

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS



**Newsletter
September 2023**

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Newsletter News

After a series of royal special editions, both sad and joyful, this edition seems strangely dull by comparison. In part that's because we are reporting on the quiet summer period. Nevertheless, plenty of ringing has been going on around the Guild, as well as tower maintenance and enhancements.

In this edition we also look forward to next year's centenary celebrations. A range of merchandise is already available, plus a full year's worth of events to put in your calendars.

Many thanks, as always, to all the branch correspondents and Guild officers who make these newsletters possible. Keep sending in your stories!

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

Contents

Guild Officers' Contact Details	2
Newsletter News	2
President's Preamble	4
Secretary's Sleuthing	4
Master's Musings	6
PRO's Prompting (PDG100)	7
A Peal for the NHS	9
Two Notable Tower Projects	10
News from the Branches	13
100 Club Report	31
Guild Future Events Calendar	32

President's Preamble

Thankfully, the last few months have been a little quieter after all that Coronation ringing! I am hearing of lots of new recruits being taught across the Guild, so it looks as though the legacy of the Coronation will be long-lasting for the Guild. Thanks again to all those who worked so hard to make it all happen and ensure that everyone knew all about it.

I very much enjoyed the AGM held in the Culworth Branch; it was a really good day out. Thanks to the team who made it a success.

Following that meeting, we now have a vacant post for Youth Ringing Officer. This post doesn't have a long history, so the incumbent could shape this as they see fit. I am concerned that the Guild as a whole doesn't really know how many young ringers we have across the Diocese, or where they ring. It would be good to know that, to help them contact each other, probably via social media, and for them to know that they are not alone!

If you think you can help to welcome, link and enthuse our young ringers, please get in touch with any of the Officers to discuss further (contact details on p2).

I am pleased to note that the bells at both Ashwell and Harrington Churches have recently been removed for rehung - great news for the future of ringing in those areas. Let's all do what we can to support them as their projects proceed over the next few months.

I hope you have ordered your Centenary merchandise? If you missed the stall at the Summer Festival, take a look at the PDG website (www.pdg.org.uk), where you will also find full details of all the Centenary events in 2024.

Alistair Donaldson

Secretary's Sleuthing

I have been keeping an eye on Bellboard for notable performances relating to our Guild. Here are selected extracts from footnotes between 1st June and 27th August.

Marking years of ringing

Alison Willgress' 50 years of continuous membership of the PDG was marked by a quarter at Nether Heyford on 22 Jun 2023.

Brenda Dixon's 60 years of ringing at Rushden was marked by a quarter at Rushden on 20 August 2023.

Murray Coleman's 70 years of ringing was marked by his 3,333rd peal, in a peal at Rothwell on 07 July 2023.

Tower anniversaries

100 years of the augmentation at Edith Weston: quarter on 02 July 2023.

800th anniversary of Brackley church: peal at Brackley on 11 June 2023.

Weddings and anniversaries

Wedding congratulations to Edward Baxter & Debbie Ash: Quarter at Castor on 19 July 2023, and to Rose McDonald-Bucannan & Alexander Cottrell: Peal at Cottesbrooke on 06 June 2023.



Edith Weston Centenary

Anniversary compliments to Chris & Frances Pearson, Nich & Mrs Wilson and Ian & Martine Butters, all having picked a memorable date to get married, Independence Day! Peal at Burton Latimer on 04 July 2023.

Emerald Wedding congratulations to Maggie & David Noble: Quarter at Castor on 10 August 2023.

Golden Wedding congratulations to:

Colin & Debbie Samson: Quarter at Wilby on 18 August 2023

Sue & Derek Jones: Peal at Weldon on 19 July 2023

Sandra & Eric Ayres and Janet & Bob Hoddle: Quarter at Rothersthorpe on 23 July 2023

David & Pat Teall: Quarter at Nassington 08 June 2023

Tess & David Le Sur: Peal at Haselbech 04 June 2023



Sue & Derek Jones Golden Wedding

Births

Birth of Rowan Reza Sorabjee (grandson of Nick Smith): Peal at Peterborough St Mary on 15 August 2023.

Birthdays

John Holmes 70th: Quarter at Wilby on 18 August 2023.

Andrew Gunstone 70th: Peal at Peterborough St Mary, 30 July 2023.

Hamish Stanworth 1st birthday: Quarter at Towcester and peal at Daventry 27 August 2023.



*Baby Rowan
Sorabjee*

Welcoming new incumbents and ordinands

Revd Andy Giles to Rothwell with a peal at Rothwell on 04 August 2023.

Revd Louise Bishop to Higham Ferrers with a quarter at Higham Ferrers 29 July 2023.

For the ordination Service at Peterborough Cathedral, a quarter on 25 June 2023.

Ordination of Shilo Varughese, curate in the Castor benefice: Quarter at Castor on 25 June 2023.

Graduation

Graduation compliments to Stella Johnson: Quarter at Peterborough St Mary 09 July 2023.



*Andrew Gunstone's spectacular
70th birthday cake*

Master's Musings

Guild Training Opportunities

It is now over a year since we introduced the Second Saturday Sessions – training and learning opportunities for all members of the Guild. These are held every month and fall into three categories:

- 1) 10-bell practice sessions which have been running for many years but are now held from 10:30-12:30 in odd months (January, March etc) and move around the 10 and 12 bell towers in the Guild. These are open to everyone – no need to register, just turn up.
- 2) Training courses on a range of topics, for which numbers are limited so that the learners get the best experience possible. Many of these are two-part with a theory session held via Zoom followed by a practice session at a tower that best suits the learners involved.
- 3) Focussed practice sessions with a limited repertoire of methods. Some of these are arranged as a follow-up to one of the training courses but attendance is open to all.

The next few months' sessions will include:

- 10-bell practices at Daventry in September, and Higham Ferrers in November
- Training courses on "Grandsire" in October, "Leading Up and Down in Peal" in November and "Ringing Up and Down in Peal" in December
- A focussed practice of Plain Bob at Desborough in October

Next year, fewer training courses will be organised as we spend our time celebrating the Guild's centenary, so do take advantage of this year's sessions.

For more information contact:

Simon Dixon (master@pdg.org.uk), Cathy Dixon (pro@pdg.org.uk)

PRO's Prompting

PDG100 - Guild Centenary 1924-2024

The Guild has been busy in the past two years marking national events such as Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee and the Coronation of King Charles III. Next year, we look inwards for the reason to celebrate – the Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers was founded in 1924, so we are marking 100 years of its existence.



