

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD
OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS



Newsletter
September 2012

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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 2013**
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

What a Summer 2012 has been for ringing, although not for the weather. The Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II and the Olympic Games have been an impetus for all kinds of ringing

The Diamond Jubilee came first during the first weekend in June. The weather was mixed, the crowds huge and ringing was very much part of that. The bells rung on the barge was very special and showcased our art to the thousands lining the Thames on a wet and cold day as well as a huge TV audience. There was a great deal of publicity about these bells and I was asked several times about them by friends and acquaintances.

38 quarter peals and 2 peals were rung in the Guild area. At Stanion 60 villagers had a go after their quarter to celebrate 60 years.

The ringing down the Welland valley was another way of celebrating the Jubilee. This was organised by Ross Willetts of Wilbarston and started at Sibbertoft near the source of the Welland and finished at Fosdyke not far from the Wash. About 40 towers were involved in the ringing cascading down the valley.

July 27th 2012 was a day to remember, the Olympic Games were starting at last. Many towers in the Guild rang at 8:12am as requested for 3 minutes or longer. Several quarters were also rung. I had been approached by 2 members of the media, answered some questions and passed them on to people who were closer to the area that they particularly wanted to know about. The Northampton Chronicle and Echo apparently quoted me but as I never saw the article I can't say if it's correctly reported! Radio Northampton broadcast ringing from Yardley Hastings where Tony Finke had taught several young people to ring especially for the 8:12 ringing and this they did. Congratulations to them all and hopefully they will all continue.

I was lucky to get tickets to 2 events at the games, a morning athletics and an early rowing morning. Both were very exciting and the atmosphere very special. The Dornay Roar at Eton Dornay was extremely loud and came nearer and nearer to us as the rowers became closer. Two days which I will remember for a long time for the friendliness and helpfulness of everyone we came upon as well as just being proud to be part of it.

It was great to hear bells being rung during the marathons and I can only be amazed at the ladies band who rang the peal at St. Paul's.

Enjoy the rest of the year. As I write this I am about to waste several more hours (or days) watching the Paralympics!!

Brenda Dixon



WANTED

Guild Ringing Master

If you feel you or someone you know could do this job please let Sue Jones or me know.

Brenda



News from the Branches

CULWORTH

BRANCH OUTING.

The Annual Branch outing took place on Saturday 17th, March in the Aylesbury area.

Owing to a last minute hitch, Stoke Mandeville bells were unavailable for our first tower and therefore a welcome coffee stop in a garden centre close to Aylesbury took its place. The first ringing of the day took place on the easy going ring of 11-1-10 at Aston Clinton. These bells were much enjoyed by all present and good striking ensued.

Following the ringing a tasty lunch was enjoyed at the " Duck in" just along the road from the Church. The Second tower was Weston Turville where the stately grand floor (14-2-22) ring of six also proved popular. The next ring was the (10-3-3) ring of six at Great Kimble, good ringing also took place here.

The very fine Church at Bledlow was our next stop, here the (12 2 21) ring of eight bells were also much enjoyed. Crossing the County boundary into Oxfordshire, Chinnor was the last tower of the day. This (10-0-20) ring of six bells were also a pleasure to ring, although their " modern " clappers appeared a little noisy in the ringing chamber. Many thanks to Philip, Julie and Ian for organising a good outing and for Les Bodily of " The Claydon fox" , for driving our bus.

DIAMOND JUBILEE RINGING.

All of the towers in the Culworth branch rang at some point over the Diamond Jubilee weekend. Whitfield rang a Quarter peal and a Quarter peal of 1320 of Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Bob Doubles was rung at Charwelton. Graham White was honoured to be able call his first quarter peal on more than four bells. The details of the Charwelton Quarter are :- **Treble** Carole Pullin, **2** Geoff Pullin, **3** Rhona Anderson **4** Colin Anderson and **Tenor** Graham White

OLYMPIC RINGING.

Several branch towers rang in some form on Friday 27th, July at 08.12. a.m. It is known that the six were rung at Upper Boddington, Three bells were rung at Charwelton, the five bells rang out at Evenley and the eight bells at Aynho were chimed.

Also a Quarter peal was rung on Sunday 26th, August to celebrate the success of the Olympic Games.



CULWORTH FORGE JUBILEE CLOCK.

On Saturday 9th June a large crowd gathered outside the home of our Culworth Branch Chairman to celebrate the unveiling of the Culworth Forge Jubilee Clock. Over many months Martin has worked to create a fine jubilee clock. The clock has a six hour dial, which is double marked at each hourly station. In an attempt to replicate a clock of 200 years ago, Martin had worked by using authentic tools of the period and pole scaffolding was constructed to erect the clock on the end gable of the old forge.

Prayers were said by the Rev,d John Roberts, a former Rural dean of Brackley and the clock was unveiled by Lady Juliet Townsend, Lord Leftenant of Northamptonshire. Also in attendance were:- Mr. John Townsend, High Sherriff of Northamptonshire and a representative of the worshipful company of clock makers.

BRANCH PRACTICES.

Since the A.G.M, Branch Practices have taken place at Evenley in February, Chipping Warden in April, Chacombe in May, Upper Boddington in June and Eydon in August.

Over all the practices have been well attended by branch members and friends.

HALF ANNUAL MEETING.

This year the half annual Meeting took place on Saturday 21st, July at St. Mary Magdalene,s Church in Helmdon.

Again this was a very well attended meeting with the Service concentrating on the theme of St. Mary Magdalene who's feast day is celebrated on 22nd, July. Following the Service a

scrumptious tea was prepared by the Helmdon ringers and friends.

Following the tea our Ringing master chaired the meeting in his role as Vice Chairman of the Branch. Many thanks to Mrs Chris Klein-Wassink and the Helmdon ringers for organising such an enjoyable meeting.

Graham White - Culworth Correspondent

DAVENTRY BRANCH

MEETINGS

We were pleased to welcome five recruits for Kilsby among the 35 at our meeting in April. Ringing ranged from rounds to Stedman Minimus. The service included a different ringers' hymn for Easter from the Winchester Diocese. A splendid tea was provided by the Kilsby ringers. At Daventry in the evening, Rugby Deanery joined us and other visitors made us up to 27. A course and a half of Pudsey Surprise Royal just came round.



The five-bell striking competition was held at Litchborough in July. Seven teams entered and 47 were present. The service, in which we remembered John Guy, former tower captain who died on June 17, was taken by the newly promoted rector, the Rev Caroline Oley. A fine tea, including baked potatoes and coronation chicken, was served in the village hall. Chloë and Lily Cuthbertson, Lisa Johnson, Gill and Steven Martin (all from Whilton) and Simon Creasey (Welton) were elected as new members and Andy Timms (Badby) and John Jones (Whilton) were re-elected. Gwynneth ran another raffle, raising £53 towards Kilsby rope guides.

Spike and Jenny Thorne of Southam had to wait until the end of the meeting to give their judgement. To encourage the less experienced to take part, they did not reveal the number of faults, only positions in reverse order:

7. Whilton II

6. Flore, Stowe IX Churches & Heyford Sunday Service & Practice (!)

5. Whilton I

4. Badby Practice Night

3. Litchborough

2. Bugbrooke

1. Heyford & Flore Sunday Service & Practice

A certificate was presented to each team by Jenny. Ann Maud accepted on behalf of her winning team of Ted Garrett, Ian & Alison Willgress, and Sarah Waterhouse. The Ron Woodward trophy will be recovered from Weedon and passed on!



