

Date Touches Rung at St.Bartholomew's Church Great Gransden

The first date touch was rung on 1st January 1994. The idea came to mind simply because there is a touch of 554 Cambridge Surprise Minor, which, added to two extents conveniently equalled 1994 changes. The touch is simple to call and so the first of many New Years Day touches was rung.

It was good to celebrate the New Year in this way and a good start to the year from the ringing point of view. As the end of 1994 approached I again considered the idea of ringing a date touch on New Years' Day and so started to work out how I could add one change in order to achieve the required length.

In the longer term adding one change each year would become quite a challenge. I needed to compose true touches whilst keeping within the accepted structure of whichever methods I chose to use. Clearly, I could not always use whole leads of methods to obtain the required number of changes, so part leads were considered, together with a variable hunt element for the treble. This meant that for a few changes the treble would become a working bell by using a "variable hunt" call (Single). Alternatively, or in addition, I could start the ringing at a different part of the lead, but where the treble is on the front. For example, start at the backstroke snap.

So, using these little "tricks" I could maintain the integrity of the method but manipulate the start or end to fulfil the required number of changes. Cambridge Surprise is the method mostly used. However, Ipswich is also used to obtain the correct number of changes and eradicate falseness if necessary. London has also been used at the beginning of one composition. In later years plain methods became the main part of the repertoire.

Proof was a challenge. My thanks to George Bonham, who, in the earlier years used to run the composition through Microsiril for me and fax a result to my workplace. Usually, the first draft of a composition was false, but Microsiril would at least indicate where the falseness was and I could adjust the calling to fix the problem.

Once the composition was completed and found to be true it was simple to organise the ringing. The New Years' Day quarter has been made up of a core group of ringers and I am grateful to them for agreeing to turn up every year and try my "ideas", some of which required some preparation by each ringer beforehand.

Ringling offers many challenges and composition is one of them. I have sometimes found it helpful to work from the end to the beginning as it were. I know the number of changes required, and sometimes design the touch around particular theme, for example, to finish with a plain course of the method. The

compositions are not difficult to call and I always try to incorporate groups of homes or wrongs to keep the calling as straight forward as possible.

The "funny" starts and finishes can create some interesting work for some bells. For example, in the 1995, the fourth made 3 blows in 3rds before going out, whereas the tenor comes in to make 2 in fourths, then switching to Cambridge continues with two in 3rds in the 3-4 places down. There are other little gems, worthy of note in the spliced Grandsire and Plain Bob minor used in the 2003 touch.

The following compositions are those for all the date touches rung at Great Gransden.

Date touch numbers 1 and No 8 are not my compositions.

Phillip George
Nut Bells
Little Gransden

This was the first date touch rung at Great Gransden. The 554 is a standard calling of Cambridge Surprise, taken from Quarter 500 2nd edition 1982 page 5.

23456		5324
56342		
42635		
35264		
56423 - B		5432
23645		
34562 - W		4352
62453		
53246		
34625 - 4		5243
25463		
63542		
42356		
25634 - 4		4352
53462 - W		3542
62345		
45236		
36524		
24653		
45362 - W		5432
62534		
34256		
45623 - 4		3254
25364 S W		5234

Round in two changes

This 554 was preceded by an extent each of Beverley Surprise and Plain Bob.

Time: 1 hour 9 minutes

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1 Rachel Pardoe | 4 Jim Skillings |
| 2 Sheila George | 5 John Pardoe |
| 3 Penny Pardoe | 6 Phillip George (c) |

First of treble bob - 1.
 First date touch - 1 & 2

I found it impossible, and not desirable to add one change to an existing composition. Every year presents it own challenges. The 1995 touch (555 changes) uses London for 3 changes at the beginning, starting at the backstroke snap before the lead end. These 3 changes added to 23 leads of Cambridge gives the required length. ($23 \times 24 = 552 + 3 = 555$).

A Single called immediately - "Go London - Single" sets up the lead end for the rest of the touch. The Single is conventional 1234 notation. Cambridge is rung from that point to a very straightforward touch.

	H	123456		2435
	B	214365	start at backstroke with London	
	H	124635		
Cambridge	B	124653	S 4	3542
		53462		
		36524	- B	3254
		45623		
		23564		
		64352		
		52436		
		23645	- 4	5432
		45362		
		62534		
		34256		
		56423		
		62345	- I	3542
		45236		
		36524		
		62453	- I	4352
		53246		
		34625	- 4	5243
		25463		
		56342	- B	5324
		42635		
		35264		
		64523		
		23456		

19 roll ups

Computer proved

Time: 1 hour 7 minutes

555 Cambridge Surprise, 1440 Plain Bob

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Elizabeth Griffiths | 4 Timothy Griffiths |
| 2 Sheila George | 5 Thomas Griffiths |
| 3 Catherina Griffiths | 6 Phillip George (c) |

My ringing records show that several people in the village commented on how nice the ringing was.

During the ringing, heavy snow had fallen and it was white under foot when we left the church.

For this touch I needed 4 extra changes. I found the solution at the end of the lead. By using a variable hunt Single (notation 34) at the last lead end, I could take the treble out of the hunt. After four changes the treble would be back in first place at a backstroke lead. This change had to be Rounds, and so transposing the changes back to the lead end I found which row was required at that point. This gave me the coursing order needed at the end of the touch and I then worked the composition back to Rounds at the beginning.

All but one lead in this touch is Cambridge. I used one lead of Ipswich to adjust the length. I found that the Ipswich could be inserted at any point where there are two consecutive plain leads of Cambridge. I chose a course where the tenors were together to maximise the number of roll ups.

Cambridge	23456		
	35642	- 4	5324
	42563		2453
	63254		
	54326		
	26435		
	63542	- I	5243
Ipswich	42356		
	34625		
	25463		
	56342	- B	5324
	42635		
	35264		
	56423	- B	5432
	23645		
	34562	- W	4352
	62453		
	25346	- H	4523
	46532		
	32654		
	54263		
	46325	- B	4352
	25634		
	B 315462	S W (vh)	
	H 134526		
	B 314256		
	H 132465		
	B 123456		

19 roll ups

Computer proved

Of course, this touch could not be rung before the extents because of the variable hunt finish. The two extents rung were Cambridge and Ipswich Surprise.