Events

There are events planned for each month (which are pre-printed in the calendars). These cover a range of ringing, religious and social occasions – at least one in each of the ten branches of the Guild. These are also advertised on the Guild website (pdg.org.uk/pdg-100). We hope that as many Guild members as possible will attend at least one event.

Date	Branch	Event Description
Sunday 14 th January	Peterborough	Evensong in the Cathedral, preceded by ringing at the Cathedral, followed by a reception
Saturday 10 th February	Wellingborough	Social event, barn dance, buffet. Moulton Hall
Saturday 9 th March	Thrapston	Nene Valley ringing challenge
Saturday 13 th April	Guildsborough	Guild Spring Meeting & 6 bell striking contest
Saturday 11 th May	All	Tower open day, Guild-wide
Saturday 8 th June	Northampton	AGM, with ringing, service & meeting in Northampton
Saturday 13 th July	Wellingborough/ Thrapston	Stanwick Lakes, ringing day out
Saturday 10 th August	Rutland	Ringing & picnic around Rutland water
Saturday 14 th September	Daventry	Guild Summer Festival & branch 8 bell striking contest
Saturday 12 th October	Kettering	Anniversary Dinner Kettering Park Hotel
Saturday 9 th November	Culworth	Guild Quiz & fish & chip supper in Syresham
Saturday 28 th December	Towcester	Carol Service at Towcester, preceded by ringing & reception afterwards

For more details, or to express an interest in the merchandise or events, please contact centenary@pdg.org.uk or speak to one of the organising committee (Helen Allton, Cathy Dixon, Giles Willson, Chris Fitzgerald, Simon Dixon, Richard Allton).

Merchandise

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the PDG, there is a range of anniversary merchandise available, featuring the 100th anniversary logo.

Ceramic Mugs

Celebratory mugs are available, with the anniversary logo. They cost £5 each. Order from centenary@pdg.org.uk



Calendars

We have produced a calendar with 14 images of towers across the diocese, the pictures being provided by members of the Guild.

The format is landscape A4, spiral bound, with a full page picture of each church, and a full calendar page with large boxes for your social events. There is a description of the location, and the anniversary event in that month is marked, with outline details.

£5 each (plus £2.00 P&P if required). Order from centenary@pdg.org.uk



Clothing

A range of clothing with the anniversary logo is available, including T-shirts, Polo shirts, Ladies' Polo shirts, sweatshirts, Hoodies, Zipper hoodies & Fleeces, in a range of sizes and colours. See the order form on the Guild website for details.

Logos in black or white text, to suit the chosen colour. Prices £11.00 - £27.50. Order from centenary_clothing@pdg.org.uk, using the order form, available here: pdg.org.uk/documents/pdg100_clothing_order_form.pdf

Jigsaw puzzles

In 500 and 1000 pieces, featuring a specially commissioned painting of churches, people and other elements representing the diocese. More details will follow.

All merchandise available via the Guild website: pdg.org.uk/pdg-100/centenary-year-merchandise



A Peal for the NHS

A band of current and former employees of the NHS celebrated the 75th anniversary of the NHS with a peal at St Mary's, Peterborough (photo taken by Julie Tarling).



Peterborough Diocesan Guild
Peterborough, City of Peterborough
St Mary

Thursday, 24 August 2023 in 3h 5 (8-3-17 in A)

5184 Wye Surprise Major

Composed by Harry Poyner

- 1 Judith M Rogers
- 2 Joanne C Wilby
- 3 Diane M Faux
- 4 Jayne M Horne
- 5 Robert Tregillus
- 6 Julie A Tarling
- 7 Daniel J Iliffe
- 8 James F Thorpe (C)

The band consisted of current and former NHS employees, who between them have given a total of 174 years of service. The range of occupations in the band was extensive, featuring Speech and Language Therapist, Workforce Planning and Administration, Practice Manager/Medical Secretary, Physiotherapist, Estates and Facilities Manager, Clinical Biochemist, Nurse and GP.

Two Notable Tower Projects

St Mary, Ashwell (Rutland Branch)

The bells at Ashwell church had not been used for full circle ringing since the 1970s, owing to the condition of the bell frame and a defect in the tower.

But times move on, and in recent years there has been renewed interest in renovating the Ashwell bells. In February of 2022 a test ring was undertaken with some success, although the handling was not very good and extensive work would be required to the frame and fittings. But, with funding available, it was deemed feasible to get the bells back into ringable condition. The project is being spearheaded by Louis Totaro, Tower Captain of Oakham.

The last few weeks have seen frenzied activity at St Mary's Ashwell, preparing and removing the peal of bells for their refurbishment and rehang. Initially, a long Sunday afternoon was spent removing the facade of the tower in order to allow better access to the tower and removal of the bells. Unfortunately, there was no 'IKEA' manual to determine how the facade was put together, as the fixings were well hidden behind lots of panelling, but we conquered and were able to remove just the amount required.

Three days was then spent with the churchwarden, Brian Farr, two local helps from the village and the bellhanger, Paul Mason, to commence the removal.



I had spent a day previously in the belfry with Simon Adams from Taylors to remove the bell wheels, clappers, ironmongery, pulleyboxes and sliders. What should have taken two days took only one, as we both know our way around a frame or two!

So the main work began, cutting the tower masonry to home four steel 'shoes' to place the 6 lifting timbers above the frame and lock them into position.

They say bellringing can be hard on the arms ... you have no idea! Using lifting equipment for every tool, beam and part, in and out of the tower uses new arm muscles I discovered to add to my ringing ones!

Paul and I spent about a day installing the beams and a day lifting the bells out: 5, 6, 4, 1, 2 and 3 in order. With some gentle encouragement the bells came out freely and were placed at the bottom of the tower.

Next was the problem frame for the Treble, which we discovered was never pegged properly into the lower frame by Whitechapel in 1850, due to poor access in the corners. Iron support straps were installed instead to 'push' the frame into the tower corner, but this was always going to have some movement. Apart from one bolt to be cut, all the wooden pegs, tenons and smithied bolts came out freely, which was an interesting sight anyway.

The final morning was spent moving the bells out into the churchyard and lifted through the lychgate on to the flatbed lorry. This operation went really smoothly, and so after a couple of hours the morning was spent tidying up our mess and cutting some temporary beams for the hatch as the floor showed signs of woodworm (my foot went through the floor at one stage!).

It was an emotional end, to see the bells driven away from the church on July 20th to Taylors Foundry in Loughborough. I can't wait for their return!

There is still ongoing work, but the return of the bells will be the start of a whole new chapter in the story of Ashwell bells.