Ann Maud and Jenny Thorne

Rounds to Rutland S Major were rung at Whilton in the evening by 27 including a full complement of Whilton ringers.

In August, 27 rang and four didn't, at Bugbrooke. After a splendid salad tea, we elected and welcomed Tom Davies a new student member for Weedon. In the evening, 24 people, including six PDG visitors and five others, kept St Peter's Northampton bells ringing to a variety of call changes and methods.

As a branch we have little reliable scope for people who want to



make progress with more complicated eight-bell ringing. We started a second-Tuesday evening branch practice, initially specifically for touches of Stedman Triples and Cambridge and optimistically Rutland S Major at Weedon in March. We were then offered the last hour of Daventry practice monthly from April. Getting enough steady ringers and standers-behind to enable progress to be made has remained a challenge, but we are persisting.

IN THE BELFRIES

Richard Hartley reported in April that Staverton bell chamber had yielded three bags of dead flies. Dodford bell frame had been tightened before the wedding season and he reminded us that an official drought was a good time to tighten timber frames. The advice was followed by the wettest summer for many years! In July, Richard told us of the inexplicable decision of Farthingstone PCC not to take any action to keep their bells ringable. Hellidon belfry has become more safely accessible with two new ladders fixed to the bell frame and a platform installed to give safe access under the 4th bell. We have several towers with high sound levels between 83 and 90dBa in the ringing room. Staverton has been sorted, with Whilton, Great Brington, Hellidon and Byfield on the list. The provision of safety rails at the top level of Daventry bell frame is under investigation.

THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

Towers responded with enthusiasm to ring specially for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee bank holiday weekend June 1-5: Ashby St Ledgers, rang three bells on Sunday; Badby, rang a quarter peal (QP) of Plain Bob Doubles on Saturday conducted by Richard Piner - first quarter other than covering for Tim Woodliffe, also on Tuesday, a QP by an all village band of Grandsire Doubles conducted by Ken Ramsbotham preceding the village picnic; Barby and Braunston rang call changes on Sunday; Bugbrooke rang on Tuesday for the Jubilee service (using a bell well suited to the occasion -the 3rd bears the inscription: God save our Queen and her preasearve, 1599 - but refers to Queen Elizabeth I); Byfield rang call changes for the Jubilee Songs of Praise, and for the procession of their Jubilee Queen; Dodford bells were rung for a wedding on Saturday; Fawsley rang on Monday as part of Jubilee Celebrations; Great Brington bells were rung on Saturday before the Civic Service for the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II attended by Earl Spencer, the Bishop of Brixworth. and the Chief Constable of Northamptonshire; Harpole rang a QP of Doubles on Friday conducted by Graham Paul; Heyford benefice ringing on Tuesday started with Flore at 9:30am, Church Stowe 10:30am and Heyford 11:45am; Kilsby rang on Sunday;



Litchborough rang on Saturday before the picnic at the Hall; Preston Capes rang for the children's tea party on Monday; Staverton bells were rung to a QP of Cambridge on Tuesday conducted by Philip Saunders; Weedon bells were rung to a branch QP of Cambridge Surprise Major conducted by Ian Willgress on Sunday (Richard Hartley's first quarter of Cambridge S Major); Whilton rang on Sunday prior to the celebrations also a QP of Plain Bob Doubles on Wednesday, 27 June conducted by Philip Saunders (First QP for Whilton ringers Steve Martin and John Jones).

DAVENTRY ARTS FESTIVAL

For the first time, bellringers were invited to take part in the Daventry Arts Festival during July. Three open tower mornings at Holy Cross were successfully organised by John Neale assisted by nine others. The Saxilby simulator was connected up to Abel in time for demonstrations. Around 75 visitors came to the three sessions. Two or three new recruits may be an outcome. We also advertised a 'free recital on the bells' for July 8. This was a branch QP of Plain Bob Royal, which was successfully conducted by Ian Willgress and was the first on ten bells for Christine Rodhouse. There was a small audience outside beforehand, but none by the end. There were no claims for refunds!

LONDON OLYMPICS 2012

It was fascinating to see how interest in the Olympics and the Cultural Olympiad Work No. 1197 All the Bells in a Country... grew from dismissal to enthusiasm as the BBC got interested and changed the time to 8.12am to suit themselves. BBC Radio Northampton wanted to do a bit, so James Tzanoudakis interviewed me ("Geoff Poolin") live at 8.50am on the Friday prior, while Badby bells were swinging half way up as a pre-cursor to the actual performance on July 27. Most

towers in the branch made some sound, chiming, ringing halfway up and down, normal ringing with bells already up at the appointed hour, including Great Brington, Norton and Welton where there is no regular ringing. Several took advantage of the event to get non-ringers chiming their bells.

OUTINGS

Fourteen met at Ratby for the Badby May Day outing-cum-rally via Desford, Market Bosworth, Sibson and Witherley to Mancetter in Warwickshire. Graham's face lit up at the 20cwt five at Mancetter and declared them 'lovely'. Navigation was better than in recent years, although one car stopped when its satnav indicated 76 miles to the next tower! Thanks go to Angela Waldoock for making the arrangements again. The May mystery coach outing



set off southwards with 29 aboard. A5, A43, M40, A34, A420, A346 and hey presto, Marlborough! After ringing at St Mary's we went eastwards and wondering if we had strayed into Suffolk, arrived at Mildenhall and its thatched Horseshoe Inn. Pre-ordered meals were served in good time for us to saunter down the lane to ring at St John's Church - already encouraged by our travelling architectural advisor to admire the box pews, twin pulpits and organ gallery! The light six were enjoyed with Margaret being tenor queen. After retracing the road through Marlborough, we enjoyed the fine G&J ground floor ring of six alongside the meandering River Kennet at Preshute. Next we headed west to arrive at the grand church in Calne. The tower stands alone but is incorporated into the north aisle. Handling was unpredictable with a 23cwt eight right at the top. , It was a new experience to some newer ringers brought up on well-behaved bells! After squeezing past parked cars we headed northwards, through the Avebury stone circle and Swindon - but where next? There was an unexpected left turn and we were at Buckland, Oxon - with a fine eight already raised for us. Then, without dissent, Janet announced that we would not stop on the way home (Where was the ghost of Fred?) and Dominic drove us back whilst thanking Janet for organising another splendid day out. The chairman counted five new towers as well as having Happy Birthday sung to him. Later Janet reported that the outing made a profit of £17!



Giles, Simon, George, Dominic, Ian, Alison, Nikki, Val, Deana, Richard, Christine, Jim, Ros, Gwynneth, Geoff, Jane, Graham, Eileen, Miles, Pauline, Margaret hidden, Justin, Janet and Barry at Preshute. Photo by Carole.

Alison Willgress masterminded another walk-and-ring on August Bank Holiday. Starting with a ring at Badby, over 20 of us walked the Nene Way to Newnham in damp weather. After a gentle sway in the tower we carried on to Everdon, where the tower had been cleared of 13-month old scaffolding in July, so we were able to herald the annual Grand Fête with traditional ringing. We ate, drank and enjoyed the fête before dispersing, with a group walking back to Badby.



