

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

THE HUNTINGDON DISTRICT
RINGING SURVEY 2023

By

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District President



Ringling in the Huntingdon District in 2023

With a summary of events and other data from 2010-2022

The Huntingdon District- Ringing Survey 2023

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PREFACE

I have carried out two surveys about ringing in the district. The first was in 2000, entitled The Huntingdon District Millennium Survey, and was done during my first year as District Secretary. Its object was to be a 'snapshot' of the district at the turn of the millennium. A hard copy was given to each tower which had taken part, and a copy also lodged with the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR).

I carried out the second survey the year after I retired as District Secretary and called it The Huntingdon District Ringing Survey 2010. It followed very similar lines to the original in an attempt to make a realistic comparison. Once again a copy was given to each participating tower, the CCCBR, and on this occasion The Ely Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers (EDA).

Both surveys contained a lot of detailed statistics using data from the EDA annual reports, peal and quarter peal records, attendance and other records available to me as a member of the Huntingdon District Committee.

This survey has been carried out during my first year as District President.

There have been significant challenges for ringing in general during the last few years, especially due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the enforced lockdown which prevented any in-person gatherings.

When the restrictions were lifted it took some time for some towers to return to their normal routines and some ringers haven't returned. The District Committee organised some events online and face-to-face meetings started again towards the end of 2021.

When normal activities had fully resumed some of the District Officers decided not to seek re-election at the 2023 AGM. This is an appropriate point to acknowledge the difficult challenges that District Officers faced during the pandemic and to thank them for their work during that time.

In general, in recent years the ringing population is getting older and there are fewer ringers. In mitigation to this, nationally, The Association of Ringing Teachers (A.R.T.) was formed to help train ringers and is now well established. Locally, the EDA has created three training centres and a group of Young Ringers has been formed within the Association.

Some ringers have been lost and new ones have been coming forward. It was during this time of change that this survey was conceived, to assess where the district is now, and consider how the District Committee can help and support ringers.

Phillip George

President

Huntingdon District Bell Ringers

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to those ringers who previewed the questionnaire and gave me some suggestions on content.

Thanks are also due to Caroline Stevens, District Secretary, for including news of the survey in her periodic emails and encouraging members to take part. I appreciate the help of Sheila George in the proof reading and critique of this report.

I would also like to thank Catherina Griffiths, the District Bell Fund Treasurer for providing data for attendance at ringing meetings from 2010 - 2022.

My thanks to everyone who responded to the survey and for commenting on a variety of subjects. I also appreciate the candid feedback.

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INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

The purpose of this survey is to document bell ringing activities in the Huntingdon District during 2023, identifying changes since 2010 and showing how ringing is organised at parish and district level.

OBJECTIVES

To collect information, comments, and ringing data from towers in the Huntingdon District of the Ely Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers.

To analyse the data and where possible compare it with similar data collected in 2010 and present it in a report for distribution to District Ringers.

To offer the data to the Huntingdon District Committee for consideration in order to help promote and advance ringing in the District.

SCOPE

There are six sections in the survey.

1. About the Towers. Relationship with the Church, Technical Capability of Ringers.
2. What is rung. Practice and Service Ringing.
3. Recruitment & Training.
4. District Events & Communication.
5. Feedback and comments on the questionnaire.
6. Observations and Action Plan.

The questions are mostly relevant to the ringing of tower bells. Relatively few ringers ring changes on handbells but some data for handbells is included.

METHOD

The questionnaire was built online using Google Forms. Most of the questions were the 'multiple choice' type to encourage ease and speed of completion. Some questions invited participants to comment.

Members of the District Committee, and one or two other ringing friends, were invited to test the questionnaire. As a result, some amendments were made including reference to three and four bell towers.

To issue the survey the District Secretary sent a link by email to ringers on the District Email Distribution List. An advertisement and link were also posted on the Huntingdon District Bell Ringers Facebook page and an advertisement appeared in the April issue of the monthly newsletter "Ringing Around and About in the Huntingdon District". Approximately 185 ringers received an invitation to participate.

A section for Tower Captains only was included to gather data at tower level. Answers to these questions have been included in the main body of this report.

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One respondent said that the questionnaire took 13 minutes to complete, which confirmed my expectation that it would take around 15 minutes.

The survey was published on the 1st of May 2023 and ringers were asked to respond by the 24th of June 2023.

DATA

The following sources of data have been used:

- i. The Huntingdon District Ringing Survey 2023 questionnaire
- ii. The Millennium Survey 2000 and the District Survey 2010
- iii. Attendance numbers at District Meetings from 2010 to 2022.
- iv. Data from EDA Annual Reports 2010 - 2022

STATISTICAL ACCURACY & QUESTIONNAIRE SHORTCOMINGS

The results of the survey are not intended to be statistically accurate.

Out of a distribution list of 185, fifty-three ringers replied which represents about 29% of the total. One ringer emailed comments rather than complete the questionnaire.

Twenty-one tower captains were included in the replies and 25 towers are represented across the District (see schematic map on Appendix 3).

Having analysed the results, I can see where some questions could have been phrased in a different way and other questions added to help make the analysis easier. For example, it would have been easier to identify who was a tower captain at the beginning of the questionnaire. I also asked for an age range of ringers in individual towers, but it would have been more helpful to ask for exact numbers.

From comments received (see page 33) I acknowledge that there were no detailed questions about monthly practices and that bell maintenance and tower health and safety considerations could have been included.

Note: Not every question was answered by individuals leading to gaps in the data but every attempt has been made to report it accurately.

The results serve only as a general statement of ringing in the District.

PG July '23

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DESCRIPTION OF THE HUNTINGDON DISTRICT

The Huntingdon District is one of four administrative areas of the Ely Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers and is made up of towers mainly within the old County of Huntingdonshire.

The southern-most tower is Gamlingay which is on the border with Bedfordshire, and Woodston is the northern-most tower being about 36 miles away. The River Nene marks the northern boundary. Note: Woodston church is now closed.

The east-west boundaries are guarded by Bluntisham, adjacent to the Ely District in the east, and Keyston to the west, just off the A14, approximately 24 miles distant and bordering Northamptonshire.

Church Bells

There are 70 churches in the Huntingdon District with three or more bells. There is a concentration of them in the villages and larger settlements along the valley of the River Great Ouse. There are fewer towers in the rural area between Huntingdon and Peterborough and the close proximity of the City of Peterborough has an influence on ringing in the District's northern towers.

The District benefits from a great variety of bells summarised in the following list:

3-bell towers 11 (of which 4 no regular ringing and 6 unringable)

4-bell towers 15 (of which 2 no regular ringing and 5 unringable)

5-bell towers 7 (of which 1 no regular ringing)

6-bell towers 28 (of which 2 no regular ringing and 2 unringable)

8-bell towers 8 (of which 2 no regular ringing)

10-bell towers 1

This data is taken from the Association Annual Report for 2022 which suggests that there are 57 ringable towers. Tower details described as 'unringable' or 'no regular ringing' account for 24, which leaves 46 which are presumed to be rung regularly. This is 66% of the total.

Interestingly, data collected from ringing for the coronation of their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla from the 5th of May to 12th of May 2023 when ringing performances submitted to BellBoard shows that ringing took place in 44 towers in the Huntingdon District.

Membership of the Ely Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers

At year ending 2022 there were 146 ringing members and 7 junior members. There were 46 with Free* membership (over the age of 60). *The Association has now discontinued this class of membership.

In 2010 there were 134 ringing members, 12 juniors and 45 Free (over the age of 60)

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Administration

The District Committee comprises: President, Secretary, Membership Secretary/Treasurer, Bell Fund Treasurer, Ringing Masters (3), Bell Advisor, Webmaster, Association Recruitment and Training Officer Representative, an Association Committee Representative and two Committee Members.

The Committee is responsible for planning and co-ordinating ringing and training events and collecting annual membership subscriptions. It meets twice a year, usually in February and October, and makes recommendations for the ringing programme for the Annual District Meeting to approve in January.

The Annual District Meeting (ADM)

The ADM is held in January and is very well supported with an average attendance 2010 – 2020 of 56, the fewest being 48 in 2014 and the most being 74 in 2019.

The ADMs for 2021 and 2022 were held online due to the pandemic and attendance figures are not available. In 2023 the attendance was 39, much lower than the average.

The ADM is a 'traditional' event which includes ringing in the afternoon, a short church service and a sumptuous tea followed by the business meeting.

Association Ringing Members elect the District Officers and Committee Members. New ringing members are elected, and other statutory business is conducted. The ringing programme for the ensuing year is agreed.

Monthly Practice Meetings

Monthly ringing meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month. A business meeting is held three times a year to ensure that members are kept informed about the business of the committee. New members may be elected at any District ringing meeting.

Average attendance at monthly meetings from 2010 to 2020 inclusive was 21, although averages in 2015 and 2016 were only 15. In 2022, the first year of recovery from the pandemic, the average was 19.

There is a monthly Surprise Practice. All ringers of any standard are welcome to attend but given the more advanced nature of the Surprise Practice the minimum requirement is for a ringer to be able to treble bob on the treble.

The Ringing Masters preside over the ringing and also set special methods for ringers to revise if they wish, before attending.

There is usually no ringing meeting arranged for December.

The EDA rules require at least three business meetings to be held each year, one being the ADM. In 2023 three were scheduled to take place during the ringing meetings in March, July and November.

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Surprise Practice Meetings

In 2010 Richard Hough introduced quarterly surprise major practices on the first Saturday. These proved to be successful and in 2018 they became a monthly fixture alternating between surprise major and surprise minor practices.

There is no data on attendance at these meetings.

Training Days

Occasionally, but not routinely, a District training day is arranged. The EDA also arranges training days held in each district in turn and these have sometimes been planned on a third Saturday in lieu of a District practice.

Striking Competitions

District striking competitions were abandoned as far back as 2005. An attempt was made to re-introduce them in 2018 when the then President, Geoff Durrant, visited towers entering the competition to record their test piece. About eight teams took part, ringing for the Frank Lack Memorial Trophy.

In 2019 the competition was held live at Caxton with five teams entering. The pandemic then halted all ringing from March 2020 and the competition has not been held since then.

The Association inter-district eight-bell competition is held every year and the Huntingdon District usually enters a team. The District has had some reasonable success in this competition, which is contested for the E H Mastin Trophy.

Some of our ringers are selected to ring in the inter-association ten-bell competition representing the Ely DA and held in adjacent neighbouring associations. Teams compete for the Ridgman Trophy and the EDA has been successful in this competition over the years.

The District Newsletter

A new newsletter "Ringing Around and About in the Huntingdon District" was introduced in 2023 and is currently published every month. It is a general-purpose newsletter and include news of ringing events and ringers throughout the District. It is available online and advertised through email and on the District Facebook page. Its predecessor, The Ringers' Rabble, which was sent to each ringing tower in the district, ceased publication in 2007.

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SUMMARY OF HUNTINGDON DISTRICT MILESTONES 2010 TO 2022

The information in this section is taken from the District Secretary's reports published in the Association Annual Reports from 2010 to 2022.

2010

Richard Hough was elected as President of the District.

Brampton installed a Saxilby simulator and 6 new dumbbells.

A young ringers' day was organised at Great Gransden.

Richard Hough introduced a quarterly surprise major practice held alternately at Bluntisham and Hemingford Grey.

Sally Mew was the District Secretary.

2011

Quarterly surprise practices continue.

16 quarter peals were rung for the Royal Wedding (Prince William and Catherine). They included 3 first quarter pealers. There was general ringing at a further 17 towers.

There was a District Dinner and a car treasure hunt.

Another young ringers' event was held at Hemingford Grey.

The annual tour was to Hertfordshire.

Little Paxton were augmented from 4 to 6 bells and rehung.

2012

56 ringing events marked the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, including 3 peals.

A 6-bell striking competition was held at Buckden.

Many ringers took part in the "All the Bells" project commemorating the Olympic Games being held in London.

Jez Bottley brought together ringers to go to other practices to help towers in need. They were called Bottley's Bonkers.

Jez also set up our first District website.

The annual dinner attracted over 90 ringers and friends, and handbells were rung.

Ramsey – repair to the bell frame

2013

The annual outing was to Nottinghamshire.

It was reported that there had been an increase in young ringers going to practices.

The young ringers' afternoon was held at Hemingford Grey.

2014

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The Huntingdon District won the Association 8-bell striking competition.

It was reported that junior membership is down slightly (15 in total).

The car treasure hunt has become a fixture.

Woodston bells have had work done on them and are now ringable!

2015

The Huntingdon District win the Association 8- bell striking competition again.

Sheila George organised two quarter peal days.

An appeal went out for more young ringers.

Sally Mew was second on the list of leading Association quarter pealers with a total of 79.

Sound control was installed at Lt Paxton

2016

Geoff Durrant becomes District President.

The Ridgman Trophy 10-bell striking competition held at Daventry was won by the Ely DA with 4 Huntingdon District members in the band.

A new band of ringers starts up at Catworth.

Huntingdon District win the Association 8-bell striking competition for the third consecutive year.

Webmaster Jez Bottley is updating the website for 2017 and reports that it is being used more frequently.

Learners encouraged to attend monthly meetings.

Catworth augmented from 4 to 6 bells and are re hung.

