War on the afternoon of the fourth of August.

Brian Hardie

Oundle

We are grateful to all the local ringers who have rung at the weddings over the summer period. We also managed to get a band together to ring at our new vicar, Stephen Webster's, induction service. Petbells is invaluable when trying to find ringers at short notice!

Pauline Davidson

Warmington

In April the Warmington band celebrated a year since they started ringing and went out for an anniversary dinner at the village pub. We have now been joined by



several new ringers, both beginners and those with some experience, and now have very varied practice evenings which cater for all abilities. Our band of learners have made really good progress and can now all ring rounds and plain hunt.

It was a nerve wracking moment when the learners, minus (for the first ever time) any of our experts, got together recently for a Sunday morning ring. However we managed some good rounds and were told by the congregation that it was good to hear the bells ringing again on a Sunday after many years of silence.

In July we decided to have a "summer evening away from home" and the entire team went to the beautiful little church at Stoke Doyle where we spent a very enjoyable time ringing their lovely newly refurbished bells on a perfectly still and warm summer night.

On September 4th we rang half muffled for a special commemoration service in remembrance of the outbreak of WW1.

John and Alex have done some work on the bells so ringing seems easier now. Many thanks to Alex, John, Yvette, Elaine and Nick for all the support they have given us at Warmington. We really appreciate all the help you give us.

Sylvia Upex

Castor Ringing Centre

The Castor Saturday morning ringing school is entering its 8th year of continuous training of novices through to advanced method ringing. During this period we have had about 70 trainees from a large number of different towers

from as far afield as Kings Lynne, Huntingdon and Rutland. We currently have trainees from Warmington, Nassington, Wadenhoe, Great Casterton, St. Johns, Peterborough and Huntingdon. We currently have a "hard core" of half-a-dozen regular trainers/helpers with a further 5 or 6 that will fill in when we are short. Sadly we lost one of our helpers last year with the sudden death of Geoff Davies.

We occasionally hold specific training days for branch towers, a couple of years ago we held a bob minor day and last year we had a train the trainers course.

Tony Evans

Electronic Communication

The Peterborough Branch has its own website at www.petbells.org.uk on which details of all forthcoming events can be found alongside details on every tower and



a list of practice nights. We also make extensive use of an email list called 'PetNet' to which the majority of members are subscribed. If you are one of the few who are not on this list please contact either the Branch Secretary or Chairman via the Home Page of our website and ask for your email address to be added.

David Teall

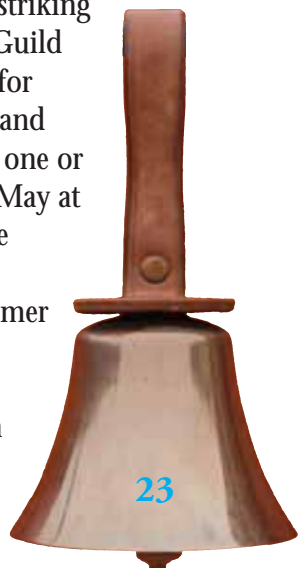
Pat Teal - Peterborough Correspondent

Rutland Branch

Our best news is that we have at least 10 beginners learning the ropes, and several others reaching the stage when they will ring their first quarter. The integrated Teacher Training Scheme has been given an airing in Rutland: we held a Module 1 training day for three potential teachers. For one reason or another, we were unable to follow the prescribed schedule of training after the training day, but those who took part felt it was well worth while, and we now have three people training beginners who either had no experience before, or who were unsure of themselves and found the course gave them the confidence they needed. Our ringing master continues to run monthly advanced 6-bell practices, offering a chance to progress from PBD and PBM to a wider range of methods for those who do not get the opportunity to try more advanced ringing at their weekly practices.

In other respects, things have been rather quiet in Rutland branch in the last few months. We had fewer teams than usual for our branch striking competition and did not manage to send a team to the Guild Spring Meeting. Nevertheless, it was a happy afternoon for those who came; the young ringers did particularly well and Braunston team won. St George's Day was celebrated in one or two towers and we had a really good branch practice in May at Cottesmore and Exton with a range of plain and surprise methods. Rain washed away the intended BBQ, but the Fox and Hounds was a welcoming refuge. Over the summer 4 quarter peals have been rung, and we have also had visiting teams ringing peals and quarter peals.

