



Rutland Branch Newsletter

2026

July

8 BELL RINGING PRACTICE

Hosted by Uppingham with Brooke & Braunston ringers

Wednesday August 5th. 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 6th August. 7.30pm.
This will be aimed at rounds and call changes on 8 bells, progressing to Plain Hunt.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Saturday 12th September. Ashwell. 10am -12. Learning to Treble Bob.

Saturday 26th September. Caldecott. 2pm - 4.pm. Plain Hunt or Plain Bob Doubles.

To register your interest in any of these workshops please email suevw@sky.com.

Please give preference for PH or for PBD.

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

Mon 6th Gt Easton. 13th Caldecott. 20th Gretton. 27th TBC.

Mon 6th *no practice*. 13th Edith Weston 20th Edith Weston 27th Empingham. 7pm starts

Wed 8th Brooke. 15th Braunston. 22nd Brooke. 29th Braunston

Thurs 9th Nth Luffenham. 16th Lyddington. (6.30pm) 23rd. Uppingham. 30th Seaton.

Fridays morning practices at Greetham. 10.30pm. (Beginners at 10.00)

Wednesday 5th August Uppingham *with Brooke & Braunston*.- Open 8 bell.

Thursday 6th August 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 31st July
to suevw@sky.com

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

QUARTER PEALS & PEALS

Peterborough Diocesan Guild

Brooke, Rutland

St Peter

Sunday, 21 June 2026 in 43m (8–1–2 in A)

1250 Kent Treble Bob Minor

Composed by Don Morrison

1. Sue Baker
2. Sarah Bence
3. Michael Beadman
4. Jim Bence
5. Ian Bell
6. David Beadman (C)

For the Bell Service, remembering Peggy Jennings and John Beadman.

Leicester Diocesan Guild

Caldecott, Rutland

St John the Evangelist

Sunday, 21 June 2026 in 40m (8–0–15 in G)

1272 Durham Surprise Minor

1. Alison Iliffe
2. Liz Reading
3. Terry Iliffe
4. Richard Holyland
5. Steve Millington
6. Chris Rudge (C)

MARKET OVERTON- New Practice Session

A new practice session is to be started at Market Overton

This is a ground floor ring with a heavy set of 5 bells 14–2–18 (745 kg).

The plan is for a ringing practice to be held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, 2pm - 3.30pm, Commencing 27th July. Initially it will be aimed at improving call changes and plain hunting.

ASSOCIATION of RINGING TEACHERS (ART)

On Thursday 11th June Alan Wordie stepped into the church at Edith Weston with Rebecca Odames (Association of Ringing Teachers assessor) by his side. A big thank you to his two trainees, Toni and David Wilkin, who were more than happy to have Alan improve their bell handling skills.

It was no surprise that Alan, with his vast experience of teaching new ringers, passed his assessment with flying colours!

Congratulations.

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

ALAN ELLIS

Having spent a large part of his life in Rutland, ALAN ELLIS is departing this smallest county for other parishes. Larger bell towers and bigger skies! During his bell ringing time, he has notched up countless quarter peals and full peals, having rung since the age of 11 – over 6 decades! His first peal was at Thornhaugh, aged 16, and he has rung at all ringable towers in Rutland bar one – Tinwell. Perhaps this could yet be achieved.

Alan has nurtured so many aspiring bell ringers from those baby steps of back stroke, then hand stroke with the fluffy bit through to accomplished Sunday Service ringers, with constant cries of “don’t stroke the cat”, “bash the biscuits”, “drop the hands”. If you could lead the ringing down with a cry of “don’t kill the tenor” you knew he had some confidence in you.

A leaving do at Cafe Terry’s, Oakham, was hosted by Alan on Friday 19th June. There were over 40 of us celebrating, some of whom had just come from a memorial ring at Brooke, and we all enjoyed a warm evening of socialising with a highlight of recognising Alan’s ringing contribution expressed as a song – a brilliant version of ‘I Wan’na Be Like You-ooo-ooo’ (adapted by Nicky Vickers!) – which was enthusiastically enjoyed by all. A collection had previously been taken to help Alan on his way and this was handed over as a Screwfix gift card and a wad of cash. Surely both will be useful in the days to come.

Alan’s never-ending patience and sound advice, together with his support and friendship, will be missed by all his Rutland Ringers. *Lynn Lane*

Ringling at Brooke, 19th June 2026



Rutland Branch Ringing Tour - July 4th, 2026

Itinerary

St Michael & All Angels Hallaton.

