

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD
OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS



Newsletter
March 2012

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

*The deadline for the next Newsletter is : **30th August 2012**
Please make a note of this date in your diary*

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

THE PRESIDENT'S PIECE

The beginning of another year and an exciting one for our country with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics. Both these events give us lots of opportunities to ring peals, quarter peals and open ringing to celebrate and I hope as many ringers as possible will do so over the weekend of June 2nd - 5th for the Diamond Jubilee.

There is further opportunity to showcase our bells and churches for the Olympics on July 27th. I realise that the Central Council have reservations about the plan to ring at 8:00am on that morning but I feel an opportunity will be lost if many don't do so. There is bound to be media interest in ringing any available bell(s) on that day and we don't have to ring for only 3 minutes. How about a quarter peal or maybe firing!

If you intend to ring let your local newspaper (or radio station) know what you are doing and why. This could be good publicity for ringing.

Several Guild members managed to attend the North Bucks branch of the Oxford Guild's 'Big Ring Pull' day at Milton Keynes. This was a very impressive publicity event with the Charmborough mobile ring for people to have a 'pull' with many teachers of bell handling and other helpers present looking very smart in splendid 'Big Ring Pull' t-shirts. There were also displays showing how bells are made and changes produced as well as giving an overview of ringing in general. As well as talking to people about ringing, names were taken from interested parties who will be followed up for taster sessions, where people can try on church bells before committing to learning to ring. It was very obvious that a great deal of organisation had gone into this event over the last two years; with the planned taster and teaching sessions still to come.

Most of you will have paid your Guild subscriptions by now and I hope as many of you as possible Gift Aid this. How about gift aiding a little more for the Bell Fund. Remember you must pay tax in able to gift aid anything.

Your Secretary/Treasurer will have forms.

I hope everyone has a good Spring and Summer of ringing.

Brenda Dixon



FROM THE MASTER

2012 promises to be a year in which bells and bellringers can feature prominently and an opportunity for us all to promote ringing, the like of which we have not seen for a number of years. The two main events nationally of course being the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games. However you wish to celebrate these events either to coincide with local celebrations or national events, the important part is the ringing of the bells so that the bells are heard in celebration. Whilst I realise that at a local level it may not be possible for you to ring at the times encouraged nationally, I encourage you all to take part in some celebratory ringing and if possible publicise this through the local village magazine, local newspapers, local radio and perhaps even television. You might even like to write a letter to Buckingham Palace giving details of your ringing for the Jubilee as in the past this has often received a reply on headed letter paper which you could display in the belfry. There is always the Guild newsletter in which you could report events and publish photographs of your band. You might like to contact Geoff Pullin, the Guild's PRO with details of your ringing – please read Geoff's article in this newsletter too!

I look forward to seeing you soon and as always please encourage your ringers to participate in Guild events.

Ian Willgress

I have been asked to make it known that Ian Willgress will be retiring as Guild Ringing Master at the Guild AGM in June, due to family commitments.

Everyone would like to thank him for his hard work over the last two years and wish him and his family all the best for the future.

Nominations for a suitable replacement for the Guild Ringing Master position will be gratefully received.

Chris Pearson - newsletter editor



News from the Branches

CULWORTH BRANCH

RINGING HOLIDAY SEPTEMBER 2011. [SHROPSHIRE].

On Tuesday 13th, September 2011, set off for the annual ringing holiday. The first tower was the stately 21 cwt ring of eight at Hallow in Worcestershire, where a fairly good standard of ringing ensued. Following a tasty lunch at the Red lion near to Shrawley, the next ring was on the Historical 9 cwt. six in Shrawley. Still in Worcestershire we then climbed up a very windy hill side to ring on the some what interesting 12 cwt 8 at Rock.

Crossing the border into Shropshire, the picturesque market town of Cleobury Mortimer was our last ring of the day. After negotiating to tall ladder again the ringing was good on this tuneful 12 cwt. six.

Our next stop was the Crown inn just a couple of miles up the road from Cleobury Mortimer in the small village of Hopton Wafers, it was a pleasure to be fed and watered in our very comfortable base camp.

Wednesday 14th, took us to ring at the fairly recently augmented eight at Stoke St. Milburgh, then down winding lanes to the lovely new 6cwt. six at Tugford on to the again pleasant 5 cwt. six at Rushbury and before lunch to yet another recently augmented eight at Cardington.

We then progressed to the T.V. famous Victorian farm at Acton Scott, when following lunch in the old school, we were treated to an afternoon in a Victorian Farm yard, where Clumper the shire horse was present as well as Tamworth figs with new piglets and a Gloucester Old spot sow ready to farrow. The afternoon was nicely rounded off with ringing on the 8cwt.six at Bromfield, where the Church has the ruins of an ancient house still attached, and crossing Ludlow race course to ring on the pleasant 12 cwt. 8. at Stanton Lacy and finally to indulge in a sumptuous dinner at the Unicorn in Ludlow with its charming and helpful hostess.

Thursday 15th, another full day ahead and in trying to avoid Bewdley heading for a bridge across the Severn which turned out to be a foot bridge , we eventually arrived at the 10 cwt, six at Alveley. The fascinating and colourful, partly Georgian Church at Quatt was our next tower, with fine



ringing on its 8 cwt 6 preceded our arrival at the picture post card Black and white village of Claverley where we did justice in ringing the 15 cwt eight. Following lunch at the plough in Claverly we headed for another beauty spot, Bridgnorth. Ringing took place in Bridgenorth,s two towers, St. Mary's 8 cwt. Eight and the challenging 18.cwt. eight at St. Leonards.

However as one might say, the best wine was kept til last, in the form of the superb newly restored and augmented 8. cwt. eight at Morville. Here some of the best ringing of the tour was achieved. Dinner was again very much enjoyed at the Acton Arms in Morville.

Friday 16th, took us back into Worcestershire to Tenbury Wells. After ringing the 10.cwt six at Tenbury, it was time for a treat.The treat came in the form of a last minute stand in tower to replace a slight geographical error, some of the party hit the shops in Tenbury whilst the keenest of the party headed into Herefordshire to ring on the pleasant 7.cwt. three at Middleton on the Hill The bells hang in the centre of an extremely large tower. The 9 cwt. six at Kimbolton was the tower before lunch in Leominster.

Having climbed over 80 steps to the ringing chamber, the 23. cwt. ring of 10 at Leominster was the next tower of the day.

Kingsland followed on with good ringing on the 11.cwt eight, with the 8cwt. six at Eye being our last tower of the day.

Dinner was again very sumptuous,as we were well looked after at the Maidenhead pub in Orleton.

Saturday 17th, took us back in to Herefordshire to ring at another recent re -hang, being the nice 7.cwt. six at Stoke prior.The penultimate tower was the challenging 9. cwt. 6 at Bredenbury, before arriving in Bromyard where ringing on the very fine 14.cwt. 8 was again very. good. We had a wait for our food at the Crown and Sceptre in Bromyard, but it was very much worth that wait.

Many, Many thanks to Ian, Julie and Sara for organising yet another fantastic holiday.

BRANCH DINNER, 1ST, OCTOBER.

