

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD
OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS



Newsletter
September 2011

CONTENTS

The President's Piece	03
From The Master	04
<i>News from the Branches</i>	
Culworth	05
Daventry	07
Guilsborough	13
Kettering	14
Northampton	17
Peterborough	20
Rutland	26
Thrapston	27
Towcester	27
Wellingborough	28
Public Relations Officer's Piece	30
100 Club	31
Guild Spring Meeting	31
AGM	33
Other News and Events	34
Guild Website	42
Guild Events 2009	43

*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 2012**
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

Hello everyone, I hope you have had an enjoyable holiday with good ringing whether at home, on outings or on a ringing weekend or holiday. I went on a very good holiday to the vale of Glamorgan, an area I have never been to before, which had some interesting bells and churches and very varied scenery.

Back to Easter Saturday and the sponsored walk and cycle ride. It was a beautiful warm sunny day with about 40 people walking and cycling. The cyclists went round Rutland Water with or without the peninsular and the walkers walked round the peninsular. The best part of the walk was the bluebell woods and at one place a whole field full of them. After we had finished the walk we met the cyclists at the Pub at Manton which was packed inside and out with everyone enjoying the lovely weather. There were also several supporters here and this meant a lot.

Over the year several branches have been to ring for Evensong at the Cathedral. The Wellingborough branch had an excellent turnout and the ringing was enjoyed by everyone. Many thanks are due to Robin for his invitation to ring. We have been very lucky to have had several excellently produced and printed Newsletters Unfortunately this is not now possible in the same way. Reducing the pages might help so although we want as many contributions it would be helpful if contributors could be thoughtful about the length.

Hope to see you this Autumn, especially remembering the Quiz on October 29th.

Brenda Dixon



FROM THE MASTER

In June, ten Guild members travelled the A14 to St.Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich (12 bells, 34 cwt) to represent the Guild in the Ridgman Trophy, a regional inter-Guild (Association) ten bell striking competition for Guilds in the eastern counties. The back ten bells being used for the competition. I am pleased to report that the band from the Peterborough DG finished a very creditable 4th from the 8 bands invited to take part, Norwich DA being declared the winners. I thank all those ringers that took part. Next year's competition is being hosted by the Bedfordshire Association and is likely to be much closer to home, so why not take the opportunity to come along and support the Peterborough DG band. On a more sombre note, some of you may have read in the Northampton press or heard on Radio Northampton, that Nether Heyford parish church was extensively "vandalised" during early August. The parish prides itself on keeping the church open during the day for prayer. The belfry which is ground floor and open to the church was affected. The Guild six bell striking competition trophy the "Weaver Shield" is not kept in the belfry for obvious security reasons and was not affected. However, the damage although widespread throughout the church appears superficial, with furniture overturned, wooden crosses, wooden candle sticks and the Church wardens' staffs being broken, hymn books being strewn across the floor and fire extinguishers being dismembered but not discharged. All the picture frames in the belfry were ripped from the walls and the notice board contents torn down. Inevitably, some part of local ringing history has been lost. However, the bells which were "down" at the time and the clock mechanism appear untouched. Local volunteers cleaned up and normal service was resumed within two days. As yet we don't know who did it or what possible motives were. I look forward to seeing you soon at events in the branches and as always please encourage ringers to come to Guild events.

Ian Willgress



News from the Branches

CULWORTH BRANCH

CHARWELTON.

Charwelton tower has been quite active this year. I am pleased to say that Both Verity Spencer (aged 10), and James Shelton (aged 12), are now ringing competently having learned to ring at Charwelton on Saturday mornings.

5 Bell striking competition.

It was a great honour for Charwelton to host this year,s 5 bell striking competition which is organised by the Daventry branch each year on Saturday 9th, July. This year they kindly included the Culworth branch. There were nine teams taking part with the results as follows:- joint first place, Weedon Bec and Nether Heyford, 3rd Woodford Halse Wanderers, 4th Brackley, 5th Byfield, 6th Badby, 7th Lois Weedon, 8th Braunston Monday club and 9th Church Stowe.

Many thanks to John and Jenny Thorne from Southam who kindly sat behind the Garden wall of Church house on a sheltered bench and carefully judged the afternoon's ringing.

The Rev,d Sue Faulkner then led her first ever Ringers, Service and all were treated to tea in the Village Hall and the Daventry Branch July meeting.

Half Annual Meeting.

This year,s Half annual Meeting took place on Saturday 16th, July at Charwelton. There was a good turn out for the afternoon,s ringing, with a visit from Michael and Mrs Brown from Sapcote. This also proved a good opportunity for the new Charwelton ringer James Shelton, who rang for most of the afternoon. The Rev. Sue Faulkner then conducted her second ringing Service and again a hearty tea was enjoyed in the village hall.

During the meeting, Verity Spencer and James Shelton were elected as junior Guild members , and it was decided following the success of last year to hold another Branch dinner. The Venue [is] to be The " Fox and Hounds" in Charwelton on Saturday 1st, October.

QUARTER PEALS.

Two Quarter Peals have been rung before evensong at Charwelton, :-

Sunday 3rd, July, 1260, Plain Bob Doubles, Geoff Pullin, Treble, Rhona Anderson 2nd, Carole Pullin 3rd, Colin Anderson 4th and Graham White tenor. Rung as a Birthday tribute to Dr. D. Pound and Mr. G. Bird, Both



members of the congregation.

Also on Sunday 7th, August, 1260, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure B.D, Geoff Pullin, Treble, Colin Anderson 2nd, Rhona Anderson 3rd, Graham White, Tenor. Both Quarter Peals were conducted by Geoff Pullin.

WOODFORD HALSE.

On Saturday 21st May the Branch Practice was due to take place at Woodford Halse. Mr. John Lewis was welcomed at the Church as an early arrival by the tower captain Derek Thornton.

Whilst John was getting out of his motor cycle gear, Derek climbed the short iron staircase to the ringing chamber to open up and pull the clock chime off. Suddenly John witnessed Derek falling head first through the trap door of the ringing chamber to the bottom of the stairs.

It was soon clear that Derek was seriously injured ,and John summoned the help of a passing local , whilst other arriving ringers kept Derek comfortable until the Paramedics arrived. Derek was then transported to the Horton General Hospital in Banbury by ambulance , accompanied by his wife Sibyl. Derek was eventually transferred to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. Derek had been kept in an induced come and had suffered two heart attacks. Following Surgery to his neck and many stitches on his face, Derek began to recover.

Within the month Derek was at home on his feet and phoning many of his ringing friends. Although not ringing, Derek is now back driving his car and has made a good recovery. Derek has given many years of devotion to his ringing since being taught to ring as a young man at his native Byfield by the late Mr. Fred Hutt, and as tower captain at Woodford Halse for many years. His ringing friends are delighted with Derek's speedy recovery and it is perhaps due to the fact that Derek has kept very fit and active , still cycling etc.as he has reached his mid eighties. Derek tells me that he suddenly realised that he needed to switch the Church lights on, and the rest we know.

BRANCH OPEN DAY.

On Saturday 7th, May all 23 ringable towers in our were open for one hour to raise funds for the Guild bell fund. There were a good number of visitors all day with ringers coming from as far and wide as Tadcaster in North Yorkshire to Sedlescombe in East Sussex and Surrey. During the Day Mrs Barbara Bartlett and her ladies served a delicious two course lunch in Chipping Warden Church to raise money towards the re-hanging of Chipping Warden bells. Syresham and Upper Boddington and Charwelton towers all seemed popular (all being re - hangs). This event overall proved a great success with £591 being raised for the Guild Bell fund. Many thanks to all who helped to



make this event so enjoyable and successful.

WHITFIELD.

New learner. We are all pleased to her that the Rev.Dorothy Micklethwaite, Assistant Priest in the " Astwell Benefice" (Helmdon w Stuchbury & Radstone & Syresham w Whitfield w Lois Weedon w Weston & Plumpton & Wappemham), is being taught to handle a bell at Whitfield by Tower captain, Ian Chapple.

Graham White - Culworth Correspondent.

