

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS



Newsletter
June 2023
Coronation Special

Guild Officers 2023-24

(Subject to re-election at the AGM)

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Newsletter News

This edition follows unusually quickly after the last, to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. Many thanks to all the branch correspondents and Guild officers for stepping up so effectively to make this special edition possible. The next one is planned to be available for the Guild Summer Festival in September.

A reminder that, if you'd like to share copies of the Newsletter with any non-ringing members, this can easily be done by directing them to the relevant part of the Guild website (pdg.org.uk/latest-news/newsletters) or downloading a copy and emailing it to them. If a hard copy is preferred, one can be delivered in person (or posted), on request to me, the PRO or the Secretary.

If you want any additional copies for members in your branch, please let me know, so that I can ensure enough copies are printed.

Please send any comments, complaints or contributions for future editions to me at newsletter@pdg.org.uk.

Jonathan Stuart

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President's Preamble

I don't think I have ever rung so much as I have over the last couple of months! It's been fun but a little tiring! I can't help feeling that ringing for a Coronation might be a "once in a lifetime" experience for "Oldies" like me, thus to be really savoured, but you never know...

I found Saturday 6th May 2023 a very moving experience: Janet and I watched the procession and ceremony in comfort on TV in amazing detail, thanks to all the modern technology available to us compared with 1953 (no, I wasn't there!). Then we went to ring a Quarter Peal at Lubenham, followed by more ringing at East Farndon and Great Oxendon. I was very pleased to be invited to ring a Peal at Great Oxendon of a new Method "HM King Charles III Bob Doubles" composed and conducted by Paul Mason.

Looking across the Guild I am pleased to see that over 900 ringers across the Diocese rang the bells at more than 80% of our towers - that's some achievement. There were also many "Firsts" scored - well done and thank you to all the ringers and organisers who made that happen.

But the most striking thing I have found is the enormous goodwill towards ringers that all this ringing has generated. I have heard so many people saying how pleased they were to hear their bells ringing over the last few weeks. I believe this is largely due to the excellent publicity put out, not only amongst ringers but wider, across both local and national media. I have seen quite a few Guild posters around, thanks to the efforts of our PRO Cathy Dixon. Well done! All this meant that so many of our neighbours were *expecting* their bells to be rung, even looking forward to it. In this modern era, communications are so important.

I was pleased to be invited to give a talk at East Farndon to our Benefice congregation on Bell Sunday, 14th May, explaining what ringing is and showing a little bit of handbell ringing. I had one person ask to learn to ring afterwards - from Harrington. That is really good news, as the project to make those bells ringable again kicks off very soon.

Thank you to all those who have been supporting my COOTS initiative, ringing Thursday evening Quarter Peals. It is never too late to join us. (*See article on page 7.*)

I must add a "shout out" to all the Guild members busily teaching lots of new ringers, many attracted by the "Ring for The King" initiative. Well done for all your efforts. I hope we can retain and maintain their enthusiasm going forward into our Centenary Year.

Mentioning our Centenary reminds me that I am really looking forward to going to the AGM and both seeing and buying all that wonderful "once in a lifetime" merchandise the team have been putting together for us to enjoy. Do make sure you get your mementos while stocks last.

Alistair Donaldson

What's next for our Royal Ringers?

With the Queen's Platinum Jubilee last year and the King's Coronation this year, we have had a significant increase in the number of ringers recruited and taught bell handling. Thanks and congratulations must go to all those who were involved in the recruitment and subsequent training sessions.

There have been various articles and letters in The Ringing World about the investment of time needed to get through the initial stages of teaching: surely, we don't want it all to go to waste. There will be, inevitably, a few who are not willing or able to continue as ringers, but the majority need to feel that they are part of a community.

In the past this would have just been the local band, faithfully turning out to ring for Sunday Services, weddings, funerals etc., probably meeting once a week to practise their ringing, with a suitable visit to a local hostelry afterwards, and maybe joining in the branch meetings once a month.

But recently, it has become apparent that things are different – many local bands are short on numbers, practice nights rely on visitors to provide variety in what they ring. And many branch and Guild meeting have a low attendance and struggle to fill the necessary posts of responsibility.

So, let's encourage these learners to venture out. Introduce them to other local towers and go with them to branch and guild meetings. The experience of ringing on different bells is invaluable in terms of developing ringing skills such as bell control, rope sight and recognizing good striking. Encourage them to become members of the Guild through their branches – the tower poster “What can your Guild do for you” highlights some of the benefits.



Many of the rural parishes no longer have a full schedule of Sunday Services – they form part of a benefice. If so, liaise with other local towers and ringers to make sure that a joyful noise can be made to encourage people to worship.

Some of the branches are making a determined effort to support new ringers, such as the Daventry Branch event for young ringers, and the Rutland Branch practices dedicated to ringing Rounds and Call Changes.

What can your Guild do for you?

As a tower....

- Funding grants for
 - Restoration
 - Bell maintenance
 - Training
- Flying squad
 - Ringing support for special projects
- Competitions
 - 6 bell striking competition is open to all towers
- Information
 - Annual report
 - Periodic Newsletter



As an individual...

- Ringing opportunities
 - At other towers/branches
- Insurance
- An extended social network for cakes etc.
- Advice
 - On tower maintenance
 - On progress in ringing
- Competitions
 - Paper quizzes
 - 100 Club
 - 8 bell striking competition representing your branch
- Information
 - Guild website

Contacts

Website - <https://ndg.org.uk>
Guild Public Relations Officer - pr@ndg.org.uk 01933 403855

Finally, the Guild now runs regular Second Saturday Sessions – training and practice events that are open to all ringers – these can be tailor-made to suit individuals or the “Flying Squad” can be called in to help a band when necessary.

As we look forward to our 100th Anniversary year, 2024, wouldn't it be great to see many of the new ringers getting involved with Guild activities, maybe contributing to the aim of getting 100 firsts in the year (e.g., first quarter) or just getting out and meeting like-minded people from across the diocese at one of the scheduled events.

Cathy Dixon (pro@pdg.org.uk)

Ring for the King Recruits

As an addendum to my article on “What to do with our Royal Ringers” I have compiled a Ring for the King Recruits list of over 100 names of people who have learnt or are learning to ring because of the Coronation. The information has come mainly from BellBoard and I apologize if anyone's name is incorrect or if names have been missed off the list.

Congratulations to all of the following (and their teachers). Good luck with your ringing careers.

Alistair Rogers, Andrew Huckle, Andrew Peill, Andrew Tempest, Andy Veasey, Annabelle Boyd, Aubrey Hutton, Barbara Hook, Beth Heaton, Brionny Vaas, Caroline McDowell, Charlie Winstanley, Claire Calvert, Claire Faulkner, Csongor Gyorkos-Kirary, Daisy Wilkinson, Daniel Camps, Daniel Stock, David Blezard, David Wilkin, Debi Hogston, Delia Tekas, Donna Sackree, Elena Astley, Emma Camps, Erica Brown, Esther Shackell, Fiona Gibbs, Fiona Gibson, Gabby Gallagher, Gabriel Loutsaris, Garth Ratcliffe, Hannah Conlon, Harry McDowell, Hartley Fielding, Helen Lynett, Helena Loutsaris, Isabel McDowell, Izzy Lloyd, Jack Boniface, Jackie Andrews, Jacob Leishi, James Taylor, Jane Smith, Janice Smith, Jo Leaning, John Brown, Katie Coates, Kayleigh Millar, Kerenza Willis, Kevin Maitland, Leslie Blezard, Lidia Loutsaris, Lillie Saph, Linda Arnold, Linda Graves, Linday Ryder, Lisa Pawluk, Liz Heath, Lorraine White, Louis Chambers, Louisa Fielding, Maisie Sanger, Marcus Green, Margaret Shelley, Mark Griffiths, Mary Knott, Marzena Loutsaris, Molly Calvert, Neil Hogston, Neil Sayby, Nellie-Mae Morrell, Nicky Vickars, Nikki Payne, Pat O'Keefe, Paul Smith, Penny Burgess, Peter Baguley, Peter Trenchard, Richard Duggan-Jones, Sally Willis, Sam Beckett, Samuel Ryder, Sara Taylor, Sarah Pilling, Sarah Williams, Sharon Williams, Sian Ryan, Sonia Huckle, Sonia Stock, Steve Pawluk, Stuart Payne, Sue Herbert, Sue O'Connel, Sue Tempest, Suzanne Ryder, Tim Foster, Toni Wilkin, Tracey Lawson, William Gibbs, Wren Mansell-Woodstock, Xander Clipson, Yollander Willcock, Zoe Turner.

Cathy Dixon (pro@pdg.org.uk)

COOTS progress update

(as in "Come Out On ThursdayS")

Thank you to all those who have joined me on Thursday evenings to ring Quarter Peals. Though sadly we haven't always been successful, I think the extended ringing has been beneficial to many.

The idea behind COOTS is to give ringers an opportunity to ring and really get to know some methods that are on their "wish-list", e.g. plain methods such as St. Clements Bob Minor, some of the '41' surprise minor methods, or from the Pickled Egg Surprise Major series.

It's never too late to join **COOTS** so, if you are interested, please let me know **when** you are available, and **what** you would like to ring.

1: To help coordinate ringers, conductors and towers, I have set up a DOODLE Poll.

For dates in June please click on <https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/epZQM11b> create a profile and fill in your availability.

For dates July to Christmas use <https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/bkrp5oNa> instead.

