



Rutland Bell-Ringers Newsletter

September 2021

QUARTER PEALS

Peterborough Diocesan Guild

Uppingham, Rutland

St Peter & St Paul

Wednesday, 18 August 2021 in 46m n 46m (14-2-2 in E)

1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major

1. Sue Marsden
2. Janice Atkinson
3. Alison Iliffe
4. Steve Millington
5. Nicholas R. Wilson (C)
6. Terry Iliffe
7. Nick Elks
8. Alistair Donaldson

Congratulations to Heather and Michael Rootes on the birth of their son Jack Samuel Rootes, in Melbourne, Australia.

A date for your diary

The AGM 2022, service and group ringing will take place in Caldecott and Lyddington

on Saturday 15th January 2022.

A sumptuous tea will be served in the Village Hall. Details and timings will be announced in December.

**Items for the next newsletter to Sue Webster
by Thursday 30th September
suevw@sky.com**

**www.rutlandbellringing.org
Webmaster: Ted Phillips
webmaster@rutlandbellringing.org**

OPEN TOWER EVENT

Oakham All Saints



**on Saturday 25th September
from 9.30am till approx 4.00pm.**

Oakham are hosting an open tower event. with a 30 minute tour of the tower.

Tickets are £3.00 per person, £10 for a family of 4.

Help from any ringers available on the day would be greatly appreciated. Assistance to steward and manage the tower on the day would be welcome.

Contact - Louis Totaro totarolouis@gmail.com

Preston Bellringing Day

In celebration of the refurbishment of Preston bells, the ringing postponed from July will now take place

on

**Saturday 16th October
10.30am –12md.**

All ringers are welcome to visit.

Members of the public will be invited to visit the church throughout the day to see exhibits about the bells and see bell ringing in action.

Refreshments available.

Parking on The Paddock on Ridlington Road.

Rutland's return to ringing...

Most of Rutland's towers are ringing again with just a few exceptions, *Oakham All Saints* being one. A recent tower inspection highlighted significant problems, necessitating refurbishment and rebushing of the Treble, 3rd and 4th clappers. The leather bell pads need replacing on 4th, 5th and Tenor. Also necessary has been the removal of 7 of the 8 pulley boxes for a complete overhaul and rebuild. Work is scheduled for late September with a return to ringing sometime later.

The bells at *St John the Evangelist, Caldecott*, are also going to need some work and refurbishment. All six bells require rebushing of the clappers at some expense.

With the tower silent during the lockdowns Jackdaws were able to get into the tower, where they made nests and reared young. The resulting debris has been cleared but work is required to replace mesh to the windows to prevent a repeat situation. The required work isn't preventing ringing at the current time.

Barrowden, St Peter's are also unable to ring at the present time. There is a problem in the bell tower, a wooden louvre hanging precariously above the bells, making them unsafe for ringing. Hopefully this will be repaired soon and normal practice be resumed.

Tinwell, All Saints, also, has not yet resumed ringing.

Bell Maintenance - Funding Available

It is still warm outside, and there is probably enough time left in the season to make a trip up the Tower to check your Bells ... it is much more comfortable now than it will be in the cooler, wetter months of the year!

I last mentioned in this newsletter some of the simple checks and observations that can be made to keep everything running smoothly, and to catch any issues before they become serious. Now I would like to point out some of the help available from our Guild.

Take a look at the Bell Maintenance page of the Guild website at [Bell Maintenance \(pdg.org.uk\)](http://pdg.org.uk). This has a great deal of useful information about how the maintenance process is managed, and also some very useful tips on general maintenance as well as suppliers and where to look for additional help and advice.

If you do have an issue that needs work and are busy raising money to enable the work to go ahead, the Guild has some funds that may contribute. The advice on managing such a task, including the process for applying for funds is detailed here [Bell Fund \(pdg.org.uk\)](http://pdg.org.uk)

Give me a call or drop me an email if you have any questions, I am happy to help when I can.

Ted

Ted Phillips, Branch Steward. ted_uk@outlook.com

David Thorne of Seaton

Some readers will have known David and rung with him in past times. He has been a resident in Tixover Grange since February and is very unwell. His wife, Angela, has informed me that he is very frail and not up to seeing visitors.

