

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD
OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS



Newsletter
March 2019

Contents

The President's Preamble	03
Secretary's Scribblings	04
<i>News from the Branches</i>	
Culworth	05
Daventry	07
Guilsborough	13
Kettering	23
Northampton	25
Peterborough	26
Rutland	33
Thrapston	34
Towcester	34
Wellingborough	38
Public Relations Officer's Piece	39
Other News	40
100 Club	45
Guild Website	46
Guild Events 2019	47

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

*The deadline for the next Newsletter is : 31st August 2019
Please make a note of this date in your diary*

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

The President's Preamble

We have a new Treasurer well on his way into the 2018 accounts having encountered the ten diverse ways the branches interpret their funds. In June there is the prospect of an election for General Secretary and at least one candidate for Guild Steward. A changed team with every opportunity for new ideas and changes to support you as the Guild approaches its centenary in January 2024.

Now is the time to start looking around for a new President to take the team forward. On the arrogant assumption that you will re-elect me in June, can I please broadcast that I do not wish to stand again. By June 2020 I shall have joined the ranks of the (many) octogenarians and wish to make way for a new President!

The Centenary of the Armistice encouraged much ringing around the diocese. The ability to post performances of call changes and short touches on The Ringing World Bellboard enabled a lot more members than usual to record their activities. Some branches went out of their way to ensure that towers in their patch had its bells rung during the day. Well done especially to all those who were recruited in the Ringing Remembers scheme and rang on the day. I hope that you stay with us.

The winter period, besides giving us the option to ring in churches with an ambient temperature of 2⁰C, allows us to think ahead outings in the spring and summer. I always look forward to adding to my list of towers and seeing the variety of the English countryside. Do support your local tower and branch outings – they are well worthwhile.

Geoff Pullin



Secretary's Scribblings

As this is my last chance to write something for the newsletter as Guild Secretary before I retire from the post at the Guild AGM on the 8th June at Seaton I would like to make one last appeal to you all as Convener of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. I have really enjoyed my time as Secretary and visiting the different branches and thank you for your warm welcome and friendship. Derek and I are having a change in our lifestyle and are planning to spend at least half the year in our 'shed' at Trimmingham, near Cromer and the other half of the year in our new house in Corby, but we do still plan to support the Guild whenever we can.

Thank you for supporting the Guild during 2018 not only with your ringing but also financially by belonging to the Guild's 100 Club, by gift aiding your donations and giving generously to collections within your Branches and at Guild Meetings.

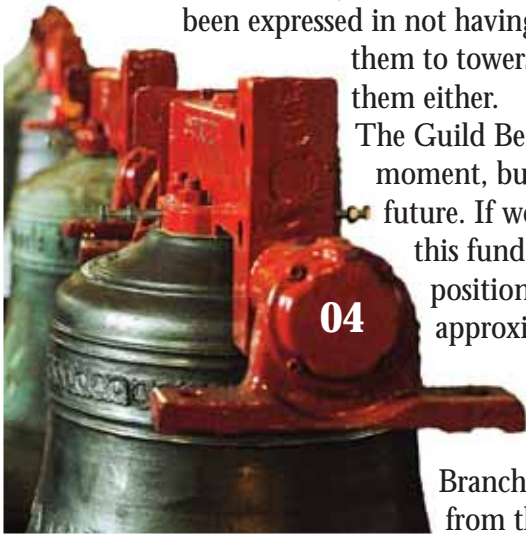
2018 saw the end of the Guild's Sponsored walk and cycle ride, due to lack of willing participants, (we are all getting older) although Kettering Branch, through the efforts of David Dainty, Bill Adcock his family, friends and supporters carried on regardless and raised £716 for the Guild Bell Fund for which we are extremely grateful.

This in effect has meant that two major fund raising events have now disappeared from the Guild Calendar as the Summer Festival Prize Draw has also not taken place for two years. In the past both of these events have raised around £1,000 each for the Guild Bell Fund.

From feedback from your Branch Secretaries and Treasurers great relief has been expressed in not having to sell raffle tickets and distributing them to towers who also didn't really want to sell them either.

The Guild Bell Fund is in a healthy state at the moment, but we must be prudent and look to the future. If we do not continue to raise money for this fund we could in the future not be in a position to keep awarding grants of approximately 10% towards bell work.

We will also have to look towards replenishing the Training Fund in the near future as well. It is good to see Branches and members applying for funding from this fund.



I know several of the Branches hold regular monthly meetings at which a collection for the Guild Bell Fund takes place, but there are also Branches that do not meet as regularly as this or only hold practices.

I would like to appeal to you to consider, if you don't already, gift aiding a donation to the Guild Bell Fund along with your subscription. Your Branch Treasurer will have these forms. If you don't pay tax, so therefore cannot gift aid your donation, please consider joining the Guild 100 Club for just £12 a year. Not only will you be supporting the Bell Fund but you could also win some money.

Sue Jones

News from the Branches

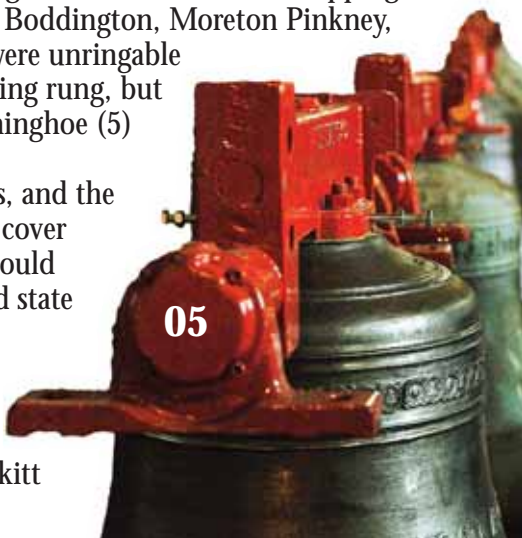
Culworth Branch

Sometimes it's good to look back, Sara Chapple recently found a piece of paper with tower details for 1993 - 26 years ago- and it makes interesting reading. At that time we had 23 listed towers, but have since been joined by Syresham. Looking at the tower captains and contacts, 6 are now dead and another 6 are no longer active ringers. One other has moved away.

On the plus side, Charwelton, Greatworth and Whitfield have all been augmented. The first two have been rehung, as have Chacombe, Chipping Warden, Marston St Lawrence, Upper Boddington, Moreton Pinkney, and Syresham. The two latter towers were unringable in 93. Aynho and Evenley were not being rung, but now have regular practices. Only Farthinghoe (5) and Edgecote (4) remain unringable.

We all bemoan the lack of new recruits, and the difficulty of finding enough ringers to cover weddings and services. However we should congratulate ourselves on the improved state of the towers we ring at.

News from Tony Nash, Tower Captain at Chipping Warden – we have two new learners showing good promise and enthusiasm – Michael Bekitt and Angie Carr.



We alternate weekly practices with Woodford Halse and regularly draw in ringers from Eydon, Daventry, Charwelton, Culworth & Byfield.

In March Ian Chapple, our Ringing Master, organised a Grandsire calling course for those interested, this gave us a good understanding and a chance to have a go. Our Annual Branch Dinner was held in October and attended by a record number of 55 ringers and partners.

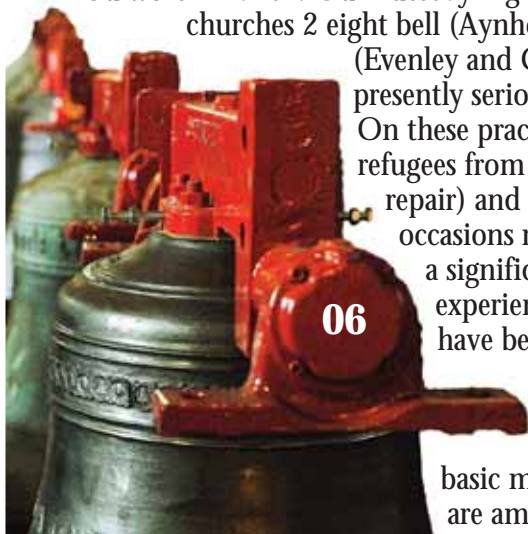
The Branch took part in the Ringing Remembers campaign with all the church bells being rung at some point during the day, some people ringing 4, 5 or 6 times during the day travelling between churches.

The annual bell ringers carol service was held at Brackley, this was well attended, not only by ringers but by members of the Brackley congregation. Rev Will Adams took the service and refreshments were provided by the ladies of Brackley. It was lovely to see so many new ringers at the AGM at Kings Sutton in January, when some had their first ring on 8 bells. Several new members were elected to the branch. This year will be the 70th anniversary of the branch which was founded on 22nd October 1949, 7 ringing targets for the 70 years have been set for us to achieve and certificates will be awarded at the annual dinner in October. At the AGM in January the Presidents cup is usually awarded to a tower that has been particularly active in their ringing. However this year the cup was personally awarded to Paul Bennett (from Evenley) this was well deserved as Paul spends a lot of his free time teaching and encouraging new recruits in his benefice and surrounding area, with the hope to get the bells in his benefice ringing for Sunday services. Well done Paul.

Below is a report of Paul's activities.

From the Deep South - The Astwick benefice is at the south west corner of the Diocese, midway between Banbury and Bicester. We belong to the Guild's Culworth Branch. Our Tuesday night practice rotates through four churches 2 eight bell (Aynho and Kings Sutton) and 2 five bell (Evenley and Croughton). 26 bells which are presently seriously underused.

On these practice nights we sometimes welcome refugees from a neighbouring 8 bell (which is under repair) and attendance has at times on these occasions risen to 24. This grand total includes a significant number of learners so our experienced ringers, visitors and ART trainers have been fully occupied. Most learners are now ringing safely and have mastered 'Kaleidoscope' so we are beginning to introduce plain hunting and very basic methods. Majors, Triples, Touches, etc. are ambitions for us yet but we are a keen



group and for 90 minutes each week we achieve an electric atmosphere and have great fellowship.

Whilst we do ring for Evenley services we have been understrength overall and we have been unable to ring for services for years at Kings Sutton, Aynho, and Croughton. The best news though is that Service Ringing has recently resumed at Croughton and we plan to ring to welcome the new incumbent at Aynho at Easter. If we can then get Aynho and Kings Sutton ringing soon and regularly we'll really celebrate. (Paul Bennett)

The spring certainly brought ringers out for our February branch practice at Syresham (5 bells) with many visitors achieving another "tower grab". Let's hope we get the same support throughout the year!