Report by Louis Totaro



The troublesome treble

SS Peter & Paul, Harrington (Kettering Branch)

(Photos: Andy Bimson, Christian Harford and Paul Salter)

The Harrington bells were cast by Thomas II Mears in 1817 and hung in an oak frame of that date.

There was concern about the condition of the bells in the late 1960's relating to the tower, frame etc. and ringing was stopped because of the potential danger. Val, still living in the village, recalls the bells being rung for her sister Jen's wedding in 1969. But the bells were not available for her own wedding the following year. A mechanism was installed allowing the bells to be chimed by a series of levers, but the bells could not be raised.



The bells before the project



Kim Beasley and David Dainty removing stays and wheels

The inspiration to bring the bells back into use was spearheaded by Mark Jackson-Stops, a member of the PCC. He set about obtaining a faculty for a wider project, including improved access to the church, kitchen facilities and provision of a toilet, in addition to re-hanging of the bells. This involved obtaining quotations for the works, followed by the fundraising.

John Taylor & Co. offered a discount of £9,000 if local labour, in the form of two helpers per day, was provided. This was achieved with volunteers from the village,

supported by Andy Bimson, Kettering Branch Steward, and his band of helpers during the lowering of the bells from the tower.

Fundraising efforts were somewhat interrupted by the COVID lockdowns, but sufficient funds were raised by early this year to enable the project to get underway.

A meeting at the tower with Simon Adams of John Taylor & Co on 24th April was attended by members of the fundraising team, Andy Bimson and some of his helpers to discuss plans for removing the bells.



Andy Bimson removing one of the clappers

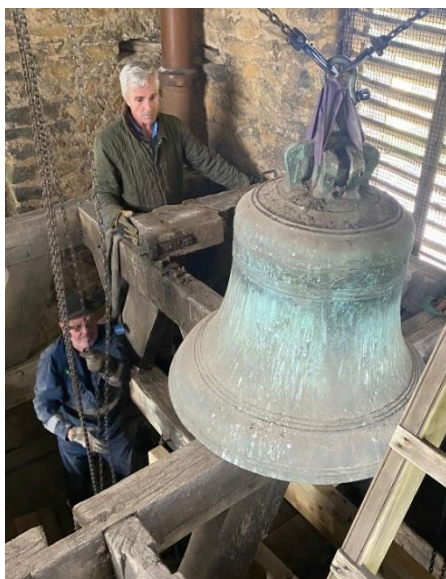
Following several postponements due to an outstanding bat survey, Andy arrived on Saturday 22nd July, accompanied by Kim Beasley, David Dainty, Dave Halfhide and Paul Salter, and spent the morning removing all clappers, pulley blocks, stays, wheels and the chiming levers, in preparation for the removal of the bells.

The following Tuesday, work started to lower the bells, under the leadership of the bellhanger from John Taylor & Co., assisted by local volunteers, Andy and branch helpers.

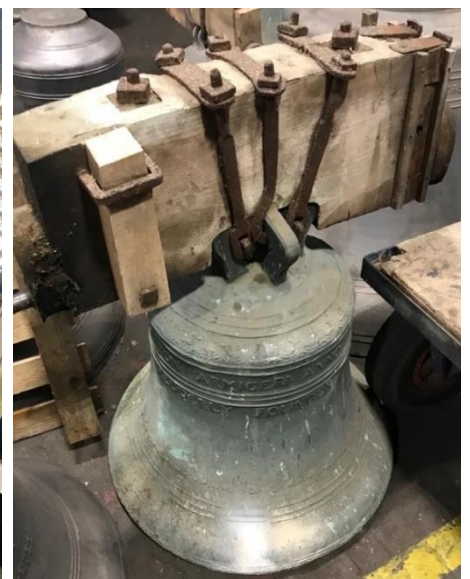
It is expected that the bells will be returning sometime after May next year. Natural England have prohibited any activity until that date, due to concern about bats.

Several volunteers have come forward as potential new ringers, and we are arranging to train them in other local towers, to get the bells ringing on their return.

David Dainty



Oliver Brookshaw and Andy lowering one of the bells



Oak headstock dated 1817

News from the Branches

Culworth Branch

"Ringing around the Patch!" - Friday 14th July 2023

What do you do during one of the wettest Julys on record?!? You organise a mini ringing tour!

As a training session for all levels of ringers, but primarily to incorporate newer ringers into the realms of full round ringing, Paul Bennett from Evenley organised a week of bellringing for new recruits. Andrew North from Syresham helped out by putting together a 'mini-tour' of two churches. Greatworth and Sulgrave churches fitted the bill, with a ring of 6 bells each, suitable for beginners to improve their bell handling and become part of a band of more experienced ringers, who were there to support them.

Starting at Greatworth, we were able to ring the bells up with the beginners and include them in rounds and call changes, followed by giving them a demonstration of some of the ringing methods capable on 6 bells. Tips on bell handling seemed the natural progression and, after more than an hour, we happily grabbed our brollys, raincoats (and other typically British summer attire!) and set off across the couple of miles of 'no-man's-land' (the HS2 works!) to Sulgrave. Again, another hour of ringing whizzed by, and everyone was in good spirits, their skills and confidence hugely improved during the morning. Soon the draw of lunch at The Star Inn tempted us out of the tower and, as with most post-ringing practices, it was 'off to the pub'!

An enjoyable, sociable lunch followed with everyone talking animatedly of their bellringing experiences, how they started bell ringing (and of course how rubbish the weather had been for July; but, of course, "the garden needs it. . . "!!!)

Thanks for organising and participating during the morning go to Paul Bennett and Andrew North and to Ian and Sara Chapple, Martin Rowling, Ibby Marshall and Chris Skermer for assisting with ringing. Thanks also to the newer ringers: Sara, Duncan, Ann and Stephen who reached new levels of confidence and benefitted greatly from having their own mini ringing tour. We hope to repeat this again soon!

Jenny Griffiths, Greatworth Tower Captain

Daventry Branch

Meetings

Whilton church was unusually warm in June, thanks to the many days of very hot weather back then. We started earlier than usual with rounds, call changes and an increasing smatter of plain hunt for the ten Platinum Jubilee and Ring for the King recruits present. Thirty rang and four didn't. Grandsire Triples and a nice half-course of Cambridge S Major preceded the short service, which was taken, for her first time, by curate Revd Kim McCloghry. With no organist, despite Kim's homework to provide music

by mobile gadget, the volume of ringers' voices singing familiar tunes, led by the Buck ladies, soon took over.

Whilton village hall was accommodating the Durham University ringers' summer tour over the weekend, so tea was laid on at Norton village hall, with thanks to the expanded Whilton team of ringers. Afterwards, 26 rang at Norton, including three visitors from Oxfordshire and Derbyshire. The range of methods was greater on the splendid five bells but was dominated by call changes.

