

# **PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS**



**Newsletter  
July 2022**

**Platinum Jubilee Edition**



WINDSOR CASTLE

13<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

Dear Mrs. Allton,

The Queen wishes me to write and thank you for your letter, in which you tell Her Majesty that the bell ringers across the diocese of Peterborough rang their bells on the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Queen's Accession to the Throne.

Her Majesty was touched to learn the members of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers marked her historic Platinum Jubilee in this way, and The Queen sends her warm good wishes to you all.

I am to thank you once again for writing as you did.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Rhodes.

Lady-in-Waiting

Mrs H Allton

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## Newsletter News

This is our third new-style Newsletter, this one focussed on the celebration of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. Production was again delayed due to personal challenges (this is becoming a habit!). I have hopes that future editions will appear more promptly once work demands reduce in October.

Only three months after we participated in the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, we received the sad news of the Queen's death, and a flurry of activity across the Guild. Towers' and ringers' tributes will be covered in the next edition.

Please send any comments, complaints or contributions for future editions to me at [newsletter@pdg.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@pdg.org.uk).

*Jonathan*



## Jubilee Ringing

2022 is a significant date in UK and world history. On 6<sup>th</sup> February of this year, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II became the longest ever reigning monarch.

In February, all around the Peterborough Diocese, bells were rung to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II to the throne. Over 60 towers and 240 ringers were involved.

Of particular note were the efforts of the Culworth Branch where 20 out of the 22 towers rang, the inclusion of recently taught ringers at places such as Cogenhoe and Haringworth, the joint benefice quarter at Pytchley, the ringing at Great Oxenden where the first peal of Platinum Place Doubles was rung, the quarter peal of Treetops Triples (named after the place that Princess Elizabeth was staying when she became queen) at Peterborough St Mary, and the ringing at Pattishall where two quarters were rung: the first to mark 70 years since the death of King George VI, the second to mark the accession of his daughter.

The first weekend of June was earmarked as a special period of celebration for the Platinum Jubilee with two bank holidays attached. Nationally there were events planned to allow people to pay tribute to the outstanding achievement of 70 years' service to her country by the Queen. Within the Guild, we set about to attempt to ring at as many towers as possible. Posters were distributed to advertise when ringing would take place, and within the branches groups of ringers mobilised themselves to ring at towers that could not necessarily raise a band without support. This was particularly needed as injuries and illnesses (including COVID) prevented many ringers from taking part.

In the end 696 ringers took part in 257 ringing performances at 202 different towers. Some sets of bells were rung more than once to support different Jubilee events in their locality or to accommodate peals and quarter peals involving visiting ringers. There was ringing for local services and to coincide with the special service at St Paul's Cathedral on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June; ringing on the evening of Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June when beacons were lit around the country, as well as ringing for a host of different local events such as fetes, barbecues, open gardens and so on.

Particular thanks go to those ringers who rang on more occasion – this included the following who rang at least ten times – Ian Chapple, Simon Dixon, Alan Faiers, Paul Bestwick, Alan Ellis, Alistair Donaldson, Cathy Dixon, David Kirkham, John Beresford, Joy Kirkham, Sara Chapple, Steven Gullick, Sue Baker, Thomas Saunders, Kerry Nimmons. Also worthy of note is Tim Samson who rang double-handed to allow all five bells at Whiston to sound.

There were 11 peals and 34 quarter peals rung in a range of methods including Queen Elizabeth II Doubles, Platinum Place Doubles, Jubilee Delight Minor, Windsor Platinum Place Triples, and on various numbers of bells from Plain Bob Minimus with two cover bells at Brigstock up to Stedman Cinques on all twelve bells at Towcester.

### Several “firsts” were recorded

- 1<sup>st</sup> service ringing – Denise Warner
- 1<sup>st</sup> peal – Taliya Rubendran
- 1<sup>st</sup> quarter peal – Stephen Todd
- 1<sup>st</sup> quarter peal as conductor – Ian Alexander
- 1<sup>st</sup> quarter peal of triples – Andy Hinton
- 1<sup>st</sup> quarter peal of major – Michael Swale
- 1<sup>st</sup> quarter peal of major on an inside bell – Jane Bloomfield

### There were also some other milestones

- 50<sup>th</sup> quarter peal for the Guild – Roger Coley
- 100<sup>th</sup> different tower for quarter peals – Steve Millington
- 250<sup>th</sup> peal – Andrew Gunstone
- 1000<sup>th</sup> peal as conductor – Richard Allton
- 1000<sup>th</sup> peal for the Guild – Paul Mason
- 1250<sup>th</sup> peal – Sue Marsden

The footnotes also listed some new ringers - Mark Syers, Paula Weavers, Bijal Ruparelia, Kerry Dunkley, Nigel Allcott, Catherine Allcott, Matthew Allcott, Becky Burbage & Grace Allcott; Claire Stableforth, Bartholomew Gardner, Rene Brooking and David Scullion; and some budding ringers who helped with chiming - Theo Poolton, Jamie Jakes, Danial Camps, Emma Camps, Erin Burbage & Owen Burbage.

But it wasn't all about new ringers! Brian Austin (age 92) joined the open ringing at Great Cransley and David Loake (84) came out of retirement to ring at Desborough, having rung for the Queen's coronation in 1953. Paul Richardson (95) rang a peal on the Queen's coronation day in 1953 and joined in the ringing at Aynho this year. Margaret Buchanan, tower captain at Isham remembers celebrating her 6<sup>th</sup> birthday on the day when the Queen came to the throne in 1952.

So, 2022 will be a memorable year for the Guild as well as the country as a whole.

Cathy Dixon ([pro@pdq.org.uk](mailto:pro@pdq.org.uk))

*PS Spreadsheets of all these ringing performances are available and most of the June ringing has been published in The Ringing World, issue no.5799, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022.*

## The Last 70 years (or so)

I started my working life in research – both scientific and sociological. Recently I have turned my hand to a bit of historical research to find out how, throughout the Queen's reign, the Guild and its members have marked Royal events.

The following table lists the peals that have been rung and linked to royal events.

Date	Location	Peal	Occasion
11 <sup>th</sup> July 1947	Brafield	5040 Doubles (7m)	Engagement of Princess Elizabeth
20 <sup>th</sup> Nov 1947	Raunds	5088 Kent Treble Bob Major	Royal Wedding
20 <sup>th</sup> Nov 1947	Peterborough St Mary	5040 Plain Bob Minor	Royal Wedding
20 <sup>th</sup> Nov 1947	Stamford	5040 Minor (9m)	Royal Wedding
22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov 1947	Irthlingborough	5040 Stedman Triples	Royal Wedding
15 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1948	Naseby	5040 Grandsire Doubles	Christening of Prince Charles
26 <sup>th</sup> May 1950	Great Addington	5040 Minor (7m)	83 <sup>rd</sup> Birthday of HM Queen Mary
17 <sup>th</sup> Nov 1951	Edenham	5040 Plain Bob Minor	Return of HRH Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh from their Canadian tour
21 <sup>st</sup> April 1952	Piddington	5040 Plain Bob Minor	Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II
21 <sup>st</sup> April 1952	Whilton	5040 Plain Bob Minor	Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II
5 <sup>th</sup> June 1952	Cranford	5040 Minor (7m)	Official Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II
14 <sup>th</sup> Nov 1952	Weekley	5040 Plain Bob Minor	4 <sup>th</sup> Birthday of Prince Charles
28 <sup>th</sup> March 1953	Stanford-on-Avon	5040 Doubles (4m)	In memory of Queen Mary
31 <sup>st</sup> March 1953	Market Overton	5040 Grandsire Doubles	In memory of Queen Mary
2 <sup>nd</sup> June 1953	Road	5040 Doubles (7m)	Coronation
2 <sup>nd</sup> June 1953	Spratton	5040 Grandsire Doubles	Coronation
2 <sup>nd</sup> June 1953	Northampton Dallington	5040 Doubles (10 m)	Coronation
2 <sup>nd</sup> June 1953	Long Buckby	5040 Doubles (7m)	Coronation
2 <sup>nd</sup> June 1953	Weston Favell	5040 Doubles (2m)	Coronation
3 <sup>rd</sup> June 1953	Helmdon	5040 Doubles (3m)	Coronation
4 <sup>th</sup> June 1953	Bulwick	5040 Doubles (2m)	Coronation
6 <sup>th</sup> June 1953	Warkton	5040 Doubles (7m)	Coronation
12 <sup>th</sup> July 1953	Wicken	5024 Wicken Surprise Major	Coronation
4 <sup>th</sup> Aug 1953	Northampton Holy Sepulchre	5040 Plain Bob Major	Birthday of HM Elizabeth the Queen Mother
14 <sup>th</sup> Nov 1953	Mears Ashby	5040 Plain Bob Minor	Birthday of HRH Prince Charles
6 <sup>th</sup> Feb 1960	Nassington	5040 Doubles (14m)	8 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the accession
28 <sup>th</sup> Feb 1960	Daventry	5120 Spliced Surprise Major (10m)	Engagement of HRH Princess Margaret to Mr A Armstrong-Jones
9 <sup>th</sup> April 1960	Weston Underwood	5040 Kent Treble Bob Minor	Christening of HRH Prince Andrew
4 <sup>th</sup> Nov 1961	Cottesmore	5040 Minor (4m)	Birth of a son to HRH Princess Margaret and the Earl of Snowdon
24 <sup>th</sup> Apr 1963	Isham	5040 Plain Bob Minor	Marriage of HRH Princess Alexandra to the Hon. Angus Ogilvy
28 <sup>th</sup> Apr 1963	Stamford	5040 Minor (10m)	Marriage of HRH Princess Alexandra to the Hon. Angus Ogilvy
12 <sup>th</sup> May 1967	Preston	5040 Minor (3m)	1 <sup>st</sup> Visit of HM the Queen to Rutland
25 <sup>th</sup> Nov 1967	Uffington	5040 Minor (7m)	20 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of HM Queen Elizabeth II and Duke of Edinburgh
9 <sup>th</sup> May 1968	Ecton	5040 Cambridge Surprise Minor	Visit of HRH the Duchess of Gloucester to Ecton House
10 <sup>th</sup> June 1969	Wilby	5040 Minor (7m)	Birthday of HRH Prince Phillip
14 <sup>th</sup> June 1969	Benefield	5040 Minor (5m)	Official Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II
4 <sup>th</sup> Aug 1970	Weekley	5040 Minor (9m)	Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother
4 <sup>th</sup> Jun 1972	Brafield	5040 Plain Bob Minor	In memory of Edward, Duke of Windsor

