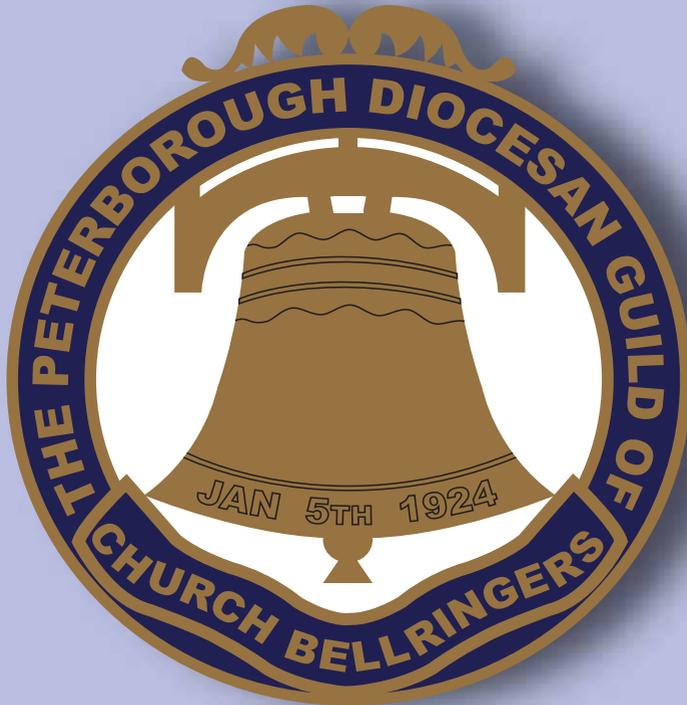


PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD
OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS



Newsletter
September 2010

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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 2011**
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 PIECE

I hope you have had a good summers ringing. I have been on several outings and a weeks ringing holiday. I have enjoyed them all but I realised how lucky we are to ring in this Guild with so many excellent and easy to ring bells.

At the AGM in June we said goodbye to Sarah and Colin as Secretary and Master, not goodbye all together I hope. I said thanks to them at the meeting but I would like to thank them again for all their work, Sarah particularly became Secretary at a very difficult time. I'm sure you will all support our new Secretary and Master, Sue Jones and Ian Willgress.

April saw me at the Cathedral for the installation of Bishop Donald. It was a great privilege to represent the Guild and sit in a named seat in the front row of the choir stalls. The service was very moving and it was good to be able to see everything. The service was followed by excellent refreshments. A quarter peal was rung before the service with general ringing after.

I was back in the Cathedral in May for the triennial service of licensing and relicensing of Parish Evangelists, Pastoral Assistants and Readers. I was there for personal reasons but it was great to be able to ring before the service. During the long procession I noticed several ringers who serve the Church in various capacities and I would like to congratulate Richard Yeats and David Teall who were licensed as Readers.

Do support your branch during the winter.

NEEDED – A Central Council Representative. Any offers or ideas will be gratefully received.

Brenda Dixon



A MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER

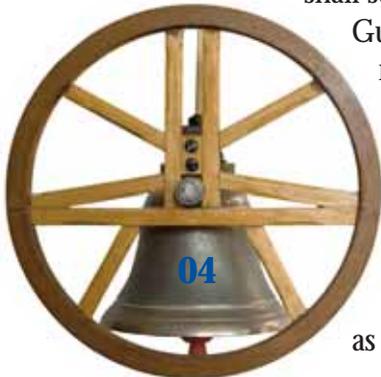
I will start my first offering as Ringing Master with a brief introduction, as although I have been around for a long time, in more recent years I have been constrained in my ringing activities by redundancy, return to university and new employment opportunities. For those who have more recently discovered the delights of ringing I hope you might find it useful, and for those who already know me, I apologise!

I ring at Nether Heyford (6 bells, 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt) in the Daventry Branch where I am Tower Captain and also mentor of the other towers in the benefice with bells; Flore and Stowe IX Churches. Typical practice night ringing can extend from teaching bell handling through to ringing London S. Minor and Spliced Minor, with everything in between depending upon who is there. Plain Bob Doubles is a favourite. We welcome regular visitors from local towers with whom we augment and collaborate in our ringing activities. We aim to provide a high quality of ringing for Services, ringing within the capabilities of the band and use the practices to develop something new. Does this sound familiar?

Having learnt to ring in N.E. Essex in the mid to late 1970's as a primary school aged learner and "second generation" ringer, I moved to Northamptonshire and joined the Guild in 1980 through the Wellingborough Branch. I am a non-resident life member of several other Guilds, mainly in the eastern counties but also the North American Guild too. I am also a member of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths. When time permits, I enjoy ringing quarter peals and peals on all numbers of bells and a wide variety of methods. My personal peal total stands at just over 600.

In the two months since being elected as Master, I have so far enjoyed visiting the Towcester and Culworth Branches, as well as my own Daventry. It is my aim to visit and ring with all 10 branches of the Guild during the year, so hopefully I shall see you soon. I also encourage you to come to

Guild meetings and events, especially if you have never done so before. There is ringing across the whole spectrum of abilities and remember that we all started with rounds and call-changes. It will be very pleasing to see a good representation of members from each of the branches at Guild events. The Guild newsletter is a good source to find out what's going on, as well as of course as the Guild Annual Report, the Guild website at



www.pdg.org.uk and the weekly Ringing World. Also, you can contact me by e-mail via the Guild website using master@pdg.org.uk .

Connections with education and the ease of use of Google unfortunately restrict the free publishing of a telephone number on the website (we are ex-directory because of my wife's work). However, since the Guild Annual Report has a "controlled" distribution you will find contact details including a telephone number there.

Wishing you all every success with your ringing.

Ian Willgress

News from the Branches

CULWORTH BRANCH

HALF ANNUAL BRANCH MEETING AND DINNER .

The annual Half annual Branch meeting took place on Saturday 17th, July , at Both Upper Boddington and Culworth. Owing to the Boddington P.C.C . arranging their re - dedication of the restored bells on the same date as the Half annual meeting , it was decided to amalgamate the two. Therefore the afternoon began with the Service of re - dedication with the [now retired Rector, The Rev Lynda Randall] officiating with the Bishop of Brixworth, the Right Rev. Frank White as the preacher . During Bishops Frank's re- dedication ceremony, the new Treble bell was also dedicated , which was recently cast and donated by Mrs. Jose Eyles in memory of her late husband, Maurice, who was Tower captain at Upper Boddington for many years . The highlight of the service perhaps came when Jose, and her son Robert and family, assisted by her daughter Diane [a Greatworth ringer] chimed the new bell. It was good to see Boddington Church packed for this occasion with both local villagers as well as a very good turnout from the Branch as a whole . Following the Service teas and cakes were served in a tent in the Church Yard by the local Ladies while the branch practice took place on the newly restored and



augmented six bells just a week after the re-hang was completed.

The Business meeting then took place in Culworth Church , and a short ring on the Culworth Bells followed.

This memorable day, however was concluded by the Branch Dinner which was held at the RED LION pub in Culworth to mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Culworth Branch. This meal was very well supported indeed with nearly 40 branch members enjoying a selection of truly mouth - watering meals. Following the meal a small speech was given by our branch chairman, Martin Rowling, with thanks to all who came to support this special occasion. Thanks also must go to Martin for organising the dinner and for the much hard work at Boddington.

MRS. LINDA NASH . [18TH JUNE 1951 - 24TH JULY , 2010]

The very sad news of the passing of Linda Nash , wife of Tony Nash, Tower Captain of Chipping Warden was circulated around the branch very quickly, on 25th July. Linda sadly died on 24th, July following a very long battle against cancer . Although not a ringer herself, Linda was a very keen supporter of local ringing activities and accompanied her husband on the annual Branch outing for many years. Linda,s funeral took place at the Banbury Crematorium on Wednesday 4th, August. The Officiant at the Funeral Service was the Rev.d, Christopher Whiteman[Rector of Chipping Warden] , and Tony Nash gave a fine heart felt talk on his wives many golfing achievements as well as outlining Linda's warm personality . It wa also very pleasing to see that among the large congregation in the Chapel, there were many Ringing friends from the Culworth Branch. our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Tony and Family. Linda was much loved and respected by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

BODDINGTON NEWS.

Since the re - hanging and augmentation of the bells there has been a great deal of ringing activity at Upper Boddington. Tied Practice nights have been held on both

Monday and Tuesday evenings in order to train the 12 complete beginners all from Upper and Lower Boddington to ring. Tower captain, Ron Goodey , assisted by several local ringers have been spending these two evenings each week simply teaching basic handling. Things are now progressing so well that the open practice will now resume at 7.30 p.m, on Monday evenings, still with enthuses on the local learners. This is a great credit to Boddington who as a parish in just 6 years raised £120 ,000 to restore the tower roof , and tower stonework and re - hang and augment the bells.



