

# PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS



*Newsletter*  
*September 2013*

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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 2014  
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, what an improvement this summer has been weather-wise. Many outings, BBQ's and other outside events have been held in warm sunshine most of the time. Ringing was not a good thing to be doing on some days especially in a ringing chamber like mine with no ventilation. One occasion when the weather was not brilliant was the Ridgman Trophy 10 bell striking competition held at Surfleet. It was quite a cold day but dry to start with but then it really poured down causing a flood in front of one of the entrances to the Church. We rang rather too fast for the judges liking and were placed 5th. I thought we rang at the correct pace but I like fast ringing on bells that go that speed.

It was a shame that the weather was so poor for the 12 bell eliminator at Kettering where it was snowing. The ringing was excellent, when I stepped out of the car I had to stop and listen before taking cover. All the bands arrived successfully but the weather put off many local ringers coming to listen to really high class ringing.

The birth of Prince George meant that there were a few more quarter peals rung to celebrate this event.

As many of you will be aware I have decided that this is my last year as President. I will have been doing the job for 10 years by next year's AGM which is too long. Things have not always been easy with changes of other positions, sometimes in difficult circumstances and nobody wanting to take anything on. Please think if this is a job you can do.

Keep ringing and training new ringers.

*Brenda Dixon*



# *News from the Branches*

## CULWORTH BRANCH - no news this time

## DAVENTRY BRANCH

After a cold winter with snow drifts still about in Holy Week, we had a very welcome long hot summer.

### PEOPLE

Hugh Johnson had many weeks in hospital and is now home but unable to get up to ring as yet. We were pleased to see his sister Hilary, over from the Lebanon, for an eight week stay and regular ringing on Tuesdays and Sundays. Ted Garrett went into hospital just after the Guild AGM and had another short stay in July but is now back in circulation.

Mary Wenham was in hospital with serious back pain for several weeks but died unexpectedly on July 12. Peter sent a message that he would be at the Monday Club ringing at 2pm the following Monday. He thought Mary would want it that way and if she disagreed, they would discuss it later! A celebration of Mary's life was well supported at Braunston on July 31. The service sheet accurately predicted that the family would be welcomed by, and would leave to, bellringing by their friends. Altogether 24 rang and well.

Pam Eve of Kilsby had two spells in hospital with vascular dementia and by April had moved to Kilsby House, joining Iris and Freda. Unfortunately we have learned that she died on August 25.

On the brighter side, ten Chernobyl children were entertained at Litchborough on July 11. Richard Hartley organised a welcome with

ringing from the tower, topped with a Belarus flag, and then the children played the organ, climbed the tower and chimed the bells followed by a barbecue and games at the Hall hosted by the Heygates with support from branch ringers and villagers.

The Rainbows visited Daventry Holy Cross tower on May 2. The programme was organised by Richard Waddy and run by Dominic with assistance from Sally, Christine and John among others . It included a demonstration of a raised bell ringing and ended with them swing chiming!



## MEETINGS

29 rang at Great Brington in April and 23 in the evening at Whilton. The service arrangements followed plan B, with Michael Haighton unexpectedly taking the service with Barbara at the grand piano. Whilton village hall was the venue for a splendid hot tea and cakes provided by the Whilton ringers. At the meeting, the treasurer reported a letter of thanks from the Guild Treasurer for the £1,000 that went from our maintenance fund to the Guild Bell Fund. In June, the branch was well represented at the Guild AGM, probably 20% of the attendees, but shamefully not including the Guild PRO!

With temperatures maintaining nothing less than 25 deg C all day, Kislingbury was a splendid location and host for our 5-bell striking competition in July. With only five teams this year, the competition ended in good time for general ringing. The Rev Stephen French led our service in his inimitable style, complete with service sheets decorated with ringing cartoons. Yet another different ringers' hymn was accompanied by Michael Faulkner at the organ. The Kislingbury ringers provided a splendid seasonal tea. There were several other events that day, so we had a succession of people coming and going with 28 ringing, out of the 34 present. Then Jenny and John (Spike) Thorne from Southam gave the results of their afternoon sitting behind the wall of the churchyard-extension. Spike made general comments about each band as its identity was revealed and then Jenny gave the results as:

<b>5</b>	<b><i>Staverton</i></b>	<b><i>58 faults</i></b>
<b>4</b>	<b><i>Last Night's Heyford Practice</i></b>	<b><i>45</i></b>
<b>3</b>	<b><i>Byfield</i></b>	<b><i>44</i></b>
<b>1=</b>	<b><i>Badby Sunday</i></b>	<b><i>38</i></b>
<b>1=</b>	<b><i>Badby Wednesday</i></b>	<b><i>38</i></b>



*The colourful Badby Wednesday band left to right:  
Michael Haighton (rule 3). Carole Pullin and hat,  
Brian Clark, Dorothy Fitzgerald, Richard Piner*





***Sally for Badby's Sunday team and Carole for the Wednesday team appear to be fighting with Jenny Thorne for the Ron Woodward Trophy resplendent with its new baseboard!***

The judges were presented with certificates of thanks and a couple of bottles of wine at room temperature (= very hot!). There were only 13, including Cecil Swann and Shirley Jones who met us, our judges, three visitors from Rushden and our regular visitor from Charwelton at St Peter's Northampton in the evening. We rang plain hunt on seven, call changes, Plain Bob, Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob and Yorkshire S Major. A small company of six partook of cooling refreshment at the White Hart, Flore.

At Newnham in August Ian Willgress looked after some 23 ringing and Gwynneth chaired the meeting due to a certain couple being in Barrow-in-Furness getting in the way of removing bells for restoration and apparently celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary. Evening ringing, including Yorkshire

Surprise Royal, was at Daventry where 12 from Rugby District brought numbers to 22.  
**QUARTER PEALS**

**Sundays:** The branch Sunday series continued with Kent TB Royal on Mothering Sunday at Daventry, conducted by a rather hoarse (before we started!) Ian Willgress (first on ten for Jane Rands, first TB Royal for Christine Rodhouse, first of Kent Royal for Andy Timms and Gwynneth White). In April, Yorkshire S Major at Long Buckby, conducted by Jim White (Andy's first of surprise major and dedicated to the memory of Freda, his mother).



More Kent Treble Bob Royal at Daventry in May, conducted by Ian Willgress (First of Kent TB Royal for Christine, Hilary Aslett and Justin Baker). In June, Grandsire Triples at Whilton for Theresa Baker, conducted by Ian Willgress. With Kent going to our heads, we were brought down to earth by failing with Oxford TB Royal in hot July. This was advertised in the local press as a free recital and we understand that there was tremendous applause and cheers from the patrons sitting outside the club next door each time we stopped! I wonder why? In August with the organiser away, the Oxford TB Major at Weedon transformed into Plain Bob Major rung as a compliment to her and Geoff and on their Ruby wedding anniversary!