Jane, Ian, Peter, Geoff, Jim, Angela, Mick (from Suffolk), Alison, Chris, Dorothy, Andy, George, Christine,

Matthew, Richard, Val, Gwynneth, Alison, Charlotte, Norah and Brian sheltering under Newnham tower.

MORE ABOUT PEOPLE AND TOWERS

Perhaps it was the date, but the branch QP at Byfield on April 1 suffered. Eventually Jim White set the seven present ringing Plain Bob Minor with tenor covering. Thus Ian Charters gained his first quarter peal by ringing the tenor behind to minor instead of triples, at his home tower. On the following Sunday, the missing member of the band “met 7 short” and owned up at our April meeting!

Shirley Waterhouse ran the London Marathon in aid of the Paget’s Association. Hilda Collins, who was at our meeting in April for the first time since November and able to walk alone with a stick, explained the disease. After this, Shirley was occupied with the Olympics opening ceremony. Ann Maud was seconded to Wimbledon by her employer for the Olympics and sent a photo of Andy Murray and Venus Williams performing a torch hand-over.

Congratulations go to Dan & Fliss Lister of Daventry on the birth of their second daughter Helena Augusta Victoria on May 1 at Warwick Hospital.

A QP of Kent TB and Cambridge S Minor at Harpole, conducted by Graham Paul, was rung on May 9 as a compliment to Bridget Paul on her 65th birthday. A similar quarter was rung on May 24 at Pattishall as an eve-of-80th birthday compliment to Peter Aslett, Hilary’s husband. The Hellidon Tuesday morning social gathering, (with some ringing), continues to be well supported, as shown here on May 29.





Ernie Davidson, Helen Whall, Pat Milner, Carol Summers, Summer Hallam, Alison Milner, Margaret Brown, Susie Goudime, Lynne Bowler, Graham White, Chris Woods, Rosemary Davidson, Jackie Bailey, Sally Thompson, Harold Thompson, Geoff Pullin. Photo by Tony Brown.

Helen Whall, not the most adventurous of Hellidon ringers having only rung at two other towers. but successfully arranged to ring while on holiday in the Scilly Isles.

Six churchwardens joined in ringing for the Archdeacon's visit to Daventry on May 28. Peter Marsh of Boddington rang on ten bells for the first time.

The sun shone against all odds on July 8 when Sally Lewis organised the annual Braunston Ringers' barbecue for sixteen ringers and spouses. Braunston has gained a ten year old recruit, Bradley Martins. The Braunston Monday Club continues every Monday afternoon 2.15 to 4.15pm.

Richard Hartley organised a successful day in July entertaining ten Chernobyl children from Belarus at Litchborough church and the Hall. The children flew and took home kites bought through a branch raffle and Gwynneth made four trips up and down the tower escorting the children.

Nikki Butt from Welton fell off a horse earlier in the year and has undergone two phases of repair, whilst maintaining attendance at the pub after not-ringing. The second operation took bone from her hip to put in her shoulder to make the original fracture grow together soon, we hope.

Christine Rodhouse rang her first QP of Yorkshire Surprise Major on August 12 at Whilton, conducted by Ian Willgress with congratulations to our inspiring Olympics team and their haul of medals.

A QP of seven doubles methods to celebrate the life of former tower captain John Guy was rung at Litchborough on Monday, August 20, conducted by Phil Saunders. Three of the local band took part.

We are holding a branch dinner on October 6, another quarter peal day on February 23 and a quiz on March 2.

Geoff Pullin - Daventry Correspondent



GUILSBOROUGH BRANCH

Mary Burton 1925-2012.

Ringers in the branch were saddened by the death of Mary on Easter Monday ; but joined friends and family in a packed St Helen's Church Sibbertoft for a service of thanksgiving for her life on 18th April.

Mary had always been interested in bellringing but was told by her home tower captain it was not for women. On her marriage and subsequent move to Sibbertoft , she found a different attitude and in the late 1970's with the help of Geoff Armitage she began to learn to handle a bell , rang her first quarter and in 1987 her first peal. Mary very much wanted to expand her repertoire and loved to ring a touch of Stedman Doubles at Yelvertoft but the conductor had to call the singles in the right place!! With her love of Stedman a quarter peal was rung before the funeral service and another afterwards.

During the 25 years she was churchwarden Mary organized the retuning and rehangng of Sibbertoft bells. Mary also encouraged many others to ring including Kelvin Broad. "---- the bells live on.

Sunday to Sunday , festivals and practice nights the same mingled sounds over the dreaming town and a newer generation gathers ----".

Annual Outing.

The date coincided with the Jubilee celebrations so we had a 'home tour' ; ringing bells not included in our calendar and having a long pub lunch in Thornby. We rang at Lilbourne , Long Buckby , Ravensthorpe , Thornby , Naseby and finished at Brixworth.

Welford

Welford church has been busy with special events and special ringing for them. Sadly Ian Gemmel is moving back to Leicestershire so a quarter peal was rung for his farewell service. Later in July two quarter peals were rung to celebrate Kelvin Broad's 60th birthday and many ringers joined the family and friends at The Wharf at Welford for some lovely food including a special cake made by Marion and of course a few drinks too.

Lilbourne.

Lilbourne bells are now out and being attended to by Andrew Nicholson. It is hoped to have them back and ringing again during October.

Crick

Crick church is almost there now and the scaffolding is down. The west door is still to be worked on. There has been a set back as the metal thieves have been at work on the roof – but the bells are still there – much to Geoff's relief.



The July Meeting.

The July meeting included ringing at Cold Ashby and Haselbech. The ring was followed by the branch barbecue at Brixworth. Due to the "soggy" churchyard the food was eaten in The Heritage Centre. Brixworth ringers once again produced some wonderful food and drink. Our sincere thanks to them all. We were joined as usual by Ray and Wendy Daw after their first full day at Hollowell Steam Fair.

Litchfield Mobile Bell Tower at the Hollowell Show 7/8 July 2012

The weather was extremely wet in the weeks before the show and there was a strong possibility of cancellation up until the last minute. In fact, Radio Leicester in error, announced that it was cancelled. Ray and Wendy Daw hauled the flat packed tower Lichfield. Wendy rang to check the weather before they set off as it was raining stair rods their end. It was dry here until they arrived and there was a delay before they could start. We had a good group to erect the tower and in the main, good Weather for most of the weekend although, at the end, the tower and van had to be towed out by a huge recovery vehicle.

We had a lot of interest from young, old and middle-aged. Although the foot fall for the show was well down on previous years, we were only slightly down on donations. We were able to provide information and contact details for those who showed an interest in looking into it further. We were pleased to see visiting bell ringers who were given the opportunity to experience a 'different' ring.

All in all it was a very successful weekend for promoting the skill of bell ringing.

We would like to thank Peterborough Guild who funded the majority of the cost of hiring the tower and Ray and Wendy for delivering it and teaching with such skill and enthusiasm. Thank you also to all those who helped put the tower up and then take it down again and thank you to those who stayed and helped over the weekend.

It was a fantastic opportunity to promote bell ringing to a wider audience and was really appreciated by all those who 'had a go'.

Julie and Merrick

Dorothy Westerman - Guilsborough Correspondent.

