



2023

## Rutland Bell-Ringers Newsletter

# AUGUST

**Thursday 17th August 7.30pm**  
**Triples and Major practice at UPPINGHAM**  
**For all who would like to ring on 8 bells.**

**Plain Hunt - Triples - Major methods.**  
**All welcome**

**Branch 6 Bell practice**  
**Thursday 7th September**  
**Gt CASTERTON - 7PM**

**Focus - Plain Bob & Grandsire Doubles**  
**All Welcome - Note earlier start time**

### **Ringling Practice Times**

*Where towers share their practice nights with others on a rotational basis.*

**August Practices** All commence at 7.30pm.

**7th Harringworth. 14th Caldecott. 21st Gretton. 28th Harringworth.**

**2nd Braunston. 9th Brooke. 16th Braunston. 23rd Brooke. 30th Braunston**

**3rd North Luffenham. 10th Uppingham. 17th Uppingham. 24th Lyddington. 31st tbc.**

**Deadline for the next newsletter to Sue Webster**  
**by Thursday 31st August**  
**suevw@sky.com**

**[www.rutlandbellringing.org](http://www.rutlandbellringing.org)**  
**Webmaster: Ted Phillips**  
**[webmaster@rutlandbellringing.org](mailto:webmaster@rutlandbellringing.org)**

## **From Rutland Branch Chairman**

### **Peterborough Diocese Guild of Church Bell Ringers (PDGCBR).**

First and foremost as members of Rutland Branch we are all members of the Peterborough Guild and I am sure we are all proud to be associated with such a wonderful cathedral and their majestic bells.

We are always welcome to ring, whatever our level, and at least once a year (usually for the Sunday evening service honouring all the good work done in Rutland) we assemble en masse to ring 12 bells at our "mother cathedral". The Tower Captain always makes us welcome and all level of ringer descend from the tower a different person. So we are delighted, as members of the Peterborough Guild, to announce there is a brand new Guild Badge available for only £5.00. It is a similar size to the Coronation badge as shown on the attached photograph (note: the Scottish Association badge is only available for the Scots).

Rutland Branch has some PDG badges so if you would like to buy one (£5.00) please contact Sue Webster, Alan Wordie or Simon Forster, and we can plan to meet and exchange badge for sterling!

Finally, or is that secondly, we thank all those from the Guild who help us when needed – whether for teaching, providing a solid base of ringers around a trainee, or as has been the case to fill a vacancy for a wedding. Thank you (PRO) for arranging a new run of Guild badges. Which reminds me if there are towers looking for polo shirts, sweat-shirts or T shirts with your tower embroidered on the garment, this can easily be arranged through the Guild PRO who has negotiated some very competitive rates for high quality shirts.

### **Chairman's Comments.**

Whilst reviewing the new members who have moved from trainees to members (full and junior) I should say how proud of you all we are for your perseverance in learning to ring. Rutland Branch committee are now planning some extra training sessions to help you through advanced bell handling, call changes to kaleidoscope ringing and ringing plain hunt (by places not just remembering a coursing order). Over the last 12 months there have been 22 new members in the Rutland Branch. Well done. There are another 20 or so still looking to "pass the competency test" and so become members. Another few months and most of you will achieve this.

Your committee is planning a series of "rounds to kaleidoscope to plain hunt" sessions to help all new ringers develop their skills - which will cover theory and practical ringing. Watch this space.....

### **Keep the date.**

We are planning to have a Saturday tour on 30<sup>th</sup> September (so please keep the day free).

We will start at Geddington (6) and end at Corby (6 and same benefice as Gretton) routing out towards Thrapston with a stop for lunch (hopefully The Snooty Fox at Lowick). Start around 10.30a.m. and end around 6.00p.m. so lots of time for ringing at each tower.

The intermediate towers will be chosen shortly but may include Stanion (6), Thrapston (8) and Brigstock (8).

Please save the date and as usual all ringers are welcome for part or all of the tour and lunch.

## **SAFEGUARDING TRAINING EXPECTATIONS OF BELL-RINGERS/TOWER CAPTAINS**

As church officers, all tower captains should have undertaken on line safeguarding training to Foundation level, formerly module C1. Those Bell-ringers who are involved in teaching children and young people should also complete safeguarding training to foundation level.

