

**Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church
Bell Ringers**



NEWSLETTER

May 2008

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Apologies for the late arrival of this newsletter.

The next deadline is:

Monday 14th July

It would be really fine if all branches could file a contribution, so please keep a note of your branch's exploits and send it on!

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The President's Piece

What a difference a year, or rather 11 months make! Easter Saturday 2007 was a beautiful warm sunny day, Easter Saturday 2008 was anything but warm and sunny - cold, windy with snow showers. On both days the Sponsored Walk and Cycle Ride took place.

Fifteen cyclists and fourteen walkers took part in the event, not quite so many as last year. The walk took a different route away from the reservoir starting along a ridge with good views - when they could be seen through the snow. A short break was taken by some of the group by the church in Brooke, a lovely village.

We then returned to Manton by a different route and met the cyclists in the pub for lunch. The cyclists found the conditions very tough with walking the only option on the odd occasion. Walkers were pleased they had finished at this point, but cyclists had still to finish. Many thanks to the organisers and the coffee providers.

Child Protection is changing again, but not yet. Information from the diocese for the future is not the same as the information in the Ringing World. Let's hope everything gets sorted out properly.

Have an enjoyable Summer's ringing.

Brenda Dixon

SPRING FESTIVAL

The Spring Festival and six bell striking competition attracted eight tower teams to Braunston in the Daventry Branch on Saturday, April 26. The venue attracted support but very few went to the three towers open on the way. After the draw they rang in an orderly fashion other than disruption caused by three newspaper photographers in the ringing room. A running buffet was provided in the vestry room. Although Braunston has a relatively heavy ring, every band completed the test piece with no easy let-outs for the judges.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Trevor Jarvis (Northampton Branch). Phil Cahill and Mick Fiander won the two 100-club prizes. Bell fund grants were approved for Kislingbury £200; Charwelton £3,250; Kettering £300; Chacombe £2,650. Our President urged every member to sell at least one quiz sheet at £1 each for the bell fund. Derek Sibson as President of the Central Council of Church Bellringers urged us to buy tickets now for the Ringing Roadshow at Stoneleigh on September 5 and 6.

Guild Master, Colin Lee, introduced the judge - Brian Foley. Brian, assisted by two fellow Weedon ringers, Jill and Mike Harvey, announced the results:

1	Rushden	4 faults
2	Heyford	5 faults
3	Rothwell	7 faults
4	Pattishall	9 faults
5	Badby	14 faults
6	Yelvertoft.....	15 faults
7	Long Buckby	22 faults
8	Braunston (Monday club).....	30 faults

The Weaver Shield was presented to Simon Dixon for the Rushden band for a year, for the third time since 1986.

To conclude, thirty three crowded into Daventry for an evening of good ten bell ringing.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

CULWORTH - welcome to new Correspondent Graham White

TEMPORORARY TOWER CLOSURE

Within the next few weeks, Whitfield tower will have to cease ringing for a few weeks, owing to impending repair works due to take place on the tower. Work on constructing a ringing chamber in Helmdon tower is also due to take place fairly soon.

BRANCH AGM

On Saturday January 19th, the Branch AGM, took place on the very fine ring of 8 bells at Kings Sutton. Good ringing was achieved, and a very thought provoking Service was conducted the the Vicar, Father Roger Bellamy, with our ringing master also becoming the Music master for the afternoon.

Following a short walk from the Church, a sumptous tea was provided by Dee Thobourne and helpers in Kings Sutton's new Memorial Hall. Those present particularly enjoyed Dee's Home-made Butternut Squash soup which was served up with a teaspoonful on mint sauce.

The Meeting itself ran very smoothly, with Ian and Sara retiring from their many years of Chairman and Secretary [Sara also combining this with that of news - letter correspondent] which they had both held for a number of years. The meeting sincerely thanked them both very the great deal of hard work that they have put into their times in office over the years.

