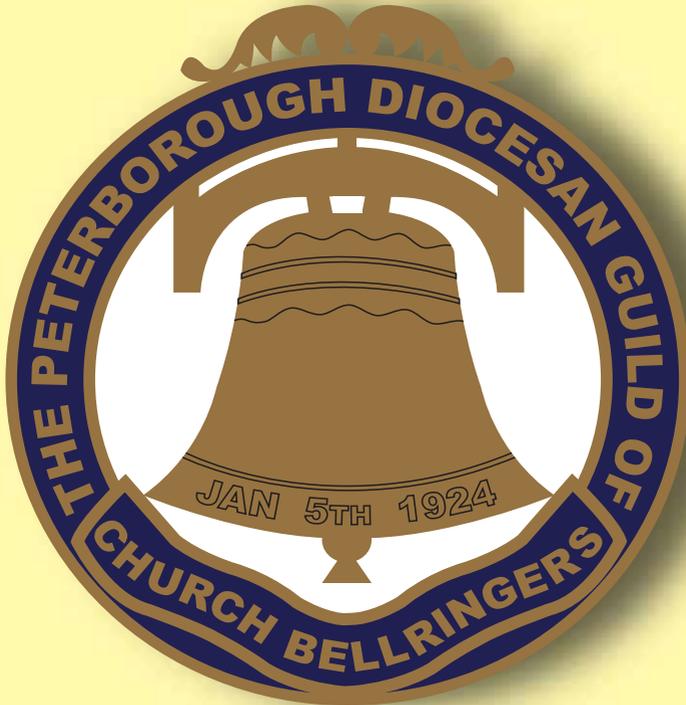


PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD  
OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS



*Newsletter*  
*March 2014*

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

*The deadline for the next Newsletter is : **31st August**  
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](mailto:christopherpearson@btinternet.com) or Tel : 01536 420822

## The President's Piece

This is my last president's piece. It doesn't seem like nearly 10 years that I have been in the post, where does the time go?

Many thanks to all who have supported the Guild in any way during that time and especially thanks go to all of my fellow officers for all their hard work. Being a guild officer is not always easy particularly when others, appear at least, to think they can do a better job but never offer to do so.

During the last 10 years I have seen a dropping off of ringers attending Branch and Guild meetings on a regular basis. The most often heard reason is that they are too busy but those who do attend are usually busy people too. This is a shame as interaction between ringers is important and keeping in touch with emails or on social media is no substitute for a chat and cup of tea or a pint. Since my last piece it has been brought home to me how important it is to think of one's life as a precious gift and to make the most of every day. During this time my older brother lost a leg and my younger sister died very suddenly which was a great shock. We never know what's just round the corner.

As I write this it is raining (what a surprise!). I hope the weather improves soon and that we will have a good Spring and Summer. Very best wishes to you all and happy ringing

***Brenda Dixon***



## Stewards Stuff

I have been in the role of Steward now for six years and just realised that during all this time, I have never written a piece for the Guild Newsletter - so, I thought it time I did something about it.

Is it worth the wait, well I will let you decide that one!

Like me getting round to writing this piece, it can sometimes take a long time for things to happen and this can be for a number of reasons. This is most certainly the case when it comes to bell restoration projects. Looking back during my time in office we have seen a number of projects which have come to a positive conclusion after a tower has been silent, or near unringable for some considerable time.

There are two projects come to mind which we have seen in recent years: At Stanion the four bells sat on the floor of the church for over 30 years when the good fortune of a legacy made their restoration possible. Not all schemes benefit from a single large sum and it is down to constant hard work and the dedication of individuals that makes a project come to fruition. The bells at Charwelton being rehung after many, many years of fund raising is a good example. This is only two examples of projects undertaken with twenty one major grants being approved over the past six years.

It is great when a large project brings a ring from the brink of being unringable and puts them back in a condition which will last the parish many years. However, we should also remember the small projects because the value they can add can be significant. For example, the installation of a rope guide at Kilsby has allowed ringers who were previously finding the bells increasingly difficult to ring able to carry on ringing with a set of bells which are much easier to ring.

Through all this the Guild Bell Fund has assisted in making all these projects, both big and small come to a positive conclusion. Every penny raised will have a positive impact on projects with a grant of just a few hundred pounds making the difference between a project happening or not. We all raise fund by various means: be this a sponsored walk, or buying some raffle tickets – whatever it is, it will make a difference. You could also do what many people have done over the last few years and purchase a pot of Nick's jam! All this has raised over £550, which is enough to virtually cover all the minor grants paid out during 2013.



Thanks for your purchases and I hope you enjoyed eating it as much as I did making it.

However, it not all about restoring, it is also about protecting. There are times when we have to work to ensure we do not loose what we have. Currently the church at Ufford with a perfectly ringable set of four bells is under the threat of redundancy. Working with the DAC the Guild is trying to ensure a good outcome for the bells when the church actually comes redundant. Another example of a good piece of work by the Guild involves the bells at Glapthorn. Like many churches, they wished to install a toilet and kitchen in the base of the tower which was going to interfere with the ringing of the bells. The church initially wanted to rehang the bells as a chime as they felt they could not be rung anymore. Following a meeting, the idea of installing a ringing floor has resulted in the design being amended with the installation of the floor now nearing completion.



*Myself and Alan Marks handing over the grant cheque to Keith Doughty at the dedication of Stoke Doyle on February 2nd.*

What ever comes our way as ringers be it an opportunity to restore a ring of bells to as new condition, or to ensure that a ring of bells have the best outcome due to churches becoming redundant, the branch stewards and the Guild are working hard to ensure that bells are here for future generations to ring and enjoy.

*Nick Churchman*



# *News from the Branches*

## **Culworth Branch**

This year,s A.G.M took place on Saturday 18th , January at Upper Boddington. Ringing took place from 3 - 4.p.m, on the easy going ring of six bells. The service was skilfully conducted by the Rector, the Rev'd Stevie Cross and Ron Goodie, the Boddington tower captain read the lesson.Ron's Brother in law, Eric Bates accompanied the very hearty singing on the new Hi -Tec organ.

As usual a delicious tea was served by the local ringers in the Village Hall, which was duly followed by the meeting.

During the meeting this year there were several fare-wells, firstly many thanks was given to his long service as the Branch Ringing Master, who was also congratulated in his new position as Guild Ringing Master. (A first for the Culworth Branch, I think) Secondly, Angela Whitfield resigned in her absence as Branch Secretary, and the position was kindly taken up by Chris Skermer of Marston St. Lawrence (A keen branch ringer for a number of years). Thanks were given to Angela for her hard work and to Chris for stepping in. Ian Chapple of Whitfield kindly agreed to stand and was duly elected as the new Branch Ringing Master.

As usual Marlene Phillips of Aynho spoke on Farthinghoe bells, which still sit on a floor up in thier tower.

Aynho was presented for a second year with the Presidents Cup, This tower has maintained an active tuesday practice night which alternates between the towers of Aynho, King Sutton, Croughton and Evenley.

Finally a vote of thanks was given to Ron Goodie, Kate Colles, Margaret Moore, Chris Colles and Peter Marsh for providing the fine tea.

### **CHANGE OF BRANCH PRACTICE TIMES.**

As agreed at the A.G.M, the times of Branch Practices would change when the clocks go back to Greenwich Mean time in October.

from 3 - 4.30 p.m on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

The first first Branch Practice to be held at the new time took place on Saturday 15th, February at Whitfield. This was very well attended with over 20 ringers attending, and a good standard of ringing taking place.