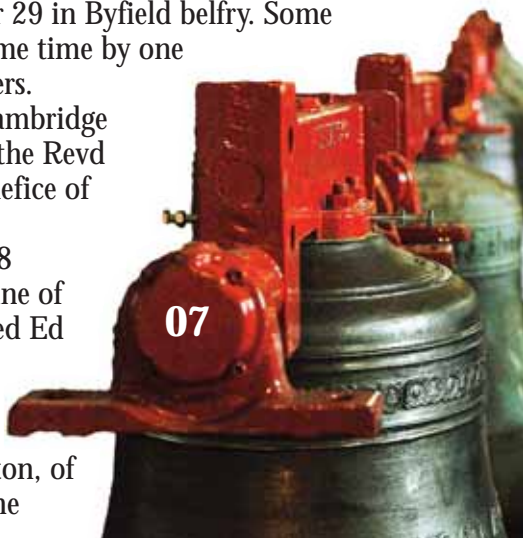
Joy Kirkham

Daventry Branch

There was a flurry of quarter peals in September: 16th Plain Bob Triples at Daventry prior to the Songs of Praise service to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, conducted by Jim White ; 21st Ipswich Surprise Minor at Dallington, conducted by Gwynneth White - Christine Rodhouse first in this method (we were unaware at the time that our Revd Sue Faulkner was about to be appointed Vicar here!); 22nd Grandsire Triples conducted by Jim White at Crick in preparation for the Summer Festival 8-bell striking competition. This year, it didn't do the trick. The Guild 8-bell striking competition at Rothwell was a tight contest and we came 5th out of 7. Our Steward, Brian Foley, arranged the Guild and Branch Stewards' twice annual training meeting on September 29 in Byfield belfry. Some adjustments were carried out at the same time by one keen member who brought her spanners.

The following day a quarter peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor at Weedon welcomed the Revd Barbara Gallagher as Vicar for the Benefice of Weedon Bec, Everdon and Dodford.

In very pleasant weather conditions, 28 gathered at Willoughby in October, nine of whom didn't ring. The ringers included Ed Mortimer who was taking a few days off from his project of cruising French rivers and two visitors. Later, 14 and a dog assembled for ringing at Braunston, of which two and the dog didn't ring! The



welcome return of Sue Merrett and new energetic dog Cassie (already belfry trained) meant that the branch's entire boating contingent was present. Numbers halved yet again in the pub afterwards!

The quarter peal at Woodford Halse on October 26, conducted by Jim White, was the first of Cambridge for James Grennan.

On Saturday, November 3, four experienced helpers assisted Bob and Maureen deliver some intensive extra practice for six recent recruits at Newnham in the nick of time so they could ring for Remembrance Day while Bob and Maureen were away.

18 rang at Fawsley to start the November meeting, 15 rang later at Preston Capes and 7 weren't taken in by Graham's "They're going well today". Revd Sue took our short service on a remembrance theme with Penelope Rapson at the organ. A good tea was served by Sheila, Sylvia and Graham in the increasingly comfortable surroundings of the village hall cum monthly pub. We were given an update on Daventry tower captain Richard Waddy's health, totally unaware that news of his sad death had circulated while we had been on our way to the meeting but it eventually got to, and shocked, the 17 of us gathered in Byfield tower in the evening.

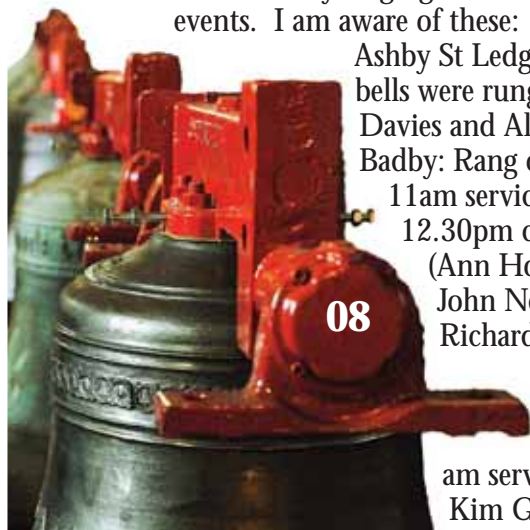
Daventry practice continued as usual on the following Tuesday, but with the bells half-muffled. Richard had asked Carole some time ago to arrange the Daventry Remembrance Day Armistice centenary quarter peal. Plain Bob Triples was successfully rung in 50 minutes, conducted by Jim White, with the bells not muffled, but also remembering Richard.

Photo after Richard rang a quarter peal to mark his 80th birthday

Towers arranged their own Ringing Remembers and Armistice Centenary ringing to match village events. I am aware of these:

Ashby St Ledgers, two bells were rung - John Davies and Alan Beale.
Badby: Rang open for 11am service;
12.30pm call changes
(Ann Houghton, John Neale, Richard Piner,

Carole Pullin, Geoff Pullin, Susan Rose, Frances Williams,)
Braunston: half-muffled for the 11.15 am service (Anne Brown, Glyn Edwards, Kim Gibbard, Annette Iles, Sally Lewis, Sue



Merrett, Tracey Mynott, Sally Thompson, Alice Wren); open ringing from 12.30 pm (same but not Sally T and Alice).

Bugbrooke: Half-muffled prior to Remembrance Service. 12.30pm Call Changes & plain hunt (Kaye Adams, Colin Ashmore, David Bonner (Ringing Remembers recruit), Alex Stevens, Gwynneth White, James White, Pete Wilkins).

Daventry: 3pm open quarter peal (above).

Flore: 12.30pm rung open by benefice band.

Harpole: 12.30pm open ringing (Jane Bloomfield, Andrew Brighty, Hannah Brighty, Roger Fountain, Bridget Paul, Graham Paul, Michael Sawle).

Hellidon : 12.30pm Call changes (Susie Goudime, Carol Summers, Sally Thompson, Helen Whall).

Heyford bells were rung half muffled for 10.30am service; 11:45am, rung open again by 11 of benefice band.

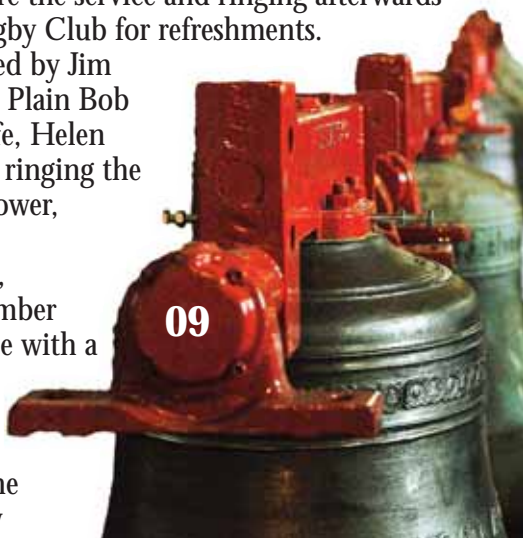
Newnham: 10.45am: open ringing for service (9 recent recruits, Ivy Cooke, Dominic Sinclair)

Weedon: 7am, 9am & 7.05pm: Rang call changes (Steven Broom, Alan Faiers, Jill Faiers, Brian Foley, Jill Harvey, Michael Harvey, John Leatherland, Elaine Leslie, James Rogers (Ringing Remembers recruit), Malcolm Rogers, Jonathan Stuart).

There were around 120 people at Long Buckby church on Friday, November 23 for the memorial service for Richard Waddy. The service was led by the Team Rector of Daventry, where Richard had been tower secretary since 1977, steeple keeper and tower captain over the years. His son, Adrian, gave us an evocative description of Richard's caring and engineering traits: the arrival of a pet dog to live outdoors – the large purpose-built kennel, a large outdoor pen, a walkie-talkie to comfort the dog and try to stop it barking at night and eventually allowing the dog to become an inside dog! There was ringing by past and present Long Buckby ringers before the service and ringing afterwards while many made their way to the Rugby Club for refreshments.

There were two quarter peals conducted by Jim White on the following Sunday. After Plain Bob Caters in thanksgiving for Richard's life, Helen Camps rang her first quarter of major, ringing the 4th to Plain Bob Major at her home-tower, Whilton.

Kilsby's tower captain, Margaret Dean, celebrated her 90th birthday on November 30. This was marked a week in advance with a branch quarter of spliced Plain and Little Bob Minor at Braunston, conducted by Gwynneth. Margaret learned to ring at Braunston around the Millennium and still rings on Monday



afternoons and acts as the catering officer for the 12- 15 who turn up. On the day, a quarter of Demi-Bristol Alliance Minimus (or simply Bristol Minimus to me!) was rung at Kilsby. A special very large birthday cake appeared at the next Monday afternoon session and a significant amount remained for the next branch meeting!



Margaret cutting the cake.



The cake with edible sally



To top that, Paul Richardson rang in a quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles at Badby on December 7 to mark his 91st birthday ten days hence!

A visitor broke his journey between Dundee and Hertfordshire by having a ring at Bugbrooke at our December meeting, joining the 17 of us who stretched up or stood on boxes to ring, and 10 or more who assembled for a chat and to practice for the evening carol concert. After a large tea supplemented by Margaret's cake,

the vote of thanks was proposed by Chris FitzGerald covering the day's arrangements.

By the time of the concert, nearly 50 had assembled including several villagers. Ten carols were accompanied by Alison B (flute), Barbara (piano), Chris Buck (tuba), Gwynneth (recorder), Jane (ukulele), Michael (organ) and Shirley (clarinet). Between the carols, there were seven recitations and performances, including Byfield springing an unscheduled group to the confusion of the pianist and organist! The performances included Archangel James reporting to She Who Must Be Obeyed on failing to set up a red carpet in Bethlehem and Heyford's loss of vodka while making their Christmas cake. The Revd Stephen French spent some time extracting Victorian myth from Christmas for us – how many wise men were there? After the final carol, the organ struck up the traditional We Wish You a Merry Christmas to herald the mulled wine that Chris Buck had so kindly 'volunteered' to simmer during the concert and serve hot with mince-pies.

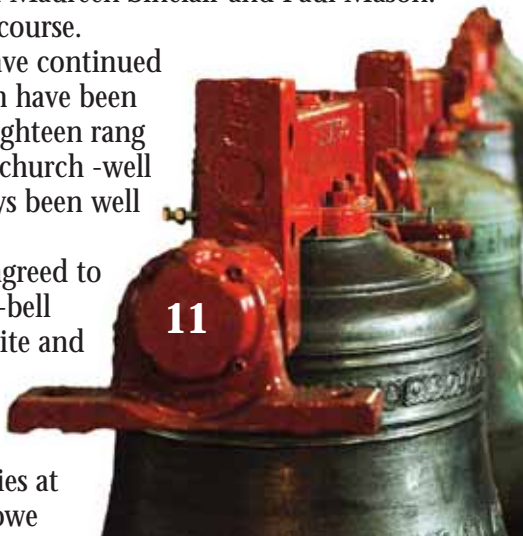
Brian Foley organised the December 8-bell quarter peal but then couldn't ring. The Plain Bob Major on the 30th conducted by Jim White turned out to be the last on Weedon's back 5 bells while on plain bearings, see below.

The AGM at Daventry attracted 25 who rang, including two visitors, and 12 members who didn't –those mainly assisting with teas in the church hall under Deena and Hugh's direction. Ringing on 8 and 10 bells proceeded until the Revd. Canon Michael Webber took our service. He reminded us that we are all members one of another and remembered Richard Waddy's virtues. The Rector also reminded us that he will be retiring at the end of February so Carole arranged a suitable date for a farewell quarter peal straight away! Hot soups accompanied the plentiful sandwiches and cakes. Chairman Jane Rands greeted the gathering which included Bob and Maureen Sinclair and Paul Mason. The essential annual business took its course.

The 8-bell branch-assisted practices have continued monthly in rotation. Those at Whilton have been the most useful, indeed in February, eighteen rang and Janet came along to the very cold church -well done! The other venues have not always been well supported.

To help members to progress, Carole agreed to carry on organising monthly branch 6-bell quarter peals and Brian Foley, Jim White and Ian Willgress will continue to arrange in rotation a monthly 8-bell branch quarter peal.