2017

Huntingdon District win the Association 8-bell striking competition again!!

6-bell surprise practices suggested monthly.

Social events included a dinner and a quiz evening.

Gt Paxton augmented from 5 to 6 bells and re hung.

District Bell Advisors suggested by the Association and appointed.

2018

6-bell striking competition re-introduced. Towers to ring on their own bells (Great Gransden win!)

Recruiting campaign for "Ringing Remembers" the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War yielded 22 new ringers.

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2019

Ann Abraham is elected as District Secretary.

St Neots win the 6-bell striking competition at Caxton.

Learners' practices held during the year.

District Facebook page set up.

Sheila George retires as the Association QP Secretary after 19 years

2020

Well attended ADM in January (as usual).

16th March - the Government locked down the country and ringing stops.

Local bands introduce Zoom gatherings to keep together.

2021

ADM held by Zoom.

Association Roadmap for Recovery from the pandemic published in the annual report.

Online quiz meetings organised.

Family handbell quarter peals rung by Phillip & Sheila George (45 in total).

First tentative steps to return to ringing in the district with a meeting at Bluntisham in November.

2022

The ADM was postponed until March and held on Zoom.

First ringers' tea for several years at the meeting at Yaxley. (The tea was excellent!)

Huntingdon District win the Association 8-bell striking competition again.

Platinum Jubilee celebrations with many district towers taking part.

Interview on Radio Cambridgeshire by Phillip George.

HM Queen Elizabeth II dies in September – Ringers mobilised to ring on fully muffled bells.

Association training day in our district in October was co-ordinated by Ed Groome.

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Results of the Survey

Section 1. ABOUT THE TOWERS

Towers Represented in this Survey

Involvement of Ringers in the Church

Individual Ringing Ability

Participation in Peals & Quarter Peals

In 2010 the questionnaire was posted to the tower correspondent of towers where there are known members of the Association, or where regular ringing takes place. Thirty-one towers replied.

In 2023 a link to the questionnaire was sent by email to the district email distribution list, a much wider audience and not specifically tower correspondents. Fifty-three replies have been received representing twenty-five towers. There were thirteen towers where more than one person has replied. Two ringers recorded themselves as not being associated with any particular tower.

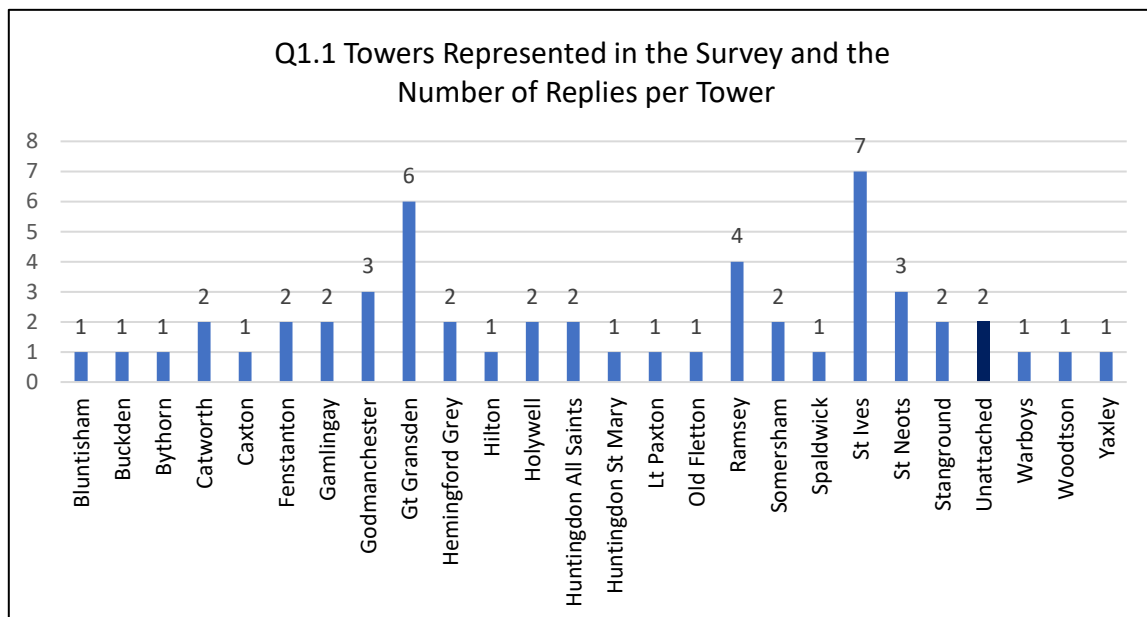
Twenty-one of the respondents are Tower Captains

Towers Represented in the Survey

Question 1.1

Please name your HOME tower

See also Appendix 2 for a list of towers represented in this questionnaire.



Replies were received from 1 ten-bell tower, 6 eight-bell towers, 16 six-bell towers, 1 five-bell tower and 1 four-bell tower. (See appendix 2)

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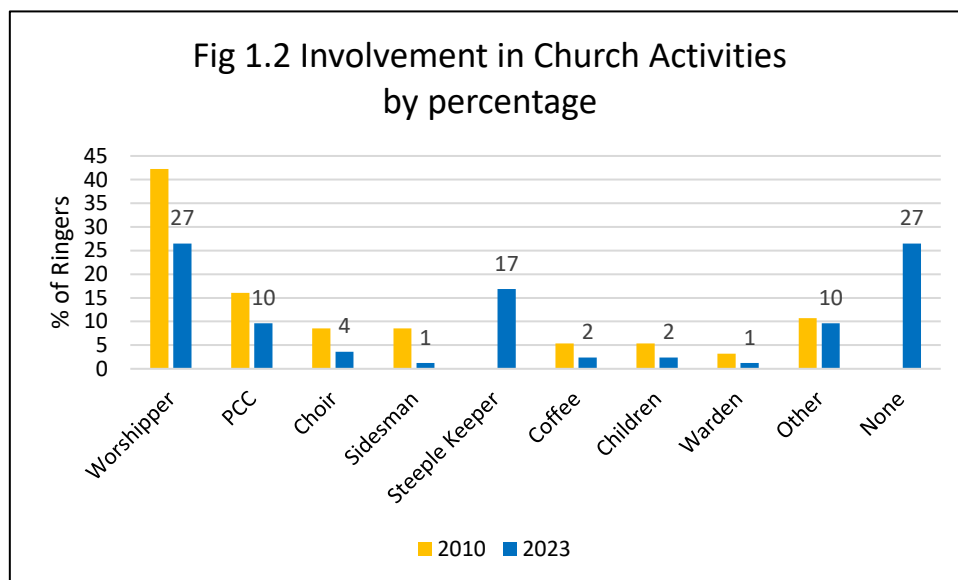
The Involvement with the Church

Question 1.2

Are you involved with any other church activities (optional)?

This information is to assess ringers' relationship with church authorities. The data is only used for general analysis. (See privacy statement on page 48)

This question was asked because the church is our (ringers) biggest stakeholder. Ringers are the most knowledgeable about the bells, and sometimes the clock. They play an important part in advising and guiding the church leaders and officers in the mechanics of bells and the protocol of bell ringing. They must work closely with them at all times for the benefit of the church, the ringers and the community.



It is difficult to make a direct comparison with 2010 because there were more than twice as many respondents in that year. This chart is a percentage comparison.

Notes: The category 'Other' includes the ministry team, safeguarding officers and churchyard workers. Steeple Keeper has been added this time.

In 2010 there was no 'None' category. However, in 2023, 22 of those canvassed clearly selected that they have no other involvement with the church.

It is clearly seen that direct involvement with the church is much less that it was in 2010.

Support of The Incumbent

Question 1.3.

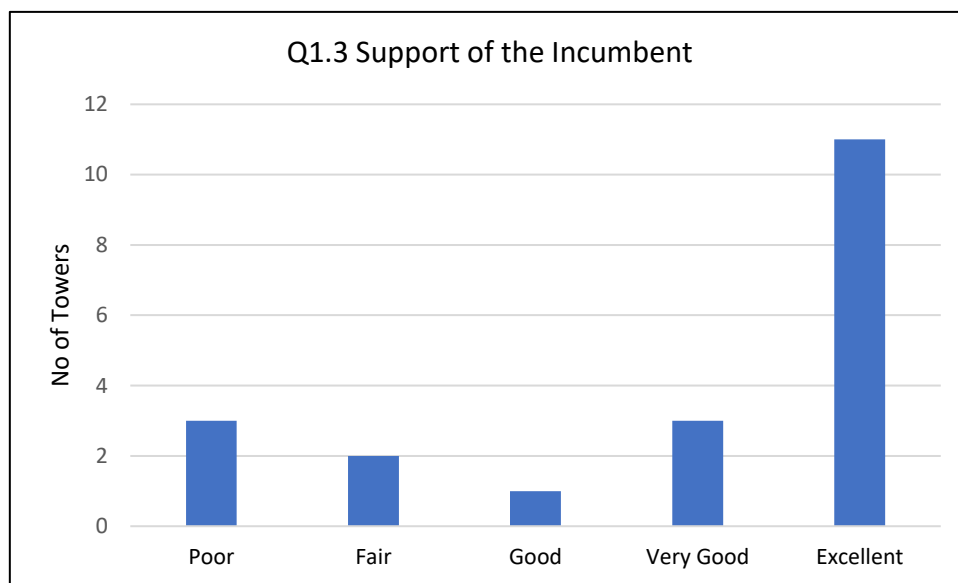
Tower Captains. How would you describe the attitude of the incumbent to the ringing of church bells?

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This question seeks to find out how much interest there is in the bells by the incumbent. For guidance, a score of 5 might be: for total support and encourages ringing for secular and church occasions and practices. A Score of 3 might be: supports the bells being rung but doesn't see them as an integral part of wider parish life. A Score of 1 might be: allows the bells to be rung but has no other interest whatsoever.

Without support and interest from the Incumbent and PCC ringing might be much more difficult to arrange and sustain. Ringers in general are the local experts on their bells and it is important that ringers have an excellent relationship with the church officers so that there is a good understanding between them. This is particularly relevant in issues such as practice nights, peals, quarter peals, visiting bands and safeguarding.

Good relationships also protect ringing for the future. A supportive priest and PCC will help ensure that the sound of bells is an active part of church life and part of the culture of the community.



Comparing data with the 2010 survey results are much the same but encouragingly 70% of the replies fall in the Very Good/Excellent categories compared to 53% in 2010.

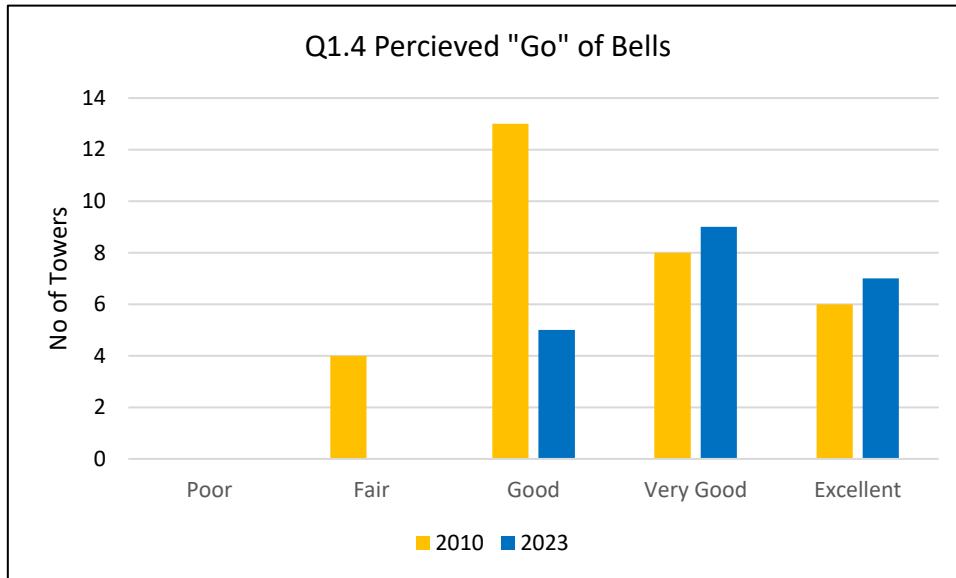
Ringability of Your Bells (Perceived “Go” of the bells)

Question 1.4

Tower Captains. How would you describe the "go" of your bells?

The Tower Captains were asked to give their opinion on how good they considered their bells to be, on a scale of 1 (Poor) to 5 (Excellent).

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The perceived condition of bells is very subjective. Data can't be directly compared with the 2010 survey. The results give a reasonable assessment of the overall condition.

There have been some augmentations and re-hangs in the last 12 years (see pages 4 to 6) which will contribute to the overall improved quality of our bells.

Tower Details on Various Information Platforms?

Question 1.5.

Tower Captains. Are your tower details up to date on the following platforms?

