



Rutland Bell-Ringers Newsletter February 2020

Save the Date!

Friday 27th March 2020

7.00 for 7.30pm

Annual Branch Dinner

at The Old White Hart Lyddington

Join us for what is an important event in our social programme, an enjoyable evening in good company.

The branch dinner will, this year, be at The Old White Hart in Lyddington. We were there 5 years ago.

I had hoped to find a suitable venue to the east of the county, but without success! Some venues could not accommodate a large party, others were ruled out on cost. Some venues we have previously used are not now open for business.

As soon as I have the menu details from The White Hart they will be circulated to everyone via email.

There will be plenty time for members to make their choices (and pay) before the event.

John Tomalin

Uppingham *intermediate* 8 bell practice

Every 3rd Thursday. 7.30pm.

The next practice is on 20th February

All are welcome

RUTLAND BELLRINGING WEBSITE

rutlandbellringing.org

The website of the Rutland Branch, rutlandbellringing.org has been updated and revamped.

The webmaster is Peter Furness. Contact him webmaster@rutlandbellringing.org if you wish to request any amendments or improvements to your page.

Items for the next newsletter, please, by

Saturday 29th February

to Sue Webster suevw@sky.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS RUTLAND BRANCH

At the AGM held on 11th January 2020, in Whissendine Church, the following people were elected to be Officers and Committee Members for 2020.

Chairman:	Alan Wordie
Ringing Master:	Alan Ellis
Deputy Masters:	Roger Scholes and Brian Newman
Secretary:	Helen Pollard,
Treasurer:	Simon Forster
Membership Sec:	Sue Baker
Steward:	Ted Phillips
Press Correspondent & Newsletter Editor:	Sue Webster
Guild Management:	John Tomalin
Committee Members:	Tim Holt, David Rippin.

After three busy years Louis Totaro is stepping down as Ringing Master. Our grateful thanks go to him for the time and energy he has given leading the branch. We have been so fortunate to have his enthusiasm, interest and expertise guiding members through first quarters, ringing tours and social events built around the ringing to encourage wider participation. Louis continues as tower captain at Oakham.

We would like to hear from anyone who would like to work with the committee, contributing skills or representing members. Specifically, we do require someone to be our Social Secretary. New ringers are as equally welcome as the more experienced.

If interested, Contact Alan Wordie alan.wordie@enduranceproperty.com

HEALTH & SAFETY

Recent incident

Recently, a practice night was interrupted by a number of unexpected visitors; this was shock enough when they entered the ringing chamber, but the truly worrying issue was that they had been up the bell tower to watch the bells during ringing!

As we all know, the bells are a hazardous area at the best of times, and no one should go near a bell, especially when it is up, without proper preparation and full awareness of the risks. Entering the bell chamber when they are moving has even more serious potential, and should never be attempted. These visitors were simply unaware of the dangers that they faced. Without a physical barrier to prevent access, they simply walked in, without anyone being aware.

I cannot discuss the precise details of this incident, but risk assessment is a primary tool in planning for safety; whilst every Tower is unique, and thus has different risk factors, an example is available from Ecclesiastical Insurance see:

<https://www.ecclesiastical.com/risk-management/church-risk-assessments/>

or [http://www.pdg.btck.co.uk/SocialRegulations health & safety](http://www.pdg.btck.co.uk/SocialRegulations_health&safety)

Read it and think how it applies to your ringing environment. There is much more information available from the Diocese and the Guild, or just ask.

The reason that I want to bring this up is that safety is everyone's concern - ringers and public alike. We all need to be aware of the risks involved in ringing, and use our knowledge to both reduce the likelihood of incidents, and mitigate the results. If you see something amiss, or believe that there is a gap in our prevention barriers or mitigation measures, please bring it to the attention of the Tower Captain, and thus to the PCC for inclusion in the specific risk management process for your Tower.

A safe Tower is a happy Tower - enjoy your ringing!

Ted Phillips. Branch Steward

News from around the Branch

Ketton Hand Bell Ringers Christmas and New Year

Whilst having our first rehearsal of 2019 we discussed purchasing some music stands. If we did this it would make it much easier when we have performances as, at the moment, we require tables to place our music on. Karen did a brilliant job in finding music stands on Amazon for just under £10 each, as we would require five a total they would cost just under £50. It was decided to approach the Whitebread Trust, a Ketton charity which grants money to voluntary organisations and individuals in the village. The trust granted our request and we now have five music stands which have proved to be very beneficial.

Our first performance of the season was on November 27th for the Methodist Fellowship carol service at Barn Hill Stamford.

We were next invited to perform before the start of the Ketton Parrish Council meeting on December 18th, we received this invitation so that the council members could see our music stands that had been purchased with the grant from the Whitebread Trust.