BRANCH PRACTICES.

Branch Practices have taken place at Helmdon in May, Lois Weedon in June and Greatworth in August. This year has seen an increase in attendance from the locals as well as a good number of very welcome visitors attending. Also 8 bell practices have taken place at Kings Sutton in May and Aynho in August, both with good turnouts. May this trend continue.

QUARTER PEALS.

On Sunday 9th, May 2010 a Quarter Peal of 1260 was rung at Charwelton to mark the 80th birthday of Mr. John Batchelor , a life long resident of Church farm , Charwelton , and greatly respected resident of the village. the details are :- Treble , Geof Pullin [C] , 2nd, Rhona Anderson , 3rd , Carole Pullin 4th, Colin Anderson Tenor , Graham White. First Quarter on the bells by a local band following the Restoration and Augmentation. Also 500th Anniversary of the casting of the 4th, Bell

On 24th, July 2010 , a Quarter Peal of 1260 Grandsire Doubles was rung open at Brackley to give thanks for the life of Mrs . Mary Woodward , wife of the Rev.d Canon Peter Woodward , former Rector of Brackley.

The details are ; - Treble, Joan Lewis , 2nd , Ian Chapple , 3rd, Julie Blencowe, 4th, John Lewis, 5th, Philip Curtis , Tenor Malcolm Taylor .

A Quarter Peal of 1260 Grandsire Doubles was rung on 8th, August , to give thanks for the life of Mrs Norma Howes of Lois Weedon. The details are as follows :- Treble, Ann Widdowson , 2nd, Sara Chapple 3rd, Joe Glenham 4th, Philip Curtis 5th, Ian Chapple , Tenor , The Rev,d Will Adams. Norma was a regular visitor to the Whitfield practice along with her Husband, Arthur for many years , as well as serving as the Culworth Branch Secretary for 4 years.

PEAL AT CHACOMBE.

On Tuesday 3rd, August a Peal of 5040

Surprise Minor [7 methods] was rung at S.S.Peter & Pauls, Church , Chacombe.

The details are as follows Treble, John Lewis, 2nd, Julie Hazeldine , 3rd, Raymond Vickers , 4th, Ruth Stokes,

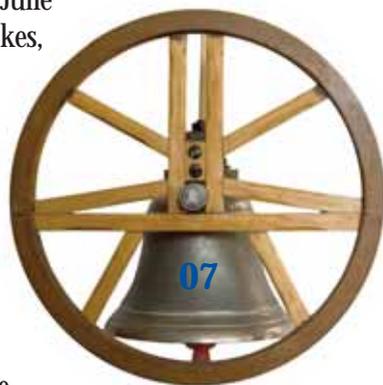
5th , Andrew Hazeldine , Tenor Christopher Stokes. First Peal on the Re - hung bells and Re-cast Tenor.

Graham White - Branch Correspondent.

DAVENTRY BRANCH

MEETINGS & PEOPLE

A hot tea was served by the local and Farthingstone



ringers in the new Litchborough village hall to 37 people at our March meeting. Ian Willgress gave a report on the Guild general management committee. Afterwards 17 rang at Weedon, and a smaller group assembled in the Kings Arms, Farthingstone as suggested by absentee Dorothy FitzGerald, who has taken on the role of 'welfare' officer! Thirty people gathered at Preston Capes in April, but only 18 took up the challenge of ringing. Admiration for the skills and tenacity of the local ringers grew and seems to have acted as a catalyst. The PCC has now had quotes from three bell hangers to provide recommendations for improvements! At the meeting after tea accompanied by hot chips, Ian Willgress gave Ted Garrett's apologies and explained that Ted had been rushed to hospital, but was now home. He was thought at first to have had a stroke but it was later deemed to be a virus infection from which he has now recovered. He remains automatically banned from driving because he had two seizures. A very encouraging gathering of 33, including Stan Ruddlesden, rang at Whilton in August. Revd Sue Kipling led a very welcoming service, which encouraged a record collection of £81.81 for the Guild bell fund! Sue was installed into the Spencer parishes, which are spread over three Guild branches, with due pomp and ceremony, involving our Bishop of ten days, and ringing of course, on April 27 at Great Brington. Maureen Basford helped Sue to chime the treble nine times during her installation, as she intends to stay for nine years! John Jones, who has recently returned to ringing, was elected a member for Whilton. In the evening, seventeen rang at Great Brington. There was a break in the ringing whilst we watched a fantastic aerial display over the nearby Althorp Battle Prom by a Spitfire. This was followed by a very long spell of thunder and lightning! Afterwards at the Royal Oak Flore, we discovered that the landlady can ring!

QUARTER PEALS & PEOPLE

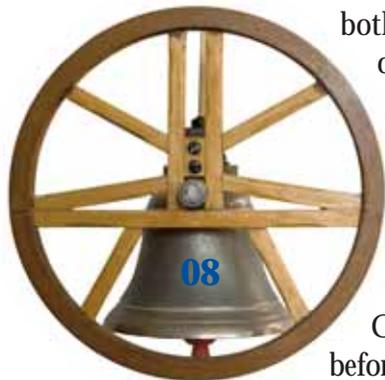
Ian Calvert conducted a quarter peal on February 25 to celebrate his 65th birthday, aptly at Calverton, Bucks. Plain Bob Doubles at Bugbrooke by Nether Heyford and Bugbrooke ringers on March 4 was in memory of Derek Whittington.

Derek was for many years organist and ringers' friend in both parishes, who on more than one

occasion delayed the start of branch services whilst he finished a piece, like 'Les Cloches'.

Once Derek was enthusing about his old house-master, Mr Bernard Payne, and was delighted when Jim White told him that he recognized the name of B Stedman Payne from 'The Ringing World'.

On April 18 a branch band rang Plain Bob Royal before Evensong at Peterborough Cathedral.



It was also a welcome to Bishop Donald, who had been installed on the previous day and becomes ex officio Patron of our Guild.

Robin and Judith Rogers helped us to ring a bob course of Grandsire Cinqs up until service time.

St George's Day was marked only with special ringing at Barby and a quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles at Everdon, which also celebrated the life of Rhona Anderson's mother. 53 extents of Plain Bob Minimus, counted aloud, were rung before the Ascension Day service at Fawsley. I was taken aback when the congregation was told that it was for my 70th birthday. Thanks Sally! On May 15, Plain Bob Major at Weedon celebrated another 70th birthday, this time for Weedon ringer, Malcolm Rogers. This was Christine Rodhouse's first quarter on eight bells.

At Everdon on May 21 Reverse Canterbury marked Tom Anderson's mere 17th birthday.

Richard Buck of Byfield's 18th birthday was celebrated on June 22 by Reverse Canterbury also at Everdon.

Two days later, Richard Hartley rang his first quarters of Cambridge Surprise Minor and St Clements Minor at Chacombe and Eydon respectively.

In thanksgiving for the life of Paul Briscoe, until recently a churchwarden at Harpole, five doubles methods was rung on June 30, the day of his funeral.

More cheerfully, Barham Delight Minor marked the ruby wedding day of Graham and Bridget Paul at Harpole, where they were married on August 8.

Also on that day Plain Bob Triples at Weedon Bec, allowed Charlotte Wilkins to ring her first on eight bells and it welcomed Sophia, daughter of Fliss and Dan Lister, Daventry ringers, who was born the day before.

Our quarter peal day on July 17, arranged mostly by Alison Willgress, was very successful. Not only did Ian conduct four of the nine attempts but also helped organise when shingles struck Alison low. Thanks to the 19 who took part and especially to Gwynneth, Ian, Jim and Shirley who conducted.

l Everdon: 5 doubles methods

l Staverton: Plain Bob Minor (first of minor for Ann Maud)

l Flore: Plain Bob Doubles (first quarter peal for Jane Wincott. Jane is thought to be the only Church Stowe ringer ever to ring a quarter peal!)

l Braunston: Plain Bob Minor (Shirley conducted from the tenor then went on to ring Church



Stowe tenor for a wedding!)

