

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS



Newsletter
March 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 : **30th August**
Please make a note of this date in your diary*

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

THE PRESIDENT'S PIECE

I can't believe that it's the end of February already. The branch AGM's were eventually completed in February as two had to be postponed due to bad weather on the 3rd Saturday. Wellingborough managed to hold theirs on that day but it was lucky that it was at Higham Ferrers so easy for many to get to. I went to 4 AGM's all interesting and different. The services at all 4 had been well thought out with a thoughtful message at each one. The music ranged from unaccompanied at Guilsborough (they have some excellent singers) to the full blast of the beautiful organ at Higham Ferrers. All four were fairly well attended but it's a pity more ringers don't take part in branch activities.

This year will not be as high profile for ringing as last but we can concentrate on our own towers and branches and try to train and improve more ringers - we do have a Royal birth in 2013 so hopefully some ringing for that.

At the end of my last 'Piece' I wrote about watching the Paralympics which I found very interesting and sometimes unbelievable. The performances were often amazing and I was so pleased that the bells rang for their marathon.

It is with regret that Shane Saunders has decided that he has to give up as Report Editor after this year. Many thanks Shane. If anyone feels this is the job for them please let me know.

Let's hope we have a good warm summer and lots of ringing.

Brenda Dixon.



News from the Branches

CULWORTH

BRANCH A.G.M,

Owing to a deep snow fall on Friday 18th, January, Martin Rowling took the decision to postpone the Branch A.G.M, which was due to be held at Culworth on Saturday 19th, January.

The A.G.M, was therefore re- scheduled to take place on Saturday 9th, February, also at Culworth.

Nearly thirty people gathered at St. Mary's Church, Culworth, most of whom braved the slightly long ropes to enjoy ringing on the easy going ring of five bells.

Following the Ringing the Service was lead by Graham White (much to his delight), with Martin Rowling reading the lesson from the King James Bible. Following the meeting a hearty tea was enjoyed in Culworth Village Hall, which was prepared by Jose Rowling and her helpers.

It was good to welcome three new members to the Branch, namely :- Catherine Fairbank, (Culworth), Mathew Fenwick (Brackley), and Angus Leigh from Aynho.

This year the President's cup was presented to Peter and Marlene Phillips from Aynho, for " Keeping on Keeping on " VERY WELL DESERVED!

The Guild was represented by Sue and Derek Jones, who came over to talk about the Guild news, and this year the standing Branch Officers were elected en-block.

Finally Tony Nash reported that Chipping Warden bells were back and ringing, and gave a big thank you to all the willing volunteers who had assisted with the project. Tony also commented that there was still a short fall in the Bells restoration fund, and the meeting agreed to send £500, from the Branch funds to Chipping Warden tower.

AYNHO NEWS.

Aynho tower were pleased to receive the president's cup, through Marlene and Peter. Also the Rev. Simon Dommett, has now been instituted in to the parishes of Aynho, Croughton,



Evenley, Farthinghoe, Steane and Hinton in the Hedges and has now joined the Tuesday night ringing group.

MORETON PINKNEY.

Moreton Pinkney have started to train a new recruit with a few more potential learners in the pipe line. Regular Sunday Service ringing still takes place in this tower.

LOIS WEEDON.

Regular Service ringing and practices are held here, with their three newish recruits (two have come back to ringing) progressing very well. Plain hunt, Grandsire and plain bob doubles are still rung on practice nights.

CHIPPING WARDEN.

Chipping Warden's tuneful 12 cwt ring of five bells were removed from their frame on the week commencing the 17th, September and taken up to the Loughborough bell foundry by transportation kindly provided by Keune & Nagel, who have a distribution centre in the parish. after being fitted with new headstocks and roller bearings, the bells were returned to Chipping Warden Church in mid December.

While the bells were away a keen band of local volunteers lead by Tony Nash, Geoff Stretton and Martin Rowling tightened and prepared the frame, which was fitted with new bell fittings ready for the return of the bells. Also the belfry and clock room were thoroughly cleaned and the floor re-enforced.

The service to re-dedicate the bells took place on Sunday 3rd, February at 10.00 a.m, during Tony Nash (Chipping Warden's tower captain) presented The Archdeacon of Northampton (Ven Christine Allsopp), with a bell rope, over which prayers of re- dedication were said. Following the service open ringing took place, as well a fine selection of delicious refreshments and drinks were served in the Church to celebrate this great achievement.

Although being a cold winter morning, more than a hundred people turned out, which included a good number of local ringers. Chipping Warden bells are now truly a great pleasure to ring.

BODDINGTON.

Regular Monday practices are still well attended at Boddington, with Margaret Moore and Peter Marsh progressing well. Plain hunt, Call Changes, Plain bob and rounds with two bells dodging are being achieved at most of the practices. The bells are still be rung for most Sunday Services also.



EYDON.

Eydon tower has six regular ringers at present, and is still maintaining regular Tuesday practice nights and Sunday Services Ringing. Eydon tower are sorry to be losing their very capable young ringer, Verena Jackson who will be going off to University in Slovakia in September to further her veterinary training.

Graham White

CHIPPING WARDEN CHURCH BELLS



BEFORE

For some years it had become noticeably apparent that the Bells of St Peter & St Paul were becoming increasingly difficult to ring.

Therefore in 2011 it was decided to begin the unenviable task of raising in the order of £26,000 to carry out remedial and upgrading work to address the situation.

The bells were all cast in 1674 by Henry Bagley at his Chacombe foundry, the first complete ring of bells he had undertaken. Just over a hundred years ago a new oak frame was installed by White's of Appleton, but using plain bearings.

Since then nothing had been done despite the wooden headstocks being riddled with woodworm and other fittings gradually deteriorating, not to mention the desperate need for mounting on ball bearings.



The main thrust of the appeal has been to target Trusts and Foundations sympathetic to the type of restoration we were looking to carry out. Direct appeals to the villagers have resulted in many generous gifts together with letters of support for our project and for these we are extremely grateful.

Both pubs have raised money and the WI donated the proceeds from one of their Christmas Carol evenings and the school pupils produced a fine project which included learning how bells are rung, watching ringing, seeing the bells taken from the tower and even a visit to John Taylor of Loughborough where the work was being carried out.

In order to keep costs down we provided local labour to assist the bell hanger and to clean and paint the frame and tower which had accumulated countless years of muck and cobwebs. We are also extremely grateful to Kuehne + Nagel for providing transport to and from the foundry.

On Sunday 3rd February 2013 the bells were dedicated by the Archdeacon and were officially rung for the first time.

The PCC have actively supported the appeal and have made a loan to bridge the shortfall so that the restoration could go ahead. We are still a small amount short of our target, so it's not too late to donate if you wish to.

Cheques to: "Chipping Warden Bell Fund" C/o Tony Nash, 4 Allens Orchard, Chipping Warden, Banbury, Oxon, OX17 1LX



AFTER



OPEN DAY

On Saturday 20th April from 1.30 pm onwards we will be opening the tower for anyone interested to view the refurbished bells, newly carpeted ringing chamber and see the view from the roof of the tower.

If you would like to try the fascinating art of Campanology, come along and talk to us and we can arrange a time for you to give it a go. It is, I promise you a very satisfying and at times frustrating pastime, but when it goes well there is no better feeling.

