

# *Ringling Around and About in the Huntingdon District*



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Editor – Phillip George



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Hamerton church interior from the ringing room – venue for our September ringling meeting. See page 3

## ***Inspired by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers - PG***

I didn't necessarily have three hours to spend watching the Central Council meeting video on the 5<sup>th</sup> September, but I was drawn to it by my passion for ringling and especially the need for us all to plan for the future in an environment of falling numbers of ringers, lack of teachers and lack of experience of many 'recently new' ringers.

Page 5 carries a report on the meeting by Lynne Hughes (Cambridge CC Rep and Manager at the St Clements Training Centre). It's a pretty good summary and I strongly encourage you to read it. One key point made at the end is about 'giving back'. It's too easy for us to think that ringling for Sunday Service is when we give back to ringling. Well, it's much more than that. Giving back can be a host of other things too. It can be your loyalty to the tower, it can be learning how to teach ringling, it can be learning to conduct, it can be learning how to run the tower. It can mean delegating to others and allowing ringers to do other things, it can be helping less experienced ringers. It can mean recruitment, marketing or PR. It's not just about ringling for our personal gain. If that's all we do, ringling will not flourish.

There were 950 people at the National Young Ringers Striking Competition in the summer. In fact, so many that they couldn't seat everyone in St Martin's in The Bull Ring Birmingham. There were 37 teams of young ringers and next year there are likely to be more. Whilst we support all new ringers whatever their age, the young ringers are key for the future of ringling. It's great that we have several in our district but we need to get more. This is an extremely difficult task, indeed it's difficult to find ringers of any age, but let's work together by sharing our ringling experiences and getting out into our communities.

## Moving-On Practice – 6<sup>th</sup> September – Cathy Moulton



From the west

The moving on practice was held at Bluntisham church on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September

We were delighted that Cass Boocock joined us now that she is back to ringing.

Sadly, we hadn't tempted any 'movers on' so we rang 720 of Plain Bob Minor.

After a seventh ringer arrived we rang St Simons Triples and then enjoyed supporting the coffee morning which was being held in the church hall.

Spliced St Simons and St Martins rounded off our morning.

Thank you to those ringers who fitted this session into their busy schedules.



Ready to start

## Harare Cathedral Ringer visits Ramsey — Cathy Moulton

Ramsey ringers were delighted to welcome a visitor from Zimbabwe on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September.

Stan Dube rings at Harare Cathedral and was delighted to share our Sunday service ringing.

We loved this description when Googling information about the bells.

*The bell-ringer's chamber inside the cathedral confronts the visitor with a prohibiting barbed wire fence and lock. The sound in the bell room is enough to kill the ringer, should an amateur mess with about, the dean explains.*

*"Keeping the bell-ringer locked is of utmost security concern. The biggest bell here weighs a tonne and there are ten bells. The chamber is constructed in such a way that it absorbs and muffles the sound of the bell," Mudzamiri says.*

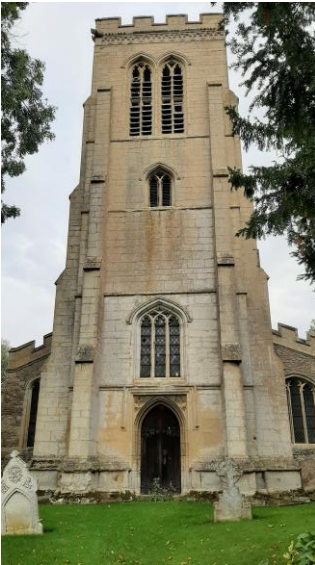
*On Saturdays, ringers come specifically for bell-playing. "It is an art in itself. One can play music from the ten bells," he says*



Ramsey ringers with their visitor from Zimbabwe



## Ringling Meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> September - PG



We received a warm welcome at Hamerton for our ringing meeting on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September. Hamerton is in the North Leightonstone benefice comprising Alconbury, Buckworth, The Giddings, Hamerton, The Riptons, The Stukeleys, Upton, and Winwick.

Ringers from Alconbury, St Neots, Gransden, Gamlingay, Holywell, Godmanchester, Ramsey, Fenstanton and other towers attended, and all were included by ringing masters Cathy Moulton and Andrew Smith.

Rounds and call changes, Plain Bob, Cambridge, Norwich, Grandsire and other methods were included in the repertoire of the ground floor ring of six.

