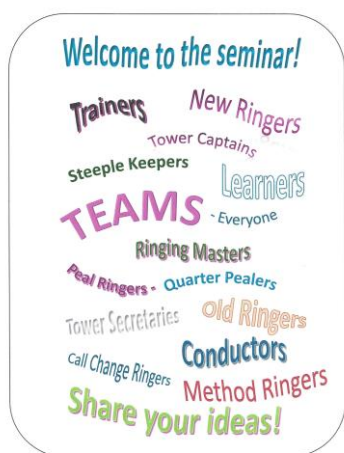


# Ringling Around and About in the Huntingdon District



Issue No 19: August 2024

Editor – Phillip George



## In this short summer issue

Quiz and Chips social event	page 2
News from Great Gransden	page 3/4
Graveley celebrates 400 years of bells	page 4
Performance ringing in August	page 5
The Back Page	page 6

**Important** - Invitation to discuss the future of ringing – *see below*

## Seminar - Ringing Changes for the Future - *advance notice*

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) is running an initiative called **Ringling 2030** which is looking at the future wellbeing of ringing. Whatever the council plans at a national level it will be up to us to address the future of ringing in our own towers. As the ringing population gets older, and recruits fewer, there is a risk that within a few years a great deal of knowledge and experience will be lost to the exercise. Now is the time to prepare for the future.

To help us think about this I am organising a seminar to which you are all invited

The purpose of the seminar is to share ideas about how we can sustain and develop our own towers, how we engage with the church and our communities, and to consider Recruitment, Development, Training and Retention. It will hopefully help us think about where we are in the wider scheme of ringing and how our teams can help address the challenges that we all face.

This seminar is open to all ringers, tower captains, ringers, learners, teachers and trainers, steeple keepers and tower secretaries etc. You are all important and key players in our future. You can find further information on a dedicated page on my Ringers' Rabble website by following this link, <https://theringersrabble.wordpress.com/riging-changes-for-the-future/> and I will add more information to it over the next couple of months.

It will be held in the morning of **Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2024** in the **Reading Room, Great Gransden**. It will be hosted by Great Gransden Ringers. I am sure that it will an exciting morning!

Please put the date in your diaries. You can book your place using the contact function on the webpage. or contact me direct at [president@huntbells.org.uk](mailto:president@huntbells.org.uk) I will give more details In due course.

Phillip George – District President (& Secretary, Gt Gransden Ringers)

## Quiz & Chips – Summer Social - PG

We had a brilliant evening on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> at our Quiz & Chips social event, held in the lovely church hall at Fenstanton. Quiz master of ceremonies, Eleanor Ayres, challenged us with six rounds of questions including film, world travel, Cambridgeshire and the Olympics; plus, dingbats and picture questions. (and I thought I was going out for a relaxing evening!)

There were 38 ringers and friends making up 7 teams. At the halfway point there were only 1 1/2 points separating the top two. Further challenges came in the second half after we had enjoyed a fish and chips supper.

The results were soon in after the final round, thanks to Andrew Stevens' 'real time' calculations, and the winners were team Gransden, having stolen the lead from The Doubting Thomas's in the last round!

Other teams entering were The Accused, Gamlingay 2, Joyfully Hopeless, Gamlingay 1 and Mixed Bunch.

Our very grateful thanks to Georgie Hunt for organising Fish and Chips, and to Tom Pinnock for asking Eleanor to quiz for us. Special thanks go to Caroline Stevens for coordinating the whole event so efficiently.



Gamlingay 1



Winners - Gransden



Mixed Bunch



Gamlingay 2



Joyfully Hopeless



The Doubting Thomas's



Car boot full of fish  
'n' chips



Eleanor Ayres  
presenting the quiz



The Accused



# News from Great Gransden – Young Ringers Excel

Congratulations to 11-year-old Josh Crutch who has gained his Level 3 certificate in the Learning the Ropes training scheme. We organised two quarter peals for him during the school holidays which enabled him to achieve this. The first was on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August when he rang the tenor behind at Holywell to Plain Bob Doubles, and the second, a fortnight later, when he rang the treble to the same method at Little Eversden.