Tony Nash, Tower Captain

Graham White - Culworth Correspondent

DAVENTRY BRANCH

MEETINGS

Our September meeting was moved to Preston Capes because Everdon tower was still clad in scaffolding. Most of the 15 who made it came after ringing for one of five local weddings, but five visitors from the Coventry Guild helped. The

service was written and taken by Bernard Rapson with Penelope Rapson of Fiori Musicali, at the organ. We were treated to evening prayer with sung Magnificat, Nunc Dimittis, Psalm 150 and four hymns, of which one was 'new' ringers' hymn by Canon C C Cox, plus an address about Our Lady by Graham! The length of the service was compensated by the very efficiently served tea of quiches, salad and cakes by the Preston Capes ringers. Local ringer Donna West was elected a new member. A proposal to transfer a surplus £1,000 from the branch maintenance fund to the Guild Bell Fund was agreed swiftly. I reported that a new branch website has been opened at www.daventrybranch.btck.co.uk using the Community Web Kit provided free by BT. In the evening, the vanguard of the eventual 14, arrived at Easton Neston before the monthly service had ended. Refreshment was taken afterwards at the Red Lion, Fosters Booth.

In October, 28 rang at Flore and five didn't make it up the stairs. We welcomed the General Secretary bearing prizes from the Guild Summer Draw and Derek trying to sell Dove edition 10 books at a knock down price. The Rural Dean (until January 2013) Revd Ann Slater led our service incorporating the



celebration of Edward the Confessor. Two more new ringers' hymns were sung to well-known tunes played by Len Gulley using the organ to the full. There were 19 at Long Buckby in the evening with lots of plain hunt triples, a course of spliced Cambridge and Yorkshire and a large part of a course of Bristol. Afterwards 14 gathered in the White Hart, Flore for refreshment. Half-muffled Weedon bells hosted our November meeting with 27 ringing and 5 who didn't. We rang 1½ courses of Bristol, some nice Stedman Triples, Plain Bob Major and call changes amongst other touches. Several went outside to hear the compelling sound of the half-muffled ringing. The service was led by Graham White with a Remembrance theme incorporating Woodbine Willie of WW1 and St Maximilian Kolbe from WW2 (neither of whom seem to be related to Graham nor went to school with him!). Weedon's current organist, Brian, played the organ. Shepherd's pie was provided for tea by Jill Harvey with lots of cakes. Evening ringing took place at Pattishall for 14. London, three times and Cambridge, Ipswich, Double Dunkirk and Little Bob were rung once each but the Primrose refused to flower! The apres ring was held at the Eastcote Arms where two other groups of local ringers were also gathered and the innovation of watching the current table skittles match live and on the large tv screen was novel!

After a much better than average raise in peal of the eight bells at Whilton in December, a full course of Bristol S Major was rung in fine form. 24 rang and 13 didn't. Spliced Cambridge and Yorkshire S major went well once and not so well a second time but Rutland and some Stedman faltered without good cause! Chris Fitzgerald was clearly unhappy with the attention he had been given during the afternoon and created a spectacular sideshow whilst lowering the 6th! He was given further opportunity in the limelight when proposing the vote of thanks for turkey, stuffing and cranberry sandwiches, crackers and a good range of cakes. Afterwards came our annual carol concert, with nine carols and prayers led by the Rev Sue Kipling, interspersed with nine items performed by members, all arranged by Janet. Gwynneth again produced the colourful service sheet. Items included Jim White's Three Wise Dads and Miles playing two solos on the oboe (but nobody warned the organist that there were two!). The fact that Michael was on the organ was a surprise as he had told us he was away, but got his dates wrong! So one of the items was composed by Barbara to be read by someone else while they were supposedly



away ("Where have the Haightons gone?") and another explaining why they were not away (yet)! A gathering of nine, all of whom were at Whilton at 3.30pm prompt, finished off the evening in the White Heart in Flore.

The branch AGM attracted a low turn-out of 41 to Daventry in January, of whom 16 didn't ring and we were down to 16 including 3 visitors for evening ringing! After the service led by Team Rector Canon Michael Webber with Michael Haighton at the organ, we enjoyed a good tea master-minded by Hugh and Deena Johnson. We were pleased to elect four new members: Suzanne Benford (Byfield), Hannah Baker (Whilton), James Glover (Kilsby) and Mara Griffiths (Daventry) – all of whom rang on ten during the afternoon. The officers were re-elected and the branch committee augmented by Andy Timms.

The nice warm church at Barby in February hosted 29 who rang and 8 who didn't. The Rev Peter Beresford usually comes up with something of extra interest. This year we sang our regular hymn 'Unchanging God ...' and Peter had a Victorian photograph showing the composer of the hymn, the Rev Harry Wilder, who was uncle to Peter's mother-in-law who as a centenarian still lives with Peter. Brian Huntriss was elected as a new member for Kilsby.

QUARTER PEALS

Carole continued her ploy of arranging a quarter peal early in the afternoon for our Summer Festival band. She chose the back eight at Melton Mowbray as being similar to Oakham. A good quarter of Grandsire Triples acted as a prelude to winning the competition a few hours later for only our fourth time. The Harry Wooding Trophy was on public display in a show-case in Daventry Library together with bell ringing recruitment material from December 29 to January 26. Before Christmas it had a spell in the church itself but otherwise resides in Daventry ringing chamber.

The branch Sunday quarter peals have included three of Plain Bob Royal for Evensong, two at Daventry and one at Peterborough Cathedral, and Little Bob Royal half-muffled for Remembrance at Daventry, all conducted by Ian Willgress. Congratulations to Richard Hartley and Andy Timms who rang their first of Royal in September. Otherwise all other attempts, including Bristol S Major, Little Bob Royal and Kent TB Royal have come to grief!

A quarter peal of Yorkshire S Major, specially arranged by Brian Foley and conducted by Ray Watkin at Weedon on September 21, celebrated Stan Ruddlesden's 90th birthday (5 days later). There were celebrations at the Rugby Club on the



Sunday and a peal of Northamptonshire Surprise Major at Long Buckby by the South Northants Society including Colin Lee and Shirley McGill (Stan's daughter, also a former Badby resident) on the actual day.

On October 10, a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at Weedon, conducted by Phil Saunders, in memoriam of Gerald Litchfield, a Weedon member for many years, who died February 9, 2012.

On December 27, Staverton practice was replaced by a quarter peal of 6 doubles methods / principles. Congratulations go to Simon Creasey for covering this his first quarter peal and to Dominic Sinclair for first as conductor.

On January 30, a quarter peal of 8 doubles methods was rung at Litchborough containing three of the local band, conducted by Philip Saunders, in memory of Will Arnold who lived his whole life in the village. It was first away from cover for Sarah Hyatt, and most methods for Christine Rodhouse, Dominic Sinclair and Richard Hartley.

On February 22 Dorothy FitzGerald rang her first quarter on six bells, ringing the second to Plain Bob Minor at Upper Boddington, conducted by Gwynneth White. This was a good omen for the next day's branch quarter peal day, kindly organised again by Alison Willgress. What else is there to do when the temperature persists at freezing point day and night other than have a quarter peal day! Eight attempts produced six successes for 16 participants, with Yorkshire being added to Richard Hartley's list and with thanks to conductors Ian Willgress (4) and Jim White (2).