The branch meeting at Newnham on Saturday 15th July attracted 27 to ring – including visitors from Hereford, and Maureen & Bob Sinclair back from Darlington. Ringing comprised rounds, calls, plain hunt, Plain Bob minor, Grandsire and a couple of courses of Cambridge S Minor. Heather Wilson from Preston Capes took the short service, aided by Badby organist Ruth McBeth. 17 stayed for a tea of home-made sandwiches, quiches, cakes & tea provided by the local band.

At the business meeting, eleven new members were welcomed into membership:

Badby – Alison Malloy

Daventry – Janice Barker, Jeremy Barker, Elizabeth Heath, Caroline McDowell, Harry McDowell (S), Isabel McDowell (S)

Kilsby – Fiona Gibbs, William Gibbs (S)

Whilton – David Blezard, Leslie Blezard.

The Baker family offered to run another young ringers' Practice and Pizza in the same format as before, now arranged for Daventry on Saturday afternoon of 23rd September.

A churchwarden was seen casting a longing eye over the new fully accessible toilet and catering facilities installed in the north-west aisle at Everdon in August. Amongst the 32 participants were visitors from California, Cork and High Wycombe, as well as the Guild Secretary Helen and Webmaster Richard Allton and three members of other branches. Alison Malloy was the sole Jubilee or Coronation member to sample these big bells.

Justin kept the five bells going by constantly milling around the large circulating area of the nave to organise the next band for rounds, calls or a variety of methods including asymmetric method Everdon Bob Doubles.

The vicar had asked Graham White to take the service. Having learned about the patron saint of bellringing, St Dunstan from Glastonbury, I was thinking we had got away with two hymns, when Graham introduced the third one that he had missed out. Some nimble finger work by Brian Clark on the music machine duly matched the announcement. The service still ended within 30 minutes – well done! Afterwards we had a typical Everdon delicious tea. Hannah Baker gave the vote of thanks, not forgetting the two Brians who had oiled Dodford bells in advance. Alison Willgress ran a raffle which raised £35 towards the cost of pizzas for the Young Ringers' Practice and Pizza.

Then we moved on to Dodford, where 21 rang, including all our visitors. Methods included two surprise minors, with ringing until 8pm, when the increasing gloom reminded us that the evenings are drawing in!

Later in the year, we have a team in the Summer Festival competition, a car outing on 7 October, the postponed Daventry Town Council Feel-Good Fest on 21 October, and a quiz evening in Daventry Band Hall on 11 November.

People

The branch monthly quarter peal in the morning of 22 June was specially rung at Nether Heyford. It consisted of 1,320 changes of Beverley and Cambridge Surprise Minor, conducted by Ian Willgress in 43 minutes. It was rung to congratulate Alison Willgress who, like her parents Bill and Hilda Collins, has achieved 50 years continuous membership of the Guild, all at Nether Heyford. Her late sister Jan also achieved 50 years membership in 2018.



Alison wearing H, surrounded by Carole, Ian, Jim, Gwynneth and Geoff



Jan Collins (bottom right) in 2018 celebrating 50 years membership

Kaiden McCreath (Daventry) has received his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award certificate and is keenly continuing to ring.

We are delighted that most of our many Jubilee and Coronation recruits are also continuing and making progress. Intensive extra practices, with four trainees each time, have continued at Great Brington and Norton on some summer Thursday evenings, to move them along the learning curve. Sessions were dedicated to either rounds and calls, plain hunting or Plain Bob Doubles. Thanks to Justin for arranging and to the helpers for a lot of hefty ringing!

A Daventry practice in early August attracted 29 (including 11 Jubilee and Coronation recruits) and the next day at Badby 13 rang (9 Coronation ringers).

Congratulations to three Whilton ringers:

- Hannah Baker for ringing her first quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor and it was also her first ringing without a stay, causing quite a few blisters! It was rung at Salford on 23 July.

- Helen Camps for her first quarter peal of surprise major, ringing the 3rd at Long Buckby to Cambridge on 29th July, conducted by Jim White. Helen moved on to ringing her first half-course of Yorkshire three days later!
- Miles Baker for conducting a quarter peal for the first time – Plain Bob Minor at Staverton on 30th July.

Congratulations also to Grace Allcott (Norton) on ringing her first quarter peal on 7th August – tenor cover for Plain Bob Doubles at Whilton, conducted by Justin.

Outings

The day after the branch outing in May, Carole and I joined the Crick and Shawell ringers for three nights away, ringing in Essex. Having failed in the vote to get the branch outing to go there over many years, Carole at last achieved her long held ambition of ringing in the Basildon Millennium glass bell tower! She also rang at Wethersfield (8) where she learned to ring when they were only a six. During this trip we met Ian and Val Calvert (formerly of Weedon) at Tollesbury where their fellow ringers provided and served a hot tea and pudding for our group. Thanks to Janet Donaldson for organising the tour!

The Heyford, Flore and Stowe band, plus regular supporters have a history of long weekends and days out ringing. This year in February it was around Bournemouth, and on Easter Monday to the deep south in the Culworth Branch. Therefore, it should not be a surprise to anybody that a new, slightly insane idea came to fruition in August. Seventeen humans and seven dogs set out on a dog-walk and ring. Doggy bags, treats, water and sunhats were the order of the day with a warm walk from Flore to Stowe where 14 humans rang. Then downhill, back to ring at Flore and on to a delicious barbecue supper for 19 humans, kindly prepared and hosted by Ann and Martin in Flore.

Geoff Pullin



Justin Baker presents Grace with her first quarter peal certificate



Carole caught at the Basildon Millennium Tower

Guilsborough Branch



Guilsborough's Exceedingly Good Cakes

Fiona Barclay

On the 26th July, two separate day trips took place. The Scaldwell/Pitsford/Boughton ringers were joined by some Sussex ringers and took themselves off for a very enjoyable day ringing at Boughton, Cottesbrook, Thornby, Guilsborough, Creaton and Spratton.

Another party were a bit more adventurous, and visited Maids Moreton, Lillingstone Lovell, Calverton, Cosgrove and Potterspury.

Kettering Branch

Since the previous Newsletter, our Branch programme has involved the following activities:

Branch Outing to Uplands Benefice, Guilsborough Branch

We held a very successful Branch outing inspired by the wish to visit James Glover, who was a ringer at Kettering, SS Peter & Paul, prior to his wife's transfer as Curate to the Uplands Benefice.

