

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD
OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS



Newsletter
March 2015

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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 2015
Please make a note of this date in your diary

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

The President's Preamble

Hello!

Since the last newsletter, I have managed to get to six branches for a meeting or practice and another for the Guild training session. Carole and I thank you for welcoming us in the true ringers' tradition.

I have pressed the Executive into bringing forward the minutes and agendas for the February and March Guild committee meetings and hope branch officers didn't mind being inundated with paperwork as soon as they were re-elected or elected! The aim is to give us time at the General Management Committee to discuss bright ideas! Amongst others, I'm looking for things we can do to attract more members to Guild festival days. My branch's carol concert was accompanied by organ, piano, flute, clarinet, trombone and tuba – all branch members. Could we add a concert, or even a largest onion or best marmalade competition or pantomime? Any other ideas and initiatives gladly welcomed!

At the end of last year the Guild lost two of its former officers.

Geoff Pick, Treasurer from 1996-2004, died aged 80 in Scotland in September and there was a memorial service at Woodford in December.

Shane Saunders, Report Editor from 2004 until giving up through ill health in 2012, died in November, aged 59. His life was hindered by illness since he became diabetic at the age of 17 and he suffered the long-term consequences of this in recent years, becoming increasingly limited in what he could do. He had been report editor for the Hertford County Association as well as their General Secretary for over 20 years before moving to Peterborough in 2002. Our best wishes go to his wife, Anne, and children Philip and Natasha.

Owen Warren of Stoke Goldington, died in December. He was a member of the Oxford Guild for 80 years. Owen made the fine model of a bell and bell frame that is now the Harry Wooding Memorial Trophy and currently on display in Daventry tower.

By the time you read this, the winter will be nearly over and we shall be looking forward to ringing outings, warmer social events and perhaps



introducing our recent learners to their first ringing expeditions. Enjoy your ringing this Summer!

I was very pleased to see 38 turn up at St Giles, Northampton for the first all-Guild 10-bell practice on January 24, with 8 branches represented. Richard Allton had a busy morning, aided by a good gathering of ringing talent from across the diocese, guiding us through 12 pieces of ringing, ending with a half course of Bristol S Royal. I look forward to more members using the opportunity as it rotates around the nine towers.

Geoff Pullin

gcsspullin@yahoo.com

News from the Branches

Culworth Branch -no news this time

Daventry Branch

Social

Twenty-five came to another successful annual dinner organised by Janet at Barby Sporting Club on October 4. Christine provided a quiz to identify 16 cathedrals. Michael Haighton and Ian Willgress both identified 15 with Rochester as their sticking points.

Our fourth branch Ring and Walk was organised by Alison Willgress for November 22. After ringing at Blisworth, although without rain and in a higher than average temperature, we had to splodge our way to Stoke Bruerne to ring at noon. Those clean enough (one had to await a change of clothing), entered the welcoming Boat Inn for refreshments and food. Most had arranged a strategy for getting back to their cars but six hardy souls slithered back to Blisworth.



A brief pause for the walkers at half-time in the mud, left to right:

Ben (Timms), Chris F, Leanne, Geoff, Andy, Dorothy, Martin Maud, Ian, Moss (Maud) Missing from photo: Alison B, Alison W, Ann M, Carole, Chris L, Jane R.

The traditional Heyford half-term jaunters, met in splendid sunshine at Terling and rang their way to the splendid Old Rectory at Tatingstone for two nights in February. The party of 19, including ex-patriots Ian and Val, used the park and ride before undertaking a very long tour of Ipswich town centre on Wednesday morning, eventually ringing at three towers. On Thursday, after packing up the left-overs from the ample provisions organised by Jane Rands, ringing was at Stowmarket and three more towers before fighting the traffic to get home.



The Jaunt ringers outside Ipswich St Matthew: Carole, Ian, Geoff, Dorothy, Chris, Ian, Shirley, Jane, Peter Leigh, Val, Alison, Liz, Ann, Gwynneth, Jim, Gillian, Barry.

Ringng

Hellidon Tuesday morning practice, with the typical 16 present, was half-muffled on November 11 with a minute's silence announced by Ernie Davidson at 11am in this centenary year of the start of the Great War. After Badby practice and refreshments on December 31, the 'Byfield gang' returned to their own tower to celebrate. Seven ringers returned to Badby tower for diminishing rounds to finish off 2014. The bells were fired 12 times at midnight to greet 2015 followed by calls and lowered in backward rounds with the tenor leading down. Of the 13 non-ringing visitors in the tower, none offered to learn to ring!

The branch ten-bell practices have taken place on the second Tuesday of every month, being run by Carole or in her absences, Jim White. Attendance has been low but useful practice has been achieved and continues – although that for March will be held at Long Buckby!?

Quarters

Sunday afternoon branch quarter peals have continued. In September, Yorkshire Surprise had to be changed from Royal to Major due to no reserves being available and two more reported-in as unfit. In October we were at Peterborough Cathedral to ring Plain Bob Royal. It wasn't just the usual Evensong but the annual service for members of the judiciary and justice services in Cambridgeshire! Yorkshire Surprise Royal was rung half-muffled for Remembrance Sunday at Daventry, as with the others, conducted by Ian Willgress. It was Andy Timms's first of Surprise Royal and Shirley's first of Yorkshire S Royal. In January Rutland S major was successful at Weedon, conducted by Ian sadly in memory of his father, Bevan. First of Rutland for Andy.



After the quarter peal at Peterborough Cathedral on October 5:
the band clockwise from treble at right front.
The quarters on Friday afternoons have also continued, including Sarah Hyatt ringing her first quarter of minor inside to Plain Bob Minor at Bubbenhall on September 19; Plain Bob Minor rung at Chacombe on October 3; at Newnham on November 7, Dorothy FitzGerald rang Grandsire and Stedman; at Woodford Halse on January 9, Brian Clark rang his first of Cambridge S Minor. All of these were conducted by Gwynneth White. The December one was Plain Bob Minor, at Staverton - Christine Rodhouse's first of minor as conductor. It marked the licensing of the Revd Roy Kilford as House for Duty Priest of Staverton, Hellidon and Catesby, by Bishop Donald the next day at Hellidon, when he was also greeted with bells.
Our practice for the Striking Competition was a quarter of Grandsire rung at Long Buckby in the morning of the competition, and had the desired effect!

Quarter peals rung at Harpole: Plain Bob Doubles on November 3, first inside for Andrew Brighty; Reverse Canterbury and Plain Bob Doubles on November 11 -rung half-muffled in memory of the Fallen of two World Wars. Both conducted by Graham Paul.

On November 29, Sarah Waterhouse rang her first quarter at first

attempt at Heyford, ringing the treble to Plain Bob Minor. Gwynneth White was to have rung but was prevented by the unexpected surgery mentioned below.

Litchborough ringers rang a quarter peal of seven doubles methods conducted by Phil Saunders on December 17 for a baptism.

To celebrate the 70th wedding anniversary of John and Rhoda Baxter, who live next door to Badby tower, a quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles was conducted by Richard Piner on January 3.

Meetings

Fifteen struggled to ring at Preston Capes in September and 5 didn't! After a long service, we had a good tea provided by the local ringers in the village hall. Janet announced that she was stepping down as Secretary in January and the Chairman and Branch Ringing Master joined in to prepare for a clean sweep! Later at Byfield ringing included a course of Bristol S Major. Chris Lunn, having just learned at Preston Capes about pulling hard, had to swiftly adjust to easy going bells!