All Hallows' Church at Seaton has good news, having in less than a year reached their appeal target for replacing the bearings on the existing 5 bells, and adding a 6th bell. Hilary and Bob Williams are to be congratulated not only for enthusiastically spear-heading the appeal, but



also for learning to ring, so that the village has the beginnings of a team. The new treble bell is being cast on September 24th. The plan is to dedicate the 'new' ring of 6 bells on 2nd November 2014. All concerned are very grateful to the Diocesan Guild for a generous grant towards the work. There will be an inaugural quarter peal rung following the dedication service, after which guild members would be most welcome to come and try them out. Further details from hilaryjbw@gmail.com.

Monica Spence - Rutland Correspondent

Thrapston Branch

The first half of 2014 has proved to be an eventful time with many enjoyable highlights.

Our year started with a very merry group ringing in the New Year at Woodford. A very successful A.G.M followed a few days later at Titchmarsh when a busy and varied ringing programme was organised including being able to add St.Rumbold's Stoke Doyle to our Branch Meeting List following their re-furbishment and re-dedication.

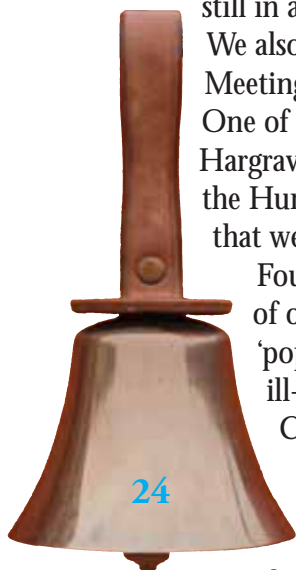
The Branch also decided to continue our very successful 8-bell advanced practices at Woodford to which Guild Members are very welcome to attend. We are able to include St.Peter's at Raunds, as part of our ringing programme. The Tower and Bells are safe and ringable although the Church building itself is still in a difficult situation.

We also welcome St.Nicholas' Islip back onto our Branch Meeting Schedules.

One of the furthest outposts on our Tower List is All Hallows at Hargrave. The bells here were originally restored to ringing by the Huntingdon Bell Restoration Group and it was with sadness that we learnt of the death of Chris Higgins, one of the

Founder Members of the Group. Although not a member of our Branch, Chris and Ruth with Charlie the dog often 'popped over the border' for visits and practice nights before ill-health and infirmity prevented them coming.

Chris started ringing at the age of 12 at Godmanchester, the third generation of his family to do so. He then went on to serve Queen and Country as a Grenadier Guard attached to the Household Cavalry. During his Military Career he served on active duty in Northern Ireland



and Cyprus and in London, State Duties saw him guarding Buckingham Palace and along with fellow guardsmen, bearing Churchill's lead-lined Coffin up the steps of St. Paul's.

Following his Military Career Chris went on to be a Master Steeplejack and then Bell Hanger for Whitechapel Foundry, where he remained for 13 years. He was one of a rare group of people that had the privilege of working on both Cathedrals at Liverpool.

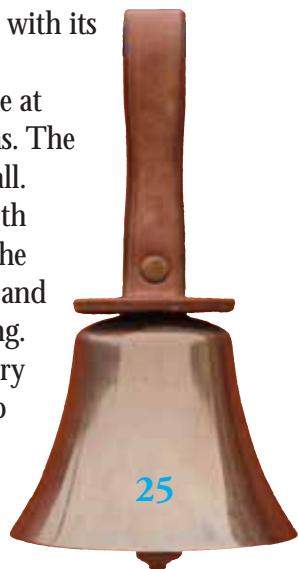
On moving back to Godmanchester Chris set up business as an Undertaker and started up, with other enthusiasts, the Huntingdon Bell Restoration Group. Thanks to his efforts over 100 towers within the Huntingdon Area now have ringable bells including many Towers along the length of 'The Spire Valley', some of which weave in and out of The Peterborough Diocese.

Chris just loved Bells and wrote widely about the engineering aspects of bells and frames, the history of bells and the traditions associated with ringing. Many towers in the area still hold copies of his booklets on 3 and 4 bell methods, which he specialised in.

Chris was one of life's great characters, a great raconteur, a great teacher of 'The Exercise' and most of all a great friend to all who loved ringing. All Hallows Church at Hargrave recently rang a Quarter-Peal in Chris's Memory. May-time brought a very successful Ringing Outing to the Eaton Socon area including Little Paxton and Eynesbury with an excellent celebratory meal at The Waggon and Horses.