In the morning, we rang at Brixworth All Saints, Cottesbrooke All Saints and Guilsborough S. Ethelreda. The only mishap was when a rope jumped the wheel on the 5 at Guilsborough, but no harm was done. 27 members and friends attended the morning ringing. Between the ringing there was plenty to look at in the historic churches.

A lunch was arranged at the Red Lion in Thornby, some preferring to bring a picnic and enjoy the lovely West Northamptonshire countryside.

In the afternoon ringing resumed at East Haddon S. Mary the Virgin; Ravensthorpe S. Denys and Spratton, S. Andrew. This session attracted 24 ringers including friends from the Wellingborough Branch.

The ringing was organised by the Ringing Master Chris Pearson, assisted by members of the Branch Committee, as the tour moved from tower to tower with something for all abilities.

Saturday 15th July Ringing Meeting Burton Latimer

The meeting was well attended including 2 visitors from Loughborough. Our Ringing Master kept ringers busy with ringing ranging from rounds and call changes to a variety of methods.

After ringing we were invited back to the home of Chris and Frances Pearson for a Barbeque and Home Brew tasting which was enjoyed by all who attended despite the weather.

News from the Towers

Only one report has been received this month, from Wilbarston, All Saints. 2 members of the team successfully rang their first Quarter Peal. Well done to Siobhan Lovell and Diane Atter.

Peterborough Diocesan Guild
Wilbarston, Northamptonshire
All Saints
Thursday, 20 July 2023 (7–2–15 in A_b)

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Siobhan Lovell
- 2 Murray Coleman
- 3 Helen Churchman
- 4 Nicholas Churchman (C)
- 5 Chris Stephenson
- 6 Shane Ward

First Quarter Peal: 1

£6.00

This performance included a first quarter-peal ringer on bell 1

Peterborough Diocesan Guild
Wilbarston, Northamptonshire
All Saints

Thursday, 3 August 2023 (7–2–15 in A_b)

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Diane Atter
- 2 Murray Coleman
- 3 Jane Marsh
- 4 Helen Churchman
- 5 Nicholas Churchman (C)
- 6 Shane Ward

1st Quarter Peal: 1

£6.00

This performance included a first quarter-peal ringer on bell 1

SS Peter & Paul, Harrington

(See article on P10)

New team for the King at Cottingham, St Mary Magdalene

The bells at Cottingham date from early 18th century and have not been rung regularly for some time. The Kettering Branch of the Guild was in the practice of providing bands to ring for weddings and other special occasions.

The Branch, along with members from other towers in the Welland Valley Benefice, which includes Cottingham, started an initiative to address the gap, to coincide with the 'Ring for the King' campaign.

Some recruits were directed to the Ashley practice on Monday evenings and some to Wilbarston on Tuesday evenings. With more volunteers than expected, one recruit, Hannah Conlon, who was the last to join, has received training at Corby and Rothwell.

I spoke to the recruits as they continue their bellringing journey.

Mary Knott

Mary responded to an advert in the village newsletter seeking recruits to ring for the King's Coronation. She moved to the village 16 years ago and had only heard the bells ringing for weddings and special occasions. She found it very different from London, where she had lived previously. Mary had no idea what to expect, but made contact with the Newsletter editor, starting her learning at the Monday night practice at Ashley St. Mary in April. She was involved in the 'Ring for the King' celebrations, organised at all towers across the Welland Valley Benefice. Mary's aim is to have people from Cottingham and neighbouring Middleton ringing the church bells on a regular basis.

Joanne Leaning

Joanne had learnt to ring at Rothwell some years ago, but had lapsed and was asked by Jane Smith to join the band. Her refresher training started at Ashley, and she picked ringing up again fairly quickly. Her aim is to continue ringing regularly.

Jane Smith

It was an appeal in the Spring village newsletter, Cottingham and Middleton News, for new



ringers to learn the ropes to Ring for the King, that got me involved. It's something I'd been considering for some time, but this seemed like the perfect opportunity to give it a go, with a specific target in mind. We didn't really set out with the aim of getting a village team together but, when the Ring for the King appeal attracted an unprecedented six new ringers from the villages, the idea was born! Jane commented that it's certainly a lot harder than it looks, that none of the team - other than Joanne - realised what was involved in controlling a bell, and that the 'Rookies' were slowly getting to grips with it. She said it's great to learn a new skill and meet new people.

Janice Smith

I saw the Ring for the King article in our Cottingham and Middleton newsletter and thought, "why not?" I like the sound of church bells but had never thought about ringing before I read the article. I thought it would be really great to be part of this historical event, so I rang the contact number. This was my first contact with Andy Bimson. He was so welcoming and encouraging that I arranged to go along to Wilbarston church the next Tuesday evening. Everyone I met on that first evening were the same as Andy, so accepting and friendly, so that was the start of my bellringing experience.

Helen and Nick Churchman are such patient, supportive and encouraging teachers that, by the time Coronation Day came, I felt comfortable to be involved and do what I could to the best of my novice ability. I felt a real sense of achievement and was more than happy to continue past the Ring for the King day. I am making progress and have just started ringing rounds with others, which I am not finding easy, but then only a few months ago I had never even touched a bell rope.

My goals for the future - I think that I was very naive coming along on that first practice evening and had no idea how technical bellringing actually is. But I want to carry on with the challenge that it gives me. I have discovered a new hobby which I never thought would be so enjoyable and have met a whole new group of lovely people. I feel that the opportunity to eventually ring in the village where I have only lived for 8 years will help me integrate into my community and connect with some people in the village who I may

never have come into contact with. It will be a privilege to be part of the Cottingham team and my ultimate goal is to be good enough and confident enough to ring as part of that team, as well as along with those experienced ringers I have met at Wilbarston. I watch them in awe and observe their technique and calm presence when they ring and hope that one day I will be as good as them.

Andy Veasey

Andy was born in Cottingham in 1961 and has lived in the Parish all his life, although now living in Middleton.

Andy had noted that he no longer heard the bells ringing and contacted the Rector, who in turn put Andy in touch with Andy Bimson, who rings at Wilbarston in the Benefice, shortly after the invitation to learn to ring appeared in the Village Newsletter. Andy was directed to the Tuesday evening practice at Wilbarston. His aim is to ring regularly and be part of the community.

To coincide with the formation of the new team of Bellringers, a set of new bell ropes has been provided, funded by the proceeds of a coffee morning held by one of the churchwardens, Mary Freestone.

Hannah Conlon

Hannah was the last to join the team and, following initial training at Corby, St. John the Baptist, moved to attend the Wednesday evening practice at Rothwell, Holy Trinity where she has made excellent progress.