Sunday December 22nd was our busiest day we rang for the morning service at Ketton then got our hand bells loaded and proceeded to Tixover House Care Home to entertain the residents to a selection of carols played on the hand bells. We also had Paul and Debbie with us to play some music on their melodions. We should have been at Chater Lodge Ketton but they had to cancel owing to being closed by an infection so we managed to fit Tixover in instead. We all then proceeded to Rutland Water Golf Club where we all enjoyed an excellent lunch. After lunch we went to Oak House at Greetham where we again performed a selection of carols for the residents and Paul and Debbie played melodions. Some of us then proceeded to Wing to ring for the evening carol service whilst the others went home for a well earned rest.

Monday December 23rd we rang for the carol service at Ketton and also played a selection of carols on the hand bells.

On Sunday 5th January, with the infection at Chater Lodge cleared up, we went along and played a selection of carols on the hand bells and Paul and Debbie played some resounding music on their melodions.

The final appearance of the season was at the Wassail 'after party' which was held in the Northwick Hall on Saturday 25th January. First the Morris Dancers performed some dances with much banging of sticks this was followed by the hand bell ringers playing a selection of songs with the audience doing the actions to 'The Wheels on the Bus'. Then the Ketton Community Choir sang a selection of Scottish songs, this being Burns Night, before the haggis was brought in and addressed by Steve Allan after which the choir led us in singing Auld Lang Syne.

David Rippin

Quarter Peals None to report this month

New Ringers - Teaching Sessions

We are currently running training sessions at Uppingham on Saturday mornings. 10.30am - 12.30. led by Alan Ellis and Brian Newman, with Richard Beadman. We have 11 learners, 8 of whom are Preston villagers, plus 3 from Uppingham. Some have attended Braunston practices on Wednesday evenings but we will need 3 or 4 experienced ringers to attend each event and ring around the learners. If you can help please contact Alan Ellis alan.ellis.h11@gmail.com Brian Newman brianjasie@yahoo.co.uk

Insurance for Bellringers

The Guild is currently reviewing the insurance cover applicable to bellringers, both in their home tower and when visiting other towers. They are comparing cover by the Guild to that provided by PCC's. One outcome from this work will be the need for official risk assessments to be in place. Interestingly, there will be a need for PCC's to officially appoint their Tower Captains as officers of the PCC's. *Rutland Branch Committee*

Examples of role descriptions can be found on the Peterborough Diocese website, to be adapted to suit specific requirements.

<https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/code-of-practice/examples-for-model-volunteer-job-roles>

FROM OUR BRANCH MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Sue Baker

To everyone who has already paid their subscriptions for this year. Thank You, very much,

To those that haven't yet paid, it would be helpful to the Treasurer if subscriptions / donations could be paid promptly. The easiest is by bank transfer. Details of how to pay are below.

Our subscriptions enable us to keep our branch flourishing by enabling us to purchase smaller items. An example of this was the purchase of display boards which were used at open days to encourage new members. It is really important to recruit new members to swell our numbers to enable us all to progress in our ringing, maintain a high level of enthusiasm and ensure that we have enough ringers for special occasions.

A small number of people have not paid their subscriptions this year. I am aware that for retirees the subscription is entirely voluntary. This makes it difficult to know whether to ask someone to pay if they do not wish to contribute. PLEASE complete the form to include whether you INTEND to pay so that I know who to ask.

I would also ask the tower captains to remind ringers how important it is that we maintain a healthy balance for minor repairs and running costs. Please encourage your ringers to pay their 2020 subscriptions as soon as possible.

The subscription amount remains the same this year at £7.00 for active non retirees and £3.50 for those in full time education. 75% of this goes to the guild and we keep 25%.

WE also ask for a voluntary donation in addition to this of which the guild receives 50%. The total amount from people over state retirement age, who are actively ringing, is counted as a donation.

Many thanks and best wishes for another enjoyable years ringing in 2020.

Sue Baker
Membership Secretary

Bank: HSBC. Account name: PDGCBR-Rutland. Sort Code: 40-43-05. Account Number: 31507540
A confirmation email should be sent to the Treasure Simon Forster at forster.ketton@talktalk.net

Cheques are also acceptable made payable to PDGCBR-Rutland Branch.
Send to Simon Forster Treasurer PDGCBR, 11 Church Road, Ketton, Stamford, Lincs. PE9 3RD

I would really like to update and check our membership list this year to make sure it is absolutely up to date. In order to do this I am asking everyone to complete the attached form, even those who have previously done so. **The form is on the next page, page 5.**

Please print the page, complete and return to Sue Baker, Membership Secretary,

- 1. by e-mail to susanbaker144@gmail.com**
or
- 2. by post to 14 Forth Close, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6JW**

**Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers
Rutland Branch**



Tower.....

Home address.....

.....

Telephone /mobile number.....

E-mail address.....

I confirm that I am happy for these details to be held on the membership database and understand that they will not be shared with any other member or organisation

I do/ do not wish to receive the monthly newsletter via e-mail (delete as appropriate)

Membership type :-

Adult under state retirement age

Subscription **£7.00 paid**

GIFT AID

Donation £.....

