

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS



Newsletter
September 2025

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Newsletter News

Welcome to the third and last edition of 2025. We aim to publish in January, April and September each year, to coincide with Guild main events. I am looking for a successor as Newsletter Editor, to take over in 2026. So, if you've enjoyed reading past editions and are reasonably skilled in Word or equivalent, there's a new role waiting for you!

The summer seems to have been far from quiet in the Guild, and I am grateful to all the branch correspondents and Guild officers who have sent contributions. Secretary Helen's eagle eye is unmatched in spotting the typos and errors I have missed. Please keep sending in your stories and photos.

If you'd like to share copies of the Newsletter with any non-ringing members, direct them to the relevant part of the Guild website (pdg.org.uk/latest-news/newsletters) or download a copy and email it to them. A hard copy can be delivered in person (or posted), on request to me or the Secretary.

If you want any additional copies for members in your branch, please let me know, so that I can ensure enough copies are printed.

Please send any comments, complaints or contributions for future editions to me at newsletter@pdg.org.uk. All copy for the January edition, for distribution at branch AGMs, must arrive by **Sunday 31st December latest**. Thank you.

Jonathan Stuart

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President's Preamble

Once the warmer weather arrives, I get requests to hire my 8-bell Maplestead Mini-Ring, made by Matthew Higby, which I greatly enjoy taking out to promote bell ringing.

My first booking was to Sawbridgeworth (Herts) for their Mayday town party. The Vicar was very pleased that the sound of the little bells drew families from the High Street to the Church. I tell the non-ringers that these bells are a model of the bells up in their tower, if you enjoyed these do come up and try the real Heavy Metal Band on practice night!

My next booking was to Towcester for their Midsummer Music Festival. There a mix of seasoned ringers and passers-by had a go ringing on the little bells, some with more success than others!

Then, to Birmingham for the Ringing World National Youth Contest, where I was allocated a place in the Churchyard of St Alphege, Solihull at the end of the High Street with lots of people passing. With local helpers I soon had the "tower" put up and we were ready for the first of the Young Ringing teams to have a go on my little bells on their way to grab the lovely sounding 21cwt 12 above. Our Youth Team from Daventry came along after ringing their competition piece, quite confident they had done well.



The highlight for me was seeing the young ringers from all round the country in their bright t-shirts help each other to master these little bells - quite different to handle from "normal" bells.

A few more Youth Teams dropped by during the afternoon, but it wasn't so hectic, and the breaks allowed us to recruit four enthusiastic local passers-by who wanted to give ringing a go! They were invited, to come along a week later, and I gather they brought their families.

All too soon, the last youth team left and we hurriedly took the little tower down and back in my car, allowing us to dash for St. Martins to hear the results. It was fantastic to hear that our very own Daventry Young Ringers came 6th in their Group for ringing Methods on 6 bells. Well Done Team!

Many thanks to Justin Baker, their parents, and support team for making it all happen – the young people's enthusiasm is so infectious!

I was also pleased to host four of them at Rothwell a few weeks earlier, for the ART Module One bell-handling training course. I am sure they will be an asset not only within their local Daventry branch area, but also to their next ringing teams when they move away to College etc. I look forward to catching up with them in years to come, hearing about everything that they have achieved.

Alistair Donaldson

Treasurer's Tally

I want to ask for help with all matters relating to the Bell Fund. It has significantly reduced over the last 3 years since the COVID situation. The reasons for this are several:

1. We wanted to encourage everyone back to bell ringing by increasing the level of funding for projects from 10% to closer to 20% to ensure that our bell ringing estate was as good a condition as we could afford. Many successful projects have been completed in the last few years. At the increased level, these have led to a significant outflow of funds.
2. With the understanding that parish finances were severely, adversely impacted by COVID, we gave them a holiday from our Annual Affiliation letter for two years. We expected that this source of funds would come back immediately when we requested the funds again. This coincided with the Diocese moving to a digital method of communication rather than hard copy with the parishes. For some reason, parishes have not returned to the former level of donations, which has dropped from £4,000+ down to £500 per year.
3. Fund raising activity has reduced in recent years probably due, in part, to the relatively rosy situation in the Fund. The Guild certainly curtailed its fund-raising activity leading up to and through the Centenary Year of 2024 as we were asking for funds in many different ways from the membership.

The Guild Bell fund at the end of 2024 had free funds of £32,925 (Bell Fund at £53,825 less commitments to projects of £20,900). That level provides us with **less than 2 years** if we continue to spend at recent levels. As a Guild we need to take actions to restore the Fund to previous levels, such as:

1. **Reduce the level of support** - The Stewards have already determined to revert to a 10% level of funding for projects.
2. **Affiliation Fees from parishes** - Concentrate on increasing the level of affiliation fees from the parishes:
 - a. I am liaising with the Diocese to ensure that their communication is getting to all the relevant persons in the Parishes, which they claim it is.

- b. I am making available the Affiliation Letter each year (it will first be going out in September 2025) to all the Branch Committees, and I would ask them to encourage parishes to respond positively to the request. That would be especially nice from those parishes that have benefited from the Fund in the past. I have data on who has benefited from the fund since 1994 if that would help any Branch Committee.
 - c. If any member thinks they can help with this with their own parish(es) I will forward a copy of the letter to them on receipt of an email to treasurer@pdg.org.uk . I will also ask the webmaster if he can include it on the website.
3. **Fundraising Activity** -The Guild will reintroduce its fund-raising actions and I would ask any members that have a good new idea, or even a good old idea that could be run again, to try to raise funds for the Bell Fund.

One such idea that I have been attempting to promote over the last 2 years is **Easyfundraising**. This is an organisation that offers to generate donations for charities through internet shopping. If you are doing it, then this is an opportunity for you to donate to one or more of your own chosen registered charities. Easyfundraising has contacted over 8,500 retail websites and has done deals to generate significant funds from those companies if we sign up to using their portal to get to the retailer's website we would be using anyway. They have raised over £60 million for charities. We have four intrepid members who have signed up to this process and nominated the Guild as their chosen charity. Between us we have raised over £400 from our activity in the last 2 years. If all 970 members were signed up at the same rate that could be £97,000 in that 2-year period!! If you want to find out more about the process please go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/how-it-works>. If you have any queries after reading those pages, then I would be happy to discuss them with you.

Excess Branch Bank Balances - The Charity Commission gives our charity "tax exempt status" on our income provided we are using our membership fees to meet our objectives and are not building bank balances, as this would be seen as trading. I have noted that most branches have ever-increasing bank balances over the last 10-year period. I have presented graphs confirming this to the F&GP and the GMC in recent years. Obviously, the intention is that the branches should utilise their retained funds to further their own objectives for recruitment and retention of members and small maintenance tasks first. However, could I ask all branches to consider if they have excess funds over and above that need. If they have, could they donate it to the Bell Fund for the benefit of our fellow bell ringers who have a problem to resolve?

4. **Give as you Earn Scheme** Many of you will be aware of Gift Aiding which enables an additional 25% to be reclaimed from the HMRC on charitable donations. There is an even better scheme for higher rate tax-payers that you may not be aware of. You can ask your employer about the **Give as You Earn (GAYE) scheme**. Under it you can sacrifice an element of your salary and have it diverted to a payment account which can ONLY be spent on donations to registered charities. In effect, you can donate £100 by sacrificing only £40. In my company, we sacrifice from £20 to £700 per month for employees and they were then able to contribute large amounts to charity. If this seems relevant to your situation and you would like to hear more feel free to contact me.

If anyone has any ideas over and above those mentioned above, please follow up on them. If you need any help from me just shout.

Chris FitzGerald, Treasurer

M: 07761 180369, E: treasurer@pdg.org.uk

His Master's Voice

Where do you start when you have such a tough act to follow?!

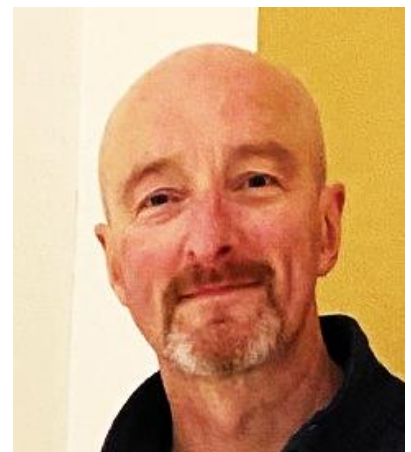
First, I would like to thank Simon and Cathy for all of the wonderful years of service to the Guild; they have certainly made my role much easier to follow.

Next, for those who didn't manage to attend the AGM in June, I'd like to take the opportunity to introduce myself. After watching the ringers one Sunday morning after the service had finished at Rushden back in 1973, I said to my mother "Mum, I would like to have a go at that".

Little did I know that my mother approached one of the ringers and asked if it was possible. "Yes", came the reply, "bring the boy down on Friday evening at 8 o'clock and we'll show him the bells", and as they say, the rest is history.

I have now been ringing in the Peterborough Diocese for over 50 years and have lived and rung in three different branches: Wellingborough, Northampton and Kettering. I have held a variety of roles in each of the branches, from committee member, steward, branch ringing master and branch.

I have always enjoyed teaching new ringers to learn our wonderful art, and take great pleasure in being involved in a `first` for any ringer. My home tower is Rothwell, where I am tower captain, and I am a member of the Peterborough Cathedral company.



One of the things I am most looking forward to is getting out on my “Masters Travels”. So far, I have run a Guild ten-bell practice at Higham Ferrers in July. On a very hot day, we rang a variety of methods including Kent Treble Bob Royal, which made even the most experienced rings scratch their heads, welcomed a visitor from Bedfordshire, and gave the local band an opportunity to ring on the ten bells.

My wife Sarah and myself have already joined several branch practices. Peterborough branch held a practice at Nassington on a Sunday afternoon where a loud and torrential downpour just after we started to ring left many people watching the rain as we were in one of the summer’s heatwaves. A stray pigeon in the church added to the experience! We joined Wellingborough branch and rang at Grendon, prior to their business meeting, and we have taken part in two of the second Saturday training events: the guild Stedman practice at Pattishall and a conducting course at Guilsborough.

