

Ringling Around and About in The Huntingdon District

Published by Phillip George

I was honoured to be elected as president of the district at the AGM at Gamlingay and would like to thank ringers for their support. I would also like to thank Ann and Geoff as retiring secretary and president respectively for their work during their tenure and we look forward to ringing with them at our practices, meetings etc.

There were some other changes in district officers at the AGM and in case you were not able to attend this is a good opportunity to introduce the members of the committee. They are listed here and in due course I will ask them to say a few words about themselves. Many are well known in the district, but new ringers might not know who they are. I'll start off by introducing myself at the end of this newsletter.

This initial newsletter is by way of an experiment and I hope in due course will encourage everyone to share their ringing experiences. Sharing news with one another can give us ideas for our own towers and if we can broaden our audience and share some news with our communities this will give them a better idea about what we do and why we do it. The community is where our new ringers are going to come from.

The New Year

Many of us like to ring early in the new year to "get a good start". Huntingdon ringers were quick out of the blocks by ringing a date touch of 2023 changes - Mixed Doubles (Grandsire and Plain Bob) on the 1st January. This was first in more than one method for Tom Pinnock and longest duration of ringing for Georgie Hunt, Tom, and Melanie Farnham. Well done everyone. <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1577551>

I am a great fan of date touches and up until 2020 we rang one at Great Gransden every New Year's day. Having completed 25 NYD date touches we decided to call it a day but I do miss that first ringing of the year. This year we rang on the 3rd instead. This was a quarter peal arranged by Sharon Williams following up from the Association training day in November last. This was her first as conductor, which she did superbly well! - Congratulation Sharon <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1578378>

The 6th January saw a quarter peal of York Surprise minor rung at Holywell. No firsts in this, simply arranged for the feast of the Epiphany and conducted by Andrew Stevens. <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1579343>

New Simulator

There have been exciting developments at Huntingdon All Saints where a six simulator has been installed. Jezz Bottley reported that the band had tried it out amid much amusement of analysis of the striking accuracy. I understand that the Stretham Rec gave a grant towards the equipment and that Huntingdon is to become a District Training Centre. Well done Huntingdon ringers.

Ring for The King

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Many of us are aware of this initiative led by the Central Council. I attended a Zoom meeting in November when some key points in recruitment and retention of ringers were highlighted. If we want to get new ringers ringing on the 6th May we need to start training now, and perhaps you already are lucky enough to find recruits. This is a summary of the Recruitment Toolbox

1. Raising awareness
2. Set your goal – what do you want to achieve?
3. Who to recruit – focus on younger people.
4. What are you going to do on the weekend of 6th May?
5. Publicity – tell the community that you are recruiting
6. Holding a successful event – Planning, H&S, Safeguarding. Run plans past non-ringers
7. Follow up the event – in person if possible
8. Intensive training – frequent and structured
9. Keep new ringers interested – integrate them into the group
10. Share resources – encourage ringers to own the responsibility for recruitment

Please follow this link for more information. <https://ccabr.org.uk/2022/11/11/coronation-of-king-charles-iii-on-6th-may-2023/>

District Committee Meeting

The next meeting will be on Saturday 11th February.

Please contact Caroline Stevens on Stevens <caroline@overroad.co.uk> if you would like anything added to the agenda for discussion. We will report back to you after the meeting.

Committee Profiles

Phillip George – District President

I learned to ring at St. Neots in 1965. In the early '70s I moved to Lt Gransden, and Gt Gransden has been my home tower ever since. Over time I have held office as District Ringing Master and District Secretary. I have also served on the Association Committee for many years and was the first Safeguarding Officer to be appointed.

Although I have taken a break from office in the last few years, I, together with my wife Sheila, have been keen supporters of the district attending meetings and ringing in quarter peals. We have also made many ringing friends throughout the association and look forward to making new friends in the Hunts District as we visit different towers. I also ring handbells with Sheila and others.

Gt Gransden tower has a simulator which we use weekly and all our ringers are part of the Learning the Ropes training scheme. We are always pleased to welcome visitors to our practice nights which are on Thursdays.

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Main interests in ringing: Teaching ringing and helping others, practice nights where there is a lot of laughter, learning from others – especially learners, conducting (will I ever be able to do it?), good striking, change ringing on handbells, ringing for my local community and working with them to gain support and understanding in what we do.