Time: 1 hour 10 minutes

1276 Cambridge, 720 Ipswich Surprise

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Elizabeth Griffiths | 4 John Pardoe |
| 2 Catherina Griffiths | 5 Thomas Griffiths |
| 3 Timothy Griffiths | 6 Phillip George (c) |

Unfortunately, Sheila was unwell and could not ring in this attempt. I record that we had some excellent striking.

Date Touch No 4 1 st January 1997

This date touch was more interesting. The 557 changes comprise all Primrose except one lead of Cambridge, and starts at backstroke. It finishes with the same variable hunt Single as used in the 1996 date touch. Because of the unconventional start and finish the two extents have to be inserted in the middle of the 557. This is most conveniently done at a course end when the tenors are together. Thereafter, standard callings may be used for the 720's. I chose to ring Cambridge for both.

The reader may notice that at the first Home the tenors are reversed, but the touch was composed so as to prevent 65's at backstroke.

Primrose	(132546)		
	24653	- 4	3542
	45236		
	53462		
	36524		
	62345		
	24653		
	24536	- H	3425
	43652	- 4	2534
	35264	- W	5324
	56342		
	64523		
	42356	- H	5243
*	25463		
	56234		
	63542		
	34256	- H	5432
	45362		
Cambridge	56423		
	23645		
	34562	- W	4352
	46325		
	62453		
	25634		
	B 315462	S W (vh)	
	H 134526		
	B 314256		
	H 132465		
	B 123456		

24 roll ups

Computer proved

* Insert two extents here

The first draft of this composition was true.

Time: 1 hour 4 minutes

1464 Cambridge, 533 Primrose Surprise

1 Sheila George

2 Catherina Griffiths

3 Elizabeth Griffiths

4 John Pardoe

5 Timothy Griffiths

6 Phillip George (c)

This was also rung as a compliment to Stanley and Angela Griffiths on their golden wedding anniversary.

The 558 required for this date touch is a little unconventional because it used two types of Single. The one at the beginning of the touch is conventional (1234), and the one at the end the usual variable hunt type previously used. It starts at the backstroke snap before the lead end and straight into a Single. (As used in London in date touch No 2). The method is Cambridge and this is rung throughout expect for one lead of Ipswich to adjust the length. It should be noted that although length adjustment is made by substituting one "course splicer" with another, this is also used to prevent falseness.

The final lead end includes a variable hunt Single and the touch comes round in three changes. Once again, the changes were transposed back from the end to establish the required coursing order.

	H 123456				
	B 213546				
	H 125364				
	B 125346	S H			4523
	46532				
	32654				
	54263				
	63425				
	32546	- H			4235
	24653	- 4			3542
	45362	- W			5432
	56234	- B			
	34625				
	25463				
	63542				
	* 34256	- H			5243
	56423				
	23645				
	34562	- W			2453
	62453				
Ipswich	53246				
	25634				
	53462	- W			4523
	62345				
	45236				
	36524				
	216453	S 3 (vh)			
	124635				
19 roll ups	214365				
	123456				
	Computer proved				

* Insert two extents here (any methods)

Time: 1 hour 7 minutes

1974 Cambridge, 24 Ipswich Surprise

1 Catherina Griffiths

2 Rebecca George

3 Sheila George

4 John Pardoe

5 Andrew Stevens

6 Phillip George (c)

Longest length - 2

This touch followed the lines of previous compositions but included more changes of method than previous years. Spliced Cambridge and Primrose proved a challenge to the ringers and three attempts were made but we finally succeeded.

The start of the touch is rung with the 3 as the treble going down to the front at back stroke from Rounds, to the snap lead before the lead end. The variable hunt Single is at this point and puts the treble back in the "Hunt". The end is a conventional Single Wrong to bring it round in two changes.

	H	<u>123456</u>		
	B	132465		
	H	314256		
	B	134526		
	H	315462		
Primrose	B	<u>135426</u>	S H (vh)	2534
Cambridge		52364		
Primrose		64235		
		43652		
		35264	- W	5324
		56342		
		64523		
		42635		
Cambridge		42356	- H	5243
		56234		
		34625		
		25463		
		63542		
Primrose	*	34256	- H	5432
		45362		
		56423		
Cambridge		62345	- I	3542
		45236		
		36524		
		24653		
		63462		
Primrose		36245	- B	3254
		64352		
Cambridge		45623		
		25364	S W	5234
		(23456)		

* Insert two extents here (any methods)

Time: 1 hour 7 minutes
1711 Cambridge, 288 Ipswich Surprise

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|--------------------|
| 1 | Sheila George | 4 | Timothy Griffiths |
| 2 | Caroline Spiller | 5 | Andrew Stevens |
| 3 | Catherina Griffiths | 6 | Phillip George (c) |

The Millennium was a special occasion for us and by now the annual date touch was becoming a usual event in the calendar. As in previous years the touch had a variable hunt start and finish, four changes being rung either side of the main touch. This enabled a handstroke start so was slightly easier than in 1999. Cambridge and Ipswich were chosen and these were spliced successfully.

	B	123456		
	H	214365		
	B	124635		
	H	216453		
Ipswich	B	126435	S 3 (vh)	2453
		42563		
		54326		
Cambridge		63542	- I	5243
		34256	- H	5432
		56423		
		23645		
		45362		
		56234	- B	5243
		34625		
		25463		
		56342	- B	5324
		42635		
		23564	- W	3254
		64352		
		52436		
		36245		
		64523	- I	5324
	*	42356	- H	5243
Ipswich		25634	- 4	4352
Cambridge		62453		
		53246		
Ipswich		46325		
		315462	S W (vh)	
		134526		
		314256		
		132465		
		123456		

* Insert two extents here (any methods)

Time: 1 hour 7 minutes

1880 Cambridge, 120 Ipswich Surprise

1 John Boocock

2 Catherina Griffiths

3 Rebecca George

4 Sheila George

5 Timothy Griffiths

6 Phillip George (c)

This was the last quarter peal on the bells before rehangng.