Hopefully I will have been able to visit a few more branches before the newsletter goes to print but if not, I hope to see you soon.

Jim Bence

A Youth Officer is created

Hi everyone, I’m Cat, the Guild’s first Youth Officer 🙋.

As this is a new role, it will evolve over time as I work out what’s of greatest benefit for our young ringers (under 18's, as well as young adults). My first priority is to build a picture of where our young ringers are across the Guild, what their ambitions are, and how we can support them. I’ll be in touch with branches soon to gather this information.



Looking ahead, I hope to:

- Set up a way to stay connected with young ringers and their supporters (e.g. WhatsApp)
- Share opportunities and events
- Help young ringers meet and ring together locally and further afield
- Understand the needs and barriers for this demographic

I'm aware of some amazing work going on with young ringers. I don't want to create duplication, but anywhere I can be of assistance I'm happy to help.

If anyone (including under 18's, their supporters and anyone else with an interest or insight) wishes to get in contact please email me at youth@pdg.org.uk in the first instance. I'd love to hear your thoughts and experiences.

I'm learning as I go - I have many years’ experience working with young people, and I was a young ringer myself in the Milton Keynes area. I had the benefit of well-

connected cycle paths and ringing friends, and I rang at just about every tower locally. Our parents were taxi drivers for ringing further afield! After a long break, I've returned to ringing in the last couple of years so still finding my way. I'm passionate about helping young ringers grow and thrive in our community.

Hoping to meet many of you soon! Please share an invite if you have an opportunity for me to meet your young ringers.

Cat Hemmington

From the Bellboard Footnotes

(1st April to 31st August 2025)

First Quarter

Nikki Wilmot (Peterborough St Mary)
Kev Winter (Woodston)
Edward Barton (Isham)
Alex Bishop (Higham Ferrers)
Susan Rose (Badby)
Freya Bartlett (Woodford Halse)
Laura Bartlett (Woodford Halse)
Liz Heath (Staverton)
Kathryn Ager (Castor)
Ben Brown (Wollaston)
Garth Ratcliffe (Bozeat)

First Quarter of Minor

Hannah Conlon (Rothwell)

First quarter of Triples

Sue Trevor (Crick)
Andrew North (Whilton)

First Quarter of Treble Bob

Abigail Lee (Peterborough Cathedral)

First Triples inside

Gordon Ball (Crick)

First Triples as conductor

Nick Hiams (Crick)
Steve Millington (Whilton)

First Quarter Stedman Caters

Hannah Baker (Daventry)

First Spliced as Conductor

Robert Lane (Peterborough Cathedral)

First Peal of Minor

Hannah Baker (Gayton)

First peal of Spliced

William J Lake (Whilton)

First Peal Spliced Minor

Michael A Varney (Great Cransley)

First Peal Spliced Maximus

Jayden R Milby (Towcester)

Selected milestones

Paul Mason, 1000th peal as conductor
Richard Allton, 500th peal for PDG, and
600th peal of Minor
Rickard & Michael Clements, 2000th and
1300th peals, respectively
Nich Wilson, 400th peal for PDG

Bells, BBQ, Beer & Cakes

Saturday afternoon (26th July) brightened to glorious sunshine allowing the BBQ outside Whilton Church to serve more than 75 burgers & 80 hot dogs to those that came to the Bells, BBQ & Beer fundraising event hosted by the Friends of Whilton Church and Whilton, Norton & Great Brington Bell Ringers. In the village hall, Friends & PCC members manned a cake & tea stall along with a 'pop-up' pub, serving real



A ladies team

ale, wines & soft drinks. Open to all - local villagers, visitors & ringers alike – a community event for all to enjoy.

Over 45 ringers joined throughout the afternoon to have fun ringing together and allowed 10 people that had never rung to have a go. As many villagers & visitors came to enjoy the sound of the bells, whilst enjoying food & drink.

The day finished with £500 raised for the Friends of Whilton Church, to progress refurbishment to add a WC & kitchenette, seating refurbishment and heating update.

With thanks to Helen Camps for the vision and all those who supported the afternoon; Theresa for running ringing; Richard our licensed 'publican'; all those that baked & donated cakes; Jane, Gill, Sarah, Margaret & Angie serving Cake & Tea and Geoff & Mark for manning the BBQ and cooking the delicious burgers & hot dogs made locally by Elliott's Butchers; and lastly all the villagers, visitors & ringers for coming to enjoy the afternoon.

Justin Baker



Support for those "having a go"

ART Module 1: A student's experience

On Saturday, 28th June, I attended a course run by the Association of Ringing Teachers, the Module 1: Teaching Bell Handling. There were ten of us, all keen to learn the ART method of teaching bell handling.

I liked the gradual building skills, the steps the teacher can take the learner through to get the feel of the rope's movement which leads them eventually into the full movement, both on backstroke and handstroke. I feel that it will be a lot less stressful teaching the handstroke this method, both for the learner and teacher. Teaching them how to shorten the length of the rope between their hands and the bell will mean they are less likely to panic if the rope does go slack. We also learned ways of helping a learner to improve their performance. For a time I will need



to refer to these exercises until it becomes second nature. I feel more confident taking a learner through the Learning the Ropes system as we are giving them the



means of experiencing the tension of the rope without them feeling anxious about pulling it and have the tools to assist the learner. This system lessens the likelihood of causing harm to both the learner and teacher.

It was fun learning, the roles of being teacher and then learner was revealing, so we experienced the feelings of a novice learner and this helps to assist a teacher in their understanding of their learner when they are being instructed. Making sure we can communicate effectively according to our learner's reactions.

I thoroughly enjoyed it, I believe we all did. The venue was perfect, at the Holy Trinity Church in Rothwell. The ringing chamber being a good size to accommodate us and the bells were silent, so we were not annoying anyone outside.

If anyone is unsure of whether to join the ART course with the opportunity to progress further, I would recommend it. It keeps both learner and teacher motivated and I'm sure it will be bringing more people into learning the art of campanology as well as taking up teaching. Bell Handling is just the start!

Cathy Mason

Footnote from Justin Baker

I joined 12 others (including four of our Daventry Branch Young ringers – Zack Pope, Flynn Spires, Grace & Matthew Allcott) at the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) full day M1 course at Rothwell on Saturday 28 June. Most of my teaching was from being taught myself – remembering two student friends repeatedly saying ‘stretch’ on both strokes and ‘pull all the way down on the backstroke’ – as well as tips picked up through the years. I had never been on a course for teaching new learners. It broke difficult topics into manageable chunks, as well as making learning less onerous. It provided the teacher with more structured progress and a safer environment.

It was great to see our young teen ringers being able to actively support another ringer learning to ring. I hope they can put their newfound skills in teaching a learner into practice as soon as possible.



Grace, Flynn, Zack and Matthew

Welland Valley Ringers summer outing

The Welland Valley bell-ringing team held their annual summer outing on 7th June. Organised by Shane Ward (Wilbarston), 13 members of the team travelled down to South Cambridgeshire to ring at five churches. They started off with two 8-bell rings, at St Andrew's (Orwell) and Holy Trinity (Meldreth). Then, after a break for lunch, the team completed three 6-bell rings at St Peter's (Barton), All Saints (Barrington) and St Helen's (Little Eversden). "We'd like to thank everyone at these five towers for



allowing us to ring their bells and for giving us such a warm welcome,” said Shane. “Luckily, the forecast downpours stayed away until we were at our last church, so we escaped relatively unscathed! South Cambridgeshire is a lovely part of the country to visit and it was a great day out. We are already planning our 2026 trip.”

Badby Bells Improvement Project

The last practice on the present headstocks and clappers ended on 11th July by ringing diminishing rounds from treble to tenor and then lowering the bells singly. With no service on Sunday this was the last ringing before the project got underway. Work started with the arrival of Neil Deem of Nicholson Engineering and a group of volunteers on Monday, 16 July. After squeezing the tenor through the specially widened tower doorway, all the bells left on the Wednesday. Neil went the next day with a very full van of old fittings and the corroded south frame cross bracing.



Two good bits of news were that there was no corrosion of the main beam in the south west wall, despite cracked masonry, and Soundweld couldn't find any incipient cracks in the crown of the 3. Local electricians upgraded the lighting within the tower a week before Neil returned on 28th July for 8 days, with two volunteers a day. They ground off the paint from the steel work, cleared the cast iron frame of loose paint and applied two protective undercoats and two gloss coats. Especial thanks to Anne Prestwick and Steve Brooks who shared the brunt of the filthy job of grinding off the paint from the steel beams. Sadly, in mid-August, we heard that the planned return of bells on 1 September will have to be delayed by at least 4 weeks, as work on fabricating the headstocks has fallen behind schedule. Weekly reports and photos can be found in the News section of the village website: www.badby-pc.gov.uk.

With kind permissions, Wednesday night practices have continued, but at Newnham, Staverton, Everdon, Welton and Charwelton.

Geoff Pullin



Badby's frame repainted

RW Young Ringers' Contest

Six student Daventry Branch members entered the national contest in Birmingham on Saturday 5th July. The full programme can be found at rwnyc.ringingworld.co.uk. Kaiden has given us this write-up:

My first RWNYC event. We had an early start to the day, leaving Daventry at 8:00 to get to Birmingham, for our contest slot at 10:00. We were picked to ring first, so no pressure or anything! The ringing went well, considering it was a new tower for all of us, and only given five minutes to practice.

After that, we all went to a selection of different towers, including St Martin in the Bullring, the only 16-bell tower in the UK, and one of only three in the world. There we rang rounds on 16. We also rang at Moseley, St Paul in the Jewellery quarter, Edgbaston (our competition tower), and Solihull, which is a really nice ring of 12 bells (21cwt). There we rang rounds on 12, plain hunt on 9, and plain hunt on 11, which went really well. At the end, everyone included in the competition gathered once more at St Martin in the Bullring to receive the results, which our group got 6th out of 10, which isn't bad. Our score was 7 out of 10, only 2 points behind the winners, "Brumdingers".