This will enable all of us to see how each evening's bands are shaping up.

Note that you can change your availability at any time, just log in and click the "Edit" pencil by your name.

2: Please let me know by emailing coots.alistair@gmail.com:

Where you live (approximately!) so I can choose appropriate towers

What methods are on your "wish-list",

If you are willing to call a QP

or if you are just happy to ring!

Any other comments or restrictions?

3: I have set up a WhatsApp Group for COOTS members so that we can keep in touch, especially if there needs to be any late changes. If you are happy to join the COOTS WhatsApp group, please let me have your mobile number and I will add you.

If you would prefer not to use DOODLE, please just email me your availability and 'wish-list' directly.

Lastly If you know of someone who would benefit from joining COOTS, please do ask them to get in touch with me.

Alistair Donaldson (president@pdq.org.uk)

An alternative venue to “Ring for the King” and a trip to Ypres

Sometime last year I thought it might be nice to arrange a trip to take in the two rings at Dordrecht as well as the ring at St George’s Memorial Church in Ypres, Belgium. Although living and ringing in Market Deeping, which is in the Lincoln Guild area, I am also in the Peterborough Cathedral company. At that time many Northamptonshire ringers were helping us out at the cathedral with monthly 12 bell practices and, drawing on some of that band and a few others, a party of 18 was formed to go for a long weekend in May 2023. It was sometime later that the coronation was announced but it was decided to go ahead with the trip anyway.



Grote Kerk Tower

By various means the party arrived in Dordrecht in the late afternoon and early evening of the Friday before the coronation. Paul de Kok who is the powerhouse behind the Dordrecht ringing experience greeted us and it was not long before we climbed the majestic tower of the Grote Kerk. The 16 cwt 10 that Paul has installed are an excellent ring and Toby Bence called a well struck quarter of Stedman Caters in which we were joined by Paul’s son and daughter, Harm Jan and Thirza.

After a supper of fine bread, cheeses and meats accompanied by copious amount of local beer and wine, it was unlikely that a planned quarter peal of Stedman Triples would be rung; that indeed was

the case! However, there was some fun general ringing on the nice light 8 in ‘t Klockhuys before we all retired to bed.

The next day was Coronation Day. As the continent is one hour ahead of UK time it was hoped that our peal in the Grote Kerk would finish just in time for us to be able to watch the coronation service on the TV that Paul de Kok had set up in t’Klockhuys. Due to a small car parking issue, the start was a little delayed, but a fine peal of a new method was rung and we made it back to see the majority of the coronation service.

After lunch we all went back to the Grote Kerk for general ringing after which Paul had arranged a demonstration by the carillonneur. The bells in the carillon have a tenor weight of some 10 tons and are

Dordrecht, Netherlands

Onze-Lieve-Vrouwekerk (Grote Kerk)

Saturday, 6 May 2023 in 3h 2 (16-2-26 in F)

5042 Koning Charles III Alliance Royal

Composed by Richard I Allton

- 1 Peter G Brown
- 2 Paul M Mason
- 3 Helena M Thorpe
- 4 Julie A Tarling
- 5 Simon J Dixon
- 6 Keith W Brown
- 7 Harm Jan A de Kok
- 8 James F Thorpe
- 9 Toby A Bence
- 10 Richard I Allton (C)

First peal in the method. Rung immediately prior to the Coronation of King Charles III.

extremely impressive. The recital included some Harry Potter themes as well as Rule Britannia and the national anthem - God Save Our Gracious King. This was followed by a quarter peal of Yorkshire Royal rung with Jim Bence in mind. Jim and Sarah were due to come on the trip but, because of a planned operation, they had to back out of the trip.



't Klockhuys Bells

Before and after a more than adequate evening meal in 't Klockhuys, there was more general ringing.

Of course, while the peal ringers had their fun the non-peal ringers had the opportunity to take coffee and other refreshment in the fine cafes and bars overlooking the waterfront, to admire the fine architecture of the city and visit some of its museums.

A planned peal of Bristol on Sunday morning was successful and brought up several milestones for some of the ringers.

In the afternoon, there was time for more visits and more quarter peals. Again, time was taken for sightseeing whilst they were taking place. All returned to 't Klockhuys for another excellent evening meal with appropriate beverage to accompany the meal. Another attempt at a quarter peal of Stedman Triples was made late in the evening when others had run out of stamina. Well done to those ringers and conductor Toby Bence for demonstrating their above average staying power!

The Dordrecht part of the trip drew to a close on the Sunday evening and we all gave our thanks to Paul and Harm Jan de Kok for their outstanding hospitality. The next morning, we intended to leave early for Ypres to ring at St George's Memorial

Dordrecht, Netherlands

Onze-Lieve-Vrouwekerk (Grote Kerk)

Saturday, 6 May 2023 in 46m
(16-2-26 in F)

1282 Yorkshire Surprise Royal

- 1 Paul M de Kok
- 2 Diane M Faux
- 3 Thirza R de Kok
- 4 Julie A Tarling
- 5 Helena M Thorpe
- 6 Toby A Bence (C)
- 7 Simon J Dixon
- 8 Paul M Mason
- 9 Richard I Allton
- 10 James F Thorpe

With best wishes to Jim Bence

Dordrecht, Netherlands

't Klockhuys

Sunday, 7 May 2023 in 2h 35
(1-2-7 in G)

5088 Bristol Surprise Major

- 1 Paul M Mason
 - 2 Diane M Faux
 - 3 Toby A Bence
 - 4 Julie A Tarling
 - 5 Peter G Brown
 - 6 Keith W Brown
 - 7 James F Thorpe (C)
 - 8 Richard I Allton
- 350th peal 2. 900th peal 5.
950th peal 6. First Bristol as conductor.



Church. When meeting in the morning Paul Mason and Jules Tarling discovered that it was easy to get on the wrong side of the water in Holland! After a short delay to our start time, it was fortunate that for those travelling to Ypres the traffic was relatively clear and the weather good, so we arrived in plenty of time to get some refreshment before starting our peal.

Ypres is a wonderful town with much sad history and, for those who did not ring, visits to the Flanders Fields Museum were a reminder of how fragile our civilisation is and of the death and suffering caused by war. The peal was rung remembering Helena Thorpe's great-grandfather, who was killed nearby and has no known grave. He is remembered on the Menin Gate. Sadly, Helena's grandmother was born after he died so he never met his daughter.

St George's church itself has many plaques acknowledging the deaths of former pupils of schools in Northamptonshire and Rutland in the killing fields of the area.

And so, our coronation weekend drew to a close, but getting home was not without incident. Unfortunately, on the train back to Amsterdam, Paul Mason's passport was stolen and he was unable to fly back as intended the next morning. But it was good to hear that he was issued with a temporary passport by the authorities, so he could travel back the following day.

Keith Brown (Peterborough Cathedral)

Ypres, Belgium, St George

Monday, 8 May 2023 in 2h 33 (6-1-11 in B)

5024 Cambridge Surprise Major

Arranged by Paul M Mason

- 1 Clive G Smith
- 2 Julie A Tarling
- 3 Helena M Thorpe
- 4 Paul M Mason (C)
- 5 James F Thorpe
- 6 Toby A Bence
- 7 Richard I Allton
- 8 Keith W Brown

Rung in memory of Thomas Guiver of the 3rd Dragoon Guards, Prince of Wales Own, died 6th November 1914, great grandfather of Helena.

News from the Branches

(A consolidated list of Coronation participating towers can be found on pages 41-42)

Culworth Branch

All the towers in the Culworth branch rang to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Not only did the big bells ring but an enthusiastic group of handbell ringers from Evenley put on a performance on the village green.

As you can see from the article below, a lot of time was spent teaching an entire new band at Thorpe Manderville. Well done to all those involved – long may you continue to ring.

FROM SILENCE THROUGH CACOPHONY TO A JOYFUL SOUND

We did it!

Four residents of Thorpe Manderville who had never rung before, plus a friend from Lower Wardington who had rung a bit as a child with her Granny, rang (full circle) for the King on Coronation Day. Those ringers' journey had only begun on 22nd February. They had a ball. Their relations and other supporters were amazed by the ringers' enthusiasm and great fun was had by all.

Why did this come about?

My family arrived in Thorpe Manderville, across the road from the church, 33 years ago as the sole weekenders in the village – we still are. After settling, I took an interest in the fabric of the church, maintenance of the churchyard and organising fundraising events – biennial fête, carolling and concerts.

Having given up my office in London and so lived in the country for nine years, I have had more reason to reflect on the lack of community spirit and what might be done about it. Memories are of weekly whist drives in the village hall, though no-one has suggested they be restarted. I have also had more time to be concerned about why the church means so little to the villagers, not so much for its religious significance but as an architectural asset and green space, publicly available. My conclusion is that, beyond providing pastoral care to all villagers with whatever faith or none, for the church to increase its relevance to the village it needs to offer opportunities for villagers to engage with it as an institution or building.

Bell ringing is just such an opportunity, a social activity inextricably linked to the church as the only possessor of the necessary kit. It is low-cost to ringers and church alike, accessible to secondary school age children up to healthy nonagenarians (one here may soon become a centenarian) and aerobic, with the stretching looking after bad backs – well I hope so. Furthermore, it exercises the brain and gives a sense of fulfilment once that heavy weight has been tamed.

How did we do it?