OTHER RINGING

The monthly better-8-bell practices held at Daventry on Tuesdays from 8pm have averaged 18 present. The committee pondered the results so far and decided to concentrate on striking Cambridge S Major better for the next couple of months and to omit Stedman and Rutland to make time.

The Deanery Advent Carol service at Daventry brought in 17 ringers with ten bells ringing all the time except for a half-course of Cambridge S Major.

There was good ringing from 9am for the Badby (Tuesday) and Staverton (Wednesday) school carol services. Byfield school carol services was also greeted with ringing. On Christmas morning three from Badby were contracted to make up Newnham's Christmas band and immediately afterwards those three comprised half the band at Daventry where Mara performed some excellent call changes for her first Christmas ringing.



Badby welcomed 2013 with the traditional 12 firings at midnight plus call changes and more firing. Our unusual escapade this year was to pull off and lower the bells in reverse rounds – it gets very challenging towards the bottom! Badby School Year Six began having one hour ringing training sessions on Tuesdays at 1pm within the curriculum. The headteacher has moved from Staverton School and remembers the 2006-9 sessions that we did there.

UP THE TOWERS

Richard Hartley reported in October the rusty top part of Kilsby bell frame had been wire brushed and Hammerite Smooth Red applied, as it was less completely to some timber, bells and the two creaking contractors themselves. One unsuccessfully tried to pin the other into a corner surrounded by wet paint on all exits but didn't quite manage it. The red-spotted contractors have also been seen at rope repair work at Everdon. Margaret Dean reported that rope guides were installed at Kilsby by Taylors on December 5 and are much appreciated. Richard reported in December that Everdon tenor crown staple had been tightened, and Braunston treble rope and guide had been modified to prevent unpredictable performance.

PEOPLE

Preston Capes ringers celebrated on practice night September 26 - the eve of their leader and tenor-raiser's first half-century. He seems to be happy to have made it!



Graham White celebrates half a century. Photo: Chris Woods



The branch dinner returned to the Barby Sporting Club on October 6. Christine's quiz of 'dingbats' for village names with bells in the branch kept 31 members and families puzzling before, during and after the meal. There were three with all correct answers (all sat in a row!) and Gwynneth White was drawn to receive the prize of chocolates, which I'm sure she shared! Staverton 'practice' held a Christmas dinner for 22 at

The Red Lion, Litchborough instead of practising on November 22 and thus could include all the regulars from Napton and Essex.

We hear that Charlotte Wilkins of Bugbrooke, now living in Brighton, is ringing with the Secretary of the College Youths. We were sorry to hear in November that Pam Eve Kilsby) had to be taken to hospital and that a partial diagnosis had her back in hospital in February. Alison Buck broke her arm in November. After a go at single-handed ringing, she preferred to wait till February for two-hands on. She didn't try her tuba with one hand! Since Christmas Hugh Johnson has not been able to get ringing at Daventry much due to the weather and some balance problems but his lieutenants Richard Waddy and John Neale have covered admirably.

Sheila Rowley of Braunston died of cancer on December 7. Sheila rang from an early age and was tower captain from 1978 till 1993. She was a regular performer in the series of branch quarter-peal days to raise money for the Cathedral bells between 1984 and 1992, including challenges at Church Stowe and Preston Capes, but more usually at Braunston and Staverton. After Peter Wenham moved to Braunston in 1992, Sheila swiftly recruited him to take over but remained on the branch membership list until 2002. Over 200 people were at the funeral, led by the Rev Sarah Brown (since then, promoted to Rural Dean). As instructed by Sheila, it was not a mournful affair, so the service was heralded by open ringing and diminishing rounds.

COLD BLAST

Jane Rands organised another Heyford three-day Jaunt to Lincolnshire at February half-term. We departed from home in deep snow but found no snow on arrival but 20C was the hottest it got. The 16 participants rang at Lea, Gainsborough, Upton and Willingham during the journey on Monday. The base was an extraordinary house that had clearly grown like topsy and now has 10 large bedrooms, right in the main street of Welton (Lincs!). Jane's renowned organisation had us sitting down to a home-made soup, pizza, and quiche tea, while the plumber soon worked his magic on the failed condensing central-heating boiler. Tuesday took in Scothern, Welton and Dunholme with the afternoon free to explore Lincoln or elsewhere. The local fish and chip shop provided 16 teas which our couriers, despite visiting the pub, delivered successfully and on time. On Wednesday, we packed and cleared out by 10am, ready for ringing at Ruskington, Silk Willoughby and Heydour. From the last tower the sleet decided to settle and we set off for home on decidedly worsening roads but arrived home to find our original snow was still deeper.

Geoff Pullin - Daventry Correspondent



GUILSBOROUGH BRANCH

In spite of the weather we had a good AGM at Guilsborough; not much change in the officers but much support for those in office.

Crick and Lilbourne bells are in back working order and we had a successful meeting at Crick in February. Geoff Brown would welcome enquiries for peals and outings.

Jan Alexander has done a splendid job rallying people and money raisers to see a project begun by her late husband John completed. Congratulations Jan.

A commemorative peal was rung at Lilbourne on 8th December, marking 250 years of the bells insulation and the 100th anniversary of a peal rung in 1912. Robin Wilson , David Westerman , Michael Fiander and Peter Fleckney were joined by Robert Crocker to mark the occasion.

Ken Rutland and Carolyn celebrated their Golden Wedding on Boxing Day. They enjoyed a celebration cruise but before they left a quarter peal was rung at Clipston. Branch members joined with Ken for this event.

Long Buckby are hoping to refurbish some of their bells this year.

The Bell in memory of Paul Armitage has been cast in Holland and will soon be in place at Marston Trussell

Dorothy Westerman - Guilsborough Correspondent.

KETTERING BRANCH

Since the last newsletter we have enjoyed a number of meetings.

In October an afternoon mini-outing took in Thrapston, Islip, Grafton Underwood, Cranford and Burton

Latimer followed by a light supper at Frances and Chris Pearson's



house, and attracted about thirty attendees.

In November fifty six members and friends enjoyed a superb hot supper and one of our ever popular and highly competitive beetle drives at Desborough, following on from a well-supported afternoon practice there.

In December we enjoyed a training session at Rothwell enlivened by festive refreshments.

In January we held our AGM at Burton Latimer, with thirty five members and visitors enjoying a buffet supper. At the meeting Jim Bence retired from the post of Chairman and Murray Coleman retired from the post of Secretary after many years of service to the Branch. Thanks are due to both of them for all they have done. Murray made a retiring gift to the Branch of a hand made gavel and block. We thank new officers and committee members for stepping forward to support the Branch.

Congratulations were extended to Shane Ward and Simon Pearce of Desborough and Oliver Rice of Rothwell who have all recently rung their first quarter peals. Congratulations are also due to Murray Coleman who, on 2nd November rang his three thousandth peal – details as follows.

