

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD
OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS**



Newsletter
September 2018

Contents

President's Preamble	03
<hr/>	
<i>News from the Branches</i>	
Culworth	04
Daventry	09
Guilsborough	15
Kettering	18
Northampton	20
Peterborough	21
Rutland	25
Thrapston	26
Towcester	27
Wellingborough	29
Public Relations Officer's Piece	30
100 Club	33
Other news and Events	34
Guild Website	38
Guild Events 2018	39

*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 2019
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

PRESIDENT'S PREAMBLE

After the long, cold dreary winter, the hot summer made up for it in good measure – just nice for ringing out and about and causing timber frames to loosen!

I recall with pleasure ringing outings in May and rededications in July, especially Wilbarston.

It looks as if the Ringing Remembers campaign is coming good. I must say that I was not enthused by the thought of “come and join us to replace a ringer killed 100 years ago”. I think the CCCBR clarification letter says all that needs to be said about November 11:

Ringing open at or around 12:30pm is the ideal and recommended option, but any time that afternoon / evening is also supported. General ringing, quarter peals, peals - let's do it!

With Rob Palmer, I have volunteered to help with the new Church of England Database for Bells and Bellframes. Migrating information to a new website and trying to connect up existing lists in various formats looks like a nightmare. All bells, not just ones with heritage merit, will be linked to the Church Heritage Record (CHR) database. The heritage bell frames list for this diocese consists of four so far: Farthinghoe, North Luffenham, Slapton and Teigh. I'm no connoisseur of timber frames so please let us know of frames with special heritage merit. On a visit to Brecon Cathedral, I was impressed with the solution of preserving ancient bell frames that they adopted – reassembled in the ceiling of the coffee shop in the Cathedral close, complete with full size, but plastic, bells. Denis Pearson was very canny in which of our bells that he reported for the conservation list, which means that in recent years we have not had too much impediment in replacing poor quality bells. I shall keep an eye and ear out to make sure we do not go over the top with frames!

Geoff Pullin



News from the Branches

Culworth Branch

Sara Chapple reports on the Branch Outing – St Patrick’s Day saw a return of “the beast from the east”, which was unfortunate as it was the date of our annual branch outing. We had biting east winds and snow flurries all day. As we travelled to our first tower, the windscreen washer water was blowing round the sides of the bus and freezing onto the driver’s side window. Someone asked “Who picked this date?”

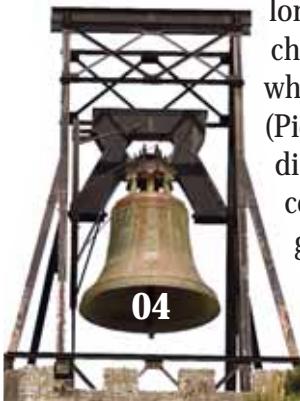
To confuse things somewhat we had 2 each of Chris, Graham, Julie and Joy. This year we were pleased to welcome 3 outing novices- Viv Baldwin, Julie Houghton and Kevin Strong. Viv is nervous of strange towers and looked up at the Offchurch ringing balcony and decided not to ring there. However she was brave enough to have a go in all the others.

Cubbington was enjoyed by all as the church heating is kept permanently on. Elsewhere we had warm churches with cold ringing chambers, warm ringing chambers with the rest of the church cold, and some just cold everywhere!

During the day the church interiors got far more attention than normal, but nobody ventured round the outside, or explored the villages. One or two people were very glad that there were loos and that they didn’t have to bare all behind a bush!

We had experienced short tail ends in each of the first two towers, but Bubbenhall had very low sallies. I heard someone say that their tail end was very long, but here too some were on the short side. From the church we moved on to the local pub, The Malt Shovel, where our pre-ordered meals arrived smoothly and on time. (Pies were good!) Chris K.W. broke with tradition and didn’t bring her cigarettes. That is normally her sweet course. However she made up for it by enjoying a second glass of Rioja.

We thought Julie B was teetotal, but she managed to fall into the ringing chamber at Ryton on Dunsmoor. There was a slight hiccup here as the person who was to let us in forgot. While we sheltered in the lee of



the porch, Emily Richardson complained that she was sure it was the coldest day of the winter. Several phone calls brought both the vicar, and the forgetful contact, so we were still able to ring.

Then on to Stretton on Dunsmoor - my favourite bells of the day. Richard Gale capitalised on the Grandsire calling course of the previous weekend to successfully manage a 9 call from the 5. Well done Richard.

Finally to Dunchurch with their very stylish circular staircase leading to the balcony and big recent glass doors of the ringing chamber, before starting our way home. Thanks go to Les Bodily (our driver), Ian Chapple (our organiser) Julie Blencowe for signing us up and persuading more to take part, and Geoff Stretton for managing the money. Thanks too, to everyone who came and made it a successful day.

News from Marlene Phillips of Aynho – Rev Simon Dommett will be leaving 21st October 2018, Aynho, Croughton, Evenley, Farthinghoe, Hinton in the Hedges and Steane chapel will then be in interregnum. Peter Phillips has not been able to ring since October 2017 due to a shoulder injury following a fall and is receiving on-going treatment. Dave Kirkham has repaired the striking hammer of the clock in Aynho tower and we are very grateful to him for his care and maintenance of all our bells. Adderbury tower is undergoing extensive repair work and their ringers join our Tuesday circuit for some practices. One ringer is Colin Lee, previously Peterborough Guild Ringing Master before he joined Oxfordshire ringers.

A fitting tribute to Derek Edward Thornton 9th Aug 1925 – 7th May 2018 by Geoffrey Stretton



The most dignified man I have ever know, throughout his life Dad sought to help and gain the respect from everyone around him.

He rarely complained about anything and found it difficult to say “no” to anyone. These were the words of his son Peter as said at his funeral in May 2018

It has been my privilege to have known and rung with Derek

since 1989 when I first went to Woodford Halse as a Chipping Warden ringer. Many years later I asked him



how he got started and this is his story as told to me.

He had been ringer in the Byfield area for 67 years ringing his first bell in the summer of 1951 at the age of 26 whilst out with his best friend and brother-in-law Percy French one summer evening. They had called in to the New Inn pub (now the Cross Tree) at Byfield for a drink where they met and chatted with Fred Hutt.

At the time, Derek was a Railway Fireman and Percy a Guard on the newly nationalised British Rail – Central Section.

Fred Hutt was with a young locum vicar in Byfield that summer who wanted Fred to teach him to ring bells during his 6 weeks stay in the area.

Derek & Percy were not interested in ringing but thought that if they went up the tower with Fred and the young vicar, they might be able to get a fine view across the village, so they duly followed. However, on their way down, and passing the ringing chamber, a very persuasive Fred managed to get them to step inside and have a go on the then, ring of six. And that's how it all started.

He quickly learnt to handle a bell and to ring in rounds. Not long after, he was asked to cover on the tenor for a touch of Grandsire Doubles. The first time he would ring a proper method. The next year he became a member of the Daventry branch at their AGM (1952) and to this day has proudly kept all his old membership cards and photographs in safekeeping.

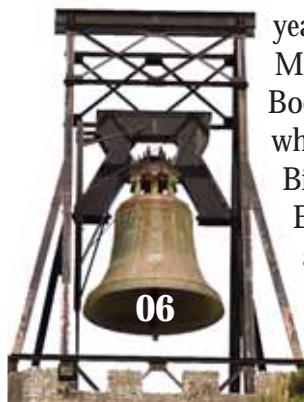
Other Byfield ringers at the time were

Fred Hutt (Capt), Bill Lewis, Cyril Nicholls, Jack Haynes, Walter Callow Vic Perry (from Weedon), Len Catlin, Reg Fennell, Bill Steel (his Uncle), Harry Catlin, Percy French (Brother-in-Law), Eric Catlin

1957 - After a difference of opinion with the then incumbent regarding proposed changes to the layout of Byfield church altar, his Uncle Bill Steel transferred his ring allegiances to Boddington Tower, so Derek followed him, but continued to ring at Byfield occasionally over the following years.