Our church bells have been chimed irregularly to call villagers to church during the last thirty years, and no doubt longer, but no-one remembers when they were last rung properly and regularly. Martin Rowling (Culworth) has generously checked and maintained the bells and has brought a full complement of ringers for weddings, including those of all three of our children.

A churchwarden who can ring tolled the bell for the late Duke of Edinburgh, while I counted and encouraged him. He also chimed the bells, together with a whole family from the village, for the late Queen. Thereafter, there was some discussion of seeking training but at the PCC meeting on 25th January, I learnt that no training had been sought, none would be sought, and so no ringing for the King. It had never been my intention to take on starting a local group of ringers. However, after a day or two of thought but no action, my first question to Google, “learn bellringing”, took me straight to CCCBR, so to ART and by 30th January I had received a warm and friendly answer from Paul Bennett (Evenley). Even then, I thought I could just set it up and pass it on.

As the clear conclusion of the PCC meeting was that any effort would fail, before I wasted any more of Paul’s time, I emailed three families. One family replied by return, all were positive, and in due course all three signed up. So, I phoned Paul who was disarmingly enthusiastic and proposed to come over to Thorpe Mandeville regularly, generally together with Andrew North (Syresham), if I could muster a group. The PCC cleared issues of safeguarding and cost, while struggling with Health & Safety – what if a bellringer was hoisted into the belfry? A mass email accompanying Pews News caused 14 people from 9 families, aged from septuagenarians to two minors, 5 male and 9 female to sign up, including two already accomplished but out of practice ringers. At 19.00 on 22nd February, we were off and continued at least weekly, bar Holy Week, for 9 weeks. First stop was the new ringers chiming on Easter morn; those in church that day really enjoyed the splendid sound pouring out of the louvres as they arrived. Second stop was a tour de force by the new ringers for the King on Coronation Day, supervised by Paul Bennett.

As is well known, timing is all. The Coronation set a target, which always helps.

I cannot thank Paul Bennett and Andrew North enough for their enthusiasm and effort, which was infectious. I know that sentiment is echoed by all who attended even one training session. The disgrace is that it was all free, in the interests of training the extra 8,000 ringers, so that all the bells in the land can be rung simultaneously.

Where next?

My initial goal was to Ring for the King and maybe continue by having the bells rung before festival services. However, as I saw the enthusiasm, fun and camaraderie amongst the group, I began to realise that a new interest had been seeded which could be maintained; community spirit could be generated through a “village club” providing an additional activity for villagers; numbers might slowly build and let’s hope the bells might be rung for future weddings and tolled for future funerals by our neighbours. Our

new friends, Paul and Andrew, have assured us they are there to help our new ringers find the way forward.

Thorpe Mandeville has only three bells, one cast in each of C17, C18 and C19. Unusually however, they are mounted on a metal frame dating from tower works in the 1920s. Despite the limited number of changes, in late April we were visited by not just one group of bellringers but two groups in one day. The trio limbered up for 20 minutes and then rang a quarter peal with a medley of methods over 44 minutes without interruption. One of the ringers had last rung in our tower in 1996 as a teenager. I asked him to shorten the gap, otherwise I would next time be listening from 6 feet under.

A non-playing captain is fine when there is a clear goal but there is none such any longer. One of our new ringers, Duncan Lilly, has kindly picked up the baton.

Mission accomplished!

Jeremy Greenhalgh

Daventry Branch

Branch Meetings

From the special early start at 2pm at Weedon in April, Branch Ringing Master Justin found himself surrounded by people wanting to ring rounds! Theresa had to act as whipper-in to help in the throng. Assisted rounds for 16 went on for much of the afternoon with a spot of plain hunting and a service touch of Grandsire Triples. During the afternoon, 39 rang and four didn't. This was the largest number to ring at a branch meeting since the same number at our five-bell competitions at Norton in 2016 and before that at Charwelton in 2011.

Liz Taylor, the local lay reader, took our service and Michael Houghton would have been pleased that a different ringers' hymn was included, albeit accompanied by a cyber organ. Christine Rodhouse proposed the vote of thanks during our bring-your-own teas.

At the quarterly meeting we were pleased to elect as new members: Caroline Matthews and Lisa Kingston (for Flore), Hollie Rogers and Corinne Hyde (for Weedon) and re-elected for the second time, Nick Chatt (for Heyford), who has previously been an active member of the Culworth and Northampton branches. There are still more Ring for the King candidates to elect!

Alison Willgress gave us a concise report from the Guild's General Management Committee held in March. The discussion about reorganisation of branches has been passed to a sub-committee at which Alison will be our representative. The creation of a new Recruitment and Retention sub-committee is being implemented, with volunteers being sought to serve on it.

Ring for the King's coronation

Overall, 114 people took part in our towers to celebrate the Coronation, of whom 84 appear in photos published on Bellboard.

I was somewhat embarrassed at not being around because we booked a holiday a year ago not expecting a new King! Justin kindly organised ringing for all the new recruits at Daventry for 9.15 - 10.00 on Coronation Saturday, to allow time to get home to watch the TV. Preparations had been given a further fillip on Saturday April 22 with an hour of muffled bell handling, followed by an hour of ringing rounds and call changes on the front 6. There were six helpers providing seven trainees with good progress. We were all exceedingly pleased to have a total of 26 celebrating on Coronation morning.

Carole and I were able to join in ringing on the 12 bells at St Anne's Alderney!



Daventry. Left to right: Kaiden McCreath, Justin Baker, Martin Heath, Liz Heath, Richard Piner, Helen Camps, Daniel Camps, Michael Clipson, Kim Gibbard, Nigel Allcott, Xander Clipson, Harry McDowell, Matthew Allcott, Caroline McDowell, Jim White, Isabel McDowell, Hilary Chaamas, Gwynneth White, Louisa Fielding, Fiona Gibbs, Hartley Fielding, Steve McDowell, Catherine Allcott, Sally Thompson, Ann Houghton, Theresa Baker

Outing

The weather around Birmingham was hot and sunny for our outing on Saturday May 20th. The final arrangements involved 16 ringing on the nice 12 bells at Solihull, the eights at Selly Oak and Edgbaston, before lunch at The Fighting Cocks in Moseley whilst serenaded by a peal of Grandsire Caters on the close-by ten bells. Some had to leave us for other jaunts, with the remainder ringing on the light hotch-potch six at Moseley (St Anne's) and the eight at Yardley, before the run home. Thanks go to Alison for organising the towers and the lunch and to Justin for keeping us in order.

Quarter Peals

The April meeting heard the hot news of the first quarter peal rung on the new installation at Church Stowe on Tuesday April 11th. Plain Bob Doubles by a benefice band, conducted by Ian Willgress.

The April branch quarter peal, organised by Alison Willgress, was Plain Bob Major at Whilton, conducted by Richard Hobbs. It was Hannah Baker's third quarter peal and first quarter on eight bells. Hannah's second quarter was rung on March 10th, her first on an inside bell, ringing the 4th to Plain Bob Doubles with the Manchester University Guild at Didsbury.



The band for Hannah Baker's first quarter on 8 (Hannah: front right)

The May attempt for Cambridge Major was going too well, and fell apart!

People

I had a message from Greg Taylor in late April. Greg was living at Preston Capes for a few months in the winter, where he was introduced to our art. Now returned to Australia, he says that "there isn't a bell for hundreds of kilometres in any direction, so the stays here are safe! ... Say hello to everyone ..!"

Pre-warned by our recent emigrant, Angela, I saw a few microseconds of ringing from Aberdeen Cathedral on the BBC1 One Show on May 1st, with Sarah Hyatt (ex Farthingstone) ringing Queens.

Hellidon. Left to right: Carol Summers, Jackie Bailey, Val Hartley, Ann Houghton, Margaret Brown, Sally Thompson, Helen Whall, Frances Bird, Susie Goudime, Brian



Bugbrooke. Left to right: Colin Ashmore, Peter Wilkins, David, Aishwarya, Gurleen, Jim and Gwynneth White

The institution of the Revd Nic Edwards by the Bishop of Brixworth, and the induction by the Archdeacon of Northampton as Rector in the Bugbrooke benefice (Bugbrooke, Harpole, Kislingbury and Rothersthorpe) on April 23rd, was followed by 720 of Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Doubles. On the following day, quarter peals of doubles were rung at Kislingbury and Harpole, both conducted by Jim White. A quarter peal was conducted by Gwynneth White at Rothersthorpe on April 25th.

David Horder died, aged 91, in Scotland where he moved five years ago. The bells were rung before a celebration of his life at Welton Church on May 27th. David used to ring at Welton and helped with the rehanging in 1991.

Geoff Pullin

Guilsborough Branch

From the west of the branch

On Coronation Day a group from the Guilsborough branch set out to ring at the towers that we are responsible for, and at those towers on the west side of the branch where there is currently no band, with the aim of covering as many towers as possible during the course of the day. This is some of what we managed:



Yelvertoft: Cambridge Surprise Minor,
Grandsire Doubles



Lilbourne: Called changes and Stedman
Doubles



Sibbertoft: Called changes and Grandsire
Doubles



Welford: Called changes and PH Triples



Crick: Called changes, Grandsire Triples and Chiming by 7-year-old David Polgar



Cold Ashby: Grandsire Doubles, Plain Bob Minor, Stedman Doubles



Cottesbrooke: called changes and Plaint Hunt Triples



Spratton: General ringing



Naseby: Chiming and tolling by Gordon (far right) and three learners



Guilsborough: Rounds, called changes and Plain Hunt Doubles

News from further south in the branch

On Coronation Day, a band rang rounds, call changes and Orb & Sceptre at Maidwell, East Farndon and Great Oxendon. Members from the south of the branch lent a hand ringing rounds and call changes at Boughton. A delightful cream tea came as a great surprise and was much enjoyed.