Fridays: Carole has started a new venture of monthly Friday afternoon quarter peals in simple methods to help improve rhythm and striking. March was Plain Bob Minor at Badby; April saw Plain Bob Minor at Eydon; Eileen Thompson rang her first quarter peal, treble to Plain Bob Doubles at Flore in May; Plain Bob Minor at Staverton in June; Ian Charters rang the 3rd to Plain Bob Doubles for his first away from cover at Newnham in August. Gwynneth White conducted all of these. In July, Anne Ford rang her first quarter of minor, treble to Plain Bob at Middleton Cheney - specially chosen so that she would feel at home on a heavy treble - albeit only 7¾ cwt compared to Everdon's 9 cwt, conducted by Jim White ringing the 22 cwt tenor at 25 deg C ambient.

Others to report are: Plain Bob Triples at Weedon in May conducted by Brian Foley as a tribute to 617 Squadron, Royal Air Force Bomber Command on the 70th anniversary of Operation Chastise (Dambusters) and Grandsire Triples conducted by John (Spike) Thorne – Christine Rodhouse's first inside to Grandsire Triples. At Hellidon on June 25, first quarter pealers Margaret Brown and Susie Goudime rang the treble and tenor behind to Plain Bob Minimus for Ernie Davidson's 90th birthday – and afterwards he rang some good rounds for an extended period because nobody would say 'stand!' A loyal royal quarter peal of Cambridge Surprise Major was rung at Weedon on July 26, conducted by Jim White to celebrate the birth of HRH Prince George of Cambridge. On August 5 a quarter in memory of Mary Wenham was rung at Braunston conducted by John Gwynne. Peter rang the 2nd, his first attempt since he fell down the tower ladder three years ago and John Davies of Ashby St Ledgers rang the tenor behind to this his first quarter peal.



## SCHOOL RINGERS

13 children in Year Six at Badby School had regular bell-ringing sessions on Tuesdays as part of the curriculum at the head teacher's request. The first group were allowed to ring open in Holy Week after the end of term service, in which they were presented with certificates. The second group joined the first group to ring open in June. They each had about 68 minutes rope time including raising, lowering and ringing both strokes with three being taught simultaneously. Even with such a short input, one lad succeeded in ringing rounds in the right place unaided for at least 30 whole pulls and there were some expert coil makers.

## BETTER PRACTICES

The monthly branch better-8-bell practices continued at Daventry. The committee decided to restrict it to Cambridge S Major, struck well. 17 came in March when six half courses and one bob course were rung plus ten lowered in peal in an hour making the most of the time available! Similar practices took place monthly. In July Carole proposed that it should be changed to a ten-bell practice from plain hunt to Yorkshire S Royal depending on attendance, on the grounds that attendance was reducing, that it was exclusive and that the weekly Daventry practices now provide surprise major methods. With holidays in the way, the change has yet to be implemented.

## SOCIAL EVENTS & OUTINGS

Although I say it myself, the branch quiz evening at Badby village hall in March was very successful. It attracted 53, formed into 11 teams. Hilary Aslett ran the quiz and the Trawlers Fish Bar delivered fish and chips spot on half-time and Carole's cakes filled any voids. With such a good turn-out, including ringers from three branches and Warwick District, and Gwynneth's raffle, a profit of around £220 was achieved.

The annual Badby outing was organised by Angela Waldock on May Day bank holiday. Fifteen ringers and families set off on the hottest day of the year for Oxfordshire.

Wigginton (where, after climbing the spiral, you descend seven steps down a ladder into the ringing room), Swerford and Great Tew (where we were met and aided by Jo Barton) preceded lunch at the Falkland Arms. Church Enstone, Sandford St Martin (rung from a sloping gallery floor, which caused a sally or two to be missed) and Charlbury followed in the afternoon. A new desirable feature for future outings was perceived – the need to be able to get back to the lunchtime pub between the first and second afternoon towers to fetch those who stayed drinking!





*Left to right at Charlbury: Carole Pullin, Geoff Pullin, Dorothy FitzGerald, Graham White, James Grennan, Chris FitzGerald, Ken Ramsbotham, Alison Buck, Angela Waldock, Barry Thompson, Andy Timms, Pauline Thompson.*



*Descending from the spiral stairs into the ringing chamber at Wigginton.*

The day of the May coach outing to Midsomer Murders territory dawned cold and was at times wet, windy and accompanied by hail. A group of 43 departed at 8.15am prompt and were immediately refunded with £2 each because the full-size coach was unexpectedly so full! Janet's ticket showed the titles of the episodes of Midsomer Murders



that were filmed at the places we visited. Cuddington and Dinton came before The Lions at Bledlow where lunch was served in good time, leaving time for optional puddings and a stroll down to the church to hear the 8 bells being raised singly for us - thanks to Roy Woodruff! Then the two Oxfordshire towers: Great Haseley and Thame – just in time to avoid a heavy storm by a visit to a tea shop, that was wanting to close. The last tower was the nice ten at Long Crendon. A brief period was permitted for a swift visit to the nearby Eight Bells (alias Florence Arms) to assuage the ghost of Fred Hutt. We didn't have to raise a bell all day, only turn a clapper at Thame, but lowering skills had to be exercised. On the journey home, thanks were given: to Dominic for driving and marshalling us so well; to Hannah and Miles Baker for their enterprise of passing among us with sweets and Teresa's chocolate brownie cake in exchange for donations to the branch bell maintenance fund (they collected a total of £52!), and for the bags of sweets that circulated around the coach. Finally Barry Thompson, who thought up the theme, thanked Janet for a splendid outing and presented her with a copy of "Midsomer Murders On Location". Everybody returned to Daventry safe and sound, thanks to the sound work of the Midsomer's police.

Fifteen members of the Hellidon Tuesday morning gathering accepted Carol Summer's invitation to visit her home village Dodford for a ring on August 20. The tea, coffee and cakes were as excellent as ever!

### **UP THE TOWERS**

Two morning working parties at Daventry tower in May fixed the trap door in the ringing room so that it will now open in case it is needed! A handrail has been fitted across the top of the bell-frame. Safety precautions were installed to allow the back bells to be left up.

Daventry church was surrounded with scaffolding and shiny 3m tall sheeting in

May making the entrance like Alcatraz and very uninviting for weddings. The west face was cleared on July 26 after ten days in which the ringing room had been subjected to vast amounts of stone dust as new ironstone sills were fitted to fill the large month-old void below the window frame. Taylors fitted rope guides at Litchborough in August to the great satisfaction of the ringers.



## GUILSBOROUGH BRANCH - no news this time

### KETTERING BRANCH

The Kettering Branch has enjoyed three main events since the last newsletter. On Saturday 11th May ringers met at Lubenham church for the Spring outing, with the ever intrepid Bill and Shane having cycled from Desborough. The event started with a cross country walk to ring at East Farndon. After 'dodging' a heavy shower we continued to walk over the fields to Marston Trussell. Excellent views were enjoyed over the Leicestershire countryside. Marston Trussell stands in an idyllic setting and the ringing was enjoyed by all. The last leg of the journey was routed through the grounds of Lubenham Hall back to Lubenham where we enjoyed tea and cake provided by Mo and Liz before the final ring. Grateful thanks to Helen and Nick for arranging the outing.