27 <sup>th</sup> Mar 1975	Peterborough St John	5040 Plain Bob Triples	Visit of HM Queen Elizabeth II to distribute Maundy Money at Peterborough Cathedral
1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 1977	Weldon	5040 Plain Bob Major	Silver Jubilee
6 <sup>th</sup> Feb 1977	Kingsthorpe	5040 Plain Bob Minor	25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the accession
28 <sup>th</sup> May 1977	Braunston	5040 Minor (7m)	Silver Jubilee
4 <sup>th</sup> Jun 1977	Thrapston	5068 Wigsthorpe Surprise Major	Silver Jubilee
6 <sup>th</sup> Jun 1977	Barton Seagrave	5040 Doubles (10m)	Silver Jubilee
6 <sup>th</sup> Jun 1977	Oakham	5040 Grandsire Triples	Silver Jubilee
7 <sup>th</sup> Jun 1977	Cranford	5040 Minor (7m)	Silver Jubilee
7 <sup>th</sup> Jun 1977	Cogenhoe	5040 Plain Bob Minor	Silver Jubilee
9 <sup>th</sup> Jun 1977	Bilton	5040 Minor (13m)	Silver Jubilee
10 <sup>th</sup> Jun 1977	Cottesbrooke	5040 Surprise Minor (7m)	Silver Jubilee
11 <sup>th</sup> Jun 1977	Woodford Halse	5040 Surprise Minor (7m)	Silver Jubilee
17 <sup>th</sup> Jun 1977	Moulton	5076 Plain Bob Caters	Silver Jubilee
17 <sup>th</sup> Jun 1977	Haselbech	5120 Yeading Surprise Major	Silver Jubilee
8 <sup>th</sup> Sep 1977	Higham Ferrers	5056 Plain Bob Major	Silver Jubilee
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 1977	Rushden	5040 Grandsire Triples	Silver Jubilee
10 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1977	Irthlingborough	5040 Plain Bob Minor	Silver Jubilee
28 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1977	Kettering	5080 Plain Bob Royal	Silver Jubilee
2 <sup>nd</sup> Jun 1978	Burton Latimer	5024 Kent Treble Bob Major	25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the coronation
28 <sup>th</sup> Jul 1981	Burton Latimer	5008 Double Coslany Court Major	Wedding of HRH Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer
29 <sup>th</sup> Jul 1981	Grafton Underwood	5040 Doubles (4m)	Wedding of HRH Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer
29 <sup>th</sup> Jul 1981	Great Brington	5040 Minor (7m)	Wedding of HRH Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer
29 <sup>th</sup> Jul 1981	Cottesbrooke	5040 Minor (7m)	Wedding of HRH Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer
29 <sup>th</sup> Jul 1981	Rothwell	5024 Superlative Surprise Major	Wedding of HRH Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer
1 <sup>st</sup> Aug 1981	Bozeat	5040 Doubles (5m)	Wedding of HRH Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer
5 <sup>th</sup> Aug 1981	Dingley	5040 Reverse Carters Doubles	Wedding of HRH Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer
7 <sup>th</sup> Aug 1981	Barton Seagrave	5040 Doubles (4p)	Wedding of HRH Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer
26 <sup>th</sup> Jun 1982	Daventry	5088 Plain Bob Major	Birth of HRH Prince William
10 <sup>th</sup> Jun 1983	Kettering	5040 Kent Treble Bob Maximus	Birthday of HRH Prince Phillip
8 <sup>th</sup> Jun 1984	Northampton Dallington	5040 Surprise Minor (11m)	Official Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II
1 <sup>st</sup> Jul 1985	East Haddon	5040 Minor (14m)	Birthday of HRH Princess of Wales
21 <sup>st</sup> Apr 1987	Great Brington	5040 Surprise Minor (28m)	Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II
20 <sup>th</sup> May 1988	Rothwell	5008 Plain Bob Major	Visit of HM Queen Elizabeth II to Peterborough Cathedral
16 <sup>th</sup> Jun 1990	Towcester	5016 Little Bob Maximus	Official Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II
30 <sup>th</sup> Jun 1991	Northampton All Saints	5152 Yorkshire Surprise Major	90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday of HRH Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester visiting Northampton
6 <sup>th</sup> Feb 1992	Rothwell	5040 Grandsire Triples	40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the accession
8 <sup>th</sup> Feb 1992	Daventry	5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major	40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the accession
1 <sup>st</sup> Jun 1993	Woburn	5088 Bristol Surprise Major	40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the coronation
25 <sup>th</sup> May 1994	Higham Ferrers	5024 Ferrers Surprise Major	Visit of HRH Duchess of Kent to Ferrers School
4 <sup>th</sup> Sep 1997	Stowe	5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (14m)	In memory of Diana, Princess of Wales
4 <sup>th</sup> Sep 1997	Aldwinkle	5040 Doubles (5m)	In memory of Diana, Princess of Wales
5 <sup>th</sup> Sep 1997	Rushden	5040 Grandsire Triples	In memory of Diana, Princess of Wales
6 <sup>th</sup> Sep 1997	Great Brington	5040 Plain Bob Minor	In memory of Diana, Princess of Wales
11 <sup>th</sup> Sep 1997	Cold Higham	5040 Surprise Minor (7m)	In memory of Diana, Princess of Wales
20 <sup>th</sup> Nov 1997	Great Casterton	5040 Minor (5m)	Golden Wedding Anniversary of HM Queen Elizabeth II and HRH Prince Phillip
21 <sup>st</sup> Nov 1997	Haselbech	5012 Windsor Alliance Major	Golden Wedding Anniversary of HM Queen Elizabeth II and HRH Prince Phillip



22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov 1997	Flore	5040 Minor (7m)	Golden Wedding Anniversary of HM Queen Elizabeth II and HRH Prince Phillip
22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov 1997	Orlingbury	5040 Ipswich Surprise Minor	Golden Wedding Anniversary of HM Queen Elizabeth II and HRH Prince Phillip
22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov 1997	Moulton	5040 Yorkshire Surprise Royal	Golden Wedding Anniversary of HM Queen Elizabeth II and HRH Prince Phillip
22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov 1997	Higham Ferrers	5088 Bristol Surprise Major	Golden Wedding Anniversary of HM Queen Elizabeth II and HRH Prince Phillip
22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov 1997	Northampton St Giles	5040 Cambridge Surprise Royal	Golden Wedding Anniversary of HM Queen Elizabeth II and HRH Prince Phillip
23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov 1997	Rushden	5056 XXXXX Surprise Major	Golden Wedding Anniversary of HM Queen Elizabeth II and HRH Prince Phillip
7 <sup>th</sup> Feb 1998	Headcorn	5056 Yorkshire Surprise Major	46 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the accession
19 <sup>th</sup> June 1999	Yelvertoft	5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (22m)	Marriage of HRH Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones
20 <sup>th</sup> June 1999	Rushden	5056 London Surprise Major	Marriage of HRH Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones
5 <sup>th</sup> July 2000	Felmersham	5184 Yorkshire Surprise Major	100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother
27 <sup>th</sup> July 2000	Walgrave	5040 Doubles (7m)	100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother
4 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2000	Rushden	5184 Yorkshire Surprise Major	100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother
4 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2000	East Farndon	5040 Cambridge Surprise Major	100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother
5 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2000	Geddington	5040 Doubles (8m)	100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother
5 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2000	Northampton Holy Sepulchre	5088 Bristol Surprise Major	100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother
21 <sup>st</sup> Apr 2001	East Farndon	5040 East Farndon Treble Bob Minor	75 <sup>th</sup> Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II
6 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2002	Sproxtton	5052 Braybrooke Surprise Major	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the accession
1 <sup>st</sup> Apr 2002	Peterborough Cathedral	5088 Pudsey Surprise Major	Thanksgiving for the life of HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother
18 <sup>th</sup> May 2002	Cottesmore	5040 Surprise Minor (6m)	Golden Jubilee
25 <sup>th</sup> May 2002	Woburn	5088 Bristol Surprise Major	Golden Jubilee
27 <sup>th</sup> May 2002	Spratton	5040 Spratton Treble Bob Minor	Golden Jubilee
31 <sup>st</sup> May 2002	Courteenhall	5040 Doubles (38m)	Golden Jubilee
1 <sup>st</sup> June 2002	Aldwinckle	5040 Doubles (15m)	Golden Jubilee
1 <sup>st</sup> June 2002	Brooke	5040 Cambridge Surprise Minor	Golden Jubilee
1 <sup>st</sup> June 2002	Wicken	5088 Bristol Surprise Major	Golden Jubilee
2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2002	Stamford Baron	5040 Jubilee Treble Bob Minor	Golden Jubilee
2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2002	Moulton	5042 Yorkshire Surprise Maximus	Golden Jubilee
3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2002	Rothwell	5057 Grandsire Caters	Golden Jubilee
3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2002	East Carlton	5040 Jubilee Treble Place Minor	Golden Jubilee
3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2002	Peterborough Cathedral	5040 Plain Bob Royal	Golden Jubilee
4 <sup>th</sup> June 2002	Twywell	5040 Minor (5m)	Golden Jubilee
4 <sup>th</sup> June 2002	Weston-by-Welland	5040 Doubles (36m)	Golden Jubilee
4 <sup>th</sup> June 2002	Ashley	5040 Doubles (19m)	Golden Jubilee
8 <sup>th</sup> June 2002	Islip	5040 Islip Treble Bob Minor	Golden Jubilee
15 <sup>th</sup> June 2002	Lyddington	5040 Lyddington Hybrid Minor	Golden Jubilee
17 <sup>th</sup> June 2002	Crick	5056 Spliced Surprise Minor (8m)	Golden Jubilee
31 <sup>st</sup> Aug 2002	Empingham	5040 Empingham Hybrid Minor	Golden Jubilee
2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2003	Cottesbrooke	5152 Cotesbroc Surprise Major	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the coronation
6 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2004	Arthingworth	5040 Arthingworth Treble Place Major	52 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the accession
21 <sup>st</sup> Apr 2006	Saltby	5080 Elizabeth R Surprise Royal	80 <sup>th</sup> birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II
22 <sup>nd</sup> Apr 2006	Peterborough Cathedral	5080 Lincolnshire Surprise Royal	80 <sup>th</sup> birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II
2 <sup>nd</sup> Jun 2006	Northampton St Benedict	5040 Junction 15A Delight Minor	53 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the coronation
23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug 2006	Barton Seagrave	5080 Little Bob Major	80 <sup>th</sup> birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II