1 Hellidon: Plain Bob Doubles (First quarter peal for Dorothy FitzGerald and rung on the wedding anniversary of Rosemary and Ernie Davidson of Hellidon)

1 Whilton: Yorkshire Surprise Major (The one that got away)

1 Nether Heyford: Cambridge Surprise Minor (Second of surprise for Richard Hartley)

1 Badby: Cambridge Surprise Minor (First of surprise for Christine Rodhouse)

COMPETITION & PEOPLE

The prolonged hot, sunny spell in July and the hospitality of Barby made for a very enjoyable five-bell striking competition for fifty ringers, listeners and families. With many newer recruits spread out among established bands, there was no betting on the outcome. Proceedings started as soon as the judges, Spike and Jenny Thorne from Southam, were ensconced under the vast yew trees. The service was delayed by 10 minutes to cope with the nine entries, and incorporated an address about doing your best, being friends and being gentle in the aftermath! Barby and Kilsby ringers served a ham and salad tea with lots of cakes. At the meeting, a grant of £200 to Kislingbury was approved towards the cost of repainting the bell frame. Then Spike gave a supportive commentary on each team. Jenny announced the winning order and presented the Ron Woodward Trophy to the Fawsley band with Bugbrooke second. The eleven who went on to evening ringing at Rugby were pleased to be supplemented with three Rugby ringers.



Left to right: Jan Bickerton, Harold Thompson, Hilary Aslett, Pat Milner, Brian Clark, Rhona Anderson, Colin Anderson, Peter Wenham, Margaret Dean, Pam Eve, Alison Milner, Guild Master contemplates, Jim White, Shirley Waterhouse, Ann Maud, Jane Wincott appreciating the sun and the ringing at Barby



The home team who came third equal: Peter Box, Ros Atchison, Eileen Thompson, Douglas Thompson and Mike Cook. (The winning team only had an 80% turn out for the photo call!)

OUTINGS

On May Day Bank Holiday sixteen Badby practice-nighters and friends visited Ansley, Nether Whitacre, Shustoke, Grendon and Austrey in north Warwickshire and Orton on the Hill in Leicestershire. The strangely tuned bells at Shustoke caused some difficulty. The BRM managed to slip the rope off the tenor wheel and it set at backstroke! Angela Waldock got The Griffin to serve us cooked meals and drinks within 50 minutes despite crowds of other customers! Peter Wenham made a note of the old notice at Austrey about removing girdles [See RW May 21].

Thirty-five set off on the branch coach outing on May 8 in weather reminiscent of darkest January and later it got no better than March. At Matlock an ad hoc coffee at the pub opposite, preceded ringing. After a splendid carvery lunch at the Farmyard Inn, Youlgrave, we tackled the twelve bells. Call changes, a course of Stedman Caters and a bob course of Grandsire Caters were successful.

After Ashford in the Water, we were warned that a stay was missing at Great Longstone. Then, with Ian Willgress ringing the stayless bell, the first group started off in rounds only for Barry to find himself encircled by more rope than even he is used to. The third rope broke and the bell stood! The branch steward sauntered off while a younger member swayed up the iron ladder, pushed the bell off with a broom and brought down the frayed remainder.

The chairman spliced it. By this time our tour manager said that it was time to go and followed up with a call to the apologetic vicar!

After the cows had passed, our coach driver, Brenda, met this year's challenge – will a 12' 3" tall coach pass under a 12' 6" bridge? The answer was yes, just, but a later 12' one was too low, so Peter and Janet reconnoitered for a turning place at South Wingfield church before the offending bridge. The BRM was heard to mutter that we wouldn't have this trouble if we had gone to



Basildon - her recurring theme! Thanks Janet for an exciting day out!

TOWERS & PEOPLE

A sponsored walk on Rogation Sunday between the seven parish churches of the Daventry Team ministry is an annual event. We had a request to ring a guiding greeting as the walkers approached each church. The walk started at 9.30am from Daventry, just as service ringing ends. A flying squad helped to ring at Welton and Ashby St Ledgers. Here John Davies had excelled in raising all four bells in advance, including the brutish tenor and there was a reward of sausage or bacon baps. The Braunston ringers then did their stint, followed by the Farthingstone band ringing at Staverton, their usual practice tower. The branch's youngest member helped chime the single bell, cast around 1310, in the turret of the Victorian church of Catesby. Finally, the local team at Hellidon welcomed the walkers to tea and Songs of Praise. The organiser said that it was something special to be greeted by the bells as they neared each church and they responded with a spring in their step! In August, Richard Hartley reported that three quotes had been obtained for upgrading work at Farthingstone. After finding that all the bolts on Dodford bell frame and fittings would tighten up, he recommended those with wooden bell frames have a good tightening session now. The tightening was in preparation for the first peal on the bells since 1958. Seven minor methods were rung on August 11 by a band organised by Brian Foley. It was dedicated to the memory of John Townsend, first tower captain at Claremont, Australia, who came from a family of Dodford ringers. John's father rang at Higham Ferrers.

Geoff Pullin - Branch Correspondent.

GUILSBOROUGH BRANCH

Branch Outing - 5th June



Jim Hedgecock once again got his thinking cap on and produced a list of five towers. It was decided to change the times this year and make an early start and an early finish. Five towers on the Leics/Linc's border were the destination, commencing at 10am in Buckmintser - 6 and moving on to Sproxtion - 8 before lunch at Croxton Kerrial - 6 for a 2pm start in that tower. We then moved into Lincolnshire for a ring at Barrowby - 6 and finished at Denton - 6 at 4.45pm. It was a good day but the ringing would not have been good without the help of serveral friends

inside and outside the Guild.

Branch Barbecue

This event was once again hosted by Brixworth members who made a really good barbecue enjoyed by many. The weather was very kind as we were in the churchyard.

We were joined by Ray and Wendy Daw who were once again at Hollowell steam rally with the mobile mini ring. Prior to eating we enjoyed our first branch ring at East Haddon following the refurbishment. The comments were favorable and East Haddon providing a welcome cup of tea.

We were joined on this occasion by Paul Clewett, his first visit since the death of Valerie. He was very touched by the tributes paid to Valerie by members of the ringing Fraternity.

Dorothy Westerman - Branch Correspondent.

KETTERING BRANCH

Full Day Outing on Saturday May 8th

This years outing took us to the area around Sutton Coldfield in the west of Birmingham. Despite being on the edge of the city, many towers were in small villages. The outing was an enjoyable day out despite the weather. The bells at Aldridge had different coloured sallies so instead of call changes we did colour changes, calling colours instead of numbers. A bit confusing but fun!

We nearly had a lock-out at Sutton Coldfield as apparently we should have given the ringer from the previous tower a lift with us as he had the key but we forgot him and had to go back and pick him up! Scary Scary ladder at Perry Bar but everyone made it up and down in one piece.

WELLAND VALLEY WANDER

Saturday 5th June

This was a good afternoon out with a country walk and ring, starting at Ashley Church then on to Wilbarston going on to East Carlton with a picnic tea in the park followed by a rounders match, then back to Ashley. 9 walkers completed the 7.5 mile circuit and the event was finished with a well earned drink at The George.

BRANCH BAR-B-Q on Saturday 10th July.

This was held again at the home of Debs and Mick Wallis, I have no other details at present.



NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

BARTON SEAGRAVE

We have a new Rector, Reverend Mark Lucas, who has now joined our practice night after a break of around 30yrs from ringing, how nice to have him taking part. Mark's son Thomas, a teenager has also started to learn.

A peal of 5024 Yorkshire S Major was rung on Wed August 11th at Barton Seagrave as a welcome. It was a Society of Royal Cumberland Youth Peal with a band as follows:-

1 Janet M Yeo

2 Caroline M Mitchell

3 Christine M Carter

4 Charlotte M Smith

5 Anne P Cook

6 Derek E Sibson (C)

7 E Jane Sibson

8 Christopher M Pearson

Young ringers Edward and Bethany are progressing well, and Maurice has come back to ringing after a break of more than 20yrs.

Congratulations to Jane Sibson on her 70th birthday, with a Cumberland Peal of 5056 Seventy Delight Major rung at Barton Seagrave with Jane taking part.

Congratulations also to Caroline and John Mitchell on reaching their Silver Wedding Anniversary. A Cumberland Peal of 5088 Silver Delight Major was rung at Barton Seagrave with Caroline taking part.

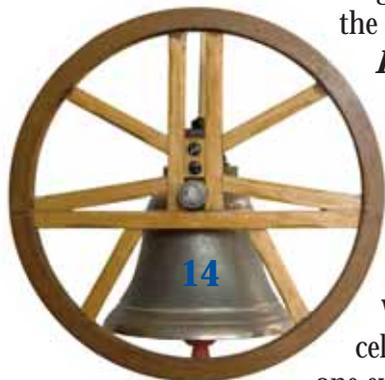
ROTHWELL

Congratulations to Mike Britton and Gerald Fisher from the Wednesday morning Rothwell OAP group who rang their first Quarter Peal in April (treble and tenor to Bob Doubles). Rothwell managed to enter 2 teams into the Guild Striking Contest - they didn't win but never mind, it's the taking part that counts!

KETTERING

This is still a well attended practise with ringing most weeks on 10 or even 12 bells, WOW, pretty good as it includes a few not so experienced ringers but gives them good practise. There are 3 new ringers here, 1 adult and 2 young ladies who are now ringing well.