DAVENTRY BRANCH

OUTINGS

On a very warm July 1, 1961, KW Coaches took the branch on their annual outing along winding country roads to Great Milton, Little Milton, Dorchester, Streatley, Goring, Pangbourne and Hambleton. On a cool blustery May 14, 2011, Hunters Coaches took the branch along straighter roads and motorways to Great Milton, Little Milton, Benson, Streatley, Goring, Pangbourne and Lewknor. Hazel Parsons, who provided some notes, and Hugh Johnson were on both trips! Dominic, in full Hunter's uniform, got us to Great Milton early. After Little Milton we went to the Three Horseshoes, Benson for a good meal and strolled to the tower. After ringing at Streatley, Berkshire we walked over the Thames, to ring at Goring-on-Thames, Oxon. After the brick tower of Pangbourne came the coach challenge of the day - Pangbourne toll bridge. Common sense was applied and the collector agreed that having crossed, it would be better for us to continue. Fifty years ago KW Coaches would not have had this trouble. The churches have also altered, with the altar in the body of the church and the installation of toilets! At Lewknor a picked band tried to raise the ground floor six. Very soon, ropes and sallies were flying in various directions and the priority became setting the bells safely. This spectacle unnerved some, but Graham White's face was in its full ecstatic mode! Nerves were calmed at Ye Leathern Bottel before we departed 'prompt'. There was no noisy M40 in 1961, but we very quickly joined it in 2011 and were home by 9.13pm. Dominic expressed our thanks to Janet and we all heartily agreed and we gave Dominic a clap as well for driving and looking after the ringing at Lewknor.





Great Milton. Left to right: Brian Thompson, Margaret Dean, Eileen Thompson, Hazel Parsons, Richard Hartley, Ros Atchison, Shannon xxx, Dominic Sinclair, Alan Rodhouse, Christine Rodhouse, Ian Calvert, Jim White, Geoff Pullin, Val Hartley, Janet Bowers, Ian Willgress, Val Calvert, George Wrycroft, Barry Thompson, Gwynneth White, Shirley Waterhouse, Deena Johnson, Jane Rands, Alison Willgress, Graham White. (6 missing!)

On May Day Bank Holiday, Angela Waldock organised an outing for 14 Badby practice-night ringers. After ringing at Stratton Audley, Twyford and Steeple Claydon we thought we were on an obstacle course as each were difficult to control. Lunch at the New Inn, Padbury refreshed us for the normal installations at Padbury, Maids Moreton and Lillingstone Lovell. The last are tuned as the front five of a six, and a new treble was due to be cast that week – making them sound like 2 to 7 of an eight!

In the last newsletter, there was a photo from the Heyford jaunt. To misquote Eric Morecambe – I listed all the right names but not necessarily in the right order! I sent the Editor the wrong photo!

PUBLIC RELATIONS

On April 8, Newnham hosted a class of 30 from Weston Favell for a session around the church and swung chimed the bells. Sixteen very excited Welton Rainbows visited Daventry tower as part of their Royal Wedding challenge. They saw a bell rung up, saw it ring when they were in the bell chamber, rang Queens on handbells and finished off with a mild cacophony as they succeeded in chiming the bells!

Barby, Braunston, Byfield, Great Brington (quarter peal), Harpole (quarter peal), Hellidon, Litchborough, Preston Capes, Weedon (quarter peal) and Whilton rang on the royal wedding day.



A quarter peal at Harpole was rung for the Duke of Edinburgh's 90th birthday. A group of Chernobyl children had a day on June 30 at Badby and Fawsley churches. They rang backstrokes on the bells, walked through the wood, had a picnic and rang handbells with John and Sue Townley.

A well struck piece of Beverley Surprise Minor on Harpole bells was broadcast for two minutes on Bells on Sunday on Radio 4 on July 3. The branch website, just before it had to be taken down due to phishing, received congratulations to the ringers from Malcolm Hensher who used to live in Nether Heyford as a schoolboy in the 1950s and regularly cycled to Harpole on practice night.

PEOPLE

We were very shocked when Richard Chater fell and died whilst ringing for a wedding at Daventry on March 5. Many ringers, from this time around and from his earlier ringing career attended his funeral at Harlestone on March 21. Richard began ringing at Moulton and was first elected a member of the Guild in 1953, aged 13, and in 1966 transferred to Harlestone after marrying Pam. Richard, known as Dick in earlier days, rang five peals for the Guild and taught many youngsters to ring when he was tower captain from 1965 until 1972, but then he drifted away from ringing. After a serious illness in 2008, he recovered and took up the exercise again with much enthusiasm. He was only re-elected a Guild member for Daventry in January. Amongst the tributes was a quarter peal rung at Harlestone in the presence of his family on what would have been his 71st birthday, June 3.

Peter Wenham has recovered from his serious fall but not without some lasting effects. At the last Braunston annual meeting, Peter resumed as tower captain but with steeple keeping firmly off the agenda.

Elizabeth Gwynne walked 6 miles with the Guild sponsored walk to raise £68. Shirley Waterhouse ran the London Marathon in 4 hrs 34 mins in aid of Meningitis UK. Well done to them and their donors.

Graham Paul (Harpole) earned a 50 year membership certificate at this year's AGM.

Brian and Anne Foley's daughter was married at Weedon on April 30. A quarter peal was linked to the event and there was a peal of Rutland at Weedon on Saturday, May 7 – sufficiently later for Brian to have fully recovered!

Mary Townsend, whose late husband's family lived and rang at Dodford in the 1920s and 1930s, spent six weeks in the UK and rang with us after the Guild AGM at Daventry. She stayed overnight and rang a quarter peal at Dodford before making her way south. Mary mentioned that the Rev Peter Boyland,



curate of Towcester who led our Guild AGM service at Paulerspury in 2010 has been appointed as Vicar at her church in Claremont WA. Small world!

Welton has gained a new recruit, Nikki Butt. Our network of day (Mondays 10am at Staverton or Litchborough; Monday 2.15pm at Braunston training centre; Tuesdays 10am at Hellidon) and evening practices, enabled Nikki to have her first three lessons at Hellidon, Braunston and Staverton to fit around her shift pattern!

Braunston's simulator can usually be booked for training of any type by other branches, groups or individuals through Peter on 01788 891935.

Jill Harvey is aiming to put together a Wednesday afternoon eight bell surprise practice at Weedon about fortnightly.

MEETINGS

There were 47 in March in well-heated Welton church, and the Vicar, the Revd Chrys Tremththanmor rang some backstrokes. Chrys swiftly took the service in which we remembered Richard Chater. After a splendid tea organised by Harold, we greeted as new members Paul and Emily Richardson (lately from Surrey and now ring at Byfield. Emily instigated Byfield's new stair rope!) and student members Sarah Waterhouse and Amber Gugliemi (both of Nether Heyford but practice at Flore to avoid a clash with Scouts' night). After Graham's transport had been dealt with by our ever helpful steward covering for the chairman and ringing master who had dashed off forgetfully to cold Whilton, where 24 assembled. We were the only customers at The White Horse, Norton afterwards. Saying it as it is: I'm sure you will find the Revd Chrys' notes about weddings at Welton <http://www.stmartinswelton.org.uk/weddingbooklet.pdf> very appropriate and worth repeating in your parish!

There were only 21 who rang, with 17 apologies tendered to the meeting, at Bugbrooke in April. The Vicar, the Revd Stephen French led our service which included another new ringers' hymn off the internet with Sue Pace at the organ. 15 later rang at Weedon where Jane Wincott reported that she got through plain hunting on seven without being shouted at, although others were. She expected a certificate and got one! Cambridge and Lincolnshire were encouraged round, but not enough to try London. It was nice to see Peter Wenham in the evening – hoping for London! The Kings Head, Farthingstone hosted refreshments.

Many members of the branch contributed to the Guild's AGM, held at Great Brington in June. Special thanks went to Janet for arranging things, including the Rector! The cattle were somewhat bemused as many cars took 43 people through their field to Charwelton church on July 9.



As we were using a Culworth branch tower for our five-bell striking, we invited teams from Culworth branch. The Rev Sue Faulkner, taking her first bell-ringers' service, kindly delayed the start for 15 minutes whilst the nine teams completed the competition. Spike and Jenny Thorne from Southam gave their verdict as: first equal Weedon and Heyford, then Woodford Halse, Brackley, Byfield, Badby, Lois Weedon, Braunston Monday club and Church Stowe. The Ron Woodward trophy was presented to Weedon and Nether Heyford to share for the year. A typical full Charwelton tea was served in the village hall and fifteen got to Byfield in the evening. Refreshments were taken at the newly re-opened Fox and Hounds at Charwelton afterwards.



Jenny Thorne presents the Ron Woodward trophy jointly to Alison Willgress for Heyford and Ian Calvert for Weedon.

Norton bells were put to good use in August by thirty including visitor Les Townsend on his way back to Lincoln.

The Revd April Richards took our service for the first time. Everdon ringers organised the tea as their tower was out of action.

Newnham tower had a good sway in the evening as 17 put the bells through their paces, including Double Dunkirk Bob minor.

