

A Complete History of Cold Ashby Ringing and Ringers

St Denys, Cold Ashby, Northamptonshire

August 2026

An evidence-led history of the bells, their successive rings, restoration and augmentation, and the ringers documented in published and public records.

Research standard

This study states only material traceable to sources actually consulted. It does not infer missing ring configurations or invent names to bridge documentary gaps. Source disagreements - notably the 1880/1883 fourth-bell date and the 2002/2003/2004 augmentation dating - are retained and explained.

Abstract

Cold Ashby's ringing history is unusually continuous in physical evidence. Its medieval bell, inscribed MARIA VOCOR ANO : DNI : M : CCC : XVII, survives in the present six and can be followed from the treble of a three-bell ring, through the second of a four, to the fourth of the modern six.^{1,3,5}

The documentary sequence begins with an Edward VI inventory of 1552 recording two tower bells and a Sanctus bell, together with an imperfect memorandum about the mortgaging and sale of a 'great bell'. By 1606 two Newcombe bells had joined the 1317 bell; Thomas North directly recorded those three in 1878. A Taylor memorial bell dated 1880 made the historical ringing four, which Bowell rehung in 1914. The early twenty-first-century restoration then brought the installation to six.^{1,3,11}

The human record is less even. Publicly accessible sources are thin for the 1980s and 1990s, but become much richer around the augmentation project and after 2000. The resulting evidence documents, among others, Paul Reading's role as Cold Ashby churchwarden and augmentation worker/fundraiser, the 2008 Reading- and Jacklin-family wedding peals, the re-establishment of a village band from 2019, and active ringing by named local and branch ringers through 2026.^{14,15,16,17,19,23,24}

1. Scope, terminology and evidential method

This is a history of the bells as ringing instruments and of the people publicly documented in connection with them. 'Ringer' is used in two senses where the evidence requires it: a person identified by a source as a Cold Ashby or village ringer, and a person recorded as ringing a performance at Cold Ashby. The latter is not automatically described as a resident or member of the local band.

The word 'complete' is therefore used to mean a complete synthesis of the public evidence located in this research pass, not a claim that every service ring, practice, visitor or member of every historical band survives in print. In particular, no comprehensive tower membership register for 1980-2000 was located online. That absence is itself significant and is not filled by inference.

2. The present ring of six

The current Guilsborough Branch record lists six bells, with a tenor of about 6 1/2 cwt in A. The bell dates span nearly seven centuries. The branch page gives the following weights; these are reproduced as source data rather than re-estimated.³

Bell	Date	Founder / attribution	Recorded weight
Treble	1899	John Warner & Sons	2-1-8
2	2003	Eijsbouts, Asten	3-0-3
3	1880	John Taylor & Co	4-3-14
4	1317	William de Flint (attributed)	about 4 3/4 cwt
5	1606	Newcombe of Leicester	about 5 1/2 cwt
Tenor	1606	Newcombe of Leicester	about 6 1/2 cwt

Dove independently records the 1317 bell as the fourth of six, 29 inches in diameter, approximately 4 3/4 cwt, sounding C-sharp. The Branch records practice on the second and fourth Mondays, 7.30-9.00 p.m., and notes occasional Sunday ringing.^{3,5}

3. The Mary bell of 1317

3.1 Inscription, date and identity

MARIA VOCOR ANO : DNI : M : CCC : XVII

"I am called Mary, in the year of the Lord 1317."

Thomas North measured the bell at 29 inches in 1878. Modern records identify it as the fourth of the six. Its date is cast in the inscription itself, so 1317 is not a later stylistic estimate.^{1,3,5}

The attribution to William de Flint rests on the bell's marks. North described two impressions of an Edward I penny plus a set of stamps, including a circular seal-like device with a bell and a legend interpreted as referring to William de

Flint. Later bell literature repeated that reading; modern sources therefore commonly describe de Flint as the founder, while some historical writers more cautiously use 'reputed' or 'believed'.^{2,7,8,9,10}

Why the wording matters

The date 1317 is explicit on the bell. The founder identification is an attribution based on marks and historical interpretation. This report therefore treats the date as direct physical evidence and William de Flint as an attribution, not as an independently surviving foundry account.

