
St Albans District Newsletter

April 2008
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Interview with the President



Charles Pocock is the St Albans District's nominee for president of the Hertford County Association for 2008-2009, and is due to be elected to the post at the AGM on April 26th. I took the opportunity to interview Charles to discuss his forthcoming role.

Thank you Charles for taking the time to answer these questions. Firstly, congratulations on becoming president of the HCA. What does this position mean to you?

Thank you, Stephen. Yes I'm really pleased to be asked to become President which is a great honour. What it means to me is that it's an opportunity to put a little back into an activity which I've enjoyed for 46 years. And it's, I hope, an opportunity to get to know new ringing friends around Herts.

According to the HCA rules, the President is "...responsible for the conduct of Association Meetings". In reality, the role is much more than that, isn't it?

You're right that my job description per the Association's Rules has a certain lack of substance!

What I hope to offer is an open ear to all members but especially the District Committee members/officials and to be available to advise, discuss and help resolve issues so to advance our objects. I consider it an important role to fully support the General Secretary and Treasurer who have particularly heavy workloads on behalf of the Association.

What are your plans for the following year?

I have no 'Grand Plan'. I shall do my best to attend as many of the Association's meetings as possible be they District or otherwise. But given that Liz and I value our holidays and our weekends very much, the latter for family matters particularly, I also intend as far as possible to get around, especially during the Summer, to some weekday practices.

What are your priorities over the next twelve months?

I think the priority for me will be to help prepare for our celebration of the Association's 125th anniversary in October 2009. In particular our outgoing President, Ian Cresshull, has issued a 'challenge' to the Association to ring a peal or quarter at every ringable tower in the Association's area to celebrate this anniversary. This seems to be a challenge worthy of a response so I'll be encouraging this project as best I can during the period from 1st Jan 2009.

What role does the Association play in helping local bands?

Perhaps it's more a case of 'what more could we do?'

There are two possibilities here, I think. Both have in my experience worked.

The first is where a district/other tower responds to a call for help from a local band to support training or other furtherment of ringing. This needs to be run as a 'project' with a beginning and a hoped-for end.

The other is exactly what the HCA is about namely the opportunity to visit other towers, try new methods etc. etc, as well of course as to meet and become friends with fellow ringers from other towers, all on a continuing basis.

At least, I think this is what we're all about!

There are many types of ringers in the Association - Sunday Service Ringers, Peal Ringers, those who enjoy District Meetings - is

the Association as important to each of these groups?

I believe the Association offers benefits to all the categories you mention. I would wish HCA members to engage in and support Sunday Service ringing - regularly - In Herts, even if they already ring extra-territorially of a Sunday (Only a tiny minority don't support Sunday ringing in the county and that's a sadness to me). Back to your main Question: I don't know really. The Association is as important to individual tower ringers as their own engagement therewith. So the question is whether we can make the Association even more useful to ringers in the county generally.

What challenges does the HCA face in 2008?

As with other Charities, evolving charity law requires the trustees to satisfy greater and greater regulatory demands. The latest blurb from the Commission requires charities to satisfy a 'Public Benefit' Test.

When I first read all about this, I envisioned lots of people who would assert that the noise of Church bells was a 'Public Disbenefit'. Happily, I think the Association 'gets through' on many other grounds though I am a little surprised that the Central Council has not (at the date of writing) taken this point up and formulated some guidance. The Association can also encourage good practice in the fields of Health and Safety and Vulnerable Individuals Protection for instance.

If you could make one big change to Association ringing in the next year what would it be?

Stephen, I really don't believe the Association is in any material respect 'bust'. Thus I'm not about suggesting material change to 'fix'.

There is one idea I have to encourage surprise major ringing but this is in an early stage of development.

I will try to follow the excellent work of my predecessor, Ian, and emulate his mature, thoughtful, yet energetic attention to our affairs.

Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions Charles and best of luck for the next year!

Firsts at St Peter's

St Albans, St Peter

Sunday, 4 November 2007 in 47 mins (24-0-3)

1260 PLAIN BOB DOUBLES

1. Quenton M Jones
2. Jennifer V Johnson
3. Ann Evans
4. Rosemary E Sales
5. Richard Sales (C)
6. Kathryn E Jones

First quarter away from cover: Treble
Rung on the front six for evensong.

St Albans, St Peter

Sunday, 11 November 2007 in 0:53 (24 cwt)

1259 GRANDSIRE CATERS

1. Kathryn E Jones
2. Rosemary J Duke
3. Judith A Mack
4. Edward R Mack
5. Jennifer V Johnson
6. Rosemary E Sales
7. Graham A Duke (C)
8. Thomas B Mack
9. Richard Sales
10. Barry D Mack

First on ten: 1

Rung half-muffled for Remembrance Sunday
Evensong.

St Albans, St Peter

Sunday, 16 December 2007 in 0:51 (24 cwt)

1274 PLAIN BOB TRIPLES

1. Quenton M Jones
2. Cynthia Warrilow
3. Rosemary J Duke
4. Martin J Corry
5. Ann Evans
6. Richard Sales
7. Graham A Duke (C)
8. James M Hills

First Quarter on 8: Treble
For Evensong.

St Albans, St Peter

Sunday, 6 January 2008 in 0:54 (24 cwt)

1360 LONDON #3 SURPRISE ROYAL

1. Ann Evans
2. Rosemary J Duke
3. Judith A Mack
4. Edward R Mack
5. Bjorn E Bradstock
6. Thomas B Mack
7. Claire C Nicholson
8. Graham A Duke (C)
9. Barry D Mack
10. Richard Sales

First in the method: 3, 4, 6
For Evensong.