Maurice Bourne was the tower captain during this time at Boddington and was having difficulties with the tenor, which was proving so what difficult to ring.

Bill Steel arranged for the apprentices at Timkins Engineering, to make replacement housings and fittings as a test project, and so Derek, along with Bill and Maurice became involved with replacing the old plain bearings for new roller bearings with resounding success.



During this early period of his ringing, Woodford Halse bells were unringable. They had not been rung for some years and had been allowed to fall into a state of disrepair with broken wheels, ropes and stays etc.

1974 – Now living in Woodford Halse but still ringing at Boddington, he was approached by the new rector Rev Hayden Smart to see if he would assist in helping them to get the Woodford Halse ring of 5 bells, back into working order.

Derek advised that rather than replace the old frame with a new 5 bell frame, they should, for just £50 extra, buy a 6-bell frame as it would encourage other ringers to come along.

Funds were duly raised, with a sixth bell being paid for by George Bird and his family. The ringing chamber was raised from the ground to its present position and details of the floor structure strengthened to take the weight of 12 ringers not just 6, after Derek advised that if, and when they joined the Guild, they would be expected to hold Branch meetings. The Bells were dedicated in 1975. The following ringers of Woodford Halse tower became members of the Daventry Branch.

Gerald Smith (Capt)

Alf Colley

Marjory Lock

Pam Edwards

Margaret Allen

Derek Thornton

In 1978, the tower joined the Culworth Branch and in 1987 Derek took over as Tower captain when Gerald Smith became a lay reader assisting Hayden Smart. In 1980, the 4th bell developed a crack. Derek and Roy Thompson removed and lowered the bell and transported it to Soundwell, Cambridge where it was welded at a knockdown price of £400. They then lifted it back into place and it has rung untroubled ever since.

21st May 2011 – An accident in tower when he fell 'head first' down the stairs from the ringing chamber at Woodford Halse. Many thought he wouldn't make it through that night, but he did, and though in an induced coma and gravely ill for many weeks he pulled through and came back to continue his ringing and enjoyed several outings and branch dinners, with the Culworth Branch until he got into his 90's and found climbing tower steps too much to cope with. Derek's last ring was at Chipping Warden in September 2017.

During WW2 he was sent down the mines but during his training he incurred a shoulder injury and escape being a Bevan Boy. This injury was to cause him difficulty later in life with his ringing as he had to lift



his left arm up to the sally using his good arm, ready to ring. This was the reason that during his long ringing career, he only managed 3 quarter peels and never a full one.

Derek's other great love, after his wife Sybil, was the railways and specifically The Great Central Railway. He started as a locomotive fireman on the foot plates with British Rail – Central Section. Some years later he was to complete the training and passed the exams necessary to become a train driver only for it to be cruelly snatched away from him before he got the opportunity to officially drive one. The announcement to close the line in 1966 came within weeks of him passing. He never forgave the government / establishment for this act.

But Derek should have become a Railway Historian as he knew so much about its history. He could still talk you down the line from Woodford to London Marylebone, naming all the gradients and junctions along the whole journey. He should have written a book.

During a family gathering in the summer of 2016 he went to Loughborough to enjoy a day riding a steam train on the Great Central railway. The driver, learning of his Great Central legacy immediately invited him to ride on the footplate plate to the next station. It was a grand day for him.

He also had a love of motor bikes. Into his late 80's (he might even have been 90) he was driven pillion passenger around the Isle of Man TT circuit by his son as that year's championship came to a closed as they chased the safety car on its final check lap before it got handed back as a public road again.

For more than a decade he served on the School Governors board, The Parish Council, the RAOB and was also very active in the Woodford Halse Church and of course as tower captain from 1987 to 2011. In 2013 he was made an Honorary Life Member of the Peterborough Guild of Bell Ringers (Culworth Branch) for his services to ringing.

Derek was with us for almost 93 years, which is something to celebrate. He was a good friend to have.

Geoffrey Stretton - Eydon Tower Captain

Other new from the towers - There will soon be 9 out of our 22 ringable churches in the Culworth branch without an incumbent but hopefully this won't affect the ringing. The half AGM was well attended in July, although ringers before the service were rather sparse as there were several weddings within the



branch at that time. Rev. Carole Peters-King took the service which was followed by a delicious tea and meeting at which 3 new ringers were elected as new members. Congratulations to Paul Bennett of Evenley who completed his Level 1 teaching bell handling to become an associate member of ART, and to Dave Kirkham of Lois Weedon who completed his Level 2 to become a full member of ART. Also congratulation go to Louise and Trevor King of Lois Weedon who have gained their Level 2 Learning the Ropes Certificate. Paul from Evenley continues to teach new recruits in the hope that one day all the churches in his benefice will be able to ring for Sunday services.

Joy Kirkham - Culworth Correspondent.

Daventry Branch

Meetings

Although we didn't know it then, the hot weather for the March meeting was an early example of a very long hot summer which was very welcome after a long snowy and dreary winter. The climate encouraged 24 to venture out to ring at Nether Heyford and six more didn't have time to ring but were busy with teas. With Branch Ringing Master James at a family celebration, Ian Willgress looked after the ringing. The service was led by the Revd Stephen Burrow with Michael at the organ. After a good spread for tea in the church rooms, the chairman emerged from the kitchen to start the meeting.

We elected Bobby Lunn as a new member for Nether Heyford. There were 17 to ring at Weedon in the evening.

It was hot in April too even at Whilton where 24 rang and 6 didn't. James kept us ringing from rounds to Cambridge S Major. The service was taken by The Ven. David Painter. The Whilton ringers served us hot pork, apple sauce and crackling rolls. Liz showed David how easy it is to read out the vote of thanks. Treasurer Christine reported that the Badby Quiz made a profit of £101.50 for the Bell Fund. Fourteen arrived at Great Brington in good time. The bells sounded louder than ever inside, so the trap cover in the bell chamber was jiggled back into place.

By April 28, cold and wet weather had returned for the Guild Spring Festival at Flore such that teas were transferred from the school to the church. There was a big crowd sheltering from the weather with very few

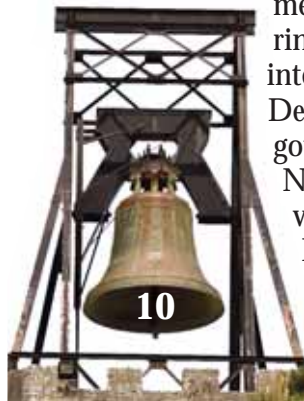


going outside to listen to the ten competing teams. There were two teams from our branch: Heyford Friday and Byfield. Heyford Friday came a very creditable 5th with 35 faults and Byfield got special praise for keeping going to the end, being willed-on by the judges and became the 'ton-up' team for a sterling effort. Thanks went to the catering and arrangements team at Flore who had everything running well and to all the suppliers of sandwiches, cakes, rolls, cakes etc. Spanners were needed to release a misshapen stay after we rang at Kilsby in July. Although there was spare timber ready, James Glover had his initiation into fettling and installing a Hastings stay with a bit of my help on August 13. Thank goodness the access ladder rungs have been welded up and it no longer sways from side to side! Altogether 21 rang at Kilsby &/or Barby and four didn't ring. Anthea met us at Crick to make a total of 13 to ring. The heat eventually brought us to a premature stop at 8pm.

In August, the fine weather broke, but unfortunately too early to dampen and shorten natural fibre ropes. 21 rang at Kislingbury and four didn't. As there seemed to be no service imminent, our DIY team leapt into action with the Revd. Michael Haighton taking the service, on the theme of surprises, and Barbara at the organ. With envious eyes on the 'Cream teas on Sunday' notice, we got out our sandwiches and snacks with copious cups of tea provided by John Faulkner, who we later elected as a new member.

Ian Willgress opened the meeting with apologies from Jane Rands and welcomed four visitors especially ex Kislingbury tower captain Mike Bennett and Freda. It was nice to see Janet Bowers who proposed the vote of thanks. Janet also explained that after theft of lead from the roof at Norton, the incumbent has requested that we do not hold our next meeting there, which instead will be held at Whilton.

