

Ringling Around and About in the Huntingdon District



Issue No 34: October 2025

Editor – Phillip George



Simon Kershaw at his Licensing as a Reader (Licensed Lay Minister) at Ely Cathedral

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The end of summer – a change of season – a change of direction – new opportunities!

After a busy ringing year in the District the committee met on Saturday the 18th October to review it so far and plan for 2026. (see page 2) With two months still to go you might think this is a bit early, but a good chunk of our planning happens before year end. It enables us to come to the ADM in January with a draft schedule for 2026 and all the reports of our events in 2025 which you help to make a success.

We do have some changes for 2026. Our honorary secretary, Caroline, is not seeking re-election. This role is key to the District but we recognise that it is a busy one. With this in mind we have moved some of the responsibilities to other officers. This is in part to keep jobs together which fit and also to take advantage of the facility on MemberMojo which has email capability and therefore our communications with members can be simpler.

But, the long and short of it is that we need someone to take on the role of **District Secretary** and it is important that we find one. There is a summary of responsibilities on page 8.

The committee will be publishing a new Structure and Responsibilities booklet in the next month or so which describes all our roles, which gives a explains what we all do.

Congratulations

The autumn is also the time of year when, in the Ely Diocese, Licensed Lay Ministers (LLM, formerly know as Readers) are licensed and we congratulate Simon Kershaw (Tower Captain - St Ives) on his licensing which took place at the Cathedral on Saturday the 4th October

We also congratulate Revd Canon Paul Hutchinson (Rector of St. Neots & member of the District Committee) on his recent appointment as Canon of Ely Cathedral.

District Committee Meeting Report - PG

The District Committee held its second meeting of the year on Saturday the 18th October.

We received reports on District Finance, Training, Bell Advisor, CCCBR and Ely Gen Comm.

We considered the Tower Survey Report which Geoff Burn had recently carried out. There is a very brief summary of ringing status in the District here: <https://theringersrabble.wordpress.com/.../dc-oct-18...>

We talked about how we could reach out to towers where there is no ringing, and how bells could be maintained where they are not rung. It was suggested that a mini outing could be arranged to visit some of them but no plans have been made at the moment. Let us know if you might be interested in this.

We also discussed in detail a plan for the ringing programme for 2026. Some of our first Saturday events, mainly 'Moving on' have not been well supported! Our training events have been a success and in 2026 we are going to focus on Training mornings and occasional Quarter Peal days on the first Saturdays.

In line with local training centres such as St Clements in Cambridge and Stretham REC we are going to ask for a small donation per 'learner' at our training sessions which will help support the District fund.

Third Saturday ringing meetings will continue with 3x tea & business meetings (4 inc ADM in Jan). The full programme will be presented at the ADM in January.

Detailed discussion took place about revising the responsibilities of some District Offices. The proposed changes are based on the benefits that MemberMojo has brought in terms of data collection and communication functions. The current list of all job roles will be revised and published before the end of the year.

In connection with this it is important to mention again that Caroline wishes to stand down as District Secretary, but hopefully will still be actively involved on the committee. The review of this job role has reduced the workload considerably. Details can be found here (possibly subject to minor changes). <https://theringersrabble.wordpress.com/.../huntingdon...>

If you think that you might be interested in taking on this key role please let us know. You will be working with a fantastic team of ringers, each bringing their own personal skills to the table. The committee meetings (2) are relaxed and jovial, and you will be supported throughout the year by the other committee members.

Don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any comments or ideas about ringing in the Hunts District.

We look forward to seeing you at our ringing events. Everyone is welcome.



The brilliant team! Pictured back row: Andrew Smith, Ed Groome Geoff Burn, Paul Hutchinson, Roger Beaman, Phillip George, Front row: Emma Hunt, Cathy Moulton, Catherina Griffiths, Caroline Stevens.

Phillip George – 60th Ringing Anniversary - PG

This year marks the 60th anniversary of my learning to ring at St Neots. To celebrate the anniversary I organised a quarter peal of 1260 changes of Grandsire Caters at St Neots and invited family members and longstanding 'St Neots' friends to take part.

We rang a very nice quarter in 51 minutes, which, with a bit of judicious planning was my 1000th quarter on tower bells, Sheila's 1000th in total (including handbells) and daughter Rebecca and Mark Banner's 200th together. <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1888271>

Afterwards everyone travelled over to Nutbells in Little Gransden where we enjoyed a light lunch including a surprise cake prepared by Sheila, which she had decorated especially for the occasion. There were nine handbell ringers in the band and after lunch we adjourned to the lounge to ring Plain Bob, Single Oxford Bob and Kent TB Minor, Plain Hunt, Plain Bob and Kent TB Major, Plain Hunt Royal and Rounds on 12.