We went across to the Royal Hotel for a celebratory drink, nibbles and a cake after ringing one evening to celebrate Jane's birthday.



NICK'S JAM

Nick is still making his jam and marmalade and managed to raise another £20 for the Bell Fund. (Rhubarb about to go into production!)

I hope to have more news from around the towers for the next Newsletter, until then, HAPPY RINGING

Frances Pearson - Branch Correspondent.

NORTHAMPTON BRANCH

People

George Care of Brafield died in April. Anne Henman and Colin Sampson kindly sent the following. As well as running the farm, he had, until prevented by ill health been a stalwart member of St Laurence's Church, being an organist, a bell ringer and a member of the Parochial Church Council. He also served on the Parish Council and was a trustee of the Sargeant Memorial Hall.

George was well known all over the country, taking part in Steam Rallies with his wonderful old traction engine, which used to be a familiar sight around the village.

George learned to ring at Brafield in 1939, at the tender age of 11, when the tower had the youngest band of Sunday Service ringers in the country. He rang his first peal a year later, almost 70 years to the day before his funeral. The details of that peal appeared in the 1940 Annual Report as follows;

COGENHOE

On Saturday, April 27th, in Three Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of New Grandsire, Canterbury Pleasure, Plain Bob, April Day and Old Doubles, and 1,440 Grandsire.

Tenor 9¾ cwts.

****Leslie Battison ...Treble***

****George Care...2***

****Cecil White...3***

****Cyril Barrick ...4***

****Ronnie Noon ...5***

Philip Jones ...Tenor



Conducted by PHILIP JONES.

* First peal and first attempt. It is just a year since the first five Ringers began to learn bell ringing. They are all Sunday service ringers at Brafield.

As, at that time, there were only five bells at Brafield, it was rung at Cogenhoe so that all five of the lads could score their first peal together.

Two members of that original band, Les and Ronnie, were present at the funeral, and Ronnie, together with several other old ringing friends, joined the team to ring half-muffled as the cortege left the village.

Peals

St Benedict West Hunsbury

Saturday February 20, 2010 in 2h23 (4cwt) 5040 Minor (3m) (2 exts each Cambridge S, Kent TB; 3 exts Plain B)

1 Brian Austin

2 Murray A Coleman (C)

3 David P Westerman

4 Paul S Reading

5 Robin Wilson

6 Alan J Marks

Belated 80th birthday compliment to Brian Austin.

St Mary Dallington Saturday 6th March

1 Elizabeth Moore

2 Deborah Sampson

3 Bridget Paul

4 Grahame Paul

5 Colin Sampson (C)

6 Cecil Swann

Quarter peals of Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles rung at Noel Morton's funeral in his memory. I understand than Noel rang his first peal at Dallington August 2010.

St. Laurence's Church on April 21st 2010

A half-muffled quarter peal of 1260 Plain Bob Minor was rung in 45 minutes on the bells at St. Laurence's Church on April 21st 2010, in memory of George Care, a local ringer who died at the age of 82 years. Those taking part were Gill Pepper - treble; Marcia Morgan - 2; Anne Henman - 3; Dorothy Stopps - 4; Reg Inman - 5 and Ray Henman (cond.) tenor.



NORTHAMPTON, Northamptonshire, St Peter
Thursday April 29, 2010 in 2h47 (12cwt)
5056 Cambridge Surprise Major
Composition: Richard I Allton (No.1189)

1 Robin H Rogers

2 Paul M Mason

3 Richard W Yates

4 John P L Pardoe

5 A John Stanworth

6 Colin M Lee

7 Richard I Allton (C)

8 Andrew B Mills

Quarter peal Rothersthorpe, on 22 July 2010

1260 Doubles (1p,4m): 1 Christine Rodhouse, 2 Hilary Aslett, 3 Brenda Dixon, 4 David Harris, 5 Alan Marks.

Jointly Conducted by 2,3,4,5

BRANCH PRACTICES

Special Practice Pitsford 13th March 2010

This was attended by 12 people. Dorothy says they knuckled down and worked really hard on Kent Treble Bob and eventually rang an acceptable course. They went on with touches of Plain Bob Doubles, especially for Walt who had let them in and spent the afternoon until then as a spectator. The afternoon was finished off with a touch of Reverse Canterbury Pleasure.

Quarterly Meeting Duston 27th March 2010

Despite the weather, the church was warm, so many thanks to St Luke's for this. The meeting was so well attended that I lost count of the numbers as people came and went. I can say that over 30 came through the doors. Many thanks to the Revd Alan Baines who conducted our service. This was followed by an excellent tea too and the vote of thanks to the Duston tower for organising and preparing it was made by Maureen Basford.

The tea was followed by a short meeting attended by 21 ringers – 50% more than last year. We voted in some new members and Dorothy Stopps as the Ringing Master. Cecil reported that the clappers at Wootton are to be “looked at”. He also said that he had supplied a lot of stays recently, which was good news as it means we have a lot of new learners.



Amongst all of this we found time for ringing on Duston's easy 6. But the third, which had had a new rope fitted recently, was not as co-operative as it usually is and was a bit of a handful.

The ability range of the ringers ran from someone who had started only 2 months ago to very experienced hands. So, wherever you are in this spectrum, you can be assured that you will be made welcome at a Branch Practice.

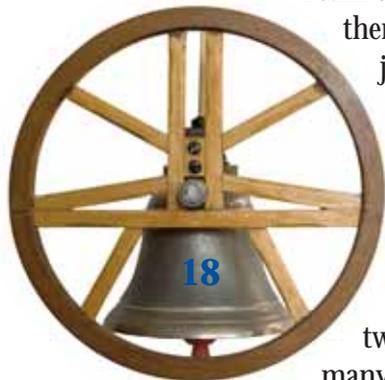
8-Bell Practice, Holy Sepulchre Northampton 24th April 2010.

Fifteen people attended this meeting, which meant everyone had to work hard to keep the bells ringing all evening. Our first attempts at Bob Major and Grandsire Triples were unsuccessful, but perseverance with Plain Hunt on 8 brought us success and Call Changes went very well. The Call changes gave some of us the chance to look-up Little Bob and this went very well, we should have done a second plain course but we wanted to crack Bob Major and Grandsire Triples. The second attempts at these two methods were also successful, but we had run out of time by now and the Grandsire Band went straight into ringing down. When we finished Paul Bailey, who had been ringing the Tenor, said "I don't ring down in peal"! He does now. Well done Paul.

Branch Bell Ringers Striking Competition Dallington 7th May 2010

Abington Ringers turned out in force for the Six-Bell Striking Competition at Dallington on the evening of 7th May. In fact the Church was very full of Ringers all hoping to win the new Cup for the Annual Striking Competition. Duston and St. Benedict's had also entered, Boughton had intended to compete as well but all their Ringers had been kidnapped by the other teams to stand in where Ringers had been unable to attend because of sickness or other reasons. Our judges were Sue and John Beresford and Ivor Dickin from Wellingborough Branch. The Competition started at about 7 o'clock and each team had a three minute practise period before going into their 120 rows for the competition. Abington A Team rang first with Plain Hunt: Duston followed on ringing rounds, then came St. Benedict's ringing rounds again and finally Abington B Team with rounds. When everyone had rung their piece there was a chance for general ringing whilst the judges added up the marks. They did not keep us in suspense too long and as is traditional announced the results in reverse order - Abington B 55 faults: Duston 42 faults: St. Benedict's 36 faults and the winners were Abington A team with only 27 faults.

Congratulations to Abington Ringers on fielding two teams and winning the day, also on having so many young Ringers.



Mary Halsey had arranged for everyone to go into the Wheatsheaf after the competition, which finished off the evening in fine style. Thank you very much, Mary, this was really appreciated.

See you all again next year and one or two more bands as well, hopefully, in the competition for the new Branch cup.

Branch Practice Collingtree Saturday 26th June 2010

Didn't we have a good practice at Collingtree in June? Even though there were only eleven of us which included two visitors from Rothley in Leicestershire and it was a very hot evening, we covered practically all our repertoire, starting with St. Simons and ringing Grandsire, Reverse Canterbury, Stedman and lots of Plain Bob. We tried to alternate the bands so that most times Ringers could have a rest after ringing, but this didn't always happen.

Special Plain Bob Doubles Practice Weston Favell, Thursday 8th July 2010

This was another good evening with 16 Ringers present. Most of those who came were new Ringers who were keen to improve their Plain Bob, which meant that the four or five of us who were able, had to ring or stand behind every time.

