

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD
OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS



Newsletter
September 2017

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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 : **28th February 2018**
Please make a note of this date in your diary*

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

The President's Preamble

Summer is a time to enjoy ringing with its opportunities to have pleasant outings and recharge the batteries for the approaching winter. My batteries are re-charged - I hope yours are!

Carole and I are accused of always being on holiday, but, surprise, surprise, many involve ringing! We do still manage to help keep five local practices going. We did miss some of last winter by cruising to the Caribbean in February but even there we had the unexpected pleasure of grabbing a ring of three in St George's, Grenada. Three of the five clock chime bells are hung for ringing, complete with Hastings stays in a Taylor's high sided frame which was apparently assembled by Potts the Leeds Clockmakers in 1904.



Thanks to Atiba Benoit for coming to ring rounds with us at short notice! After one-day branch and tower outings, we have just returned from three days in Suffolk with the Crick and Shawell ringers. It is most encouraging to see such enthusiastic cooperation across the corner of the three counties around Catthorpe junction.



There were encouraging turn-outs for the Spring Festival and for the AGM, where we thanked Andy for his work as Master and welcomed Simon Dixon into the post.

Rededication of a ring of bells is always a memorable highlight and that at Cotterstock in June was no exception. Many villagers and former villagers supported the occasion, even the MP.

I'm looking forward to the exceptional effort being made in Northampton to attract non-competing ringers and new recruits to the Summer Festival. I hope that you will, or did, support them.



News from the Branches

Culworth Branch

Sara Chapple reports on the March Ringing Outing 2017 – Everyone knows that the primary need on a ringing outing is a good pub, so when we ate at the Falcon in Fotherinhay one day last summer and realised that apart from good food, they had plenty of room it seemed like a good start for this years March outing. After a second trip out with two of the other ringers, (a good excuse to confirm that we liked the food!), and a drive round possible towers to check out coach parking, we settled on Thrapston, Islip, Lowick, Nassington, Warmington and Titchmarsh.

At the last minute two of our more experienced ringers had to drop out, so we were very glad to be joined by Graham and Harry Cane from Hampshire. They provided us with some extra ringing strength and they gained six tower grabs. We were also pleased to welcome three



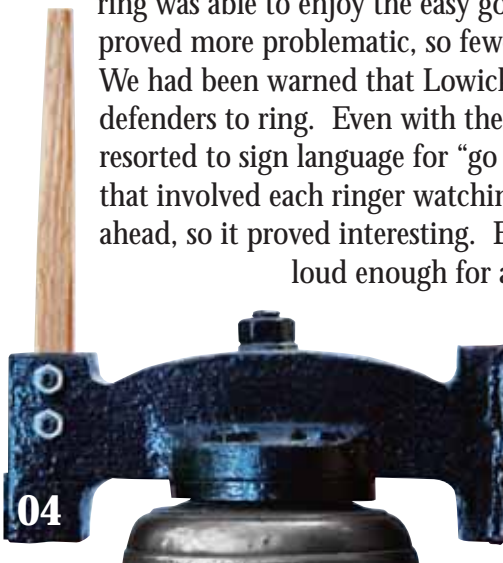
“over the boundary” ringers from Byfield, with their husbands.

Although some of our group are showing their age, the double carpeted stairs up to Thrapston ringing chamber posed no problem, and everyone who wanted to ring was able to enjoy the easy going bells. Some of the other towers proved more problematic, so fewer ringers made it up to ring.

We had been warned that Lowick were so noisy that they used ear defenders to ring. Even with these there was a very loud hum! We resorted to sign language for “go next time”, “rounds” and “stand” but that involved each ringer watching the conductor rather than the bell ahead, so it proved interesting. Eventually Graham managed to shout

loud enough for a touch of Grandsire. We are told that they sounded good from the outside.

We thought that an hour and a half was plenty for pre-ordered three courses at lunch time. (Not many actually ordered all three!). However, we were running late by the time we finished, and had to make a detour to



Nassington as the direct road was closed. Someone hit the bridge! Despite sending Graham and Harry on ahead to say we were running late, we arrived to find the contact wasn't there. Had they arrived on time and gone home because we hadn't arrived? No, he wanted to watch the rugby so asked his wife to let us in. We all know that wives have other things to get on with, and she had forgotten. By the time she arrived, we had circumvented the padlocked cord for the spider and had the topes down. Tower keepers note, cord can be untied, leaving the padlock still on its hook! They are now trying to work out a more secure system. Warmington was a repeat visit for some of us. 22 years ago Dick Hinton of Lois Weedon had organised an outing to that area where his brother Albert was tower captain. Luckily some of us had signed the visitors book so we were able to check how long ago.

Finally Titchmarsh where I discovered that I can happily ring ropes as long as those at Culworth. Must give them another try! All day our new slim line Graham White had been pulling his trousers up higher. He has lost 4 ½ stone, his clothes haven't adapted with him and he had forgotten to put on his braces. At the end when the bells were halfway down there was a cry of "trousers!", as they slid down to his ankles. James Macdonald reported that the change was seamless as Ian took the rope and continues the down on the bell, while Graham dealt with the "up" of the trousers.

Quarter Peal – Ringers from Greatworth, Marston St Lawrence and Chacombe rang a ¼ peal of Grandsire Doubles at St Peters Greatworth on Thursday, 15th July for the BBC Music Day and to say farewell to Alan and Diane Garrett who have now moved away to Taunton. Those involved were

1. Diane Garrett, 2. Clare Jakeman, 3. Jenny Griffiths, 4. Richard Gale 5. Alan Garrett (conductor) 6. Cath Morse.

Congratulation to Cath Morse on her first quarter peal.

5 ringers from the Culworth Branch attended an ART training course at Kinton. 3 are now working towards their accreditation and have found the information they were given very helpful.

We are pleased to report that Phil Curtis is making a good recovery following his recent heart attack.

News from Eydon Bell ringers -

After having sat in an outbuilding for 36 years, St. Nicholas church recently managed to sell the old oak bell frame (or what remained of it, after various suitable piece had been used to make items for the church) to a



local re-cycling business for a very reasonable price.

Removal of this large amount of timber gave us the impetus to set to and clear out the rest of the outbuilding for a general tidy up and to our complete surprise, we found an original bell wheel in its two halves hidden, leaning against the back wall.

After a lot of effort with wire brushes and a sander, the wheel looked splendid as the different wood grains came back to life and once it had been given a coat of Danish Oil the transformation was complete.

It was then decided to hang it from the ground floor ringing chamber wall complete with rope and sally for all to see.

With the closure of St. Mary's Church, Woodford Halse for up to 18 weeks for roof repairs from the beginning of August, the Thursday ringing group, consisting of ringers from Chipping Warden, Woodford Halse, Charwelton, Culworth, Eydon and Daventry have had to look elsewhere for a place to ring on alternative Thursdays. This had enabled us to take advantage of other towers which don't normally have any ringing in them during the week, such as Sulgrave, Culworth and Moreton Pinkney. Ringing continues to be held at Chipping Warden on the first & third Thursday.

August has been a month of weddings in Eydon and surrounding villages with a total of 8 in all with the longest wait for a bride being 45 mins. However, it has been quiet a nice little earner.

Eydon is hoping to start training a new ringer in Sept using the ART method.

We hope to be as successful as Lois Weedon have been over recent months.

Geoffrey Stretton

Brackley tower became a hive of activity on Saturday 19th August when Revd James McDonald, Curate of Brackley, organised a tower open day and cream tea. 12 people were shown the ropes and had a go, so hopefully this will introduce some much needed ringers to Brackley tower. As a result 1 lapsed ringer has already been to practice night. James and his wife Rachel were regular ringers at Brackley and we wish them every success as James takes up his position as Associate Minister in York City Centre Churches.

Joy Kirkham – Culworth Correspondent



Daventry Branch

Outings

At Castle Acre left to right: Ian Calvert, David Foster, Jan Collins, Val Calvert, Peter Leigh, Jane Wincott, Ian Willgress, Shirley Waterhouse, Jim and Gwynneth White, Jane Rands, Caitlin Lunn, Chris FitzGerald, Robert Lunn, Jenny Lunn, Chris Lunn, Alison Willgress, Dorothy FitzGerald, Gillian Earle, Ann Maud, Liz Wardley.



On February half-term Monday, Heyford and friends assembled at Sculthorpe, Norfolk. Ringing on Tuesday was at Sculthorpe, North Creake, Holkham, Wells next the Sea and Little Walsingham. Wednesday ringing was at Whissonset, Great Ryburgh and Fakenham, with an afternoon off for non-ringing activities, followed by ten-pin bowling. Ringing at East Rudham, East Raynham and Castle Acre preceded lunch at The George on Thursday with final ringing at Swaffham. The weather was unseasonably kind. Thanks to Jane Rands, a good time was had by all.