From Rutland Branch Chairman Committee Meeting Report

Dear Fellow Campanologist

Your Rutland Branch committee met this evening (Friday 3rd September) and a number of points arise which I am sure you will be interested to read.

1. Your committee are a collective of ringers and tower captains covering the Branch geographically and at all levels of ringing. A key discussion point tonight was around the return to ringing (after the various lockdowns), lessons learned and concerns.

- We all agreed the first time on a rope after the long break resulted in stiff shoulders and arms but these soon relaxed during or after ringing. You are in good company if you have felt the same.
- We would rather see ringers come to towers and wear face coverings (even ask others to wear coverings) rather than not ring. Tower captains should bear all ringers in mind and hopefully exclude nobody by accident. The onus is on each one of us to ring or not as we choose.

Ringling for weddings and funerals has commenced and most towers and bells have been checked beforehand. Ted Philips as Steward offers support if required.

2. We plan a publicity and recruiting drive when we see a suitable window. This will not be before Christmas with the current high numbers of positive covid tests. It is unfair on teacher and pupil to be less than a metre apart and facing each other during the "learn to bell handle" phase. We will next review matters in early December.

3. Subscriptions and Donations are down this year (NOT the retired members I should add) and your committee asks you to look at paying your subscription please. The bank details for transfer are:

- Account name RUTLAND PDGCBR
- Sort code 40 43 05
- Account number 31507540

Please add your name and tower as reference so the Treasurer can record the payment.

Whilst there has been no expenditure so far this year, there are still Guild grants (for tower/bell improvements & maintenance) and as soon as we can a programme of ringing, tours and teaching will be arranged.

4. There are currently 3 or 4 vacancies on the committee and willing volunteers are always welcomed. We are especially looking to recruit someone (ringer or not) to assist with keeping the website up to date and accurate. In January Helen Pollard will not be standing for re-election as Honorary Secretary. Anyone interested in either post or being a member of the Rutland PDGCBR committee (3 or 4 meetings a year) please contact me (Alan Wordie on m: 07802 215 294 or email: alan.wordie@enduranceproperty.com)

5. We thank all those who have returned to the tower. There have been so many positive comments about the bells ringing out in the County. This can only happen with your commitment, and now we need to redouble our efforts to recruit and teach as soon as we all feel more certain about the future and minimising the giving or receiving of covid-19.

Should anyone have any questions on bell ringing or how to proceed at this time then please contact me or anyone on the committee (see the website: rutlandbellringing.org)

Alan Wordie, Branch Chairman alan.wordie@enduranceproperty.com

Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers

www.pdg.org.uk

Guild News

It was good to see so many people brave the inclement weather for the (Not the) Spring meeting. Hopefully we'll see more of you at the next meeting, which will be the Guild's Summer Festival, to be held on 25th September at Thrapston from 3 pm. This usually hosts the inter-branch 8 bell contest. However this year it will be a little bit different, with open ringing from 3 pm and an informal striking contest for those who wish to (or can be coerced into) taking part. There will be drinks available in the church hall from 3 pm, feel free to bring a picnic if the weather gods decide to smile on us this time.

There will be a business meeting to follow, at 5 pm. An actual in person meeting. Golly!

Details and a poster can be found here: <https://pdg.org.uk/latest-news/summer-festival>

Safeguarding Officer:

There remains a need for the Guild to have someone dedicated to supporting and recording safeguarding coverage in the Guild. This role was new at the Guild AGM and remains unfilled. If you are interested, a role description is attached, or please contact me to find out more. Nominations could be made at the Summer meeting for a vacant post.

Guild clothing:

The Guild is continuing to offer clothing embroidered with the Guild logo. Details can be found on the website and orders are made through Cathy Dixon, e-mail her on pro@pdg.org.uk There is some customisation available, with your tower or benefice being embroidered below the logo, if you choose.

Branch meetings:

It is good to hear of more branches that are beginning to put on their monthly meetings again. Towcester, Wellingborough, Peterborough & Kettering have already or are aiming to hold meetings or practices for the branch in September. If I've missed your branch activity, please feel free to bring me up to date.

