

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD  
OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS



*Newsletter*  
*September 2009*

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

*The deadline for the next Newsletter is : **28th February 2010**  
Please make a note of this date in your diary*

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

# THE PRESIDENT'S PIECE

I hope you all had a wonderful ringing summer. (The weather hasn't been that brilliant!)

A ringer in his eighties said to me the other day during an outing to Wollaston, Irchester, Rushden and Higham how we wouldn't see the magnificent churches or towns and villages we know nothing about if it wasn't for ringing. Outings, ringing weekends and holidays give us an opportunity to ring in different parts of our beautiful country.

This summer I have been lucky enough to ring in The Forest of Dean, The Costwolds, Lincoln and Northumberland as well as counties near to home. The countryside has looked beautiful this summer with more wild flowers than I can remember, I can thoroughly recommend The Forest of Dean in late spring - early summer, the bells were enjoyable too. Many ringers like to have a look in the churches and have their own interests, mine are modern windows, frontals and other tapestry and needlework items, there are usually a few bells among the hassocks. As you ring on bells outside the area you know lookout for hidden gems inside the church,

I have to return to child and vulnerable adult protection. The diocese has a new safeguarding officer called Garry Johnson, this is a part-time (24hr) post and Garry has worked in child protection in some form for years and is well qualified for the job. I have had several letters from him in my role as Child Protection co-ordinator for St. Mary's Rushden. The last one has said that the diocese has changed its policy on CRB renewals and all checks over 3 years old are to be renewed if applicable, you should have had this information from your own parish.

In The Ringing World of May 1st there is an article on the new rules coming in for child protection, only ringers who actually teach bell handling need to be registered with the ISA and there are new rules for transport. This means that far fewer ringers will need to go on the ISA lists and it is and will remain illegal to require someone to be CRB checked who is not carrying out a defined activity - simply ringing with children is not defined as such an activity. From a practical angle it is still the case that there should always be at least 2 people in any situation with young people.

**NEEDED** - Sarah and Colin have given notice that they intend to stand down at the next AGM so we need a new secretary and master from June 2010. Any offers or ideas will be gratefully received.

*Brenda Dixon*



# *News from the Branches*

## **CULWORTH BRANCH**

### **BODDINGTON UPDATE.**

Good news !, work on the re-hanging of Upper Boddington Bells is due to start in the late Autumn . As reported before the addition of the former bell from St. Saviors, Church in Bacup , Lancashire as aquired via the Keltek Trust will augment the fine sounding ring of five bells to six . There are still several fund raising events taking place , the main of which are as follows :- on Sat .24th., October ,the Linden Players will be presenting an Old time Music Hall in Upper Boddington Village Hall . Also Sat. Nov 7th there will be a a Barn Dance. And finally there will be a concert on Sunday 6th, December in Upper Boddington Church by the Kidlington Brass Band. . For more details Please contact Christine Copeman [ 01327260165 ]

### **CHARWELTON REDICATION.**

Many thanks to all from the Guild who kindly came along to Charwelton Church on Sunday 19th, July to celebrate the Re-dedication of our re - hung and augmented bells [ from 4 to 5 ]. We were very honoured to welcome the Right Rev. Frank White , Bishop of Brixworth to carry out the honour ,as well as visiting ringers from Steeple Langford in Wiltshire [ where our re-used cast iron frame came from, and Kineton in Warwickshire where our re - homed treble bell came from. Special thanks must go to David Kelly of the Keltek Trust, who found us the frame [free ] and the Kineton treble , which was kindly donated for us.

Also thanks to the Guild for the very generous grant which enabled our work to take place . Following the Service a sumptuous tea was served and provided in the Village Hall by many Villagers and friends . Thanks also to the Charwelton Flower arrangers who worked hard to adorn the Church for the occasion. Everyone is welcome to come along and ring on our pleasant sounding five bells , which ring very easily, although to say that they are at present loud in the Church is something of an under statement.



## **WHITFIELD.**

The news from Whitfield at present is that Ian Chapple is at present training two new recruit, and also Congratulations must go Alistair Widowson , son of Whitfield ringer Anne Widdowson who was recently awarded an M.B.E. by the Queen.

## **GENERAL NEWS.**

The attendance at Branch practices has been fair , with good turnouts at Lois Weedon in may and Sulgrave in June [ a Surprise visit by well known ringers Mr. & Mrs Colin Turner was welcomed . The Turners were attending a Wedding reception at the Manor, and had managed to slip away for a ring.. ]

Thanks to the Alcocks of Chacombe for providing a fine tea at the half annual meeting in July, although the turn out was lower than usual owing to weddings etc.

Moreton Pinkney Practice proved to be a very successful occasion , with some good ringing . Those attending were also treated to the delicious Cherry plums which were weighing down the trees in the Church car park .

Two 8 bell practices have taken place , at Aynho in May and more recently at Brackley in August. There was a good attendance at Brackley with several outside visitors which included David Kelly of the Keltek trust who had travelled a bit further north from an engagement in Oxford in order to " Grab " the tower before travelling home to Bath. The ringing included Plain Hunt , Cambridge Surprise Major and Steadman Triples.

## **SPECIAL THANKYOU,S ..**

Special thank you,s to all the willing volunteers who worked hard in the re - hang at Charwelton especially , Martin Rowling , Simon Shepherd , Maurice Shepherd . Tony Webster , Harold Thompson, Geof Pullin ,James Maplethorpe , also to Woodford plant hire [ Woodford Halse ] and Andrew Baughan. not to mention committee members , Fiona Spencer, Pauline Donnelly Gareth Dyer and Norman Blenkhorn . Thanks also to the loyal supporters at Branch practice from the Daventry Branch.

## **ST ALBANS OUTING.**

This year the outing organised by Alison Buck from



Byfield and Graham White from Charwelton. proved a very pleasant occasion , as usual.

Ringers from Byfield, Badby, Charwelton, Everdon, Eydon, Fawsley, Weedon Bec, Greatworth, Marston St. Lawrence, Brackley and Whitfield ., were transported to six towers in and around St. Albans on Saturday 22nd, August, by a 33 seater coach provided by the " Claydon Fox " .