During British Summer time the Monthly Practices will take place from 7.30 - 9.p.m.



## **THURSDAY PRACTICE.**

The Thursday evening Practice which generally rotates between Chipping Warden and Woodford Halse is still attracting a good attendance.

There are occasionally venue variations with some Practices taking place at Culworth and Sulgrave with a visit to Preston Capes (Daventry Branch) back in the summer. For details and weekly up dates please contact Geoff Stretton 01327264489.

## **UPPER BODDINGTON.**

It must be said that the small very faithful team of ringers who meet at Boddington from 7.30 -8.30, p.m, on Monday evenings not only have a very full practice, but are slowly but very surely progressing well. Good striking is achieved and the ringing is enjoyed by all who attend this friendly practice.

*Graham White - Culworth Correspondent.*

## **Daventry Branch**

### **SOCIAL**

Janet organised another branch dinner at Barby in October for 31 members and family. Christine kept us occupied between courses with another competition: part 1 - the patron saints of branch churches (Geoff won with 25/28); part 2 identifying small-range photos (won by Ian Willgress whose combined ability to recognise bell items and scrutinise food and equipment got him 16/17).

The weather was unexpectedly good on October 12 for the walk and ring planned by Alison Willgress that replaced the monthly meeting. After sampling the improved handling due to the rope guides at Litchborough, we set off cross-country to ring at Church Stowe. It was downhill across the fields to the canal towpath and flat to Nether Heyford for the final ringing before a hot tea in the redecorated Parish Room organised by Jane Rands. 23 people were involved during the day with 14 walking the whole distance and a dozen ending up in The Olde Sun before collecting vehicles from various parts of the route.





***Left to right: Geoff Pullin, Christine Rodhouse, Shirley Waterhouse, Val and Richard Hartley, Jim White, Alison and Ian Willgress, Jane Wincott, Ann Maud, Jane Rands, Jackie Bailey, Gwynneth White, Chris FitzGerald, Alison Buck. Andy Timms took the photo at Church Stowe.***

**PEOPLE**

Rev Liz Cowley retired after 11½ years in the Daventry Team. Her last Eucharist at Staverton on August 25 was attended by 184 and followed the Scottish Episcopal Liturgy. Several of Rev Liz's ringing family joined in ringing before the service. Afterwards a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor was conducted by Rev Liz's brother Stephen Shipley and after the celebratory buffet, another was rung by the family.

A peal of Oatfield S Major on August 31 at Weedon was a compliment to the golden wedding of Barry and Pauline Thompson (Byfield) and included Roy Woodruff, the couples friend of many years. A celebratory quarter peal at Byfield for the same occasion didn't quite make it to the end but the thought was there!

Pam Eve, tower captain at Kilsby since the Millennium, died on August 25. Kilsby church was full for the memorial service on September 3. Pam's life revolved around horses and show jumping. At a Harrogate show she came second, beating Princess Anne into third place. The music on exit was 'Post Horn Gallup'.



Carole and I went to Bridport on November 1 to meet 8 others involved with my Barrow-in-Furness bells project and afterwards local ringers joined in to enable us all to ring at Lyme Regis. One of the 'locals' was John Harding (ex Newnham), who, with Elizabeth Gwynne visiting from Braunston, we were able to congratulate on becoming engaged recently.

Rev Kenneth Ward, who was Rector of Holy Cross from 1958-1982, died on November 22. The eighth peal at Daventry was rung for his induction as Rector of Daventry on March 22, 1958. In 1965, during his incumbency, the bells were restored and augmented to the fine ten that we all know. The 523rd peal at Daventry, Lincolnshire Surprise Royal, was rung in December 2012 especially for his 90th birthday.

On December 27 a peal of seven surprise minor methods was conducted by Colin Lee at Dodford. It was specially arranged to belatedly celebrate the life of John Day (1944 – 2010) who was the enthusiastic churchwarden while Richard and Harold were restoring the bells.



Ron Fonge died on December 29. Ron was a ringer at Flore for well over 50 years and tower captain for many of those until his 80th birthday in 2007. He was buried after the funeral on January 17, which was preceded by half-muffled ringing and a dozen or so ringers were among the full congregation. June Fonge sent her best wishes to the ringers. She has been living at Kilsby House since Ron went into hospital before Christmas.

## TOWERS

With Hugh Johnson unable to climb, Richard Waddy and John Neale have kept activity at a high level. On October



17, nine Brownies and later 15 Guides visited the tower. They had a go ringing the simulator, watching the muffled 7th ringing in the bell chamber and walked plain hunt with handbells across the

floor. They were most impressed with a demonstration of the front six being raised, rung and down in peal.



A similar programme was used for a group of 32 girls and supporters from Ashby Fields' Rainbow Group visit on November 18.

Ten bells announced the Daventry Deanery Advent carol service. The next lunch time, the front six greeted the Grange School to its carol service. Then rounds and call changes on eight were made possible when Gaynor Yates, the Head Teacher, rang for the first time outside Hellidon! Braunston Monday Club started late that day and consisted of open ringing for the 4pm after-school Christingle service attended by around 200 children and families.

The bell, cast by Thomas Mears in 1839, that was held in the ringing room at Daventry after the church of St James, Daventry was demolished around 1960, was given to Byfield at the time of their bell restoration. It was never used at Byfield, so on February 5 a working party, under Richard Waddy's direction, hoisted the bell back into the ringing chamber. The bell was weighed during hoisting as 2cwt – 2qrs.

New Year was marked appropriately at least at Badby, Barby, Braunston, Byfield, Nether Heyford and Weedon. Hellidon claim to have rung out the old year at 10am on Tuesday!

## MEETINGS

During 2013, 103 different people rang at branch functions and 157 attended. 29 different people rang in the 37 branch organised quarter peals. On Ride and Stride day at Badby, ringers arrived at 10am to ring a quarter peal to mark Carole and my 40th wedding anniversary – the only notice we had was a phone call at 10am to say the bells were ringing for us, now that we were at home! Visiting ringers from Banstead arrived at 12.40pm and then the branch assembled from 3pm for more ringing! Rev Viv Baldwin took our service with member Eleanor Ramsbotham at the organ. In our prayers we remembered Pam Eve and Denis Pearson. After tea, we elected Jo Chappell and Helen McWilliams as new members for Byfield before 15 assembled at Weedon to ring a variety of methods. November at Welton saw 21 climb the ladder. Graham White took our service with Toc-H founder Reverend Tubby Clayton featured in his address. Member Cliff Mortimore played the organ. A good tea, prepared and served by village ladies organised by Harold Thompson and lots of donated home-made cakes at tables resplendent with maroon tablecloths and flowering cyclamen. We elected Christopher Lunn as a student member from Nether Heyford. Carole told the steward that he did not have time to report anything as she was in a hurry to get to Rugby! This suited him well! There were



16 at Rugby including John Goddard who kindly met us. The heavy bells caused some challenges that were good for experience.