Overall, it was an amazing day, with lots of amazing experiences, ringing at 5 towers, 2 mini rings, and handbells at the end.

Kaiden



DYR competition team ready to go



News from the Branches

Culworth Branch

Round Table Recruiting

Only having been ringing at St Peter's Brackley since February 2023, I could not help but notice that I was the only 'newbie' at every practice night. Ok, there are many opportunities to ring locally elsewhere, which I took up and met with some fellow ringers at my level of experience. I have greatly improved: call changes, one or two

methods on certain bells etc. and wanted to get more experience ringing more confidently in an 8-bell tower. (Sadly 8 people rarely do attend a practice night. You've all been there I'm sure!)

Back to my home tower and me thinking: in a town as large as Brackley, why do we have literally only a handful of people from the town, wanting to learn to ring?? Enter social media! Not my favourite subject, I must admit, but I put an advert on the town Facebook page and had lots of likes, messages of support and many "we love listening to the bells" comments.

One message was really encouraging from the many posted, and that was from the local Round Table. They wanted to see if they could attend an evening practice with the members, to learn more about what bell ringing is and what it involves. Result!

So, a date and time was arranged but without knowing how many people would actually turn up on the night. Nothing to worry about on that front, as 15 people attended. Refreshments were offered, a welcome and introduction from Andrew North, plus an overall background history to bell ringing from Ian Chapple, and a safety briefing from Robert Wood.

Tours of the bell tower, to see the clock mechanism and bells, were arranged in manageable groups, with a supported ringing session for each attendee to "have a go".

Lots of laughter and smiling faces had by all, with a few saying they may just turn up at our next practice night.

As I write, that is yet to happen but - fingers crossed ...

Stephen Naghi, Brackley

My Bellringing Story

I never imagined I'd take up bellringing but, in Autumn 2022, an email to the Thorpe Mandeville Parish Council changed that. The CCCBR Ring for the King initiative contacted the council to see if anyone was interested in learning to ring, which led to one councillor (my mother!) asking me, "Do you want to go?" My initial reaction was, "I'm not religious, or a staunch monarchist." But then I thought, "Why not give it a go – if only to say you've done it once? How hard can it be?"

The answer: much harder – and much more rewarding – than I thought! I cannot explain why bellringing took such a hold of me. It's a mix of frustration and reward: you may understand conceptually what to do, but actually mastering the control, and (my current nemesis) observation skills to ring methods, only comes with time and practice. I now go to practice nights at least twice a week and often help out with service ringing.

I've made many new friends, travelled to new places (including a group trip to Lundy Island with ringers from Greatworth and Marston St. Lawrence), and rung so many

bells – at weddings, a university graduation ceremony, and (amazingly) at Ripon Cathedral!

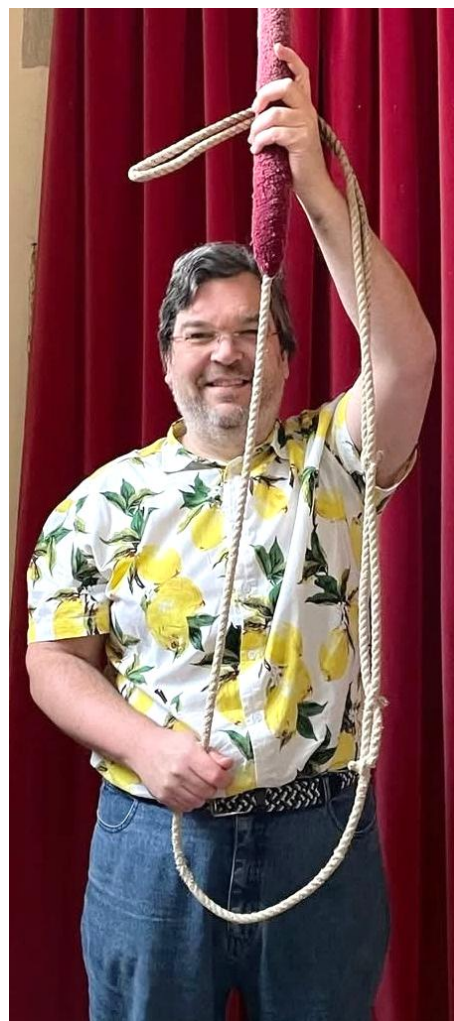
Recently, while on holiday in Wales, I dropped into St Margaret's, Bodelwyddan ("The Marble Church") for practice night. What other hobby lets you walk into a room of total strangers and be welcomed with open arms – all for free? In a lovely "small world" moment, the tower captain there turned out to have been an organist at a church just two miles from Thorpe years ago!

The history is another part of the attraction. Knowing that you're standing in the same spot, doing the same thing, and using the same instruments as people have for hundreds of years is a remarkable experience.

And now, less than three years after the first tentative pull of a bell rope, I'm taking on the role of Tower Captain for Thorpe Mandeville. Ours is only a three-bell tower, and, of those who joined Ring for the King here, I'm the only one still ringing. So, for now, the role is largely ceremonial, but I'm deeply honoured nonetheless, and hopeful I can persuade more people to come on the bell ringing journey.

I make no pretence of being a good ringer – but hopefully I'm always heading toward being a better ringer!

Duncan Lilly, Thorpe Mandeville



Whitfield recruits

We have two new learners at Whitfield - this is the best news for a long time. One rang for service last Sunday, the other is just about ringing both strokes and progressing well. Sara had put a note through every door in the village and these two came forward . . . watch for further progress!

Ian Chapple

Branch practice, Culworth

We had a good time at Culworth Church, using the new rope guides (newly installed by Martin Rowling and Ian Chapple), for our May branch practice. Twelve branch members attended. A particular mention for Jenny Griffiths, who rang a touch of Reverse Canterbury Doubles, having previously never even heard of the method. Well done Jenny!

Last year, we had a very well-received theory session on "Plain Hunt and Plain Bob" in Brackley, presented by Robert Wood. This year, Robert again offered to talk about

bellringing theory and we had a talk from him at Lois Weedon hall on "Starting to learn and ring methods"

Andrew North (Syresham)

Starting to learn and ring methods

To help with the rewarding challenge of method ringing, the Culworth branch held a theory session on the afternoon of Saturday 26th July in the Lois Weedon village hall. Robert Wood kindly offered his time to talk on how there is no "correct" way to learn methods. Instead, it's about finding the approach that works best for you. Most experienced ringers, though, will use a combination of techniques.

Robert explained that Ringing by the Rules is best for straightforward methods, especially those with a plain-hunting treble. In Plain Bob, for instance, you plain hunt until the treble leads, then one bell makes seconds while the others dodge. Next, he covered the Blue Line, which is the most popular system for advanced methods. It involves memorising the path a bell follows, and breaking down the method into manageable chunks by focusing on each place bell's path. Robert highlighted that symmetrical methods, like Cambridge Surprise Minor, are often best learned by starting at a point of symmetry, such as a lead end or the pivot bell.

We were also shown Place Notation, which is how methods are formally defined. Although not very common, some ringers learn methods by memorising the place notation. Even if one doesn't use this system, understanding it can highlight where bells are working together. Lastly, he covered the Grid, which shows one lead of a method with different coloured lines for each place bell. He explained that this can be useful for highlighting method features before starting to learn the blue line.

Although some in the audience were a bit taken aback by the advanced example methods, Robert didn't expect us to know them, but rather used them to explain the merits of each learning approach.

I found the seminar to be really useful, and Robert pointed us to further information available on the Ripon Cathedral Bell Ringers website:

<https://riponringers.wordpress.com/how-to-learn-methods/>

Chris Lines (Syresham)

Something to look forward to in the Culworth Branch: Robert has also kindly offered to do a talk on Saturday, 8th November, at either Brackley or Kings Sutton churches, about Stedman. Then putting it into practice by attempting some Stedman doubles and (possibly) triples afterwards.

Branch Correspondent: Jenny Griffiths

Daventry Branch

Ringing Firsts

At Whilton on 30 March, Catherine Allcott rang her first quarter peal ringing the tenor to Plain Bob Triples conducted by Hannah Baker. It was Grace Allcott's first quarter away from cover and on 8 bells.



Grace Allcott, Geoff Pullin, Theresa Baker, Helen Camps, Olivia Hunter, Justin Baker, Hannah Baker (C), Catherine Allcott.



Catherine receives her Certificate

Anne Prestwick's first quarter peal inside was on the second to Plain Bob Doubles at Nether Heyford on 6th April conducted by Richard Hobbs.

Susan Rose rang her first quarter peal, ringing the treble to Plain Bob Doubles in 46 minutes, conducted by Jim White, at Badby on 1st June. She was sponsored by family and friends to swell funds for the local rehanging project by £500.

Freya and Laura Bartlett rang their first quarter peal on 12 June at Woodford Halse, conducted by Justin Baker. They rang the treble and tenor respectively to Plain Bob Doubles.

Liz Heath rang her first quarter peal by ringing the second to Plain Bob Doubles at Staverton on 20 June, conducted by Justin Baker. It was going so trouble-free that we rang an extra course!

Hannah Baker organised a quarter peal of Yorkshire S Major, conducted by Jim White at Byfield on 10th April. Her father discovered, when reading the footnote on Bellboard, that he had rung for his own birthday! I've given up trying to keep up with Hannah's ringing exploits, so just search her on Bellboard!

Guild Spring Festival

In the method ringing at Great Addington, Daventry came fifth of 10, with 9 faults, Daventry Young Ringers ninth, and Spencer Benefice did not finish. In the call changes at Twywell, Badby came fourth of 9.



