

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS



Newsletter
September 2016

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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 2017
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 Preamble

There are signs that bellringing is again making faster progress towards an active future. Our members on the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) reported that the June meeting was being serious about modernising itself and concentrating on the needs of the future. There has been a lot of exposure of bellringing through the media for the reasons listed in the PRO's Piece later in this Newsletter. There is a trickle of new learners across a wide age range around the diocese which we need to encourage. We need to ensure that the things going on around us, logical in concept but difficult in operation, do not overwhelm our welcome and encouragement so the trickle develops into a flood!

Insurance and health & safety

There are short notes on this contentious subject printed in the Annual Report for 2015; in the latest Welcome Packs for new members and on the Guild website at

<http://www.pdg.btck.co.uk/BitsBobs#ANCHORINSURANCEFORBELRINGERS> which also has links to many further documents!

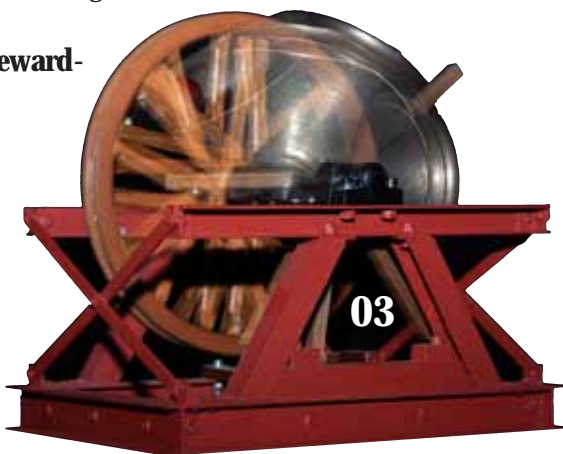
Safeguarding of young people

I have met the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Garry Johnson (who now has an Assistant, Beverly Huff), from whom I learned that the volume and complexity of safeguarding concerns has increased in the Peterborough Diocese. The national church requires the introduction of an extensive safeguarding training programme by all dioceses, which will be working down to Parochial Church Councils (PCC) over coming months and years. I have added links from the Guild website to the diocesan safeguarding website. The January 2016 updated advice on the subject from the CCCBR, after detailed discussions with the Church of England, is also available through the Guild website at

<http://www.cccbr.org.uk/towerstewardship/notes/GN3v9.pdf>.

Keep ringing, recruiting, training, enthusing and retaining!

Geoff Pullin



Master's Missive

I learnt to ring in a small village in Warwickshire. I was lucky that the tower had a strong band and was able to learn quite quickly. I appreciate that this is not always the case. From what I have heard there is little ringing at the tower now as the number of ringers has dwindled, this being the case at a lot of towers. I do remember the mad rush at the end of service ringing when the ringers, who were mostly also in the Choir, grabbed their robes and rushed out of the ringing room to join the Vicar and process down the Nave to the Choir stalls. At that tower the congregation and especially the Choir seemed to be a good source of new ringers. With congregation numbers falling everywhere that is one area from where it is increasingly difficult to recruit.

I have been thinking about recruitment and to be honest I am a little puzzled about what we can do as a Guild or as Branches to find more recruits. We need to emphasize the good points about our pastime for there are quite a few. Among them are, it is good exercise, both mentally and physically, there is a great social side to it and the chance to travel around the country to meet new ringers and see new places. But where do we get our new ringers from? There is one issue that concerns me greatly so time to be controversial. Very few people go to church these days and therefore our source of new ringers is small if we cannot look outside of the church going community. But the bells are owned by the Church and we ring them with their permission. How would they feel about us openly advertising for new recruits from outside of the Church going community? I could understand if they had some misgivings about that.

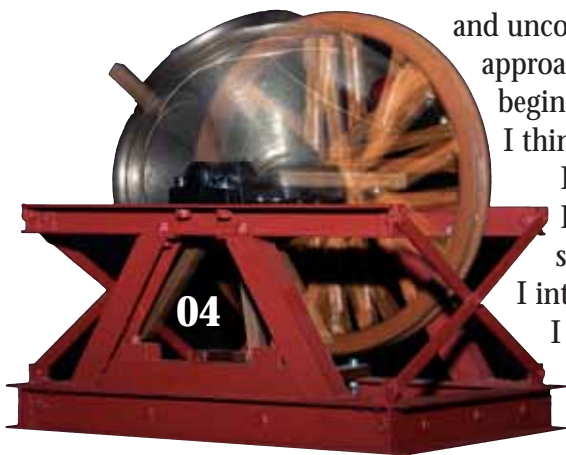
I would be happier if on recruitment literature and in recruitment campaigns I could emphasize that it is not necessary to go to church to be a bell ringer. At the moment I would find that approach difficult and uncomfortable. Could we, as a Guild, approach the Church of England and begin a discussion about this subject.

I think we should if we haven't already!

I believe then, that advertising Bell Ringing would be easier and more successful recruitment possible.

I intend to give it some more thought.

I do however think it is very important that new recruits are trained to understand the necessity to 'ring for divine

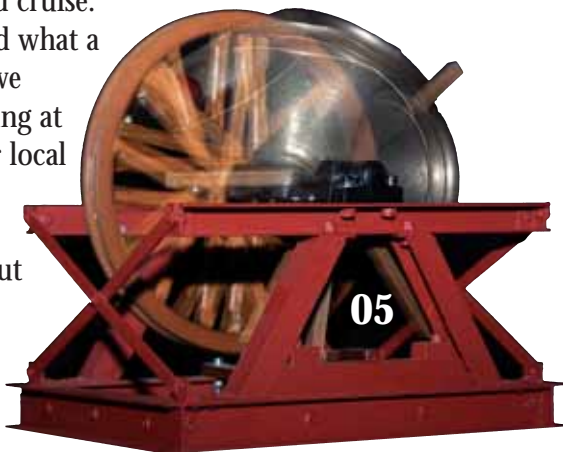


service' and get themselves to the tower to ring for as many services as possible. Once we have recruited them we need to retain them. We need to ensure that Bellringing is fun and we need to keep it that way, always. Some people take it too seriously and we all need to accept that ringers may have different aims, not all of them wishing the progress to the dizzy heights of Surprise Maximus ringing. If they want to remain a 5 or 6 bell only ringer they should be treated with the same respect as a person who has rung hundreds of Peals. In all human activities there is a difference in the abilities of each individual and therefore some are not going to progress as quickly and as far as others but again need to be respected and treated the same. I have been a witness on a few occasions of this not being the case. No one must ever go into and tower and feel intimidated or unnecessarily nervous. Most ringing chambers are intimidating anyway because they are a special places, full of history and 'ghosts' of ringers past, immortalised on the Peal Board so the more we can make our new ringers feel at ease the better. Teachers can be intimidating if they don't keep explanations short and simple. Most are not trained as teachers and many have been ringing so long they cannot remember how difficult Bell Ringing is. We all need to be aware of the problems we can cause by our own behaviour. Bell Ringing must survive as it is an ancient and noble English (mainly) tradition. All of us including the Church have a duty to ensure it continues.

Best Regards, Andy Timms

The Secretary's Scribblings.

As most of you are aware Derek and I were away from January until the end of April this year experiencing a world cruise. What a wonderful time we had and what a shock it was to our systems when we returned home and faced up to living at home again!! I think we visited our local supermarket every day for the first week because every time we went into the pantry to get something out it seemed the cupboard was bare. We had a superb holiday and saw many countries and small islands that we probably would never



have visited if we hadn't travelled the world in this way. We also managed to ring at three towers on our trip and we were made most welcome by everyone we met. We rang at Honolulu, on seven of the eight bells. Unfortunately the third was minus its headstock (the cracked one was at Taylor's foundry.) The bells came from St. Alkmund's, Shrewsbury and this was the church that Derek's parents used to attend so he was very pleased to ring there on his 70th birthday. After ringing we were taken by some of the ringers to a drive thru for coffee. Our next tower was Wellington Cathedral so I at last rang on the bells from St. Edmund's, Northampton. All the peal boards were taken from St. Edmund's and placed in the Cathedral at Wellington. Some people's names you can never get away from even on the far side of the world!!



Although we didn't manage to ring all 12 bells we did ring Grandsire Caters for service. Once again the ringers were most hospitable and would have taken us to the old cathedral of St. Paul to ring on the five bells but the cathedral was open for tourists so no ringing was allowed. It was here that we met Robert Walters (aka Rusty) whom we had met before at the Ringing Road Show in Newbury. We were taken to two museums and to lunch at a restaurant on the waterfront.

Our next new tower was the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Sydney, where we started with Stedman Doubles and gradually as the rest of the band drifted in we increased momentum from Stedman and Grandsire Triples, Plain and Little Bob Royal to Grandsire Cinques. When ringing finished everyone sat down to coffee in the ringing chamber for a chat.

We were sorry we weren't in Auckland, Brisbane or Cape



Town on the right nights for their practice but were glad that we were able to experience ringers well known hospitality in some parts of the world. Whilst we were away several people took on extra work for us and we are indebted to the following, Alan Marks – for chairing the F&GP meeting and running the 100 club, John Pardoe - for taking on the role of minute secretary at the F&GP Meeting and GMC Meeting, Nick Churchman - for acting as Minute Secretary at the Guild Spring Meeting and to Pam Bailey - for marking the paper quizzes.

Sue Jones

News from the Branches

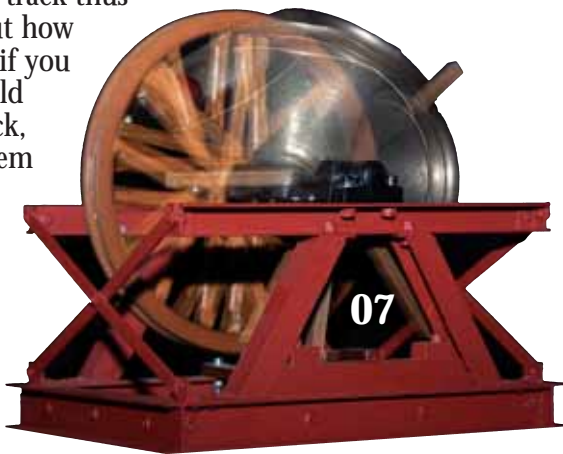
Culworth Branch

Here in the 'deep south' we are unable to compete with the Daventry branch where Geoff Pullin always provides a comprehensive report. In order to make a contribution for the newsletter our Chairman, Martin Rowling, has offered a little bit of advice in connection with the maintenance of the bells.

From time to time, one may find that a bell sets back too coarsely at handstroke. If the bell is quite heavy, it may make it quite difficult to pull off from the set position. Where this is a fresh problem, it maybe that the stay is bending due to a crack. Obviously if this proves to be the case then it would be prudent to renew the stay before it breaks. Alternatively it may be that the stay is loose in its socket in the case of a cast iron headstock. The remedy is to insert a wedge in the socket taking care that you fit it to the correct side of the stay.

However, possibly the coarsely setting bell is a long standing problem that you have never got round to correcting. Here, one practical way of rectifying such a defect is to fit a block on the slider track thus limiting the travel of the slider. But how thick a block do you fit? Whereas if you made an accurate drawing you could determine the thickness of the block, most people would solve the problem by "trial and error". But it is annoying to fit a block and find that it is too thick and even more vexing, too thin, because you then have to cut another one!

The trick is to cut the block so that it measures 1"x11½"x2". Then drill a hole to accept a suitable nail in the centre of all the



three planes of the block. Next fit the block at the correct end of the slider track but do not drive the nail right home as you may wish to withdraw it. Obviously the next exercise is to pull up the bell and see whether you have corrected the problem. If not, then fit the block in a different plane until you have remedied the defect. If none of the three planes proves to be effected then cut yourself a new block of different dimensions!

Needless to say one never stands in the pit of a bell which is raised for ringing. There are no exceptions to this rule.

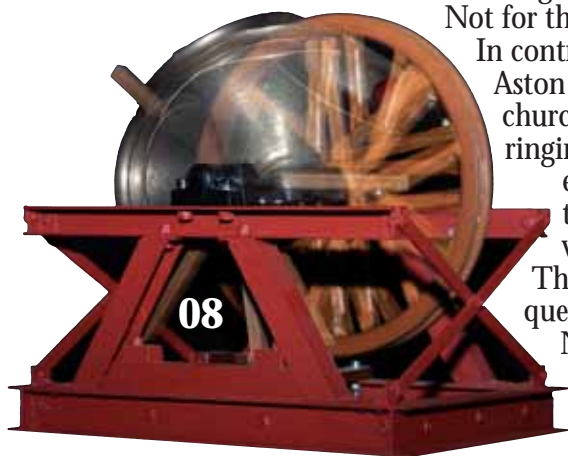
EVENLEY tower is sad to report the passing to higher service of two valued members of its small band of ringers. Mrs Janet Cropley (January 2016). A memorial service was held to commemorate Janet's life on 13th May at St Edburghs Church, Bicester. Culworth branch ringers were supported by our good friends from Oxford City Guild in marking this occasion by ringing Bicester 10 bells prior to the service. Sue Hampshire died in March after a battle with cancer. She never gave up her bell ringing until the very end when it became impossible for her to get to the local towers. She is missed by all at Evenley, Lois Weedon, Kings Sutton, Aynho and Croughton where she rang regularly.