Holywell – 6<sup>th</sup> August  
L-R Phillip George, Elinor Cole, Sheila George, Becca Glazier, Josh Crutch, Roger Beaman



Little Eversden – 20<sup>th</sup> August  
Back-Charlotte Gamble, Phillip George, Becca Glazier.  
Front – Catherina Griffiths, Sheila George, Josh Crutch

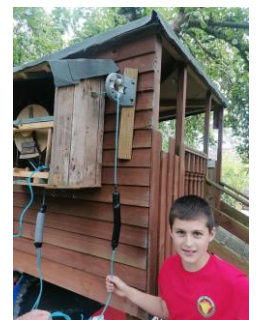


We always present certificates during our practice nights, and here is the band on Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup> marking the occasion.

Well done, Josh, and many thanks to all the ringers who have supported him in the tower during the last eighteen months, and in these summer holiday quarter peals.

During the summer holidays he has been working with his grandfather, John, to make a mini belfry. In this picture there are two bells, the one in front with a wooden wheel and the one behind, out of shot, has a bicycle wheel. They are still developing this belfry.

Originally the rope was conventionally positioned but this meant that Josh had to sit on the ground to ring it. So, it was re-designed to enter the belfry from above the bell and through pulleys can be rung as normal, just like the Maypole Bells!



Josh and his mini ring of two



Haydn Sokhi-North gained his Level 1 certificate in July after completing our standard 10-week training course. He is extremely keen and capable and is currently ringing call changes.

Here he is receiving his certificate earlier in the summer

## News from Great Gransden – Young Ringers Excel *continued*

Another of our younger ringers is Em Santus. Through hard work, keenness and excitement Em has achieved her Level 1 certificate in seven weeks. Em is off to university in Brighton in September and recently has rung at St Neots and in Cambridge - St Clements, St Benet's and GSM. Congratulations, Em, and good luck at uni, we'll see you at Christmas if not before.

Here is the band on Thursday evening of the 29<sup>th</sup> of August presenting the certificate, and a photo of a very happy Em at St Clements.



## Graveley Celebrates 400 Years of Bells



St Botolph's Graveley

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of July St Botolph's church in Graveley welcomed Bishop Dagmar to re-dedicate the bells during a special service marking their 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

She reported on Facebook of "...a great village community and thank you so much for your kind hospitality."

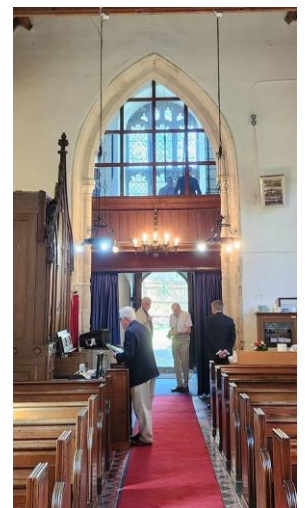
The bells are all by William Haulsey and the frame is by John Warner & Sons 1910.



Original clappers displayed in the tower ground floor



One of the bells (2006)





# Performance Ringing in the District during August summary by PG

## Quarterly Quarter Peal Day

Two successful quarter peals were achieved on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August. Plain Bob Doubles was rung at [Holywell](#), and dedicated to autism acceptance, and Netherseale S. Minor was rung at [Hemingford Grey](#).

Thanks to Sheils George for organising these. The photos and a short write-up appear in the Ringing World on page 816



Holywell

L-R: Roger Beaman, Ed Groome, Bill Garner, Tom Cruyfft, Sheila George, Phillip George



Hemingford Grey

L-R: Catherina Griffiths, Nick Smith, Caroline Stevens, Andrew Stevens, Janet Butlin, Sharon Williams

## New Rector at Ramsey

[Ramsey](#) - A quarter peal of 1260 Plain Bob Doubles was rung for the installation of Rev Joe Magill as Rector of The Ramseys with Upwood on the 1<sup>st</sup> August. Bishop Dagmar writes "It was a joyous occasion with three parishes welcoming their new priest."