Ringling took place at Kimpton [ 8 ], Sandridge [ 6 ] St. Albans, St. Michael [ 8 ], St. Albans, St. Stephen [ 6 ] , St. Albans, St. Peter [ 10 ] and Dunstable Priory [ 8 ] A good standard of ringing was achieved and again this proved to be a good Daventry and Culworth Branch occasion .

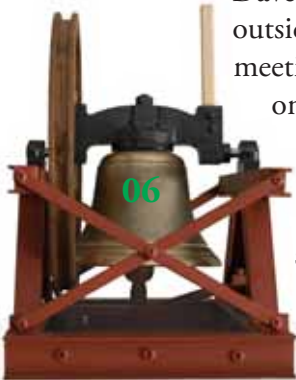
*Graham White - Branch Correspondent.*

## DAVENTRY BRANCH

### Meetings

We met in July at Badby where 29 rang and eleven didn't. Revd Michael Haighton performed our service in his usual cheery and appropriate way but assistance from Graham White was missing due to chickenpox! Tea was served in church for the first time. Eleanor Ramsbotham played the organ and hence found the music for Belfry praise for use in the village's next family service (see below). At the meeting, Tim Woodliffe of Badby was elected a student member. Alison Willgress settled the committee's inability to find a formula for the use of the branch maintenance fund for donations to professional projects. On the basis that the Guild Bell Fund was specifically for that task, it was agreed, one against and the steward away, that no capital grants should be made from the branch maintenance fund. The fund gained £30 from the raffle and the Guild Bell Fund over £49 from the collection. Only 15 rang at

Daventry including ten year old Sasha on her first ring outside Badby, but she preferred Badby bells! The August meeting was held after a spell of miserable summer weather on a sunny day at Everdon. There were 25 people who rang and six who didn't. The Revd Helen Rayment took our service whilst Michael Haighton battled with the organ. The Everdon ringers, supplemented by non-ringers, prepared and served tea. At the meeting, the debate on capital grants from the bell maintenance fund was re-opened after a report



that it stood now at £2,500. The recent decisions were reviewed, the money had not been lost to the branch and there was no current appeal within the branch. It was, however, decided not to have any further raffles for the fund, except at Christmas to use up prizes currently held, until funds were needed again. In the evening, all but one who aimed to, reached Easton Neston. This amounted to 16 including visitors. Ringing ranged from Bristol Surprise Major to Plain Bob Triples. Outings On May Day, Angela Waldock arranged another Badby rally, so called because timings have traditionally been very tight! We kept to the timetable! Pre-ordered lunch for 20 was served and enjoyed within 55 minutes at The Plough, Wingfield! We visited six towers, starting with the excitement of a stay breaking at Amphill, then followed by lots of rounds, calls and occasional Plain Bob, Grandsire and Stedman at Flitton, Westoning, Stansfield, Tilsworth and ending at Shenfield Church End, one of the village centres of Milton Keynes. Jack, Giorgio and Tim rang for the first time outside Badby, first eight, first upstairs ringing room and first swaying tower! Thanks to Chris and Dorothy Fitzgerald for transporting them and keeping them going with soft mints. Thirty nine set off in a hunters coach for the branch outing on May 9. We were early at Harvington, a fine light Taylor six, which were hung as a chime when cast in 1947 and re-hung properly in 1998. Janet marshalled us to go up through the trap door in sorted bands. Young Alan found these bells much to his liking. Next was Church Lench, whose bells were not so easy going. We arrived at the Carlton pub before it opened, but all the meals were served on time. At Evesham the bells were all up, so we started with ringing on the front ten, starting with bell 10 and using the flat sixth and the ninth as tenor. The glorious twelve bells were then put to work with lots of rounds with a call or two and finally a couple of bob courses of Grandsire Caters. There was time for a stroll around the town before heading back into the countryside to ring at Middle Littleton, a ground floor six, then at Pebworth. Our final ring was on the stately eight at Ilmington. The half course of Cambridge Surprise Major and the lower formed a good finale and prelude to the pub. We were pleased to meet former branch member, Revd Chris Goble, in this his new parish and especially as he showed us the way to the pub where the coach had already arrived. After refreshment we returned home along the Fosseyway arriving spot-on 9pm. Hugh led thanks to Janet for organising, Brenda for driving, Gwynneth for running the raffle to raise £45 for funds and the suppliers of



bags of sweets that seemed to constantly pass to and fro along the coach. To jazz up a trip to the Guild AGM, I arranged a few towers on the way. Just six ringers came along, including the Guild Master later! The first towers had four bells so we could cope! At Tugby, a churchwarden warmly welcomed us and had a ring with us. The second tower was like ringing in a telephone box! (Guess where?) The bells must be stacked vertically! I have to apologise that our last tower overlapped the official tower because we had rung there before. There were three noteworthy features of the AGM: the vicar had the time 30 minutes later than us and was whiling away time at home; Peter Wenham won the 100 club draw first prize; we learned that we shall sadly need to find a new Guild Secretary as well as a Guild Master for 2010.

On August 27 Braunston and Monday Club ringers had a mystery evening outing. The 5.45pm rendezvous was Gibbet Hill on the A5. Michael Haighton led the convoy through Shawell, Swinford and on to Stanford, where the tower captain informed us that the five bells are hung on 20th century self-aligning bearings in an 18th century self-aligning frame. Despite this daunting introduction and an anti-clockwise circle, we acquitted ourselves with rounds, plain hunt, Plain Bob, Grandsire and Stedman before the convoy departed to the mystery restaurant. After hassle at the M1/M6/A14 junction, the Catthorpe Farm shop proved to be the site of a substantial meal. Onward we went but back to Shawell, a light six eminently suitable for ringing after a meal. The evening rounded off at the White Swan with Brakspears forming a suitable conclusion to the foray into Leicestershire. Thanks to Michael and Barbara for organising.

### **Up the Towers**

Nothing major to report. Farthingstone restoration is being progressed by the PCC. A new set of ropes has been fitted at Norton. A stay at Staverton was dynamically tested for strength, found to be just wanting and replaced. Badby bell frame is over half way through a three colour repaint.

