



Rutland Branch Newsletter

January

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2026

RUTLAND BRANCH AGM 2026

Saturday January 10th. 2026 3pm - 7.30pm.

3.00 - 3.45pm. Open Ringing at Whissendine

4.00 - 4.30pm. Open Ringing at Ashwell

4.30 - 5.10pm. SERVICE St Mary's church Ashwell

5.15 - 6.00pm. TEA Ashwell village Hall

6.00 - 6.30pm. MEETING

Post meeting ringing until 7.30pm Ashwell.

The AGM is an open meeting - for ALL ringers

long standing members, new ringers and learners - All are welcome

Please bring something to share for the tea. Sweet or savoury.

A donation will be required to cover the hire cost of the hall and heating.

January Practices All commence at 7.30pm. Unless otherwise stated.

Mon 5th Gt Easton. 12th Seaton. 19th Gretton. 26th Harringworth

Mon 5th Edith Weston. 26th Edith Weston. 7pm start.

Wed 7th Braunston. 14th Brooke. 21st Braunston. 28th Brooke

Thurs 8th Uppingham. 15th Uppingham. 22nd. Lyddington. 29th Seaton

Mon 2nd February Gt Easton. (7.30pm)

Wed 4th February Braunston

Thurs 5th February Uppingham.

Items for the next newsletter by
Saturday 31st January
to suevw@sky.com

www.rutlandbellringing.org
Webmaster: Nigel Barrett
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8 Bell Ringing Practice - 10th December

We had a fabulous number of ringers attending the 8 bell practice on December 10th. This practice was hosted jointly by Uppingham tower with regular ringers from Brooke and Braunston. Ringing Master Ian Bell and Braunston and Brooke Tower Captain, Richard Beadman, taking the lead.

Several towers and all levels of abilities were represented, with the ringing including something for everyone. Some had not rung on 8 bells before, they started gently with rounds and call changes, progressing to Plain Hunt on 7. Everyone was thrilled by their achievement. The new ringers rang call changes with a supporter standing by. The experienced and competent ringers had their opportunity when Triples methods were rung. With so many in the tower, 17 in all, we were able to keep the ringing going with little time lost at change over of ringers.

We have two 8 bell towers in Rutland Oakham and Uppingham. To be able to keep these two towers functioning it is really important to have people able to ring 7/8 bell methods. We can only progress this ability by ringers coming along and giving it a try. Without practice the skill can soon be lost. The more people willing to develop good striking on higher number of bells, whether in call changes, Plain Hunting or a method, then the easier it becomes to provide a band to ring on the important occasions, weddings, funerals, national celebrations and commemorations.

Everyone who came really enjoyed the evening and gained much from the experience.

More 8 bell practices, at both Uppingham and Oakham, are planned over the coming year so look out for them on the 2026 programme.



December 10th - 8 Bell practice night

QUARTER PEALS & PEALS

Greetham, Rutland

St Mary the Virgin

Tuesday, 9 December 2025 (10–0–7 in A²)

Rounds and Call Changes

1. Elaine Wilkinson
2. Maurice Kirk
3. Kim Baker
4. Emma Lovegrove
5. Philip Shipman
6. Ian Bell

Ring for the Leicestershire and Rutland Young Farmers Carol Service by a band of past Members of YFC clubs

Wing, Rutland

St Peter & St Paul

Sunday, 21 December 2025 in 2h 38 (6–3–22 in B²)

5040 Doubles (19m)

Two extents each Grandsire, New, Huntspill, St Vedast, Blaisdon, Westminster, Blackburn, St Hilary, Dragon, St Nicholas, Winchendon, St Remigius, Huntley, St Simon's, St Martin's, St Osmund, Eynesbury; four extents each Reverse Canterbury, Plain.

1. Sally A. Brown
2. Robert J. Crocker
3. Emma J. Southerington
4. Aan Regin
5. Peter G.C. Elis (C)

Rung prior to the Carol Service in the Church on Sunday 21st. Villagers enjoyed the excellent ringing as a precursor to the evening service and heralding Christmas celebrations.