The first practice at Cottingham with the bells open involving the learners took place on Tuesday 4th July, supported by ringers from other towers.

In the hope of this resurgence in bell ringing continuing, Cottingham PCC are replacing the worn bell ropes at St Mary Magdalene with a new set. The cost is £175 plus VAT for each of the five bells. Villagers have been invited to donate to the project and most of the cost has been met with a £760 donation raised by Cottingham Churchwarden Mary Freestone at a recent coffee morning.

Whilst one of the 6 original recruits, Janice Smith, has decided not to continue, due to other commitments, the other five continue to progress and another recruit has since come forward.

Thanks to Jane Smith for the Team photograph.

David Dainty

Peterborough Branch

Castor Ringing School

The School continues with busy Saturday morning sessions. There were a number of new ringers who joined in the period. Some of these are new learners, but others are those who have learnt elsewhere, joining to improve their handling and continue on to methods.

Many of the ringers who joined earlier in the year are now trebling to methods and one or two have moved on to ringing Bob Doubles inside. As our pupils progress through Learning the Ropes, we present them with their certificates.

Hilary Hardie, Head Tutor

St Mary's Peterborough

This summer we welcomed Joseph Booker to the band. Having learnt to ring at Billesdon, he now rings for Durham University Society too. We've helped him double his QP tally and look forward to his return in December for some Christmas themed QPs!

There has been quite an uptake in peals recently, predominantly from ringers in Northamptonshire. All our peal fees are Gift-Aided to St Mary's and those fees for peals rung throughout the summer and early autumn will be transferred over to support our Summer Fundraiser charity, Food for Nought.

St Mary's hosted a Family Fun Day on Sunday 20th August. With Bouncy Castle, lots of games, free food and Bellringing Tasters. We had around 30 adults and children have a go, and opportunities created to follow up and have further tuition.

Looking forward to our autumn schedule, with St Mary's readily available to visiting bands for outings, QPs and peals.

Andrew Christie - Ringing Master

Nassington

The band continues to ring regularly for Sunday services across the Benefice, including for a new Sunday afternoon service once a month at Nassington. The Monday evening and Friday morning practices continue to be busy, and we welcomed a number of visitors during August.

There have been several weddings and funerals in the period, and bells continue to be rung at these special services.

We also rang a QP of Golden Wedding Doubles to celebrate the Golden Wedding Anniversary of David and Pat Teall in June 2023.

Hilary Hardie, Tower Captain

Yarwell

Now that we have approval for the proposal to augment to 5 bells, we've moved on to fundraising. Villagers and bell ringers have been very generous with donations, and the Village Hall has hosted a number of afternoon teas.

In July, to coincide with the feast of St Mary Magdalene, the church hosted a Flower Festival with arrangements made by local groups and societies. As part of this, there was the opportunity to ring the bells in the church, with cameras set up around the bells so that visitors could see what happened as the bells were rung, along with a competition to "guess the weight" of the rope for the new bell. Teas and home-made cakes, plus tombola and craft stalls were hosted in the Village Hall. Over £900 was raised towards the new bell.

A visiting band rang a QP of Yarwell Treble Place in July, and the Nassington band continues to ring twice a month for service.

Hilary Hardie and Alex Heaton



Rutland Branch

David "Twink" Rippin

14th October 1943 - 13th April 2023. Tower Captain, St Mary's Church, Ketton

David was a well-known and very popular ringer around Rutland. A great friend, colleague, and mentor. He was Tower Captain at Ketton, also a long serving member of the Rutland Branch committee for many years, only relinquishing this role last year.



Ketton handbell ringers, with David Rippin first right.

Twink was born in Ketton and became involved in church life from an early age, as a choir boy and then as a chimer of the church bells (the bells of St Mary's not being suitable for full circle ringing). It was in the late 1990's that David took up bellringing, whilst continuing with chiming at his home tower in Ketton. He rang in many Rutland towers

throughout his life and was a great supporter of other teams, willingly going where he was needed. He was also very involved with handbell ringing, forming a successful band with other Ketton friends and residents. During the Christmas season, the band would give performances at care homes and at seasonal and special events locally. His legacy will continue but he is sorely missed.

Mary Holmes

30th July 1937 – 28th June 2023. Associate ringer at Uppingham.

It was actually Sally, Mary's daughter, who was the original ringer in the family. Uppingham needed funds for the purchase of new bell ropes and Sally asked her mum to bake some cakes to sell. So it was that Mary's famous Uppingham Bell Fund stall was born. An event that continues and still takes place every year on the Market Place. Mary decided that she would like to learn to ring herself, becoming a regular Sunday Service ringer. Even when she couldn't ring any more for health reasons, she would still come up to the belfry every Sunday. She was a huge supporter of bellringing in Uppingham until the very end. The bells were rung after a 'Thanksgiving for life' service at Uppingham, followed by a Quarter Peal dedicated to her.

Congratulations

It has been a year in which many "firsts" have been achieved, but we would particularly like to give a mention for Thomas Saunders of Uppingham, for ringing his first peal on 2nd August. We're pretty sure it won't be his last! Well done, Thomas.

St Mary's Ashwell

(See article on p10)

Sue Webster

Thrapston Branch

Since the busy and joyous celebrations for the Coronation, life in the Thrapston Branch has returned to a quieter routine. Our monthly afternoon practices, firstly at Woodford, then in the later summer months at Wadenhoe, are proving popular and we have been able to welcome new, older and returning ringers to practise and progress on both six and eight bell methods. Thanks to Chris Jenkins for organising these practices and guiding the newer branch members through the Exercise. We also have a regular evening practice at Islip on the first Friday of each month. Again, ringers old and new are making progress once the 39 steps have been negotiated.



In the last week or so, the Cumbria Clock Company have returned the church clock after an eighteen-month restoration. We knew little about its history, but it is dated 1821 and made by a local clockmaker from Twywell. There is still further work to do, connecting chimes and renovating the clock case, but it will be good to have the pendulum quietly ticking away again.



Team photo for practice at Wadenhoe

In a recent magazine, I came across an article from The Revd Canon Derek Carpenter about bell ringing. This quote seemed to be so apt. "Bell ringers are invariably a jolly band of people of all ages with a real sense of camaraderie, and they often tour the local district, or even churches farther afield, ringing in towers 'away from home'. Many do it, of course, for the sheer enjoyment which it gives and the sociability which it affords".

Happy Ringing!

Alison Byrnes/Dennis Thrift

Towcester Branch

Well, it's virtually the end of summer and I think many of us are wondering what happened to the sunshine! But despite the gloomy weather the branch remained ever busy with several events happening in and around the branch.