We all had a splendid afternoon. My thanks to everyone for ringing, and your excellent company, and especially John Hutchinson for stepping in at short notice, replacing Charlotte recovering from a cold. Thanks also to my other ringing friends who have helped Sheila and me to achieve this milestone.



QP band: L-R: PG, Rebecca Banner, Anthony Smith, Catherina Griffiths. Back: Dave Griffiths, Mark Banner, John Hutchinson, Tom Griffiths. Front right: Sheila G, James Gamble.

Teaching Call Changes at Alconbury - PG

Sheila and I were invited to St Peter & St Paul church at Alconbury on Monday 20th to help the local ringers with call changes. The session started with theory and was followed by ringing with 'new conductors' calling the changes, and others 'standing behind' to help point out which bells to follow.

There were lots of questions and discussions to help gain understanding of the subject. After the practice we enjoyed light refreshments in the west end of the nave which is beautifully laid out for social functions.

Thanks to Mark (T/C) and Lynn George and all the local ringers for your warm welcome.



L-R: PG, Paul Chandler, Leslie Gabriolek, Chris D' Silva, Barbara D'Silva, Lynn George, Eileen King, Ann Ladlow, Steve Cox, David Robinson, Sheila George, Mark George.



St Ives Ringing Outing – *John Bacon*

We at All Saints in St. Ives held a mini bell ringing tour on September the 6th of September visiting four towers in the Northamptonshire area .

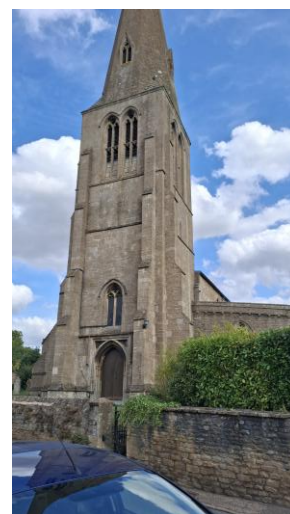
The first tower was the six-bell tower of St. Peter in the village of Stanion. We then moved onto Weldon and rang at St Mary the Virgin, an eight-bell tower. Following the ringing at Weldon we travelled to Brigstock and before ringing at the eight-bell tower of St Andrew we had a refreshment break at the local pub.

Our final tower was at Fotheringhay, St Mary & All Saints a six bell . This had an interesting route to the tower. Firstly, a spiral staircase took you to a roof which you crossed and then continued to the ringing chamber up another spiral staircase.

We ended the day with a meal at one of our local Italian restaurants, Amore, picture attached and one or two of our other halves joined us.



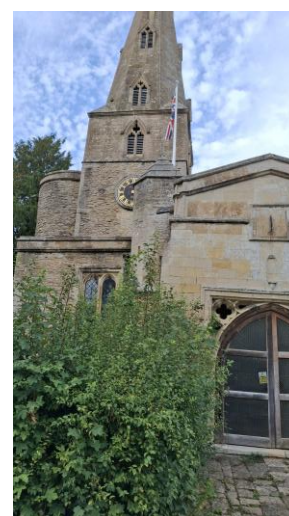
Stanion



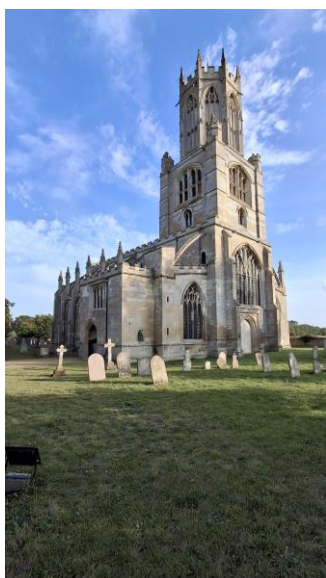
Weldon



Ringling at Brigstock



Brigstock



Fotheringhay



Ringling at Fotheringhay

Membership Renewal Information – Roger Beaman

From early December our membership system, MemberMojo, will reopen for membership renewals. Last December was the first time of using MemberMojo and the uptake by Huntingdon District members was very encouraging. By the first Saturday in January, 170 members had already renewed their membership. This was 89% of the members who would renew, which is a remarkable percentage for a new system. Better still, the overwhelming majority of paying members made their membership payment online, thereby making the process much easier for myself.

Having experienced the system last year, I hope that everyone now feels more comfortable with it and especially with the ease of making an online payment of the membership fee. As a quick reminder about using MemberMojo, go to the Ely DA Website www.elyda.org.uk/home and click the black button 'Manage Membership'. This opens a new page and in various places, including a black button on the right of the page, you can click on 'Your Membership'. The sign in page that now opens allows you to get access to your information just by putting in your email address (if you are a regular user of MM you can set up your own password instead) and a link will be sent by email to you.