### **Special Services**

Daventry practice was cancelled on May 12 because of the archdeacon's service, but eleven gathered earlier to ring for it. Practice nights have been well attended through the Summer.

Badby family service on Sunday, July 19 was about bells and it wasn't my idea! The topic was chosen because Charwelton, in the same united benefice, but in another branch, was having its bells rededicated by Bishop Frank that afternoon. After a brief history of





the bells of character and a description of the mechanics, a new rope was measured out from the altar to the back of the nave. (Its mate is on loan to Charwelton pending delivery of their new set!) Belfry praise was sung after I had explained and demonstrated the rounds and queens and explained the ringing significance of called home. The congregation of 39, including 18 children, split into two parties and in turn rang handbells and with much vigour and little effect tried to chime the tower bells. The following Wednesday a father and two daughters (one was the best chimer!) came for their first proper lesson! It was nice to see the Revd Chris Goble (again!) back in old haunts and having a ring at Great Brington on Saturday, July 25. The occasion was a service to dedicate the kitchen and toilets that have been installed in the west end of the aisles. Hooray - the ringing room has been cleared of two cupboards and much crockery!

### **Special Ringing**

The unexpectedly sudden death of the Rt Revd Ian Cundy, Bishop of Peterborough and Patron of our Guild, on May 7, was marked with bells rung half-muffled between his death and funeral at practices and for services at Badby, Byfield, Litchborough, Nether Heyford and Staverton. Quarter peals were rung on June 10: Grandsire Triples at Daventry and Cambridge Surprise Minor at Nether Heyford, both conducted by Ian Willgess.

Instead of practice at Staverton on May 28, Philip Saunders conducted a quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles. It was the first quarter for Sarah Hyatt (tenor) and first inside for Christine Rodhouse.

The branch first-Sunday quarter peal in June was Plain Bob Royal conducted by Ian Willgess at Peterborough Cathedral for evensong. We also rang two bob courses of Grandsire Cinques up to service time thanks to Robin and Judith. A quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles was rung at Weedon as a 65th birthday compliment to local ringer Gerald Litchfield on June 8, conducted by Ian Calvert.

We had a hot and sticky training session on Saturday, June 27 when three from Litchborough did well at Cambridge Surprise Minor using the simulator at Braunston. Due to several weddings during the afternoon, we had a snug fit of hard-worked helpers. In the morning, Braunston bells were rung open for the launch of Braunston Marina Historic Narrowboat Rally and Canal Festival. They were also rung for the 9.30am service at the marina on Sunday.

Richard Waddy and Carole have organised a monthly



quarter peal attempt before evensong at Daventry alternately by the tower and branch bands. The July branch attempt of Yorkshire Surprise Royal fired out! It was less wobbly than the last attempt so we should have a steady branch surprise royal band soon! The first-Sunday quarter in August was Plain Bob Major at Weedon but that also failed!

Brian Foley's 65th birthday on July 13 was marked successfully by an evening peal of Rutland Surprise Major there, conducted by Mike Chester.

Ann Maud rang her first quarter peal by ringing the treble to Plain Bob Doubles at her home tower, Flore, on July 23, conducted by Ian Willgress. It was especially rung for the Revd Andrea Watkins, Assistant Curate of Heyford with Stowe-Nine-Churches and Flore with Brockhall who lives in Flore and was ordained priest by Bishop Frank on Saturday, July 4 at Peterborough Cathedral. Ann was presented with her first quarter peal certificate at our August meeting and was advised to get the conductor's signature when she next saw him! Hilary arranged three helpful quarter peals in August: Rhona Anderson rang the third to Plain Bob, her first of minor, at Pattishall on August 20 conducted by John Lindsay; Richard Hartley rang the second to Plain Bob at Easton Neston, his first of major, and Christine Rodhouse rang her first of minor on the treble at Flore, both conducted by Alan Marks on August 27.

On August 29 six people had sessions with Geoff at Badby getting to grips with raising and lowering bells of varying characters.

### **Special People**

Adrian Weaver of Ashby St Ledgers, who was learning to ring at Braunston, died suddenly on May 22, aged 64 years. Bells were rung open before his funeral in the crowded church. The bells didn't go as well as usual as it was Adrian who had been specially trained to oil them only a couple of months ago!

Richard and Val Hartley became grandparents on Friday, May 15 for the first time. Congratulations!

Stan Ruddlesden has been missed at Daventry, as elsewhere, since the end of May when he went into Coventry hospital for a new hip and is back there suffering with other ailments at the end of August after a brief spell at Danetre hospital. Since June, Richard Chater has returned to ringing and has become a regular asset to Daventry.

*Geoff Pullin - Branch Correspondent.*



## GUILSBOROUGH BRANCH

### **Branch Outing.**

Jim Hedgcock once again excelled himself by organizing a successful branch outing to N.W. Leicestershire , Ashby de la Zouch (10) and Measham (8) before lunch ; Orton on the Hill (6) Market Bosworth (8) and Sibson (6) before a tea break and final ring at Fenny Drayton (6). The last two of the day provided the most interest ; Sibson because the second bell used to be in Kettering and Fenny Drayton because the locals rehang resulted in most bells going up wrong!! There was coming and going all day as members had various other commitments but with the loyal support of other guild friends the day was a lovely one, even the weather was good and I enjoyed my picnic tea at Shackerston station recalling my happy days travelling behind a steam engine.

Saturday 4th July was the monthly branch meeting highlighted by an evening B.B.Q. Ringing at Haselbech was good but ringers were thin on the ground. Brixworth members did us proud and provided everything for a satisfactory time with ringing preceding the churchyard barbecue. Food was delicious and the company good.

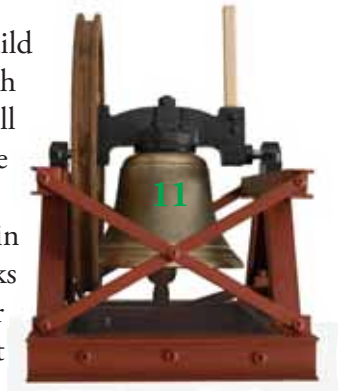
Lilbourne ringers continue with their efforts to raise money for the rehangng of their bells. There has been a hitch to the plans to re-tune the bells but they continue to contest this.