Byfield hosted our December meeting and carol concert. When the key arrived by express messenger, (after a slip up as a result of the Byfield ringers also being involved throughout the morning with the fund raising Big Breakfast served in the village hall), the bells were swiftly raised. They kept going till 5pm and again from 6.15pm till 7pm with plenty of variety and ending with a nice course of Bristol S Major. We were pleased to see Ian and Val Calvert whilst on a pre-Christmas visit from their new home at Tiptree. The buffet tea in church included hot soups. Elaine Leslie was elected a new member for Weedon. The Rector of the Five Ways Parishes, Rev Stevie Cross, introduced, gave an address and led prayers during our concert attended by around 50. The Byfield contingent's presentation was a splendid spectacle. Music was provided by a quartet: Alison (Eb tuba) & Abi Buck (viola), Alan Rodhouse (trombone) and Mara (flute) with Michael Haighton (organ or keyboard). Deena and Hugh served the mulled wine.

At our Branch AGM at Daventry, ten bells were rung all the time. With Michael Haighton at the organ, the Rev Canon Michael Webber took our service, in which we remembered Ron Fonge. A generous tea was served in church. The Guild Master was welcomed to the meeting. Gwynneth and Jim White offered to be joint Report Editors but Ted Garrett then announced that he was retiring from the post of Guild Peal Secretary. So there were still two posts seeking a candidate! Barry Thompson gave a vote of thanks especially to Richard Hartley who was retiring as Steward after 9 years of sterling work and Elizabeth Gwynne retiring from the committee after 15 years. Sue Merrett (and her companion Bella) was elected as an unattached (floating - narrow boat) member. Officers were re-elected but nobody was available for the post of Steward, so we are still looking. In the evening 25 gathered to ring, including the Guild President and Treasurer.

In February at Whilton, a short orderly meeting elected Ed Mortimer as a new member, doubling our waterborne (currently moored at Braunston) and our Canadian membership! At Braunston in the evening there were 20 ringing from rounds to Ipswich S Minor. A dozen occupied The Plough afterwards plus a rope from Heyford on its way for a tail transplant!

### **SPECIAL PRACTICES**

In September, the first monthly branch 10-bell Tuesday practice got off to a crashing start – the clapper fell out of the 9th and became embroiled with the 8th rope. So after sorting out, Carole reverted to 8 bell ringing on 1, 3-8 and



10! An interesting evening but not what was planned! All was put back together on Wednesday morning. From then we usually manage call changes, plain hunting, Grandsire, Stedman, Little Bob and Yorkshire. The October practice attracted 13 including a rare visit by Bob Sinclair. In November there were 15 and in December just ten so there was not much time to sit down, but Carole relented and finished with a course of Bristol S Major. We welcomed Alistair Donaldson and Helen and Jo in January.

## QUARTERS

We have been very active this half-year:

August 11 – Plain Bob Major at Weedon conducted by Ian Willgress rung as a compliment to Geoff and Carole Pullin on their Ruby Wedding Anniversary. (Thanks!)

September 8 - Plain Bob Royal at Daventry conducted by Ian and dedicated in thanksgiving for the lives of Denis Pearson (see above) and Michael William Baker, Justin's father.

September 13 – Kent TB Minor at Nether Heyford conducted by Gwynneth after a wedding. Brian Clark (Everdon) rang the third for his first of treble bob.

September 14 – Plain Bob Major at Crick conducted by Ian in response to an invitation to ring especially for Crick Feast.

Low attendance at three Flore Monday practice nights in September led to quarter peals, all conducted by Ian Willgress, to help Ann Maud (Flore):

16 - Plain Bob Doubles with Ann on second – a birthday compliment to Alison Willgress

23 - 5-doubles methods – a birthday compliment to Ann (treble) - both without tenor behind

30 - Plain Bob Minor – first inside to minor for Ann (2nd)

September 21 – Grandsire Triples at Wicken as a warm up for Guild Summer Festival later in the afternoon.

Unfortunately we didn't settle so well on the back eight at Towcester and didn't win this year. Must try harder!

October 11 - Barry Thompson (Byfield) rang the treble at Badby to a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor for his first of minor, conducted by Gwynneth White.

October 13 - Oxford Treble Bob Major at Cottesbrooke, conducted by Ian.

November 5 – Nikki Butt (Welton & Staverton) rang her first quarter, treble to three doubles methods at Staverton conducted by Phil Saunders and rung as a thank-you compliment to Margaret Rees who donated the new door for the tower stairs.

November 7 – Christine Rodhouse (Litchborough)



conducted her first quarter peal, ringing the second at Norton to Plain Bob Doubles. November 19 - Simon Creasy (Welton & Staverton) rang his first 'inside' on the third to Plain Bob Minor at Staverton conducted by Phil Saunders.

December 1 - Lincolnshire S Major, conducted by Ian at Crick.

December 3 - Brian Foley conducted a quarter of Plain Bob Doubles at Weedon, in memory of Neil Burrows who was once a ringer at Weedon.

December 6 - Dorothy FitzGerald (Farthingstone) rang her first quarter of surprise, ringing the second to Cambridge Surprise Minor at Moreton Pinkney, conducted by Gwynneth.

December 8 - Mara Griffiths (Daventry) rang her first quarter at first attempt, ringing the treble to Plain Bob Triples at Daventry before the Christingle service, conducted by Jim White and reported as a celebration of the life of Rev Ken A Ward.

January 3 - Ros Atchison (Barby) rang her first quarter peal of minor on the treble at Flore. It was also a thanksgiving for the life of Ron Fonge, conducted by Gwynneth.

January 5 - 3-spliced surprise major at Whilton, conducted by Ian.

January 8 - 5 doubles methods at Litchborough, most methods for Davina Buckle, conducted by Phil Saunders.

January 20 - 5 doubles methods at Flore, in memory of Ron Fonge, ringer and former Tower Captain at Flore, by a local band, conducted by Ian.

February 9 - Lincolnshire S Major at Long Buckby conducted by Ian.

## **TAIL END**

After a series of problems with ropes from the usual supplier, I recently bought a new rope from Avon Ropes. It took 8 months from order to delivery but they knew I wasn't in a hurry. The cost was higher but the tail is of hemp, which is smoother to handle and less stiff in damp weather. You're welcome to come and try it! If anyone has Mendip Ropes' or the new 'home-made' Taylors ropes in use, I will be interested to hear.

*Geoff Pullin - Daventry Correspondent.*

## **Guilsborough Branch**

### **Marston Trussell.**

The new bell in memory of Paul Armitage is now installed and in working order, after a lot of hard work by Geoff Armitage with the assistance of Alistair Donaldson and Robert Palmer.



The service of dedication was conducted by The Rev.d Janet Donaldson (Alistair's wife) and the bell dedicated and blessed by The Right Rev.d John Holbrook , Bishop of Brixworth , on 24th November. The Bishop hope to return and hear the bellringing this year. Bell inscribed “ MY NAME IS PAUL. COME WHEN I CALL.”. The first ringing was during Christmas 2013

## **Lilbourne.**

### ***Update as at February 2014.***

Following the 2012 successful 5 bell restoration project , 2013 hosted the March branch meeting of the PDG & in subsequent months several peals by visiting bands. During the year the rope guide frame work was raised higher up in the ringing chamber allowing improved bell handling characteristics. Towards the end of the year members of the well established Yelvertoft band included Lilbourne into their Friday evening practice.

As a result of considerable interest both by ringers and local parishioners alike , January 2014 heralded the re-introduction of a pilot ringing practice on the 1st & 3rd Thursday from 7.00pm – 9.00pm(7-730 for beginners). On all occasions great enthusiasm has been demonstrated with an increased knowledge base of ringing.