Date Touch No 8 1st January 2001

Little Bob	H	123456	start at backstroke	
		<u>124365</u>		
Plain Bob		56324	S 3	5342
		62543		
		24635		
		<u>24356</u>	- H	5423
		45263		
		56432		
		63524		
		32645		
		<u>32456</u>	- H	5234
		25364		
		56243		
		64532		
		43625		
		<u>43256</u>	- H	5342
		35462		
		35624	- 4	4253
		<u>52346</u>		
		52463	- W	2543
		26534		
		63245		
		34652		
		<u>45326</u>		
		54263	S W	4523
		46532		
		63425		
		32654		
		<u>25346</u>		
		25463	- W	5243
		56234		
		63542		
		34625		
		<u>34256</u>	- H	5432
		34562	- W	4352
		46325		
		62453		
		25634		
		<u>53246</u>		
		53462	- W	3542
		36524		
		62345		
		24653		
		<u>45236</u>		
		45362	- W	5432
		56423		
		62534		
		23645		
		<u>23456</u>	- H	5324

Composed by Peter Hinton

Time: 1 hour 10 minutes

5 Methods

720 Cambridge Surprise, 1 extent St.Clements and Single Oxford, 553 Plain Bob, 8 Little Bob

1 Sheila George

2 Phillip George (c)

3 Catherina Griffiths

4 John Pardoe

5 Andrew Stevens

6 Timothy Griffiths

I remember struggling with this year - finally thinking that a backstroke start with little Bob may do the trick. Believe it or not, on the same day I saw Peter Hinton's touch on the Cambridge District web site and so used that instead of composing my own.

After an easy year in 2001 I was back to variable hunt for the 562 needed for this date touch. It has a standard Single Wrong finish but a total of 10 additional changes are required to get the length. To achieve this I start with the treble as 5th place Cambridge as it has just completed the dodge lead dodge part of the front work. Starting at backstroke it makes seconds, leads, - dodges at the snap and then dodges again at the variable hunt Single to put it back into the hunt.

Ipswich	<u>123456</u>		
	214365		
	213456		
	124365		
	142356		
	413265		
	143625		
	416352		
	<u>146325</u>	S 3 (vh)	4352
Cambridge	53462	- W	3542
	62345		
	45236		
	36524		
	24653		
	45362	- W	5432
	62534		
	* 34256		
	56423		
	23645		
	34562	- W	4352
	62453		
	53246		
	34625	- 4	5243
	25463		
	56342	- B	5324
	42635		
	23564	- W	3254
	64352		
	52436		
	36245		
	45623		
	25364	S W	5234
	(23456)		

* Insert two extents here (any methods)

The position in the Lead for the start makes for some interesting work for the other bells. e.g. the tenors make two dodges behind. Although these changes can be rung as Ipswich or Cambridge I called "Go Ipswich" because the first lead of the main composition is also Ipswich and this is less confusing for ringers negotiating the rather unconventional start.

Time: 1 hour 7 minutes

1970 Cambridge Surprise, 32 Ipswich Surprise

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1 | Caroline Stevens | 4 | Andrew Stevens |
| 2 | Catherina Griffiths | 5 | Phillip George |
| 3 | Sheila George | 6 | Timothy Griffiths |

This touch saw a break from tradition. This was mainly due to the difficulty in manipulating a lead of Cambridge, or Ipswich to get 11 additional changes. It can be done within the structure of the method but I found it to be false with every attempt. I was about to give up when I thought of splicing Grandsire Minor and Plain Bob Minor. A Grandsire start would enable the touch to come round at handstroke without falseness at beginning or end. (i.e. the last lead could be the first lead of Plain Bob rung backwards).

After considerable study, the result is (dare I say it) pure genius. There are just two leads of Grandsire - the first and last of the touch, the remaining being Plain Bob with two leads of Double Bob. These are required to get the right length and are carefully placed to avoid falseness.

This touch has been called three times, twice by myself and once by Lesley Ann Wilson who enquired about it having seen it on the EDA web page.

The composition is based on Wrong Home Wrong and is easy to remember. All bar one change of the plain course of Plain Bob can be found in the touch, which produces some interesting work at the two splices between Plain Bob and Grandsire.

This was the tenth consecutive New Year's Day date touch rung at Great Gransden.

Time: 1 hour 10 minutes

1 extent Cambridge, 1 extent plain Bob, 563 Spliced Plain, Double and Grandsire.

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|--------------------|
| 1 | Sheila George | 4 | John Pardoe |
| 2 | Catherina Griffiths | 5 | Andrew Stevens |
| 3 | Timothy Griffiths | 6 | Phillip George (c) |

Grandsire	23456		
Plain Bob	56243	S 3	
	64532		
	43625		
	32456		5234
	<hr/>		
	23564	S W	2354
	36245		
	64352		
	45623		
	45236	- H	2543
Double Bob	45362	-W	5423
Plain Bob	62534		
	26345	S 3	2354
	64253		
	45632		
	53426		
	<hr/>		
	32564		
	23645	S 4	5432
	34256		
	<hr/>		
	34562	- W	4352
	46325		
	62453		
	25634		
	25346	- H	4523
	25463	- W	5243
	56234		
	63542		
	36425	S 3	4352
	62354		
	25643		
	54236		
	<hr/>		
	43562		
	34625	S 4	5243
	42356		
	<hr/>		
	42563	- W	2453
	26435		
	63254		
	35642		
	35426	- H	2534
	35264	- W	5324
	56342		
	64523		
	42635		
	24356	S H	5423
Double Bob	24563	- W	4253
Plain Bob	63452		
Grandsire	35624		
	<hr/>		
	(23456)		

Once again - a very straight forward touch. Divisible by 12, 564 is an easy number for a composition of Plain Bob Minor. I wanted the touch to come round with the last lead of the plain course; hence the first call is "In" for the tenor.

