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Sent: 28 June 2026 22:12
To: Teresa Brown
Subject: Update July 2026 from The Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers



BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Update



July 2026

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Recent happenings

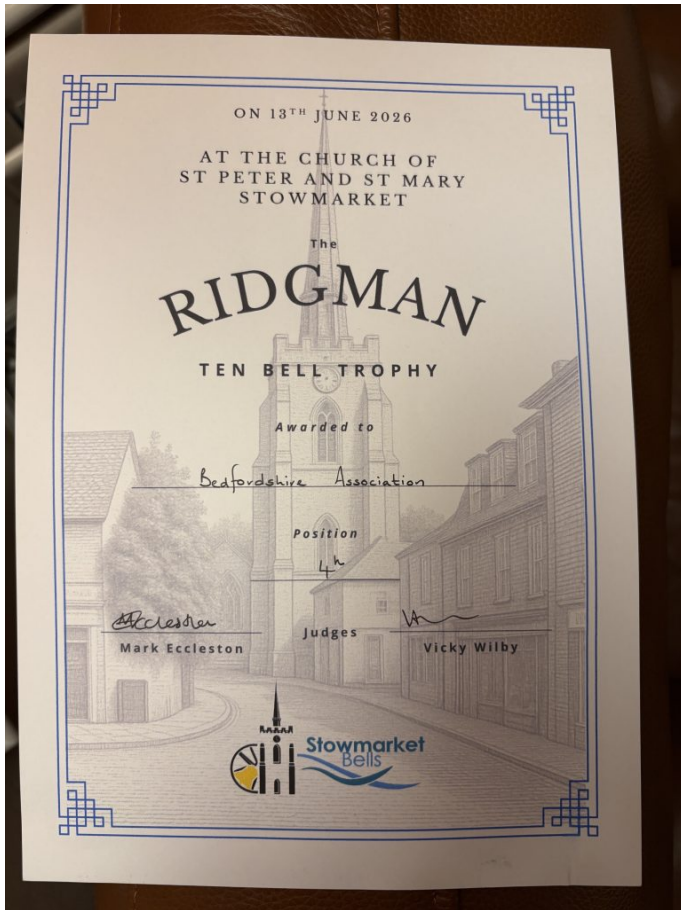
June ringing meetings - we had a very worthwhile General Ringing meeting at Eaton Socon on 6 June. 20 ringers came from as far afield as Leighton Buzzard and we had some visitors from St Neots. It was a useful experience for two of our Young Ringers who rang very well. We rang rounds and call changes, Plain Bob Triples, Grandsire Triples, Stedman Triples, and Cambridge, Superlative and Bristol Surprise Major. Thanks to Trish for meeting us and everyone who came.

We also had a good turn out for the Plain Hunt and Plain Bob Doubles focus practice at Potton on 20 June. This turned out to be interesting as the tenor rope had broken during the wedding ringing beforehand but we were able to carry on although without a tenor cover which was a new experience for some ringers and meant extra concentration to lead correctly! Thanks to Rosemary for meeting us and staying to ring.

The Ridgman Trophy 10 bell striking competition - was held on Saturday 13 June at St Peter and St Mary, Stowmarket. The test piece was [233 Stedman Caters](#). and the judges were Mark Eccleston and Vicky Wilby. Congratulations to the Bedfordshire Team who came a creditable fourth out of six teams. The competition was won by hosts, the Suffolk Guild, Ely DA were second, Essex Association were third. Cambridge University and Lincoln DG were fifth and sixth respectively.



The band were, anticlockwise from front left, Treble – Linda Garton, 2nd – Nick Brown (C), 3rd – Ros Ashton, 4th – Simon Read, 5th – John Loveless, 6th – Dean De-Matteis, 7th – Pat Albon, 8th – Russell Brown, 9th – Toby Bence, Tenor – Philip Jewell.



The really nice 2026 competition certificate!

Next years contest will be held at Wymondham Abbey, Norfolk, on Saturday 12 June 2027.

Forthcoming Events

Ringling Opportunities

There's a suggested £2 donation/person at Association Ringing Programme events. This is so we can make a donation to the tower being visited. Thanks.

Please note - there's no Young Ringers Practice in July - our Young Ringers Team will be taking part in the Ringing World National Youth Competition on 4 July in Nottingham. Good Luck!

Saturday 4 July, 10.30 - 12.30

General Ringing and Short Business Meeting, Tilsworth (6)

This general ringing meeting is for everyone, all levels will be catered for. There will be a short business meeting to elect new members, provide news and updates as necessary.