To further improve the ringing environment within the chamber , local members have installed sound proofing carpets on the upper floor level the ground floor , as well the spiral stairway door , thus reducing cold down drafts to the individual standing at the second bell position. Pure wool bell rope mats and slight tweaking of rope lengths finished of the enhancements.

An un-official website has been set up to inform

interested people as to what is occurring not only within our three churches of Yelvertoft , Crick & Lilbourne but slightly further a field into local areas. The website is called [ringing.yelvertoft.com](http://ringing.yelvertoft.com) . It is in it's infancy at present but is hoped that it will progress and evolve in the coming months. Many thanks to Nick Hiams a returned ringer , whose keen input was immensely valuable in setting up this site

Quarter Peal Day commences at 10-00am Lilbourne on Saturday 15th March 2014.

Robert Palmer has worked hard to achieve this.

## **Crick.**

The bells are now back in action following the masonry work on the spire and tower , A big clean up operation has been undertaken by Geoff Brown and the benefice



practice band now meets every last Friday of the month 7-30pm – 9-00pm. It is hoped to encourage more of the Crick population to join the ringers.

*Dorothy Westerman - Guilsborough Correspondent.*

## Kettering Branch

The past few months have seen some interesting events for the Kettering Branch. In September we held a half day outing, taking in three interesting local towers. We began at Stanion which was originally a ring of four bells. This tower had not been ringable in living memory with the bells being lowered in the early 1970s due to their dangerous condition. The bells were restored and augmented to 6 in 2008 and are rung from the ground floor. We then went on to Lower Benefield. This 6 was declared unringable in the mid 1990 due to corrosion of the bell frame, thought to be caused by smoke and gases emitted from Corby steel works. The bells were rehung in a rebuilt frame in 2011 and are rung from an upstairs ringing room. Finally we went to Deene. After being unringable for 25 years the original 5 bells were rehung in 1949 and augmented to 6 in 1951. The church was declared redundant in 1980 and the bells are rarely rung these days. A good crowd of ringers enjoyed the afternoon and thanks are due to Nick Churchman for his organisation.

Our October meeting was billed as an 'Improve Your Striking' event and was held on the simulator at Rothwell. Only 9 members were able to attend but this gave us a chance to have an individual turn ringing one bell while the computer 'rang' the other six with perfect striking. The computer scored our performances and we were impressed with the very creditable scores achieved by some of our less experienced ringers. Thanks to Mick Wallis for leading this most enjoyable afternoon and demonstrating his point that everyone from Desborough is late at backstroke!

In November Bill Adcock polished up his whistle for our annual Beetle Drive. We began the evening with a ringing session at Desborough, with so many people attending that there wasn't room for everyone in the ringing room at once. We then enjoyed a splendid hot supper provided by Helen Burt and her team of helpers before getting down to the frantic dice-rolling. As always it was a very competitive but most enjoyable evening and thanks are due to Bill Adcock for keeping us all in order.

In December we met at Rothwell again and twenty six members enjoyed festive refreshments, thanks to Jane Marsh and Helen Churchman, as well as a busy afternoon ringing.

Our AGM was held in January at Stoke Albany. A couple of years ago we had to abandon an AGM planned for there because the road was blocked by snow. This time



we had a contingency plan but it was not needed and 23 of us enjoyed ringing, a service and a tasty hot supper (thank you again to Helen Churchman) before settling down for the meeting. We were delighted to elect thirteen new members to the Branch and we look forward to welcoming them at future meetings. The retiring Treasurer - Helen Churchman - and joint Ringing Masters - Chris and Frances Pearson - were thanked for all their work on behalf of the Branch. Margaret Buchanan was elected as the new Treasurer. There were no nominations for the post of Ringing Master and it was agreed that the committee would arrange for this to be covered on a rota basis, giving a number of people chance to try out the role.

Prior to the AGM we issued a questionnaire as we had realised that less than a third of our members attend any Branch events. We wanted to find out if there was anything we could do differently in the new programme to better meet people's needs. Responses were sent in by some people who did not attend the meeting and the discussion at the meeting gave the newly elected committee some ideas to take to their planning meeting later in the month. We look forward to the events they have in store for us.

Kettering Branch issues a monthly communication - the Kettering Klapper - with details of forthcoming events and other news. If you would like to be included on the distribution list please email: [thewallisfamily@hotmail.com](mailto:thewallisfamily@hotmail.com)

*Deb Wallis - Kettering Correspondent.*

## Northampton Branch

We have continued to tick over well since the last Guild

Newsletter went out. The Branch Annual Dinner was the usual success at the White Hart Hackleton, Thanks to Trevor for organising it once again. The Branch monthly practices continued with the usual support, but as usual we miss a December practice due to everyone being over whelmed the their own church christmas services, and all deserving a well earned rest until the AGM.

The Branch AGM was held at Boughton, with a decent tour out considering the awful weather that night, and i think that if i was not already there when the heavans opened i might have had second thoughts to. A lovey hot cup of tea met us all as we arrived, with some decent ringing on a nice ring of 5, a great hot evening dinner was laid on but the local ringers, with home made fruit



cake and fresh cream cakes for desert. thank you Boughton for your hospitality."

***Mark Rogers - Branch Chairman***

## **Peterborough Branch**

Another busy six months have passed with record attendances at our eight-bell Branch Practices at St. Kyneburgha's Castor. The ringing has covered everything from rounds to six-spliced surprise by representatives from across the branch. In September James Thorpe, our Ringing Master, organised an outing to six towers 'south of the river'. It was a beautiful day, the lunch was excellent and the bells varied and enjoyable. All those who went along are looking forward to a repeat performance this year.

Our AGM was held at St Mary's Peterborough on January 18th. Afternoon ringing was followed by a service led by Rev'd Michael Moore after which we all sat down to a magnificent hot tea prepared by the local band. Replete, we began the business meeting by standing to remember members who had passed away during the past year. The Chairman, Tony Evans, explained his decision to step down as Chairman and the members expressed their gratitude to him for his quiet but effective leadership. David Teall was elected as Chairman and Nick Elks joined the committee, otherwise the officers remained unchanged. The health of the branch was demonstrated by the election of 9 new members.

### **Peterborough Cathedral**

Peterborough Cathedral ringers have had a good Christmas season ringing for many services through Advent and over Christmas. The usual formula is ringing every Sunday morning, and quarter peals twice a month in the afternoon and for special occasions.

One service we rang for was a Business and Shoppers Lunchtime Carol Service. The Dean said it was the best attended ever and that many people said that they came called by the bells ringing. We tell the clergy, "we are the loud voice of the Cathedral": it seems that we are. We rang for Geoffrey Gent's Golden Wedding celebration at Eucharist.

We had Thrapston and Peterborough Branches ringing creditably for Evensong and requests are now coming in for Branches to ring in 2014. All Branches are most



welcome: 2nd and 4th Sundays are best for us. To the Guild: these are your bells, please help us ring them.

Practices are well supported ringing from rounds through Surprise Royal to Grandsire and sometimes Stedman Cinques. We welcome and encourage people at all levels and always strive for good ringing.