15th June was the occasion of our Young Ringers' Event. Whilst we recognise the wonderful way that ringing brings together people from all generations to learn together, we felt that there might also be a need for a time to bring together our younger members to participate in some activities designed especially for them. This event was generously supported by the Guild Training Fund. Seven young people attended the event at Brampton Ash, several of whom had never before rung anywhere other than their home tower. The favourite activity of the day was definitely firing, something everyone was able to have a go at but which proved a fun challenge even for the most able of the young people and really encouraged everyone to listen carefully. We were joined in the last part of the afternoon by a number of the older Branch members. Once the young people had shown off their new-found skills there were a number of dads who couldn't wait to have a go at firing too - boys will be boys! Thank you to the adult helpers who made this event a success.

The final event before our summer break was the annual barbecue. We met first for ringing at Kettering where a number of members were able to experience ringing on larger numbers of bells for the first time - thanks to those stalwart friends who worked hard on the tenors despite the hot weather. A short cloudburst just as we left the tower ended the argument as to who would ride in Alex's open top car and we all set off for Pat's house. We were joined there by a good number of other friends



and enjoyed a pleasant evening with good food in lovely surroundings. Thank you very much to Pat for hosting us.

## BURTON LATIMER

I am pleased to report that our ringing is improving dramatically.

We would like to thank our regular 8 visitors from Thrapston Branch and 2 from Wellinboro' Branch for joining us each week making for a fun and very productive evening.

Along with our 10 Burton ringers we are now ringing Major methods including Plain Bob, Little Bob, Cambridge and more recently Double Norwich Court Bob Major. We successfully ring touches of Stedman and Grandsire Triples and touches of Plain Bob, Little Bob, St Clements, Ipswich and Cambridge Minor. Our learners are having fun tackling the treble to touches of a few doubles methods also.

This is a great improvement from what we were attempting 12 months ago when I took over as Tower Captain. I have put in my best and without the help of the huge support our weekly visitors give, this would not have been possible. My sincere thanks to you all, you know who you are.

At the end of a most enjoyable practise we either have tea and cakes in the belfry or go back to our home for home brew, wine and nibbles. It makes a sociable end to a good evening and builds confidence for our less experienced ringers.. On Sundays all of our own ringers turn out for Service ringing which is excellent. We have all 8 bells pealing out beautifully and all 10 of us have 2 or 3 rings.

In July, 6 of us rang a quarter peal of Stedman, Plain Bob and Grandsire for one of our Church members late husbands anniversary. Nancy kindly gave us a generous donation and I purchased a mechanism and pendulum for a new clock for our belfry. I sanded down one of Frances' old

chopping boards and cut it out in the shape of a bell, varnished and assembled it. It is now on the wall and can be seen from the Church isle and we do have many comments. A photograph of it is at the bottom of each page.

*Chris Pearson - Tower Captain*

*Deb Wallis - Kettering Correspondent.*

## PETERBOROUGH BRANCH

The last six months have provided plenty of work for our new secretary and ringing master who have ensured that all the active towers in the branch have had at least one visit to keep them in touch with what is happening within the branch. The monthly eight bell practices at St Kyneburgha's, Castor have continued to be well attended and have provided an excellent opportunity for those of us who normally only ring on five or six to improve and widen our skills. The introduction of one or two special methods have given us all something to work on.

In May we held another "Ring for your Supper" beginning at Warmington, who provided the starter. This was a particular pleasure as there has been no ringing at this tower for a few years but a new band has been formed and is being well supported by branch members (see Warmington's entry). We then moved to Easton on the Hill for the main course. This is another tower which had been on the fringes of branch activity but is now showing renewed enthusiasm. Finally we ate our deserts at King's Cliffe and sampled the newly rehung bells. Many thanks to everyone who was involved in running this highly enjoyable afternoon and evening.

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Geoff Davis of St Mary's, Peterborough who will be greatly missed by his tower, the Ringing School and at branch activities where his hearty voice and good humour always cheered proceedings.

### Peterborough Cathedral

The Rutland Branch rang for Evensong in July; Thrapston and Peterborough are visiting later in the year.

We rang for the ordination of Priests and for the Ordination of Deacons. The very large St Peter's Day jamboree doesn't take place at the Cathedral for people from across the Diocese any more, but there is a special St Peter's Day Evensong for which we rang. Bristol University ringers on tour also rang for Evensong.

Visitors are always welcome on practice night, where they can nearly always ring Surprise Royal and Grandsire Cinques, and sometimes Stedman Cinques.

**Robin Rogers**

### Peterborough, St Mary's

A great deal has happened in and out of the tower



at St Mary's, which has kept us busy over the past few months. From a ringing perspective we have been ringing less quarter peals, however we do still ring quite a few as we find the more time spent ringing keeps us off the streets and out of trouble. In May we rang 3 quarters and a peal to celebrate our oldest honorary bellringer , Ossie Roberts' 100th birthday. The peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major was Nick Elks' first peal.

At the end of May and start of June we had our annual weekend and this year we were based in Hereford at the Green Dragon. The 9 towers were organised for us by Vic and Dorothy Chamberlain formerly from Stamford but who now live in Stoke Prior. We had a very good weekend, good weather, good company some very nice and interesting bells in lovely countryside, including the new 8 at Yarkhill, birth place of Fabian Stedman. We ended with coffee and cake at Vic and Dorothy's home.

Later in June we had our annual outing to Tolethorpe where we picnicked and then saw Shakespeare's Comedy of Errors. Again it was ably organised by Tony and as usual he got the weather right!

On July 17th we had the very sad news that Geoff Davis had died, very suddenly, from a heart attack. He had been a ringer at St Mary's since 1952 when he learnt to ring in the old church on the 6 bells with Gilbert Cowlin, Primrose Ridley, Bernard Branston, to name but a few. He was born and died in the same house in Eastfield Grove. He died on the 4th anniversary of his partner, Hazel Allen's death. Eight quarter peals have been rung at St Mary's and surrounding towers to celebrate his life, and on 24th August a peal of Cambridge will be rung to mark his service to both St Mary's and to ringing. The ringers will then adjourn to the Peterborough beer festival where Geoff was a regular visitor and keen promoter of Oakham Ales. Geoff will be sadly missed for so many things, his love of life, his sense of humour, love of food and beer!

On a more cheerful note we have got 3 new learners who we hope will soon be able to join us for Sunday service ringing.

***Joan Parker***

### **Peterborough, St. John's**

2013 has begun with a change to ringing at St John the Baptist, Peterborough. The post of Ringing Master has been reintroduced to help improve ringing for Sunday services. Nick Elks was voted

in at the AGM to fulfil this role. Nick has taken the duties of running Sunday service and practice nights from Paul Reed who has remained Tower Captain. Nick has also introduced quarter peals to cement the learning for the ringers. We have completed four this year with the St John's band and the help of a few other dedicated ringers to whom we are indebted.