3.2 Coin impressions and stamps

North's detailed discussion notes two impressions of Edward I's penny and four principal stamp types apart from the coins: an initial cross, a fleur-de-lys used twice, an oval stamp with a raised hand in benediction, and a circular stamp. Nichols later described two coin impressions and two 'seal-like' stamps, while a 1967 Ringing World article referred to a single coin impression and a head of Edward I. The published descriptions are therefore not wholly uniform.^{2,7,9}

That disagreement is retained because the bell itself, rather than a paraphrase of an older writer, is the ultimate object of study. A definitive modern photographic catalogue of every stamp impression would be a useful future addition to the documentary record.

3.3 The "oldest" distinction

Cold Ashby has often been given an 'oldest bell' distinction. The most defensible modern formulation found in Peterborough Guild material is that the 1317 bell was the oldest recorded and positively dated bell hung for full-circle ringing. Dove lists bells with earlier approximate or bracketed dates - for example c.1299 and 'to 1310' - so it is important not to turn the Cold Ashby distinction into the broader and less supportable claim that no older full-circle bell exists.^{5,6}

The local name 'Old Mary' appears in Guild reporting, reflecting the opening word of the inscription and the bell's exceptional age. A 2022 Guild report that uses the name accidentally prints the date as 1713; the physical inscription and the wider documentary record establish 1317, so that typographical error is not propagated here.^{1,3,5}

3.4 Stories of origin

North recorded two traditions about how Mary came to Cold Ashby: one that the bell came from Sulby Abbey at the Dissolution, and another, then described as a more modern supposition, that it was a gift from the Abbot of Coventry connected with a copyhold fine. North presented these as tradition and supposition, not documentary proof. They are therefore part of the bell's historiography, not established provenance.¹

4. 1552: two bells, a Sanctus bell, and a "great bell"

North transcribed the Edward VI inventory for Cold Ashby as recording two bells in the steeple and a Sanctus bell. Appended to the inventory was an incomplete memorandum stating that Richard Grosse, a churchwarden, and his fellow churchwarden, with parish consent, had mortgaged the 'great bell' to Roger Knolls for forty shillings; Knolls then sold it to a man named Caswell. The surviving text breaks off before the destination is complete.¹

This evidence should not be converted into a precise reconstruction of which 1552 bell was Mary. The inventory does not identify the two tower bells individually by inscription. What can safely be said is that Cold Ashby possessed two tower bells and a separate Sanctus bell in 1552, and that a 'great bell' was the subject of a financial transaction recorded with the inventory.

5. 1606: the three-bell ring

By 1606 the durable configuration visible to North in 1878 had emerged: Mary and two bells inscribed NEWCOMBE OF LEICESTER MADE MEE 1606. North measured the Newcombe bells at approximately 30 1/2 and 33 1/4 inches. The Guilsborough Branch records the same three as treble, second and tenor respectively.^{1,3}

The Branch suggests that the two 1606 bells may have been made by Edward Newcombe with his sons Robert, Thomas and William. Because the bells themselves use the generic 'Newcombe of Leicester' wording, this report retains the family attribution as the Branch's interpretation rather than upgrading it to an exact named-founder certainty.³

6. The ring in 1878: Thomas North and the soundscape of the village

North's heading is unambiguous: 'Cold Ashby. S. Denis. 3 Bells.' His account is valuable not only for the metal but for how the bells were used. He recorded a differentiated death-knell - three groups of three tolls for a male and three

groups of two for a female - followed by the knell. The first Sunday bell was rung at 8 a.m.; for Divine Service the tenor was tolled, the bells were chimed, and the tenor was then rung as the Sermon bell.¹

North also quoted Bridges for a distinctive local obligation: part of the vicarage arrangement required every vicar to provide bell ropes at his own expense. This small administrative detail is unusually evocative evidence of how routine bell use was embedded in parish life.¹

7. From three to four: the Bateman memorial bell

The surviving John Taylor & Co bell is dated 1880 and commemorates Emily Bateman, who died on 28 February 1880. Its inscription identifies it explicitly as a memorial bell. The Guilsborough Branch says that a Taylor bell was added in front of the 1317 bell around 1880, moving Mary from first of three to second of four.³

A separate historical directory describes St Denys as having four bells and says that one was added in 1883 by the Rev. Gregory Bateman, vicar from 1871 to 1891. The surviving bell's cast date and the directory's installation/addition date therefore differ. Both are retained: 1880 is the date on the bell; 1883 is a published account of when a bell was added to the church.²⁶