BRANCH QUARTERS

Two quarter peals at Weedon conducted by Jim White in February and March led to Richard Hartley and Christine Rodhouse ringing their first of Stedman Triples. The latter quarter and Grandsire Caters rung at Daventry were also dedicated to Richard Chater. The Grandsire Caters, and another rung in May were both conducted by Ian Willgress. Unfortunately our quarter attempt at Peterborough Cathedral in April came to grief when we failed to wake up after the tittums. In June the Lincolnshire Surprise Major at Whilton, conducted by Ian Willgress,



enabled Jane Rands and Justin Baker to ring their first in the method. The branch organised Rhona Anderson's first quarter of Plain Bob Triples inside at Weedon on Sunday, Aug 7th. We had later requests for it to mark her father's 80th birthday and from Richard Waddy to mark the 100th birthday of his mentor Jim Dixon at Cummins , Shotts!

OTHER QUARTERS

Ann Maud rang her first quarter peal inside at Flore on March 23 as a compliment to her parents on their Golden Wedding. A quarter peal on March 28 at Harpole remembered the Revd Douglas Bond, rector there between 1995 and 2003, who died ten days earlier. On April 12, practice night at Staverton was a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor allowing Brian Clark to ring his first of minor. Christine Rodhouse's fiftieth birthday was marked by a quarter peal at Litchborough on May 31.

Congratulations to Hilary Aslett who rang her 800th quarter peal on July 1 at Boddington. It was rung for Jill Harvey's 65th birthday and for conductor Ian Calvert completing 50 years of ringing. During a quarter peal at Welton on July 16, the bride intended to walk to church, but it poured with rain! Two days later another was rung to celebrate a 70th wedding anniversary in the village!

UP THE TOWERS

In May Everdon tower was encased in scaffolding for major stonework repairs and ringing ceased. Stays have been manufactured for Braunston, Bugbrooke, Badby, Daventry, Staverton. The branch has bought another reel of polyester rope.

Weddings at Daventry seem to be blighted. On June 4, as the bride left the church, the ninth clapper shaft broke – seven days before the Guild was scheduled to ring after its AGM! With steeple keeper Richard Waddy off on a protracted narrow boat trip, the branch steward and chairman organised a new clapper from Taylor's which was delivered on the Friday still wet with paint. Refitting dry clappers at Daventry is no easy task but we got it in that afternoon.

On August 2 a stay was broken when Richard was away, so the other Richard obliged and there was a stay for the two weddings on the next Saturday. It makes us appreciate the work that Richard Waddy has put into this belfry over the years!

CONCLUSION

Six months is rather a long time to wait for 'news', so this might have been pruned even more by your editor. If anyone wants to keep up to date with the Daventry Branch please send an e-mail to gcsspullin@yahoo.com and ask me to add you to the circulation of my 'omnibus e-mail' which goes out about twice a month.



Geoff Pullin - Daventry Correspondent.

GUILSBOROUGH BRANCH

Since the date for submission was missed last time , this one should begin with a tribute to the late Ernest Orland. Ernie , as he was known , began his bellringing in Long Buckby and soon became a regular visitor to other towers in the branch particularly in Yelvertoft where he encouraged a young band used to ringing the first ten of Grandsire to become more adventurous and attend other practice nights and even Central Council meetings. His days as this branch secretary saw the branch develop. Some members of this branch were pleased to attend his memorial service and pay their last respects.

Alan Elliott – Churchwarden and Tower Captain of Gt Oxendon died in early June. Many ringers attended the funeral on 21st June. Ringing took place before and after the service. Alan was obviously a friend to many , as it was standing room only in this small church where family and friends joined to pay tribute to a truly well loved man ; he didn't waste words or suffer fools gladly but was kind hearted and sincere in all he did. Anne has agreed to take on the tower contact duties and will continue to ring. We will all support her.

Two towers in this branch are nearing the time when the bells will be ringing out again. Work on Crick tower is now in full swing and soon the bells will be ringing. All they need now is some ringers to join Geoff Brown to ring them. Lilbourne funds are at the point where work can commence on the refurbishment. Altho ' John Alexanders ' health is not good at the moment he and the parish have continued their fund raising.

Brixworth ringers once again entertained with a wonderful barbecue after the July ringing. This is always a happy occasion and we are pleased to welcome Ray & Wendy Daw who spent the weekend at Hollowell Steam Fair with the Lichfield Mobile Ring. This usually generates some new interest in tower ringing and Julie Woolley & Merrick Bowles do their best to make sure it all happens.

Finally we congratulate Peter Fleckney on achieving his 50 years membership of the Guild. Over the years he has rung peals in most towers in Northamptonshire and organised fund raising events when the Cathedral bells were installed.

Dorothy Westerman - Guilsborough Correspondent.



KETTERING BRANCH

PRACTICE SESSIONS

The first of 2011 was held at Barton Seagrave and had a record attendance of 38 ringers. It had been decided beforehand to concentrate on raising and lowering in peal and was a huge success and of much benefit.

The March session was held at Rothwell with 8 experienced ringers giving undivided attention to just 2 ringers.

Dominic from Desborough and I had a superb practice, working hard for 2hrs with a short break for tea and biscuits at half-time.

The April session was held at Isham with glorious weather prevailing it was attended by 25 ringers including the new band at Isham.

It proved to be a great afternoon with refreshments in the sun. Our thanks to Margaret Buchanan for hosting this practice session at her tower.

The May session was held at Rothwell and in the morning for a change. We had a good turnout once more of over 20 ringers and various methods were rung from requests. If any Kettering Branch ringers have not been to one of our sessions, come along and join in, they are fun.

OPEN TOWER DAY

On Saturday 19th March Desborough bellringers held an open day. Visitors were able to see an exhibition about bellringing and the Desborough bells, climb the tower to see the bells, visit the ringing room to see how a bell is rung, enter a competition and enjoy tea and cakes. The day was enjoyed by all who attended, including many local people who had never previously had an opportunity to see the bells and find out what went on 'upstairs'. As a result of the open day there are now six new learners at Desborough who hope to go on to become regular members of the band. Desborough bellringers would like to thank all who supported them in this venture by loaning items for the exhibition, making cakes or helping to talk to the visitors.

MURRAY'S EASTER MONDAY OUTING

This was enjoyed by around 30 ringers from the Rothwell practice. The day started with an 8 bell ring at Longstanton followed by another 8 at Fen Ditton.

Lunch was enjoyed by all in the garden of the pub, The Ancient Shepherd at Fen Ditton and 5 of our group headed off down to the river for a picnic.

The afternoon ringing took off gently with 6 bells at Bottisham followed by an 8 at Burwell then a 10 at Fordham



before a break for a most enjoyable group picnic tea. Our last ring was another 10 at Soham. This was the 1,000th tower that Brian Austin has rung at and photo's of him were taken. After a most enjoyable day we all headed off to the nearest pub for refreshment.

Thanks to Murray for once again organising a fantastic Easter Monday Outing.

JUNE MINI OUTING

This comprised of a 3 tower walk/ride/picnic. We had a most enjoyable outing, after a



sharp shower on our way to the first tower we were blessed with fine weather and sunshine. 20 Kettering Branch ringers, 6 of whom cycled (and 3 visitors) rang call changes and a picnic in the park at Medbourne followed by a village ramble and Quiz kindly arranged by Jane and Miles, prior to the evening ringing.

We finished the day off sitting in the beautiful evening sun by the river at the pub in Medbourne. The quiz results were given out by Miles. There were only 2 points between us all and the winner was Maureen who won a box of chocolates and kindly shared them with us all.

Our thanks go to Jane Marsh for arranging a super outing.

BAR-B-QUE

Ringing was arranged at Burton Latimer Church from 4pm-6pm followed by a B-B-Q at our home. The ringing was attended by 18 ringers.

The B-B-Q was enjoyed by a total of 28 of us, food was plentiful and with a wonderful variety of dishes provided by everyone, followed by

Delicious Deserts is the best way to describe them, topped with cream or ice-cream. We had a quiz entitled Bells, Bells and more Bells, this was won by Brenda.

The proceeds of the quiz went to Nick to put towards sugar and fruit for his jam.

The weather was very kind to us and we all sat in the garden enjoying the early evening sun.



Bill Adcock enjoying the home brew and deserts



Chris made some home brew, it was plentiful with 5 gallons of Real Ale and the same of Lager. A most enjoyable time was had by all and I would personally like once more to thank all who helped with food and and the kind people who helped my dishwasher by doing some extra washing up.

NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

BARTON SEAGRAVE

Derek Sibson arranged two tower open evenings earlier this month with a huge turnout on both evenings. Following this BS tower now has 15 new learners. Chris Pearson is helping Derek to do the training in small groups on monday and thursday evenings.

Edward Groome and Bethany English continue with Plain Bob Minor and Maurice and Pat are improving very well with call changes.

This continues to be an enjoyable practise with several experienced ringers coming along.

BURTON LATIMER

We have a new little learner, and I mean little, she is our grand-daughter Sophie aged 8yrs going on 18. She stands on "a mountain" and is being taught by her Pops, Chris. After only 3 pulls she was doing the tail end on her own and couldn't wait to get on her bell the day after her 1st lesson at the B-B-Q ringing and was encouraged by all of the KB ringers. Sophie will soon start her training at Rothwell Tower on the dummy bell initially to ensure she achieves good handling and bell control before moving on.