Our Steward reported his 2018 activities at Byfield, Dodford, Fawsley, Church Stowe



(helping ring the four bells for a structural engineer to measure the leaning tower's movements), Everdon, Bugbrooke and celebrating Brackley Town Hall clock bell restoration.



The leaning tower of Church Stowe

Brian added that Weedon bells will be out of action for an indeterminate period while the headstocks for bells 4-8 are sent to Taylors on January 21 to be converted to roller bearings. Three weeks later the front three headstocks followed so that twiddle pins can be fitted and the bearings cleaned. All officers were re-elected. Richard Hartley (after 12 years) and Ann Maud wished to retire from the committee and were replaced by Gwynneth White and Kim Gibbard to join Leanne Martin. After a vote on locations for the outing Lichfield won 10 – 8 against the only (but nearby) competitor of Birmingham suburbs.

Afterwards 20 rang, including 3 visitors, ranging from plain hunt to Yorkshire S Royal. A group of 14 assembled later by courtesy of Mr Wetherspoon.

Our Wombel was installed in Litchborough church south aisle for training from January and it was suggested that it should feature in some recruitment activity.

Carole organised the January 6-bell quarter at Flore with Gwynneth conducting Single Oxford Minor, but she couldn't ring herself after a cataract operation. The deceptively simple method enabled Anthea Hiams, Gwynneth and me to claim their first in the method!

On January 20, a representative Knightley



Parishes band rang for the Revd. Sue Faulkner's last service (at Badby) and rang her into her new patch at Dallington on February 2, helped by Ken, up from Devon, and Liz Moore.

On the following Saturday, Byfield church was nice a warm for our meeting when 17 rang and 8 helped with teas, stayed warm in church or arrived later. A clock chime hammer wire broke when being pulled off. With James in Canada, it took a bit of time to establish how to tie off the right hammer. Jim White ran the ringing, which ranged from rounds to Cambridge Major. Our service was led by Lesley Palmer with Meriel Gardner at the clavinova. A generous supply of sandwiches, cakes and tea was provided by the local ringers.

A visitor was waiting inside dark Hellidon church when Susie arrived to turn the lights on and she was a bit startled! Eventually a goodly number of 17 more turned up, having navigated around the closed bridge at Charwelton. Ringing was from rounds, through the local Tuesday morning pinnacle of plain hunt minimus with tenor behind, to Stedman Doubles, before ten thawed themselves in the Countryman at Staverton.

Geoff Pullin

Guilsborough Branch

The 2018 inspection programme commenced much later than usual, wholly due to the extreme and adverse weather conditions prevailing until April.

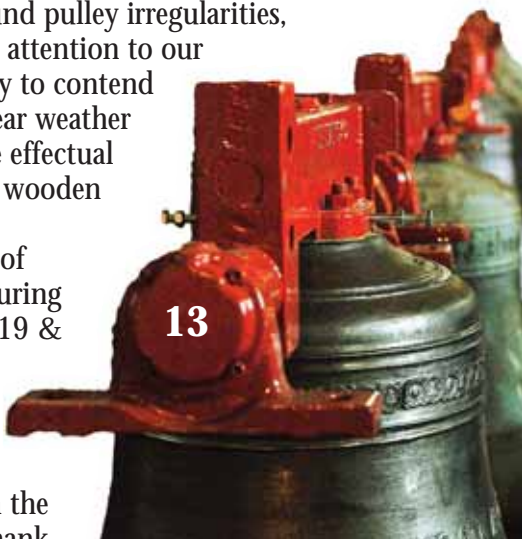
Nevertheless, the inspection & maintenance team have made an astonishing impact to catch up with our pre-planned busy schedule roving around the branch towers. Once again, the most engaging activity encountered has been "loose clappers" followed by ground pulley irregularities, highlighting the importance of regular attention to our heritage bell collection. A new anomaly to contend with was the extraordinary dry, mid-year weather situation. We have never witnessed the effectual consequences of so much shrinkage of wooden components around the towers.

Below, is a comprehensive description of observations we have either rectified during 2018 or will be attending to in our 2019 & beyond, maintenance programmes.

Draughton.

This unusual report has to be narrated rather than a formal presentation.

Draughton tower was transferred from the Kettering branch early 2018 and we thank



Nich Wilson for achieving this addition. Nich and myself, prior to the transfer, spent many hours re-fixing loose and fallen wheel shrouding utilising stainless steel hardware. The original personal concept was to act upon all of the remedial work as requested, on behalf of the Kettering branch. However, once officially in our branch, I could call upon our newly formed maintenance team to assist with the numerous remedial actions required to bring the installation up to a reasonable ringing standard. Thanks to practical and educated prompts from Colin, we were able to resolve how to finally remove the crown staple assemblies which hitherto had presented quite a severe technical problem. (staple bolts had two separate diameters of threads, courtesy of Frederick White, 1896 overhaul. New leather baldrics were shaped and re-assembled with pre-used hardware sought from the late Geoff Armitage's legacy selection of special nuts and bolts. All ground pulleys were overhauled and lubricated as best as circumstances allowed, plain bearings cleaned and new oil applied, all other fixing hardware re-tightened. The bells were test raised, rung and lowered thus regaining a mellow sounding output from the four 1770, Joseph Eayre of Neots, bells. To effectively check out any further issues, we gathered a group of branch ringers, journeyed across to Draughton and rang for about an hour. At some point during 2019, we will return to Draughton in order to reduce friction values and correct rope alignment issues. There are also many other enhancements to pursue when time allows.

Brixworth

I am assured by the tower captain that the bells & their fittings are still regularly maintained.

Long Buckby

Inspected during 2018. These bells and fittings are in good working order.

Watford

Inspected during 2018. This is a historically interesting installation with old fittings and a c1695 wooden frame. Now classed on Dove's Guide as "for experienced ringers only" and "limited ringing" by mutual agreement with Peter Clifton, it is still just feasible, the team can make some improvements to the running of the bells, although the resultant sound of the bells will always remain out of tune. Many thanks to Peter and Dan of L.B. who have performed excellent work on the installation. No ringing will occur at Watford until essential work has been completed on other aspects of Church building.



Cottesbrooke

Inspected during 2018. By observation, no.6 rope route had become entangled with the clock mechanism rendering great difficulty in ringing activities, now fixed but a longer term solution will require a chute route adjacent to the clock mechanism. No's.7 and 8 clappers are slightly out of alignment and will be attended to during 2019. The rungs of the main ladder ascending to the clock room are becoming weak. The next ladder from the clock room to bell chamber requires replacing due to excessive wood boring beetle attack. Signage describing whether clock hammer is lifted for safe ringing requires upgrading to clearly indicate correct control positions.

Creton

Inspected during late 2018. In reasonable working order but there are a small variety of maintenance issues such as loose stays due to worn fixings and a tight treble ground pulley which we have freed off to some extent. Frame and fittings require re-painting.

Spratton

Inspected during late 2018. In good working order. One crown staple assembly was re-tightened. Results of rainwater ingress from window openings above in the spire, has had a deteriorating effect on some of the fixtures and fittings. Frames and fittings require re-painting.

Ravensthorpe

Inspected during 2018. In good working order. The ladder to the belfry is vertically mounted to the wall and essentially requires a sloping ladder to make ascent, a safer journey. Signage describing whether clock hammer is lifted for safe ringing requires upgrading to clearly indicate correct control positions.

Maidwell

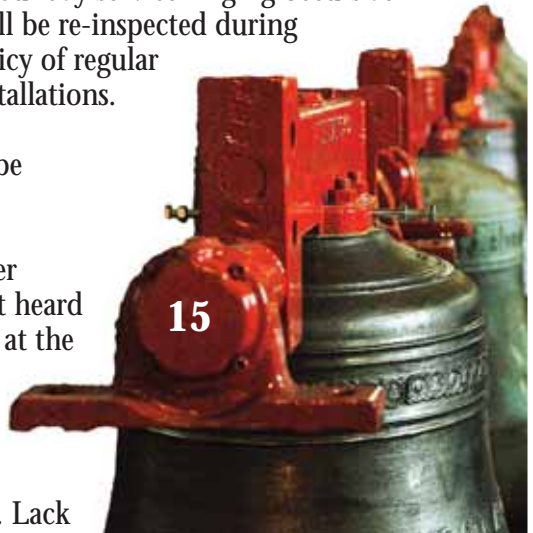
A regular Friday evening practice and Sunday service ringing occurs at Maidwell, so the whole installation will be re-inspected during early 2019 in accordance with our policy of regular maintenance checks on high usage installations.

East Farndon

Previously, in working order, but will be re-inspected during 2019.

Great Oxendon

We brought forward our planned tower inspection during 2018, as we had just heard of a quarter peal attempt to be carried at the next weekend. We were particularly pleased to carry out the inspection as 3 out of the 5 crown staple assemblies were very loose due to the virtual disintegration of the interface washers. Lack



of ladder fixings to the wall remains a potential H and S issue and Church officials have been made aware of this fact.

West Haddon

Inspected during 2018. We have successfully carried out the fitting of 5 new and 5 pre-used ceiling/floor bosses to the ringing chamber/clock-room interface rope routes. The original improvised “bosses” (soil pipe connectors) had allowed a rapid deterioration of each sally when the ringing floor was raised to its present level. We also successfully attended to a tenor clapper/slider collision path issue. We will be returning to W.H. during 2019 in order to commence further enhancements to the installation. Many thanks to Peter Clifton for the pre-used bosses from L.B. Church.



Tenor flight is colliding with slider bar at West Haddon.

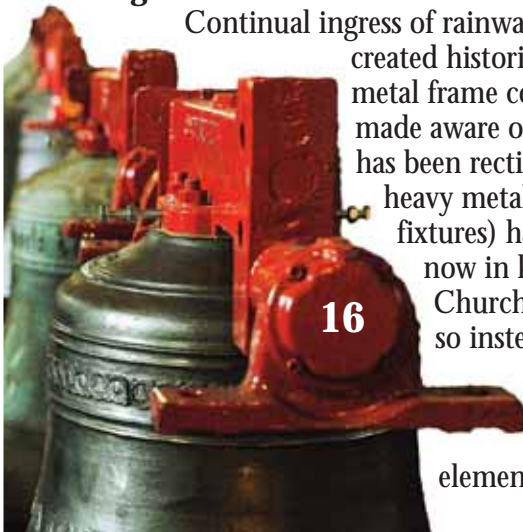
Scaldwell

Inspected during 2018. In good running order due to ongoing maintenance work carried out in previous years.

Walgrave

Continual ingress of rainwater into belfry from spire openings has created historic (& current) deterioration to the metal frame components. Church officials have been made aware of the issue. Rope spider pulley route has been rectified but unfortunately, the historic, heavy metal spider (which matches the lighting fixtures) has broken, crashing to the floor and is now in kit form so to speak. Thankfully, the Church has agreed not to replace this object,

so instead we will fit a lighter wooden spider. We have replaced several corroded gudgeon bearing housing fixings which have finally succumbed to the elements mentioned above.



Cold Ashby

Inspected during 2018. We have eradicated a clapper flight/slider collision path issue on one of the bells. I only learnt of this issue upon witnessing a situation whereupon the bell abruptly came to a halt during a branch ringing meeting. Incorrect clock and chime hammer actions were also attended to at the same time.