The branch hosted the Guild Summer Festival and eight-bell striking competition at Weedon on September 20. Janet and her helpers organised, supplied and served tea in the Chapter House. The bells were rung for the first time with the new clappers at 2.30pm that day. A grant of £170 towards the work was voted through at the subsequent Guild meeting. By commandeering the locked porch for the two judges, they were able to hear the bells clearly without disruption from the whooshing of overhead trains. We won with 17 points followed by Kettering with 22 points. The Harry Wooding Memorial Trophy is on display in Daventry tower. Evening ringing at Daventry was well supported.

In October, we held the branch five-bell striking competition at Bugbrooke. We were delighted to see 5 young participants in the Bugbrooke and Heyford teams. The Rev Stephen French took the usual inimitable service with specially printed sheets complete with cartoons, funny stories and a snappy hymn to challenge Michael at the organ! We elected Tabby Canole as a new student member for Heyford. Finally Spike and Jenny Thorne gave their usual helpful comments, encouragement and results, presenting certificates in reverse order to Heyford T (T for Tabby) 68 points, Braunston Monday Club 53, Heyford C (C for Chris) 51, Badby Wednesday 48 (including the episode in the middle when the treble rope was up for grabs and the bell partially lowered and raised again), Bugbrooke R (R for Rounds) 43, Badby Sunday 34, and Bugbrooke C (C for Call changes) won with 23 points and received the Ron Woodward Trophy for the year. Nikki and Simon were waiting patiently at Dodford in the evening, entertaining three visitors before we rang methods from plain hunting to London S Minor.





Winning team Bugbrooke C

Jim White, Max Ridley, Colin Ashmore, Peter Wilkins, Gwynneth White.



Jim White receives the Ron Woodward Trophy from Jenny Thorne

The meeting at Kilsby in November attracted 25 and Bristol Minimus came round. Brian Austin grabbed the tower and thus completed ringing in every tower in the diocese! We were pleased to have the Rev Liz Cowley to take our service swiftly in the cold church. Tea in the village hall was organised by Margaret. At the meeting we decided to place an order for the Wombell unit. We were pleased to elect Leanne Martin as a new member from Daventry. Peter Clifton let us in and joined 13 of us at Long Buckby for evening ringing which included a course of Bristol (on 8 this time!) on the ready-raised half-muffled bells.

Some 45 people came along to our December meeting, A very good buffet tea with Chris Lunn sampling and recommending all of the cakes! Ann Houghton was elected a new member for Daventry. Carole presented Sarah Waterhouse with a certificate for her first quarter peal.

The Carol Concert, led by Michael Haighton, began at 7pm with full musical backing: Michael organ, Barbara piano, Mara flute, Shirley clarinet, Alan trombone and Alison B Eb-tuba. The programme of nine

carols was interspersed with prayers, readings, dialogues and a reading of Fred Hutt's 'psalm' from 1995. Gwynneth printed seasonal cartoons throughout the programme leaflet. Hugh and Deena served the mulled wine afterwards.

There were 30 who rang at Daventry on the afternoon of our annual general meeting and 19 who didn't, but helped with teas, turned up for the service or meeting. All ten-bells were of course rung every time under Carole's last in-charge-ship! Canon Michael Webber took our service after we had shifted down to the front pews! The meeting, in the back pews, proceeded as usual. We elected as new members: Alex Stevens (Bugbrooke –student member), Liz Worley (Flore), George Wrycroft (Staverton), Alan and Jill Faiers (Weedon). Then for the first time in 25 years, the chairman didn't vacate the chair for the election of chairman. Alison Willgress, being the only candidate, was elected and immediately took the chair. Alison Buck became Secretary (starting after the meeting!) and Jim White Branch Ringing Master. Other officers were re-elected. Hugh retired from the committee after a fifteen year stint this time and Andy Timms, Richard Hartley, Janet Bowers and Gwynneth White were elected as committee members. Gwynneth made a generous presentation on behalf of the membership to Janet, Carole and Geoff to mark the ending of 29, 16 and 25 years in post respectively. She had very successfully contacted the membership without the retirees knowing.



Retiring Officers: Janet, Geoff and Carole

Much handing over of secretarial records and kit went on for some time whilst Jim exerted his influence until 9pm over the 19 who assembled in the ringing chamber. A party of 14 swelled the numbers at Wetherspoons afterwards.



Recruitment

On December 13, John Neale organised the Daventry tower team for an open tower from 10am till 3pm at the same time as the church's Christmas Tree Festival. A worthwhile number of visitors went up to the bell chamber and saw the 7th bell rung muffled, then down for demonstrations of ringing on the front six and having a go on the simulator.

Hilary Aslett gave a talk about ringing to the NT volunteers' group at Canons Ashby in August which was well received. Hilary has also purchased a 'North' book for Canons Ashby where it is available for research within the house's library.

Progress with obtaining a Wombell single bell simulator for recruiting purposes has been progressed through the year with Gwynneth organising raffles at several meetings to raise the money. After dimensions were researched at the Ringing Road Show and discussed at the Cross Trees, Byfield, Andy Timms drew up a design and was able to obtain generous donations of the material and manufacture of the supporting frame through his work. It is being painted, ready to hold the Saxilby bell unit, which is due soon.

People

Judith Craig of Preston Capes suffered a first stroke a year or two ago which prevented her from ringing but died of a second stroke in August. Despite having no religion, she had secured the church daily for many years. The bells were rung in celebration of her life by 13 ringers, after her ashes were interred in the churchyard.

June Fonge, who rang at Flore for many years, also died in August. Her funeral was at Flore church with the bells rung half-muffled before a well attended service.

John and Sue Townley have moved to Caister on Sea. John and Sue were very enthusiastic tower and handbell ringers from Whilton back in the late 1970s. They supported Staverton tower and rang tunes very well on handbells with Stan and Iris Webb.

Gwynneth's appendix clearly objected to being subjected to a quarter peal in November on the treble at Daventry and it was urgently removed at Northampton General on the following Wednesday.

In December Peter Box was in hospital recovering well from a broken leg. Ruth has decreed that he will not ring again.

Peter Wenham told us in February that he has been diagnosed with cancer and has stoically refused treatment.

Up the Towers

Nether Heyford's 4th clapper disappeared in August and was found and repaired by the end of the month! Weedon clappers were renovated and

refitted by Taylors and volunteers two days before the Summer Festival competition was held on the bells! Daventry clappers and pulley boxes were being renovated by Taylors during February and March. During 2014, Nikki Butt has arranged bands to ring for 23 weddings at Dodford. The Manor next door is a new reception venue and has enlivened the church in this tiny village. In November the treble clapper broke at Dodford, indicating that the voluntary restoration work carried out in 2006 is under strain. Professional restoration is being explored amongst other works currently being considered for this Grade 1 listed building. Having collected lots of information over recent years about our branch bells, I have installed an historical technical jottings page on the branch website – have a browse.

Geoff Pullin - Daventry Correspondent

Guilsborough Branch

I am grateful to Robert for his contribution to this edition of the newsletter. He's made a good start ; as have our new treasurer Nick Hiams and his wife Anthea as minutes secretary.

A message from the Branch Steward.

I was most definitely not expecting to be elected as steward at the recent branch AGM, Guilsborough in January 2015. However , blessed with an engineering background , this is still a role which , without a doubt , be challenging at times but nevertheless a role that will carried out to the best of my abilities. Essentially , I have the satisfaction of knowing that Robin Wilson is close at hand to give valuable knowledge and assistance during my future ventures.