Crick had a bit of a blow when a suggestion to stop ringing was put into the quinquennial inspection. Since tell - tale ties were put in 1994 they haven't moved there doesn't seem much evidence that ringing is effecting the church structure. There is a problem with erosion of the stone work.

Two members of the branch have died since the last letter.

John Hunt died at the end of May. John joined the branch through his friends Derek Griffin and Arthur Millward. He came live in Market Harborough and was active in the Leicester Guild and at his funeral service in Market Harborough on 4th June . Ann Elliott gave a lovely tribute to the church full of friends and relations many of them bellringers. There was ringing both before and after the service.

Neville Craddock's funeral was 6th July. Many ringers in the Guilsborough Branch will remember The Craddocks A.G.M. Teas at East Haddon where he with his brother ran the village bakery. No outing was complete without



Neville's rolls and cakes. He and his wife were particularly generous on the Easter Monday outings and laid on a tea in the back of his Morris Minor estate. Neville was a loyal branch ringer and tower captain at East Haddon for many years.

*Dorothy Westerman - Branch Correspondent.*

## KETTERING BRANCH

### Outing

Our Branch Summer events took off with a full day outing on May 9th organised by Michael Wallis. Around 25 ringers had an enjoyable day ringing at Brampton, Godmanchester, Hemingford Grey, Hilton, St Neots and Kimbolton. Thanks to Michael for arranging this.

### Cycle Outing

A fine afternoon emerged on June 6th as did 18 ringers, 10 cyclists and several non-ringing family and friends, for the Half-Day Cycle Outing arranged by David Maddams. Visits included ringing at Stevington, Harrold and Oakley, after which we all proceeded to Bromham and enjoyed the sun whilst sitting out for our picnic tea (see pic kindly supplied by Jim Bence) prior to early evening ringing at Bromham Church. Our thanks to David for arranging this.

On July 11th Basic Training took place at Rothwell followed by our Branch Bar-B-Q at Desborough.



Our hosts for this event were Mary and Murray Coleman and an enjoyable evening and good food was had by all. By request at the AGM in January, the Striking Competition has been arranged for September 12th at Cransley. Nick Churchman is co-ordinating this and is at present attempting to visit all towers in the branch on their practice evening to drum up some teams who

will compete for the Watson Shield. Hopefully open ringing will take place afterwards. More news on this next time.

As our Summer programme ends so our Autumn one starts with a Mini-Outing which I am at present arranging for the afternoon of October 10th. This will take place in the South of Leicester area, more details to follow nearer the time and visitors from other branches will be more than welcome.

November 11th heralds the Annual Supper and Beetle Drive at Desborough which is preceded by Basic Training at Rothwell from 4-6pm.

On December 12th we have been invited to join the Wellingborough Branch Surprise Major practice which is being held at Rothwell in the morning followed by Basic Training from 2-4pm. Evening ringing following Basic Training has been abandoned in view of the winter evenings and a decline in support.

Our Branch AGM will take place on January 9th at Stoke Albany with service ringing from 4-5pm. Following the service a hot supper and the meeting will take place. Further ringing will follow until around 9pm, dependant upon numbers.

That's all for now folks, happy ringing.

*Chris M Pearson - Branch Correspondent.*

## NORTHAMPTON BRANCH

### Branch Outing

The 9th May seems such a long time ago now, but it was a special day on the Branch Calendar as Anne England had arranged ringing for Branch members at five churches in the Brackley area of the county. The weather was kind to us and we started the outing at the pretty church of Whitfield, 6 bells in a ground floor ring. This is a very light ring where we did not have to work hard on the bells, only concentrating on the methods we rang. Brackley was the next stop, a heavy ring of 8. We decided to ring up the back 6 first and whilst we were doing this a notice on the board was spotted warning that there was no stay on the second: we rang the bell up, but could not feel a stay, so decided to concentrate on ringing six bells because there were not



enough ringers to have all eight bells going and spare to stand with the inexperienced ringers with us. We drove on to The Marston Inn at Marston St.

Lawrence, Where they were

expecting us for lunch and we had a good meal. Not a good idea! the narrow spiral stairs up to the tower were very difficult after lunch, but worth the effort as the five bells were a delight to ring. Culworth is a ground floor ring with a very long draught which really tested our rope handling and brought congratulations to certain new ringers who managed extremely well. The last tower of the day was Weedon Lois, the access is a straight staircase, through a portion of the roof and then, if you are tall, watch your head as you enter the ringing room because a huge beam crosses the room just where you mount the last four steps. There is a fascinating clock mechanism in the ringing room here and the bells are another good ring.

Thank you Anne for another first class Branch Outing, we enjoyed it immensely.

### **Branch Beer & Skittles Evening**

It was “all change” for the June 2009 Skittles event. A new venue took us to the Eykyn Arms in Gayton where mine host, Wendy made us very welcome. New holders of the Ceil Swann Trophy also emerged after a very close contest throughout the evening. 10 teams contested the championship and the early casualties included Walt & Linda, Chris & Helen and Geoff & Kathryn, Perry & Jo, Helen & Mathew and Liz & Cecil fared a little better but the semi-finalists were all more consistent with their scores. Much needed food was taken on board at this stage to help calm nerves and prepare for the knock out stage. Anne & Mike fought a close battle with Simon & Edward before taking their place in the final. The other semi-final saw the champions of the last two years, Nick & Trevor, closely beaten by Mike & Kathy. So, St.Benedicts and Abington

contested the final which was a nail biting match with the lead changing hands regularly before Anne & Mike kept their nerve under great pressure to take the Trophy to St. Benedicts. Cecil was on hand to present his

Trophy and to remind the winners to keep it clean and defend it again in 2010. All agreed that the new venue proved successful and next year's championship is already booked for Gayton again.

*Norman Pope*

**More Sedman**

Another Stedman practice is scheduled for 6th October



at Little Houghton. On 3rd August we managed two touches, can we spend the whole evening ringing touches so that everyone gets the chance to learn singles - let's go for it! Look it up now!