On Saturday 1st, October around forty eight ringers and spouses arrived at the Fox and Hounds in Charwelton for their ringing dinner. There were three main choices of menu for the meal, Beef Cobbler, Lasagne and roast chicken with a variety of starters and puddings. Despite the very warm evening, with the windows of the restaurant fully opened, this proved to be a both



enjoyable and successful occasion with many of our towers being represented. Following the Meal, our chairman, Martin Rowling gave a short speech to thank those who had helped in the organisation of the supper and to Andrea Blewitt and her staff at the fox and hounds.

KINGS SUTTON.

At their annual Church fete in September, Kings Sutton tower captain, Dee Thobourn ran a stall as part of a recruitment drive for new bell ringers, With the aid of Evenley tower captain, Paul Bennett, demonstrations took place using the model bell borrowed from Brackley tower, and leaflets were handed out as part of the drive, resulting in some welcome interest from village residents. Two side shows were also run by Paul with the help of Anthony [hoopla and an eye co-ordination game] and this raised £50 towards the Church funds.

A.G.M, AT MARSTON ST.LAWRENCE.

It was a great pleasure to see around forty members in attendance at Marston St. Lawrence on Saturday 21st, January for our A.G.M. Ringing took place at Marston from 3 - 4.30.p.m, with a good selection of methods being rung on Marstons,s easy going 11. cwt, ring of 5.

Following the Ring a very cheerful and hearty Service was lead by the Rector of the Chenderit Benefice, the Rev. David Randell, who skilfully compared the the parable of the Wedding feast at Cana in Gallilee with the role the ringing of the bells plays in our modern day weddings.

Following the Service, those present were treated to a very fine tea in Marston Village Hall which was prepared by the Marston and Greatworth ringers. There were few great changes in the election of the Branch officers for the coming year,. However we were informed that Vivienne and Keith Woodward had suddenly sold their house in Brackley, and that Vivienne would be standing down as the Branch Secretary. Very many thanks must go to Vivienne for the many hours of work that she has dedicated to this role over the past few years , ably supported by Keith, who is also a ringer. The meeting then duly elected Angela Whitfield from Eydon as the new Branch Secretary, and wish her well in the role.

Finally, amongst other points which came up were,



as always Farthinghoe bells [Now under investigation], and the fact that Ian Chapple will try to coordinate ringing in all of the towers in the Branch during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

Graham White - Culworth Correspondent.

DAVENTRY BRANCH

MEETINGS

The churches walk and ride day and weddings reduced attendance at Kislingbury. The rector introduced another different ringers' hymn accompanied by a CD and Sandra provided a splendid tea. Evening ringing at Holy Sepulchre, Northampton caused three people to deviate from the M1 to help a very good practice in which Christine Rodhouse and Richard Hartley rang their first courses of Cambridge S Major.

Badby bells produced some nice Norwich and Stedman in October. After a typical Carole tea with Richard Piner wielding the teapot, the meeting re-elected Sally Thompson as a member for Fawsley. Chris FitzGerald, who claimed to have eaten the most ginger cake, gave the vote of thanks. At Southam we were pleased to be met by Mary Williams. Jane Rands rang her first lead of Pudsey, then showed us how to slip the rope off the wheel and set the 2nd at backstroke, something not seen at Southam before! Thanks go to Bob Sherriff for re-ropping it. Eleven refreshed afterwards at The Kings Arms Farthingstone.

At Byfield 25 rang and eleven didn't. There were two goes at London S Major, and three of Cambridge S Major amongst other ringing. The Revd Stevie Cross took our service for the first time on her 13th day as Rector. We appreciated the heating, lighting improvements and a splendid tea served from the south

transept. Emily Richardson enjoyed her first branch meeting with us after admitting that her last one was in Surrey 54 years ago! Boddington bells brought out 27 on a very cold evening.

The annual branch meeting attracted 47 (including Caitlyn Sinclair, 6 weeks old), of whom only 29 rang in the afternoon. Three potential recruits arrived having read about it in the Daventry Express! Ten bells were rung at all times from rounds to three tries at



Pudsey Surprise Royal. After the short service led by Canon Michael Webber, tea was enjoyed thanks to Sally, Chris, Deena and Hugh. At the meeting the officers and committee were all returned except that Ian Calvert needed to hand over the treasury as he is moving. Ian proposed that Christine Rodhouse be treasurer and we all agreed. We were delighted to welcome two new members: Tracy Mynott from Braunston and Nikki Butt from Welton, both of whom experienced their first joys of ten-bell ringing in the afternoon.

It often snows when the branch visits Hellidon and it did! With Richard Hartley in charge some 24 rang and 6 didn't. There was a large contingent missing due to the Heyford Jaunt. The Hellidon ringers most generously contributed the entire takings from the splendid tea to branch funds. Having discovered that Hellidon has no street lights, all managed to find their way out with only six brave souls diverting to ring at Staverton, plus two.

SOCIAL

Alison Willgress organised and Jim and Gwynneth White prospected our ring and walk. After the rare event of raising Weedon bells, then ringing, nineteen ringers and family set off along the canal towpath and the Nene Way to ring at Flore on August Bank Holiday. We then re-traced our steps to the towpath and on to Nether Heyford, where we were pleased to have Ann Foley ring. A splendid ploughman's spread supplemented by magnificent cakes followed in the church room. After an evening in the Olde Sun arrangements to get people back to their cars in Weedon



were tested and proved successful.

Barby Sporting Club again hosted our branch dinner on October 1. Janet re-issued menus to prevent confusion about orders. Christine Rodhouse mounted a competition to recognise



the interiors of ringing rooms, which the steward and his assistant won by 1 point, followed by Ian Willgress.

Braunston rang out 2011, with diminishing rounds, and welcomed 2012 with rounds and call changes. This was a 'first' for Alison, Pat and Tracy. A touch of modernity was an iPod to time midnight! Badby fired 12 times for midnight with some clamming (1,4 fired, 2,5 fired then 3,6 fired – three blind mice in chords) to greet the new year.

Thanks to Gwynneth, a raffle at our AGM raised £96 for kites for use by Chernobyl Children when they are entertained by bellringers for a day again in July under Richard Hartley's direction. Did you hear about a steward who couldn't find the sound-meter lent to him by a chairman? He eventually concluded that it must have been in the bag of prizes for this raffle. Luckily he was able to withdraw it in the nick of time!

With fresh snow settled on the week-old variety, 18 Heyford ringers, family and friends set out for the Heyford Jaunt on February 10, to self-catering accommodation at Mundesley, Norfolk organised by Jane Rands.

On Saturday with clear sunny skies and zero temperature ringing was at Bacton, Happisburgh, Northrepps, the first to ringing since Christmas, and Southrepps, where the bells were already up. This seems to have spooked the ringing, dispelling thoughts of Southrepps doubles. Last tower was Knapton. The day ended with a do-it-yourself evening meal, including local fish and chips. Sunday dawned drizzly and only three made it to Cromer for ringing. Others ventured out for coastal walks before lunch at the local hotel carvery. Ian Willgress proposed a vote of thanks to Jane and presented her with two vouchers (written on serviettes!) to claim bottles of wine back at base! In the evening, there was a ten-pin bowling session at North Walsham with the side fenders usefully raised!