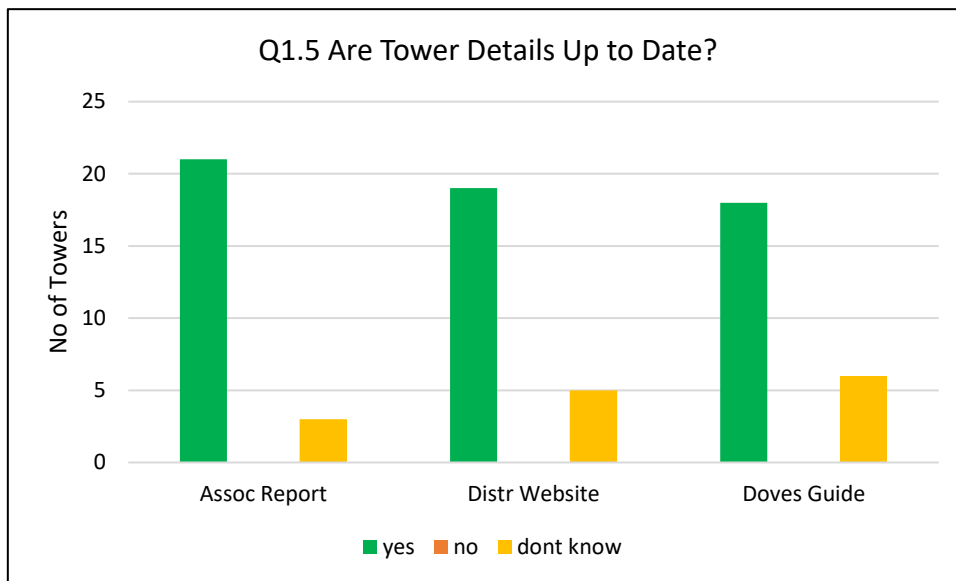
It is important to keep tower records up to date on various information platforms.

Tower information is sought by ringers within the District, EDA and farther afield when they are planning ringing outings, visits, or just details about the bells.

The prime source of tower information is the EDA Annual Report. Details about the bells usually remains the same but tower correspondents and sometimes ringing times can change.

The District website also holds tower information although it is currently being re-written and is not a major source of information. (See Fig 4.4 on page 32).

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The Individuals' Technical Standard of Ringing

Question 1.6

Which of the following are you able to ring competently and confidently, and which of the following are you learning/working on but not yet competent and confident?

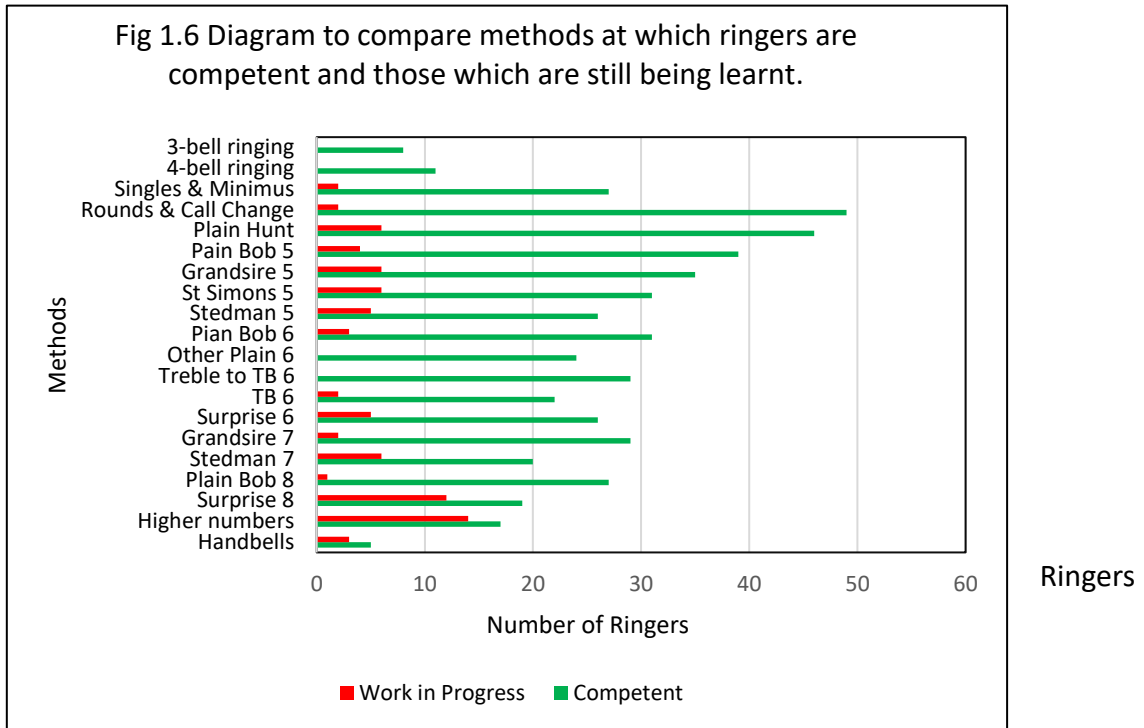
I wanted to try and assess the overall technical standard of ringing. A selection of methods were chosen to illustrate this and as might be expected the answers covered a very wide range of ability.

As there are several active three and four bell towers these are included in this section. These towers are relevant in the overall picture of the District, and it is important to acknowledge them. Some, but not all of the ringers at these towers also ring on higher numbers.

The graphs suggest that ringers consider themselves to have a relatively high level of confidence in ringing the standard basic repertoire. The chart is graduated in levels of difficulty (subjective) and it can be seen that the easier methods, from the top of the chart, include more ringers than those methods farther down the list.

This is in part due to there being mostly five and six bell towers in the District and opportunities to ring at 8-bell towers are less frequent. And, as one correspondent observed, the lack of eight bell opportunities also impacts on the quality of ringing.

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acknowledge that there are training needs on surprise major and ringing on higher numbers in general. There is also the need to continue helping ringers with the standard 5 and 6 bell repertoire.

It should be recognised that not all ringers aspire to ringing beyond call changes and basic Hunting.

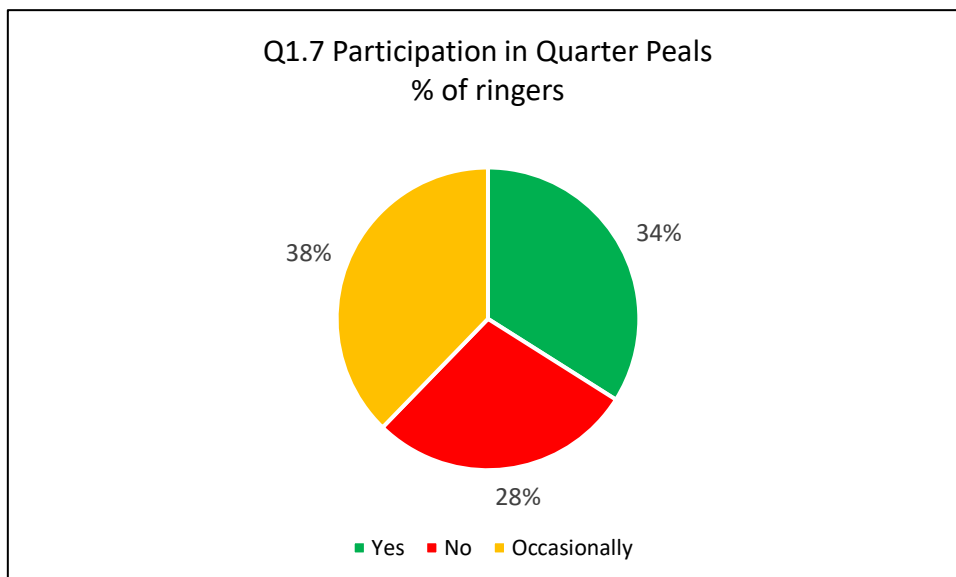
Quality of ringing is important.

Peals and Quarter Peals

Quarter Peals

Question 1.7

Do you take part in quarter peals?



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Quarter Peals can be one indicator as to the health of ringing, although not everyone wishes to ring them. They require the ringer to have a good standard of bell control and method knowledge, and the physical and mental stamina for 45 minutes ringing.

In the survey, 18 ringers said that they regularly rang quarter peals and 20 said that they do occasionally. This is 72% of the total.

Fifteen said that they don't ring any quarter peals.

The Huntingdon District Ringing Survey 2010 reported that 70 ringers rang quarter peals in 2009 and that 65 quarters were rung that year (with an average of 63 each year between 2000 and 2009)

Since 2010 there has been a step change in the number of quarters rung, there being 139 in 2010 with a maximum of 192 in 2015, and on average 122 per annum from 2010 to 2022. This included handbell quarter peals.

During this time the District usually had between five and ten of its ringers on the EDA quarter peal leader board which recorded those who had rung more than 20 in any one year. Actual figures for some individuals were much higher than that. e.g. in 2016 Sally Mew scored 73 and her nearest contenders scored in the 50s and 60s.

The usual leaders appeared in most years' reports, but in the latter part of the decade new names appeared as some former champions dropped off the list.

The leading tower early in this period alternated between Great Gransden and Bluntisham but in the last five years Holywell has taken top spot.

Handbell ringing also came to the fore with the highest number rung in 2020 (93). Generally speaking, the leading venues during this decade have been Houghton Bury, Nutbells at Little Gransden, Vinery Court in Ramsey and Knipe Close in Huntingdon. 350 have been rung in this period.

In 2020 and 2021 many handbell quarter peals were rung online due to the restrictions caused by the pandemic with 93 being the zenith in 2020/21. During Covid restrictions 2021, 45 family quarter peals of minimus were rung by Phillip & Sheila George!

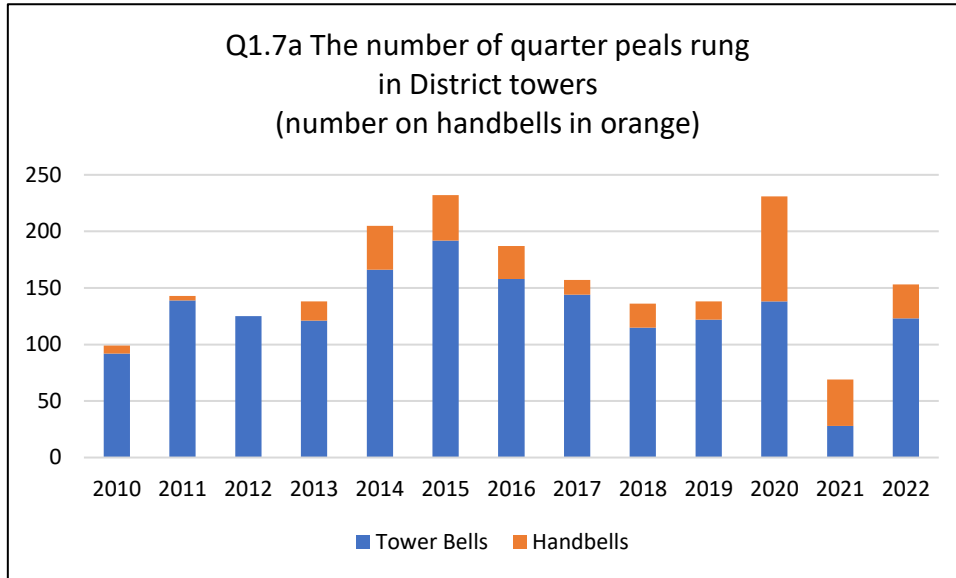
It is encouraging to see that during the return to ringing in 2022 quarter peal numbers were back to previous levels with 123 tower bell quarters being rung, this in part being due to indefatigable efforts of ringers to mark the Platinum Jubilee and the untimely death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The data available from this survey does not allow a direct comparison with previous decades, but the broad indicator that 34% of ringers regularly ring quarter peals compares favourably with 2009 when 36% *of ringers rang quarter peals during that year.

It is likely, however, that the number of quarter peals will reduce in coming years as there will be fewer ringers with sufficient experience and capability.

*Based on Huntingdon district membership of the EDA.

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Peals

Question 1.8

Do you take part in peals?

Peals require a much greater discipline to ring, with consistently excellent bell control and good striking over a 2 ¼ hour + period, and the mental and physical stamina to go with it. Peal ringing by District ringers has reduced in recent years. The pandemic has had a serious effect too. Ringers fell out of practice during this time and haven't all returned to this aspect of ringing. Only 8% said they regularly ring peals.

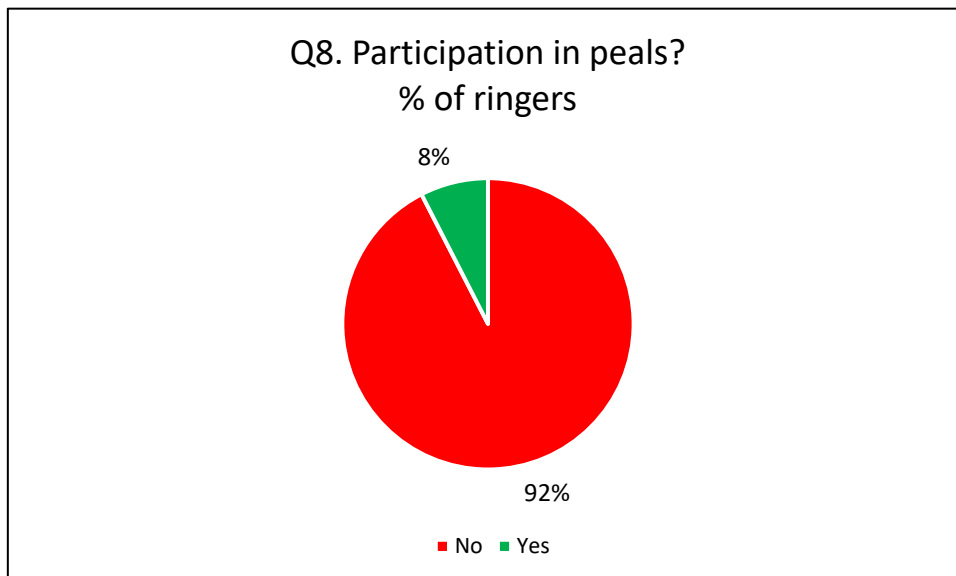


Table 1 uses data from the 2010 survey and shows numbers of District peal ringers who have rung peals for the EDA. Data is taken from the EDA annual reports every ten years since 1969 and has been updated to include the 2019 and 2022 figures.