A largely Guild band rang a peal of Cambridge Royal for John Riley's 60th birthday. We have rung 12 quarter peals for services since September with a good range of ringers and methods (Surprise Major and Royal, Grandsire Cinques, Plain Bob Royal). Sadly sometime Assistant Ringing Master Ros Knight died in October aged 63.

### ***Robin Rogers***

### **Peterborough, St. Mary**

We welcome Alex Dyer as our new Ringing Master in place of Andrew Christie who has held the position very ably for many years.

We are pleased that William Field and Nadia Teffah, both very keen learners, have joined us on Thursday evenings. They have both rung their first quarter peals with us, Will first inside and Nadia first on the treble. Simon Ellis has also rung his first quarter on the treble to triples. Congratulations to them all.

We were saddened to hear on January 31st of the death of Ossie Roberts, at the age of 100. Ossie started to ring with us in 1989 when we were ringing at Castor because our old church was in the process of being demolished to make way for our present building. Ossie tried for several weeks, but then decided that at the age of 75 he had left it too late to start. He remained very interested in all that we did and was very pleased when we made him an honorary member.

It was our turn in January this year to host the Branch AGM. A hot meal was served to about 40 people who enjoyed ringing on our bells before and after the service, tea and the AGM. The service was taken by our vicar, the Rev'd Michael Moore.

We ring regularly on Thursdays, 7.30 – 9.00pm and Sundays from 9.15 – 10.00am. Visitors are always most welcome. Peals and quarter peals can also be rung by prior arrangement.

***Joan Parker***

### **Bulwick**

At the end of November twelve of our regular ringers met in Blatherwycke for drinks and then moved on to the Queen's Head in Bulwick for their annual tower dinner, always a riotous occasion. A taxi was booked to



take the Weldon contingent home but was one seat short. I wonder who walked? Prior to Christmas we celebrated our Tower Captain's birthday in fine style, the pork pie was a sight to behold and tasted even better! Then came New Year's Eve when we all met up again in Weldon to enjoy a right royal repast courtesy of Sue and Derek.

Despite all this eating we do manage some ringing and produced a creditable show for all the Christmas services. Our practices continue to be well attended with a regular 12 and often a crowd of 15 which can be a tight squeeze in the winter months. Our range is quite wide with Spliced Surprise being achieved not infrequently. Mr Keck has worked hard to increase our repertoire of plain minor methods with Frodsham and Single Burton Penwardine to name but two and Mr Jones has recently introduced us to King Edward and Netherseale (is this a double glazing company or a form of incontinence device?).

***Pat Teall***

### **Glaphorn**

The PCC has managed to secure full funding for the church improvements (a total of over £50,000), which include raising the ringing floor to accommodate a lavatory in the base of the tower. The work is scheduled to start in early summer.

***Pauline Davidson***

### **Glinton**

Since August, we have rung for two weddings and welcomed one visiting band from Oxfordshire to ring the bells.

The Bishop of Brixworth came to St. Benedict's Church on Monday 30th September to take a service of confirmation. After a plea sent out on PetNet, we were able to field a full band to ring after the service. Many thanks to all those who responded so positively.

Christmas time was as busy as ever with the Christmas Tree Lights switch-on, service ringing and our own tower celebration. Sadly, Mrs Whitton, of Manor Farm in Glinton, passed away just before Christmas so the bells were rung, half muffled, for her funeral in the village.

A milestone for our youngest ringer came shortly after Christmas, when Alexander Guest rang his first quarter peal, supported by as many of the Glinton ringers as were available at the time. He rang Plain Bob Doubles from the treble in 48mins (see Campanophile entry 172131). A visit to the BlueBell with his Dad afterwards set the tone for his ringing career! We were indebted to other ringers who were on "stand-by" to help out and those well-wishers who came to support.



We have recently been joined by two experienced ringers as well as two beginners, swelling our numbers quite considerably and extending the range of methods we are able to ring. Visitors from the branch have also assisted us, as well as the band from St. Mary's who have joined us a couple of times recently and are always most welcome. We are often joined by ringers from Lincolnshire whose talents are always appreciated.

As always we are indebted to our many non-resident ringers who continue to help us out for special events as well as stalwart members who regularly arrive for Sunday morning ringing – often travelling quite a distance to attend.

If you would like to join us any Thursday evening from 7:30pm you will always receive a warm welcome.

***Jill Cowcill***

### **King's Cliffe**

Our band has been greatly enhanced by the arrival in the village of an experienced ringer from further south in the diocese. This has enabled us to produce some good quality ringing for Sunday Service, managing a course of Cambridge on more than one occasion.

We were able to produce a band for all the Christmas services despite the problems of multi-tasking which hamper our efforts at times. Christmas Eve saw our latest recruit ring for her first service and we were delighted to be able to propose her as a member of the Guild at the AGM. She is now ringing Plain Hunt and will undoubtedly go from strength to strength.

***Pat Teall***

### **Nassington**

Our band are all regular church-goers so we manage to ring for most services and we have a practice night on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays of the month when ringers are available. If anyone would like to join us they would be most welcome but please contact me to make sure we have enough to be able to ring. Our two new ringers have been attending the Castor training on Saturday morning for a considerable time now and are making good progress. Work has still got to be carried out on the bell frame in the near future but we have the all clear to carry on ringing for the time being.

***Keith Underwood***

### **Oundle**

On Sunday 5th January a band, led by Bob Gardner, rang



before Richard Ormston's last service in Oundle. He has moved on to be Archdeacon of Northampton. As always, the congregation commented on how nice it was to hear the bells so we are renewing our efforts to establish a regular practice night again soon. Two new ringers, Pat and Sue who live in Oundle, have been learning on Saturday mornings at Castor. They have been making excellent progress and look forward to ringing with us.

A new rope has been fixed to the spiral staircase up to the tower, which makes ascents and descents much safer and easier.

*Pauline Davidson*

### **Warmington**

There was great excitement in Warmington tower on December 22nd when all of the new ringers who have been learning here joined forces with their teachers



and visiting friends to ring for the village Carol Service, our very first ringing occasion as a team. Alex calmly organised the numerous people crowding the tower so that every single one of us, including all the novices, had an enjoyable time ringing. We were complimented by the large congregation, many of

whom said how good it was to hear the Warmington bells ring out once more.

After a fund raising effort in September we managed to get together enough money to buy a new set of ropes and these were put up in January by John and Yvette. We hope they may improve our ringing. -eventually.

Ringling continues on Friday evenings and we are all very grateful for the support we are given by Alex, John, Yvette, Nick and Elaine who have been patiently teaching and encouraging us.

*Sylvia Upex*

### **Castor Ringing Centre**

The Castor Saturday morning ringing school is entering its 8th year of continuous training of novices through to method ringing. During this period we have had about 70



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

We occasionally hold specific training days for branch towers, a couple of years ago we held a Bob Minor day and last year we had a Train the Trainers course. Before Christmas past and present trainees and trainers met up at ‘the Feathers’ for an excellent Christmas Lunch.

*Tony Evans*

### **Electronic Communication**

The Peterborough Branch has its own website at [www.petbells.org.uk](http://www.petbells.org.uk) on which details of all forthcoming events can be found alongside details on every tower and a list of practice nights. We also make extensive use of an email list called ‘PetNet’ to which the majority of members are subscribed. If you are one of the few who are not on this list please contact either the Branch Secretary or Chairman via the Home Page of our website and ask for your email address to be added.