James reported that branch-supported 8-bell practices have continued usually in the first week of every month. In general, Whilton's have been best supported. Sadly there were only seven at Byfield in August! Ian summed up after a query about November 11 by saying that it was up to towers when and what to ring to meet local community arrangements and to seek extra ringers as needed. Carole said that after 11am the intention was to ring open to celebrate the end of the war. Depending when you arrived, you either missed the rain or got very wet when approaching Holy Sepulchre, Northampton in the evening. There were 18 including six visitors to ring from call changes through to Cambridge S Major. Then 11 splashed straight along to O'Neills for a concluding social gathering.



Quarters and People

Branch organised quarter peals have been many.

James, our Branch Ringing Master, asked Ian, Jim and Brian to organise monthly eight bell quarters in rotation. On February 25 Kent TB Major was Miles Baker's first of treble bob and Justin's of Kent. Plain Bob Major at Weedon on March 25 was first on eight for Ann Maud and a compliment to her son Luke on his forthcoming wedding. Yorkshire S Major at Weedon on April 4 celebrated the centenary of the RAF, but Brian was not well enough to ring. Grandsire Triples at Whilton on May 13 allowed Theresa and Justin Baker to celebrate together their 20th wedding anniversary and also to mark Ian and Alison's 20th anniversary. Plain Bob Triples on June 21 at Byfield was rung in the evening of a thanksgiving service for the life of Tony Webster who learned to ring in 1998. Tony last rang at Barry Thompson's funeral eighteen months ago. Ian procured his 'June' one on August 12 at Weedon with David Foster ringing the treble to Plain Bob Triples as his second on eight bells.

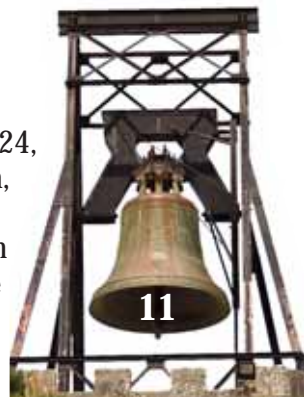
Carole has continued to organise, and Gwynneth to conduct, six bell quarters. March 16, Kent at East Haddon; April 27, Grandsire Doubles at Badby with Kim ringing the treble, first away from tenor behind; June 15, a doubled dose around Janet Collins' home with a morning quarter at Stoke Albany of Spliced Plain and Little Bob Minor and Cambridge at Rushton in the afternoon. The latter celebrated Janet's fifty years of membership of the Guild but to say that I presented her certificate would not be correct – I forgot to take it so, you can see her stoically receiving a sheet of white paper in the photo! Plain Bob Doubles at Flore on August 10 enabled Alex Stevens, Bugbrooke's 15-year old, to cover for his first quarter.



Janet Collins 50 years membership

Alison Willgress organised a quarter peal day on March 24, and acknowledging the recent death of Stan Ruddlesden, all were dedicated to his memory.

Stan first joined the Guild through the Daventry Branch and was a great supporter in his last ringing years. There was a very good turn-out at Long Buckby for his thanksgiving service preceded by a quarter peal of



Stedman Triples. Shirley McGill spoke of treasured memories of life with her father in Badby, Northampton and Culworth, which can be read on the Guild website.

Of the five successful quarters: Plain Bob Triples at Weedon was the first on eight for David Foster; Kent TB Minor at Heyford was Alison Buck's first of treble bob; Kent TB Major at Byfield was James Grennan's first of Kent inside. Quarters were also rung for Stan at Harpole on April 4 and July 11 at Weedon. There was special ringing to mark the centenary of the death of Daventry ringer William Bailey on April 29 & 30. A quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples at Daventry, which also marked the centenary of the Royal Air Force, was followed on the next evening by 600 of Grandsire Doubles with 758 covering. This was a repeat of the ringing for his funeral.



The band who rang 600 Grandsire Doubles with 758 covering clockwise from bottom right (treble)

Afterwards there was a ceremony at his grave and a talk on bellringing to the Friends of Daventry Museum. At Bugbrooke, where William was born, all the band took part in two special touches of rounds.

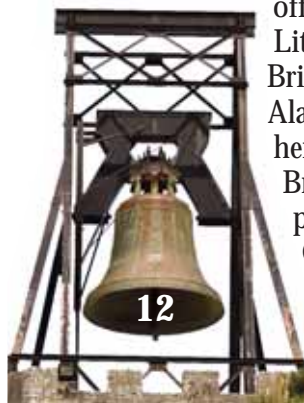
The Ladies Guild on April 7 also commemorated the RAF centenary with a quarter peal at Flore and Shirley Waterhouse conducted a 93rd birthday compliment to Hilda Collins at Heyford.

Daventry tower organised Yorkshire S Major on March 18. Grandsire Triples on July 8 marked the marriage of the Revd Dawn Stokes' son, for which she officiated.

Litchborough rang 3 doubles methods on April 5 to let Brian Jakeman ring his first quarter before returning to Alaska. His grandfather William Jakeman rang his first peal here 91 years ago.

Branch members were pleased to contribute to Anthea's peal in four parts on July 17; All Saints at Staverton and Grandsire Triples at Crick.

The Revd Stephen French, Rector of the Benefice of Bugbrooke, Harpole, Kislingbury and Rothersthorpe has completed 30 years in the Priesthood. It was marked by benefice ringers ringing a quarter of



Ipswich Surprise Minor at Harpole on July 28.

Brian Clark has taken over bell bookings for Dodford from Nikki. The church-warden has resigned and lost enthusiasm for raising funds for a major restoration project including the bells.

It was nice to see Colin and Rhona Anderson return to ringing in June after a six year gap.

Sarah Hyatt, one of the unique group taught to ring at Farthingstone, is moving to Aberdeenshire. She will be greatly missed. Farewell gatherings took place on August 11 and 13.

Sue Merrett has found a replacement for Bella in Cassie, a collie / kelpie cross about 18 months old that originated in Ireland. Sue was boating towards us but hasn't yet made it.

Ed Mortimer had engine cooling troubles after a long over-winter stay in Hartlepool where he enjoyed a lot of ringing. After further repairs at Scarborough he cruised to Harwich by July 6, completing his circumnavigation of Britain. His blog shows a successful crossing from to Dunkirk, where his exploration of France begins.

Outings

Badby Ringing Super Rally: In 2016 Badby ringers Ken and Eleanor Ramsbotham moved to Witheridge. On the traditional May Day weekend seventeen set off for very hot Devon. On Saturday we rang at Rewe, Tiverton St Peter and Cruwys Morchard. The Witheridge pub provided lunch and Eleanor walked us to their new home. Then we rang at Witheridge, East and West Worlington and Lapford. After eating in Crediton, a belated farewell gift of Susan Rose China was presented.



Ken holds the plate with six bells 'stood' around the rim.

After Sunday at leisure, we set off on Monday to ring our way home along the A361, from Durston to Ashcott, West Cranmore, lunch at the Strode Arms, then into Wiltshire at Seend, Avebury, where tea was available in church, and finally Highworth and home.





The group at West Worlington less Carole the photographer.

Branch Coach Outing May 12: We left Daventry spot on time in a Hunters' coach. We quickly got along the A14 to the M11 and Trumpington. We settled into the diet for the day of call changes, Plain Bob, Grandsire and Stedman on this super 10cwt Taylor eight. The next journey took us past the lunch pub, then the third tower to reach the second tower at Little Shelford! Access to the gallery ringing room was up a modern wooden spiral, but although the tenor was 8cwt they all went much heavier than their weight, thwarting some of Michael's ringing plans. Back to Great Shelford to experience an easy going, but anti-clockwise eight. We coped well. Pre-booked lunch at the Square and Compass followed after driver Brenda had displayed her party piece of reversing the coach through the narrow car park access into the pub's car park, to the praise of the landlord! Heavy rain meant that we had to make a dash for the coach afterwards so as to arrive at the very sturdy tower at Haslingfield. We battled the very odd-struck bells before moving on to Little Eversden - an easier tower and finally to Fenstanton. We made a refreshment stop at The Crown, West Haddon, narrowly avoiding a karaoke evening. The 26 thank Alison for making the arrangements.