Mr. Martin Rowling of Culworth, kindly agreed to stand as Branch Chairman, with Vivienne of Brackley, being persuaded to take up the role of Branch Secretary. Martin was replaced as the Branch treasurer by Richard Gale of Marston St. Lawrence, While Joe Glenham took up the helm as the Branch

Steward, in the place of Mike Scott, and Nick Chatt kindly agreed to stand as the Assistant Ringing Master.

Phil Curtis again nobly agreed to remain as the Ringing Master a position that he has held on and off over many years. Also Graham White [my goodish self] was volunteered by Sara as the new Correspondent. Many thanks to all who helped to make our AGM such a successful and enjoyable occasion.

BRANCH OUTING

Our annual Branch Outing took place on Saturday 15th March, to the Marlborough area of Wiltshire. The first tower, Mildehall has a pleasant 7 cwt. ring of 6 bells , which were enjoyed by all. The Church, however, is a revelation having been completely refurbished in 1813 by the renowned Bath Architect, John Pinch. Our next stop was Marlborough, where the interesting 16 cwt ring of 8 bells were rung very well by all concerned. Following a very good pub lunch in nearby Manton village, we walked in the by then light drizzle along the lane from the pub to the riverside Church of St. George's in Preshute, where the Woodford and Chipping Warden Thursday practice band were ably to perform their Party Piece - Stedman Doubles - with Jenny Howse ringing the Tenor behind in this instance.

By the time we reached a possible tea stop, Pewsey, the rain had well and truly set in, with Phil rushing about in the rain frantically trying to find a cup of tea destination for 28 ringers and friends. Pewsey Bells were very nice indeed, with the nicely kept ring of 6 bells. [12 cwt] being enjoyed by all. As a great bonus here, we were able to ring directly after the Christening of Baby Jolyan White [not related], which had taken place immediately prior to our ringing. Our last tower was the ground floor 10 cwt 6 at Milton Lilbourne, where two local ringers turned out to meet us, and despite the warnings at Pewsey, again we found these bells very pleasant and easy to handle.

Many Thanks to Phil Curtis for Organising such an enjoyable day out, for Julie Blencowe for taking care of the treasury and finally to Les Bodily for again being such an obliging and friendly driver in one of his Claydon Fox buses.

PEAL AT CHACOMBE

On Sunday 30th, March, a peal was rung at Ss. Peter & Paul's Church in Chacombe in Memory of Chacombe's former Tower Captain, Ted Garrett and his wife Norma, who both passed away last year. The date of the peal corresponded with what would have been Ted and Norma's 49th wedding anniversary. As many know Ted had worked hard in the organisation of the fundraising to rehang Chacombe bells, and as a fitting tribute to Ted this work is due to start at the beginning of July.

A Peal of 5040 Minor on 30th March 2008

7 methods :- Oswald, London, Wells, Cambridge, Beverley, Surfleet and Norwich.

Treble, John Lewis

2nd, David Bennett

3rd, John Stanworth

4th, Michael Fiander

5th, Richard Allton

Tenor , Colin Lee, [C].

GOOD FRIDAY.

At the request of the Vicar , the Revd Nicholas Gandy, a Quarter Peal was rung at Brackley prior to the Good Friday Service.

BRANCH PRACTICE AT SYRESHAM

With the kind help of 4 visitors, the April Branch Practice at Syresham was well supported with a good selection of 5 bell methods being rung. Thanks must go to Andrew Wilby from Towcester who kindly climbed the ladder [in the cupboard], and freed the treble slider that had decided to stick at various intervals during the ringing.

Graham White

DAVENTRY

MEETINGS

There were 32 who rang and eight who didn't at the February meeting at Nether Heyford. The bells were kept going to many rounds and several methods before the service taken by Revd Ann Slater extolling the virtue of our enthusiastic bellringing in connection with the Bishop's theme of releasing ministry. After a good tea the meeting agreed that we double donations to £2 per rope for practices outside our branch. Sarah Hyatt was elected as a new member for Farthingstone. Alex Libby reported that the branch website www.daventrybranch.org.uk now has a holding page, whilst he and Tom Anderson construct the site fully. A donation was agreed to the Guild's present for Denis Pearson on retiring in June from the Guild Steward's post after 28 years.