OUTING - Our annual outing on March 20th saw us heading over the boundary into north Oxfordshire – much closer to home than normal but still new towers to most people. James MacDonald had volunteered for the doubtful honour of pulling up the 24cwt tenor at Adderbury. It certainly warmed him up on a cold March morning. He ended up red in the face and bathed in sweat. Our second tower, Bodicote, felt light in comparison. Phil Curtis had been awarded our second heavy tenor = 26cwt Bloxham. However the locals had been kind to him and all the bells were up. He was permitted to ring it down at the end though! Lunch at the local Joiners Arms was enjoyable and we were joined here by Paul and Rosie Roberts from Herefordshire, with their small son Jack. Lyn Gartside, Howard and Frances Oglesby headed home for the afternoon missing the interesting ringing chamber at Wigginton. Having climbed the narrow spiral staircase we had to climb down a ladder into an enclosed stone room with high windows.

Not for the claustrophobic!

In contrast the estate church of North Aston was light and airy, as was our final church at Somerton. By this time our ringing enthusiasm was waning – especially as we had warm radiators to lean against on what had been a very cold cloudy day.

The outing has left us with a question. All bell ropes were short. Do North Oxon have tall ringers, or are we on the short side?! The majority of towers within the branch rang for St George's Day



on 23rd April.

In April three members of the Culworth branch “ventured over the Border” to a beginners 10 bells practice at Daventry organised by Andy Timms. An enjoyable morning was had by all on the lovely Daventry ring. Thanks to Andy for organising the morning and the Daventry branch for giving up their time to help.

AYNHO - On Wednesday, 18th May, 7 children from ROUTZ (the Astwick Benefice Youth Group Y6-Y10) visited the ringing room and bell chamber. They took turns in chiming the bells and climbed the steps to see the bell chamber. Paul Bennett, Evenley Tower Captain, borrowed some hand bells so they could experience hand bell ringing. This was a great success, they rang Queen, Kings, Tittums and Dvoraks New World

Symphony was an incredible finale. The evening was enjoyed by all present.

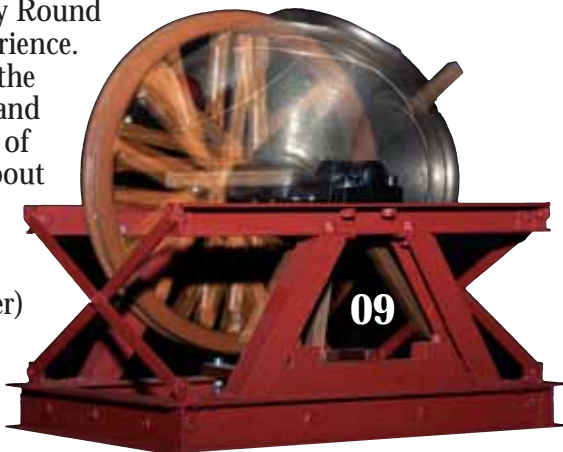
CHACOMBE - You may recall in the last newsletter we asked for help with the restoration of the Bagley gravestone. We are very pleased to report that it has now been restored and is back in place. Michael Alcock, Tower Captain from Chacombe, would like to say a big THANK YOU to all who contributed towards its restoration.



(the newly restored Bagley gravestone)

BRACKLEY ROUND TABLE - On an evening in July, Culworth Branch members were pleased to welcome to Whitfield a group of 22 men from the Brackley Round Table for an evening's ringing experience.

A great time was had by all and at the end of an evening of hand strokes and back strokes there was a good level of camaraderie. News travelled fast about their exciting evening and now the Ladies Circle (a possibly larger group) wants the same experience. The ladies organiser (a lapsed ringer) has already been in touch to set up another ringing taster session in September. Let's hope for feed-back in the form of new ringing



couples. The round table have been generous in pledging a good donation to Guild Funds via our branch.

Ian Chapple, Ringing Master, explaining the technicalities of bell ringing to the Brackley Round Table)



EYDON news – Eydon are pleased to be able to practice with 6 ringers on a Tuesday now as Verena Jackson is back in the village while on a summer break from University and she helps to lower the average age of the team. Busy period with weddings this summer and also looking forward to the village fete. All ringers get involved with this annual event each September. Tidying up some old paperwork Geoffrey Stretton, Tower Captain, came across this tower notice from 1879. He especially likes rule 9!

**EXTRACT FROM EYDON PARISH ALMANAC & REGISTER FOR 1879
SOCIETY OF RINGERS COMMITTEE**

Rev W H Chapman, President; Mr J H Ivens, Conductor; Mr J Malsbury, Secretary and Treasurer; Mr C J Thompson; W Prestidge, Steeple-keeper.

Ringers

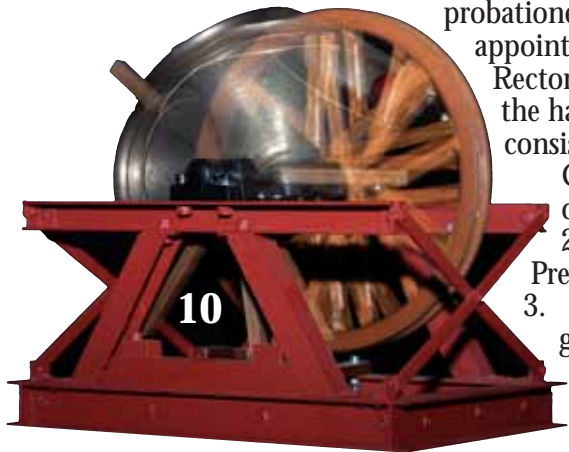
1st Bell	J H Ivens
2nd Bell	J Malsbury
3rd Bell	G Golby
4th Bell	C J Thompson
5th Bell	W Prestidge

Probationers

1st Bell	E Humphries
2nd Bell	W Webb
3rd Bell	J Edden
4th Bell	---
5th Bell	R Hunt

Society Rules

1. The Society shall consist of 5 ringers and 5 probationers, who shall be appointed subject to the approval of the Rector and its management shall be in the hand of a Committee of five persons consisting of the President, Treasurer, Conductor, Steeple-keeper and one other member of the society.
2. The Rector to be ex-officio President.
3. The bells shall be rung on all the great festivals of the church and on such days as the committee, with the sanction of the Rector, may appoint.



4. The probationers shall chime the bells on Sundays for service.
5. There shall be two practice nights each week, except it is otherwise arranged by the committee.
6. Any ringer or probationer coming late for chiming or practice shall be fined two pence; if absent altogether without providing a substitute, he shall be fined six pence.
7. A member of the committee shall always be present at the practices and at the ringing and shall decide all fines.
8. Any presents which may be given for weddings etc. shall be added to the funds of the society.
9. A collection in church shall be made once a year for the benefit of the society, instead of the old custom of collecting from house to house at Christmas. All monies paid to the Society shall be divided amongst the ringers – the probationers receiving one fourth of the amount.
10. During the time of chiming or ringing, no looker-on will be admitted into the belfry.
11. The Committee has power to dismiss any member who persists in disobeying these rules or otherwise misconducting himself.
(Oh, how times have changed!)

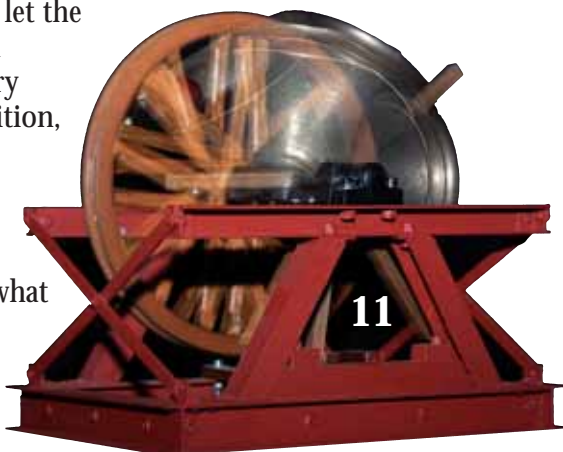
CROUGHTON - And finally, when having a clear-out at All Saint Church, Croughton the following hymn was unearthed, the words were written by Canon John Willis Price M.A. who was the rector at Croughton between 1912 and 1940

Joy Kirkham

Daventry Branch

MEETINGS

Everdon church door was open, to let the warm air in, when 23 rang and ten didn't in March. With the secretary competing in a brass band competition, Janet picked up her previous role. Although Alison, in full band uniform did get to tea, Janet took the minutes. The service was taken by Michael Houghton in the somewhat cosier chancel. He ranged through the Ringing World sports arguments via the rotting corpse of religion to Revd Stanley Evans'



stories and we remembered Iris Webb. After tea in the village hall, the meeting elected Peter Neville as a member for Everdon . Alison W reported the 150 minute meeting of the General Management Committee in 3 minutes! Evening ringing in the warm glow of Weedon tower attracted 22, including 2 visitors .

In the Plume

afterwards, Ed updated us on inspection of his 44ft sea-going cruiser (see below).

There were 21 at Harpole in April and eight who declined the ladder. The service was taken by Maureen Hales and the organ played by Hilary Aslett. A hot meal and cakes with copious tea was provided by the Harpole ringers in the warmth of the Methodist church. Clearance of staging stored in the tower preceded evening ringing at St Peter's Northampton, where 23 rang, including six visitors.

Our 5-bell striking competition at Norton in July had been advertised on the village green and brought out seven teams, incorporating 32 ringers from 13 towers, with only two of them ringing twice. Ian Willgress was his benefice's non-ringing teams manager. The first team began before 3pm and the few visitors had a ring and lowered in time for the service.

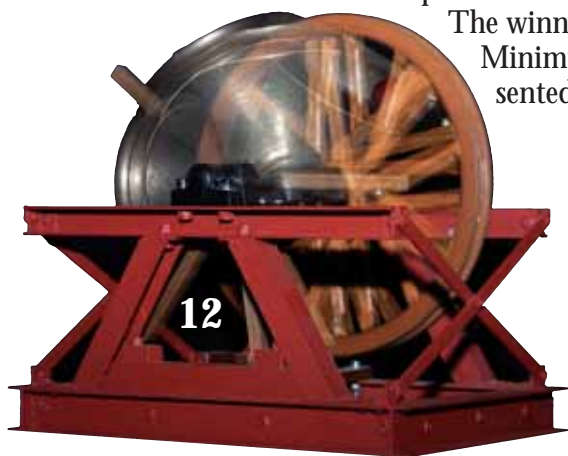
Michael Highton, always ready for the unexpected, started our service and with his pitch-perfect start we were into the first hymn

unaccompanied when the Rector drifted in complete with shopping basket.

Michael had time to hand-over and climb to the organ gallery to accompany the last verse when we were spot on in tune with the organ! The interactive sermon around 'take care of those who try' and 'the first will be last and the last will be first' taunted us with a Kit-Kat for the anticipated winners and then two Kit-Kats to the volunteering losers – prompting some argument as to who would be last! With the last hymn number announced from the organ loft, the service ended with an amended dismissal of "Go to tea in peace and ...!"

After tea, our regular judges, Spike and Jenny Thorne from Southam, gave their helpful comments and the results in reverse order.

The winning team, who rang Plain Bob Minimus with tenor covering was presented with the Ron Woodward Trophy:



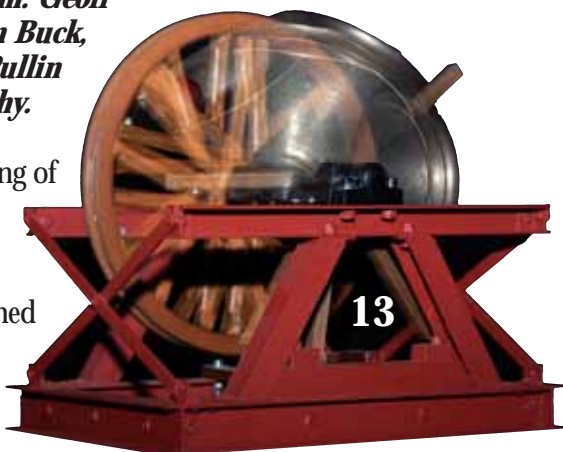
<i>Rang</i>	<i>Team</i>	<i>Faults</i>	<i>Position</i>
2	Heyford with Stowe IX Churches and Flore with Brockhall Monday group	62	7
6	Braunston Monday Club	61	6
7	Heyford with Stowe IX Churches and Flore with Brockhall Friday group	57	5
5	Whilton	48	4
3	Bobs & Singles (Bugbrooke & Newnham)	34	3
1	Weedon	33	2
4	Badby Practice Night	25	1

There was a tie, but no prize, for the teams with the longest name!