St John's was pleased to have been asked to host a quarter peal on the 3rd July for the 75th Mallard celebration of the fastest steam train, that took place on the east coast main line between Grantham and Peterborough. This was rung by a group of enthusiasts who also rang at Grantham and Doncaster (where the Mallard was manufactured) and was reported on our local radio stations.

We can now report that the Carillon that chimes the St John's bells now has an off switch and is in full working order. Our thanks go specifically to Gordon Tyler without whom this would not have been possible.

Normal monthly ringing continues on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and everyone is welcome.

St John's is always pleased to accept visiting bands when convenient.

### ***Elaine Wilkinson***

### **Benefield**

The ringers at Benefield had the recent privilege of ringing for all the people who kindly donated money for the restoration of the bells at St Mary's Church. The weather was good enough for everyone to listen to the bells outside on The Rectory lawn.

We have enjoyed ringing for weddings during the summer and have welcomed visitors to Benefield on tour. Practices continue on Monday evenings.

### ***Tina Brimley***

### **Bulwick**

Our focus over recent months has been to widen our repertoire. We have worked our brain cells to their maximum and can now include Surfleet and Annable's London as well as splicing Childwall and Thelwall.

The local band decamped to King's Cliffe in July to join the local band to produce some greatly appreciated ringing prior to a Third Sunday Service at which two of their number renewed their marriage vows on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding.



Various members of the band are now polishing their bus passes ready for the annual foray to the Peterborough Beer Festival.

***Pat Teall***

### **Clinton Tower News**

After a rather snowy surprise in January, which forced the deferment of the branch AGM, Clinton eventually hosted forty branch members in February when we enjoyed a splendid tea, some good ringing and a useful meeting.

Our own AGM took place in late March where we presented the trophy to our youngest ringer, Alex, in recognition of his regular attendance both at practice nights and services.

We have rung for four weddings already this year, and are booked for two more. As always we are indebted to our many non-resident ringers who continue to help us out for special events as well as stalwart members who regularly arrive for Sunday morning ringing – often travelling quite a distance to attend.

We have welcomed two visiting bands since February. One, in March, came from Deeping Saint James and rang a quarter peal. The second band came from Over, near Cambridge in April and rang a variety of methods.

We have also welcomed several international visitors to the tower; from Hong Kong to Australia. Everyone has been most interested by the bells and the ringing. In July we rang for Peakirk-cum-Clinton Primary School leavers' service, coincidentally the same evening as the announcement of the birth of HRH Prince George of Cambridge! It was decided to ring call changes (including Princes) to welcome his arrival.

Clinton ringers are now looking forward to the Heritage weekend in September (7th) when, as well as ringing, they will be contributing to the games and general merriment.



We average between eight and twelve ringers each practice evening, ringing call changes and simple methods. We have been assisted by visitors from the branch as well as a band from St. Mary's a couple of times recently and are often joined by ringers from Lincolnshire whose talents are always appreciated.

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

***Jill Cowcill***

## **King's Cliffe**

We are reaping the benefits of our newly rehung bells as our young ringers are no longer discouraged and those of us who are older do not have to work so hard.

Over the school holidays Sophie White, our new recruit, put in many hours of work and is showing great promise. She also enabled her tutor, a student at the recent branch training course for ringing teachers, to achieve a certificate to acknowledge her competence in the first stage of the course.

Over the course of the spring and summer we have rung for three weddings, welcomed three visiting bands and taken part in a heritage talk on various aspects of the church.

### ***Pat Teall***

## **Nassington**

We still have an ongoing situation with our bell frame which needs work carried out and the re-tuning of the 2nd and 3rd bells. However, we have been given the OK to carry on ringing so that is good. We are also hoping that we might be able to install a sixth bell but no decisions have yet been arrived at as to when the work will be carried out or the cost.

We had a big important service on the 28th July for the induction of our new priest, Michael Mathews.

We had 6 ringers attending from Bourne, Cambridgeshire where Michael was leaving to join our parish. A week before the service, panic stations prevailed. The clapper on our treble bell decided to give up the ghost and virtually froze up. With the help of the branch steward we dropped out the clapper but try as we might, we couldn't loosen it and it was still very stiff. However, two of our ringers kindly took it to Taylor's at Loughborough who fixed it while they waited. We reinstalled the clapper and I'm pleased to say everything was fine for the service and the ringing was very good.

Our practice night is the 1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays of each month alternating with Kings Cliffe. We would appreciate anyone who would like to join us but please contact me before hand to make sure we have enough ringers to practice

### ***Keith Underwood***



## **Warmington**

After several years of silence, apart from occasional visits by visiting ringers, the bells of Warmington are busy again. The old tradition of Friday night practices was revived in April under the leadership of Alex Dyer. We recruited four local learners and with the help of a dedicated team of teachers we commenced building a local band. However, three of our learners soon decided ringing was not for them and then, just as it looked as if our efforts might not be sustainable, we were suddenly joined in July by TEN new learners from neighbouring Elton. The ringing room has become a very hectic and noisy place! It may be some time before we have a functioning team but meanwhile the learning process has been an enjoyable and laughter filled process. I would like to thank all the people who have supported us and who have taught with such patience and good humour, notably Alex, John, Yvette, Nick and Elaine, and all the others who have been drafted in to help us out and apologise if I have not named you all. Your help and enthusiasm is very much appreciated.

## ***Sylvia Upex***

After a period of inactivity, St Mary's is now ringing regularly on a Friday\* night. This is due in the main to the efforts of Sylvia Upex who lives in the village and is a recent learner who attends the Ringing School at Castor on a Saturday morning. She was keen to ring in her own tower and help recruit a local band that could be trained to ring the bells. I was happy to assist with this and am grateful to John Riley, Yvette Halewood, Nick Elks, and Elaine Wilkinson who have regularly helped on a Friday night. There are about 10 learners who are currently attending on a Friday night from a number of nearby villages. St Mary's was pleased to host the starter course at the recent 'Ring for your Supper' Branch event.

\*Practice on Fridays 7.30-9.00pm except the first Friday in the Month.

***Alex Dyer, Branch Steward***

***Pat Teall - Peterborough Correspondent.***

## **RUTLAND BRANCH**

No gripes this time about unseasonal weather possibly discouraging attendance at practice nights; ringing in Rutland remains in good heart.



After last year's heady season of celebratory ringing for the Olympics and Diamond Jubilee, which included participation in the successful cascade of ringing down the Welland Valley, this season has been relatively low key. Earlier ringing for the Royal wedding was appropriately followed up by ringing in a number of towers to welcome the birth of Prince George.

It is always satisfying to welcome back young ringers who learnt their craft locally and it was a delightful start to the season in March when nine student ringers from Bristol University descended on Uppingham for their annual Spring tour, organised on his home ground by Jack Atkinson. A lively three days of ringing at seven towers, interspersed with great meals, were brought to a satisfying close on Sunday afternoon at the Cathedral with an excellent ring (including a half course of Yorkshire Royal) for Evensong. Thank you, Jack!