Once logged into the system you should see your own details page. Please take a moment to check your details and amend if necessary. In particular, make sure that you are on the mailing lists that you want to be on. If you hold a specific position within your own tower, such as Tower Captain, it would be helpful if you put this in the 'Other member directory information' box part-way down the page.

Once we get to the start of December, all members with an email address will receive an invitation to log onto the system and renew their membership. For Senior Members, it is still necessary to log onto the system and confirm that you wish to continue as a member of Ely DA. If you have any questions about using the system, including renewing your membership, please don't hesitate to contact me.

We ended 2024 with 206 members. 15 resigned and didn't renew their membership (it is normal to lose a number of members during renewal). 13 new members have already been elected so far this year, with a further 3 to be elected at the November business meeting, and one member transferred to Huntingdon District from another Ely DA District. Hence, I expect to end 2025 with 208 members. Given the potential upheaval of a new online system, this is a remarkable outcome for the year and says a lot about how most members in the District were able to use the new way of renewing their membership.

Roger Beaman - Membership Secretary

Email: membership@huntbells.org.uk

With many thanks to Roger for his untiring efforts in managing the District membership - PG

Ringling Meeting at Hilton – PG

Our autumn meeting was held on the Saturday the 18th October at Hilton and was attended by over twenty ringers, learners and more experienced, from towers north, south and east of the district.

Ringling 'decision making specialists' Cathy Moulton and Andrew Smith co-ordinated everything excellently as ringers shuffled up and down stairs to make room in the ringling room.

Ringling included Plain Bob, Grandsire, Kent TB, Ipswich, Cambridge, Rounds and Call Changes, St Clements and Stedman. It was a lovely meeting with plenty of time to catch up with friends from different towers.



Performance Ringing in October - PG

There have been one or two interesting quarter peals in the District this month.

An unexpected quarter peal was rung on handbells on the 3rd at **Nutbells in Lt Gransden**. Mark and Rebecca Banner were ringing in a special quarter at St Neots the following day and needed one more to make their total together on that occasion of 200th. So, an evening quarter of PB6 was rattled off starting at 9.00pm. The following day the **St Neots** attempt was successful and is reported on page 3.

Earlier in the day **Holywell** were in action with a District band ringing London S Minor.

On the 5th two tower bell quarters were successful. At **St Ives** Grandsire Triples was rung to congratulate Simon Kershaw on his licensing on the 4th at Ely Cathedral as a Reader. Congratulations, Simon.

Also on the 5th, PB6 was rung at **Gamlingay** for the Harvest of Musical Talents event. This was Mel Farnham's first of minor inside. Congratulations, Mel.



On the 10th **Caxton** and **Great Gransden** were visited by the same ringers to successfully achieve quarters of Westminster and Surfleet S Minor respectively.

Bluntisham were quartered to Plain Bob Minor for Evensong on the 12th and as a thanksgiving for the recovery from a recent illness to the conductor, Geoff Durrant.

York Surprise Minor was rung at **Holywell** on the 17th as a special congratulatory quarter peal to Roger and Sally Beaman on the occasion of their 40th wedding anniversary. Many congratulations to both.

On the 25th **Bluntisham** were rung again, this time by a visiting band who rang Plain Bob Triples.

As the end of the month approached the **Godmanchester** team were in action ringing Plain Bob major for the service of Evensong on Sunday the 26th. What would the soundscape be like without this monthly event?

The **St Neots** band rang Plain Bob Doubles for Evensong on Sunday the 26th. This was James Stronach's first on the treble. Well done, James.

Here is the band, L-R: Dave Griffiths, John Hutchinson, Cathy Stronach, James Stronach, Ruth Kemsley. Front: Catherina Griffiths.



Grandsire Doubles was rung at **Caxton** on the 29th by a largely visiting band.



The **Quarter Peal of the Month** award has been given to Plain Bob Minor rung at **Hilton** on the 31st where Josh Crutch (Gt Gransden) rang the treble. This was 12 year old Josh's first of minor.

Thanks to James Gamble for standing in for me as I recover from a minor medical procedure.

L-R: Catherina Griffiths, Tom Ridgman (c), Becca Glazier, James Gamble, Sheila George, Phillip George, Josh Crutch.

Advance Notice – Ringing Around and About – PG

Whilst I have enjoyed collating and publishing this newsletter it has been difficult to encourage ringers to submit their stories. It takes quite a lot of time to bring it all together, even the shorter 6 page issues. I also feel that it should be on-line rather than a printed copy. If someone would like to take it on please let me know. If not, Issue No 36 in December 2025 will be the last one! Your feedback is always welcome!