No: 3000
Peterborough D G
Rothwell, Nthts. Holy Trinity
On Friday, 2 November 2012
In 3 hours and 7 minutes Tenor: 21 cwt
5040 Cambridge Surprise Royal

1 Robert J Crocker	6 Rupert A Clarke
2 Murray A Coleman	7 Robin Wilson
3 Robert E Dennis	8 Michael J Dew
4 Ruth Stokes	9 Christopher C Stokes
5 Michael D Fiander	10 R Kingsley Mason

Composed and Conducted by Murray A Coleman

On Saturday March 23rd 2013, we are looking forward to one of the three eliminators for this year's National 12-bell Striking Competition which will be held at Kettering. Teams from the



Ancient Society of College Youth (a national Society with headquarters at St Paul's Cathedral), the ringing bands from St Paul's Cathedral, York Minster, Bristol, Southwark Cathedral and Southampton will be taking part. The chief judge will be Linda Garton, who learnt to ring locally at Barton Seagrave, and now rings at Campton in Bedfordshire. The top three teams will go forward to the National Final to be held at Ripon Cathedral on June 22nd 2013.

If you receive this newsletter in time you will be most welcome to go along and hear some really good 12-bell ringing and refreshments will be available in the Church Hall throughout the day.

BURTON LATIMER

Practice night has been changed to a Thursday as this has proved to be a convenient night for our regulars and quite a few visitors that we have. It also enables some of us to visit other towers who practice on a Friday, some of whom support us regularly.

Our 5 learners are progressing nicely and are all ringing rounds and call changes on 8 for Sunday Services of which we have between 8 and 12 ringers each week.

On September 16th Rev'd Jeremy (Jez) Safford was instituted and inducted as Rector of Burton Latimer. A peal of Rushden Surprise Major was rung beforehand followed by service ringing by our local band.

We rang half-muffled twice on Remembrance Sunday and on Christmas Eve our bells pealed out over the town.

On December 4th Sophie, Amie, Alex and Katy, 4 of our learners were confirmed at Burton Latimer and came up to ring for 10 minutes prior to going into Church for prayers with our Rector Jez. Ringing continued on 8 until the service started.

At the Kettering Branch AGM, Amie, Alex and Katy Safford were elected as members of the Guild.

Chris Pearson Tower Captain.

Deb Wallis - Kettering Correspondent.

NORTHAMPTON BRANCH - no news this time

PETERBOROUGH BRANCH.

The Branch has held an eight bell practice on the first Friday of



each month at St.Kyneburgha's, Castor. They have been very well attended with up to twenty ringers of widely differing abilities resulting in methods ranging from Plain Hunt Triples to Bristol Surprise Major.

The Branch AGM scheduled for the end of January had to be postponed due to bad weather, however, it was able to go ahead on February 9th. Ringing began at Maxey, then on to Ginton for further ringing followed by a service led by Revd. Dr. Hilary Geisow. The hymns went with a real flourish thanks to Michael Keck on the organ. We retired to the Village Hall for a magnificent tea laid on by the local band. Thus fortified thirty plus members assembled for the business meeting chaired by Tony Evans. Only two branch officers changed, Sally Collop being elected as Secretary and James Thorpe as Ringing Master. The day was rounded off by further ringing at Ginton.

The Ringing Centre

During the past six and a half years we have had approximately 60 trainees come to us, less than half of this number required teaching from scratch the remainder came to get help in improving their bell handling, to gain confidence and to learn methods up to and including Cambridge Surprise Minor! In order for us to achieve these targets a band of dedicated trainers is required. For teaching methods we require a minimum of 6 experienced trainers – 5 to ring and one to stand with the trainee. Fortunately I have a pool of a dozen ringers who are prepared to help and cover for absences, etc.

The hard core of trainers that have been with me from the start include David and Pat Teall, Paul Read and Chris Burgess, Paul is often unable to make Saturday mornings so we supplement this core with Alex Dyer, Stuart Weston, Elaine Wilkinson, Mac Bell, Geoff Davis, James Thorpe and, a recent addition, Nick Elks.

When we first started the tower produced a good supply of replacement stays and we did break a few – no more than half a dozen and we do replace them ourselves. To pay the tower for the breakages and general wear and tear of the bells and equipment plus heating and lighting, we collect a 50p levy from all attendees each week, this is paid direct to the tower. We may require a major up-date of sensor and computer equipment in the future and would require funds to pay for this.

On Saturday, 26th January, we held a 'Train the Trainers' coarse run by a Sue Fallah from Lincolnshire with three trainee mentors and six trainee teachers. Unfortunately Stuart Weston - one of



the trainee mentors - was stricken with flu and was unable to attend. I submit an annual report to the Central Council (who provided initial funding when the centre was established). In recognition of its continued success the ringing centre has received a certificate of recognition from the Central Council which has been framed and mounted in the ringing chamber.

Tony Evans

Benefield

The ringers at Benefield have enjoyed ringing the bells of St Mary's for some special occasions over the last few months. Charlie Parkhouse experienced ringing the bells half-muffled for the first time for Remembrance Sunday service. The team also rang for carol concerts in December and early Christmas morning! Practices continue on Monday evenings. Visitors welcome.

Tina Brimley

Bulwick

The last few months have seen our band spread to the four winds on holidays which has left us with a few gaps for service ringing but our practice nights have not suffered due to our regular visitors. Most Wednesday evenings see a group of 10 to 15 assembled and we range from rounds for our young recruit to spliced surprise for some of the older hands.

Fourteen of us enjoyed a very sociable evening at the Queen's Head in November. After an excellent meal and plenty of drink Sue and Derek presented their awards for the year in a variety of categories not unlike the Oscars. The trophies took the form of gold wrapped chocolate reindeer with bells around their necks!

Pat Teall

Glington

Glington has had a few months of mixed fortunes. A major event in the church calendar meant that ringing was suspended for a time at the end of September whilst the main floor was replaced.

The pews were removed and the entire floor treated.

Fortunately, we were able to continue ringing at St. Mary's Peterborough as well as at Barnack, so few practices were missed. Glington's support for Barnack Tower over the last few months has now ceased but was deemed a great success while it lasted. Unfortunately, during this time we were unable to host a



band of ringers from Shrewsbury, although they have promised to return at some date in the future. We did have a visiting group from Great Gransden however, who rang our bells at the end of October.

On Saturday 24th November there was a service of remembrance for Clifford and Rene Simpson at St. Benedict's Church, Glington. The bells were rung before and after the service at the request of Cliff's son David. We invited all who had been brought to ringing as a result of the bells at Glington, and also all who had enjoyed the bells since their installation, including Peter and Jan Marshall who sent the following reply from Australia:

"Cliff was, of course, a driving force behind the project to reinstate the Glington Bells in working order and he worked tirelessly to bring it to a conclusion. I suspect he regretted not being able to be a bell ringer himself! Without his efforts Jan & I – and several more – would never have become bell ringers and we would have been the poorer for it." Words echoed by many that day. Since then, a succession of health problems in the band has sometimes made ringing difficult; however, we have been much encouraged by the swift progress of our newest ringer, Sue, helped in no small part by her attendance at Castor Ringing School. Alex, our youngest ringer has proved to be a stalwart member of the band; as ever we are also grateful to ringers from Werrington, Stanground, and of course, Deeping St. James.