Our normal Branch activities for the season got off to a good and enjoyable start in April with six bands competing in a 6-bell striking competition at Great Casterton, won by Uppingham. This was followed by some fun competitions for under 21s (nearly all) and ladies and gents teams, made up on the spot. Our grateful thanks to judges Derek and Sue Jones, in particular for their helpful comments on tempo when calling changes and the importance of an open hand-stroke at lead. All teams were complimented for "keeping going," with a special commendation for 12 year-old Heloise Dickerson conducting Great Casterton with "great clarity and authority". It is encouraging to see the next generation of ringers progressing so well.

There was ringing for St George's Day at Ketton, Oakham and Wing, with a quarter peal at Edith Weston. Quarters were rung: at Uppingham in May, a 21st birthday compliment to Jack Atkinson; and in August, first to celebrate Janice and David Atkinson's silver wedding, and second, her 50th birthday; also in August, at Edith Weston; at Great Casterton, a first for Eloise Dickerson; and at Preston, a 50th birthday compliment for Ann Sadley who learned to ring there as a teenager.

Ringing at the Cathedral for an Evensong service has now become a valued feature in our summer programme. This year, our third, fifteen members participated on Sunday 14 July, including four juniors. Helped by four members of the regular team and under Robin Rogers' guiding hand, we graduated from rounds to call changes. The ease with which our juniors settled into the ringing is an encouragement to all to "have a go". Our grateful thanks to Robin for again giving us this stimulating opportunity to do just that.

*Giles Hopkinson - Rutland Correspondent.*



## THRAPSTON BRANCH

Our monthly Branch meetings have been well attended and with both new and more experienced ringers attending we have been able to achieve a wide variety of ringing.

Towers visited have included Deene, Tichmarsh, Great Addington and Islip. St.Nicholas Islip now has the new ropes fitted, completing the last phase of the restoration . The Church and Village Community is very appreciative of the bells being rung again and hopefully new ringers will be able to start learning the ropes! In July a special 'Open Tower' day at Raunds hopefully gave interested visitors an insight into bell -ringing. It was good to hear all the eight bells going again and to welcome ringers from near and far. The restoration fund for the Church continues to grow steadily but has a long way to go yet.

Following the meeting we all enjoyed a wonderful summer barbecue hosted by Rachel and Richard at Woodford. Many thanks to Rachel and Richard for their hospitality and use of the garden.

We look forward to our Autumn ringing schedule and the Striking Competition at Wadenhoe . Further details are on our Branch Website.

Happy Ringing to everyone.

*Alison Byrnes - Thrapston Correspondent.*

## TOWCESTER BRANCH

This half-year opened with Towcester hosting the National Twelve Bell Striking Competition elimination round on 23rd March. Some excitement and delay was

caused early in the competition by the breaking of a stay on 2nd by one of the visiting teams. The home team rang last of six teams but gained first place, scoring 84% in 288 Cambridge Surprise Maximus, going through to the finals at Ripon in June. Congratulations to all involved.

April's branch outing took in six towers in the Gloucester & Bristol, Oxford and Coventry Guilds, starting in St. Mary Banbury (10), via St. Edmund Shipton-on-Stour (6), St James. Chipping Campden (8), SS Peter & Paul Blockley (8), St David Moreton-in-Marsh (8) and rounding off the



day at St Peter Hook Norton (8). The day started relatively fine at Banbury, where the round ringing room was remarkably short of corners in which to hide. Even the rope guide was corner-less, being a spiral shape, and higher for the tenors than the trebles. This was the most bells we'd face in the day, so it was probably just as well that we had to deal with them while fresh.

We went through Brailes after leaving Banbury and some bright spark suggested these would have been fun. Thankfully we headed onwards, avoiding the wandering tower, and continued to Shipston on Stour. Here the small tower provided plenty of places to get lost, with the tight staircase leading to the ringing room and the balcony, on which lurked the organ. The historic boards on the walls were a most interesting read, although the space to stand and read them was limited.

Method of the day was Single Oxford, which we rang on both 6 and 8. The extension to major was new to most of the band but it was simple enough that we did manage to get hold of it and rang it successfully several times in the day. Chipping Campden was the tallest climb of the day, and you can understand why there was a gentleman's urinal in the corner, as it was a long way back down again if you were caught short (or a lady).



Branch outing at Hook Norton

We did not enquire about the integrity of the plumbing and left without having to use it. However we didn't leave empty handed. In a bid to be helpful and collect the branch record book, one of our number managed to remove the tower visitor's book. There then followed some concerned telephone calls and a not insubstantial detour after lunch to return the book to the church.

Blockley was the challenging tower after lunch. Just what you need instead of a nice nap after a good feed. At Moreton-in-Marsh the visitor book was a lovely floral covered affair and this was duly left in the tower where it belonged. The clock frame protrudes into the chamber here, providing several corners to hide in, or get stuck in. Very nice, easy going bells that ticked along. The fire service peal boards provided the reading matter between touches.



By the time we were at Hook Norton I'm sure some of us could have managed without the ringing and turned the other way across the road towards the village's other claim to fame – the ale. Not the brewery, but the pub. But we were good ringers and went up to earn our ale by ringing the heavy 8, a resounding end to the day. The pub had provided us with a large L-shaped table which was an interesting arrangement and a good meal with suitable refreshment was had. Many thanks to John Stanworth for organising the day, and to Richard Yates for arranging the meal.

A short notice branch practice was held at Towcester on 10th May at the invitation of the Towcester ringing master and band. Over 40 people turned up on that Friday evening, representing an impressive ten branch towers, and Richard Allton is to be congratulated for ensuring everyone had a good chance to ring all sorts from rounds to Stedman Cinques and Cambridge Maximus. It was an enjoyable evening and it was good that people not used to ringing on higher numbers came along and extended their ability. Thank you to Towcester and Richard in particular.

The Branch quarter peal weekend in June was extended, due to Towcester being in the National 12 Bell Striking Competition and other commitments.

Congratulations to Jonathan Stuart, Mike Sawle and Andy Timms on their various achievements. Wicken rang for some interesting village causes, including a dog show and the open gardens, and Greens Norton celebrated its tower captain's 70 years of ringing (see below).

In total, 8 quarter peals were reported: Wicken (Cambridge Surprise Minor, Yorkshire Surprise Major); Towcester (Bristol Surprise Major); Pattishall (Plain Bob Minor); Roade (Plain Bob Minor); Cosgrove (Plain Bob Doubles) and Greens Norton (Cambridge Surprise Minor).

On 23rd June ringers, friends and family gathered together at Greens Norton Community Centre to celebrate Charlie Truman and Jim Linnell having rung for 70 years. They learnt to ring with their brothers at Whittlebury, Northampton-

shire, as soon as the ban on ringing was lifted in 1943 and have been ringing together ever since. Charlie and Jim were encouraged to improve their ringing in the early days by Bill Yates who took them to other practice nights. They continued in turn, welcoming and teaching many other ringers and organising peals and trips. Jim has been tower captain at Greens Norton and Bradden for many years and was president of the South Northants Society.

