



Rutland Bell-Ringers Newsletter

May 2021

Return to Ringing

The CCCBR has issued latest provisional guidance, depending on the government's 4 tests being met and a further relaxation of restrictions coming into force on 17th of May.

To read more information see <https://cccbr.org.uk/2021/04/21/guidance-from-17th-may-england/>

Guidelines for May 17th to June 21st

The Rule of Six applies indoors. This means that only six people from different families can meet at one time. (However, if only two families are meeting together, the total can exceed 6 persons). In practice this means that ringing sessions should be pre-arranged for 6 people, rather than drop-in.

Hands – Face – Space rules apply. Hand sanitisation should take place before ringing and before changing ropes. Face coverings should be worn at all times inside. Social distancing in the tower should be 2 metres at all non ringing times. But whilst ringing, "1 metre plus mitigations" will be acceptable.

Ringers should perform **Lateral Flow Tests** twice weekly – preferably timing them for the days of any sustained ringing. Lateral flow tests work differently and have a different role to the more accurate PCR tests (which continue to be necessary for anyone with symptoms). However they have been shown to be good at picking up highly infectious individuals. Anyone testing positive with a lateral flow test needs to isolate immediately, inform Test and Trace, and have a PCR test to confirm the infection.

Recheck before every session: "is it safe for me to ring?"

Ask oneself the following questions each time, before ringing:

1. Do I (or anyone in my household) have a temperature or fever?
2. Have I (or anyone in my household) lost the sense of taste or smell?
3. Do I (or anyone in my household) have a new continuous cough?
4. Have I (or anyone in my household) been in contact with anyone that is confirmed Covid-19 positive in the last 7 days.
5. Have I had a positive Lateral Flow Test in the past 7 days?

If the response to any of these is YES, then we should NOT ring until the possibility of Covid-19 infection has been excluded and any quarantine period has been completed.

Restrict ringing time to 45 minutes, whilst maintaining good tower ventilation.

During these weeks, longer periods of ringing should be restricted to planned episodes undertaken by low risk individuals, whilst researching the effectiveness of ventilation in a particular tower, using high-quality CO2 monitoring equipment (some guidance is being developed for this, including example monitors to use and what to do with them).

Items for the next newsletter to Sue Webster
by Monday 31st May
suevw@sky.com

www.rutlandbellringing.org
Webmaster: Peter Furness
webmaster@rutlandbellringing.org

HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh

10 June 1921 – 9 April 2021



We were saddened by the news that Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, died on 9th April aged 99. He had been dedicated to Her Majesty the Queen and the many interests for which he was Patron. His legacy of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme has benefited bell ringing through service and activities for young people.

Some of our Rutland bells tolled on the afternoon of 9th April on the announcement. In accordance with guidelines from CCCBR & The Church of England a single bell was tolled at noon on April 10th, either 99 times or up to five minutes, prior to 8 days of national mourning.

On the day of the funeral on April 17th bells across the nation were tolled half muffled during the hour. Twenty Rutland towers participated with the tolling of a single bell, 99 times.

Oakham, Uppingham, Gt Casterton, Harringworth, Caldecott, Gretton, Seaton, Lyddington, Cottesmore, Whissendine, Wing, Empingham, Braunston, Ayston, Preston, Market Overton, Ketton, Tinwell .

The bells at **Hambleton and Belton** were chimed only.

Harry & Mary Poyner rang a Quarter Peal as their personal tribute to the Duke of Edinburgh:

Whissendine, 24 Melton Road,

Sunday, 18 April 2021 in 30m (12 in F)

1296 Minimus (5m)

Five 48s spliced grandsire and single court,

11 extents each reverse bob, double bob and plain bob.

Mary C Poyner 1-2

Harry Poyner 3-4 (C)

Tower Maintenance - Preparing for a Return to Ringing

Well, another month has gone by, and we are still waiting on the go-ahead to restart ringing ... it can't be long now! I hope that most Towers have had a chance to check the basics of their bell installations to ensure that they are safe to ring; after a very dry April, it is a great opportunity to check bolts are tight, whilst the woodwork is dehydrated. Even in normal times, it is very common for nuts and bolts to work themselves undone, but when the woodwork shrinks, they can be even more loose. Cracks in wooden components including stays, should also be more obvious when very dry.

First clear out any debris or nesting material so that you can work and see properly, then check the structure to ensure that it is solid, and safe to climb/stand on - including floors, ladders and hatches. Check for wear and tear on all the moving parts; wheels, ropes (including splices, bosses ++), bearings, clappers, stays, sliders, pulleys etc. If you find anything on the floor that shouldn't be there, don't just put it in the window - see if you can find where it came from, and replace it. Fortunately, most bearings will need little more than a check, but older bearings will need oil, and clapper bushes grease. If there are signs of damp, it is useful to advise the Church, as there may have been damage to the roof whilst it has been unoccupied during the past year.

Whilst doing all this, see if you can locate any spare stays, ropes etc and check if they are still OK; it is probably not a good idea to retain old or broken items 'just in case', they can cause confusion.

For those Towers that still need to run basic safety checks, please make sure that you allow enough time, and remember that no-one should work alone in a Tower; always make sure that you have a working phone, a torch, something with which to make notes - and clothes that don't mind getting a bit grubby ...

There is a plethora of material and examples on the web and in published material; however, if you need any advice or help, let me know - but I will need a fair bit of notice if it gets busy once we are all released from lockdown!

Ted Phillips, Branch Steward

Rutland Church Bell Ringing

www.rutlandbellringing.org

WEBMASTER REQUIRED

Peter Furness has been our Branch webmaster for about three years now, but now needs to step down from this role. He re-established the website so all that is now required is ongoing maintenance and updating. The most frequent task is uploading the monthly Newsletter and adding a link to it.