Branch Practice, Greens Norton, 22nd June

The Greens Norton regular Thursday night ringers extended a warm welcome to ringers from around the branch. The practice was well attended, with ringers from Amelcote, Grand Union and Whittlewood Benefices. We were also joined by a ringing couple passing through on their way from Didcot to Derby.

Prior to the practice, Revd Paula Challen presented the formal Guild 'Ring for the King' certificates and enamel badges to our new ringing recruits, who had taken part in our Ring for the King at Saint Bartholomew's church on Coronation Day. Tea, coffee, soft drinks, cakes and snacks were enjoyed by all after the presentations. Thanks to the Greens Norton ringers who prepared the refreshments.

The new recruits (Mazena, Lidia, Helena, Gabriel, Louis, Margaret, Maisie, Molly, Claire, and Nellie) rang rounds for the first time, ringing the hand and backstroke with a little help from our regular band members. A significant new milestone since ringing backstrokes only on Coronation Day.



Maisie receives her Ring for the King certificate and badge

The Ringing Master kept the bells ringing with a variety of methods being rung, including Plain Bob Doubles and Minor, Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Little Bob Minor, Cambridge Surprise Minor and London Surprise Minor. After the practice, a party took some further refreshment at The Butchers Arms, enjoying the beer garden under the warm evening skies and were entertained by a few 40's songs from Jim Linnell and Geoff White.

(Thanks to Nigel Williams for this report)

Inter-branch Striking Contest, 4th July

As is traditional, we held the annual striking contest against North Bucks at Wicken. Bands from each side performed Call Changes, PB Minor and Stedman Triples. We had a great attendance, with North Bucks winning the overall trophy and Towcester Branch retaining the George Holland Stedman Triples Trophy. Lots of good food and a great catch up with ringing friends.

(Additional reporting John Stanworth)

Towcester Branch Mini Ringing Tour, 26th August

Once the realisation had hit that we were now in the last Bank Holiday weekend for 2023 and yet to see the summer, we all made our way over to the Guilsborough branch for the start of our mini tour.

The first tower was at Thornby, a ring of 5 in one of the most beautiful churches I've seen locally, with a wonderful stained-glass window above the altar. The screen leading into the ringing chamber was unusually low and intricate, and ringers who are not used to



Nigel Williams (R), receiving the George Holland Trophy

considering their head height had to watch out. We were honoured with a change of yelled instructions from Richard Allton from the normal 'LEAD NOW' to 'HEADS DOWN', causing many ripples of laughter. Ringing ranged from Stedman to rounds and call changes, with new ringers also joining the tour for the first time. Two methods had been selected for the tour, St. Simons and St. Martins, and both were rung.

On to the second tower at Cold Ashby. Six Bells in a very small chamber, the tenor ringer had to stand on the naughty step to ring it and you could easily do some knitting with all the ropes mixing in the middle when everyone was ringing, if you didn't pull straight down. Lovely bells and a warm sound. Methods spanned from call changes to minor methods to Norwich and doubles – a good variety for everyone to ring successfully.

Our third tower was Sibbertoft. We were told we would be met by the church warden. As we entered the doorway a very loud, bouncy springer spaniel dog greeted us, barking, tail wagging and teeth showing (apparently that was him smiling) and then a gentleman appeared from somewhere at the back of the church. We were glad to see a human



accompanying the spaniel as we gingerly entered the church. A ring of 5 here with a request to ring Reverse Canterbury as well as our other methods. It was probably the most successful ring, with many smiling faces being able to ring something most towers usually do not ring. Stedman rang out nicely too, then bells down, off to the pub!

We went to the Red Lion pub in Sibbertoft for lunch - a wonderful warm welcome, lovely food and good beer. I would recommend this pub if you're ever in the area.

All in all, another great tour for Towcester Branch. New ringers came along, some familiar faces and some ringers that can't always manage to get out on a tour joined too, so we had a lovely mix and a great time. It was a perfect start to the Bank holiday weekend.

(Thanks to Odette Dawkins for this report)

In other news, we send our congratulations to Alan Faiers, who under the mentorship of Margaret Bulleid has been assessed for his ART level 2 and passed with flying colours. Well done, Alan.

Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to Jonathan and Barbara King who have now moved to Poole in Dorset. They have contributed to some excellent ringing and teaching within the branch and will be greatly missed by us all. Our loss is Dorset's gain.

So onwards we go as a branch into autumn with lots of great events to attend...

Thanks all for your invaluable contribution to ringing within the branch.

Jill Cooke

Wellingborough Branch

Since the last report, the Wellingborough Branch has held Surprise practices at Orlingbury and Irthlingborough, a Striking Competition at Wilby and a branch meeting at Wollaston when three new members were elected to the Guild. In August we held a Branch BBQ as our Social event with ringing at Bozeat.

The Branch was saddened to learn of the death of Gordon Eggleton from Irthlingborough. More about Gordon in the Irthlingborough article below. May he rest in peace.

Irthlingborough

We were all deeply saddened by the sudden death of Gordon Eggleton on 4th June. He joined us for Sunday service ringing that morning and was his usual self, with no evident health issues, but felt unwell during the service, went home, and was found dead later in the day. A minute's silence was observed in remembrance of him at our Wednesday practice on 7th June and we plan to ring a Quarter Peal in his memory in the near future.

Gordon was taught to ring by Arthur Bigley and was one of the founders of the present band. He rang his first quarter peal on 12th September 1976 and first peal on 1st April 1978. His many quarter peals included Stedman Triples and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Superlative and Pudsey Surprise Major which were often rung for Evensong before he dashed off to sing in the church choir. He enjoyed ringing at other towers, including weekends away, one of which he organised for us in Essex, and he was renowned for taking his own china cup and saucer with him for his afternoon tea! Just a few weeks

ago he enthusiastically took part in 'Ring for the King' with our new learners. He also shared in our many social events and was a member of the Peterborough Guild. He will be fondly remembered and is greatly missed.

Thank you to everyone who came to ring with the local band for Gordon's memorial service on Wednesday 19th July. The service was well attended, including many singers (he was in three choirs) as well as fellow ringers. Alan Mayes, churchwarden, friend and ringer, paid tribute to him during the service. A quarter peal of Grandsire Triples was rung in his memory on Sunday 23rd July. Our thanks to Simon Dixon for conducting this for us.

Other News

We are looking forward to our Annual Outing on 2nd September to Rutland, organised this year by Tanya and Jenny.

Congratulations to Jayne Horne being accepted as a member of the College Youths at their Macclesfield meeting in July.