First stop on Monday was Felmingham, where the original 1809 ring of 6 was upgraded by adding a tenor and a treble with a replacement fifth bell to correct the scale. The replaced bell was

retained and can still be rung with the 7th as tenor!

After a tricky circumnavigation of Norwich, cold Ketteringham was reached - an old ring with newer treble that caused some sport. After thawing and lunch at the Kings Head, Hethersett the last ring was on the nice Gillett & Johnson eight.





The party at Hethersett after two had gone home. Left to right: Alison Willgress, Geoff Pullin, Ian Willgress, Gill Earle, Carole Pullin, Jim White, Shirley Waterhouse, Ann Maud, Martin Maud, Gwynneth White, Jane Rands, Dorothy & Chris FitzGerald, Sarah Waterhouse, Richard Waterhouse, Bethany Earle.

PEOPLE

Mary Horsley's 70th birthday party was celebrated by a quarter of Plain Bob Major at Holy Sepulchre on August 20 by mainly Daventry branch ringers, conducted by Jim White. On September 21 Eileen and Brian Thompson's and another local couple's Golden Weddings were celebrated with a quarter of Cambridge S Minor at Staverton conducted by Geoff Pullin.

A branch quarter peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at Byfield on Sunday October 2 in celebration of the life of Jean Hicks, a former churchwarden and very active member of the church. It was conducted by Ian Willgress and included three Byfield ringers: Jim Grennan, her son-in-law, and it was Barry Thompson's first on eight.

The 200th anniversary of the casting of the six bells by John Briant for Braunston was marked by a quarter of four doubles methods conducted by Jim White. Each ringer celebrated a significant '0' birthday or wedding anniversary in 2011. It was the most methods that Jane Rands has rung in a quarter peal.

A quarter of Lincolnshire S Major at Daventry on December 11 conducted by Ian Willgress was a compliment to Dominic Sinclair and Shannon Birt on the birth of their daughter Caitlyn Amelia on December 3. Harpole celebrated the birth of Charlotte Elizabeth Borman, whose mother Nicola learned to ring there, with a quarter of 3 doubles methods conducted by Graham Paul. The Harveys celebrated their 46th wedding anniversary in December ringing a quarter peal of



Yorkshire at Adderbury conducted by Colin Lee. Mike's 70th birthday was marked by a quarter rung at Harpole in February conducted by Nick Elks.

Thirty gathered for a bring and share lunch at Litchborough village hall on January 21, as a farewell to Ian and Val Calvert. The day started at 9am with a quarter at Weedon of Grandsire Triples conducted by Jim White. Ian moved to Daventry in 1964 as a BBC transmitter engineer. Val and Ian married at Nether Heyford church in 1968 and moved to work at several BBC transmitters and for Val to teach at nearby schools, including two spells on Ascension Island. In December 1982 they moved to Weedon. Ian was on the branch committee for 22 years and has been treasurer since 1999. They are moving to Tiptree, Essex to be near their daughter and grand-daughter. A presentation of vouchers for £200 was made by the chairman.



Val and Ian Calvert listening to their past with branch secretary Janet Bowers and steward Richard Hartley looking on.

Another quarter was rung specially at Weedon on the following Tuesday -seven doubles methods conducted by Phil Saunders, himself a weekend resident of Essex. Their departure was delayed for a week or two due to a chain (not rope) failure. We were sad to hear that Nancy (Muriel Annie) Rogers died on January 25 in Northampton Hospital aged 89. Nancy was one of the very active band at

Bugbrooke and was tower captain from 1993 after her husband Ken died, until she became unfit to ring around 2002. There was open ringing after her burial south of Bugbrooke tower. A quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung to Nancy's memory on the following Saturday conducted by Ken Ramsbotham, her nephew and included Alison Willgress who, with her sister the Revd Jan Collins, were Nancy's god-daughters



QUARTER PEALS

A quarter peal of Plain Bob Royal for the Harveys, freshly returned from Spain, was rung at Daventry, conducted by Ian Willgress and dedicated to the tenth anniversary of the “9/11” disaster. A nice quarter of Grandsire Triples at Woodford as a warm up before the branch 8-bell competition band didn't help us to get above 3rd place in the Summer Festival at Thrapston this year. A first-Sunday quarter peal of Yorkshire S Major was successful in November at Buckingham conducted by Ian Willgress. It also marked the surprise announcement (to Ian) of his sister Alison's engagement to Roy Williams, who both came on our walk and ring in August. Lincolnshire Surprise Royal was successfully rung at Daventry on Remembrance Sunday evening, half-muffled except the 9th, where the muffle unfortunately slipped. It was the first quarter in the method for Shirley Waterhouse and Gwynneth White and first as conductor for Ian Willgress. The major version was rung on January 8 at Daventry again conducted by Ian, which was the first in the method for Jane Rands and Gwynneth. Christine Rodhouse rang her first of Cambridge Surprise Major at Long Buckby on January 20 conducted by David Baskerville. Eight braved 4 in. of snow on February 5 to ring Plain Bob Major at Whilton, conducted by Jim White. This marked the 60th anniversary of the accession of the Queen the following day. Braunston bells were rung open for a short time also to celebrate the accession, before being muffled for Monday Club.

CLERGY

A welcome speeding up of appointments was detected in the autumn. Not only did the Revd Stevie Cross arrive at the enlarged Byfield benefice: Canon John Knight came as HFDP for Weedon, Everdon and Dodford but will remain living in Brackley; and the Revd Carolyn Oley was promoted to Rector within the Lambfold Benefice.

A quarter peal at Harpole on Friday 23 September of 1260 Plain Bob Doubles conducted by Graham Paul celebrated Canon Peter Woodward's 50 years in the priesthood. Three ringers were from parishes in which he served: Weedon, Everdon and Brackley.

The Revd Sue Faulkner was instituted as Rector of the Knightley Parishes on February 29 at Badby after 16 months as priest in charge. Pity about practice night!

TOWERS

Steward, Richard Hartley, gave a long report in November to make up for recent silences! Kilsby bell frame needs part repainting when the weather improves; estimates have been obtained for rope guides for Kilsby and Litchborough;



and Staverton bells have been quietened inside the ringing room from about 86-90dBa to 74-80dBa. In January Richard Waddy's working party, with Richard Hartley to the fore, has now installed the Saxilby ringing simulator in Daventry ringing chamber, hung the framed certificates, mounted a peal board, repaired one sound control shutter and put anti-slip paint on the new 9th clapper ball so that the muffle won't slip again!

Geoff Pullin - Daventry Correspondent.

GUILSBOROUGH BRANCH

The Branch A.G.M was held in Guilsborough Church when we were pleased to have a visit from Leslie and Stephen Townsend. Leslie took his seat at the organ and played for the service, reliving his days as the church organist. The business meeting was held after tea and produced no changes in branch officers, Michael Fiander retired from the committee and we welcomed Andrew Giles as an unattached member.

Lilbourne

Sadly John Alexander died in October. Members of the branch attended the funeral and rang the bells unmuffled afterwards.

Janyce will continue pushing the bells project and money given in John's memory has gone to the appeal.