Freya, Justin (c), Geoff, Jim, Carole, Laura



Liz Heaths' First QP band

VE Day + 80

Nationally, we were asked to ring at 6.30pm on Thursday 8th May to mark 80 years since Victory in Europe Day. At least Badby, Braunston, Church Stowe, Everdon, Flore, Great Brington, Kislingbury, Nether Heyford, Norton, Welton and Whilton rang. At Daventry, we rang after the 6.30pm civic service in the church, attended by the mayor and cadet force.

VJ Day + 80

Again, nationally we were asked to ring from 6.30pm on Friday 15th August to mark 80 years since VJ Day. At Daventry, we rang ten bells before the 7pm civic service at the nearby war memorial.

Meetings

April

At Welton, 26, including three visitors, negotiated the ladder to ring and appreciated the tidying up of the ringing room by Sue Sutherland. The service was taken at a good pace by the Revd Kathryn ("Blessed are the Noisemakers") Evans with Brian Hibbert at the organ for two ringing hymns not on the Guild website. Sue organised a good tea in the village hall with help from husband Jim and several donors of cakes. Young Emma Camps showed a useful ability in the kitchen!

A business meeting was presided over by Jane Rands. Since the AGM in January, Jim Grennan and Sue Sutherland have volunteered, and were quickly elected formally, to be our Branch Steward and Branch Secretary respectively. We were pleased to elect as new members Sahib Sing-Bahmra (student member, unattached, Stretton on Dunsmore, who rang in our young ringers' team at Nottingham) and Kevin Young of Welton who has been learning at Badby since last May. We look forward to a new band growing at Welton. Reports included a swift covering of the March General Management Committee ("GMC"). The meeting ended with us singing Happy (significant) Birthday to Jenny Lunn.

At Long Buckby, 18 rang before we went home.

June

On Saturday 21st June, sixteen rang at Church Stowe including a visitor from Croydon. After managing to get the tenor up right, a selection of doubles was rung under Justin's direction from 3.30pm. The plenteous tea in the old school room (a new venue for the branch) was organised by Jane Rands and her benefice helpers.

For the evening session, twenty rang at Pattishall. Five from the Culworth Branch were waiting after their afternoon practice at Lois Weedon and when eleven from Daventry Branch had gathered, Justin supervised a good ring on the nice new eight.

July

The five bells at Norton were kept going with rounds through to St Martins Doubles with 24 ringing. We had a very short service, led by the Spencer Parishes' curate Revd Rachel Cooley, fresh from being ordained a deacon on 6th July, and

accompanied by Canon Rector Andrea Watkins. In the absence of an organist or a volunteer to lead the singing, her swift consultation to omit all hymns was agreed! So, we arrived in the village hall in good time to enjoy the buffet tea laid on by Catherine Allcott and friends.

Jane Rands chaired the 22 minute meeting. Justin reported that he, with four of the young team, had attended an ART Teach the Teachers session recently at Rothwell. He strongly recommended it for bringing up to date his teaching techniques. He is sorting out a band to ring a branch peal to celebrate its centenary.

Some hardy souls then set off into the rural southern parts of the county to ring at Kings Sutton. Justin found himself running a very good joint practice, from call changes to Yorkshire S Major as the tower swayed majestically. It attracted ringers from Culworth (4), Daventry (6), Guilsborough (2), Towcester (1) and Banbury (4) branches and one more visitor!

August

With holidays in full swing, we managed to attract ten branch members and ten others, including a visitor travelling between Yorkshire and Hertfordshire, to Hellidon. The bells were kept going to plain bob, All Saints, St Martins, St Simons, Grandsire and Stedman Doubles before lowering.

Most had brought their own tea, which we ate in the church - uncharacteristically warm through this summer.

Ten moved on to Woodford Halse for the evening ring where Nick Chatt was waiting to get us to ring plain hunt doubles through to a rather long touch of Cambridge S Minor. 'Us' was eight each from Culworth and Daventry branches and five others.

Branch Outing

Jim Grennan organised our May outing, and 17 of us arrived at Hatton to ring on the not-too-brilliant ground floor six from 10am. Helen Greenly very kindly met us and took our nicely-posed photo before opening up at the next two towers!

Rowington was next - a nice but a bit scary 6 with a long rope draught rung from the wide crossing and then Honiley - a nice 6, rung with access to the tower from the church-wide gallery.



Theresa, Carole, Gwynneth, Jenny, Nigel, Jane, Bobby, Justin, Anne, Geoff, Paul, Alison, Jim G, Sue, Shirley, Jim W, Grace

The lunch pub had a funny name and was a bit eccentric (“The Case is Altered”)! We were given the whole outside marquee to eat our picnic lunches!

The day tested my navigation facilities, and among the U-turns was one after missing the narrow drive into Packwood Church - eight bells squeezed into a small tower on two levels. The final tower was well on our way home, Bishop’s Itchington. We admired the modern wide spiral staircase in the nave leading to the first-floor ringing room, and wondered whether it might be the answer to a couple of our local access conundrums!

Social

In the History section of the Guild website there is a little paragraph tucked away in the middle, titled “Extracts from The Ringing World July 31, 1925”. A special meeting was held at Daventry on Saturday July 18th, 1925, with a view to forming a new branch of the Guild



Daventry Branch Centenary Dinner

in Daventry. It was carried that a Daventry branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers be formed. The following were elected for the ensuing year: President, the Rev. W. H. Shackell; treasurer, the Rev. E. E. Law; secretary, Mr W Moore. During the afternoon and evening several touches were rung, including a good course of London Surprise Major.

Twenty-two ringers and spouses gathered to celebrate at The Countryman, Staverton, one hundred years later to the day. Jane organised an excellent evening with lots of chat, laughter and a paper quiz by Christine between courses.

Nigel Allcott has agreed to run the quiz for the branch on Saturday 22 November at Daventry Band Hall. Further details later.

Recruitment

Our enthusiastic young ringers continue their exploits as you can read elsewhere.

To get a future cohort in progress, Catherine Allcott, Theresa and Justin Baker organised an event on the morning of our April meeting to come and see bellringing and have a try at Daventry. They advertised it direct to schools’ D of E leaders and Scouts leaders and on local social media. Helen Allton supported it with games and sweets.

Disappointingly, it attracted a very few people. So the young welcoming team were able to get in quite a bit of ringing practice! Daniel Camps had a good practice and showed off his skills by ringing rounds on ten the following Sunday morning unaided.

It might have been this that led Helen Camps to initiate the more ambitious BBB event for Whilton on 26 July! (See report on page 9.)

People

Alison Willgress wrote on 17th March, “Ringing in west Wales is so very different from PDG, although we were prepared for this. Don't let anyone complain about driving 12 miles for a meeting - SatNav told us that Tenby was 72 miles from home. This was the February Guild practice, a day at the seaside and a friendly practice. Consequently, we were both in St Davids Guild's St David's Day peal, my first since 2008.

“Our own tower has to be self-sufficient, being 20 miles from our nearest neighbour (Machynlleth, not in our guild) and almost 40 to the next nearest (Llandysul or Cardigan/Aberteifi). Organising wedding bands is in-house. I'm hoping soon to get the QP organising skills going again as we have some imminent 'firsts' and 'firsts in a very long time' and an in-house conductor, stolen from Daventry Branch.”

We learned from a photo in the Ringing World that Ian is now tower captain at Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth's ring of ten.

Deena Johnson was thanked for her many years as tower treasurer at the Daventry belfry AGM in March, with 21 attending. Deena has been succeeded by Liz Heath.

Ann Houghton started ringing in 2014 as a follow-on from line-dancing. She often attempted, and usually succeeded, in getting me to agree that she was trying! She had suffered a variety of ailments especially since 2020, but regularly attended at Daventry until 2023 when getting downstairs became a problem, at Badby until mid-2021, and at Hellidon to sit and chat until March, where she last rang on 25th June 2024. She was proud to have rung at Wimbourne on the 12 when visiting her daughter.

Ann had been in Northampton General, wanted to go home and was deemed fit to, but by next morning she had deteriorated seriously and daughter Sue took her back to hospital where she died very quickly, of Covid, they said.

Ann's funeral was held on 23rd April at Rainsbrook Crematorium with a wake held in Holy Cross hall. Millie, her faithful labrador, is living in Long Buckby with Sue who gave her to Ann ten years ago.

Ed Mortimer, the Wandering Canuck, told us in April from his home in Barrhead (Alberta, Canada, 230 miles from the nearest ringing tower) that he has continued to introduce change ringing to the handbell tune team. “The band is only 4, so we have been exploring minimus methods. I can no longer really speak, so we use hand signals for the conducting. I know, only handbells, and the chances of having a real ring of bells installed is now significantly reduced”.

Up & Down the Towers

Jim Grennan reported in April that he had sorted the treble at Great Brington, checked Welton ready for the branch visit and has since sorted out Hellidon's sticking clock hammer.

One of the Fawsley tenor stay bolts apparently fell out after a demonstration in August, luckily when it was nearly down. When the bell wouldn't rise for the next demo, we found the bolt on the belfry floor and the other loose. This had allowed the stay to swivel horizontally into the louvre archway, stopping the bell from rising. Luckily, one of the group watching the demonstration had a full toolkit in his van, so it was soon put right.

Geoff Pullin

Guilsborough Branch

Spring Outing

Our spring ringing outing on 28th April, organised by Elaine Greatrex, took us to a cluster of churches west of Corby. We began at Rushton, All Saints, then continued to Wilbarston, Cottingham, Great Easton, Ashley, Medbourne, and finally Arthingworth. A splendid lunch at the Sun Inn, Great Easton, provided a welcome break in the middle of the day.

It was a most enjoyable occasion of fine ringing, and good company. Warm thanks to Elaine for the organisation, and to all who welcomed us at their towers.

Tower Updates

Naseby

Much work has been taking place on the bell installation, led by the Maintenance Team (M-Team). Years of rainwater ingress had weakened the structure to the point that the belfry floor collapsed. A new floor is now in place, enabling maintenance to resume. While Dove's Guide still lists the tower as "not currently permitted," ringing has already taken place since wheel repairs, and steady progress continues.