On Monday the 8th of May, a roving band rang at Scaldwell, Walgrave and culminated out of branch at Pitsford, with a splendid tea and church event. Many of the new “Ring for the King” learners achieved their ambitions and a great day out was had by all.

From Rob Palmer and the wonderful team of Guilsborough Stewards

West Haddon – With the tutoring assistance of Peter Clifton from Long Buckby, a combination of 17 new and lapsed bell ringers are now practicing at West Haddon, provisionally on a Wednesday evening each week with further practices on a Thursday for the new ringers.

Cottesbrooke – A new “rope friendly” anti-climb device on the ladder is now installed. Ringers will no doubt recall the impediment of the former arrangement, fouling the travel of one of the ropes and the all-important unlocking ceremony. The work was carried out by local carpenter and joiner, James Ruddlesdin, who also greatly improved the safe ladder access to the heights of the tower. Previously, the ladder rungs were dangerously loose and the transition from top of ladder to the sounding chamber floor was devoid of grab rails, making access somewhat difficult. All the alterations were financed by Cottesbrooke PCC, and thanks also go to Julie Woolley, Merrick Bowles and Rob Palmer for their parts in organising the work.

Naseby – Repairs to three of the wheels were successfully carried out in December 2022 by steward’s team, Colin Sim, Gordon Ball and Rob Palmer. Due to the intensity of the remedial actions, the affected wheels were removed from the belfry and transported to Rob’s workshop. Although Naseby is ringable, the team were prevented from carrying out further “under bell” work due to the collapse of the bell access at the centre of the belfry floor.



The work will be completed when additional safety measures have been put in place, as well as new floor boarding.



Spratton’s repaired wheel

The detrimental effects of rainwater ingress to the bell installation and general fabric of the tower cannot be underestimated. The two other wheels are in good condition. The latest news is that the tenor end-stops have fallen away. We can easily make new items but fitting them is subject to additional safety requirements.

In memoriam

News has reached us that Lynn Tebbett of Willoughby Waterleys and Whetstone has sadly passed away. She was a member of the branch and used to do a lot of her ringing with Geoffrey Armitage in the Marston Trussell area. Older members of the branch will no doubt remember her. May she rest in peace.

Fiona Barclay

Kettering Branch

We started our ringing for the Spring Festival and 6 Bell Striking competition with a warm-up session at Great Cransley, St. Andrew, to give the younger ringers taking part an opportunity to ring and settle down, before ringing the test piece at Orlingbury. Only one team from the Kettering Branch, Desborough St. Giles, took part in the Striking competition. The members of the team all enjoyed the experience.



Desborough Ringers at Brampton Ash, St Mary

Ringling for the King started early in the Branch, with a Peal of 5152 King Charles III Delight Major at Burton Latimer, St. Mary the Virgin on 2nd May; a Peal of 5021 Grandsire Caters at Rothwell, Holy Trinity on 5th May; and on the same day at Great Oakley, St. Michael a Peal of 5040 Doubles, the first Peal on the augmented 5 bells.

On 6th May, general ringing took place at towers across the Branch, at Ashley, Barton Seagrave, Brampton Ash, Burton Latimer, Corby, Cottingham, Cransley, Desborough, Dingley, East Carlton, Geddington, Great Oakley, Isham, Kettering, Pytchley, Rothwell, Stoke Albany, Sutton Bassett, Weston by Welland and Wilbarston, with the ringing ranging from chiming, through Rounds & Call Changes and various methods. General ringing took place at Dingley and Rushton on 7th May.

Many towers had ringers who had started to learn as part of the 'Ring for the King' campaign. Some were ringing with assistance. The two newest recruits, Lisa & Steve Pawluk, appeared on Sunday 7th May at Rushton, All Saints and were able to take part in the ringing, taking their first ever blows, on the tail-end only.



Ringers at Great Cransley, S Andrew

Of particular note:

David Loake, aged 85, from Desborough was one of the ringers who rang for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and for King Charles III was the subject of an ITV Anglia news item. When the ITV Anglia news team learnt of David's past ringing for the Queen's Coronation, he received a phone call approximately a month before the King's Coronation, asking if they could interview him and his ringing colleagues. It all took place a week before the coronation and was broadcast on the evening before the Coronation, 5th May. The news item ran for about 10 minutes and included interviews with David and his wife Sheila and several of the Desborough ringers who rang the bells with David, shown at the end of the piece. Drone pictures of St Giles church tower were impressive, as was footage of the bells being rung and the ringers performing in the belfry.



Desborough, St. Giles ringers with David Loake
(left of the doorway)

Joe Rollings, 90 years of age, and featured in the previous edition of the Newsletter, took part in the General ringing at Pytchley, All Saints.

Ringers from churches in the Welland Valley Benefice joined together on the afternoon of the Coronation and rang the bells in all 7 churches within the Benefice. The journey started at Cottingham. Two months ago, Cottingham had no ringers, but now has six who come to regular practices. They joined other ringers for the afternoon and rang, assisted, throughout. You see them in the photograph, with certificates to mark the occasion at Cottingham. They are accompanied by the vicar who also joined the ringers for the afternoon and provided tea, coffee and cake at Stoke Albany, much needed by then. The team chimed the bells at East Carlton, which are not ringable, and also chimed the two Turret Bells at Sutton Bassett. The outing finished at Wilbarston. Well, not quite. All proceeded to the local hostelry, purely to re-hydrate you understand. In all, 22 ringers took part, most of whom were with us all afternoon. A special thanks goes to Helen and Nick Churchman who worked hard all afternoon assisting the new ringers. The ringing may not have



New ringers at Cottingham, with their Ring for the King certificates, with the Benefice Vicar

been the best, but it was enjoyed by all, and was a great afternoon to mark the occasion.

There was also ringing later in the month with a Coronation Peal at Rothwell, Holy Trinity of 5082 HM King Charles III rung on 20th May by members and friends of the local band. On the 27th May a Peal of 5040 Queen Camilla Bob Doubles was rung at Dingley, All Saints, the first peal of the method.

On Saturday 27th May, the Branch made a Cycling & Walking Tour to the Rutland Branch.

Weddings and other activities limited the cycling & walking to Bill Adcock, who single-handedly made the journey from Caldecott to Uppingham, Preston and back to Caldecott on his mountain bike, ringing at all 3 towers.



The Welland Valley Ringers at the end of their tour in Wilbarston, All Saints

The event was very well attended, with 17 ringing at Uppingham, 27 at Preston and 17 at Caldecott. We were joined by members of the Rutland Branch and some visitors from Bedfordshire.

Chris Pearson, our Ringing Master, made sure that there was something for everyone, from Rounds and Call Changes, through Plain Hunt, Plain Bob and St. Clements Minor to Cambridge Surprise Minor.

I would like to acknowledge assistance provided by Bill Adcock in relation to the piece on David Loake, Andy Bimson for the report on ringing in the Welland Valley Benefice and to Helen Churchman, Gabby Gallagher, Simon Pearce, Sue Brittain, Shane Ward, and Sarah Bence for the photos.

David Dainty

Northampton Branch

Ringing for the King's Coronation has been a huge undertaking by many ringers in the Northampton Branch.

Individual towers made a massive contribution, as well as there being three tower outings (one crossing Branch boundaries and the others very pleased to have another Branch's ringers join them) to try to ensure as many bells in the branch were rung to celebrate the Coronation.

Of the 28 towers within the branch, 3 towers are currently unringable. 23 of the remaining 25 towers in the branch were rung to celebrate the Coronation, including two





Quarter Peals. Northampton All Saints and Pitsford rang, with many new ringers trained under the ART scheme. There has been substantial effort made for these new ringers to Ring for the King. Particular thanks are due to ART teachers Bridget Paul and Elaine Greatrex for leading this work (assisted by many other ringers) which will benefit the Branch for the future.

Notable performances included:

A Quarter Peal of 1260 doubles at Boughton on 12th May, jointly conducted by all the band. Believed to be the first QP for the South Midlands District in which all ringers have jointly conducted, in keeping with the sense of community instilled by the coronation celebrations. 60 Stedman (conducted by Bridget), 240 Plain Bob (conducted by Sarah), 240 St Simon (conducted by Charlotte), 360 Reverse Canterbury (conducted by Alison), 360 Grandsire (conducted by Hilary).



Band for QP at Boughton (L-R)
Bridget Taylor, Sarah Thomas, Hilary Aslett,
Charlotte A Holmes, Alison T
Merryweather-Clarke

General Ringing at All Saints, Northampton, on 29th April. Rounds, call changes, Plain Bob Doubles, rung by Hub instructors, helpers and learners, five of whom, with assistance, were ringing rounds as their first open ringing.

Bridget Paul	John Grubb
Jennie Paul	River Higson
Michael Sawle	Jan Bolton
Giles Willson	Mark Edmonds
Andrew Brighty	Vincent Clive
Graham Paul	Richard Kilby
Fiona McKenna	Sandra Kilby
Adrian Meadows	Jenny Monk
Jean Merriman	



General Ringing at Abington, Northampton, on 5th May. Rounds and Call changes, Plain Hunt and Bob Doubles.

