

# Ringling Around and About in the Huntingdon District



Issue No 25: January 2025

Editor – Phillip George



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Caroline and Phillip ready for the business meeting at the ADM in Buckden

## The Future of the Newsletter

There have been 24 issues of Ringing Around and About so far.

When, as District Secretary, I wrote and published the Ringers' Rabble (1989 – 1997) it was a quarterly newsletter. Twenty-five issues came out over a period of ten years.

In those days it was a paper copy which was posted to individual towers. Andrew Stevens kindly printed them for me and Caroline Stevens would proof-read them. It was also in A5 format and usually eight sides.

Times have changed a little, and I now use Microsoft Powerpoint, but although each edition is loaded to the website it is still a basic paper copy. At the October committee meeting I announced that I was thinking about giving it up. It takes at least a day every month to compile and edit! Committee members persuaded me to continue and much encouraged by this I agreed and so I will continue for this year and review later.

I would appreciate your comments, please contact me by email.

Just like our ringing where the sound of bells is somewhat ethereal, here for a moment and then gone for ever, so too are the occasions when we meet to ring. We have memories of them but if we document them we have a tangible record and photographs which we can refer to in the future.

Please let me have your ringing news *and* photographs for publication in Ringing Around and About.

I am very grateful to all contributors, who I have acknowledged on page 7, and where there is also guidance for writing articles.

## Ramsey Ring in the New Year *by Cathy Moulton*

### Ringling in the New Year

Eight ringers braved the elements to ring the old year out on half muffled bells and the new year in on open bells.

Ringling stopped at 23.50 to give David, Cathy and Neal time to brace themselves against the wind whistling through the louvres in the belfry and remove the muffles.

Peter Mackley, who had joined us from St Ives, sounded the hour.

Photo - A merry band



## Godmanchester and Huntingdon Ringers Christmas Meal *by Nigel Strong*

Continuing the season's festivities and to welcome the New Year, on the 7th January at The White Heart Pub in Godmanchester, Charles Looker the GMC Tower Captain hosted a dinner party for 20 ringers and partners.



A private function room was made available for the evening and everyone was able to sit around the same table. The food was plentiful and delicious, all consumed in a convivial atmosphere! Many thanks go to Steve and his team for looking after us so well. A lovely evening was enjoyed by all, a super meal with wonderful company.



## The Annual District Meeting - PG

The annual district meeting was held at Buckden on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> January. Tower captain, Philip Miles, welcomed ringers at 3.00pm and very soon the ringing room was full to standing room only. A variety of methods were rung under the supervision of the ringing masters Cathy Moulton and Andrew Smith, ranging from call changes to Norwich Surprise. The service touch was Stedman Doubles.

A service of evensong was held in the church after which we enjoyed a sumptuous tea in the Methodist Hall.

Phillip George, president, welcomed everyone, especially officers from the association, Bob Cox (Chair), Anne Seaman (Sec), Dee Smith (RATO), John Warbrick (MemberMojo) and Shirley Warbrick (Safeguarding).

The company stood in remembrance of John Marlow, St Ives.

All relevant papers had been distributed by email beforehand and minutes of the previous ADM and all the reports from district officers were approved.

Two new members were elected, Lorraine Edmeades from Ramsey and Rosie Greaves from Somersham.

The following officers and committee members were elected:

President – Phillip George

Secretary – Caroline Stevens

Membership Secretary – Roger Beaman

Ringling Masters – Cathy Moulton and Andrew Smith

Training Officer and RATS Rep – Ed Groome

District Bell Advisor – Geoff Burn

Webmaster – Daniel Stevens

This year there were vacancies for two committee members. One position was filled by Emma Hunt (Ramsey). Emma has been ringing for a couple of years and is very enthusiastic, regularly attending ringing meetings. She was elected as a ringing member at the July meeting at Catworth in 2024.



Emma Hunt

Another vacancy was for a general committee rep. This is a position to represent the district on the association committee. The Rev Paul Hutchinson (St Neots) volunteered for this role and was duly elected. Paul is the rector at St Neots where he rings regularly. He was elected as a member in 2021.



Paul Hutchinson

Photo courtesy HD website

We are delighted to welcome both Emma and Paul to the committee.