24 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2007	Tetsworth	5040 Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles	60 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary to Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip
29 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2011	Brigstock	5182 Wedding Delight Major	Wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton
29 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2011	Titchmarsh	5024 Cambridge Surprise Major	Wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton
9 <sup>th</sup> June 2011	Leicester St Mary de Castro	5040 Ashton Flamville Surprise Royal	90 <sup>th</sup> birthday of HRH Prince Phillip
6 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2012	Glington	5040 Cambridge Surprise and Plain Bob Minor	60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the accession
8 <sup>th</sup> June 2012	Rothwell	5040 Diamond Alliance Royal	Diamond Jubilee
24 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2012	Oundle	5088 Bristol Surprise Major	Diamond Jubilee
1 <sup>st</sup> June 2013	Long Crendon	5039 Grandsire Caters	60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the coronation
7 <sup>th</sup> June 2013	Rothwell	5040 Elizabeth II Alliance Royal	60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the coronation
23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2013	Kettering	5040 Cambridge Surprise Royal	Birth of HRH Prince George of Cambridge
18 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2014	Grafton Underwood	5040 Doubles (11m)	88 <sup>th</sup> Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II
2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2015	Peterborough St Mary	5040 Plain Bob Triples	Birth of a daughter to Duke and Duchess of Cambridge
11 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2015	Higham Ferrers	5080 Regnum Diutissime Delight Royal	HM Queen Elizabeth II is the longest reigning monarch
21 <sup>st</sup> Apr 2016	Thrapston	5090 Yorkshire Surprise Major	90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II
11 <sup>th</sup> Jun 2016	Peterborough St Mary	5040 Spliced Doubles (90m)	90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II
11 <sup>th</sup> Jun 2016	Glington	5040 Surprise Minor (7m)	90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II
23 <sup>rd</sup> Apr 2018	Great Brington	5040 Surprise Minor (7m)	Birth of a son for Duke and Duchess of Cambridge
18 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Braunston	5040 Surprise Minor (7m)	Wedding of HRH Prince Harry to Meghan Markle
18 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Grendon	5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (41m)	Wedding of HRH Prince Harry to Meghan Markle
19 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Warkton	5040 Surprise Minor (7m)	Wedding of HRH Prince Harry to Meghan Markle

It's not just peal ringing though. Reading through the Guild Management Committee Report and the Branch Reports yielded some other information.

For example, in 2002 It was noted that, of the 407 quarter peals that were rung, 41 were rung in memory of HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, 5 for HRH Princess Margaret and 61 for the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

To mark the Diamond Jubilee in 2012, Peterborough St Mary rang 60 quarter peals throughout the year.

From the 1977 report: *"1977 was the year of the Silver Jubilee of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II and ringing to mark this took place throughout the Diocese. Many quarter peals and peals were rung and several Branches made the effort to ring at all their towers on Jubilee Day."*

From the 1964 report: *"Many of the peals were rung for one of the four Royal births, and the quarter peal columns also included many quarters rung for these events."*

And from the 1953 report: *"For the second time in little more than a year, ringers were called upon to express the nation's emotions on the death of a member of the Royal Family. The end of Her Majesty Queen Mary's long life came in March, and half-muffled*

*or fully-muffled ringing was a fitting tribute to her memory. Later in the year, on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the bells played a prominent part in the joyous celebrations of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Coronation. It is probably true to say that very few bells were silent throughout the whole of the day. Nine coronation peals were rung."*

Cathy Dixon

## Recruitment & Training News

### Northampton Ringing Centre Project

#### *Background*

The Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) manages St Peter's Church, Marefair, Northampton (no longer a working church) and, with the Friends of St Peter's, ensures continuing use of the asset and funds to preserve and enhance the building. Next door is the Old Black Lion Pub (OBL), which is a historically significant 16<sup>th</sup> Century, Grade II listed pub, which is currently closed. CCT have raised over £2m in Heritage Lottery and other funding to restore the OBL to its former glory, whilst honouring the heritage of Northampton and the art of Bellringing.



*Visitors from the Architectural Heritage Fund*

The OBL is owned by West Northamptonshire Council who have leased it for 30 years to the CCT, the first 12 years rent free.

The previous CEO of the CCT approached the CCCBR to see if they had any appetite to be involved in a bellringing aspect and create user demand for the OBL. The CCT and the Peterborough Guild have been in ongoing discussions for over a year to try to work out our position in this vision. A memorandum of understanding was developed in 2021. The vision is to have a first-class Bellringing Training Centre, which could be a training pull for neighbouring Guilds and form part of a Bell Tourism centre and Peal Factory for ringers from further afield.

CCT have now decided to move their own offices, currently in London, to Northampton. This change resulted in a delay to the planning application which was finally passed on 8 June 22. CCT have started to move to Northampton. Whilst all London Staff are relocating, they will require future recruits so if anyone is interested, keep an eye out. CCT will move into the OBL first floor as soon as it is available.

Fleurets have been appointed to arrange for the selection of an Operator for the Old Black Lion. 10 Operators have been shown around the Pub and have seen the plans. This will result in the appointment of an Operator at some time through the summer. The relationship between the operator and the Bellringers will be a critical aspect for us after the appointment. We would love a “friend” to be involved. CCT will be seeking to receive a return from the operator that will be the main contribution to fund St Peter’s.

CCT will be going out to tender for the OBL building contract in August 2022. They expect a 12-month building contract commencing around January 2023. If anyone is aware of a builder that would be appropriate, please ask them to contact Hannah Parham ([hparham@thecct.org.uk](mailto:hparham@thecct.org.uk)) at CCT.

The plan for the bellringing centre currently is for CCCBR to fund a state-of-the-art computerised training set of dumbbells in a former stable in the OBL.

In the church, a sound management system is envisaged, comprising two parts. One part will control sound break-out as there are businesses in the vicinity, the second part to balance the sound of the bells in the ringing chamber. The Guild may be one source of funds for this system, but we shall be investigating whether we can obtain grants from other parties, including neighbouring Guilds, who may wish to use the proposed facility. Initial quotes indicate a cost of £11,000.

The Guild will be looking for firm evidence that the project for the Ringing Centre is underway and that the membership to make a significant contribution towards the modifications at St Peters, before making any commitments.

Facilities will be made available in the OBL for

- Meeting room for up to 40 people
- Cases for the display of Bellringing assets to encourage participation
- The food and drink offer from the pub
- Access for the Bellringers for when the Pub is closed
- Access to St Peter’s ring of 8 through a new path and gate

The Ringing Centre will be a separate entity and therefore there should be no financial liability for the Guild.

Should you have any questions arising from the above do not hesitate to contact myself ([treasurer@pdg.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@pdg.org.uk)) or John Beresford ([steward@pdg.gov.uk](mailto:steward@pdg.gov.uk)) who are most involved with the project.

*Chris*

## Jubilee Ringers Scheme

One of the reasons for promoting widespread ringing for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee was to advertise ringing in the hope of recruiting some more learners. A plan was put in place to organise groups of recruits and teach them to handle a bell over a period of 70 days (to mark the 70-year reign).

In addition to posters advertising ringing for the Jubilee, articles for inclusion in church newsletters etc were distributed and press releases were sent out. Some publications did show an interest, and ringing featured on BBC Look East on two occasions (May 12<sup>th</sup> from Nassington and June 3<sup>rd</sup> from Mears Ashby). There was also an interview on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May.

All this publicity brought forward some new recruits and also some people who wanted to return to ringing. As there were not large numbers, these have been accommodated at local towers rather than try to run new regional teaching hubs. It is also worth noting that the Jubilee ringing reports from individual towers do mention groups of new learners at various locations across the Guild.