Clare Dean	Liz Moore
Selwyn Griffiths	Geoffrey Brown
Louise Griffiths	Shirley Jones
Charlotte Brierley	Jamie Watts
Cathy Tinsley	Damian Pickard
Kim Jones	



**Cogenhoe, 6th May
Rounds & Call Changes**

Gill Franklin	Sharon Parker
John Grubb	Kai Howton
Jenny Smith	Ray Henman
Sue Best	Anne Henman
Geoff Best	Marcia Morgan

**Brafield on the Green, 6th May
Rounds & Call Changes**

Ray Henman	Geoff Best
Anne Henman	Jenny Smith
Françoise Copsey	Gill Franklin
Dawn Allingham	Marcia Morgan
Sue Best	

**Courtenhall, 1st May, Rounds & Call
Changes, Bob Doubles, Grandsire Doubles**

Christopher Clayson	Charlotte Brierley
Giles Willson	Louise Griffiths
Geoffrey Brown	Selwyn Griffiths
Bridget Paul	Debbie Sampson
Graham Paul	Colin Sampson
Nicholas Parsons	Elizabeth Moore
Colin Brown	Jane Bloomfield
Olivia Hunt	Jenny Ball

**Collingtree, 1st May, Rounds & Call
Changes, Bob Doubles, Reverse
Canterbury Pleasure, St Simon**

Giles Willson	Olivia Hunt
Nicholas Parsons	Geoffrey Brown
Colin Brown	Liz Moore
Graham Paul	Louise Griffiths
Bridget Paul	Selwyn Griffiths
Charlotte Brierley	Jane Bloomfield
Colin Sampson	Robin Hickmott
Debbie Sampson	

**Harlestone, 1st May, Rounds and call
Changes, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure,
Bob Doubles**

Charlotte Brierley	Cathy Dixon
Nicholas Parsons	Louise Griffiths
Olivia Hunt	Selwyn Griffiths
Bridget Paul	Colin Brown
Graham Paul	Jane Bloomfield
Robin Hickmott	Colin Sampson
Giles Willson	Debbie Sampson
Simon Dixon	Liz Moore

Pitsford, 8th May, General Ringing

Jessica Aldis	Elaine Greatrex
Hilary Aslett	Nick Holmes
Fiona Barclay	Carol Isaacs
Marie Borrill	Keith Isaacs
Jane Bloomfield	Frank Kelly
Geoff Brown	Marcia Morgan
Iva Cramphorn	Karen Rands
Sam Cramphorn	Clive Skinner
Karen Douglas Walton	Clive Surman
Jill Franklin	Walter Thompson

Boughton, 6th May, General Ringing

Hilary Aslett	Karen Douglas Walton
Fiona Barclay	Carol Isaacs
Alistair Brooker	Keith Isaacs
Iva Cramphorn	Karen Rands
Sam Cramphorn	Walter Thompson

Peterborough Branch

Castor Tower

Castor Tower “Rang for the King” including open ringing, quarter peals and a peal.

Our special event was “Chiming for Charles”, a day’s ringing for the children and staff of Castor Primary School and Castor Tiny Tots, all chiming. Years 5 and 6 chimed all 8 bells, whilst the younger children Early Years Foundation Stage, years 1, 2, 3, and 4, chimed the sacristy bell. It was a very memorable event with more 240 ringers chiming throughout school day.



Attached a picture of one of the youngest ringers (Tiny Tots) able to “Chime for Charles” by kind permission of Clara Pedersen.

Julian Burton, Tower Captain

Glington Tower

As always, we are indebted to our many non-resident ringers who continue to help us out for special events, as well as stalwart members who regularly arrive for Sunday morning ringing.

When we are able, we still help Maxey ringers, who in turn regularly attend practice night at Glington and

are always very welcome. Indeed, we all met up at the Bells’ Annual Dinner, held just before the Coronation this year and proving a lively affair, although the agenda item “tower clean” has still to be actioned!

St. Mary’s ringers have been joining us on the first Thursday of the month - a visit for which we are always grateful. St. Mary’s have also helped by joining us in ringing for several significant funerals, both in Glington and Maxey.

The funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in September was both sombre and poignant. We tolled the tenor and the 5th on the day after the announcement of her death, then again on the day of her funeral. The bells were half muffled, and every ringer was honoured to have rung that day.

The national trend, as commented on in “The Ringing World”, is that ringing has serious issues to address in attracting younger ringers. Well, although most of our ringers are representative of an ageing population, we have been fortunate in having several younger ringers coming to Glington and wishing to experience ringing. We have also welcomed many casual visitors to the church, including a French family group and a

delightful Ginton resident who is an artist, and who spent several weeks drawing and watching the ringing. Most kindly, he presented us with a painting of St. Benedict's church as a gesture of thanks.

Our ringing for Coronation Day was a most joyful occasion, which also heralded the start of the village community events. Several onlookers arrived to watch the ringing. Then, to continue promoting the bells, we manned a "bells' table" at the event, where we had ropes, sallies, a model of the bells, a clapper and mat! On Volunteer Monday we invited anyone to come to the church to "have a go". This proved very popular, and we have maintained the momentum each Thursday. Long may everyone continue to enjoy our beautiful bells.

Ginton has been in interregnum for several months, but we recently heard the good news that we will be having a new vicar take up post very soon. We look forward with great anticipation to this event.

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

Jill Cowcill

Nassington Tower

It's been another very busy period of ringing at Nassington, particularly for the Coronation. We rang a peal, the first on the augmented 6 bells, and also my first. This was called by David Banks and included 56 minor methods. This was preceded by a Quarter Peal, so the band could have some practice in advance.

We rang across the benefice for the Coronation, and the ringing at Nassington included a number of our youngsters.

The various handling sessions over the week continue to be popular, and it is lovely to see new ringers progressing through Plain Hunt to trebling to methods. Recently, for the more experienced ringers, we have been ringing Bob Minor and Treble Bob Hunt.

We continue to ring for Sunday services at Nassington and at the other towers in the Benefice, where possible. In addition, we've rung for a number of weddings and funerals, and have supported other towers with our ringers, as necessary.

The Nassington band ring for service twice a month at Yarwell, a 4-bell tower, and the PCC has now received approval to augment to 5 bells. Fundraising is going very well, and we plan to have the bell cast and installed by Taylor's of Loughborough later in 2023.

Hilary Hardie, Tower Captain

St Mary's Update.

May has been particularly busy, predominantly for the Coronation ringing. Open ringing was held prior to the service and in the afternoon a quarter peal of Westminster Abbey Coronation Place Triples was named and rung for the first time. A doubles quarter was then rung on Bank Holiday Monday and we supported ringing in other local towers too.

One other notable success was at St Augustine's Woodston, which was closed last year. With a lot of persistence, Elaine Wilkinson was able to arrange access, and along with open ringing a quarter of King Charles III and Queen Camilla Doubles was rung. Queen Camilla was rung for the first time and named such. King Charles III is Blaisdon Bob with a Pinks Single, an Antelope Single and a Wallflower Single, whereas Queen Camilla is the same without the Wallflower Single. On querying with the conductor why he decided which of the three callings to drop, David Banks said that was an easy choice as “she ain't no wallflower!”.

After a few days rest, we regrouped and rang four further quarters at towers south and north of the river for Gavin and Sarah's wedding. Gavin Simpson first learnt to ring at the start of 2016. Within 6 months he had rung his first quarter. Then within a year he had notched up his 100th quarter. Gavin first met Sarah in 2019 and with the enforced lockdown in the pandemic got to know Sarah so much better!

Although Sarah doesn't ring, she is a big supporter and friend to the ringers too. With that in mind, and Gavin being an accredited ART tutor, teaching many new recruits at Stanground, Old Fletton, Castor and St Mary's Peterborough, it was fitting to ring a quarter at each tower. One of which was Gavin's 200th and was Simpson and Cliffords Pleasure Doubles. Clifford is Sarah's maiden name, and a recording was used at their wedding. Bells also rang out at Warmington, when they had completed their vows, a close tower to their wedding venue, aptly the Bell Inn at Stilton.

A fitting tribute for all that Gavin has achieved since starting ringing just over 7 years ago and best wishes from all their friends to this lovely couple.

Andrew Christie, St Mary's RM

Castor Ringing School

It's been a very busy period for the school, with a number of new learners identified locally and through the Ring for the King publicity. Due to the numbers, I decided to split the Saturday morning sessions into two, with a session for all those able to ring rounds and methods being held as normal at Castor, and handling sessions at Nassington for those learning to ring.

We did this for four Saturdays in late March and April. David Teall kindly managed the sessions at Castor, whilst three of us taught at Nassington. Through this we were able to get a number of ringers ready to at least ring rounds with help in their own Towers for the Coronation.

We had two ringers complete level 4 of Learning the Ropes and thus graduate from the Ringing School. Both of them are returning as helpers. One ringer has now completed level 5, our first through the school, and I was delighted to present her certificate.

Our recent learners are progressing well, with more now ringing Plain Hunt and trebling to methods. For those more advanced, we are teaching Bob Doubles and Bob Minor.

Hilary Hardie, Head Tutor

St Andrews Church, Ufford

We now have a regular monthly practice, which has really helped to keep the bells serviceable. The bells are on plain bearings and oil and the weather play an important part in keeping them easier to ring. We have had one quarter peal rung in April. We rang to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III on Coronation Day. We have also rung for the 3 services we have had so far this year.