8. The 1899 Warner bell and the 1914 Bowell rehanging

A John Warner & Sons bell dated 1899 is now the treble of six. Yet twentieth-century descriptions continued to call Cold Ashby a ring of four until the modern augmentation. The 1899 bell was therefore present before the six was formed but was not one of the historical four full-circle ringing bells. The sources consulted here do not provide enough evidence to assign it a specific pre-augmentation function beyond that.^{3, 10, 11, 27}

The strongest evidence for the 1914 work is Alfred Bowell's foundry record. On 22 May 1914 the job is entered simply as 'To rehanging the four bells, £100', invoiced to the Vicar and churchwardens, Rev. J. Flamank, and paid on 27 May. Contemporary Ringing World material also described the four as rehung in a steel frame.¹¹

A later personal ringing diary reproduced in a Ringing World retrospective gives a different frame attribution and date when describing a 1981 visit. Because the Bowell foundry account is a direct commercial record of the work, this study uses Bowell 1914 for the rehanging and treats the later diary detail as a conflict rather than silently blending the two.

9. Twentieth-century ringing before the augmentation

Ringing World correspondence in 1942 identifies Mary correctly as the second bell - not the tenor - and the tenor as Newcombe 1606. A 1960s survey again describes the 1317 bell as second of four. These references confirm that the four-bell configuration persisted well into the twentieth century.^{27, 10}

For the period specifically from 1980 onward, surviving public sources are much thinner than for the project years. Fred Hutt's diary records ringing at Cold Ashby during a Peterborough Guild maintenance course on 31 October 1981. The consolidated Ringing World index then has a Cold Ashby entry for 2001, immediately before the restoration/augmentation years.^{25, 14}

Evidence gap: 1980-2000

No publicly accessible Cold Ashby band register, practice book or complete local membership list for these two decades was located in this research pass. Named people are therefore included only when a publication, performance report, peal board account or Guild record links them to the tower. This avoids retrospectively turning visiting ringers into local ringers.

10. The 2002-04 restoration and augmentation project

10.1 Why three different years appear

The augmentation is often given a single date, but the surviving sources point to a multi-year project. The safest historical description is therefore 'the 2002-04 restoration and augmentation project'.

Source	Date used	What it records
Cold Ashby Parish Council	2002	Ring of four augmented to six; tower restored; clock converted to electric wind; gifts and Eayre & Smith rehanging.
National Lottery Heritage Fund	5 June 2003	£50,000 Your Heritage award to the Bellringers of the PCC.

New Eijsbouts bell / Guilsborough Branch	2003	The new bell itself is dated MM III (2003).
Dove project database	2003	Eayre & Smith; four bells to six.
The Ringing World index	2004	Augmentation feature pp. 485-487 and 800; first peal since augmentation p. 274.
BellBoard memorial footnote, 2022	2004	States that Paul Reading was instrumental in augmenting the bells in 2004.

These dates need not contradict one another if they mark different stages: parish/project commencement or local completion in 2002, grant and bell manufacture/contract data in 2003, and publication/celebration or final project reporting in 2004. The evidence does not justify inventing a more exact single completion date.^{12, 13, 14, 19, 29}

10.2 Funding, gifts and work

The Heritage Fund records an award of £50,000 under the Your Heritage programme to 'The Bellringers of the Parochial Church Council', dated 5 June 2003. The parish account says the additional bells were gifts of Billy Lee and Malcolm and Dawn Jennifer Grant-Innes, that the tower was restored, the clock converted to electric wind, and all bells rehung with new fittings by Eayre & Smith.^{12, 13}

The new Eijsbouts bell, now the second, carries an inscription naming Malcolm and Dawn Jennifer Grant-Innes and the date MM III (2003). The resulting six combined the 1899 Warner bell, the new 2003 Eijsbouts bell, and the historical ringing four: Taylor 1880, Mary 1317, and the two Newcombes of 1606.³

10.3 Paul Reading and the project

The strongest public evidence for an individual local role concerns Paul Reading. The Ringing World index associates him with the 2004 Cold Ashby augmentation feature pages. A 2008 Peterborough Guild newsletter identifies him explicitly as Churchwarden at Cold Ashby and records that he organised peals and quarter peals across the local group of parishes. A 2022 BellBoard peal footnote says that he was instrumental in augmenting the bells in 2004. Later Guild reporting on a commemorative bell-frame 'spider' also remembers his fundraising and practical work on the augmentation.^{14, 15, 19, 21}

Those records permit a clear statement that Paul Reading was a central documented local figure in the project. They do not justify assigning every design, contractual or fundraising decision to him individually, so this report does not do so.