Badby Ringing Rally on May Day went to Mursley, Swanbourne, Granborough,



At Soulbury: 1 to r: James Grennan, Robin Wilson, Kim Gibbard, Richard Piner, Ali Steer, Anthea Hiams, Alison Buck, Mike Burdett, Bert Ogle hidden behind Ann Houghton, Abigail Buck, Jackie Gibbard, Claire Delves, Nick Hiams and "Dog", Dorothy Ogle and Carole Pullin. Geoff behind the camera.

It had proved difficult to get towers in Stoke on Trent for the May branch coach outing, so we were relieved to set off (a minute early) by Hunter's coach but to Burton on Trent! We arrived at

North Marston, Whitchurch, Soulbury and Great Brickhill. Pre-ordered lunch was provided swiftly at the Black Boy, Oving. Other than one downpour it stayed dull but dry.



Barton under Needwood, (James Grennan's then mid-week practice venue) in time to sample Christian Aid barbecue breakfasts. Next was Marchington, a super six where those waiting in the church below were loudly summoned from the tiny belfry window by our tour manager! We walked to the pub for lunch. Via Tutbury, we came to Burton on Trent. The nice but loud eight at St Chad's was followed by the staid long-draught eight at St Modwen's, a grand church similar to Daventry. Profits of the Bass Brewery raised the large Victorian edifice of St Paul's, where, after clearing an obstructing clock hammer, we rang and lowered all ten, before setting off home. We arrived back in Daventry at 9.15pm. The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Alison Buck and the driver who had navigated some very congested urban streets!



Outside St Modwen's: Jim White, Geoff Pullin, Jan Clark, Gwyneth White, Brian Clark, Graham White, Jenny Lunn, George Wrycroft, Robert Lunn, Michael and Barbara Haighton, Paul Richardson, Chris Lunn, Jane Rands, Chris Buck, Shirley Waterhouse, Peter Wilkins, Ian Willgress, Kaye Adams, Alison Willgress, Mr and Toby Smith, Jackie and Kim Gibbard, Jackie Bailey, Alison Buck, Emily Richardson, Carole Pullin and James Grennan.

The rain started as we arrived at Pattishall on July 22 for our ring and walk. It continued and the temperature slumped to 12 deg C. Despite that, 25 and three dogs took part. After a ring at Pattishall a few walked to Cold Higham but more drove. Afterwards even more drove to Litchborough, having avoided a field of 6ft. high wet maize! Ringing was prolonged during which Christine took our pie and pint orders. Soon we were tucking in at the Old Red Lion. Thanks to Christine and the Hartleys for making the arrangements.



Meetings

There were 35 at the Flore meeting in February. After the impasse at the AGM, Guild Secretary, Sue Jones, kindly chaired the meeting until Jane Rands (Nether Heyford) was elected as our new Branch Chairman and then

James Grennan (Byfield) was elected as Branch Ringing Master. In the evening there were 16 ringing, at Whilton.

In March at Braunston, there were 26 who rang and seven who didn't, with James in charge covering a range of methods and call changes. The Revd. Canon Sarah Brown took our service incorporating four different ringing hymns with Michael making the most of the former Ripon Cathedral organ as if it were a mighty Wurlitzer!

Later 16 climbed the 48 steps to ring from call changes to Cambridge S Major on Rugby's eight. The latter was much helped by local tower captain John Goddard and three local visitors who led some of us to the Alexandra Arms mini brewery for après ring.

The sun shone for our April meeting at Newnham. Some 21 rang and five didn't. In the evening there were 16 ringing at Southam and nine finished off the evening at The Countryman, Staverton.

At the service, taken by the colourful Revd Sue Faulkner, two more 'new' ringing hymns, accompanied by James Millsop at the organ, were included. After a good tea, the meeting elected as new members the said James Millsop and Nathan Coburn (for Newnham) and Abigail Buck, who is living at home in Byfield again after a few years away. Carole Pullin volunteered to continue organising mid-week six bell quarter peals to help members make progress. We are still looking for an eight-bell equivalent.

In April, Nether Heyford were the only entry from the branch in the Spring Festival and came 7th with 106 faults.

Among the first to arrive at our July meeting were all five branch members who had been to the Guild 10-bell practice at Towcester earlier in the day! 25 rang at Whilton and 7 didn't. Janet Bowers was organising and we were pleased to hear that she has had a short trial ring or two after two years off, suffering from shoulder problems. The Ven David Painter, took our service, with Michael at the organ. After a fine tea with frequent refills of tea, we elected Simon King as a new member for Byfield.

The Revd. Michael Haighton passed on a telephone message from the Revd. Sue Kipling who was resigning from the Spencer Parishes at the end of July. She thanked us for our bellringing and wished us all the best for the future. Since 2010, Sue has left us with some memorable contributions to branch services, especially at Whilton and Norton in 2016! Michael also advised us that the Guild of Clerical Ringers is carrying out a questionnaire amongst members to establish current activity and relationships in their local branches and will report the findings when available.



Slightly late, we arrived at Great Brington to find four visitors waiting including the branch secretaries of Guilsborough and Northampton - nicely pointing up that this tower has been in all three branches! Nineteen took turns in entering from the pleasant warmth outside for a loud ring. Nine adjourned to the very busy local hostelry for refreshments to finish a nice day out.

24 rang during our meeting at Weedon in August and three didn't. Michael took our service with a carefully prepared theme and included relevant hymns and prayers from the Devon Guild and used the Clerical Guild questionnaire as a basis for his sermon! Barbara was at the piano.

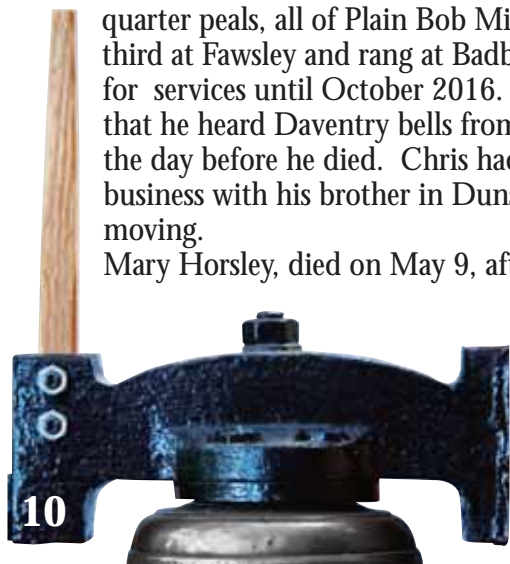
We tucked into a very adequate portion of fish and chips. After very very long discussions in July and a committee meeting about 8-bell practices, it was resolved to seek monthly support from 'provider' members to help the 8-bell tower captains to improve their 'consumer' members! The first round will be Daventry (Sept 5), Weedon (Oct 11), Whilton (Nov 6) and Byfield (Dec 8). In the evening 19, of whom seven were visitors, rang from Yorkshire Surprise Royal to call changes with Jim White in charge at Daventry. We were very impressed at the entries in the visitors' book from Friday when a group of overseas ASCY ringers from the USA, Australia, and Europe visited during an outing and they had left the bells up for us! A busy Wetherspoons was made busier by eight ringers reflecting on the day.

People

On March 13, Chris Woods lost the battle with cancer aged 70. He started to ring in 2003 when he travelled from Dunstable with Sally Thompson to Hellidon. They moved to Badby in January 2004 and he was elected a member in October 2006. Chris rang three quarter peals, all of Plain Bob Minimus on the third at Fawsley and rang at Badby and Daventry for services until October 2016. Sally reports that he heard Daventry bells from the hospital the day before he died. Chris had been in business with his brother in Dunstable before moving.



Mary Horsley, died on May 9, after a short illness, aged 75. Mary learned to ring at Daventry with her brother David Marshall and was elected a member in 1958. Her first peal was rung at Ravensthorpe on January 4, 1960, when all the band were fellow Daventry Grammar scholars with an average age 16. It was first as conductor for John Goddard.



Mary met her future husband Alan when he was a curate in Daventry. She continued to ring and teach ringing throughout her lifetime as Alan worked from Cornwall to Inverness until retiring in 2001. In 2003 they returned to Daventry where Mary energetically recruited and trained several Air Cadets to ring. They moved to Northampton around 2011 and later to Leicester. It came as a shock when the Rector of Daventry asked us to ring for her funeral on May 24. At our August meeting it was not widely known that Lynne Bowler, tower captain at Hellidon until moving to Telford in March, had just suffered the loss of her son Neil in a motor cycle accident near Staverton.

Since over-wintering in Plymouth, one of our waterborne members, Ed Mortimer, has cruised around Wales, through Liverpool and Fleetwood, to the Isle of Man then via Belfast to Campbeltown, Oban and was last heard of on the Caledonian canal. See <http://www.mortimer.ca/>

We were pleased to have Bethany Tremayne ringing rounds (unaided) at Daventry on Sunday August 13 morning after recruitment at an open tower day in July!

Towers

Odette Dawkins has been appointed tower captain at Fawsley and arranges ringers for services and weddings.