Sally Hudson

Rutland Branch

With 34 towers in our County of Rutland, it was a feat of organization and communication to ensure that some ringing took place in all towers over the weekend of the Coronation. This was a remarkable achievement, considering several regular ringers were away on pre-booked holidays.



Lyddington Coronation ringers

From the middle of January onwards we made concentrated efforts in recruiting and teaching new trainees. Alan Wordie and Brian Newman held regular teaching sessions at Uppingham on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings, for new ringers from across the county. This provided new recruits with an initial concentrated few sessions of training, before they returned to their home towers

to progress further. Other ringing teachers were training new recruits in other parts of the region. This was followed up with 'Rounds & Calls' events in local towers, allowing the new ringer to ring with a band of experienced ringers around them and a helper standing by. This proved to be very productive and facilitated rapid progression.

In total we had 22 new ringers able to contribute to the ringing over the weekend of the Coronation of King Charles III.



Uppingham Coronation ringers

Mary Poyner of Whissendine rang for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. In 2023 for King Charles III, she chimed the three clock bells sited in their garden, recalling events of 70 years ago.

In celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, two peals were rung in Rutland: Seaton and Ryhall. Three Quarter Peals were recorded: Uppingham; Braunston and Ryhall. These gave

opportunities for several “Firsts” to be attempted and achieved. Thomas Saunders of Uppingham completed his first Quarter Peal as conductor. Sue Webster & Ian Bell, their first Quarter Peals in Triples.



Whissendine Coronation ringers



Wing Coronation ringers

Paul Szyszka rang his first Quarter at Ryhall, with Ethan Szyszka and Helena-Katie Scholes ringing inside in a Quarter Peal for the first time. Fantastic achievements by all involved in ‘Ring for the King’.

Sue Webster

Thrapston Branch

What a very special time ‘Ring for The King’ and Coronation Day itself were within the Thrapston Branch! On the Friday evening, May 5th, we started off by holding the first 6-Bell Practice at St. Nicholas Islip for some considerable time. Our ‘Coronation Ringing’ was well-struck, and we concentrated on the Call Changes as recorded for the 1953 Coronation as well as our traditional methods of Grandsire and Stedman.

On Coronation Day itself we were able to watch some of the early morning televised events, then started our ringing at St. James' Thrapston followed by St. Mary's at Ringstead. Unfortunately, the street party we were heralding there had to be postponed because of the weather, but we proceeded to ring loud and clear and then journeyed on to St Mary's at Woodford to finish the afternoon events with a toast to His Majesty King Charles III. Many



of us commented that it would probably be a unique event for us. With thanks to Chris Jenkins for arranging the ringing and to all who joined us at our local towers to support us. It was a very special day.



On another very positive note, the Thrapston Branch has been able to start a monthly afternoon practice at St. Mary's Woodford on the third Thursday of each month for both six and eight bell ringing, and an evening six bell practice at Islip on the first Friday of each month. So far, both practices are going well and it has been good to welcome new Branch members.

Alison Byrnes/Dennis Thrift

Towcester Branch

The Branch has been very busy these last two months, what with the 6 bell contests and the Coronation.

On Saturday 22nd April 2023 the Peterborough Guild 6 Bell Striking Competition was held at St Mary's Church Orlingbury. Our congratulations go to Towcester for winning the competition with just 6 faults out of 120 changes! An amazing achievement.

For hundreds of years, church bells have rung out, not only to call communities to worship, but also to celebrate special occasions, in remembrance of others and to signify special events. They are part of the soundscape of the UK. In June 2022 we all celebrated Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee with the sound of bells. Bells also rang out with a

muffled sound throughout the nation as a mark of respect at her passing in September 2022.

Following the announcement of King Charles' Coronation, the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers initiated an appeal to recruit more ringers to be trained in time to *Ring for the King*. Towcester Branch successfully recruited several new learners, from the very young, aged 8 or so, to the not very young. After a Ring for the King drive, several children and adults expressed an interest, and a timetable was set up in order to teach them so that they could participate on the memorable day, the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla on the 6th May 2023.

Throughout the branch many quarter peals and peals were rung at different venues...



Ring for the King at Greens Norton. On Coronation Day at 4:30pm Rounds and Kings were rung by our new ringing recruits with help from our more experienced ringers and teachers. Thanks to everyone involved. Our wonderful recruits ringing with other bells for the first time. All made possible by the efforts of our talented teachers Chris Bulleid , Margaret Bulleid, Alan Faiers, John Pardoe and Nigel Williams. Let the good work continue. Also thanks to Reverend Paula Challen for her encouraging words and prayer prior to ringing. <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1620901>

At the Greens Norton event, every new ringing recruit rang Rounds and Kings, supported by the teachers. The students had only five hours of teaching before the day. For the students, it was a first time ringing with other bells, first on Greens Norton bells, and a first time ringing with an audience! Well done and thanks to everyone involved!

Some other notable performances:

Aynho, St Michael, 8th May, 5088 Aynho Surprise Major, first peal of Surprise on the bells and first peal on the bells since 1955.

1 Celia J K Stanworth
2 Joanne C Wilby
3 Murray A Coleman
4 Robert M Wood

5 Nicholas R Wilson
6 Nicholas A Churchman
7 A John Stanworth
8 Colin M Lee (C)

Easton Neston, St Mary, 6th May,
84 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Jane Bloomfield
- 2 Jenny Ball
- 3 John P L Pardoe
- 4 Debbie Sampson
- 5 Alan Faiers
- 6 Christopher E Bulleid
- 7 G Nigel Williams (C)
- 8 Paul Bestwick



Whittlebury, St Mary, 8th May,
1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Anne V Wood
- 2 Helen Stanworth
- 3 Susan M Ferrie
- 4 Peter Nicholson
- 5 Richard Stanworth (C)



And as you can see some of our members really made the most of the coronation weekend...

Judging by all the happy faces and comments, the coronation weekend was a great success, topped by a super Coronation BBQ, hosted by Margaret and Chris Bulleid.

Long Live the King!

Jill Cooke



Comments



We've had a lovely weekend making the most of family time but also hobbies..

1. Scored a full peal at Aynho..first peal there in 68 years
2. Sourced personalised Coronation mugs
3. Managed to get both children watching some of the service together
4. Made some new friends at the big garden party
5. Had a bbq in the rain
6. Dressed like a weirdo for parkrun
7. Scored a qp at Towcester

[#coronation](#) [#ringforthe king](#)



[Towcester Branch Outing to Ashby de la Zouch, Saturday, May 27th 2023](#)

The day started dull, chilly and not welcoming at all, with one bellringer making the decision to leave sunglasses in their car as they wouldn't be required!

The first tower was found in the beautiful countryside of Leicestershire, in the village of Heather (yes, a place not a person). 6 bells, lovely to ring, with a trapdoor to the ringing room which for some of us was very different, as we are so used to ground floor rings. Competent ringing to start of the tour. Oh, and the sun started to shine – brightly!

Our second tower was just up the road at Coleorton – 8 bells, very long ropes, causing many to use knots for the first time, but they went well and we were treated to some wonderful ringing, including advanced methods we don't get to hear on tower practice nights.

Lunch time next, a short journey to Ashby de la Zouch. Pub done, we walked to their magnificent church, with a ground floor ring of 10. Door left open for air, and many passers-by stopping to see the ringers in action. Beautiful ringing, beautiful sunshine, lovely grounds, it was idyllic even with straining eyes from left-behind sunglasses.

Our next tower was the ancient site and church of Breedon-on-the-Hill. A huge ringing room for 6 bells. The church was so interesting that it took some time for us all to gather to commence the ringing. It would certainly be worth a re-visit. Views over the Leicestershire countryside were just amazing.

The final tower was in the village of Ticknell, a lovely ring of 10, with a joyous ring to celebrate the end of a great day. When not ringing, we had the chance to sit in the window seat, bake in the heat of the afternoon sun and look out over the village green and watch the cricket. You couldn't have pictured a more traditional English countryside

scene if you tried. We just needed a dead body, and we would have had a scene from Midsomer Murders – absolute quintessentially English: church, bells, cricket!

A pub meal to round off the day – fantastic – why do we struggle to get people on these outings? I do not know. I am not a great ringer, but I ring in every tower, get to ring with the best, learn, develop, and gain experience.



Photo by Chris Bullied (well actually by someone we found in the church yard)

Odette Dawkins

Wellingborough Branch

Since the last report, the Wellingborough Branch has held Surprise practices at Ecton and Mears Ashby and afternoon practices at Grendon and Bozeat – both well attended.

All the hard work involved recruiting and training ringers for 'Ring for the King' paid off, and most towers in the Branch rang at some point over the King's Coronation weekend. A first 1/8th peal was achieved and a few first Quarter Peals. Well done to them.

The Branch was saddened to learn of the death of two Wilby ringers – Jack Hadley on 30th March and Margaret Bell on 9th April. A Quarter Peal was rung after Jack's Funeral on 3rd May by members of the Branch in memory of them both. May they both rest in peace.

Rushden

After the recent recruitment campaign our learners are progressing well, and all rang (some with help) for the King on the Friday evening prior to the Coronation. As well as the ringing, the evening included cakes and a loyal toast. On the Sunday, Kaylee rang her first 1/8th Peal of Plain Bob Doubles – well done to her. Further ringing took place in the afternoon including a touch of 360 King Charles Delight Minor.