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Table 1. No of Peal Ringers vs Membership

	1969	1979	1989	1999	2009	2019	2022
Peal Ringers	46	45	51	42	69	53	51
Membership	149	147	144	134	193	238	199
% of membership	31	31	35	31	36	22	25

But this is historic data. It includes once-active peal ringers and belies the fact that peal ringing is in decline.

The current estimate of 8% of ringers is a much more realistic representation of active peal ringers which would be about 15 ringers.

Table 2 is a list of ringers who have rung more than 100 peals for the Association, as listed in the 2022 Annual Report, and is included here for historic interest. The top seven names were also in the 2009 report. Andrew Stevens transferred from the Ely District in 2017 and so was not listed in 2009.

Table 2. Huntingdon District Ringers who have rung over 100 peals for the Association as recorded in the 2022 Annual Report.

Ringer	Tower Affiliation	No in 2022	2009 annual report
Jane Hough	St Ives	578	282
George Bonham	St Neots	461	460
Phillip George	Gt Gransden	315	226
Richard Hough	St Ives	299	153
Mary Hall	St Neots	262	212
Catherina Griffiths	St Neots	255	247
Peter Rogers	Huntingdon All Sts	221	105
Andrew Stevens	Fenstanton	181	178
Richard C Smith	unattached	109	27

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Section 2. WHAT IS RUNG IN OUR TOWERS?

Age Range of Ringers in all Towers

Practice and Service Ringing

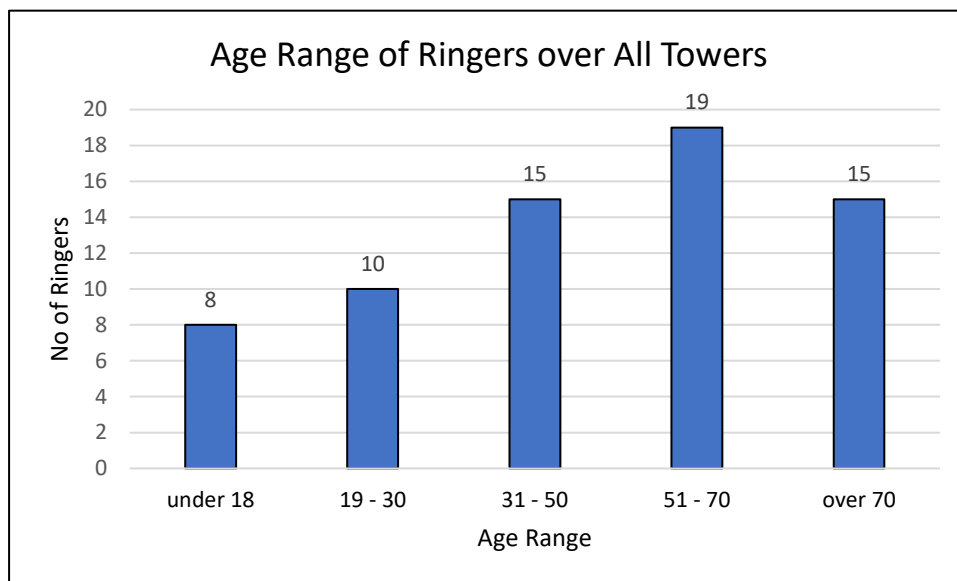
Local Band, Joint Practices/Sunday Ringing and Visitors

The capability of an individual ringer doesn't always mean that his or her local band can ring the same methods. This section first looks at local band capabilities and then considers the benefits of shared practices and regular visitors.

The Age Range of Local Ringers

Question 2.1

Tower Captains. How many resident/local ringers are there in your tower and over what approximate age range?



The survey did not gather data on the exact numbers of ringers in each age group.

Fig 2.1 Shows the number of towers with ringers of each selected age range. It shows the trend to an ageing ringing population.

However, it is encouraging to see that younger ringers are involved and that amongst towers replying there are about 33 ringers up to the age of fifty.

Probably most of the experience and ringing knowledge is tied up in the older generation of ringers!

The Huntingdon District- Ringing Survey 2023

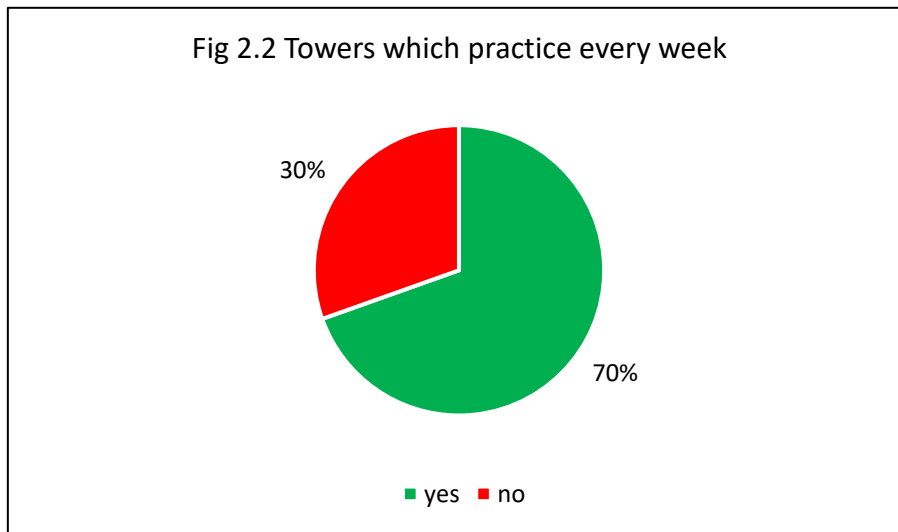
Practice Ringing

Question 2.2

Tower Captains. Do you hold a ringing practice in your tower every week?

Traditionally every tower used to have its own weekly practice night. A significant majority of towers still do, see Fig 2.2.

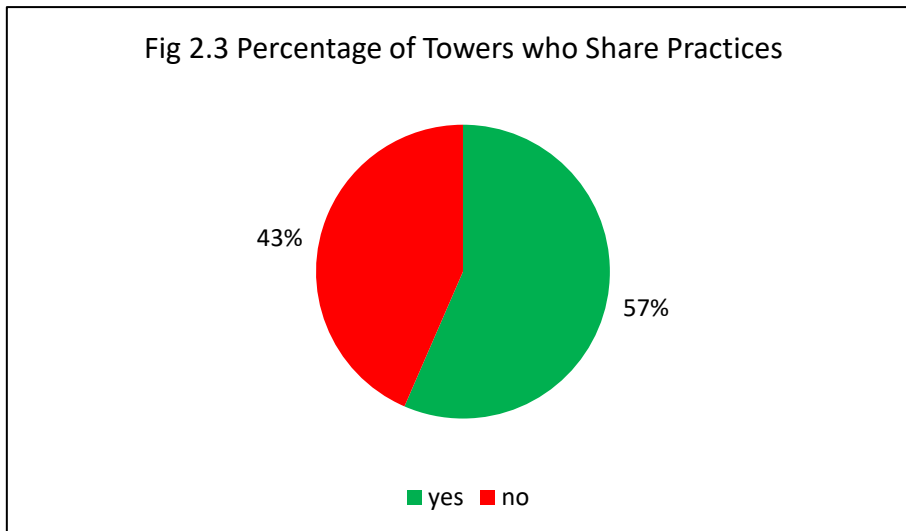
Some are part of a social group of towers which have an agreement to combine their practices and ring at each church in turn on a fixed week of the month.



Shared practices are a great benefit to ringing, especially in rural areas where the local band might not be very strong and where there are few skilled ringers who can teach and develop the band without help.

Question 2.3

Tower Captains. Does your tower regularly share practices with other towers?



The Huntingdon District- Ringing Survey 2023

Examples of practices which are shared:

- Hilton (1st Monday), Houghton (2nd Monday), Fenstanton (3rd Monday), Holywell (4th Monday)
- Ramsey - Half of March ringers practice with us weekly during their current tower unavailability. 2 x experienced and 5 x developing ringers from March while their tower is out of action.
- St John's Stanground, practice as a group most weeks.
- Somersham share practices with Bluntisham, 1st Tue in month at Bluntisham and 2nd at Somersham but we also hold practices for local ringers and learners on the other Tuesdays. We also have regular help at Somersham practices from ringers at Chatteris, while Kathleen and I go to Chatteris practice on Mondays to help them.
- Wistow, Bury and Broughton ringers join Warboys practice evenings. On the 1st Monday of each month we ring at Broughton and Wistow
- Hilton (1st Monday), Houghton (2nd Monday), Fenstanton (3rd Monday), Holywell (4th Monday)
- St John's Stanground, practice as a group most weeks.
- Share with Bourn (same ringers). We ring for services once a month in each tower.
- Practice at Kimbolton every Monday. Spaldwick are going to try starting a monthly practice, 1st week July 2023
- All practices in Huntingdon except for second Tuesday of the month
- We also have regular help at Somersham practices from ringers at Chatteris, while Kathleen and I go to Chatteris practice on Mondays to help them.
- We take our practice to Godmanchester on the 2nd Tuesday to keep their bells ringing to ensure the residents don't get too used to silence!

Question 2.4

Tower Captains. What is your tower able to ring by only your local resident ringers?

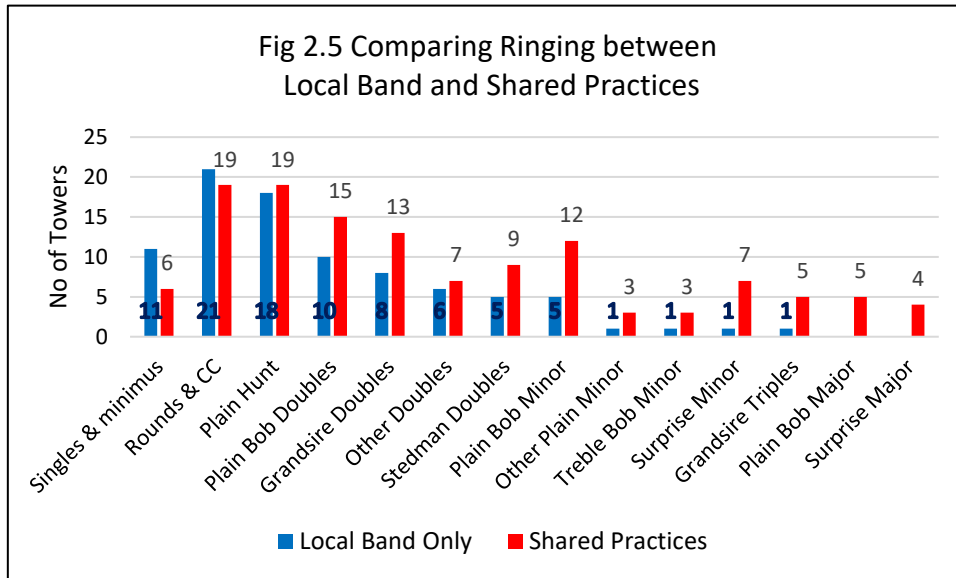
Question 2.5

Tower Captains. What is rung on practice nights with help from ringers from other towers?

Figure 2.5 shows a comparison of results between question 2.4 and 2.5

It illustrates that the ringing repertoire increases when practices are shared. There are more opportunities for slightly more advanced methods to be rung whilst maintaining opportunities for basic method learning to continue.

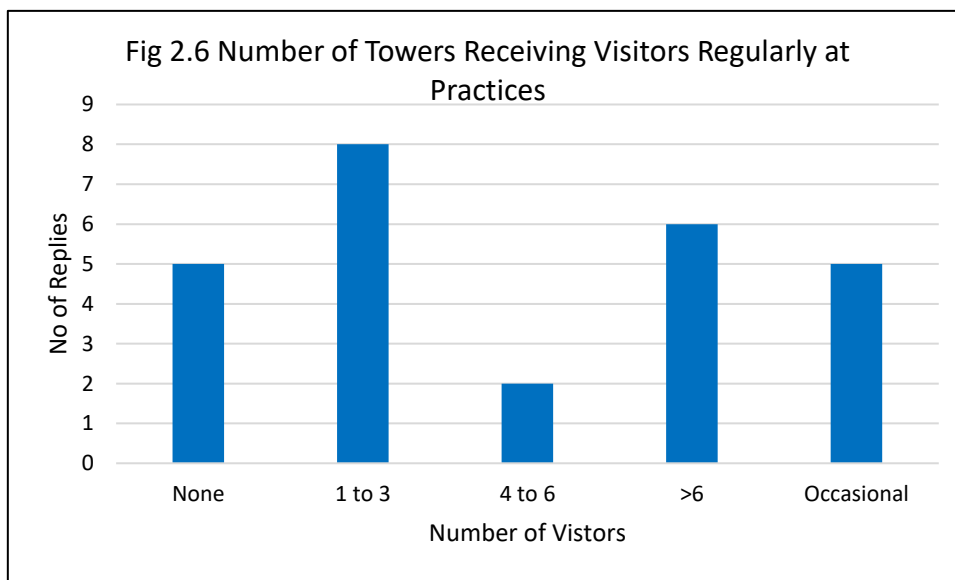
The Huntingdon District- Ringing Survey 2023



Interestingly there seems to be a learning deficit where a jump is made from Plain Bob Minor to Surprise Minor and above. The great benefit of learning a good repertoire of Plain and Treble Bob Minor methods appears to be absent!