Our 'Ring for the King' learners are continuing to progress well and are slowly being integrated into our Wednesday practices. We have now gained a further three learners to join our tied practices on Mondays and Thursdays.

Margaret Bull

Bozeat

On Saturday 19th August, about 30 members and friends of the Wellingborough Branch enjoyed a BBQ in Bozeat Vicarage Garden. The catering was expertly arranged by Cathy Dixon and the excellent BBQ chef was Alan Marks, so our thanks go to them. Bozeat vicarage garden is set up for the summer, with gazebo, half barrel BBQ, tables etc., together with kitchen and toilet facilities in the house for use by any groups within the benefice, so our thanks also go to Chris and Linda Brett, whose home we invaded.

The bells were rung during the afternoon, but the focus was definitely on relaxation, chat, and good food. A raffle was held in aid of Branch funds. The event coincided with the annual Bozeat Produce and Craft Show in the afternoon, and some members visited the Church Hall to view the show and successfully joined in the raffle and produce auction, evidenced by the large fresh cream cake that had to be consumed before the end of the evening. The party was eventually dispersed by the onset of rain at about 9pm, but all agreed it had been a most enjoyable event.

Helen Manktelow

Earls Barton

The bells at Earls Barton continue to be rung on a regular basis. Most practices attract around 10 of our ringers and we usually ring Bob Doubles/Minor along with Grandsire and All Saints Doubles. Lately, though, we have started to learn a principle, found in the Ringing World, called Bananas, which is fun. We also, despite holidays, regularly ring six bells for most Sunday morning services.

On Saturday the 9th September we will be holding an almost-annual Open Event to hopefully attract one or two more beginners. Most of the band will be attending, so some demonstrations of ringing will be assured.

Andy Smith

Ecton

We rang two Quarter Peals during the Branch Quarter Peal week. Mike Brown achieved his first quarter inside, ringing Plain Bob Doubles on the 4th at Ecton. Lynne Nelson achieved her first quarter, ringing the treble, also to Plain Bob Doubles at Ecton. Thanks to everyone who came to ring with us to help us get these two quarters.

Thomas Coulter-Brophy

Great Doddington

Not a lot happening here I am afraid. My recent 70th birthday was marked by a surprise party and practice on August 14th, with ringers from the two towers I regularly support and a few others. Thank you to all who came, and to my wife and daughters for arranging it; I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did. The only downside was that it became evident that a problem with the 4th bell, which appeared last summer and disappeared last autumn has re-appeared this summer, in that it drops like a stone for no apparent reason. So much so, that both Simon Dixon and I found it difficult to ring to two failed attempts at a Quarter Peal on the Friday of Quarter Peal week. Potentially costly, but hopefully not. Another issue to be sorted out ahead of launching a recruitment campaign across the villages of Doddington and Wilby. Otherwise, all quiet here - Sunday chiming continues most weeks, and Coronation and wedding ringing was only made possible by friends from Ecton and Earls Barton.

John Holmes

Rushden

We are pleased that Pam is back ringing with us after her major operation.

Rushden ringers have been quite active since the last report. In June, on a lovely summer evening, we were the winners of the Branch Striking Competition held at Wilby, and in July, at the Branch Meeting at Wollaston, Cat Hemmington was elected a member of the Guild. After being postponed in July, due to the weather, we held our Annual Barbecue at Simon and Cathy's in August.

During the Branch Quarter Peal week, Cat rang her first quarter of Norwich Surprise Minor which also marked 60 years of ringing at Rushden for Brenda.

Pam Bailey

Stanwick

The regular afternoon practice is going well, averaging 10 plus ringers most weeks. Ringing mainly Plain Hunt, Grandsire and Bob Doubles, and of course tea and cakes are served.

So far, three stays have broken this year, all on the same bell. Visitors pull too hard on our light bells. We have now run out of new stays. Can anyone help please? Now only ringing 5 until I can get some more.

Sam Chambers

Wellingborough

All Hallows Wellingborough are having some minor repairs carried out to the treble, as a result of the clapper falling out whilst ringing for the King. It is hoped to get all the bells checked and back to ringing by the end of August.

John Beresford

Wollaston

Since my last report, we have rung for one wedding at St Mary's Wollaston, but some of our ringers have helped out at other towers, ringing for weddings.

In July we rang for Wollaston Open Gardens, with the assistance of friends from Irchester. We had announced on Facebook that if anyone would like to try their hand at bell ringing, then to come along. Sadly, there were only a few taking up the challenge this year, unlike 2022 when they were queuing up the aisle. There was one very enthusiastic 3-year-old who really wanted to have a go, despite being a bit too short. We have asked him to come back in 6 years' time!

Some of our ringers will take part in the Branch Quarter Peal week in August, a report will follow next time.

Jean Rose

Yardley Hastings

A little quiet in Yardley after all the excitement during May. However, two of the youth band who were taught for Ring for the King have now joined our regular band and are ringing rounds, call changes and plain hunting at practices and Sunday services.

Tony Finke

100 Club

The recent winners are:

MONTH	Subscribers	1 st	Prize	2 nd	Prize	3 rd	Prize
June 2023	149	4Th	£49.17	82We	£17.88	26Gu	£11.92
July 2023	144	56Ke	£47.52	185Cu	£17.28	138Pe	£11.52
Aug 2023	151	49Gu	£49.83	69We	£18.12	31Ke	£12.08

Details of monthly winners are published regularly on the Guild website and Facebook page.

All the profits go to the Bell Fund and this is a good source of regular income. As there is no limit on the number of members, do get in touch if you want to join. I do encourage payment by bank transfer, and send out reminders by email, but most branches have their own 100 Club representative (as listed in the Guild report) if you prefer face-to-face contact.

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

Cathy Dixon 100_club@pdg.org.uk

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.

September 9th, 2023

Daventry – 10 Bell Practice 10:30

Weedon, Cold Higham, Towcester - Summer Festival and 8-Bell Striking Competition

October 14th, 2023

Venue tbc – Grandsire Course 10:30 (booking required)

Desborough – Plain Bob Practice 18:30

November 11th, 2023

Higham Ferrers – 10 Bell Practice 10:30

Grafton Underwood – Leading Up and Down 15:00 (booking required)

December 9th, 2023

Isham – Ringing Up and Down in Peal 15:00 (booking required)

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

Venue tbc – 10 Bell Practice 10:30

Thrapston Branch – **PDG100** Nene Valley Challenge

April 13th, 2024

Guildsborough Branch – **PDG100** Spring Festival

May 11th, 2024

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

June 8th, 2024

Northampton Branch – **PDG 100** Guild AGM

June 29th, 2024

Venue tbc – 10 Bell Practice