1317 William de Flint bell at Cold Ashby.

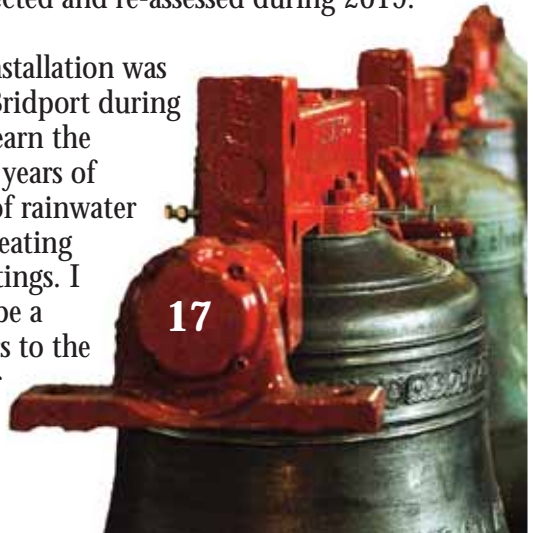
I am pleased to announce practice ringing has resumed at CA after many years of absence. The new ringers share their Monday evening practice alternatively with Welford. Progress of the ringers' abilities are satisfyingly good news.

Thornby

Hardly used, but in running order. Continual ingress of rainwater into belfry has created deterioration to the wooden frame. Church officials have repeatedly been made aware of this fact. To be re-inspected and re-assessed during 2019.

Guilborough

In excellent working order. The bell installation was overhauled by Andrew Nicholson of Bridport during April/May 2018. I am so pleased to learn the Church officials are finally reacting to years of warnings regarding continual ingress of rainwater into the belfry from spire openings, creating deterioration to the metal frame & fittings. I re-iterate, this particular tower has to be a beacon reminder when essential repairs to the fabric of the building are neglected for whatever reasons.





The refurbished bell installation nearing completion at Guilsborough. ©WMBowles.

East Haddon

In good working order and good tonal qualities. The ringing chamber has been relocated to a first floor making way for new ground floor toilet facilities. Upon a chance visit, we noticed that at least 5 of the 6 clappers require retightening to the headstocks, some quite loose. I can confirm we have attended to these loose components and will return to E.H. during 2019, to complete further inspection duties.

Lilbourne

In good working order. I regularly inspect Lilbourne as the designated official steeple keeper.

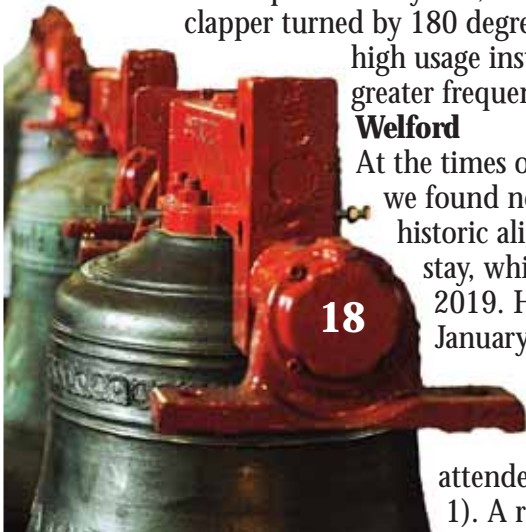
Crick

Inspected during 2018. In good working order. New interface washer fitted to tenor crown staple assembly. No.5 crown staple assembly re-aligned, clapper turned by 180 degrees to reduce odd struckness. This is a high usage installation and will be inspected at a greater frequency during 2019.

Welford

At the times of our regular inspections during 2018, we found no evidence of malfunctions other than historic alignment issues with the No.3 Hastings stay, which, were to be attended to, during 2019. However, this scenario changed on January 2nd. 2019. Due to an emergency response dictated by a hitherto unknown, forthcoming full peal attempt on January 5th. 2019, we attended to :-

- 1). A reported, increasingly tight No.3



hastings stay/slider interaction.

Action taken). As previously stated, it was observed that a generic problem of alignment exists between the No.3 headstock stay socket and centre line of slider bar.

No.3 hastings stay was effectively re-aligned and dingler correctly re-positioned, due to high friction values of dingler and slider interface at hand-stroke. We regard our intervention as a temporary fix.

2). A reported, increasingly difficult to raise, or chime, tenor bell.

Action taken). It was observed that a generic problem exists in that the flight of the tenor clapper has been intentionally shortened to provide adequate clearance between it and the side of the tower. Increased friction values were due to a very dry and noisy, tenor clapper bearing. Dismantled whole assembly, cleaned bearing and re-applied grease accordingly. (Tenor crown staple assembly was also slightly out of alignment). We also inspected and/or overhauled the remaining clapper bearing assemblies.

Since the above mentioned tasks were completed, we returned again to :-

a) fit a new hastings stay, wrecked by an over-adventurous ringer raising the 3rd. bell prior to an important service occasion. We've asked him to reduce his daily weatabix breakfast to one instead of three biscuits.

b) attend to chattering modern (non-wooden) ground pulleys. Interestingly, the two ball bearing races were in perfect condition, the faults were quickly traced to looseness between the outer bearing races and the pulley recesses. As a quick fix, we successfully rectified these faults by applying insulating tape around the circumference of the outer race. Needless to say, we haven't before, encountered these problems, so are therefore investigating other alternative remedial actions to combat this issue, as we are now finding more examples of this anomaly and also from another steward. (Thank you Tim, for your input).

Sibbertoft

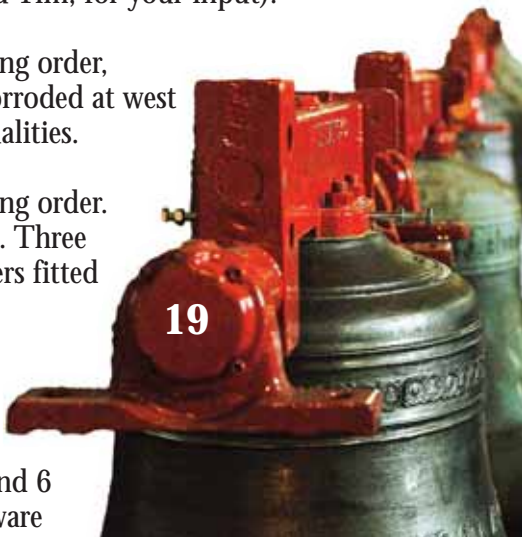
Inspected during 2018. In good working order, although metal sub-frame is surface-corroded at west end of frame. Bells have good tonal qualities.

Marston Trussell

Inspected during 2018. In good working order. No.2 crown staple assembly re-aligned. Three other crown staple/bell interface washers fitted due to deterioration.

Yelvertoft

Inspected during 2018. In good working and excellent tonal qualities. David Westerman, ably assisted by our team, fitted 6 new ceiling bosses and 6 new ropes. Treble ground pulley hardware



and various other fixing hardware re-tightened. The steel frame requires re-painting. New extra light fitted in ringing chamber.

Haselbech

Inspected during 2018. Several loose crown staple assemblies re-tightened and deteriorated interface washers replaced. All clapper bearings lubricated. Very dry, ground pulley bearings lubricated and intermediate pulleys freed off, cleaned and lubricated. Having previously stripped down No.7 clapper bearing for incorrect pivot movement, we will observe any future discrepancies arising. No.8 clapper bearing lubricated but wearing beyond repair & will require a replacement in the near future.

Nich. Wilson (TC of Maidwell) now organises a 1st. Friday evening practice session at Haselbech.

Naseby

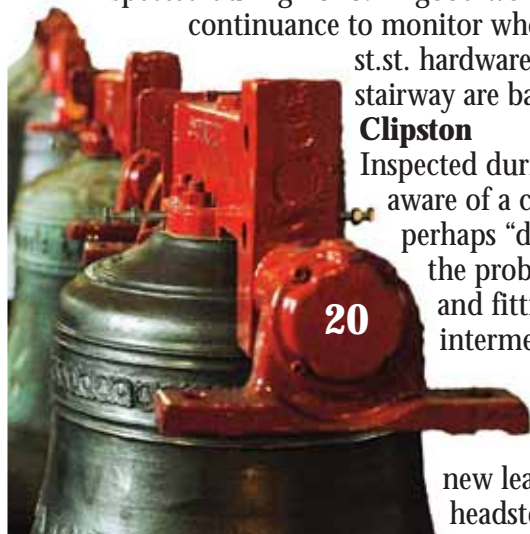
Inspected during 2018. Previously, the wheels have undergone shroud re-fixing using st.st. screws, but will require further ongoing remedial work on lower unreachable sections with customised tooling. No.3 slider replaced. No's.4 and 5 bells very deep set at hand-stroke. An ongoing water ingress problem regarding the spire, beyond our remit, has been forwarded to Naseby Parochial Church Council. We also effected a temporary repair to a weather board which had fallen onto No's.1 & 5 bell wheels. Several more crown staple assemblies require some re-tightening to headstocks. Ground pulley "block bearings" worn. We categorise this installation as low usage but nevertheless, there are a lot of time consuming remedial actions yet to be completed in order to minimise current wear and friction values. We anticipate returning from time to time, 2019 onwards to continue with this important ongoing work.

Kelmarsh

Inspected during 2018. In good working order. We are aware of a continuance to monitor wheel shroud fixings and replace with st.st. hardware as necessary. Steps forming the spiral stairway are badly worn.

Clipston

Inspected during 2018. In working order but we are aware of a continuance to monitor this old and perhaps "delicate" bell installation. Regarding the problematic tenor bell handling, control and fittings, we have fitted a new intermediate pulley to the rope route, re-spliced worn section of the rope and attended to the extremely loose, crown staple assembly by fitting a new leather interface washer. All 5 headstock/bell interface fixings were loose to



varying degrees, partially brought about by the extremely dry, mid-year weather conditions. We also carried out a temporary fix to a loose No.4 clapper turning block and will return during 2019 to finalise a practical solution and extend that solution to the two remaining loose blocks. We are pleasingly informed that, so far, our remedial interventions have made a vast improvement to the handling characteristics of this installation.

Winwick

Inspected during 2018. In working order. All bells and fitting fittings loose on headstocks, partially brought about by the extremely dry, mid-year weather conditions. No.2 ground pulley block repaired. All ground pulleys and clapper bearings lubricated. Long draught ropes flail if not expertly controlled. New ground floor toilet facilities added.

Old, (un-ringable)

It has been brought to my attention that the Church authorities are looking to return the bells back to a ringable condition. Taylor's have provided two quotations, the first for retention and restoration of the existing 5 bells and secondly, a new six bell frame installed lower in the tower with a later optional augmentation to six bells.