Total paid £.....

Full time education

Subscription paid **£3.50**

Donation £.....

Total paid £.....

Adult over state retirement age

Donation £.....

No donation

Please complete and return this form to the membership secretary Sue Baker

1. by e-mail to susanbaker144@gmail.com
 2. by post to 14 Forth Close, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6JW
- Cheques should be made payable to PDGCBR-Rutland Branch

If you are happy to make online payments, these are the details you will need.

Sort code 40-43-05 Account Number 31507540

Please use your surname and tower as the reference, and let Simon Forster know that you have paid online (forster.ketton@talktalk.net tel: 01780 720802).

Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers

www.pdg.btck.co.uk

Guild events in 2020

- Spring Festival, Guild six bell striking competition, to be held 25th April 2020 at Helmdon
- ✦ Open ringing at Whitfield and Syresham from 2:30 pm
- ✦ Competition to be held at Helmdon from 3 pm.
- ✦ The competition to be followed by results and a short guild meeting and open ringing in the evening.
- ✦ Any tower is invited to enter a team, bands can ring call changes or methods. Entries will be to the Master mid April.
- ✦ Guild AGM to be held on 13th June 2020 at Towcester
- ✦ Open ringing at Green's Norton (6) from 2:00 to 3:00 pm
- ✦ Open ringing at Easton Neston (8) from 2:30 to 3:30 pm
- ✦ Service at Towcester at 4:00 pm, followed by tea
- ✦ Guild Annual General Meeting to be held at Towcester starting at 6:00 pm
- ✦ To be followed by open ringing at Towcester (12)
- ✦ Summer festival, including inter-branch 8 bell striking competition, to be held 19th September 2020 in the Guilsborough branch
- ✦ Location likely to be Welford, location and timing to be confirmed.
- ✦ 10 bell practices
- ✦ Change of frequency to every other month
 - 8th Feb
 - 4th Apr
 - 27th June
 - 15th Aug
 - 31st Oct
 - 5th Dec

Locations to be announced nearer the dates.

Helen Allton

PDG Secretary

pdgsecretary@allton.org.uk

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS

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

Guild 100 Club The 100 Club was started by Derek Jones in September 1986, at the Summer Festival meeting in Northampton with 37 founder members. Since then the numbers have grown to an average of over 100 paid up members. The larger the number of members, the greater the prizes!

The 100 refers to the limit on the prizes and not the number of members.

Over £15,000 has been raised for the Guild Bell Fund so far, and it provides a regular income with chances of winning a cash prize each month. Derek retired from the job in June 2019 and it has been taken over by Cathy Dixon.

Monthly draws There are monthly draws giving prizes of 40% and 10% of the monthly paid up subscriptions, with an anniversary draw in September of 50%, 25% and 10%. This keeps the return in prizes to over 50% as required by the gaming laws.

If you are not contributing already do consider joining. If you miss out on renewing then no back payment is necessary you just resume the following month. Each branch has a 100 Club Representative who passes monies and details on to the organiser, Cathy Dixon. See the Guild Report for details and accounts.

Subscription Subscriptions are £12 per year. This cannot be gift aided. Individuals (over 16 only), groups and towers can join. The winning numbers are published in the Newsletter and in the Latest Guild News of the website. <http://www.pdg.btck.co.uk/BellFund> Cheques for subscriptions to be made out to "PDGCBR" and sent to—Mrs Cathy Dixon, 1, Gretton Court Wellingborough NN8 5UD

(An application form will appear as a separate attachment to the email with this newsletter)

'100' CLUB RULES

The Club will be administered by the Bell Fund Administrators who will appoint a General Administrator. Branches will have their own local Administrator elected at the Branch A.G.M.

Membership will be restricted to members of the above Guild and those who ring regularly in the area.

The subscription will be £1 per month, usually payable annually as a sum of £12

Application for membership is to be made on the form. the form which contains the rules and membership number.

The prizes will be drawn monthly at any scheduled ringing occasion in the presence of Guild Members.

The prizes will be as follows:

- a) For 11 months: - one prize of 40% of that month's subscriptions
one prize of 10% of that month's subscriptions
up to a total of 100 times the monthly subscription.

For one month (at the Summer Festival): one prize of 50% of that month's subscriptions
one prize of 25% of that month's subscriptions
one prize of 10% of that month's subscriptions
up to a total of 170 times the monthly subscription.

The draw will be by drawing numbered discs from two bags and pairing them,
e.g. 6 from bag 1 plus 4 from bag 2 = 64.

The prizes will be paid by cheque as soon as possible after the draw. Winning numbers will be recorded in the Guild Newsletter.

Any number drawn for a member who is in arrears will be void, and a redraw will be made.

Cheques for subscriptions will be made out to "P D G C B R". (Not "100 Club"!))

An annual return will be made of sums received, prizes awarded and profit transferred to the Bell Fund, to be published in the Annual Report.