On Friday evening the 19<sup>th</sup>, the Dean of Westminster, the Very Rev'd Dr Sir David Hoyle was the guest speaker in the church giving a talk about the Coronation of King Charles III. He also shared his insider knowledge about the run up to the Coronation and the big day itself.



Tickets were £10, and proceeds went to the church restoration fund. Wine and soft drinks were served and the unsold beverages were available for ringers to buy on Saturday.

It was a very pleasant afternoon. Our next ringing is the training session at Kimbolton on October 4<sup>th</sup> from 10.00am 'til noon, then on the 18<sup>th</sup> when we have a ringing meeting at Hilton from 3.00 - 4.30pm.

# COMING UP

# NEXT!

### The District Committee Meeting

The committee meets twice every year. First in February, and the next meeting is on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> of October.

During this meeting we will receive reports from the Association General Committee and the Central Council Meeting held in September. An important item on the agenda will be to discuss District Officers for 2026 and share ideas about the programme for next year.

This is where we would appreciate your input. The district tries to arrange a varied programme for all ringers but quite often attendance is very low. Rather than guess what you might like please tell us what events work for you and how frequently you would like to attend. We will try to take into account what you tell us so please let us know.

There is a monthly ringing meeting in the afternoon at Hilton from 3.30pm until 4.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

## Performance Ringing during August

A quarter peal was rung at **Hilton** on the 3 in three methods by a largely visiting band. Hilton bells were rung again on the 4<sup>th</sup> when District ringers rang a 1260 of Grandsire Doubles in memory of Arthur Bates, late husband of local ringer, Esther.

**Bluntisham** received visitors (including District ringers Sharon Williams and Geoff Durrant) on the 5<sup>th</sup> to ring a 1344 of Plain Bob Major.

A practice quarter peal was rung at **Hilton** on the 15<sup>th</sup>, being 1271 changes of minor in three methods. It comprised a 720 of Plain Bob and a 515 of Plain, Grandsire and Double Bob. The 515 starts with a lead of Grandsire and ends with a lead of Grandsire, coming into Rounds at handstroke. A lead of Double Bob early on in the composition eliminates falseness and helps achieve the correct length.

It was composed by Phillip George to be part of a date touch of 1955 changes which was rung on the following Friday at **Holywell** to celebrate Naomi Laredo's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. Naomi rings a lot in the District and has been associated with Hunts for many years. The ringing on both occasions was excellent.

The band celebrated success in the Ferry Boat Inn afterwards.



A quarter peal group then rang three quarter pals on the 19<sup>th</sup>. **Great Staughton** was the venue to Carlisle S Minor, where the ringers had noisy competition from a children's group in church. **Gt Catworth** they rang Surprise Minor in two methods, Surfleet and Cambridge, and at **Alconbury** a 1272 of Norwiche Surprise was successful.

At **Gamlingay** on Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> a special quarter peal was rung to celebrate Bill Garner's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. This was of 1280 Plain Bob Major which was achieved in 51 minutes. This was also Bill's first of Major. Congratulations, Bill.

Handbells were featured again this month with a quarter peal on minimus at Houghton Bury on the 10<sup>th</sup> by the regular dup of Sally Mew and Iain Hayden. Special mention should be made to the peal rung at **St Neots** on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> when Alban Foster conducted a 5009 of Stedman Caters.

And finally, at **Godmanchester**, their monthly quarter peal for the service of Evenson on Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> was Spliced Plain and Little Bob Major. This was a first of spliced in those method for Caroline Stevens and Sharon Williams.

The composition for the spliced Plain and Little Bob at Godmanchester on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

1296 2-Spliced Bob Major

Composed by Christian K Burrell

23456	W	M	B	H	Methods
35264	—		2	—	LLLL.L.LLL.LLLLL.
42356	—	—		[—] <sup>1</sup>	P.PPPPP.P.

6 part.

<sup>1</sup> Replace bracketed calls with sH in parts 3 and 6.

Contains 672 Plain; 624 Little; 11 com.

40 crus (Of,40b), 24 5678s (Of,24b), 57 4-bell runs (17f,40b), 84 5678 combinations (24f,60b), 6 8765s (6f,0b), Tittums



Our District CC Rep, Daniel Stevens, was unable to attend this years Central Council meeting due to his work commitment. He has submitted this report by Lynne Hughes (Cambridge District)

I was the only representative from the Ely DA able to attend the meeting in Sheffield. It was useful to network with people and hear informally what's going on elsewhere, as well as in the meetings. The programme began on the Saturday morning with the Ringing World AGM.