**Most of us at Gt Shelford: Graham, Chris B, Frances W, Ann, Carole, Jim W, Gwyneth, Geoff, Alan Bird, Jackie B, Alison B, George, Frances B, Jenny, Peter, Shirley, Jane, Kaye, Paul, Emily and Chris L.
*Photo by Alan Bailey.***



Walk & Ring June 2: Over 20 turned out in the hot and dry weather. Using wedding ringing as an excuse to only walk from the Five Bells car park to Bugbrooke tower and back, I felt quite fresh! Others walked from Bugbrooke church car park along the tow path to Heyford, then rang before walking back to ring at Bugbrooke followed by an adjournment to the Five Bells for supper. Thanks to Jane for organising the event.

Geoff Pullin - Daventry Correspondent.

Guilsborough Branch

Bells matter.

By now, I'm certain most ringers will have read the news item on page 666 of the July 13th 2018 edition of the Ringing World, followed by two pages of assistive replies in the July 20th. 2018 edition. The author of the initial letter without doubt, not only ignited the blue touch paper but shot himself in both feet at the same time. (If you haven't read it, then please borrow the copies from someone else, it's really worth the effort).

The outcome of this topic serves to reinforce my (and other people's) view of 1 simple question when ringing at any tower.

1. How do we really know if the bell installation is fit for purpose?

The answers could be:-

- a. We asked when we booked the tower.
- b. The latest info was on their website or notice board.
- c. Don't know.

Long before the news item reached the headlines, the maintenance support team in our branch area were already inspecting bell installations to a high degree of integrity to prevent what was outlined by the July 13th news item. It seems perfectly sensible and logical in our minds that bell installations obviously require inspections due to wear and tear hence our volunteer support team exists to serve and enhance this task. I applaud my colleagues Colin Sim and Gordon Ball as invaluable team support members who willingly assist with this valuable volunteering work on behalf of the branch. Yes, we do record all characteristics of the 28 ringable towers on our website:-

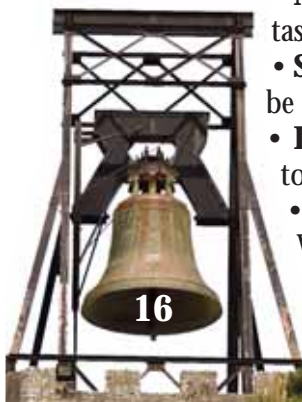
<https://guilsboroughbranchbells.wordpress.com/characteristics/>

Ultimately, the Church authorities are the owners of the bells and therefore they have overriding responsibility for their upkeep. We, the maintenance support team act in the sole interests of the branch and bell ringers alike.



Technical news items from around our branch towers, as at time of writing, Aug. 26th. 2018

- **Guiltsborough.** The long awaited overhaul of the bell installation was completed by Andrew Nicholson at the end of May 2018. Very tidy and top class job. As to be expected, the bells now run very smooth and a pleasure to ring. Improvements included new rope chutes, wheels, ground pulley blocks, crown staple hardware and minor repairs to the frame plus new coats of paint. The Church authorities are also planning to finally rectify the water ingress problem filtering through the spire window lights.
- **Draughton.** Previously in the Kettering Branch, this four bell tower entered into our branch during early 2018. Quite an old but interesting bell installation last overhauled c1895 by Frederick White of Appleton fame. They display hooped gudgeon pin brackets and dual inline threaded crown staple bolts. Now inspected with various essential maintenance tasks carried out including replacing all baldric straps. The bells are due to be rung at the forthcoming Draughton Harvest Festival celebrations. Remember to check and oil the plain bearings before ringing.
- **East Haddon.** Specific maintenance tasks carried out. Since Oct. 2017, bells now rung from the first floor. Heavy bells with smooth ringing abilities complemented with good tonal qualities.
- **Clipston.** Inspected with many various maintenance tasks carried out. Bells are much easier and smoother to ring.
- **Haselbech.** Inspected with various maintenance tasks carried out.
- **Kelmarsh.** Inspected, in working order, but remember to check and oil the plain bearings before ringing.
- **Naseby.** Inspected with essential maintenance tasks carried out. This bell installation falls into the category of “ongoing maintenance”. Heavy bells and good tonal qualities.
- **Crick.** Inspected with specific maintenance tasks carried out.
 - **Marston Trussell.** Inspected with specific maintenance tasks carried out.
 - **Sibbertoft.** Inspected with specific maintenance tasks to be carried out.
 - **Long Buckby.** Inspected. In-house team maintains this tower.
 - **Watford.** Inspected but still classed as “unringable”. Working in conjunction with Long Buckby’s in-house maintenance team, we will be carrying out enhancements to this installation.
 - **West Haddon.** Inspected with serious reservations.



The ropes are becoming damaged due to lack of suitable ceiling bosses arising from when the ringing floor ascended to its first floor position. I have strongly suggested to the WHPCC and our branch officials that ringing be curtailed until the necessary remedial works have been completed. The support team are on hand to attend to the remedial maintenance topics where possible to keep this unique Alfred Howell frame and headstock installation in working order. Good tonal qualities. When the remedial tasks have been completed, remember to check and oil the plain bearings before ringing.

- **Winwick.** New toilet facilities added alongside ground floor ringing. Superb job. Inspected with various maintenance tasks carried out in conjunction with Long Buckby in-house maintenance team.

- **Cottesbrooke.** Creton and Spratton. These towers have not been inspected by the current support team. We do hope to inspect these towers before November 2018.

- **Cold Ashby.** Great Oxendon and Ravensthorpe. These towers have been visited but not inspected by the current support team.

- **Brixworth.** Yelvertoft. Informed as in working order. In-house maintenance.

- **Other towers not mentioned.** The bell installations at these towers have been already inspected and maintained. They are due to be included in the 2019 re-inspection and maintenance programme.

Other news items.

- **Lilbourne.** Ian Alexander has fully taken over as Tower Captain. Rob (that's me) decided to stand down in order to focus on maintenance support for the branch's heritage bell collection.

- **Draughton photographs.**



1. Main component parts forming the crown staple assembly.



2. Completed crown staple assembly showing newly fitted baldric strap.





3. A staple bolt displays the larger diameter second thread. A nut fitted into a socket on the crown of the bell, holds the staple firm. A primary smaller diameter thread is conventionally fitted with a nut which locks the staple above the headstock. Correspondence with Brian White (White's of Appleton) confirmed this novel method

of securing the crown staple assembly was pioneered by Frederick White just at, or around, the end of the 19th century.



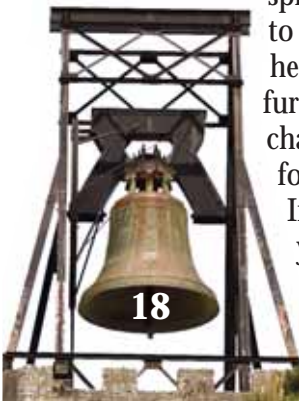
4. Hooped gudgeon pin assemblies. Another invention of Frederick White.

Rob Palmer - Guilsborough Branch Steward.

Kettering Branch

Well, firstly the Branch news and as usual we have been very busy since the last newsletter.

In March 18 members, friends and visitors travelled to Dingley. Despite the back road still being blocked by the previous week's snowdrift, it was a lovely spring afternoon and a pretty walk through the snowdrops to the church where we spent an enjoyable hour. We then headed over to Brampton Ash for refreshments and a further hour of ringing. Ranging from rounds and call changes to a course of London, there really was something for everyone.



In April 22 people gathered in the best weather of the year so far and enjoyed a lovely afternoon in the churchyard at Rushton. Members had been asked to come prepared to have a go at calling something and there were many achievements including Kieran calling two different touches of Bob Minor, Colin calling

Double Oxford and Peter calling his first touch for over 50 years! The voices we usually hear at Branch events were kept silent on this occasion.