*David Teall*

*Pat Teall - Peterborough Correspondent.*

## **Rutland Branch**



Brevity being desirable in routine reports of this kind I was momentarily tempted to follow the example of one such report (not bell ringing) I saw recently which simply said that 2013 had been an uneventful year. But that would have been a cop-out because I have no reservation in reporting that ringing in Rutland remains in good heart. Our membership totals 110; of the 31 towers in the Branch 17 hold regular practices (sadly stopped at Whissendine though local ringers attend Branch 6-bell practices). Quarters were rung at Uppingham and Rhyall on 1st January 2014.

If an army marches on its stomach so, evidently, do ringers ring on theirs. Since meals have become a standard feature of outings attendance at Branch activities have increased significantly. The autumn tour of Barnack,

King's Cliffe, Wittering, West Deeping, Market Deeping and Greatford was particularly well attended, members enjoying the opportunity to ring in the foreign territory of other Branches. "Ring fish, Ding splish" in November was an enjoyable variant on ring for your supper, featuring the tempting Chip Shop in Cottesmore.

Teaching and learning is the focus for 2014, with Alan Wordie, our indefatigable Master, encouraging experienced ringers to be bold and develop their skills as conductors and teachers. Building on positive experience gained last year there was another accredited course aimed at building confidence to teach bell handling. "We can all improve our ringing by preparing for practice and spending a little time learning methods, particularly those wishing to move on from plain bob doubles" urged Alan at the January AGM, at which he also singled out tower captains for "special thanks for keeping this wonderful art alive".

And so say all of us!

*Giles Hopkinson - Rutland Correspondent.*

## Thrapston Branch

Looking back to the Exciting Ringing Events of 2012, including Jubilee Day and Olympic Ringing, 2013 in the Thrapston Branch has definitely been of a quieter hue.

From September quite a number of our members had experienced a new phenomenon – retirement, for a variety of reasons. There was then the opportunity to enjoy such experiences as 'no-rush' practice nights, relaxed mid-week ringing groups, quarter – peal days and low-cost travel facilities.

Our Annual Striking Competition' took place in October at Wadenhoe. If there is a quintessentially English Setting for Ringing Wadenhoe in glorious early Autumn Sunshine must be it.

The Ringing Masters were a little concerned that not enough ringers would be available but we needn't have worried. The event turned out to be one of the best attended striking competitions for a number of years. Our judge, 'Len Hallifax' commented on the particularly high standard of striking and the quality of the methods rung. Following on from the Striking Competition, the Branch was able to ring for Choral Evensong at Peterborough



Cathedral. This was a great opportunity to give the less experienced ringers a chance to ring on a higher number of bells as well as enjoy the glorious choral music of evensong. We hope this can be an annual event in our calendar.

November brought a very special event in the form of our Annual Branch Dinner. There was a change in venue this year and over forty members, friends and families met at Hargrave Village Hall with a truly memorable meal provided the ladies of Hargrave W.I. It was a wonderful evening and our thanks go especially to Dennis Thrift for all his organisation, especially in sorting out the Bells from China!

December had us meeting again at two towers. The mighty eight at St. Peter's Raunds rang out for the first part of the afternoon, then we moved to the little four at All Hallows Hargrave for a very pleasurable ring and Christmas Tea.

A very successful A.G.M. at Titchmarsh brought us to the new ringing year with confidence. Several of our members have achieved their first quarter peals both inside and out and on six and eight bells. Congratulations to everyone.

On a sadder note we learnt of the death of Les Witten in Clanfield Nursing Home at the age of 97. Les' funeral took place at St. James' Thrapston on December 19th. It was an honour to ring half-muffled for Les both at the beginning and end of the service and to see many past and present ringers there. A quarter peal in Les' memory was rung later in January.

Les started his early life at Titchmarsh and many of his reminiscences of Titchmarsh in those early 20th Century days are included in the Titchmarsh Book. No-one is quite sure whether Les learnt to ring at Titchmarsh or Wadenhoe, but evidence seems to suggest he was recruited to Wadenhoe in 1937.

Les was a very faithful ringer at Wadenhoe and later Thrapston. He served as Branch Ringing Master and Secretary for over 10 years and it was only when old age and infirmity caught up with both him and Annie that he had to cease ringing.

Our thanks go to Peter Fleckney, who succeeded Les as Branch Secretary, for a very fitting tribute to Les. It was published in the 'Ringing World' in February and sums up Les's many achievements.

We have also been able to welcome several new ringers to the Branch this year and we hope they will continue to enjoy all their ringing experiences for many years to come.

We have also been delighted to have St Rumbald's at Stoke Doyle back on our 'Ringable Tower' List.

The five historic bells were cast in 1727 from the bells of an earlier gothic church. The bells were cast by Thomas



Eayre of Kettering and are almost unique as a 'Maiden' Ring, being virtually untouched since being hung.

Now the bells and bell frame have undergone a full refurbishment by Messrs Whites of Appleton.

At Candlemas the Branch Officers were delighted to attend their re-dedication by the Dean of Peterborough. It was a lovely service and a very special privilege

to ring the bells. Long may they continue to ring out over the Nene Valley.

As hopefully Spring approaches as a Branch ,we look forward to another very Happy Year of Ringing.



***Alison Byrnes – Assistant Ringing Master***

***Dennis Thrift – Press Correspondent.***

## Towcester Branch

Towcester Branch was pleased to host the Guild Eight Bell Contest and Summer Festival in September. The event was believed to be a first for two reasons: the first time the contest had been held in Towcester tower; and also the first 8-bell competi-



tion on the back eight

since they were installed in 1992.

A classic "Taylor Eight", they were originally cast in 1897 and hung previously in

Christ Church, Todmorden, Yorkshire.

Five teams competed, with Towcester going first and despite nerves put in a creditable performance with some well-struck Grandsire Triples. There was a fine running buffet during the afternoon assembled by John and Penny



Pardoe and their team. The local band was a good representation of five towers, and it was encouraging to note that the two youngest ringers had learned to ring within the Branch. Alan and Joan Payne from Lincoln Guild were judging and it was a delight for Towcester to be awarded the Harry Wooding trophy for the first time since 2000, with Kettering coming a close second.

President Brenda Dixon opened the Guild meeting that followed, with the vote of thanks being proposed by Paul Bennett from Evenley for the Culworth Branch. Afterwards, ringing on the fine twelve bells was organised by tower captain Richard Allton. It was well supported and ranged from call changes to Cambridge Surprise Maximus. Over 20 made their way to the Saracen's Head to end a good day.



*Eight Bell Winning Team*

October saw the Branch six-bell competition hosted by Blisworth, when bands from Greens Norton and Pattishall fought it out, Pattishall being the victor. We then decamped to Whittlebury, where Peter and Evelyn Nicholson had prepared the Reading Rooms ready for us all. Starting off with excellent fish and chips fresh from the van outside, we had a short Branch Autumn Meeting and the result of the striking competition was announced. This was followed by a very enjoyable quiz set by our Chairman, Richard Yates, ably supported by Claire Yates.

The winners were a team from Whittlebury, Towcester and Greens Norton, winning on a tie break.