However Weston Favell's two new recruits who are still learning to handle a bell gave us a breather every now and again while Joy put them through their paces; and very well they are doing, too. By the end of the evening everyone had been able to ring at least twice (hopefully) and Andy rang a course

without any help, which shows what a good evening it was. We hope there will soon be two more from Weston Favell improving their PBD at a Special Practice.

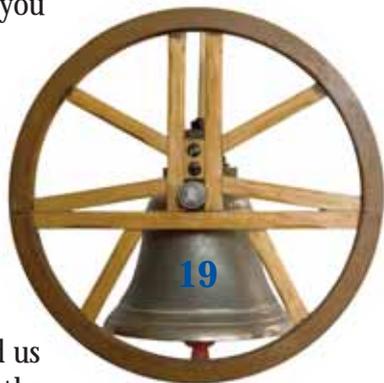
Branch Practice Abington Saturday 24th July 2010

What a practice at Abington on 24th July. 22 Ringers attended, 12 from our own Branch and visitors from Wellingborough, Bedfordshire, Leicestershire and Wiltshire. The local Ringers raised the bells and method ringing started with Double Oxford, then progressed through Call Changes, Plain Hunt on 5, Plain Bob Doubles and Minor, Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Cambridge Surprise (twice) and St. Clements. That just shows what you can pack into an hour and a half. Having said that, I hope everyone present rang at least twice and especially whatever it is you wanted to ring that evening. Thank you all for making it such a good practice. Let's do it again soon

Cecil Swann Skittles Trophy

Saturday 14 August 2010

Memories of England's dismal performance in the football World Cup in June were put behind us as we assembled for the 2010 skittles event at the



re-arranged date. The Eykyn Arms in Gayton was again the venue and mine host, Wendy, made us very welcome. New holders of the Cecil Swann Trophy also emerged after a very close contest throughout the evening. 14 teams contested the championship and the early casualties included Di and Mark, Liz and Glenn, Dorothy and Colin, Liz and Cecil and Anne and Mike (last year's champions!). Elizabeth and Cy (friends from Blisworth who we hope to see more of!), Chris and Mick, Libby and Geoff, Gill and Ian and Vera and Ray fared a little better but the semi finalists were all more consistent with their accuracy and scores. Much needed food was taken on board at this stage to help restore strength, calm nerves and prepare for the knock out stage. Phoebe and Mark fought a close battle with Kathie and Mike who eventually took their place in the final. The other semi final saw Gill and John closely beaten by John and Barbara. So Abington contested the final which was the closest match of the evening. Barbara and John kept their nerve under great pressure (and a little friendly banter!) to take the Trophy. Cecil was on hand to present his Trophy and to remind the winners to keep it clean and defend it again in 2011. All agreed that the Gayton venue again proved successful and the food was great. Next year's championship is already booked for The Eykyn Arms, date to be confirmed.

Ivor Wilde - Branch Correspondent.

PETERBOROUGH BRANCH

The branch held its first Ring for Your Supper evening at the beginning of May. Ringing started at Nassington and was followed by our starters of either pate or melon. The local band had set out tables and chairs in the back of the church. With a quick gathering of plates put in the back of Marilyn's car to be washed up in her dishwasher at home, we were off to Bulwick.



Judith kept everyone busy with the variety of methods rung and as soon as the bells were down everyone made their way to the village centre where the local ringers provided the main course. Once this had all been cleared away, everyone made their way to Easton, where the local band met us with a large variety of sweets, which we enjoyed during the ringing. Our thanks go to Marilyn who masterminded the whole event and to all those who provided the food, helped set up and clear away.

We now look forward to a repeat of this event on October 9th when we visit Maxey, Glington and Barnack.

Bulwick

We have had a fairly quiet few months since the last newsletter. Could it possibly be something to do with the holiday season? There hasn't been that many weeks when the entire band has been in the locality. However it hasn't stopped us from attending a car boot sale at Wicksteed Park at the beginning of May, when we had one final burst to free space in Chris' loft in the garage. We managed to sell lots of items and our bell fund benefitted from over £100. Derek had a little bit of hassle with his bacon and fried egg roll, the yolk was somewhat runny. Would anyone like a second hand slightly soiled red waterproof regatta?

On the 23rd of May six of the local band rang a quarter of Cambridge and Single Oxford prior to the morning's service as a compliment to David Teall, who has now completed his lay reader's course. This was David's first service as a licensed lay reader and we were delighted that we were able to share the occasion with him and Pat.

Mid July saw us all making our annual pilgrimage to the fens to see Chris, Karen and James for a BBQ. Andrew took the children off to play in the park in the afternoon. We would like to congratulate Chris Eyers on reaching his next decade, and being a well brought up girl I'm not going to say which!

We have a busy weekend coming up. We meet with our Peterborough friends on Saturday lunch time at the beer festival at Peterborough, and on Monday we are casting off and enjoying a day cruising towards Leicester with David and Pat on their canal boat. Important decisions have been made: who is bringing what for lunch and a table booked at the pub on our return trip.

Sue Jones

Glington

A small group from Glington enjoyed Peterborough's "Ring for your Supper" evening, as well as going on the half-day ringing outing. Both events proved very popular and Glington looks forward to hosting the "main course" for the next "ring-for-your-supper" meeting in October! Two members regularly attend Castor's Saturday ringing and one member has recently been accepted onto the Bradfield ringing course – more news on her experience in the next edition.



We have been visited by a number of groups seeking to ring the bells of St. Benedict over the past few months, including bands from West Sussex, Lincolnshire Diocesan Guild and the Whiting Society of Ringers. All comment favourably on the quality of the bells; now we can offer new rope(s) as well!

Glinton tower, even in August, is still attracting a goodly number of people to Thursday evening practices; however we are still always grateful to many others who help us out on Sunday mornings or for special events.

Jill Cowcill

Nassington

First of all we must congratulate John Wilson who was presented with a certificate for being a member of the Guild for fifty years. It was presented to him by Bishop John Flack during our 10 am Holy Communion service on Sunday 11th July. It was a very pleasant surprise for him. We wish John many more happy years of ringing at Nassington. We still manage to maintain our fortnightly practices on Monday evenings with the very welcome and appreciated help of ringers from Bulwick and Gidding. We repeatedly try to recruit people who might be interested in learning to ring but without much success at the moment.

Nothing to report about the social side of our tower as it is non-existent. However, we do participate in other towers activities.

We welcome any tower outings that care to ring at Nassington. We have toilet and kitchen facilities.

Keith Underwood

Peterborough St Mary

At our AGM in March we chose St Theresa's as our charity for the year. St Theresa's helps the homeless by providing food and help for the homeless. Our main fundraising event for the year is a lunch which we held in June and we catered for a record number of 70 diners, and raising £800 for this good cause. In addition we sell cards and have a weekly weigh in session to support this worthy cause.

The last weekend in June was a very busy affair. The bell ringers joined other parishioners for a hog roast and a firkin of ale night at the vicarage, hosted by Sharon and Andy, before their move to Street in Somerset. Then a group of us took picnics to the park on 26th and 27th June where we celebrated



Michael Christie's 11th birthday and joined Peterborough festival for a host of performances finishing with the Proms in the Park.

26th July saw us picnicking again in a grand style at Toleshorpe before we went in to see the Shakespeare players in 'Much Ado About Nothing'. It was a beautiful evening, both performance wise and weather-wise. Temperatures of 22 degrees when we reached home at 11.30pm! A big thank you to Tony Evans for arranging this event again.

Marion Joseph, a regular ringer on Thursday evenings, was unable to be with us on that evening as she was not feeling well and she was jaundiced. We were very sad to hear that she was admitted to Peterborough District Hospital the following Thursday and died a week the following Saturday. Her funeral followed within the week as her son had to get back to Canada where he lives and works. We will miss Marion as she was a very reliable ringer and a great lady. We rang a quarter peal of Bob Minor as a tribute to Marion, there may be more quarter peals to follow in the future as ringers become available.

We were sorry to say "Goodbye" to our vicar Sharon on July 4th, not only because she was a great friend to the ringers, but also her husband Andy, had made great progress as a ringer with us. We rang a trilogy of Quarters peals in their honour and the second one, 3 doubles methods, Andy called, and the 3rd one was of 13 doubles methods, the most he had rung! We are looking forward to visiting Sharon and Andy next year and enjoy the delights of their bells and some local scrumpy!

Finally we put on a belated surprise celebration for Geoff Davis's 70th birthday. It was easy to catch him out as we had deliberately planned it for 12 days after his birthday in order to lure him into a false sense of security. Whilst a quarter peal was being rung we were able to smuggle in 40 well-wishers into the downstairs hall at St Mary's and a big thank you to Jayne Ellis for coordinating a wonderful spread to mark this event.