Earlier that day, Denis had visited Ashby St Ledgers in his official capacity to check over the work done by Richard Hartley and Harold Thompson over the last year. After the bells were raised singly, the four bells were rung full circle, including a course of Plain Bob Minimus, for the first time, probably since 1929, in the presence of a joyous church warden and watched by a village ringer in training at Braunston, John Davies. The tuning of one bell is a semitone wrong for a major scale, but the result is far less obtrusive than at Farthingstone! Evening ringing was at Weedon where 20 rang and two didn't. Harleston Surprise Major came round, amongst the usual less exotic agenda.

Thirty five assembled at Harpole in March, of whom only 25 ascended the ladder to ring. Double Oxford and Berwick Surprise, the special methods, were both rung at least once. During the service using the special leaflet prepared by the vicar, he promised to learn to ring, before our next meeting in his patch in February 2009! We were well warmed by hot bangers and mash, prepared by Bridget and served by Harpole ringers supplemented by Andrew Higson, Jennie and baby Grace. The gudgeon repair at Kislingbury, our intended evening venue, was scheduled to start on March 24 and not end until April 16, so Duston kindly hosted us instead. Eighteen got there before time, including three from Northampton branch.

Barby attracted 42 during the afternoon in April. The sermon was about gleaning bells and I passed on four lots of research to Revd Peter Beresford from members after the event! After a good tea, we were pleased to elect three new members from Farthingstone: Dorothy and Chris FitzGerald and Paul Allinson. In the evening only 13 swayed in Dunchurch tower where the low ceiling also took its toll on our rope handling but didn't stop Water Surprise Minor, complete with 4-5 dodges, Double Court Minor and Stedman Bob Doubles coming round. Afterwards the resident peregrine falcon was espied as it returned to its tower perch. It seems very effective in keeping jackdaws and pigeons away!

TOWERS

The fortunes of Tuesday practices at Daventry have varied between 19 and six ringers. Welcome visits from Culworth and Northampton branch have helped. At one practice a stander-behind was asked to use ringers' names, not bell numbers. He replied: "OK, but there are two Phils, two Johns and two Ians in this band!" A much less well attended practice soon after led to a quarter peal of minor being rung.

The agreed transfer of Great Brington tower to Daventry branch from Guilsborough was confirmed by the General Management Committee on March 1. Welcome back to the tower (- it was in Daventry branch from 1948 and Peter Box was elected a member of our branch there in 1956) and welcome Revd Chris Goble and Joan Toby – the only ringers at present. In February, a well worn rope broke and benefited from the branch's stock of polyester pre-stretched rope for a lasting repair!

Ashby St Ledgers' bells were rung for the fifth-Sunday service, joint with Braunston, in March. Bellringing leaflets were handed out with service and hymn books to the congregation as this was the first ringing for service for decades. Local learners John and Adrian had their first encounter with "their" bells and immediately saw good cause to thoroughly clear out the ringing area!

Starting last November, a second phase of five learners at Farthingstone was taught on Thursday evenings to coincide with the pub being open! They are making quick progress by fanning out through a range of nearby day and evening practices and are able to ring for service. The first quarter peal on the bells was rung on April 23 in 45 minutes, Plain Bob Doubles conducted by the Guild Master and was Hilary Aslett's 700th quarter peal.

The remaining six children from year six at Staverton School (Abi, Alex, Chay, Finn, Jack and Kim) completed their 11 week ringing curriculum. After ringing for the end of term service on April 3, they were presented with certificates by Revd Liz Cowley. We hope one or two may join practice nights, masterminded by Richard Hartley and run like a training session so that fast progress can be made.

PEOPLE

Christopher Dalton died on February 3 after a long illness (See *Ringing World* p433ff). Christopher and Susan lived in Everdon until August 1985 when they moved to Ullingswick, Herefordshire. Chris was our branch steward for several years. He was a nationally acclaimed photographer who worked for the Churches Conservation Trust and recently published *The Bells and Belfries of Dorset*. Chris was a lay canon of Hereford Cathedral, where a service of thanksgiving for his life, led by the Dean and the Bishop of Ledbury, took place on Monday, March 10. Anne Ford went to the packed service. A quarter peal of Reverse Canterbury was specially rung at about the same time at Everdon– Colin Anderson's first quarter in his home

tower. For harvest on September 21, five of Chris's lifelong and now nationally well-known friends are to ring a celebratory peal starting at 2.30pm – repeating their performance of 1977, when the bells went less well!