Rob Palmer


Branch Website

Nick Hiams, domain owner and administrator of our branch website is also taking on the editorship as of Mid-January. Rob Palmer has decided to stand down and concentrate on his other duties and new role as Branch Steward.

Lilbourne

A full diary of ringing opportunities were fulfilled through December and Christmas at All Saints'. The five solstice bells of All Saints' Church sounded throughout the upper Avon valley at midnight plus one second,





ringing in the New Year. Local ringers from Yelvertoft, Welford and Lilbourne were complimented upon their bell ringing, consisting simply of rounds, call changes and two courses of Grandsire doubles. Well struck and well done!

These events typify a welcome return to the root traditions of bell ringing at Lilbourne, not only around the Christmas period, but also other notable occasions throughout the year.

With the re-establishment of twice monthly practice evenings and 4th Sunday Evensong ringing during the pass year, our goal for 2015 is to ring on five bells for Family Service. We thank members of Yelvertoft and Welford bands for their valuable assistance in achieving our initial aims. April 23rd St. George's Day, "Ringing for England". We rang in 2014 for this national event and anticipate ringing again for 2015.

Crick

Saturday, January 17th 2015. The 8 bells of St. Margaret's Church were rung ahead of the film screening of "Marvellous", inside the Church. The film was based upon the real life story of Neil Baldwin. Local Benefice ringers from Yelvertoft, Crick, Lilbourne and Welford performed a selection of methods and call changes to the delight of Neil. Once again, the band was complimented on their bell striking abilities. The event was duly tweeted in the normal manner, to our complete surprise the message went global in different languages and was picked up by worldwide followers of Neil Baldwin. Such is the power of the social media.

Scaldwell

Kaleidoscope ringing is the order of the day at Scaldwell. Never heard of it, well the Sussex Association will be giving demonstrations at Henfield, Sussex on 21st March 2015 if you fancy a day out!

A little closer to home is the learner band at Scaldwell who's striking is improving all the time, I am pleased to report. Having mastered rounds they are getting the hang of call changes (when they can hear the call above the sound of the bell). But the band were looking for another challenge. With limited experience of change ringing in the band, Kaleidoscope ringing seemed a good idea as a step between the two for a band without enough experienced ringers to help move everyone forward into method ringing.

The Scaldwell ringers are keen to widen their knowledge and friendships, by meeting with other ringers in the area who are more experienced in the art and science of change ringing and hope that

initially, until they are more experienced and have confidence to ring at other towers, visitors will come to visit them.

The tower contains five bells as follows:-

Treble, 1961 John Taylor & Co.

2nd, 1621 Hugh II Watts.

3rd, 1682 Henry II Bagley.

4th, 1621 Hugh II Watts.

Tenor, 1621 Hugh II Watts, (Wt. 10-0-2)

Practice night is on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 7pm to 8.30pm.

Visitors will always be welcome. For further information please ring the Tower Captain Dave Keir, 01604 880934 or Elaine Greatrex, 01604 781989

Winwick

Local ringer/historians descended on the 3 bell of St. Michael and All Saints at Winwick in October 2014. Their remit was to ascertain the image quality of a Royal Headed bell inscription and record the images. Dr Mike Baron, a retired physicist and research author, requested this adventure as he is publishing a comprehensive map of RH locations. The map is due to be published during 2015. When known, further details of how to obtain a copy of this publication will be posted on our Branch website.

Welford

Quarter peal ringing prior to the 2nd Sunday Evensong Service at Welford is now an established event. Please contact Alistair if you wish to participate, Telephone No. 571101 or email: pdg.ringingmaster@gmail.com

Sibbertoft

4th Sunday morning ringing at Sibbertoft is now an established event due to an association of ringers from Sibbertoft, Welford, Yelvertoft and Lilbourne.

Haselbech

1st Sunday morning Service ringing now takes place at Haselbech.

Cold Ashby

Back in late 2014, assistant steward, Rob Palmer received an invitation from BBC Northampton to briefly discuss the history of AD 1317, William de Flint bell for a short Sunday morning slot between programmes. Afterwards, in Rob's own words he remarked "that was a tall order for someone who does not do BRIEF"!

Dorothy Westerman - Guilsborough Correspondent

Kettering Branch

Here is our report about what we have been doing since the summer. In September we held an outing to Rutland. Ringing was at Preston, Brooke and Belton-in-Rutland. It was also enjoyable to have a chance to visit the grounds, chapel and tearooms at Launde Abbey. Thanks are due to Jane Marsh for organising this one.

In October 26 ringers attended the practice at Kettering before over 50 people enjoyed a hot supper and one of our legendary Beetle Drives in the church rooms. Thank you to Pat Edkins and her helpers for the supper and to Bill and Liz Adcock for organising the beetle. As always it was a fast and furious evening of dice rattling enjoyed by all who attended.

November was a special trip requested by Branch members. On Sunday 23rd November, 20 members went to Peterborough where we were able to ring for evensong at the Cathedral. A number of members also enjoyed staying for the service.

December was our usual Christmas meeting at Rothwell where we enjoyed festive refreshments as well as a good afternoon's ringing on the simulator.

In January 30 members met at Desborough for the AGM. Particular thanks are due to a number of members who made this a success – Jane Marsh for taking the minutes in the absence of the secretary and for stepping in and taking the service when the person who had been booked failed to arrive; Colin Ashworth for his magnificent organ playing; Helen Burt for organising a wonderful hot supper and Shane Ward for arranging a quiz for the younger members.

At the AGM Nick Churchman stood down from the post of Branch Steward after 25 years on the committee. Many thanks are due to Nick for all his work on our behalf. Unfortunately we were unable to find anyone to step in his shoes. Margaret Buchanan also stood down as treasurer and was thanked for stepping in last year to fill the vacancy. Mick Dainty was elected to the role. There were no other changes to members on the committee. We will continue to run without a Branch Ringing Master and will fill the role on a rota to be planned by the committee when they plan the next year's programme. Thank you to all our willing volunteers on the committee for all they do on our behalf.

Six new members were elected to the Branch at the AGM. We hope you are reading this and we will look forward to seeing you at forthcoming meetings. Finally our February meeting was held on Valentine's Day. We have a good number of couples within the Branch and 3 of them thought

Rothwell tower was the perfect place to spend a romantic afternoon, together with 9 other members!

We are looking forward to the final event of the 2014/15 programme, which is sadly too late to report in this newsletter, and then will be embarking on a new list of activities for 2015/16. If you want to be kept fully up to date with our activities you can ask to receive our monthly newsletter – just email: **thewallisfamily@hotmail.com**

We have also started using an online noticeboard on which you can post images, post-it notes, files and videos to share with each other. If you would like to become a member you will need to create an account at www.linoit.com and then email: **nick@firedout.co.uk** for an invitation to view the Kettering Branch Board.

Deb Wallis - Kettering Correspondent

Northampton Branch - no news this time

Peterborough Branch

Peterborough Cathedral

Cathedral ringing continues at a satisfactory level, with around 18 present on practice nights from a pool of around 25 people. We ring every Sunday morning and ring two quarter peals a month for Evensong.

Evensong ringing was also carried out by the following branches:

Daventry, Kettering, Peterborough, Thrapston and Wellingborough. Calling Culworth, Guilsborough, Northampton, Rutland, and Towcester. Why not visit this year? We will be delighted to see you. We rang for all major services through Advent and Christmas.

