



2023
Rutland Bell-Ringers Newsletter
FEBRUARY

BRANCH EVENTS THIS MONTH

Saturday 4th February. 1.30pm. Edith Weston

Rounds & Calls

For our new ringers

To increase confidence in ringing in a band, with experienced ringers around them.

Tuesday 21st February 7.30pm

8 bell practice at Oakham

All welcome

Saturday 25th February. 1.30pm. North Luffenham

Rounds & Calls

For our new ringers

A repeat of the session earlier in the month

Ringling Practice Times

Some towers do not have a home practice every week, but share their practice nights with other towers on a rotational basis.

February Practices All commence at 7.30pm.

2nd Uppingham. 9th Lyddington. 16th Uppingham. 23rd Seaton.

6th. Caldecott. 13th Gretton. 20th Harringworth. 27th Caldecott.

1st Braunston. 8th Brooke. 15th Braunston. 22nd. Ash Wednesday - no ringing

**Deadline for the next newsletter to Sue Webster
by Tuesday 28th February
suevw@sky.com**

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

Rutland Branch AGM report and officers

At the AGM on 14th January 2023 the following were elected as Officers and Committee Members

Chair : Alan Wordie alan.wordie@enduranceproperty.com

Ringling Master : Brian Newman brianjasie@yahoo.co.uk

Deputy R.M. : Roger Scholes roger.scholes@tiscali.co.uk

Secretary : Sue Baker susanbaker144@gmail.com

Treasurer : Simon Forster forster.ketton@talktalk.net

Membership Secretary : Simon Forster forster.ketton@talktalk.net

Steward : Ted Phillips ted_uk@outlook.com

Newsletter Editor & Press Correspondent : Sue Webster suevw@sky.com

Guild Management Representative :

Committee Members : Alan Ellis, Sharon Bromilow, Tim Holt, Henrie Kiddle, Charles Kiddle, Ian Bell

Welcome to a new year of ringing !

A new year means a new round of subscriptions / donations .

The rate remains unchanged at £7 for an adult member, £3.50 for a junior, with over 75's encouraged to pay a similar level by way of donation.

Details on how to pay on line can be found on the website, and are detailed below.

Any queries to me, Simon Forster. With HSBC closing branches, bank transfer is becoming the order of the day. If, when you pay, you could send an email to the treasurer Simon Forster at forster.ketton@talktalk.net saying which tower, whether it is a donation as above, and whether it can be Gift Aided

Clearly even a £7 subscription can be rounded up or otherwise increased, the extra will be treated as a donation.

Please use the following details when paying on line :

BANK NAME : HSBC, STAMFORD BRANCH

SORT CODE : 40-43-05

ACCOUNT NUMBER : 31507540

ACC NAME : PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS – RUTLAND BRANCH

(you can use the following shortened name accepted by the bank : PDGCBR - RUTLAND)

REFERENCE BOX : YOUR NAME & TOWER

Simon Forster, Treasurer, Rutland Branch

QUARTER PEALS

Peterborough Diocesan Guild

Wing, Rutland

St Peter & St Paul

Saturday, 28 January 2023 in 42m (6–3–22)

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1. Alan Wordie
2. Alan Marks
3. Alan Ellis
4. Thomas Saunders
5. Michael Pollard (C)

Rung in affectionate memory of Tony Clark, Tower Captain at Wing, who died on 8th July 2022. This day would have been his 100th birthday. Grandsire was Tony's favourite method and a number of members of Tony's family and many ringing friends gathered in Wing today to celebrate.

Tony Clark...QP for 100. 28th January 2023

Prior to the ringing of the Quarter Peal for Tony Clark, family and friends gathered to share coffee and cake and memories of a mutual friend. The following is the dedication delivered by Jane Peach.

On behalf of the Wing Bell ringers, I welcome you all to Wing to commemorate what would have been Tony Clark's 100th Birthday. Thank you to the ringers who are ringing the quarter peal to mark the occasion. Tony would not have been happy with a full pealtoo long!

Alan Wordie Chairman of the Rutland Branch

Alan Marks who has come all the way from Rushden. He has become a regular ringer in Wing where we value his teaching skills and long experience.

Alan Ellis from Oakham who is a former Ringing Master in our Rutland Branch.

Thomas Saunders from Uppingham Tower who, as a young learner attended Wing practices and who now regularly rings in Peterborough Cathedral.

Michael Pollard who learned to ring in Wing and whose ability and bell ringing career gave Tony so much pleasure as he watched his progression to great heights in the bell world and become a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

Tony loved Wing Church and spent many hours caring for and maintaining its upkeep and preservation. In particular he loved the bells. He loved the tradition, the continuity, and the fraternity. He loved the challenge of method ringing, he loved teaching and encouraging others, particularly youngsters to take on the challenge of learning to manage a great, big, heavy bell on the end of a long rope.

He loved the mechanics, he loved pulleys, smooth running, the right grease, tinkering, adapting and mending. He loved crawling around that tower with a grease gun and when he saw sealed bearings were the way forward he recruited Paul Brewer from the village and they did the job with minimal supervision from Taylors. You see it had to be done at the right price.