Hugh Johnson had another three weeks in hospital as a leg wound, from a fall on Christmas Eve, would not heal. He is getting about on two sticks and is able to drive and ring at ground floor rings with a convenient leaning wall (spotted at Hellidon and Weedon)!

WEEKENDS AWAY

Jane Rands organised a long weekend in Derbyshire during February half term. Eleven ringers and family from Heyford practice night were based in a self-catering Victorian town house in Buxton, with four bathrooms! On Saturday they were joined by two from Weedon and by Jane's daughter, who hadn't lost the knack of ringing after 15 years. Ringing was at Denby (6), Muggington (6), Ashbourne (8 - rung from the chancel crossing, and it is pretty scary as tourists wander through!) and finally Bradbourne (6). The weather was sunny and unseasonably warm, except for frost on the peaks. The scenery was stunning. Sunday dawned bright and frosty for a ring and service at Fairfield (8). The rest of the day included a drive to the Cat and Fiddle and Snake Passes, a walk up the hills and a picnic. An evening meal was booked at the Wanted Inn at Sparrowpit. It advertised as welcoming dogs, muddy boots and children and coped with bellringers very well! After some had been for a walk or run up the hill before breakfast on Monday, three friends from Badby and Weldon joined in for ringing at Bonsall (6), perched on the hillside with more stunning views. After picnic lunch, ringing was at Ashford in the Water, a light 6 where Daniel rang the tenor very well. After Great Longstone (6) the evening at base was devoted to fish and chips then a cut-throat session of the 'Game of Great Britain', a board game which is a traditional part of these weekends. On Tuesday the weather worsened and they came home. Well done, Jane!

The Hardings' Bridlington weekend actually went to Bridlington this year for twelve folk including one who had only started ringing 4 weeks before. After a trip north on March 14 in warm (13°C) dry weather, the next day was very foggy for the trip to Roos (5), Hessele (8), North Ferriby (6) and back via Cottingham (8) and Walkington (6). At Cottingham the spiral staircase brings you out in the bell-chamber then you have to go down a long wooden stairway to ring the bells! Michael Harding joined the group, making his two-yearly ringing appearance and gave local advice on speed cameras. On Sunday, only four made Bridlington Priory where the locals were talked into ringing Plain Bob Minor on the back six rather than ringing the front six, like they usually do. Then everyone made their way to Lincoln and assembled in the Cathedral ringers' chapel under the eye of tower captain, Les Townsend. Les put Geoff in charge for the first half of service ringing, so everyone rang rounds and call changes on twelve and some tried plain hunting cinques. Back under local control, Grandsire Caters, Plain Bob Royal and Yorkshire Surprise Major had diminishing support from the group! A nice weekend – thanks Joy!

BRANCH QUARTER PEALS

The first-Sunday quarter peal in February was Plain and Little Bob Major at Crick, conducted by Ian Willgress. In March it was Stedman Caters rung in 49 minutes at Daventry, conducted by Jim White - a first for Hilary and Alison Willgress. Heralded by deep overnight snow, but not on the roads, the April quarter was Yorkshire at Rushden (guess why!) conducted by Ian Willgress.

Geoff Pullin

GUILSBOROUGH

A late afternoon wedding in Guilsborough meant that our usual AGM format was changed and afternoon ringing was in Ravensthorpe. There was a slight panic at tea time when Guilsborough Village Hall was locked and the key holder turned up just minutes before the hungry ringers.

The business meeting followed and did not produce any surprises or change of officers. Ken Rutland has produced a good and varied programme with new ideas. The first Surprise Practice was at Haselbech with a disappointing turnout. Some thought that a morning of a meeting day was a bit too much.