### **Time to get Diagrams out**

There will be a special practice of Little Bob on Friday 8th January at Piddington. If you can Plain Hunt, can you plain hunt up to fourths place and back over any of the other five bells - now is the time to start practising because we shall need really good Treble ringers to keep the rest of us in our places. If everyone else is rusty like me, we need to have a good look at the book before the evening, so that we don't let the others down. Look forward to seeing you there.

### **Not long Now!**

Have you given any thought to the Branch predicament of needing new officers elected at the AGM on 23rd January?

Details of what everyone does for the Branch were printed in the April Newsletter, but just as a reminder these are the posts which will need to be filled at the meeting, Branch Secretary, Press Correspondent and ringing Master.

The Branch Secretary deals with all correspondence, takes the minutes at meetings and supports the Chairman with preparation of agendas and reports to the Guild. The Secretary and Treasurer represent the Branch on the Guild Finance and General Purposes Committee which meets four times a year at Bouverie House, The Lakes, Northampton.

The Press Correspondent contributes to this Newsletter four times a year and keeps the Editor of the Guild Newsletter up to date with happenings in the Branch. The Ringing Master runs the ringing at Branch Meetings and encourages the Branch Ringers to extend their ringing abilities with emphasis on Sunday Service ringing. The Branch Programme is drawn up by the Committee with the Ringing Master taking the lead using knowledge of the needs of the Ringers in the Branch regarding trainings etc. Past post holders will be available to give help and advice to the ringers who are elected to these positions should they need it.

### **MONTHLY & SPECIAL PRACTICES**

Since the last Newsletter practices have been held at St. Peters, Courteenhall, Dallington, Harlestone and Cogenhoe. I can only report on three, having been away for the others. The two monthly practices were well supported and between the 8 bells at St. Peters and the



5 bells at Courteenhall we rang a good variety of methods. Our Stedman practice at Cogenhoe was also well attended, with St. Benedicts transferring their practice for the evening so we were able to give their two new ringers an opportunity to ring on different bells for an evening. The Stedman ringers also experienced ringing on different bells from usual and a couple of touches finished off the evening. It was disappointing when no-one turned up for the special Bob Minor Practice on 12th August, however as this was on Brafield Tower practice night the regulars rang Plain Bob Minor as well as Cambridge.

## BRANCH PROGRAMME

10 Sep	6-bell Striking Competition	
	Duston	7.30
26 Sep	Weston Favell	7.30.
6 Oct	Stedman Practice	
	Little Houghton	7.30
24 Oct	Hardingstone	7.30
23 Nov	Annual Dinner	
28 Nov	St. Benedicts	7.30
2010		
8 Jan	Little Bob Practice	7.30
	Piddington	
23 Jan	Annual General Meeting	
	Boughton	3.00
12 FEB	Little Bob and Treble Hunt Practice	
	Dallington	6.30
13 Mar	Kent Treble Bob Training	

## BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER

TUESDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2009\*Note new Date  
 THE WHITE HART, HACKLETON  
 Look out for the Menu and Booking Form



## QUARTER PEALS

### LITTLE HOUGHTON

St. Mary the Virgin, on Saturday, 30th May 2009,  
 1260 changes St Simons, St Martins,



St Nicholas, Winchendon Place and Reverse Canterbury.

1 Mira Parsons

2 Bridget Paul

3 Alan Paul

4 Nicholas Parsons

5 Graham Paul (Conductor)

Rung as a One Hundredth Birthday compliment to Mr Robert Deacon  
(Wednesday 27th May 2009)

## LITTLE HOUGHTON

St. Mary the Virgin, on Tuesday 23rd June 2009, 1260 Doubles (3 methods:  
Reverse Canterbury, Grandsire and Plain Bob)

1 Mira Parsons

2 Dorothy Stopps

3 Colin Stopps

4 Trevor Jarvis

5 Nicholas Parsons (Conductor)

Rung half muffled in memoriam Mrs. Mary Arrowsmith, resident of this Parish

## COGENHOE

On Sunday, 28th June 2009, 1260 Plain Bob Minor

1 Marcia Morgan

2 Dorothy Stopps

3 Catherine Grubb

4 Colin Stopps

5 Reg Inman

6 Ray Henman (Conductor)

Rung for the Patronal Festival Service and to celebrate 100 years of the 6 bells of  
Cogenoe Church.

*Dorothy Stopps - Branch Correspondent.*

## PETERBOROUGH BRANCH

### Bulwick

Since the last newsletter the ladies of the band have had a shopping outing for a bridegroom's moulder's outfit! This expedition took all day. Fortunately for them, Chris Burgess, realised the stress they would be under



from their day out, and took pity on them inviting them to relax in the evening with a BBQ which he masterminded. Our Ringing Master took pity on Norma and visited

Peterborough the next day to purchase further items of her outfit for her.

We also had our annual visit to the fens visiting Chris and Karen Eyer's home for a BBQ. This also coincided with Karen and Sue Parker's birthdays. Karen having reached the age where life begins, and we missed our afternoon of music and games in the garden!

As I write the news from Bulwick, several members of the band are currently dusting their bus passes down ready for our annual bus trip to Peterborough Beer Festival. We will be rounding off the evening with a BBQ at Sue & Andrew's to celebrate Andrew's birthday.

David's waistband is expanding somewhat in his quest to retain his title as Bulwick's little housewife! His fairy cakes won first prize in last years village show and this year he has to master the art of making the perfect chocolate brownie. What some men will sacrifice!

By the way we still practice on a Wednesday night and visitors are always welcome.

## *Sue Jones*

### **Castor**

Saturday morning training sessions are still going strong with about 10 people regularly turning up. The bells are silent outside for this as the simulator is used. Training is being given in learning to handle a bell through to Bob Doubles. Branch eight bell practices are also held here on the first Friday of each month. Our thanks go to Judith Rogers, who has taken on the mantle of running these practices for us, since our Ringing Master, Richard Laing, resigned earlier this year due to now working in Birmingham. All needs are catered for and at last months practice the ringing ranged from Plain Hunt to Bristol. Visitors and friends are welcome to join us.