Walgrave

Walgrave's bells have been silent for some time, but a "back to ringing" project is underway. The treble wheel required workshop repairs, and other wheels needed loose shroud sections refitted. For the inauguration of the new vicar on 27th August, four bells were available.

Creton and the Magic Wardrobe

Creton tower has had a major refurbishment, including a glazed partition, new floor, and handsome cupboards. While the craftsmanship is excellent, a few design quirks have caused amusement, notably the "wardrobe suite" that initially made the tower feel like a five-bell installation until alterations were made, and a



ladder that briefly tangled itself with the 4th rope. These issues have been addressed, and the tower is once again a pleasant place to ring six light bells.

Commemorative Ringing

Members of the branch rang to mark both VE Day and VJ Day, joining the nationwide commemorations. A special mention goes to our youngest ringer, Lewis Nightingale, who came straight from Cadets to take part in VE Day ringing, still smartly in uniform.



Walgrave Benefice, New Rector

On 27th August, the Collation and Induction of the Revd. Mel Stanley as Rector of the Walgrave Benefice took place. The service included hymns, prayers and readings, with Mel being formally led by the Churchwardens to take possession of different parts of the church.

At the ringing chamber she was handed a bell rope with the words:

“The bells of this church call people to worship and proclaim the presence of the Church in this community. Lead and enable us in mission, drawing people to Christ and proclaiming the good news of his kingdom.”

Although she had never rung before, and only had five minutes’ tuition the day prior, Mel gamely chimed the bell, managing to lift herself off her feet to the amusement of the congregation. Tradition holds that the number of times the bell is rung denotes the years a new vicar will remain in post. Mel seemed to be aiming for around five!

Naseby Benefice, New Assistant Priest

On 28th August, the Bishop of Brixworth licensed the Revd. Lesley Tomalin as Assistant Priest in the Naseby Benefice. A strong congregation and clergy presence gathered for the hour-long service, followed by refreshments in Welford Village Hall and, for some, further conversation at the White Hart, South Kilworth.

Ringling beforehand was warmly received, with the band performing Grandsire Doubles, Reverse Canterbury, and a course of Stedman. A first-class contribution to a memorable occasion.

Thanks to the M-Team

We extend heartfelt thanks to Rob and the Maintenance Team for their dedication and hard work across so many of our branch towers. Their commitment keeps our bells in good order and ensures we can all continue to enjoy ringing together.

Fiona Barclay

Kettering Branch

Remembering Derek Sibson

Peterborough Diocesan Guild

Isham, Northamptonshire

St Peter

Monday, 7 April 2025 in 43m (9-1-0 in G)

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Sandra Lewis
- 2 Edward Barton
- 3 Pam Bailey
- 4 Sarah Bence
- 5 James Bence (C)
- 6 Timothy Samson

First quarter peal at first attempt 2.

Rung in memory of Derek Sibson who helped rehang the bells in 1970.

Cathy & Simon Dixon would like to be associated with the quarter peal.

This performance included a first quarter-peal ringer on bell 2.
If this was you, [claim your free copy of The Ringing World](#).

This performance was rung *In memoriam* — Derek Sibson

Peterborough Diocesan Guild

Barton Seagrave, Northamptonshire

St Botolph

Thursday, 1 May 2025 in 48m (9-1-22 in A)

1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Liz Reading
- 2 Pam M Bailey
- 3 Caroline M Mitchell
- 4 Nick Watts
- 5 Christopher M Pearson
- 6 Steve Millington
- 7 Alistair Donaldson (C)
- 8 Wayne Bryan

Rung in celebration of the life of Derek Sibson, a keen and devoted member of this Church for many years.

Robert Churchwell wishes to be associated with this QP having been due to ring with us.

£8.00

This performance was rung *In memoriam* — Derek Sibson

The Branch recognized the contribution Derek made to Bellringing with three quarter peals being rung in remembrance by local ringers and members of the Guild and local Branch, including a first Quarter Peal for Edward Barton, one of our Young Ringers, at Isham.

Refurbishment of Bells at Corby, St. John the Baptist

The final phase of the works to get Corby bells ringing again started on Monday 14th April, with the treble returning to the tower with a new headstock fitted. The treble was raised up to the belfry to be hung on the Upper tier of the frame followed by the re-hanging of No.4 bell below it on the lower tier.

Through the week the remaining fittings were installed over the following days and the bells test rung.

On the 19th April 25 the refurbished bells at Corby, St. John the Baptist were rung for the first time.

Bellringers from the tower and local area along with Isaac O'Shea the Bellhanger gave the full 6 a proper trial and were very complimentary.

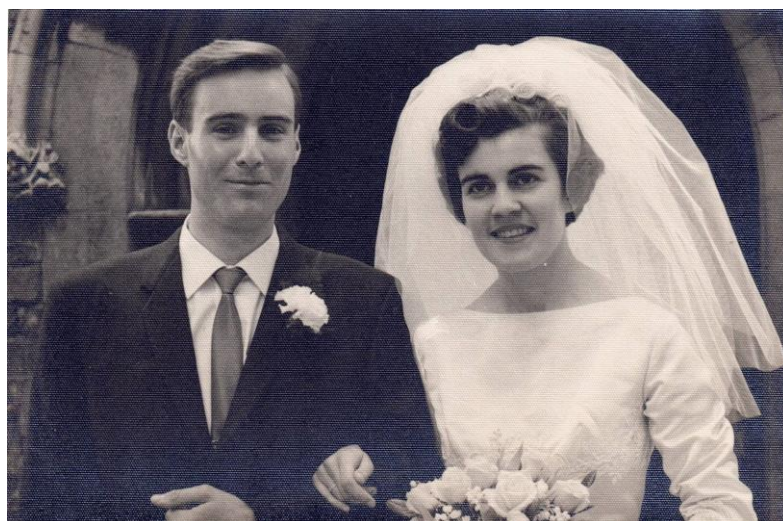


The Treble bell on the right with new Headstock with Twiddle pins fitted



Murray & Mary Coleman diamond Wedding Anniversary

Murray and Mary Coleman celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary on July 3rd. They were married at St. Giles' church, Desborough, and have lived there since. They have been integral to the story of bells and bellringing in the area, as far back as current members can remember. 2 peals have been rung locally to wish them all the best.



Murray and Mary Coleman on their wedding day 1965

Guild Spring Meeting Saturday 12th April

The Branch arranged for the tower at Geddington St. Mary Magdelane to be available en route to the 6-bell striking competition, in which the branch fielded five teams, four in the call changes. Rothwell tower put forward a team for the method ringing competition and came a very creditable 3rd equal with the Rushden band, and behind Peterborough Cathedral and Towcester.

Mystery Tour Saturday 10th May

A challenging tour was organized by Helen and Nick Churchman, participants having to work out the location of the first tower, Warmington, St. Mary BV from a single clue. Luckily everyone found the tower.



While a band was ringing, other members of the seven teams were working out the answers to a series of clues, hidden in and around the churches visited, which allowed them to identify the next stop on the tour. Our second stop was at the magnificent tower of Fotheringhay, St. Mary & All Saints. Ringers climbed up the staircase and crossed the roof past the impressive

flying buttresses to enter the ringing room, a novel experience for many of our ringers.

A total of nine ringers supported by friends and family took part. Seven teams submitted answers to the wide-ranging clues.

On to Nassington, St. Mary the Virgin and All Saints where refreshments were provided. Our final tower was Kings Cliffe, All Saints, where we arrived at the end of a Village Street party.

The results were: 3rd Andrew and RoseMarie Gunstone, 2nd Paul and Natasha Salter and in first place the team from the Welland Valley Benefice, comprising Andy Bimson, Diane Atter, Hannah Conlon & Jonathan Seymour.



Saturday 3rd June 2025

For this regular Branch ringing meeting we rang at two towers, Weldon (8) in the Thrapston branch followed by Corby, St. John the Baptist (6). The meeting was attended by twelve members and was the first time the Branch had visited Corby since the refurbishment of the bells. To celebrate, the Corby tower captains laid on refreshments including freshly made Sausage Rolls and Cakes.



Winners: Jonathan Seymour, Hannah Conlon, Diane Atter, Andy Brimson

New Ringers' Practice

On Wednesday 2nd July, a summer outing was organised for all who attend the monthly training sessions, held at Rothwell Church for new bell ringers.

The outing consisted of bell ringing at three churches throughout the day. We first visited Medbourne Church, then Wilbarston church followed by lunch at their local pub. In the afternoon we visited Rushton church with the sun coming out to join us too. We practiced ringing up/down, call changes, plain hunt and for those who have progressed a little further, Plain Bob Doubles.

As a new ringer it was a great experience to visit different bell towers and although it can take you out of your comfort zone to handle different bells it also instils more confidence and awareness.

It was a very enjoyable day for all and thank you to Jane Marsh, Helen Churchman and Mick Dainty for leading the sessions in the Churches.

Lisa Pawluk

Devon Call Changes

On Saturday 5th July, I joined the tour of five churches in North Devon to celebrate the full refurbishment and re-hanging of the bells at St. Mary Magdelene, Huntshaw. This project had been led by Richard Sears, a member of the Rothwell tower band,



who invited Rothwell ringers to join the tour, which was reported in full in the August 1st edition of the Ringing World, pages 692-693.

This was my first experience of ‘Devon Call-Changes’. Initially I wondered what was going on when some ringers started attaching elastic bands to the tail ends of the bell ropes before going on to insert their upper arm in the band. Others inserted their arms through the loop of the bell rope. It is normal practice when ringing Devon Call-Changes to raise the bells in peal, to ring a piece of call-changes, and then to ring the bells down in peal again, without stopping. Whilst these practices with the ropes are something we learn from the start are unsafe, with the possibility of injury should anything break, in Devon Call-Changes the bells are rung with the bells below the balance with a closed handstroke, so no risk of knocking or breaking a stay.

