

Ringling Around and About in the Huntingdon District



Issue No 24: December 2024

Editor – Phillip George



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Buckden – venue for the ADM on the 18th January

This newsletter is just like the Christmas edition of the Ringling World, a 'bumper edition', although this is only ten pages whereas the RW is 82!

In this issue there are a couple of reports from towers around and about. They include carol ringling at Gamlingay, reported by John Boocock, and scouts visiting Warboys recorded by Lita Carter (see page 2). Cathy Moulton at Ramsey reports of their Christmas ringling on page 3 and there is a report on my ringling seminar, Ringling Changes for the Future, on page 4.

There have been fewer quarter peals this month but its good to see St Neots featuring and there is a separate report, submitted by Jez Bottley, of a quarter peal day held by district ringling out of area. (pages 8/9 which includes some of the blue lines rung on the day)

This is a good time of year to look forward and in particular to our Annual District Meeting on Saturday the 18th January to be held at Buckden. Details can be found on page 5 together with photographs of access to the ringling room.

The ADM is when officers and committee members are elected. All positions are elected on an annual basis and members are entitled to put themselves forward for election if they wish. Most of the current officers will stand again but we do need two Committee Members and an Association General Committee Rep.

A summary of all job roles can be found on pages 5 to 7.

On the back page I had a bit of space left and so have included a touch of 585 Plain Minor which can be used in a date touch for 2025.

Carols for Christmas at Gamlingay *by John Boocock*

For the last two Christmases Gamlingay ringers have played carols on the bells rather than ring them conventionally.

To do this the clappers are tied with ropes so that the bells can be 'clocked'. The clappers are prepared about a week before Christmas and carols are rung during the practice nights and all the Christmas services.

At Gamlingay it's carol time of year,
So we need to change our ringing gear.
All suited, up the tower we go
To tie the clappers close to the bow.
From changes to chimes our bells will play
For the festive period to Christmas Day.
We will strike the carols to the listening throng
Hoping the Merry makers will sing along.



Photographs copyright Nigel Strong & John Boocock

Cubs visit Warboys *by Lita Carter*

On Tuesday 26th November the local cub group came to the tower for an introduction to bell ringing.

It was well attended, about 20 cubs attended to listen and learn the art of bell ringing.

All the cubs had the experience at tolling the bell and asking lots of questions.

it was a fun event and everyone really enjoyed it.

The Brownies had an introduction last year, and in January we have the Scouts group coming to join us.



Christmas Ringing at Ramsey *by Cathy Moulton*

We have had a wonderful Christmas with lots of ringing.

Two carol services – one traditional in church and the other outdoors, then Midnight Mass and finally Christmas morning service. The Rector, Joe Magill, came to the ringing room before we started ringing for the Midnight service, to give the ringers a special blessing.

We welcomed ringers who had moved away and were back visiting family, and non-ringing family members.

It truly showed how lucky we are to be part of, and share in, the warmth of the bellringing fraternity.



Performance Ringing in December

There have been fewer quarter peals this month but one or two notable performances.

On the 4th December Roger Beaman conducted a multi-doubles quarter at **Holywell** in ten methods plus Stedman. This was 'most methods for Roger and he says "...my interest in doing this was sparked by the District Meeting where we rang Eynesbury at Eynesbury".

The tower was also visited by non-district ringers on the 6th when Plain Bob Minor was conducted by Thomas Green, one of the young Fen Tigers ringers.

Houghton Bury hosted a quarter of minimus in 5 methods on handbells.

Hemingford Grey featured again this month on the 13th when Ely District visitors rang Plain Bob Major, also conducted by Thomas Green.

Sharon Williams conducted 5 doubles at **Hilton** on the 18th. This was a first as conductor in the methods, viz: St. Nicholas, Winchendon Place, St. Remigius, Huntley Place and three sixty of Reverse Canterbury. At **Great Gransden** a very good quarter of Grandsire Doubles was scored on the 21st. See photo adjacent

On the 22nd a 1251 Stedman Caters was rung at **St Neots** involving local ringers and associates. The Christmas period saw a 'more or less' local quarter of Plain Bob Major being rung at **St Neots** on the 27th.