Another idea of a Branch Striking Competition resulted in ringing from 3 - 7 pm with a break for tea in Guilsborough church. This proved an excellent chance for local ringers to improve their skills.

The Rev John Tarrent retired at the end of February. He was priest-in-charge of eight parishes within our branch and Paul Reading, Churchwarden at Cold Ashby, organised peals and quarter peals to mark the occasion. Quarters were rung at Cold Ashby, Cottesbrooke and Thornby. Full peals were rung at Cold Ashby and Guilsborough. Ian Smurfit, Brixworth, rang his first quarter on eight and Merrick Bowles, Guilsborough, rang his first peal on a working bell.

Dorothy Westerman

KETTERING My apologies to Adrian and Kettering Branch. At the crucial moment my virus checker decided to delete your file. So please can you re-send and I can incorporate it into the next one.

NORTHAMPTON, NO NEWS RECEIVED

PETERBOROUGH

A successful AGM was held at Maxey and Glinton with afternoon ringing taking place at both towers before the service, tea and meeting. It was very good to see all committee posts filled this year. In the evening we were joined by some of our friends from South Lincolnshire which meant that the bells were kept ringing until it was time to visit the local hostelryes.

The format for our ringing meetings has not changed significantly. The Saturday morning training sessions continue at Castor and the learners are making progress from mastering how to handle a bell to the intricacies of change ringing. Our thanks go to the trainers who so willingly give of their time. The first Friday in the month sees the branch visiting Castor for an eight bell practice where a variety of methods are attempted. Other meetings planned for the year are a half yearly meeting with late afternoon ringing followed by supper and a quiz and a practice at the cathedral.

2008 has been tinged with sadness for the branch with the loss of two of its members, Brian McNeil and Doug Johnston. Brian rang at Peterborough St. John's and Glinton and for one year he was our branch treasurer. Many branch members attended his funeral service at the crematorium in Peterborough, where several family members and friends spoke of Brian's kindness to others. Doug's home tower was Oundle, but he used to, commitments allowing, attend St. Mary's, Peterborough practice, although not so much latterly. Again it was good to see many ringers from our branch and Thrapston Branch at his funeral service held at Glapthorn, where

the three bells were rung half-muffled prior to the service. Our thoughts and prayers go to their families at this sad time.

Bulwick

This year the tower dinner was held at Seaton with the usual present ceremony taking place. Our ringing master received a crocodile to go with the wild life he thought his garden pond was now attracting. Captain Pugwash received a 'mat nav' for his new canal boat i.e. a ball of string with a safety pin! New Year saw us having a meal at the Jones', a team quiz, with our ringing master reading out the questions, but he was somewhat hampered by the answers he was getting from some of the teams. All this was followed by ringing in the New Year. Some of us went to Leeds for a weekend away amidst the gales at the end of January. Being cheapskates we found two museums The Royal Armoury and The Television Museum (in Bradford) with free admission to keep us entertained between visits to local hosteleries. In March we celebrated Kathy's 60th birthday with a meal at Exton. Had they heard about us before we went? We were put in the furthest room away from the bar in a section semi-partioned away from other diners! On a ringing note we practise every Wednesday at 7.30 and we are regularly joined by several friends from other towers. If you are ever in the area please join us and at the Queen's Head afterwards.

Sue Jones

RUTLAND

As always, Rutland ringers begin the year with Quarter Peal ringing on New Years Day. This year three were successful and one (London

Surprise) had to be treated as a practice. Australia Day (26 January) was celebrated with a quarter of Superlative Surprise Major as our newly appointed master, Christopher O'Mahony, is from Australia and 2 Aussie friends also rang.

The AGM was a happy affair and we welcomed 15 new members. They all received a welcome pack, recently devised by Robin Rogers, explaining the essentials of bell ringing and giving details of the Rutland Branch activities. Three ringers received certificates for their first quarters and the Branch was delighted to accept a newly formed band – the Uppingham School band – into its membership. Two celebratory quarters have been rung – Tony Clark, tower captain at Wing, marked his 85th birthday by ringing one, and, for the newest member of his band, Gabrielle Maughan, it was a first. David Couldwell celebrated his 41st wedding anniversary by conducting a quarter for the first time. Whissendine's newest member, John Brookes, also rang his first quarter in February.