Question 2.6

Tower Captains. How many regular visitors do you have every week at your home tower practice night?



Sixteen towers regularly receive visitors. These are predominantly the shared practices. Five towers receive no visitors and the same number an occasional visitor.

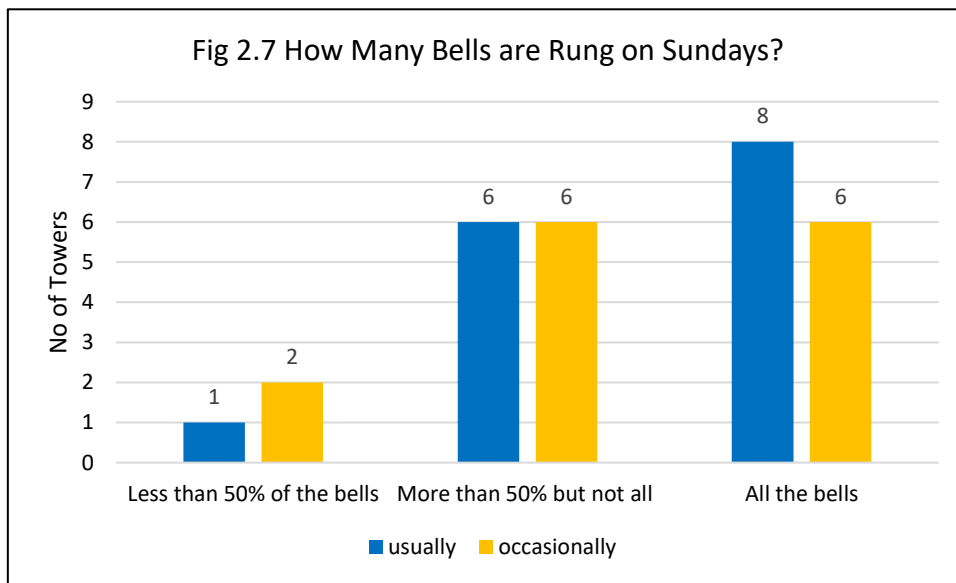
The Huntingdon District- Ringing Survey 2023

Sunday Service Ringing

With many towers dependant on help for practice ringing it is not surprising that some are not able to muster a band to ring all their bells. However, it is encouraging to see that the majority ring at least 50% of their bells.

Question 2.7

Tower Captains. How many bells in your home tower are usually rung for Sunday service ringing?



This also reflects on the methods rung on a Sunday. As has been seen from the Practice Night data there is likely to be less experience in a Sunday Service band and this will determine the standard of ringing.

The Huntingdon District- Ringing Survey 2023

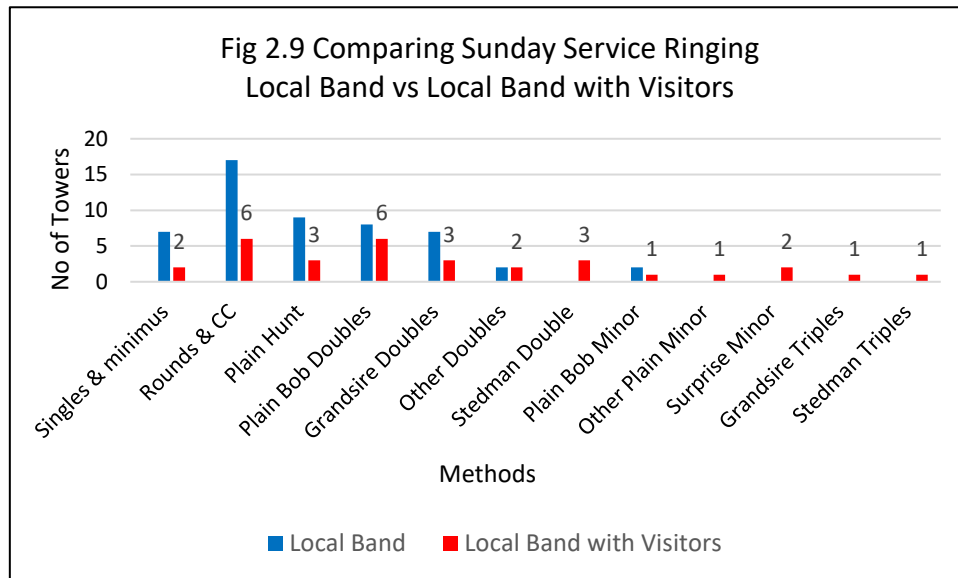
Question 2.8

Tower Captains. What is rung on a Sunday with only the local ringers?

Question 2.9

Tower Captains. What is rung on a Sunday with help from ringers from other towers?

Figure 2.9 shows a comparison of results between question 2.8 and 2.9



The Huntingdon District- Ringing Survey 2023

Section 3. RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

Recruitment & PR

Training

Recruitment

We are always looking out for new ringers. Traditionally many came from within the church and were aware of the bells being rung. This avenue is now least likely to attract any ringers and a greater effort is now required to reach out to the community at large.

Question 3.1

Tower Captains. Do you regularly communicate information about bell ringing in your local community?



The church or parish magazine is the favourite means of advertising ringing. It is a constant but possibly not read by everyone in the parish!

Facebook pages are also top of the list targeting a specific audience as frequently as necessary.

Church notice boards are for an occasional glance and tower open days are at most annually.

Community emails, where available, can be a good medium to use because they reach mostly people who do not attend church and if the right approach is used over a period of time can educate the community.

The tower Facebook page is an ideal medium for letting other ringers know what your tower is doing and give other ringers ideas about how to advertise their presence in the community.

The Huntingdon District- Ringing Survey 2023

The following is a list of comments received about advertising ringing.

- Occasion articles in the village magazine.
- Poster in local village store. On the Church website.
- Closed church, ringing informed on Facebook only.
- Weekly church bulletin
- In the past have used the community Facebook page
- Occasional posts in village magazine
- We have used local radio and papers in the past. We have attended local galas with the mobile bell and Charmborough ring. We recently used our young ringers to talk to the congregation about ringing.
- Participation in Church Fetes and Village Shows.
- Leafleting sometimes. Ringers' assistance at non-ringing events.
- Ringers logo and badges identify the group members and open opportunities for non-ringers to ask about ringing.
- We have had open days and tower visits hoping to recruit but so far our recruits have come forward through hearing the bells being rung and not by our recruitment efforts!
- We are not allowed to recruit as it is a closed church
- We have a stall with the EDA mobile bell at the town's annual gala day. Attempted to interest one of the primary schools with a tower open day
- We have no incumbent and no regular church services at St Lawrence, Bythorn
- After stopping ringing during Covid we were down to only 3 local ringers when we restarted. Currently, we are able to ring for weddings and other events with the help of ringers from other towers but have not yet been able to restart regular Sunday service ringing. We have 4 learners who are learning bell handling and can ring rounds with assistance. We aim to be able to restart Sunday service ringing when they are capable.
- We have more people wanting to learn currently than we can easily cope with. We have to temper how much publicity we generate.
- Events such as Armistice Centenary have been fruitful. Otherwise, we are simply open to talking about the bells and encouraging people to have a go at church events.
- I am "only" a joint tower captain, relatively senior in years but fairly new to ringing, and often defer to my other far more experienced JTC for advice. So the above info is approximate!

Comment: Find out what works and build on it. Advertising is a continuous process, not a single event. Well done to the tower which has more learners that it can cope with!

Training

Teaching and training bell ringing can be carried out by anyone. No formal qualification is required.

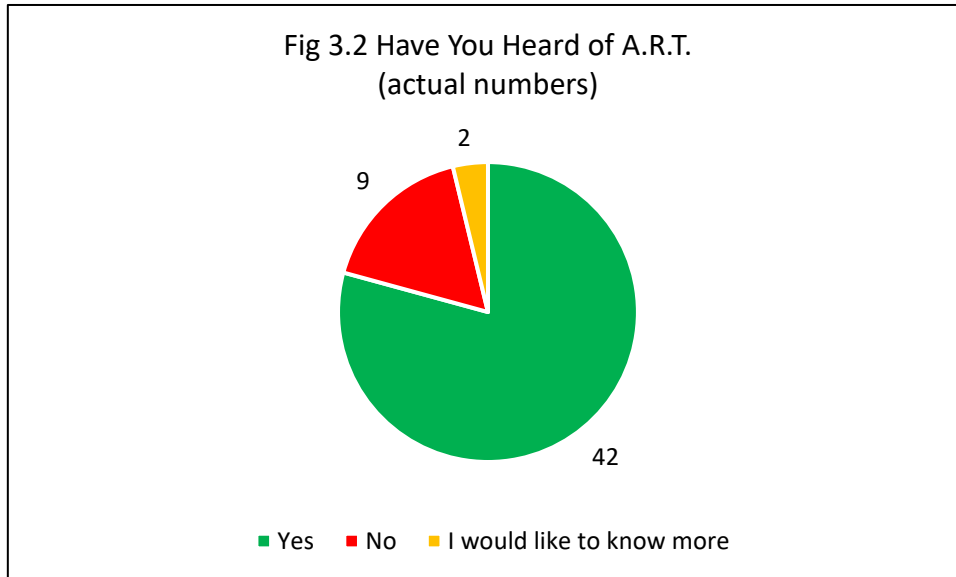
The Association of Ringing Teachers (A.R.T.) has been established for ten years and offers a structured approach to training bell handling and basic change ringing through the Learning the Ropes scheme. It trains and accredits bell ringing trainers and assessors. It is not mandatory to follow this scheme.

The Huntingdon District- Ringing Survey 2023

All ringers were asked if they had heard of A.R.T.

Question 3.2

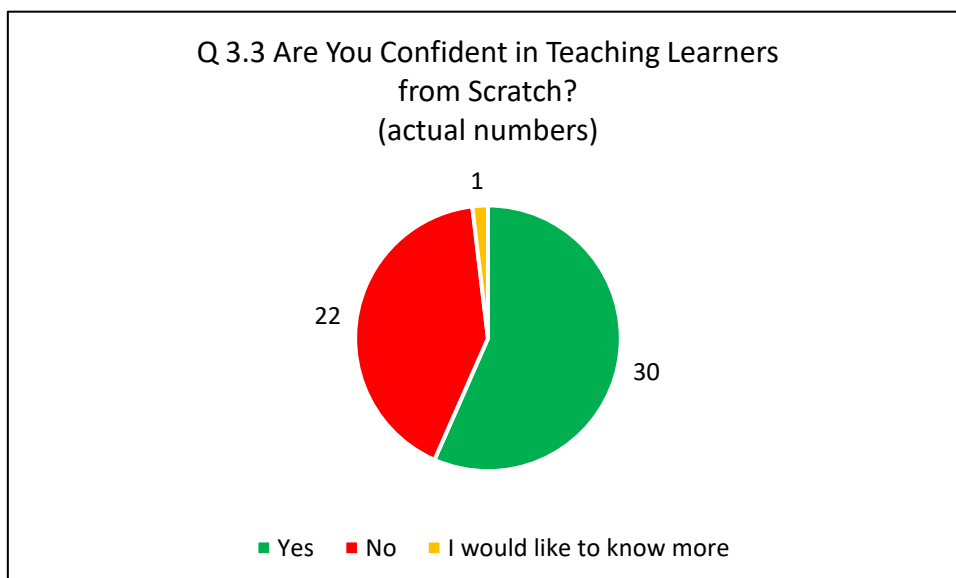
Have you heard of The Association of Ringing Teachers?



Leading on from this, the survey asked if individual ringers were confident in training learners from scratch.

Question 3.3

Do you feel competent to teach learners from scratch?