Performance of the week goes to the peal rung at **Holywell** on the 28th. This was in seven methods, (1) Norwich Surprise; (2) Single Oxford Bob; (3) Beverley Surprise; (4) St Clements College Bob; (5) Surfleet Surprise; (6) Double Oxford Bob; (7) Cambridge Surprise. This was Roger Beaman's second peal and he considers it to be the zenith of his ringing in 2024. Well done, Roger!

Ringing Changes for the Future - PG

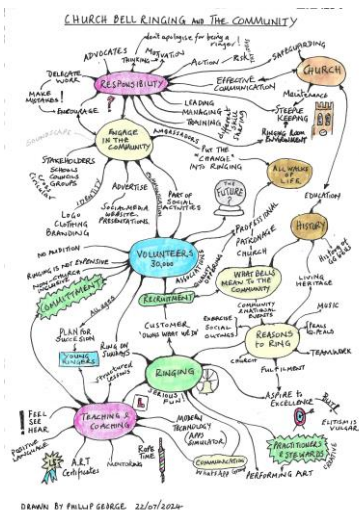
Ringing Changes for the Future was the title of a seminar I presented on the 7th December in Great Gransden Reading Room. Gransden ringers hosted the event and 23 ringers attended.

The purpose of the seminar was to encourage ringers to think about the future of ringing in our individual towers so that we can sustain and develop ringing. With only an estimated 30,000 ringers, many of whom are of the older generation I suggested various ways of addressing the shortage of ringers and the recruitment and training of new ringers.

The seminar took the form of presentation of slides which were used to prompt discussion and many people contributed during the morning. It started by looking at the many good and exciting things that are happening in ringing today, but then challenged the audience by suggesting some of our shortcomings.

I focused on seven key words. **Communication**: how effective is our communications between ringers, the church and our communities. How can we find other ways of being in touch? **Training**: how can we encourage more trainers to come forward and ensure that high standards of training are met. **Support**: the importance of Support for each other and between towers, and of the church. **Resilience**: build resilience into our teams so that more ringers take responsibility for tower management, conducting and organising ringing events. **Leaders**: the importance of having good leaders is key to our success. **Engagement**: It is important for ringers to be represented in our churches or with church officers. This helps build a mutual understanding of what ringing is about and what is required by the church. Engage with our communities too, let them know what we do and encourage them to find out more.

I pointed out the work of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. Their initiative 'Ringing 2030' is beginning to bear fruit. They have recently designed a new ringing logo which is free to download and use. The CCCBR website lists many other resources too, but it will always be up to individual towers to promote ringing at grass roots level.



A full report can be found in the Ringing World on page 1194/5 and slides of the event can be found on this link. <https://theringersrabble.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/seminar-presentation-handout.pdf>

After the seminar ringers were invited to ring our bells at Great Gransden when we rang Call Changes, Plain Bob Minor and Cambridge Minor. My thanks to the Gransden team for welcoming everyone and providing refreshments during the morning.

Follow-up - I've talked about the importance of engaging with our communities. After a peal at Holywell on the 27th (see page3) Roger Beaman writes "I try to keep those living particularly close to the church aware of ringing about to take place, especially non-service ringing. I wouldn't like to say that everyone is quite so positive about the ringing, but this is some feedback I received yesterday from a nearby resident regarding the peal and the 360 of Plain Bob Minor we rang for the wedding:

It all sounded wonderful.. so lucky to live close by and hear them.

If only all people living close to bell towers could be so positive about the experience!"

Case in point – well done!

Annual District Meeting – 18th January 2025

The ADM will be held on Saturday 18th January 2025 at **Buckden**

Ringling will be from 3.00pm until 4.30pm, followed by a short service of evening prayer in the church. Tea will follow and be taken in the Methodist Church Hall which is approx. 100 metres down the road on the left-hand side.

The business meeting will start at 6.00pm.

All relevant papers will be emailed to members a few days before and will include the agenda, accounts, reports and the proposed ringling programme for 2025.

As with the 2024 ADM we will not be printing any documents, so please bring your own in paper or electronic format.

The ADM is always a good occasion to meet ringling friends and do a bit of networking. Ringling will be organised for everyone's capabilities from Rounds to Surprise.