We continue our practises and are pleased that Tina Brimley and daughter Olivia continue to trek over from Benefield where they now live. Tina is now the Tower Captain at Benefield and since Chris and myself went there as visitors and to give Tina a hand we have met again with our old friends Claire and Dick Meads who have joined Tina and they will also come and join us at BL.

Welcome back to ringing Claire and Dick after quite a few years break.

ROTHWELL

A quarter peal of Plain Bob Royal was rung for Evensong on Sunday 20th March to welcome the new Curate. That's all for now folks,



Frances Pearson - Kettering Correspondent.

NORTHAMPTON BRANCH

People News

Following the most sudden death of Jackie Page, wife of John Page Tower Captain at St George the Martyr Church Wootton, on 3 March from a brain haemorrhage, a Service to Celebrate the Life of Jackie was held in the church on Sunday 20 March. It was attended by family and their friends and villagers who knew Jackie, either through her daily walks about Wootton or the time she was a Churchwarden. The Celebration was concluded by a half muffled quarter peal of Bob Doubles rung by friends of the family.

Treble: Christine Tongue

2nd: Hilary Aslett (JC)

3rd: Cecil Swann

4th: Nick Elks (JC)

5th: Robin Hickmott (JC)

Tenor: Geoff Brown

The method was jointly conducted (JC) whilst John sat in the priests chair, quietly listening and remembering their life together. The band managed to get the quarter, despite there being a power cut halfway through the ringing. On-listeners commented later that it sounded wonderful!

Thank you all!

John and Jemma

Chairman's notes

Can I first take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped make the Spring Festival such a success? It was a lovely day at Dallington: the setting was lovely, the weather was great, the food was fantastic, and it all went well.

There was a very good standard of ringing by all the teams that took part. I congratulate the team from the Branch who put in a very respectable ring of 120 courses of Plain Bob Doubles to come 4th, a shame we couldn't enter a few more bands from the Branch, let's hope we can muster a few more bands for the Branch striking competition at Courteenhall! When we moved on to St Peters there was a good evening's ringing of Major and Triples for both the experienced and less experienced on the eight.



Special Branch Practice – Kent Treble Bob – March 7th at Cogenhoe

This Special Practice took place on a Monday, so we were uncertain as to the turnout. As it happens, we had plenty on hand who had at some point in their lives previously rung Kent - albeit in one case 34 years ago!

After ascertaining everyone's knowledge and confidence levels we decided to start off with a plain course. After some initial uncertainty, we managed a couple of plain courses in a very quiet manner. Of course the bells were not quiet because they were ringing, but it was quiet because there was no shouting, and very little putting right necessary. So confidence levels were, if not running high, at least higher than they were before we started. And more than one ringer was pleasantly surprised at how they had managed to get through the plain course. So now to up the ante with a touch! Well, a bob-course, which in Kent is only three leads long, but is still a challenge. After an initial discussion on who might be doing what and when, we seemed to be none-the-clearer, so decided to get on with it and see what happened. Although the treble ringer could only treble-bob and didn't know the method, he managed to call both touches for us! As before with the plain course, a little uncertainty at first, but then we seemed to get the hang of it and successfully rang a couple of bob-courses. The striking is yet to be improved upon, but at least we have the building blocks of a few courses of Kent under our belts now.

Quarterly Meeting at Duston on March 19th 2011

We had twenty-one people attending this year. It was good to see a few faces who do not usually attend Branch Practices, but once again the meeting could have been better supported by the membership. I would urge those of you who did not make it to please make an effort to get to these meetings. We need your support, and it would be nice to see more of you – this is an opportunity to catch up with other ringers whom you may not have seen for a while, for you to have a say in how the branch is run, and to have a go at ringing methods that you may not normally get the opportunity to do at tower practice.

In the afternoon session the ringing was kept reasonably simple to enable learners to have a ring at familiar types of ringing. This included rounds, call changes and plain hunt. We also had a couple of touches of Bob Doubles and Grandsire to help those who are progressing to plain hunting the treble in methods. We attempted St Clements as well, but it proved a bit too much for those who had not rung it in a long while.

This was followed by the service which was taken by



Andrew who filled in at the last moment because Alan Baines had other commitments. A nice buffet was provided by Liz, Karen, Rosemary and her daughter, and we then had a short business meeting.

The evening ringing was a bit more advanced compared to the afternoon session, with touches of Stedman, Grandsire and Bob Doubles being rung, along with a couple of other methods to add to the interest, such as St Simons and Reverse Canterbury.

Thanks go to Cecil for ensuring the facilities were available for us to use, and for being a good host.

Branch skittles 18th June 2011

A record entry for the title “Branch Skittlers 2011” saw 36 ringers and friends converge on The Eykyn Arms in Gayton. Wendy and her staff again made us very welcome. New holders of the Cecil Swann Trophy also emerged after a very competitive contest throughout the evening.

16 teams challenged for the championship and the lack of practice contributed to the early demise of Gill and Ian, Chris and Trevor, Kaye and Margaret (last minute entries who kindly agreed to play to make scoring easier!), Kathryn and John, Anne and Geoff, Judith and Mike and Gill and John. Ian and Peter, Kathie and Mike, Phoebe and Mark and Libby and Josh fared a little better and a play-off was needed between Liz and Cecil and Vera and Ray to decide the last semi-finalists.

A well prepared buffet and more drink was called for at this stage to help restore concentration, calm enthusiasm and prepare for the knock out stage.

Dorothy and Colin contested a close battle with Vera and Ray and despite high class coaching and guidance for Vera from Ray, Dorothy and Colin prevailed to take their place in the final. The other semi final saw Simon and Edward closely beaten by John and Barbara with some class deliveries.

So Abington and Cogenhoe contested the final which was a tense affair. Partisan support ensured that both teams played to their highest potential but it was Dorothy and Colin who kept their nerve under great pressure to take the Title. Cecil was on hand to present his Trophy and to remind the winners to keep it clean and defend it again in 2012. He also reminded all of the monthly practice meeting at Boughton on 25th June when he hoped we would have a similar attendance.

All agreed that the Gayton venue again proved successful and the food was very good value.

Norman Pope



Branch Practice and Quarterly Meeting at Boughton 25th June 2011

The bells at Boughton are a fairly light five, so nothing too troublesome for anyone to grab a rope, except perhaps the treble and the two are very light and so require a modicum of control to ring. So we had a good turnout, sixteen people in all, and we got through quite a few doubles methods including a couple each of Plain Bob, St Martins, Grandsire, Reverse Canterbury and some Stedman. We stopped ringing part way through for a brief Quarterly Meeting to discuss branch business matters. Nothing too onerous arose, but we felt we ought to give branch members more of a chance to find out what is going on and to provide an official forum for input from members. It was also a good opportunity to stop for a cup of tea and some cakes! With hindsight, we realised that we should have extended the time allocated to the practice, so any future interim quarterly meetings will start at 7pm rather than 7:30pm, to ensure we do not eat in to valuable ringing practice time. During the ringing, Ian had a few chances to practice plain hunting on the treble, and he also had a couple of goes at ringing inside to Grandsire. Well done Ian! To round off the evening, we adjourned to the pub next door for post-ringing refreshments and a good chat.

Nick Elks - Ringing Master

Harlestone 23 July 2011

The monthly Branch Meeting was attended by 10 members, and the 20cwt 6 seemed to be a bit of a match for all of us. Having made a good attempt at ringing up in peal, we decided that whatever we rang would have to be doubles as nobody felt like pulling the 20cwt tenor in or dashing to minor methods. We started with a nice touch of 120 plain bob doubles, followed with some well placed rounds and call changes, followed with some Grandsire Doubles. Another 120 courses of Bob Doubles was followed by some more rounds and call changes and a nice ring down in peal, leaving a lovely hum sounding over Lower Harlestone.

Ivor Wilde - Northampton Correspondent.

PETERBOROUGH BRANCH

In May we held another Ring for your Supper, the photo of which is taken from Campanophile. We met at King's Cliffe for ringing followed by a main course of quiche and



salad and then drove the three miles to Wansford where a delectable range of sweets were laid out to tempt those who had mastered the very light six. Our monthly eight-bell practices on the first Friday at Castor have continued with the inevitable reduced attendance over the holiday period. It is encouraging to see such a wide range of abilities catered for and the introduction of two special methods each month has focused our minds.