Will Bosworth, Editor of the Ringing World contacted me and other newsletter editors with the following news from the Ringing World. He hopes to publish similar updates periodically and I have signed up to receive them.

Although Ringing Around and About may terminate at the end of the year I will share Will's posts on Facebook and I'm sure that the District Secretary will circulate the information too, as Caroline has done on this occasion.

Autumn greetings from the Ringing World team!

At the end of a busy summer producing your magazine while leapfrogging each other's holidays, we were delighted to spend a weekend in Sheffield at the Central Council AGM and Roadshow. We met lots of readers and other creators in the world of ringing – seeing an eBell being 3D-printed in front of us was quite something!

Our big news of autumn is the **Little Blue Ringing Book**, which will be printed in just a few weeks and is already available to pre-order. It focuses on methods ranging in difficulty from Plain Bob Doubles to Little Bob Major. Like its companions, the "green book" and the "purple book," it aims to contain everything you might meet at this stage of ringing, and much more besides – with explanations, diagrams, and tips aplenty.

We're already looking ahead to our **Christmas special issue** of the Ringing World which is a bumper triple issue in full colour - and we'd love your help to make it sparkle! Anything happening in the first ten days of December is especially welcome, as the issue goes to press mid-month. If your tower is planning a carol service, Christmas tree festival, or any other festive ringing, please send us your photos and short write-ups. If you get early snow or a picturesque frost, don't forget us, and help us share the joy of Christmas ringing!

Start preparing for Christmas and the next year for yourself as well. Don't forget the annual **Ringing World Diary** ([link](#)) and **Ringing World Calendar** ([link](#)), both ideal for planning and for gifts. We would be thrilled to see a copy of the calendar on every tower noticeboard – please send us a photo of yours! We've also launched a brand-new "**Bell Ringers 'Outing' Tea Towel**", illustrated by award-winning children's illustrator Sarah McIntyre. It's a fun and colourful addition to any kitchen, and makes a perfect stocking filler, or a thank-you for the ringing organiser in your life.

Other stocking-sized ideas include:

Methodoku Mayhem – a puzzle book full of ringing-themed Sudoku-style challenges that will stretch both ringers and puzzle-lovers. Sit by the fire at Christmas and learn how methods fit together at the same time!

The First Hundred Years USB stick – a digital archive of the first century of *The Ringing World*, perfect for anyone who wants to explore the history of ringing in their family or village at the click of a button.

Looking further ahead, the **2026 RWNYC** is already very much on the horizon, and we're really looking forward to zipping around Nottingham on the trams! And beyond that, we've started preparing for the **6,000th issue of *The Ringing World***, a major milestone for the magazine shortly after Easter.

THE BACK PAGE

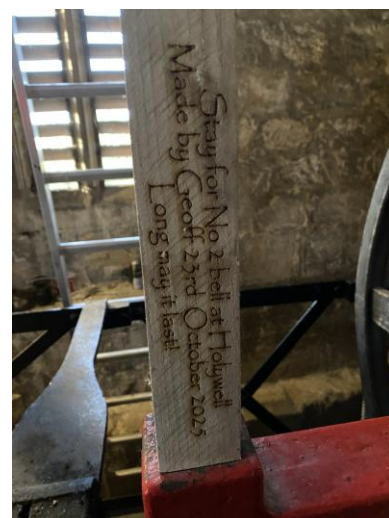
Personalised stay at Holywell - *Roger Beaman*

We recently had at Holywell the unfortunate, but infrequent, occurrence of a broken stay. Luckily, one of our ringers is remarkably well equipped for woodwork and, after obtaining a large piece of ash from a Cambridgeshire supplier, he has made a new stay. Better still, he has recently added to his woodworking equipment by purchasing a laser-based cutting / marking flat bed. While the power of the laser is nowhere near enough for cutting such a thick piece of wood (that would require power levels well beyond both the budget for a home woodworking workshop and beyond any sensible safety limits) it has enabled a novel feature for our new stay.

Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you probably the first ever example of a Hastings stay inscribed using a laser!

The possibilities for sponsorship of each stay has already occurred to me!

A big thank you to Geoff Durrant for this excellent work. If you need a stay making, with or without laser marking, have a chat with Geoff.



Advertisement for a District Secretary – *Phillip George - President*

Summary Job Responsibilities

- Liaise closely with the District President to agree agendas for meetings and discuss other District business as required.
- Liaise 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.

You will receive support and guidance from myself and the committee
More details can be obtained from Caroline or myself.