The bells will be taken out at the end of July and will be rehung the week beginning Oct 15th. The work being undertaken by Andrew Nicholson. It is hoped to ring a Peal on the bells on Dec 7th to mark the 100th Anniversary of a peal of Grandsire Doubles in 1912.

Crick

It was hoped to have the bells ringing again in June. Unfortunately Bowden's have gone into liquidation so completion of work has been delayed. There are some ringers in training at Yelvertoft who will hopefully be ready to help Geoff when the day comes.

West Haddon

The bells are now rung from a new gallery. The problem with ceiling bosses has been resolved.

Yelvertoft ringers were saddened by the death of Dawn Little (n'ee Elson) on 13th February. She and her brother Peter rang at Yelvertoft until they moved to Coventry. After her marriage to Peter she moved away and rang at Kirk Ella, Wrenbury and Audlem but always joined in the annual Easter Monday Ringing Tour. She will be sadly missed by her many friends.



KETTERING BRANCH

VISIT TO PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL

Our Branch visit on 25th September started with a few of us having an enjoyable lunch at The Boathouse in Peterborough.

21 of our members took part with us all ringing at least four times. We rang call rounds and call changes on 12, plain hunt on 11, Little Bob Maximus and Yorkshire Royal to name some. We all had a most enjoyable afternoon and enjoyed chatting in the beautiful sun in the Cathedral grounds afterwards. Our thanks to Nick Churchman for arranging the visit and to Nick and Chris Pearson for leading the ringing.

OUTING TO LEICESTERSHIRE

A fantastic outing, arranged by Deb and Michael Wallis was enjoyed and very well supported by 28 ringers and 7 non-ringers and we were pleased to welcome Alan and Tom from Rushden as our guests. We decided to try a different approach by starting later with our first tower at 10-30am at Illston and our last tower of the day at 3-45pm at Church Langton. This proved to work well and at the end of the day we were not feeling jaded. The 3 towers we visited in-between were Billsdon, Gaulby and Kings Norton.

We had great fun at all of the towers with a few surprises to keep us on our toes. The ringing chamber at Gaulby was memorable as the loo was in there and because of the arrangement of the doors, the loo door had to be open whilst ringing, a loo roll was put over the door handle to stop the rope catching on it and the ringer of that bell had to stand in the open doorway of the loo! Not a very convenient, convenience. (Mo Easton's words)

A good variety of methods were rung as we had quite a lot of experienced ringers with us. Rounds, plain hunt and call changes were popular to fill in. We finished the day with a superb course of Yorkshire Major. We all enjoyed a nice break at lunchtime by virtually taking over the village pub at Houghton on the Hill along with the local football team. There was a good variety of food to choose from and some real ale. Bill Adcock and David Madams decided to cycle round and took in the scenery en-route.

Our thanks to Deb and Mick for arranging such a great day out.

REMEMBRANCE RINGING AND BEETLE DRIVE November 12th.

This took place at Desborough with the belfry absolutely full to bursting with our branch ringers. From leaners right thro' we had a good standard of half-muffled ringing from rounds up to spliced major. We had a tea break at half-time provided by our ladies who were busy preparing and cooking supper for later. Kate Wallis did a fantastic job running the ringing and it was taken over by Chris Pearson for the latter part. We all then



trooped into the Community Centre to be joined by a host of non-ringing family and friends who had been invited to join us for supper and the ever famous beetle drive. It was a bumper year attended by 60+ manic players who had yet again a fantastic time. Our thanks to Bill Adcock and his ladies for their hard work and brilliant planning, the food again was scrumptious.

As always it was a great event for Kettering Branch Ringers and their friends.

DESBOROUGH PEAL

Mo Easton, Jane Marsh, Kate, Deb & Michael Wallis, Chris Pearson, Nick Churchman & Murray Coleman (C) rang a peal of Plain Bob Major on Sunday 23rd October in recognition of the last service the Rector was taking at the Church. This was also the 1st peal for Kate and she had her certificate presented to Deb in her absence at our AGM. Well done Kate.

TRAINING SESSION

This took place on Saturday 10th December at Rothwell and run this time by committee member David Madams. We enjoyed a wide range of ringing during the afternoon with 26 Kettering Branch members taking part.

Festive delights at half-time took the form of mince pies and hot mulled apple juice which was delicious and enjoyed by all. Our thanks to David for his organisation and thanks to the ladies who provided the refreshments.

CRIB SERVICE

This took place at Rothwell on Christmas Eve afternoon. Ringing for an hour before the service included rounds, call changes and methods up to Surprise Royal with 25 of us from Rothwell, Desborough and Burton Latimer taking part.

TRAINING SESSION

This was held at Rothwell on Saturday February 4th and attracted 30 members. We all had an action packed practice with ringing from call changes through to Stedman Triples. With our usual tea break at half time, thanks to Murray. We were all exhausted at 4pm especially me as it was my first time running a session and I kept everyone working to the limit with lots of fun and laughter on going over the 2hrs. My thanks to all of you who gave me such good back-up. Our next session will be at Pytchley Tower on Saturday 10th March 2-4pm.

NEWS FROM THE TOWERS

BARTON SEAGRAVE continues to have a busy practice with the 5 learners progressing well and 3 of them ringing for services.

BURTON LATIMER is very grateful to all Kettering Branch ringers who join us on Friday evenings. We welcome back Colin Ashworth as one of our regular experienced ringers. Chris taught Darren and our granddaughter Sophie last autumn, they have both progressed ringing call changes on 6 and 8 respectively.

PYTCHLEY is back in full swing after the renovations and we look forward to our session next week to view the work.



AGM January 14th 2012

We held this at Kettering and had a good turnout of 31 ringers for the early session. Chris Pearson was kept on his toes running this as we had a great turnout of 14 new ringers who are all now ringing well and enjoyed the session immensely with all of our more experienced ringers keeping a watchful eye on them and giving a helping hand. We attracted a few more ringers to our service which was conducted brilliantly by the Rev. Greg Roberts from Kettering. As a ringer himself he spoke of the importance of the bells and the joy they give to people attending services and beyond. 37 of us enjoyed a welcome hot meal and delicious deserts provided by Pat Edkins who was helped by Ray Berryman. At our meeting all committee members were re-elected with 2 new ones. Toby Bence joining Kate as a junior member and Kevin Langley who first rang at Burton Latimer in the 70's and 80's with Chris and after a break has now come back and brought along Joshua, his son who Chris has taught to ring. My husband Chris and I were elected joint Ringing Master for the Branch and between us we are hoping amongst other things to re-instate some Saturday evening ringing for the branch at Burton Latimer.

We continue to be a thriving Branch adding to our numbers this year of 16 new members. Burton Latimer 2, Barton Seagrave 6, Desboro' 5 and Kettering 2. Our evening ringing had 28 ringers from our Branch plus 2 from Wellingborough Branch who were made very welcome. We all enjoyed good method ringing on 10 and rounds and call changes on 10 and 12.

We finished our meeting at around 8-30pm with most of us feeling exhausted from a busy few hours. I gave a vote of thanks to Pat Edkins, the Tower Captain at Kettering for the use of Kettering bells and for the lovely meal, and to Chris for running the session.