Uppingham, Rutland

St Peter & St Paul

Thursday, 1 January 2026 in 47m (14–2–2 in E)

1280 Bristol Surprise Major

1. Garry Mason
2. Richard Holyland
3. Murray A. Coleman
4. Liz Reading
5. Steve Millington
6. Andrew Gunstone
7. Andrew Young
8. Chris Rudge (C)

1st Bristol Surprise Major - 4

1st Bristol Surprise Major as Conductor

Wishing Gwen Tyler a very happy 92nd Birthday

Peterborough Diocesan Guild

Brooke, Rutland

St Peter

Thursday, 1 January 2026 (8–1–2 in A)

1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor

1. Sue Baker
2. Louis Totaro
3. Ian McKelvey
4. Alan Ellis
5. Ian Bell
6. Richard Beadman

Rung in memory of John Beadman (tower captain of Brooke for 26 years) who died on Christmas Day

The Late John Beadman

There will be many tributes to John from both the ringing and farming world. As Churchwarden of St Peter, Brooke, I would like to recognise the tremendous contribution John made to ringing at Brooke, much of which is recorded in 'The Book of Bells' on display in the church.

In 1991, an offer was received from the Beadman family that if the four existing bells were restored, they would donate a new tenor bell, complete with fixtures and fittings. There followed a massive fund-raising exercise by the village, which exceeded all expectations, allowing the purchase of a new treble bell to create a ring of six. John, alongside Nick Meadwell (then Steward of Rutland Bellringers) and Harold Killingback, 'worked, and worked and worked' on preparing the tower.

The bells were cast by Taylors of Loughborough on the 3rd April 1992 and work began hanging the six bells on Bank Holiday Monday 4th June and continued for several days. Once installed John became Tower Captain, a position he held until he retired from ringing in 2018. During this time, he inspired many people to ring, teaching them in a calm and supportive way.

The inscription on the new tenor bell reads 'He who has ears to hear let him hear', 'A gift from the Beadman Family 1992'.

Thank you John

Ian Bell



WORKSHOPS for 2026

Last year, in the Rutland Branch, we tried a new venture led by Ian Bell Ringing Master. People were invited to participate in a workshop on Plain Hunting and Bob Doubles. The level of response was greater than we had expected and demonstrated how many people wanted to progress their ringing skills.

The course participant has the opportunity to ring with a band of experienced ringers around them and a supporting ringer standing by if needed. A few days prior to the workshop a theory session is offered via zoom.

Feedback from those who attended was very positive, all said how helpful it was and how much they enjoyed the experience.

Saturday January 17th and Saturday March 7th (*venues tbc*)

Two dates earmarked for a workshop. So.... What would you like? More Plain Hunt? More Bob Doubles? A method? If you are interested please let us know what you need from a workshop.

Contact Sue Webster suevw@sky.com

From the Treasurer

Your membership dues of just £10 (£5 for juniors) form the majority of the Branch's income each year, and enable us to fund our activities and training programme.

We would love to ask our members to pay their dues by Standing Order, which means you don't even have to remember to do it. Some of our members already do this, but it would be great if more would do the same. The payment simply pays automatically at the start of the year, and guarantees you another year's membership.

A standing order form is available. Simply fill in your details, including the appropriate amount, sign at the bottom, and send to your bank. All done!

Thank you for helping the branch to run more smoothly!

Jonathan Gibbs, Treasurer & Tracey Lawson, Membership Secretary.

The Guild 100 Club

The Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers operates a '100 Club' to raise extra funds on a regular basis for the Guild. It only costs £12 per year and there are 3 prizes where numbers are drawn every month, and the winners are published on the Guild website.

Please consider joining for 12 months just to try your luck.

The application form is attached which can be completed and returned to either Sally Watts or Cathy Dixon. To save on administration you can complete a standing order from your bank and you will never forget to renew!

Any questions then please contact either Sally Watts sallywatts@yahoo.com or Cathy Dixon pro@pdg.org.uk