These courses should be renewed every 3 years. Those bell ringers who have no responsibility for teaching or are not tower captains are not expected to undertake training but **may** wish to undertake basic training to improve their knowledge of safeguarding. Some tower captains, who have a more significant impact on the safeguarding culture of the church community will need to complete face to face Leadership training with the Diocese of Peterborough.

## ASHWELL BELLS

### *The removal*

The last few weeks have seen frenzied activity at St Mary's Ashwell, preparing and removing the peal of bells for their refurbishment and rehang.

Initially a long Sunday afternoon was spent removing the facade of the tower, to allow for better access. Unfortunately, there was no 'ikea' manual to determine how the facade was put together as the fixings were well hidden behind lots of panelling, but we managed to remove just enough to do the job.

Three days were spent in the company of churchwarden, Brian Farr, two local helps from the village and the bellhanger, Paul Mason, to commence the removal.

I had previously spent a day in the belfry with Simon Adams from Taylors to remove the bell wheels, clappers, ironmongery, pulley boxes and sliders. What should've taken two days took one as we both know our way around a frame or 2!

So, the main work began. The tower masonry was cut to home 4 steel 'shoes', to place the 6 lifting timbers above the frame and lock them into position.

They say bellringing can be hard on the arms....you have no idea! In using lifting equipment for every tool, beam and part, in and out of the tower I discovered new arm muscles to add to my ringing ones!

So myself and Paul set about a day installing the beams and a day lifting the bells out - 5, 6, 4, 1, 2 and 3 in order. With some gentle encouragement the bells came out freely and placed at the bottom of the tower.

Next was the problematical frame for the Treble, which we discovered was never pegged properly into the lower frame by Whitechapel in 1850, due to poor access in the corners. Iron support straps were installed instead to 'push' the frame into the tower corner, but this was always going to have some movement. Apart from one bolt to be cut, all the wooden pegs, tenons and smithied bolts came out freely, which was an interesting sight anyway.

The final morning was spent moving the bells out into the churchyard and lifting through the lychgate onto the flatbed lorry, fortunately this bit of the operation went really smoothly. All that remained to do was the tidying up of our mess and cutting some temporary beams for the hatch. The floor shows signs of wood-worm and at one stage my foot went through it!

It was an emotional end to see the bells travel away from the church back to the foundry, but can't wait for their return!

*Louis Totaro*



## QUARTER PEALS & PEALS

### **Peterborough Diocesan Guild**

**Edith Weston**, Rutland

St Mary

Sunday, 2 July 2023 in 40m (7–0–13 in A)

#### **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

Rung with Plain Bob bobs and Old Singles

1. Taliya Rubendran
2. David Banks
3. Deborah Bray
4. Andrew Christie
5. Stuart Weston (C)
6. Julian Burton

Rung to mark the 100th anniversary of the rehanging of the bells. The landlord of Wheatsheaf along with local blacksmith under took the re hanging of the (existing 3 ) bells in a new oak frame. John, the current landlord, joined us and had a quick lesson in bell handling.

It was also the 300th anniversary of the installation of the tenor from the Henry Penn foundry in Peterborough.

Following the quarter we celebrated at Jean and Andrew's as it was the 78th birthday of Andrew Tinsley

3: First inside to method.

### **North Luffenham**, Rutland

St John the Baptist

Monday, 10 July 2023 in 45m (11–1–14 in G)

#### **1296 Beverley Surprise Minor**

1. Richard Beadman
2. Alan Ellis
3. Andrew Gunstone
4. Thomas Saunders
5. Andrew Young
6. Steve Millington (C)

2 -First in method.

4 - First in method

### **Peterborough Diocesan Guild**

#### **Uppingham**, Rutland

St Peter and St Paul

Friday, 21 July 2023 (14–2–2 in E)

#### **1274 Plain Bob Triples**

- 1 Janice Atkinson
- 2 Steve Millington
- 3 Roger Scholes
- 4 Alan Wordie
- 5 Alan Ellis
- 6 Louis Totaro
- 7 Richard Beadman (C)
- 8 Thomas Saunders

Rung in memory of Mary Holmes, Ringer and long term supporter of Uppingham church bells.