Note: The Single Wrong and 4ths (near the end) have the same effect as two consecutive Bobs. However, two Bobs would cause falseness with row 71; hence the Singles. Composition proved on Byroc Minor.

A good composition for use in an ordinary quarter peal.

Time: 1 hour 10 minutes

1 extent spliced Cambridge & Ipswich, 1 extent spliced St.Clements & Single Oxford, 564 Plain Bob Minor.

1 Catherina Griffiths

2 Sheila George

3 Caroline Stevens

4 John Pardoe

5 Timothy Griffiths

6 Phillip George (c)

<u>23456</u>		5324
35264		
56342		
64523		
64235	- I	2534
43652		
<u>35426</u>		
53264	S W	3524
36542		
64325		
42653		
<u>25436</u>		
25364	- W	5234
56243		
64532		
43625		
<u>43256</u>	- H	5342
35462		
56324		
62543		
24635		
<u>24356</u>	- H	5423
45263		
56432		
63524		
32645		
<u>32456</u>	- H	5234
23564	S W	3254
36245		
64352		
45623		
<u>45236</u>	- H	3542
45362	- W	5432
56423		
62534		
26345	S 3	2354
64253		
45632		
<u>53426</u>		
32564		
23645	S 4	5432
<u>34256</u>		
43562	S W	3452
34625	S 4	5243
<u>42356</u>		
42563	- W	2453
42635	- 4	5324
<u>23456</u>		

Start with Double Court at backstroke for one change using a Single. This gives 132456 at backstroke. Change to Plain Bob.

Use Plain Bob to established basic composition. i.e. 3-part WHW with S3 and S4 in the first two parts. Ring Single Oxford in these out of course courses to add 4x 65's of the front, and incidentally some of the music found in the plain course of Plain Bob.

In the last block, instead of calling S3 and S4 change to Single Oxford for the first course and call SH before the WHW. After the last SH ring two leads of Double Bob (call P.B.) to bring it round.

A nice little touch, but very easy this year.

900 changes Single Oxford, 720 St.Clements, 360 Plain Bob, 25 Double Court.

1 hr 9 min

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|--------------------|
| 1 | Sheila George | 4 | John Pardoe |
| 2 | Andrew Stevens | 5 | Timothy Griffiths |
| 3 | Catherina Griffiths | 6 | Phillip George (c) |

Single Court	<u>32456</u>		5234
Plain Bob	32564	-W	2354
	26345		
	64253		
	45632		
	<u>45326</u>	-H	2543
	45263	-W	5423
	56432		
	63524		
Single Oxford	36245	S3	3254
Single Oxford	45623		
Single Oxford	23564		
Single Oxford	64352		
Single Oxford	52436		
	32645	S4	5423
	<u>24356</u>		
	24563	-W	4253
	46235		
	63452		
	35624		
	<u>35246</u>	-H	4532
	35462	-W	5342
	56324		
	62543		
Single Oxford	26435	S3	2453
Single Oxford	35642		
Single Oxford	42563		
Single Oxford	63254		
Single Oxford	54326		
	24635	S4	5342
Single Oxford	<u>42356</u>	SH	5243
Single Oxford	56234		
Single Oxford	34625		
Single Oxford	25463		
Single Oxford	63542		
	<u>43256</u>	SH	5342
	43562	-W	3452
	36425		
	62354		
	25643		
	25436	-H	3524
	<u>25364</u>	-W	5234
	56243		
	64532		
	43625		
Double Court	<u>34256</u>	SH	5432
Double Court	56423		
	23456	-H	5324

This was composed especially to celebrate the bi-centenary of the Battle of Trafalgar. It needs two extents and a 365. The 365 is a very straightforward composition of Cambridge Surprise. A backstroke start and variable hunt Single at the end.

<u>32456</u>		4235
24653	-4	3542
45362	-W	5432
56234	-B	5243
34625		
25463		
63542		
<u>34256</u>	-H	5432
56423		
23645		
34562	-W	4352
62453		
<u>53246</u>		
46325		
25634		
34562	-W	4352
46325		
62453		
25634		
<u>315462</u>	SW (vh)	5432
134526		
314256		
132465		
123456		

1805 Cambridge Surprise Minor

1 hour 4 min

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Maurice Thurmott | 4 Michael White |
| 2 Sheila George | 5 Timothy Griffiths |
| 3 Catherina Griffiths | 6 Phillip George (c) |

My hope originally for 2006 was to use a variable hunt start and finish. However, although the structure of Cambridge lends itself to this in theory, I found that the first half of the first full lead was false with the second half of the penultimate lead. Four additional changes were planned at the beginning and 10 at the end. So even substituting one of the leads for Ipswich was not going to help. Other methods may be used but my knowledge of falseness was insufficient to try this. I recall having similar problem with my initial attempts for the date touch of 2003.

A much more straightforward approach was taken, and using a plain method, only two additional changes are required, i.e. 564 plus 2 changes. With the correct composition, the touch could be brought round at the snap lead at "wrong" using Cambridge.

The composition is an irregular 3-part based on the standard calling for a 540. Knowing that I needed coursing order 5234 at the end, I had to re-arrange the standard touch (whw 2xSH). The first part is only 14 leads and includes 2 Singles Before. The other two parts are 15 leads each. Double Bob was used to adjust the touch to the correct length; Double Bob being a "course splicer" with Plain Bob prevents the introduction of falseness. It had to be used in the last course to ensure the touch was the correct length and to bring up the required 125364 change at the last lead end.

When we rang it I decided to ring the 566 first, breaking from tradition really because I would normally ring the odd part at the end. By ringing this first, the two changes of Cambridge rung at the end to bring it round, merge conventional into the start of the extent of Cambridge, but the ringers had to be briefed carefully on this.