Joan Parker

RUTLAND BRANCH

An active summer programme got off to a good start with the annual 6-bell striking competition at North Luffenham in April. A similar turnout to last year generated eight competing teams from across the Branch, Uppingham A winning by a short



head over Brooke. Our grateful thanks to judges Nick and Helen Churchman (Kettering Branch). In his constructive summing up, Nick focussed on good striking as the essence of good ringing, pin-pointing four points: listen to your bell; maintain good leading; visit practices at other towers – and don't give up! The four quarter peals rung since then are testimony that this latter point has been taken on board

Congratulations to -

- Mary Holmes and helpers on yet another (her 24th) record year for her annual market stall at Uppingham, raising £1,312 for the bell fund. Over the past 24 years she has raised an astonishing total of £17,866. Where there's a will there's clearly a way.
- Arthur Scholes (Harringworth) for his contribution to the Branch both as ringer and as Branch auditor for the past 32 years, sterling service recognised by the presentation of a special framed certificate Although no longer able to ring he has generously agreed to continue as Auditor.
- Miles Dibsall on his award of an OBE in the recent Birthday Honours for services to education. He has an infectious enthusiasm which he brings to ringing as much as to education.

In June 18 members were made very welcome by Robin and Judith Rogers on our second visit to the Cathedral ringing for a special Evensong for the newly installed mayor of Peterborough. We were greatly privileged to be given the opportunity to ring rounds and call changes as well as a range of methods on such an occasion. We hope these visits may become a regular feature in our calendar.

Cardinal Newman said that to live is to change, and to have lived long is to have changed often. How right he was! Only three years ago we welcomed a new member from down-under, Christopher O'Mahony, when he joined the staff of Uppingham School. His evident skills as a ringer and teacher, coupled with an infectious enthusiasm and ability to relate to and communicate with all and sundry, made an immediate impact on

ringing in Rutland. But change has come all too soon with his departure to a new appointment at Harrow School, where we wish him every success. Alan Wordie (Harringworth), who has generously agreed to step into the breach as Ringing Master for the rest of the year, writes: "As Ringing Master Christopher has led from the front in both raising standards and fostering fraternity ... This is what bell ringing is all about. ... maintaining the highest standards whilst also looking after each other. My Guild motto is simply: the pint after practice is as important as the practice".



With that happy thought and Christopher's parting message in mind – "whatever ringing you do, may it be tidy, and may you do it with style, class and grace" – we look forward to an enjoyable autumn.

Giles Hopkinson - Branch Correspondent.

THRAPSTON BRANCH

The branch continues to flourish with well-attended monthly meetings. Deene provided a picturesque setting for a lovely summer's evening ringing at Twywell, Sudborough and Great Addington also enabled beginners and more advanced ringers to practice to a very good standard through the Autumn months.

Wadenhoe was the venue for the branch annual striking competition. Our thanks to Simon Dixon for 'volunteering' as the judge on what proved to be a very windy day. The teams all did well, with the newly-formed 'ladies team' only just being placed into third position by Ringstead Wedding Ringers and Raunds Sunday Service Band.

Another very cold A.G.M at Thrapston saw officers re-elected to all posts and new members joining the branch.

The ringing programme for the year was outlined, including monthly advanced 8-bell practices at Woodford and 6-bell ringing at Ringstead during warmer weather. These have both proved to be well-supported and the more advanced methods have been studiously practiced.

Weldon provided not only welcome afternoon tea and cakes but early spring sunshine as an addition to some excellent ringing.

The beginners group at Woodford have also worked hard, with special thanks to Len, Rachel and Ray for their support in 'learning the ropes' and they were able to ring as a Sunday Service Band for their Rector's retirement just before Easter.

The branch was saddened to hear of the death of Dick Webster from Weldon. Dick started ringing at the age of 14 and continued to be active and faithful throughout his life.

His funeral at Weldon was preceded by half-muffled ringing with many past and present branch members taking part.

The summer outing through the Welland Valley proved to be a very enjoyable and worthwhile day for



beginners and experienced ringers alike. Great Easton must be one of the best kept towers in the area, Weston by Welland were a delightful little ring and Church Langton provided the opportunity for some excellent 8-bell ringing, our thanks to Len Hallifax for organising the day especially the wonderful meal appropriately at 'The Bell' at East Langton – a place thoroughly recommended by all the ringers. The summer Branch meetings have continued to be well-attended, our advanced 8-bell practices continue to progress and the 6 bell practices at Ringstead are able to continue, the bell frame is secure for another few years and the ropes are slowly improving.

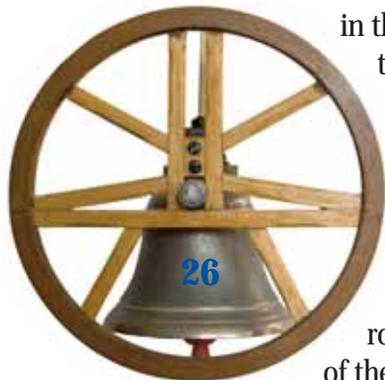
We have a lot of interesting ringing events to look forward to through the autumn including ringing demonstrations at Ringstead and Hargrave and hopefully we can keep most of the towers in the branch ringing well into the future.

Alison Byrnes - Branch Correspondent.

TOWCESTER BRANCH

There is no doubting the recent highlight on the calendar of the Towcester Branch, that being the annual outing which in April took us to the fine city of Oxford. A walking tour so that most of us could use the park and ride and a pub at lunch time, what a perfect idea. We met up at our first tower to be met by Clive Holloway who opened and closed the first four towers for us. St Mary Magdalen is without the City walls and has a good light ten (7 cwt) which we did not disgrace. A short walk past the Bodleian took us to New College where we rose to the challenge of the heavier ten (20 cwt). Getting to the tower in New College is fascinating as one goes through gardens beside the City Wall, through past a turret and along part of the medieval cloisters.

Lunch for some of us was taken sitting in bright sunshine in the garden at the Turf Tavern immediately below the tower. A fair selection of beers was available due to the beer festival tent in the courtyard. This did mean that some of us arrived slightly late at St Giles where we managed to do justice to the rather ordinary eight (14 cwt). The short wait to get access to our next tower, the eight (7 cwt) at Lincoln College, was well worth it. The access route lead us through the College and into the tower of the church, formerly St Martin's and All Saints which



is now the College library.

An easy walk round took us to St Aldate's Church opposite Christ Church Tom Tower where we were met by Katie Lane who let us into our last two towers.

The six (11 cwt) are old fashioned yet an enjoyable sound. The final tower was Carfax where we had to ring after it was closed to the public. This proved to be a reasonable six (15 cwt) which we made good use of.

The majority of us repaired to the Far from the Madding Crowd on Friar's Entry as it left us close to the park and ride bus stop. We enjoyed beer, food and socialising until it was time to get the bus back to the cars.

For an excellent days ringing with good company and refreshments, our thanks go to Richard Allton for organising the outing, to Clive and Katie and the Churches, Colleges and Council for allowing us to ring.

(John Pardoe, Chairman)

During May and August Branch ringing practices were hosted by the towers at Wicken and Whittlebury, between which the annual striking contest vs the North Bucks Branch was held, also on the eight bells at Wicken. With regards to the latter, the contest featured Rounds with Call Changes, Stedman and Plain Bob. As usual, the competition was hotly contested amongst this merry group of friends, our hearty thanks go to the judges, Ian and Alison Willgress, who fairly concluded the honours to go in favour of the Towcester Branch. Notes, observations and comments being exchanged post contest in a local hostelry with sights already being focussed on next year.

Of final note, it was a privilege and a pleasure for the Towcester Branch to host this year's Guild AGM with the service and meeting held in Paulespury church and village hall respectively. From within the branch we hope the attendees enjoyed their day which commenced with ringing at Wicken and concluded in the evening in Towcester itself.

Andy Hartley - Branch Correspondent.

WELLINGBOROUGH BRANCH

The Spring Festival six bell striking competition was held in the Culworth branch at Lois Weedon on April 24th. Rushden were the only tower to enter a team from the Wellingborough Branch and congratulations to them for



obtaining first place with 32 points, closely followed by Heyford with 33.5 points. Rushden were presented with the Weaver Shield for the third successive year. Congratulations are extended to the team of Jim Hedgcock, Brenda Dixon, Simon Dixon, Sarah Hedgcock, Bob Whitworth and Alan Marks.

The quarter peel week which should have taken place about the 14th April unfortunately never happened due to a mix up in communications so that was a non starter and a must try harder for next year!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Bozeat Tower on Thursday 17th June was the place for the annual striking competition; again it was good to see 6 teams competing. We were pleased to welcome Robin Wilson and Paul Reading from the Guilsborough branch who were our judges for the evening and “entertained” us during their summary of the ringing and the results. One point separated the first two places with Irchester in 1st place and Rushden in 2nd place. The other teams taking part were Easton Maudit, Grendon, Bozeat and Finedon. Again, there was a good mixture of supporters, the youngest being a very well behaved 6 week old; while mummy and daddy competed. We expect to see him in the tower in a few years time on the end of the rope.