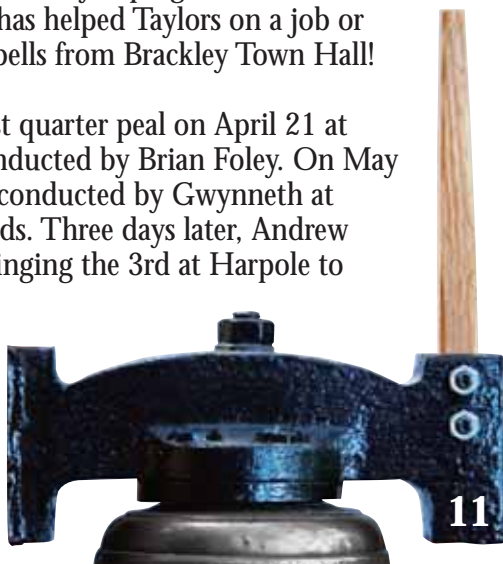
Nether Heyford bells were out of action for a few weeks in the early part of the year whilst the clappers and pulleys were refurbished by Taylors. Replacement of the treble gudgeons and bearings had already taken place. Weedon bells were out of action for three weeks for tower repairs in July.

The Branch Steward has reported work for a quinquennial inspection at Weedon, maintenance to Daventry stays and shutters, a rope repair at Kilsby and greasing Fawsley clappers. Whilst not busy coping with his three new grand-daughters born this year, he has helped Taylors on a job or two including the removal of the clock bells from Brackley Town Hall!

Quarter peals

Kim Gibbard (Willoughby) rang his first quarter peal on April 21 at Daventry covering Plain Bob Triples conducted by Brian Foley. On May 5, a quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles, conducted by Gwynneth at Badby, celebrated the life of Chris Woods. Three days later, Andrew Brighty rang his first quarter of minor ringing the 3rd at Harpole to Plain Bob conducted by Jennie Paul. It was a celebration on the eve of Bridget Paul's 70th birthday.

Anne Ford was relieved on May 14 when her first quarter peal on eight came round ringing the treble to Plain Bob Triples conducted by Jim White. The quarter celebrated the life of Mary



Horsley. Leanne Martin rang her first quarter peal 'inside' ringing Plain Bob Triples at Daventry, conducted by Jim White on July 9. It celebrated the ordination of Daventry Curate Revd. Dawn Stokes on June 24 and the golden wedding of Kim and Jackie Gibbard.

David Foster (Flore) rang his first quarter covering Plain Bob Doubles at Nether Heyford on July 19, conducted by Ian Willgress. It was also Jenny Lunn's first 'inside' and the first quarter on the bells after refurbishment. It was rung as a thanksgiving for the life of Freda Willgress on what would have been her 80th birthday.

Miles Baker (Whilton) joined the ranks of quarter peelers by ringing the treble to Plain Bob Doubles at Newnham on July 28. Carole tracked down Dorothy FitzGerald at home long enough for her to ring a first of Little Bob Minor at Abington on August 11, conducted by Gwynneth. A wedding compliment to Keith and Samantha, the new Mr and Mrs Lester-Rodhouse was rung at Litchborough on August 15, a quarter of six doubles methods, conducted by Phil Saunders with the bridgeroom's mother in the band. The Sunday quarter of Lincolnshire Major at Daventry on August 27 was conducted by Jim White.

Geoff Pullin

Guilsborough Branch - No news this time

Kettering Branch

Well, as usual the Kettering Branch has been very busy since the last newsletter.

In March we began a new venture which is to hold a special method practice four times a year, designed to give some intensive support to members of the Branch who are learning a more advanced method and may not get much opportunity for practice at normal meetings. The first of these was held in March to support those learning Stedman.

Seventeen members spent a very productive afternoon on the simulator at Rothwell improving their skills at both doubles and triples.

In April a smaller group met at Cransley for branch practice, where a wide range of methods was rung and Helen's cake was enjoyed.

May saw our 'Striking Competition with a Difference', held at Corby this



year. Fourteen of us met and we drew lots to form six different teams. All participants scored the ringing as well as being competitors and fortunately their scoring agreed with the judge's verdict as to the order of the teams. The winning team consisted of Bill Adcock, Nick Watts, Nick Churchman, Murray Coleman, Jim Bence and Deb Wallis so congratulations to them. Many thanks for Ted Buckby from the Thrapston Branch for acting as our official judge and to the ladies who supplied cake.

We did not meet in June as the Guild AGM was held on our usual meeting date and we wanted to give everyone the opportunity to attend that. However in July we held another well attended practice at Barton Seagrave and a further special Stedman practice at Rothwell. The latter was a particularly rewarding afternoon as several attendees were able to really build on what they learnt at the previous practice so well done to them.

We do not meet in August but as the newsletter goes to press we are looking forward to our mini outing in September, together with another special Stedman practice so with the Guild Festival as well it will be a busy month.

We would like to thank all churches for the use of their bells for the events described and the various members of the committee for their roles in organising our programme. We look forward to seeing everyone at the interesting activities we have planned for the forthcoming months.

During the past months the ringers of Wilbarston have been actively engaged in fundraising, aiming to raise £32,000 to replace their fittings and add an extra bell. Events have included a plant sale and bellringing demonstration as part of the village open gardens event. The total raised now stands at over £16,000 and you can track further progress at <http://www.wilbarston-bells.org.uk/>. One of the local ringers is now planning to run a half marathon for the fund so if you would like to sponsor her please go to

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Siobhan-lovell

Finally congratulations to Bill Adcock. Bill is always a keen participant in the sponsored bike ride and this year he raised £355 for the Guild Bell Fund – a magnificent achievement.

If you want to be kept fully up to date with our activities you can ask to receive our monthly newsletter – just email

thewallisfamily@hotmail.com

You can also access our online noticeboard where you can post images, post-it notes, files and videos to share with each other. If you would like to use it you will need to create an account at www.linoit.com and then email **nick@firedout.co.uk** for an invitation to view the Kettering Branch Board.

Deb Wallis



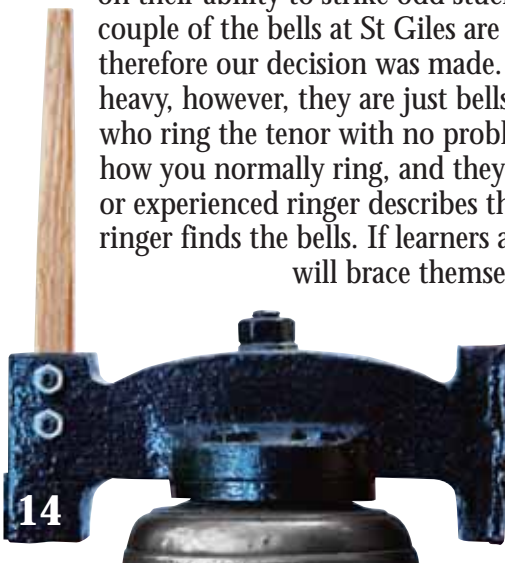
Northampton Branch

We have had some well attended practices in the branch and some not so well attended practices. It has been great to see some people attending who haven't been before, hopefully we can encourage more of this. Our practice at St Benedict's in August was well attended by people who wanted to have a go on these lovely baby bells. Everyone managed well as the bells are easy to ring and we were able to ring our special method, Plain Bob Minor, several times to help those who want to focus on this method. Our main focus in the branch over the summer has been preparation for the Summer Festival. We wanted to make sure the Festival bit was prominent so it would appeal to all ringers of all levels and not just those competing in the striking competition. So we have various stalls and workshops and open towers going on to give those not competing something to do!

Deciding on a tower for the Festival and competition took a bit of discussion! We have four towers in our branch with 8 or more bells, all in the town centre. All Saints, St Peters, Holy Sepulchre and St Giles. We could rule out All Saints straight away as there are no facilities there that we can use due to the coffee shop already being in place; St Peters also has no space in the church due to it being used by a theatre group, plus there is no sound control and we have had complaints so a striking competition is not advisable there. This left us with a choice of two, a 14cwt 8, Holy Sepulchre, or a 22cwt 8, St Giles. To some it may seem obvious that we should go for the lighter bells, however, all the bells at Holy Sepulchre are odd struck, making them difficult to ring well as a peal of bells and when it's a striking competition it doesn't seem fair to judge the ringers on their ability to strike odd struck bells and to strike a method well! A couple of the bells at St Giles are mildly odd struck but nothing major, therefore our decision was made. Some people may say St Giles are too heavy, however, they are just bells. We have ringers aged 15-80 years old who ring the tenor with no problem as we tell them it's just a bell, ring how you normally ring, and they do! It's really depends how the teacher or experienced ringer describes the bells as to how the less experienced ringer finds the bells. If learners are told they are heavy and difficult they

will brace themselves for that and not ring normally and will therefore find them difficult, if they are told they are just bells that ring the same as any other bells, they will ring how they normally do and have very few problems.