At the moment we are busy preparing for the branch AGM - postponed from January - which will take place in Glington. Who knows what the New Year will bring? New members, new skills and new ideas? We hope so and will always welcome you at our practice nights on Thursday evenings.

Tower Secretary

King's Cliffe

Our bells came back in the middle of October and, with the kind help of our band of volunteers, were able to ring out in all their glory for the Benefice Communion Service on November 4th. The sound has been greatly improved by the re-tuning and the handling has been totally transformed. It is now possible for youngsters and ladies to handle them and it will be much more possible to train learners. We are looking forward to welcoming visitors to experience their joys.

Over Christmas the local band were supplemented from other local towers in order that we could ring for all the Christmas



services and to welcome in the New Year. Since then the local band have rung for almost all the Sunday services and are maintaining a healthy practice on the second and fourth Monday of each month.

Pat Teall

Nassington

We are still maintaining our Monday practice, on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays of each month, thanks to ringers from other towers. Both our two learners, that have been ringing now for over twelve months are progressing very well. We are now able to ring for most of our Sunday services. Also, there are two new learners who are attending the Saturday morning training sessions at Castor. We still have an on-going situation with our bell frame which I commented on in the last newsletter. Since then, we have had a second engineer's report from the Whitechapel bell foundry. This was not quite as serious as the first and he said that we can carry on ringing the bells but there is work that has got to be carried out in the near future. This is now being negotiated with Whitechapel and will be carried out as soon as agreements and funds have been reached. Our rope guides we had fitted last year are very good and most helpful to learners.

We would still welcome anyone that would like to join us for our practice sessions.

Keith Underwood

Oundle

By kind permission of the church authorities at St. Peter's, Oundle, the first peal for 19 years was rung on Christmas Eve, prior to a Nativity Service.

Those who have rung at Oundle will know that the bells are quite loud outside so we were very grateful to be allowed to attempt the peal. The bells are quite tricky to ring, but after a false start of just over a minute which ended when the tenor chiming hammer smashed the treble stay when it struck mid-day, a good peal was rung.

Peterborough Diocesan Guild

St Peter's, Oundle

On Monday, 24 December 2012 in 3hr21min

5088 Bristol Surprise Major composed by D F Morrison

1 Paul M Mason 2 Susan E Marsden 3 Richard I Allton



4 Richard C Smith 5 Christopher N McCarthy 6 Richard A Smith
7 Michael G Purday (Conductor) 8 Andrew B Mills
Rung for Christmas and to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee.

Sue Marsden

Peterborough Cathedral.

This has been a busy period for the Cathedral ringers with the ringing for special services during Advent and Christmas. We coped well. We have 30+ people in the Cathedral Company, many of whom have another home tower as well. So we are always pleased to welcome visitors and have had Evensong ringing by the Daventry, Peterborough, and Wellingborough branches, and by ringers from the Wimbledon area.

We try and ring two quarter peals a month which over this period have been Plain Bob Royal and Surprise Major, usually with a developmental theme. On practice night (Monday) we ring Yorkshire S Royal, and Grandsire Caters/Cinques, and sometimes Stedman Cinques and we try London S Royal. As the mother church of the Diocese it is sometimes a bit lonely here on an outer edge; we wouldn't be offended to see people from across the diocese from time to time.

Robin Rogers

Peterborough, St. John's

Within the latter half of 2012 an attempt was made to restore the Carillon to working order that has not been performing for approximately 10 years. All went well and it worked over and over and over again as the switch to stop it was not functioning correctly, therefore, in order to conclude the event, we are still waiting for a switch to be made and look forward to it in 2013.

Congratulations go to Colin Weld our Steeple Keeper and Carole who married in Venice on 9th November.

We have had several visitors and guest bands on week days, Sundays and practice nights. It has been delightful to have a few extra hands to enhance our ringing which created useful variation.

On March 15th we will be ringing the annual quarter peal for Matthew Wyldbore day. This year it has been decided to ring Grandsire Triples in collusion with the central towers from Peterborough making it a combined Peterborough event with



Robin Rogers, Ringing Master from the Cathedral as captain. The ringers include the tower captains from St John's, St Mary's and St John the Baptist in Stanground plus other St John Peterborough ringing members. The intent is to let the people of Peterborough know more about bell ringing and encourage new recruits so we are targeting BBC Cambridge and the Peterborough Telegraph. No pressure there then!

On the whole we have had a very successful year of Sunday ringing starting 10:20am and at our practice nights on the 2nd Wednesday of the month which everyone is welcome to. Please see our website for more information <http://petbells.oundledeanery.org.uk/peterborough-stjohn>

Peterborough, St. Mary

Ringin in 2013 was mainly focused on our Jubilee Challenge which was to ring 60 quarter peals before the end of the year of our Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This was achieved on Thursday 13th December and we celebrated with a party at the Conservative Club. We were joined by some of the ringers and their partners who had helped in the achievement. 34 ringers had taken part and 26 different methods/variations were rung.

We have also managed to fit in social activities and outings. We had our usual Chinese meal out and our D.I.Y. meal at the Christies. We have been to the Greyhound Stadium and had our annual ringing weekend in Somerset.

We would like to congratulate Tom Stevenson on ringing his 1st quarter peal with us and also Geoff Davis who has been ringing at St Mary's for 60 years (although he missed our final Jubilee celebration because of a fractured thumb – he assures us that he was sober at the time of the fall!!)

Joan Parker

Pat Teall - Peterborough Correspondent

RUTLAND BRANCH - no news this time

THRAPSTON BRANCH

2012 has proved to be a very eventful year with many highlights. Our year started with a very merry group ringing in the New Year



at Woodford. A very successful A.G.M followed a few days later when a busy and varied ringing programme was agreed for the Year, including continuing our very successful 8-bell advanced practices at Woodford.

One of our early events in the year was the opportunity to ring at the Cathedral, for many of the members this was a completely new experience, both in visiting the Cathedral itself, finding the way up to the Ringing Chamber and ringing on the higher number of bells. The Peterborough Guild was very complimentary about our standard of ringing and we hope to arrange another visit in the near future.

Although St. Peter's Church at Raunds was pronounced structurally challenged, fortunately the Tower and Bells were deemed unaffected for ringing .

Unfortunately Ringstead St.Mary's is , for the foreseeable future un-ring able due to corrosion in the Frame. However you win some and loose some, so it was a pleasure to welcome back the Bells of St. Nicholas. Islip. The bells have been completely refurbished and are just awaiting their new ropes. The bells were re-dedicated in November by the Bishop of Peterborough in a very up-lifting service and have been rung for weddings and branch meetings. All Hallows at Hargrave also underwent a 'Belfry Move' with a new Ringing Chamber and Balcony being installed. We hope to be able to meet there as a Branch in the New Year.

May brought a very successful Ringing Outing to the wilds of Rutland Water with, of course, a celebration meal at one of the local watering-holes. Our thanks to Len Hallifax for organising this.

In June, along with most of the Country, Royal Jubilee Fever took over the Branch. In a feat of organisation we managed to have a group of ringers, both home tower and branch members ring at nearly every Tower within the Branch. It was truly a memorable day and something to be long-remembered. Special Thanks must go to Rachel and Richard for organising the Tower Lists and for their superb hospitality at the Post – ringing Barbecue; also to Chris and Frank Jenkins for their back-up support and Dennis Thrift for producing the commemorative Certificates.

