



Rutland Branch Newsletter

2026

June

8 Bell RINGING PRACTICE

Hosted by Uppingham with Brooke & Braunston ringers

Wednesday June 3rd. 7.30pm.

A practice for ringing on 8 bells - Plain Hunt and Methods

These practices will then continue on first Wednesday in every month.

All Welcome

There will be the usual practice at Uppingham on Thursday 4th June. 7.30pm.

This will be aimed at rounds and call changes on 8 bells, progressing to Plain Hunt.

Peterborough Cathedral - Ringing for Evensong.

Sunday 14th June. Meet at the West Door at 14.10 hrs.

If planning on attending to ring the cathedral bells please let Sue Baker know asap.

susanbaker144@gmail.com

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

Mon 1st Gt Easton. 8th Caldecott. 15th Gretton. 22nd Harringworth. 29th Seaton.
Mon 1st Edith Weston. 15th Edith Weston 22nd Edith Weston 29th Empingham. 7pm starts
Wed 3rd *no practice* 10th Braunston. 17th Brooke. 24th Braunston
Thurs 11th Uppingham. 14th Nth Luffenham. 21st Uppingham. 28th. Lyddington. (6.30pm)
Fridays morning practices at Greetham. 10.30pm. (Beginners at 10.00)

Wednesday 1st July Uppingham *with Brooke & Braunston.* - Open 8 bell.

Thursday 4th July Uppingham (newer ringers)

If planning to visit a practice do check with the Tower Captain before making a journey.

Occasionally venues have to change at short notice.

Items for the next newsletter by
Tuesday 30th June
to suevw@sky.com

www.rutlandbellringing.org
Webmaster: Nigel Barrett
[Rutland Ringers Newsletters – Rutland Church Bell Ringing](#)

QUARTER PEALS & PEALS

(None during May)

WORKSHOPS

May was a very busy month for workshops. Thank you to all those who supported this initiative.

The opportunity for less experienced ringers to ring surrounded by a band of established ringers really does work. Our next scheduled workshop is on **Saturday 18th July for Plain Hunting from 10am until noon.**

Tower venue tbc. We have now run Rounds and Call Changes, Plain Hunt, Plain Bob Doubles and Plain Bob Minor workshops and very happy to repeat any of them again.

Is anyone interested in learning to Treble Bob or perhaps Grandsire? There is currently a poll on the Tower Captains WhatsApp Group to help guide us with future workshops. Please let your Tower Captain how we can help you further enjoy your ringing.

St PETER, BROOKE - BELL SERVICE

On Sunday 21st June at 6pm Brooke holds their Annual Bell Service, this year marking the 34th Anniversary of the Restoration of the original four bells and the addition of a new treble and tenor.

All welcome and please remain for refreshments after the service.

A Quarter Peal of Kent Treble Bob will be rung before the service.



150 years of Mothers Union

This year Mothers' Union celebrates their 150 year anniversary. It was founded in the small parish church of Old Alresford, Hampshire, by Mary Sumner, a vicar's wife with a bold vision. She believed that women, regardless of class or status, could come together in faith to support one another and strengthen family life within the Church.

Today the organization has grown to 4 million members across 84 countries, working to improve the lives of individuals, families, and communities around the world.

Uppingham have been requested to ring a Quarter Peal in celebration of their 150 years. If your local church has a thriving Mother's Union group you may like to consider ringing a QP too. *Sue Webster*

Memories and Reflections of the life of of John (Tim) Holt

Tim was born on 20th January 1940 at 36 Melbourne Road, Stamford. He had one younger brother, George, who still lives in the house where they were born. Tim died on 6th April 2026.

Tim went to Stamford School and afterwards was apprenticed to Blackstone's Engineering as a Mechanical Design Engineer. After his apprenticeship he moved to Newall's Engineering in Peterborough.

In 1965 he married Valerie and was blessed with two children - Richard and Tracey. In the 1970s the family moved to Easton-on-the-Hill. In 1983 he moved to Cambridge Road with his family; his son Richard started work around the same time they moved there setting off in Easton-on-the-Hill and returning home in the evening to Stamford. Tim and Valerie moved to Toll Bar Great Casterton in 1991.

Tim was a very practical and handy person, and in the 1970s during the three-day week, took on any kind of work to support his growing family. He was generous and extremely willing to help any person in need. He decide to build a boat in his garage just to see if it was possible and he was successful. His other hobbies included classic British Motorcycle restoration.

Unfortunately Tracey developed early onset dementia in the late 2000s and Tim and Valerie took on the care of their granddaughter Eloise in about 2009.

Tim started bellringing at Great Casterton Church in the 2010s after visiting a church fete with Eloise. He started ringing for Sunday services in November of that year and was soon to enlist his granddaughter, Eloise, into the hobby in early 2012. Eloise at twelve years old was soon out pacing her granddad and continued to ring when she went to York University to study Physics.

With Eloise at university, Tim decided to take up a course at the OU in Physics in 2021 and was surprised that for him it was free of charge, and the first couple of years went well. After starting the third year he had to give it up through ill health.

Tim has been a stalwart member of the Great Casterton Church bellringing band and congregation. He became our representative at the Rutland Branch committee bringing back titbits of information from the meetings.

Tim loved the Two Ronnies, Morecombe and Wise and Monty Python to name just a few of his favourite comedians from that classic era. The final tribute at Tim's funeral was 'Bring Me Sunshine' which I think was a fitting tribute to a fun loving and happy man. It was a great privilege to have known him.