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KETTERING BRANCH

HALF-DAY CYCLE OUTING

This was arranged by Jim Bence and attracted 4 cyclists and 10 ringers. Amidst pouring rain through the afternoon an enjoyable time was had by all with some challenging bells. The 3 towers visited were Buckminster (6) Wymondham (6) and Mkt. Overton (5)

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS were mainly at Rothwell with 3 quarter peals being rung over the bank-holiday week-end. Well done. Pytchley rang for 30mins on the Tuesday and Grafton Underwood rang for 30mins on the Sunday. A peal of Jubilee Surprise Major was rung at Barton Seagrave on the Tuesday and 4 Kettering Branch ringers took part in this, it was also a Cumberland Peal.

OLYMPIC TORCH. It was a proud time when 14 of us were invited to ring at Kettering to welcome the Torch into the town. All 12 bells pealed out for 30mins as it arrived and after a short ceremony in the town centre we rang for another 30mins as it made it's way out of Kettering and on to Geddington. Thanks to Jane Sibson for arranging the ringing for this wonderful event.

BAR-B-Q this was again a most successful event. We started the afternoon with ringing at Burton Latimer with 22 taking part. Ringing took the form of call changes and methods on 6 & 8. At 6pm everyone descended down to our home for the food. We had a spectacular array of food to go with the meat and a delicious selection of mouthwatering pudds. Chris again made 5galls of Lager and the same of Bitter which went down extremely well, (how we managed to stay reasonably sober is beyond me) We attracted a bumper number of 35 for the B B Q. I did a quiz called "Method in my Madness" We attracted 6 new ringers to join in from Rothwell and Barton Seagrave and a few youngsters from the branch. It was won by Trevor from Rothwell Tower. Thanks to all who supplied food and helped me on the day.

THE WELLAND VALLEY Masterminded by Ros Willetts, on Monday 4th june, some 40 towers rang in a cascade along the whole course of the river Welland, starting at Sibbertoft, near the source and finishing at Fosdyke not far from the wash. Bill Adcock mobilised the Desborough ringers to join the Wilbarston benefice band to ring for twenty minutes each at Dingley, Weston-by Welland, Ashley, East Carlton and Cottingham, alternating with towers across the valley in Leicestershire. Ros had written to Her Majesty the Queen informing her of this project and received a lovely reply, thanking her.

TRAINING/PRACTICE sessions continue on a monthly basis when we don't have outings or special events.

Isham in March proved to be a huge success with 22 ringers enjoying many versions of Doubles.

Rothwell in April was also very well supported as it continued on from Rothwell recruitment day which was also very busy with lots of visitors enjoying the excellent display put on in the Church by Rothwell ringers. Visitors enjoyed watching the bells being rung and visits up to the bell chamber.



Rothwell in May was lighter in numbers as we had lots of weddings in the Branch and it found many of us racing around ringing for 2 or more weddings before going on to the practice to rescue Chris Pearson and give him a hand. We are lucky to have quite a few keen learners across the branch with all of them doing extremely well.

NEWS FROM THE TOWERS.

BARTON SEAGRAVE has a busy practice with all 6 learners progressing well. We manage to ring on 8 each week including Major methods with a welcome cuppa and biscuits at the end.

BURTON LATIMER has a new Tower Captain, Chris Pearson. Numbers have dropped dramatically over the last few years and Chris decided it was time for a recruitment drive. He started with our new Rector, Jez's 3 youngsters, Katie 16, Alex 13 and Aimee 11. They have all done extremely well and after just 3 silent practices they are ringing rounds on their own and have joined the Friday evening practice session and ring for Sunday services. We are all delighted with their fast progress and along with Sophie 10, are all very keen. Sophie has progressed to call changes on 8, plain hunt on 5 and 6 bells and is now pulling up and down. We are delighted to welcome a new ringer, Peter, who has just joined us and also rings on Sundays. Janet the Tower Captain from Brigstock also joins us on Fridays. We are very grateful to many Kettering Branch ringers who come along to support us and help Chris to build things up to Burton's former glory from when his sister Caroline was Tower Captain for many years. Through August we had visitors from Thrapston Tower which made busy evenings due to their practices being cancelled. Please come and join us on Friday evenings if you wish, you will be made most welcome. 7-30- 9pm.

GRAFTON UNDERWOOD has taken off at last and 5 or 6 of us ring for the Holy Communion services every other week. Janice and Peter have recently joined us, Sohpie and Colin McCall for this. My husband Chris and myself undertook to set up the ringing here and Chris is the Tower Ringing Master.

KETTERING gets busier as the evening goes on and Wayne and Simon continue to progress ringing Minor methods inside.

PYCHLEY is very busy with a young learner Kealan, who Sophie, from Burton joins in with for a productive practise for them both. Lots of Doubles methods are rung and it is a most enjoyable evening.

ROTHWELL is busy early on with a full to bursting tower for the first part of the evening and the latter part sees more ringing on 8 and 10 bells.

Frances Pearson - Kettering Correspondent.



NORTHAMPTON BRANCH

Well Northampton Branch like every one else in the Guild has had a very busy last few months, with the Olympic Torch Relay, the Queens Diamond Jubilee, and the Olympic Games themselves, as well as all the other normal Branch activities.

Our Branch practices have continued to be well supported with a regular numbers attending, plus support from visitors that are always welcome and a pleasure to see. The ¼ meeting at Duston was well attended a service excellent tea as usual and business meeting to follow.

The Branch entered a team in the Guild spring Festival 6 bell striking competition coming joint 7th , a good time was had by all.

The weekend of the 2nd of June was a busy weekend for everyone, with bands trying to ring ¼ peals and peals to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee, the Branch attempted 12, ¼ peals and were successful in 11, this was as well as those attempted by bands in the Branch that attempted their own. Congratulations to all those that were lucky, and a big well done to all the 1st timers, (1st quarters, 1st in methods, and 1st insides)

The weekend was also full of towers that were trying to find bands to ring for weddings, as the world and it wife seemed to want to get married that weekend, some people managing to ring at 5 weddings over the weekend well done to all of those.

On 2nd June was the Branch annual beer and skittles evening, at the Eykyn Arms Gayton

Another large entry for the title “Branch Skittlers 2012” saw 33 ringers and friends converge on The Eykyn Arms in Gayton on 2nd June 2012. Wendy and her staff once again made us very welcome.

For the second year running new holders of the Cecil Swann Trophy emerged after a high scoring and competitive contest throughout the evening.

15 teams challenged for the championship and the roll of the cheeses contributed to the early demise of Liz and Cecil, Pat and John, Kathryn and John Kathy and Mike, Dorothy and Colin (last years champions who obviously wanted an early night!), Ian and Trish and Barbara and John. Despite averaging nearly 7 per throw, Helen and Elaine, Vera and Ray, Anne and Mike and Chris and Geoff also failed to reach the semi-finals.

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

Peter and Edward and Trevor and Nick contested the first semi-final



which was a relatively low scoring match with Trevor and Nick coming out as winners. The second semi-final saw Liz and Glen up against Carole and Keith in a very high scoring match which went to Liz and Glen eventually.

So All Saints and the St Giles/unattached combinations faced up for what was to be a final of high quality skittles with Liz and Glen using their relaxed arm action to good effect triumphing over Trevor and Nick (former champions) to register the first win for All Saints.