July brought more celebrations with our Summer barbecue at Ringstead, wonderfully hosted by Chris and Frank. Then some of the more hardy ringers joined in the National Olympic Ringing on a glorious summer morning. We were heard across the Nene Valley from Woodford to Thrapston. Again another special event to remember.



September brought the Summer Festival Striking Competition and although we didn't win, all the ringers were very pleased with being placed fourth. A lovely tea and good company completed a very pleasant day's ringing.

As our Ringing Year draws to a close the Thrapston branch is very much in good heart. Several of our members including Ted and Diane and Chris and Frank are now joining the ranks of ringers who have retired. Congratulations to them all and we hope they have many happy ringing times ahead.

We are regularly welcoming new and old ringers and visitors to our meetings, although like many branches, we would like to see our numbers increase. With continuing practice our standard of ringing, especially striking and method ringing is improving and as a Branch we look forward to 2013 being another very successful Year of Ringing.

Pictures from Thrapston Branch Events

Olympic Ringing 2012



Weldon Meeting 2013



AGM 2013 - Woodford



HARGRAVE TOWER

The Bells in Hargrave tower are now rung every Thursday evening for practice and on Sunday morning.

The new ringing room now has heating and good lighting. Much better than being on the ground floor.

As we only have four Bells, ringing is limited to Called changes and three and four bell plain hunting.

This Christmas we rung Churchyard Bob from the book by Chris Higgins' book of three bell methods.

If you only get three or four ringers on a Sunday morning then this is the book you need.

Stedman singles on three bells is a good base to learn the front work of Stedman. New ringers are always welcome.

Dennis Thrift



Alison Byrnes - Thrapston Correspondent

TOWCESTER BRANCH.

The Branch was conspicuous by its absence in the last Guild Newsletter, not for lack of activity but more due to confusion as to who was Publicity Officer that year!

Being new to the area and a relative novice ringer (having rung previously in Upper Dean, Bedfordshire - 5 when we could find enough ringers), it has been a great privilege for me to encounter the skills, experience and enthusiasm of the Branch teams. Every tower has been very welcoming and supportive of my efforts and I would encourage any other ringers (or potential ringers) moving into the area to make contact.

The Branch outing in September took us to the Ely and Huntingdon districts of the Ely Guild, starting at St Andrew, Oakington (6) and then to St Mary the Virgin, Over (8), St Mary's, Huntingdon (8) and finishing at St Mary, St Neots (10). Although a bit on the low side, there were enough present to ring



a range of touches from rounds and called changes through to Littleport Little Surprise Royal at St Neots. The day was rounded off with a meal in Eaton Socon arranged by Richard Yates. Many thanks to the local tower captains for making these visits possible, and to John Stanworth for organising it.



Towcester Branch Outing September

A six bell striking competition was held in October at Potterspury. The Jack Green Trophy for most improved band was awarded to Ashton/Roade and the Yates-Kingston Trophy was won by Greens Norton. Following the competition we all decamped to Whittlebury Village Hall for the autumn meeting and an excellent fish supper and the Annual Quiz. Tradition dictates the winners of the

wooden spoon will be next year's quizmasters, so we look forward to Potterspury's questions!



Ashton/Roade, The Jack Green Trophy Winners

October's event was joint ringing at St Peter & St Paul, Olney (10, recently restored and enhanced) in the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocese. A total of about 20 ringers performed a range of work from rounds and called changes to Surprise Royal for the more experienced. The simulator ensured the local community were not disturbed!

This was followed in early December by the very well supported Annual Branch Dinner, which was billed as the 50th, but since the Branch was formed in 1930 it is not entirely clear how this was counted. 67 members, partners and friends attended at the Saracen's Head in Towcester. This venue is now



being extensively refurbished and hopefully they will retain the decorations in the function room - chandeliers made from the wheels of the former Towcester ring of six, and other parts of the inn are made from the frames.

Speeches were given by Rev Marion Reynolds (Pattishall) and Richard Stanworth, with a response from the visitors by Derek Jones. Entertainment included a rendering of Psalm 98 composed for the occasion and performed by Chris Bulleid accompanied by Michael Tinsley, and a rendition by all of Twelve Days of Christmas.

The AGM day on 26th January began with afternoon ringing in St Mary, Easton Neston (8), which was a challenge to get to after the snow in the previous days which had compacted to ice on the lane into the estate. Fr Ben Philips led the ringers' service after which the company transferred to the Towcester Chantry House, dating back to the 15th century, for an excellent tea provided by members of the Branch. At the AGM itself the committee reported a membership of almost 80 ringers and the restarting of practice ringing in Paulerspury and Potterspury.

To round off the day we walked over to St Lawrence, Towcester to experience the magnificent ring of 12 – with myself trying not to panic at the sight of so many sallies! As always, the crew was very patient and encouraging. Ringing included rounds and called changes, Stedman Cinques, Little Bob and Cambridge Surprise Maximus.

Full details of the people and branch activities can be found at any time on the

Towcester Branch website www.towcesterbranch.org.uk

Jonathan Stuart - Towcester Correspondent

WELLINGBOROUGH BRANCH

The branch must begin by sending some belated birthday wishes to Audrie Samson of Orlingbury who rang the treble for a quarter to celebrate her 82 birthday. Well done.

23rd December 2012 also marked another milestone when Brenda Dixon and Alan Marks from Rushden rang a quarter. Both reached their 1000th quarter at that one. Congratulations on this achievement and best wishes for many more successful



quarters.

On the subject of successful quarters, whilst I am preparing this article on Sunday 24th February, a selected group from the branch are attempting a quarter of Bob Royal at Peterborough Cathedral prior to evensong.

I was going to say let's hope they are successful but before I got to the end of the article I had a telephone call to state that the attempt was unsuccessful. The participants still enjoyed the opportunity to ring at the Cathedral again and the remaining time was used to ring Grandsire Caters and Steadman Triples.

The many visitors to Higham Ferrers on the last Saturday of each month are not only able to purchase from an excellent selection on the Farmers Market but they are able to hear the bells. The tower has been ringing quarters for the majority of these markets which has raised their profile and hopefully enhanced the money raised. The towers continues to organise a variety of events and to date £48,000.00 has been raised with the final cost being somewhere in the region of £81,000.00. Progress is being made and the P C have granted permission for the current 8 bells to be rehung in a new frame and a further 2 trebles added. Final approval from the D A E should have been granted by the time you read this article and various applications made for grants in order for the work to commence.

One of the few social events held by the branch is the Quiz at Christmas which always seems to be a very popular event. This again took place at Earls Barton where the facilities are excellent. This time there were 8 teams competing with the number in the team varying from 2 to 5. As usual competition was fierce amongst the towers and sexes; and the subjects were wide and also topical which included the Olympics and Paralympics. As is the norm, the questions were expertly prepared by Brenda and John Dixon with Alan Marks ensuring that all was correct for scoring. The team The

Four Pennies from Rushden were declared the winners at the end of the night having scored 100 out of 100. Possibly they could try The Chase on the television in future; therefore making the rest of us look a little brighter if they were unable to make the quiz later this year. Participants were able to console themselves in an excellent buffet supper prepared by Brenda Dixon and a variety of scrumptious puddings provided by the committee.