2006 Minor (3m) (1236 Plain Bob, 722 Cambridge S., 48 Double Bob

1 hour 7 min

1 Rebecca Banner
2 Sheila George
3 Catherina Griffiths

4 Timothy Griffiths
5 Mark Banner
6 Phillip George (c)

Plain Bob	<u>23456</u>		5324
	23564	-W	3254
	36245		
Double Bob	63452	SB	4253
Plain Bob	<u>52346</u>		
	24563		
	46235		
	64352	SB	3254
	45623		
	<u>45236</u>	-H	3542
	45362	-W	5432
	56423		
	62534		
	23645		
	<u>34256</u>		
	34562	-W	4352
	46325		
	62453		
	25634		
	<u>25346</u>	-H	4523
	25463	-W	5243
	56234		
	63542		
	34625		
	<u>43256</u>	SH	5342
	35462		
	56324		
	62543		
	24635		
	<u>42356</u>	SH	5243
	42563	-W	2453
	26435		
	63254		
	35642		
	<u>35426</u>	-H	2534
	35264	-W	5324
	56342		
	64523		
	42635		
	<u>24356</u>	SH	5423
	45263		
	56432		
	63524		
	32645		
Double Bob	<u>32456</u>	-H	5234
Double Bob	56243		
Double Bob	43625		
Cambridge S.	25364		
	(23456)		

This is the 13th consecutive New Year's Day date touch rung at *Great Gransden*

I found two solutions for this length. The first produces 23 out of the 24 56's at backstroke, and the second only 17. However, the second composition is more straightforward and does not have the slight challenge of adding the three leads of Double Bob, which are introduced to obtain the required length.

The alternative solution is shown in the second column. This is Plain Bob only but has only 17 x 56 roll ups, whereas the original solution has 23.

Composition No 2 was rung on 1st January 2007 at *Great Gransden*.

2007 Minor (2m) (567 Plain Bob, 14402 Cambridge S.

1 hour 7 min

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Cheryl Ward | 4 Timothy Griffiths |
| 2 Sheila George | 5 Andrew Stevens |
| 3 Catherina Griffiths | 6 Phillip George (c) |

1st date touch and first quarter peal including treble bob - 1.

Plain Bob	123456		123456	
	132546		132546	
	315264		315264	
	<u>135246</u>	Extreme H	<u>135246</u>	Extreme H
	35462	-W	35462	-W
	56324		35624	-F
	62543		<u>52346</u>	
	24635		24563	
	<u>43256</u>		46235	
	43562	-W	63452	
	36425		63524	-B
	62354		63245	-B
	25643		34652	
Double Bob	<u>25436</u>	-H	<u>45326</u>	
Double Bob	36542		45263	-W
Double Bob	42653		56432	
Plain Bob	25364	-W	56324	-B
	56243		56243	-B
	64532		64532	
	43625		43625	
	<u>32456</u>		<u>32456</u>	
	32564	-W	23564	SW
	26345		36245	
	64253		64352	
	45632		45623	
	<u>45326</u>	-H	<u>45236</u>	-H
	45263	-W	45362	-W
	56432		56423	
	63524		62534	
	32645		23645	
	<u>24356</u>		<u>34256</u>	
	42563	SW	34562	-W
	26435		46325	
	63254		62453	
	35642		25634	
	<u>35426</u>	-H	<u>25346</u>	-H
	35264	-W	25463	-W
	56342		56234	
	64523		63542	
	42635		34625	
	<u>42356</u>	-H	<u>42356</u>	
	25463		42563	-W
	56234		26435	
	63542		63254	
	34625		35642	
	<u>34256</u>	-H	<u>35426</u>	-H
	45362		35264	-W
	56423		56342	
	62534		64523	
	23645		42635	
	<u>23456</u>	-H	<u>23456</u>	

OR

23 X 56'S

17 X 56'S

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Proved by Ringing Master ®

There was an easy solution for this year. Start Plain Bob Minor with the 4 in the Hunt. When it leads the 2 makes second and the others dodge behind. Ring one more lead with the 4 in the Hunt and call variable hunt single at the lead end. This puts the treble back into the Hunt at a Home. Thereafter the composition is a one part and produces 18 roll ups.

Unfortunately Sheila had flu and was not able to ring. John Boocock stood in at short notice.

2008 Minor (2m) (568) Plain Bob, 1440 Cambridge S.
1 hour 9 min

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 John Boocock | 4 Cheryl Ward |
| 2 Catherina Griffiths | 5 Timothy Griffiths |
| 3 Angie Gell | 6 Phillip George (c) |

15th consecutive New Year's Day date touch at Gransden.

Plain Bob	123456		23456	
	214365		<u>42356</u>	SH (vh)
	241635		25463	
	426153		56234	
	<u>421635</u>		63542	
	246153		34625	
	264513		<u>34256</u>	-H
	625431		45362	
	652341		56423	
	563214		62534	
	536124		23645	
	351642		<u>32456</u>	SH
	315462		23564	SW
	134526		36245	
	143256		64352	
	412365		46523	S3
	<u>142356</u>	S (vh)	62435	
			23654	
			35246	
			54362	
			45623	S4
			<u>52436</u>	
			52364	-W
			26543	
			26435	-B
			63254	
			35642	
			<u>35426</u>	-H
			35264	-W
			56342	
			64523	
			42635	
			<u>24356</u>	SH
			24563	-W
			46235	
			63452	
			35624	
			<u>52346</u>	
			52463	-W
			26534	
			63245	
			34652	
			<u>45326</u>	
			45263	-W
			56432	
			63524	
			32645	
			<u>23456</u>	SH

Proved by Ringing Master ©

Quite tricky to find this one - I struggled with the falseness, even in Plain Bob. The Double Bob is used to get the length and overcome falseness. A nice backstroke start and a lead and a half with the 5 as the hunt bell. Thereafter it is plain sailing, the double bob adding a little interest because it is a rarely rung method.

Only 15 roll ups, so rather fewer than usual. The plan was to ring a 720 each of plain Bob and Double Bob. We rang the 569 successfully but there were several trips during the dodges on the Double Bob and I decided to switch back to plain Bob at the half way single. The result was 1577 changes Plain Bob and 432 of Double Bob.

