



# Rutland Bell-Ringers Newsletter November 2020

## Ringling – or lack thereof

The latest announcement from the government means that places of worship will again be closed, and with that there will not be any ringing taking place. At least for the next 4 weeks.

Obviously with Remembrance Sunday next weekend it may be that some incumbents will want a bell tolling or chiming. The Guild make the request that you take all sensible precautions, if this is the case.

**The full guidance on returning to ringing can be found here:**

<https://ccbr.org.uk/coronavirus/>

## The 2020 Guild Quiz

The Guild Quiz is now available for the princely price of £1.

100 questions to amuse, bemuse and confuse. Submit your entry by the end of January for a chance to win one of 3 cash prizes for the most correct answers.

If you would like a quiz sheet they are available from Helen Pollard [helen@pollardweb.me.uk](mailto:helen@pollardweb.me.uk) or Sue Webster [suevw@sky.com](mailto:suevw@sky.com)

Let either of us know and we will endeavour to get one to you.

If preferred you can get one direct from Helen Allton, the Guild Secretary. [secretary@pdg.org.uk](mailto:secretary@pdg.org.uk)

## Practical Matters

It's heading towards the time of year when tail ends get damp and stiff. The link below is instructions to make a rope warmer to reduce the effects of damp. [https://www.ringing.info/odg\\_leaflet\\_5.pdf](https://www.ringing.info/odg_leaflet_5.pdf)

Please be aware - It is essential that the completed appliance is regularly inspected for damage and tested as a portable appliance (PAT tested) annually to ensure it remains electrically safe.

A Reminder - after a prolonged period of non use a tower and bells risk assessment should be completed.

Do see the CCCBR website for details and advice [ccbr.org.uk](http://ccbr.org.uk)

**Thank You** to Peggy Jennings and Mike Pollard who have both contributed to the newsletter this month. See pages 3 & 4

The Guild Secretary, Helen Allton, has again provided information to be shared with all ringers. This has been really useful in a year when not much ringing has been happening. *Sue Webster*

Items for the next newsletter to Sue Webster  
by Monday 30th November  
[suevw@sky.com](mailto:suevw@sky.com)

[www.rutlandbellringing.org](http://www.rutlandbellringing.org)  
Webmaster: Peter Furness  
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## Guild News

The Guild newsletter is available online. Due to ongoing issues with distribution and ability to read it once in the tower, this edition will again be electronic only.

<http://btckstorage.blob.core.windows.net/site8108/GuildNewsletterOct20.pdf>

### Meet the President

As the new President can't meet you at branch events and practices at the moment, he invites you to meet him via Zoom. Over the next 5 weekends there are sessions for each branch.

Culworth	Saturday 31st October
Wellingborough	Sunday 1st November
Daventry	Saturday 7th November
Kettering	Sunday 8th November
Towcester	Saturday 14th November
Thrapston	Sunday 15th November
Northampton	Saturday 21st November
Peterborough	Sunday 22nd November
Guilsborough	Saturday 28th November
Rutland	Sunday 29th November



Alistair Donaldson

### Meet the President - Rutland Branch

#### Online Event

**Hosted by Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers**

**Sunday 29th November 2020 at 6.00pm.**

You can access the sessions via the link: <http://bit.ly/PDGPresident>

We will meet on the Zoom internet platform, and ALL members are invited to drop in.

To join this Zoom Meeting please either click on this link: <http://bit.ly/PDGPresident> - which will load the Zoom application and open the meeting for you; or, if you already use Zoom, open that application and input Meeting ID: 841 1780 3449 Passcode: *(Queens on 8 numerically)*

If you cannot join me in my Presidential Parlour on the day for any reason I would still like to hear from you, so please do contact me direct on 01858 463816 or email [president@pdg.org.uk](mailto:president@pdg.org.uk).

I look forward to seeing you at one of these Virtual Meetings this winter.

*Alistair Donaldson*

## Peggy Jennings - 70 years a bellringer

Having started in October 1950, Peggy Jennings has just achieved 70 years of bellringing. The occasion would have been marked and celebrated with the ringing of a Quarter Peal, but with the restrictions of this Covid pandemic year that is not possible. In acknowledgement of this remarkable achievement Peggy was asked to contribute to this month's newsletter with her ringing story.



At the 2019 Guild AGM, held in Seaton, Peggy was presented with a certificate in recognition of her 50 years membership of the Peterborough Guild.

When I was a young teenager my brother started to learn to ring. I remember saying "I would like to have a go at that".

Now 70 years later I'm still "having a go".

I learned to ring at St Wendreda's church, in March, Cambridgeshire. I was the only female – how things have changed! St Wendreda's was renowned for its Angel roof. It was a very popular church, especially on Sunday evenings. We rang from a gallery very much like Uppingham. We stayed in the ringing chamber during service and I remember trying to count all the angels—there were more than 100.