The A.G.M. took place in January at Higham Ferrers during the worst weekend of the winter when there had been very heavy snow falls. The bravest of the brave turned up and totalled 29,



and for those who braved the icy conditions their reward was plenty of ringing and an excellent hot supper.

The meeting welcomed 20 new members the majority being of school age; which included 9 from Yardley Hastings and 6 from Bozeat. The committee positions were elected on block with one alteration that of joint ringing master as John Berresford had stepped down. Harry Curtis agreed to join Kevan Chapman as joint ringing master.

Due to the number of young ringers joining and their attendance at training sessions, much discussion has taken place since the young ringers session last year to ensure that every opportunity is maximised to progress these young people. It has been decided that a further young ringers session will be held this year possibly at two towers to cater for the numbers with a minimum skill level for each group and possibly restricting the numbers to ensure adequate ringing is available to them within a skilled band. A sub committee is looking at the organisation of this and towers should receive information shortly. The branch continues to hold monthly surprise minor and major practices, together with the afternoon or evening training sessions.

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

Visitors and friends are most welcome to come to all or a few, for the entire practice or part. Look forward to seeing you there.

Tanya Clayton - Wellingborough Correspondent

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER'S PIECE

WEBSITE

I have been setting up a new Daventry Branch website using the community web kit provided free by BT. The same facility could be used for a new Guild website and I shall be discussing this at the General Management Committee which will have taken place before you read this. We will also be talking about better communications around the Guild, and hopefully you will learn the outcomes sooner than in the past!

GUILD SHIRTS

Orders and sales have now reached 182 (December 2012). The 2013 prices for Guild shirts are staying the same as for 2012. The prices and the order form are available on the Guild website



www.pdg.org.uk at <Guild Shirts>. Order deadlines are April 5, May 25 and August 24, 2013. These dates will allow delivery via the Guild Spring Festival, AGM and Summer Festivals. Big orders can usually be obtained outside these deadlines, especially if they all need the same name embroidered below the badge.

YOUNG LEE

Peter Clifton reported that our former Master, Colin Lee with Zoe and Simon (aged 6 weeks) returned for a Long Buckby practice on November 26. "Simon was very contented but made the point that he was not going to be drowned out by the rattle of 8 bells. All were in good form".

ST GEORGE'S DAY

In December all guilds were circulated by Libby Alexander for Ringing for England. She asks for our support to ring on St George's Day, Tuesday, April 23 at 6pm or whatever you wish and for however long you wish. Whatever you choose to do please let me know or contact the campaign directly on <http://www.ringingforengland.co.uk/contact-us/>



IS CAMPANOLOGY THE NEXT WORKOUT CRAZE?

Would you believe that someone has convinced the Churches Conservation Trust (who care for St Peter's Northampton and Deene with ringable bells in this diocese) that by promoting the bells in their churches as a fitness opportunity, the buildings will be used and appreciated more.

Have a look at <http://www.visitchurches.org.uk/ringforfitness/> and <http://www.visitchurches.org.uk/Assets/Eventsdocuments/RingforFitnessWorksheet.pdf?1352902499>

SUMMER FESTIVAL

Bell-ringers from across the diocese met at Oakham on Saturday, September 15 for the inter-branch 8-bell striking competition on the eight majestic bells of All Saints' Church in proper old-fashioned September weather. Our Secretary Sue Jones organised the event as we had a vacancy for a Guild Master. Rutland Branch was the host for this year and rang first so as they could deal with the buffet teas in the modern parish hall. It was a pity that only six branches managed to produce a team. Perhaps one day all ten will appear. Each team rang in turn for a five minute session to get used to handling the bells after which a



test piece of 160 - 224 changes were judged.

Whilst the results were worked out and the judges had tea the usual brief business meeting encompassed: the 21st anniversary 100-Club draw, a comprehensive vote of thanks, distribution of quiz sheets and newsletters and approval of Bell Fund grants of £560 to Raunds (towards ceiling bosses, rebushing clappers and new stays), £200 to Edith Weston (repaint bellframe and re-bush clappers) and £400 to Lyndon (repaint bell frame, refurbish roller boxes and wheels and replace two headstocks). The Summer Prize Draw, which usually takes place at this meeting was postponed to the following week because the organiser had earlier owned up to putting the later date on the tickets! Matthew Jones from Nottingham was the judge with the assistance of Emma Chapman. He gave a commentary on speed and characteristics for each team.

<i>Drawn</i>	<i>Branch</i>	<i>Rang</i>	<i>Peal speed</i>	<i>Faults</i>	<i>Res</i>
1	Rutland	Plain Bob Triples	3hr 30m	66½	5
2	Thrapston	Call changes	2hr 57m	41	4
3	Daventry	Grandsire Triples	2hr 57m	27	1
4	Northampton	Call changes	3hr 5m	72	6
5	Wellingborough	Grandsire Triples	3hr 10m	36½	3
6	Kettering	Yorkshire S Major	3hr 31m	35	2

The judge said that the winners, Daventry Branch, started as if they meant to beat the bells into submission and succeeded in doing so! Carole Pullin received the Harry Wooding Trophy to display in Daventry tower and Daventry Library during the succeeding year. The trophy was donated to the Guild in 1986 and comprises a fine model of a bell in a wooden frame in a display case. This is only the fourth time that Daventry have won the competition in 27 years. The branch ringing master drives and hones her team with regular quarter peals (including one of Grandsire Triples at Melton Mowbray a couple of hours before the competition), more often than not, conducted by Ian Willgress.

The splendid day (I would say that, wouldn't I?) ended with general ringing at Uppingham under the direction of our President and refreshment at the Crown Hotel.





The winning Daventry Branch team: left to right – Carole Pullin, Geoff Pullin, Gwynneth White, James White, Alison Willgress, Ian Willgress (conductor), Justin Baker and Andy Timms.



The host team from the Rutland Branch: left to right – Louis Totaro, Peggy Jennings, Araminta Mathias, David Couldwell, Monica Spence, Jack Atkinson, Richard Beadman and Alan Wordie

Geoff Pullin PRO



100 CLUB

Month	1st Prize	Number	2nd Prize	Number	3rd Prize	Numbers
<i>Sept 12</i>	47.50	127	23.75	05	9.50	107
<i>Oct 12</i>	39.20	15	9.80	90		
<i>Nov 12</i>	39.20	66	9.80	45		
<i>Dec 12</i>	38.80	124	9.70	53		
<i>Jan 13</i>	38.80	53	9.70	36		
<i>Feb13</i>	38.00	22	9.50	95		
<i>Mar 13</i>	35.20	09	8.80	07		

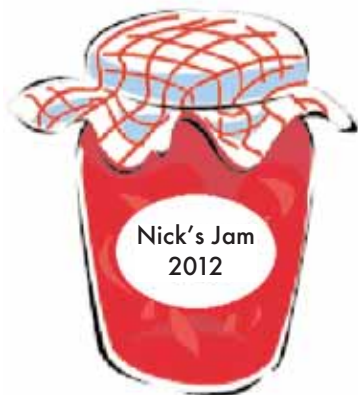
Prizes are based on monthly membership, with half the subscriptions going to the bell fund. There are three prizes in September to bring the total prizes to below 50% (47.1%) as required by the gaming licence.