March saw the annual sponsored cycle ride/ramble. Four members, braved the blizzard, and it was great to share our lovely Rutland Water with hardy souls from the rest of the Guild.

Monica Spence

THRAPSTON, NO NEWS RECEIVED

TOWCESTER

Branch Outing, April 2008.

My outing started when I espied a group of disreputable characters loitering with intent in Towcester high street. On schedule, a small Jeffs coach pulled up, and set off to the final pick up point. Here we discovered a host of people ready and waiting – none of whom actually lived in the house adjacent to the stop! Finally we departed, 25 in all. Outing details were handed out, with a tower list and picture quiz on one side, methods with which the ringing masters intended to torture us on the other.

Lesson to learn: Worcestershire Surprise Major and Ashford Little Bob

The first stop was down a narrow lane at Northfield. The 10 were rung from the ground floor of the tower. From habit, most of us placed the mats in front of our feet to ring. It wasn't until the local ringers joined us to ring and moved the mats to stand on that it occurred to me that ropes don't need protecting from stone and that the mats were there to protect the ringer's feet from the cold stone floor! The ringing went quite well although there was an impressive collective brain failure while trying to ring Ashford Little Bob Royal. Cambridge Royal also featured here, along with ringing for those less confident on 10. It also gave a chance to see that rare thing, the secretary actually on the end of a rope...

Lesson learnt: Don't ask the bus driver to ring in the last touch.

The coach squeezed round the corner, missed the pub and continued to Wolverley. This was a late replacement, called off the subs bench after the recent damage to the tenor clapper at Kidderminster. The church was quite unusual in appearance, being constructed of brick and putting some in mind of a water tower. Inside, the unusual theme continued, with the treble and second being rung from a small raised platform, which only served to take them closer to the already rather low ceiling.

Lesson learnt: Don't ask non-ringing locals difficult questions, it confuses them.

Luncheon was taken at the King and Castle pub, located on the station at the Kidderminster end of the Severn Valley railway. This meant that the anoraks among us could have lunch and look at the engines. There was a 50s event on, and the occasional Teddy boy, complete with quiff, could be seen alongside a range of cars from the era. Somewhat unexpectedly, we set off not more than 5 minutes behind scheduled departure time.

Lesson learnt: Some people can't be relied on to be late...

We were, therefore, somewhat early at Chaddesley Corbett. This was a most interesting church, with all sorts of decorated stonework. The bells were interesting too – an old, mixed set re-hung at the turn of the millennium. Attempted the Worcestershire here several times, and got through it, but it was touch and go at times.

Lesson learnt: Some people needed to learn Worcestershire a little better.

We arrived at Stoke Prior just prior to the start of the Grand National. Some stayed in the coach to find out where their horse fell - sorry, that should be finished. The local advised that the bells were loud and he wasn't wrong. They shouted down from just above our heads, such that conductors were selected primarily on their volume! The tower also had a large crack in one wall that daylight could be seen through. Hope we didn't make it any worse...

Lesson learnt: Stedman requires too many calls, and here they'd be better described as yells.

Hanbury's claim to fame is that it is the tower used for the Archers, so Ambridge has a splendid ring of bells, even if they are hidden up a narrow, windy uphill lane. The Ashford and Worcestershire were both rung here in some style, so all that coaching had done some good. We finished with lovely touch of Stedman, a fine way to round off the ringing. In the midst of an impending drizzle, the group assembled for a photo.

Lesson learnt: Don't engage garrulous locals in conversation – you might not get away.

The day finished with a meal, which was advertised as being in Hanbury, but unless Hanbury is much larger place than it appeared, the indication was probably incorrect. But the pub was prepared for us descending on them and a long queue swiftly formed at the carvery. As usual in this situation, my eyes and plate proved larger than my belly, but the food was good and there was plenty of it. Fed and watered, we were delivered home.