RINGING MASTERS' WELCOME EVENING.

Chris and I decided on this evening after being elected and invited committee members plus a few more to evening ringing at our tower at Burton Latimer from 7-8-30pm. 20 of us enjoyed ringing Plain Hunt to Spliced Surprise Major before descending on our home for Chris' home brew and drinks with a hot supper followed by cheese, pate and biscuits. Amidst a lot of chatter and laughter we finished the evening on a high with us all wondering if we would be up in time for service ringing in a few hours!!! (we did, even Toby and Joshua made it after a hectic night with Sophie playing computer games)

As a thriving Branch with lots of activity to report my apologies that this is rather long . Happy ringing.

Frances Pearson - Kettering Correspondent.



PETERBOROUGH BRANCH

Since the last newsletter the branch have held a meeting at Benefield followed by lunch in a local hostelry and hosted the Guild quiz night in Woodnewton. The monthly eight bell practices have continued to be well attended and a number of members put their new found skills into practise at the branch ringing for Cathedral Evensong just before Christmas. The AGM was held on January 14th at Bulwick and was attended by 36members. The service was taken by Benefice Reader, David Teall, a member of the Bulwick band and the organ was played by Michael Kecke, a regular visitor to the Bulwick practice night. Not wishing to be outdone the ladies of the band prepared a sit down meal of casseroles, jacket potatoes and apple pie to warm everyone up before the business meeting which followed. The meeting began by paying tribute to Ernie Orland who died shortly after our last meeting. Thanks were expressed to Robin and Judith Rogers as they retired from their positions. Tony Evans was elected Chairman, Andrew Parker Ringing Master with James Thorpe as Deputy, Sally Collop Tower Liason Officer and Rita Harris as a committee member. Joyce Smith, Sarah Wood, Keith and Sheila Denison, Keith Dalziel, Steven White, Tom White, Brian and Hilary Harvey were elected as new members. The formal business was followed by further ringing before retiring to the Queen's Head.

Bulwick

We have experienced a lively and sociable six months here in Bulwick beginning with the Beer Festival which, predictably, we can't remember much about. The following day we celebrated Andrew's 50th birthday with a barbecue which again is a bit of a blur. In November we held our tower dinner when sixteen of us sat down to an excellent meal at The Queen's Head, Bulwick followed by the usual present-giving. Tony's squirrels are still enjoying the interesting 'top-shelf' publication Nuts which they received. The cold spell early in December saw a less happy event when one of our number fell on the way back from delivering her grand-daughter to school and was rewarded with a seriously broken leg. However we are not easily defeated in these parts and she continued to share with us Chris's birthday bash before Christmas and the usual feast and frivolities in Weldon prior to ringing in the New Year. Which brings us to our true purpose – ringing. Our practices continue to attract at least ten ringers and we cover a wide range of



methods, Surfleet having been recently introduced. It is with pride that we report the ringing of a touch of six spliced surprise with five of the band Bulwick ringers. We have also managed a competent band for every appropriate service.

Pat Teall

Castor

We held our AGM in January which was William Baxter's seventh year as Tower Captain. Our Band rang for 78 services at St. Kyneburgha's in 2011. This has been a very much more challenging year for us with several serious injuries, not ringing induced I hasten to add! Ginny Sheldon is now only able to help on the occasions we are very short, Bob Mann has given up with a shoulder injury, Anna Reed has also given up due to wrist injury, Jon Ardron has tried to ring but his damaged elbow has still made no improvement. Our longest serving member and Steeple Keeper for 19 years Steve Reed shocked us all by his unexpected hospitalisation in December, he has only just started ringing again in the last few days. Lastly William Baxter had shoulder surgery in November on three ruptured tendons which he did in February playing squash. We could not have managed to meet our ringing requirements if it was not for key ringers, in particular our two newest recruits, Joyce Smith and Sarah Wood who both rang for a staggering 44 services each.

We rang for 9 weddings at Castor, and 9 funerals. The Band also rang for 10 weddings at Wansford and Thornhaugh. As usual we have been brilliantly supported in our additional towers by Mick and Mandy Loveder and Joan Parker. We had 44 Monday practice evenings at Castor, and one very beneficial practice at Wansford for our wedding ringing, we rang one quarter peal last year, conducted as usual by Stuart Weston and we were delighted to host 8 visiting bands. We held two social events in 2011, our usual Summer Lunch in the garden of Ann and Jon Ardron and Christmas dinner at the Feather.

The Hand Belles captained by Maggie Noble have the same eleven regular ringers as last year. They rang for the Sutton and Castor Harvest Festivals and felt honoured to be asked to ring for the official opening of the new St Michael's Hall. A new experience for them was to ring during the Intercessions on one Sunday in Lent last year. Another first in 2011 was to be asked to ring at Dobbie's Garden Centre during a special Christmas promotional evening. The main event



of the year which was once again their Christmas Charity Concert, held in the Village Hall and this time featuring Andrew Nash as the guest soloist. A slightly smaller audience than last year but still raised a total of £600 for the MS Society.

William Baxter

Easton-on the-Hill

Easton has been pleased to welcome Keith and Sheila as two new ringers to our band who have recently moved to our village. We have also been pleased to have a brand new ringer Helena, who has learnt to ring at Castor's excellent Saturday morning training sessions. They have all strengthened our band in numbers and expertise. We have therefore made our first tentative steps into the world of change ringing. We have managed to ring a respectable Bastow Little Bob Minimus having been a plain-hunt-only tower previously. Christmas was marked by ringing for the Carol Service and the Crib service for which Helena and I then dashed to the front and led. Ah the benefits of a ground floor ring! For 2012 we are hoping to extend minimus change ringing to all members of our band before considering mounting a challenge on Bob Doubles. We have even decided as a band to extend our practice night by 15 minutes...we now ring for 45 minutes!! I have broached the subject of "Ringing Down the Valley" and we are planning to support the project.

James Thorpe

James, a former pupil of the Ringing Centre, rang his first peal "inside" to Cambridge Surprise Major less than a year from his first quarter. He is also now Peterborough Branch assistant Ringing Master.

Glinton

Glinton's bells have continued to ring out, still averaging ten to fourteen people per practice night. Over the Christmas period we rang for all the church services as well as the Christmas tree switch-on. The bells are always of interest to the youngsters at this time and we were able to let them chime the bells after the switch-on, which they enjoyed tremendously.

We have been delighted to welcome a new ringer, Alex, to Glinton. He approached the tower asking us to assist him in the achievement of his Duke of Edinburgh award. He duly completed



his award in record time, found out that he really enjoyed ringing and has become a regular – learning changes and methods far too quickly for the majority of us! January's Branch AGM saw two ringers from Glinton voted onto the branch committee as well as hearing a special "thank you" from out-going chairman Robin Rogers to Mike Goodall and Glinton ringers. We were very proud. In general we have very few peals rung at Glinton, but a very snowy February 6th was a special occasion as a peal of 5040 changes was rung to celebrate H M the Queen's Accession. The peal was rung by members of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild and was much appreciated by those who heard it – as well as appreciating the effort involved in travelling to ring at 9:30am in such weather. Sadly, on 28th October 2011 Clifford Simpson died. Cliff instigated the Glinton Spire Bell Appeal in 1996 to fund the work needed for the bells, which had not been rung since 1979, to be rung again. In 1998 the work was completed, in time for the Millennium - which was one of Cliff's goals. It is with gratitude and thanks that the members of Glinton Bell Ringers' Band remember Cliff.