One practice night was transferred to St Mary's when we rang up London and 8 spliced to a high standard; co-operation amongst the Peterborough towers has never been so good.


We offer opportunity to progress in a supportive environment.

Robin Rogers

Peterborough St John the Baptist

We continue to ring for service every Sunday, with a practice on the second Wednesday and a quarter peal attempt on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Our monthly quarter peals have been more ambitious over the past few months and we have regularly achieved success in Grandsire Triples and in both plain and surprise major methods,





including several firsts for individual ringers. We also rang a quarter peal on Christmas Day in memory of the extraordinary truce that occurred in the trenches one hundred years ago.

Nick Elks

Peterborough St Mary's

We continue with our Thursday night practices, although numbers fluctuate from as low as 4 and up to 12. We are always pleased to welcome ringers from other towers.

Since last August we have rung 8 quarter peals, and have managed to ring for Sundays and other church services with the help of friends from neighbouring towers, mainly the Cathedral and St John's.

Congratulations go to Andrew Christie on ringing his 600th quarter, and to Alex Dyer on his 200th.

Our annual outing was to Norwich, where we enjoyed ringing in 6 of that fine city's towers, together with a convivial lunch in one of Norwich's equally fine pubs, quaintly called 'The Murders'! A few of the party stayed over in Norwich to enjoy further delights of Norwich's night life. Suffice it to say they all returned safely! Many thanks to Alex for arranging a very interesting and enjoyable outing.

Our annual Chinese meal was once again at the Beijing Rendezvous and reached the high standard that we have come to expect there - delicious! Thanks to Simon for organising for us.

We have arranged our usual visit to Tolethorpe in June and this year we will be going to all 3 of the plays (we couldn't decide which sounded the best!)

Anyone from the Guild is assured of a warm welcome if they would like to come to ring a peal or quarter peal on our bells.

Joan Parker

Nassington

We have continued to encourage new ringers to join us from the Bellringing School at Castor. This has meant that we have able to ring for Sunday morning service most weeks, which has been one of our main objectives.

Our regular Monday evening practice nights have been better attended, although because we have more novice ringers now attending, we have often concentrated on ringing rounds on different bells. We have also been able to ring some plain hunting, but only occasionally been able to ring any other methods. Once again, we should like to thank the more experienced ringers who come to practice to encourage our newer, less experienced, ringers.

As well as ringing for a number of weddings, there have been two quarter peals rung in the tower. The first was by some visitors from Biggleswade. The second was in memory of a long time ringer at Nassington, Bill Black, who died in September. We also rang, with half muffled bells, for Remembrance Sunday.

Finally, we are hoping to renew the frame for our bells in the near future. This frame has to support the total weight of nearly two tons! The PCC need to do this in order to continue to ring bells at Nassington as we have done since 1552.

A new bell was last added in 1640, soon after the spire was built. We hope that we shall be able to add another bell as a part of this renewal in 2015 or 2016.

Brian Hardie

Glinton

Glinton has enjoyed some notable “firsts” since September: Congratulations are due to Keith Dalziel, who rang his 1st quarter peal from the tenor on October 9th, and also to Alexander Guest who rang his first quarter peal inside on November 6th. Both quarter peals were rung as part of the Peterborough Branch Quarter peal week. Sally Collop, Glinton member and secretary of the Branch, rang her first peal from the treble at St. Mary’s on January 10th. A first baby - Maia Fowler Terry - was born on November 27th to one of our ringers, Alex Terry. Alex rang with us throughout her pregnancy so we fully expect little Maia to appreciate the sound of bells and ring with us in years to come! She has already made her first visit to As ever we had some joyful Christmas ringing; the Christmas tree lights’ switch on, carol service and midnight mass. All were well attended, happy occasions.

Only one group of visitors came to ring our bells: a large group from Napton-on-the Hill in Warwickshire came in October, but several informal groups from China and Hong Kong have come along to watch the bells being rung on a Thursday evening. Recently we have been somewhat plagued by illness and minor accidents, however we are always well supported by Gwen Roffe on Sundays and Deeping St James’ ringers on Thursdays. As ever, we are indebted to these good friends. We continue to try and recruit new ringers; recently we have been joined by another beginner, Sue, who is enthusiastic and keen. Hopefully her interest will encourage others to come along.

We would be happy to see anyone at our Thursday evening practice – 7:30pm until 9:00pm. If the door is open – we are there!

Jill Cowcill





Bulwick

The last six months have seen various of our tower members deserting us on a temporary basis for foreign travels with the result that we have been more dependent than usual on our loyal band of visitors. Despite the absences we achieved our target for the year of ringing the Cambridge Six spliced with a local band by the end of November. Our aim for 2015 is the Beverley Six!

The last Saturday in November saw 18 of our regular ringers and their spouses assembled at 'The Knackered Kipper' in Ashton for the annual tower dinner. Thus fortified we began the Christmas season by ringing for the St Nicholas Day Service followed by the Carol Service. We then paused to replenish our energy with a superb supper to celebrate our Tower Captain's birthday before ringing on Christmas Day. Lest there be any doubt that Bulwick have forgotten how to party we bade farewell to 2014 at Sue and Derek's.

Pat Teall

King's Cliffe

The quality of our ringing for Sunday service has been the notable feature of this half year. We have mustered a band for almost all the services and have frequently been able to ring a good touch of Cambridge or Stedman. Practice nights continue to be well attended on the second and fourth Monday with a number of visitors joining us. It is proving to be a useful venue for those wanting to gain more experience in Plain Bob and Grandsire. Over the Christmas period we were able to ring for Midnight Mass and Christmas morning. We rang the New Year in with a full local band, celebrating afterwards with champagne and mince pies.

Pat Teall

St Peter's Oundle

Bob Gardner, 1941 – 2014

Bob lived all his life in Oundle and was taught to ring the St Peter's bells by 'Clanger' Clarke. He was tower captain for many years, and was an expert and patient teacher. Bob had many talents: he played the accordion and for around 27 years led the Bob Gardner Folk Dance Band, and was also a skilled tractor driver, winning many ploughing competitions. Everything Bob turned his hand to he did well. A quarter peal will be rung in his memory.

Pauline Davidson

St Leonard's Glapthorn

The three bells are chimed every Sunday at our morning service, and we are pleased that a number of youngsters help out. This year a band will ring at an event to celebrate the completion of the church improvements, and for a wedding.

Pauline Davidson

Warmington

The Warmington band of learners have continued to make progress and have even branched out now, ringing for services at neighbouring Nassington and Elton, and the Elton section of the team have also set up their own practice night there on Wednesdays. At Warmington we've been pleased to be able to ring for several occasions, including Remembrance Day and the Christmas Carol service, and we are now looking at some more regular Sunday ringing now that we have enough people able to do so.

Two of the band rang their first quarter peals recently, Chris in October and Sylvia in January. After the January quarter we all went out for a belated Christmas dinner at the village pub - a very well attended and enjoyable evening.


Warmington is a growing village and the parish council have organised a "meet the village" event in March and we will be taking part in this with a display about bell ringing, and hope to explain to all the new residents of the housing development (immediately next door to the church tower) why their Friday evenings are perhaps a little bit disturbed! Perhaps we can entice some new ringers to join us too.