## Performance of the Month

This time, performance of the month goes to the quarter peal rung for Evensong at [Godmanchester](#) on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> when Single Oxford Bob Triples was scored. Congratulations to the five 1sts in methods, namely: Sharon Williams, S Caroline M Stevens, Andrew J Stevens, Nicholas T Smith and Hannah Campbell. And welcome back to Jezz Bottley ringing his first quarter peal this year! (Pity no photograph of the band!!)

## Other Quarter Peals

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> at [Hemingford Grey](#), 1260 Plain Bob Triples by a visiting band to welcome the new rector the Rev Tim May.

There was a second quarter at [Holywell](#) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> when visitors rang Norwich S Minor, and the same band rang Grandsire Doubles at [Hemingford Abbots](#), a tower not so frequently quartered.

[Holywell](#) featured again on the 21<sup>st</sup> when three HD ringers joined with friends from abroad to ring St Clements and Plain.

It's been a quiet month, probably because of holidays, but there have been some significant achievements. Well done everyone!

# THE BACK PAGE

## Central Council Open Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> September - PG

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of September there was an open meeting of the CCCBR (Central Council of Church Bell Ringers part of which was a presentation on their plan for Ringing 2030.

It is entirely co-incident that I am arranging a seminar in December (see front page), to discuss the future of ringing at tower level. I have had this in mind for some time, but it is a very appropriate time to do this now to run alongside the CC initiative. The December date for the seminar gives us plenty of time to think more about this important subject.

Caroline included the CCCBR announcement in her recent email to everyone. If anyone attended the council meeting, would you like to write a brief report about it, to share with Hunts District members?

Or, to learn more, about the CCCBR and Ringing 2030 please contact our CC Rep – Daniel Stevens on [webmaster@huntbells.org](mailto:webmaster@huntbells.org)

## Forthcoming Events – See Caroline's **Coming Up Next** flyer.

### **Saturday 7th September: 10:30 - 12:00pm**

Advanced/Moving on practice at **St Neots**. The practice will focus on triples methods: Grandsire, Stedman, Single Oxford and St Clements.

### **Saturday 21st September: 3.00 - 4.30pm**

Ringing Meeting at Stanground

Our Ringing Masters welcome all to ring at Stanground, from rounds upwards, all are very welcome. Newish to ringing? Come and say hello, we are a very friendly bunch!

### **Saturday 5th October: time TBC**

Training Day (venue TBC)

The next training day will be Plain Bob Doubles, plain courses, or with bobs, theory followed by practice. Please get in touch with Ed and let him know what you would like and he will base the day around the numbers attending. Please bring £3 in cash on the day to donate to the church for hosting us.

### **EDA Young Ringers – Sat 28<sup>th</sup> September 2.30 – 4.00pm**

Great Gransden are pleased to announce that they have been invited to host this session. The young ringer visited us in 2023 and we are delighted that they wish to return this year.

### Appeal for News!!!

I appreciate that everyone is busy, not least if you work full time, but when you can, please jot something down about ringing in your tower(s). One way to success is to let other people know what you are doing. If you would like some ideas about what to write I am sure I can give you some tips. Send a photo or two as well. Let's tell everyone about our ringing! *Thanks - PG*

### Contact information for District Officers

President – Phillip George

[president@huntbells.org.uk](mailto:president@huntbells.org.uk)

Secretary – Caroline Stevens

[secretary@huntbells.org.uk](mailto:secretary@huntbells.org.uk)

Membership Secretary – Roger Beaman

[membership@huntbells.org.uk](mailto:membership@huntbells.org.uk)

Ringing Masters. Andrew Smith and Cathy Moulton

[ringingmasters@huntbells.org.uk](mailto:ringingmasters@huntbells.org.uk)

Training Officer – Ed Groome

[edgroome@live.com](mailto:edgroome@live.com)

Webmaster – Daniel Stevens

[webmaster@huntbells.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@huntbells.org.uk)

Bell Advisor- Geoff Burn

[belladviser@huntbells.org.uk](mailto:belladviser@huntbells.org.uk)