2009 Minor (2m) (1577) Plain Bob, 432 Double Bob.

1 hour 8 min

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Sheila George | 4 Andrew Stevens |
| 2 Cheryl Ward | 5 Timothy Griffiths |
| 3 Catherina Griffiths | 6 Phillip George (c) |

16th consecutive New Year's Day date touch at Gransden.

Plain Bob	123456		23456	
	132546		<u>53246</u>	SH (vh)
	315264		35462	S
	351624		56324	
	536142		56243	-
	<u>531624</u>		64532	
	356142		43625	
	365412		<u>32456</u>	
	634521		32564	
	643251		26345	
	462315		64253	
	426135		45632	
	241653		<u>45326</u>	-
	214563	Double Bob	26534	
	125436	Double Bob	34652	
	152346	Double Bob	45263	-
	513264		56432	
	<u>153246</u>	SH (vh)	63524	
			32645	
			<u>24356</u>	
			24563	-
			46235	
			63452	
			35624	
			<u>35246</u>	-
			53462	S
			36524	
			62345	
			24653	
			<u>45236</u>	
			45362	-
			56423	
			62534	
			23645	
			<u>34256</u>	
			34562	-
			46325	
			62453	
			25634	
			<u>25346</u>	-
		Double Bob	46532	
		Double Bob	32654	
		Double Bob	25463	-
			56234	
			56342	
			64523	
			42635	
			<u>23456</u>	

Proved by Ringing Master ©

This touch was a challenge to compose. I needed an extra half lead (6 changes) of plain Bob Minor in order to get a 570. Starting with the Tenor in the hunt enabled this and originally I kept the variable hunt section to only two and a half leads. One has to be careful with falseness when using variable hunt, which cropped up in several places in the first draft touch of 510, but eventually I managed to get this as a true length. All I needed to do was insert an extra 60 changes by using 2 singles. However, I found this to be very false wherever I placed them. It seemed that a solution was not going to be possible, but then I decided add the 60 changes to the variable hunt section and this was successful.

The composition is mainly callings at W and H. The singles in the last parts are so placed to avoid falseness. The touch contains 19 56's, one of which is at backstroke in the VH section.

We have had a cold snowy Christmas. A heavy snow shower before the ringing covered the ground, but the weather afterwards was brilliant sunshine with a light dusting of snow still lying in the freezing temperature.

2010 Plain Bob Minor

1 hour 5 min

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Wendy Piercy | 4 Sheila George |
| 2 Catherina Griffiths | 5 Andrew Stevens |
| 3 Michael White | 6 Phillip George (c) |

17th consecutive New Year's Day date touch at Gransden.

Plain Bob	<u>123456</u>		23456	
	214365		<u>62354</u>	SB (vh)
	241635		25643	
	426153		25436	- H
	462513		25364	- W
	645231		56243	
	<u>645213</u>	S	64532	
	651432		43625	
	613524		<u>32456</u>	
	632145		23564	S W
	624351		36245	
	642513	S	64352	
	621435		45623	
	<u>162354</u>	S (vh)	45236	- H
			45362	- W
			56423	
			62534	
			23645	
			<u>34256</u>	
			34562	- W
			46325	
			62453	
			25634	
			25346	- H
			25463	- W
			56234	
			63542	
			34625	
			<u>42356</u>	
			24563	S W
			46235	
			63452	
			35624	
			53246	S H
			35462	S W
			56324	
			62543	
			24635	
			<u>24356</u>	- H
			42563	S W
			42635	- F
			<u>23456</u>	

Proved by Ringing Master ®

This one was not too difficult. Start at backstroke in Plain Bob, with the 3 in the Hunt. Call variable hunt single to get the treble back into the Hunt, and then use Wrong Home Wrong structure for the composition. Getting the right length was tricky, so I used Little Bob, but even then had to fiddle the final length by inserting a lead of Double Bob to reduce the original composition by 12 changes.

The Little and Double Bob are at the beginning so as to help the ringers!

2011 Minor (5 M) 519 Plain Bob, 40 Little Bob, 12 Double Bob and one extent each of Cambridge S. and Single Oxford Bob.

1 hour 6 min

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|--------------------|
| 1 | Sheila George | 4 | Andrew Stevens |
| 2 | Catherina Griffiths | 5 | Mark Banner |
| 3 | Rebecca Banner | 6 | Phillip George (c) |

18th consecutive New Year's Day date touch at Gransden.

Plain Bob	<u>123456</u>		23456		
B	132546		<u>35246</u>	SH (vh)	Plain
H	315264		35462	W	Plain
B	135246	S (vh)	24635		Little
			56324		Little
			<u>43256</u>		Little
			62543		Little
			43562	W	Little
			62354		Double
			25643		
			52436	SH	
			25364	SW	
			56243		
			64532		
			43625		
			<u>32456</u>		
			32564	W	
			26345		
			64253		
			45632	H	
			45326	W	
			45263		
			56432		
			63524		
			32645		
			<u>24356</u>		
			42563	SW	
			26435		
			63254		
			35642		
			35426	H	
			35264	W	
			56342		
			64523		
			42635		
			<u>42356</u>	H	
			24563	SW	
			46235		
			63452		
			35624		
			52346		
			25463	SW	
			56234		
			63542		
			34625		
			<u>34256</u>	H	
			45362		
			56423		
			62534		
			23645		
			<u>23456</u>	H	

Proved by Ringing Master ©

This was very straightforward. A 572 of spliced Plain and little Bob Minor using a traditional calling of WHW. Ringing Plain Bob until the second Wrong, then changing to Little for the remaining part of the course to the part end. Repeat 5 times with Single half way and end. Note that the last course is PLP to achieve the correct length.

2012 Minor (4M) 572 spliced Plain and Little Bob Minor (444 Plain and 128 Little, 12 c.o.m.), 720 Norwich S. 720 Cambridge S.