On Friday 12 May, instead of practice, a Quarter Peal of Grandsire Triples was rung to celebrate Brenda's 80th birthday, followed by a get-together at her home. On the Sunday, a Peal of Dragon Alliance Royal, a new method, was rung at Rothwell by members of the Guild.

Tuesday 30th May marked the 70th Anniversary of the rehanging of the bells. Owing to members of the band being unable to ring for long lengths, a 1/8th peal of Grandsire Triples was rung to mark the occasion.



The Rushden ringers wish Pam a speedy recovery after her recent operation and hope she will be back in the Belfry very soon.

Pam Bailey

Moulton

Moulton bellringers decided to mark Coronation Day by ringing from 9.30am to 10.30am immediately prior to the processions and service. Our church followed the ringing by showing the Coronation events on a large screen in the Church. We managed to ring all twelve bells to rounds and call changes, and methods on the back ten bells.

Other news: we have suffered with some of our clappers showing wear and tear because of their age. We have replaced two of them and intend to replace two others in due course. We held a Bric-A-Brac sale in the pub yard of The Artichoke recently to raise funds for the work. We ring every Monday evening for practice (except Bank Holidays) and are always pleased to welcome visitors.

Barry Care

Irchester

The bells at St Katharine's, Irchester, were rung in the morning of Coronation Day. Kings & Queens were rung and three new ringers, with assistance, were included.

The following Monday, the bells were rung again, and tea and cakes were shared with visitors from nearby towers. A very pleasant and enjoyable afternoon.

Marion Whittaker

Higham Ferrers

Higham Ferrers rang for half an hour on the afternoon of Coronation Day, and an excellent Peal of Grandsire Caters was rung the next day while a street party took place

in the Market Square. There was only one complaint - from a local pub which had arranged a jazz afternoon. It seems we won!

Earlier this year a webcam was installed in the peregrine falcons' nesting box in the spire, which provided lots of fun watching four eggs being laid and the chicks hatching. Sadly, all have now died, with Avian Flu being the suspected reason.

Bob Dennis

Bozeat

Tied bell sessions continue with a raft of new learners, continually augmenting the band. Practices remain well-attended with Bozeat ringers and friends from neighbouring towers.

We rang several times over Coronation weekend, including two first Quarter Peals, one on Saturday and one on Sunday. First quarter at first attempt for Garth Ratcliffe on the Saturday, then the same feat for Andrew Green on the Sunday, both successfully trebling to Grandsire Doubles.

On the Monday (8th June) we also rang for the King, but this was also dedicated to Agnes Jones, a Bozeat resident, whose 100th birthday was on that day.

On Friday 12th June, we rang the bells in memory of local resident Darran Pettit who had sadly died a few weeks earlier. The ringing preceded his funeral service at Wellingborough Crematorium.

Tony Manktelow

Earls Barton

We have had some enforced practice changes of late. One had to be moved to another tower due to a Drama production (at least they gave us more than one day's notice this time!). Another started late due to the Ascension Day service (four days' notice!), and another started even later, due to a Ukrainian Service complete with Eurovision songs. (We did get almost a whole week's notice for that one!!)



However, the band holds good and is still growing. Josh White rang his first Quarter on the tenor to Bob Doubles, dedicated to the Coronation of King Charles III, and about eleven of us rang, including a backstroke-only beginner, for the start of the Coronation Village Street Party. We rang rounds and call changes as well as Plain Hunt, Plain Bob Doubles, and a touch of Bob Minor. One of our quieter ringers, Rachel, provided us with paper Coronation Crowns which were difficult to keep on whilst ringing, though some of the band did at least try, and we all gathered after the ringing with other family members (not ringing yet!) for a toast and a few tasties.

We've now started quite a busy wedding calendar year, just to keep us on our toes!!

Andy Smith

Wollaston

Dominating this year so far has been 'Ring for the King'. At Wollaston, we waited until after all the pageantry was over on the television, before ringing for an hour to welcome our new monarch to the throne. It was great that our learner, Sharon, was able to ring in rounds with us.

One of our band, Jack, rang his second Quarter Peal with the Bozeat team, while others of us rang at Irchester to celebrate this event.

Following this weekend of Coronation ringing, we also rang for Bell Sunday. We rang as usual before the service in the morning and then rang again for an hour in the afternoon. We were joined by friends from Irchester, and Harry had also brought two of his Coronation learners, Sonia and Andy, to come and try some different bells, who did very well.

Jean Rose

Yardley Hastings

Much time has been spent over the last few months teaching seven children, six from the village and one from Earls Barton, to ring. Initially they were taught in groups of four and three, joining together in April as a band. The children were aged between 8 and 13 years old and were able to handle all our bells except for the tenor. Our youngest adult ringer, William Henderson, was brought in to add steadiness at the back with the three youngest alternating on the treble. They rang for the King on Sunday 7th May as part of our village celebrations, being joined in the tower by friends and families.



(back row, left to right) Sharon, Jack, Mel, Steve, Ben

(front row, left to right) Jean, Harry, Kate.

A group of nine people, including adults and children, posing on the steps of a brick building. Several individuals are holding certificates or medals. A large banner for 'Rushmore City Club' is visible in the background.

A group of nine people, including adults and children, are posing on the steps of a brick building. In the back row, a man in a light-colored blazer and pink shirt stands on the left, while a woman in a dark t-shirt and a man in a plaid shirt stand on the right. The middle row features a woman in a dark jacket, a woman in a white t-shirt with 'GOOD VIBES' and 'STAY' text, and a young man in a dark blue shirt. The front row consists of a girl in a white t-shirt, a boy in a blue t-shirt with 'SALT' text, a girl in a patterned dress, and a boy in a blue t-shirt. Several individuals are holding certificates or medals. A banner for 'Rushmore City Club' is visible in the background, and the building has windows and a door. A wooden railing is on the right side of the steps.

A group of nine people, including adults and children, posing on the steps of a brick building. Several individuals are holding certificates or medals. A large banner for 'Rushmore City Club' is visible in the background.

Coronation Ringing

The Coronation provided another excellent example of how the members of the Guild can pull together to ring lots of bells in a short space of time. It was encouraging to see that in many cases bands joined together to ring at multiple towers across their local area.

On Bellboard, there are around 270 separate pieces of ringing associated with the Guild's ringers and towers. Ringing was undertaken in 208 separate diocesan towers, and 4 outside the diocese by Guild members. There are currently 247 towers with ringable bells in the diocese, so that's an impressive 84% of ringable towers had some ringing performed for the Coronation.

It was particularly encouraging to see how many firsts were recorded, milestones are listed in the "Firsts" section of this newsletter. For many of us, this was our first coronation, but not for everyone; David Loake, Doug Holloway, Paul Hutton and Arthur Dicks were all ringing for their second coronation. Long life and power to your elbow, gentlemen. There were a number of footnotes recording the first ringing as a band. Many of these were after successful recruitment campaigns for the Jubilee and Ring for the King. Thanks is due to the many teachers and helpers who have made this possible across the Guild. You are an important part making history and building our future.

As well as general ringing, there were 15 peals (at Aynho, Burton Latimer, Castor, Dingley, Great Oakley, Great Oxendon, Haselbech, Higham Ferrers, Kelmars, Nassington, Peterborough Cathedral, Rothwell x 2, Ryhall & Seaton) and 27 quarters rung (at Boughton, Bozeat, Braunston (Rutland), Castor, Cold Ashby, Cold Higham, Cosgrove, Earls Barton, Gayton, Greens Norton, Higham Ferrers, Lubenham, Northampton All Saints, Paulerspury, Peterborough Cathedral, Peterborough St Mary, Ryhall, Saddington, Stanion, Stoke Bruerne, Towcester, Uppingham, Whittlebury, Wicken and Woodston). Methods were rung for the first time, and given suitably regal names, at St Mary's Peterborough, Great Oxendon & Rothwell.

As well as people there were firsts for bells as well. The first peals since augmentation were rung at Nassington and Great Oakley, while Aynho had its first peal since 1955. There is also a potential last. Elaine Wilkinson was able to arrange for the bells to be rung over the weekend at Woodston parish Church, following its closure last year. Its future, and that of the bells, is uncertain but the tower rang out to mark this special day.

While the ringing for the Coronation was notable, there were other events taking place. Julie Tarling, Bob Quinn & Gordon Ball's birthdays were marked, as was that of Agnes Jones of Bozeat, who reached her 100th birthday. That means she's lived through 5 different reigns and 3 coronations. There were a significant number of footnotes recording ringing for local events; including village parties cream teas and commemoratives services; while at Fotheringhay, Anthony Bazeley and Melissa Ingram's wedding was celebrated.

It didn't all necessarily go to plan. I'm aware of an inability to co-ordinate both key and ringers into one place at the same time, and Wellingborough had a clapper fall out, but, in true British fashion, they carried on regardless, ringing 2 to 7 instead.

I would hope that those who rang for this event will remember it with affection, knowing that they rang out on this special occasion.