11. Ringers and ringing, 1980-2010

The documentary record for this requested period is uneven. The early part contains isolated references; the 2000s are much richer because the augmentation stimulated publication, peals and local commemoration.

Date / period	Name(s)	Documented connection
31 Oct 1981	Fred Hutt	Recorded that he rang at Cold Ashby during a Peterborough Guild maintenance course; evidence of tower use, not evidence of local residence.
By 2004	Paul Reading	Named in The Ringing World index in connection with the Cold Ashby augmentation feature; later sources identify him as a key augmentation worker/fundraiser.
2008	Paul Reading	Explicitly identified as Churchwarden at Cold Ashby; organised peals and quarters for the retirement of Rev. John Tarrent.
2008	Tom Reading, Peter Reading; members of Reading and Jacklin families	Two Cold Ashby peals commemorated weddings: Tom Reading and Gaby (May, Slovakia) and Peter Reading and Aline (Cold Ashby). A 2026 Guild account says the peals were rung by members of the Reading and Jacklin families.
2010	Paul Reading	Later Guild accounts date his death to 2010; subsequent peals and tower memorial material remember his contribution.

The 2026 Guild account adds an important family-history detail: Peter and Tom had learned to ring from their father. It also records that they returned to the Cold Ashby bells with three grandchildren during a family Christmas gathering in 2025.²³

12. The modern revival, 2019-2026

12.1 Re-establishing a village band

The March 2019 Guild newsletter is explicit that practice ringing had resumed at Cold Ashby 'after many years of absence'. The new ringers shared Monday evenings alternately with Welford. A year later the Guild reported that the practice, re-established in early 2019 and assisted by the Welford band, had produced new village ringers competent on Cold Ashby's light six and Welford's heavier eight.^{16, 17}

This is an important correction to any simple narrative of continuous local band activity: the bells remained an active ringing installation, but the public Guild record describes a period without regular Cold Ashby practice followed by a deliberate rebuilding of local capability.

12.2 Named modern ringers and contributors

In April 2021 Village Link identified Rhyan Murphy as 'one of the Cold Ashby ringers' when he tolled the tenor half-muffled following the death of the Duke of Edinburgh. The same article, written by Liz Reading, identified her as Cold Ashby in a virtual quarter-peal listing and invited new learners to join when tower ringing resumed after pandemic restrictions.¹⁸

The 2022 memorial peal for Paul Reading included Simon J Reading. In May 2023 a Cold Ashby quarter for the Coronation included Liz Reading and Howard Murphy; the performance records Howard's first quarter peal. Guild records in 2024 identify Fiona Barclay with Cold Ashby for her first covering and credit Howard Murphy with producing a 3D-printed commemorative 'spider' associated with the augmentation anniversary.^{19, 20, 21}

By 2025 the performance record is extensive. Published Cold Ashby quarters name, among others, Anthea Hiams, Jenny Ball, Steve Millington, Liz Reading, David Westerman, Alistair Donaldson, David G. Seymour, Howard Murphy, Murray Coleman and Helen Camps. These names demonstrate a broad local-and-branch network; they are not all described here as residents or members of a single local band unless the source says so.²²

The January 2026 Guild newsletter reports 19 quarter peals at Cold Ashby during 2025 and a September peal organised by Paul Mason that included three family members in memory of Paul Reading, fifteen years after his death. It also records a new peal board made by Murray Coleman, with lettering by Howard and Vicky Murphy, commemorating the two 2008 wedding peals.²³

BellBoard continues to list Cold Ashby performances in 2026, including Grandsire Doubles in February, mixed and Plain Bob ringing in March, and Cambridge Surprise Minor in May. The surviving record therefore shows an active tower at the end point of this study, not merely a restored historic installation.²⁴

13. Documented ringers and people associated with Cold Ashby, 1980-2026

The following is deliberately a source-based register, not a claim of complete membership. 'Local' is used only where a source explicitly connects the person with Cold Ashby; otherwise the connection shown is the recorded event or performance.

