

News Archive 2014

26th October 2014

The Gransden / Swavesey Outing

This took place on Saturday 25th October when we visited five towers in Northamptonshire viz: Cogenhoe, Grendon, Bozeat, Rushden and Orillingbury. We enjoyed all the bells during the day and although ringing was predominantly rounds and call changes we did manage some change ringing in all the towers. The several young ringers enjoyed each other's company, some making new friends and others just getting together again.

We were given a warm welcome in all the towers and several commented on how good it was to see so many young ringers. Thanks to all the tower captains for allowing us to ring and making arrangements for us to be met, to Pam Bailey for advising on some "good" rings in the Rushden area, and to David Archer, proprietor at the Red Lion in Bozeat for the warm welcome and efficient service.



15th November 2014

The Hunts District held their monthly meeting at Great Gransden this morning. The ringing included Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob, Single Oxford, Double Oxford, Norwich and Great Gransden S Minor. Thanks to Sheila for keeping us organised and for providing coffee and biscuits.

Matthew and Michelle's Wedding on Saturday 30th August
Matthew and Michelle George were married at St. George's Church Littleport. Most of the family were involved in the ringing immediately after the ceremony. Matthew, Michelle, Phillip and Sheila G, Rebecca and Mark, and ringing friends David & Sheila Prest. Children Amy and Megan, who are just learning to ring, rang 1 and 2 after the main ringing. The reception was a very informal event when all the guests had been invited to bring food, and this made a wonderful banquet which everyone enjoyed. During the refreshments a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor was rung in the church on handbells by Phillip, Sheila and Rebecca. Details can be found here: <http://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=347369>



Congratulations to Matthew and Michelle with very best wishes from the Gransden ringers.



Ringing team after the Wedding

L-R: Sheila P, David P, Rebecca B, Michelle, Matthew, Mark B, Sheila G Phillip G

Ringers Visit Elgood's Brewery

On Thursday 21st August the ringers and friends of Gt.Gransden visited Elgood's brewery in Wisbech. We started the day by ringing at Wisbech St. Mary and then on to the brewery where Alan Pateman (Head Brewer) and long-time friend of some of the ringers gave us an interesting and informative tour. This was followed by a lunch after which we toured the beautiful gardens, which includes a maze.

The staff at Elgood's gave us a warm welcome and we can recommend a visit for either a tour, or light refreshments. And of course there is a good range of beers on sale. Thanks to all at Elgood's for making us feel most welcome.

Some of us went home via Littleport to practice ringing for the forthcoming wedding of Matthew and Michelle George on Saturday 30th August.



Ringers at Wisbech St. Mary



Touring the brewery



Group photo in the gardens

Megan George is awarded her 10-bell badge

During the practice on Thursday 31st July, 11 year old Megan achieved 10-bells in the Sherbourne Teaching Aids Bell Club Award Scheme, by completing the "both strokes alone" box. This entitles her to a blue badge. She is now ringing Rounds (with a minder) but is quite capable of ringing a bell solo. Megan started to ring in February and attends most weeks although there have been some gaps because she lives in Littleport and has not been able to get here every week. Well done Meg!



Victoria Achieves level 2 in the ITTS Learning the Ropes Scheme

On Thursday 26th June Victoria Moulton was presented with her level 2 certificate in the ITTS Learning the Ropes Scheme.



T/C Sheila George presenting Victoria with her level 2 certificate

Michelle and Matthew achieve 25 Bells in the Sherbourne Teaching Aid Scheme

We presented Michelle and Matthew with their 25 bell badges at practice on Thursday 19th June. Both are making steady progress and honing their skills week on week. Matthew is a key player in teaching ringers at Littleport (north of Ely). Follow progress on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Littleportbells.8?ref=profile>



Matthew and Michelle presented with 25 bell badges in the Sherbourne Teaching Aids Scheme

Also on the 19th June Megan makes Presentation at School

As part of her project work Megan is to make a presentation at school. She decided to make bell ringing her subject because, as she says, it is different and not many people know anything about it. Good Luck Megan!

Tenor Clapper Re-fitted Thursday 5th June 2014

The tenor has been slightly odd-struck for some time. We have tried to make suitable adjustments but found that the holes left after the crown staples were drilled out were very big and uneven. The use of fibre and tapered washers to secure and adjust the strike of the bell was successful to a point but vibration eventually shifted them and loosened the clapper slightly. The most recent case fractured one of the washers.

Whites of Appleton came up with the best solution which was to fill the holes and create a flat, level base under the crown of the bell to reliably support the clapper. The clapper was removed and the bell rung up. Once levelled using baulks of timber and wedges to get the bell dead level, a bung was placed in the clapper staple hole and a white epoxy resin was poured into the adjacent holes and voids. The resin finds its own level and after a couple of hours was dried to a rock hard surface. The bung was removed and the clapper re-fitted using only a fibre washer. The tapered washer was no longer required.

While the clapper was out we took the opportunity to fit a twidle pin which will enable any future adjustment to be done much more easily than in the past.