There were plenty of ups and downs when we met at Cransley in May for a special 'ringing up and down' practice. With 26 people attending it was a challenge to ensure everyone had an opportunity to practice skills but excellent refreshments provided by the local team undertaking the church spring clean helped everything run smoothly and a good afternoon was had by all.

No meeting was held in June as our regular second Saturday in the month was the Guild meeting but in July we held a special event. Some 30 members and friends met at Boughton House for a private tour. This was an excellent opportunity to have a good look round with interesting and informative guides. Afterwards we headed off to the Flower Festival at Geddington Church where there was time for a quick look at the exhibits and a welcome cup of tea before we rang for their evening service. I write a paragraph for this newsletter immediately after each event. Little did I know when I celebrated the weather in March and April that by the July meeting we would be sweltering in a heatwave and those previously remarkable temperatures would be barely worth mentioning!

We do not meet in August so as the newsletter goes to press we are enjoying our holidays before we begin our autumn/winter programme.

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 move on to news from around our towers.

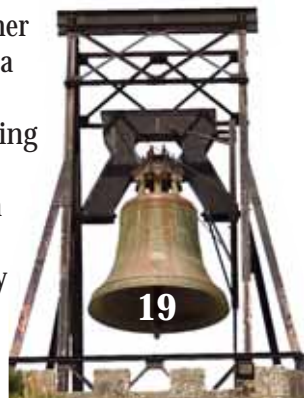


Wilbarston ringers held a special event just before Easter when friends were invited to have a last ring on the bells in their old guise. Following this the bells were removed and headed off to Loughborough. They were returned with all new fixtures and fittings and rehung, together with the new treble, following a

hallowing service on 22nd May. The re-dedication and thanksgiving service was held on 22nd July. We are looking forward to a Branch meeting there later in the year.

Congratulations to the local ringers led by Peter Chilton on the success of this project. Whilst I am sure everyone else wants to thank Peter, he has asked me to particularly thank the following –

Helen Churchman for her guidance, and for all her work both in organising fund raising events and getting



teams together for food prep and cleaning etc.
Nick Churchman for his work with the DAC bell adviser and Taylors to get the best possible engineering solution for the project and his time on site helping get the bells both out and back in. He was really the corner stone of this side of the project.
Murray Coleman and Andrew Bimson for their work getting the bells out and back in again.
The Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers for their very generous grant.
The local bell ringing team and the area bell ringers for their support.



The villagers mainly of Wilbarston plus Stoke Albany in part for their support both for the project and fund raising in general.
The charitable organisations and individuals who contributed to the fund.
The Rev Canon Sally Hughes and the PCC for all their support.
The Desborough Ringers are having another outing to London on Saturday 20th October, visiting different towers to last year. All are welcome to join them and if you would like to go please email **shaneward30@gmail.com** to get more details and book your place.

Kettering Branch towers should send their news to me at **thewallisfamily@hotmail.com**

If you want to be kept fully up to date with Branch activities you can ask to receive the monthly newsletter – just email **shaneward30@gmail.com**
You can access our latest news and events on our online noticeboard where we 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.
We also now have a Facebook group called 'Kettering Branch Bellringers' and all are welcome to join the group and see all the latest branch news and events.

Deb Wallis - Kettering Correspondent.

Northampton Branch - No news this time



Peterborough Branch

Bulwick

Practices have varied considerably over the past few months as holidays and house moves have affected the attendance. We are very grateful to our loyal band of regular visitors who have enabled us to keep moving forward. Our repertoire of methods continues to grow as Andrew and Mike introduce new challenges to give our brains a workout.

Regrettably the village pub is still not open although refurbishment is clearly taking place, but Southwick has continued to supply an excellent alternative.

Pat Teall.

Castor Ringing School

Regular readers of this Report will know that for the last twelve years we have been training a steady stream of pupils to handle a bell and learn the basic skills of change ringing. Pupils 'graduate' when they have rung a quarter-peal of Plain Bob Doubles or Minor on an inside bell.

Over the last twelve months we have extended our work to include teaching our 'Graduates' how to teach both bell handling and change ringing. This has involved them attending both Module One (handling) and Module Two (change ringing) courses laid on by A.R.T. (Association of Ringing Teachers) and our own one-day course on the Principles of Teaching Change Ringing. The trainee teachers have kept a log of their progress throughout their period of training which culminated in external assessments of each Module by an A.R.T Assessor. They all passed as follows:

Associate Membership of A.R.T. (Module 1) Angela Whiteway

Full Membership of A.R.T. (Modules 1 and 2) Hilary Hardie and Terry Wright

Their success, for which I congratulate them all, brings the number of A.R.T. members at Castor to five which bodes well for the future teaching of ringing in this area.

David Teall - Head Tutor



Glinton

This year we changed the date of our traditional Maundy Thursday AGM to April 12th – two weeks later, to enable Rev. Mark-Aaron to participate (as he was unable to attend our AGM in April last year). Although, with hindsight, we should have kept the original date for the dinner, the AGM took place in the church and was well attended. Mark-Aaron has commented on some of our proposals and we fully expect him to play a significant role in the future.

The dates proposed at the AGM included ringing a quarter peal for the celebration of the inaugural quarter on the refurbished bells, and this has now taken place. The submission to BellBoard included an amusing photograph taken on the evening by a local journalist, which was mentioned in the article “What’s hot on BellBoard?” in the Ringing World. (See page 698 edition No. 5595).

We have rung for two weddings this year, and there are two more planned for late August. When we are able, we still help Maxey ringers, who in turn regularly attend practice night at Glinton. We have a lovely, happy band of locals as well as ringers from Deeping and Stanground, who help and support each another, but sadly we were not able to ring for the local primary school leavers’ service this year, and some Sundays we do struggle to get six ringers.

We said goodbye to Colin this year. He started his ringing at Glinton and has been a faithful member of our band for several years, but a move to be closer to grandchildren has taken him to Swindon. We hope he will be happy there but will miss him.

In “good-news” we celebrated a significant birthday of our tower captain, as well as the marriage of Celia and John from Towcester, who help us out regularly. Our next planned ringing will be in November, as part of “Ringing Remembers” on Armistice Day, then a quarter peal for the Queen and Prince Philip’s platinum wedding anniversary on November 20th which we hope to submit 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!

Jill Cowcill.

King’s Cliffe

In April we held a Ringing Open Day to attract new recruits who might be trained in readiness for November 11th when we intend to ring open at 1230 .

Over the summer we have had a fallow period with many of our regular ringers absent due to holidays, however, we resumed our regular practices last week and achieved both Kent and Cambridge alongside



Plain Bob, we have yet to move on to try Oxford. It is rewarding to have regular complementary comments from the congregation who appreciate our efforts for Sunday Services.

Pat Teall.

Nassington.

At our regular Monday evening practices we continue to have over a dozen ringers each week, which is very pleasing to see. We have improved our ringing up and down in peal, and continue to have occasional 'special practice' nights concentrating, for example, on Bob Doubles, which we are now able to ring for Service on a Sunday.

This year, we have taken over responsibility for organising the ringing within the Benefice. We now have twenty five ringers linked to the tower, which allows us to have enough ringers not only for every service here at Nassington, and also to ring at other churches in the Benefice, as well as supporting the ringers at Barnack for their monthly Benefice Service. The band has rung for seven weddings and two funerals. We have successfully rung two Quarter Peals. The bells have been rung by two visiting bands.

We continue to be a learning and consolidation tower for learners and newer ringers, through our strong link with the Saturday morning Ringing School at Castor. Two of our ringers, Hilary Hardie and Terry Wright, have now completed their training and assessment on Modules 1 and 2 and have now become Full Members of ART (Association of Ringing Teachers). Our congratulations go to both of them as they have worked hard to achieve this accreditation. They have now assumed responsibility for the learning in the tower.