You can learn more about your committee on the Hunts District website at

<https://huntbells.org.uk/district-officers/>

During election of officers Geoff Burn, district bell advisor, announced that he was giving notice that he will stand down at the end of 2025. As a consequence of this the district is looking for a new bell advisor, preferably to shadow Geoff During this year. Details of the job role can be found on page 6. Please contact Geoff if you are interested to find out more about it.

## Long Service Certificates

The New Year is when long service certificates are presented to members who have achieved significant milestones in the membership of the association.

At the ADM at Buckden members the following achievements were announced.

### 25 years membership

Charles Looker - Godmanchester,  
Tom Cruyfft – unattached,  
Joanne Rutter - Hemingford Abbots

Tom was presented with his certificate during the meeting to much applause. Charles had sent his apologies so our esteemed secretary, Caroline Stevens, presented his at the practice at Godmanchester on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>.



### 10 years membership

James Holden - Houghton  
Sarah Gray - Little Paxton  
Paul Kneller - Ramsey

Arrangements are being made to present these certificates

## February Meeting – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2025

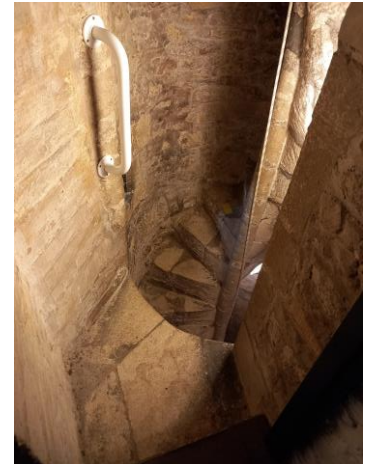
The February ringing meeting will be held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> at [Alwalton](#)

Ringing will be from 3.00pm until 4.30pm. There are 5 bells with a tenor of 8cwt.

Access to the ringing room is by 24 narrow steps.



Alwalton church.  
Photo- Caroline Stevens



Photos – Richard Alban

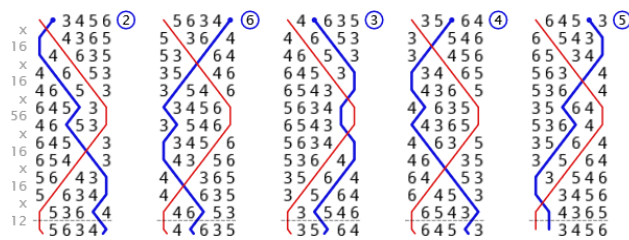
## Performance Ringing – January 2025

January has been a quite month for quarter peals with only six being rung in the district.

The first was by the **Woodston** team of ringers on the 1<sup>st</sup> January when they rang 1320 New Year Doubles. It was the first in the variation for the band. New Year Doubles is Wollaton Place with Antelope Bob, Yuletide Omit (184x/zy)

It would be a long way into the New Year before another was rung, this time on the 15<sup>th</sup> at **Caxton** where a 1320 of Ipswich Surprise Minor was successful. This was Martin Williams first in the method.

The firsts continued on the 21<sup>st</sup> when a 1260 of Double Bob Minor was rung at **Hemingford Abbots**. This was first blows in the method for Roger Beaman and Nick Smith and first quarter in the method for all the band. These bells are not rung to quarter peals very much so it is good to hear from them again.



Double Bob Minor

Meanwhile, **Bluntisham** bells were put to use by a mainly Ely district band on the 17<sup>th</sup> when they rang a 1344 Plain Bob Major. Standard fare! But they returned on the 24<sup>th</sup> to ring a 1250 of Yorkshire S Major which was Sharon Williams first in the method.

The monthly quarter peal attempt at **Godmanchester** this month was Grandsire Triples on the 26<sup>th</sup>, and as usual was rung immediately before Evensong.

The band L-R: Andrew Stevens, Hannah Campbell, Jez Bottley, Peter Rogers, Jo Lerpiniere, Caroline Stevens, Iain Hayden (c), Nick Smith.



### Holocaust Memorial Day

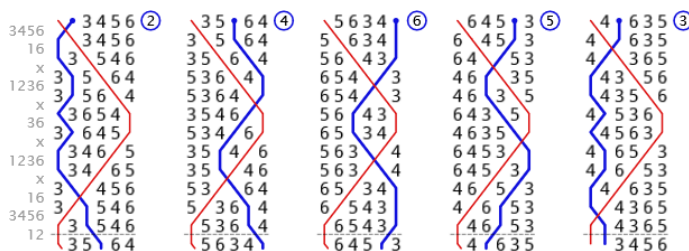
Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> January was the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. This was also Holocaust Memorial Day. Three towers tolled a bell eighty times in respect.