In June with longer daylight hours, we were able to ring at Deene. It is always a pleasure to ring at 'The Church in the Park', with its timeless picturesque setting on a lovely Summer Evening July brought more celebrations with our summer barbecue at Ringstead, wonderfully hosted by Chris and Frank Jenkins. The weather was very kind to us and a good time was had by all. During the early days of August several members from both Branch and Guild undertook a very successful outing to the wilds of Suffolk. The Churches and Bells were wonderful and the surrounding landscapes worthy of a Constable Painting. Our outing culminated in ringing at The Cathedral at Bury St. Edmunds. It was an amazing experience as it is not too often that we get the chance to ring on Twelve Bells and the local ringers made us very welcome.

As our Ringing Year starts to draw to a close the Thrapston Branch is very much in good heart. Len



Hallifax has now joined other Branch Members in the ranks of retired ringers. Congratulations to Len, we wish him many happy ringing times ahead. We are very pleased to welcome new and old ringers and visitors to our meetings and look forward to another very successful Year of Ringing.

Dennis Thrift - Thrapston Correspondent

Towcester Branch - no news this time

Wellingborough Branch

Writing on yet another ringing tour we bring you Wellingborough Branch's news from afar (well a pub in Wiltshire anyway).

In March we held our evening practice at Earls Barton and with the help of visitors braving the ladder surprise major was rung. April's meeting focused on the needs of our young ringers and a successful afternoon was held at Mears Ashby well supported by the experienced members of the Branch. Later in the month the Rushden team came second to Rothwell in the Guild Striking competition at Crick. In May the Business meeting was held at Finedon – Big on cake but light on ringers. At this meeting grants from the branch's bell fund were awarded to Irchester (pulleys) and Stanwick (refurbishment).

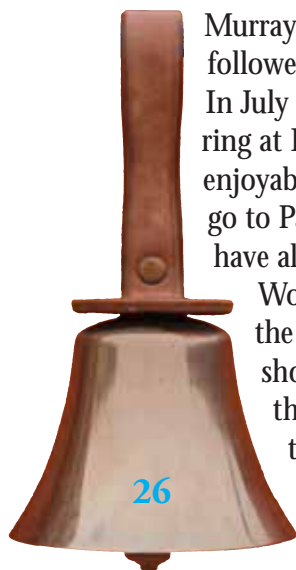
The branch striking competition was held at Mears Ashby on a beautiful sunny

June evening. (Isn't it always?). Seven teams took part, and Murray Coleman, judging, awarded first place to Rushden followed by Finedon and Orlingbury.

In July a small, select group of ringers visited Cambridgeshire to ring at Ramsey, Warboys, Somersham and Chatteris. It was most enjoyable but hard work as we had to ring a lot. Many thanks go to Pam for organising the day. Surprise practices (on 6 or 8) have also been held each month.

Work has been continuing at Higham Ferrers throughout the summer and by the time you read this the ten bells should be ringing. The two new trebles were dedicated on the 27th of July. Grendon and Wellingborough held tower open days.

Several quarter peals have been rung around the branch. Bevelynn Williams of Grendon rang her first inside and Charlotte Carter of Rushden her first



quarter. Congratulations to both. A quarter was rung at Yardley Hastings to celebrate the Golden Wedding of Tony and Trisha Finke. On a more sombre note a quarter was rung by the Orthingbury band in memory of Colin Stopps and there was ringing at Ecton to mark the centenary of the start of World War 1. For further events log on to www.wellingboroughbranch.org.uk

Wellingborough Correspondent

Public Relations Officer's Piece

SPRING FESTIVAL (RW version)

We were greeted at Crick by Geoff Brown, looking remarkably well despite a long period of radiation treatment, on April 26 for the 6-bell striking competition and meeting. The competition ringing was due to begin at 4pm with a regrettably few five teams entered, but also unfortunately our Master had been let down by the judge on Friday evening. A past President and Master was persuaded that he would love to do the honours.

The competition progressed on the back six of the bells which were restored and augmented in 1996-8. The sun went in and so people drifted into the north aisle where the Guilsborough Branch had laid on an excellent buffet tea.

The 100 club winners for the month were drawn before a short business meeting approved grants for proposed bell restoration and augmentation work at Rothwell, Stanwick, Seaton and Irchester. A total of £8,470 was readily agreed.