They are doing well, more than covering costs; but the fall in subscribers to the paper version continues year on year, as in society at large. It is only a matter of time until it goes all online. There is a move to get more copies into towers, given to new ringers and given out at the youth contest. The Ringing World are the organisers of the youth contest, and this was celebrated as it grows each year. It is "the most important event in the ringing calendar" said Linda Garton.

The main Central Council meeting was in the afternoon. The progress of 'Ringing 2030' is covered in depth for anyone to see on the CC's website; the challenges we face with falling numbers, and what is being done about it.

Updates were given in the meeting: Pillar One (Publicity and Marketing): they are using the mobile belfry with local associations at events, rolling out a social media strategy, sponsoring scout/guide badges and developing primary school lesson plans.

Pillar Two (Recruitment and Development): highlighting centres of excellence and places actively recruiting, and building regional young ringers' networks.

Pillar Three (Quality Environment): updating resources and developing a young ringers' hub. Paid interns have been used by Central Council over the summer, and more part-time paid support will be used for marketing, and for recruitment enquiries. "We have a plan to deliver change, let's spend our reserves now" said one representative.

The council was urged to engage more with Bell Sunday, useful for engagement and recruitment. A governance review had taken place, feeding into a motion to tidy up the wording of the rules and standing orders, which was passed. Affiliated societies (like the Ely DA) will be paying £1 per member to Central Council from next January, to fund part-time paid roles and deliver a better future for ringing, especially in recruitment. Some societies (such as universities) don't collect annual fees from most of their long term members and couldn't have paid the increase. The second motion was to create a new 'Associate' category of membership with much reduced fees, and this was also agreed.

The weekend continued on Sunday with the roadshow (these are now expected to be every two years). Many exhibitors and four mini-rings were present, including Matthew Higby's brand new 'Pells on Wheels' ring, which rang very well. Learning continued at the roadshow with a series of seminars.

I attended Andrew Slade's seminar on falling membership trends in the Yorkshire association, culminating in a suggestion to remove branches and their committees, and encourage groups of towers to organise their own training/meetings, with support. I also attended Tina Stoecklin's seminar on Karate and Leadership: everyone in karate is expected to give back in training the levels below them. Can we do this more in ringing?

Altogether a thought-provoking two days. Lynne Hughes. Ely DA rep (Cambridge District)

# THE BACK PAGE

## Sixth Place Plain Minor Methods

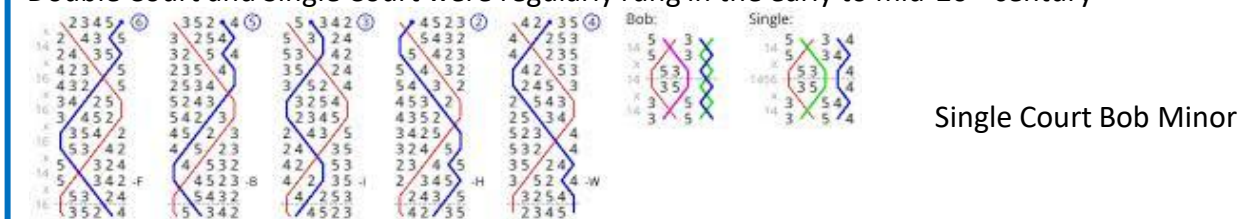
When ringing plain minor we usually ring 2nds place methods, but their 6<sup>th</sup> place variations are also worthy of our repertoire. They offer the challenge of busy blue lines and the opportunity to practice good striking! They are great methods to cut your teeth on!

Instead of dodging at the lead end the middle bells hunt to the next position. Then simply pick up the next place bell to carry on with the method.

Singles are different, made in 4ths, 5ths and 6ths place instead of 2nds. 3rds and 4ths, but the bobs are the same – run in/out and make.

- Single Oxford becomes Single Court Bob
- Double Oxford becomes London Bob
- Hereward becomes Double Court Bob
- St Clements becomes College Bob

Double Court and Single Court were regularly rung in the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century



Single Court Bob Minor



London Bob Minor



Double Court Bob Minor



College Bob Minor

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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**Membership Secretary – Roger Beaman**

**Ringing Masters. Andrew Smith and Cathy Moulton**

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