The Badby Practice Night team: Geoff Pullin, Paul Richardson, Alison Buck, Barry Thompson and Carole Pullin with the Ron Woodward trophy.

The meeting welcomed Peter Pickering of Flore as a new member (-he rang in the competition – only his second tower!). Bob Sinclair reported that experienced helpers would be welcomed for three learners at Newnham. Evening ringing at Daventry attracted 23, including nine visitors,



with ten bells going from call changes to Yorkshire S Royal. Twelve adjourned to Wetherspoons afterwards.

The churchwarden greeted and updated us on the replacement of the stolen copper roofing and seventeen rang at Fawsley in August. Afterwards, when Graham and Jim had raised the tenor, 18 met the challenge of Preston Capes but six didn't try. The Rev Sue Faulkner remembered not to mention bells. Sheila Bull and Sylvia Brooksbank provided tea in the village hall cum monthly pub. With Gwyneth in the chair, we arrived in very good time at Woodford Halse where 13 rang. Refreshment was taken at the Fox and Hounds, Charwelton afterwards. During the day we attracted seven from the Coventry Diocese and one from Leicestershire!

PEOPLE



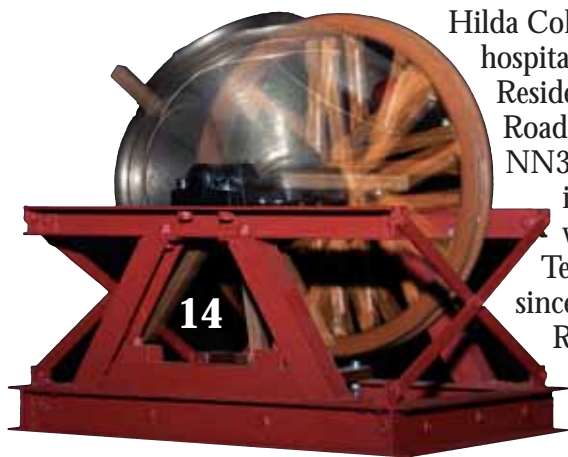
Iris Webb, our Branch Secretary for 16 years, died on March 3, aged 89 and was cremated at a private family ceremony. Iris joined the Guild with husband Stan in 1954 and took over as tower captain at Staverton when Stan died in 1984 until February 2006 by when dementia was so severe that she was moved to Kilsby House. Stan and Iris were also active handbell ringers. Their four children were required to ring, then lapsed but all rang before the well-attended celebration of Iris' life at Staverton on April 27. Open ringing before the service was followed by a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor rung by her friends afterwards, conducted by Michael Fiander. Ladies Guild members rang a commemorative quarter of Plain Bob Doubles on July 4 at Staverton, conducted by Rosemary Hemmings.

David Brentnall had suffered for some time, preventing him from ringing at Preston Capes, where he was famous for saying "I don't do leading"! He died on February 19 in Papworth Hospital.

News of three Life Honorary Members

Hilda Collins, now 91, after several weeks in hospital, decided to move to 57 St John's Residential Home, Wellingborough Road, Weston Favell, Northampton NN3 3JF (01604 401879) and settled in well from July 1. Hilda would welcome visitors.

Ted Garrett has been bedridden since June at Brownlands, 34 London Road, Daventry NN11 4BZ (01327 876985). Jane Rands reports that he may not recognise you but mention of ringing can



help him to remember. At the branch 5-bell striking competition, it was noted that Hilda and Ted took part in the first such competition also at Norton in 2008 and were usually to be found in winning teams!

Brian and Anne Foley visited Stan Ruddlesden (93) at his care home in Bromyard on March 14 and reported that Stan would like to pass on his best wishes to all his ringing friends. He is keeping well and is well looked after, with his memory as his main problem.

Weedon bells rang out a quarter peal of Little Bob Majoron Maundy Thursday, conducted by Jim White, to mark the presentation of Maundy money by the Queen at St Georges Chapel, Windsor, to the Revd Canon John Knight, Priest in Charge of Weedon, Dodford and Everdon.

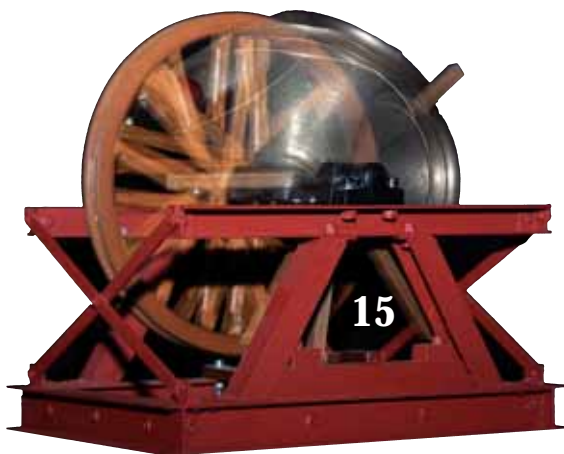
Ed Mortimer took charge of his new cruiser Wandering Canuck Too [sic] on March 18 and crossed the channel with Terry and Annette Iles aboard on April 30. After touring throughout Holland and Belgium, he returned to UK on July 22 for visa reasons! See his blog at <http://www.mortimer.ca/>.

Ann Houghton, Daventry, sent a photo of herself ringing on the 12 at Wimborne Minster – her first lone foray! Well done!

OUTINGS & SOCIALS

Odette raised £252, Andy £100 and Alison the Sec beat her target of £160 sponsorship whilst walking on the Guild Walk and Ride - see Odette's report elsewhere.

On Monday, May 2 Badby ringing rally ventured into Oxfordshire visiting seven six-bell towers with lunch at the Cock Inn, Combe. The rare sight of me using a mobile phone was observed on two occasions with the desired effect. One correspondent confirmed that we were on the calendar for “tomorrow, Monday” and had to be gently reminded that it was Monday already!





Badby rally at Bletchington

L to r: Jacky, Ann, Kim, Jacky, Chris, Dorothy, Barry, Paul, Geoff, Jim, Emily, Eleanor and Ken – missing Carole! Photo by Alan Bailey

The wombell had its first sounding of the year at Welton hobbies fair on April 16. A steady stream, especially of youngsters, made good

use of the simulator. Many other conflicting ringing events led to our ring and walk having to be curtailed to 'ring-in' Willoughby fête, and look after the wombell, kept dry in a marquee, where it again attracted a lot of attention. It is booked to appear at Byfield fête in September.

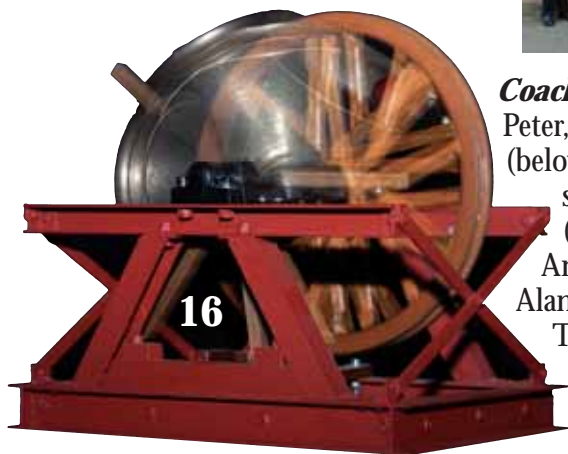
The Guild Spring Festival had national competition from St George and the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death. These led to ringing around the Five-Ways parishes. At Whilton ringing was in conjunction with a village quiz and trail.

The successful Branch Coach Outing

organised by Alison Buck set off at 8.30am in Hunter's smart new Yutong midi-coach with 22 aboard on May 14 for the southern Charnwood Forest. There was some delay in finding parking for the coach at one tower. Ringing took place at Thurmaston, Birstall, Thurcaston, lunch at the Wheatsheaf and then on to Groby, Thurlaston and Enderby where the tight fit between walls and ropes caused a few incidents.



Coach outing l to r: Barry, Jim, Kaye, Peter, Alison (organiser), Gwynneth (below), Jane, Ian, George, Jackie, Alison, Simon, Brian, David, Chris (below), Shirley, Michael, James, Ann and Chris; missing Barbara and Alan Bailey (who took this photo) at Thurlaston.



Day-time practices at Staverton, Hellidon and Braunston continue

to be well supported and are included in this section, as the last two, at least, tend to be more social than campanological!

We look forward to welcoming you to the Guild Quiz in Weedon village hall on Saturday, October 29.

SPECIAL RINGING & QUARTER PEALS

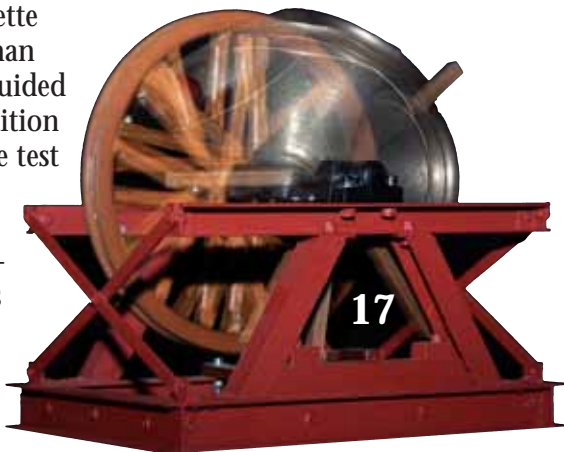
Branch reinforced eight-bell monthly practices have continued at Whilton , Weedon and Byfield in turn. Attendance has varied considerably, but they seem to be appreciated. Branch ten-bell practices have continued with low support at Daventry on the second Tuesday of each month.

Jim White ran another session on the Braunston simulator for solo ringing by listening and rhythm and is willing to organise further sessions on request.

Branch quarter peals on Sunday afternoons continue. In February 48 minutes of Little Bob Royal rattled along but it wasn't quite right! In March, Plain Bob Royal at Daventry was rung in celebration of the wedding the previous day of the churchwarden's daughter. At Weedon in April, Double Norwich failed at the second 'single' for reasons that remain obscure. In May, Plain Bob Major succeeded at Crick. For the Queen's 90th birthday, Plain Bob Royal sounded out across Daventry, conducted by Ian Willgress and it was Richard Waddy's 600th quarter. Double Norwich was successful in July at Cottesbrooke and Leanne Martin rang her first quarter on ten - treble to Plain Bob Caters - in August. Other than indicated, all were conducted by Jim White.

A national request to celebrate the Queen's Official 90th birthday with ringing, especially to coincide with the Patron's Lunch in The Mall was answered by Badby (bells pulled off, rung and lowered in Queens), Bugbrooke (each rang the 3rd, which bears the inscription relating to Elizabeth I 'God Save Our Quene And her Preasearve 1599"), Byfield, Daventry (quarter peal above), Litchborough and Weedon (peal and ringing).

With support from the Rector, tower captain and members of the congregation who opened the church all day as well as supplying tea and sandwiches, Andy and Odette arranged and publicised the Ridgman Trophy competition at Daventry guided by Alan Winter the trophy competition organiser. The seven teams rang the test piece of Erin Caters and the result announced by the judges Jeremy and Anne Pratt after a 'higher standard than when we last judged this competition five years ago' was: 1. Ely (21), Hertfordshire (32), Essex (40), Lincoln (44), Peterborough (62), Suffolk (64) and Bedford



(68). The winning team included 12 year old Henry Pipe who departed clutching the large trophy tightly. The judges praised the fine sound of the bells and that they could hear the bells very clearly from the gazebo Andy supplied in the nearby private car park.

The recording taken by Odette of the winning Ely team is available on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ti8Xo1VkdOE> . The event had very good reporting in both the press and radio – well done Odette and Andy!

IN & UP TOWERS

At the Daventry tower AGM in April, officers were re-elected with Leanne Martin promoted to steeple-keeper with Andy Timms as assistant, thus saving the octogenarians from leaping about the high frame. Leanne produced two good short splices under instruction in August and has a rope to repair by splicing out the shredded polyester top and replacing the tail. The tower was open to the public for the Flower Festival on April 22-24; a bellringing exhibition in the church on Ridgman Trophy day; Daventry Arts Festival on June 25 when the town mayor and visitors were entertained by a tail-end parting company from the sally during a demonstration rise and storm water pouring down the stairs from the roof access door! The tower will be open for Challenge 500 as part of the Heritage Open Days.