*Tony Evans & David Teall*

### **Glinton**

Glinton tower, even in August, is still attracting a goodly number of people to Thursday evening

practices; however we are grateful to many others who help us out on Sunday mornings or for special events.

One such group was a band from the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths (SRCY) who visited us while at their July country meeting in Lincolnshire. Coincidentally, Glington was celebrating the Patronal Festival as well as hosting the John Clare weekend afternoon meet. Unable to form a band ourselves, we were grateful that a tower grab and practice for the striking competition enabled the bells of Glington's fine organ (local rhyme- anon) to be heard by visitors coming to the festival. A true recognition of John claries poetry paying tribute to Glington's church and bells.

We are now looking forward to the Heritage weekend in September (12th and 13th) when there will be ringing, as well as a display of the bells history in the church.

### *Jill Cowcill*

#### **Kings Cliffe and Nassington.**

Joint practices are now held by these two towers and are proving to be most successful. Nassington host practices on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays of the month with kings Cliffe hosting practices on the 2nd and 4th Mondays.

All visitors are welcome to join them.

Kings Cliffe now regularly ring for Sunday services, and they are pleased to report that the tenor is now back in action since taylor's visited and tightened its nuts! All 5 members of the band regularly stay to service too. Tom White (aged 11) is now ringing the treble to plain methods and has rung for two weddings. He reckons the rates of pay are better than cleaning his dad's car!

### *David Teall*

#### **Peterborough Cathedral**

In August we have a complete (and well earned) bell ringing holiday: there is no service ringing and there are no practices. The last practice in July was attended by 28 people of all ages from near and far. Because we are at a corner of the Peterborough Diocese we are pleased to attract much support from resident members of the Ely DA and the Lincoln DG, many of whom are valued Cathedral Company members. Fortunately we



can offer people something not available elsewhere around here: twelve bells! We regularly ring quarter peals for evensong on Sundays. At the special request of the Dean we rang a quarter (PB Maximus) to celebrate Peterborough United's (POSH) promotion to the Championship. We rang a quarter of Grandsire Cinques as a thanksgiving for the life of Bishop Ian Cundy, and one of Grandsire Cinques for 'Peterfest' at which the Archbishop of Canterbury was the preacher. On leaving the service I had a word with the Archbishop and said that the bell ringers were pleased to welcome him to Peterborough and that we had put on something special for the occasion: I try to never miss a publicity opportunity! He seemed pleased to have a brief chat.

We rang half muffled as Bishop Ian's body was received into the Cathedral and fully open after the funeral the next day. We rang good call changes on both occasions! This ringing was supported by the Guild President (thanks Brenda) and others from around the Guild.

The bells were rung for two ordination services - one of them by the Rutland Branch as a calendar event. The Daventry Branch rang a quarter peal of PB Royal. Why not arrange to bring your branch along as an event in your branch calendar in 2010?

On some Sunday afternoons I have introduced 'Master's Invitation ringing' where I invite individuals from across the Guild to come and have a ring targeted at something specific. One has been rounds and call changes on 12, and one Plain Hunt 12. These have been enormously well supported and very enjoyable. Some were pleased to make long journeys. It was good to see you Bozeat!

Have you got the theme? ....all are very welcome at the Cathedral! Do contact me to arrange to come along as a Branch - perhaps to ring for evensong on a Sunday from 2:20pm to 3:20pm.

[robin@stamfordlincs13.demon.co.uk](mailto:robin@stamfordlincs13.demon.co.uk)

***Robin Rogers,***

Bells Master



## **RUTLAND BRANCH**

The summer season got off to a good start in promising sunshine with some forty ringers gathering at Great Casterton for the annual 6-bell striking competition.

Eight teams competed. The light bells threw some of the competitors used to more robust rings and perhaps the home team were at an advantage in beating Haringworth by a short head to take the shield. Our grateful thanks to judge Roy Williams from Worcester whose constructive comments on the afternoon's efforts were much appreciated, as was the tea provided by the home ringers.

June brought around sixty ringers to Uppingham for the Guild AGM. This compensated for a disappointingly low turnout at Preston beforehand, and the town was treated to some first class ringing. Grateful thanks to Janice Atkinson, Monica Spence, Christopher O'Mahony and all their helpers who contributed to making this an enjoyable and successful event.

The Wing Ringing Holiday has now become a fixture to be looked forward to at the start of the main holiday season in late July. Again organised with cool unruffled efficiency by Helen Pollard, this time in Norfolk as a change from Derbyshire. Starting at Holt and progressing over three days via Paston, Bacton, Happisburgh, Barton Turf, Catfield, Ludham, and South Walsham to Blofield. With weather ranging across the spectrum from summer sunshine to cats and dogs with some hail thrown in, another memorably enjoyable ringing holiday in delightful countryside ended on a high, with some excellent ringing at all levels on the 15cwt eight at Blofield. We are now looking forward to a days tour of seven towers along the A47 in early September.

More generally, we are encouraging members to try their hand at eight bell ringing with a have a go practice evening at Oakham. in September. And following up our comment in the last Newsletter about the challenge of training more teachers, we have been plugging the two one-day teaching workshops to be run by the Ringing Foundation in London and Birmingham in October.

*Giles Hopkinson - Branch Correspondent.*

**THRAPSTON BRANCH - no news this time**

**TOWCESTER BRANCH**

The two major events within the branch this spring and summer have been the annual outing, encompassing joyous ringing and camaraderie in the depths of



Derbyshire and Leicestershire, many thanks to all those who made us very welcome and the annual striking contest with our friends and neighbours, North Bucks, the latter is outlined below.

After several years of judging the competition ourselves, this Graham Clifton from the Banbury Branch had been invited to judge the event. He had brought Alan Griffin to assist with the judging. They had heard of the event from others who had judged it in the past and had expressed an interest in judging the competition because the format differed from most other striking competitions. There was a separate toss of a coin for each section in order to determine the order of ringing but it turned out that the Towcester branch rang first in all three sections.