Person	Publicly documented Cold Ashby connection	Period
Paul Reading	Churchwarden; augmentation feature/project; organiser of peals and quarters; later memorialised as instrumental in the augmentation.	2000s; memorial references after 2010
Tom Reading	2008 wedding peal commemorated on tower peal board; learned ringing from his father; returned to ring at Cold Ashby in 2025.	2008, 2025
Peter Reading	2008 Cold Ashby wedding peal; learned ringing from his father; returned to ring at Cold Ashby in 2025.	2008, 2025
Liz Reading	Identified with Cold Ashby in 2021 Village Link; modern quarter-peal participant; author of	2021-2026 public record

	Guild/local accounts documenting ringing and family history.	
Simon J Reading	Rang in the 2022 peal at Cold Ashby remembering Paul Reading.	2022
Rhyan Murphy	Explicitly described as one of the Cold Ashby ringers; tolled tenor in April 2021.	2021
Howard Murphy	Cold Ashby/branch quarter-peal activity; first quarter in 2023; made augmentation-anniversary memorial spider; peal-board lettering.	2023-2026
Vicky Murphy	Credited with peal-board lettering at Cold Ashby.	2025
Fiona Barclay	Guild record identifies her with Cold Ashby for first covering; later branch reporting.	2024-2026
Murray Coleman	Modern performances; made the Cold Ashby peal board recording 2008 wedding peals.	2025-2026
Paul Mason	Organised 2025 peal including family members in memory of Paul Reading.	2025
Anthea Hiams	Repeated modern Cold Ashby quarter-peal participation.	2023-2026
Alistair Donaldson	Conductor/participant in repeated modern Cold Ashby quarters; major part of active branch network.	2022-2026
Steve Millington	Modern Cold Ashby quarter-peal participant, including Surprise Minor.	2024-2026
Jenny Ball	Modern Cold Ashby quarter-peal participant.	2025
David Westerman	Modern Cold Ashby quarter-peal participant and Guilsborough Branch ringer.	2025
David G. Seymour	Modern Cold Ashby quarter-peal participant.	2025
Helen Camps	Modern Cold Ashby quarter-peal participant.	2025
Fred Hutt	Recorded ringing at Cold Ashby during Guild maintenance course.	1981

14. Selected performances as evidence of the living tower

This is not intended as a complete peal/quarter database; it selects performances that illuminate the history or identify people connected with the tower.

Date	Performance / event	Historical significance
31 Oct 1981	Ringing during Peterborough Guild maintenance course	Direct evidence of ringing activity in the requested 1980s period.
2003	First peal on the bells indexed by The Ringing World	Marks the transformed installation during the project years.
2004	First peal since augmentation indexed by The Ringing World	Contemporary publication treats the augmentation as a 2004 event/reporting milestone.
2008	Two wedding peals	Family peals later commemorated by a tower peal board.
10 Apr 2022	5040 Surprise Minor	Remembered Paul Reading; included Simon J Reading.
8 May 2023	1260 Doubles	Coronation ringing; Howard Murphy first quarter.
2025	19 quarter peals reported by Guild	Strong evidence of sustained modern activity; plus a memorial peal in September.
Feb-May 2026	Multiple BellBoard performances	Shows active ringing continuing into 2026.

15. Chronology of the bells and ringing

Date	Evidence
1317	Mary bell cast, explicitly dated by inscription; attributed to William de Flint.
1552	Inventory: two tower bells and a Sanctus bell; appended memorandum about mortgaging/sale of a great bell.
1606	Two Newcombe bells form a three-bell ring with Mary.
1878	Thomas North directly records three bells and local ringing customs.
1880	Taylor memorial bell cast for Emily Bateman; surviving inscription dated 1880.
1883	Historical directory says one bell was added by Rev. Gregory Bateman.
1899	Warner bell cast; later incorporated as treble of modern six.
1914	Bowell foundry record: four bells rehung for £100.
1942-1960s	Ringing World descriptions confirm Mary as second of four.
31 Oct 1981	Guild maintenance-course ringing recorded by Fred Hutt.
2001	Cold Ashby indexed in The Ringing World immediately before project years.
2002	Parish Council dates augmentation from four to six and tower/clock work to this year.
5 Jun 2003	£50,000 Heritage Fund award; new Eijsbouts bell dated 2003; Dove project date 2003.
2004	Ringing World augmentation feature and first peal since augmentation.
2008	Paul Reading documented as Cold Ashby churchwarden; two family wedding peals.
2010	Paul Reading dies, according to later Guild commemorative record.
2019	Regular practice re-established after many years; collaboration with Welford.
2021	Rhyan Murphy tolls tenor for Duke of Edinburgh; Liz Reading documents Cold Ashby ringing during pandemic period.
2022	Memorial peal remembers Paul Reading and his augmentation role.
2023	Coronation quarter; Howard Murphy first quarter.
2024	Cold Ashby hosts Guild six-bell striking competition; modern local firsts recorded.
2025	19 quarters plus September peal; new 2008 wedding-peal board; Reading family return to the bells.
2026	BellBoard records continuing performances; current branch page lists regular practices.