Hopefully this fresh blood will help to redress the fall in numbers of active members that has become apparent following on from the coronavirus pandemic. The article about the Jubilee Ringers Scheme will remain on the Guild website for the rest of the year <https://pdg.org.uk/jubilee-ringing> .

*Cathy Dixon ([pro@pdg.org.uk](mailto:pro@pdg.org.uk))*



## The Ridgman Trophy

The Ridgman Trophy refers to a 10-bell striking competition that was first held in 1988. The trophy presented to the annual winners is named in honour of Bill Ridgman, past President of the Cambridge University Guild and past General Secretary of the Ely Diocesan Association. Teams eligible to enter the competition came from these two organisations and seven neighbouring guilds/associations.

This year seven teams did battle following a late COVID-related withdrawal by the Lincoln Guild. The venue for the competition was St Margaret's Church in Kings Lynn which holds a 29cwt ring of 10 with enough "character" to make ringing them a reasonably challenging test. The test piece was a touch of 202 Changes of Erin Caters.

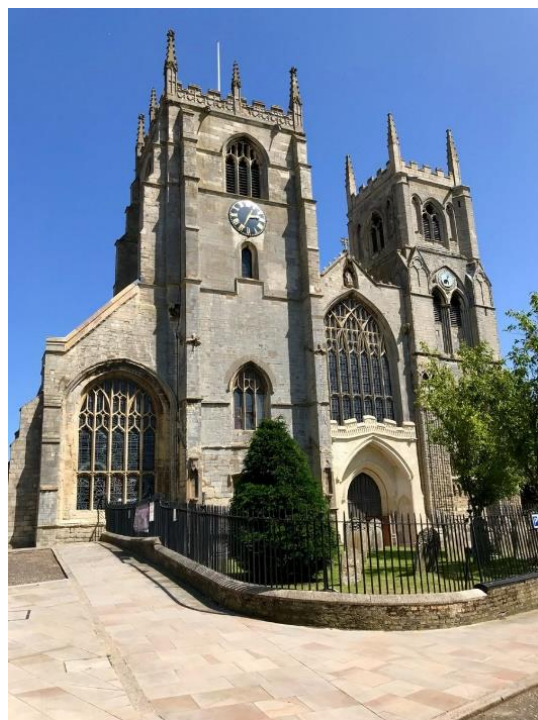
The Peterborough DG team had been drawn to ring second and duly assembled for a team photograph at 10:45. We were then ready for our half-hour ringing slot. This enabled us to ring the touch in full as a practice piece, during which, it is fair to say, we did not cover ourselves in glory. The test piece itself was a significant improvement but still, I think, demonstrated that, since we do not have a heavy 10 or 12 in our area, we lack some experience in ringing on one. However, overall, we were satisfied with our performance.

Eventually all seven teams completed their test pieces, and it was time for the results. The judges Sally Brown, Richard Brown and Lewis Benfield commented positively on the ringing and awarded first place to the Suffolk Guild team. We came 6<sup>th</sup>, but not too far away from the top, the scores for the first six teams being close. Full details of the competition can be seen here:

<https://ridgmantrophy.elyda.org.uk/>.

We have offered to host the competition next year. We will be looking to revive the social element of the day which has somewhat declined over recent years. Negotiations are underway to secure a suitable location. The competition will be held on Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup> 2023. Please keep the date free. We would love you to come along to listen to some good ringing and to show your support.

*Simon*



## OBITUARIES

### Cecil Arthur Swann



Our Dad, Cecil Swann, sadly passed away on Saturday 12th March 2022. He was a long time and much-loved member of St Luke's Church, Duston, Northampton. In fact, the other day our Team Vicar said to a member of the congregation that Cecil was part of the furniture and the person replied, quite rightly, that he had made most of the furniture! Over many years Dad was a bell ringer in the Diocese including St Luke's, where he was Tower Captain from 1975 until 2021, he was a member of the PCC, the Church Committee, and the Churchyard Team.

Dad was born on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 1933 in Great Oxendon, one of three children to parents Samuel and Eva. Cecil was the youngest of three cygnets, he had two sisters

Vera and Gladys. He grew up living in a railway terrace cottage at Clipston and Oxendon Station because his father was a signaller. He was baptised at Barnack Church near Stamford with his cousin Phyllis on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1934. Dad's mum not only looked after the house and the children but also cleaned in the village and helped care for boys evacuated from a school on the south coast. Electricity only arrived in the cottage in the late 1930s, the toilet was outside, and the drinking water came from a pump above the well in the garden.

Dad fondly remembered his childhood where the backyard and gardens were full of what was needed to subsist... pigs, rabbits, chickens and space for growing vegetables. Some of his early memories include roaming the fields, playing down at the brook, blackberrying along the field hedges, mushroom gathering and rabbiting during the war – the latter of course included keeping an eye out for PC Payne the local policeman!

He went to school at the local Church of England Infant and Junior school and then on to Clipston Endowed School until he was 15 years old. In January 1949 he started a five-year carpenter and joiner apprenticeship with Charles Binley Builders in Market Harborough which included both theory and practical training and was where he learned the skills that many of us came to appreciate.

Dad undertook two years of National Service in the RAF at various locations across the country, notably at Horsham St Faith Norwich where he was one of the first ten men to start a new modification unit, as they wanted someone with woodworking experience to make small covers to protect pipes and cables, amongst other things, once the ejector seat was removed from aircraft.

After National Service he became a woodwork teacher at Daventry Secondary Modern School. He met his future beloved wife Jean through mutual relatives, and they married

on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 1963 after Dad asked her “How would you like to have cygnets?” Nicholas was born on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 1964 and Elizabeth was born on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1967.

In about 1972 he moved to Campion School, Bugbrooke and he was there until he retired in July 1992 but continued with his woodwork evening class until Covid struck. He had close links with Campion for 50 years.

As well as woodwork, which he sold at local craft fayres and accepting local commissions, woodturning, and bell ringing, Dad was also a member of the Northamptonshire Industrial Archaeology Group (NIAG), a member of Northampton and Lamport Railway, a keen gardener and loved a bit of DIY.

Although Dad had a good life, well lived, his last month was not the best and he just wanted to be reunited with our Mum. We find comfort that they are together again. He struggled during Covid, not being allowed to do the things that kept him going, especially with his mobility. He always kept a smile on his face, was polite and never complained; and this was commented on by several of the nurses about what a nice man he was. One even said he was her favourite patient! His stubbornness and determination to do things for himself, and not ask for help, kept him going.

Dad’s Funeral/Celebration of his Life Hymn/Music Choices:

Amazing Grace: Mum’s favourite, it was one of their wedding hymns and was sung at her funeral.

Lord of all Hopefulness: because Dad was very skilled at the plane and the lathe.

Abide with Me: this was Dad’s chosen hymn.

Belfry Praise: Dad was a ringer for over 70 years, having learned to ring at St. Helen’s Church, Great Oxendon in 1951. He started ringing at St. Luke’s after he married in 1963 and became Tower Captain in 1975 until Covid lockdown. Sadly, frailty took hold as he was not able to go out and about and be as active physically as he used to be. Liz took over as Tower Captain last year, with help from the other ringers, and Dad became tower advisor. He was a Life Honorary Member of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers.

Exit: The sound of a steam train leaving the station: Dad had a lifelong love of steam trains. Also, a nod to his years of being a member of NIAG.

We would like to thank everyone for their help and support for him over the years since Mum died (on 5th May 2009), since Covid struck, the last month of Dad’s life, planning the Funeral/Celebration of his Life and their help on the day. Thank you all for the beautiful cards, flowers, and kind words. We are so very grateful.

*Liz Leaman, Nick Swann and their families.*

## Obituary for Brian John Coutts

Brian was born in the village of Cranford and was a regular ringer at Cranford St John, Grafton Underwood and Twywell died in Kettering General Hospital on 5th November 2021. Brian was instrumental in getting a record of peals rung at Cranford St. John written up.

Brian was very enthusiastic in everything he did having an interest in tradition, still running a Ford Anglia 105e with the sloping rear window. He was also an early adopter of new technology having installed Photovoltaic panel on the roof of his bungalow in Barton Seagrave in the early stages of the technology and when he needed to upgrade his central heating put in a heat pump as the energy source.



Brian is on the right in the photograph along with members of the band at Cranford.

Brian also rang at SS Peter and Paul in Kettering, being a regular member of the service band and on Thursday practices. He was proud to be called upon to call changes for Wedding ringing for several years.

A peal of 5040 Spliced Surprise Minor was rung on 23rd December at Twywell St. Nicolas in memory of Brian to recognise his support of

ringing in the Cranford St. John, Grafton Underwood and Twywell benefice.

*David Dainty, with contributions from George Potter, Laurence Stapleton and John Ross*

## Augmentation of the Bells at Great Oakley St. Michael

It was almost 20 years ago that the project to augment the original ring of 3 bells was conceived. David Kelly and group for the Keltek Trust visited Great Oakley. It was a non-ringer who opened up for them, and during the course of the visit the conversation included the possibility of augmenting the ring of 3 re-hung by Taylors in 1953.

The Keltek Trust was established in 1997 to 'rescue' at-risk bells and offer them to churches at cost price. After a successful pilot exercise, an application was made to register the organisation with the Charity Commissioners.

Over the ensuing years David Kelly has been in touch with the Tower caption, Diana Talbot, to check that Great Oakley were still interested in acquiring additional bells.

In 2018 a message was received that 2 suitable bells had become available, as with several the bells supplied by Keltek Trust, the bells were sourced from Trinity House, the charity dedicated to safeguarding shipping and seafarers, providing education, support



and welfare to the seafaring community, with a statutory duty as a General Lighthouse Authority to deliver a reliable, efficient and cost-effective aids to navigation service for the benefit and safety of all mariners.