1 hour 9 min

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Sheila George | 4 Andrew Stevens |
| 2 Catherina Griffiths | 5 Iain Hayden |
| 3 Michael White | 6 Phillip George (c) |

19th consecutive New Year's Day date touch at Gransden.

572 Splice Plain and Little Bob Minor by Phillip George

23456		P
23564	W	P
36245		P
64352		P
45623		P
45236	H	P
45362	W	L
23645		L
56423		L
34256		L

Repeat 5 times Single at end of 3rd and 6th parts

Last Part		
32456		P
32564	W	P
26345		P
64253		P
45632		P
45326	H	P
45263	H	L
32645		P
23456	S	

A repeat of the date touch of the 1st January 2012.

This was rung because of the coincidence of the date 2012 on 2012 in 2012, apparently the last opportunity for a date touch with this degree of coincidence until 21st January 2101.

1hour 12 minutes

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|--------------------|
| 1 | Sheila George | 4 | Charlotte Smith |
| 2 | David Gill | 5 | Anthony Smith |
| 3 | Catherina Griffiths | 6 | Phillip George (c) |

Some excellent striking and with thanks to our guest ringers, and especially to our local ringers for giving up their practice to enable us to indulge!

A backstroke start into Plain Bob and calls with the 4th as the treble, which keeps the tenor in 2nds or 3rds place bell for 3 leads. The variable hunt single brings the treble back into the Hunt and its straight forward from then. Four leads of Double Bob are required to get the length.

1hour 8 minutes

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|--------------------|
| 1 | Felicity Webster | 4 | Iain Hayden |
| 2 | Catherina Griffiths | 5 | Andrew Stevens |
| 3 | Sheila George | 6 | Phillip George (c) |

Not particularly good striking. Reminded me of *Gunfight* at the OK Coral with all the ricochets! Never mind, we at least were successful after losing it on New Year's Day due to a brainstorm by the conductor!

573 Spliced Plain and Double Bob by Phillip George

Plain Bob	<u>123456</u>		<u>23456</u>	
B	132546		46532	
H	315264		64325	SB
B	351624		42653	
	536142		<u>25436</u>	
	563412		53264	
	654321		36542	
	645231		63425	SB
	462513		32654	
	<u>462531</u>	S	<u>25346</u>	
	645213		25463	W
	654123		56234	
	561432		63542	
	516342		34625	
	153624		<u>42356</u>	
	135264		42563	W
	312546		26435	
	321456		63254	
	234165		35642	
	243615		<u>35426</u>	H
	426351		26543	
	<u>426315</u>	S	43652	
	243651		52364	
	234561		62435	SB
	325416		23654	
	352146		<u>35246</u>	
	531264		35462	W
	513624		56324	
	156342		62543	
	165432		24635	
	614523		<u>24356</u>	H
	641253		45263	
	462135		56432	
	<u>461253</u>		63524	
	642135		32645	
	624315		<u>32456</u>	H
	263451		25364	
	236541		56243	
	325614		64532	
	352164		43625	
	531246		<u>34256</u>	SH
	513426		45362	
	154362		56423	
	145632		62534	
	416523		23645	
	<u>146532</u>		<u>23456</u>	H

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Start with the 3 in the Hunt. This is a ten-row lead. When the 3rd leads ring a single in 3-4. This puts the 5th into the Hunt. At the end of this lead call another single in 3-4 putting the treble back into the Hunt. Ring as normal thereafter.

1hour 8 minutes

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Sheila George | 4 Iain Hayden |
| 2 Rebecca Banner | 5 Mark Banner |
| 3 Catherina Griffiths | 6 Phillip George (c) |

Fairly well struck piece of ringing, very enjoyable. Nice to ring with Rebecca and Mark. Thanks to Iain for replacing Vanessa who was unwell.

574 Plain Bob Minor by Phillip George

Plain Bob	<u>123456</u>	<u>53426</u>	
	214365	53264	W
	241635	36542	
	426153	63425	SB
	462513	32654	
	645231	<u>25346</u>	
	654321	54263	
	563412	46532	
	536142	64325	SB
	351624	42653	
	<u>531642</u> S 3-4	<u>25436</u>	
	356124	52364	SW
	365214	26543	
	632541	26435	B
	623451	63254	
	264315	35642	
	246135	<u>35426</u> H	
	421653	35264	W
	412563	56342	
	145236	64523	
	154326	42635	
	513462 S 3-4	<u>42356</u> H	
	<u>153426</u>	34256	H
		<u>32456</u>	SH
		<u>43256</u>	H
		<u>24356</u>	H
		<u>23456</u>	SH

Proved by Ringing Master ©


Almost identical to the 2003 touch, starting and finishing with *Grandsire* with *Plain Bob* in between except one lead of *Double Bob* to get the right length and eliminate falseness. The last lead of *Grandsire* is the first lead of *Plain Bob* rung in reverse and so it comes round at handstroke in the correct number of changes.

1hour 7 minutes

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1 | <i>Sheila George</i> | 4 | <i>Andrew Stevens</i> |
| 2 | <i>Catherina Griffiths</i> | 5 | <i>Iain Hayden</i> |
| 3 | <i>Andrew B Smith</i> | 6 | <i>Phillip George (c)</i> |

Some fairly good ringing

Start
<u>123456</u> Grandsire
213546
231456
324165
342615
436251
463521
645312
654132
561423
516243 single
156423
<u>156243</u>
512634 Plain Bob
521364
etc
Last 2 Leads
<u>163452</u> Plain Bob
614325
641235
462153
426513
245631
254361
523416
532146
351264
315624
136542
<u>135624</u> Grandsire
315264
351624
536142
563412
654321
645231
462513
426153
241635
214365
123456 (handstroke)

Lead Ends for 575		
	<u>123546</u>	<u>24356</u>
Grandsire	56243 single	24563 bob
Plain Bob	64532	46235
	43625	63452
	<u>32456</u>	35624
	23564 single	Grandsire (<u>23456</u>)
	36245	
	64352	
	45623	
	<u>45236</u> bob	
	45362 bob	
Double Bob	62534	
	26345 single	
	64253	
	45632	
	<u>53426</u>	
	32564	
	23645 single	
	<u>34256</u>	
	34562 bob	
	46325	
	62453	
	25634	
	25346 bob	
	25463 bob	
	56234	
	63542	
	36425 single	
	62354	
	25643	
	<u>54236</u>	
	43562	
	34625 single	
	<u>42356</u>	
	42563 bob	
	26435	
	63254	
	35642	
	<u>35426</u> bob	
	35264 bob	
	56342	
	64523	
	42635	
	<u>24356</u> single	
	Cont in next column 	

An easy solution this year with no need for funny starts or finishes. I decided to compose a 576 of Plain Bob rather than use a traditional 576 of Cambridge. This was a little more difficult than I anticipated but I based it on WHW and found a satisfactory solution.