WELLINGBOROUGH

Since I took on the role of Press Correspondent several years ago, I am sure that this is going to be the shortest article I have written. It is only a couple of months since the last article was sent to the editor and in the meantime nothing seems to have happened which has not happened before. (It seems to have grown Tanya!! - Ed)

We have of course, experienced another Annual General Meeting, which took place in Rushden. This as always was accompanied by an excellent tea, offering homemade soup as

the starter with a choice of three. What luxury. Some 50 members attended the service, tea and meeting where the positions were elected on block and a volunteer came forward to take on the position of treasurer next year, as Gavin has given his notice that this will be his last year. A big thank you to all these people who volunteer their services. There is always room for more committee members, we would be glad to hear from you.

Another way you can support your guild is by joining the 100 club.

Members are urgently required to replace "old" members. It requires £12.00 per year from you and a draw takes place every month for cash prizes. If you are interested speak to your Tower Captain or contact Janet Wilkins direct at the Earls Barton Tower.

Six new members were welcomed to the branch, these coming from Earls Barton and Yardley Hastings.

If you have not visited the website recently, please take a look at the excellent developments on the design of the site which is all attributable to Kevin Chapman.

www.wellingboroughbranch.org.uk

The attendance at practice sessions has continued to see a good number attend; as was reported in the last newsletter. Let's hope the interest will continue and we see a further increase over the coming months.

Our quarter peal day was again held in March and thanks to Alan Marks for all his hard work in organizing this event. Further details of this should appear in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Tanya Clayton

Guild 100 Club

The Club has been running for over 20 years now, and provides an income of £500-£600 per year to the Bell Fund.

Membership is handled by branch coordinators, for which I am most grateful. We have a number of lapsed subscriptions at present, so prizes and bell fund donations are falling. Hopefully these members will renew – no back payment is required. New members are always welcome, £12 for 12 monthly draw but no gift aid.

Derek Jones.

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

- 🔔 The all-branch calendar shows regular surprise major practices
- 🔔 The list of Branch Officers is up to date for 2008
- 🔔 Current and recent **Guild Newsletters** are there for all to read
- 🔔 There is a section to help with your **tower publicity**
- 🔔 There is a copy of the **Guild badge** for documents or posters
- 🔔 There are direct connections to **branch websites**

RINGING IN CENTRAL NORTHAMPTON

Practices during July and August 2008 will be as follows:

Wednesday 2nd July - All Saints, George Row.

Wednesday 9th July - Holy Sepulchre, Sheep Street.

Wednesday 16th July - St Giles, St Giles Terrace.

Wednesday 23rd July - St Peter, Marefair.

Wednesday 30th July - St John the Baptist, Kingsthorpe

Wednesday 6th August - All Saints, George Row.

Wednesday 13th August - Holy Sepulchre, Sheep Street.

Wednesday 20th August - St Giles, St Giles Terrace.

Wednesday 27th August - St Peter, Marefair.

All practices begin at 7.45pm.

Contact Bridget Paul 01604 832291 or Colin Sampson 01604 471088 in case of queries.

If you are likely to be or are late arriving at All Saints or St Giles and the door is locked let Bridget know on 07748 864566 and someone will let you in. A door will be opened at 8pm and 8.15pm anyway for latecomers.



Ringing Roadshow 2008

The 2008 Ringing Roadshow will be held on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th September 2008 at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire.

The Roadshow will be the largest ever gathering of ringers and all other bell enthusiasts and promises to be an excellent day out for all the family.

It encompasses a trade show, a range of learning opportunities, ringing-related entertainment, hands-on activities, shopping and the chance to meet hundreds of other people with the same passion for bells and bellringing.

Further details are shown on the website:

www.ringingroadshow2008.org.uk

Some branches have already organized a coach trip and have their tickets.

Tickets are now on sale.

Ticket prices are:

- £8 per day for adults, but ..
- Advance booking discount - tickets £6 if booked now
- Under 16s accompanied by an adult are admitted free - proof of age may be required.

Tickets can be ordered by post or by email. Advance ticket application will close on Friday 22nd August 2008 to allow time to get all the tickets sent out.