Trinity House put contracts out to tender to supply batches of buoy bells. Successful founders were Taylor's of Loughborough, Mears & Stainbank (latterly the Whitechapel Bell Foundry), Warner's of Cripplegate and Gillet & Johnston.

Also, in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century there was a subtle change in the shape of bells. UK bellfounders started casting bells designed for "true harmonic tuning", for Trinity House. Two bells were cast in 1881 by Gillett and Johnston of Croydon for the Eddystone Lighthouse. Foundry records show that a large number of bells of around 3 cwt. in weight were cast for use in buoys by Trinity House and which, coupled with the introduction of Vertical Boring Lathes, allowed some bell founders to produce more tuneful bells.

There is some argument as to who first made the change to true harmonic tuning, but Gillett & Johnston were the first to exploit the process for buoy bells. Cyril Johnston suggested that the sound from such bells travelled further. Experimental bells were cast



to prove his theory, which they did. As a result of the trial, Trinity House produced a specification and drawings for these improved bells, which included the now familiar flat top for securing the bells, also enabling easy rotation when in place on the buoy, allowing the hammers to strike on unworn surfaces. Over time severe weather conditions and repeated hammer blows cause damage to the



buoy bells. Batches of worn bells were regularly returned to Bell foundries for re-casting into replacements.

Now advances in technology are making the humble buoy bell redundant. The last batch of buoy bells were cast by Taylor's in 1977. More recently, many bell buoys have been replaced by state-of-the-art technology and surplus bells sold off.

Matthew Higby & Co were engaged to hang the new bells after a few false starts, including delays in obtaining the faculty prior to the COVID 19 epidemic and, during the work, team members returning positive COVID tests and having to isolate for a period of time. The work was undertaken principally by the Bell Hanger Neil Thomas assisted by



Julian Ferrar from Matthew Higby's, with extra help from Andy Bimson, the Kettering Branch Steward.

Other small obstacles included the fact that when the pre-existing ring of 3 were installed a new floor was put in place below the bells without the provision of a trap-door, necessitating the creation of one for the work to be carried out.

After the long gestation the project to augment the 3 bells at Great Oakley St. Michael to a ring of 5 finally reached completion on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 and the first ring took place that afternoon involving the Bell hanging Team along with the Tower Captain, Diana Talbot, and David Kelly from the Keltek Trust.

The new bells have been in regular use since that the first ring. They were rung for a wedding on the 18<sup>th</sup> April and for the funeral and subsequent Memorial service to celebrate the life of Mrs. Hugh Guinness de Capell Brooke, formerly of Great Oakley Hall.

The tower has also featured in the Guild's Second Saturday Sessions, with the first workshop on Bell Maintenance being run by Guild Steward John Beresford supported by Andy Bimson on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May.



For those of you interested in seeing more, a slide show / video has been posted on YouTube and is available to view:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZD9klaS1Zss&t=241s>



## News from the Branches

### CULWORTH BRANCH

Culworth branch excelled in its ringing over the Jubilee weekend. The bells were rung in 21 towers in the branch, some ringing more than once over the weekend. 52 different ringers from the branch took part and on occasions we were joined by 6 visitors. It was a shame we couldn't ring at Middleton Cheney, as the bells had to be inspected by Whites before we could ring them, otherwise all towers in the branch would have been rung. Perhaps we will ring them at a later date to complete the branch ringing.

Well done to Ian Chapple, our ringing master, for motivating us all and organising a lot of the ringing. He also rang in 20 different towers during the weekend.

Also, a very special mention should be made to Paul Richardson who rang for the Queen's coronation in 1945 and also for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Paul used to ring at Benhilton, Sutton, Surrey. Later, he moved to the Daventry Branch where he rang several quarter peals. During his time with the Daventry Branch he became a regular ringer in the Culworth branch. After a more recent move of house with his wife Emily, he has been ringing at Aynho. Here is a little bit of his history, written by him. It makes very interesting reading.

"At the aged of 11 in 1939 I joined All Saints Benhilton, Sutton, Surrey, Church Youth Club and as a group visited the Bell Tower of 8 bells with its band of all adult male ringers. The war was declared on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September that year and most of the ringers were called to active service or other duties. A ban on ringing was made on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 1940 and it was from the 28<sup>th</sup> March 1943, when ringing was allowed again, that the Revd Lesley Whitlock, the Curate of All Saints, the Youth Leader, also a bell ringer, gave me and two

others a short instruction on bell handling. From the 15<sup>th</sup> August 1945 (VJ Day) the war in Europe and the Far East had ceased and slowly some members of the band began to return to ringing. Due to numbers, it was not possible for the eight bells to be rung but on some occasions, there was enough people for a Tuesday evening practice. I attended these but, due to the demands of the “returned” ringers, was only given short periods with ringing. In view of this, I took my school homework with me which on Tuesdays was mostly maths. That was good as one of the adult ringers gave me useful help. Possibly due to my example some of my friends Tony Pyne, Peter Leech, Eric Goldsmith and Roy Tomlin joined and it was then more time was given to the learners. When lack of numbers on practice nights the “learners” were given instruction on handbells and with five people we learnt Grandsire Doubles, one bell each except No. 5 who also rang the Tenor (no.6). Having managed plain courses, bobs and singles were introduced by our Captain, Ernest Godsen, a very experienced Cathedral ringer who came from Newcastle.

At 18 years old, on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 1946, I was conscripted into the Army, being released on the 15th June 1948 with no bell ringing during that time, as apart from Army training I was in Palestine (old name).

On my return I resumed ringing and with the 8 bells in action learnt Grandsire Triples also Doubles, Bob Major some Minor and of course lots of Plain Hunt and Call Changes.

By 2nd June 1953, The Queen’s Coronation Day, there were 20 people in the Benhilton Band and all had a short ring, then later I rang in a Peal of Grandsire Doubles conducted by Ernest Godsen.”

*Paul Bennett*

## DAVENTRY BRANCH

### Platinum Jubilee

For the actual 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Queen’s accession to the throne on February 6, a quarter peal of Plain Bob Caters was rung at Daventry by regular practice night and Sunday ringers conducted by Jim White. At the same time, branch member Miles Baker rang the 3<sup>rd</sup> at Durham Cathedral, also to Bob Caters! Rounds and call changes on five were especially rung at Barby.



*The quarter peal band at Daventry February 6,  
demasked for the photo*

Justin and Theresa Baker’s efforts with a leaflet drop and social media around Whilton, Norton and the Bringtons in February, led to ten or so people coming forward to learn to ring for the Platinum Jubilee. With so many, a short time scale and with Covid still about, Justin drafted in a time-tabled team of trainers to get through the initial stages of bell control at



Whilton on Monday evenings and Saturday mornings and elsewhere to suit. Welcome to Angela, Becky, Bijal, Catherine, Grace, Kerry, Mathew and Nigel and Nicki!

After an intense series of practices at five towers, culminating in a barbecue with Helen and Geoff Camps at Whilton on Friday afternoon, they all rang at three towers on Jubilee Sunday.



*Jubilee Sunday in Norton ringing room*

The costs were: two broken ropes at Whilton, one broken stay each at Weedon and Great Brington! Thanks to Richard Hartley and Geoff for prompt remedial work.

The lesson for recruitment seems to be 1) to have a target reason and 2) recruit a group.

## Branch Meetings

At Bugbrooke on the second Saturday of February, Jim White kept the bells going with 24 people. We were very pleased to see Jackie Gibbard at a branch gathering for the first time since September 2020. Albeit in a wheelchair.

At the meeting, Shirley proposed the vote of thanks, including the Revd Stephen French for permission to ring, to Revd Michael Houghton to whom he had passed the taking of the service and Barbara for playing the piano.

We were delighted to hear that Justin Baker from Whilton had 'volunteered' to be Branch Ringing Master and he was swiftly elected. The chairman advised that prior to Justin filling the BRM vacancy, Alison Willgress offered to organise some branch 8-bell quarter peals and Ian will organise the team to enter the Guild's Summer Festival 8-bell inter-branch striking competition in September at Uppingham and both will carry on thus helping Justin into post.

The meeting agreed to switch our meetings in June and thereafter to the third Saturdays, thus leaving the second Saturdays clear for all-Guild events.

On March 12 we met in the nice warm Great Brington church. Seventeen, including 2 visitors from Oxfordshire, turned up to ring under new Branch Ringing Master's direction, including St Martins Doubles as named method of the day. Another three people did not ring. With the Rector, Revd Andrea Watkins, present, the service was taken by the curate, Revd Kathryn Evans. I came away thinking I must put up a notice in our belfry saying "Blessed are the noise makers" after Kathryn's talk. Jim Grennan thanked the clergy and Churchwardens Joan Heaps and Gary Shaeffer who provided prolific cups of tea. Tower captains were urged by Justin to encourage their ringers to

want to ring or call quarter peals. Jim Grennan recommended several ART YouTube videos to help with training. We learned that the change of practice night at Newnham is enabling practices to continue and develop with Dominic's guidance.

At Everdon in April Ian Willgress was in the chair because Jane Rands was unwell. At the last minute the local band caught Covid and could not provide the eagerly anticipated cakes. It was noted that a visitor from Cannock had rung during the afternoon. A vote of thanks was proposed by Alison Willgress to Revd Barbara Gallagher for permission to ring, to Revd Michael Houghton for taking the Service, to Barbara Houghton for playing the organ, to the Everdon ringers for providing drinks and Bobby Lunn for washing up.