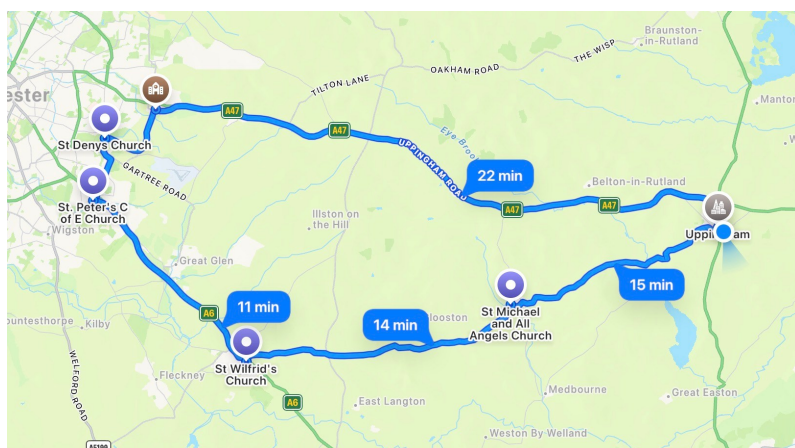
St Wilfrid, Kibworth

Lunch (1 hr 45 mins) Oadby Owl

St Peter, Oadby

St Denys, Evington

St Luke, Thurnby



Participants: Matthew Mack, Sally Hudson, Richard Beadman, Thomas Saunders, Nicky Vickers, Ted Phillips, Melanie Mansell, Jonathan Gibbs, Louis Brandt, Josh Brandt, Simon Dixon, Cathy Dixon. Stefan gets an honourable mention as an accompanist throughout the day!

Many thanks to Matthew for organising our Branch Tour. We all gathered at Hallaton in glorious sunshine, where we warmed up for the day with some lovely rounds and calls, followed by some Plain Hunt and Bob Doubles. Next was Kibworth in a lovely setting; their oldest bell was cast in 1618 ... and survived the Spire collapse in 1825.

Lunch was taken at the Oadby Owl, where only one of us elected to use 'the app' to order; fortunately, everything worked as advertised, and we journeyed onwards the short distance to St Peter's to resume our tour on another splendid eight.

Onwards to Evington, where we added to our repertoire with a Touch of Bob Minor. They also have an old bell, the 4th was made by Hugh Watts in 1605.

Finally to Thurnby; their 7th is a Hugh Watts II Bell, from 1631. This Tower was especially significant to Melanie, who grew up here. An interesting route led us through a side door, up the spiral stair, outside on the roof ... to step into the Ringing chamber. Must be fun on a Winter's night in rough weather ...

These Towers were new to most if not all of us, and proved to be great choices. It was lovely to hear the different bells, and many thanks to Josh for identifying the odd bell that was not quite in tune!

We should also mention the expert ringers for helping out with encouragement and practical advice ☺ when needed. We all appreciated their experience and guidance.

Ted Phillips and Matthew Mack



A MESSAGE FROM ALAN WORDIE AHEAD OF HIS HANDBIKE CHALLENGE FROM LANDS END TO JOHN O'GROATS



I will be setting off from Lands' End on my handbike to cycle and navigate about 930 miles to John o' Groats. I am planning on taking 18 or 19 days and hope for cooler weather and a strong south westerly tail wind! It has always been a lifetime aim to raise funds for the [MND association](#) and here's why:

In the 1990s two work colleagues were diagnosed with MND soon after their retirement at age 65. I observed them both over the two years during which their muscles failed yet their minds remained unaffected. I decided then, that when I retired I'd try and raise a significant fund to both support ongoing research; and also beds and equipment that would allow the families of those diagnosed to help maintain the patient in the home for as long as possible.

The charity I am raising funds for is the [MND association](#) (MNDA).

Some reading this will know me and others will not. 44 years ago I had my right leg amputated above the knee and I have relied on prosthetics and long trousers to continue to lead a normal life. I cannot run, cycle with legs or walk significant distances - so I am powering my handbike with my two arms. We see cyclists pumping their thighs and standing in the saddle, but I rely upon my arm muscles alone. The task is not going to be easy, and if I can raise sponsorship that provides £70,000 to MND Association then the help that can provide motivates me to continue my training and preparation for departure next month! I need not remind many of you it is my 70th birthday in September and the slogan "raise £70,000 in my 70th year" is where the target originated.

When I speak with people and explain what I'm doing - and why - I am very surprised how many family and close friends have died of MND. Consequently, I would ask if you could share this email appealing for support and direction to my fundraising page on Just Giving, to as many contacts you have. Please ask them to cascade this appeal to their contacts - and so on. MNDA is such a worthy cause and every donation will help.

So, could I ask you to donate via [JustGiving](#) (Handbike321not Alan Wordie) which can be accessed via the QR code below or via my Instagram @handbike321 where the Just Giving link appears (under the down arrows), and share this email with as many contacts as possible so they might consider a donation too.

Not sure there will be an opportunity to see you en route - but if any friends or wider contacts want to join for a day or two as cycle outriders and junction guides they will be hugely welcomed.

I do hope you can help towards the target and cascading this far and wide.

Regards,
Alan

<http://www.justgiving.com/page/handbike321lejog4mnda>