CCCBR:

The President's latest blog where admits to a dubious relationship with the truth regarding his holiday destination... <https://cccb.org.uk/2021/08/24/presidents-holiday-blog-41/>

Annual Meeting

This weekend sees the CCCBR annual meeting, again to be held virtually. Hopefully that will go smoothly and we'll have an update from our representatives at the Summer Festival. Papers are available here if you have a desire to see what is going on. <https://cccb.org.uk/about/annual-meetings/2021-meeting/>

COP26

You may well have seen that the United Nations Climate change conference is being held in Glasgow at the start of November. If your ringers or your church feel so inclined, you might like to ring to raise awareness of this important event. I know that some churches have been increasingly vocal on this subject in recent years. Suggested ringing would be on the eve of the conference, 30th October at 6 pm, although ringing at any time that suits the band and church would be equally relevant. <https://cccb.org.uk/2021/08/31/cop26-uk-nations-climate-change-conference/>

The Westley award for church bell maintenance and improvement 2021 was presented recently: <https://cccb.org.uk/2021/08/06/westley-award-for-church-bell-maintenance-and-improvement-2021/>

It might be that your church is considering opening for the annual Heritage open days, from 10th to 19th September. Think about if you can use the opportunity to engage the public in the history and art of bellringing. <https://cccb.org.uk/2021/08/10/heritage-open-day-10th-19th-september-2021/>

Helen Allton Secretary: Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PDGCBR

Website: www.pdg.org.uk e-mail: secretary@pdg.org.uk Telephone: 01832 735 266





Peterborough Diocesan Guild Summer Festival

25th September at St James, Thrapston

Open ringing and informal 8 bell Contest from 3 pm.

Business meeting at 5 pm.

Please feel free to bring a picnic, drinks will be available in the church hall from 3 pm.

Full details at <https://pdg.org.uk/latest-news/summer-festival>



The Guild Summer Festival will be held on 25th September at [St James church, Thrapston](#). There will be open ringing from 3 pm, with an informal 8-bell contest. The Guild Business Meeting will start at 5 pm.

If you wish to, please bring a picnic, drinks will be available in the church hall from 3 pm.

The [Master](#) will be arranging ad-hoc teams of those interested, these will be arranged on the day, but advance notice if you are interested would be appreciated.

We hope to see you there, meeting up with ringers from across the Guild and rediscovering the social side of ringing.

CCCBR - An excerpt from President's Holiday Blog #41

Simon Linford

August 24, 2021

"I must confess to having lied in my Outlook vacation autoresponder by saying I am trekking in the Himalayas with just a satellite phone to give me internet access. In fact, this holiday cottage in Northumberland has first-class internet access meaning work doesn't stop. I usually have fun making up holidays I haven't been on when sitting in the barber's chair. They don't really care, so why not just make it interesting?"

One project that has been ticking along quietly in the background is the new mobile belfry. The idea here is to have something that is easy to transport, quick to set up (30 mins), provides a realistic ringing experience, and looks the part. It will be part of a major push to get bells in front of more people – in schools, at music festivals, shopping centres, business parks. The Loughborough Bellfoundry Trust has very kindly agreed to give the bells themselves, and Charlie and I went up to Loughborough with Phil Gay (one of the architects of the [Lichfield Diocesan Mobile Belfry](#)) and Roger Booth (owner of the [Charmborough ring](#)) to test out one of the new bells. And it was absolutely superb! A really realistic bellringing experience from a very small bell. As there's nothing like a deadline to drive action, I'll have a micro website on the project available in two weeks' time.

What is the best short video that explains bellringing? It's not short at 48 minutes long, but I had never seen the film 'The Craft of Bellringing' until this week: <https://vimeo.com/georgeperrin>. Not great in the diversity stakes but it was made seven years ago. Just before lockdown, the Churches Conservation Trust had produced a publicity video on ringing of a similar professional production quality. It has not been released yet but hopefully they will relaunch their recruitment campaign in the new year. George Perrin has also now made his video tutorials for bellringers available via the online learning platform Udemy. It won't suit those who think ringing training should be free, but even if you only look at the sample videos on the site (<https://www.udemy.com/course/bellringing/>) you'll see some useful resources."

To read the complete article see <https://cccb.org.uk/2021/08/24/presidents-holiday-blog-41/>