

Ringing Around and About in the Huntingdon District



Issue No 36: December 2025

Editor – Phillip George



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St Mary's Church, Bluntisham.
Venue of the ADM on the 17th
January 2026.

A magnificent space during
restoration in 2021



Editor's Notes

This is a short newsletter being at the end of the year and with no December District ringing news to report.

Annual District Meeting

We are looking forward to the ADM in January which will be held at St Mary's Church Bluntisham on the 17th. Ringing is 3.00pm to 4.30pm and will be followed by a short service led by the vicar, Revd Valmor Pimenta. Afterwards we will have tea in the church room followed by the annual business meeting. Caroline will circulate all the necessary documents a week before the meeting.

As always, all the District Officers retire at the end of each year. Caroline is standing down as District Secretary and there are no nominees at present. The job role description is attached on page 4. Please let Caroline know if you would like more information.

Subscriptions – these are due on the 1st January 2026. You should already have received an email advising you of this and giving instructions about how to renew your membership. Details can also be found on page 3

Announcement

I am very sad to notify members that Sally Beaman (Holywell) passed away on Tuesday the 30th December. Please remember Sally and Roger in your thoughts and prayers.

Performance Ringing in December - PG

Although there have not been many quarter peals rung during December one or two have had significant 'firsts'.

There were two at **Gamlingay** on the 2nd, being rung by the 'Golden Oldies'. The first was of Fordham Surprise Major which was immediately followed by one of Superlative. (I remember ringing a peal of Fordham at Fordham in 1999 when I rang the tenor)

Martin Williams scored his first in method at **Hilton** on the 3rd by ringing Double Oxford Bob and by coincidence, Double Oxford was rung again at **Hilton** on the 8th by a different band, this time including Charlotte Gamble's (St Neots) first in method.

The ringers on the 8th December



On the 5th visitors attended **Caxton** to ring Plain Bob Doubles. This was a Thriplow Ringers' Friday quarter peal band.

Holywell were rung on the 17th and the 19th first to a quarter of mixed doubles in 5 methods, then on the 19th to London Surprise Minor which was Roger Beaman's first in method. Well done Roger. It was also conductor Andrew Steven's 50th quarter this year.

The last performance ringing was in the Gransdens. On the 20th a date touch of 2025 changes (4 methods) was rung at **Great Gransden** to celebrate the year. Then, on the 23rd a local band rang Plain Bob Doubles to celebrate 25 years to the day since the first quarter peal on the newly rehung bells in 2000.



Date Touch at Gt Gransden



Jubilee quarter at Gt Gransden

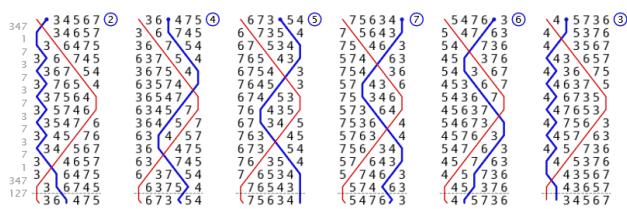


One of the handbell bands at Nutbells during Christmas

At **Nutbells** in **Little Gransden**, Christmas celebrations included three quarter peals of Plain Bob Minor on handbells. Each one using a different set, 12 in F, 8 in C and 6 in C.

Also on handbells, a quarter of minimus was rung at **Parkway** in **St Neots** on the 7th.

I always look forward to seeing the monthly quarter at **Godmanchester**. This month it was on the 28th, and was of St Nicholas Bob Triples



There was a flurry of activity by a visiting band on the 29th ringing quarter peals at **Warboys**, **Somersham** and **Ramsey**, and a further two back-to-back at **Hilton** on the 31st rung in memory of Sally Beaman.

Subscription renewals for 2026

Association subscriptions for next year become due on 1 January 2026. This will be our second year with renewals handled by our on-line membership system. The system will start sending renewal reminders with instructions in early December.