Cecil was again on hand to present his Trophy and to remind the winners to keep it clean and defend it again in 2013. The organisers and catering team were thanked for another enjoyable event and all agreed that the Gayton venue had again proved successful. Next years championship is already booked for The Eykyn Arms, date to be confirmed.

Thank you Norman for another great success, looking forward to next years!

The next major feat was to take part in "all the bells" which as far as I can see was a great success, I still cant see how much work was put in by Mr Creed, would have done it if they had asked me and offered me that amount of money. Never mind all those that took part seem to have a good time and if we have managed to recruit any new ringers through it then it must have been a success. I know in my own benefice we managed to get all 26 bells ringing in the 5 churches.

In July we tried to hold a short business meeting during the practice, as we only seem to have one quarterly meeting a year, not sure it work so back to the drawing board.

We are now getting ready to put in a band in the Guild Summer Festival and the 8 bell striking competition.

Mark Rogers – Branch Chairman

PETERBOROUGH BRANCH.

We have been delighted to host two guild events over the past few months. On 7th April a large group of cyclists and walkers congregated at Rutland Water to take part in the Annual Sponsored Ride and Ramble. The Guild AGM came to the Peterborough Branch with ringing at Benefield, Castor and Oundle. As a branch we have enjoyed another Ring for your Supper, the starter being at Thornhaugh, the main course at Barnack and Pudding at Castor. What a fantastic evening! At the end of March David Teall put his schoolmaster's hat back on to lead a Bob Minor Course at the ringing centre in Castor. The monthly eight-bell practices have continued to be well attended with a good range of methods.

The Branch Committee felt that we were being left behind in this electronic age and took the decision to embark on its own website which is now up and running thanks to the hard work of David and Sally. Do have a look – go to the Guild site and click on Peterborough Branch.

Blatherwycke

Our one bell was chimed for three minutes at 8.12am for the start of the Olympics.

Bulwick

Our numbers have been reduced over the past few months due to some of us taking far too many holidays! The result has been a reduction in our social activities but no noticeable decrease in our belfry performance. Our Wednesday night practices are always well attended and cover a very wide range of methods and we have managed to field a strong band for all the required services. There has only been one wedding since the last newsletter and we did need to seek outside help to make six for it.

A Bulwick band rang a quarter to celebrate the joint occasion of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and Sue and Andrew's Silver Wedding. We also chimed three bells for three minutes at 8.12am to mark the start of the Olympics.

To end on a really positive note we have a new recruit, aged 7. Is this a record? She is the fourth ringer in her family.

Pat Teall

Castor

As usual St. Kyneburgha's band has had a busy first half of the year. Sadly we have lost one of our newer and most regular ringers Joyce Smith who has retired due to a back problem. On the other hand we have gained Helen Campbell,

although not a Sunday service ringer as she is at St. Martin's

Without, Helen comes to all our practices and is a regular ringer for weddings and funerals. A great asset and much appreciated.

So far this year we have rung for six weddings here and three at Wansford, also four funerals here. We were delighted to ring for Professor Stephen Upex's daughter's wedding at Warmington in July. He is a valued supporter and contributor to the St. Kyneburgha Building Preservation Trust in its Roman tours.

Five visiting bands so far who have rung two peals and one quarter.

We have rung here just two quarters ourselves, but some of our more accomplished ringers have been of assistance to St. Mary's with their goal of 60 Jubilee quarters.

We hosted part of the Branch Ring for your Supper and the Guild AGM in May. There was a sponsored ring also in May organised by



Michael Kennedy for Children's Villages in Haiti in continuing the support we gave after the earthquake.

A quarter was rung for the Queen's accession in February, and we rang for the Queen's Jubilee. Some of us rang with Maxey for the Ringing Down the Welland Valley for the Jubilee.

Great fun was had ringing fast, loud and furious for the Olympics. As church bells cannot be rung that way we decided to chime them for the three minutes at the appointed moment, and were joined by our Rector William Burke, Ray Hemingray, Brian Goode, and others who joined in. Steve Reed managed to chime two at once! Our Hand Belles also rang but on the roadside in the centre of the village. They rang for an additional half hour raising money for Disabled Riders of England, on a bright sunny morning.

Our annual summer lunch was held for forty to thank our tolerant families for their tolerance, putting up with us being otherwise engaged so often at weekends. (We look forward to making a little more progress and continued enjoyment ringing).



We are relieved to hear Tony Evans, our ex Tower Captain, and the one who was responsible for most of us taking up ringing, is home and recovering, we wish him all the best.

Finally we would like to express our delight in the results Alice Castle achieved all As and A*s and her confirmed place at Birmingham to study medicine, (also where Inga Wilson qualified). We wish her the very best and hope she will find a little time to ring there.

William M Baxter - Tower Captain

Easton-on the-Hill

Since the last newsletter ringing at Easton has continued to develop into the world of change ringing. We have hugely benefitted from the

publicity afforded by the branch website with our practices now regularly attracting visitors for the first time. This has enabled us to progress from minimus into bob doubles with some success.

As for many towers this has been a prolific few months of ringing for community events, never has bell ringing had such a profile within the village. We marked the Queen's Jubilee ringing on the Sunday at



the behest of the parish council. On the Monday we were delighted to participate in the “Ringing Down the Welland Valley” with band members from Easton travelling on to support ringing in Stamford and Barnack for this event. The early morning ringing planned for the opening of the Olympics had initially drawn sceptical responses from our members so nothing was planned. In the event, several ringers were moved by the occasion and turned up any way just in case! Luckily the church was open and we joined in ad hoc. Possibly because of the unusual timing of the ringing, feedback from the village folk has been abundant and all positive. Another noteworthy event in July was Easton ringer Helena Thorpe achieving her first quarter peal, as a 15th Wedding Anniversary celebration. This was incidentally the first quarter on the bells for 8 years.

James Thorpe

Glaphorn

A band of three ringers (Michael Taylor, Bob Brewer and Pauline Davidson) chimed the bells on Friday 27th July to celebrate the start of the Olympics. The Churchwarden was our timer, and ensured we rang for exactly 3 minutes from 08.12 to 08.15!

Glinton

Glinton has been very busy during the last few months. We rang for HM the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee by ringing at 3:00pm on June 3rd when the Royal Jubilee river pageant began; we also joined in “Ringing down the Valley” on June 4th when church bells “called” to each other in a 65 mile length of the Welland Valley from Sibbertoft to Fosdyke. Glinton’s bells joined in celebration of the Olympics by combining with thousands of bells across the UK in artist Martin Creed’s project entitled “All the Bells” to mark the official start of the Olympic Games on July 27th. We rang for three minutes, joined in the performance by local people outside the church ringing handbells.

A quarter peal of plain bob doubles was also rung in Glinton on July 30th by a band from the Lincolnshire Diocesan Guild which included two people who regularly ring at Glinton. It was dedicated “for the Olympics”.

To mark the Olympic ladies’ marathon, thirteen ladies rang the first ever full peal by an all female band on the bells of St Paul’s Cathedral as the marathon passed by outside. One member of this band was Gaby Cowcill, a former member of Glinton tower. She was congratulated outside afterwards by Robin and Judith Rogers who had made the trip in her support. The method was Stedman Cinques rung in 3hrs 57mins. We were very proud to be associated with this. We have been ringing for a number of weddings, including the daughter of our priest-in-charge, which coincided with the wedding of our tower captain’s daughter some miles away. We dedicated part of the ringing that afternoon to Anne Geisow



and part to Sarah-Jane Goodall.