Two Branch practices were held in August at Ashton, and in November at Wicken, which on this occasion was a joint practice with the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Guild. The annual Branch Dinner was held in October at the refurbished Saracen's Head in Towcester, where the function room remains decorated with bell wheels as chandeliers and on the walls. Under such appropriate decoration over 60 members and guests were entertained by the ringing toast to the church, this year executed ably on handbells by Chris & Margaret Bullied and Nigel Williams. Rev Angela Watkins, vicar of Blisworth, responded with an array of recollections of encountering ringers (and their occasional foibles) and thanked all ringers for the service they provide to the Church. The toast to the guests and visitors was proposed by Jonathan



Stuart, one of the Branch's more recent recruits, and responded to valiantly against an increasingly noisy disco by Tina Marchbank, proposing the toast to the society. The evening concluded with the raffle, which raised £142 for the BRF. As usual a grand evening out was had by all and our grateful thanks go to Chris Bulleid for arranging the event.

Greens Norton welcomed us for our January AGM this year. Jim Linnell opened up the Church for the afternoon ringing which was followed by a Ringers' Service lead by the Rector, Rev Ben Philips, who gave a splendid address. He was cajoled into staying on for the scrumptious tea which was provided in the Church by Penny Pardoe and Betty Linnell. One new member from Potterspurty was elected at the Meeting where the Branch officers were re-elected and the programme of events for the year to come was approved.



*Award of 6 Bell Trophy to Pattishall*

Sue and Derek Jones represented the Guild, and they are regulars at many Branch events. Members retired to the Butchers Arms for refreshment after the evening ringing at St. Bartholomew's.

In February, also in Greens Norton, over 20 Greens Norton Scout Cubs visited St Bartholomew's church for an introduction into bells and bellringing. The very lively cubs proved to be very interested in all aspects of the interactive presentation which covered how bells are made, the biggest bells, and how the English art and science of change ringing differs from those practised by other cultures and religions. A plain hunt on three bells was performed by three volunteer cubs with a handbell each. All the cubs were then given a practical demonstration of ringing the bell up, each had a go at the backstroke and then they had a go at ringing rounds on six handbells. Nigel's presentation was supported by a number of props including a model bell and a model Bat Car (Batman was of course a leading ringer at Gotham City Cathedral!)

The cubs were given a quiz sheet afterwards and many sharp cookies scored 9's and 10's out of 10. We are hopeful to get a handful of cubs sufficiently interested to learn to ring at Norton. Thanks to Betty for the drinks and biscuits,



and to Jim Linnell, John Lovell, and Penny Pardoe for helping out.  
Details of all towers and practice days at <http://www.towcesterbranch.org.uk/>.

*Jonathan Stuart - Towcester Correspondent.*

## Wellingborough Branch

As the Wellingborough Branch has no correspondent at present we, a couple of committee members, are cobbling this together on our way to an outing!!!! Our September meeting saw us at Castle Ashby and Yardley Hastings where we had visitors from as far afield as Maidstone and Durham. Our cup of tea/coffee was accompanied by so much excellent cake, provided by Tony's wife, we struggled to ring afterwards! In October we held an evening practice at Irthlingborough where a small but committed group of ringers had a good practice ranging from Rounds and Call Changes to Superlative and in November a training afternoon was held at Wollaston with a good attendance and more excellent cake, courtesy this time of the Wollaston ringers. In January cake featured highly once again, thanks to Jean and friends, this time at the AGM held at Irchester, which over 40 people attended. All posts were filled apart from Press Correspondent; Tanya Clayton had filled this post since 2000 and felt it was time for a change, we are very grateful to her for all her hard work and hope we can find someone to fill her shoes. Jude Coulter from Ecton joined the Committee, the first committee member from Ecton for many years.

(I wonder if she can write????!!!)

A cold, blustery afternoon in February saw a low attendance at Ecton for the training afternoon but hopefully those who did venture out had a good ring and, of course, a slice or two of the excellent cake Charlotte and Jude provided!

There will be no Farmers' Market ringing for the next few months as Higham Ferrers' bells have been taken out prior to their reanging and augmentation. Denis Pearson, who sadly died in September, would have been very pleased to see the project come to fruition.

Congratulations to Harvey Welch of Yardley Hastings on his first quarter peal in September. When a member of the band had a nose bleed before the attempt began Tim Wooding gamely stepped in, ringing his first quarter for over 30 years, sitting on a stool!! Tony Finke, also from Yardley, rang his first quarter of Bob Minor inside, Jude



Coulter of Ecton and Trevor Bonham of Bozeat both rang quarters of Bob Triples on the treble, their first of triples and since then Jude has rung one inside, Paul Bailey rang the treble to Bob Minor, his first on 6, Pete Dyer of Mears Ashby rang his first quarter of Bob Doubles inside at Orlingbury and finally Tom Coles of Rushden rang his 100th quarter. Well done to them all. The Branch Quiz, held at Earls Barton in December, was won by our regular visiting team from Bedfordshire by  $\frac{1}{2}$  a point. Thanks to John and Brenda for setting the quiz and Brenda for providing an excellent supper with puddings by committee members. As usual this event is always well attended. Finally if you enjoy ringing and a slice of homemade cake you can do no better than to attend one of our meetings, you will be made very welcome!

For further events log on to [www.wellingboroughbranch.org.uk](http://www.wellingboroughbranch.org.uk)

*Jenny Ball - Wellingborough Correspondent.*

## Public Relations Officer's Piece

### SUMMER FESTIVAL

The weather reverted to dry and warm for the eight-bell inter-branch striking competition on September 21. It was hosted by the Towcester branch and the competition took place on the back eight bells. Only half the branches were able to field a team so there was no great rush to start when the wedding party cleared the church by 3.40pm. The home team went first and the other four followed on in the usual manner. There was a fine running buffet during the afternoon assembled by John and Penny Pardoe and their team. We assembled in the church at 5.50pm for business. President Brenda Dixon opened the meeting making sure that we all knew that former Guild Steward Denis Pearson had died and his funeral had been on the previous Wednesday. The vote of thanks was proposed by Paul Bennett from Evenley for the Culworth Branch.

The 100-club draw produced the unusual result of 1st and 2nd prizes being drawn as 41, Cecil Swann and the 3rd prize to 49, Dorothy Stopps.

We agreed to the Steward's proposal to make a grant of £10,640 from the Bell Fund towards the £106,364 project to restore the frame and fittings and add two new bells at Higham Ferrers, which unfortunately Denis did not live to see through.



Murray Coleman thanked all the branch helpers and those who sold and bought summer draw raffle tickets and proceeded to draw the 23 prizes.

Secretary Sue Jones introduced Alan and Joan Payne who had been judging the competition. Alan is Master of the Lincoln Guild. Alan expressed surprise that all teams had rung triples and then gave brief comments on each team and the faults accumulated. Certificates were handed to a representative of each team in reverse order:

5. Wellingborough Branch -50 faults
4. Daventry Branch -49 faults
3. Peterborough Branch -43 faults
2. Kettering Branch -33 faults
1. Towcester Branch -31 faults.

The Harry Wooding Trophy was presented to John Stanworth for the Towcester Branch to hold for the next year, the first time since 2000.

Master Phil Curtis thanked the judges and presented them with gifts of wine.

We were advised that the 2014 Guild events will be the Spring Festival on April 26 in Guilsborough Branch (probably based at Spratton); Annual General Meeting in the Northampton Branch and the Summer Festival in the Daventry Branch. Paper quiz sheets have been distributed to branch secretaries to sell at £1 each. In devising it, Derek Jones has used the theme of places in England. It is



not specifically ringing-related to widen sales.