He was king at getting things done at the right price! In turn he was generous with his own time, advice, tools and materials. Except Stays! He had a secret stash only given out sparingly or in a real emergency. Let's remember Tony with affection and appreciate his legacy as the bells ring out across the village for him and his one hundred years; as they have done in the past and will do so in the years to come. *Jane Peach*



The QP band. Alan Wordie, Alan Marks, Thomas Saunders, Michael Pollard, Alan Ellis

Ketton Handbell Ringers visit to Belton in Rutland Church

Ketton Handbell Ringers were invited to Belton in Rutland Church on Sunday January 29th to give a short performance and afterwards invite parishioners to try handbell ringing. The Curate, Debbie Smith-Wilds, made us very welcome and the church social event had attracted a good turn out, which meant we had a lot of folk watching us which always makes us feel a bit nervous !

Our team of eight were able play a variety of tunes that showed off the range of our bells...from the tinkling highest bell number1, to the deep resonating heavy number 15. When invited to come forward we had 5 keen volunteers who chose to play the lighter bells ! Everyone was very enthusiastic and after a few attempts the tunes were almost perfect. It was rewarding to see new faces enjoying the challenge of hand bell ringing. After a jolly good natter and a very much appreciated cup of tea and cake we wended our way home.



The Ketton Handbell Ringers

About our Group. We had a thoroughly enjoyable time. Our group has about 10 members with ages ranging from teenagers to septuagenarian. I have been a member of the group for 20 years and several others for longer. We mainly perform at Christmas and we feel very privileged at Ketton to have such beautiful bells and an active group of ringers.



The Rev'd Rachel Watts, and Uppingham Curate, Debbie Smith – Wilds on the right, joining in with the band.

Ketton Handbells

The bells were made by John Taylor Bellfounders of Loughborough. Each bell is marked by the initials “JT” cast into the crown. The unique profile of the handbells dates them to before 1892.

In 2003 the original nineteen Handbells were refurbished and retuned. A new 15C # Bell was crafted and two carrying case were purchased. The refurbishment was made possible by generous donations of local people and businesses. The total cost being just under £ 2000.00

The parishioners of Ketton will be for ever grateful to them for ensuring that these magnificent Handbells will be preserved for future generations. *Ros Pask*

GUILD NEWS

In the next month or so, the Guild's committees all meet to prepare for the coming year. It's a busy time and your input is important.

Guild news

Hopefully members will have received the various briefing and discussion documents through their branches and via the branch AGMs. These will be topics for debate at the Guild's Management Committee meeting on 4th March. Each branch has 2 representatives to this committee, the Chair and a GMC rep, who should have been elected at your recent AGM. Please make sure that you let your representative have any comments before the meeting. The three different ideas presented in the branch discussion paper are intended as starting points to prompt debate, there are many different options. Don't be limited by the executive's lack of imagination!

CCCBR news

The president's latest blog is available here: <https://cccbbr.org.uk/2023/01/25/presidents-blog-74/>

The CCCBR has launch a new site focused on the plan to target ringing in 2030. This can be found from their front page, and is here: <https://cccbbr.org.uk/ringing-2030/>

The ART conference this year takes place on 11th & 12th March, in Birmingham. More details of the 2 day event and sessions are available via the ART website. <https://ringingteachers.org/conference>

There is a request for towers to consider ringing for Commonwealth day, 13th March.

<https://cccbbr.org.uk/2023/01/22/commonwealth-day-13-march-2023/>

Party time?

Some members will remember Brian Harris, who used to ring in the Guild, predominantly in the Peterborough & Rutland branches. The Chester Branch of Bell Ringers are having a Celebration Gathering in St. Mary's Centre Handbridge on Saturday 4th March 2.30 – 5.30pm. They would like to invite any ringers in the Guild who knew or rang with him. If you want to attend, please contact Helen Mitchell on - Mitchellsofchester@outlook.com.

I'd like to remind members that they can make nominations for Guild office any time between now and the Guild's AGM in June. You can let me have nominations in writing, be that e-mail, letter or carrier pigeon at any time. Include who you are nominating and the post you are nominating them for. If you think we're doing a good job, or of you know someone who can do better, get in touch. Role descriptions for Guild office and the current holders can be found on the Guild website, here: <https://pdg.org.uk/homepage/officers>

Dates for the Diary

Guild Practice Surprise Major. Saturday 11th February 18:30 Long Buckby

Guild 10 bell Practice Saturday 11th March 10:30 Peterborough Cathedral

Peterborough 8 bell practice Friday 3rd February 7:30 Castor

Guildsborough Branch Practice Saturday 4th February 3:00 East Haddon

Special methods Alnwick S Minor & Lincolnshire S Major

Wellingborough Branch Practice Saturday 18th February 2:30 Stanwick

Culworth Branch Practice Saturday 18th February 3:00 Helmdon

Towcester Branch Practice Saturday 25th February 10:30 Wappenham

Northampton Branch Practice Saturday 25th February 7:00 Little Houghton

Not all branches have provided their calendars for the rest of the year as yet, check out the events page of the Guild website, which will be updated as information arrives. <https://pdg.org.uk/events>

Helen Allton

Secretary: Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers

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