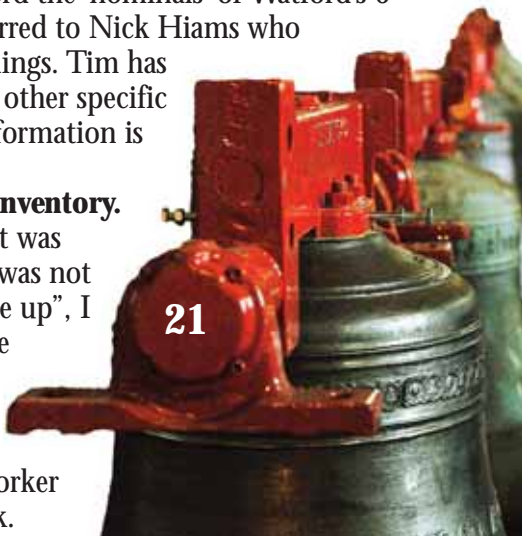
Obviously, any of these projects depend on serious funding but the Church does appear to be taking the exercise as a positive step, although I'm certain it will definitely not be imminent.

Dove's Guide data.

I have been involved with gathering bell installation data from our branch towers in conjunction with Dove's online guide. The data gathered is purely supplied for Dove to populate any empty or missing field entries. Additionally, the results of exercise will be published in the forthcoming book version. Tim Jackson of Dove asked a favour to record the 'nominals' of Watford's 6 bells, so Dove's thanks must be transferred to Nick Hiams who provided the high quality audio recordings. Tim has also requested further recordings from other specific towers where the current published information is doubtful or simply missing.

P.D.G.C.B.R. Bell inscriptions and inventory.

During our recent steward's meeting, it was conveyed, the Guild's latest inventory was not going to plan. Rather than simply "give up", I felt a tenacious tendency to take up the gauntlet and proceed with this important topic. When not repairing bell installations, I volunteer with IWM War Memorials dept as a fieldworker and am accustomed to this type of task.



However, in the first instance, I have set up a new website entirely devoted to the inscriptions and inventory. In due course, the whole inventory will be displayed on the Guild's website but in the interim period, subject to conformation, a web-link can be displayed to forward readers to my embryonic site. Any new inventory data components can be gathered in a number of ways by direct team access, tower captains, photographs and so on. The Daventry branch website already displays their comprehensive inventory, which, is a great asset to the overall programme. I am more than happy to receive constructive advice from any source in order to establish a credible account of our heritage bell collection. Each location contains a complementary web-link to Dove's Guide.

<https://pdgcbrbellinstallations.btck.co.uk/>

Steward's personal comments.

Again, many thanks & appreciation to the core team of Colin Sim and Gordon Ball complete with his amazing toolkit array of cordless gadgetry & consultant Robin Wilson, without whose assistances, this valuable work would not have been achieved in the desired manner or higher self-imposed standards. Equally, my thanks also go to other associated people along the way who have contributed in some form to promote the ongoing maintenance within their respective towers.

The 2018 branch maintenance programme ran its course with proactive vigour, however, it hasn't escaped my notice that quarter or full peal organisers have 'possibly' assumed that the bells they wish to ring are automatically capable of that action. My reaction to this topic is simply conveyed "would you drive your car on a long journey with a flat tyre or without checking the tyre pressures beforehand?" Our team members witness first hand that sometimes all is not well in the bell chamber and we fix those faults as soon as possible. Our website signifies what the state of play is at all of the branch towers but not

everyone wants to use the site, so instead I suggest a phone call/e-mail is

made to the various tower captains or myself and an answer will be courteously supplied and forthcoming. At the end of the day, our team want to ensure any of our ringable branch bell installations are fit for purpose intended.

As a postscript to my comments, I am not targeting anyone, just simply making general observations.

Please remember, we are insured volunteers looking after the interests of the Guild and members alike and the overall legal ownership responsibilities of the bells still remain with the Church.

Again, no promises for 2019 but would very



much like to initially re-commence in warmer climes with inspections at Maidwell, Brixworth and East Farndon interlaced with ongoing remedial tasks at other towers listed above.

Our mainly technical website can still be found at :-

www.guilboroughbranchbells.wordpress.com

Our e-mail contact address and phones are as follows :-

Stewardship – **towersandbells@gmail.com**

Mobile 1 – 07926 15 18 11 (talk and text); Mobile 2 – 07927 46 81 18 (text)

Rob Palmer, Guilborough Branch Steward

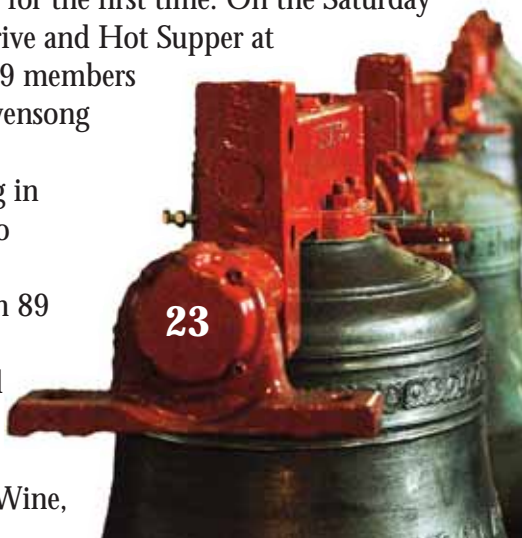
Kettering Branch

For our September meeting we met at Uppingham. 22 branch members came along despite the Great British Weather (if you guessed rain, then you are correct!). Ringing ranged from rounds and call changes to Yorkshire. All who came thoroughly enjoyed themselves and for some, was their first-time ringing at Uppingham!

Every year we take a band to ring for Sunday evensong at Peterborough Cathedral. Before we ring at the Cathedral, we hold a 12-bell practice for those branch members who normally do not ring on 12 bells to boost confidence. For our October meeting we met at Kettering where we rang call changes, Plain Hunt Caters and Plain Bob Major.

November was a busy month for us all. To commemorate WW1, we had a quarter peal weekend, where 8 ¼ peals were rung. 1 person rang their first ¼ peal and 3 people conducted a quarter for the first time. On the Saturday evening, we held our annual Beetle Drive and Hot Supper at Desborough. Then on Sunday 25th, 19 members met at the Cathedral to ring for the Evensong Service.

We had our annual Christmas meeting in December and decided we would go to Wilbarston on the newly rehung and augmented bells. We were joined by an 89 year-old man who was visiting from Shoreham – he rang with one arm and called some spliced. The Wilbarston ringers put on a brilliant spread of food including Rum Truffles, Mulled Wine,



Homemade Sausage Rolls and Mince Pies - thanks go to the Wilbarston ringers for letting us come and ring the fantastic bells and for their hospitality! On the 12th January, we help our AGM at Weston by Welland which 37 ringers attended. After the meeting, where we saw some new and exciting additions to the committee, it was great to hear the rarely rung 5 in action. In February, we held a 'Practice on all Numbers' at Rothwell. This event was attended by 25 ringers and featured a variable smorgasbord of ringing, ranging from rounds and call changes, all the way to Yorkshire Royal.

We have had some brilliant meetings and good to see some new faces.

News from the Towers

In November, a 'sharp second' was installed at Kettering, meaning it is now possible to ring a light eight. The first peal utilising this was rung in January; this was a day of double delight as this was also Kettering ringer Wayne Bryan's first peal. The first quarter peal on the new bells at Wilbarston was rung in December before the Christingle service; the band included one "first" quarter peal with Sandra Orgill ringing the tenor. This period also saw a number of other firsts with several ringers conducting their first quarters; this included myself, Rhys Skillman, Mick Dainty and (surprisingly some may say due to his vast experience!) Bill Adcock. Well done to all!

Burton Latimer

Ringers here is going really well. We have had a lot of nice compliments regarding our Sunday service ringing and most weeks ring on 8 bells. Eleanor and Heidi joined us last May to learn bell ringing as Heidi wished to learn as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme at bronze level, both are doing extremely well and have progressed from rounds and call changes to method ringing on 8 bells and ringing up and down in peal.

Heidi has worked extremely hard over the past 9 months and now has completed the skills part of the award under my tuition, Heidi has the satisfaction of knowing that she has achieved this to a very high standard. Both Eleanor and Heidi are now competent enough to ring for weddings.

Chris Pearson - Tower Captain



Kettering Branch towers should send their news to me at **edgroom@live.com**. If you want to be kept fully up to date with Branch activities, you can ask to receive the monthly

newsletter by emailing our Secretary at shaneward30@gmail.com. You can access our latest news and events on our online noticeboard where we post images, post-it notes, files and videos to share with each other. If you would like to use it, you will need to create an account at www.linoit.com and then email nick@firedout.co.uk for an invitation to view the Kettering Branch Board. We also now have a Facebook group called 'Kettering Branch Bellringers'; all are welcome to join the group and see all the latest branch news and events. Hope you've enjoyed my first foray as our Press Correspondent!

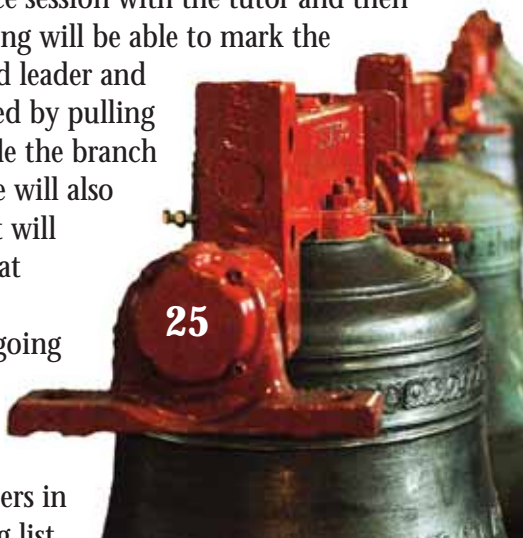
Edward Groome – Kettering Correspondent

Northampton Branch

It's all change in the Northampton Branch, we have a new secretary – Liz Moore, a new treasurer – Ray Starmer who is very good with numbers, and a new 100 club organiser – Charlotte Brierley. Welcome to the committee!! As well as our usual monthly practices, we had an outing in October and were lucky with the weather which meant we could eat our lunch in the unusual pub garden in the sunshine. All the towers were ground floor and fairly light rings of 5 or 6, however, there were still some challenges in there with the go of some bells and getting to grips with bells with a long draft.

This year we are planning on having an informal striking competition which will include some theory about listening, striking and marking a piece of ringing, followed by each team having a practice session with the tutor and then ringing their test piece, those not ringing will be able to mark the piece. Each team will have a designated leader and the other team members will be decided by pulling names from a hat. Ringers from outside the branch will be most welcome to join us. There will also be a social aspect yet to be decided but will probably include beer as is traditional at striking competitions!

The Northampton Ringing School is going strong with a 2 hour session at All Saints every Saturday morning, bell handling first, followed by moving the bell around. We currently have 6 learners in the bell handling session, and a waiting list,



and 7 in the moving the bell session. All these learners also come to the Wednesday night practice at the Northampton Ringing Hub to enable them to be part of the team and learn to listen and hear the bells.

The following is an account of the Ringing School from a learners perspective: The Saturday school run by Jennie Higson, Bridget Paul and Giles Willson is a fun way to learn and make progress on a new hobby – bellringing. From my experience there, the students and teachers get along really well. The way the teachers adapt to people's different personalities is amazing and I find it truly fascinating watching people learn and enjoy this new skill. I enjoy bellringing because it is a way to keep fit and healthy and bring people together both in the tower and at the pub. By Grace Higson (age 11).

Jennie Higson

Peterborough Branch

Bulwick

Armistice Day: We rang half muffled for 30 minutes prior to the Remembrance Day service and chimed the single bell at Blatherwycke for 5 minutes at 3.00pm.