Jill Cowcill

Kings Cliffe

We continue to practise every second and fourth Sunday and to ring for Sunday service whenever possible. Over Christmas we were able to call the parishioners to the Crib Service, Mid-night Mass and Christmas Day and we rang in the New Year. This had been specially requested on the Village Forum website and we were delighted by the enthusiastic welcome we received as we left the church.

David Teall

Lower Benefield

Lower Benefield practices are held on Monday evenings at 7.30pm. We currently have 2 learners who are now ringing rounds confidently and are working on call changes and plain hunting. During the Summer months through to December, we rang for a few weddings and a christening, and it was lovely for the band to ring Christmas Day morning. We had some lovely comments from the villagers who were pleased to hear them ringing out. Its nice to be welcoming fellow ringers and visitors too.

Tina Brimley



Nassington

Much better news for us this year. We now have two new learners who have been attending the Castor training centre on Saturday mornings for all of last year and are making very good progress. They are now able to ring for our Sunday services which is a massive bonus for us, allowing us to ring more often. We are also in the process of having rope guides installed, which will be a great help to newcomers wanting to learn how to ring and also experienced ringers. It has taken quite a time to get everything organised for the installation but hopefully within the next few months we should be up and running.

With the kind help of ringers from Woodnewton, Gidding and Bulwick, we are still managing to maintain a Monday practice but not as often as we would like. Our practice is the 1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays of each month, alternating with Kings Cliffe on the 2nd and 4th Mondays. If anyone is available to join us they would be very welcome.

Keith Underwood

Oundle

We are trying to establish regular practice nights again at Oundle. Currently we hold one on the third Tuesday of each month, and they are led by Bob Gardener. We are very grateful for the support of ringers from other towers who have come along, climbed the steps and rung the eight bells.

During 2012 we hope to be able to encourage new and experienced ringers from Oundle to come forward.

Pauline Davidson

Glaphorn

On 21st January, a visiting band rang a quarter peal on our 3 bells - Tenor: 6 cwt: 1260 changes of Plain Bob Singles in 34 mins

1 Graham R Hayward (Conductor) 2 Paul V
Kibblewhite 3 Matthew J Smith

Plans are going ahead for some reordering of Glaphorn Church. This includes installing a toilet with disabled facilities at the base of the tower. In order to accommodate this, the ringing floor will need to be raised (it is currently a ground floor ring). Alex Dyer, Guild Steward has visited the church and has advised the architect how this work can be done. We hope



the reordering will be completed during 2013.

Pauline Davidson

Peterborough Cathedral

We have had a busy summer. The last practice before the August break was well supported with 25 people there, and we tried Yorkshire Maximus for the first time in ages, and had two keen young first time visitors from the Deepings. We also ring lots of rounds (nothing better for special occasions), call changes and Plain Hunt, and Grandsire caters and cinquos.

We had a "Have a look, Have a go" after morning Eucharist which has successfully attracted 4 beginners from the congregation. It has been good to welcome the Daventry, Rutland, Kettering and Wellingborough branches to ring for Sunday Evensong, and there are three more branches booked in this year. For 2012 Culworth, Northampton, Thrapston and Towcester Branches why not put a visit in your programme? Some Branches have been very pleasantly surprised at the support they have received for this. Normal recipe is to meet at 2pm on the 2nd or 4th Sunday and ring for the 3:30 pm Evensong.

Robin Rogers

Peterborough, St Mary's

We are pleased that we have two new ringers, each capable of ringing rounds and call changes. We hope that we will be able to recruit more this year. This year, being the Queen's diamond jubilee, we have challenged ourselves to ring 60 quarter peals, 1 for each year of her reign. So far we are a tenth of the way there!

In January we had our D.I.Y. dinner once again at Andrew and Gillian's. twenty two of us sat down to a most delicious meal. Thanks again to our hosts for putting up with us! We paid our annual visit to the Greyhound Stadium in February, when twelve of us had an enjoyable, if not terribly profitable for most, evening. The food was very good and the dogs seemed to enjoy themselves although they didn't always perform to our expectations!

In April we are planning another trip to Somerset to catch up with Sharon and Andie's news and to try some more of the Somerset towers and cider. July sees another of our now annual events, an evening at Tolethorpe to see "The Three Musketeers". That is always preceded with a "bring and share" picnic. We will be very sorry to say goodbye to Lynell



and Richard, who by the time that you read this will be sunning themselves “down under”. Although they haven’t been able to ring regularly with us, Richard has been a great asset in quarter peals. We will be giving them a send off with some nibbles and drinks at the Conservative Club. They will be sadly missed!

Joan Parker

The Ringing Centre, St Kyneburgha’s, Castor

This current programme of two-hour training sessions on Saturday mornings started in April 2007, initially to train a band of ringers for Wansford. Unfortunately within three months all had dropped out but in the meantime other people had heard about the centre and joined us. We most certainly did not expect to still be in demand 5 years on!

During this period we have had approximately 50 trainees come to us; less than half of this number required teaching from scratch the remainder came to get help in improving their bell handling, to gain confidence and to learn methods. In order for us to achieve these targets a band of dedicated trainers is required. Unfortunately we are about to lose one of our most dedicated, Richard Laing who is returning to Australia in March. He will be sorely missed.

To show that it is not all work and no play students and tutors all came together for a Christmas Lunch at ‘The Feathers’ and again in February for a Farewell and Thank You party for Richard.

Tony Evans

Pat Teall - Peterborough Correspondent.

RUTLAND BRANCH



For all the trials and tribulations besetting the country’s economy, and the uncertainties and discomforts of February weather, I can happily report that ringing in Rutland is in good heart. Over half the towers with ringable bells hold regular practices and ring for services; overall there are sufficient ringers available to ensure a band can be mustered whenever ringing is required for weddings and special services at any

of these parishes. For this to be so we are greatly indebted to those who give of their time, energy and patience, both in the towers (including maintenance) and out of them doing the less spectacular work essential to keeping the show on the road: admin and finance.

Active membership currently totals over a hundred of which a fifth are in full-time education. Whilst recruitment is not an immediate problem we must avoid complacency and have accordingly set a firm annual target for the Branch overall of one recruit per active tower. Great Casterton continues to flourish as a training ground having attracted 19 recruits in 2011-2012, some 18% of the Branch membership. Pretty good!

The current emphasis is on developing skills across the board from basic rounds and call changes to more adventurous method ringing, and to conducting. There have been targeted practices for specific levels of skill. Three quarter peals were rung for our 2012 New Year quarter peal day; also a memorable “date peal” of 880 mixed doubles composed and conducted by Michael Pollard (a student at York University) in celebration of Tony Clark’s 88th birthday, Tony himself ringing 3. And congratulations to David Murcott, ringing treble to a peal of Plain Bob Minor at Colwich in Staffordshire on the anniversary of his first peal there 50 years ago – same tower, same method, same bell and same ringers on 3 and 5 as on the original occasion. Amazing!