I asked Vanessa if she would like to ring, having asked her for a previous year but she was not well on the day and had to cry off, so it was a pleasure for her to be in the band. We had some excellent ringing

576 Plain Bob Minor by Phillip George

Plain Bob	23456		25436	
	32564	SW	25364	W
	26345		56243	
	64253		64532	SB
	45632		43625	
	45326	H	32456	
	45263	W	23564	SW
	56432		36245	
	63524		64352	
	32645		45623	
	24356		45236	H
	24563	W	53462	
	46235		36524	
	63452		62345	
	35624		62453	I
	35246	H	62534	I
	35462	W	23645	
	56324		34256	
	62543		34562	W
	24635		34625	4
	43256		42356	
	43562	W	42563	W
	36425		42635	4
	62354		23456	
	25643			
	25436	H		

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Sheila George | 4 Vanessa Webster |
| 2 Sally Mew | 5 Iain Hayden |
| 3 Catherina Griffiths | 6 Phillip George (c) |
- 1hr 9min

This was the 22nd New Year's Day date touch

576 is a standard length for minor so just one change was required to be added, which I did at the beginning by starting at backstroke plain hunting into 132546. Thereafter, ring a straight forward touch based on WHW.

577 Cambridge S Minor by Phillip S George

32546	
24653	4
45362	W
62534	
34256	
56423	
23645	
34562	W
62453	
25346	H
46532	
32654	
25463	W
63542	
42356	
56234	
34625	
42563	W
63254	
35426	H
26543	
43652	
35264	W
64523	
23456	

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Sheila Gorge | 4 Andrew B Smith |
| 2 Vanessa Webster | 5 Iain Hayden |
| 3 Catherina Griffiths | 6 Phillip George (c) |

1hr 7min

This was the 23rd New Years' Day date touch. Lovely group of ringers!

Our 45th wedding anniversary was on 7th October. We were not able to ring together on that day as Sheila was ringing a quarter peal at Gransden and I was ringing a peal at Biggleswade. I had composed a touch of 532 changes Cambridge and Ipswich, which, with two extents would give a 1972, the year date we were married.

The composition is mostly Cambridge with Ipswich inserted to adjust to the correct length. The touch finishes with a variable hunt single, making Rounds in 4 rows after the lead end.

We had some excellent ringing which was very enjoyable. Very few method mistakes. Doughnuts and tea and a lovely relaxing social occasion were enjoyed at Nutbells afterwards.

	23456	
	35642	4
	42563	
	63254	
	54326	
	26435	
	63542	I
	42356	
Ipswich	34625	
Ipswich	56342	B
	42635	
	35264	
	56423	B
	23645	
	34562	W
	62453	
	25346	H
	46532	
	32654	
	54263	
	46325	W
	25634	
	(315462)	VHS
	Rounds in	
	4 changes	

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Sheila Gorge | 4 Hannah Campbell |
| 2 Charlotte Smith | 5 Russell Brown |
| 3 Anthony H Smith | 6 Phillip George (c) |

1hr 7min

To celebrate Sheila and Phillip's 45th wedding anniversary.

This one was tricky, I needed an extra three rows and decided to begin the touch with these. Starting at backstroke, the treble leads and the tenor lies, giving the row 132546. The treble and 3, and the four and 6 dodge whilst 5 and 2 make 3rds and 4ths respectively. The variable hunt single puts the treble back into first at the next backstroke to give the row 135246.

This is an out of course row and basic Wrong Home Wrong calling could produce regular part ends. A single somewhere would put 2,3 and 4 back in course and so produce the remaining part ends.

The original touch was not long enough so I inserted 2 x S Before in the our of course part in such a way as to not produce falseness in the in-course block. This was successful. Unfortunately try as I might I could not get the right length and although the touch was true it was two leads too long. Substituting Plain Bob for Double Bob resolves this problem and two leads were inserted at convenient points to maximise music.

The ringing was very good throughout. There were some minor striking irregularities, but the rhythm was even and we all enjoyed it.

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|--------------------|
| 1 | Sheila George | 4 | Vanessa Webster |
| 2 | Jackie Latham | 5 | Mark Banner |
| 3 | Catherina Griffiths | 6 | Phillip George (c) |

1hr 10min

For the New Year
24th New Year's Day date touch.

579 Plain Minor (2m)

	<u>35246</u>		Start	
	35462	W	<u>123456</u>	
	56324		132546	B
Double Bob	24635		315264	H
	<u>43256</u>		<u>135246</u>	B
	43562	W	312564	H
	36425		etc	
	62354			
	25643			
	<u>25436</u>	H		
	25364	W		
	56243			
Double Bob	43625			
	<u>32456</u>			
	32564	W		
	26345			
	62453	SB		
	25634			
	53246			
	34562			
	46325			
	64253	SB		
	45632			
	<u>45326</u>	H		
	45263	W		
	56432			
	63524			
	32645			
	<u>24356</u>			
	42563	SW		
	26435			
	63254			
	35642			
	<u>54326</u>			
	54263	W		
	46532			
	63425			
	32654			
	<u>25346</u>			
	25463	W		
	56234			
	63542			
	34625			
	<u>34256</u>	H		
	45362			
	56423			
	62534			
	23645			
	<u>23456</u>	H		