The business meeting is your opportunity to elect district officers, or stand for election yourself. We are only elected for one year and although many of us will stand again there will be some vacancies for committee members and a general committee member. This is someone who stands on the Ely Association committee to represent the district. Details can be found in later pages of the newsletter.

Car parking at Buckden is very easy with plenty of space on the road. Access to the tower is from outside. It is only 12 steps up to the ringling room which is spacious and opens on to a balcony overlooking the church. The bells are 13 1/5 cwt and go very nicely.



Photos: courtesy Philip Miles, Tower Captain

Please contact our district secretary, Caroline Stevens if you need any further information.

secretary@huntbells.org.uk

Responsibilities of District Officers and Committee Members (1 of 1)

President

- Acts as a resource for District ringers and is pro-active in managing District business. Promotes recruitment, training and development of ringers.
- Detailed knowledge of how the District functions.
- Chair committee meetings and ringling business meetings.
- Liaise closely with the District Secretary to agree agendas for meetings and discuss other District business as required.
- Communicate with District Committee Members as required to discuss business and advise if necessary.
- Keep a watching brief on action points agreed at business meetings and liaise with the District Secretary to ensure completion.
- Communicate with District Ringers via Facebook, email or in person to encourage participation in District events.
- Encourage District Committee Members to contribute to and organise ringling and social events.
- Ensure that membership and long service certificates are distributed to Ringling Members as is practical.
- Be able and willing to respond to urgent situations arising in the District.
- Signatory on the District's General Fund.

Secretary

- Detailed knowledge of how the District functions.
- Liaise closely with the District President to agree agendas for meetings and discuss other District business as required.
- Notify District Committee Members of forthcoming business meetings.
- Notify District Ringers of forthcoming events via various social media and email platforms.
- Prepare agendas for business meetings.
- Organise venues for third Saturday ringing and business meetings.
- Writing minutes of meetings and recording agreed action points.
- Follow-up on outstanding agreed action points to ensure completion.
- Planning the annual Ringing Programme, working with the Ringing Masters and President, taking into account any Association events. Present to the District Committee for approval.
- Contacting churches/tower captains to agree third Saturday meeting venues and details.
- Attending Association General Committee meetings (two) to represent the District.
- Attending District Committee meetings.
- Working with other District Officers to ensure that all relevant business is transacted at ringing and committee meetings.
- Treasurer of the District's General Fund.
- Preparing year-end accounts and have them independently examined for presentation at the ADM.
- Making disbursements as instructed by committee or agreed by members at a ringing or extra ordinary meeting.
- Working with the District Membership Secretary to reconcile membership lists for the Association Annual Report.
- Annually remind Tower Captains/Correspondents, in a timely manner, to advise if there are any changes in tower details for the Association Annual Report.
- Annually prepare a detailed report of the year's District events to present to members at the ADM, and for printing in the Association Annual Report.
- Maintaining an email distribution list of ringers in the District.
- Able and willing to respond to urgent situations in the District.

Membership Secretary

(Note this role is changing due to the introduction of MemberMojo, now used by the Association for collecting membership subscriptions)

- Notify members, in a timely manner, of subscriptions due.
- Collecting membership subscriptions, usually by BACS payments into the District General Fund and disbursing them to the Association General Fund.
- Follow up unpaid subscriptions during the year.
- Liaise with the District Secretary to reconcile membership numbers.
- Prepare a summary of District Membership for presentation at the ADM.
- Attending District Committee meetings.
- Prepare interim reports for presentation to the District Committee as required.
- Signatory on the District general fund.

Belfry Repair Fund Treasurer

- Attend District Committee meetings.
- Recording the names of those present at third Saturday District ringing events.
- Collecting contributions for the Association BRF at ringing meetings and transferring them to the association BRF.
- Prepare year-end accounts and have them independently examined for presentation to the ADM.