The June meeting at Litchborough began our new third-Saturday tradition. There were about 20 present and tea was served in the church, which caught out at least one who parked at the village hall. Justin put Litchborough Bob Doubles on the agenda in advance as well as the staples. The Secretary was away, as was your correspondent, so thanks to Alison Willgress for minute taking and reporting that it was agreed to try out the following:

1. Business meetings only quarterly, with notices at intervening Saturday 'practices'
2. Evening ringing at meetings when there is no business meeting
3. Leanne to be asked to produce 'adverts' for meetings to email out as per her offer of a while ago and restated at the committee meeting
4. Next meeting to be billed as specially catering for new ringers.

The status quo remains with a 3pm start, service every month and tea.

## Other Branch Events

Our Wombell was dismantled in Litchborough church on Tuesday afternoon February 15 and passed over to Cathy and Simon Dixon for use throughout the diocese.

The first of Alison W's branch 8-bell quarter peals was Lincolnshire S Major at Weedon on February 12, as a warmer up. March 6 produced Plain Bob Major at Byfield. On April 3 the Cambridge S Major at Whilton enabled Miles Baker, while home from university, to ring his first of surprise major. All were conducted by Ian Willgress.

The branch outing to Rutland on 14<sup>th</sup> May took place in great sunny and hot weather. Fifteen of us rang at North Luffenham, Cottesmore and Whissendine. Jackie Gibbard was improving enough to be able to walk from car to churches. Justin looked after the ringing and Graham White provided his usual gems of ecclesiastical and architectural information. When we arrived at the designated Manton pub, it was surrounded by hordes of cyclists and others enjoying the weather outside with bikes abandoned in heaps all around it! Alison Buck's arrangements worked well all day, and continued to, as our pre-ordered lunches were served in the calm and cool inside the pub.

We were sorry that Michael Houghton and Barbara could not be with us on our outing, because Michael suffered a fall and had to have his hip pinned, on top of his other woes.



## People

Congratulations to Elaine Leslie on ringing her first quarter peal at Weedon on March 9 – practice night. Ian Willgress conducted as Elaine rang the treble to Plain Bob Doubles. See <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1501569>.

Susan Guy died suddenly at home in Backwell on February 24. Susan had joined the branch in 1999, with husband John, from Litchborough as unattached members. They moved to Backwell, North Somerset some years ago.

*Geoff Pullin*

## GUILSBOROUGH BRANCH

On Friday 3 June, during the long bank holiday weekend, a group of Guilsborough branch members and friends attempted to complete six Quarter Peals to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

We started in Gilmorton with an attempt of Plain Bob Triples. Sadly, due to illness, this attempt had to be stopped. It was a great shame, but at least the villagers were treated to a short burst of nice ringing. We will go back and have another go in the near future.

We moved on to Crick, where we completed a successful quarter of Plain Bob Triples. We had intended to ring Little Bob Major but due to the aforementioned illness we had to make a quick change. We are going to have a go at the Little Bob later this month.



Our next stop was lunch at the Wheatsheaf in Crick, where lovely food and a few pints were consumed.

Our first attempt of the afternoon was at Harlestone on the very heavy six. This took place prior to a special service being held for the Jubilee. Our attempt of Grandsire Doubles was, thankfully, successful. Ringing quarters on these bells is not something you want to do frequently.



From the very heavy bells of Harlestone, we moved on to the very light bells of Cold Ashby. This ring includes the oldest dated (1713) bell hung for full circle ringing. Old Mary as she is known locally. Unfortunately, disaster struck again and we had to abandon this attempt, due to a broken stay.

Not to be defeated, we quickly arranged to go to Husband's Bosworth instead and ring on the six bells there. An attempt of St. Clement's was successful, making our tally, so far, three.

Over in Lilbourne, on the very nice ring of five, a successful quarter of St. Simon's was rung with Ian Alexander completing his first quarter as conductor. Well done, Ian!

Our final destination of the day was Yelvertoft, where we successfully rang Cambridge on the steady six bells there.

The team were now on a role, but sadly that was it for the day. Our final tally for the day was five. One less than we hoped for, but we were all very pleased to have been able to ring the bells in six villages, for such an important occasion.

*Fiona Barclay*



## KETTERING BRANCH



Following our AGM, the first ringing meeting of our regular programme was held at Rothwell, Holy Trinity on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February. The meeting was well attended with 21 ringers, refreshments being provided at half-time. The ringing was led by members of the Branch Committee and ranged from rounds & call changes through to Plain Bob Major, Grandsire and Stedman Triples.

The following month we visited 2 towers in the north of the Branch: Brampton Ash, St. Mary and Dingley, All Saints. The meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March was well attended with 27 at Brampton Ash and 24 at Dingley including members from neighbouring Branches and Guild Officers. Taste buds were treated to a range of cakes by members for the Desborough Tower with special



thanks to Bill Adcock's wife, Lizzie, for keeping all fed and watered throughout the first session. Again, the ringing was organised by members of the Branch Committee including rounds & call changes, Plain Hunt and Plain Bob, St. Simon's, Grandsire and Stedman.

Our April Branch meeting was held at Isham, St. Peter's on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>. Numbers were somewhat down due to weddings and other commitments with 13 attending. The ringing was limited due to the capabilities of those attending. Refreshments were provided by the Tower Captain Margaret Buchanan.



The May meeting was the first on our new day of the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month. It was planned to be a joint meeting with the Thrapston Branch, including ringing at Stanion, but circumstances led to this being postponed due to a clash with a wedding.



We rang at Great Oakley, St. Michael, with a good turnout of ringers from the Branch, and visitors from as far afield as Shropshire and Derby on the augmented 5. Tea and cakes were provided by Diana Talbot and her team. This was followed by ringing at Corby, St. John the Baptist, where we encountered a Viking re-enactment group, one of the members joining the ringing in full costume. The ringing included rounds and call changes, Plain Hunt, Plain Bob, Grandsire, Stedman, St. Clements and Plain & Little Bob Spliced

Our June meeting was to have been a Tour of Huntingdon and district, kindly planned for us by Edward Groome, a previous member of the Branch and now living in that area, but it had to be cancelled, due to lack of numbers, holidays, wedding ringing and other commitments keeping members away.

## News from the Towers

The main activity in most towers centred on ringing for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee which is reported on elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Desborough – The son of one of our ringers will be 10 in July and will start carrying on the family tradition by learning the art in earnest over the summer. He did ring the tail end for the jubilee and, as a result got his photo on the front cover of the Ringing World! Rumour has it he will be getting a copy of Dove for his birthday. (Who said anything about indoctrination? Get them young is a good move.)





Rothwell – an open tower was held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June to coincide with a Flower Festival being held in the church. Over 80 people ascended the spiral staircase where they received a short talk explaining English Church bellringing and the history of the bells at Rothwell, after which they were able to continue up to the belfry where they could see the bells in operation and have an explanation of how they work.

*David Dainty*

## NORTHAMPTON BRANCH

### Saturday School at All Saints Northampton

Northampton ART Ringing School is held weekly at All Saints, Northampton.

We have a simulator which is used as a tool for hearing, listening and striking skills, and so that the outside world is not subjected to the sound of bells when we are teaching beginners. We have four qualified ART (Association of Ringing Teachers) teachers, two at ART level one and two at ART level two. We also have experienced helpers who come along to make up a good band to support learners when they are practising following and ringing rounds.

We follow the ART Learning the Ropes Scheme which provides useful targets and levels for learners to aim for. Planning for practical and theory work for each ringer is essential. ART certificates are presented to individuals for achieving the different levels.

We take learners from the surrounding area and train them so that they are safe, confident and competent to ring a bell independently to at least rounds and call changes and ringing up and down. Most keep coming to ringing school after acquiring basic skills, to learn basic change and method ringing.

Two one-day courses have been run by two of our team under the LEA Adult Education scheme for people to learn about bells, their history, manufacture and ringing. Attendees were given the opportunity to “have a go” and several decided to take up the challenge and come to ART Ringing School. Most are still with us.

Teaching and learning must be safe, fun, supportive and inclusive, and learning done at the individual’s pace. Rushing a learner leads to disappointment and loss of motivation, when they lack the necessary skills to make progress and they may eventually give up. The tutor needs to get to know their learner and how they learn.

Planning is vital for individual and general weekly practice with something for all in their comfort zone and something to stretch them a little.

The social aspect is very important to us, with activities outside the Tower. We function as a team and the Hub has, at present, 34 ringers in the team spread across all abilities and stages of ringing and learning.

*Bridget Paul*

## RUTLAND BRANCH

**WELL DONE! CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR RUTLAND RINGERS.** Over the four days of the Platinum Jubilee weekend, 2nd-5th June 2022, there was ringing at some time during the holiday in all 34 towers in the Rutland Branch. Quite an achievement! The weekend also included ringing at five weddings, so a very busy few days all round.



*St Mary, Ashwell*

Ringling included the bells of St Mary, Ashwell, which, until very recently, had been deemed un-ringable. The general condition of the frame and a defect in the tower structure meant that full-circle ringing stopped sometime in the 1970's. A working party, spearheaded by Louis Totaro, with help and guidance from Taylors of Loughborough, conducted

extensive inspections over some considerable time and carried out some remedial work.

Eventually it was possible to do a test ring, so on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2022 the bells of St Mary, Ashwell rung out again. The Platinum Jubilee couldn't be missed and they were rung again, briefly, on June 5th.

It is important to emphasize here that the bells are still being monitored and require much further work and repair, and are not yet suitable for general ringing.

June 19th was Uppingham Feast Day. To coincide with the events of the day we thought we would have a bellringing promotional event and, hopefully, generate some interest in learning to ring church bells.