**Alconbury** – Mark George

**Catworth** – Rod Deavall

**Molesworth** – Geoff Burn

Performance of the month has to go the quarter peal of Bluntisham Bob Minor at **Bluntisham** on the 31<sup>st</sup> January. This was the first in method for all. I dare say this is a tricky method to ring in parts with two blows in 5<sup>th</sup> being made on the way up to three blows behind (& visa-versa). Otherwise it is thirds from the back with Buxton Bob front work. The lead ends comprise contiguous places instead of dodges in 3-4.



Bluntisham Bob Minor

## New Member – Thomas Kenwright

During the business meeting at Yaxley in November we elected a new junior member, Thomas Kenwright. Thomas rings at Gamlingay. We hadn't been able to present his membership certificate at that time, but John Boocock (tower captain) presented it during their practice on the 23rd January. Congratulations Thomas.



## Wanted – District Bell Advisor

Geoff Burn has been our bell advisor for 10 years, originally as the Huntingdon Bell Restoration Group representative from 2015 and then as the official bell advisor since 2020.

He has knowledgeable experience in maintaining bells since his Hunts Bell Restoration days with Chris Higgins. "Some of us were invited to join the restoration society and soon every Friday evening was devoted to bell work, from maintenance to rehangs, notably Brington, Hargrave, Waresley and Catworth. The bell work, from checking, oiling and tightening to lifting bells made an interesting change to my daytime job as an Accountant. Since retirement, the bell work now takes place in daylight – much safer!" *(taken from Geoff's bio on the website)*

The committee recognises how difficult it is to replace Geoff's experience but when discussing this with him recently he said, "In many ways the District Bell Advisor needn't get his or her hands dirty because we now have a Diocesan Bell Advisor WhatsApp group of 11, many of whom are willing and do work in other districts. The Hunts District BA could be just an advising & organising role."

Listed below are the current responsibilities for the bell advisor. They are guidelines. The new incumbent can bring to it different skills and interests. The committee is hoping to co-opt someone into the role during 2025 so that a new bell advisor can shadow Geoff and get the feel of what the job will entail. If you think you might be interested please contact Geoff in the first instance.

### **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.

# THE BACK PAGE

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

**Saturday 15th February: Ringing Meeting**

Ringing **3.00pm – 4.30pm** at **Alwalton**,. Bells **5, 8cwt**. <https://huntbells.org.uk/towers/5bell/alwalton/>

Everyone welcome.

## The Newsletter – Ideas for writing an Article *PG*

Your articles can be about practice nights, learning methods, social events, tower outings, district events, maintenance projects, community and church events – anything to do with ringing.

You needn't write hundreds of words but there will be space whatever the number. The introduction on page 1 is about 260 words. If you send photos too, I can easily dedicate at least half a page for your article

When writing, use the title to attract the reader's attention and explain what the event was, who organised it, what happened, who attended, and any amusing or interesting anecdotes.

Photographs. Groups of people should fill the frame if possible, although I often edit them to suit. Pictures of towers are interesting but if you can easily photograph the bells that's even better, or something interesting in the tower or church which attracts attention.

If you are taking photos of adults or children it is your responsibility to make sure that appropriate permission is given if you are submitting the photos for publication in the newsletter. This can be verbal permission. Please confirm this when submitting photos.

Please send your articles as soon as you can after the event, the deadline each month is quite late – within two or three days of publication which is usually the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.

Many thanks to the following for submitting articles during 2024:

[Cathy Moulton](#) (Ramsey), [Keith Page](#) (Fenstanton), [Roger Beaman](#) (Membership Secretary) (Holywell), [Geoff Burn](#) (District Bell Advisor) (Catworth), [Dee Smith](#) (Ely District), [Caroline Stevens](#) (Fenstanton), [Sue Bates & Simon Kershaw](#) (St Ives), [Sheila George](#) (Gt Gransden), [Paul Kneller](#) (Ramsey), [Mark George](#) (Alconbury), [Ed Groome](#) (Training Officer) (Godmanchester), [Catherina Griffiths](#) (St Neots), [Jezz Bottley](#) (Godmanchester), [John Boocock](#) (Gamlingay), [Lita Carter](#) (Warboys), [Nigel Strong](#) (Godmanchester).

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.

### Contact information for the District Committee

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