Glinton has hosted three visiting bands, all of whom were delighted to be able to ring our beautiful bells. We celebrated at a confirmation service conducted by the Bishop of Peterborough in June.

We have supported Barnack Tower over the last few months. This was a commitment made at our AGM in April and welcomed by the tower captain at Barnack. Numbers at this joint practice night have been very encouraging. Following publicity in the parish magazine, two new recruits arrived to "have a go" at ringing. One lady seems to be very enthusiastic and we hope she will continue. The numbers each practice night are still very buoyant, due in no small part to the friendliness and warmth shown by all.

Tower Secretary

Kings Cliffe

After struggling for the last few years with bells and fittings that were showing their age, we are delighted to report that they are now with Taylors in Loughborough undergoing their one hundred year service. We hope to be fully operational again early in November and look forward to welcoming you all to try them out.

We are most grateful to the Guild Belfry Repair Fund for their help towards financing the project, Chris Burgess, Alex Dyer and Murray Coleman who gave generously of their time to assist Taylor's Bell-hanger Paul Mason, Kirsten Stokes who recorded it all on her camera and to Georgie Atkinson who kept us all fed and watered.

David Teall



Lower Benefield

Practice nights continue on Monday evenings at 7.30pm. All the learners are making good progress. Janet Roberts and Eleanor Readon have just joined us. Janet was a complete beginner but is proving to be a natural. She is already attempting plain hunt. Eleanor had previously learnt to handle a bell, and though it was quite some time ago, she is now refreshing her memory with plain hunt and bob doubles.

We have been pleased to welcome visiting ringers, some local and some not so. We have also been honoured to ring for 2 more weddings. We look forward to welcoming you to Lower Benefield in the future.

Tina Brimley

Nassington

We have had our rope guides installed by Taylor's with help from myself to keep the cost down and they are very successful.

Our two learners are making very good progress and are very keen and enthusiastic, they are ringing for services and one has already rung for a wedding. Unfortunately neither of them were available over the Jubilee weekend so we were unable to ring.

However, it isn't all good news for our tower. We had our Quinquennial inspection by Architect Canon J D Limentani and he has deemed our bell frame unsafe due to several joints being degenerated due to rust lamination. He stated that the bells must not be rung until an engineer's inspection had been carried out. However, we have had the engineer's inspection and he has now said that we can carry on ringing, but work on the frame must be carried out within the next twelve months. We are now awaiting the full report from the engineer to know exactly the extent of the work to be carried out and hope it isn't going to be too drastic.

Keith Underwood

Peterborough Cathedral

We have not been quite so blessed with ringing talent recently on practice night, and miss two ringers, one has moved away and one is not well. We can usually manage to ring up to Yorkshire S Royal and S Major.

We have had visiting parties one each from the Thrapston Branch, and the Rutland Branch, and evensong ringing by Henlow, Beds.

Ringling for the Olympic Torch (which came into the precincts) was not possible due to disturbing other City events. The opening of the Olympics was celebrated by the ringing of the 30 cwt Bourdon bell as loudly and quickly as possible for 3 minutes. Local radio interviewed Canon Richard Cattle whose line was " how splendid it is to be able to join in this exciting celebration".

We offer an open invitation to all Branches of the Guild to ring for Evensong each year, and it was especially pleasant recently to welcome the Thrapston Branch for I think the first time. They rang very well indeed. Would Branches please consider putting such a visit in their 2013 programme? The most convenient time is a 2nd, 4th or 5th Sunday in the month, meet at 2pm, ring 2:20 to 3:20 pm before Evensong. Branches are also similarly encouraged to ring quarter peals on Sunday afternoons, and requests for peal attempts on Saturday mornings are considered positively.



Contact Mike Goodall or Robin Rogers to make arrangements please.

Robin Rogers

Peterborough, St Mary's

We are pleased that Andrew Christie now has a job, but sad that it is in Dorking and so we only see him at weekends. However Stuart Weston has very ably stood in for Andrew as conductor and so our total of quarter peals for the Jubilee year is still on target. Thankyou Stuart! By the time this is printed we hope that we will have reached our 50th (only 10 more to go!)

In March we rang two quarter peals as tributes to Canon Christie, who sadly lost his fight against cancer.

In May we joyfully rang for Ossie Robert's 99th birthday. Ossie learnt to ring with us in his 70's but soon realised that it was too much for him. He has always taken a keen interest in what we do and is now our oldest honorary member.

We rang a quarter peal on the day of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and also in July after we had watched the Olympic Torch pass by. Later that month we rang to celebrate Bradley Wiggins winning the Tour De France.

The quarter on 26th July was not only for the start of the Olympics on the next day, but also Alex Dyers 100th quarter. Congratulations Alex! Geoff Davis rang our tenor at 8.12am on the 27th for the Ring around Britain.

We hosted a charity lunch in June which enabled us to hand over a cheque for £400 to The Rudolph Fund which takes under privileged children on holiday at Christmas.

Joan Parker

The Ringing Centre, St Kyneburgha's, Castor

During the past five and a half years we have had approximately 50 trainees come to us, less than half of this number required teaching from scratch the remainder came to get help in improving their bell handling, to gain confidence and to learn methods. This year for the first time we have been teaching Cambridge Surprise Minor! In order for us to achieve these targets a band of dedicated trainers is required.

For teaching methods we require a minimum of 6 experienced trainers – 5 to ring and one to stand with the trainee. Fortunately I have a pool of a dozen ringers that are prepared to help and cover for absences, etc. The hard core of trainers that have been with me from the start include David and Pat Teal, Paul Read and Chris Burgess, Paul is often unable to make Saturday mornings so we supplement this core with Alex Dyer, Elaine Wilkinson, Mac Bell, Geoff Davis and James Thorpe - two of which started with us as trainees! When we first started the tower produced a good supply of replacement stays and we did break a few – no more than half a dozen



and we do replace them ourselves. To pay the tower for the breakages and general wear and tear of the bells and equipment plus heating and lighting, we collect a 50p levy from all attendees each week, this is paid direct to the tower. We may require a major up date of sensor and computer equipment in the future and would require funds to pay for this.

Tony Evans

Pat Teall - Peterborough Correspondent

RUTLAND BRANCH

It has been a heady period for national rejoicing with celebratory ringing for the Jubilee and the Olympics, the Branch contributing its bit. “Bells ring out in steeple chase across five counties” announced The Times on 5 June, reporting on the cascade of ringing down the Welland Valley the previous day, organised by Ros Willatts, with seven of our towers participating. A “beautiful, traditional and romantic way to celebrate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee” said Ros.

Congratulations on the successful achievement of this unique contribution. The Queen was reported to have been “touched” by the idea.

All this has, of course, been additional to our normal summer season activities. A 6-bell striking competition at Caldecott in April was won by Uppingham.. Five teams entered, followed by three in a fun ring for under 21s, girls and boys. A well worthwhile event which usefully serves to focus minds on practical technique in performance as distinct from the complexity of what is being performed. Our grateful thanks to judges Ian and Alison Willgress. Uppingham went on to achieve fourth place out of seven in the District 6-bell striking competition at Isham.