Our Steward , Brian Foley, had a new clapper made by Taylors which he fitted to the treble at Dodford after the old one broke again causing damage to the slider. The rehangng of the bells is still some way off as the church gathers the reports and funding for a major scheme for organ, re-wiring, heating as well as the bells! Brian reported that he had inspected Welton, Fawsley and Norton bell installations. A new 100m reel of polyester rope for splicing repairs has been purchased by the branch – possibly the last needed because the majority of rope tops are already polyester!

Geoff Pullin



Guilsborough Branch

The Branch Steward writes...

Robin W & myself have toured around a few more towers since the last newsletter, armed with numerous $\frac{3}{4}$ " drive sockets, spanners, grease, WD40 & split pins, tweaking a route through all sorts of tasks & interesting challenges along the way. The work, certainly for myself, is

mentally rewarding in we can walk away from a tower in the firm belief that its issues & characteristics are no longer unknown, together with the fact that we have perhaps done something to make the integrity of the installation run better.

We are quite aware & naturally appreciative that certain towers sort out all of their own maintenance duties without outside interference. For all other towers who are not in such a practical arena to conduct this essential work, is where the Branch Steward & team can be of assistance.

Routine maintenance is the key phrase for me to highlight in this newsletter. Please allow us to take a look at your bell installation & report back. We have evolved a comprehensive checklist delving into the finer intricacies as well as more obvious areas, e.g. crown staple looseness or indeed if the actual bell fixings

appear loose, also wear points where the rope disappears into the wheel's garter hole and so on.

The branch steward and team who are fully insured by the Guild, can either assist, advise or carry out these minor fixes for you, plus any other related bell

installation topics, free of charge. Only the raw materials are chargeable.

Rob Palmer

A Simulator has been purchased for the ring of 8 at Welford, largely due to a significant donation made by a Branch member from Leicestershire. Parts have been received and the installation is awaiting commissioning.

Two "rolling rings" have taken place, on 23rd April to commemorate St George's day as a part of the ringing for England campaign, and on 11th June as a celebration of Queen Elizabeth II 90th Birthday. Two bands each rang at somewhere between 12 and 15 towers, with as many as 15 ringers attending some towers, including the challenging 3 at Winwick! Almost all of the towers in the branch were rung on both occasions.

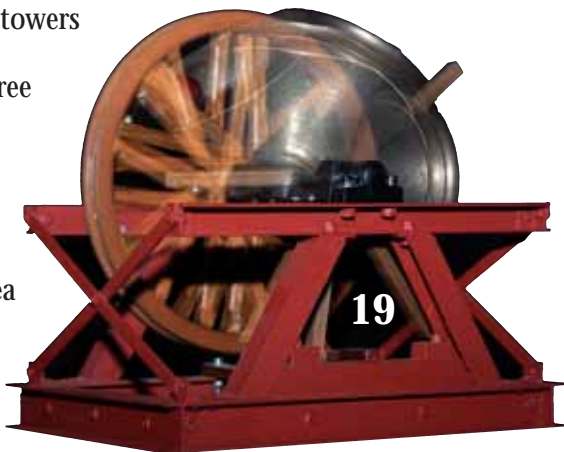
Branch meetings now include two towers with ringing at each being for an extended period rather than the three towers previously.

Crick

A regular Saturday morning practice between 10 and 12 each week continues to attract both local learners and those from a wider area extending into

Leicestershire and Warwickshire.

An 8-bell practice is now established on the 2nd Thursday of



each month with healthy numbers of ringers allowing “intermediate” level ringers to gain more experience on 8 bells, with Triples and plain Major being the main focus.

We rang for the Queen’s Birthday earlier this year and in the same week our own learners rang 100 call changes for the 100th birthday of a local resident Olive Pitman.



100 Call Changes Band

L/R : Liz Sweeney Judy Turner Arthur Yardy
Anthea Hiams Nick Hiams Ros Yardy.

East Farndon.

A new cold water supply has meandered its way into the tower at St. John the Baptist Church. It is anticipated that a few well chosen words have reached the ears of the architect resulting in a safer environmental route for the pipework.

Maidwell.

Practice evenings have resumed at St. Mary’s Church. At the moment, Friday is the preferred day. The tower captain, Nich W has enriched the ringing chamber with six new ropes, the sally colours of which, he describes as “ecclesiastical-friendly purple”. Routine maintenance work in the bell chamber is ongoing.

Lilbourne.

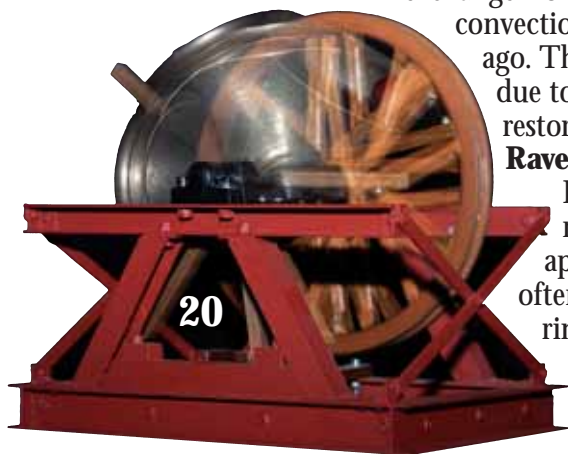
All Saints’ Church is now equipped with a new oil-fired heater, blowing warm air around the interior of an inherently cold building. This heater is a welcome exchange from the former highly inefficient convection heater installed four decades ago. The tarpaulin roof is still holding on due to many unforeseen delays to restore the Nave roof to its former glory.

Ravensthorpe.

Repeating coverage from the last newsletter, The P.C.C. would appreciate their bells ringing more often than at present. Can any of us ringers assist ?

Thornby.

The branch steward is pleased to report that the postponed



remedial work at St. Helen's Church has been completed. Loose & discarded shrouding on the wheels has been re-fixed with a new section added to the 4th. All five clapper bearings have been grease-cup lubricated & two stays plus associated fittings replaced. A substantial temporary repair has been effected to the No.3 headstock/ bell interface pad until such time funds are available for conversion to a resin pad. Thornby P.C.C. have often remarked that their bells be rung for services & high days etc, more often. Can any of us ringers assist in making this a more permanent reality ?

Walgrave.

Ringling practices have now changed from Wednesday & are now on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesday evenings. Routine maintenance work in the bell chamber is ongoing at St. Peter's Church.

Winwick.

April 23rd "Ringling for England" day saw many new faces at St. Michael & All Angels Church. Without a rope guide framework, the long draught is a challenging task for even the most experienced of bell ringers.

Nevertheless, fearless excitement conquered these three fine sounding bells & their anomalies resulting in a highly delightful outcome. This small village is yet another community who would wish for their three bells to be rung more often. The bell chamber is now illuminated with an L.E.D. floodlight.

"Ringling for England" April 23rd 2016

We, the Branch, covered all of the ringable towers using two separate bands although Brixworth & Guilsborough each went solo. At the end of the day, all bands achieved their goals.

The Queen's Birthday.

Similar set up as for April 23rd the only difference being the two bands swapped circuits. Another successful day for all of us.

***Rob Palmer, Guilsborough Branch Steward,
e-mail : towersandbells@gmail.com***

Kettering Branch

Here is our report about what we have been doing since the last newsletter.

We met at Rushton in March for the 'Striking Competition With a Difference'. We formed four teams from the 22 members present. Each team rang a test piece of either call changes or Plain Bob



Doubles and all competitors also scored their opponents pieces, giving us an opportunity to listen carefully. Simon Dixon from the Wellingborough Branch joined us as the official judge and was assisted by the Guild Ringing Master. When the marks were all counted we found that the competitors agreed with the judges that the winning team were Helen Churchman, Margaret Pridmore, Leigh Parkin, Evan Thomas, Maureen Easton and Deb Wallis so congratulations to them. Many people commented on the value of acting as judges and how listening so carefully to others ringing made them think about their own striking so we think this was a beneficial as well as a fun event. Thanks are due to the Rushton ringers for organising the refreshments and of course to the judges for helping us out.



In April we held a special practice at Ashley where the focus was on ringing up and down throughout the afternoon. 19 members attended and really appreciated this opportunity as it is something we don't get to practice often enough.



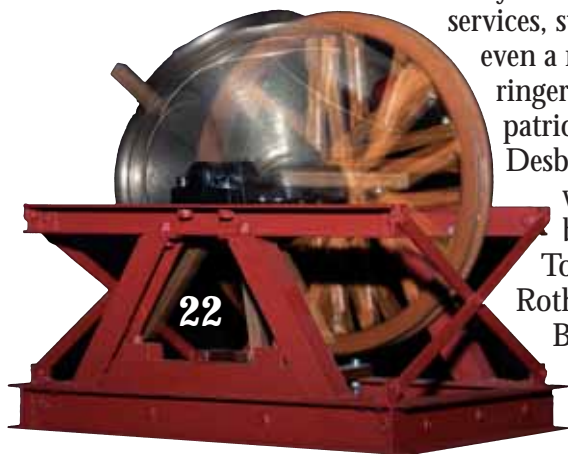
May saw 18 of us meet at Brampton Ash for another most enjoyable practice. We did not have a meeting in June as our regular date clashed with the Guild AGM. However on the



following day we made a great effort to take part in the national ringing celebrations to mark the official 90th birthday of the Queen coinciding with the patron's



lunch being held in the Mall. Sixteen churches rang out, many coinciding with local events such as services, street parties, open gardens and even a mad hatter's tea party. A total of 85 ringers took part, sporting plenty of patriotic clothing, flags and bunting. Desborough tower combined the event with a mini cycle outing riding between their Benefice towers. Towers which took part were Rothwell, Desborough, Kettering, Barton Seagrave, Rushton, Brampton Ash, Dingley, East Carlton, Ashley, Weston by Welland, Stoke Albany, Wilbarston, Great



Oakley, Isham, Pytchley and Cransley. Check out the branch website www.pdgketteringbranch.btck.co.uk for more pictures and details of who rang. In July we visited Isham for a special session for young ringers. Unfortunately only four youngsters were able to attend but Matthew from Isham and William, Evan and Rhys from Desborough were able to have a most enjoyable hour. Rhys did particularly well as it was his first time ringing away from his home tower. Activities included practicing listening skills by ringing with their back to the circle, competing to stand at backstroke and the ever popular firing. Afterwards senior ringers joined the group to enjoy further ringing and a magnificent tea provided by the Isham ringers. Nick also took the opportunity to give a live demonstration of the online notice board and was able to recruit further members – please see details below if you would like to access this. After a break from regular meetings in August, we will assemble in September for our Branch Outing.

Burton Latimer

I'm pleased to say that our 5 new ringers are progressing well and are joining our practice sessions every thursday evening and now ready to ring with us on Sunday mornings for the service.

Derek Sibson has conducted peals on a tuesday night at Burton Latimer for many years and I started ringing with him back in the 1980's. He has now retired from peal ringing here and Richard Allton has now taken over organising and conducting the peals.

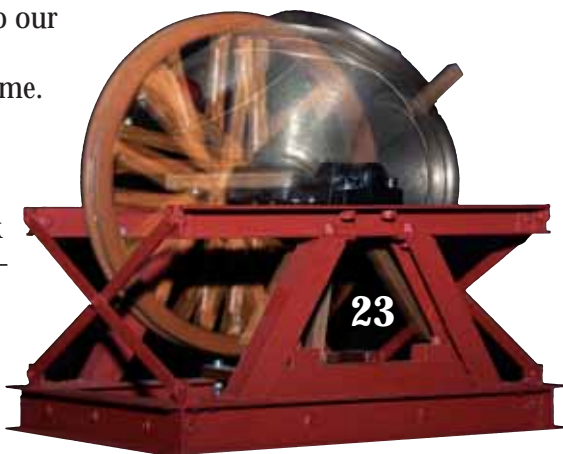
The peal of Upchurch Surprise Major rung on 2nd August was the 750th peal to be rung in our Church. It was rung in fondest memory of Jumbo Pridmore who sadly passed away on June 7th. Although Jumbo was not a ringer, he always supported his wife Margaret who has joined our practices each and almost every week and supported our tower for the past 35 years. Jumbo joined in many of our tower activities and his presence with be sadly missed.

Anyone is welcome to pop along to our practices on a thursday evening at 7-30pm , we shall make you welcome.

Chris Pearson - Tower Captain

If you want to be kept fully up to date with our activities you can ask to receive our monthly newsletter – just email

thewallisfamily@hotmail.com



We also have an all new and fully updated website – please take a look at **www.pdgketteringbranch.btck.co.uk**

Finally, why not access our online noticeboard where you can post images, post-it notes, files and videos to share with each other. If you would like to use it you will need to create an account at www.linoit.com and then email : **nick@firedout.co.uk** for an invitation to view the Kettering Branch Board.