Responsibilities of District Officers and Committee Members *continued*

Ringling Masters

- Manage the ringing at third Saturday Ringing Meetings and when the District hosts an Association event.
- Organise additional ringing events, according to the agreed/approved ringing programme.
- Attending District Committee Meetings.
- Agree between themselves who will be responsible for which ringing meetings/events.
- Agree between themselves on special methods to be rung at third Saturday meetings and to notify the District Secretary in advance so that the information can be advised to ringing members.
- Liaise with the RATS Rep on training events.
- Prepare a detailed report of the year's activities for presentation at the ADM.

Training Officer / RATS Representative (The Association Recruitment & Training Sub-committee)

- Attend District Committee meetings.
- Represent the District at RATS meetings and feedback outcomes.
- Liaise with the District Secretary, Ringing Masters and other interested parties to organise and co-ordinate District Training Events.
- Prepare a detailed report of the year's training activities for presentation at the ADM.

District Bell Advisor

- Receive enquiries from District Towers and carry out inspections as requested.
- Carry out remedial work if possible as requested or recommended.
- Employ 'bell engineer' volunteers to help with any work as required.
- Liaise with the Association Bell Advisor as required. (Currently one in the same)
- Attend District Committee Meetings.
- Prepare interim reports for presentation to the District Committee or Ringing Meetings as required.
- Prepare a detailed report of the year's activities for presentation at the ADM.

Committee Members

- Attending District Committee meetings.
- Represent District ringers at District Committee Meetings.
- When possible be involved with organising or helping with District ringing and/or social events.

Association General Committee Rep

- Attending Association General Committee Meetings.
- Representing District ringers at these meetings and feeding back information to the District Committee as applicable.
- Attend District Committee Meetings.
- Prepare interim reports for presentation to the District Committee or Ringing Meetings as required.
- Prepare a detailed report of the meetings for presentation at the ADM.

'Ringing Rogues' Quarter Peal Day *by Jez Bottley*

On Saturday 28th December 2024 a "Ringing Rogues" hybrid band headed to the Cambridge District for some QP attempts. Angela Gell was unable to join us, so Jo Lerpiniere completed the band for this mini tour. Although it was a cold, dull, drizzly and misty day, the weather didn't really matter as the 4 planned quarters were all scored, ably conducted by Iain Hayden.

The first was at **Linton**. Entering the tower from the outside entrance via a very small door, clearly not designed for a lump like me, we wound our way up the narrow stairs to the ringing chamber which offered good views across parts of the village. For those familiar with lyrics of Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen, this was the theme of the first two QPs and we rang Very Very Frightening Bob and Galileo Bob Minor at this tower. A striking feature of the ringing chamber is the very rustic ladder leading to the bells! <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1801587>



Sally, Iain, Jo, James, Hannah, Jez
at Linton



Linton (6. 1/4 ¼ cwt)



The very rustic ladder
in Linton ringing room

Next up were the nice bells at **Balsham**, ringing from a very modern gallery reached by a metal spiral staircase. These are fairly slow turning bells but that set a good pace for a well struck QP of Figaro Bob and Magnifico Bob Minor, to complete the Bohemian Rhapsody based quarters.

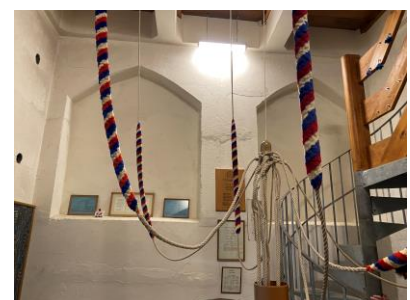
Neither of these first two QPs were spliced, which gave the brain a break! All 4 methods are in the "St. Clements" family but with fiendishly deceptive and easily mixed up front work, however, once mastered these seemed much smoother than St. Clements due to the lack of dodges on the front. <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1801589>



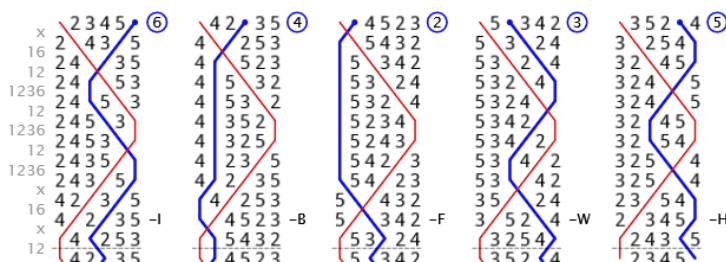
Arriving at Balsham
6. 13cwt



From the ringing gallery in Balsham



Ringing room in Balsham



Very Frightening Bob Minor

'Ringing Rogues' Quarter Peal Day *by Jez Bottley continued*

Lunch was taken at the Black Bull in Balsham.