### **Lincoln Diocesan Guild**

South Luffenham, **Rutland**

#### **St Mary the Virgin**

Tuesday, 4 July 2023 in 46m (5 in C)

#### **1296 South Luffenham Alliance Minimus**

36x36

1. Anthony D. Walker
2. Robert Simpson
3. Luke Tobin (C)
4. Brian E. Plummer

Birthday compliment to Debbie Harry (Blondie) 78 today.

First in method for all and first Alliance Minimus for all

Also rung for the Lincoln Diocesan Guild Church Bell-ringers. 'Elloe Deaneries' Minimus Group.

### **Peterborough Diocesan Guild**

#### **Peterborough**, City of Peterborough

St Mary

Wednesday, 2 August 2023 in 2h 50 (8–3–17 in A)

#### **5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major**

Don Morrison (no.1947)

1. Susan E. Marsden
2. Helena M. Thorpe
3. Nicholas A. Elks
4. Thomas P. Saunders
5. Nicholas T. Smith
6. William S. Croft (C)
7. Keith W. Brown
8. James F. Thorpe

First Peal: 4.

## GUILD NEWS

### Training opportunities

There are always training opportunities, these are a little further afield. A reminder that the Training fund can offer a contribution to attendance at training courses for learners.

<https://pdg.org.uk/homepage/content-2/training-fund>

### North West Ringing Course

Next month is the North West Ringing Course and they are still in need of more helpers for courses up to Stedman. The website gives more details <https://nwringingcourse.uk>. Helpers can stay (accommodation and meals incur costs) or on a daily basis.

### ART M1 course

There will be an ART M1 (Teaching Bell Handling) course at Kineton on Saturday the 18th November. If you have ringers that are teaching and would like a refresher, some new tips, or are entirely new to teaching handling this well established course could suit them. Please contact Graham Nabb [gnabb50@gmail.com](mailto:gnabb50@gmail.com) or find out more via the website. <https://bellringing.org/about-teaching/bell-handling/>

### Central Council items

President's Blog from far flung places. <https://cccb.org.uk/2023/07/07/presidents-icelandic-blog-81/>  
At this year's Central Council meeting in September, nominations are required for a number of posts. Some information about what is involved can be found on the CCCBR site. <https://cccb.org.uk/2023/07/02/presidents-interview/> and <https://cccb.org.uk/2023/07/10/deputy-president-interview/>

### Other bell news

Not about change ringing, but about bells and their place in religion in Africa, this may prove interesting.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3ct5j1s>

### Artworks for sale

The church at Weston Flavell has received a selection of water colour paintings, which are being offered for sale.

There are over 150 different paintings of churches across the area. They were painted by C Stephenson-Mole and have been offered to the church by the family after the death of the painter. The church are asking for £30 per painting and the funds raised will go towards the work identified as necessary in the most recent quinquennial inspection. The Churchwarden, Phil Norris, should be contacted with any queries.

He has photographs of all the paintings and can provide these on request.

<https://pdg.org.uk/latest-news/watercolours-for-sale>

### Dates for the Diary

Not all branches have events in August, so it's a slightly shorter list this time around.

**Guild 10 Bell Practice** Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September. 10:30 Daventry

**Guild Summer Festival** Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September Contest 4:00 pm Towcester, for competition, tea, meeting at 7. Evening ringing. Towers prior to be confirmed.

**Culworth** Branch 8 bell practice Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July 7:30 Aynho

**Rutland** Branch 8 bell practice Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August 7:30 Uppingham

**Peterborough** Branch 8 bell Practice Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August 7:30 Castor

**Thrapston** Branch Practice Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August 7:30 Islip

**Guilsborough** Branch Practice Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August 3:00 Long Buckby, 6:00 Crick

**Daventry** Branch Meeting Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August 3:00 Everdon 6:30 Dodford (tbc)

**Northampton** Branch Practice Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August 7:00 Rothersthorpe

**Culworth** Branch Practice Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August 7:30 Woodford Halse

Helen Allton Secretary: Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/PDGCBR](https://www.facebook.com/PDGCBR) Website: [www.pdg.org.uk](https://www.pdg.org.uk) e-mail: [secretary@pdg.org.uk](mailto:secretary@pdg.org.uk)

Telephone: 01832 735 266