Benefield

The newly rehung six were dedicated by Bishop John Flack on May 29th. The dedication band were as follows: Treble Hilary Aslett, 2 Brenda Dixon, 3 Murray Coleman, 4 Nicholas Churchman, 5 James Haseldine, Tenor Alex Dyer. The church was full with a congregation of locals who had worked tirelessly to raise



the funds and ringers from across the area eager to experience the new bells. All were able to see the results of their labours through a live video feed from the bells to the body of the church. Peter Knight's hard work over the past three years leading the fund raising, Tina Brinley's enthusiasm as Tower Captain and Alex Dyer's support as Branch Steward are all gratefully acknowledged. The regular practice night is Monday when, with the help of ringers from other local towers, a band is being trained. They have already rung for several weddings.

Bulwick

Our practices continue to be well attended despite the pub being closed for a few months (back again now) and we have been able to add York, Wells and Yaxley Alliance to our repertoire.

We have welcomed three visiting bands over the summer. Due to holiday commitments social life has been limited but we did enjoy a lazy Sunday lunch with Chris and Cathy after which we all travelled home by bus!

We have been saving our energies for the August bank holiday weekend which will see the bus passes in use again as we visit Peterborough's Beer Festival followed the next day by a certain person's half century party. News of that next time.

St. Kyneburgha, Castor

Over the past six months the band at St. Kyneburgha has



been tested to the full with service requirement. Apart from ringing every Sunday for the service we have rung for eight weddings and six funerals at Castor, five weddings at Wansford and one at Thornhaugh, in addition we also rang for the Deanery Mothers' Union Lady Day and Retired Clergy services.

Although the Castor band usually manages to ring all eight on Sundays we have difficulty during the week to get enough for the additional services at Castor, Wansford and Thornhaugh and are fantastically supported by Joan Parker of St. Mary's and Mick and Mandy Loveder of Maxey.

We have had four guest bands ring at Castor so far this year, one peal and two quarters, of which only one quarter was rung by Castor ringers.

As we no longer practice on Bank Holiday Mondays we try to arrange "Away Practices" at towers we want all our band to get experience with. So to that end we had one "Away" practice this year so far at Wansford to improve our striking on small bells for our wedding ringing. It turned out to be very beneficial and a big improvement was achieved.

There was a great deal of interest in the Channel Four's showing in March of "Time Team" which was filmed here in June last year, revisiting Edmund Artis's excavations and recording in the 1820s of the Roman Praetorium.

Typically Castor's progress in ringing methods is painfully slow, not helped by injuries (not sustained ringing) and our best ringer losing some of his hearing. Nevertheless all enjoy a little better striking and are positive and keen to learn more when more qualified ringers join us from time to time.

Finally we have lost one of our most loyal practice night ringers, Mick Loveder, having defected to a male voice choir, I know it is very worthwhile and successful, but I hope it will not be permanent, he is needed here!

William M Baxter Tower Captain

Castor Ringing Centre

We are now into our sixth year at the Castor Training Centre and still going strong. We have had over 50 trainees through our hands during this time and currently have some 16 people on the register. To undertake the training we have between 4 and 6 regular trainers attending with 2 or 3 reserves to cover shortages, etc. The emphasis at the moment is on teaching Bob Doubles but requirements vary between basic bell handling through rounds and call changing to plain hunting. Recently we have had an influx of half-a-dozen ringers



from the Rutland branch as well as a lady from Kings Lynn!

Easton on the Hill

Our main item of news this time was our celebration of Sue's ten years as Tower Captain.

Glaphorn

The three bells were rung by a visiting band on June 11th. They were doing a tour of 3-bell towers in Northamptonshire. Do look at the short video clip of the ringing on: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3Rkt8BV_uY

Glinton

February was a memorable month! Not only did we continue without our Tower Captain for several weeks, we also followed the news of the dreadful earthquake in New Zealand with disbelief. Knowing that Mike and his wife were due to visit Christchurch, and that Mike would certainly wish to ring the bells, we hoped for some good news which would tell us they were alright. News eventually came, together with a collective sigh of relief from Glinton.

However, we were very fortunate during this time as we were helped out at several practice nights by many ringers including Robin and Judith Rogers, as well as Pat and David Teall.

April saw one of our newest ringers, Sally Collop, ringing her first quarter of bob doubles. Setting herself quite a challenge Sally had decided that her first quarter would be on an inside bell (No. 4) – and on her birthday! Yes, quite a big birthday! The quarter was scored in 48 minutes; all the ringers and friends being invited to celebrate in the Blue Bell afterwards! It was a very happy occasion. We have rung for seven weddings already this year, and are booked for two more. This sometimes proves quite a challenge for us but we are always indebted to our many non-resident ringers who continue to help us out for special events.

In June we welcomed Jan and Peter Marshall back to Glinton from Australia – sadly only a fleeting visit but they showed that bell-ringing really is just like riding a bike as they rang a touch of bob doubles with no hesitation at all. It was really lovely to see them back in the tower.

During July we have had visitors calling in to see the tower and bells, as well as one group from Royston to ring the bells. Much interest was also shown in the bells at Peakirk cum Glinton Primary School leavers' service, also in July.

We average between ten to fourteen ringers each practice



evening, and will continue to practise through August, so if you wish to join us on a Thursday evening please come along.

Jill Cowcill

King's Cliffe

This summer has been a busy one with three weddings and three visiting bands as well as a visit from the Bishop. We are grateful for the support we get from other local ringers for services and as a boost to our practice nights.

Nassington

We try and maintain our fortnightly practice on Mondays with the kind help of ringers from Bulwick and Gidding. With only having five bells so we can only ring doubles methods but find that difficult at times as we don't have enough ringers. We would appreciate and welcome anyone who could join us on our practice night.

We do have two learners who are getting along quite well. They attend the training session at Castor on Saturday mornings which is a great help to them. Hopefully, they will soon be able to ring for our services.

Unfortunately, John Wilson, a ringer for many years at Nassington is still unable to return to the tower and is greatly missed.

On Saturday April 2nd we had a church open day and managed to put on a bell ringing demonstration and invited anyone that was interested to try their hand at ringing, under supervision, of course. This is how we managed to recruit our two current learners.

We have had three visiting bands this year and would welcome more ringers if they wish to visit our tower.

Keith Underwood.

Oundle

After a long hiatus, Oundle now holds a practice night on the fourth Tuesday of each month. These have been well attended by ringers both from Oundle and further afield. It has been very good to hear a number of methods on the 8 bells. Bob Gardner has led the ringing. We have also welcomed a number of visiting ringers, including the Rutland ringers on Tuesday 9th August. The next practice night is on Tuesday 27th September. Everyone is most welcome. Enquiries to Pauline Davidson, tower correspondent, at paulineanddavidson@hotmail.co.uk



Peterborough Cathedral

We have had a busy summer. The last practice before the August break was well supported with 25 people there, and we tried Yorkshire Maximus for the first time in ages, and had two keen young first time visitors from the Deepings. We also ring lots of rounds (nothing better for special occasions), call changes and Plain Hunt, and Grandsire Caters and Cinques.

We had a "Have a look, Have a go" after morning Eucharist which has successfully attracted 4 beginners from the congregation. It has been good to welcome the Daventry, Rutland and Wellingborough branches to ring for Sunday Evensong, and there are three more branches booked in this year. For 2012 Culworth, Northampton. Thrapston and Towcester Branches why not put a visit in your programme? Some Branches have been very pleasantly surprised at the support they have received for this. Normal recipe is to meet at 2pm on the 2nd or 4th Sunday and ring for the 3:30 pm Evensong.

Robin Rogers

Peterborough, St Mary's

St Mary's have had a busy time both ringing and socially.

In April 12 adults and 5 children headed west to visit Sharon, (our previous vicar) and Andy in Somerset. We spent 3 days there catching up, ringing (5 different towers) and visiting a cider factory. We were also joined by Vic and Dorothy Chamberlain, previously from Stamford. On Sunday we attended Sharon's Palm Sunday service before heading back home.

We rang quarter peals for the Royal Wedding, for our honorary member, Ossie Roberts' 98th birthday, Beth Graham's 80th birthday (for which we managed another of our surprise parties!) and a trilogy to welcome Reverend Michael Moore as our new vicar.

In June we were again fortunate to have a lovely fine evening for our picnic at Tolethorpe before enjoying Shakespeare's "A Winter's Tale".

We liaised with the Reverend Guy and Kate Scott and arranged an outing for the Branch to ring at 4 towers in the Biggleswade area. This was well attended and enjoyed by all who came.

A group of us went to the Broadway Theatre to a concert in aid of Help for Heroes. It was given by an inaugurated male voice choir and Leslie Garrett. It was good to see 2 ringers, Mick Loveder and Charles Macrorie,



helping out in the choir, proving that ringers don't just ring!

In July we invited interested members of the congregation to come along for a taster session of bellringing. 3 people turned up, enjoyed the experience and we hope will continue.

Our ringing master has also given us a challenge of ringing a quarter peal of 25 methods/variations by October!