The branch ringing tour took place on Saturday 17th July to the Bedfordshire area and our thanks to Pam Bailey for organising this event. We are very grateful to her for organising the 3 x 6 bell towers at Haynes, Silsoe and Flitton together with the 2 x 8 bell towers at Maulden and Campton. Approximately 20 ringers made the effort to attend including a number of visitors from Bedfordshire, Kettering and Northampton.

The first ring of the day was at 1.45 p m at Haynes where some ringers struggled with the somewhat “flighty” bells. However, a number of methods were rung including Cambridge. The tower at Silsoe gave a credible performance in a number of methods including London.

The next visit was to Flitton where there was plenty to see whilst the ringing took place. Firstly there was an exhibition of Mathew Paris collected manuscripts to show the Church of England was separated from the Church of Rome. There was also a mausoleum of the DeGray Family which was also open to visitors. It appeared to be a very large mausoleum for such a small village church. It was then on to the first 8 of the day at Maulden and after a number of methods including Yorkshire and 3 leads of Bristol, a picnic tea was taken on the grassy bank of the car park near to the Greensand Ridge Walk.

Suitably refreshed from the short break and light



refreshments the ringers made their way to the 2nd 8 of the day at Campton and finished with a variety of methods including Pudsey and Bristol. A few of the more “hardy” ringers from the party then walked the short distance across the road to the local pub for a welcome drink after an active, hot and enjoyable day. Wollaston Tower had a recent Open evening on their Wednesday practice night as they only have 6 ringers plus the tower captain. Of these, the oldest ringer is 90 years of age and he learned to ring for the 2000 millennium and continues to be a much valued member. With holidays and illness it can be a struggle on occasions to place a team for the Sunday Service ring at 10.15 a m and hence the decision to give the Open Evening a try. The event plus a little information about the tower and members was advertised in the village magazine. As a result, approximately 10 people called in, ranging in ability from quite an accomplished ringer, a teenager with a little experience to complete novices. The practice is always geared towards being as enjoyable as possible with tea and biscuits laid on. The conclusion was that it was a very worthwhile event which has helped to raise their profile, to make contact with the locals and hopefully will retain some ringers. In order to progress these ringers, the Tower Captain has started an additional practice on a Monday night which is much appreciated by those attending and I know that many of them are enjoying the challenge!. Please log on to the web site www.wellingboroughbranch.org.uk to view the forthcoming calendar. Visitors and members are welcome to attend any of the sessions

Tanya Clayton - Branch Correspondent.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER'S PIECE

St GEORGE'S DAY

Libby Alexander has taken on the national promotion of St George's Day by bellringing. In 2010 there was not much of a response from our diocese although there were dedicated quarter or full peals at Everdon, Irthlingborough, St Mary Peterborough, Rushden and Welford.

BBC Radio Northampton was one of 25 local radio stations to feature bellringing on the day. They interviewed Geoff Stretton of Eydon about the Culworth Branch's special ringing which started



at Eydon at 6pm, Woodford Halse 6.30pm, Chipping Warden 7pm and Culworth at 7.30pm.

Because April 23 falls in Holy Week in 2011, Libby proposes that Bank Holiday May 1 becomes the ringing day.

RADIO

Colin Sampson of Holy Sepulchre, Northampton 'appeared' on Radio Two and withstood three minutes as mystery campanologist guest on The Chris Evans Breakfast Show on Wednesday, June 23. Well done the doughty ringers who got up very early to have four or five rows of Grandsire broadcast live!

LEAP INTO LIFE

The Braunston Monday Club had a visit from Deborah Griffiths of Northamptonshire County Council Adult Learning Dept on July 12. She is leading the department's Leap into Life scheme, which seems to build on the NHS Trust Wellbeing scheme, to keep people busy and in good physical and mental health. She intends to promote bellringing on the SchoolofEverything.com website, with any queries initially routed through me. I look forward to a deluge of enquiries to pass on to branch ringing masters!

GUILD SHIRTS

I'm pleased to report that orders for three shirts of two types, two colours and two inscriptions have been received when writing with 29 days to go

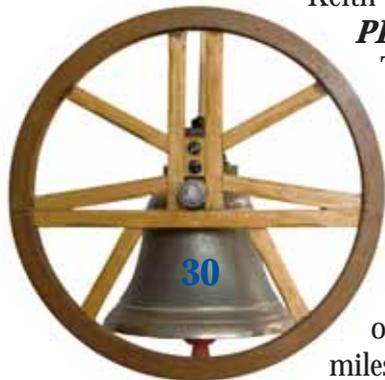
CAMPANOPHILE

Several of you will already be aware that Pamela Pohling-Brown of the Peterborough Cathedral band has been appointed editor of the www.campanophile.co.uk website. Please send her reports with nice pictures of your local ringing news. If it's easier for you, send the details to me by post or to pro@pdg.org.uk and I will pass them on to the Ringing World, Campanophile, Cross Keys etc as appropriate.

Report below was published on Campanophile by PP-B 2/5/10 with report from Keith Underwood and photo via me from Sue Jones.

PDG Braves Mud to Raise Funds

The turnout was good and around 30 riders attended. The weather did stay fine for us despite a bad forecast, though the surface conditions were pretty grim with lots of standing water and muddy areas. Riders and cycles were filthy after we had completed the ride but we all enjoyed it. There were two ride options, 16 miles or take in the peninsula for 24 miles. Quite a few did the 24 miles. We had a coffee



break around five miles into the ride, very kindly provided by Sue Jones, Sue Parker and Pat and David Teall, and very much appreciated. We all stopped from 12 noon onwards at the Horse and Jockey at Manton for lunch (we sat outside and ate as we were too filthy to sit inside!!) before we continued on to the Whitwell Country Park for the finish. Riders with a traditionally wide range of sartorial style assemble at Whitwell, keenly awaiting the start (well, all right, more like resigned to their fate).



In the right foreground, L-R: Murray Coleman (Rothwell), Tony Evans (Peterborough Cathedral and St Mary's Peterborough) and Andrew Parker (Bulwick).

Keith Underwood

SPRING FESTIVAL

It was ideal weather for the Spring Festival six-bell striking competition, which was held in the heart of the rolling countryside of the Culworth branch at Lois Weedon on April 24. Prior to the competition the eight bells at Brackley were available for general ringing. Six teams from across the diocese then drew for order of ringing on the light six bells cast by Bowell of Ipswich in 1924, which are clear to hear inside and out. After a fine buffet tea in the village hall, there was a short business meeting at which Bell Fund grants were agreed for Kings Cliffe (£1850 towards tuning, some new headstocks and new bearings), Empingham (£450 towards frame painting and refurbishment) and Wootton (£175 towards clapper re-bushing). Guild Master, Colin Lee, welcomed everyone and expressed disappointment at the number of entries but added that he was preaching to the converted! He introduced Simon Bond and Michael O'Hagan from Oxford, who judged the competition. After making general helpful comments on each piece of ringing, the judges gave the results as:

- | | |
|---------------|------|
| 1. Rushden | 32 |
| 2. Heyford | 33.5 |
| 3. Rothwell A | 34.5 |



- | | |
|---------------|------|
| 4. Everdon | 40.5 |
| 5. Rothwell 1 | 44 |
| 6. Badby | 50.5 |

Each team received a certificate. The Rushden team was presented with the Weaver Shield for the third successive year.

The day finished with evening ringing on the fine six at Moreton Pinkney to a variety of methods.



Colin Lee, Brenda Dixon receiving the Weaver Shield on behalf of the Rushden team from judges Simon Bond and Michael O'Hagan.



The winning Rushden team: Jim Hedgcock, Brenda Dixon, Simon Dixon, Sarah Hedgcock, Bob Whitworth, Alan Marks



Runners up, Heyford's team: Alison Willgress, Shirley Waterhouse, Jane Rands, Jim White, Gwynneth White, Ian Willgress.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Towcester branch hosted the Guild annual general meeting on June 12. The fine eight bells at Wicken were available followed by the six, all by different founders, at Paulerspury. The service allowed Fr Peter Boyland, curate at Towcester, to take his first service at St James the Apostle, Paulerspury. Having handled a rope once in Belfast, he learned the truth of the phrase "Don't panic!" and found it appropriate to base his well prepared address on numbers. He let us know that desputed Douglas Adams saying in *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* that 42 is the number from which the meaning of life, the universe, and everything can be derived. Taking us through a range of rabbinical commandments, Peter showed us that commandment number 203 - love your neighbour as yourself - is the most important.