The Northampton ART Ringing Hub is proving useful in helping towers in



the branch progress their learners. Ringers from Piddington, Weston Favell, Abington, St Benedicts, Harpole and other towers all make use of the technology and teaching skills we have in orders to progress their own ringing and take this back to their home towers. We run 4 practices a week at the hub. We have a Saturday school with two classes. Level 1 and 2 which is bell handling and moving your bell around and Level 3 and 4 which is basic method ringing. These classes run simultaneously at All Saints and Abington, although sometimes we join them together when the learners are ready. Our other two classes run on a Wednesday evening, the first from 7-8 which is level 3 to 5 from call changes to Plain Bob Triples, this second is from 8-9pm which is level 5 plus up to Surprise Major and Ten bell ringing. The Wednesday practices are open to anyone who would like to attend, the Saturday sessions require booking so that we have the correct ratio of teachers to learners to allow plenty of rope time for the learners. Please enquire (jenniehigson@ymail.com) if you have people who want to learn but you don't have the time or skills in your tower to do this. We are happy to bring learners on to a level where they are of use in their local tower.

Jennie Paul jenniehigson@ymail.com

Peterborough Branch

Bulwick.

Our practices continue to be well attended with up to fifteen squeezed into our small tower. It is always a relief when the better weather arrives and we can open the curtains and spread into the body of the church. Andrew's ability as a conductor has enabled us to tackle an astounding number of different methods from plain hunt to spliced surprise and Mike keeps us on our toes by regularly introducing us to obscure plain methods.

We were very sorry to lose Tony, and consequently Mac, when Tony moved to Bourne but we have been delighted to welcome Paul and Jenny and Matt and Katy.

Our other loss has been our village pub, the Queen's Head. However, Bulwick ringers are ever resourceful and they have found a new, if rather less convenient, venue in the Shuckburgh Arms in Southwick where they can round off the evening.

Pat Teall.

Castor

We rang at Castor for 90 services last



year and to July this year we have rung for 43 services. We have continued to support our local towers outside our benefice and have rung for them 7 times. We have endeavored to recruit more ringers as we are now at a critical number in our band of only 10 ringers for our eight bells. Despite this we ring eight for the majority of services due to the dedication and commitment of our band. We did manage to get one new ringer in March after our local campaign. Julian Burton is making sterling progress under the tutelage of David Banks.

We had an innovation for promoting Bell Ringing in general at our annual Castor Festival. Stuart Weston built from scratch a dumb bell. This was its first outing and did require a little tweaking, nevertheless with further improvement it will continue to draw members of the public in to have a go and learn a little about Church bell ringing.

We have had seven quarters and one peal rung here, and had two major tours of the church, tower and bells brilliantly conducted by the St. Kyneburgha Trust. We re-roped St. Remigius, Water Newton, which was long overdue. The bells are more manageable now.

David Bank, our ringing master's innovation of pushing the band to study "method of the month" has been a great success. Without doubt the band has improved its striking, and repertoire.

The band held a Christmas dinner for all and its supporters at The Red Lion, Warmington, great hosts. The hi-light of the summer was Jon and Ann Ardron hosting a garden reception for both the church and hand bells, and all their supporters. A delightful setting and greatly enjoyed by all.

We have been amazingly well supported in our ringing duties, home and away, by Joan Parker, Ian Larter, Andrew and Gillie Christy, Nick Elks, Sue Marsden and many others, thank you for your commitment.

William M Baxter

St. Kyneburgha's Tower Captain

Castor Ringing School.

Last November we learnt that our founder and manager Tony Evans would be leaving us as he was moving out of the area. At his Farewell Party many tributes were given to him along with our heart-felt thanks for all that he has done for the Ringing School. He is still sorely missed.

In the months that followed, at the request of the PCC, I worked with Rev David Ridgeway (Rector) and William Baxter (Tower Captain) to draw up written "Terms of Reference" for the Ringing School which were



subsequently approved and adopted by the PCC.

Our first General Meeting under the new Terms of Reference was held on 4th March this year. At the meeting, the Rector announced the appointment of the following Officers:

Head Tutor: David Teall

Protection Officer: Chris Burgess

Safety Officer: Stuart Weston

Ex officio: William Baxter (Tower Captain) and Edward Baxter (Steeple Keeper)

Administrative Officer: Chris Burgess

Treasurer: Hilary Hardie

Additional Committee Members: Pat Teall and Terry Wright

At a subsequent meeting Angela Whiteway was co-opted as Minutes Secretary. Notwithstanding these organisational changes, teaching at the Ringing School has continued unabated. We meet at St Kyneburgha's Church, Castor from 10:00am to 12:00 noon on most Saturday mornings of the year and offer the necessary tuition to allow aspiring bell ringers to learn to handle a bell from scratch. They can then move on to learn to ring Rounds, Kaleidoscope Changes, Plain Hunt Doubles, Plain Bob Doubles, Grandsire and Plain Bob Minor.

Learners 'graduate' when they have rung a Quarter Peal on a working bell at which point they are invited to continue to attend as 'Helpers'. I am delighted to be able to report that seven of our recent learners have now 'graduated': Jonathan Alexander, Katie Blurton, Hilary Hardie, Anne Russell, Sylvia Upex, Angela Whiteway and Terry Wright. Hilary, Sylvia, Angela and Terry have subsequently attended an A.R.T. course for Module 2F as part of their training to become Tutors.

David Teall

August 2017

Cotterstock.

The good news is that our bells are now back up and ringing. The original five bells have been restored, retuned and rehung by Taylors and they have been augmented to six by a new treble. This new bell was given in memory of Rita Bond who played a considerable part in village life before her death. The whole project, which received generous support from the Heritage Lottery and the Diocesan Guild among many others, also gave the village the opportunity to create a permanent war memorial which was something it did not previously have. To this end each of the new headstocks



was inscribed with the names of the fallen from two world wars. The work was dedicated by the Bishop of Peterborough at a festival service on June 18th. when all the visiting ringers had the chance to try the new ring. Exhibition panels have been made to explain something of the heritage of the bells and these are now permanently on display in the church. We also have a CCTV which allows people to see what is happening in the tower. We feel that it has all been very worthwhile and we would like to thank all those many people who have helped in so many ways. We look forward to welcoming visitors to our tower where you will always be very welcome.

Meanwhile some villagers have begun to learn to ring and we hope they will be fully joining in before long. While they are learning the bells are mainly being run by friends from Warmington and Elton. They were rung for a wedding and the first quarter peal was successfully rung on August 31st. This was dedicated to the memory of Rita and formed a much-appreciated tribute.

David Bond

Fotheringhay.

On Wednesday 8th February 2017, a service was held at St. Mary and All Saints Fotheringhay for the 430th Anniversary of the execution of Mary Queen of Scots. Mary was just 44 years old and it is ironic that the four ancient bells span the years 1595-1636, a period when the residents of the village would have remembered the sad event.

The service was led by Rev. Anne Hindle for which the bells were rung half muffled and after for those who wished to lay flowers on the castle site.

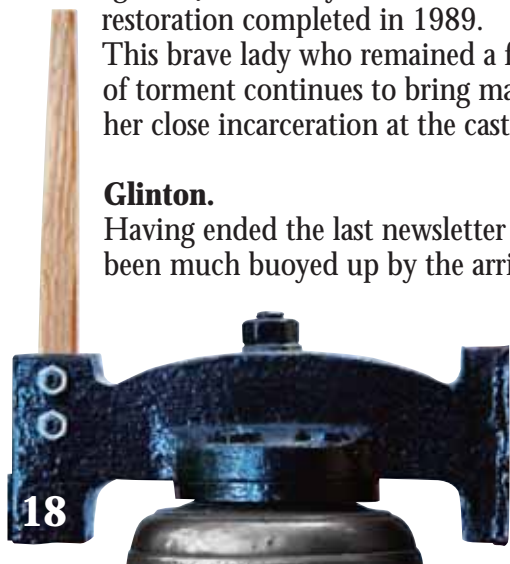
During the service, at a given signal, the bells were rung 44 sets of rounds, the age of Queen Mary to whom the bells were dedicated after their restoration completed in 1989.

This brave lady who remained a faithful Roman Catholic in her last hour of torment continues to bring many visitors to the church, which during her close incarceration at the castle she was unable to visit. **M.L.**

Glinton.

Having ended the last newsletter on a somewhat dispirited note, we have been much buoyed up by the arrival of our new rector Revd. Mark-

Aaron Tisdale who is breathing new energy in the parishes (and the bell tower). The service for his installation was held in March at St. Benedict's, Glinton, and we were delighted to ring before the service. We were then surprised, and delighted, to have a visit from Mark-Aaron on our next practice



night thanking us for ringing. He also divulged that he has rung a little himself – watch this space!

Although he was unable to attend our AGM in April, Mark-Aaron has commented on some of our proposals and we fully expect him to play a significant role in the future. Certainly, he has already put in an order for one of our T-shirts – an idea floated at the AGM and enthusiastically organised by one of our ringers.

Last year we were also much encouraged by the appearance of a family on a very wet Heritage Saturday, who were obviously keen to try ringing.

They were really interested in the bells and fascinated by the tower tour given by our steeple keeper. As a result, three members of the family have tried ringing, and the two youngest (a boy and a girl) started coming regularly to practice nights. They, together with Mpho, are doing well and we are hoping to have three more village ringers soon – although we recognise we may lose some to further education in September.