They have both been strong supporters of the Towcester Branch of the Peterborough Guild.

To mark this achievement, Betty Linnell, Jim's wife, organised a surprise party, with assistance from Penny Pardoe, and Kathy Turner who provided a wonderful cake. We were regaled by tales of memorable events in their ringing history by Ray Vickers, Margaret Burbidge, Barry Eglesfield and Alan Paul. A new ringers' bench, contributed by ringers and friends and complete with brass plaque, was placed beside the tower door with thanks from Rev Ben Philips.

The annual striking competition between Towcester and North Bucks branches was held on 13th July at SS Peter & Paul, Newport Pagnell (8). We won



**Jim Linnell and Charlie Truman**

all three sections: minor on back 6, call changes on 8 and Stedman Triples. As the competition trophy was full up, Andrew Spencer had very kindly made an impressively crafted new inter-branch trophy, which was presented for the first time. We also retained the George Holland memorial trophy for the Stedman triples.



**Presenting the new Inter-branch Trophy**

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

***Jonathan Stuart - Towcester Correspondent.***

## **WELLINGBOROUGH BRANCH**

The last edition of the newsletter mentioned our branch chairman Brenda Dixon on the milestone of her 1000 quarter and yet again she takes centre stage.



Brenda celebrated her 70th birthday in May so we all send good wishes and congratulations on this event. We are very appreciative of the time, effort and commitment she gives to the branch. She has been a valued member of the branch and committee for many, many years and still today she remains enthusiastic in her role of chairman and leads from the front cracking the whip if necessary. To mark the occasion a number of quarters were organised by her tower. Just a few weeks on to the 23rd July and it was congratulations again as she and John celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. To mark this achievement she rang in a peal at Rushden.

The branch organised the Spring Meeting 6 Bell striking competition at Ecton on 27th April. Eight teams had entered of which 3 were from the Wellingborough branch. Congratulations to Rushden who finished in 1st position just half a point ahead of Rothwell. Orlingbury and Irchester also gave very creditable performances. Well done.

Possibly not in the same league, was the branch 6 bell striking competition at Orlingbury on a beautiful summer evening in June. Geoffrey and Janet Arbitrage from Husbands Bosworth were kind enough to come along and judge the competition for which 8 teams had entered. For the first time there was a youth band entered from a combination of young ringers from Grendon and Yardley Hastings. This was a very welcome addition; however if they enter next year we shall have to purchase a larger supply of biscuits - all that ringing makes them hungry. In addition to the youth team, Grendon and Yardley Hastings also entered teams as did Irchester, Rushden, Orlingbury, Finedon and Bozeat.

Rushden were announced the winners with 6 faults and Finedon 2nd followed by Orlingbury in 3rd place. Well done to the top three and to all the teams who entered into the spirit of the event. A special well done to the Youth Team who, on their first appearance did very well.

Once again an excellent half day tour was

organised by Pam Bailey within the pretty county of Cambridgeshire amongst some lovely quaint villages. At the first tower at Orwell approximately 20 members gathered together with 4 visitors, one of whom had travelled from London to tower grab and intended to move on at the third tower in order to tower grab at the meet in the Kimbolton area. As we approached the Orwell tower we thought it very doubtful that we would ring as the church tower was covered in builders scaffolding and entirely protected by the thick plastic covering. However, it was with some relief



that we stepped inside the church to reveal that the bells were in working order. The ringing commenced with rounds and plain hunt and then it was on to bob triples. It was during this ring that an individual, who should have known better and showed total lack of etiquette and manners pushed through the ringing circle and commenced a conversation with our organiser to state that the standard of ringing was not acceptable. Our ringing master remonstrated that we were of a very mixed ability group as we encouraged all standards to join branch events. His reply to this was in the vein of that they should stay in their own towers until they had reached an acceptable standard. If only all our towers were able to ring in isolation. We quickly finished at this tower with a very well struck half a course of Yorkshire from our very competent ringers. We do hope he was still listening. However, the episode upset a number in the party who stated they felt like going home, fortunately they did not.

It was then on to our next village of Barrington and as we moved along the centre of the village we passed very large grassland which held a sports pavilion and a cricket field where a game was in progress, watched by many people lounging in their chairs. If only, we had time to join them. These were a very easy 6, but the enthusiasm was damped due to our previous experience and the inexperienced were reluctant to have a go because of our previous incident.

It was then on to the lightest of the day and 8 at Meldreth after which we sat and enjoyed a picnic tea in the church yard. After tea and on to the 8 at Melbourn which were the heaviest of the day but must have been very good bells or a new set of ringers had arrived because several residents popped in to say how they had enjoyed the ringing, it was much better than last saturdays. After a quick half in the local pub it was time to go home.

We are sad to report the death of Bob Bright from Bozeat who died recently. He was a regular member of the Bozeat team and was seen most Sunday mornings. We send his family our condolences.

The 2013 programme continues on 28th September with a practice at Castle Ashby and then on to Yardley Hastings. Castle Ashby are not the easiest of bells but worth a visit due to its location within the house and gardens and around the village.

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

*Tanya Clayton - Wellingborough Correspondent.*



### Peterborough Diocesan Guild Spring Festival

The Guild Spring Meeting and 6-bell striking competition took place at Ecton (6, - 15cwt) in the Wellingborough Branch on Saturday, April 27.

Brenda Dixon, our President, organised the competition as we are without a Master. The judge was Pat Halls from Derby Cathedral. The draw for the order of ringing took place at 3.45pm and there were eight entries. Whilst the ringing took place tea was served in the village hall under the watchful eyes of Jenny Ball and Tanya Clayton who made sure nobody went away hungry or thirsty.

After the ringing had ended, the 100 club draw was made. Then at the formal meeting three Bell Fund grants were approved: Barton Seagrave, £950 towards strengthening the 4-bell frame; Stoke Doyle, £3,250 towards strengthening the frame and returning the 5 bells with all new fittings; Litchborough, £350 to install a rope guide.

Brenda then introduced Pat Halls and thanked her for coming to judge the competition. Pat began by congratulating all the bands on the standard of ringing produced and that we should be pleased as a Guild if this is what is produced on a Sunday morning. She remarked that the practice time had been well used, gave her comments on each band in order of ringing and then gave the results:

<i>8th</i>	- <i>Northampton B</i>	<i>36½ faults</i>
<i>7th</i>	- <i>Northampton A</i>	<i>34 faults</i>
<i>6th</i>	- <i>Irchester</i>	<i>29 faults</i>
<i>5th</i>	- <i>Badby</i>	<i>27½ faults</i>
<i>4th</i>	- <i>Orlingbury</i>	<i>22½ faults</i>
<i>3rd</i>	- <i>Pattishall</i>	<i>18½ faults</i>
<i>2nd</i>	- <i>Rothwell</i>	<i>5½ faults</i>
<i>1st</i>	- <i>Rushden</i>	<i>5 faults</i>



Pat presented all teams with a certificate and the Weaver Shield to Rushden for the seventh time in its 28 year life. Evening ringing took place in the Saxon tower at Earls Barton.