Ann Archer (Tower Captain at Great Casterton Church).



ARTfully done!

I began my bell ringing journey in Feb '23 with the call to 'Ring for the King'. Do I wish I'd started learning earlier than my then 59 years of age? Definitely! However, learning to ring has been an amazing experience, and given me the opportunity to ring so many unique bells in numerous stunning Rutland churches and with some amazing people.

Last year I set out to become an ART (Association of Ringing Teachers) teacher, enabling me to teach trainees bell handling skills and setting them on their own ringing journeys. This year I have undertaken another course to better support some of my own band to progress from Call Changes to Plain Hunt. The courses require lesson planning and reviews prior to assessment.

Both ART courses were delivered by professional, experienced trainers and were a pleasure to attend, combining both theory and practical activities. They have allowed me as a new teacher to gain confidence, and other, more experienced teachers to reaffirm their competencies and access a wide range of quality resources. I was very fortunate to have been assigned superb mentors (Ted Phillips and Hilary Hardy) to support my accreditation, thank you both.

So, if you have ever wondered about enrolling on an ART course – I would fully recommend it! Please follow the link for more information: <https://bellringing.org>

Happy ringing,
Tracey Lawson

RUTLAND BRANCH STEWARD

A reminder that our Rutland Branch Steward is now Gus Lawson. To get in touch with Gus Gus.lawson64@gmail.com Or message 07773 427772

The history of the Rutland Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Recently, I was given the chance to examine a couple of minute books from the early days of the Rutland Branch. The inaugural meeting was in Empingham on November 11th, 1933. Towers represented included: Uppingham, Langham, Glaston, Wing, Wymondham, Cottesmore, Oakham, Empingham, Preston and Whissendine.

Annual and Quarterly meetings were held from then on, with annual summaries of activities and membership. Looking briefly through the minutes, it is notable that the Clergy are well represented, and that ringing is a large part of the meetings, along with a service. A major feature of these meetings appears to be the excellent Teas, but it is also noteworthy that visitors were welcomed from both the Diocese and further across the UK.

Notably, the 6th Annual meeting was on April 6th, 1940, whereupon meetings (and ringing) were suspended due to the war. The next meeting being on January 29th, 1944, at Oakham, when ringing was resumed ...

The last entry in the first book is the annual report for 1957, the meeting being held at Uppingham on January 19th, 1958, when we had 41 ringing members.

The first entry in the 2nd book is for the meeting at Langham on June 7th, 1958, at Langham.

An extra-ordinary meeting was called on the 11th of April 1959, as the Branch existence was in doubt. The meeting was held at Oakham, where the resolution to continue was debated and approved.

Much further on in the records, some familiar names start to appear. The last entry is for the AGM in January 1974, the 50th anniversary of the Guild, where a group photograph was being planned of every member – I wonder if anyone has a copy of that?
Ted Phillips

The books are available if anyone would like to browse through them themselves.

GUILD NEWS

Spring Meeting

Thanks to the Rutland branch for hosting the Spring Meeting last month. The glamour added by asking the Lord Lieutenant of Rutland to attend and present the prizes was inspired. Although it was a tad windy and the fabulous feather hat nearly took off more than once!

Congratulations to Peterborough Cathedral, who retained the Weaver Shield and to Welland Valley Benefice, who won the Centenary trophy for the first time.

Guild AGM

The Guild's AGM is being held on 13th June in the Wellingborough branch. The timetable for the day is as follows:

2.30 - 3.30: Open Ringing at Bozeat, Easton Maudit and Rushden towers

3.30 - 4.30: Ringing at Irchester

4.30 - 5.00: Service at Irchester conducted by Rev Debbie Smith-Wilds

5.00 - 6.00: Tea in the church

6.00 : AGM followed by more ringing at Irchester

Names for tea to Jenny Ball on secretary@wellingborough.pdg.org.uk

Please include any dietary requirements.

All details are on the Guild's website: <https://pdg.org.uk/latest-news/agsm-2026> The agenda and minutes of past meetings will be added ahead of time. As the Guild report has not been issued yet, due to problems in production, the GMC report and accounts will also be added to this page, to ensure that the meeting can accept these at the AGM.

This year sees a large number of posts vacant. There is currently no Youth Officer, Report Editor or PRO. The Master, Secretary Training officer and Newsletter Editor are standing down. There are role descriptions on the Guild website, but these are always open to discussion and alteration, depending on the preferences of the potential role holder. See here for the current holder and role. <https://pdg.org.uk/homepage/officers> Some roles lend themselves to being shared, and that is always a possibility. Have a chat with someone about it if you might be interested.

Nominations have to be made in writing to me ahead of the meeting, e-mail counts as in writing. Nominations cannot be taken at the meeting itself.

Newsletter

The next edition of the Guild newsletter is now available. The physical copies were circulated at the Spring Meeting, so should be making their way to your tower. It is available electronically on the Guild website: https://pdg.org.uk/newsletters/newsletter_202604.pdf

The next print deadline for the next edition is 24th August. Jonathan is standing down from the post of Newsletter editor, if this is something you think you can do 3 times a year, get in touch with him to find out more.

Guild 8 Bell Practice

The next one of these is on Saturday 8th July at Welford between 10:30-12:30 and Thrapston on the 14th of November (TBC), light refreshments are available as well.

Helen Allton, Secretary: Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers

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