We have rung for one wedding this year, and there is another planned for September. We still have a lovely, jolly band of locals as well as ringers from Deeping and Stanground, who help and support one another; but for many occasions we have come to rely on our Lincolnshire friends - particularly for ringing at weddings and the leavers' service in July.

Some Sundays we do struggle to get six ringers, although we invariably manage something – even if it does sound, as the organist once observed, like “Three blind mice”! Hopefully with our new learners making such progress we will be fielding a band without difficulty.

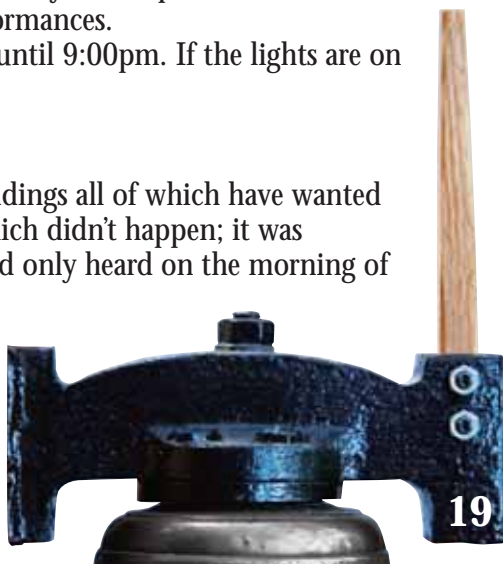
Our next planned ringing will be in November, a quarter peal for the Queen and Prince Philip's platinum wedding anniversary. We hope to submit it under the Guild quarter peal week performances.

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

King's Cliffe.

The past few months have seen five weddings all of which have wanted bells. The most notable was the one which didn't happen; it was cancelled at the last minute and the band only heard on the morning of the event.

Our practices continue to be well attended with a number of regular visitors who come to gain experience which their own towers cannot always supply. Sunday service ringing ranges from rounds, through Stedman on three or four to Cambridge Surprise



Minor but the striking is generally of a good quality and the congregation appreciate our efforts.

Pat Teall. Aug 2017.

Nassington.

The last year has been a 'once in a lifetime' opportunity for Nassington Tower. During 2016 we increased our peal from five to six and also replaced the bell frame. This following the raising the necessary funds, in excess of £70,000, and also receiving all the required permissions in 2015. We should like to repeat our thanks to The Heritage Lottery Fund, The Peterborough Guild of Bell Ringers, Nassington Parish Council, Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust and The Sharpe Trust. In addition people, locally have been very generous, as has the PCC. Although all of this took longer than expected, everything has now been completed.

The new treble bell, the Teall Treble, has been funded by the Teall family in memory of their parents, Dennis and Joan, who lived in the village for many years. This bell was cast on 26 May 2016, when a group of 25 people visited Taylor's at the Loughborough foundry for a very interesting tour and to watch the casting. This included members of the Teall family, bell ringers and their families.

On 15th September, we returned to Taylor's Foundry, this time to see two of our existing bells recast. In preparation for this, the Tower captain visited the village school on several occasions to explain about how bells are rung and to let the children know what they would see when they visited the foundry. 21 children from

Nassington School, their teachers and 12 adult villagers and bellringers made the visit, as well as our new priest, Rev Jane Tailby (on the day after she moved into the vicarage), who said prayers before each casting.

After lunch, we were taken on a tour of the workshop, where the new frame for our bells was being constructed, and the new Teall treble was sitting. We were particularly interested in the tuning area, where we saw a peal of fifteen bells being tuned.

The Foundry Museum felt that the inscriptions on both bells that were to be recast were interesting historically, so wanted to keep them for posterity. The rest of the bell metal was used in the recasting with the original inscriptions copied onto the new bells, and new inscriptions added.

While the bells were removed, the Nassington Band went "on Tour" to a number of local Towers, including Wansford, Thornhaugh and



Warmington. We held most of our practices at Barnack church to encourage three young ringers who live there, and we also enjoyed ringing for services there, too.

The bells returned to Nassington on 20 October 2016, a month earlier than expected. The class from Nassington School, who watched the bells cast, visited the church on Friday morning to see the bells and frame. Over the weekend we were delighted to host many visitors to the church to see the bells and hear an explanation of the work being undertaken.



On Sunday 23 October 2016, Rev Jane Tailby and Bishop John Flack led a service of Hallowing of the Bells, in effect a baptism of the bells.

Work continued on the Project. The new steel frame was set into new holes made in the walls of the tower, and the bells were taken up into the tower ready for hanging. Over two weeks each bell was attached to the refurbished H frames, which sit on the grid of new steel, providing the main support to the installation. The wheels and stays were attached.

A week later a band was organised for a test ring. David and Pat Teall were able to ring the new Teall Treble for the first time, with other Nassington ringers who were available, plus Steve, ringing six bells. We did some Plain Hunt, some Queen's and some Bob Minor, before trying a touch of Grandsire. The striking wasn't brilliant to start with, as the ropes felt very springy, but the improvement in the sound was amazing. Even the tenor has a beautiful tone. A further recording was made, so we can compare it with the recording made in July.

The first proper ring on the new bells was for service on Sunday 20 November 2016, followed by a very well attended practice on Monday 21st. It's special to be back in our own Tower and the comments from the Village have been very positive about the improved sound, as it is much mellower.

The first Quarter Peal on the new Six bells was on Friday 20th January 2017. The ringers were 1. David Teall 2. Pat Teall 3. Andrew Parker 4. Hilary Hardie 5. John Riley (c) 6. Terry



Wright. David Teall rang the 'Teall Treble' and Hilary Hardie rang the 'Hardie' Bell.

The second Quarter Peal was on Tuesday 24 January 2016. The ringers were
1. Dave Brown 2. Hilary Hardie 3. Nick Elks (c) 4. Chris Burgess 5. Alex Dyer
6. Terry Wright.

All the ringers had been volunteers for the Bells Restoration Project. It was also the first quarter peal for Dave Brown.

On Saturday 21st January 2017, we had ringing at Nassington as part of the Branch AGM.

30 ringers from a variety of churches in the area, including the Cathedral, took part.

Nassington Church hosted a Benefice Service on 26 February 2017, where the Rt Rev Donald Allister, Bishop of Peterborough, formally dedicated the bells. For this service, we were joined by key donors, grant givers and a representative of Taylor's Foundry. The bells were 'set apart from all profane uses and were set apart to ring out to the Glory of God'.

Since the completion of the project we have had half a dozen visiting bands coming to ring our bells. As well as the regular ringing for all our services, we have rung for funerals, weddings, and other village occasions such as for the Open Gardens.

On our first 'Tower Outing' twelve of us rang at two towers, Waddenhoe and Stoke Doyle followed by an excellent meal at the Shuckburgh Arms. We hope this will become an annual event in the future.

We have two new learner ringers, which is always good to see. We have steadily increased the numbers at our weekly practice over the past year and although this varies week, last week we had fifteen ringers.

We now look forward to the future with a vibrant group of bellringers ringing on SIX bells and welcoming even more visitors to ring our new easy to ring, 'tuneful' bells here at Nassington.

Brian Hardie

Tower Captain.

Ufford.

Bells in st Andrews church Ufford have been rung a few times this year which is wonderful! Everyone is surprised how good they are to ring and also sound good!

Best wishes

Sally.



Warmington.

After an enjoyable summer evening out, visiting the tower at Bulwick, things suddenly started to go downhill at Warmington. Unfortunately we temporarily lost our captain and another regular ringer to injuries (not ringing related) and then things started to go wrong in the tower: the ceiling of the ringing room fell down, creating a massive amount of debris, and the lights blew, and we found that ringing without the sound baffling provided by the ceiling was intolerable so we had to start cancelling practices.

Clearing the debris and then reinstating the ceiling was an enormous task, kindly undertaken by two (non-ringing) villagers, and once that was back up we installed new lighting and we were back to regular practices again. Nowadays we often try to target our practices e.g. Holding specific bob minor practices or doubles methods practices, as well as still encouraging beginners to join us. Our numbers of local ringers are now sufficient that we can ring regularly for Sunday services.

We were delighted to be able to ring a quarter peal at Warmington with Julie McDonnell when she visited Peterborough. Two Warmington learners joined in the band for that, helping to raise money for Julie's very successful "Strike Back Against Blood Cancer" campaign.

A highlight of our year seems to be ringing in the New Year so we began 2017 with some happy ringing after enjoying dinner together and now look forward to a busy summer with lots of weddings ahead. We are also delighted to have our two injured ringers back with us once again.

Our thanks to Alex, John and Yvette for their continued support and teaching. Without them the Warmington ringers would not exist.

Sylvia Upex

Being new to this role and missing the deadline for the March issue, I hope what I have sent is ok for what you require for entry in the September Newsletter.

Best Wishes.

Terry Wright - Peterborough Branch Press Correspondent.