We have five new ringers, Jane Robinson, Alex Heaton, Caroline Mould, Chris Barrett and Stephen Sargent as well as a 'returning ringer', Sally Hudson. In addition we have our 'not so new' ringers,

Helen Cornford and Jane Webb. As a consequence, in April we started two additional practice sessions each week with muffled bells. One on Friday mornings, for an hour and a half, and the second, a half an hour session before the Monday evening weekly practice. In both of these sessions, the teaching and improved handling of a variety of bells, together with ringing up and down predominate.

In May we undertook a major cleaning of the whole tower from top to bottom. This was the first opportunity to do this, following the completion of the Bells Restoration Project in February. Having cleaned the tower, we had our AGM and finished the afternoon



with some ringing and a meal at a local pub.

We had a Tower outing at the end of July with fourteen ringers. We rang the bells at Harringworth, Seaton and Barrowden, followed by a meal at the Exeter Arms in Barrowden. Members of the band also attended the Branch outing as well as two other outings by local bands. We are becoming more 'social' as well as increasing our ringers.

Thank you to all those who make Nassington such a friendly, welcoming and also improving tower.

Brian Hardi - Tower Captain

St John The Baptist, Peterborough

We continue to ring for service on Sundays and usually have all eight bells ringing. We have installed an extra boss to prevent the rope on the 7th from chaffing and this seems to have successfully cured that particular problem we had been experiencing. We had not held a practice for over three years until recently when Elaine Wilkinson has restarted that with a system of practice one month then a QP the next. Early days yet, but thus far it seems to be getting support which is a good thing. We might be right in the heart of the city being surrounded by shops and cafes etc, but the bells are available for visiting bands for tours, quarter peals and full peals - please get in touch if you wish to come and ring our glorious bells. Visitors are welcome on Sundays at 10:25am to ring for the 11am service and it is also feasible to ring at both the Cathedral and St Mary's beforehand.

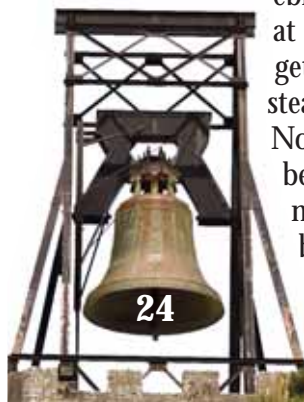
Nick Elks - Tower Captain

Ufford

We now have 4 people from Ufford learning to ring to be able to participate in Ringing Remembers and contribute towards the November 11th Centenary celebration of the end of World War 1. We have been learning at the Castor Ringing School, also getting help from the teachers at Nassington and making steady progress.

Not only would we like to ring for this event but it would be good to be able to ring for services and other events, mainly though it would be so good to have the 4 lovely bells at the Ufford tower sounding out again on a regular basis.

Sally Hudson.



Terry Wright - Peterborough Correspondent.

Rutland Branch

Over the last 6 months the Rutland branch has been putting effort into recruiting new ringers, progressing the skills of those who have only recently learned to ring and offering a refresher to returning ringers. Some Saturday morning training sessions have been held, covering a range of topics including 'Raising, Lowering & Leading' and 'Understanding Call changes'.

There has been much recent press coverage for Armistice 100 and the Branch committee, too, are making preparations for ringing on 11th November. It is hoped that all, or as many as possible, of the ring-able bells in Rutland will be rung that day. Several towers have already registered to take part in the 'Battle's Over' commemorations organised by Bruno Peek. These towers, along with a hopeful other 1000 churches nationwide, will be ringing at precisely 7.05pm - the same time news of the Armistice arrived at our shores in 1918.

For the remaining towers we hope to organise groups of ringers to travel around the County to ring at either 12.30pm or later in the afternoon, with open bells, as requested by the Central Council.

We are actively training around a dozen new learners who we hope will be ready in time to ring for this event, helping us achieve our goal and ensure that every tower in Rutland has had the opportunity to commemorate, to celebrate and take part.

July Summer Tour

Alan Ellis organised and ran a most excellent tour, taking in 3 x 6-bell towers, plus Weldon (8). The whole day seemed very balanced, catered for all ringers of all abilities and took in a nice variety of different towers. An excellent lunch at New Lodge Farm, Bulwick, was had by all and everyone felt very relaxed in the bistro atmosphere. Thank you to the Farm for being such excellent hosts.

Thank you too to all the 19 ringers that attended during the day.

Proms in the Park & Tower Open Day

On 30th June, to coincide with a 'Proms in the Park' event adjacent to the church, Oakham held a tower open day.

At midday, after several dormant years, the small door of Oakham Tower was flung open to the general public. Many an unwary passer-by was invited to stop and take a tower visit. Excellent support was provided by tower locals; Peggy, Jean, June, Helen, Stefan and Alan E, in demonstrating and explaining what bell ringing is and how fascinating it can be.

The tower was open until approximately 5pm and in that time we managed to attract more than 100 visitors, with several leaving their contact details and expressing



their interest in learning to ring. Early afternoon saw the arrival of Alistair Donaldson and 'The Maplestead Ring'. Throughout the afternoon branch members dropped by to have a go and it certainly attracted interest from those attending the Proms event. In the evening a team was mustered to ring for the 1812 Overture, with the ringing kept very simple, just ringing rounds. The help received on the day was much appreciated. Special thanks were due to Thank you to Alistair for bringing over the portable ring, to the Branch Committee in offering their support and to all those members and non-members that came, had a go, promoted ringing and took part in the concert.

Sue Webster - Rutland Correspondent



The Maplestead Ring



The Park – with the Maplestead Ring in centre picture.



Thrapston Branch - No news this time

Towcester Branch

Having ended the last newsletter in Feb with news of our tentative plans to recruit new ringers in the Branch, I am very excited to report that we are now intensively training 10 new bellringers using the Learning the Ropes teaching scheme developed by ART (Association of Ringing Teachers).

As I previously reported we had initiated a small working party to develop recruitment and training within the Branch. This group ran an open day at St Bartholomew's, Greens Norton on June 30th. Greens Norton band have been struggling to keep their numbers up and after Nigel Williams retired earlier this year, he proposed this church as a focus for recruitment. We ran a very successful open day using Guild displays and resources from CCCBR 'Ringing Remembers'. We advertised in local media, social media and with banners and posters around the village and were delighted to have a footfall of approximately 30 people and then 10 firm recruits. Margaret Bulleid has organised an intensive training rota for the new learners and this is going very well with support from our experienced ringing teachers across the branch. We are very excited to have a cohort of such keen learners and to be guiding them through their learning journey.

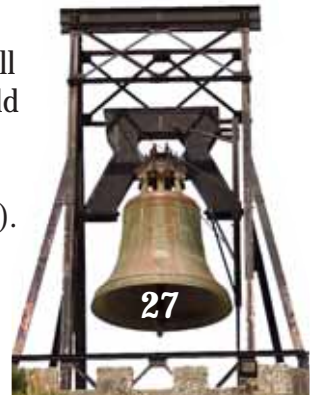


Nigel Williams putting finishing touches to our Open Day display!

Towcester Branch has participated in two striking competitions with excellent results once again! The 6 bell



Guild competition, held at Flore, was won by Towcester, ringing Cambridge (13 errors!!). Pattishall A team came 6th ringing call changes and the Pattishall B team who



rang Grandsire, came 8th. There was some glee at the more junior team having a higher place in the results, but as our Tower Captain remarked - "well done everyone for overcoming nerves and entering in such good spirit"

Our long standing Inter-Branch competition with North Bucks Branch seemed at risk this year as North Bucks were unsure if they were able to muster together enough ringers. As it turned out a last minute reprieve was manipulated by Barry Eglesfield and the annual event was ultimately held on the 21st July at Wicken. The usual 3 sections were held, Call Changes, 120 Plain Bob Minor and a touch of Stedman Triples. Again Towcester came out victorious winning 2 of the 3 categories.



The Branch continues to be active with outings and branch practices. In May we had a day outing ringing around Lapworth (near Birmingham) where we had to dodge the flash flooding provided by our recent extreme spring weather. We have just returned from a half day outing in and around Guilsborough. We always enjoy



Group Photo after Lapworth Outing in May.