At the moment we don't have many sign ups for this - there are a lot of people away with the Young Ringers in Nottingham on that day and some of the local ringers can't make it. Unless we get a viable number by close of play on Wednesday 1st July we'll have to cancel and go there another time.

Sign up in the MemberMojo Store <https://membermojo.co.uk/bacbr/store>

Or Email Linda - ringing@bacbr.org.uk

Subject: General Ringing Tilsworth

Saturday 11 July, 10.00 - 11.30

Second Saturday Training at the R J Sharp Ringing Centre at St Andrew's Biggleswade . Please note - only one session today because of a later wedding.

10:00 - 11:30 Foundation skills - rounds, call changes, Plain Hunt

For those who can handle a bell unassisted and wish to improve their bell control and progress to ringing rounds/call changes/Plain Hunt with others.

We're always looking for experienced ringers to support these second Saturday sessions.

If you'd like more information either contact Chris for details or come along and see for yourself.

Sign up is essential for both students and helpers please

Email Chris Williams - christine.williams.bells@gmail.com.

Subject: Second Saturday July

Saturday 25 July, 2.00 3.30

General Ringing at Blunham (6) - and the 'Bells, Beer and Bangers' event.

We're joining in with the open ringing laid on for the Blunham Bells, Beer and Bangers event. You can just come for the ringing, all levels will be catered for, but please stay afterwards to enjoy the food and drinks and support Blunham's bell restoration project fund raising initiative. **Although not essential, but to give some idea of numbers, please sign up**

if you're coming:

Either, in the MemberMojo Store <https://membermojo.co.uk/bacbr/store>

Or Email Davina - blunham@bacbr.org.uk

Subject: General ringing Blunham and Bells, Beer and Bangers

Event poster available here <https://www.bacbr.org.uk/bells-beer-and-bangers-26th-july-20-00-6-00pm-for-blunham-bells-restoration-fund/blunham-2026-final/>

It's really important to **book your place/confirm your attendance** for most events. There are two ways to do this:

1. Via the MemberMojo Store

<https://membermojo.co.uk/bacbr/store>

Simply click on the link above and choose which event(s) you wish to attend.

2. By emailing Linda Garton on ringing@bacbr.org.uk , **or the organiser as stated**, giving the meeting name/venue in the subject line of your email.

Events will only go ahead if there are enough people to make them viable.

Linda would also appreciate helpers giving their availability for focus practices and specific workshops.

We look forward to seeing you at an event soon!

Please note: Not all events shown have a confirmed venue at the time of writing and venues may change at short notice, please see the [Website](#) for the up to date situation. If any event has to be cancelled due to lack of numbers, we'll email those who have signed up, but it may not be possible to post any amendments on the website or Facebook at short notice.

Proposed August events - get these dates in your diary!

Please check the website www.bacbr.org.uk for latest situation.

Saturday 1 August, 10.30 - 12.30 - General Ringing and a short business meeting, at Sharnbrook (8).

Saturday 8 August, 10.00 - 12.30 - Second Saturday Training at the R J Sharp Ringing Centre at St Andrew's Biggleswade, two sessions as usual this month.

Saturday 22 August, 2.30 - 6.30pm - Campton (8). Walk, Tea and Ring, Meet at All Saints Church at 2.30pm for 3 mile (approx) circular walk, 4.00pm Ringers Tea (£5/person), 5.00 - 6.30pm ringing at All Saints, Campton. Names for tea essential please - email ringing@bacbr.org.uk

Short Business Meeting notes are on the website

Notes taken at our short business meetings at General Ringing Meetings are now being loaded onto the website, click here [Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers](#)

Other notices and news

Firsts and Commemorative Ringing - May and June

Apologies to the Silsoe ringers - this was inadvertently missed in the June Update:

Tuesday 26 May, at St James the Great, Silsoe - 1296 Single Oxford Bob Minor - rung as a fond farewell to Life Member, Yvonne Tomkins, as she moves to Ripley, Derbyshire, with the best wishes from the band. We wish Yvonne well in her new life in Derbyshire. [BellBoard](#)

Friday 5 June, at All Saints, Kempston - 1282 Swindon Surprise Royal - first in the

method for Dean De-Matteis, Simon Head and Ian Harris. [BellBoard](#)

Sunday 21 June, at All Saints, Clifton - 1280 Superlative Surprise Major - rung to celebrate Clifton ringer Peter Blackmore's 80th birthday and Peter and Kathy's 30th wedding anniversary. [BellBoard](#)

Friday 26 June. at All Saints, Kempston - 1440 London No. 3 Surprise Royal - Remembering the driver who lost his life and those injured in the Elstow rail crash a few miles from Kempston.