Rutland Branch

Since the beginning of this year we have been holding regular Branch 8 bell practices once a month, to which anyone from across the county are



welcome to attend. Dates alternate between Oakham (1st Tuesday, in even months) and Uppingham. (1st Thursday, in odd months). These practices, led by our ringing Master Louis Totaro, are being well supported, providing opportunities for people to stretch their abilities and gain useful skills and knowledge. Methods rung include Bob Triples, Plain Bob Major, and for the more experienced, Stedman Triples and Cambridge Surprise Major. In addition to these, on every third Thursday in every month, Uppingham hosts an intermediate 8 bell practice, aimed at those people who competently ring on 6 but rarely experience 8 bell ringing. The purpose is to encourage good striking whilst attempting something out of our normal comfort zone. We ring Rounds and Call, Plain Hunt on 7 & 8 and Bob Triples.

It was with shock and huge sadness that in February we lost our Uppingham Tower Captain and Branch Steward, John Webster. He died suddenly on 20th February. It was John that installed the simulator at St Peter & St Paul, Uppingham, to aid in the teaching of learners. It was also John who instigated a regular monthly intermediate 8 bell ringing practice at Uppingham, to encourage people to try something new. A Quarter Peal was rung after the funeral service held at Uppingham on March 7th. On 12th May friends rang a Peal in tribute, at Brooke.

On 17th July we lost Paul Phillips of Whissendine, who died peacefully at home after a period of illness. Paul had been chairman of the Rutland Branch for several years and was regularly ringing quarter peals and the occasional peal. A quarter peal was rung at Whissendine on 10th August, in tribute for the life of Paul Philips, Tower Captain for over 30 years.

New Ringers - The simulator at Uppingham has proved its worth this year, with training sessions for beginners being held on Saturday mornings. Regular training sessions began in January, set up by John Webster and Alan Wordie. Others have helped to support these sessions, namely Louis Totaro, Richard Beadman and Bob Williams. Deputy ringing Master, Alan Ellis, has continued this work up to the present. We have had 11 beginners, of whom 4 are juniors. All are now progressing, at various stages, along their ringing pathway. Various experienced ringers have acted as mentors for individual learners and provided support teams for ringing rounds.



Ringling Tour - At the beginning of July we held a very successful mini ringling tour of three local churches, Belton, Uppingham & Glaston, organised by our Deputy Ringling Master, Alan Ellis. About 18 ringers came, with varying levels of

experience, providing opportunities for people to try things they cannot do at their tower practices. Perhaps the best thing about the day was the happy atmosphere - it was relaxed, we chatted with ringers we rarely meet and there was a feeling of collective progress. Of, course, lunch at the pub helped! Ryhall Fete – In July, Tower Captain Jane McKee hired the Charmborough Ring from The Charmborough Bell Trust. This is a portable belfry with 6 bells hung for full circle ringing. It attracted much interest although it remains to be seen how this will translate into some new ringers within the region. Local ringers helped with erecting the frame in the morning, and with the dismantling at the end of the event. During the day several of our experienced ringers were on hand to support and guide those non-ringers expressing interest. It was a good exercise for the promotion of bell ringing in general and was considered to be worth the expense of hiring.

Bells for St Georges

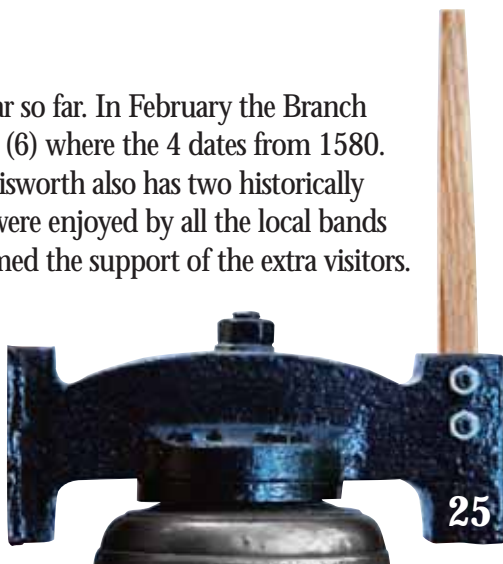
In January Rutland Branch donated £769.00 towards the target figure of £195, 000 required to cast the 8 new bells for the tower of St Georges Memorial Church, Ypres. An entry in the Church Memorial Book is in dedication to the 640 residents of Rutland who died at various battles during the First World War “So that we may live in peace and enjoy the Rutland countryside, town and village bells a century later”.

Sue Webster; Uppingham. Correspondent for Rutland.

Thrapston Branch- No news this time

Towcester Branch

Towcester branch has enjoyed an active year so far. In February the Branch supported local tower practice at Cosgrove (6) where the 4 dates from 1580. In April Blisworth (6) hosted a practice. Blisworth also has two historically important bells, dated 1624. Both events were enjoyed by all the local bands and in particular the learner ringers welcomed the support of the extra visitors. The 2017/18 calendar started in April with the Guild Spring Festival and 6 Bell Striking Competition, which was held at Cold Higham and proved to be a great success. The event had been the stimulus for a much-needed clear out and redecoration of the ringing room. Nine



bands took part, including three from the Branch. The excellent teas, kindly organised by Margaret Bulleid with vital support from Pattishall ringers and friends, generated a £75 profit which was donated to the Church. The winners were Northampton – to be congratulated on achieving their first ever victory. The highest scoring local band was Pattishall, in second place.

Our annual spring outing, to Bedfordshire this year, was well attended by some 20 ringers, including novices, learners and more experienced branch members. We enjoyed ringing at Clifton (8), Biggleswade (10), Southill (6), Northill (6) and Campton (8). Thanks to Ringing Master John Stanworth for organising everything so well.



Towcester Branch Spring Outing

Our annual striking competition against North Bucks branch was this year held at Towcester in July. It was an opportunity to visit and enjoy some open ringing on an excellent ring of 12. A previously broken stay on the 4 proved that they are an equally fine ring of 8.

North Bucks had a small team and Towcester assembled 16 mixed ability ringers who made up 3 teams to ring Stedman Triples, Bob Minor and call changes. Towcester had success in the first two and therefore held the shield for another year. The judging this year was for the first time by HawkEar digital analysis which proved to be a useful method of measuring our success in Stedman and Bob Minor or, in the case of the Branch call changes team, the quite high percentage of errors! Something to work on for next year...



Inter-branch Trophy Presentation



Our most recent event was an August mini-outing to towers on the southwestern limits of Northamptonshire, and which surprisingly few of our ringers had visited before. 13 members enjoyed Badby (6) and Byfield (8) but it was Charwelton (5) that was remarkable for

its gated road entry, very uneven ringing floor and heavy 14th century bells! Thank you to Graham White for rolling back the red carpet and showing us the 15th century monumental brasses. Well worth the visit. We followed up for mini tour with a lovely lunch at the Royal Oak in Eydon. We were blessed with some warm sunshine, good company, interesting towers and fine ales! For the record, we successfully completed touches of various doubles, minor, PB Major and Stedman Triples. Many thanks to John Pardoe for arranging the towers and to Nic Boyd for organising lunch.



Summer mini-tour ringers

Recruitment and training activities are encouraged across the Branch. Scout groups visited Towcester and Greens Norton and members of the Branch attended ART (Association of Ringing Teachers) courses run across the county. This has included use of simulators, general training and bell maintenance. For example, in my local tower ART teaching methods have been consistently used

with novice ringers and there has been considerable time and effort given to rope handling training and striking skills. This has included regular tied bell sessions, extra theory sessions, listening exercises and slow motion videos to help fine tune our ringing technique.

We are looking forward to many more busy ringing events and, as always, we welcome visitors to practices, details of which can be found on our website.

www.towcester-branch.org.uk

Jonathan Stuart

Wellingborough Branch

We had perfect weather again for this year's branch striking competition, held at Orlingbury. Six teams took part with Murray Coleman judging. Orlingbury came first, followed by Rushden in second place and Bozeat in third place. Most of the ringers



made it to the pub afterwards to bring an excellent evening to an end. Branch practices have been held at Wilby, Rushden, Stanwick and Earls Barton and the Young Persons practice was held at Ecton. Six young and thirteen not so young ringers attended this event and all felt they benefited from the 'hands on help' available. Thanks also to Ivor for providing his simulator. Surprise practices were also held at Ecton, Grendon, Mears Ashby and Woodford.

A quarter peal of Bob Doubles was rung at Ecton to commemorate 100 years since the death of Frank Elson, an Ecton ringer killed during the Great War. This quarter was Thomas Coulter-Brophy's first as conductor. Several branch members attended the open day at Taylor's Bell Foundry in Loughborough. Here they had the opportunity to visit the museum, watch casting, play on the tubular bells and ring the very light foundry bells. They also witnessed the manoeuvring of the final bell into its 8 bell frame destined for St Georges Memorial Church in Ypres. The church was built as a memorial to British and Commonwealth soldiers who gave their lives in WWI. This new peal of 8 bells will be the first English change ring of bells to hang in a church in continental Europe.