Christmas: Our regular band rang before the Carol Service and the Christmas Day Carols Around the Crib.

In January we joyfully welcomed Sue and Derek back after their long exile in Norfolk, enabling spliced surprise to return to our repertoire.

Pat Teall.



Castor Ringing School

Report for Branch AGM - January 2019

I am pleased to be able to report that 2018 was another busy year at Castor Ringing School with a steady stream of new pupils coming along to learn how to handle a bell and to learn the art of change ringing. During the Autumn the number of pupils attending on a Saturday morning crept into double figures on several occasions, a sure sign that we must be doing

something right!

Our ability to offer top quality tuition to this number of people is only made possible by the dedication of our regular Tutors and Helpers who give up their time week after week to make up the band, and guide and encourage our learners as they acquire the physical and mental skills necessary to become change ringers.

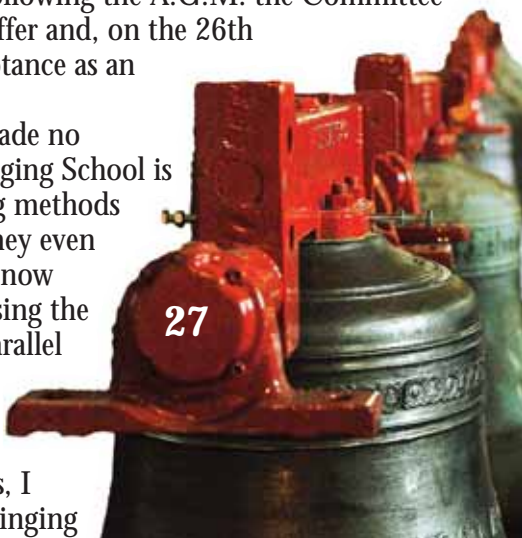
I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank them all, along with the Rector, PCC Members, Tower Captain and Steeple Keeper at St Kyneburgha's and the other experienced ringers from this Branch who willingly step in to help us when needed, particularly when our regulars are on holiday.

As I have reported to you before, our pupils 'graduate' when they have rung a quarter-peal of Plain Bob Doubles or Minor on an inside bell after which they are encouraged to continue to attend as Helpers. Over the last eighteen months three of our Helpers, Angela Whiteway, Hilary Hardie and Terry Wright, have attended both Module One (handling) and Module Two (change ringing) courses laid on by the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) and our own one-day course on the Principles of Teaching Change Ringing.

They each kept a log of their progress throughout their period of training which culminated in external assessments by an ART Assessor in their chosen fields. All three are now qualified Ringing Teachers bringing the number of ART Members at Castor up to five. I offered them my congratulations at the Ringing School AGM last November but I am very happy to do so again: very well done! Another item discussed at our AGM was an invitation from Graham Nabb, the Chairman of ART, for Castor Ringing School to become an ART Hub. As it seemed most likely that, following their re-organisation, Central Council will no longer "recognise" Ringing Centres, members felt it was important to retain national recognition through ART. Following the A.G.M. the Committee took a formal decision to pursue the offer and, on the 26th November, ART announced our acceptance as an ART Hub.

In day-to-day terms this change has made no difference to the way in which the Ringing School is run as we have been using the teaching methods advocated by ART from long before they even came into existence. However, we are now able to offer accreditation for pupils using the ART Learning the Ropes scheme in parallel with our own internal system of progression.

With national recognition in place and a growing team of trained teachers, I look forward to the future of Castor Ringing



School with confidence. I commend their work to you.

David Teall - Head Tutor

Peterborough Cathedral

As usual we did not ring at all in August which then gave us fresh impetus to ring for as many Advent and Christmas services as possible.

The holiday season seemed to spill over for most of September which then resulted in some poorly attended practices.

We ring on Sunday mornings (sometimes all 12 bells ringing) and twice a month for Evensong. We usually try to ring a quarter peal twice a month and have rung lots of quarters of Plain Bob: Triples to Maximus.

However, numbers have picked up and in recent times we have sometimes had 20 or so at practice night. Our higher number ringing has improved, and we can produce acceptable touches of Plain Bob, Grandsire, and Stedman.

We often have visiting ringing parties as well as ringers from Diocesan Branches, such as Peterborough, Kettering and Thrapston. Towcester rang for Evensong and visited the astronaut Tim Speake exhibition, which over a month attracted an amazing 170,000 visitors. The Bedfordshire Young Ringers acquitted themselves well on their day out,

We welcome visitors of all abilities and provide a progressive opportunity for development.

Robin Rogers, 24th Jan 2019.

Saint Mary and All Saints Fotheringhay Tower Report

The month of June 2017 saw contractors arrive at the site of St Mary & All Saints Church, Fotheringhay, to begin the seventeen month programme of restoration and refurbishment. Once the scaffolding was of

sufficient height contractors began the task of removing the tower roof, at which point it became clear that the concealed structural timbers had slowly disintegrated as time had been ticking away.

The wall plates needed to be replaced and the spanning timbers needed to be reinforced with additive structural splices.

Bespoke beams of fine grain oak, selected for its strength, resilience and longevity, have now replaced 'the old', wearied by the ravages of time and climate, in the hope that 'the new' may serve their purpose for the next five hundred years. The tower roof has now been completely



renewed, with recycled lead covering including ancient graffiti and new access dormer and ladder. New tower drainage spouts have been installed and the re-gilded Falcon and Fetterlock weathervane is once again in position. The blown leaded windows in the octagonal lantern tower have been reglazed and replaced. Tower masonry drainage guttering has been refurbished and asphalt painted. The original lead louvres of the tower bell chamber were cleaned and reinstated and repairs have been affected to the casement windows of the ringing chamber. Masonry work has been undertaken at all levels from the tower down with new stone pieces carved when the old was not salvageable. Thanks go to Bill James, Church Warden of Fotheringhay, for this detailed summary of renovation work on the bell tower.

The bells were silent from June 2017 until October 2018. We were keen to keep our ringing skills up to scratch until our tower reopened. We moved our practices to Warmington and Cotterstock bell towers, thanks to Sylvia Upec and Rev David Bond respectively. It took us a while to learn the bells and idiosyncrasies of the two belfries, but we all benefitted greatly from mastering our ringing on unfamiliar bells.

In September 2018 Mike and Ann Lee performed a final clean up of the ringing chamber at Fotheringhay and we returned to the tower for ringing on October 17th. We are very lucky to have such a splendid ringing chamber and marvelous set of bells. We practice on Wednesday afternoons at 3.00. All visitors, ringers or otherwise, are always welcome. We are a happy band and benefit from a keen and dedicated team which includes Mike and Ann Lee, Sylvia Upec, Michael Wilson and David Bond. Mike and Ann hold the ringing team together. We would like to thank Fotheringhay PCC members and fundraisers for all the hard work and informed leadership they have shown during the renovation of the Church and Bell Tower. Many future generations of ringers will enjoy the bells and tower for the next 500 years or more. A great achievement.

Jane Saunders

Glinton Tower Report February 2019

Glinton practice nights are becoming “the” place to go! We have gained yet another learner, as well as enticing previous learners back into the art. Our practice nights are averaging eight to ten people.

As a result, our contribution to “Ringing Remembers” was two new ringers, who signed up and duly received their badges. We rang together for the



centenary of the Armistice on Remembrance Sunday, half muffled, before the service. Everyone was very proud, justly so. Their certificates will be cherished and our tower will be the stronger for their contribution.

Also, in November, Glinton ringers rang for the benefice confirmation service, and were thanked afterwards by the Bishop.

Sadly, towards the end of the year, we said farewell to two steadfast villagers; two ladies who had had connections with the church, school and community over many decades. We were honoured to ring at both funerals.

Approaching Christmas, St. Benedict's church staged its own "tree festival", filling one aisle with small trees decorated by each village organisation. The bells' group decorated its tree which looked very jolly and provoked much interest.

After ringing for the main Christmas tree 'switch on' at the beginning of December, we were delighted to be approached by two families who wanted to learn to ring, plus one lady who is a returning ringer. Hopefully we will soon be seeing them regularly.

We also rang for the midnight Eucharist was this year, helped out by a former member of our tower (now working in London), as well as two ringers from Maxey. Our Maxey friends have been invaluable this year; we are very grateful to them.

We ended the year with our traditional "nibbles" evening – slightly down on numbers, but still enthusiastic.

2019 has started well. Three Glinton ringers were proposed for membership of the Guild, and we have continuing support from Milking Nook, Maxey, Deeping St. James and Stanground. We are very grateful to them all.

We meet every Thursday from 7:30pm until 9:00pm. If the lights are on do come on in!

Jill Cowcill.

King's Cliffe

Armistice Day: At 12:30 our regular Sunday Service Band rang for 45 minutes to commemorate the fallen. The nine ringers between them rang three plain courses of Bob Minor, four plain courses of Cambridge Surprise Minor and one plain course of Stedman Doubles, a total of 720 changes.

Christmas: This year we excelled ourselves by managing to produce a band for every service over the Christmas period being the family communion on the Sunday, the Crib Service and Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and family communion on Christmas Day. Undaunted we went on to



ring in the New Year and celebrate afterwards with bubbly and mince pies.

NASSINGTON TOWER REPORT March 2019

Ringling for Remembrance was a major event not only nationally, but also for us at Nassington. Eight new ringers/returners joined us as a part of Ringing Remembers.



Left to right *Caroline Mould, Sally Hudson, Stephen Sargent, Alex Heaton, Chris Barrett and Jane Robinson. In addition Helen Cornford and Jane Webb were also part of the group.*

On Remembrance Sunday, these eight learners together with another seven experienced ringers enabled us to ring with full bands in SIX towers, Nassington, Thornhaugh, Barnack, Yarwell and Wansford. Well done to Hilary Hardie for organizing all this.

Our practices on a Monday evening continue to be well attended, indeed on one occasion we had a record eighteen ringers. We have had additional practices on muffled bells before our regular practice and on a Friday morning which has enabled us to consolidate the learning and improve the ringing of all our ringers, as well as the learners.

Consequently we have been able to ring with a full band for all our services here at Nassington, as well as being able to support other local towers where necessary. We have rung for four weddings and two funerals, and have had four visiting bands from Rushden, Norfolk, Kent and also the National Guild of Police Ringers.

Two of our Ringing Remembers recruits/returners, Jane Robinson and Jane Webb, successfully rang their first Quarter Peals at the end of January, trebling to Plain Bob Doubles.

Thank you to all those who make



Nassington such a friendly, welcoming and also improving tower.

Brian Hardie, Tower Captain

St Mary's, Peterborough

At St Mary's we offer a welcoming practice on Thursday evening from bell handling to 8 bell methods and much more in between. On a Sunday morning we have ringers who have been first to the Cathedral and then go onto St John's. We regularly have a post Eucharist QP on a Sunday.

We still hold the accolade for most QPs in the Diocese, with 40 rung in 2018 and started on NY Day with two date touches, one at St Mary's and one just over the Nene in Woodston.

Staying with the QP theme Alex Dyer, our Ringing Master has challenged himself and is aiming to ring 70 QPs in his 70th year, so feel free to invite him to join you. Please just email him at john.a.dyer@btinternet.com and invite to travel far and wide.