A splendid tea was served in the nearby village hall. The meeting took its usual course. 50-Year Membership Certificates were to be presented to Brain Yeomans; Cecil Swann; Mollie Care; Joan Parker; John Wilson; Geoff Davis and Samuel Chambers but none of the recipients were present at the meeting.

The Treasurer summarised the accounts as showing the Guild and Bell Fund to be in healthy condition. The first two of three excitements came when the election of officers reached Master and Secretary, both incumbents having given plenty of notice of retiring from their post after four years service. Despite much canvassing, there had alarmingly been no proposals forthcoming before the meeting. After the President had thanked the outgoing Master for his work and presented him with a gift, it was with relief and acclamation that the fifty members present found that they were able to elect Ian Willgress (Nether Heyford) as Master. The President then thanked Sarah Bence for her hard work and support and again made a presentation. The President then had another trick up her sleeve and proposed that Sue Jones (Bulwick), be elected as Secretary. This was again received with acclamation. All other officers were re-elected except Derek Jones (Sue's husband) who wished to retire as a CCCBR representative after 27 years in post. No candidate was immediately forthcoming, but a suitable volunteer can be elected at either the next Summer or Spring Festival.

Alan Chantler produced the third highlight with his incisive and humorous account of the CCCBR meeting held at Derby in May. The President announced that the General Management Committee had set up a working party, comprising Simon Dixon, John Pardoe, Geoff Pullin and



Judith Rogers, to review the future level of subscriptions within the wider context of the share retained by branches.

The meeting ended in good time and ringing on the twelve bells at Towcester was brought forward by half an hour. The new Master took charge of twelve and ten bell ringing before the adjournment to The Plough, where ringers greatly outnumbered those watching the England v USA football match on the screens.

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Retiring Master, Colin Lee, passes the badge of office to Ian Willgress



New Secretary, Sue Jones; President, Brenda Dixon; retiring Secretary, Sarah Bence

RIDGMAN TROPHY



On a typical March day, but it was actually June 19, ten Guild ringers gathered outside the University Church of St Mary the Great in Cambridge knowing that they were drawn as the first band to ring out of nine entries in this year's Ridgman Trophy inter-association ten-bell striking competition. As requested, we were in good time to ring for the judges to check that they could hear the bells well enough from their third floor perch in a nearby building. When it appeared that twelve ringers had already ascended the tower, our leader made

her upset clear. News soon reached us that most of those who had already ascended were not ringers at all, but a group from the large throng of tourists! All twelve bells, tenor 24 cwt, were cast anew in 2009 and hung in a new frame. They proved to be a fine ring. After a good practice piece just before 12 noon, our judged version was jittery and not so good! We then had until 5pm to listen to the others, refresh ourselves at the Castle Inn and keep warm and dry.

At 5pm after the church was closed to all the tourists, we sat at the front of the long nave where the judges were introduced by organiser Alan Winter. Paul and Kate Flavell of Kingston upon Thames said that they had expected to have a hard job judging teams representing the whole of East Anglia and southern home counties and were not disappointed! Kate is currently Vice-President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. They adopted a positive marking system for the set test piece of a half course of Cambridge Surprise Royal, by awarding for every change 2 marks if correct, 1 for a small trip and 0 for a full clip.

Kate gave a commentary on the ringing in the order that the teams rang. Paul added the time that a peal would take as an indication of the speed of ringing and gave the number of points awarded out of a maximum of 400. The results were:

<i>Team</i>	<i>Peal speed</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Placing</i>
Peterborough Diocesan Guild	3h 34m	327	4th
Lincoln Diocesan Guild	3h 18m	289	8th
Bedfordshire Association	3h 17m	316	6th
Essex Association	3h 36m	323	5th
Hertford County Association	3h 32m	356	1st
Suffolk Guild	3h 40m	335	2nd
Ely Diocesan Association	3h 16m	274	9th
Norwich Diocesan Association	3h 25m	328	3rd
Cambridge University Guild	3h 30m	307	7th

So we came 4th, by one point, out of the nine participants, better than 3rd out of 6 last year! The next competition will be in Ipswich using the back ten bells of St Mary le Tower on June 18, 2011.



Our band in order of ringing left to right. Front: Geoff Pullin (treble), Carole Pullin, Brenda Dixon,

Simon Dixon, Robin Wilson; back row: David Westerman, Nick Churchman, Murray Coleman, Alan Marks, Colin Lee (tenor). Photo by Alan Winter.

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100 CLUB

100 Club Winners

Month	1st Prize	Number	2nd Prize	Number
MAR 10	£38.80	24	£9.70	14
APR 10	£38.00	27	£9.50	22
MAY 10	£36.40	03	£9.10	112
JUN 10	£36.40	125	£9.10	84
JUL 10	£39.60	26	£9.90	01
AUG 10	£39.60	29	£9.90	112

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.

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

As can be seen, the membership has increased in July thanks to the efforts of the representatives.

Derek Jones.

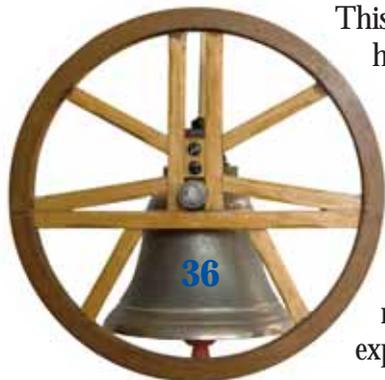
BOOK REVIEW

The New Ringer's Book - by John Harrison and Catherine Lewis

Central Council publication

This book has been a long time in preparation, but it has been worth the wait.

A modern full colour cover and spiral binding make an initial impact, and this appeal continues throughout the book. There are three sections: Ringing Skills; Developing Your Ringing Career; and Interesting Information, as well as a glossary, making it is both a book for a learner, new to ringing, and a useful new guide to the more experienced ringer. 'Don't expect to read it cover to



cover, dip into it when there is something you need to know'. These are the valuable comments on Page 6.

There is a very clear explanation of all the components that go into proper bell control and is very good on why things happen. The use of pictures, cartoons and colour coded boxes gives good clear guidance, enhanced by excellent colour photos taken from videos to catch the movement of ringing.

Chapter 3 is of particular interest, dealing the vexed questions of raising, lowering and chiming! There are many useful illustrations to supplement the written tuition.

Certainly there is invaluable advice for the beginner, advice that I hope instructors will also use when teaching. There are useful illustrations on dos and don'ts; how to stand, how to catch the sally and where to put your hands during each stroke. Many experienced ringers could find these of value, too!

The book goes well beyond initial tuition and picks up certain points which are often not made: how to help yourself, ringing beyond your home tower, what lies ahead in your ringing career.

If every new learner and his or her instructor can have access to this book, the future of bellringing will be in very good hands! I highly recommend this excellent publication to all instructors. Make sure that YOUR tower has a least one copy, it will be money well spent: £9 inc p+p.

Hilary Aslett

Available from:
CC Publications
Mrs Barbara Wheeler
2 Orchard Close,
MORPETH
NE61 1XE



Have you looked up www.pdg.org.uk lately ?



Latest and recent **Guild Newsletter** are there for all to read



There is a list of **Guild Officers**



The all-branch calendar shows regular **surprise major practices**



There are direct connections to **branch** and other **ringing websites**



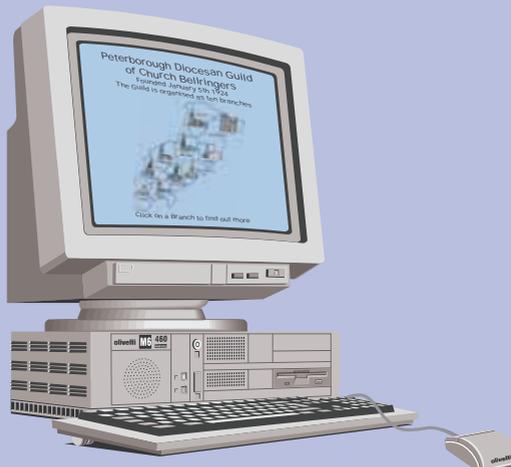
There is a section to help **tower publicity**



There is now a section about the **Bell Fund**



There is a copy of the **Guild Badge** for documents or posters



GUILD EVENTS 2010

18th Sept

Guild Summer Festival and Branch Eight bell Striking Competition - *Guilsborough Branch*

4.00pm - Competition Ringing at Long Buckby tower open at 3.30pm. Followed by tea from 4.00pm and business meeting in adjacent church rooms.

Evening Ringing - East Haddon (6) from 7.30pm

Team conductors please inform Ian Willgress, Ringing Master (Tel:01327 341666) of intention to participate by Saturday 11th September.

The draw will be made in advance based on the entries notified to the Master.