Alan Wordie, our tireless Ringing Master, has all along made clear his belief that ringing should be an enjoyable experience, the pint in the pub with fellow ringers being as much a part of the experience as the ringing itself – a widely shared view. Our combined ringing/social events have been well supported with an enjoyable Ring for your Supper evening in September; and another Ring and Sing event in November ending up with a concert at Oakham.

We now look forward to an enjoyable annual dinner in March to herald in a Golden Jubilee/Olympic Games season with plenty of opportunities for enjoyable ringing.

Giles Hopkinson - Rutland Correspondent.

THRAPSTON BRANCH - no news this time

TOWCESTER BRANCH - no news this time



WELLINGBOROUGH BRANCH

The New Year has started well, when some 50 people attended the Annual General Meeting which was held at Finedon. For those who attended for the meeting only they missed an excellent service and address by the Rev Richard Coles who is also a Radio 4 presenter on Saturday live. He gave a short address about how the sound of the bells ringing meant different things to different people, including his two dogs who he said when they heard the start of the bells they would settle down for an hours sleep as it meant he was working.

Similarity to my dog who settles himself down and quickly falls asleep in the ringing chamber window until the practice is over and the bells are in rounds and lowered. At this point he raises his head and starts to whimper.

It was with regret that the Committee accepted the resignation of Janet Wilkins who has retired after many years as Vice Chairman and 200 club organiser but we wish her well in what ever she does with this free time.

It seems an eternity now since the branch held it's annual quiz at Earls Barton Church Hall in early December. There were 11 teams taking part and as usual the event was very competitive with the Rushden team winning by $1/2$ point with $97\frac{1}{2}$ out of 100 followed by a team from Bedford who regularly join us for this event. All tucked in to an excellent supper prepared by Brenda Dixon and a variety of puddings prepared by branch members. The competitors all agreed that the quiz had been not too hard but not too easy, thanks to the preparation of the questions by Brenda and John Dixon.

If we turn the clock back even more to the Summer Festival and the 8 bell striking competition at Thrapston, our congratulations to the team of:- Harry Curtis Irchester, Pam Bailey, Sarah Hedgecock, Cathy Dixon, Alan Marks, Simon Dixon all from Rushden and Tim Samson of Orlingbury who came 1st with Kettering 2nd and Daventry 3rd.

Congratulations to Rodney (Rod) Walker who has since the last issue celebrated 70 years young. Rod is a retired bell hanger who worked for John Taylor of Loughborough for 23 years. He travelled all over the world in his working capacity. Rod learnt to ring at Harold in Bedfordshire when only a mere lad and to mark this a peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor was rung by his Bedfordshire friends with Rod on the Treble and to mark his attachment to Irchester for over 35 years a quarter peal of Plain



Bob Triples was rung by the local ringers at Irchester with Rod on the 6th. We wish Rod many more years of ringing.

The branch is sad to report on the recent death on 11.12.11 of Colin Payne, who had been suffering with illness for many months. He was a very regular participant at all branch events despite not living in Northamptonshire at that time. Colin lived in Bedfordshire for most of his life and moved to Rushden in 2010. He began ringing at 16 at Felmersham and soon became Tower Captain, a position he held for 55 years. He rang his first peal on Christmas Day in 1956 and his last peal on his 71st birthday. In total he rang 32 peals. After the funeral at Bedford Crematorium the bells at Stoke Goldington were open. Three quarters were rung in his memory including one by branch members on the 18.12.11 of Stedman Triples at Higham Ferrers. His presence at branch practices will be missed.

For full details log on to www.wellingboroughbranch.org.uk.

Tanya Clayton - Wellingborough Correspondent.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER'S PIECE

GOOD PUBLICITY

What a year for good use of bells and for recruiting! Please make the most of the opportunities to advertise and recruit to our unique exercise by ringing for the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics. Several branches have included ringing for these events in their calendars already. Whatever you may think about ringing at 8am until 8.03am, it will certainly hit national and local news headlines.

DIAMOND JUBILEE

Most towers will want their bells to be rung specially for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee over the weekend Saturday, June 2 to Tuesday, June 5. What is rung and for how long and when - can be decided locally to fall in with any jubilee festivities. Make the most of it by letting your village / parish magazine and newspaper know the day and time in advance and report what you did afterwards with photos of happy bellringers.



OLYMPIC TORCH

You have probably discovered the route of the Olympic torch as it travels around the country. Its visibility between centres isn't very clear. It enters Northamptonshire on Monday, July 2 from Coventry and travels through Northampton, Wellingborough, Isham, Kettering, Geddington, Corby, Dingley and via Market Harborough to Leicester (evening celebration). Then on Tuesday, July 3 via Loughborough to Langham, Oakham, Uppingham and Stamford to stay overnight at Peterborough (evening celebration). On Wednesday, July 4, it leaves Peterborough for King's Lynn. It's up to you!

OPENING OF THE OLYMPICS

At 8am on Friday, July 27, the first day of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, 'Work No.1197: All the bells in a country rung as quickly and as loudly as possible for three minutes' by Turner Prize-winning artist and musician Martin Creed, will be performed throughout the UK. So reads the website of the London 2012 Festival – a Cultural Olympiad - the largest cultural celebration in the history of the modern Olympic and Paralympic Movements. The official website says that church bell ringers can ring conventionally for as long as they like, so long as they are ringing during the specified three minutes. After some doubts, I think the general view now is that we should join this national event and gain good publicity by attempting to ring bells between 8am and 8.03am on that morning, but you will need to clear it with your incumbent, then advertise it!

All that is needed is for the bells to sound – this can be: ringing bells that are already up, chiming, ring half way up and down again (properly or randomly) or even use the clock hammers but firing with the bells part way down for the three minutes would provide the loudest noise! The BBC Four programme Come Ringing with Charles Hazelwood showed some different ways of using bells.

GUILD WEBSITE QUESTIONNAIRE

You will be surprised, but probably not, that I received as many as three responses to the questionnaire showing on the Guild website www.pdg.org.uk and none at all from the same questionnaire printed in the last Newsletter. It looks as if we only need a website aimed at visiting ringers and potential recruits!

GUILD SHIRTS

Orders and sales have now reached 167 (February). The prices for Guild shirts have had to be revised



for 2012. The new prices and the order form is available on the Guild website www.pdg.org.uk at <Guild Shirts>. Order deadlines for 2012 are March 18, May 26, and August 25. These dates will allow delivery via the Guild Spring Festival, AGM and Summer Festivals. Get your tower kitted out for the Jubilee and Olympics!

EXCUSES COMPETITION CONTINUED

(Best excuses for not attending practice nights)

6. I picked up a dog which was running around in the road last night and brought it home. The dog rescue people don't have a spare kennel until tomorrow so it is still here with me. I don't want to leave it here on its own this evening in case it wrecks the place! So, apologies for not turning up to practice tonight.

DF 9/11/11

Geoff Pullin PRO

GUILD 100 CLUB

The 100 Club was started in September 1986 at the Summer Festival meeting in Northampton with 37 founder members. Since then the numbers have grown to an average of 110 paid up members. The 100 refers to the limit on the prizes and not the number of members.