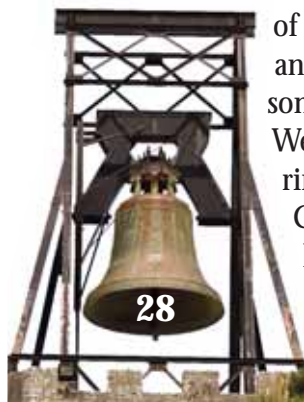
good support for thesis fun outings (and of course lunch!)

We also continue to have shared branch practices and in July we held a Quarter Peal weekend. Due to the recent branch striking competition only 2 quarters were rung, but the ringers entered into the spirit

of the activity by sharing the conducting at Cold Higham and ringing Superlative on the 8 at Wicken. This is something we want to build on next year.

We have happy and sad personal news regarding our ringers this year. Charlie Truman died in May. Although Charlie had not rung for a number of years due to ill health, prior to that he was a regular ringer at Greens Norton and Easton Neston and he also rang at Whittlebury where he lived. His association with

Towcester branch goes back many decades and he was



a much respected ringer. A Peal of Stedman Doubles was rung at Braddon on Monday June 25th in memory of Charlie; this Peal was also the 2000th Tower Bell Peal for Richard Allton.

On a more joyful note we had two ringing weddings, John Stanworth and Celia Wood were married in Towcester on April 2nd and less than a month later John's sister Catherine Stanworth married Mike Tinsley. A busy time for the Stanworth family and a busy time for Towcester ringers celebrating these events!



As always you are very welcome to join us at any of our practices which can be found at the Branch website. www.towcesterbranch.org.uk

Nic Boyd - Towcester Correspondent.

Wellingborough Branch

It is with great sadness that I am writing this as our press correspondent Jude has passed away after a brave fight with cancer. She is missed at all our branch events especially at our Saturday morning surprise practices where she was always keen to try new methods. The church at Ecton was packed with people from the village, friends old and new and many ringers with several people from her past as well as the present speaking. The bells were rung before by an invited band and after by many branch ringers before moving to the village hall for wonderful refreshments. Cake was always available when we had a meeting at Ecton and this was the case on this occasion. Several quarter peals were



rung in Jude's memory,

In April we lost Roger Wilkins of Earls Barton. Roger learnt to ring but didn't continue. He was however, our branch steward from 1999 to 2007 as well as being supportive of ringing generally.

We held a branch quarter peal fortnight to coincide with the royal wedding. Successful quarters were rung at Higham Ferrers, Irchester, Irthlingborough, Orthingbury, Rushden, Wilby, Wollaston and Yardley Hastings. Alan Willis rang his first quarter at Yardley with Amanda Summers ringing hers a few weeks earlier at Ecton. Congratulations to them both.

The Branch striking competition was held in June at Yardley Hastings on a sunny but cool evening. 6 teams took part judged by John and Penny Pardoe from Greens Norton. Rushden were declared winners followed by Bozeat and Irchester.

Rushden bells will be silent for about 3 weeks at the end of September beginning of October for a total refurbishment of the clappers.

We are looking forward to our branch outing on September 15th.

Brenda Dixon

Public Relations Officer's piece

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

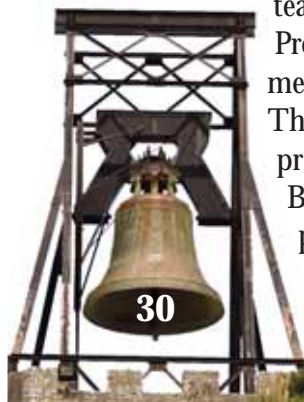
It was Thrapston Branch's turn to host the Guild AGM on Saturday, June 9. Ringstead and Islip towers were open for ringing and were visited by a reasonable number. Each had benefitted from a grant of over £1,000 from the Guild Bell Fund two and six years ago respectively. Then the fine eight at Thrapston was available before the Guild service at 4.30pm, led by the Revd. Peter Baden. We remembered sixteen former members in prayers. A splendid

tea was served by branch members in the church hall.

President, Geoff Pullin opened and welcomed over 50 members from eight branches to the AGM at 6.10pm.

The thanks part was agreed with acclamation on the proposition of James Grennan on behalf of the Daventry Branch to the incumbents, ringing stewards and tea providers.

The recognition part consisted of the announcement of seven 50-year memberships (Janet Collins, Christopher Groome, Len Hallifax, Alan Marks, Penny Pardoe, Joan



Parker and Sandra Whitlam) and certificates were presented to Len and Alan.



The President presents Alan Marks and Len Hallifax with 50 year membership certificates.

The routine stuff followed, with spelling corrections of surnames in the minutes of the Guild AGM 2017 and subsequent Guild meetings, preceding acceptance. The published 2017 accounts were adopted and the General Management Committee report received without comment. The Treasurer, who had indicated that he wished to retire, was pleased that this year all branches had submitted monies on time so that he was able to handover accurate accounts. He explained that it would take him another two weeks to complete the formalities of changing cheque signatories etc. Alan was thanked for his work over the last ten years.

Sue Jones proposed on behalf of the Finance & General Purposes Committee that the annual subscription should be raised to £7 for adults, £3.50 for students for 2019 and that the peal fee to remain at 20p per rope. An amendment for £7.50 for ease of change giving was defeated after it was pointed out that the half rate was made more difficult and any extra money just sat in bank accounts. The increase was passed nem con.

An allocation of £1,000 from the Bell Fund for the Steward and Executive to deal with minor grants over the coming year was accepted.

The election of officers proceeded with the option of voting against never being exercised. Incumbent officers were returned with the exception of the retiring Treasurer. Members were made aware that in 2019, it is the intentions of the Secretary, Steward, Peal Secretary



and 100-Club organiser to retire! There was some doubt through illness whether the Independent Examiner wished to continue, but he was re-elected. Ian Willgress referred to a short cv in circulation and proposed from the Daventry Branch that Chris FitzGerald be elected Treasurer. This was agreed in Chris' absence due to a prior engagement.



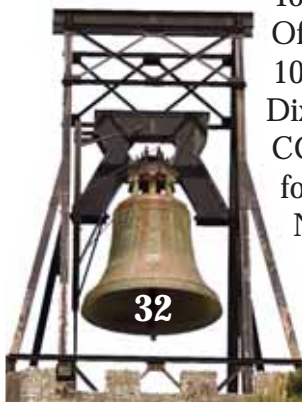
Chris FitzGerald

The Secretary brought to members' attention the statement on Safe Ringing (Insurance, Health & Safety and Safeguarding) that had been published in the Annual Report and website. Having sorted these, we now have the GDPR to divert our attention! Questioners were assured that the Executive was listing what data was kept by the guild and branches. It was emphasised that for the most controversial aspect – contact details on the website - written permissions under the old-fashioned Data Protection Act are still in place.

The PRO advised that the Guild website had 46,123 hits over the year, about 1,000 less than last year. The pages with the highest hit rates were Welcome!,

Towers, Latest Guild News, Events, Branch Officers, Guild Officers, Bell Maintenance. He mentioned the Armistice 100 - Ringing Remembers campaign and Master Simon Dixon handed out posters and leaflets gathered from the CCCBR meeting relating to it and stressed that they were for display in public places – not hidden in towers.

Nick Elks gave a detailed report on the CCCBR meeting in Lancaster when the new organisational arrangements were agreed by a large majority. The increased squeaking of chairs indicated less than rapt attention.



The 100-Club draw (1st prize £45.20 to #79 Peterborough Branch; 2nd prize £11.30 #104 Wellingborough Branch) was swiftly performed before the only declared item of AOB.

A request or two for the Guild ten-bell practices to be re-introduced was greeted with a suggestion to try 5th Saturdays, which seemed to meet general favour, starting on September 29. A collection for the Bell Fund amounted to £78.72. The meeting ended at 7.22pm.