Next up was the QP that most of us had trepidation about, as none of us had previously rung it - Christmas Crackers Treble Place Minor. Entering the cold church at **West Wrattling** didn't help the mood but having found the light switch and climbed the short, steep wooden steps to the ringing chamber, we rang up and set about the task.

We needn't have worried as this QP went very smoothly, which is probably testament to the individual study we'd put into it. Personally I considered it as bits of Yorkshire S Major, Ipswich S Minor, mixed up with some other odds and sods!

We believe we may have been the first band to ring this on tower bells and if that is the case, then we're all pleased to have been part of it. <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1801590>



Arriving at West Wrattling
6. 7 1/4



Hannah, Sally, Jo, Jez, James, Iain at West Wrattling

The final QP was mixed Doubles variations at **Brinkley**. Variations rung were:- Clifford's Pleasure, Lapley, St. John, April Day, Eynsham and St. Leonard Doubles. This was another very cold church but the local ringers had placed two small radiant heaters to fight the cold, whilst providing a nice warm glow. We had two spectators during the QP, so that was an unusual situation to have an audience. <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1801591>

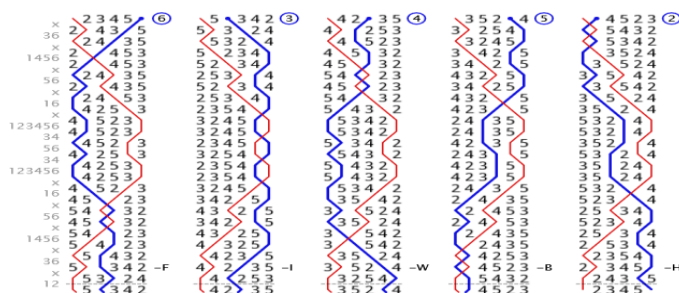


Brinkley 6. 13 1/4cwt



The band at Brinkley

Overall a very enjoyable day but I look forward to the next being in the summer!



Christmas Cracker Treble Place Minor

THE BACK PAGE

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

Saturday 18th January: The Annual District Meeting

Ringling 3.00pm – 4.30pm at **Buckden**, followed by short service of evening prayer, then tea and **business meeting in the Methodist Church Hall** nearby.

Everyone welcome.

MemberMojo – Online Membership Management

Membership subscriptions are due on the 1st January 2025. Members will have received several emails during the latter part of this year and more recently explaining how to register, check and amend your personal details and use the system and pay.

Many have already used the system already to pay in advance but if you haven’t yet done so, please pay promptly in the New Year. This will help the Association enormously by reducing the amount of work by the Membership Secretary in reminding members.

This is the first year of implementation, please contact Roger Beaman with any questions.

membership@huntbells.org.uk

Date touch for
2025 Minor

585 2-Spliced Bob Minor
Composed by [Phillip S George](#)
Start at backstroke with rounds as the 8th row of the lead.
Contains 576 [Plain](#); 9 [Little](#); 1 com.
Queens, Tittums, Kings/Whittingtons, 65 at back.

(32546)	W	O	M	H	2	Methods
(43256)					s	LL.
43256				ss		PPP.PPPPP.
25436	–	s	s	–		P.PPP.PPPPP.P. (7,3)
45326	2			–		P.PPPPP.PPPP.
35246	2			–		P.PPPPP.PPPP.
23456	s–			–		P.PPPPP.PPPP.

Appeal for News!!!

Thank you to John Boocock who has contributed to the newsletter this month. Please send reports of your ringing, with photos, for inclusion in the January edition.

Contact information for District Officers

President – Phillip George

Secretary – Caroline Stevens

Membership Secretary – Roger Beaman

Ringling Masters. Andrew Smith and Cathy Moulton

Training Officer – Ed Groome

Webmaster – Daniel Stevens

Bell Advisor- Geoff Burn

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