We all owe a special debt of gratitude to Mary Holmes who has now taken her bow after twenty five years running an annual market stall raising money for the Branch. This year she and her helpers raised £1,292, making an amazing total of £20,372 over the whole period. The figures speak for themselves – they reflect years of single-minded effort and hard work for which we are enormously grateful. Thank you, Mary; and thank you, again!

We were once again welcomed at Peterborough Cathedral to ring for Evensong on 15 July. Some 19 of our members made it to the



ringing room a number of them for the first time, including an 11 year old with her grandfather, both learners from Casterton All had a go, ringing rounds, call changes and plain hunt; the experienced members were able to enjoy ringing Cambridge Surprise Major. Thank you Robin and Judith Rogers, and other cathedral ringers, for making us so welcome; and for your encouragement and support in making this stimulating experience possible. Several in the group had been unsure about coming, but one and all left genuinely exhilarated by the experience.

A quarter peal of plain bob minor was rung at Edith Weston on 26 April to mark the 60th anniversary of the installation and dedication of the six bells by the Bishop of Peterborough. The children from Edith Weston Primary School had been shown the bells and told about ringing, the quarter then being rung as they left the church to walk home. Who knows what seeds of interest in ringing may have germinated! Seven other celebratory quarters have been rung since March.

As we emerge from the ringing doldrums of August we look forward to an active autumn season, opening with a tour of six towers in East Leicestershire on 29 September.

Giles Hopkinson – Rutland Correspondent

THRAPSTON BRANCH

Hargrave Tower.

The tower has recently undergone renovation work which has seen the raising of the ringing platform and toilet facilities successfully now located beneath.

On July 14th we had an Open Tower morning to show how the bells were rung and to encourage some of the local people to have a go at ringing.

The weather was very bad, it was a cold morning with heavy rain, but the locals did turn up to see what it was all about.

Ringers from Thrapston, Raunds and Stanwick came to give their support and gave a ringing demonstration of how the four bells could be rung; thanks to them for a good mornings ringing.

Hargrave Practice Night is on Thursdays from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. if anyone



would like to come and try out our bells. (Please note the village does not have a pub!)

Dennis Thrift

TOWCESTER BRANCH - no news this time

WELLINGBOROUGH BRANCH

What a busy time it has been since the last newsletter was produced in March. If one needed a reason for ringing then we had plenty, Diamond Jubilee, Olympic Torch Relay and the most recent of these the Olympics. Many towers in the branch do not need a reason for ringing but for those who hardly ever ring a quarter; took up the challenge and marked all or some of the events by ringing rounds for a few minutes or rang a quarter.

The branch's quarter peal week was also organised around the week of 2nd to 10th June to celebrate the Golden Jubilee. During this period 9 towers were successful in their quarter and one other unfortunately did not succeed. Yardley Hastings and Castle Ashby combined their young inexperienced ringers to mark the occasion by ringing rounds and hunting to mark the occasion.

During this period there were some first quarters from two towers. Ecton had Mike Ward on the five and Vicki Jafee on the treble for Bob Doubles and Orlingbury had John Mundy on the tenor for several doubles methods and later in the week another quarter was rung which enabled Pete Dyer to achieve his first quarter on the treble. The branch is very appreciative of the effort made by the tower captains and their teams and special congratulations to the first timers.

Other achievements of note and certainly worth a mention are Eleanor Williams from Earls Barton who rang her first quarter in April.

At the Spring Festival on 28th April at Isham; both Rushden and Orlingbury entered a team in the 6 bell striking competition. Of the 8 teams taking part Rushden were the overall winners and Orlingbury came a credible 5th. Well Done

Our own 6 bell striking competition took place at Yardley Hastings on 20th June. The 7 teams brought along their own cheer leaders and the church was very full to hear Alan Cozens from Cosgrove and David Westerman of Yelvertoft announce Rushden as the winners with 15



faults, closely followed by Finedon with 17 and Bozeat with 20. A vote of thanks was extended to the judges for judging the event and their valuable comments. Farnborough, Warwickshire was the meeting point for the first tower of the half day outing on 21st July and a bonus was indeed that the weather was sunny and warm. We were the second visiting group that day at Farnborough as previously Farnborough from Hampshire had rung at the tower. The light six were reached through a small trap door via a steep ladder but well worth the effort. The less experienced ringers in the group, who were used to ringing heavy bells, thought them to be challenging and difficult. We then travelled over the border to Oxfordshire for an even lighter six at Mollington. These bells were less difficult, possible due to the practice on the lighter bells at the previous tower. Several lots of plain hunt with London and Cambridge and it was time to move to the next tower, the last before This was to Cropredy for a very heavy 8 where half a course of Yorkshire was achieved. Two minutes from the Church was the canal and Cropredy Lock Garden where we were able to view the many boats which were moored in this very busy stretch of water. There were plenty of benches and seats in the garden so the group gathered to chat and eat. There was just time for a short walk along the canal and then it was time to move to the last ring of the day which was another heavy ring of 10 at Banbury.

Several ringers joined the party at this point, having not been available during the afternoon. This church, which is also used by the United Reformed denomination, was larger than the other 3 churches put together and the only one with a loo!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! After ringing plain hunt, Grandsire caters, Bob caters and Little Bob royal it was time to leave. At this point, some took a detour next door to the pub for a swift drink. The group also took this opportunity to thank Pam Bailey for yet another well organised tour.

Full details are on the web site - www.wellingboroughbranch.org.uk

Tanya Clayton - Wellingborough Correspondent

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER'S PIECE

A few towers kicked off with the celebration of St George's Day in April.



Then came the Queen's Diamond Jubilee weekend. There were lots of village and town events featuring bells, but not so many advertised in advance what they were going to do. I'm sure that the branch reports contain many reports of the variety and extent of those special activities. I was most impressed with the Welland cascade of 35 towers (22 in Peterborough Diocese) through five counties from Sibbertoft to Fosdyke organised by Rosalind Willatts of Wilbarston. I was even more impressed to read about it in the diocesan Cross Keys newsletter. Hopefully it will appear in the Ringing World.

On Sunday, June 3, over 1,000 vessels participated in the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant from Battersea to Tower Bridge. It was one of the largest flotillas ever assembled on the river, with rowed boats, working boats and pleasure vessels of all shapes and sizes beautifully dressed and turned out in their finest rigs. As if in a PRO's dream, the pageant was headed by a new ring of bells cast at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in early 2012, on what must be the most unusual delivery journey. The bells were installed in a special substantial framework on a barge and were rung full-circle all the way, not without a bit of unpredictable 'tower' movement. It is a pity that technical difficulties appear to have stopped BBC close-ups and on-board interviews, but the sound of the change ringing entered into a great deal of the television coverage. The bells have already been hung in the tower of the Parish Church of St James' Garlickhythe in the City of London.