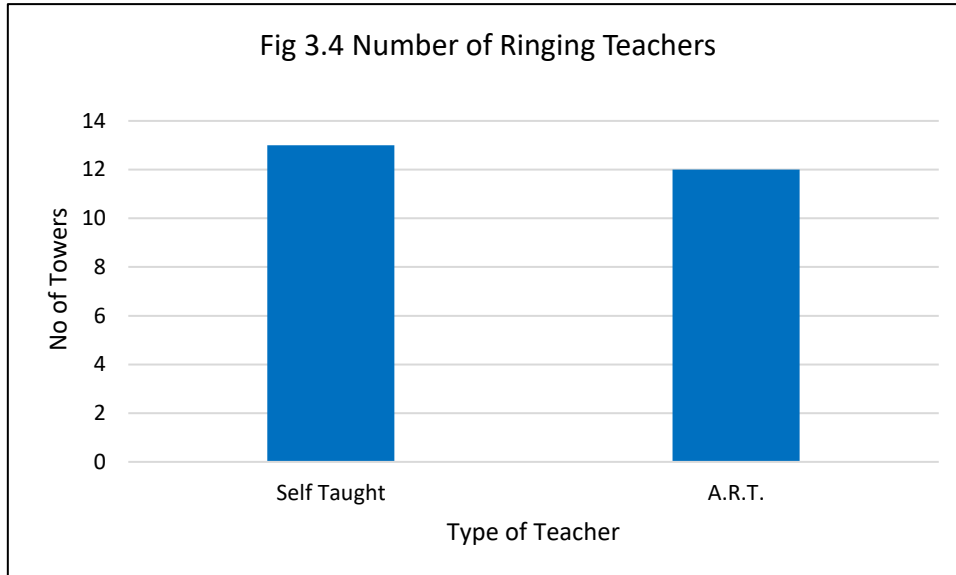


The Huntingdon District- Ringing Survey 2023

The survey asked how many bell ringing trainers were in each tower.

Question 3.4.

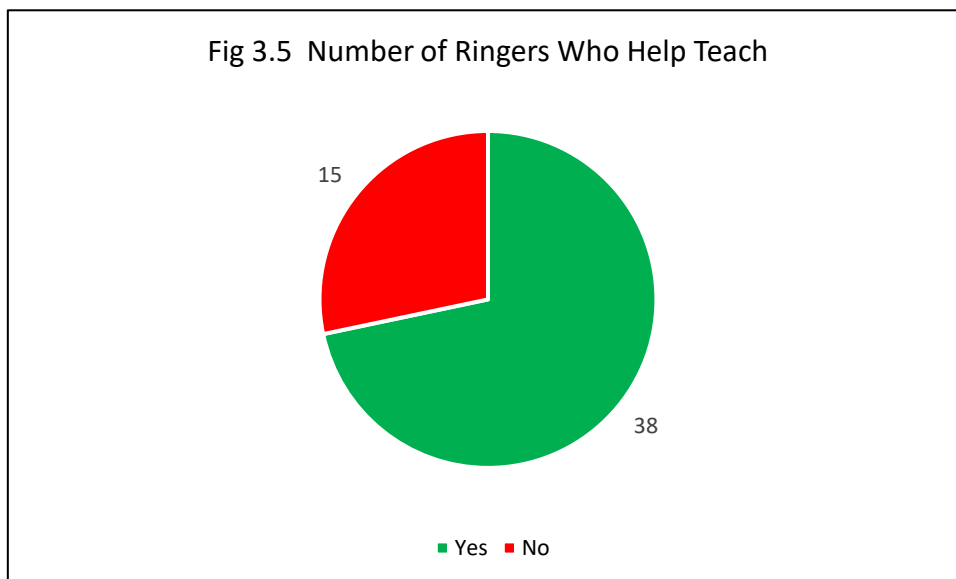
Tower Captains. How many bell ringing trainers are there amongst your local ringers?



In addition, there are also ringers who help in the teaching process and the following chart shows that a good proportion of ringers support learners. This could be, for example, in demonstrating bell handling or teaching under supervision.

Question 3.5

Do you help with teaching learners in your tower?



The Huntingdon District- Ringing Survey 2023

Training can be an emotive subject. The following comments were received from ringers.

- Irrelevant of whether people are accredited to the ART scheme, they mostly continue to teach however they see fit or have done for years. Teaching needs to be more positive than it is and much less negatively. There also needs to be a focus on training beyond plain hunt, plain bob and grandsire and actual development plans or sessions for those who are stuck in no mans land where (through circumstance or teaching) they have not learnt specific methods that everyone else seems to know. Colloquial ways of describing things as 'this method you don't know above the treble' and 'that method you don't know below' are incredibly unhelpful and put people off.
- Although I don't help to teach I have made myself available if an extra person is needed when teaching learners.
- As incumbent, not my role to do this, but I'll do some helping beyond the early stages.
- At all levels the support of other members in the tower is essential. I formerly attended training sessions lasting about 2 hours to learn methods by ringing with experienced ringers. This was a very good way of learning new methods.
- Due to the pandemic my learning suddenly stopped and due to the time that we were unable to practice I'm finding it a struggle to get back to the stage where I was at before plus having confidence on the ropes with ringing up and down. I have found it frustrating that I don't seem to have the time due to work commitments or a opportunity to rekindle the passion, although I still love to ring and use the skills the tower and fellow ringers have taken time to teach me. Ann has been a great support and her skills and patience has been very helpful and inspiring. She has taken me under her wing since the start of training back in 2018.
- Having attended a training course I tried to have a new ringer handling both strokes on the first lesson (as suggested). This did not work and so I reverted to slow and steady progress.
- I attended M1 but never followed it up. Too many hurdles and no real interest my perusing it.
- Role for ARTs coordinator for branch (part of ringer masters?) Track and support trainers for the trainers?
- I am a reluctant teacher because of the inherent dangers of ropes. It is difficult to progress ringers beyond the rounds and call changes stage as I have no method ringers in the tower. We are primarily service ringers.
- Haven't had any referrals from ART but the teaching materials have been very useful. What is the case for a ringing centre in the district? Some sort of infrastructure that spreads teachers and learners across the district would be welcome although this is already done in an ad-hoc basis. It's a shame Huntingdon made to feel unwelcome at Stretham Rec!
- Competent and Confident does not necessarily make a good teacher.
- I am an art tutor
- I attended an ART day course at Stretham before lockdown but wasn't able to find a learner to enable me to complete certification. There are now younger more recently trained trainers and I support them.
- In the past I have taught people to handle, at present I don't really have time, but I do enjoy standing with learners on practice nights and helping that way
- I help with learners by taking a rope while they are learning to ring rounds etc.

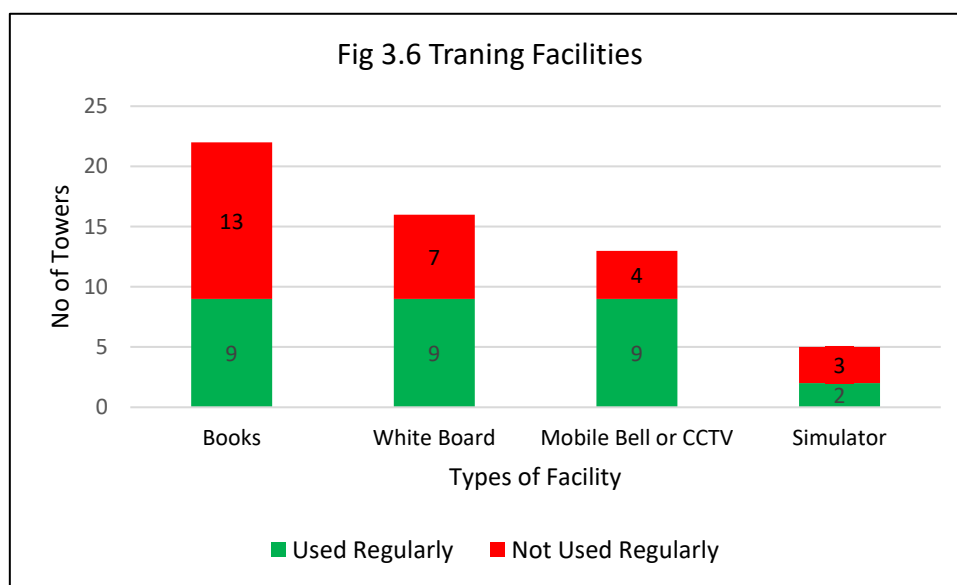
The Huntingdon District- Ringing Survey 2023

- I'm learning myself
- I ring rounds and call changes alongside learners to aid their striking

Bell ringing trainers and learners need resources and the survey asked how many towers had basic resources for effective training.

Question 3.6

Tower Captains. Does your tower have any of the following used regularly when training ringers?



Of the towers surveyed thirteen have a model bell, or CCTV which can be used to demonstrate how a bell rings, but about one third do not use them regularly.

Five towers report having a simulator but only two are used regularly.

Sixteen towers have white boards but surprisingly they are only in regular use in nine towers.

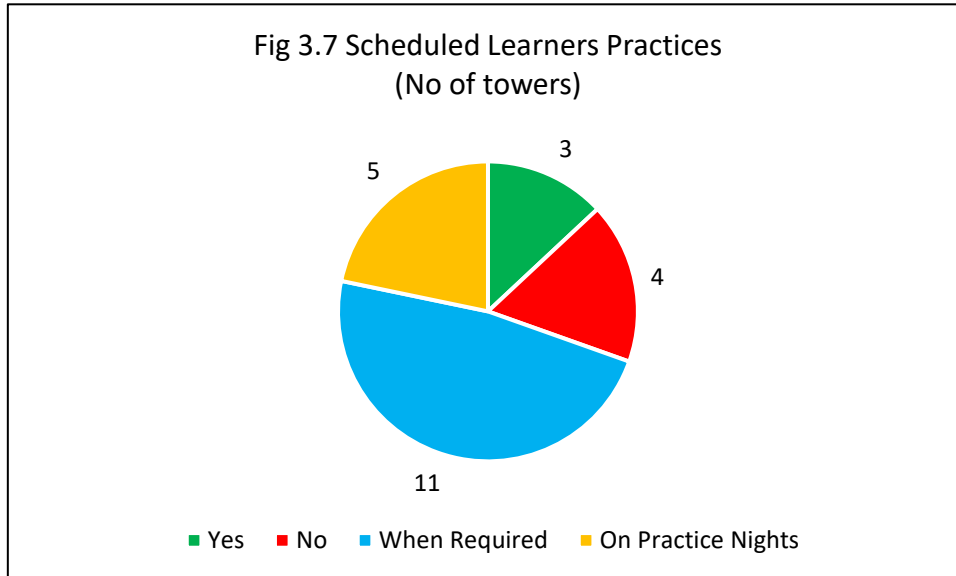
Books are the most common form of training aid with twenty-two towers having a selection. Even in this category only nine towers report using them regularly. This doesn't include individuals using their own reference documents either hard copy or on mobile devices.

The scheduling of training can be difficult, affected by time and availability of teachers and trainers. The following chart illustrates when training is carried out.

The Huntingdon District- Ringing Survey 2023

Question 3.7

Tower Captains. Does your tower have routine scheduled learner's practices, either in basic bell handling or other more advanced ringing skills?



Given these challenges tower captains were asked if they would like any help with training new ringers and 5 said that they would like more information.

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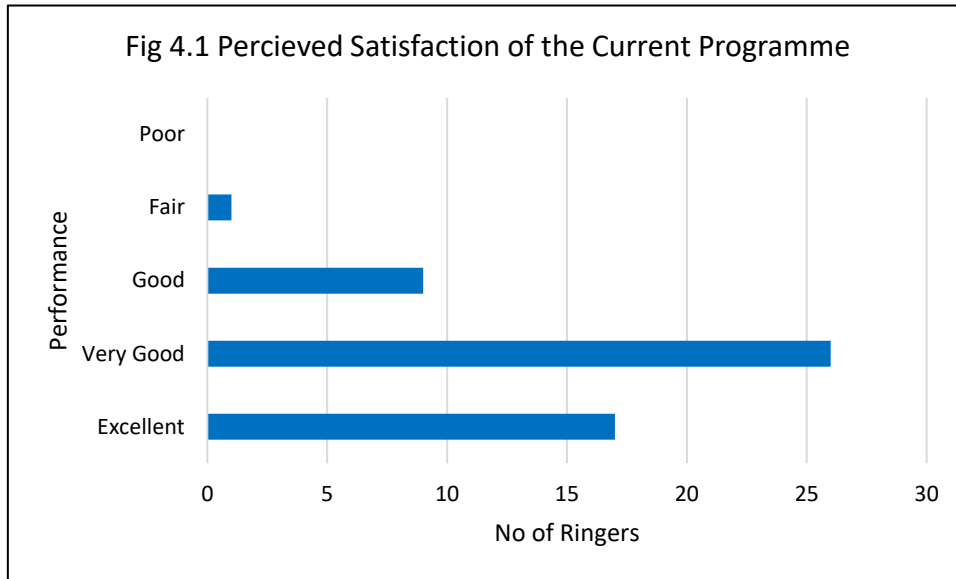
SECTION 4 DISTRICT EVENTS & COMMUNICATION

District Events

Communication

Question 4.1

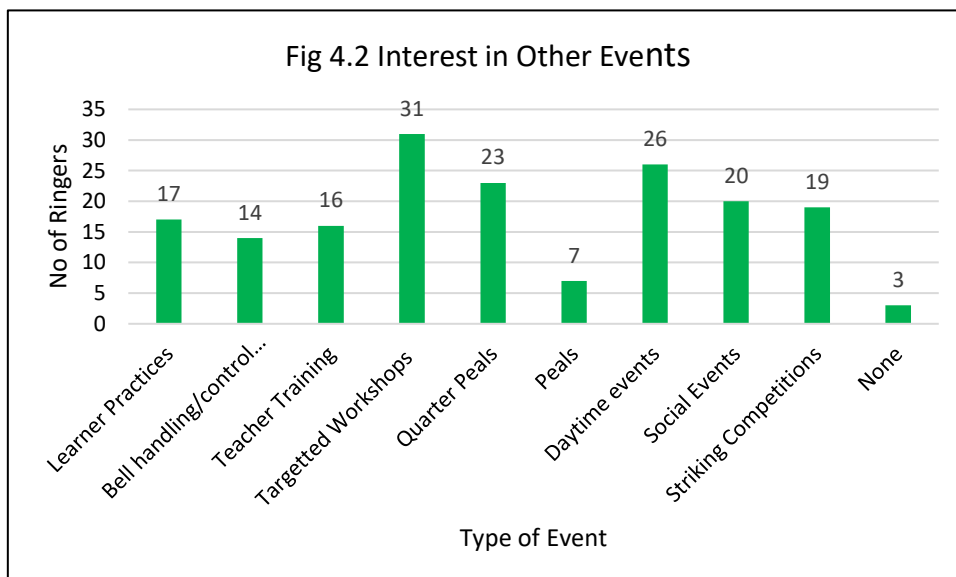
How satisfied are you with the current ringing programme organised by the district committee?