Even if you do not pay a subscription (for example if you are a Senior Ringing Member or an Honorary Member) please complete the renewal process to confirm the information we hold about you and that you wish to remain a member.

Payment arrangements

For all concerned it's easiest if individual members pay their own subscription on-line by credit/debit card. This hugely reduces the work needed by our volunteer membership secretaries. If necessary, individuals can pay by bank transfer, or by cash or cheque to [District membership secretaries](#) (see below). *Please don't make bank transfers without checking account details* - some accounts have changed since last year.

Some members manage memberships for other members. This is often done for children and sometimes for wife/husband to manage a husband/wife's membership. See [Managing Other Members](#) for more information about this.

In a few cases, towers pay subscriptions on behalf of their members. This is still possible, though it creates a lot of work for everyone. See [Payments by Tower or Church](#) if this may apply to you, and if you will be making the payment please contact your [District membership secretary](#) (see below) as soon as possible.

Rule changes for 2026

Two rules relating to membership were changed at the 2025 AGM:

From January, members whose subscriptions are more than six months in arrears will cease to be members of the Association. This was previously twelve months.

Also from January, new members will pay a subscription when elected whenever in the year that happens. However if they are elected in October, November or December they won't be required to pay a subscription in the following year.

Outstanding payments for this year

About 60 people who were members in 2024 have not renewed their subscriptions this year. Under the old rules they will cease to be members at the end of December.

We have done our best to contact them all, and some have confirmed that they no longer want to be members. But most have not responded and for some we don't have working contact details.

If you know anyone who might not have paid but might want to remain a member, then please encourage them to contact their [District membership secretary](#) (see below) soon.

Photographs will be published only where the Editor is satisfied that consent has been obtained from someone who has legal responsibility for the child or vulnerable adult.

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Ringing Around and About

Ringing Around and About – PG

This is the last issue of Ringing Around and About, at least in its present format. If anyone would like to take it on please let me know.

I have published it every month for three years. Any future iteration could be monthly or quarterly. Ideally it should be an online publication but this would be up to the new editor.

I would point out that I have produced this newsletter as a ringing member, not as District President. Anyone can take it on.

Thank you to those who have regularly contributed stories about your towers or personal ringing achievements. I have found them most interesting. I would also like to thank those who have commented on the newsletter from time to time.

I believe that the social history of ringing is very important and that we should document our ringing stories especially as is so easy to do. In an early issue I suggested that ringers record their bells. As a result I did receive a few recordings, and they can be found on this link.

<https://theringersrabbler.wordpress.com/recording/>

When we had our bells at Gt Gransden retuned and rehung in 2000 we would have lost their original sound had they not been recorded. It is quite likely that many churches will close in the not too distant future and the sound of their bells lost for ever.

And so too our ringing culture. I believe that ringing will change a lot in the next five to ten years. We should document what we do today as an act of historic importance for the Exercise. Ringing itself won't disappear but our skill levels will greatly diminish as well as our knowledge of running towers and steeple keeping.

I've talked a lot in the last twelve months on this subject, but I don't hear many others expressing concerns about the future of their towers. It really is time to wake up to the fact that ringing is at risk in some respects and we must work hard to realise this and then do something about it!

District Secretary - Summary Job Responsibilities

- Liasing closely with the District President to agree agendas for meetings and discuss other District business as required.
- Liasing with the Association General Secretary as required.
- Working with other District Officers to ensure that all relevant business is transacted at ringing and committee meetings.
- Notify District ringers of forthcoming business meetings.
- Notify District Committee Members of forthcoming committee meetings.
- Prepare agendas for business meetings.
- Request reports from District Officers as required.
- Writing and distributing minutes of meetings and recording agreed action points.
- Follow-up on outstanding agreed action points to ensure completion.
- Attending District Committee meetings.
- 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.
- Signatory on the District bank account
- Able and willing to respond to urgent situations in the District.
- Attending Association General Committee meetings (two) to represent the District.