Deb Wallis

Northampton Branch- No news this time

Peterborough Branch

Peterborough Cathedral (St Peter, St Paul & St Andrew)

We have rung two quarter peals a month for Evensong in a variety of methods: Cambridge S Royal, Plain Bob Caters and Major, Surprise Major, and Grandsire Caters. Also Stedman Cinques by a visiting band.

August is Cathedral quieter month, no choir, and no bells for service or practice, so we have had a well earned rest.

Kettering and Thrapston Branches are booked in for evensong ringing later this year, you know all branches are very welcome to do the same.

King's Cliffe (All Saints & St James)

The last half year has seen our practise night change from a largely local affair to a venue for those wishing to progress beyond Bob Doubles. We regularly have eight and, on one occasion, fifteen ringers. Producing a Sunday Service band can be more challenging as so many of our local ringers are also involved in other aspects of the service which require their presence downstairs rather than in the tower. Despite this we have rarely failed to ring for a service, even if only Stedman Singles. Over the summer we have produced bands for four weddings.

Glapthorn (St Leonard's)

On Sunday 12th June a special service to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday was held in the church. The bells were chimed by a group of young people from the village and the congregation joined together to toast the birthday girl.



Oundle (St Peter's)

Work is currently being undertaken in the bell chamber to deter the pigeons which are unwelcome guests. Nick Elks has been to check the bells and clock mechanism and we are hoping the Church will agree to invite Taylors to come and give advice. Unfortunately we are still without a tower captain and regular band, but manage to ring the bells at weddings and on special occasions thanks to ringers from other towers.

Warmington (St Mary's)

It is now three years since we began ringing at Warmington. Our numbers have continued to grow and we now have enough competent local ringers to be able to ring regularly for services and for special occasions in the village. The group continue to make progress with learning to ring methods and our newest recruit, Rosalind, recently rang for her first wedding, just a few months after beginning to learn. Another member, Angela, rang her first quarter peal exactly one year after she first began to learn, but this was rung at Nassington.

We celebrated our third anniversary in April with dinner at the Red Lion, and also in April we rang for the Queen's 90th birthday and then on April 23rd joined forces with our neighbours, Nassington and Elton, to ring in all three

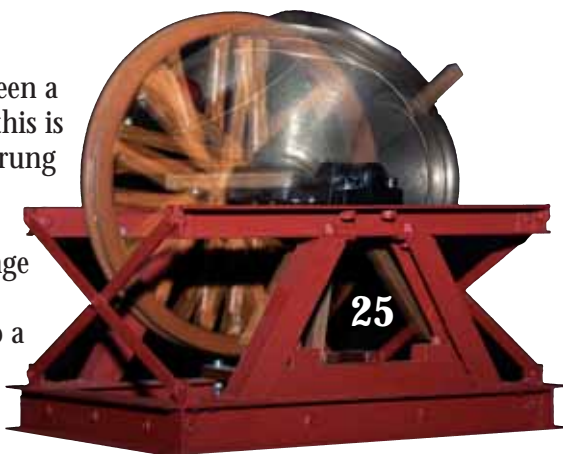


towers to mark St George's day and the 400 th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. We finished with afternoon tea at Warmington and were pleased to have 24 people taking part in the afternoon. We also all enjoyed a summer evening out, ringing at Bulwick in July.

St George's day at Warmington

Peterborough (St Mary's)

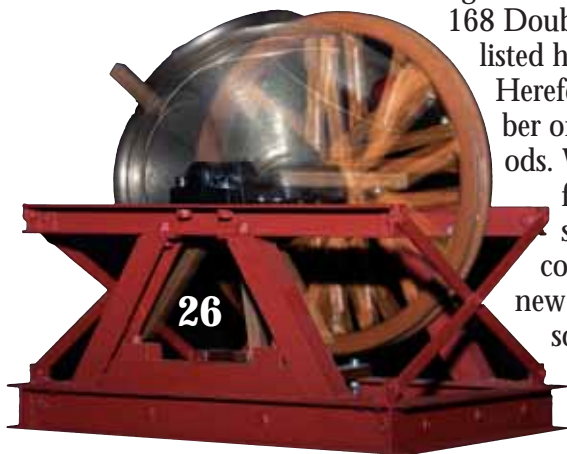
At St Mary's in Peterborough it's been a particularly busy few months and this is reflected in 56 quarter peals being rung and 13 peals. Our main impetus was that we needed lots of practice in order to achieve our first challenge of the year and that was to ring 42 Doubles methods and variations to a peal. We somewhat sailed through that with relative ease so the bar was raised and Stuart Weston



suggested that we should ring 90 Doubles methods/v for the Queen's 90th birthday. With lots of further practice and back to back quarter peals we reached the 11th June and had experienced two peal failures; one of 56 and the other of 89 Doubles and along with losing a couple of the band members (careless of us but understandable under personal circumstances). We therefore went into the last opportunity to attempt this with some trepidation. We were thrilled when we accomplished this, especially as we rung it as we describe 'old school' by calling out each method and variation and was rung by ringing the 42 extents with 3 extents of 4 spliced and 39 extents of 2 spliced. A special thanks goes to David Banks who compiled and proofed all the callings so that each extent was true and we had additional assistance from a real guru in the CCCBR Methods Committee, Tony Smith. To put the icing on the cake we were thrilled to receive a congratulatory letter and card from the Queen for our personal tribute.

Since then we've extended our ringing more into 7 and 8 bells and started to adapt what we've rung to Doubles into Triples. We've rung in support of the campaign to recognise St George's day by ringing quarters of St George and The Dragon Bob Minor and St George Of England and Dragon Place Doubles . We've also rang for the recent quarter peal campaign to #StrikeBackAgainst-Cancer. We've also wanted to enlist as much help as possible as we've now realised that we top the leader board for the tower that has rung the most quarter peals in the world and we've set a new challenge to ring 90 quarters this year. We've therefore been grateful for all the willing volunteers from neighbouring towers who've been good sports and stepped in. There have been a number of firsts too with Gavin Simpson, who started to ring in February ringing his first quarter peal and aptly we rang Simpson Doubles. We've recently named five new variations with the most recent called 'Team GB Celebration' (Cippenham Place Doubles) and rung in celebration of the country's success at the Rio Olympics.

So what next? We're working on a schedule to ring two quarters a week over the coming months and have a new challenge to ring 168 Doubles methods/v to a peal. We've enlisted help from some experts in Herefordshire and we're helping a number of ringers ring their first in methods. We wish to share the love, joy and fun in ringing Doubles. It's an easy step and gives a real sense of accomplishment to those that are fairly new to bellringing, especially that someone can just bump behind or treble.



If you can help then please do email us at: bells@peterborough-stmary's.org.uk. Finally David Banks conducted his first peal and we hope to get two new conductors to call their first peal too by the end of the year.

Peterborough (St John's)

This has been a quieter year ringing-wise at St John's. We are well supported on Sunday mornings and continue to ring (almost) every Sunday - and the standard to which we are ringing is continuously improving. We have however stopped the monthly practice as there was not the demand for it. However, we have had one peal attempt and a few Quarter Peals have been rung this year. If you want to come and ring on these magnificent bells then do please do get in touch.

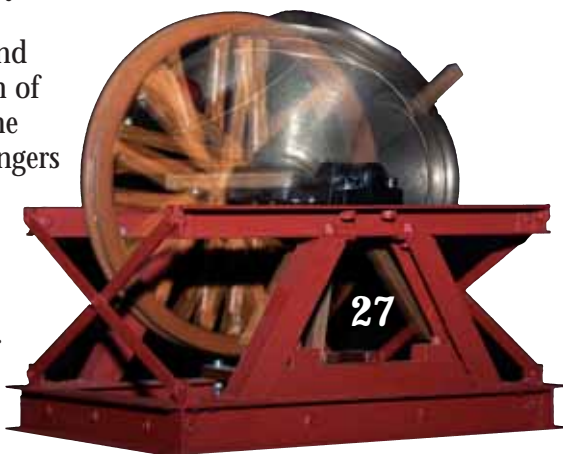
Glington (St Benedict)

There is good news and bad news from our bell ringers. The good news is that we have rung for 6 weddings and 1 funeral so far this year and we still meet every Thursday evening for practise. The bad news is that we are few in numbers and rely on ringers from Lincolnshire to make up our bands. A peal was rung by a local band in June to celebrate the birthday of the Queen and 2 quarter peals were also rung this year by visiting bands. St Mary's ringers came to a couple our practise nights and that made very jolly evenings for us. Glington hosted the main course of the May "Ring For Your Supper" and made a good job of it but we wish that we could recruit more ringers as our 2 learners have dropped out and we struggle to get 6 ringers for Sunday services.

Nassington (St Mary's)

We now have some 10 ringers available to ring for service every Sunday, which allows for holidays, etc and for when we increase to 6 bells. All the learners are improving and we have also encouraged a past ringer to return. We have a very committed group of 12 ringers who attend a vibrant practice night every Monday, where we are learning a range of new methods. This may mean that we do not always get things right first, or even second, time as it is a learning process. In addition, we occasionally have visitors staying in the village who join us.

The towers of Elton, Nassington and Warmington rang on the afternoon of 23 April for St Georges Day and the Queen's birthday, with about 25 ringers involved across all three towers (20 at Nassington). We rang for an hour on Saturday 11 June from 1.30pm, as part of the Queen's birthday celebrations in the village. The work on the Bells Restoration Project has now formally started, with the casting of the new Teall



treble on 26 May at Taylor's foundry in Loughborough. A group of 25 people, bell ringers, the Teall family and people from the village, enjoyed a very interesting tour of the foundry and watched the casting. After the casting the ringers rang the 12 bells in Taylor's tower. The next visit to the foundry will be on 15 September, when a group of children from the school will be joining us to watch the recasting of two of our bells. In preparation for this, I gave a talk at assembly on 14 June about bells and returned to talk to them about change bell ringing.

On 30 April, a visiting band rang a quarter peal of an obscure method and donated £25 towards the works. In the run up to the removal of the bells, we rang a number of quarter peals on the 5 bells, including a first QP for one local ringer and a first inside QP for another.

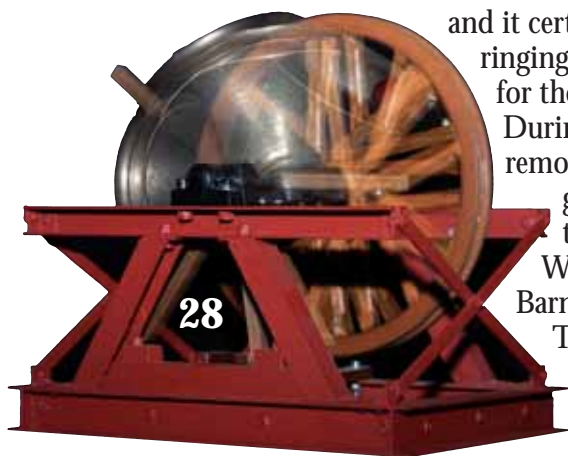
We hosted a "Ring out the Bells" event at 4pm on 13 August, after a wedding that day, to which anyone across the Peterborough Guild who has ever rung at Nassington, or would have liked to, was invited. 25 attended and the PCC provided tea and cake, and a glass of wine, as part of this celebration. A number of villagers joined us to meet the bell ringers.

Several volunteers assisted in the removal of the bells in the week of 15 August. The bells were taken down quite quickly, by the Wednesday, although the Tenor wouldn't fit through the hatch, so had to come down sideways. Over the next two days the frame was brought down. Some of it looked OK, but there were very large holes in many of the frames. One had a big hole in it near where the H frame would have sat. If that had gone all the way through, the bell frame would no longer have been supported, which demonstrates why we are doing this work! The work generated a lot of interest in the village and we had many visitors to see the bells as they were removed from the tower, before they were taken to the foundry.

On the following Sunday morning, so many people said how much they missed the sound of the bells welcoming them to church, and it certainly felt very odd not to be ringing for service. We will patiently wait for the bells to be returned.

During the period when the bells are removed, the Nassington Band will be going "on tour", visiting local towers, such as Wansford, Warmington, Thornhaugh and Barnack for Monday evening practice.

The reason for choosing to ring at Barnack is that there isn't a regular practice there, although there are some young people who



have learnt to ring over the past year, and we want to encourage them. We will be ringing at Barnack on the second, third and fourth Monday each month, until the end of November. We will be ringing at the other Towers on the first Monday of the month in rotation, so Thornhaugh on September 5th, Warmington on October 3rd, and 31st, and Wansford on November 7th. We may return to Thornhaugh on December 5th, if the Nassington bells are not ready to ring again.