Although there is a high level of satisfaction in what the District is providing, ringers were invited to indicate if they were interested in any other events.

Question 4.2

In addition to existing ringing events would you be interested in attending any of the following?



The Huntingdon District- Ringing Survey 2023

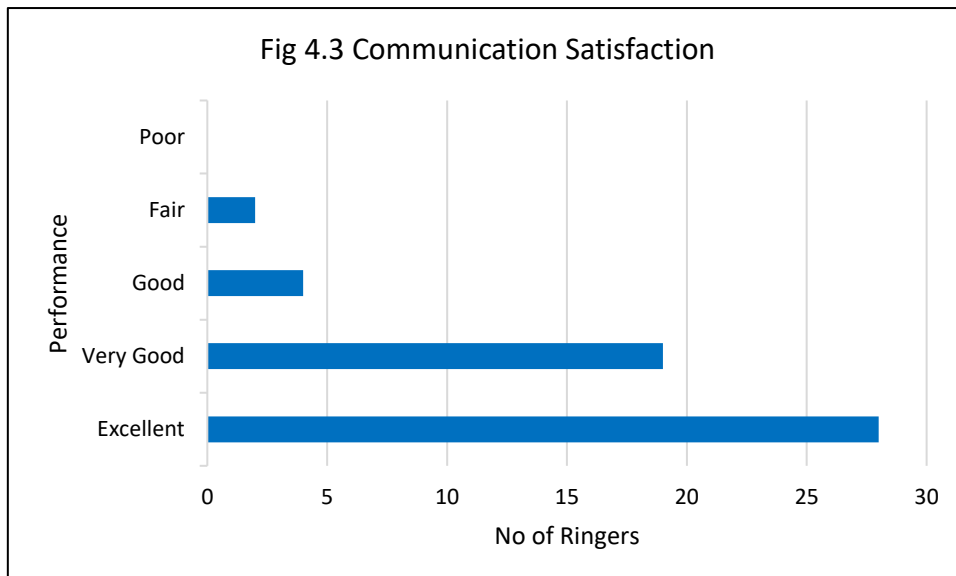
Comments about the programme were also invited:

- Ringing meetings and activities seem to always be organised on Saturday mornings and occasionally afternoons when people with young children aren't easily able to attend because they have parenting to do.
- I wanted to select the targeted sessions workshops to learn specific methods, but it wouldn't let me!
- Attending ringing events can be somewhat intimidating. Everyone is welcoming but I don't feel like I can ring at a high enough level to be fully involved.
- I realise time is an issue but it is very hard to learn a Surprise major method with a practice only every 2 months
- I would like to become more involved but unfortunately, to date, I have not had time to take advantage of the many events you arrange.
- Use of other district (association) events. They might be closer than your district events.
- Ringing up and down has been mentioned.
- We both found the targeted plain hunt practice extremely enjoyable and rewarding.
- Sadly, I no longer ring due to arthritis and lack of confidence!
- I am constrained by domestic circumstances.
- The question was raised about whether bands should be "placed" during District Meetings to help try and improve the striking.

Communication with Ringers

Question 4.3

How satisfied are you with the level of communication from the district committee?



The Huntingdon District- Ringing Survey 2023

Effective communication is everything to a successful organisation. In order to try to establish how effective the committee communicates, ringers were asked to give their comments.

Question 4.3

How do you think communications with you could be improved?

- I think they are excellent.
- Recently the level of communication and content seems to have increased. Thanks for this.
- More information via email especially regarding national events. I only hear of them by accident sometimes. I don't get on with Facebook so would prefer email communication.
- Word of mouth seems to be the most effective communication, and we need more experienced ringers encouraging others to expand their ringing. So a tower sec/captain who is a good ambassador would be valuable - maybe tower secs need more targeted communication to encourage them to spread the word, particularly as so few people actually read/remember the emails.
- District website seems to be under development, last time I looked.
- Website being in sync with other communications.
- Use of WhatsApp
- I think that communication is excellent if you are a regular ringer.
- Too reliant on Facebook, which not all members use.
- None, I just don't always have time/think to use all options.
- N/A
- An attractive, up to date and informative website would be a useful resource. An email distribution list accessible to district officers.

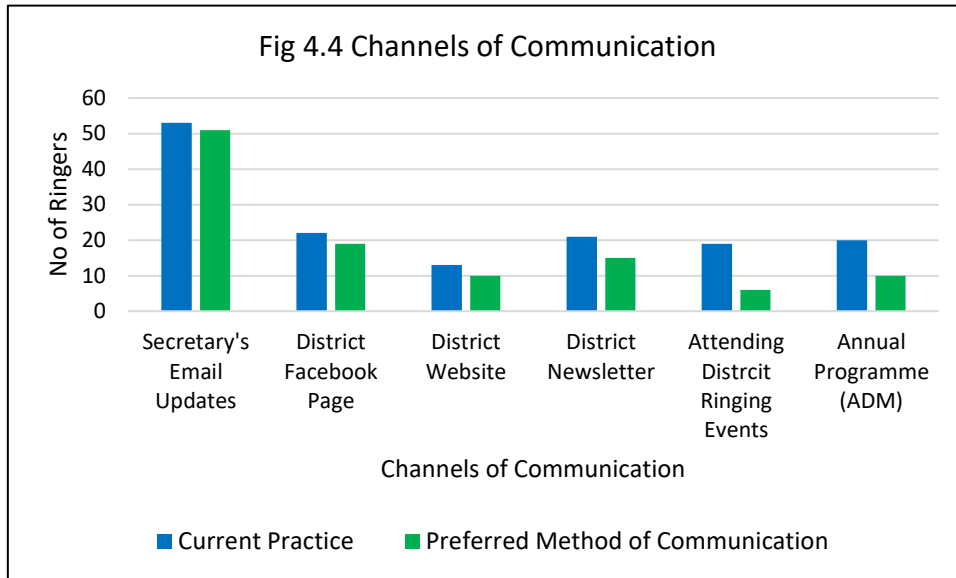
Question 4.4a.

Which methods of communication do you currently use to receive Hunts District bell ringing related information? e.g. forthcoming events, committee business, general info about people and towers.

Question 4.4b

Which is your preferred method of communication to receive district bell ringing related information? e.g. forthcoming events, committee business, general info about people and towers.

The Huntingdon District- Ringing Survey 2023

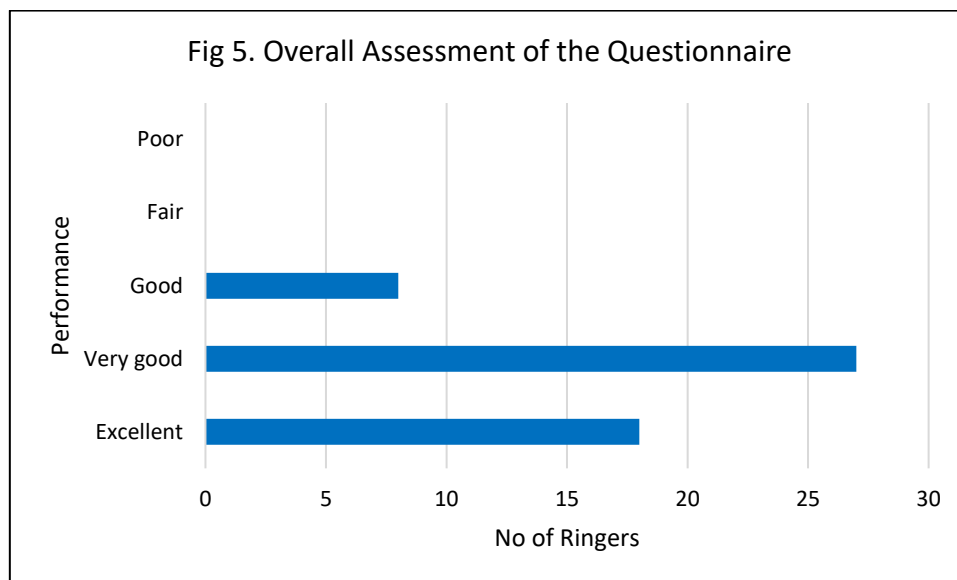


The results of these questions seem to be at odds with one another. The current practice of receiving information, and the preferred method are very similar, but I would expect the Preferred Method to be more obvious. In each category the preferred method is lower than existing practice!

The Huntingdon District- Ringing Survey 2023

Section 5. FEEDBACK TO THE SURVEY

The final question for all ringers was to ask for feedback on the questionnaire by assessing its content and inviting comment.



Question: Do you have any comments about this questionnaire?

- No
- You did not allow for a monthly practice in your questions.
- None thanks, happy to take part in the survey.
- I am very grateful for all the effort of branch committee members.
- On page 2, I stated that I was confident at Plain Hunt. This only applies if I am on bell 3 or 4 (of 6). I would struggle on other bells.
- Good idea to do this.
- Overall good but could be improved by collecting information on subjects such as bell maintenance and tower health and safety considerations. Some questions could have been a bit more specific.
- I am confident ringing the treble to plain bob doubles methods and grandsire, also bob minor on 6. I am learning the inside bells for bob doubles on 6.
- It took 13 minutes!
- I think it's a worthwhile exercise.
- Although I no longer ring, I enjoy hearing about forthcoming events!
- I hope you get useful insight.
- As a relatively new ringer, and joint tower captain, in the tower captains' section I may have underestimated above the extent to which our more experienced local ringers are able to ring the more advanced methods, which are way above my own ability to ring, let alone remember the names of. I sincerely hope I have not done them an injustice!

The Huntingdon District- Ringing Survey 2023

Section 6. Observations and Action Plan

This survey is a summary of how ringing is organised in the Huntingdon District and the capability of its ringers in 2023. The data and the comments received from ringers can give the District Committee an opportunity to look at what is working well and what it might be able to do to help ringers.

Nationally, the number of ringers seems to be in decline. A few years ago, it was thought to be about 40,000. A recent figure puts it at 35,000, but neither figure can be verified. (In 1885 a comment in Bell News suggested that there were 50,000 ringers).

This summary is under three broad headings:

- Recruitment
- Teaching and Training
- What can we Ring?
- Retention
- Communication

Recruitment

The Huntingdon District has many active bands the age distribution shows that half of our ringers are over 50 years of age and 22% of towers have over 70s amongst the band. Compare this with only 12% of ringers are under 18.

It is likely that in another ten years the ringing base will look very different than it does today. Some of the older generation will have stopped ringing. The fifty somethings will take their place at the top of the scale (over 60s) and unless we recruit younger people the inevitable gaps created in our bands will not be filled.

Of the towers canvassed only one does not use any advertising tools to help recruit new ringers. The majority use various means including the parish magazine, Facebook and church notice boards. Any method used will reach only a limited audience. Towers should try to be aware of how effective their advertising is and spread it across different media. Also, to take every opportunity to promote ringing, for example through general conversation or promotional clothing. The general public shies away from church and every effort should be made not to present an overtly religious image.

However, it must be said that a lot of good work is being done in our towers to advertise and promote ringing.

Getting in touch with the general public is hard work! Where possible ringers must be an active part of their community or at least keep telling people what is going on in the tower. Make communication a continuous process!

Take the opportunity to flag up special events such as Remembrance and invite people to contact you for further information or with any questions about ringing.

The Huntingdon District- Ringing Survey 2023

Teaching & Training

Anyone is allowed to teach a person to ring, but there are a great many ways in which this can be done. The Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) was formed ten years ago to develop a consistent approach in teaching and one which recognises achievement as learners progress. Not everyone uses this system and in our district about half of ringing teachers are self-taught and half are accredited through ART.

Neither does everyone support the ART system, as the comments on page 26 indicate. Although the system is designed for everyone some individuals struggle to use it. As commented, not everyone makes a good teacher, ART or otherwise.

Teaching isn't for everyone and not everyone has the necessary skills. It takes confidence, time, dedication, patience and knowledge about bell handling. It should not be undertaken lightly. 57% of ringers feel confident in teaching learners from scratch and 72% replied that they assist in teaching in their towers.

Two ringers claim not to have heard of ART and would like to learn more about it. Another ringer would like advice about teaching from scratch. These will be action points.