Pat Teall - Peterborough Correspondent.

RUTLAND BRANCH

It was a particular pleasure for me to arrive at Peterborough Cathedral for Evensong on Sunday 10 July to the welcoming sound of bells rung by Branch members at the invitation of Robin Rogers. This was an enjoyable and particularly worthwhile occasion for 26 ringers, directed by Richard Beadman and Louis Totaro.

An active summer programme opened with a 6-bell striking competition at Preston, ably judged by Derek and Sue Jones. Seven teams from six towers fought it out on an ideal April afternoon, ending up with a fun challenge between two scratch teams of ladies vs. gents – the ladies won! Novice teams were particularly congratulated on their progress and attention to striking. The final message of the day: “Good striking, every week, not just competition week!” Thank you, Derek and Sue.

Our active ringing diary has included regular 8-bell sessions, in addition to advanced 6-bell practices, an encouragement to ringers from 6-bell towers to extend their range and experience. There was a good turnout for the Royal wedding with ringing at around 75% of Rutland's towers. Another Ring and Ramble with the Wing team in July was a fun occasion of the kind which confers real added value to ringing as a sociable activity.

Two quarter peals merit special mention: on 6 June, rung at Harringworth for the funeral of Arthur Scholes, in grateful thanksgiving for his long and stalwart contribution to ringing in Rutland, in particular as Tower Captain at Harringworth and as our Group Auditor for thirty two years; on 12 July at Uppingham, rung to celebrate the 80th birthday of Jack Atkinson, with his daughter Janice (Tower Captain) and grandchildren Jack and



Molly in the band. On 17 July, a peal was rung at Belton in Rutland to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the bells.

Our grateful thanks to all who devote their time, skill and energy to keeping the bells ringing and to Alan Wordie in particular, our devotedly energetic Ringing Master. We look forward to an enjoyable autumn.

Giles Hopkinson - Rutland Correspondent.

THRAPSTON BRANCH

Our New Year started with a very well attended A.G.M. at Woodford . The ringing was of an excellent standard as was the excellent supper afterwards.

A few changes to the committee were agreed at the business meeting and a provisional programme for monthly meetings was arranged for the forth coming year. Monthly Branch meetings have been well-attended with beginners and more advanced ringers being well – catered for.

The Tuesday Evening 8-bell practice at Woodford is now well established and providing new ringing opportunities for more practiced ringers to undertake.

Ringstead St. Mary's ropes are slowly improving and the six bell practice has done much to help. The residents of Ringstead are generally very pleased to hear the bells rung regularly, by both local and visiting ringers.

A very enjoyable Summer Outing to the Welland Valley Towers was organised by Len Hallifax. East Carlton was certainly a very interesting experience!

A delightful evening meal at Stoke Albany followed ringing at Dingley. Congratulations to the Woodford and Thrapston Ringers who completed the Rutland Water Bike-Ride. It was good to see so many ringers participating in this event and thanks to Sue Jones and her team for the much needed refreshments en –route.

The Branch is continuing to encourage new ringers with beginners progressing well at Wadenhoe, Woodford and Thrapston.

The Thrapston branch now looks forward to hosting The Guild's 8-bell striking Competition in September and welcoming Ringers from across the County.

Alison Byrnes - Thrapston Correspondent.

TOWCESTER BRANCH - no news this time



WELLINGBOROUGH BRANCH

The branch is always looking to improve and introduce new ideas and following on from the introduction of a junior representative on the committee a training session was held for young ringers; although the not so Young were not locked out. This proved to be a popular session and a number of towers were represented by their young ringers. The comments received were very positive and participants were glad of the opportunity to develop their skills, whilst ringing within an experienced team. At many of their home towers there is not this opportunity due to a shortage of experienced ringers. Another young ringers event will be held in the autumn. For me and many others the highlight of the Spring/Summer calendar was on the 24th July when the branch rang for Evensong at Peterborough Cathedral. Approximately 30 members took the opportunity and ages ranged from 10 to the 80`s. Some even used it as the first stop on their holiday, having parked the car and caravan in a street near by before their onward journey. We were welcomed by Robin Rogers and after a short prayer the ringing began. For many of us it was the first opportunity to see 12 bells hanging in a tower and possibly once in a lifetime opportunity to be part of that ring of 12 even if it was only rounds. During the time in the tower there was plenty of opportunity for the novices to ring rounds, call changes and plain hunt and for those whose repertoire extended further, grandsire Caters and Little Bob Royal was rung. Many of us watched in envy - how do you see which of the twelve to ring over? Just in case you may have forgotten, April 29th to May 2nd was our peal weekend; oh and a royal wedding on the Friday. Everyone seemed to be caught up in the wedding fever but unfortunately the excitement did not extend to the quarter ringing. Only 4 towers rang and so well done to Earls Barton, Finedon, Irthlingborough and Rushden.

Wollaston rang a quarter during the same week to also celebrate the 90th birthday of Eric Walker. Eric began his ringing career when there was a drive for millennium ringers. Since then he has been a loyal Sunday Service ringer, usually seen drumming behind on the tenor. The branch wishes Eric a healthy retirement from his ringing.

It is good to report that the striking competition was better supported as 8 teams arrived at Grendon on 21st June. The competition amongst the experienced teams was close but very well done to the less experienced teams who entered into the spirit of the event. Rushden was



declared the winner with Finedon a close second. Orlingbury and Irchester were in joint 3rd place. Grendon, Wollaston, Bozeat and Yardley Hastings being the other teams who entered into the spirit of the occasion. Well done to you all. Our judges for the event were Colin and Debbie Sampson from the Northampton branch.

At the Guild 6 bell striking competition held in April and hosted by the Northampton Branch at Dallington; Rushden had to be content with 2nd place. They lost by 0.1 of a point to Heyford and therefore lost the trophy which they have held for 2 years.

Another successful half day ringing tour was held in July when some 15 ringers set out on a very wet morning for Leicestershire. The outing was again well organised and all towers were open on time. Our first point of call was the 8 at Church Langton, then it was off to the 8 at Kibworth Beauchamp and then on to a 6 at Saddington. Although the rain had stopped, the sun still failed to shine but it did not prevent a Picnic at Foxton Locks and then it was off to the last tower of the day for another 6 at Foxton which seemed to be the most challenging of the day. The party consisted of all abilities and in some instances the first for them at an 8 bell tower. All equipped themselves well being given the opportunity at each tower from rounds to surprise methods depending on ability. As is the custom on these trips, there was a swift half at the local inn before returning home.

1st July was the Golden Wedding anniversary of Janet and Roger Wilkins. Janet has been the Tower Captain at Earls Barton for many years. She has served the branch committee faithfully as Vice Chairman and is the 200 Club branch organiser. Roger, whilst claiming not to be a ringer served the branch for many years as steward before retiring a few years` ago. Roger was always willing to assist the tower representatives with their technical needs. Earls Barton rang a dedication to mark the event and presented a certificate to them to record the ring. The weekend also celebrated a special birthday for Janet and to mark this occasion the members of the tower presented her with a Peal Board which recorded one of her two peals and the only one at Earls Barton. This was in 1992 and the method was All Saints Surprise Major. Warmest congratulations to you both and many more happy years together.

The autumn programme continues with Surprise at Irthlingborough from 10.00 and the branch practice at Mears Ashby at 3.00 p m on September 24th. All are



welcome to attend any or all of the sessions.

For full details log on to www.wellingboroughbranch.org.uk.

Tanya Clayton - Wellingborough Correspondent.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER'S PIECE

FROM PERHAPS TO ACTION

Recruitment is not my main task, but the whole point of my post is to provide a planned and sustained effort to establish and maintain goodwill and mutual understanding between an organisation and its publics!

If I succeed then recruiting must be easier. There are no signs that I am succeeding! We need to get alongside the younger generation. We need new younger ways of doing it. We need a younger PRO! I don't do Facebook, Twitter or even YouTube, but some of you do. Can you help?

We don't have any display boards ñ a bit old hat - perhaps we can take a lead from the Lincoln Guild and buy a Wombel (See RW July 8) for use around the diocese to attract young recruits.

Can we support the Guilsborough Branch better to cover manning and costs of the Lichfield Diocesan Mobile Belfry at the Hollowell Steam Rally in July every year? (Five new recruits have turned up at Long Buckby practice after the rally this year) or the Trafford Mini-ring at Blisworth in August?

Talk about it in the pub, at your branch AGM in January and fire up your reps for a good discussion at the GMC in March!

SHIRTS

Sales have now reached 149 (end of May) making a profit for the Bell Fund of £235. Navy polo shirts predominated. Some towers have equipped themselves with a complete set, especially to ring in uniform for public performances.

Order forms, specifications, colours, sizes and current prices are always available at www.pdg.org.uk > shirts.