16. Source conflicts and unresolved questions

1880 or 1883? The Taylor memorial bell itself says 1880; a later directory says a bell was added in 1883. They can coexist as casting and installation/addition dates, but the evidence consulted does not independently prove that explanation.^{3, 26}

2002, 2003 or 2004? The augmentation was a project rather than a moment: parish account 2002; grant, bell and Dove project 2003; Ringing World feature and later memorial wording 2004. All three are retained.^{12, 13, 14, 19, 29}

Who cast Mary? 1317 is direct; William de Flint is an attribution derived from marks and seal interpretation. Historical writers vary between categorical and cautious wording.^{2, 7, 8, 9, 10}

Exactly how many coin impressions? North/Nichols describe two coin impressions; a 1967 Ringing World article refers to one. A modern detailed photographic survey would resolve the physical question better than harmonising printed descriptions.^{2, 7, 9}

The 1980-2000 local band Public sources located online do not provide a complete membership register. A tower practice book, parish correspondence, Guild membership returns, local photographs or private peal records could materially expand this period.^{25, 14}

17. Conclusion

Cold Ashby's bell history is exceptional because its successive rings are not abstractions: the key bells survive. Mary has moved from treble of three to second of four to fourth of six. The two Newcombes have sounded beside her since 1606. The Taylor memorial bell added the Victorian layer; the Warner and Eijsbouts bells were brought into the modern six during the early twenty-first-century project.^{1, 3, 4}

The ringing history is equally a story of renewal. North's nineteenth-century customs show bells embedded in parish routine. The twentieth century preserves the four-bell installation and occasional documented ringing, but the public record becomes markedly richer with the restoration and augmentation. Paul Reading is the best documented local figure in that project; later records show family continuity, a deliberate rebuilding of village ringing from 2019, and a broad network of Cold Ashby and Guilsborough Branch ringers sustaining the tower through 2026.^{1, 15, 16, 17, 19, 23, 24}

The result is not merely one very old bell in a modern frame. It is a seven-century physical sequence, accompanied by a documented local culture of ringing, interruption, restoration, training, commemoration and renewed use.

References and source register

All web resources were checked during the August 2026 research pass. Where a source gives a date or description that conflicts with another source, that conflict is identified in the text rather than silently resolved.

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2. Thomas North, *The Church Bells of Northamptonshire* (1878), discussion and illustrations of the stamps on the Cold Ashby 1317 bell, pp. 76-78; Whiting Society digitisation, file 02. <https://www.whittingsociety.org.uk/old-ringing-books/north-northamptonshire-02.pdf>
3. Guilsborough Branch Bells, 'Cold Ashby', current and earlier bell details, inscriptions, weights and practice information (accessed August 2026). <https://guilsboroughbranchbells.wordpress.com/upland-group-of-churches/cold-ashby/>
4. Peterborough Diocesan Guild, Guilsborough Branch, 'Early Bells of Northamptonshire' / early-bell inventory, including Cold Ashby 1317 and its changing position in successive rings. <https://guilsboroughbranchbells.wordpress.com/early-bells-of-northamptonshire/>
5. Dove's Guide for Church Bell Ringers, individual-bell data: Cold Ashby 1317 bell, 4th of 6, 29 in., about 4 3/4 cwt, C-sharp; and augmentation project data, 2003, Eayre & Smith, four to six. <https://dove.cccb.org.uk/>
6. Peterborough Diocesan Guild Newsletter, March 2017, note on the Cold Ashby 1317 bell as the oldest recorded and positively dated bell then hung for full-circle ringing. https://www.pdg.org.uk/newsletters/newsletter_201703.pdf
7. J. J. Nichols, *Bells Through the Ages*, discussion of the Cold Ashby 1317 bell, its coin impressions and seal-like stamps; Whiting Society digitisation. <https://www.whittingsociety.org.uk/old-ringing-books/nichols-bells-thro-the-ages-file-01.pdf>
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10. *The Ringing World*, issue 2949, historical survey of Northamptonshire bells, identifying the 1317 Cold Ashby bell as second of four and believed to be by William de Flint. <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/issue/2949/779>
11. Alfred Howell foundry records, entry dated 22 May 1914: Cold Ashby, 'To rehanging the four bells, £100', invoiced to the Vicar and churchwardens, Rev. J. Flamank. <https://www.suffolkbells.org.uk/pdfs/BowellFoundryRecords.pdf>
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13. National Lottery Heritage Fund, 'Bells of St Denys Cold Ashby': £50,000 Your Heritage award to 'The Bellringers of the Parochial Church Council', awarded 5 June 2003. <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/projects/bells-st-denys-cold-ashby>
14. *The Ringing World Index 1911-2004*, entries for Cold Ashby: 2001/306; first peal on the bells 2003/925; augmentation 2004/485-487, 800; first peal since augmentation 2004/274; inscription 2004/487. https://www.ringingworld.co.uk/indexes/RW-index_1911-2004.pdf
15. Peterborough Diocesan Guild Newsletter, May 2008, Guilsborough Branch report: Paul Reading, Churchwarden at Cold Ashby, organised peals and quarter peals to mark the retirement of the Rev. John Tarrent. https://www.pdg.org.uk/newsletters/newsletter_200805.pdf
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19. BellBoard / Peterborough Diocesan Guild, 10 April 2022, 5040 Surprise Minor at Cold Ashby, rung remembering Paul Reading and stating that he was instrumental in augmenting the bells in 2004. https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/performances-report.php?association_id=39&year=2022