The chairman and committee are very grateful to Peter for all that he achieved on behalf of the Rutland Branch and offer him our sincere thanks.

So we are looking for someone new to take on the job. Ideally it would be beneficial to have a small team of people to continue his work.

If you have some appropriate computing skills we would love to hear from you. Peter is willing to provide support and the benefit of his experience to facilitate a change over. If interested please contact either

Peter webmaster@rutlandbellringing.org

or Alan Wordie alan.wordie@enduranceproperty.com

PDGCBR

Update from Helen Allton

Ringling is again on the horizon. (*See front page*) The Guild will be reviewing and updating the risk assessment in light of this information. If you've got any questions, please ask.

Taking into account the fact that many towers have not rung in over a year now, it would be sensible to inform houses and businesses within earshot that ringing is going to begin again. To that end, a flier that could be printed and posted through doors is now available. It can be customised to suit the tower's situation. It is available from the ART website. <https://ringingteachers.org/survival-and-recovery-toolbox/good-relations-local-community> it was produced by the Guild Secretary, so you may recognise the tower...

The Guild is aware that printing sufficient to mailshot a village might be beyond the scope of some bands and PCCs. The Guild will, therefore, offer to arrange printing for towers that might otherwise struggle.

Get in touch with Helen (secretary@pdg.org.uk) to discuss your needs.

In preparation for a return to ringing, ART and the CCCBR have arranged a series of sessions that you can register for. To take place starting Saturday 8th May and will be made available as a recording afterwards. These cover a range of topics relating to recovery and can be found here: <https://cccb.org.uk/2021/04/20/recovery-convention/>

The latest Survival and Recovery newsletter also includes the sessions, along with some other items of interest. It can be found here: <https://cccb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Survival-Recovery-Newsheet-Issue-5.pdf>

The President's latest blog (<https://cccb.org.uk/2021/04/20/presidents-blog-32>) notes the number of towers that have registered on Bellboard as having tolled for the death or funeral of HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. I'm pleased to note that the Guild total so far runs to 132 different towers, or over half the Guild's total towers. If you're not yet listed on the Guild website, <http://pdg.org.uk/latest-news/tolling-for-the-death-of-prince-phillip> please make sure that your branch knows, they will pass the information on.

Having been asked if it would be possible, some of the presentations and training materials used for the Guild's Easter virtual training have been shared by the presenters and is now available on the website. See <http://pdg.org.uk/homepage/content-3/training-resources> for details.

Guild News.

The Guild notes that Alison Byrnes has decided that she will be unable to continue as Guild Public Relations Officer. Anyone interested in the role, please get in touch. Nominations will be needed by the AGM.

The Spring Guild newsletter is available online. We're unlikely to have paper copies of this edition, but hope to be back to printed and online copies by the next edition. It can be found on the Guild website. http://pdg.org.uk/newsletters/newsletter_202103.pdf

Past newsletters are also available online. <http://pdg.org.uk/latest-news/newsletters>

The Guild's recent Virtual training sessions were productive and we hope that those who attended felt they were worthwhile. If there are any topics that you'd want us to consider in further sessions, get in touch and we'll see what we can magic up. Some of the presentations will be shared on the Guild website, for reference.

CCCBR News

The President's Blog of 6th April is here: <https://cccbr.org.uk/2021/04/06/presidents-blog-31/>
April 20th <https://cccbr.org.uk/2021/04/20/presidents-blog-32/>

Training

A second part to aid understanding Stedman <https://youtu.be/JPEvUyKMMyuw>

It is a question with a multitude of answers - how do you learn a method? This aims to give some hints and tips that may help you. <https://youtu.be/n-gOPWcni0I>

Training for ringing doesn't just involve methods, it can involve soft skills as well. This talk by the CCCBR's Safeguarding advisors should give most towers food for thought. <https://youtu.be/HBM5tUlc2j8> You can access the CofE's Safeguarding training portal here: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

Random ringing things

This is an interesting piece to watch. The 12 ropes and ringers are all in shot at once, so that you can see the progression of the bells through each other and anticipate the roll ups by watching the ropes. <https://youtu.be/jrIDM6Zcr98>

If you were stuck for a project in lockdown, you could follow Graham Firman's example and build some robots to ring with you. They look as scared of ringing handbells as I am! <https://youtu.be/xUUR2iINTXRs>

It's always interesting to see how ringing can be used in different forms of music. Try this piece, using bells and ringers juxtaposed with brass and inspired by a Betjeman poem. <https://www.facebook.com/awoodheadmusic/videos/115649693828871>

Might not be to everyone's taste, but that could easily be a definition of music itself.

This was posted by Memories of Duston Past. I'm always amazed at old photographs of ringers at what they're wearing. I've tried ringing in a waistcoat, it was a little tight and got a little warm. https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=278761850448308&id=114050323586129

PRESTON BELLS OPEN DAY 2021

Saturday 3rd July 10.30 -12md
& Sunday 4th July 9.45 -10.30am

During 2020 the bells at Preston church were extensively refurbished and rehung by Taylors of Loughborough. The funds to complete the works was raised from trusts and charitable organisations, without whom the work on the bells would not have been possible.

In celebration, an open tower event is being held in July, - pandemic regulations permitting. Members of the public will be invited to visit the church throughout the day to see exhibits about the bells and to witness bell ringing in action.

On Saturday morning it is hoped that ringers will come and support the event, promote bellringing and encourage recruitment. The day will continue with village events.

A Quarter Peal is planned for Sunday morning 9.45—10.30am. organized by the Ringing Master, Alan Ellis. A service will follow, with The Bishop, *hopefully*, presiding.

Make the date in your diaries!