Sylvia Upex

St Kyneburgha, Castor

We rang for 76 services at St. Kyneburgha's in 2014. We rang for 7 weddings at Castor, but were not required for three this year, and 7 funerals. The Band also rang for 3 weddings at Wansford and Thornhaugh, and one at Water Newton. We had 46 practice evenings for which attendance was done on last year. The biggest differences this past year have been the support of David Banks and Edward Baxter. David has without doubt improved our ringing, in striking and new methods. His good humour and sense of fun helps the learning, and sharing the conducting with Stuart Weston has been of enormous value. We have been for far too long solely reliant on Stuart for conducting and teaching, he has been so patient with us.

Our thanks go to Jon Ardron for looking after the tower's finance, and Annie Baxter, despite not being a ringer, taking on the secretarial duties.



Mike Kennedy, our social secretary, arranged our Christmas supper at The Red Lion Warmington, which was a great success, which was attended by 22.

We had 4 visiting bands, they were very complimentary of both our tower and bells. We hosted three guest peals and four quarters, one was a surprise, of which two ringers did not realise, and both turned out to be their first.

The last quarter was the inspiration of Edward Baxter and Stuart Weston, dedicated to the memory of the eight Lancaster crew who were killed seventy years ago just outside our village near Upton.

The Training Centre held 40 Saturday training sessions, and is both training beginners and teaching better striking and 5 bell methods. The Branch held 10 monthly Eight Bell Practice evenings on the first Friday of the month.

Our Ringers' summer lunch was hosted by Inga and Richard Moon and was an enormous success, in their delightful garden with perfect weather. To make the afternoon very special, Inga and Richard announced they were expecting their first child in December.

Viewing of the tower and bells for Heritage weekend in September was rewarding. Maggie Noble handed over the Hand Bell Captaincy after some 15 years. The band has had another very successful year ringing music, with the band numbers and performances up.

Edward Baxter took over as Steeple Keeper after the sudden death of Steve Reed in January 2014, who had held the office for 24 years, and is greatly missed for his company, ringing and engineering skills, also his charm and good humour. Edward reported no stays broken this year. He re-bushed two clappers and re-carpeted the priest room after a serious flood, and Stuart Weston re-painted it. Robin Rogers spliced in three new tails and we replaced the Angelus rope. Edward also reported that the louvers were bat and bird proof, but the lightning conductor needed testing and the clock face repainting which will be attended to this year.

We hosted the Branch AGM and not only provided the bells, service, priest Ray Hemingray and organist Will Craven, but also tea for 40 in the Cedar Centre.

This coming year's sole project is recruitment. We are now at a critical point with the number in our band. We have 9 regular service ringers without Inga Moon, and not all can be available for every service. We need to get back to fourteen ideally.

Lt. Col. Rev. Canon William Burke retired on the 8th February 2015 after 20 very happy and successful years in Castor. The bell ringers presented William with an antique bell with lanyard, mounted on an oak plaque, for attaching to the outside of his new home, so that Diana

can ring it when he is wanted in from the garden. He can also ring the Angelus on it! He will be greatly missed but we wish him and Diana the very best well earned retirement in Shaftsbury, Dorset. We inscribe the bell with who it was from and why, plus the following quotation. “Ubi caritas et amor Deus ibi est” (Where charity and love are, God is there)

William Baxter

Castor Ringing School

The Castor Saturday morning ringing school is entering its 8th year of continuous training of novices through to advanced method ringing. During this period we have had about 80 trainees from a large number of different towers from as far afield as Kings Lynne, Huntingdon and Rutland. We currently have trainees from Warmington, Nassington, Polebrook, Wadenhoe, Peterborough, Great Casterton and Stamford. We currently have a “hard core” of half-a-dozen regular trainers/helpers with a further 5 or 6 that will fill in when we are short. Since our “forced” August break – lack of trainers available – we have had a further seven novice ringers join.

Shortly after returning from the August break we heard that one of our trainee’s had died very suddenly from cancer of the kidneys. Chris Hayes from Huntingdon had been a regular attendee for the past three years and was with us on our last Saturday in July but died early September. We rang a quarter peal at Castor to commemorate his life and included one of our trainee’s - Hilary Hardie from Nassington – to ring her first quarter. Chris’s wife made the journey from Huntingdon to join us for the ringing.

Tony Evans

Other news from around the Peterborough Branch


A regular branch practice is held at Castor on the first Friday of the month for those keen to gain experience or to improve their ringing on eight bells. We also introduced a couple of six-bell practices at different towers during 2014 to help those ringers who wish to improve their ringing on six.

A training session on listening skills was held at Bulwick. It proved to be very popular and was much appreciated by those who attended. Thanks go to James Thorpe who organised it and to the band of experienced ringers who were drafted in to help.

Polebrook hosted part of the popular ‘Ring for Your Supper’ event in 2014 and a couple of quarter peals have also been rung there, all of which were much appreciated by the local residents. A new set of ropes have also recently been fitted.

Easton-on-the Hill have a regular practice on Wednesday evenings.





Fotheringhay continues to be a popular tower for weddings and a regular Wednesday afternoon practice also takes place.

Thornhaugh bells, although lovely, are seldom rung these days though a quarter peal attempt has been made there recently.

Cotterstock bells have been found to be in poor condition and are currently unringable. The PCC are making efforts to assess the cost of repair and to hopefully get them ringing again.

Barnack, Maxey, Wansford and Wittering are also currently without regular ringers, as are Thornhaugh and Polebrook. Lower Benefield have also recently stopped ringing regularly. Each of these churches have their own charms so please consider them as options when organising tours or quarter peals so that we can keep ringing alive in these towers.

On a rather sad note to finish, Beth Graham passed away at the end of February. She was for many years a stalwart of ringing in Peterborough.

Nick Elks- Peterborough Correspondent

Rutland Branch - no news this time

Thrapston Branch

Through the Autumn months the Thrapston Branch certainly made the most of the sunshine and very pleasant temperatures.

The Branch was able to enter a team for the Summer Festival Striking Competition and we were very pleased to be awarded a commendable 4th. place.

In September and October we had two very successful branch meetings followed by our Annual Striking Competition at Wadenhoe in November. We were delighted to welcome Sue and Derek Jones as our judges and were able to organise eight teams including new ringers entering their very first striking competition. Well done to Thrapston St. James' for winning the Sunday Service Band section and 'Ted's Gentlemen for coming first in the 'Open Section'.

We also had the opportunity in October to ring again for Evensong at The Cathedral where all, including ourselves were very pleased with our standard of ringing. Many of us stayed for a truly wonderful Choral Evensong followed by a very memorable meal at a highly recommendable place - 'The Cuckoo.'

Our very successful 'Annual Branch Dinner' took place at Hargrave with a superb meal being provided by Hargrave W.I. It was good to

welcome Friends and Fellow Ringers from many other Branches and a good time was had by all.

December brought us to Raunds and Hargrave with a Christmas Tea and memorable Mince-Pies and Sausage Rolls made by Dennis.

Along with enjoyment this year we have also had sadness. Geoff Pick's Memorial Service took place at Woodford with a special Quarter Peal involving ringers who knew and remembered Geoff with great affection. Shortly after we learnt of the death of Di Railton, a very special friend and ringer from St. Mary's.

Di had also been a Beaver Pack Leader, teacher and churchwarden and she will be very much missed in Woodford.

Our A.G.M. was held at Thrapston this year. Our Chairman, Laurence Stapleton thanked Our Ringing Master Ted Buckby, the Officers and all the Ringers for their hard work and support in the past year.

Following the Officers Reports and Nominations Chris Jenkins was elected as Ringing Master for the coming year.