*Sue Jones*

### Peterborough Guild 2013 Annual General Meeting

Around 50 members attended the ringing and meeting hosted by the Culworth Branch last Saturday (June 8th).

Afternoon ringing was at Aynho, although only about 15

ringers turned up, there were enough to enable all to ring a variety of methods. The service, tea and meeting were in the church at Brackley, the hall conveniently attached to the church. An interesting sermon was preached by the vicar, Nicholas Gandy and we were treated to some excellent organ playing by Jacinda Holden. (Not many organists get a round of applause after a voluntary).

After an excellent tea of homemade food, thanks was given on behalf of the members to all who had contributed to the day.

Fifty Year Membership Certificates were produced for Mary Coleman, Mollie Care, Kevin Chapman and Arthur Pywell. Unfortunately none was present to receive it in person.

Minutes for the three Guild Meetings in the past year were approved, and the 2012 Report and accounts were adopted. There was no change in the subscription or peal fees.

A grant application from Long Buckby of £640 was approved, and a sum of £1500 set aside to be used for minor grants during the coming year.

The President, Brenda Dixon, announced that she would not seek re-election after this year. All officers were re-elected except for the Ringing Master and Report Editor where there were vacancies. Philip Curtis, from the Culworth Branch was elected Ringing Master, but no one was found for Report Editor. The bulk of the work for this latter post is towards the end of 2013, and members were asked to think of candidates for this position.

The Secretary introduced the new members' Welcome Pack. It is an A5 plastic folder with information about the Guild and a report. Branches are asked to put in information of a local nature, such as contact details, programme of meetings, tower practice nights etc.

Alan Chantler gave a lively summary of the

Central Council meeting held at the end of May at Guildford. This can be found on the Guild website. All four representatives were re-elected for a further three years.

The 100 Club draw appropriately had Brackley tower as the first prize winner.

The Guild website has been updated by Geoff Pullin, with the help and support of Alan Chantler who established and maintained it for many years. Tower contact details will be added as permission to list individual's details is obtained.

The President talked about the new Disclosure Barring Service (replacement for the C R B check), and stated that if someone has hands-on contact with a learner, then one is needed.

Raffle tickets are now in circulation, and all towers should have received a supply.



Nick Churchman had his jam for sale again – proceeds to the Bell Fund. The Guild Quiz sheets had brought in around £300, and Derek Jones will produce another one ready for the Summer Festival. Cost £1.00, payment on issue of sheet.

The President and Officers were thanked for their work over the past 12 months. The Summer Festival is at Towcester on September 21st. It is hoped that all ten branches can enter a band in the 8 bell striking contest.

Evening ringing followed at Brackley, with a wide of methods from Bob Triples to 8 spliced surprise major were rung and, of course, several members were later to be found in the nearby pub.

### ***Sue Jones***

### **Ridgman Trophy 2013**

The 25th Ridgman Trophy (or was it the 26th?) 10-Bell Striking Competition for the East of England was hosted on 15th June by the Lincoln Diocesan Guild on the back ten in the leaning tower of Surfleet, tenor 12-0-9, on Saturday 15th June. The judges were Mike Purday and Richard A Smith.

The results were as follows:

<b>1st</b>	<b><i>Bedfordshire - 30 faults (peal speed: 3h 1)</i></b>
<b>2nd</b>	<b><i>Lincoln - 42 faults (3h 4)</i></b>
<b>3rd</b>	<b><i>Ely - 47 faults (3h 5)</i></b>
<b>4th</b>	<b><i>Norwich - 51 faults (3h 12)</i></b>
<b>5th</b>	<b><i>Peterborough - 57 faults (2h 59)</i></b>
<b>6th</b>	<b><i>Suffolk - 67 faults (3h 19)</i></b>
<b>7th</b>	<b><i>Essex - 83 faults (3h 5)</i></b>
<b>8th</b>	<b><i>Cambridge University - 102 faults (3h 3)</i></b>



*Left to right: Alan Marks, David Westerman, Nick Churchman, Sue Jones, Simon Dixon, Brenda Dixon, James White, Gwynneth White, Ian Willgress and Derek Jones*

Thanks to Alan Winter for photo.

## PRO'S BITS & PIECES

### WEBSITE

We switched over to the new website [www.pdg.btck.co.uk](http://www.pdg.btck.co.uk) from May 10. Thanks go to Alan Chantler for setting up and running the original website for us for many years.

If you haven't already done so, please explore the site. Since it was set up, the most popular pages have been: Welcome! With 2247 hits, Branch Officers -851 hits, Tower information -615 hits and Latest Guild News -587 hits.

Contributions for any of the pages can be sent to me at [pro@pdg.org.uk](mailto:pro@pdg.org.uk). More correspondent information for towers will be added when individual written permissions have been obtained. Any brief new additions to the history page would be welcome. The latest news page contains reports on recent Guild meetings and adverts for forthcoming events for anything you send me.

### PORCH NOTICES

As you know, I have always encouraged all churches to display a notice about bellringing in the porch giving information about ringing and contact details. The Editor of the Ringing World recently commented in an editorial that on a visits around York there was very little information visible to the public. Please check that your tower has information!

### MUSIC EDUCATION TRUST

In April the Guild was accepted as a Community Partner of the Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT). The trust has a website at <http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/music/Pages/default.aspx>. We have a page in the Community Partners section of the Music Education Hub. I hope that we may get one or two enquiries and encourage the view that we are a very special part of the percussion music and performing arts scene.



### ST GEORGE'S DAY

Libby Alexander, organiser of the Ringing for England Campaign, wrote in April: The response from the media was also of surprise that such a delightful idea existed and, fortunately, many took up the challenge and ran with it. We had very good coverage from regional BBC radio stations where they did live broadcasts and indeed I was involved in several



live interviews. With other radio stations and the odd local tv network and regional newspapers we were covered remarkably well. This is why I request the towers that are going to participate so that I can encourage the media to take an interest. Also I am able to put them in direct contact with the appropriate ringer who then, as often did happen, was given a live interview.

I am enormously indebted to you all for making this a growing event that is beginning to capture the public's imagination and hope you will continue such stalwart support into next year and help develop the campaign into a truly national event.

### **GUILD SHIRTS**

Orders and sales have now reached 190 (July 2013). The prices, order form and order deadlines are shown on the Guild Shirts page of the new website. Big orders can be obtained outside these deadlines.