Bulwick (St Nicholas)

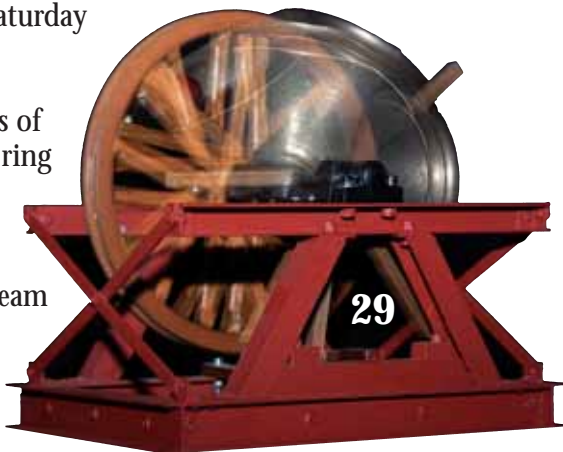
Practices continue to be well supported by our many ringing friends (the record so far is 18) and a wide variety is rung - from rounds and call changes, through various plain methods to surprise minor. We always wonder what delights Mike Keck will come up with for us to learn on the night! His ideas have included methods such as Yaxley Alliance and Hereward Bob Minor. Andrew often has his work cut out making sure everyone gets to ring what they would like. We are pleased to say that the pub is now open again at Bulwick after having been shut for nearly 4 months although we were made most welcome at Southwick during this time.

Castor (Ringing Centre)

The Castor Saturday morning ringing school is entering its 11th year of continuous training of novices through to advanced method ringing. During this period we have had about 100 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, Polebrook, Barnack, Rutland and Stamford. We currently have a "hard core" of half-a-dozen regular trainers/helpers with a further 3 or 4 that will fill in when we are short. In April this year we celebrated our 10th anniversary by ringing a quarter peal of plain bob minor, the complete band consisting of ringers taught at Castor including the conductor! We currently are handling more trainees than ever before; our biggest problem is ensuring that we have a minimum of six trainers/helpers each Saturday morning.

Castor (St Kyneburgha)

Despite a slight fall in the members of our band we have still managed to ring for all 36 services so far this year, and for a good part on all eight. The Ringing Centre continues to flourish here under the dedicated team of tutors every Saturday, now ten years since Tony Evans established it, also we continue to host the Branch Eight Bell Practice every



first Friday of the month.

We may have thought, with the retirement of William Burke, our Rector for the last twenty years, to have seen a slight drop in additional services requesting our bells. Not the case, our new Rector David Ridgeway has over seen an increase so far this year to 15 weddings, and five funerals, with four more weddings to come before the end of the year.

We have entertained two guest bands, four guest quarter peals and one guest peal band. All our guests were kind to complement us on our tower, bells, facilities and welcome. We have so far achieved four quarter peals with our own band, driven and guided by David Banks and Stuart Weston.

With all this ringing it was inevitable that our ropes were in need of renewing on all eight. Terylene tops, and this time instead of hemp, we have given flax a try. Edward Baxter fitted them in the spring. We commissioned Malcolm Brown to make them, and my thanks to him for an excellent job, and he delivered them within six weeks.

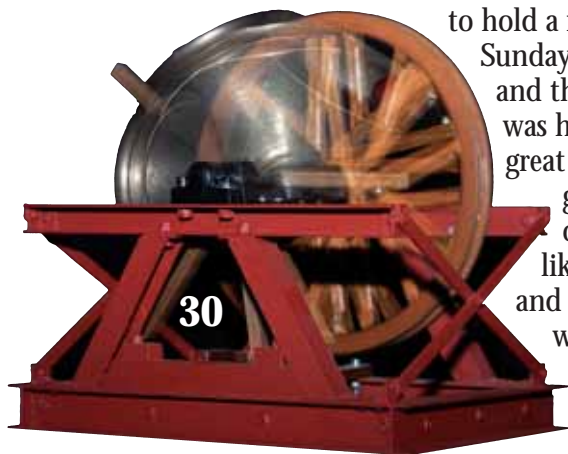
Progress of our band is slow and steady, with the new introduction of "Method of the Month" when David Banks gives us a new method which we are supposed to learn over two or three practices and then ring a quarter peal of it. This has been great fun and a real challenge for some of us, but with so many away during the summer we have fallen behind.

So far this year the band has been called upon to ring for four weddings at Wansford, three at Barnack, one and Thornhaugh and one at Wittering. This has been quite challenging as often we have had two on a Saturday which overlap. Now this would have been impossible if it were not for the fantastic support of local ringers. They have turned out to supplement our band at these other towers, time and time again, so that every time we have rung all six bells, well five at Thornhaugh.

With all this dedication in mind and the support from the Benefice Administrators, Rectors, Priests in charge, and vergers, we decided

to hold a reception at The Hill House on Sunday 21st August. Thirty five attended and the weather was good to us, so it was held in the grounds, and it was a great success. As some of our dedicated

guest ringers could not attend, other duties that day, it is very likely we shall do this again next year and hope those who missed it this year will be able to enjoy our hospitality and thanks. Without their support we would not be able to add bells to these families' special



services, that are there to be rung. We take pride that we endeavour to ring as well as possible for these special occasions.

Finally, a question was raised by a guest at our reception, why does Castor and the other towers we service, ring before services. It has been our practice for more than time can be recalled that our obligation to the Rector and the congregation is to ring the bells to call all to the service, it is only weddings we also ring after, and that is to announce and celebrate the matrimony. There have been some very rare occasions we have been asked to ring after a funeral, in celebration of the departed's life, but this is more usual after a Thanks Giving or Memorial Service.



Cotterstock (St Andrew)

Following on from an inspection of the bells from within the branch Taylors were called in to strengthen the frame. An augmentation project was subsequently put into action and the local community at Cotterstock have managed to raise the funds for a full rehang and augmentation from five to six bells. The bells were taken out of the tower in June and we expect them to come back from Taylors in Spring next year.

Nick Elks

Rutland Branch - No news this time

Thrapston Branch

2016 has, so far, proved to be a busy and enjoyable year with many memorable highlights.

Our year started with a very successful A.G.M at Woodford where a busy and varied ringing programme was organised. There were no changes to the Officers and Committee



and we were pleased to be able to have representatives from nearly all the Towers within the Branch.

The Branch also decided to continue our very successful 8-bell advanced practices at Woodford to which Guild Members and Friends are very welcome to attend. We have slowly mastered Cambridge and Yorkshire Major, Double Norwich and Single Oxford as well as consolidating our knowledge of Stedman and Grandsire with Bobs and Singles so we are generally very pleased with our progress.

Our monthly 6-bell practice has changed to the second Monday of the Month at Islip so we can enable the newer ringers to develop their method ringing and increase our range of 6- bell methods as well. It is also hoped to increase our opportunities for quarter-peal ringing on a regular basis.

Some of the Branch Members have also enjoyed participating in the Guild 10- bell practice. Thanks again to Geoff Pullen, Richard Allton and Andy Timms for organising these. We like to think we have made progress with 10-bell ringing and have been pleased to have the opportunity to ring on some delightful bells.

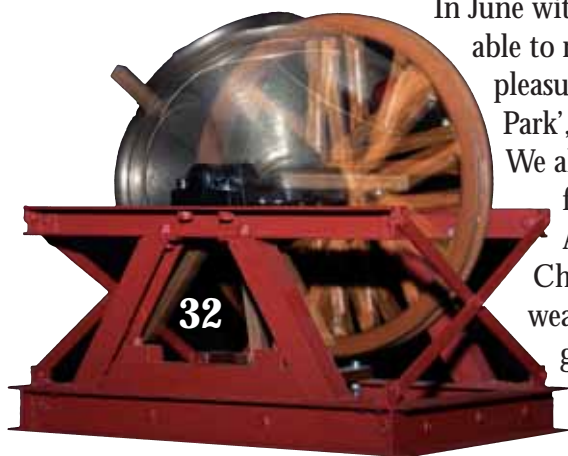
We have continued to hold regular monthly Branch Meetings with an increasing number of new and returning ringers joining us. It has been good to welcome visitors from further afield as well.

May-time brought a very successful Ringing Outing with Towers skirting around the edge of Leicester and Market Harborough. We even had the pleasure of ringing at a Tower with the Toilet Seating placed admirably by Number 5 bell. Perhaps 'Flushing Delight' would have been an appropriate method to ring? No outing would be complete without a visit to one of the local hostelrys and so we enjoyed a lovely meal to complete a very successful day

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', in its very picturesque setting.

We also had a very successful barbecue following ringing at Great Addington, 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 around the Newark and Grantham area. The Churches and Bells were wonderful and the surrounding Countryside really reflected the lines of William Blake - "England's green and pleasant land." It was hard to believe that just a few miles away the M6 and A1 were thundering away and we were ringing in Country Churches surrounded by pastoral fields. Our thanks to our Ringing Master, Chris Jenkins for organising the outing to such a delightful group of Towers.

The Thrapston Simulator is now installed and apart from a little bit of 'HI-Tec' twiddling we're nearly ready to go 'live'. Our thanks go to 'The Guild Training Fund' for supporting us with this venture and to St.James' Church P.C.C. for their help and interest.

We have many events to look forward to during the next few months including the Guild Summer Festival, our Branch Striking Competition and Annual Dinner and ringing at The Cathedral for Evensong – always a very special event in our Ringing Calendar.

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.

We would also like to thank all our Branch members for their continuing support in helping to keep our Branch so lively and active.

As a footnote, we were recently visiting a delightful tower in Lincolnshire when we came across this little notice:

'At the evening service tonight the Sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our lovely bells!

Happy Ringing!

Alison Byrnes : Assistant Ringing Master. Thrapston Branch.

Towcester Branch

The last 6 months has been quite active for Towcester Branch, with at least one event every month, including two well-attended outings. Recruitment of new ringers continues to be a focus, and it is encouraging to see several new ringers of all ages participating regularly.



March's Branch Practice was held at Wicken (8). A good number of ringers joined, and it was encouraging to see a group of young learners from Ashton, tutored by Marion Wilson.

A Surprise Minor practice was held in April, at St Bartholomew, Greens Norton (6). The turnout was modest, but a good range of methods was rung, including some non-Surprise methods to suit the attendees.

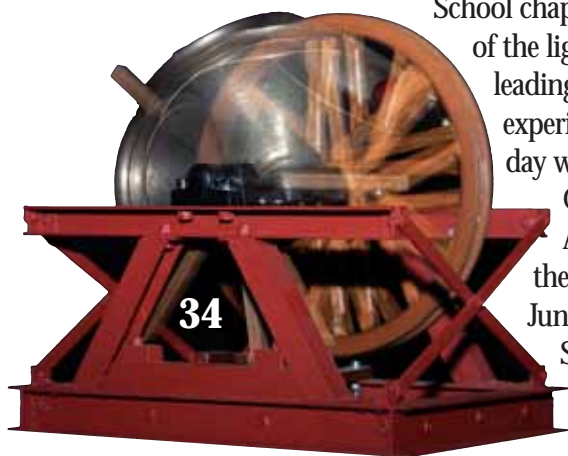
The Branch was well represented at the Guild Spring Festival and 6 Bell Competition at Seaton, contributing two of the eight competing teams. Towcester claimed the winning position and Pattishall performed well in a cluster of middle positions separated by single points. The trophy was received by Richard Alton.



In May a Branch outing, kindly organised by John Stanworth and Richard Alton, took in six towers in the Loughborough area, starting at the Taylor's Bell Foundry with a tour of the works and ringing on the twelve. The group of about twenty

ringers next enjoyed All Saints, Loughborough (10), St James Greater, Oaks-in-Charnwood (8) and St Botolph, Shepshed (8) before visiting the Manor House School chapel at Grace Dieu (6). Here the ropes of the light 6 hang in a small spiral stairwell, leading to an unusually intimate ringing experience! The enjoyable and fascinating day was rounded off at St Bartholomew, Quorn (8).

Among the ringing that celebrated the Queen's official birthday on 11th June was one notable peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus at St Lawrence, Towcester. Congratulations to Celia Wood for her first peal on twelve.



This year's joint practice and striking competition with North Bucks Branch was held at Cross & Stable, Downs Barn, Milton Keynes (8). Twenty ringers took part in three competition sections. On this occasion Towcester Branch won both the day's trophies, for the winning team overall and the George Holland Stedman Trophy presented to John Stanworth. The local scout troop provided an excellent barbeque in return for some first experiences of ringing. Many thanks to North Bucks Branch for organising a very enjoyable event.