The Peterborough Guild now has a 'Wombell' and it was offered for us to use for the occasion, to let visitors to the church try ringing a bell. It is a sizeable piece of kit. It needs a space 2m wide x 6m long for assembly. Once assembled the floor space needed to operate the unit is about 2m x 2m, with a minimum ceiling height of 3.5m.



After a slow start people began to be curious and came in to church to take a look. Children were quite interested, adults a little more cautious. Time will tell if any of that curiosity will bear fruit in recruiting new ringers.

The ringing simulator is a resource that could play an important role in promoting ringing.

If interested and would like more information, contact Cathy Dixon. Guild PRO ([pro@pdg.org.uk](mailto:pro@pdg.org.uk)).

*Sue Webster*



*Uppingham Ringer, Thomas Saunders*

## THRAPSTON BRANCH

It has been good to be able to slowly restore some of our pre-covid ringing events but a lot has changed during the 'Covid' era. Sadly some of our elderly ringers are no longer with us and those who are still able to ring are increasingly finding 'old Father Time' and a few other conditions are catching up with us. Smaller congregations and no regular incumbents are also a concern in many of our very rural parishes.

However the Queen's Platinum Jubilee became a beacon of brightness on our ringing horizons. Aably sorted out by our Ringing Master, Chris Jenkins, a small group of Thrapston Branch members with associate friends managed to ring at eight towers within the Branch. The Friday of the Jubilee Weekend kick- started our efforts with All Saints, Great Addington being our first tower. It was good to welcome three village residents to ring with us there. St. Nicholas, Twywell, followed on before completing the Friday schedule at St. Mary's Woodford.



Saturday morning dawned and we climbed the thirty-nine steps to St. Nicholas Islip before ringing at St. James' Thrapston, then on to St Mary's Ringstead before a lovely Jubilee Lunch Party at Chris and Frank's.

Jubilee Sunday saw more ringing at All Hallows Hargrave and St. Laurence Stanwick, just to get us back in time for The Jubilee Parade.

Regular 'Zoom' meetings with many of our Branch Ringers have kept us in touch with each other especially through the winter months and once regulations eased a little, we have been able to start some practice nights.

One of the things that many of our ringers have commented on during the Lockdown was not just missing the ringing but missing the companionship and social events that provide "the cherry on the cake". The

Jubilee celebrations certainly provided the catalyst to hopefully restoring our Ringing Calendar. It was a very special weekend with a lovely atmosphere and lots of very good ringing. As one of our more elderly ringers commented, "We'll never do that again!"

*Alison Byrnes*



## TOWCESTER BRANCH

Summer weather at last!!! I'm sitting in my garden sorting this newsletter in my resumed role as Towcester Branch Public Relations Officer, as my husband and I have decided not to move to Wales. My thanks go to Margaret Bulleid for providing the information below, as normally in my role I would take notes of Branch events and then compose the Newsletter contribution.

It's been a very busy year so far in the Towcester Branch. Our AGM in January was held at Bradden. Ringing on the 5 was followed by a service led by Rev Paula Challen. Following a delicious tea, Paula stayed on to chair our meeting in the absence of Richard Yates, through ill-health. Richard had asked to stand down as Chair, and we elected Jonathan Stuart as his successor. We recorded our thanks to Richard for his many years of service as Branch Chair and we all wish him a full and speedy recovery. We also thanked Alan Faiers and Jill Cooke who stepped down as Branch Ringing Master and Publicity Officer respectively. Chris Bulleid was elected as Ringing Master. Jill has since agreed to continue as Publicity Officer following her and Alan's decision not to disappear to a far-flung corner of Wales, at least for the time being! Andy Blackwell steps up to become Branch Steward (thanks to our previous Steward, Jonathan Stuart, for showing him the ropes) and Geoff White was elected as Assistant Steward. Our Secretary John Pardoe offered to take on the Treasurer's duties and thanked Chris Bulleid for keeping the accounts in good order over several years in the post. Mark Rogers joined the committee.

Thanks to the enthusiasm of Chris, and a hunger across the Branch to return to 'normal' ringing, February saw a scheduled Branch practice at Pattishall receive such a fantastic

response that it became a full-blown training morning! Pattishall, Gayton and Cold Higham bells were used, and practical and theory sessions from Plain Hunt to Surprise Minor were on offer. Thanks to Guild PRO Cathy Dixon for joining us and helping with the training. A great time was had by all the 30 or so who attended, and around 20 of us rounded off the morning with an enjoyable lunch at Peggoty's.

The Branch practice at Potterspury in March was a more low-key affair but nonetheless enjoyable and quite well attended. The local ringers appreciated the opportunity to meet and ring with others after such a long time of little ringing activity.

In April a crowd of ringers from Towcester Branch headed to the Kettering Branch for the Guild Spring Meeting and 6 bell competition. Thanks to Richard Allton, we extended the day with some enjoyable ringing at Brixworth and Maidwell in the morning, and lunch at the Stag, Maidwell. Two bands from Pattishall and one from Towcester joined the competition. None was victorious, Towcester just pipped at the post by Rothwell, but we all did our best and were proud of those who braved competition ringing for the first time.

Bedfordshire was the venue for our Branch Outing at the end of May. Richard Allton organised an excellent day of ringing at Cardington (8), Barford (5), Biggleswade (10) Potton (6) and Eaton Socon (8). Highlights were the glorious 10 at Biggleswade and, for me, lunch by the Great Ouse at Barford. Being so close to the Jubilee, Chris had asked us to learn Platinum Bob Triples – an 'interesting' method with its 8 blows in sevenths place! (Good job



*Lunch at Maidwell, with J&B's Morgan*

Platinum Jubilees don't come round too often!) Other special methods were Single Oxford Bob Triples and All Saints Doubles. The day was rounded off with a good touch of 8 spliced at Eaton Socon followed by an evening meal at the White Horse. Thanks to Odette Dawkins for making the arrangements.

The big event in June was the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Thanks to a lot of planning from John Pardoe and Chris Bulleid, hard work and practise from local bands, and great support from ringers across the Branch, we are proud to report that the bells were rung at all but two of the Towcester Branch churches on or around the Jubilee weekend. Towcester got the ball rolling with a fine peal of Stedman Cinques on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Pattishall ringers and friends were delighted to score a peal of Cambridge and Plain Bob Minor on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. This will be the last peal on the bells before rehangings and augmentation later



in the year. Quarter peals were scored at Gayton, Cosgrove, Cold Higham, Blakesley, Passenham, Bradden, Greens Norton, Easton Neston and Wicken. In addition, Alderton, Stoke Bruerne, Blisworth, Roade, Ashton, Wappenham, Paulerspury, Potterspury, Pattishall, Greens Norton, Gayton, Cold Higham and Litchborough all had special ringing over the Jubilee weekend. If it hadn't been for unfinished bell work at Grafton Regis and birds nesting in the belfry at Whittlebury those bells would also have been rung. A great effort by all!

After all that activity, and with holidays and diary clashes affecting some, the Branch practice at Easton Neston in late June was thinly attended, but those who were there had an enjoyable early evening ring on this pleasant light eight.

I think we can all agree that it's been wonderful to return to one of our favourite hobbies after the disruption of the past two years!

*Jill Cook (additional material: Margaret Bulleid)*

## Towcester and the National 12 Bell Competition

After 2 years with no contest, Towcester put their names forward for the 12 bell again for 2022. Between entering and ringing, we lost our regular 12 bell trebler, Barry (Bash) Saunders. Bash was the oldest person to ring in the 12 bell eliminators and had been in our starting 12 since the 1990s. He was missed.

A team was gathered, and practices organised, and we headed over to Bury with a level of confidence that we would make ourselves proud. In an eliminator containing the Brummies you don't tend to go in expecting to win!

People arrived, bacon sarnies were eaten, tea was drunk, picnic blankets were laid and programs were sourced. After entering the Cathedral, we were welcomed by Stef Warboys and the Canon, and awaited the notices for the draw. When it was announced that Leeds had been hit by Covid a general feeling of sadness passed round the Cathedral, followed by murmurings of chat as we all realised suddenly there was the possibility of 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The draw arrived and was pretty good for Towcester. Usually we are first or last, and today pulled 4<sup>th</sup> slot so that perked people up a bit. Knowing that Cumberlands and Birmingham were up first gave people a chance to listen to good ringing at the start of the day and hear the standard being set.

As the afternoon progressed, more food was eaten, beer was drunk, shops were shopped, and Towcester made a very good effort at the test piece. Confidence was high, and we thought we were in the fight for third. We were right, although we ended up 4<sup>th</sup> (meaning a purely social trip to Guildford with no nerves or anxiety!), we were incredibly proud of ourselves and our performance, this being our best finishing position since 2016.

Our thanks to Bury for organising a very successful day out, and a huge level of respect for not only organising and managing the day, but also being able to ring during it!



Congratulations to all the teams who qualified for the final We'll be there cheering for you. A day out with good ringing and good company. What more could we ask for?

*Celia Stanworth*

## WELLINGBOROUGH BRANCH

### Irchester

Irchester celebrated the Jubilee by inviting ringers from Wollaston and Rushden and other friends for an afternoon of ringing on Monday 6th June followed by tea and cakes. An enjoyable time was had by the 26 friends who came. The local ringers were presented with a certificate to mark the occasion.

### Ecton

The Ecton band rang for The Queen's Accession over at Wilby and then at Ecton for the Jubilee. And on a personal note, David Dicks, tower captain and contact at Ecton, has now finally completed 50 yrs of ringing having lost 2 yrs to Covid, as he started in May 1970

### Wollaston

The St Mary's Wollaston ringers were joined by ringing friends from St Mary's Bozeat and St Katherine's Irchester on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2022 to celebrate the anniversary of the Queen's ascent to the throne.