We were pleased to have supported the Ringing Remembers initiative, which transpired with a busy weekend around greater Peterborough.

Elaine Wilkinson and Gav Simpson are teaching a number of learners and using St Mary's as a base, which is showing results as some are starting to progress to Plain Hunt. We thank them for their dedication.

If you fancy a QP or wish to ring a peal please drop us a line and with a lift and underfloor heating there is no excuse! Similarly fancy an outing we can offer a concierge service in recommending local towers and great lunch stops.

Andrew Christie

Bells@peterborough-stmarys.org.uk

Ufford

St Andrews church Ufford. We were able to ring our bells on Armistice Sunday. Stephen Sargent and I proudly wearing our Ringers remembered badges. We also rang for our carol service in December. The bells need to be rung so please come and ring! Best

wishes Sally

Sally Hudson.

Warmington

This year we were pleased to be able to ring for the Remembrance service and to welcome a new "Ringing Remembers" recruit, Julie, to ring with us. We also took part in ringing later in the day and at several other towers in our



efforts to ensure that all towers in the locality rang on that day. Our local band is growing in strength and becoming more competent. Of the group that all started at about the same time there have been several notable achievements this year: Chrissie rang her first quarter peal, Angela rang her first peal and her 50th quarter peal, and also qualified as an instructor with the Association of Ringing Teachers. We now run an early session for beginners each Friday and currently have two new ringers attending these.

The rest of the band have taken on the challenge of trying new methods each month and are growing in confidence. We also have had a busy year with numerous weddings to ring for and we also ring on Sundays both at Warmington and at two other churches in nearby villages.

The emphasis this year throughout the branch has been on recruiting new ringers but at Warmington we celebrated an older ringer. On discovering that Dennis had been ringing at Warmington for 60 years, even ascending the tower alone to ring one bell for services in the days when there was no band here, we decided to present him with a certificate and a surprise party. He was shocked! Dennis also winds the clock three times a week and sweeps the church path so makes a big contribution to Warmington.



Other members have had a bit of a bad time this year but we are pleased that Bernie is now back with us after a hand injury put him out of action for several months.

We enjoyed a few social events this year- dinner at the Red Lion, a summer picnic with ringing at Cotterstock and Polebrook, and as usual finished the year with an evening together and then

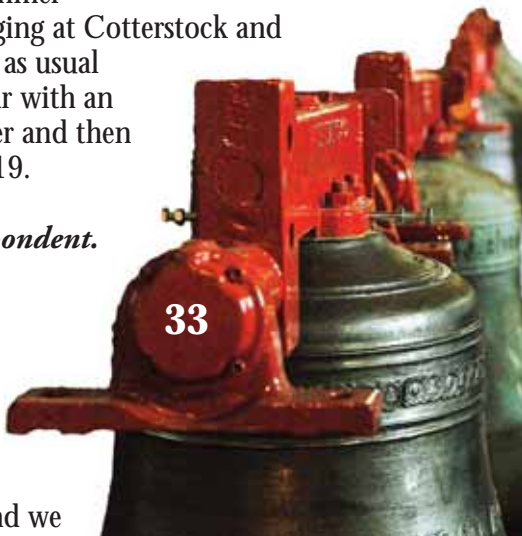


ringing at midnight to welcome in 2019.

Terry Wright - Peterborough Correspondent.

Rutland Branch

“WE REMEMBERED” The last three months of 2018 proved to be very busy with preparations for WW1 Armistice commemorations. In Rutland we



managed to ring in all but one of the county's 31 towers on the Armistice Day. Some people travelled many miles going back and forth across the county throughout the day helping towers out.

Quite an achievement. We almost made it 100% but, although a band visited, access wasn't possible in one tower. One notable event was the bells of Tinwell church ringing out on 11th November, having been silent for around ten years. This was due to the efforts of our Treasurer Simon Forster, Steward Ted Phillips, David Rippin and Nigel Pask. They put in a lot of hard work and effort in making this happen.

Thirteen individuals learned to ring for Armistice Day, with seven, from Hambleton, Oakham, Harringworth and Uppingham, being made full members of the branch at our 2019 AGM in January.

At the AGM the Chairman commented that the level of branch membership is healthy; with 112 members this year. In summary, the Branch is in good heart, with great friendship and fellowship amongst the members.

Plans are being made for more teaching sessions in 2019, developing understanding of methods and other bell handling skills. Recruitment of new ringers remains high on the agenda.

We had a very successful mini ringing tour in October 2018, 'Ring for your Supper' and look forward to more social and ringing events in 2019.

Sue Webster - Rutland Branch Correspondent

Thrapston Branch - No news this time

Towcester Branch

Towcester Branch has continued to be busy training new ringers and it is with huge pleasure that we were able to have all our 10 new recruits ringing around November 11th across the Branch. The dedicated team of teachers, led by Margaret Bullied, have continued to give considerable time to the project of developing our new ringers and they are now all progressing well along the Learning the Ropes scheme. Ashton and Roade have also had success with recruitment and



following their open day last year, also have 6 new ringers learning to ring. Greens Norton ringers and the recruitment committee ran a very lovely 'celebration' tea on Armistice weekend in November. All our new ringers were able to ring in open rounds, meet the trainers and supporters over a lovely tea (provided by Betty Linnell and helpers), and were presented their LtR level 1 certificates by Rev Lulu Pelly



'Ringing Remembers' recruits celebrating their achievements at St Bartholomew, Greens Norton,

To develop our increased number of ringers the Branch has implemented 2 new weekly foundation practices at Cold Higham (Sat 10- 11.30) and Bradden (Wed 7.30-9pm). This extra ringing time has given our new ringers so much more opportunity to gain confidence and skill with open ringing and helped their progress at regular practices. They have commented on the generosity of time from teachers and supporters alike and it was shown to be of great value when we welcomed 7 new members to the Branch at our AGM in January.

The AGM was very well attended and we had fun ringing for all at Cold Higham before the service and meeting and at Pattishall after. Although it was very chilly in Cold Higham church our annual service was warmly taken by Hugh Kent and the teas provided by Pattishall ringers. Both were well appreciated. Like so many other Branches across the country we embraced the Armistice ringing and what an amazing day it was. St Lawrence Society, Towcester led the



way ringing 5039 Grandsire Caters. The rest of us rang rounds and call changes, often 2 or 3 times and in different towers. We were proud to be part of such a National Ringing Event. Below are some pictures of ringing bands reg-istered on Bellboard with our fabulous Ringing Remembers recruits.

***Peal band, St Lawrence Society,
Towcester
Nov 11th 2018***



Ringing at St Nicholas, Gayton



Ringing at St Michaels, Bradden



Ringing at Holy Cross, Pattishall



Ringing at St Lukes, Cold Higham



Ringing at St Bartholomew, Greens Norton

Other events for the Branch include our regular inter branch practices. This year we rang at Easton Neston with Northampton Branch and Buckingham with North Bucks. It is always good to join forces with other Branches but sometimes numbers can be low at these events. This year we are focusing on supporting our local tower practice and local ringers.

Towcester Branch were unable to defend the Harry Wooding memorial trophy at the Guild 8 bell summer striking competition this year but still did well coming third.

In September Chris Bulleid had the inspired idea of applying to ring at Peterborough Cathedral. He managed to organise a trip to co-incide with a display all about Tim Peake which was an in-teresting extra reason to visit the Cathedral. Personally this visit was an amazing opportunity, even the climb up to the ringing chamber was quite an experience! About 15 Towcester Branch members were able to join some of the regular band and ring before the evening service. There was a range of experience present and so we were able to ring call changes on 12, a touch of Grandsire Cinques, Little Bob Royal and a touch of Stedman Cinques.



Tim Peake's suit and Spacecraft displayed in Peterborough Cathedral

Socially we had our annual fish and chip supper at Towcester this year. This was another opportunity for many of us to enjoy a ring on our own 12. We thank John and Penny Pardoe for organis-ing this event again. Our Annual Dinner was also a success, again at The Boat Inn in Stoke Bruerne. We had a very jolly time and lovely food plus were also able to raise £165 for Northampton Hope Centre. Ringing offers so many different opportunities and I have experienced a couple of these recently. Firstly I was lucky enough to attend the Masterclass in Birmingham. This opportunity came to me as I had completed all 5 levels of Learning to Ring Scheme. It was an amazing day and culminated with ringing on 16 at St Martins Cathedral.



So many experienced ringers gave up their time to give us this inspiring day - I felt privileged to be part of it. Panoramic view of everyone in the ringing chamber at St Martins Cathedral. Secondly I have been involved in a new ringing venture - that is the recording of a podcast all about bellringing! It's due to be released on the 28th February and there will be many familiar names and themes involved. You can find the podcasts on your podcast app or on line, using the search www.funwithbells.com.



Fun with Bells Podcast

As always please do come and visit us at any of our practices, which are all advertised on our website. www.towcesterbranch.org.uk

38

Nic Boyd

Wellingborough Branch

It is with great sadness that we must report the death of Ivor Dickin, tower



captain at Irchester for many years. His funeral service was held at St. Katherines in Irchester on November 27th and was well attended by ringing colleagues representing the Guild, Branch and from further afield as well as many mourners from the village. Quarter peals were rung in his memory at Irchester by members of Wellingborough Branch, at Roade where Ivor did much of his early ringing and at Higham Ferrers by the Saturday morning group.

At Earls Barton, some work has been carried out to treat woodworm in the tower, and the infamous belfry ladders have received some strengthening work. They have also recently recruited 2 new ringers who are making excellent progress and will soon be joining the service band.

Finally, congratulations go to Nigel Buckby who rang his first peal on 22nd October at Higham Ferrers - 5021 Grandsire Caters in 3 hours 17 minutes.

Thomas Coulter-Brophy - Wellingborough Correspondent

Public Relations Officer's Piece

The Central Council Public Relations Committee produces new materials to help you all to promote bellringing and there are details of this year's promotions. Any items notified from the Central Council are posted on the 'Latest Guild News' page of our website as soon as they arrive.

The two pop-up displays 'All about Bells' and 'All about Change Ringing' were used eight times in 2018. They are free and good talking points at fêtes, exhibitions and open tower days. Please book them ahead with me.

I sold 19 (21 in 2017) Guild shirts in 2018. If you and your band want to order one or a set, please see the details and order form at

<http://www.pdg.btck.co.uk/GuildShirts>. Delivery time varies, so let me know if you have deadlines and I will see what can be done!

Geoff Pullin
pro@pdg.org.uk

WEBSMASTER'S WITTERINGS

In 2018, the Guild website had
55,037 hits (46,045 in 2017):



Website Page	2018	2017	Website Page	2018	2017
Welcome!	15,144	13,837	Competitions	1,301	1,339
Towers	4,745	4,590	About This Guild	1,225	1,099
Latest Guild News	4,536	3,444	Constitution & Rules	1,093	958
Events	4,280	2,907	Bell Ringing	1,065	925
Bits & Bobs	2,856	1,641	Learning to Ring	1,061	1,041
Bell Maintenance	2,525	1,854	Guild Newsletters	1,000	930
Branch Officers	2,468	2,414	Inventory	953	897
Guild Officers	2,406	1,960	Making Progress	905	696
Obituaries	1,898	1,413	Guild Shirts	874	777
History	1,676	1,048	Data Protection	94	0
Bell Fund	1,585	1,235	Total visits	55,037	46,045
Peals & Quarters	1,347	1,040			

Thanks go to the five branches that include me in the circulation of regular emails to their members, from which I can glean updates in details for events.