20. BellBoard / Peterborough Diocesan Guild, 8 May 2023, 1260 Doubles at Cold Ashby for the Coronation; band includes Liz Reading and Howard Murphy, with Howard's first quarter peal. https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/performances-report.php?association_id=39&page=2&year=2023
21. Peterborough Diocesan Guild Newsletter, September 2024: firsts including Fiona Barclay (Cold Ashby), first covering; and Guilsborough Branch material associated with the Cold Ashby memorial 'spider'. https://pdg.org.uk/newsletters/newsletter_202409.pdf
22. BellBoard / Peterborough Diocesan Guild, 2025 performances at Cold Ashby, including quarters on 13 and 22 April and 20 July, demonstrating active modern ringing and naming participating ringers. https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/performances-report.php?association_id=39&year=2025
23. Peterborough Diocesan Guild Newsletter, January 2026: 19 Cold Ashby quarter peals in 2025; September memorial peal; 2008 Reading-family wedding peals; new peal board; Reading-family ringing at Christmas; Murray Coleman, Howard and Vicky Murphy credited for the board and lettering. https://pdg.org.uk/newsletters/newsletter_202601.pdf
24. BellBoard, 2026 weekly listings: repeated Cold Ashby performances, including 1260 Grandsire Doubles (14 February), Mixed Doubles and Plain Bob Minor in March, and 552 Cambridge Surprise Minor (9 May). <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/>
25. Fred Hutt, 'Little Book' / Ringing World retrospective: diary entry recording ringing at Cold Ashby during a Peterborough Guild maintenance course on 31 October 1981. The same entry gives a frame attribution/date that conflicts with Bowell's 1914 foundry record and is not adopted here. <https://btckstorage.blob.core.windows.net/site8108/RW%20Fred%20Hutt%27s%20little%20book.pdf>
26. A historical Northamptonshire directory entry for St Denys, Cold Ashby, describing four bells and stating that one was added in 1883 by the Rev. Gregory Bateman; consulted via the University of Leicester Special Collections digitisation. <https://leicester.contentdm.oclc.org/>
27. The Ringing World, 1942 correspondence on Cold Ashby's bells, correcting the position of the 1317 bell to the second and identifying the tenor as Newcombe, 1606. <https://www.bellboard.uk/years/1942.pdf>
28. The Ringing World, 23 March 1951, P. Amos, 'Old Bells in Rings', a published discussion of the 1317 Cold Ashby bell. The article contains an evident error in describing the contemporary ring count, so it is used only for its record of the bell's antiquarian reputation. <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/issueno/2086>
29. Dove's Guide, augmentation and reduction database: Cold Ashby, 2003, Eayre & Smith, four to six. <https://dove.cccbr.org.uk/projects?augmentations=&order=augmented>
30. Peterborough Diocesan Guild, Guild striking competition results: Cold Ashby hosted the six-bell competition in 2024. <https://pdg.org.uk/events/competitions>