The ringers are: Harry Curtis, Janet Beresford, Jean Rose, Jack Brown, Christina Downey, Tony Manktelow, Martin Tanner, Kate Inchley, John Beresford and Helen Manktelow.

We were delighted when one of our learners, Jack Brown, rang his first Quarter Peal at St Mary's Grendon in March for the Daffodil Festival Weekend, and doubly delighted when Thomas Mullett, also one of our new learners, rang his first Quarter at St Mary's Wollaston on 23<sup>rd</sup> April for the Queen's birthday. This Quarter also celebrated two of our ringers who had reached big birthdays with noughts at the end! Congratulations to Jack and Thomas for both getting their first Quarter Peals at the first attempt.

The band and friends rang for the Thanksgiving Service for the Queen on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022. In all, 12 ringers celebrated the Platinum Jubilee at Wollaston with 30 minutes of ringing before the service and an hour of ringing after the service.



Wollaston Open Gardens was celebrated in June this year rather than July and we accompanied those looking at the gardens by ringing the bells, and also offering a 'taster' session on the bells. It was so well received that we had a queue of people (men and women) wanting to try out a bell, and we extended our time slot by half an hour to cope with them. It was great fun and very enjoyable, and I am indebted to John Beresford for undertaking the role of instructor. (He was so busy, he never got a hot cup of coffee!)

As a result of this 'taster' session, we have welcomed two new learners, Rachel and Sharon, who are joining Roger and Dan in a beginner's class. Our other learners are now very capable at handling the rope and joining in with rounds and called changes – great progress for Mel, Julie, Eden and Ben.

I am very grateful to Kate, Enya, Janet, John, and Martin for their support to the Tower, and to Harry, Andy and Steve who help us out on practice nights.

Planned work to replace ropes 1, 2, 3 and 4 has had to be deferred yet again due to a wedding appearing in the diary. [*Jean Rose, Tower Captain*]

## Earls Barton

The Bells at Earls Barton are still ringing and this year we have quite a few weddings to ring for as well as a hectic few days of ringing over the Jubilee week end. Following a 'Call to Arms' article in the village magazine, I now have three ringers in training that I have one to one sessions with away from the usual practice nights.

## Yardley Hastings

It is a year now since the end of lockdown, and whilst we have kept a very low profile on the branch front that has been far from what has happened in our tower. We have only missed two services and only twice have asked for manning help. In both cases provided by Martin Howell, the Grendon Tower Captain (many thanks, Martin). We have taught two more to ring to replace the two lost to a mix of *anno domini*, covid and family duties. Both these ringers are now getting to grips with the mysteries of plain hunting and rope sight.

We rang for the Jubilee on the Thursday, Friday and for our own celebration service on Sunday 5th of June. All of our ringers took part and one managed to ring both in Yardley and Barmouth.

But perhaps the most significant ringing event is the daily ringing or chiming of a peace bell. Every evening since March 6<sup>th</sup>, either our 2<sup>nd</sup> has been chimed or our 5<sup>th</sup> tolled 30 times, representing the number of years that Ukraine has been independent of Russia. Parishioners are now beginning to take interest and are asking if they too can ring and of course the answer is "yes" and all the recently arrived Ukrainian nationals (there are 10 in the village) have chimed.

We have been surprised however at the lack of interest outside the village in this simple act of solidarity. Any church that is open daily could chime their bell, and all

churches holding a service could precede that service with a peace bell. I invite you to suggest to your incumbent that churches that are open could indicate their support of a Christian people suffering an act of war.

## Rushden

Rushden celebrated the Queen's Jubilee to include all ringers. On Thursday, Simon rang in a peal of Bristol Surprise Major which was arranged by a visiting band.

On Friday a touch of 70 changes was rung on practice night and on Sunday a Quarter Peal of Jubilee Delight Minor was successful. Simon, Cathy, Roger, Alan and Pam rang in a Quarter Peal at Mears Ashby, which was filmed and broadcast on Look East as part of the Jubilee celebrations.

Practice nights continue to be well supported - any visitors welcome.

## Orlingbury

A Peal was rung at Orlingbury on 6th July, in thanksgiving for the life of Audrie Samson, on what would have been her 92nd birthday. She was a ringer at Wellingborough for 20 years, at Orlingbury for over 30 years, and life member of the PDG. Four of the ringers were her own children and it was a first peal for Chris for 27 years.

*Thomas Coulter-Brophy*

## Second Saturday Sessions

May 14<sup>th</sup> 2022 saw the first Guild-organised SSS which allowed expertise across the Guild to be shared and enjoyed by many ringers. Two separate sessions were run, they were both well received and proved popular, so they are being repeated as follows.

### **Session 1 – Basic Bell Maintenance on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September.**

This is aimed at those who are interested in the mechanics of the bells and would like to learn a bit more, especially about how to keep the bells and fittings in good working order. It will be a mainly practical session held up in the belfry and would suit new recruits as well as existing ringers.

### **Session 2 – Beyond Plain Bob on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July.**

For those ringers who have been confidently ringing Plain Bob (Doubles or Minor) and want to find out how to learn and ring other methods, such as St Simon's Doubles, St Clements and Single Oxford Bob Minor. It will be a practical session, preceded by a theory session by Zoom.

June 11<sup>th</sup> 2022 was the day for the Guild AGM at Peterborough so a focussed open practise session was arranged for the morning at Thrapston so that people could stop off

on the way to Peterborough. This session was aimed at Surprise Major and also popular, attracting 23 ringers.

Now we have a few other courses that combine theory and practice arranged.

### **Session 3 – Understanding Call Changes on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August.**

This will be for those who can keep their bell in the right place in rounds but want to move onto ringing Call Changes or who have started to do so but keep “getting it wrong”.

### **Session 4 – Intermediate Bell Maintenance on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October.**

A follow-up, hands-on session for those who have attended session 1. It will cover looking after ropes and stays; learning how to change a rope and stay, how to adjust the length of a tail-end, and how to splice a broken rope. The date and location will be shared with those who attended “Basic Bell Maintenance” but additional places may be available for anyone who just needs to learn these skills.

### **Session 5 – Ringing up and down in peal on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November.**

With advice and practice for either one of these activities, this would suit ringers who are members of bands that regularly lower and raise their bells but do not have enough ringers who can do so in peal.

And another couple of open practise sessions are planned

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August 6:30-8:30pm** – Intermediate 8-bell (i.e., not Plain Bob or Grandsire or Surprise Major but methods such as Little Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Single Oxford Bob Triples).

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October 6:30-8:30pm** – Plain Bob Doubles – plain courses and touches for those who just need a bit more time ringing it with a steady band around them.

If anyone is interested in any of these sessions, that they contact Simon Dixon ([master@pdg.org.uk](mailto:master@pdg.org.uk)) or Cathy Dixon ([pro@pdg.org.uk](mailto:pro@pdg.org.uk)) to let us know and we'll be in touch with more details. Please note that there will be a small fee of £2 per student to go towards a tower donation for the taught sessions which are limited in numbers to maximise the benefit for the students. For the open practise sessions there is no need to register interest in advance, just turn up, with a £1 fee towards tower donations, in the confidence that there will be a suitably experienced band to ring with you.

Alternatively, if there is a particular course you would like us to arrange, or you would appreciate a visit from the “Flying Squad” at one of your practices, then get in touch with details and we'll see what we can do.

Simon Dixon [master@pdg.org.uk](mailto:master@pdg.org.uk)



## 100 Club

The recent winners are:

MONTH	Subscribers	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize
January	168	134Th £55.44	127Cu £20.16	177Ke £13.44
February	181	171Ke £59.73	57Pe £21.72	71Th £14.48
March	180	125Ke £59.40	86Ke £21.60	140Pe £14.40
April	182	159Ke £60.06	72Ke £21.84	118Da £14.56
May	180	11We £59.40	43Pe £21.60	15Gu £14.40
June	152	173Ke £50.16	178K £18.24	30Gu £12.16

So, all these winners have won enough to pay for at least one more year's subscription! All the profits go to the Bell Fund.

And if it looks as if Kettering members are luckier, I'm afraid it is just the rules of probability - there are more Kettering Branch members in the 100 Club, so they are more likely to be drawn as winners. As the saying goes – "you've got to be in it to win it!".

Look out on the Guild website and Facebook page for details of monthly winners.

My thanks go to all the Branch representatives who have helped recruit new members, collect subs and pass on information.

Cathy Dixon [100\\_club@pdq.org.uk](mailto:100_club@pdq.org.uk)





## GUILD EVENTS 2022 - 2023

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

### September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Daventry - Guild 10 Bell Practice 10:30

### September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022

RUTLAND BRANCH - Summer Festival and Inter-branch 8 bell Striking Contest

15:30 – 16:40 Belton in Rutland, open ringing

16:00 Uppingham, Ringing Contest and tea, followed by open ringing

18:00 Uppingham, meeting

19:30 Seaton, open ringing

### October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Rothwell - Intermediate Bell Maintenance 10:00 (Contact PDG Master)

Caldecott – Plain Bob Practice 18:30

### November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Higham Ferrers - Guild 10 Bell Practice 10:30

Great Oxenden – Ringing up and down in Peal 14:30 (Contact PDG Master)

### December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Great Oakley – Basic and Intermediate Bell Maintenance 10:00 (Contact PDG Master)

### April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

Wellingborough Branch - Spring Festival and 6-bell Striking Contest

### June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Culworth Branch – Guild AGM