August's Mini Tour visited three towers in the Milton Keynes area: Holy Trinity, Old Wolverton (6); St Lawrence, Bradwell (6) and St Andrew, Great Linford (6). Thanks to John Stanworth for organising this interesting tour of beautiful churches in some less well known parts of the area.

As part of the Branch's commitment to recruitment and training, Nic Boyd has joined the committee, with a special interest in this topic. A round-robin of branch towers revealed seven that reported having active learners. Teachers are being encouraged to attend ITTS/ART training days, to help learners develop good foundation skills.

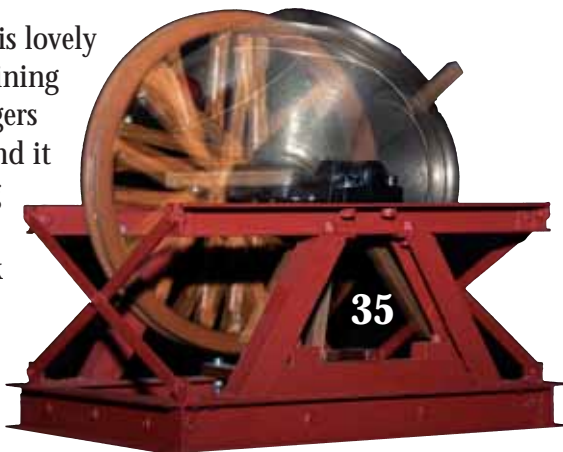
Details of all towers and practice days at <http://www.towcesterbranch.org.uk>

Jonathan Stuart - Towcester Correspondent

Wellingborough Branch

Many thanks to Tony Finke and his lovely wife for their hospitality at the training meeting specifically for young ringers in April. The food was delicious and it was nice to see many of our young ringers ringing together and getting to know each other. Thank you to all who attended.

Branch practices have also been held at Earls Barton and Easton Maudit and Bozeat.



Surprise practices have been held at Ecton, Irthlingborough, Wilby and Orlingbury with varying numbers of ringers attending and with a variety of methods rung including several Surprise Minor methods and Cambridge, Yorkshire and Superlative Surprise Major.

Thank you very much to all those ringers who ventured out on a misty Saturday afternoon in May and rang at four towers in Leicestershire. There were about 27 ringers, 6 of whom were visitors, so a worthwhile number to take on tour. Many thanks to Pam Bailey for organising yet another successful trip.

The Branch Striking Competition was held at Grendon on Tuesday, 21st June. Six teams entered with Rushden coming first, closely followed by Orlingbury, Grendon, Yardley Hastings, Higham Ferrers and Irchester. Thanks to Len and Lesley Halifax for judging the competition and to Grendon for hosting and providing refreshments.

Wellingborough branch hosted the Guild AGM for about 40 members at Higham Ferrers on 11 June. Thanks to the Higham ringers and the Branch Committee for another delicious tea!!

Congratulations to Ivor and Jean Dickin who both turned 80 this year. Two quarter peals were rung at Irchester to mark these occasions.

On Sunday 12th June the Earls Barton Band rang a quarter peal of bob doubles to commemorate the Queen's 90th Birthday. The following ringers were involved:

Treble Eleanor 'Ellie ' Williams. Her first Quarter peal ringing the Treble

2 Janet Wilkins. Her 'ump te tumf' Quarter peal. Even Janet has lost count !

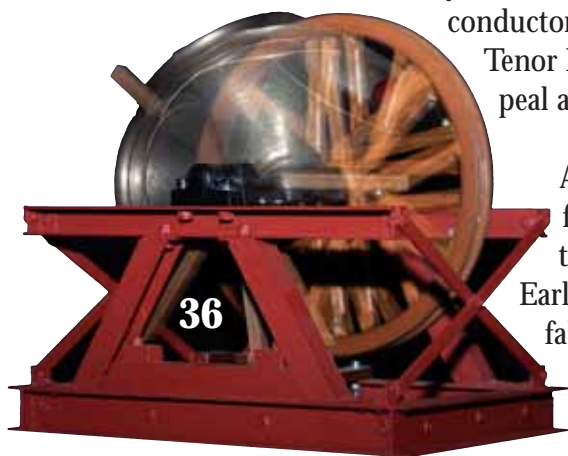
3 Simon Elvin. His first Quarter peal in 13 years.

4 Gaynor Smith. Her 15th Quarter peal and 5th Inside

5 Andy Smith. His 50th Quarter peal and 5th as conductor.

Tenor Mike Brown. His first Quarter peal as a member of the All Saints band.

An early notice regarding the forthcoming Branch Quiz which takes place on 12th December at Earls Barton Church Hall. This is a fabulous evening with the most delicious meal provided. Please do come along and support us.



Visitors are welcome to any of our events and details of towers and practice nights can be found at www.wellingboroughbranch.org.uk.
Any snippets of news to jude.coulter59@virgin.net

***Jude Coulter-Wellingborough
Correspondent***

Public Relations Officer's Piece

Since our last Newsletter was published there has been a feast of occasions, national and local, for bellringing to be brought into the public's hearing. Is bellringing a sport? The controversy provoked on behalf of the exercise by some prominent ringers was very successful in gaining time and space in national media and local radio.

Diocesan Magazine resource for April 2016 included an article from a Guild leaflet about maintaining bells, advice and teaching new teams. See <http://www.peterboroughdiocese.org.uk/downloads/Publications/magresourceapril-2016.pdf>

The Queen's actual 90th birthday on April 21 brought forth some quarter peals and general ringing.

St Georges' Day and the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death.

Guildsborough branch had two simultaneous rolling rings to enable practically all the branch bells to be rung on April 23. Every tower in the Culworth Branch had its bells rung at some time.

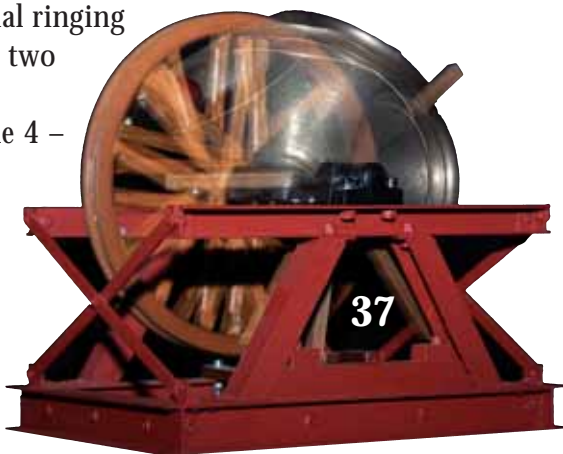
BBC Music Day on Friday, June 3 - Rushton and Wilbarston towers took part.

The Queen's Official 90th birthday celebrations on

June 10-12 produced lots of special ringing for local events, quarter peals and two peals.

Ridgman Trophy at Daventry June 4 – church open to public with bell information on display and teas provided by the congregation for all visitors.

Hollowell Steam Rally on July 2 and 3 the Lichfield mini ring generated a lot of interest with a steady flow of people coming to



look and a few having a go.

Heritage Open Days – September 8 – 11: Challenge 500 getting 500 towers open as part of that event: Brackley, Daventry, Northampton (All Saints and Holy Sepulchre), Rushden are registered. Local BBC stations will be involved. The Guild Pop-up display panels have been to a dozen events this year already, don't forget that they are available – see 'Publicity Displays' on the website 'Bits and Bobs' page.

Geoff Pullin PRO

Sponsored Walk for the Bell Fund, Saturday 25th March 2016.

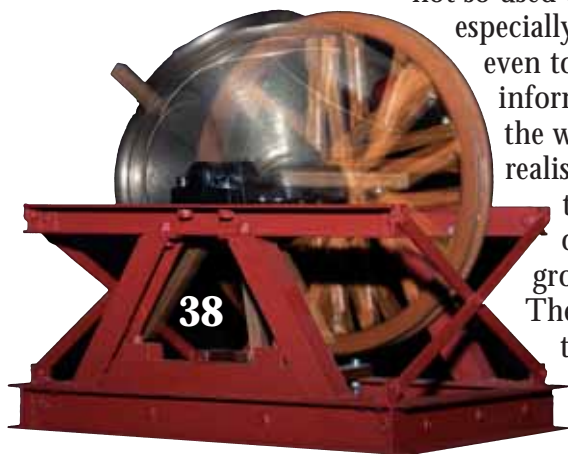
Well, after badgering many people and not all of them bell ringers, the day arrived for the sponsored walk. It was a cold grey and blustery day, just as you can imagine for an Easter Bank Holiday weekend.

After travelling over to Rutland Water and finding the car park nominated for the meeting place it was discovered that the staff of this said car park would not allow any public parking; "Oh no, you cannot park here without a permit" was declared. What! We all exclaimed, "It is a car park" but it could not be used so needless to say in a very British way - there is always Plan B and yes it involved a pub!!

Some swift discussion and brilliant planning later by our trusted organiser we all diverted to the nearby village of Manton, duly parked and armed with maps, with a new 5 mile route planned consisting of a direct return to the pub we set off – well some did, Alan Marks waited for any late comers –umm heard that one before !!

For the path-finders they became two very happy and excited dogs; Ben, a collie always up for a long run through fields and Edward a Yorkshire Terrier, not so used to a long run across fields especially as his rather rotten owner hadn't even told him this small piece of information of a 5 mile walk. However the walk was now on – dogs not realising that they needed to pace themselves ran on dragging their owners in tow, maps to hand the group of walkers followed.

There was some discussion over how to negotiate a ploughed field that should have had a footpath running straight through it, some walkers went round, some



took the designated footpath route but we all met back up again on the other side with no issues. A right hand turn past some lovely farm buildings and cottages and then out into open country side. Looking back over your shoulder you had a lovely view of Rutland water. Clear skies were present and thankfully the wind had dropped by now.

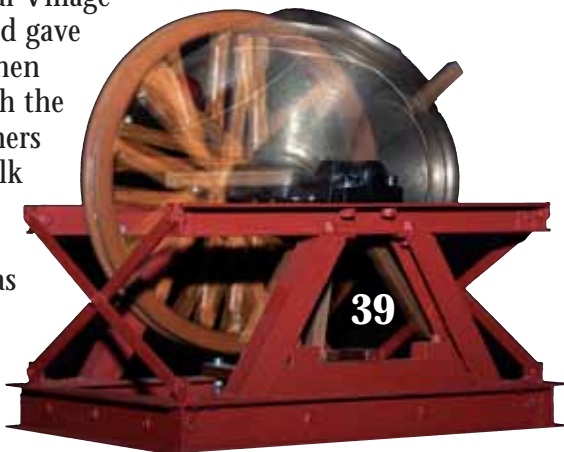
Going on, with dogs continuing to speed off, the group followed, now larger in size with all late comers catching up and there he was, our trusted Guild Treasurer Alan Marks bringing up the rear – or was he just making sure we all completed the 5 miles so he could boost the bell fund – whichever, his smile kept us all happy.

Half way round we came across a lovely little church in the hamlet of Brooke. Thankfully it was open so some weary walkers took a brief moment to rest and enjoy the beautiful building, dogs had to be called back and had to retrace their steps, being eager to carry on they were not happy to wait even with Alison Buck handing out Jelly Babies to keep us all going.

By now though the weather was starting to close in, 'onwards and upwards' so they say and dogs certainly were not going to hang around so we all set off again to make the turn back over the top ridge which for some reason is called Macmillan Way and we headed towards home.

We followed the path which took us over a large number of stiles, all easily executed except Ben our collie dog refused and insisted that he be carried over each stile, not much good for the old shoulder injury!! No issues for little Edward – he just ran underneath. So with the obstacle course of stiles negotiated and mints now being handed out to all walkers we all continued. Strong winds returning and now rain beating down on us hitting our faces with a cold bite we all continued but nothing could deter the group and the drive to complete. Or was it the thought of the pub – beer, hot food and for one walker the promise of a hot chocolate!!

Coming across a site of a Medieval Village and dropping down from the wind gave an interesting spin on the walk, then turning down from the bridle path the group realising that dogs and owners had gone wrong making them walk even further the main group sensibly followed the correct path. They then all met up again as the paths merged and headed towards the road side. The last obstacle was to cross the main road then one more left hand



turn and there it was – the end. Rain having stopped, wind lessening and clouds moving on it was a welcome sight.

Ben and Edward plus owners sat outside in the cold but with satisfaction of the completion of the walk, beer for one and the promised hot chocolate for the other – oh the dogs had drinks too and bickies (far too spoilt)

All other walkers - oh they went straight inside and well-earned too for hot food, lots of it, plus beer probably lots of that too!! A great walk, no one was lost on-route, big smiles and red faces from the wind, weary legs and plenty of thirst.