A varied and interesting ringing programme was arranged, allowing both new and more experienced ringers to continue to improve their level of expertise. We have organised six-bell ringing practices at Wadenhoe on the first Wednesday of each month as well as our more advanced ones at Woodford on the third Tuesday of each month. These practices are continuing to prove very worthwhile, giving the Branch the opportunity to ring more complicated methods and touches. It is also a great opportunity to welcome ringers from neighbouring branches and towers. Their input and wisdom is much appreciated.

Some of the Branch members have also ventured to the ten-bell practices organised by Geoff Pullen and we have been pleased with our progress. We have no ten-bell towers in our Branch and we have very much welcomed this opportunity.

Our Branch Committee would like to thank all the incumbents, Lay readers and Tower Captains for all their support with Ringing times and Services and for all the other ringing occasions throughout the year. We would also like to thank all our branch members for their continuing support in helping to keep the Branch lively and active. We have many special events to look forward to including hosting the Guild Spring Meeting at Stanion in April.

Alison Byrnes : Assistant Ringing Master.

Towcester Branch

The autumn season began in September with Towcester Branch participating in the Guild Eight Bell Contest at Weedon Bec. The team, organised by branch Ringing Master John Stanworth, achieved a creditable third place with a touch of Stedman Triples.

A Branch Practice the following week at Blisworth was surprisingly well attended, with a number of visiting ringers as well as members. Thanks to Di Rogers and the Blisworth Ringers for hosting the event.

October's event was the Branch 6 Bell Striking Competition at Cosgrove. Only two towers were able to participate (Cosgrove and Pattishall) with a scratch band making up a third. The home team was declared the winner by judge Richard Stanworth. By tradition this event is followed by a Fish & Chip Supper and Quiz at Whittlebury, kindly hosted by Peter and Evelyn Nicholson. This year's quizmasters were Andy and Viv Hartley and the winners were a Pattishall team.

Two towers hosted November's branch practice, Alderton and Grafton Regis. The highlights of the morning included ringing reverse Stedman, meeting Di and Mark's new dog (a monstrous Newfoundland puppy) and being shouted at by the pub parrot at the White Hart, the location for lunch and a committee meeting. Oh, and walking the two miles across the fields in the mist between the two towers. (Luckily we found the stile, otherwise we might have lost our way!)

The Branch's Annual Dinner in December was held again at the Saracen's Head, Towcester, in January. Despite a minor crisis when the chef made an unplanned trip to A&E, having splashed hot fat on himself, 48 members and guests were entertained by a fine ringing toast of Plain Bob Minor on handbells from Chris and Margaret Bulleid and Nigel Williams. The reply on behalf of the Church was given by Rev

Ben Phillips, who thanked ringers for their contribution to society and noted that the ringing of church bells often causes people to turn their minds to spiritual reflection in moments of silence. The toast to the guests and visitors was given by Helen Allton who reminded us all that as fellow ringers we are part of a worldwide family, able to enjoy the



hospitality and friendship of like-minded people by dropping in on a local practice, wherever we happen to be. There is a good chance that the stranger you are talking to knows someone that you also know, and so another link is forged in the world of the bell-ringing fraternity. David Thorne replied on behalf of the visitors, and as an ex-editor of the Ringing World was able to regale us with many a yarn, not all of which would have made it into print!

The Branch has been actively developing cross-border and inter-branch events and plans to continue to hold joint events with the North Bucks and Northampton branches in the coming year.

Members were invited to participate in an online survey, to gather views of the Branch objectives and progress and to identify opportunities to develop greater ringing participation. Responses were generally positive, and particularly supportive of Saturday morning ringing school to encourage new recruits. It is heartening to be able to report that Ashton, Blisworth, Pattishall, Potterspury and Roade are all currently training new ringers.

The AGM was held this year at St Mary the Virgin, Roade, at the kind invitation of Alan Cozens. The afternoon began with ringing on the 6 followed by the service which was led by Richard Yates. A fine tea was provided by the ladies of Roade Church. The Guild was represented by Sue Jones, ably supported by Derek, who are both well-known within the Branch. Ringing after the meeting catered for all abilities, from Plain Bob through to Spliced Surprise Minor. The ringers coped well with the troubling long draught and it is good to report that Roade has successfully applied for a faculty and is now raising funds to fit rope guides. The day was rounded off with refreshments at the Cock Inn.

Pattishall hosted February's Branch practice, which was well attended, and the overflow from the ringing chamber were protected from the winter chill by supplies of tea, coffee and chocolate biscuits provided by Margaret Bulleid.


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

Jonathan Stuart - Towcester Correspondent

Wellingborough Branch

Hello fellow campanologists. I'd like to introduce myself as the newly press ganged correspondent (haha).





Since the last newsletter we have had well supported branch practices at Grendon, Moulton and Bozeat and Surprise practices at Thrapston, Wilby, Woodford and Rushden at which numbers were varied and have lead to much lively discussion. This year started with around 20 hardy soles attending a Surprise practice at Mears Ashby on a very cold wintery morning. An excellent Guild Training afternoon was arranged at Rushden, with Nick Churchman teaching Cambridge and Yorkshire Major.

Unfortunately the proposed course for Little Bob and Plain Bob Major had no uptake.

In January the AGM held at Rushden was attended by over 45 people, the clear attraction being Brenda's selection of three delicious home made soups! Brenda has stepped down as Chairperson after well over 15 years of devoted service to the branch. Many thanks go to Brenda for all her hard work and commitment. Simon Dixon has willingly taken on the role, but has stepped down as Guild Management Rep. This post has been taken on by Brenda. Tom Coles has resigned from the committee and Tim Samson has also stepped down as branch steward. We are most grateful to Tim for all the work he has undertaken, particularly with regard to the rehangng and reaugmentation of the bells at Higham Ferrers. At present there is no replacement for this position but Tim has kindly agreed to help any tower in case of emergency until a new steward can be appointed.

In December the annual branch quiz took place at Earls Barton; again an excellent supper was provided and an entertaining evening resulted in a win for Rushden. Many thanks to Brenda, John, Alan and the team. Congratulations go to Audrey Sampson who gained her guild certificate for 50 years membership; also to Tom Coles who has now rung his 150th quarter peel. Pam Bailey rang over 50 quarter peels in 2014-well done, Pam! We have two new members, Jacob Haseldine and Claire Haseldene, both of Rushden. Congratulations also to Neil Botterill of Sywell, who rang his first quarter peel at Orlingbury. Bob Denis and George Whiting rang in the last peel at Higham Ferrers before the bells were removed, and the first peel on the new ten. Sixteen ringers attended Earls Barton's Belfry Binge...sounds interesting! Finally, some of you may remember Tim Hinkling who rang at Bozeat, sadly passed away in December. In 2015 the branch outing (venue yet to be arranged) will be held in May instead of July. Hopefully this won't clash with too many weddings and holidays leading to an increase in the numbers turning out for an excellent day of ringing, food, beer and fun.

Yardley Hastings

As many in the branch know I am eager to promote ringing. I am

convinced that the more we can expose ringing as a positive pastime the more likely we are to pick up individuals who would like to ring. If I ever meeting someone in Yardley Hastings that I don't know I always ask them if they ring or would like to. I also take the opportunity that the Parish magazine offers us on a monthly basis of writing a piece that tells the village a little about what we have been doing or will be doing. Having promised Jude I would write something for the spring issue I thought that I might kill two birds with one stone and tell you what I wrote for the March issue of the Yardley Benefice magazine.