Next came the Olympics. The torch journey through the nation was accompanied by more enthusiasm than might have been expected and greeted by bells on much of its journey. Unfortunately it didn't appear in public in the Daventry Branch, so we had to wait for July 27 and the extraordinary 'bonkers' idea behind 'Work No.1197: All the bells in a country rung as quickly and as loudly as possible for three minutes' by Turner Prize-winning artist and musician Martin Creed. The BBC got excited in the later stages and moved the time to 8.12am to suit their programming. After sending an advance outline of the event to newspapers and broadcasters in our diocese, I had two swift responses: from Radio Cambridgeshire which I passed on to Tony Evans and David Teall; and Radio Northampton who came to interview me at Badby the week before. The idea seems to have struck the public imagination again and I heard of nobody complaining about bells ringing so early, only from one couple who slept through it instead of being in the tower. How bells were used varied enormously



and I am sure you can add yet another variation! The games themselves were very invigorating, not least the 'volunteers', many of whom must have been ringers. I remain underwhelmed by the 23 ton bell at the opening ceremony! Perhaps we can capture some of the 'get up and have a go' spirit that has been engendered. Open tower days are a good way of attracting attention to the heritage, social life, science and art that we hide in them and may attract a trickle and perhaps a flood of recruits. Training and retention then become the key skills. Let's keep up a steady stream of tower or branch sponsored open days to help build a growing future for our exercise.

It concerns me that I was not able to provide much help for most of these open tower days. I gather I was re-elected at the Guild AGM – thanks- but if there is anyone out there with an unconstrained zeal to spread the word about bell-ringing and has knowledge of modern communication media, please let me know. I'm struggling with websites and I don't do facebook or twitter! Make the most of advertising, in advance and afterwards, your Remembrance, Advent, Christmas and New Year ringing!

PHOTO CAPTION COMPETITION

There was one, yes one, entry:

I've just seen Nora Batty's stockings!

from Jim Bence, who will receive a Guild T shirt!

GUILD SHIRTS

Orders and sales reached 181 at the most recent order deadline for 2012 in August. I shall have to negotiate new prices no doubt for next year. The new prices, the order form and order deadlines will be updated on the Guild website www.pdg.org.uk at <Guild Shirts> as soon as negotiated and before the next Newsletter. So far 91% of the shirts ordered have shown the tower name and only 6% branch names!

GHP

SPRING FESTIVAL

It was more like Winter than Spring on April 28, but eight teams and supporters turned out for the six-bell striking competition held on the pleasant 9cwt Taylor ground-floor six at Isham. By good



planning the hall is next door and handy for the running buffet and keeping warm. With the running order set, the teams arrived, practised and rang their 120 test pieces in an orderly manner.

At 7pm the President opened the meeting. The 100-club draw was made with first prize going to F Prentice and second prize to Chris Jenkins. Grants of £2,400 for King's Cliffe (a revised application for rehangng work) and £300 to Caldecott (for frame and rope maintenance) from the Bell Fund were agreed. David Westerman of Yelvertoft was elected as the Guild's fourth representative to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

After welcoming everyone, especially the two teams who have never entered before, the Guild Master introduced the day's judges: Jim Benner is the Peal Secretary of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild and was accompanied by Barry Jones. Jim provided a commentary on each team and then Barry provided the marks from which it became clear there was a close finish. The results were:

<i>Orlningbury</i>	<i>26 marks</i>	<i>Position 5</i>
<i>Rothwell A</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Uppingham</i>	<i>22½</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Desborough</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>7=</i>
<i>Rothwell B</i>	<i>8½</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Rushden</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Badby</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Boughton</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>7=</i>

Certificates were presented to each team by the judges and Pam Bailey received the Weaver Shield on behalf of the Rushden team, winning it for the sixth time since 1986. Thank-you certificates were presented to the Isham tower captain and to the judges with tokens.

Evening ringing, to suit all present, took place on the eight bells at Burton Latimer for an hour before adjournment to the nearby Olde Victoria

RIDGMAN TROPHY

The 25th Ridgman Trophy 10-bell striking competition between



East Anglian guilds and associations was held on Saturday, 16th June 2012 at All Saints', Kempston. The rather secluded location in a village near Bedford has an interesting church, surrounded by huge trees, beautifully situated on the banks of the River Great Ouse. The neighbouring triangular courtyard, reached by an archway through a row of cottages, contains the old village school and the church hall where waiting ringers were stabled during the day. A mini-ring housed in the church's south porch demanded every bit as much concentration as the big bells at twice the speed.

Our Guild rang first. The test piece was disappointing as the tenor appeared very difficult to strike in the same place two changes in succession, and adjustments didn't appear to improve and caused method trips. After this disappointment our Master and Alison left for Milton Keynes and aimed to be back in time for the committee meeting and results.

So they missed the most dramatic moment of the competition, when the tenor clapper fell out during the second band's practice piece.

The clapper was swiftly and efficiently replaced, and the lost time was made up during the course of the afternoon. Sadly, our band could not be reassembled in time for a replacement ring and subsequently opted to withdraw, feeling that the clapper must have been loosening during their test piece and that this had impaired the quality of their ringing.

The judges, Jennie and Philip Earis, entertained and informed the gathering with their comments upon the performances of the test piece of half a course of Yorkshire Surprise Royal.

The results were given as a performance percentage, the speed of ringing expressed as the time for a peal and the Guild / Association:

88%	3h06	Bedfordshire
85%	3h08	Ely
76%	3h15	Norwich
65%	3h05	Essex
64%	3h10	Suffolk
63%	3h15	Cambridge University
51%	3h10	Lincoln

The 26th Ridgman Trophy competition will be on the back 10 bells at St Laurence's, Surfleet, Lincolnshire (tenor 12-0-9) on Saturday,



June 15, 2013. The test piece will be a half-course of Cambridge Royal.
GHP (with thanks to Campanophile, the Essex Association website and Ian
Willgress)

Geoff Pullin

100 CLUB

100 Club Winners

<i>Month</i>	<i>1st Prize</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>2nd Prize</i>	<i>Number</i>
<i>APR 12</i>	<i>42.80</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>10.70</i>	<i>47</i>
<i>MAY 12</i>	<i>41.60</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>10.40</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>JUN 12</i>	<i>40.40</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>10.10</i>	<i>42</i>
<i>JULY 12</i>	<i>40.80</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>10.20</i>	<i>36</i>
<i>AUG 12</i>	<i>40.80</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>10.20</i>	<i>29</i>

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.



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**



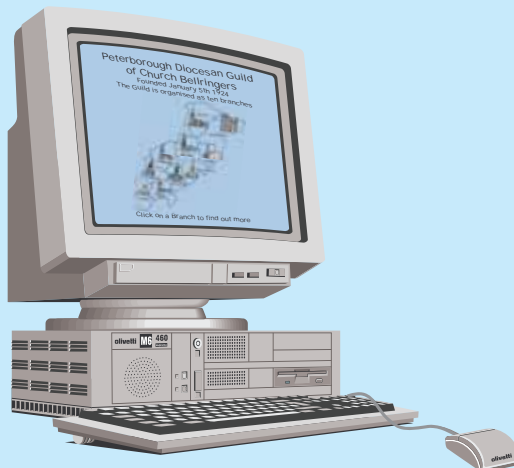
There is a section to help **tower publicity**



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



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



GUILD EVENTS 2012

15th Sept **Guild Summer Festival - Rutland Branch**

Eight-bell inter-branch striking competition

3.30pm at **Oakham** (8 bells, 24cwt)

Until 9pm - Evening Ringing at **Uppingham** (8 bells, 14cwt).