Once started, the changes come thick and fast. The aim is to follow a constant rhythm with the calls made at metronomic intervals, every 2nd or 3rd handstroke, following a fixed pattern of calling in a cyclical nature. I found that I was being told to ‘speed up’ from time to time but gradually got into the different way of ringing. The only piece of method ringing I took part in all day was short touch of Grandsire Doubles.

News from the towers

Rothwell, Holy Trinity

On Saturday 5th April, Holy Trinity, Rothwell hosted a group of 'Hairy Bikers'. Members of The Rutland Chapter of the Harley Owners Group made a visit, organized by Christian Harford a Biker and ringer at Wilbarston, All Saints.

One group visited the historic Bone Crypt, whilst the other group climbed the tower stairs. Half were given an explanation of the bells and English Full Circle change ringing by Helen Churchman, having a chance to ring backstroke while supervised, while the remainder climbed up to see the bells, with a full explanation of their workings and their history by Nick Churchman, and an opportunity to see a bell in operation.

On Friday 15th August, Rothwell ringers, supported by colleagues from Desborough, rang for thirty minutes as part of the VJ Day commemorations prior to the 2 minutes silence at noon.

Isham, St. Peter

Isham St Peter's were thrilled to welcome Geoff Norris (77) who joined his grandson, and our youngest ringer, Stanley (13) for practice night.

Geoff was one-time tower captain at Gretton until ill health forced him to retire.

Pytchley, All Saints

We have rung two quarters this year. Chris Luck rang his first quarter inside to

Plain Bob Doubles in March. He was taught to ring by his father over 45 years ago, gave up, and came back to ringing when he moved into Pytchley seven years ago. Joe Rollings also rang in that quarter, quite an achievement for a 92-year-old. Our other quarter was in August, to celebrate the Golden Wedding Anniversaries of Ros and Ian Kinloch and Steve and Alan Birchall. Ros rang the treble to Plain Bob.

Pytchley village held a gala day in July with various activities. We invited visitors to the ringing room to watch the bells being rung and were very pleased to see so many people taking up the challenge to have a go. With strict supervision, they were allowed to ring the back stroke, and many of them were surprised how difficult it was. They were all very complimentary, but we'll wait to see if anyone turns up on a Friday night to learn!

We also rang for VE Day and VJ Day.



L to R: Bill Adcock, Richard Sears, Jim Bence, David Dainty, Sarah Bence, Jane Marsh. Photo: Helen Churchman

Corby, St. John the Baptist

The bells at St John the Baptist Church, Corby, were rung on Friday 16th August at 6.30pm to mark the Anniversary of Victory over Japan Day. Those taking part were: Gordon Brown, Cathy Mason (Tower Captain), Sandra Whitlam, Jenny Loxton, Diana Talbot, Charlie Brittain, Sebastian Forryan (aged 11) and Ruth Forryan.

Thanks to all my contributors including Lisa Pawluk, Margaret Buchanan, Jenny Ball, Cathy Mason and Richard Sears.



VJ80 band at Corby, St John

David Dainty

Northampton Branch

Many tower bells in the Northampton Branch, along with other towers nationwide, rang to commemorate VE Day on 8th May and VJ Day 15th August.

Duston dedicated several of their Thursday night practices to local events. Rounds, call changes and plain hunt were rung. These included: Duston Village Bakery's 100th Anniversary celebration on 5th June, the 100th Anniversary of Duston United Tennis Club on 19th June, and on 24th June to celebrate Karen Rands's 70th Birthday.

The branch practice on 26th August at Boughton was well attended by 15 ringers and on 26th June at Duston, the practice was run by Robin Hickmott, which was attended by mostly local ringers. Both these practices were supported by several members outside the branch.

Liz Moore, Branch Secretary

Peterborough Branch

St Mary's, Peterborough

It's been quieter of late but, looking back at our last submission, we had a busier start to the last few months so here goes.....

Our common theme has been to help ringers enjoy the experience of quarter pealing, and we started April with Nikki Wilmot ringing her first quarter trebling to Plain Bob Doubles.

We were the first tower in the country to ring in memory of Pope Francis, having heard just 20 minutes earlier of his passing. Admittedly we had already planned an

early morning quarter on Easter Monday. We chose Double Bob Minor, which was a first in method by the band.

On St George's Day, we rang a quarter of George of England and Dragon's Place Doubles, a first in these variations for Joseph Booker.

In late April, Yolande Hasselo from Calgary in Canada, spent a week in North Cambridgeshire ringing ten quarters with over thirty new m/v. We helped double her QP count, and she is coming back in the autumn for a top up. A blessing to have someone so eager!

We rang quarters for the 80th anniversary of both VE and VJ Days. The VJ quarter was particularly poignant as we rang it as a tribute to Matthew Bradwell's grandfather.

We celebrated first the 18th birthday of Katie Larter, one of our band members and, soon after, Taliya's son arrived on the day she was due to finish work. We had to mark Zion's early arrival with a quarter and have lined up a further one for his baptism in late August.

In mid-June, we welcomed back Jane McKee, who retired to Warminster in 2022. Jim Benner conducted a quarter of Grandsire Triples. Jane fits the "good sports" ringers, who was always game to advance her ringing and we track Bellboard with interest to see what she gets up to in Wiltshire.

Both Deborah Bray and Joseph Booker rang their first quarter of Single Oxford Bob Triples for Andrew Tinsley's 80th birthday.

Finally David Banks conducted a quarter and named four new variations, Spades, Hearts, Diamonds and Clubs Doubles. At some point these will be included in a 168 M/v peal of Doubles to fulfil a bucket list wish of certain ringer who has shared the love of Doubles for many years.

Andrew Christie, RM at St Mary's Peterborough

St Andrew's, Ufford

We continue to hold a practice at Ufford on the first Thursday of the month at 10.30am. The bells have benefitted from this, although the tenor has had its moment, and we are continuing to oil them frequently with castor oil. We rang for the 80th commemoration of VE Day in May and VJ Day in August.

I am standing down as Tower Correspondent for Ufford. There is a new local ringer taking up this role.

Sally Hudson

Nassington

Our busy practices on Monday evenings continue each week. Our newer ringers are moving on, learning to treble to Bob Doubles and now starting to look at ringing inside. For the more experienced ringers we have been ringing a mix of Stedman

Doubles, Grandsire Doubles, Reverse Canterbury Doubles and Bob Minor, depending on attendance.

For the Friday morning sessions, we have combined handling with rounds, Plain Hunt and Bob Doubles, and it is nice to see everyone improving.

Apart from a couple of Sundays in August, we have had more than sufficient people to ring each Sunday for service. We have rung across the benefice for a number of weddings and funerals, and for a Baptism at Thornhaugh.

We rang across the benefice for both VE Day in May and VJ Day in August. Revd Jane held a ten minute service of remembrance prior to our ringing, and it was nice that several of the congregation stayed to watch us ring. As VJ Day was a Friday, our usual band of ringers rang, some for the first time at a number of the towers. We also had a band capable of Stedman Doubles, so we were able to ring that, too - a good experience for all.

Two QPs have been rung at Nassington in the period, at the beginning of April to celebrate my 30th wedding anniversary and the second in June to celebrate Kath Langdale's 80th birthday.

Visiting bands have rung across the Benefice, including a peal at Thornhaugh, plus a number of QPs as part of Yolonde's visit in early May (see St Mary's, Peterborough above).

Hilary Hardie, Tower Captain

Peterborough Branch Activities

Major and minor socials are increasingly popular. The monthly 8-bell practice is gaining support now it's alternating day, time and venue. We also had a Grandsire/Stedman social which was well attended. We are trying to visit different towers across the branch, where appropriate, for these events.

Without doubt, the practice that has been supported the most is the Surprise Minor social. These are planned to support surprise ringers, if they're unable to ring surprise at their own practices or at least have a strong band around someone less experienced. We've rung Cambridge, Primrose, Bourne, London, Norwich and Lessness. If people request a method, we can assess if that's feasible with the ringers available.

I think it's fair to assume these events will carry on. The Surprise socials are the most popular and it's important to keep practice opportunity available. We welcome visitors from other branches/Guilds.

We'd like to encourage anyone to come to the 8-bell practice if they can handle a bell and able to ring rounds reasonably unsupported, particularly if they don't get to ring on 8 bells normally.

We have spoken about visiting towers, but that hasn't happened yet for various reasons, so we plan to invite towers to request support from the ringing master and ringing community, if they are wanting to push their repertoire locally, for example.

Elaine & Jane

Branch Correspondent: Hilary Hardie

Rutland Branch

Quarter Peal for The High Sheriff of Rutland

The High Sheriff of Rutland for 2024/25 was Richard Cole of Uppingham. On Thursday 27th March a Quarter Peal was rung at St Peter & St Paul Uppingham, acknowledging the completion of a successful term of office before it was time to transfer the role to his successor, Colonel Richard Chesterfield. Richard has the rare distinction of being the holder of the office twice, having previously been High Sheriff in 2020 in the Covid lockdown year.

A band of Rutland ringers rang 1260 changes of Plain Bob Triples. After the ringing light refreshments were served to a gathering of regular church goers. Richard has also been Churchwarden at Uppingham in excess of 10 years. A toast was proposed by Rutland Ringing Master, Ian Bell.



VE80 Day

On May 8th bellringers across Rutland stepped up to ensure our bells rang out in recognition and commemoration on the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Ringing was heard in 27 of our Rutland towers, with many ringers visiting more than one tower. A great achievement for everyone. Well done to all. Towers rang again on VJ Day80 with one Quarter Peal rung in commemoration.

In Memoriam

It was with great sadness we reported the passing of Peggy Jennings on 30th April, at age 89. A studious observer of peal boards in our towers will notice the frequency with which her name appears. This is testament to her extensive contribution to branch achievements. Her skill and expert knowledge was invaluable in these formal situations. It was also her constant support and encouragement for



everyone, from learners to experienced ringers, that made her a much loved and respected member of Rutland branch.