Helen Allton

Alderton, St Margaret	Church Stowe, St Michael	Gayton, St Mary
Aldwinkle, St Peter	Cogenhoe, St Peter	Geddington, St Mary
Ashby St Ledgers, Blessed Virgin Mary and St Leodegarius	Cold Ashby, St Denys	Magdalene
Ashley, St Mary the Virgin	Cold Higham, St Luke	Glaston, St Andrew
Ashwell, St Mary	Collingtree, St Columba	Glington, St Benedict
Aynho, St Michael	Corby, St John the Baptist	Grafton Regis, St Mary
Ayston, St Mary the Virgin	Cosgrove, St Peter and St Paul	Great Addington, All Saints
Badby, St Mary	Cotterstock, St Andrew	Great Brington, St Mary
Barby, St Mary	Cottesbrooke, All Saints	Great Doddington, St Nicholas
Barnack, St John the Baptist	Cottesmore, St Nicholas	Great Oakley, St Michael
Barrowden, St Peter	Cottingham, St Mary	Great Oxendon, St Helen
Barton Seagrave, St Botolph	Magdalene	Greatworth, St Peter
Blakesley, St Mary	Courteenhall, St Peter and St Paul	Greens Norton, St Bartholomew
Blisworth, St John the Baptist	Cransley, St Andrew	Greetham, St Mary the Virgin
Boughton, St John the Baptist	Creton, St Michael and All Angels	Gretton, St James the Great
Bozeat, St Mary	Crick, St Margaret	Guilsborough, St Etheldreda
Brackley, St Peter	Croughton, All Saints	Haddon, St Mary
Brafield on the Green, St Laurence	Culworth, St Mary the Virgin	Hambleton, St Andrew
Brampton Ash, St Mary	Dallington, St Mary	Hargrave, All Hallows
Braunston, All Saints	Daventry, Holy Cross	Harlestone, St Andrew
Braunston, All Saints	Desborough, St Giles	Harpole, All Saints
Brigstock, St Andrew	Dingley, All Saints	Harringworth, St John the Baptist
Brooke, St Peter	Duston, St Luke's	Haselbech, St Michael
Bugbrooke, St Michael and All Angels	Earls Barton, All Saints	Hellidon, St John the Baptist
Bulwick, St Nicholas	East Carlton, St Mary	Helmdon, St Mary
Burton Latimer, St Mary the Virgin	Magdalene	Magdalene
Byfield, Holy Cross	East Farndon, St John the Baptist	Higham Ferrers, St Mary the Virgin
Caldecott, St John the Evangelist	Easton Maudit, St Peter and St Paul	Irchester, St Katharine
Castor, St Kyneburgha	Easton Neston, St Mary	Irthlingborough, St Peter
Catthorpe, St Thomas	Easton on the Hill, All Saints	Isham, St Peter
Chacombe, St Peter and St Paul	Ecton, St Mary Magdalene	Islip, St Nicholas
Charwelton, Holy Trinity	Edith Weston, St Mary	Kelmarsh, St Denys
Chipping Warden, St Peter and St Paul	Empingham, St Peter	Kettering, St Peter and St Paul
Church Brampton, St Botolph	Evenley, St George	Ketton, St Mary The Virgin Church
	Everdon, St Mary's	Kilsby, St Faith
	Exton, St Peter and St Paul	Kings Cliffe, All Saints and St James
	Eydon, St Nicholas	
	Flore, All Saints	
	Fotheringhay, St Mary and All Saints	

King's Sutton, St Peter and St Paul
 Kislingbury, St Luke
 Langham, St Peter and St Paul
 Lilbourne, All Saints
 Litchborough, St Martin
 Little Houghton, St Mary the Blessed Virgin
 Lois Weedon, St Mary the Virgin and St Peter
 Long Buckby, St Lawrence
 Lowick, St Peter
 Lubenham, All Saints
 Lyddington, St Andrew
 Lyndon, St Martin
 Maidwell, St Mary the Virgin
 Market Overton, St Peter and St Paul
 Marston St Lawrence, St Lawrence
 Mears Ashby, All Saints
 Middleton Cheney, All Saints
 Milton Malsor, Holy Cross
 Moreton Pinkney, St Mary the Virgin
 Naseby, All Saints
 Nassington, St Mary the Virgin and All Saints
 Nether Heyford, St Peter and St Paul
 Newnham, St Michael and All Angels
 North Luffenham, St John the Baptist
 Northampton, All Saints
 Northampton, Holy Sepulchre
 Northampton, St Benedict
 Northampton, St Giles
 Northampton, St John the Baptist, Kingsthorpe
 Northampton, St Peter
 Northampton, St Peter and St Paul
 Norton, All Saints
 Orlingbury, St Mary
 Paulerspury, St James the Apostle

Peterborough, Cathedral Church of St Peter, St Paul, and St Andrew
 Peterborough, St John the Baptist
 Peterborough, St Mary
 Pitsford, All Saints
 Polebrook, All Saints
 Potterspury, St Nicholas
 Preston, St Peter and St Paul
 Pytchley, All Saints
 Ravensthorpe, St Denys
 Ridlington, St Mary Magdalene and St Andrew
 Ringstead, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Rothersthorpe, St Peter and St Paul
 Rothwell, Holy Trinity
 Rushden, St Mary
 Rushton, All Saints
 Ryhall, St John the Evangelist
 Saddington, St Helen
 Scaldwell, St Peter and St Paul
 Seaton, All Hallows
 Sibbertoft, St Helen
 South Luffenham, St Mary the Virgin
 Spratton, St Andrew
 Stanion, St Peter
 Stanwick, St Laurence
 Staverton, St Mary
 Stoke Albany, St Botolph
 Stoke Bruerne, St Mary the Virgin
 Stoke Doyle, St Rumbald
 Sudborough, All Saints
 Sulgrave, St James the Less
 Sutton Bassett, All Saints
 Syresham, St James
 Thornby, St Helen
 Thornhaugh, St Andrew
 Thorpe Mandeville, St John the Baptist
 Thrapston, St James'
 Tinwell, All Saints
 Towcester, St Lawrence
 Ufford, St Andrew

Upper Boddington, St John the Baptist
 Uppingham, St Peter and St Paul
 Wadenhoe, St Michael and All Angels
 Walgrave, St Peter
 Wansford, St Mary the Virgin
 Wappenham, St Mary
 Warmington, St Mary the Blessed Virgin
 Water Newton, St Remigius
 Watford, St Peter and St Paul
 Weedon Bec, St Peter and St Paul
 Weldon, St Mary
 Welford, St Mary the Virgin
 Wellingborough, All Hallows
 West Haddon, All Saints
 Weston by Welland, St Mary the Virgin
 Weston Favell, St Peter
 Whilton, St Andrew
 Whissendine, St Andrew
 Whiston, St Mary the Virgin
 Whitfield, St John the Evangelist
 Whittlebury, St Mary
 Wicken, St John the Evangelist
 Wilbarston, All Saints
 Wilby, St Mary the Virgin
 Wing, St Peter and St Paul
 Winwick, St Michael and All Angels
 Wittering, All Saints
 Wollaston, St Mary
 Woodford, St Mary the Virgin
 Woodford Halse, St Mary the Virgin
 Woodston, St Augustine of Canterbury
 Wootton, St George the Martyr
 Yardley Hastings, St Andrew
 Yarwell, St Mary Magdalene
 Yelvertoft, All Saints

Recent Guild members' firsts, reported on Bellboard

(Records from 01April to 01June 2023)

First Quarter

Geoff Bridges (Barnack)
Sally Watts (Caldecott)
George Brand (Cold Higham)
Josh White (Earl's Barton)
Helen Loxston-Baker (Great Oakley)
Steve Fuller (Nassington)
Eleni Oakton (Whitfield)

First away from cover

Sally Watts (Medbourne)
Matthew Allcott (Whilton)

First quarter on treble

Geoff Bridges (Barnack)

First Quarter on tenor

Matthew Osborne (Barnack)

First Quarter of Doubles inside

Stephen W Smith (Orlingbury)

First Inside

Andrew Blackwell (Gayton)
Steve Fuller (Nassington)
Catherine A Samtani (Orlingbury)

First Inside & First as Conductor

Deborah Bray (Peterborough St Mary)

First Quarter of Minor inside

David Foster (Nether Heyford)

First Bob Minor

Jane Robinson (King's Cliffe)

First Triples

Deborah Bray (Peterborough St Mary)

First Triples inside

Jane Robinson (Peterborough St Mary)

First Treble Bob / Surprise

Jonathan Stuart (Gayton)
Gavin Simpson (West Deeping)

First Surprise Major

Thomas Saunders (Cathedral)
Thomas Coulter-Brophy (Rushden)

First Surprise Major inside

Mark Webb (Cathedral)

First Spliced Surprise

Mike Price (Yelvertoft)

First Peal

Thomas Coulter-Brophy (Ecton)

GUILD EVENTS 2023 - 2024

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

June 10th, 2023

Culworth Branch, Marston St Lawrence – Guild AGM
Evenley – Leading Up & Down (booking required)

July 8th, 2023

Rothwell – 10 Bell Practice
Gt Oakley – Bell Maintenance (booking required)
Weedon Bec – Intermediate Practice

September 9th, 2023

Venue tbc – 10 Bell Practice
Towcester - Summer Festival and 8-Bell Striking Competition

November 11th, 2023

Venue tbc – 10 Bell Practice

January 13th, 2024

Venue tbc – 10 Bell Practice

January 14th, 2024

Peterborough Cathedral – **PDG100** Guild Evensong

February 10th, 2024

Wellingborough Branch – **PDG100** Social Event

March 9th, 2024

Thrapston Branch – **PDG100** Nene Valley Challenge

April 13th, 2024

Guilsborough Branch – **PDG100** Spring Festival

May 11th, 2024

Across the Guild – **PDG 100** Tower Open Day

June 8th, 2024

Northampton Branch – **PDG 100** Guild AGM