Subscription is £12 per year, applications to go via the branch representatives. As can be seen, the membership has increased in January thanks to the efforts of the representatives.

Derek Jones.

Nick's Jam

Thank you to everyone who bought Nick's jam and marmalade last year -you donated £116.70 to the Guild Bell Fund. Also thank you to those that donated fruit, sugar and saved empty jars.



Gift Aid and Charities

Gift Aid is an easy way to help Charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) maximise the value of their donations with no extra cost to you.

Thank you all who have signed a Gift Aid declaration form for the Guild, which enables us - being registered Charity - to claim money from the Government. Charities and CASCs can reclaim tax from HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) on the 'gross' equivalent of donations, their value before tax was deducted at the basic rate, currently 20 per cent. For every £1 donated, charities and CASCs can claim an extra 25 pence from HMRC.

We can claim tax back on personal donations and subscriptions, and subscriptions paid by a parent or legal guardian for a child who is under the age of 18, providing the donor has paid enough Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax to cover that being reclaimed.

As from 1st January 2013 the wording on declarations has changed and all new declarations must now be on forms with the new wording. Those people who already have a declaration form in force need not fill out a new one but you must be aware of the new wording, which follows:-

"I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities (including churches) or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008."

Branch treasurers have new declaration forms but please remember to notify the Guild Treasurer if you:-

- a) Want to cancel an existing declaration.
- b) Change your name and/or home address.
- c) No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

Thank you all.

Alan J Marks Guild Treasurer



Useful Books for Ringing

The following is a list of publications which should prove useful in any tower with ringers at an early or developing stage. See the notes at the bottom for details of how to obtain them.

A Tower Captain's Handbook David Parsons £2.00

Advice on: organisation, recruiting, teaching bell handling, running ringing and maintenance, with appendices on call changes and touches of Plain Bob, Grandsire and Stedman

The New Ringer's Book John Harrison, Catherine Lewis £9.50 157pp

Comprises 12 chapters and a glossary, including a large number of illustrations in full colour, to meet the needs of new ringers in the 21st century.

Beginners' Grandsire A. Waddington £1.00

Beginners' Plain Bob A. Waddington £1.00

Ringing Circles - a guide to basic methods Chris Adams £2.50

A guide to learning twenty four methods, progressively arranged, from Plain Bob Doubles through Cambridge Surprise Major. Includes for each method: table of numbers for plain course (blue line emphasised); circle of work; tables for bobs and singles; what to do at the next lead end (emphasising learning by place bells); and useful tips.

Towards Better Striking Roger Smith & Malcolm Tyler £1.50

Short leaflet giving basic advice on the importance of good striking and how to achieve it. Covers relative importance of visual, aural and rhythmic approaches to striking. Describes common problems.

Teaching Tips Pip Penney £3.50

With many illustrations in full colour, including sections on Teaching Skills, Coaching Tips, Initial Bell Handling, Problem Solving Tables and Learners' Early Practices from Call Changes through Plain Hunt to Bob Doubles

Teaching from Rounds to Bob Doubles Wilfrid Moreton £1.50

A structured scheme for progressing beyond initial training to develop method ringing ability and the associated additional bell control skills.

Will you Call a Touch Please, Bob £2.50

A Beginner's Guide to Conducting Peter Hurcombe

Detailed guidance including: preparation, observation bells, calling positions, standard touches and practical tips. Appendices on good striking, correcting mistakes, transposition, useful touches.



Splicing Bell Ropes Illustrated £3.50

A step-by-step guide to splicing bell ropes with 31 illustrations in full colour.

*Dove's Guide for Church Bell Ringers to the Rings of Bells of the World (10th Edition)

John Baldwin, Tim Jackson & Ron Johnston (2012), £15. A5 format 300+pp (2012)

Details of churches and other buildings with rings (not chimes) of 3 or more bells, tenor weight 0.5cwt or more, including: number of bells; tenor weight and note; practice night; and National Grid reference. Also a complete set of 'traditional' Dove appendices including: lightweight rings (under 0.5cwt); lost and transferred rings; carillons; notable bells; and many more.

These books are available from Central Council Publications.

- Cash with order to: CC Publications, Mrs B Wheeler, 2 Orchard Close, Morpeth. NE61 1XE, UK (cheques payable to Central Council Publications)

or

- Email tobarbara@ccpublications.plus.com and pay by Bacs: NatWest Bank, Sort Code 56-00-33, Account number 53654293

All prices include UK p&p.

Deduct 10% for UK orders value £30 and over; 20% for £60 and over.

No discount on items marked *, (Dove's Guide)

Derek Jones.

PEAL BOARDS

I have some surplus oak faced board for sale which is ideal for peal boards. I can either just supply the board cut to size or completely finish as the sample below. Please contact me regarding size, pricing or for further details. Chris Pearson, Tel :- 01536 420822 or

Email :- christopherpearson@btinternet.com





Roll-up ! Roll-up !
Come and see the 3000 pealer
Congratulations Murray

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



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



There is a list of **Guild Officers**



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



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



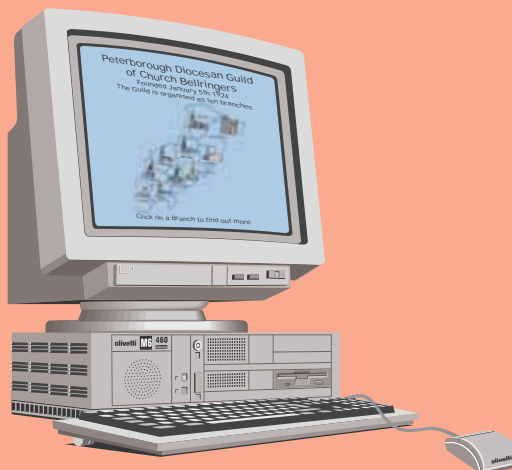
There is a section to help **tower publicity**



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



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



GUILD EVENTS 2013

30th Mar Guild Sponsored Ride/Walk *Rutland Water*

CYCLISTS: assemble at Whitwell Country Park for 10.30am start.

Route is approx 25 miles (with a shorter 18 mile option). Cycle hire available.

More details from Keith Underwood on 01780 784343.

WALKERS: Park and assemble at Empingham Church for 10am start.

Route approx. 6 miles.

More details from Dorothy Westerman on 01788 822598.

Pub lunches available at the Horse and Jockey, Manton.

27th Apr Guild Spring Meeting - *Wellingborough Branch*

The festival and six-bell striking competition, open to all towers in the Guild.

Striking Competition at Ecton (6 bells).

Evening Ringing at Earls Barton (8 bells).

8th Jun Guild AGM - *Culworth Branch*

General Ringing at Aynho or Kings Sutton (8 bells).

Service, Tea, Meeting and Ringing at Brackley (8 bells).

21st Sept Guild Summer Festival - *Towcester Branch*

The festival and eight-bell inter-branch striking competition at Towcester (on the back eight).