*Below are some of the judges comments*

### **Plain Bob Minor:**

Band A (Towcester) practice time 3min 10 sec. Most problems due to poor leading

Band B (North Bucks) practice time 2 min 40 sec. A good speed, easier to hear, no major clashes

Result: Towcester 34 faults; North Bucks 24 faults

### **Call Changes on 8:**

Band A (Towcester) practice time 2 min. No signal before the start but didn't catch them out as they were ready. Most faults came when the calls were made. Took a long time to adjust, but eventually settled down

Band B (North Bucks) practice time 2 min. Not enough changes rung!

Result: Towcester 45 faults; North Bucks 61 faults (up to the point they stopped)

### **Stedman Triples:**

Band A (Towcester) practice time 3 min 15 sec. Very easy to listen to, only minor leading errors. Method mistakes was quickly corrected.

Band B (North Bucks) practice time 2 min. Several method faults. didn't settle at all



Result: Towcester 15 faults; North Bucks 32 faults

The Towcester Branch won the competition by 2 sections to 1, so they collected both the Jack Green Trophy for the overall competition and the George Holland Trophy for the Stedman Triples.



Summer vacations often compromise the busy calendars of many branches, not only in event attendance but also the flow of information, my contribution here is lacking in a few worthy snippets and I shall make amends by ensuring their valued inclusion in the next issue.

I would also hope to give a brief mention of extra ringing by members elsewhere and so shall start by mentioning my gate-crashing of a ringing practice in the Peel, Isle of Man, whilst enjoying a well earned break from work.

*Andy Hartley - Branch Correspondent.*

## WELLINGBOROUGH BRANCH

The wedding season has nearly ended and it is time to reflect on the major issues; what was the fashion this year? What was the colour, what was the length of the dress, is head gear back in and more importantly what did I save the fees for. On chatting around the towers I find that this additional income is put to a variety of uses such as holidays, wedding hats, purchase of more up to date technology, special outing etc. What ever you spent yours on; I hope you spent it wisely and gained



much enjoyment from your purchase.

Since the last newsletter in May, the branch has had a half day mini outing to Warwickshire. This took place on Saturday, 20th June and was one of the very sunny dry Saturday's. The first tower of the day was at Southam where we were all due to meet. Before this, some of us stopped at a pub for lunch, a most delight full spot by the side of the canal. This particular one had been spotted a week earlier on another ringing tour by a member of the group. Apart from very scenic views, we enjoyed a tasteful lunch whilst watching a number of barges pass by. It was with some effort that we moved on to Southam where some 20 people gathered for the first ring of the day.

The inside of the church had been transformed into a very modern setting with all the pews having been removed leaving a very large play area. The children in the group were able to take full advantage of this whilst the adults were left to have fun on the 8 bells. It was then on to Bubbenhall for a ring of 6 where a well struck course of Norwich and Double Oxford were rung.

We then crossed over the border into Oxfordshire to Willoughby for possibly the challenge of the day on their very long draughts. Of note in this church was the very ornate deep blue painted ceiling. After a credible course of Cambridge and special request for Double Court it was time for tea. We decided to stay in the village and sat by the side of the pond where we shared our picnic with a number of ducks. We were enjoying this relaxation amongst friends, so much so, that time passed very quickly and suddenly we were aware that we had hardly any time to get to Wolston. A must as this was to be a first for all three of us. We headed off, on what we thought was the quickest route, oh dear!!!. Once in Wolston, we could hear the bells, see the church but how to get to it that was another problem. By this time a number of the party had had to leave, so we still had the opportunity for several rings on this eight.

The outing concluded, as is the fashion with a leisurely drink in the local pub and as the weather remained warm and sunny we enjoyed sitting in the garden. This was a wise move as the pub was crowded and noisy due to a birthday jig. The branch is again indebted to Sue and John Beresford for all their effort in organising an enjoyable day.

Whilst we were enjoying ourselves two of our branch members were elsewhere into serious stuff; having been picked for the Peterborough Guild 10 bell striking competition at Richmond. Congratulations to Brenda and Simon Dixon for being part of the team who came





3rd. Those in the know tell me that this is the highest position our branch has ever reached. Well done.

Everybody has to start somewhere so on Monday 13th July the branch striking competition took place at Mears Ashby. Our thanks go to Pat Albon from Sharnbrook who judged the event and for his very positive feed back. He was assisted by Simon Sweeney also from Sharnbrook. Some 7 teams took part including a scratch team of Pam's friends. Quite a motley crew really but they did ring well, and would have been joint second if they had been allowed to be placed.

The final score was a decisive win for Rushden followed by Moulton and Irchester. Bozeat, Yardley Hastings and Grendon were the other teams taking part.

The events` calendar commences again on September 12th with a surprise practice at Wicken at 10.00 am followed at 3.00 p m with a branch practice and short meeting if necessary at Grendon. October 17th will take the surprise practice to Kettering and the evening practice at Wollaston. November 21st we are off to Moulton for the surprise practice and then on to Yardley Hastings for a Training session of starting and progressing at 2.30 p m.

The 12th December is the surprise practice at Rothwell and the evening it will be the branch quiz at Earls Barton. Tickets will be available shortly.

With that I conclude, by wishing you all a Merry Christmas !!!!! hum bug!!!

*Tanya Clayton - Branch Correspondent.*

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER'S PIECE**

I am investigating buying a cctv set up as a transportable kit that can be used to show bells ringing in a tower to people at ground floor level, for use on open days etc. wherever needed in the Guild. Advice so far indicates that an Axis 207 camera with 100 m of cable and any computer and screen can be programmed to do the job for around £250. If anyone has any technical expertise, or even better, experience with this use of modern technology, will they please contact me. If anyone has a future event for which this kit would be helpful, please contact me also, so I can prepare a good case for the Guild to purchase it.



On my trips around, I always look at the parish and village magazines for bellringing news. Some of you are doing a splendid job in keeping our exercise before the congregation and population in general in print. I look forward to finding even more!