Many thanks to Pam for organising an excellent half day outing in Cambridgeshire to four towers with interesting bells! The group managed to dodge the showers and found a nice park for the picnic tea.

Very sadly, Sue Beresford of Wollaston passed away in May after a long period of illness. Our thoughts and prayers are with John and his family at this sad time. Quarter peals were rung at Irchester, Rushden and Wollaston to celebrate Sue's life.

The quarter peal week is taking place from 16 to 24 September. John Beresford is coordinating this and if you would like to be involved please get in touch with him.

Wellingborough branch welcomes all visitors to any of its events and details of towers and practice nights can be found a

www.wellingboroughbranch.org.uk

Any snippets of news to ***jude.coulter59@virgin.net***

Jude Coulter- Wellingborough Correspondent



Public Relations Officer's Piece

BBC Music Day, Heritage Open Days, St George's Day, the extraordinary Julie McDonnell initiative are all national opportunities for us to show off bell-ringing. Mini-rings like Blisworth last year at Hollowell also attract attention. Thanks to the various towers and branches who have supported these themes! It also greatly helps our cause if we publish in advance any special ringing at our local tower in the parish magazine, local press, village websites, local radio, Facebook et al and on the noticeboard - like Andy and Odette managed with the Ridgman Trophy at Daventry last year. Try using non-jargon terms "a recital on the bells for 45 minutes" instead of a quarter peal. There's a lot of advice through <https://cccbr.org.uk/services/pr/>. Nick Elks, one of our four CCCBR representatives is a member of the Public Relations Committee and I am sure will help you make an impact.

Apologies to the two towers who wanted to borrow the pop-up displays, which I had carelessly forgotten to retrieve from the last user before they went on holiday - lesson learned!

As I write, I look forward to the exceptional effort being made in Northampton to attract non-competing members and new recruits at the Summer Festival. I hope they will be well supported. The Northampton ringing centre has also managed to get courses included in the county council adult education programme!

Geoff Pullin

WEBMASTER'S WANDERINGS

So far this year there were 31,028 'hits' on the Guild website www.pdg.btck.co.uk. The most popular pages after the 'Welcome' page, were 'Towers', 'Latest Guild News', 'Events', 'Branch Officers' but 'Guild Officers' overtook 'Bell Maintenance' this time!

As you should expect, 'Latest Guild News' is regularly updated and includes information from the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) which is rapidly implementing the major organisational changes voted through in May.

Besides constant updating of that page, I'm often changing the 'Events' and 'Towers' pages as information gets to me, one way or another! I have also spent a bit of time in the War



Memorials section of the 'History' page to add links to the incredibly detailed individual records assembled by Alan Regin for the CCCBR.

I would be particularly pleased to have obituaries and photos of past characters of the Guild to extend the archive of the 'Obituary' page.

Geoff Pullin PRO

AGM

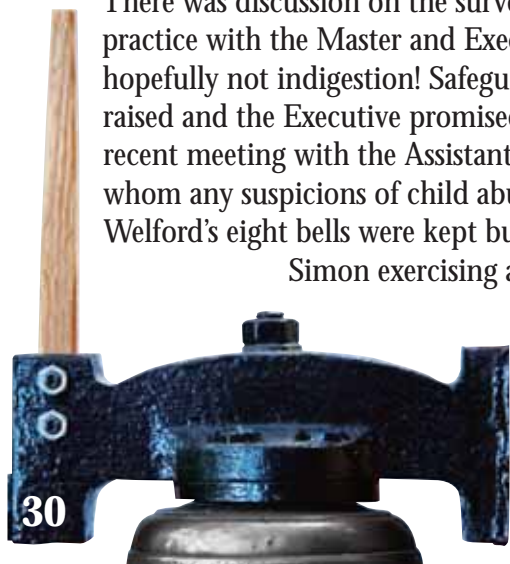
The Guilsborough Branch hosted the Annual General Meeting. Ringing at Spratton and Haselbech was followed by a service touch, before Vicar and member, the Revd. Janet Donaldson took our service at Welford.

After a good tea in the Community Centre, the routine stuff of the meeting surrounded a highlight or two. David Westerman, a stalwart of the host branch and Guild CCCBR rep was elected as a Life Honorary Member (LHM) for giving outstanding service and presented with a certificate by the President. David and Pat Teall of the Peterborough Branch were also elected. Cecil Swann of the Northampton Branch was belatedly presented with his certificate exactly 11 years after he was elected. Unfortunately none of the five members due for a fifty year membership certificate were present.

The President thanked Andy Timms for his work as Master. Andy had indicated that he was not standing again, so Simon Dixon was duly elected as Master. Then, as the newest of our CCCBR reps, Simon Dixon, gave a report on the meeting in Edinburgh and asked that any comments on the CRAG report and the way forward be passed to him and his three CCCBR colleagues.

There was discussion on the survey and format of the Guild ten-bell practice with the Master and Executive given food for pondering, but hopefully not indigestion! Safeguarding and signing in at practices were raised and the Executive promised to provide guidelines gained from a recent meeting with the Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, to whom any suspicions of child abuse can be reported directly by ringers. Welford's eight bells were kept busy afterwards for a couple of hours with

Simon exercising authority over certain individuals that he had been waiting to do for a few decades!





President Geoff Pullin presents David Westerman with his Life Honorary Membership certificate.



.. and gives Cecil Swann his belated Life Honorary Membership certificate.

GHP

Guild Spring Festival, 29th April, 2017

Cold Higham

It has certainly taken some time to write up this report, no reason really just work and time as ever get in the way of pleasure and I would like to report on how much the day really was a pleasure to be part off.



It started by the drive to Northampton Train Station to collect our judge for the day – David Jones from Cheshire, current ringing Master for The Open University Society of Change Ringers and past Ringing Master for the Cheshire Guild.

After a swift visit to a local pub to make sure he was fully recovered from his train journey we arrived at the first open practice tower – Holy Cross Church, Pattishall; a beautiful ring of 6 bells (12 cwt). The practice was well supported with 24 ringers and ringing ranged from call changes to Cambridge Surprise Minor and London Surprise Minor. Swiftly away we arrived at Cold Higham, a chance to ring with David so he could hear the bells and a nifty tower grab for me whilst teams began to arrive.

The competition, now having 9 competitive teams, which is the highest number since 2005, began by the home team of Pattishall going first. Smartly dressed in guild polo shirts they took the competition by the horns and rang Plain Bob Doubles. They set a good standard for all to follow but then sped off after their commitment to the photographer to feed and water all other ringers.

The order of teams that followed were Rushden, Greens Norton, Yelvertoft leaving their doggie behind scraping at the door – you need to teach him to ring! Northampton – umm now they sounded rather good and certainly made a play for the home team's advantage, then came Welford (hang on a minute I'm sure I've seen some of you ring already) a quick look at the rules and ok, you are fine and with the gorgeous dog as mascot, who could say no?

Nether Heyford came next ringing the only set of call changes followed by the current trophy holders, Towcester, but what was this, a good practice, method going well and ringing Cambridge Surprise Minor but then the dreaded crash of bells and silence, Oh! Last to go was Rothwell who were still deciding what to ring as they approached the tower – that is what I call being relaxed!

After now being frozen and realising why the area is called COLD Higham I made my way into the church hall and saw just how wonderful the teas were, duly been enjoyed by everyone and found many

people had not ever left the hall or the sumptuous food – I think I'm in the wrong job.

Judge, now rescued from sitting, hidden behind the church in my car all afternoon the Guild meeting began with a welcome from Geoff Pullin, Guild President.



Phil Curtis gave the vote of thanks to Rev. Reynolds for the kind use of the bells, to Towcester Branch for hosting such a wonderful competition and to Margaret Bulleid and her team for the marvellous teas.

A Bell Fund grant had been applied for by St Peter & St Paul, Cosgrove of £3,100.00 which was accepted and agreed by the members present. Derek Jones drew the 100 Club and announced that there are currently 117 paid up members, the highest ever so a thank you to all.

Future events were announced by Sue Jones and included the Guild AGM to be held 10th June 2017 at Welford and the Summer Festival, 16th September at St. Giles, Northampton. To support the Festival all the town churches will be open for ringing, stalls, rope splicing etc so encouragement for all to attend.

Guild Master Andy Timms gave a vote of thanks to our Judge David Jones for his time and willingness to travel so far and a presentation was made.

David Jones now took the floor to give the summing up and the anticipated results but first stated, 'what could be a better way to spend a Saturday afternoon, eating cake and listening to bells!!'

A brief summing up for each team:

Team A (Pattishall)	Pleasant Pace, a slight trip but settled	45 faults
Team B (Rushden)	less assured and undecided pace	50 Faults
Team C (Greens Norton)	Some hesitation	47 Faults
Team D (Yelvertoft)	Variable speeds but finished stronger than at the start	89 Faults
Team E (Northampton)	Pace held well and settled ringing	40 Faults
Team F (Welford)	A few clips and unsettled	123 Faults
Team G (Nether Heyford)	Too time to settle after each chang	106 Faults
Team H (Towcester)	Fired out but a shame as was very good	DNF
Team I (Rothwell)	Stately ringing but some clips	46 Faults

At last a result and for Northampton – this was the first time they had won so a very happy and pleased band, big smiles from the captain- well done!!