Update on the St Pauls Bedford Tower, Clock and Bells project

There is an update on the St Pauls Bedford Tower, Clock and Bells project on the Association website here – <https://www.bacbr.org.uk/st-pauls-bedford-tower-clock-and-bells-project/>

Important information for Towers and Ringing Masters about ringing management from Pat Albon, Technical Advisor

Like driving a car, bellringing, by a competent person, is a relatively easy and safe activity. However, both involve large, heavy masses, which have the potential to do a lot of damage if not carried out in a safe manner.

Two recent incidents in Bedfordshire towers have highlighted the need for us all to review our activities in the tower. I won't go into detail but in both cases the individuals were inexperienced in the particular activity they were carrying out. In one case, a person was briefly hospitalised and, as such, the incident was reported to the Health and Safety Executive. The other was considered to be serious enough to refer to Diocesan officials. Fortunately, there were no significant injuries however, but for luck, the outcome could so easily have been much worse, possibly even fatal!

Responsibility for bell ringing in churches lies with the Incumbent but in many cases the Ringing Master (RM) (I use this term to define those who have the authority to manage the ringing), is elected by the band and, in their absence, they will appoint a temporary substitute.

Although most incumbents know little or nothing of the practicalities or risks of ringing bells, they do still have a duty of care to ensure that appropriately skilled and experienced people are appointed to run ringing. As such it would be best practice for them to consult with the band, or other experienced ringers where no appropriate locals exist. If no such person exists within the band, then assistance should be sought from the Association, or other local towers with appropriately experienced ringers. It's simply not acceptable to appoint someone just because they are the oldest or longest serving ringer.

Those putting themselves forward, or suggested, as RM should look critically at their own abilities and get training and/or experience in areas of shortcoming before taking on the role. Additionally, once in post, the RM must ensure that any temporary stand-in has the appropriate skills and experience to carry their delegated duties.

One particularly challenging activity in the tower is teaching new recruits. Here the instructor must be prepared to deal with any number of potential issues in a competent, prompt and skillful manner, not only ensuring the safety of the recruit and themselves but also in such a way as the recruit and others in the tower aren't frightened or intimidated. The instructor needs to be able to quickly identify a potential issue before it becomes a hazard and either correct it or take control. Inevitably, a student will occasionally lose control of a bell completely and the instructor must be able to take over and bring the bell under control safely. This is an activity where the RM must consider the abilities of a potential instructor critically before authorising them to instruct.

Even when ringing with a reasonably experienced and competent band, the RM needs to be mindful of all the potential risks, for example, has little Johnny the experience and skill to ring the flighty Treble that he has caught hold of for the first time, or are the Tenor ringer's toes overhanging the edge of the box?

An RM must be able to take all of this onboard, alongside the general management tasks of running a tower. This will ensure that we have a safe and enjoyable ringing experience. There is advice and guidance on this, and much more, in the Central Council's 'Running a Tower' information on the website here [Running a Tower | Running a Tower](#) and the useful Central Council resources links below

Pat Albon, technicaladvisor@bacbr.org.uk

News from the CCCBR

Central Council of Church Bell Ringers

Some Useful Central Council Resources

Risk Assessment Guidance - [Risk Assessment | Running a Tower](#)

In Case of Emergency Notice - [Emergency | Running a Tower](#)

Recruitment and Retention - [Recruitment and Retention – CCCBR](#)

Notice Board toolkit - [Noticeboard Toolkit – CCCBR](#)

You Tube Index - <https://cccbbr.org.uk/youtube-index>

Images - [Photos – CCCBR](#)

.The Central Council Code for Ringing - a reminder for everyone about this code for ringers - [Code-for-Ringing-Edition-1-v1-285.pdf](#)

Do keep an eye on the Central Council website for wider ringing news, resources and helpful information! <https://cccbbr.org.uk>



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Linda Garton - Ringing Master
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We welcome feedback on any aspect of the Association feedback@bacbr.org.uk

www.bacbr.org.uk - Website

You have received this because you are an Association member, a past member who wishes to remain in touch or a Tower Contact for the Association

You can [unsubscribe from this list](#).