**GHP**

### **BISHOP IAN OF PETERBOROUGH**

The sudden death of the Rt. Rev. Ian Cundy, 37th Lord Bishop of Peterborough and Patron of this Guild, on May 7 aged 64 years, came as a shock despite knowing that he was suffering from mesothelioma and intended to retire in July. From towers with flags flying at half-mast, ringers marked the loss. Several towers rang for practices and services with half-muffled bells between the Bishop's death and his funeral (including Rothwell, Litchborough, Heyford, Byfield and Badby). Quarter peals were rung (at Daventry, Heyford, Peterborough Cathedral and Rothwell). Half-muffled ringing took place on the eve of the funeral at the Cathedral finishing as the coffin was received into the Cathedral at 6.30pm and elsewhere.

Slow tolling was carried out for a period before the funeral at 4pm on Tuesday, May 19: 40 minutes at the Cathedral and for shorter periods at Litchborough and Staverton.

When the Archbishop of Canterbury re-entered the Cathedral after the committal, the 12 bells were rung half muffled for 30 minutes.

Frank, Bishop of Brixworth, has taken charge of the diocese until a new appointment is made.

### **Quarter Peals:**

Daventry: Sun May 10 1260 Grandsire Triples

Heyford: Sun May 10 1320 Cambridge S Minor

Peterborough Cathedral: Sun 10 May 1253  
Grandsire Cinques

Rothwell: Sun May 10 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Rushden: Sun May 17: 1260 Grandsire Triples



## ADDITIONAL PATRON FOR THE GUILD

At the guild's General Management Committee meeting in February, it was decided to ask the Bishop of Brixworth to become an additional Patron of the Guild as well as the Lord Bishop of Peterborough. This had been overlooked when the first Bishop of Brixworth was appointed a decade or so ago. We have now received an acceptance from Bishop Frank and welcome him, and his successors, to this closer formal association with us.

Bishop Frank has already carried out many ringing dedications, but we noticed at Charwelton that perhaps the Master could, to advantage, provide him with practical advice on chiming a bell!

## RIDGMAN TROPHY

A team from our Guild took part in the 22nd annual Ridgman Trophy competition on June 20. This eastern counties ten-bell competition is held between county and diocesan associations. The trophy features the shields of the Ely Diocesan Association and Cambridge University Guild, reflecting the contribution that originator Bill Ridgman has made to both over the years.

Each team was given about ten minutes to practise on the bells of St Mary's Church, Rickmansworth before its set piece was marked by two experienced ringers, Alan Regin and Simon Rudd. Guild Master, Colin Lee, organised our team and conducted the specified touch of 209 changes of Stedman Caters.

The results were:

1st	69 faults	Bedfordshire County Association
2nd	90 faults	Essex Association
3rd	111 faults	Peterborough Diocesan Guild
4th	120 faults	Hertfordshire County Association
5th	129 faults	Ely Diocesan Association
6th	130 faults	Cambridge University Guild

We shall aim higher at Cambridge in 2010!



NB. Only one PDG shirt was in evidence. Time for a new batch?



**Back row:** 6. Nick Churchman (Kettering Branch), 7. Robin Wilson (Guilsborough), 8. David Westerman (Guilsborough), 9. Simon Dixon (Wellingborough), 10. Brian Foley (Daventry)

**Front row:** 1. Colin Lee (Guilsborough), 2. Carole Pullin (Daventry), 3. Brenda Dixon (Wellingborough), 4. Geoff Pullin (Daventry), 5. John Stanworth (Towcester)

### **Northampton Branch Raising and Lowering in Peal session at Cogenhoe on March 21, 2009.**



Left to right: Richard Dawe, Kathy Dawe, Barbara Starmer, Dorothy Stopps, Colin Sampson, Colin Stopps, Susan George, Tom Brown, John Brown Geoff Pullin.  
(Behind the camera: Carole Pullin. Left too early: Graham Baker, Joy Baker)



# 100 CLUB

New members are always welcome - and needed - to ensure a boost to the bell fund. Nearly half of the 12 pound annual subscription goes to the bell fund, so an easy way to support the work of the guild and a chance to win cash prizes.

Branch coordinators can take your money and pass it on to me.

## Winning Numbers

I only give the winning numbers as a rule, (some wish to remain anon. data protection!) but have included the branch as well.

**May: 61(G) 83(K)**

**June: 16(D) 61(G)**

**July: 90(G) 107(R)**

**Aug: 45(P) 62(W)**

*Derek Jones.*

# CAN YOU NAME THESE TWO METHODS ?

## METHOD 1

## METHOD 2

Answers are on the bottom of page 31 but don't cheat!

# Have you looked up [www.pdg.org.uk](http://www.pdg.org.uk) lately ?



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



There is a list of **Guild Officers**



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



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



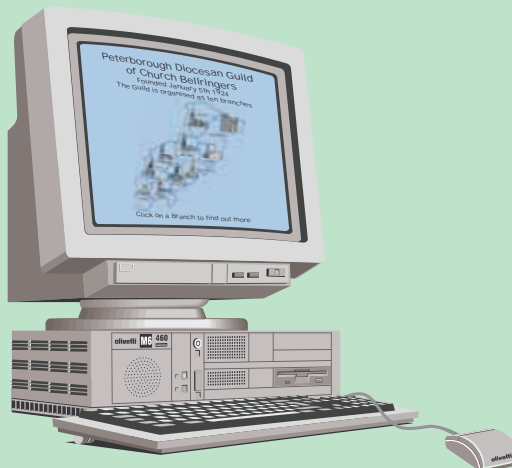
There is a section to help **tower publicity**



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



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



## GUILD EVENTS 2009

**19th Sept**

### **Guild Summer Festival - Kettering Branch**

**4.00pm** - Eight-bell inter-branch striking competition at Rothwell (on the back 8 bells)

**Evening Ringing** - Desborough (8) from 7.30pm

Team conductors please inform Colin Lee, Ringing Master (Tel:07743 775150) of intention to participate by Saturday 12th September.

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

**31th Oct**

### **Guild Quiz - Daventry Branch**

**Question Master:** Hilary Aslett.

7pm for 7.30pm start. Teams of four, £5 per person including buffet.

Please bring your own drink!

**Venue:** Weedon Village Hall, West Street, Weedon NN7 4QU.

Lat. 52.22849, and Long. -1.08457.



Answers to name the methods: Method 1 is Rutland Surprise Major  
Method 2 is London Surprise Minor