Please help me keep up information on the website right up to date by notifying me of any changes to tower correspondents, practice nights and events as they happen.

gcsspullin@yahoo.com

Summer Festival 2018

Rothwell proved to be a very good location on September 22 when the vast church enabled everyone to gather in comfort out of the rain and cold wind. Alistair Donaldson had erected his Maplestead mini-ring in the south east aisle to provide an attraction with the tinkling penetrating the building. A splendid buffet tea provided by members of the branch was available in the north aisle and the meeting was held in the south west aisle.

The inter-branch eight-bell striking competition began at 3pm on the 2015 light eight which uses the 8th of the majestic ten as the tenor. The team leaders seamlessly assembled their bands at the bottom of the stairs at their pre-appointed time ready to ascend immediately the previous band finished ringing with the changeover executed in the ringing room. Seven teams competed with only Culworth, Peterborough and Rutland missing. We have not managed more than seven teams since 1994 - we keep trying for all ten! Last year Northampton set the precedent of arranging a prior ten-bell quarter peal with representatives of each branch. This year three branches could not find a rep., but Grandsire Caters was still successfully completed at Kettering with the Guild Master conducting.





Quarter peal band, left to right: Edward Buckby (4. Thrapston) Kevan Chapman (10. Wellingborough), Giles Willson (5. Northampton), John Stanworth (9. for Daventry), Simon Dixon (6. for Rutland and conductor), Jim Bence (7. Kettering), David Westerman (8. Guilsborough), Nick Elks (1. Peterborough), Celia Stanworth (3. Towcester) and Edward Groome (2. for Culworth at short notice)

The judge was Andrew Young from Oadby who was housed so as to hear the bells, unlike the majority who stayed comfortably inside the church, some making an occasional foray to the porch to listen! As he had another appointment, we held up our business meeting so that the results came first. Guild Master, Simon Dixon introduced Andrew, who made general comments about the high standard of striking and that he was glad that he had decided to mark hard using 0.5 fault for a blemish, 1 fault for an error and 2 for a bad change. There were few 1s and no 2s! He commented that team experience showed through with the speed of return to a regular rhythm after a trip. The results were as usual given in reverse order and accompanied by a certificate to each team leader:

Placed	Branch	Rang	Faults
7th	Guilsborough	6th	53
6th	Kettering	4th	42
5th	Daventry	5th	40
4th	Thrapston	1st	36.5
3rd	Towcester	2nd	32
2nd	Wellingborough	7th	22
1st	Northampton	3rd	20.5

Andrew, after being thanked appropriately for his time and judgement by Simon, left us to our other business.





Giles Willson, Northampton Branch Ringing Master was presented with the fine Harry Wooding Memorial Trophy for Northampton to display for the first time ever.



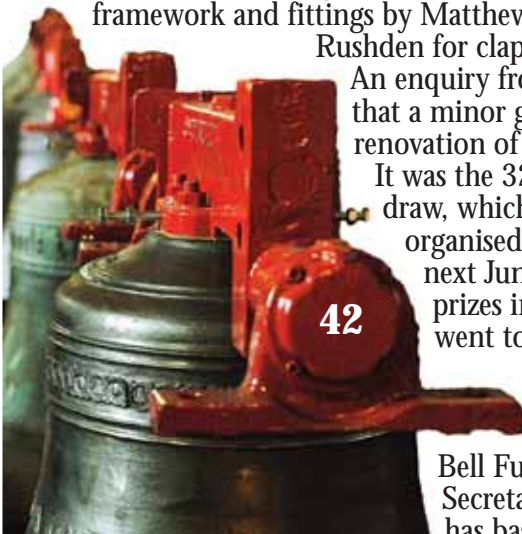
The Northampton band, left to right: Colin Brown, Giles Willson, Nicola Borman, Nick Parsons, Bridget Paul, Graham Paul (conductor), Grace Higson (mascot), Steve Borman, Jennie Higson.

An all encompassing vote of thanks for the permissions and the comprehensive arrangements for the day, masterminded by Sarah Bence and Helen Churchman, was made by Alison Byrnes from Thrapston and was endorsed with much applause. The Guild Treasurer, Chris FitzGerald, introduced himself to members, as he had been unable to attend the AGM in June when he was elected to the post in succession to Alan Marks.

Between 60 -70 members were present to agree Bell Fund grants: £1,600 to Great Oakley for augmenting the ring to five by the addition of two ex-buoy bells supplied through the Keltek Trust with tuning and additional framework and fittings by Matthew Higby and Company Ltd; £250 to Rushden for clapper renovation by John Taylor & Co. An enquiry from Thrapston reminded the Steward that a minor grant (of £110) had been agreed for renovation of four clappers.

It was the 32nd anniversary for the 100-Club draw, which Derek Jones has organised all that time, but wants to hand it on next June. Each anniversary is marked by three prizes instead of the monthly two and they went to 57 (Northampton Branch) £55.50, 37 (Kettering Branch) £27.75 and 24 (Guilborough Branch) £11.

The paper quiz to raise funds for the Bell Fund was distributed to Branch Secretaries to sell. This winter Derek Jones has based the quiz on bridges, viaducts and



aqueducts - £1 a sheet.

Ringling on Rothwell's ten and back 8 under the Master's direction continued until 7.45pm after which some 17 were invited to adjourn to the Conservative Club for commendably priced drinks.

GHP

Desborough ringer honours family bellringing heritage

On Sunday November 11th 2018 Desborough ringer Kim Beasley marked the centenary of the end of the First World War by ringing his first quarter peal.

Whilst Kim did not officially begin ringing as part of the Ringing Remembers Campaign, his story has a particular resonance with that campaign as he began ringing in response to the loss of one of the 1400 ringers who died in the First World War.

Private John Deacon joined the 1st Battalion Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) and was killed in action at Ypres Salient, Belgium on 23rd August 1917. He is commemorated at the Tyne Cot memorial in Belgium, on the war memorial in Desborough and on the Central Northants Association of Church Bellringers memorial in All Saints Church Northampton.

On Monday 28th August 2017 John Deacon's 80 year old nephew David and five other local ringers rang a half-muffled quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor to

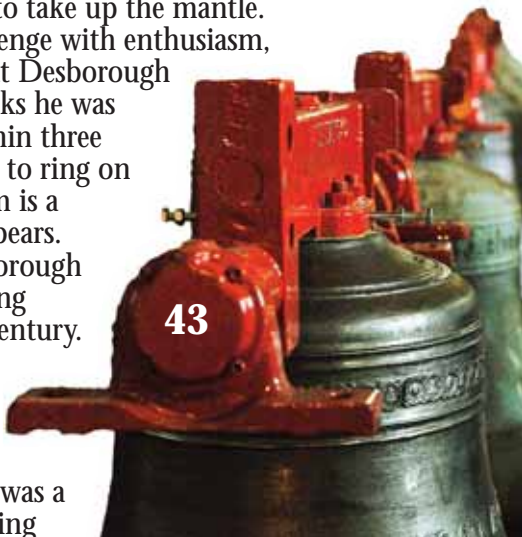
commemorate the centenary of John's death. Some dozen members of his family gathered at the war memorial to listen to the ringing. Talk turned to family history and particularly the family's long association with the bells but it was recognised that there were no ringers in the younger generations. It was then that 62 year old Kim Beasley decided to take up the mantle.

Kim has thrown himself into the challenge with enthusiasm, attending several practices each week at Desborough

and elsewhere. Within a few short weeks he was ringing rounds with the band and within three months he joined with the local Guild to ring on the 12 at Peterborough Cathedral. Kim is a worthy successor to his dedicated forebears.

John (Jack) Deacon was born in Desborough in 1894 into a family with a rich ringing history going back to the early 19th Century.

Links between the three local ringing families of Deacon, Tailby and Kilborn led to them jointly paying for a new bell when Desborough bells were augmented and rehung in 1923. John was a regular ringer at Desborough, even losing



part of an ear to an accident with a bell.

John was from a family of twelve, at least four of whom were ringers. Brother William is named on a peal board at Desborough from 1903. However, the most notable of the siblings was probably his sister Ada who married Ted Storey, another Desborough ringer. She is said to have learned to ring in 1919 to fill the gap in the Desborough band left by her brother. It is believed that she was the first female member of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bell ringers. A peal board in Isham church records that she was part of the first all-female peal band with the tenor turned in, rung for the Ladies Guild (Northampton Branch) and the Central Northants Association in 1922. Sister Amy Loake (Kim's grandmother) was also a dedicated local ringer with all seven of her children learning to ring including the aforementioned David.

Following the marking of the anniversary of Private John Deacon's death with a quarter peal, the family were inspired to also mark the anniversary of his non-ringing brother Arthur's death. On 16th August 2018 a recording of Desborough church bells was played in his honour at the communal cemetery at Ville-sur-Ancre, where he was laid to rest. That recording was of the quarter-peal rung in 1990 in his sister Amy's honour, following her death in 1988.

The family continues to intertwine with other local ringing families. Whilst Kim upholds the family tradition/duty/calling/obligation for the current decade, we look to the future generations and hope that the story will continue.

St Giles Church, Desborough, Northamptonshire

On Sunday 11th November 2018

A half-muffled quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles was rung to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War.



1. Elizabeth Marsh

2. Jane Marsh

3. Kim Beasley (first Quarter)

4. Michael Dainty

5. Bill Adcock (first as conductor)

6. Shane Ward

44



Guild 100 Club

57N is member number 57, Northampton Branch.

MONTH	MEMS	1ST	£	2ND	£	3RD	£
SEP	111	57N	55.50	37K	27.75	24G	11.10
OCT	116	66N	46.40	24G	11.60		
NOV	116	19W	46.40	5P	11.60		
DEC	116	103K	46.40	03N	11.60		
JAN	111	110W	44.40	57N	11.10		
FEB	111	135W	44.40	103K	11.10		

Thank you for supporting the Guild Bell Fund.

The winning numbers are published in the Newsletter and in the Latest Guild News of the Guild website.



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/>.

GUILD EVENTS 2019

30th Mar

Guild Ten-bell practice at Towcester

10.30am - 12.30pm

27th Apr

Guild Spring Meeting - *Peterborough Branch*

The festival and six-bell striking competition, open to all towers in the Guild. 2.30 - 3.30pm Nassington;

4pm Cotterstock 6-bell striking competition

8th Jun

Guild AGM - *Rutland Branch*

GUILD AGM: 2.30 - 3.30pm Belton; 3.30 - 4.30pm Uppingham

4pm Seaton; 4.30pm service; 5.30pm tea at Seaton village hall

6pm AGM; approx 7pm ringing Seaton

15th Jun

Ridgman Trophy - Anglian inter-Guild 10-bell striking competition at Norman Tower, Bury St Edmunds.

29th Jun

Guild Ten-bell practice at Kettering

10.30am - 12.30pm

21st Sept

Guild Summer Festival - *Wellingborough Branch*

The festival and eight-bell inter-branch striking competition at Rushden

30th Nov

Guild Ten-bell practice - venue to be confirmed

10.30am - 12.30pm

See Guild Website/Posters for more details