Would I recommend it – Oh yes – what a great way to spend a Saturday morning, meet people from other towers and branches, raise money for our bells, brilliant!

Would I do it again – yes but just don't tell little Edward!!

Odette Dawkins

SPRING FESTIVAL

Guild Spring Festival incorporating a 6 bell Striking Competition held at Seaton in the Rutland Branch.

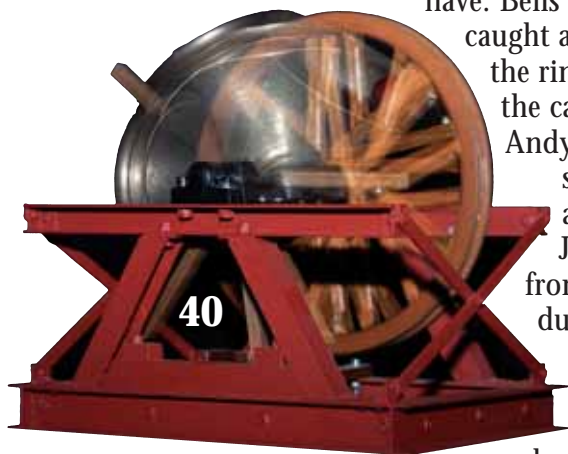
Despite the rather concerning weather forecast of snow the sun shone throughout a glorious day in the Rutland area of the Guild. Our first church for the open practice, a lovely set of 6 bells at Caldecott (7.1.22) was slowly but surely commenced with ringers arriving throughout the practice time culminating in 28 ringers, all getting a chance to ring a mixture of Plain Bob Minor to Cambridge Surprise Minor.

With time running slightly over it was a dash to the second open tower where more ringers arrived; this time for a chance to see an absolutely beautiful church at Glaston, again with ground floor ringing but within the central nave. Bells somewhat lighter (10.2.21)

caught a less experienced ringer out but the ringing was enjoyed by all under the careful organisation of Alan Ellis as Andy Timms had to leave somewhat speedily to greet the judges over at Seaton.

Judges - John and Jenny Thorne from Southam in Warwickshire were duly met at All Hallows' church, Seaton and the bells 'rung up' in readiness for the competition.

The teams began to arrive; the church hall ready and set up with a



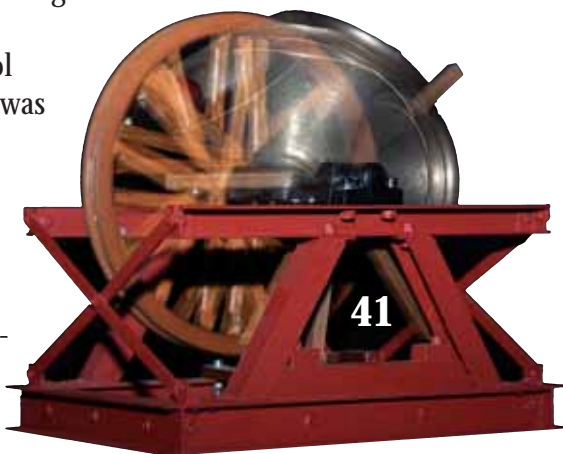
sumptuous buffet in the care of the Rutland Branch Secretary Helen Pollard and her many helpers was all in place and the competition all set to go. A last minute entry was requested from the home team and with judges in agreement the competition began with now 8 teams in for the battle. All the teams from Orlingbury, Northampton Town Centre, Rushden, Rothwell Antiques, Pattishall, Rothwell Nearly New, Towcester and Braunston rang with enthusiasm and enjoyment – plenty of smiles from all as they emerged from the church doorway to pose for their team pictures! The ringing ranged from call changes to Cambridge Surprise Minor. For me, it was glorious, lovely and on very loud bells, all very English and perfect. The sun was shining, the breeze was gentle – perfect, even the tractor – well not so perfect as the driver decided to stop just by the judges car and keep his engine running whilst the Rothwell Antiques Team were ringing – typical but a lovely British view of tradition you could say! So following 2 ½ hours of ringing and being interrupted by the guild business meeting where 2 grants for bell repairs were agreed, the results were announced. With only 1 point splitting the 1 st and 2 nd placings and a tied 4 th place the Judges gave their personal summing up to each team and the winners were presented with the John Weaver Shield.

Results were:

1 st Towcester	18 faults	4 th= Northampton Town Centre	29 Faults
2 nd Rushden	19 faults	6 th Pattishall	32 fault
3 rd Rothwell Nearly New	26 faults	7 th Braunston, Rutland	42 Faults
4 th= Orlingbury	29 faults	8 th Rothwell Antiques	44 Faults

The day was not yet finished, over 20 ringers drove over to the magnificent church at Uppingham with its 8 bells (14.2.2) for the open evening ringing. Upstairs ringing chamber so many had to interchange for all to be able to ring. Here we were treated to vast range of ringing from Plain Bob Triples, Cambridge Surprise Major, Bristol Surprise Major and on into what was certainly my highlight of the day being able to witness and hear an eight Spliced Surprise Major. A fantastic array of ringing and a fitting end to a marvellous day to celebrate the 'Art of Change Ringing'.

Well done to all, the organisers, the ladies who made the



delicious teas, the judges with their knowledge and powers of concentration, the towers that allowed us all to descend and especially to the bell ringers that give up their Saturday and help keep this wonderful tradition alive.

Odette Dawkins

(Photos by Andy Timms)



The winning team from Towcester:

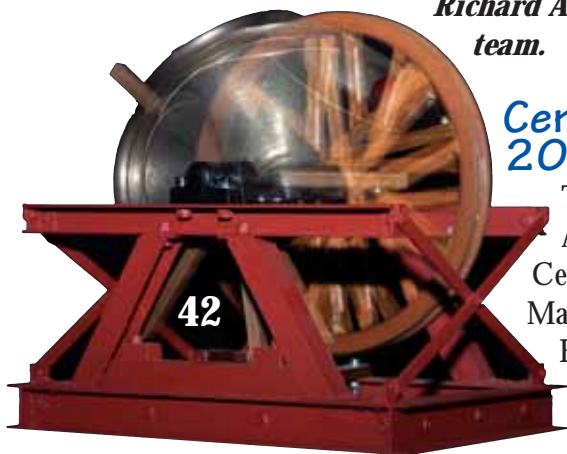
Jennie Paul Treble, Chris Bullied 2nd, Robin Hickmott 3rd,
Brett Master 4th, John Stanworth 5th, Richard Allton tenor.



***Judges John & Jenny Thorne presenting the John Weaver Trophy to
Richard Allton, Captain of the Towcester
team.***

Central Council Report 2016

The 119th Central Council
Annual General Meeting of the
Central Council was held on 30th
May at the Best Western Royal
Beach Hotel, Portsmouth
The Guild's representatives; Jane
Sibson, David Westerman, Nick



Elks and Simon Dixon were in attendance. The total number of representatives was 169.

The first meeting was on Sunday with a 'Question Time' session where questions on a variety of bellringing issues were raised and a selected panel of high profile ringers gave their views. The outcomes/answers were sometimes varied and sometimes in agreement, but this is a positive step forward in the Central Council being shown to be open and inclusive of the opinions of ringers from all walks of the exercise.

All committees took the opportunity to have a face to face business meeting at some point prior to the main AGM meeting.

At the main meeting on Monday the President called for calm and reflective decision making. There were many representations from the floor urging the Council to make changes to be seen to be more relevant to the modern ringing community. One of the main drawbacks identified has been the lack of a clear channel of communication throughout the ringing community. A possible solution mooted was for the exercise to become 'membership based' whereby all ringers might be signed up and communication issues would become less of an issue.

There were eight motions in front of the Council, some administrative and others potentially contentious....Motion A was to wind up the Ringing Foundation Limited and passed.

Motion B was designed to speed up council protocol by electing committees in advance and was passed.

Motion C was administrative and changed the terms of reference for Redundant Bells and was passed.

Motion D was withdrawn (Voting by proxy) to allow more time for reflection.

Motions E and F were presented by John

Harrison (Oxford DG) in an effort to

make the Central Council more

relevant and appropriate for the 21st

century as many ringers throughout

the country question the validity

and need of the Council for most

activities. A working party of both

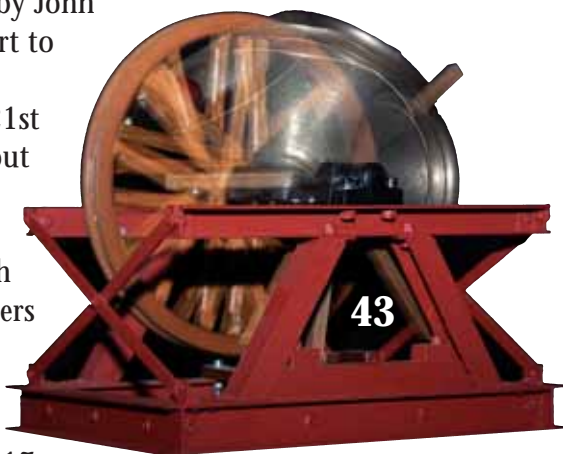
Council and Non-Council members

is to be set up with a remit to

gather wide ranging views and

recommendations for moderniza-

tion, and to report back to the 2017



meeting. After some considerable time and debate both motions were passed with slight amendments.

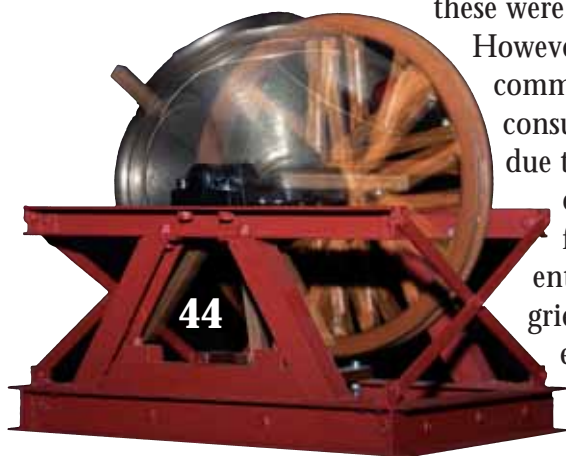
Motions G and H were passed which allow more flexibility in method construction and how peals may conform to the rules of the Council. For example, there is no limit on the number of places an internal bell can make in a plain course, there is now a relaxation on allowing partial extents in a peal of doubles, minor and triples (i.e. a peal of 5100 doubles will now be approved if it has 42 full extents and 60 changes), handbell peals of minimus will be allowed (however, if one ringer rings all 4 bells then an umpire must be present), and the naming of methods in lower stages requires only a quarter peal to be rung.

Following lunch, the Ringing World AGM was held. The Board of Directors was more settled this year and all members stayed in post. A new editorial assistant is to be employed from September. The Ringing World chairman, Nigel Orchard, was pleased to announce that the RW had made a profit last year, primarily due to donations, and the need for raising the subscription rates and the compulsory charging of printing peals and quarters was deferred. The RW can stay in its present form until at least July 2017 and the Board are considering a different printing process which may be better suited for a low circulation of 2,600 copies. The Board are seriously considering a fortnightly publication as the recent survey seemed to find favour with this option. Again, a plea was made to increase circulation and members were encouraged to ask towers to take a copy for their ringers at their home churches.

After the Ringing World AGM, the Central Council AGM continued...

The reports of various committees were discussed and accepted, and most of these were approved without contention.

However, the Ringing Trends committee had lost its Chair and IT consultant midway through the year due to criticism of their work in an open letter to the Ringing World from a prominent ringer. The entire committee felt quite aggrieved by this attack and resigned en mass. No delegate was prepared to stand on the committee as an act of solidarity, and



although the committee still technically exists it currently has no members. Overall this was a very positive meeting, there is a definite undercurrent throughout the Council of a need for change to modernize, and the mechanism for this change has been approved and is in motion as you read this. The meeting closed at 5:30pm and the 120th meeting will be held in Edinburgh next year.

Nick Elks - Peterborough Guild CC Rep

Guild 100 Club

100 Club Winners

MONTH	No	1st Prize	2nd Prize
JAN	117	129To 46.80	11W 11.70
FEB	118	42K 47.20	118N 11.80
MAR	114	44Th 45.60	32N 11.40
APR	116	113D 46.40	08G 11.60
MAY	116	126N 46.40	85D 11.60
JUN	116	45P 46.40	08G 11.60
JULY	118	77D 47.20	11W 11.80
AUG	117	34N 46.80	62W 11.70

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

The winning numbers are published in the Newsletter and in the Latest Guild News of the Guild website.

Derek Jones.



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 2016

29th Oct

Guild Quiz - Weedon Village Hall

7.30pm

See Guild Website/Posters for more details