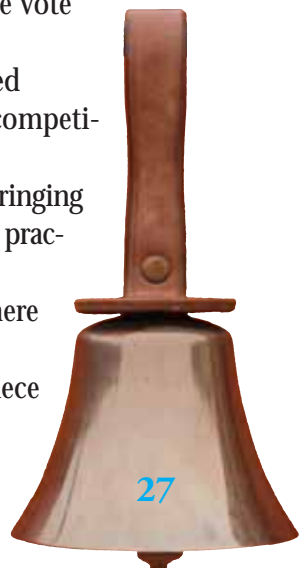
Jonathan Stuart from the Towcester Branch proposed the vote of thanks for the use of the church and bells, and to the providers for an excellent tea. The President then thanked Derek Jones for stepping in and acting as judge for the competition.

Derek congratulated all the teams on the good standard of ringing produced. He said that all teams had made good use of the practice time.

Team 1: rang Plain Bob Doubles at a steady pace and there were just odd clips and a couple of clashes - 20 faults.

Team 2: rang Cambridge Surprise Minor and the test piece produced some good settled ringing - 8 faults.

Team 3: rang Plain Bob Doubles and the ringing produced some irregularities especially at the beginning - 34 faults.



Team 4: rang Plain Bob Doubles and the test piece seemed as if a different band was ringing! This band produced some settled ringing in the middle of the piece - 14 faults.

Team 5: rang Grandsire Doubles and from the beginning they meant business - 5½ faults.

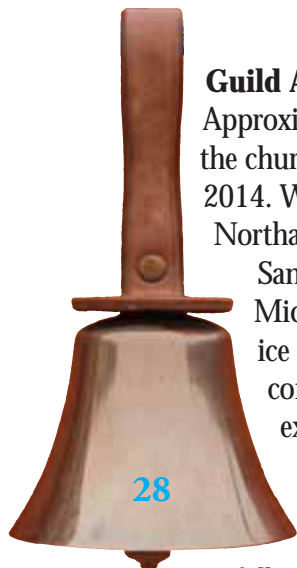
The Master then announced the results in reverse order and presented the teams with certificates and the winners with the John Weaver Shield:

5th – Yelvertoft; 4th – Badby; 3rd – Pattishall; 2nd – Rushden and the winner was Rothwell. During the 29 years of the competition, Rothwell teams have won it 11 times but this the first time for eleven years.

The President congratulated Yelvertoft on their performance as the band contained keen recent recruits.

Ringing continued on the eight bells at Crick until about 8pm where a variety of methods were rung ranging from plain hunt to 8-spliced surprise major [failed!]. This was followed by a gathering of 16 from four branches in the Red Lion for an enjoyable drink or two before making their ways home.

Murray Coleman (left) faces the last challenge of the day – having his photo taken by Carole Pullin while receiving the Weaver Shield on behalf of the Rothwell team from Master Phil Curtis



Guild Annual General Meeting

Approximately 50 members attended the ringing and meeting at the church of Holy Sepulchre, Northampton on Saturday, June 14 2014. We were warmly welcomed by members of the

Northampton Branch Committee and the tower captain Colin Sampson. The service was taken by the incumbent, Rev. Michael Hills with Johan Deboer at the organ. (After the service he

complemented us on the volume of our singing!) After an excellent buffet tea thanks were expressed to everyone who had contributed to the running of the day by Dorothy Westerman.

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and following apologies for absence. Gwynneth White on behalf of

the Daventry Branch, proposed Hilda Collins for Honorary Life Membership of the Guild with Geoff Pullin seconding the proposal. This was met with unanimous approval by all members and Hilda received a round of applause.

50 year membership certificates were awarded to Audrey Samson, George Whiting and Ted Buckby. The President presented Dorothy Westerman with her certificate and then the Ringing Master turned the tables on the President and presented her with her certificate! The minutes of the last three Guild Meetings were approved with no matters arising.

The 2013 report was adopted along with the accounts. Mary Coleman (and Murray) were thanked for all their hard work in producing the Annual Report and Mary was presented by the President with some flowers.

There was no change in the subscription rate or peal fees for the forthcoming year. There were no applications for Bell Fund grants at this meeting but £19,000 is set aside for outstanding work within the Guild. £1,500 was agreed for minor grants.