St Albans, St Peter

Saturday, 9 February 2008 in 0:51 (24 cwt)

1282 LINCOLNSHIRE SURPRISE ROYAL

1. Cynthia Warrilow
2. Judith A Mack
3. Rosemary J Duke
4. Edward R Mack
5. Rosemary E Sales
6. Ann Evans
7. Richard Sales
8. Graham A Duke (C)
9. Thomas B Mack
10. Barry D Mack

First of Lincolnshire Royal: 2, 4, 6

St Albans, St Peter

Sunday, 2 March 2008 in 0:51 (24 cwt)

1282 LINCOLNSHIRE SURPRISE ROYAL

1. Thomas B Mack
2. Cynthia Warrilow
3. Rosemary J Duke
4. Judith A Mack
5. Ann Evans
6. Bjorn E Bradstock
7. Graham A Duke (C)
8. Claire C Nicholson
9. Barry D Mack
10. Richard Sales

First of Lincolnshire Royal: 2
For Evensong.

Visit to Whitechapel

The district was hoping to host a tour around the Whitechapel bell foundry combined with a nearby mini-outing this year. Unfortunately there is no availability for groups on tour dates this year so watch out for a date in 2009.

Peals

Hertford County Association St Mary, North Mymms

Tuesday, 12 February 2008 in 2h49 (12-3-0)

5184 ZELAH SURPRISE MAJOR

Composed by: John S Warboys

1. S Kathleen M Baldwin
2. Robert J Crocker
3. Roger Baldwin
4. Roger I Kendrick
5. Richard J W Tibbetts
6. L Roy Woodruff
7. David G Salter
8. Adam R Crocker (C)

Ring on the occasion of the conductor's 18th birthday.

First 8 bell peal as conductor

Society of Royal Cumberland Youths St Albans, St Peter

Monday, 31 December 2007 in 3:10 (24 cwt)

5040 ALBANIAN SURPRISE ROYAL

Composed by: David A Warwick

1. Rosemary J Duke
2. Thomas B Mack
3. Sheila M Cheesman
4. Charles F Pocock
5. E Jane Sibson
6. James M Hills
7. Barry D Mack
8. Derek E Sibson
9. Richard Sales
10. Graham A Duke (C)

Specially arranged to mark the Pearl (30th) Wedding Anniversary of Graham (Ben) and Rosemary this day.

First blows in the method: 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9
850th peal for the Society and 50th on the new bells:

10

District Meetings

All ringers are welcome to attend district meetings and your tower secretary should be encouraging you to do so. They provide the opportunity to meet with other ringers in the district and the ringing varies from rounds and call changes up to spliced surprise. Special requests are also welcome. Your tower secretary receives monthly updates from the district secretary about these and can let you know when and where they are.

Saturday Courses 2008

General information

These practical courses, held at The Ringing Centre at St Peter, St Albans, are for ringers who wish to make progress in a specific method or topic related to change ringing. Each session will be led by a course tutor. Experienced helpers will attend as appropriate and there will be a maximum number of students per session to ensure each participant can benefit from the tuition. The simulator, video camera and audio tapes may be used. A modest course fee is charged to cover expenses and wear and tear on equipment.

Ringing by Rhythm

April 5th 2008

10 - 11am, 11am - 12noon or 1 - 2pm

Tutor: Sara Coward Course fee: £4

Max. no. of students: 2 per session

Stedman

July 5th 2008 10am - 12 noon

Tutor: Barry Mack Course fee: £5

Max. no. of students: 6

Details about these courses and application forms should now be displayed in your tower. Further copies can be sent by email by contacting Ann Evans, ann@ev43.wanadoo.co.uk. You must book your place in advance.

Coming to a calendar near you

The district was asked to put forward three photos for potential inclusion in the 2009 Ringing World calendar, the year of the association's 125th anniversary, Following a number of showings of potential photos, culminating in a vote at the district meeting on March 15th, the three photos below were chosen for submission. Many thanks to Ann Evans in particular for her hard work in collecting these photos.



Sandridge, St Leonard



St Albans Cathedral



St Albans, St Peter

St Albans District Ringing Programme 2008/9

Ringers of ALL standards are welcome at ALL events.

Date	Time	Event	Venue
April 19 th	10am - noon	Ringling & Meeting	St Albans, St Peters
April 26 th		HCACR AGM	Harpenden
May 17 th	5.20pm	Woolford Cup	Chipping Barnet
June 21 st	10am - noon	Ringling & Meeting	Wheathampstead
July 19 th	3.30pm - 8.30pm	Ringling & Meeting	Afternoon - Essendon Evening - North Mymms
August 16 th	7pm - 8.30pm	Ringling & Meeting	St Paul's Walden
September 20 th	10am - noon	Ringling & Meeting	Monken Hadley
October 18 th	7pm - 8.30pm	Ringling & Meeting	St Albans, Cathedral
November 15 th	10am - noon	Ringling & Meeting	Ridge
December 20 th	3.30pm - 8.30pm	Ringling, Carol Service & Nomination Meeting	Harpenden
January 17 th 2009	3.30pm - 8.30pm	ADM	Welwyn

District Officers 2008/9

Ringling Master:	Claire Nicholson 020 7944 3518 noslohcin@googlemail.com	Deputy Ringling Master:	Barry Mack 01707 371671 barry.mack@ntlworld.com
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