Members made their way out into the countryside to Wadenhoe's saddle back tower, situated in rural tranquillity alongside the River Nene with the President noting that he could walk the 39 miles home along the Nene Way, but wouldn't. The local pub hosted some 17 until 10.30pm with notable absence of the Secretary and Peal Secretary who had already retreated to their temporary location in Norfolk.

Geoff Pullin
pro@pdg.org.uk

Guild 100 Club

100 Club Winners

MONTH	No	1st	Prize	2nd	Prize
2018					
JAN	112	68P	44.30	120W	11.20
FEB	113	21TH	45.20	126N	11.30
MAR	115	97C	46.00	65TH	11.50
APR	121	102N	48.40	14TO	12.10
MAY	116	102N	46.40	97C	11.60
JUN	113	79P	45.20	104W	11.30
JUL	112	103K	44.80	81K	11.20
AUG	114	83N	45.60	131N	11.40

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.

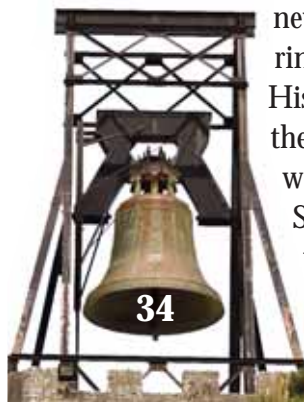
Other News and Events

Stanley M Ruddlesden

26/09/1922 – 19/03/2018



Stan was born in 1922 and brought up in Newnham, near Daventry. He attended the local village school and then Daventry Grammar School, where his love of sport, particularly cricket and Rugby was first encouraged. He enjoyed being a member of a team, and he was always keen to try new activities so it is no surprise that he decided to learn to ring.



His childhood home would have been within the sound of the bells at Newnham Church but the local ringers there were not inclined to welcome the lads of the village, so Stan and his friends cycled to nearby Staverton, where they had heard they could learn to ring with the Revd Powell and his wife Molly. Stan often spoke of those times and he had the highest possible regard for both of them, both as kindly instructors and friends.

He learned to handle a bell and the rudiments of change ringing under their tuition but then war broke out, and there followed a natural break in his ringing for about 6 or 7 years..

After completing teacher training at City of Leeds college (evacuated to Scarborough) he then joined the Royal Navy, spending much of his National Service in the Mediterranean off the coast of Italy. Stan was full of stories about the war. He obviously took full advantage of the travel and widening of horizons, though obviously there were some dramas and hair-raising experiences. His 'Uncle Albert' style of reportage about the Navy was a source of amusement to our family, but looking through old photographs, it is clear to see how much his time in the Navy had meant to him as a young man.

On returning from National Service, Stan took a teaching job in Northampton at Vernon Terrace School and lodged during the week in the town. He soon found some ringing and ringers who were keen to progress and it was not long before he scored his first peal at Whilton in December 1946, ringing the treble to Plain Bob Minor, conducted by Bill Hammons.

Stan's involvement with local sporting activity meant that Saturdays and Sundays were largely taken care of – cricket during the Summer and rugby in the winter but he maintained his interest in ringing at a local and fairly modest level. After he was married in 1949 to Hilda, he moved to Badby and the demands of his job, the travel to and from work and family life became the major preoccupation.

The family moved to Kingsthorpe, in Northampton, in 1956. The garden at the new house needed hours of labour to reclaim it from a building site but it was within earshot of the bells of St John the Baptist church. Hilda suggested he took a break from his gardening and persuaded him to go down to the church and join them – and from then he was hooked! The ringers there greeted him warmly and he soon became a member of the band, which was, at that time, the place to go for minor ringing in the town and the standard of striking there was high.

It was during the time at Kingsthorpe that Stan taught me, his eldest daughter, to ring, November 1962 to be precise. The bells at Kingsthorpe were not an easy proposition and Stan soon became the taxi driver (and mentor) to a very keen learner. He was badgered into

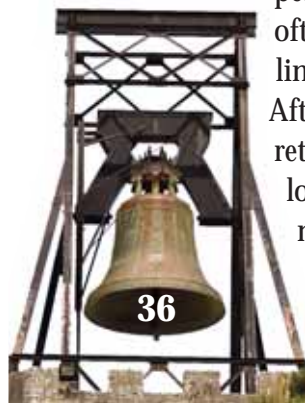


visiting as many ringing practices as was possible during the week and some Saturdays when he wasn't playing rugby. He became very active and well-known in the area, becoming Northampton Branch ringing master, and he starting ringing peals in earnest, with Barrie Hendry and Graham and Alan Paul. Ringing was now overtaking the sports – well, he was now over 40!

Stan and Hilda were great lovers of the countryside – never 'townies' - and it was almost inevitable that the family would move back to South Northamptonshire. Stan started to apply for headships in the county and, after a few near misses, he became the Headteacher at Culworth. At his interview he told the Chair of Governors, also the rector of the parish, that he and his daughter were keen bellringers, thinking this would be a strong point in his favour. “Don't worry - we already have our band of ringers here, thank you” he was told. But Stan dutifully joined in, tentatively and diplomatically feeling his way into a very different style of band. It was an ageing group so, in time, Stan set about teaching some youngsters from the village and anyone else who showed an interest. The numbers that went 'through the books' were countless but the bells rang almost every Sunday, morning and evening, all the while the family lived there, with Stan carefully managing the the different personalities.

It was fortunate for the advancement of his own ringing that the newly augmented ring of 10 at Daventry were only 12 miles away, where Pat Chapman ran a very good practice and was an affable and patient ringing master. Stan had moved on from being a competent minor and doubles ringer to ringing surprise major but now he was able to add royal to his repertoire. At roughly the same time, a telephone was installed at School House and the diary began to fill with many peal opportunities from many different organisers and in many diverse locations. The Daventry connection remained strong, however – he rang 165

peals there, standing in many 'first in method'. He was often seen with a scruffy piece of paper containing a new line to be learnt, accompanied by a worried expression! After Hilda had a severe stroke in 1982, Stan decided to retire. The School House came with the job so a new location was sought and Long Buckby was chosen for a number of practical reasons. When in 1987 Stan became a widower, it proved to be a friendly community with all the amenities close at hand and good communications – near to the motorway and train station for visiting family and friends. And he somehow managed to



become tower Captain at St Lawrence church, even though there was not a regular band. There then followed more teaching and a whole new group of loyal Sunday service ringers who all became actively involved with the Millenium project to augment the bells to 8. Stan was delighted to provide the 3rd bell in memory of Hilda.

Stan rang a total of 1006 peals, over a period of 61 years - a leisurely pace by today's standards but all carefully recorded with a sense of pride and achievement. He had a loyal group around him to 'finish the job' – he was getting very close to 1000 but finding each one more challenging as his health began to deteriorate – and he was so grateful to Andrew and Julie Haseldine, Chris and Ruth Stokes and Ray Vickers for helping him achieve his goal. He retired from peal ringing in October 2007 but still continued to ring locally for about another 5 years. It was the company that he enjoyed and he always maintained his love of 'a pint or two' after practice, along with stories and social chat.

Stan was a lifelong member of the Peterborough DG, becoming an Honorary member in 1983 for services to the Guild. He joined the College Youths in 1982 and was immensely proud of his membership. But a good proportion of his ringing, certainly since 1974, was with the South Northamptonshire Society, which provided peals, outings, holidays and companionship for over 40 years. We have, as a family, received many tributes from ringers. All speak of his good nature, his kindness and patience with learners, his ability to fit in and a general desire to help. He contributed to ringing in so many different ways, always modest and unassuming, but with a wealth of experience which he loved to share with others. He was remembered with affection in a packed church at Long Buckby on July 11th.

Shirley McGill



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 2018

22nd Sept

Guild Summer Festival - *Kettering Branch*

The festival and eight-bell inter-branch
& youth striking competition at Rothwell (on the light eight)

29th Sept

Guild 10-bell Practice - Northampton, St Giles

10.30am - 12.30pm

See Guild Website/Posters for more details