The election of officers for the Guild took place with Brenda stepping down as our President after 10 years. She was presented with some flowers by the Secretary at this point. The new officers for the forthcoming year are as follows:-

President: *Geoff Pullin*

Report Editors: *Jim and Gwynneth White*

Peal Secretary: *Derek Jones*

All other officers have remained the same. Special mention was also made of Ted Garrett who resigned from the post of Peal Secretary through ill health, after holding the post since its conception in 1972/73.

Geoff Pullin gave a brief report as PRO about the work that had been done to improve our web site, which is currently approaching 100 visits a day, and showed members the two new pop up displays that had been produced to help promote the art of bell ringing. These were now available to be borrowed by members if they were holding an event to promote ringing in their area.

Hilary Aslett gave us an interesting and honest report about her recent visit to Maidstone to attend the Central Council Meeting with David Westerman being able to fill in some extra information. (Hilary's report will hopefully be posted here later for you to read.)

The 100 Club draw took place with the winners being:
- No: 61 Ann Elliot (Guilsborough Branch) & No: 05
Chris Groome (Peterborough Branch).



The Secretary gave notice of a Guild Training Course to take place on Saturday, October 18 in the afternoon at Rushden and Irchester for people wishing to improve their ringing on 8. One group will be concentrating on ringing Plain Bob and Little Bob Major and the other group on Cambridge and Yorkshire Surprise Major. Posters have been distributed to the secretaries for distribution to the towers. The meeting closed at 6.50pm with further ringing ranging from plain hunt to 8-spliced surprise major [successful this time!] taking place on the eight bells at Holy Sepulchre until about 8.15pm when representatives from 5 different branches made their way to the Queen Adelaide in Kingsthorpe to pass a pleasant couple of hours. Once again Simon Dixon surpassed himself in the choice of venue with real ales available for everyone's tastes.

S Jones



Tidying up afterwards: Retiring President Brenda Dixon, Guild Secretary Sue Jones and Treasurer Alan Marks. Photo by Derek Jones.

PRO's PIECE

Extra reasons to ring

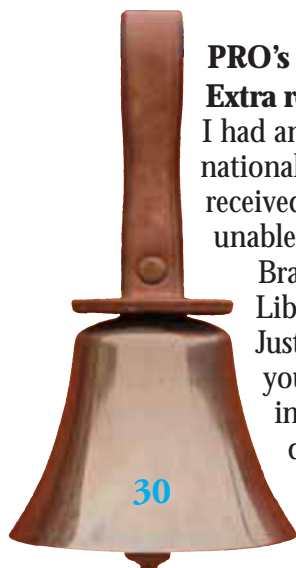
I had an enthusiastic letter from Libby Alexander who organises nationally the Ringing for England on St George's Day. I received no report of any of our towers ringing specially so was unable to crank up the press in advance. How did the Rutland Branch do with their planned events?

Libby reports this item from nearby, in Leicestershire:

Just a quick note to say last wednesday was a success. Thank you for contacting Radio Leicester, they came and interviewed me at 10am and were plugging it during the day. I put a big board up saying "Tower Open Day" and had about 40 people of all ages up the tower. Some just to look, but also 8 interested in learning to ring.

We rang the bells at 6pm for 45 minutes. All good stuff

Regards Nigel



I have been asked by the Mancroft Ringers in Norwich to help them mark the 300th anniversary of the first ever peal that was rung there on May 2, 1715: Would you celebrate with us and ring a peal, a quarter peal or just ring?

At Mancroft, we are planning an ambitious project which would involve the creation of a Heritage and Training Centre. To make this possible, we would like to return the ringing chamber floor to its eighteenth century position, higher in the tower. We hope to install eight 'dumb' bells, linked to computers and audio equipment as teaching aids.

We are a secretive lot – how many times have the locals thought there was a wedding when your bells are ringing during a weekday? Tell them in advance even if it's a special practice ('free rehearsal') or quarter peal ('free recital on the bells') – use the parish magazine, parish website, village website, local paper, newspaper website, facebook, twitterno excuses!

Recruiting Pop-Ups

The Guild now owns two pop-up displays "All about Bells" and "All about Change Ringing" which can be borrowed from me for your local exhibition, display, recruiting event. They can be collected and returned to me by mutually agreed arrangements. Each comes in a handy carrying case.