EXCUSES COMPETITION CONTINUED

(Best excuses for not attending practice nights)

4. Very sorry, had hoped to come ... but only took possession of my neighbour's cat this afternoon (instead of yesterday) so I really need to stay and settle it in and introduce it to Chris! DF 9/3/11
5. You may remember some three years ago that I and my



neighbour's were fighting a planning application to build a large house in the garden opposite me. Well, they haven't done it yet but are seeking to renew the permission for a further period. It will come before the Parish Council on Wednesday. I think I should be there to express my views. I may therefore not make it to practice. BT
23/4/11

Geoff Pullin PRO

100 CLUB

Month	1st Prize	Number	2nd Prize	Number
MAR 11	42.40	106	10.60	70
APR 11	42.40	34	10.60	124
MAY 11	42.00	82	10.50	32
JUN 11	42.80	61	10.70	94
JULY 11	38.40	77	9.60	55
AUG 11	38.40	09	9.60	17

Prizes are based on monthly membership, with half the subscriptions going to the bell fund. There are three prizes in September to bring the total prizes to below 50% (47.1%) as required by the gaming licence. The varying amounts show the changing monthly membership, September being a busy month for renewals. Subscription is £12 per year, applications to go via the branch representatives

Derek Jones.

GUILD SPRING MEETING

During that busy fortnight between Easter Sunday and May Day, when the weather was dry, sunny with a cool east breeze, the Guild met at Dallington, near the middle of Northampton. Three teams were ready at 3pm, so once the bells were raised and the judges installed in the nearby garden of Mervyn Bridges, the competition began. There was then a period of general ringing until the remaining two teams arrived. After they had duly performed, a splendid tea was provided by Ann England, Christine Lea and



Gill Smith with plenty for more teams had they turned up. Dorothy Westerman, representing the Guilsborough Branch proposed the vote of thanks. The 100 club draw was appropriately won by Norman Pope, who is Northampton branch's efficient 100 club organiser and he was there to receive his cheque. Stan Ruddlesden of Long Buckby won second prize. There was no formal business other than the results. The Master introduced the judges - Alan Marchbank, Deputy Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild and his son John from Milton Keynes. Alan explained his positive marking system ñ that there were 120 points for a perfect test piece ñ and the results were expressed as a percentage of perfection. He then described the pieces of ringing and announced the very close results in reverse order and presented certificates to each team:

- | | |
|---------------|-------|
| 5. Badby | 87.8% |
| 4. Darlington | 90.0% |
| 3. Rothwell | 91.3% |
| 2. Rushden | 91.5% |
| 1. Heyford | 91.6% |

Ian Willgress received the Weaver shield on behalf of his Nether Heyford band and thanked the judges for their time and effort on behalf of the Guild. Evening ringing took place on the eight bells of St Peter's Church, Northampton. The bells are a complete 1734 ring by Rudhall, and the 900 year old building has been restored by the Churches Conservation Trust. A large range of methods enabled everyone to have a good go and to ring methods that they don't often get the opportunity to practise.



The winning Heyford team. Left to right: Ted Garrett, Alison Willgress, Jim White, Shirley Waterhouse, Gwynneth White and Ian Willgress



Ian Willgress receiving the Weaver Shield for heyford from Alan and John Marchbank

GUILD AGM

The Daventry Branch made ringing available with a full supporting band at Nether Heyford and Norton. About 12 people, including two from Bristol, took advantage! However, there were 60 at Great Brington to natter, admire this impressive church that has benefitted from having the Spencer family live in its parish for 500 years, natter and ring the sonorous six. Janet prised the Rector away from a service-sheet-for-tomorrow crisis to take our service. With Michael Haighton playing the organ with his usual flair, the singing was to a high volume. The list of members who have passed on must have been the longest ever.

There was a cosy fit of people in the Reading Room for tea. The meeting started after the 100-Club draw. It gradually dawned on me what Janet Bowers was up to, as she started a proposal for me to be elected a Life Honorary

Member. Nobody voted against it thanks! 50 year membership certificates were due to: John Townley (Whilton) already received, Graham Paul (Harpole), Peter Fleckney (Unattached, Guilsborough Branch), Maureen Easton (Desborough) presented at the meeting, and Ann & Terry Smith (Rushden).

Most of the business was uncritical, even the raising of the annual subscription from £5 to £6 (first rise since 1996) and the rope fee for peals from 15p to 20p (first rise since well before that) were passed without discussion. We voted £1,000 for minor grants to the Guild Steward without knowing what had happened to the remaining £100 from that voted last year. The Secretary made abject apology for not



advertising within the required time a proposal to change the rules on the age for waiving subscriptions but gave notice of a Special General Meeting to be held at the Summer Festival. The formal notification will be published, so it can be debated and if approved, implemented from January 2012 as intended. All officers were thanked and re-elected. The remaining vacancy for a fourth CCCBR rep remained unfilled. Suitable volunteers can be elected at the Summer or Spring Festivals.

The accounts were adopted with the annual report, despite complaints that corrections to the draft had not been rectified. Alan Chantler gave his incisive review of the CCCBR meeting in Hereford over the Late May Bank Holiday and its ability to cope with his disability. We were advised that the Guild had received a bequest from Malcolm Tyler, formerly Northamptonshire County Music Advisor, who died on February 1. Ideas of how the four figure sum could be used appropriately would be appreciated.

I, as Guild PRO, asked that I be told in advance of what is going on, so I can get the media to feature our exercise and set a favourable background for recruiting new ringers. I also asked that we think collectively about improving recruitment and retention especially at the next GMC meeting. Members's views on the Guild website are to be sought through a questionnaire in this Newsletter and on the website. Derek Sibson urged the inclusion of tower contacts, names and addresses as he receives criticism of their absence when he rings around the country. The meeting was over in 1hr 11 mins.

With the 5pm start for the service, we didn't get to Daventry to ring until 8pm. About 25 rang on the ten bells during the following hour. Among them was Mary Townsend on a six week visit to the UK from Perth, W. Australia, whose late husband's family were ringers at nearby Dodford in the 1920s and 1930s. Refreshments were taken at The Crossroads and The Heart of England, Weedon or is it Dodford?

Geoff Pullin

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

RIDGMAN TROPHY

A ten-bell striking competition among the Anglian associations rotates from Lincoln to Essex and Northamptonshire to Norfolk. The touch of Caters or Royal, this year it was Grandsire Caters, is set in advance.



This year the competition was on the back ten bells at St Mary le Tower in Ipswich. The tenor weighs 34 cwt is one of the heaviest rings used for the competition. Ian Willgress assembled ten ringers from the whole diocese who were available and fit on the day. We were to ring third. Enter church at 12.50, in changes in the test piece by 1.15pm read the instructions. We were happy that our test piece was better than the practice immediately before, and made our way to Wetherspoons for refreshments in the variable weather before returning to hear the later entries. Some seventy people assembled in the church for Alan Winter, the organiser, to introduce the judges Jeremy and Ann Pratt from Oxford. Jeremy summarised that there was no excellent ringing and nor bad ringing, so their task was difficult. Nevertheless they separately came to the same order of results. Ann read out the results in reverse order with the number of faults and the speed indicated by a projected time for a peal:

8.	Ely Diocesan Association	223	3h 24m
7.	Lincoln Diocesan Guild	194	3h 31m
6.	Cambridge University Society	183	3h 24m
5.	Suffolk Guild	156	3h 36m
4.	Peterborough Diocesan Guild	135	3h 27m
3.	Essex Association	108	3h 23m
2.	Bedfordshire Association	96	3h 30m
1.	Norwich Diocesan Association	75	3h 31m

So we came fourth this year out of eight. George Pipe organised the arrangements at St Mary le Tower, and presented the trophy because he had known Bill Ridgman since 1946 until his death on January 16, 2011. Simon Rudd received it on behalf of the winners.



The Guild's team in the south porch. Left to right: Alan Marks (1), Robin Wilson (6), Gwynneth White (2), Geoff Pullin (7), Brenda Dixon (3), Simon Dixon (8), Carole Pullin (4), Ian Willgress (9 conductor), James White (10), David Westerman (5).



Life Honorary Membership

What makes for a good bell ringer ? Obviously being able to ring proficiently but also having a good calm temperament, able to cope with mistakes and learners in a quiet manner without raising their voice thus giving confidence to the ringers.

The person I am proposing has both these assets. I have never heard him shout loudly across the ringing room

Educated at Bristol Cathedral School where he learnt to ring, followed by Liverpool University, work then took him to varying parts of England and more towers to add to the list. Eventually in 1978 he settled in a Northamptonshire village where he promptly started a local band and in April 1981 together with his wife joined the Peterborough Guild via their local branch.

In 1990 at the Branch AGM he was elected as chairman, a position he still holds. During the past years he has not only been involved in training sessions in his own branch but also helping in others.