Around £15,000 has been raised for the Guild Bell Fund, and it provides a regular income with the chance of a cash prize each month.

There are monthly draws giving prizes of 40% and 10% of the monthly paid up subscriptions, with an anniversary draw in September of 50%, 25% and 10%.

This keeps the return in prizes to over 50% as required by the gaming laws.

Subscriptions are £12 per year. This cannot be gift aided. Individuals, groups and towers can join (over 16's only for individuals).

The winning numbers are published in the newsletter.

If you are not a member already do consider joining. If you miss out on renewing then no back payment is necessary you just resume the following month. Each branch has a 100 Club Representative who passes monies and details on to me. See the Guild Report for details and accounts.



Recent Winners

<i>Month</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>Number</i>
SEP 2011	51.50	64	25.75	13	10.30	100
OCT 2011	41.20	117	10.30	70		
NOV 2011	41.20	12	10.30	07		
DEC 2011	40.80	41	10.20	104		
JAN 2012	41.20	40	10.30	132		

Derek Jones.

SUMMER FESTIVAL

The heavy showers mainly skirted Thrapston on September 17 and made for an excellent day for the inter-branch eight-bell striking competition. The fine ring of eight bells and the hall directly off the churchyard made for a splendid venue. The Master had been able to encourage five teams with other branches unable to find enough people who were not away on holiday or committed elsewhere. Perhaps we should change the month away from September when so many of our members take a holiday! On the dot at 3.30pm the Kettering team set off and the others followed until as a sixth session the judge, Mike Chester, past president of the Coventry Diocesan Guild had a ring. Mike explained that he marked each row from 0 = no faults through $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 to 2 for a complete clang and that each was a nice piece of ringing. Unlike his previous judging for us, there was no outstanding winner so he had to mark diligently! The results in reverse order were:

5. Northampton 118
4. Thrapston 69½
3. Daventry 55½
2. Kettering 51½
1. Wellingborough 45½

Each team received a certificate and in thanks for their work, so did the judge and Thrapston tower. Tim Samson received the Harry Wooding Trophy on behalf of the Wellingborough Branch who have held it now six times over the 26 years of its existence.





Tim Samson (right) receives the Harry Wooding Trophy from judge Mike Chester.

Twenty seven prizes were drawn for the summer draw run by Murray and Mary Coleman raising over £1,000 for the Guild Bell Fund. Three prizes were drawn for the 100-Club: £51.50 to Jane Wright; £25.75 Elizabeth Betts; £5.15 Hilary Aslett. The meeting agreed a grant of £2,500 from the bell fund for rehanging of Chipping Warden bells by Taylors with new fittings in the existing timber frame suitably strengthened. The Steward advised us that Blisworth tower had returned £1,000 to the Bell Fund out of the grant of £3,320 which they found was surplus to their needs after completing their restoration scheme.

After an explanation from Geoff Pullin who had led the working group of four members who came up with the recommendation, the change to Guild Rule 2 was approved 46 for, with three abstentions. The only question was to seek confirmation that it applied to men and women equally. This means that from January 2012, the membership fee for adults will be £6 for those under 75 years of age. This will not apply to those members who have passed the national retirement age on January 1, 2012 and those whose subscriptions have been waived by the previous version of the rule, but they can, of course, continue to make donations instead! The subscription for full-time student members will be £3 in 2012 as agreed at the Guild AGM in June.

Geoff Pullin



OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

JUST WAITING FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Saturday April 14 **ROTHWELL TOWER OPEN DAY**
3.00 to 5.00 pm Recruiting exhibition and ringing

Sat July 7 & Sun July 8 **LICHFIELD DIOCESAN MOBILE BELFRY**
Hollowell Steam Rally and Heavy Horse Show 2012 will again feature this mini-ring (6 bells, tenor ½cwt). Try your hand and help recruit.

CAKE RECIPES FROM RINGERS TEAS

Chocolate & Cherry Slice

Ingredients:

220g or 8oz Chocolate
220g or 8oz Desiccated Coconut
220g or 8oz caster sugar
110g or 4oz Glace Cherries (quartered)
110g or 4oz soft margarine or butter
2 medium eggs

1. Preheat oven to 160oC Line a 30 x 20cm (12 x 8") tin with greaseproof paper or a non-stick baking liner.
2. Melt the chocolate and line the base of the tin with melted chocolate, allow to set.
3. Mix together the other ingredients and spoon onto the chocolate.
4. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until pale golden brown.
5. Cool then refrigerate for a minimum of 2 hours before cutting into squares.

Tips:

Works well when cooled in a foil tray.
Before cutting, turn out onto a chopping board the refrigerated cake and remove the greaseproof or backing parchment. Then cut into squares and return to the foil tray.

Ann Maud, Flore



CAPTION COMPETITION



***The funniest caption submitted to Geoff Pullin, Guild P R O
by September 1, 2012
will win a free Guild T shirt.***



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



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



There is a list of **Guild Officers**



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



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



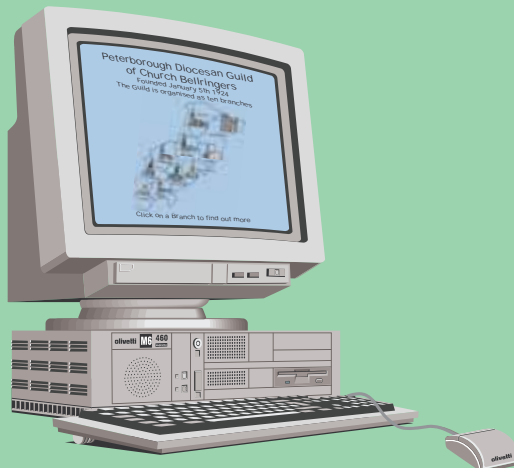
There is a section to help **tower publicity**



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



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



GUILD EVENTS 2012

7th Apr

Guild Sponsored Ride/Walk *Rutland Water*

CYCLISTS: assemble at Whitwell Country Park for 10.30am start. Route is approx 25 miles (with a shorter 18 mile option). Cycle hire available.

WALKERS: assemble at Edith Weston Church at 10am.

Pub lunches available at the Horse and Jockey, Manton.

28th Apr

Guild Spring Meeting - *Kettering Branch*

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

Starting at 4.45pm Striking competition at ***Isham*** (6 bells, 9cwt).

Buffet tea during competition and results to follow in hall.

Until 9pm - Evening Ringing at ***Burton Latimer*** (8 bells, 10cwt).

9th June

Guild AGM - *Peterborough Branch*

2.30pm General Ringing at ***Benefield*** (6 bells, 7cwt)

3.30pm Ringing at ***Castor*** (8 bells, 10cwt), followed by service, tea and Guild AGM

7.00pm Ringing at ***Oundle*** (8 bells, 25cwt)

15th Sept

Guild Summer Festival - *Rutland Branch*

Eight-bell inter-branch striking competition

3.30pm at ***Oakham*** (8 bells, 24cwt)

Until 9pm - Evening Ringing at ***Uppingham*** (8 bells, 14cwt).