There is a strong opinion that teaching should have a logical and progressive approach to make sure that all learners are taught the various stages and encouraged to achieve them at a good standard, which helps them move the next stage with a full understanding of what they should be able to do.

In this respect, it is useful for each learner to have a mentor who follows their progress and advises on the next stage. There should be no rush to the next stage because in doing so valuable learning and experience can be missed. Please don't abandon your learners once they can handle a bell. That is only the beginning.

To help in the training of learners, from bell handling, through bell control (they are different) and on to method ringing it is very useful to have training facilities in the tower, coupled with organised "learners" practices. Learners often don't get enough rope time during a practice night and dedicated sessions are hugely beneficial in helping the learners progress quickly.

Only three towers have a dedicated learners' practice, with eleven arranging them when needed. Five towers do their teaching on a practice night.

White boards and books in the tower are one way of helping. A model bell helps with early understanding of the mechanics of ringing, and a simulator is ideal for extra practices when bells can be silenced.

Simulators are expensive. Only five towers have them, out of which only two are used! Sims are invaluable in teaching a ringer to listen. Listening is a skill which is not taught enough during the learning process. In fact, this should be a continuously encouraged skill.

Good training also contributes to the retention of ringers. If a learner feels that they do not have the correct training programme they might decide to give up. Training must be attractive as does the tower environment.

The Huntingdon District- Ringing Survey 2023

What Can We Ring?

The average level of proficiency by individual ringers is Rounds and Call Change (R&CC's), Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles (between 30 and 50 ringers). Then there is a group of 20 to 30 ringers who can ring Stedman Doubles, Surprise Minor and Plain Bob Major. Finally, there are up to about twenty ringers who can ring Grandsire Triples, Plain Bob Major and some Surprise Major.

The general ringing by local bands is R&CC, Plain Hunt, Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles. (See Fig 2.5 on p19). This is hardly surprising given that we are predominantly a six-bell district (see data on page 1). But advancing into Treble Bob and Surprise Minor methods should be more common. One of the reasons for the absence of these methods in local bands is that the experience and knowledge is spread about and not concentrated in individual towers. The older age of the ringers is also a factor because ringing skills are more difficult to acquire. Learning and consolidation is a long-term process generally best suited to younger ringers.

The treble bob standard requires good knowledge and experience in Plain Minor methods and sometimes there is less attention paid to this stage of ringing.

When practices are shared (57% of towers) the opportunities for Surprise Minor, Triples and Major ringing increases as more experienced ringers are involved. More experienced ringers also help support Doubles and Minor ringing at shared practices.

Overall, the standard of ringing in the District is at the level of popular standard methods. The quarterly, then monthly Surprise practices were introduced to help expand the method base. They are very worthwhile but attendance can be variable and improvement in method learning or good striking cannot always be pressed home!

Retention

What can towers offer its ringers?

Retention of learners is mainly a concern for individual towers.

For example:

Is your tower clean, brightly lit, and warm?

Does your tower have and use adequate training facilities?

Do you have a structured teaching/training system to help your learners progress and become competent in each learning stage?

Do you have a mentoring/buddy system to look after learners?

Do you regularly make sure that your ringers know what is happening in your church and in the district? This can be done by printing the Secretary's "Coming Up Next" notices and the Newsletter for posting on your notice boards. It is also useful and informative to have "notices" during the practice to point out forthcoming events etc. Someone might be interested!

Do your ringers welcome and encourage newcomers to be part of the team?

The Huntingdon District- Ringing Survey 2023

What can the District offer its ringers?

The District tries to offer a variety of events every year to encourage ringers to take part in ringing which is enjoyable and beneficial. Ringing is very sociable and regular meetings give good opportunities for networking and the exchange of ideas.

The ringing usually includes a variety of standard methods on all stages (as applicable) and for some ringers a meeting is an ideal chance to learn something new or consolidate a method.

Overall, most ringers assess the committee's offering as Good to Excellent. Only one ringer rated it as Fair and no ringers thought it was Poor!

There is a wide range of topics which ringers are interested in (see Fig 4.2 on page 29) and these will be considered when planning future programmes.

Other considerations include arranging events other than on a Saturday and making sure that everyone is welcomed to the events as some can find them intimidating! See comments on page 30.

Communication

Communication is one of the most important aspects of any organisation. Regular and effective communication can encourage and make everyone feel welcome. It is important at District level, but Tower Captains have the responsibility for getting information to their ringers too.

We should all encourage feedback on our ringing from our ringers and our communities.

Everyone can help with communication. Ways of doing this include sharing emails, printing and copying the newsletter for the tower notice board, following posts on Facebook, attending ringing and social events, and feeding back to friends.

Make sure your tower details e.g. contacts, ringing times, are always up to date on websites and in the EDA annual report.

The District Committee is using various platforms to keep in touch with ringers and will continually monitor any feedback and try to further improve its channels of communication recognising that not everyone uses every means available.

The secret about communication is to tell them, then remind them that you've told them, then tell them again!

Action for the District Committee

Consider the list of interests in Fig 4.2 and try to introduce them over time into the annual programme.

Consider the comments made by ringers and respond to them accordingly.

Look at holding events during a weekday.

PG to contact respondents where they have indicated that they would like to know more about a topic.

Feedback information about A.R.T.

Contact ringers about teaching from scratch.

Follow-up on other comments received from ringers.

Encourage tower secretaries to keep their tower details up to date on information platforms.

The Huntingdon District- Ringing Survey 2023

APPENDIX 1

HUNTINGDON DISTRICT COMMITTEE 2023

The following members were elected at the ADM on 21st of January 2023

PRESIDENT:	PHILLIP GEORGE
SECRETARY:	CAROLINE STEVENS
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:	GEOFF BURN*
BELL FUND TREASURER:	CATHERINA GRIFFITHS
RINGING MASTERS:	CASS BOOCOCK, ANDREW SMITH
ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE REP:	TOM PINNOCK
DISTRICT BELL ADVISOR:	GEOFF BURN
WEBMASTER:	DANIEL STEVENS
RATS REP:	ED GROOME
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	CHRISTIAN BURRELL ⚡

⚡ Christian Burrell also acts as ringing master and co-ordinates the monthly surprise practices held on the first Saturday.

At the ADM there was a vacancy for a Committee Member, and Geoff Burn* had expressed a wish to stand down as Membership Secretary when a replacement could be found.

Soon after the ADM **GEORGIE HUNT** indicated her interest in standing as a committee member and **ROGER BEAMAN** expressed his interest in the post of Membership Secretary.

At their first committee meeting on Saturday the 18th of February 2023 the members co-opted Georgie and Roger to these respective posts.

The Huntingdon District- Ringing Survey 2023

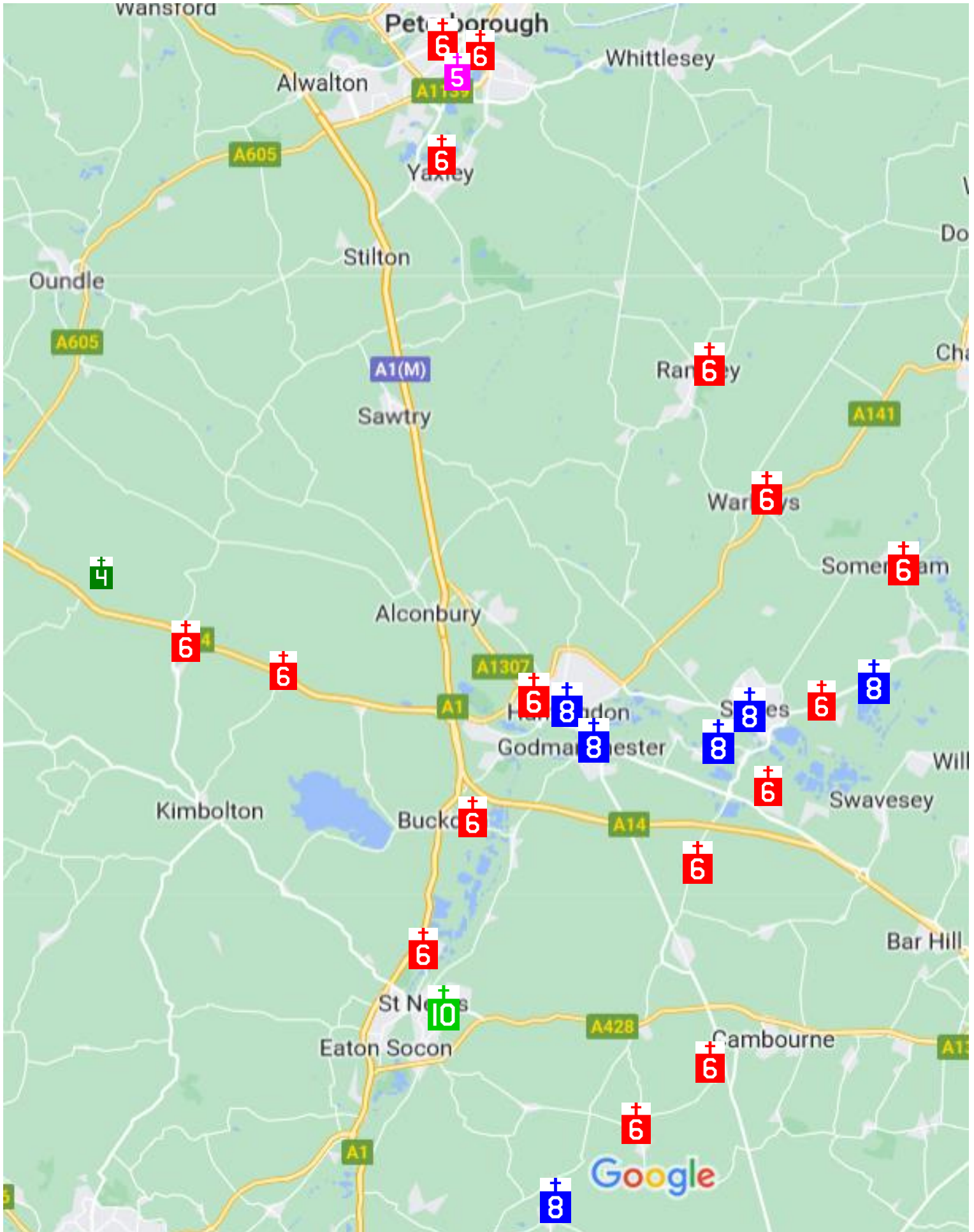
APPENDIX 2

LIST OF TOWERS REPRESENTED IN THIS SURVEY.

Bluntisham	St Mary	8 bells	13-2-10 in F#
Buckden	St Mary	6 bells	13-0-12 in F
Bythorn	St Lawrence	4 bells	12cwt in G
Catworth	St Leonard	6 bells	15-0-22 in F
Caxton	St Andrew	6 bells	10-2-0 in G
Fenstanton	SS Peter & Paul	6 bells	10-2-2 in F#
Gamlingay	St Mary	8 bells	16-0-14 in Eb
Godmanchester	St Mary the Virgin	8 bells	19-2-19 in Eb
Great Gransden	St Bartholomew	6 bells	13-2-11 in F
Hemingford Grey	St James	8 bells	11-2-13 in G#
Hilton	St Mary Magdalene	6 bells	9-0-15 in G
Holywell	St John the Baptist	6 Bells	9-1-4 in G
Huntingdon	All Saints	6 bells	8-0-19 in G#
Huntingdon	St Mary	8 bells	16-0-21 in G#
Little Paxton	St James	6 bells	7-1-9 in A
Old Fletton	St Margaret	5 bells	7-3-26 in A
Ramsey	St Thomas a Becket	6 bells	13-2-26 in F#
St Ives	All Saints	8 bells	12-0-4 in G
St Neots	St Mary	10 bells	29-2-13 in Db
Somersham	St John the Baptist	6 bells	12-0-24 in F#
Spaldwick	St James	6 bells	12-2-12 in E
Stanground	St John the Baptist	6 bells	12cwt in F#
Warboys	St Mary Magdalene	6 bells	11cwt in G
Woodston	St Augustine of Canterbury	6 bells	8-1-6 in Ab
Yaxley	St Peter	6 bells	13-3-24 in F

APPENDIX 3

LOCATION DIAGRAM OF PARTICIPATING TOWERS



The Huntingdon District- Ringing Survey 2023

Privacy Statement

In order to carry out this survey some personal data is held of those taking part.

The primary purpose of acquiring the data is to provide a method of documenting bell ringing activities in the Huntingdon District. This includes data about the relationship between individual ringers and the church, their technical capability and their interests in ringing in their towers and the Huntingdon District.

The data has come from first parties only.

Personal data is not shared between participants or any other third party. Any personal data in the body of this report is already in the public domain.

Individual email addresses are kept as a means of communicating the results of the survey to participants. Some email addresses are already in the public domain.

The data is held online using Google Forms and is only accessible to the author of this report..

If required the originator of the survey can provide an individual with full details of the data held about them.

Contact: president@huntbells.org.uk

Survey Publishing

This survey has been published and distributed amongst participants and all contacts on the District Email Distribution List. A copy is freely available online via a link on the District Facebook page and can be downloaded from the Ringers' Rabble Website at: <https://theringersrabble.wordpress.com/>



Ringers at Little Paxton during the District meeting on the 18th of February 2023