WEBMASTER'S WINDOW

www.pdg.btck.co.uk

The 'Wonderful World of Bells' might be the sub-title to this post!

For years the Guild has been talking about having tower correspondents contact details on its website. The difficulty has been in agreeing what details can be displayed on the website.

Thanks to all the hard work by Guild Officers, Branch Secretaries and the many Tower Correspondents, we have now received consent forms for all but 89 people and I have been able to load onto the website all those authorised contact details and the tower details from the Annual Report. I have also linked each tower to its on-line 'Dove' entry, which is a national register that is kept as up-to-date with the flow of information.

There are lots of pieces of information missing from Dove's Guide for our towers. Can you help supply the gaps? There are some bells with very minimal information and recent bells lacking diameter measurements which must be available somewhere in your tower records.

In the History page, I have added a link at section 12 to North's Church Bells of Northamptonshire which



was our local 1878 predecessor of 'Dove' but contains vast amounts of information on bell founders and local traditions of ringing. If you haven't seen a copy, have a browse thanks to the Internet Archive!

At the end of August 2014 there had been 4,854 'hits' during 2014 with the most popular pages being: Branch Officers, Towers, Latest Guild News and Bell Maintenance. Please send me any alterations, additions or news.

Many of you will already have found that the format of the website makes it readily readable on the latest-fangled phones.

Geoff Pullin

Guild 100 Club

Month	1st Prize	Number	2nd Prize	Number
<i>Feb 14</i>	41.60	29(K)	10.40	107(R)
<i>Mar 14</i>	43.20	102(N)	10.80	28(R)
<i>Apr 14</i>	41.60	49(N)	10.40	99(W)
<i>May14</i>	40.80	62(W)	10.20	118(N)
<i>Jun 14</i>	41.80	61(G)	10.20	05(P)
<i>Jul 14</i>	41.20	97(C)	10.30	07(TH)
<i>Aug 14</i>	40.80	107(R)	10.20	45(P)

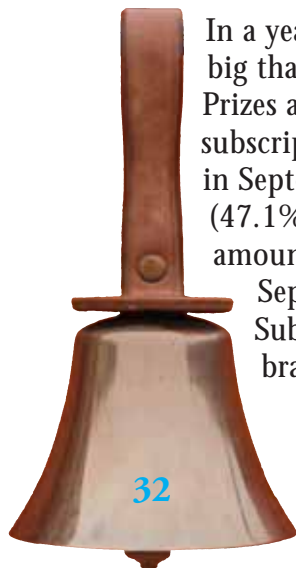
In a year, the Club raises around £600 for the Bell Fund. A big thanks to all who subscribe to it.

Prizes are based on monthly membership, with half the subscriptions going to the bell fund. There are three prizes in September to bring the total prizes to below 50% (47.1%) as required by the gaming licence. The varying amounts show the changing monthly membership,

September being a busy month for renewals.

Subscription is £12 per year, applications to go via the branch representatives

Derek Jones.



Other News and Events

Guys and their Bell(e)s 2 day outing to Ipswich.

We are a group of 10 ringing friends based around Thrapston. We set out early on day one, travelled from East Northamptonshire to Suffolk and rang at 5 towers each having 6 bells including the newly rehung bells at Rattlesden. This was followed by an excellent evening meal at the Beagle Inn near Ipswich. Day two commenced with a lovely ring of 6 at Barking where we rang Barking Little Bob and being near Ipswich, rang that as well. This was followed by another 4 towers (should have been another 5 but one was a lockout) each of 6 bells. The day was concluded by a pub meal in Bury St Edmunds and then a welcome at the weekly practice at The Norman Tower – 12 bells at



Bury St Edmunds Cathedral, before the journey home again. The weather was kind, the company was good and the ringing was very enjoyable.

Christine Jenkins



The Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers New Website



Welcome!



Bell Ringing



Learning to Ring



About This Guild



Latest Guild News



Guild Officers



Branch Officers



Tower Information



Events



Competitions



Guild Newsletters



Guild Shirts



Bell Maintenance



Bell Fund



Bits & Bobs



History



New Website Address <http://www.pdg.btck.co.uk/>.

(btck is BT Community Kit and comes free!)

GUILD EVENTS 2014

20th Sept

Guild Summer Festival - *Daventry Branch*

The festival and eight-bell inter-branch striking competition at Weedon. Evening ringing at Daventry.