Certificates were awarded to all by David Jones and the presentation of the John Weaver Shield given to Jennie Paul – captain, Northampton Team. What a fantastic competition, great to see more teams taking part and a variety of ringing.



The day was not yet over as Towcester were holding the evening open ringing with 12 bells at St Lawrence Church (23cwt). Thankfully for me, David Jones did not need to get an early train so time was in hand to drive over to Towcester and ring, Richard Oulton calling out at the end of the meeting “we will ring anything except Cambridge!!” That’s Ok Richard, I can’t ring Cambridge either. So for the first time ever I climbed up to the tower at Towcester and met with 12 bells, a full room of eager ringers and with nerves shot to pieces, shaking in my boots I took hold of the 6th bell and rang; what a glorious sound, why oh why do not more people ring on these open tower opportunities? It really does not matter how or what you ring, the open towers on Guild events are for everyone, the chance to ring with some experienced and capable ringers, the chance to gain experience – I say this on every report and I repeat again, take the chances and opportunities, you will gain so much.

But alas I now had to drive back to Northampton Train station and deliver David back onto a train, exhausted and thankfully warmer now I was able to reflect on another successful guild festival – the last one for our current Master Andy Timms and a new trophy holder of Northampton, what a day.

I hope to see everyone at the Guild AGM and especially at the open ringing.

Report and Photographs by Odette Dawkins

The Winning Team of Northampton



Jennie Paul receiving the John Weaver Trophy from Judge, David Jones



Guild 100 Club

100 Club Winners

MONTH	Subscribers	1st Prize		2nd Prize	
JAN	118	136P	47.20	40W	11.80
FEB	122	122D	48.80	49N	12.20
MAR	117	57N	46.80	27R	11.70
APR	117	104W	46.80	84NR	11.70
MAY	115	57N	46.00	120W	11.50
JUN	117	12K	46.80	70P	11.70
JUL	119	78P	47.60	06W	11.90
AUG	111	10N	44.40	20N	11.10

In a year, the Club raises around £600 for the Bell Fund. A big thanks to all who subscribe to it.

Prizes are based on monthly membership, with half the subscriptions going to the bell fund. There are three prizes in September to bring the total prizes to below 50% (47.1%) as required by the gaming licence. The varying amounts show the changing monthly membership, September being a busy month for renewals.

Subscription is £12 per year, applications to go via the branch representatives

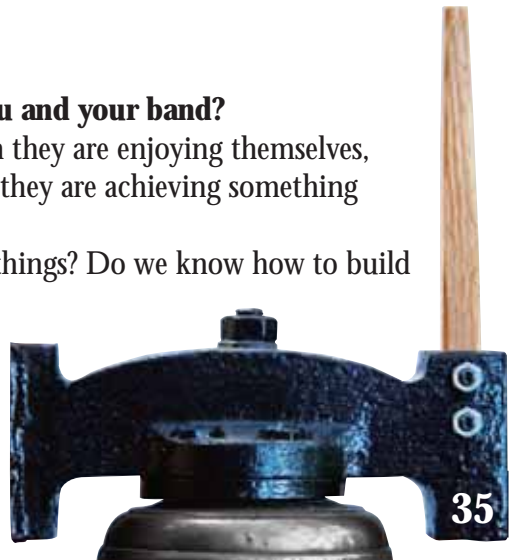
Derek Jones.

What could ART Module 2 do for you and your band?

People will take part in an activity when they are enjoying themselves, feel a valued part of the group, and feel they are achieving something they want to succeed at.

How do we make our ringers feel such things? Do we know how to build such a rapport with our ringers? How much time do we spend trying to work these things out?

Module 2F and Module 2C of the ART Training Scheme each give an insight into how to keep our ringers enthused and how to give them the



confidence to aspire to new achievements. This, coupled with a structured method of progressing ringers via the “Learning the Ropes” scheme, can keep them enjoying success and wanting to progress.

Each Module provides a learning and development journey, with the initial Day Courses providing materials you as a teacher can use during the subsequent Skills Development Period. This allows a teacher to build on the Day Course materials and techniques, using the additional online learning support available through ART’s SmART Ringer

website and practical teaching experience. The objective is to ensure ringers are enjoying their ringing as they progress from rounds to early method ringing, whilst at the same time ensuring that they are gaining and consolidating the all-important foundation ringing skills of bell control, listening, rhythm and understanding which will provide the maximum opportunity for future progression. Module 2F – Teaching Foundation Skills explores in depth a range of ringing activities useful for providing variety and interest for those teaching in towers where method ringing is not the norm. The initial Day Course also gives delegates an opportunity to experience a host of interesting and entertaining techniques to develop basic ringing skills and to receive helpful tips and handy hints from their colleagues.

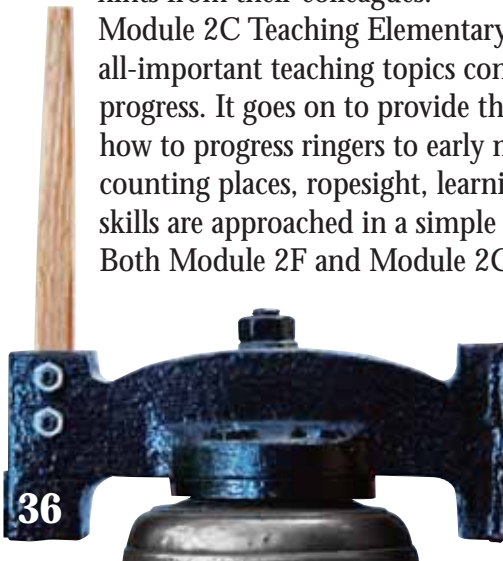
Module 2C Teaching Elementary Change Ringing also explores the all-important teaching topics concerning building skills for ringing progress. It goes on to provide the course delegates with loads of ideas of how to progress ringers to early method ringing. The skills to teach counting places, ropesight, learning first methods and other essential skills are approached in a simple step by step way.

Both Module 2F and Module 2C provide the teacher with the means of trying to understand the learning process from the ringer’s view point, tuning in to really tick that particular individual’s box. Both Modules also assist the teacher to understand the causes of people losing interest in the activity and how to avoid falling into

Association of Ringing Teachers Available from ART Learning the Ropes

Find out more at www.ringingteachers.org.uk or by contacting admin@ringingteachers.org

	FOR TEACHERS	FOR RINGERS
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three ART Training Scheme Modules Workshop Materials Access to ART structured learning programme for ringers Online learning resources Workshop advice Year plan advice Quality assurance guidance Quality Improvement ART website Books and CD's Supporting Deaf & Learning Disabled Regional Development Support Learning Centre & Hub Support ART Publications Feedback Group & Blog ART Publications & Materials ART Website ART & other resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three structured learning programmes - L1, L2, L3, L4 and L5 Technical literature Online learning resources Quality programme - "Ringside Talk" Feedback Group - covering the Rules and other Learning the Ropes Challenge Workshop Advice & CD's Learning the Ropes and CD Ringing Terms Glossary Materials in the Ringing World Learning the Ropes Website ART Website L15 Materials
Support		
Recognition		



these traps. These are skills which can then be put into action following the initial Day Course as you develop your teaching in order to achieve ART Accreditation at completion of each Module.

All ART Training Scheme Modules are based on university research which gives us an awareness of how to develop our judgement and perceptivity to refine our teaching to provide the maximum satisfaction to our ringers, which, in turn will lead to more enthusiasm, greater effort, improved performance and improved progression.

All this will lead on to greater retention of ringers.

In short, the aim of ART Training Scheme Module 2F and Module 2C is to provide the teacher with a deeper understanding of the ringer's perspective alongside a set of tools to assist them to retain their ringers enabling them to provide strong bands in as many towers as possible.

Not to mention that the whole process – especially the initial Day Courses - encourages everyone to have a bit of fun and a few laughs!

Sign up for one now. There is nothing to lose and much to gain!

Pip Penney

ROPE SPIDER



Norwegian Rope Spider

On a recent cruise to Norway we came across this interesting Norwegian version of a rope spider in a little wooden Church in Olden.

Chris & Frances Pearson



The Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers Website



Welcome!



Bell Ringing



Learning to Ring



About This Guild



Latest Guild News



Guild Officers



Branch Officers



Tower Information



Events



Competitions



Guild Newsletters



Guild Shirts



Bell Maintenance



Bell Fund



Bits & Bobs



History



Website Address <http://www.pdg.btck.co.uk/>.

GUILD EVENTS 2017

September 16th

SUMMER FESTIVAL: 8-bell inter-branch striking competition hosted by Northampton Branch at St Giles on the back eight

September 23rd

ROTHWELL - ten-bell practice for Grandsire Caters, Yorkshire Surprise Royal, Littleport Little Surprise Royal (easier than Bristol Surprise Royal) 10.30am – 12.30pm

See Guild Website/Posters for more details