Peggy rang 50 peals and hundreds of quarter peals, providing stability for the team with her skilled ringing. She had rung all over the country and also in New Zealand where her son Robert now lives. She remembered the earthquake that destroyed Christchurch cathedral and was following the reconstruction with interest.

In June 2019, Peggy received her honorary certificate celebrating 50 years membership of the Peterborough Guild.

A service of memorial and thanksgiving was held at Brooke church on 15th July.

Another well-known Rutland ringer, David Couldwell, formerly Tower Captain at Lyddington, died on 4th May. A service of cremation was held on 4th June, followed by a wake at The Old White Hart in Lyddington.

A band of ringers, several of whom had known and rung with David, rang some tuneful rounds and call changes in memory of a man who had given so much to ringing in Lyddington and around Rutland over many years. He was Tower Captain at Lyddington until he and his wife, Brenda, moved to Norfolk nine years ago. They had more recently moved back to Rutland, to live in North Luffenham. Ill-health prevented David from taking up ringing again on his return to the area.



Caldecott, St John the Evangelist

It was in October 2024 that 'Operation Pigeon' commenced at Caldecott.

Pigeons were getting into the spire, bell chamber and clock chamber of Caldecott tower, nesting and causing a build-up of guano on the floorboards. During the Covid lockdown, when ringing was not possible for some considerable time, the pigeons (or jackdaws) busily, and undisturbed, picked off the original mesh over windows, louvres etc. Either that, or possibly it was old enough to have rotted. The mess and health hazard was considerable but finding someone to deal with it proved to become something of a nightmare. There were several fruitless approaches to builders and roofers and eventually 'pest control', who, with much weary sighing deemed the problem 'do-able but difficult'.

It was hard, disgusting work, only possible to be carried out for limited periods of time, but eventually all was cleared, the pigeons evicted, their guano cleared, all systems back on track, or so it was thought.

The acidic nature of 300kg of guano had caused rotting of the floorboards. New boards were needed and with Archdeacon's permission, repair was expected to follow. But no, woodworm was found in the joists. More waiting for inspections and

reports and applying for faculties etc. To date, ringing has not yet recommenced at Caldecott, but hopefully soon.

The moral of this story - look after your window coverings, louvres etc and don't give the pesky birds any opportunity to get in!

Greetham, St Mary's

The bells of Greetham tower rang for Christmas 2024 and then fell silent, to be removed for refurbishment and bell frame remedial work.

The newly fettled bells of Greetham St Mary's were on display in the church over the weekend of July 12th, 13th, 14th, to be rehung following the installation of a new framework.

A service of celebration, to be attended by the Bishop of Peterborough and other dignitaries, is planned for September when the bells will be heard again in their full glory.

St Peter's, Brooke

Every year in June, on the nearest Sunday to the anniversary of the restoration and augmentation of Brooke bells, a celebratory Evensong is held in the church, which usually includes the ringing of a Quarter Peal. This year was no different, a QP of Plain Bob Minor was rung on June 15th with Richard Beadman conducting.

Originally, Brooke was a 4-bell tower, but one that fell into a serious state of disrepair over quite a long period of neglect. This all changed in 1991 when the Beadman family of Braunston offered to pay for a new tenor bell, if restoration work was carried out. Others gave their time and services free of charge, and after very successful fund raising, two new bells were added in 1992 making a ring of 6: a new treble and the tenor bell, with the inscription "HE THAT HAS EARS TO HEAR LET HIM HEAR. A GIFT OF THE BEADMAN FAMILY".

Platinum Wedding Anniversary

John and Connie Beadman celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary at home in Braunston, Rutland on Friday 1st August 2025. They were married at Braunston and have lived in their house on Cedar Street all their married life.

John was taught to ring in the early 1960s by Charlie Greene at Glaston, and rang largely at Braunston, Langham, Oakham and Brooke until he stopped a few years ago. Connie was a church



organist for over eighty years, first taking the role of organist at Calverton near Stoney Stratford in 1943. Latterly Connie played at Brooke and occasionally at Braunston.

A band that included three Beadman brothers rang a quarter peal of Platinum Delight Minor at Braunston, to celebrate the occasion.

Sue Webster, Rutland Branch Correspondent.

Towcester Branch

Our branch annual May Tour this year was in the delightful area of the Cotswolds. The morning started at the wonderful church in Blockley, made famous as the church used for filming the TV series, Father Brown. A wonderful ring of 10 gave many options for ringing and the nearby delicatessen and coffee shop allowed some extra morning breakfast indulgences.

Onto Bourton on the Hill for a gorgeous 5-bell tower, before Moreton in Marsh and ringing before lunch.

Lunch became a mixture of preferences with some picnicking in the churchyard and making the most of the wonderful summer weather, while others sampled the local pubs, cafes and shops alongside the usual May weekend tourists. Those organised ringers went early to Chastleton to enjoy the National Trust property; lovely grounds and the promise of tea and cake served in the church.

Continuing our tour into the afternoon, we picked our way through the narrow lanes and pretty scenery to Chastleton. Here we apologetically caused disturbance to the tea and cake ladies who had set up their 'servery' in the tiny area at the foot of the awkwardly placed ladder up to the ringing chamber. The light 6 seemed remarkably loud inside and out, and no doubt stopped the gentle conversations at the tea tables set out in the churchyard, directly under the tower! We finished early and left a little sheepishly, but not before a few of us had sampled the tea and cake, as much to appease the tea ladies as to satisfy our thirst.

Onto the pleasant 8 at Chipping Norton where the standard fare of rounds and call changes, Grandsire and Stedman was spiced up a little, with three leads of Glasgow, and a touch of 8 spliced being scored.

With energy levels dipping, the light, ground floor 6 at Swerford promised a gentle end to the day. It turned out the bells were a little tricky for some and unfortunately a stay was broken, albeit in a very undramatic kind of way! Ringing continued, with the bell being held on the balance between touches. Before we left, we tied a box to the rope and left a prominent note of apology before later making a call to alert the locals, and offering help to replace the stay.

To end our wonderful day and ease the tiredness we congregated at the Sun Inn, Hook Norton. A good hearty meal and the odd pint of 'Hooky' eased the disappointment of not getting the local bells on this outing due to a peal earlier in the day.

Many thanks to Richard Allton for organising the towers, Chris Bulleid and Richard Allton for running the ringing, Odette Dawkins for co-ordinating the evening meal, John Pardoe for all the other admin bits and to everybody who came.

The Branch Annual August Bank Holiday mini tour, 23rd August 2025 was held just over the branch border at Nether Heyford, Flore and Harpole. A lower number attended, but those that went had a great morning of ringing on the lovely 6 bells in each tower.

News from some of our branch towers:

Towcester

The weekly Friday night practices continue to attract ringers from a wide area who wish to learn or improve their ringing on higher numbers. Visitors are always welcome, especially regulars. The usual repertoire includes Grandsire and Stedman Caters and Cinques, Little Bob and Cambridge S. Royal and Maximus, London S. Royal and Bristol S. Maximus.

Towcester isn't just for advanced ringers, and we are delighted that we have a new recruit learning to handle a bell. Helen is making excellent progress!

The town's Midsummer Music Festival held in June allowed the local Towcester ringers to be involved in the Town celebrations. This year the ringers borrowed the President's mini-ring which was set up in the vicarage garden for people to have a go.

Blisworth

The band here continues to overwhelm with their determined boundless energy to ring every week at their Wednesday night practice, plus cover five churches for service ringing, together with being on to ring at Courteenhall too.

Easter Sunday was a marathon ringing morning with the band of Mark, Bob, Peter, Cassia, Polly and Chris leaving Blisworth at 8.45am in two cars to raise, ring and lower the bells at Stoke Bruerne for their 9.30 am service. From Stoke Bruerne they travelled to Courteenhall and were joined by Chris C who had raised the bells the day before, to ring from 9.45 -10.15am. Then leaving the two Chrises behind to lower the bells in time for the 10.30 service, which was taken by the Archdeacon Richard Ormston.

This allowed the rest of the band to head back to Blisworth to rejoin with Matthew and Sam who had raised the bells in advance, to ring and lower in time for their 11am Easter Sunday service.

The organisation to get all the bells in three towers raised, rung and lowered including the travel time was amazing, well done to the team and especially to Chris Lea whose planning of cars, lifts, bands to ring would impress the British Army.

Branch Training

A full day of training was arranged by the branch training committee and led by Margaret and Chris Bulleid.

The aim was to deliver a specific day of training, giving one-to-one tuition on bell handling, theory work and ringing exercises.

Feedback from Students included the benefit of one-to-one support, helpful discussions and explanations, a good balance of practical and theory with a mix of activities. Attendees also commented on what they thought worked well, which included the social side of the day, excellent training materials prepared for students, carefully pitched at correct levels to increase/enhance skills, and the individual folders with quizzes and plain hunt sheets etc.

The training day was successful with plans to hold more in the future.

Annual Towcester Branch vs North Bucks Ringing Competition

This annual competition, held in July, moves between the Towcester branch areas and the North Bucks area, with the specific chosen towers being rotated too. This year we had the luxury of hosting the competition at Pattishall and possibly gaining a home advantage.

Chris Bulleid sent a huge thank you and well done to everyone who competed, for overcoming nerves and producing some exceptionally good ringing. A clean sweep was achieved due to everyone ringing at their very best.