A Strike-ometer was then rigged up to check the accuracy of the striking and after adjustments with the twidle pins an even strike was obtained being less than one millisecond out at both hand and backstroke. The result is now an evenly struck bell and we have confidence that it should not need any further adjustment and that the clapper will remain tight in the bell.

Thanks to Mark Walker from Whites of Appleton for his advice and expertise, and to Bryan White for allowing us to look around the workshop when Sheila and I delivered the clapper on Monday last.



Mark Walker setting up the bell



New Clapper Assembly



Cast in resin pad

Local Band Rings Quarter Peal

Instead of general ringing for our monthly service of Evening Prayer we decided to try for a quarter peal on Sunday 25th May. We can ring Plain Bob Doubles reasonably confidently and the quarter was successfully achieved in 43 minutes. By coincidence it is Martin Prest's birthday so we dedicated it as a compliment to him. Martin learned to ring at Gt. Gransden and occasionally returns to ring with us. Well done everyone - good effort! Details can be found here

<http://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=335721>

Bedfordshire Tail-Enders Visit Tower

On Tuesday 13th May we welcomed ringers from various towers in the Bedford area. They last visited in 2009 and it was good to meet old friends again. We look forward to seeing them again if they choose to visit in another 5 years' time!

Hunts District Wins Striking Competition

Two Gransden ringers - Sheila and Phillip George were in the team which won the Association inter district striking competition on Saturday 3rd May. The team was made up of ringers from various towers in the Huntingdon District. Sheila organized the ringers and practices and Phillip was in charge of the ringing. Four practice sessions were arranged when the team, plus reserves were able to perfect their ringing skills.

The competition was held at Longstanton where one of the practices was held to enable us to get used to the bells. The judges of the competition declared us the winners with 82%, followed by the Ely District with 79% and the Cambridge District with 50%



L-R Michael White (Hemingford Grey), Mary Parnham (Lt.Paxton), Catherina Griffiths (St.Neots), Owen Davis (Huntingdon), Nick Smith (Huntingdon), Jez Bottley (Huntingdon), Phillip George (Gt.Gransden), Sheila George (Gt.Gransden)

The photographs show the team immediately after the test piece was rung and the trophy which was presented by the judges who were Philippa Whittington and Frank Rivett from Bedfordshire.

Matthew's First Quarter Peal

Matthew wanted to ring his first quarter peal with Phillip and Sheila before he was due to ring one at Littleport. He asked sister Rebecca and brother in law Mark to ring too, so they came across from Leicester for the occasion. To complete the band, we asked Catherina Griffiths from St.Neots, and so the scene was set to celebrate Easter. A ringing was very good and included Stedman, Grandsire, St.Martins, St.Simons and Plain Bob Doubles. Matthew rang the tenor.



Back- Rebecca, Catherina, Sheila
Front- Mark, Phillip, Matthew

Easter Monday - 21st April 2014

Gt. Gransden - 1260 Doubles (1p/4m) in 43 minutes

240 each Stedman, Grandsire, St.Simons, St.Martins

300 Plain Bob

1. Sheila George
2. Catherina Griffiths
3. Rebecca Banner
4. Mark Banner
5. Phillip George (c)
6. Matthew George

For Easter 1st quarter peal - 6

Tower Annual Meeting - summary (traditionally held on Maundy Thursday when there is no ringing practice)

All tower officers re-elected viz:

Tower Captain - Sheila George

Deputy Tower Captain - David Prest

Secretary/Treasurer - Phillip George

Finances in healthy condition and we decided to go ahead with work to improve the striking of the tenor by employing Whites of Appleton to cast a resin pad into the crown and add an twidle pin to the clapper staple.

Several visitors booked to ring over the next few months and we hope to visit Elgood's Brewery in Wisbech during the summer

Recruitment still an issue but we are usually able to ring 6 on Sundays. Band is progressing very slowly but steadily.

6th March 2014

Victoria Moulton Passes A.R.T. Learning the Ropes Level 1 - Bell Handling

We were pleased to be able to present Victoria with her certificate after successfully completing and passing the level 1 stage in Learning the Ropes, which is awarded by the Association of Ringing Teachers. She began lessons in August and her mentors Sheila and Phillip George enrolled her into the ITTS scheme in October after attending a one-day course on teaching bell handling. Victoria is competently ringing call changes and will soon be venturing into the world of change-ringing.



Victoria receives her certificate from Sheila G

Victoria Elected as New Member

On Saturday 18th January the Hunts District held its annual meeting at Gamlingay. During the meeting Victoria Moulton was elected as a Ringing Member of the Ely Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers. We welcome Victoria as a member and wish her many happy years ringing with us.

Return from Australia

We were pleased to welcome Janet Wynn back from her 3 week Christmas holiday in Australia and during our practice on Thursday 9th January she told us of her adventures, particularly mentioning her visit to the Swan Bells in Perth where she was able to ring. As a ringer she was entitled to purchase a Swan Bells tee shirt and was awarded a certificate to commemorate her visit.