Ringing on the fine twelve bells was organised by tower captain Richard Allton from 6.25pm until 8pm. It was well supported and ranged from call changes to Cambridge Surprise Maximus. Over 20 made their way to the Saracen's Head afterwards to end a good day.

### **Website - [www.pdg.btck.co.uk](http://www.pdg.btck.co.uk)**

I have adding new things to the Guild website over the last six months. Have you had a look recently? At the end of 2013 there had been 4,371 'hits' with the most popular pages being: Branch Officers, Latest Guild News, Tower Information and Bell Maintenance. Please send me any alterations, additions or news.



Things that you may not have found on the Guild website yet:

- ❖ 'Belfry Praise' hymn music to print out
- ❖ Bell Fund description
- ❖ Bell maintenance information: bell, frame, rope suppliers.
- ❖ Competitions rules, results – Weaver Trophy, Harry Wooding Trophy and Ridgman Trophy.
- ❖ Latest Guild News - frequently updated.
- ❖ Quiz sheet answers
- ❖ 100-Club monthly draw
- ❖ Logo for use on posters etc.
- ❖ Making Progress (links to other websites about methods, conducting, compositions)
- ❖ Newsletters back to 2009
- ❖ Peal Board suppliers
- ❖ Shirts - Specifications and Order Form to print out
- ❖ Constitution & Guild, Branch and Bell Fund Rules

### **St George's Day**

Ringing for England is again promoting that as many towers that can ring for St George's Day – Wednesday, April 24. Libby Alexander writes:

Such is the growing interest by the general public that a PR company has most generously come forward to help broadcast the efforts made by all bell ringers to a far wider audience and engage with people of note to help spread the word. And part of this exercise is to engage and inform people in the media (eg: cricket correspondents!) that most certainly something is very definitely happening. In turn this has a knock on benefit of reminding the public how fortunate they are to have in their midst so many volunteer bell ringers who form an integral part of our communities, which, again in turn, will hopefully encourage new ringers to come forward.

The more towers that ring out the more the public will hear and the greater the campaign will become and then as night follows day we will have a truly nationwide event.

This is such a worthwhile cause with a hugely untapped groundswell of public support which will be my role to play in and inform. I will keep you all informed of progress and in return, in order to help me help you, I would very much appreciate it if I was kept up to date with what the towers hope to do on the day.

Last year more regional radio stations and regional newspapers covered the occasion than before. I am hoping with the PR company on board we can now inform a far wider nationwide audience and gain their support and goodwill.

Rutland Branch have again included special ringing in their programme. What about your tower? Please



remember the effectiveness is far greater if you let the press or radio know well before the day what and when you are going to do.

### **Recruiting**

Gwynneth White thinks that the substantial bequest to the Guild by Malcolm Tyler and allocated to training could provide the Guild with apparatus to attract new recruits. The Bell Fund has done a good job in keeping the bells of the diocese in good and better order, now we need more ringers to keep them ringing. Gwynneth is researching the acquisition of a 'Wombell' single simulator bell for use at village fairs, town markets, school events etc to provide a have-a-go attraction. The storage, deployment and operation still need to be looked at and whether a branch, branches or the Guild should be involved. In the meantime we hear that Alistair Donaldson of Welford has a mini-ring of eight bells stored in his garage. What do you think?

## **GUILD CUISINE**

### ***Recipe for oaties from Margaret Bulleid***

as sampled at Summer Festival 2013.

#### **Ginger Iced Oatie**

##### ***For the base:***

12 oz rolled oats  
3 tsp ground ginger  
6 oz margarine or butter  
6 oz soft brown sugar  
3 tbsp golden syrup

##### ***For the soft ginger icing***

2 oz margarine or butter  
3 tbsp golden syrup  
6 oz sifted icing sugar  
1 ½ tsp ground ginger

Mix the rolled oats, ginger and sugar together. Melt the margarine and syrup together and stir into the dry ingredients. Spread the mixture evenly into lightly greased swiss roll tin. Bake in moderate oven at 180°C for 20-25 minutes. Set aside to cool.

For icing: Melt margarine and syrup together and stir in the sugar and ginger. Cool, and allow to become firm, then stir and spread over cooled base. Cut into triangles or squares when cold.

***Margaret Bulleid.***

***Geoff Pullin PRO***



# Guild 100 Club

Month	1st Prize	Number	2nd Prize	Number	3rd Prize	Numbers
<b>Sept 13</b>	51.00	41	25.50	41	10.20	49
<b>Oct 13</b>	38.40	17	9.60	28		
<b>Nov 13</b>	38.40	91	9.60	09		
<b>Dec 13</b>	40.40	25	10.10	63		
<b>Jan 14</b>	41.20	119	10.30	104		

*Derek Jones.*

## Other News and Events

### 2013 Guild Quiz

There were 69 entries received this year, compared to 43 in 2012. Six entries had 100% correct answers from whom three were drawn at the Secretaries meeting for prizes. Ten entries scored 99, nineteen 98 and twelve 97.

The most frequent mistakes were:

Q7 is Bideford (Bidddy ford!)

Q14 A Proud Salopian is born in Shrewsbury, properly within the bend of the Severn – as the infirmary has been a shopping mall and flats for many years, there are few of us around.

Q30 (A) Bolt-on

Q69 Fleetwood Mac – pop fans may remember.

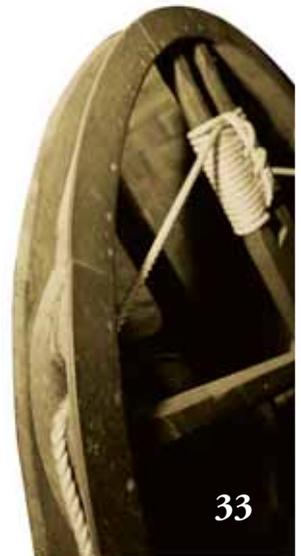
Q72 Hexham i.e. six pigs.

Q83 Dungeness – the RHD is the Romney Hythe and Dymchurch railway.

Q84 Clowne is in Derbyshire.

Thanks to all who sold, bought or submitted answers, and I hope you will try the 2014 quiz now being prepared (with no errors this time hopefully), on sale after the Guild Summer Festival. Not all the monies are in at present although over £300 is in so far.

*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 2014

**19th Apr**

## **Guild Sponsored Ride/Walk *Rutland Water***

**CYCLISTS:** assemble at Whitwell Country Park, north shore for 10.30am start. Route is approx 25 miles (with a shorter 18 mile option). Cycle hire available.

More details from Keith Underwood on 01780 784343.

**WALKERS:** Park and assemble at Lyndon Visitor Centre on the south shore for 10.15am start. Route approx. 5 miles, but can be extended to 6 miles if feeling energetic

More details from Monica Spence on 01572 820199.

**Pub lunches available at the Horse and Jockey, Manton.  
(Routes supplied on the day)**

**26th Apr**

## **Guild Spring Meeting - *Guilsborough Branch***

The festival and six-bell striking competition, open to all towers in the Guild.

**4.45pm** Striking Competition at Crick (on back 6 bells).

**14th Jun**

## **Guild AGM - *Northampton Branch***

Ringing at Holy Sepulchre.

Service, tea, meeting and evening ringing

**20th Sept**

## **Guild Summer Festival - *Daventry Branch***

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