### **EXCUSES CONTINUED**

(Best excuses for not attending practice nights)

7. I have a blister on my hand (result of too much patio washing!) which if I treat it carefully, I hope will mean that I will be fit to ring on Friday. BT 20/2/13

### ***Geoff Pullin PRO***

### **GUILD 100 CLUB**

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

#### **100 Club Winners**

Month	1st prize	2nd prize	prize
Mar 13	09	35.20	07
Apr 13	129	40.80	119
May 13	117	40.80	115
Jun 13	74	40.80	54
July 13	11	40.80	118
Aug 13	09	40.80	84

## OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

### 70 YEARS OF RINGING TOGETHER

Shortly after the war-time ban on ringing was lifted in 1943, four young men, two sets of brothers in fact, were given their first lessons at handling a bell at the parish church of St Mary in Whittlebury, Northamptonshire, which is a few miles south of Towcester. This didn't happen immediately after the lifting of the ban as the local captain, one Herbert Booth, was Head Gardener at Whittlebury Hall, and as the building was at the time the wartime home for a girls school some of the ladies had a go first. Who knows, the presence of young ladies in the tower might have been a contributory factor in attracting the young men to the tower in the first place. Anyway the four young men all learnt to handle a bell to the satisfaction of the captain, and, quite remarkably, two of them are still regularly ringing together seventy years later. The young men were Charlie and David Truman and Graham and Jim Linnell, and it is Charlie and Jim who recently celebrated this wonderful achievement.

Little progress was made by them until well into the 1950's when they came under the influence of William A Yates of Dadford near Buckingham. He introduced them to centres of ringing in the area, at Helmdon and Wicken, and attendance at these practices allowed them to become proficient at method ringing on five, six, seven and eight bells. The ringing wouldn't perhaps be called adventurous nowadays but being able to practise surprise methods on both six and eight wasn't common in Northamptonshire at the time. Another lesson well learnt was the need for good striking at all times, and this they in turn have passed on to other ringers who later made progress because of their interest.

Both have now moved away from Whittlebury, Charlie to Towcester and Jim to Duncote, a small hamlet near to Greens Norton, but both continue to provide leadership in the area. Charlie is ringing master at Easton Neston and Jim at Greens Norton, and practice and service ringing at both towers flourishes.

Jim's wife, Betty, was responsible for the celebrations which began with a visit by a photographer for a web site, AboutMyArea,



to Easton Neston practice on 18th June. The photographs taken together with a short article later appeared on the site. The main celebration took place on Sunday 23rd June when about sixty friends and relations gathered in Greens Norton Village Hall for a surprise party. And in spite of it being many months in the planning neither Jim or Charlie had any idea what was to happen when they were taken to the Hall: both thought they were being taken to a local pub for a meal. They did get a meal but it wasn't quite what they expected!



***Jim Linnell on the left and Charlie Truman photographed in Easton Neston belfry where they have spent many hours ringing together.***

***Photograph courtesy of James Rudd [www.aboutmyarea.co.uk/nn12](http://www.aboutmyarea.co.uk/nn12)***

It was a splendid occasion and Betty and her helpers are to be congratulated. After the buffet meal John Pardoe invited Charlie and Jim to test the seat that had been purchased to mark their achievement. This will be placed outside the tower at Easton Neston. Short speeches from Ray Vickers, Alan Paul and Margaret Burbidge followed recalling earlier years and the parts Jim and Charlie had played in their ringing careers. There was then an opportunity for old acquaintances to be renewed and some new ones made before everyone made their various ways home.

## Our Guild Bell Fund.

I have never been one for statistics, but out of curiosity, I have looked back through the Guild Reports to see just how much the Fund has paid out over the past twenty years and was surprised to find that, over the period 1981 to 2010, the total was within a few pounds of £200,000.

Broken down into Branches, grants awarded have been:

Branch	Total Grant £	No. Projects
Culworth	20,600	7
Daventry	21,900	17
Guilsborough	25,600	17
Kettering	34,600	13
Northampton	29,100	20
Peterborough	24,100	15
Rutland	11,500	16
Thrapston	13,200	8
Towcester	7,700	7
Wellingborough	10,900	19
	<u>199,200</u>	<u>139</u>

This works out at an average of £10,000 per year, although if all costed at current prices, the figure in real terms will be nearer £16,000.

I have no idea how this compares with other Bell Funds, but I suspect that we will be very high in the league tables and have much to be proud of.

Now the sting in the tail!

Our customary grants of 10% can only be maintained if expenditure is matched by income. We have no outside sources generously contributing to our work. All the money has to be raised internally by the hard work of members.

The annual Summer Festival Draw provides a unique opportunity for each and every member to play his or her part. I know that ringers generally are shrinking violets and many don't have the courage to sell tickets, but in these cases, there is an easy way out. If every one of our nine hundred members



buys just two books of tickets at £1 each, there will be an instant income of £1,800. Job Done! And who knows? It could be you winning that first prize of £100!

Tickets will have been widely distributed by the time you read this, so on with the job and make this year's Prize Draw a real Block Buster.

***Murray Coleman, for the F&GP Committee.***

### ***2013 GUILD QUIZ***

Following the successful quiz last year, the one for this year is available through branch secretaries.

This year it is on towns and cities in England, with a mix of cryptic and straightforward clues.

Copies are £1 as last year, payment per copy taken, not just on entry.

While away those dull winter evenings when there is no ringing to get into my (disturbed) mind set, and help the Guild Bell Fund.

Entries to me by end of January 2014.

***Derek Jones***



# The Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers

## New Website



Welcome!



Bell Ringing



Learning to Ring



About This Guild



Latest Guild News



Guild Officers



Branch Officers



Tower Information



Events



Competitions



Guild Newsletters



Guild Shirts



Bell Maintenance



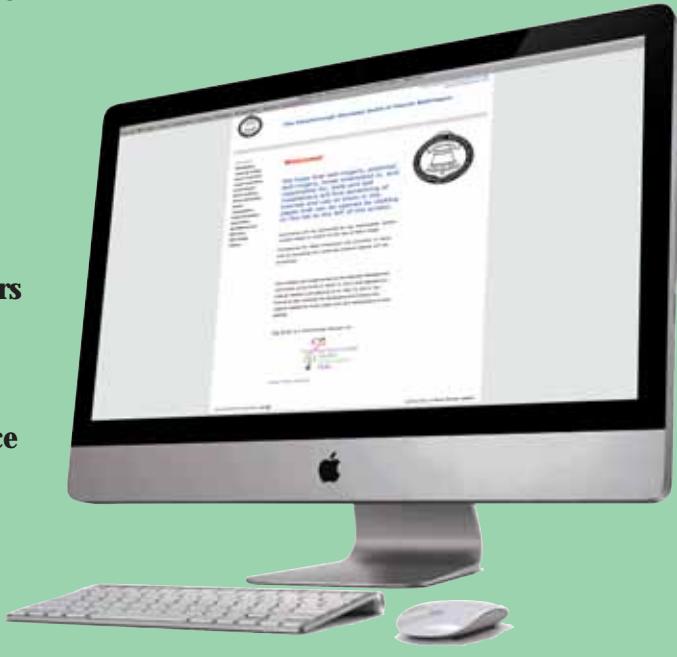
Bell Fund



Bits & Bobs



History



New Website Address <http://www.pdg.btck.co.uk/>.

(btck is BT Community Kit and comes free!)