St Andrew's Band of Ringers.


So what is happening up the tower? In the last month we have seen some significant changes in the arrangements in the Bell chamber. Our new Steward has been getting to grips with the bells as well as his duties with the clock , (he is also our clock keeper; do have a read of his piece in the village magazine, I'm not going to steal his thunder)!

We have started to lighten the feel of our bells. No, we are not going up there and chipping bits of the bells in order to make a few bob but we have altered the position of the bells when they are in a ready to ring state that makes them easier to 'pull off,' thus increasing the number of people who can ring them. As we have a number of relatively light (weight) ringers that can only be a good thing. We also discovered that some the chicken wire that was put over the belfry openings had rusted to nothingness and at least one pigeon had decided that there was a splendid and relatively warm roost on top of a frame timber with the consequent bird droppings. That has all been resolved and should last us another twenty years or so with no poo.

We have been a touch on the thin side on practice nights of late, I believe occasioned mainly by the seasonal coughs colds and splutters, no disrespect to any who had much more than that. So instead of dwelling on the past let's look to the future. The Youth Band is off with the Grendon Youth Band to The Northants Assoc. of Youth Club's climbing wall in early March. Hopefully we will have photographs of ringers really hanging on the end of ropes! On the way home we are calling in at St Peter's Cogenhoe for a short ring. They are a delightful light 6 (450 kgs tenor) that are really easy to handle, indeed I can foresee that initially some may consider them too light. I will report after the event.

There is also a cunning plan in the offing to go to The Ratcliffe and Jeffries Albion Steam Brewery Co in Northampton. Who knows where that is? I will buy a bottle of Ratcliffe's beer for the first person to tell me. I hope we may be able to mix that with a quick ring somewhere, maybe Cogenhoe again, although on second thoughts perhaps ringing





on strange bells after a beer is not such a bright idea!
Do call me on 871 if you would like to learn to ring.

Tony Finke - Tower Captain.

Post Script. The beer offer is for Yardley only!

Look out for reminders nearer the time! Wellingborough branch welcomes all visitors to any of its events-see the website for further details www.wellingboroughbranch.org.uk and if there are any snippets of news from the towers I would be most grateful if would let me know at jude.coulter59@virgin.net

Jude Coulter-Wellingborough Correspondent

Public Relations Officer's Piece

Cambridge and Yorkshire Major workshop - October 18, 2014

On 18th October at 2pm a small group of keen but somewhat nervous ringers gathered at St Marys Rushden eagerly anticipating some intensive tuition on Cambridge and Yorkshire Major. All had previously learnt the blue line of Major and were already ringers of Cambridge Minor. We were welcomed by some friendly familiar faces and soon had our fears put to rest as we commenced an interactive theory session. The session was well structured with pre prepared hand-out sheets and gave time for a group discussion around the common pitfalls. A variety of hints and tips were given which proved invaluable once ringing commenced. The theory also highlighted the importance of course bells and how they interact with each other. Nick Churchman, the course leader, was happy to answer even the most basic of questions and instilled confidence in the group. By 3pm we had been joined in the tower by a very experienced band of volunteers who were happy to ring the same method throughout the afternoon. Each trainee was allocated a 'co-pilot' and was individually coached to ring a full course of Cambridge Major. Later in the afternoon there was sufficient time for each trainee to repeat the exercise with the option of an additional challenge. This took the form of either ringing a different bell or a full bob course. The ringing concluded with our expert tutors ringing another Surprise Major method to demonstrate an alternative example of the use of course bells. Finally everyone retired to the church hall for wonderful refreshments and an opportunity to ask any further questions. We would once again like to thank the experienced ringers and tutors who gave their time to enable the event to take place. Each trainee left feeling far more competent and ready to incorporate these skills into future ringing. Each trainee made significant progress and we would encourage others

to participate in any similar events, at whatever ringing level is appropriate to them.

Chris & Frank Jenkins

PRO's Piece

JOIN IN NATIONAL RINGING

National reasons for ringing this year are:

Thursday April 23rd Ringing for England Campaign – www.ringingforengland.co.uk

Saturday May 2nd and Sunday: Ringing, especially peals and quarter peals to mark the 300th anniversary of the first true peal being rung at St Peter Mancroft, Norwich in 1715. At Mancroft, they are planning an ambitious project to create a Heritage and Training Centre.

Sunday June 14th A Great Ringing Day to celebrate the signing of the Magna Carta 800 years ago.

Why not join in with these nationally arranged occasions. If you intend to ring, please tell the local press and radio of your plans, well in advance, so that there is a surge of ringing items brought to the public's attention. We might attract a new recruit or two.

BELLS ON SUNDAY

There have been two Bells on Sunday recordings from the Diocese broadcast by the BBC since the last newsletter:

Harpole on 28/9/14 ringing Beverley Surprise Minor

Towcester on 9/11/14 ringing half muffled Stedman Caters

If you want your bells to be broadcast, see this link for advice:

<http://www.ringingworld.co.uk/news-articles/general/504-bells-on-sunday-74.html>

ADVERTISE YOUR RINGING

Twice this year I set off for advertised meetings only to find that they had moved! Although the Ringing World charges for printed adverts, there is a facility to input your own notices on the RW Bellboard site

(<http://www.bb.ringingworld.co.uk/diary.php>), under 25 words are free

and you can amend the entry whilst published on line. The Diary section of www.campanophile.com is also free and you can input and amend entries at any time. I can also change the Events page of the Guild website which shows the calendar of Guild and Branch meetings, very swiftly, if I am told. Some branches already use these facilities and hopefully attract an extra visitor or two.

Over the last six months, I regularly see, ringers searching their mobile phones for meetings around the area, looking for somewhere to go on Saturday!

Through the parish magazine and local newspaper, my tower invited the whole village and surrounding area to celebrate the New Year. We attracted all of 13 non-ringing visitors! We marked the end of 2014 with diminishing rounds. After a short break for a toast and nibbles expertly dispensed by neighbours, the bells were fired 12 times from midnight to greet 2015 followed by Queens & fire, Tittums & fire, Kings & fire, rounds and stand -then some plain hunting! The bells were finally lowered

in backward rounds with the tenor leading down. All great fun - the only trouble was that no visitors offered to learn to ring!

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers has recently added some sample press releases to give you ideas for getting your ringing noticed – see <http://www.cccbr.org.uk/pr/advice/media/#pressreleases>

FACEBOOK et al

A reminder that if anyone feels keen and able to run a Facebook and Twitter account for the Guild, please let me know.

SHIRTS

This year Guild T, polo and sweatshirts remain at the same price. There are no set order dates this year, so send order forms to me whenever you want. Please find details and order form on the Guild website's Guild Shirts page.

EXCUSES COMPETITION continued..

(Best excuses for not attending practice nights)

8. ...just to let you know we won't be able to make it this evening. I hurt my back WATCHING rugby on Saturday - not sure how except that it was so cold and the wind was so strong in Salford that we had to link arms and lean almost horizontally just to be able to get into the stadium! My back is feeling a bit better today but I had to take time off work on Monday and can't risk missing anymore.

Not sure if H will be back in time – 'tis the season for traffic disruptions and last I heard there were more and more train cancellations along her route.....