I went to London in 1953-1955 to do a dispensing apprenticeship with Boots the Chemist. Many churches were destroyed or badly damaged during the Second World War so there wasn't a lot of ringing going on, but I still rang at March on my visits home to see family.

I moved to Peterborough in 1956 and rang at St Mary's, the old church, which was later demolished for a new one to be built. Family came along in 1960, 1961 and 1963 so my ringing was put on hold.

I moved to Oakham in 1967 and in late 1968 I was introduced to Charlie Hudson at Preston and my ringing career restarted. I joined the Peterborough Guild in 1969. We had Saturday practices every week at a different tower. I joined weekly practices at Braunston, Langham, Uppingham, Oakham and Whissendine over the years. We used to have a coach outing to different parts on a Bank Holiday Monday which friends and family joined. We also had a Easter holiday from Tuesday to Friday in different parts of the country.

I have rung 50 peals, hundreds of quarter peals, and at hundreds of towers, from Jersey to Inverness, Norfolk to Devon and in Christchurch in New Zealand. I was there when the big earthquake happened and the cathedral was damaged. The bells fell to the ground together with the steeple and the top of the tower. The bells have since been restored by Taylor's of Loughborough and are now back in New Zealand, in storage. The cathedral is to be restored as it was, the most expensive of the options and will take the longest time to complete. I was in Christchurch in January & February of this year (2020) and there is evidence that some work has been commenced inside.

I am pleased to say we are ringing again at Oakham on Sunday mornings. I have made some lovely friends through bellringing and am very grateful to all the people who have given me lifts. I couldn't have achieved so much without you all and a very big Thank You to everyone.

*Peggy Jennings*

## Honours Award for Helen Pollard

Rutland Branch Secretary

### Comment from Mike Pollard

I think most parents get used to being known by others as “Jonny’s Parents” rather than by their own name. It’s been the same for us growing up, but there’s always been one area of life where we’ve firmly been “Helen’s children” rather than her being “Sarah and Michael’s Mum”... Physics!

Many will know that there are thousands of children up and down the country who are being taught advanced Physics by teachers who aren’t specialists in the subject. I suspect most people in the Branch know that because at some point they’ve been in a tower with Mum and heard her talk so passionately about this problem. What you’ll have heard after this, which separates her out from so many others, is what she’s *doing* about it. It was unexpected - but in some ways not surprising - to learn earlier in the year during the peak of lockdown that Mum was to be awarded an MBE in the Birthday Honours list for services to Physics education. Try keeping that quiet for 4 months until it was officially announced... it’s a good job we weren’t allowed to go anywhere or see anyone!

I learnt first-hand during my own education just what a well loved and effective teacher Mum is - other children who I barely knew and who never had a good word to say about anyone would come up to me between lessons to tell me they’d just had a lesson with my Mum and loved it. It was quite regular to hear from a class whose lesson that she’d covered asking if she could just become their actual teacher, please. Similarly, on the odd occasion I’ve turned up to secondary school reunions and met former students of hers who she taught even before I was born, they only have positive things to say. I’m not sure how many others can remember teachers who taught them 25+ years ago unless they were exceptional? So many students have had the privilege of Mum’s approach to education - it’s not about rote learning facts or being able to follow a process so you pass an exam, it’s about understanding our interpretation of the natural world and what we observe in it. Not only can you pass an exam with this understanding but you can go so much further. And many of Mum’s students have.

In 2008, Mum changed her focus and branched out into supporting and training teachers, getting involved with initiatives and schemes up and down the country, creating networks of similarly passionate colleagues who absolutely adore her too and are inspired by her enthusiasm. I think several of us in the Branch have been involved in providing support to these events, whether helping to run events or - in Tony Clarke’s case - being set a number of challenges over the years to build particular gadgets or pieces of equipment that can be manufactured cheaply and at scale to give away to schools that otherwise couldn’t afford a piece of demonstration equipment to help bring Physics to life. Being a teacher and changing one student’s life is impressive; being a teacher who can coach and grow another teacher is even more so. I can’t imagine how many hundreds of teachers, and therefore thousands of children (I’m not exaggerating there) have had the benefit in some way - indirectly or directly - of Mum’s wisdom and experience.

Mum has worked so hard and given so much of her time to so many, to help and support them in their own learning and being able to teach others. She has an unbelievable talent in being able to encourage others to share her enthusiasm and passion for something just by being in the same room. Mum hasn’t done any of this because she wants the recognition but instead because she cares so selflessly and passionately about the education of others. There aren’t very many things to celebrate in the last 9 months, but I think this is one of them.

An MBE is just recognition for everything that she’s done and achieved. All of her family and friends are so proud and I hope many of our friends in Rutland ringing will be too.



**Congratulations, Helen Pollard MBE!**