Keen on promoting bellringing he became branch correspondent in 1993 notifying local press of any meetings and any other bell news. With the advent of emailing all news is quickly sent to branch members - no excuse for not knowing about the next meeting or whats happening. In 2007 he became the Guilds Public Relation Officer, is on the General Management committee, Subscription committee and recently took on the task of ordering the Guild sweat shirts for everyone.

Apart from assisting in bell maintenance, being an expert at rope splicing ,he is compiling a spread sheet of the branch towers showing rope lengths, stay sizes and bell inscriptions.

A ringer of well over 100 peals and countless quarter peals I hope you will agree that Geoff Pullin is worthy of being nominated for Life Honorary Membership of the Peterborough Guild of Church Bellringers

Details researched and proposal by Janet Bowers (branch secretary)

PAST MASTER MARRIES

Colin Lee married Zoe Roberts at St Mary's Adderbury, Oxon, on May 21. In the interests of equality there were two bridesmaids and two best men!

It was mainly a ringing affair with groups from Adderbury



(where they now live), Chester (where Zoe was taught to ring by her father), Long Buckby (where Colin was taught to ring by Stan Ruddlesden), Nottingham University (where Colin went), Bristol University (where they both went and met) and Oxford (where they also now ring) making the bulk of the congregation. Zoe has a degree in chemistry and PhD in organic geochemistry and Colin has a degree in biology and PhD in insect ecology (or cow pats). The service sheet also records that Colin proposed on a research trip to South Africa following a rush of blood to the head after seeing some particularly exciting dung beetles! Hence dung beetles featured on the service sheet and wedding cake! The bride's instructions were for ringing to stop at 2.30pm precisely. She would listen to the appointed service touch of spliced surprise major at the lytch gate. During the signing of the registers Stedman Triples was rung on handbells. After the service the next appointed band rang a course of Bristol, followed by Stedman Triples and two long bouts of accurate firing. The Long Buckby band made up much of the next ringing to accompany the fully choreographed photographic session accompanied by drinks in the churchyard. The last picture, at the lytch gate, was accompanied by rounds on 16 handbells by ringers from Bristol. Colin and Zoe recovered after the evening of energetic ceilidh to depart for Borneo after the weekend. We look forward to visits from the Drs Lee in the future.



The Bride and Groom surrounded by PDG guests

RINGING WORLD CENTENARY DAY MARCH 25, 2011

The day for me didn't start well as the coach I was travelling on from Milton Keynes was delayed by ten minutes, then because of the Grand TUC Rally we were



taken straight to Victoria Coach station. Due to the vast amount of traffic entering London the coach was delayed by a further 45 minutes.

It was my intention to travel by tube to ring at a couple of City towers before going to Westminster Abbey, so I abandoned this idea. Instead I walked to the Abbey, catching a view of magnificent Westminster Cathedral en route ñ shame about the lack of bells in that tower! Two mini-rings were set up in Deans Yard, close to the Abbey, and the nearby beer tent was already doing business. The rings caused quite an attraction to the many tourists ñ lots taking photos, and I understand that some Japanese had a go at ringing!

The glorious weather meant that walking about the traffic free streets made sight-seeing a pleasure. I joined the queue to get access to the Abbey for a leisurely walk around the interior. The Chapel of the Knights of the Bath is spectacular, but when we arrived at the south transept and Poets Corner, seats were filling quickly for the special Evensong, so the rest of the tour was aborted, in order to find a seat. There were between 1500 and 2000 ringers at the Service at which the Editor of the Ringing World read a Lesson and we were addressed by The Dean of Westminster, who began by saying how good it was to see so many ringers staying to the service and which was greeted with laughter. The Abbey choir sang Henry Purcell's Bell Anthem and the service finished with Unchanging God but to the wrong tune! Then the 1,000 of us who had booked tea in the Central Hall, just opposite the Abbey made our way there and were served very quickly. It was a chance to meet many ringing friends, and the thought struck me that it was a wonderful mix of all types of ringers, from the most expert, to the least experienced. Harold Rogers was there and still peal ringing at 94, and several young ringers, so a huge age range, too. The highlight was hearing the performance of 100 changes on 24 handbells. This took about 7 minutes and was perfectly executed and a real joy to hear and it was received by a sustained burst of applause. I had thought to ring at two other towers in the evening, but the cost of a single tube ticket was £4(!), so I decided to join the audience for the handbell concert by the

Wandle Ringers, in St Margaret's Church, Westminster.

About 600 people enjoyed a thoroughly entertaining hour of tune ringing, using about 70 bells, and I was very pleased to have been there. It made a delightful end to a most enjoyable day.

A recording of the 24 handbells performance recorded by Philip Earis, who composed it and rang in it, can be heard at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-fCRB-NTNp0>. After 4 minutes the changes are in the tittums position and sound particularly fascinating.

Hilary Aslett



GUILD WEBSITE QUESTIONNAIRE

We are looking to improve our website. Please give me feedback on what you want from the new version and send your response to Geoff Pullin Guild PRO, 25 The Glebe, Badby, DAVENTRY NN11 3AZ.

Are you?

- a member of PDG
- a ringer within the diocese, but not a member
- a ringer elsewhere
- a lapsed ringer
- not a ringer
- may be interested in becoming a ringer
- just browsing

Which is your age group?

- 0-15 16- 20 21-60
- 61-80 81+

Do you look at the existing website

www.pdg.org.uk?

- Never
- Once to answer this question
- Occasionally
- When I want to see the Guild calendar
- When I want a correspondent's address
- To read the Guild Newsletter
- I'm a browsing fanatic

Do you have an existing branch website?

- Yes No

Do you look at that existing branch website?

- Often Rarely
- Occasionally Never

What do you think our Guild Website should be for?

Please number in priority order 1 to 7.

- Find quickly links to other relevant websites
- For archives (peals, quarter peals, obituaries, member profiles, old newsletters, guild and predecessor history)
- For members to find out what is going on
- For members to improve and make progress in change ringing
- For technical information (methods, compositions, steeple-keeping, local publicity)
- For visiting ringers to arrange visits
- Latest local ringing news
- To attract new ringers
- Other – please state

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Please either use the electronic version of this form which can be found on the Guild website, and send to pro@pdg.org.uk or photocopy/cut out and send completed form to address found at the top of this form



CAKE RECIPES FROM RINGERS TEAS

Iced Ginger Cake

Where sampled: Annual General Meeting at Great Brington

- 8oz Self raising flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons Ground Ginger
- 3-4oz Raisins (optional)
- 2oz Margarine
- 2oz Soft Brown Sugar
- 4oz Treacle or Golden Syrup
- 2oz Crystallised Ginger
- 1 Egg with enough Milk to make up to 1/4 pint.

1. Save 20 small pieces of crystallised ginger for the topping and chop the rest
2. Mix flour, salt, ginger, chopped crystallised ginger and raisins in a bowl
3. Melt margarine, sugar and treacle in pan, add to flour with beaten egg and milk. Mix well, but do not beat
4. Pour into greased tin about 7 in. square
5. Bake in moderate oven (325-350 deg F, 150 deg C fan oven, gas mark 3-4) for 1 hour.
6. When cake is cold, cover top with White glaze Icing (Stir in 1 tablespoon of warm water into 4oz Icing sugar), cut into fingers or squares and decorate with crystallised ginger.

Be-Ro Home Recipes 33rd edition.



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



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



There is a list of **Guild Officers**



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



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



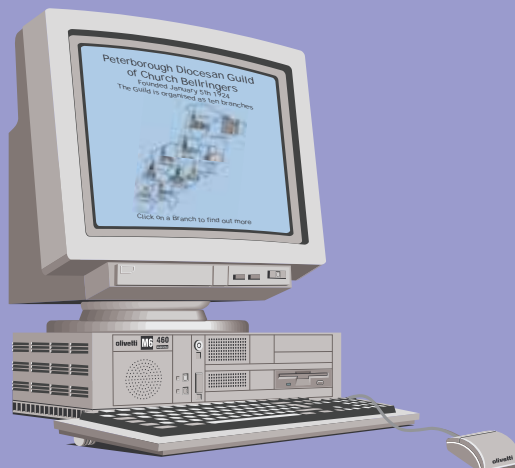
There is a section to help **tower publicity**



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



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



GUILD EVENTS 2011

Guild Quiz - *Peterborough Branch*

***On Saturday 29th October
at 7.30pm.***

**at
Woodnewton Village Hall,
35 Orchard Lane PE8 5EE.**

***£5 per person including food.
There will not be a bar so please
bring your own drinks.***

**If you require any further information please contact
Marilyn Jenner on 01780 470758
or e-mail :- parkdale05@hotmail.com**

**It would be helpful for catering purpose if you could let us know
beforehand if you are coming, but please feel free to turn up on the night**