Geoff Pullin

pro@pdg.org.uk

Webmaster's World

The Guild website www.pdg.btck.co.uk has had 4,567 hits of its Welcome page in the last six months with the next most frequently visited pages being:

Branch Officers	1,650 visits
Towers	1,513 visits
Guild Officers	1,194 visits
Latest Guild News	776 visits
Bell Maintenance	760 visits

I have added a new page – Peals & Quarters - which provides links to the RW Bellboard site, and sorts out a list of all peals rung for the Guild since January 2014 to date; all quarter peals rung in Northamptonshire and Rutland. The Cathedral always reports under the City of Peterborough so that is also included but I have had to include all of Cambridgeshire to show those towers around the city that are so reported, as the search engine cannot distinguish between the dioceses.

Having now become familiar with the technical processes, it is very easy and quick to alter, amend, add and delete information to the website. I shall be pleased to get:

changed tower correspondents (please send a new DPA Consent Form – available on the Towers page),

**changes to practice nights,
news items,
changes to branch meeting locations and times,
historic details to add,
suggestions for additional pages, topics and links.**

Geoff Pullin

webmaster@pdg.org.uk

Summer Festival

The eight bell inter branch striking competition was held yesterday (20th September) at Weedon Bec in the Daventry Branch. Five of the ten branches were able to enter a team, but it would be really super to see all ten branches represented next time round. The newly refurbished clappers (they were put back on Thursday) were duly put through their paces between 4.00 and 5.30pm with the judges, Philip Green (Deeping St. Nicholas) and Mike Smith (Boston) comfortably sat in the church porch. Teas were served throughout the competition in the Chapter House attached to the church.

Just before 6pm everyone made their way into church where the new Guild President, Geoff Pullin welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked for all Branch Chairmen and GMC representatives to come to the GMC meeting on the first Saturday in March brimming with ideas of how the Guild can recruit, retain and increase the attendance at both Branch and Guild Meetings.

Apologies were received from Hilda Collins, Ted Garrett and Dorothy Westerman.

Cecil Swann, from the Northampton Branch, thanked Canon Michael Webber (Daventry) and Canon John Knight (Weedon) for allowing us to use their bells and to the ladies of the Daventry Branch for supplying us with such a splendid tea and the Daventry Branch for making all the local arrangements.

Nick Churchman proposed a grant to Weedon Bec of £170 for the work carried out by John Taylor to rebush all eight clappers at a cost of £1,670 this was carried unanimously.

The Annual 100 club draw took place with the winning numbers being 67, 120 and 24.

Derek Jones informed the members that the paper quiz for this year was now available and that it was on stations on the London overground, underground and Docklands Light Railway. The Secretary informed members that the Surprise Major element of the proposed Guild course on the 18th October would take place at Rushden but unfortunately there were not enough participants for the Plain and Little Bob Major so that would be postponed for the moment. She also informed members of the proposed dates for next years Guild Meetings (please make a note in your diaries!)

Spring Meeting 25.04.15. to be held in the Thrapston Branch.

AGM 13.06.15 to be held in the Kettering Branch.
Summer Festival 19.09.15. to be held in the Peterborough Branch.
The Summer Festival Prize Draw took place performed with panache by ALL members of the Coleman family in a very short time. The 25 prize winners quickly drawn and recorded and our thanks were extended to Murray for all his hard work and effort.
The Secretary welcomed Philip Green and Mike Smith and thanked them for coming to judge our competition. They commented on how it was good to hear the standard of ringing produced throughout the afternoon and the results were as follows:-

Team (in order of ringing)	Faults	Position
<i>Thrapston</i>	39	4th
<i>Wellingborough</i>	48	5th
<i>Daventry</i>	17	1st
<i>Kettering</i>	22	2nd
<i>Towcester</i>	28	3rd

The Master then invited Philip and Mike to present the Harry Wooding Trophy to Carole Pullin, Ringing Master of the Daventry Branch and certificates were presented to all participating teams.

Evening ringing took place at Daventry under the guidance of the Ringing Master where a variety of methods were rung ranging from Plain Hunt to Yorkshire and Cambridge Royal. Afterwards several of the stalwarts visited the Wetherspoon pub to enjoy a convivial hour or so in each other's company. The highlight was when our Guild Treasurer was accosted by two women asking him, "Do you have a part time job?" followed by "If we sit on your knee can we ask for something special?"

Sue Jones

Geoff Pullin

Guild 100 Club

January winners

1st No 47 £43.20 (Thrapston Branch)

2nd No 27 £10.80 (Rutland Branch)

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

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

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

Derek Jones.

WORDSEARCH

Rings of 8, 10 and 12 in the Peterborough Guild

A	R	I	E	L	F	K	R	L	P	T	W	N	E	K	C	I	W	D	G
B	A	R	T	O	N	S	E	A	G	R	A	V	E	O	A	K	H	A	M
Y	U	T	S	N	W	H	M	T	R	E	G	I	T	K	Q	I	W	V	P
F	N	H	X	G	E	E	I	H	T	S	D	T	O	U	N	D	L	E	F
I	D	L	G	B	L	O	T	G	W	E	E	D	O	N	B	E	C	N	W
E	S	I	C	U	D	G	A	U	H	S	R	A	M	H	C	T	I	T	B
L	U	N	W	C	O	A	L	C	B	A	B	I	B	U	E	O	R	R	Q
D	P	G	J	K	N	R	N	R	Z	U	M	P	N	A	B	W	C	Y	R
R	P	B	M	B	A	B	O	O	U	F	I	F	S	G	C	C	H	H	E
W	I	O	O	Y	B	O	T	B	T	H	I	T	E	T	A	E	E	K	J
H	N	R	K	H	K	O	R	R	G	P	O	N	K	R	C	S	S	I	S
I	G	O	V	E	N	I	U	E	J	N	M	C	E	X	R	T	T	N	T
L	H	U	R	I	G	Y	B	T	N	E	I	A	S	D	W	E	E	G	Y
T	A	G	O	S	O	R	A	E	V	R	B	L	H	N	O	R	R	S	E
O	M	H	T	R	N	M	S	P	C	M	O	U	L	T	O	N	X	S	L
N	E	O	S	N	O	T	R	A	B	S	L	R	A	E	R	G	K	U	K
Z	C	R	A	C	O	B	H	J	D	R	O	F	L	E	W	O	L	T	C
K	D	B	C	N	O	T	S	P	A	R	H	T	O	W	A	H	N	T	A
N	Y	G	H	C	E	B	L	E	S	A	H	L	L	E	W	H	T	O	R
O	Z	W	O	O	D	F	O	R	D	G	P	R	U	S	H	D	E	N	B

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

4th Apr

Guild Sponsored Ride/Walk Rutland Water

CYCLISTS: assemble at Whitwell Country Park, north shore for 10.30am start. Route is approx 26 miles (with a shorter 18 mile option). Cycle hire available.

More details from Keith Underwood on 01780 784343.

WALKERS: Park and assemble at The Horse and Jockey, Manton, LE14 8SU for a 10am start. OS: SK878446.

Routes supplied on the day - approx. 5 miles.

More details from Monica Spence on 01572 820199.

Pub lunches available at the Horse and Jockey, Manton.

25th Apr

Guild Spring Meeting - Thrapston Branch

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

13th Jun

Guild AGM - Kettering Branch

Ringling at Rothwell.

Service, tea, meeting and evening ringling

19th Sept

Guild Summer Festival - Peterborough Branch

The festival and eight-bell inter-branch striking competition

31st Oct

Guild Quiz - Bozeat Hall

7.30pm

See Guild Website/Posters for more details