*Mini-outing to Flore, Nether Heyford and Harpole
23rd August 2025*

CALL CHANGES: 35 70.5	PB MINOR 23.5 44	STEDMAN TRIPLES 13.5 30.5
Annie Wood	Catherine Tinsley	Margaret Bulleid
Helen Allton	Joanne Wilby	Ruth Stokes
Caroline Blackwell	John Pardoe	Robert Wood
Jill Faiers	Mike Tinsley	Sue Ferrie
Paul Bestwick	Chris Bulleid (c)	John Stanworth
Andy Blackwell	Alan Faiers	Chris Stokes
Graham Ferrie		Richard Allton (c)
Chris Bulleid (c)		Jonathan Stuart

Notable ringing throughout the branch:

St Mary, Easton Neston

Tuesday, 24 June 2025 in 45m (9-2-6 in G)

1272 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Alan Faiers | 4 Jenny Ball |
| 2 Jane Bloomfield | 5 Paul Bestwick |
| 3 Debbie Sampson | 6 Nigel Williams (C) |



Holy Cross, Pattishall
Monday, 16 June 2025 in 4m (11-2-24 in G)
70 Grandsire Triples
1 Margaret J Bulleid
2 Hilary Aslett
3 Caroline J Blackwell
4 Nicholas T Lowe
5 Jonathan Stuart
6 Paul Bestwick
7 Alan Faiers
8 Christopher E Bulleid (C)



Rung to mark 70 years of bell ringing by Hilary Aslett. Congratulations Hilary!

Odette Dawkins

Wellingborough Branch

Since the last newsletter, the Wellingborough Branch have held Surprise practices at Rushden and Ecton and afternoon practices at Great Doddington and Castle Ashby. We held a Branch Meeting at Grendon where Erica Wallace from Earls Barton was elected a member of the Guild, and Alex Bishop from Higham Ferrers received his Certificate for his first Quarter Peal.

Twelve towers in the branch rang sometime during the day on 8th May to celebrate VE Day.

In June, the Branch Striking Competition took place at Yardley Hastings on a lovely sunny evening. Nine teams took part with Easton Maudit taking top spot, Rushden 2nd and Irthlingborough 3rd. Alan Marchbank and his wife were thanked for judging and for giving positive comments and help to all teams.

Pam Bailey

Bozeat and Easton Maudit

Bellringing in Bozeat has continued to thrive. The band is now 16 strong and all learners are making good progress towards competent change ringing. We continue to ring at other towers during the week as well as at our own Thursday practice and Sunday morning services, and for many of the services at Easton Maudit.

Visitors were welcomed into the tower during the Open Gardens event and local ringers demonstrated bell handling and ringing rounds.

In April we were pleased to host a visiting band ringing a Peal of 7 Minor Surprise methods and in July a visiting band from Somerset rang a Quarter Peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor.

We are very pleased that the Swift nest boxes are now installed in Easton Maudit tower. The swifts – but nothing else- can access the boxes through the louvres in the window. The electrical work needed so that we can play the swift call to attract them to the boxes is well underway too. The Mid-Nene RSPB Local Group supported these Swift Boxes. For more details contact them if you feel this is something you would like to do in your own tower



Visitors and new learners are always welcome. Contact Tony or just knock on the trap door on a Thursday evening if you wish to come up to belfry and see what's going on.

Our highlight so far this year was the Wellingborough branch striking competition, held at Yardley Hastings. We were able to enter two teams, representing both villages. We were thrilled that for the first time ever the Easton Maudit team actually won! The trophy, which we will hold for a year, is hanging in Easton Maudit belfry.

At Bozeat, work is still in progress to replace the rotten floor under the bells, which, along with soundproofing, has been removed. As we wait for the faculty to come through, to allow us to commence replacement work, we have temporarily soundproofed the ringing room with old carpets so we can hear ourselves think whilst ringing. The faculty and paperwork for installing rope guides at Easton Maudit are in the final stages. Rope guides will allow easier and safer ringing: at present this is quite a challenge because of the long rope draught.

Christina Downey

Earls Barton

And so, our infamous ladder claims another victim. Sadly, the most experienced ringer, in recent times, of our band has had to call time on ringing with us because of the physical effort involved in climbing our locally renowned ladder. He will be missed by us all. Because of the problem with the ladder, we had already thought of building a resting platform halfway up not only for a rest but also to allow for overtaking by younger fitter ringers!

On a serious note, a new member of our Band has just joined the Guild and our youngest ringer, 12 years old, continues along with others to make steady forward strides with their ringing. We may not be ringing Londinium surprise, but we are regularly ringing 6 or 8 Bells on practice nights and for Sunday services and long may that continue.

Andy Smith

Ecton

Many congratulations to Thomas Coulter-Brophy, our Tower Captain and Branch Ringing Master, on his marriage to Devi Jayasheela on 31 August. Unfortunately, the Quarter Peal attempt by Branch Committee members at Ecton on the afternoon of the wedding came to grief. We all wish them every happiness for their future married life together.

David Dicks/Pam Bailey

Irchester

In April, we were excited to be seen on East Anglia news. Jean Dickin, the widow of Ivor who was Tower Captain for many years, now lives in the nursing home opposite the church. The carers brought her over to the belfry to be interviewed by the reporter to talk and reminisce about her life as a bellringer. The recording showed the bells being rung by the local ringers, and Harry Curtis, the present Tower Captain, was also interviewed.

In July, the bellringers opened St Katherine's Summer Fair and rang for ten minutes every half an hour. We had praise and compliments but unfortunately no new recruits. We had visiting ringers from Somerset who rang a Quarter Peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major.

In August Marion planned a surprise for Harry. On our practice, Irchester ringers and friends from Wollaston, Pytchley and Rushden joined us to celebrate his 85th birthday with tea/coffee, cake and chat.

Marion Whittaker/Pam Bailey

Irthlingborough

In June, Irthlingborough had a working party to put up a new peal board commemorating the Guild's 100th Anniversary of Bristol Surprise Major and a peal of Superlative Surprise Major, and a restored board recording two peals that took place in 1897 and 1899. Work was also carried out in the bell chamber clearing out accumulated debris.

As the Branch Striking Competition was held on our practice night, and some people were on holiday, Josh decided we should put in a band. We were delighted to be placed 3rd.

On 23rd July, we held our practice night at Mears Ashby and enjoyed some refreshments in the local afterwards. A week later a group of visiting ringers from Somerset rang a quarter peal of Superlative Surprise Major.

Margaret Bull/Pam Bailey

Rushden

Since the last report, Quarter Peals have been rung for St George's Day, to celebrate Alan Marks and Simon Dixon's special birthdays, and for the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. A visiting band from Somerset rang a Quarter Peal of Havant Surprise Major.

At the Branch Striking Competition, held at Yardley Hastings in June, the Rushden team were placed 2nd out of nine teams – Easton Maudit being the winners.

In August we held a bring-and-share Summer Get-Together in Brenda's Garden. Luckily, the weather was kind to us even though the forecast said rain.

We have continued to ring on Friday evenings and for Sunday services although being short at times. Paul is now back ringing with us after his second replacement knee operation.

Pam Bailey

Wollaston

The team rang for Easter and then followed it a few days later with ringing for St George (on his proper day of 23rd April). We then rang for the celebration for VE Day, ably assisted by Steve Love from Irchester, and then for Bell Sunday.

We also rang for Wollaston Open Gardens in July – the only wet day in a month of hot, sunny days! We offered visitors to come and have a try on the ropes (thank you John for overseeing this) and 9 people had a go, all seemed very enthusiastic, so hopefully this may result in a new learner or two.

Also, in July a visiting band from Somerset rang a Quarter Peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor whilst on their tour in the area.

We have two weddings to look forward to plus VJ Day and a Quarter Peal by members of our band and friends to mark the final service the following day for our Incumbent Adrian and his wife Louise, before they move to a new post at Holy Trinity Boston, Lincs. This will be the first attempt at a Quarter Peal for Ben, so we wish him all the best.

We practice on a Wednesday evening from 7.30 till 9.00pm, if anyone would like to come and join us, they would be most welcome.

Jean Rose



VE Day: L to R Jack, Enya, Steve, Kate, Ben, Jean (Photo: Mel)

100 Club

Since the last newsletter was produced, there have been five draws:

MONTH	No. of paid-up members	1 st Prize winner	1 st Prize value	2 nd Prize winner	2 nd Prize value	3 rd Prize winner	3 rd Prize value	4 th Prize winner	4 th Prize value
April	186	71We	£39.06	133Da	£26.04	136Cu	£18.60	129Ke	£13.02
May	186	51Gu	£39.06	81Ke	£26.04	129Ke	£18.60	124We	£13.02
June	184	125Pe	£38.64	15Gu	£25.76	33We	£18.40	187NR	£12.88
July	182	146Pe	£38.22	31Gu	£25.48	75We	£18.20	29Ke	£12.74
August	181	102Da	£38.01	55Th	£25.34	55Th	£18.10	173Pe	£12.67

We continue with four winners for each draw, and the eagle-eyed reader might note that in August one lucky number was drawn twice! The method of drawing numbers is totally random.

From time-to-time, numbers do get withdrawn/reallocated, sometimes due to ringers moving away or ceasing to ring, but occasionally just due to the annual subscription not being paid. To try to avoid this, I do send up to three monthly reminders by email and enlist the help of the branch representatives if that method fails. If you are not getting reminders, please check your spam folder and/or get in touch.

Since this is such a good way to raise money for the Bell Fund, if you are a member of the Guild and are interested in contributing, or want an additional number for the draws, or know someone else who might be interested, please get in touch.

Cathy Dixon 100_club@pdg.org.uk

GUILD EVENTS 2025

Please watch out for announcements about future Guild Events, broadcast through the usual channels, including the Guild website www.pdg.org.uk and Facebook page www.facebook.com/PDGCBR.

October 11th, 2025

Great Oxenden – Leading up and down in peal 14:30 (booking required)

November 8th, 2025

Daventry – Guild 10 Bell Practice 10:30

Great Oxenden – Leading up and down in peal 14:30 (booking required)

December 13th, 2025

Grafton Underwood – Leading up and down in peal 14:30 (booking required)

April 11th, 2026

Rutland Branch – Spring Festival

June 13th, 2026

Wellingborough Branch – Guild AGM

September 12th, 2026

Culworth Branch – Summer Festival