



est 2013



Supported by

**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>

through the Heritage Lottery Fund



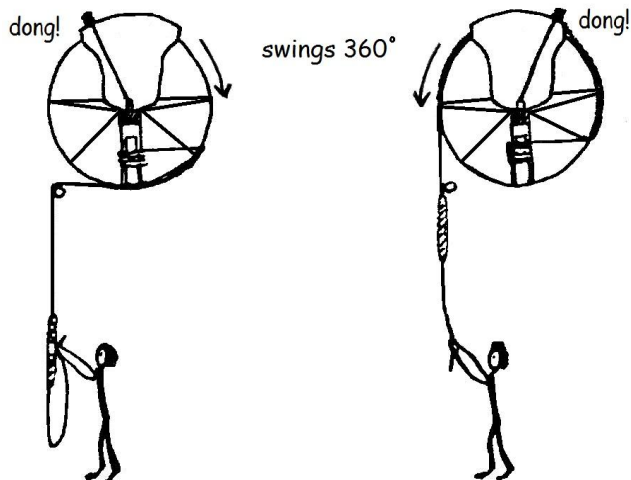
The Hartshorne Society of Bell-ringers was formed in March 2013 with the aims of:

- Promoting and fostering the ancient English art of Change Ringing in Hartshorne and the local area
- Ringing the bells of Hartshorne for Church services, weddings, secular events of national or local importance and on request by local institutions and organisations
- Advancing the quality of ringing at Hartshorne
- Providing a worthwhile activity for all ages across the local community
- Encouraging interest in and ensuring correct maintenance of, the bells and fittings of Hartshorne

The Society practises from 7.30pm till 9.00pm on Wednesdays but has additional practices from time to time with the bells silenced. The band includes people of all ages and all walks of life - from not yet into their teen's right through to those in their mid 70's. While some do stay for the services, Church attendance is not required and we are financially and managerially independent of the church. We are represented on the Parish Church Council and they are represented on our committee. The bells remain the property and ultimate responsibility of the church, but the society seeks to cover repair, maintenance and operating costs.

There are 6 bells in St Peter's Hartshorne and the oldest is dated 1580 and is listed. So bells have been rung in Hartshorne Parish Church for over 430 years and we know that there were 4 bells in 1762 when the 2nd, 3rd and 4th were installed. Actually the parish accounts clearly indicate multiple bells in 1629. Multiple bells means Change Ringing, so for over 380 years there has been change ringing in Hartshorne and we are just following in this ancient English tradition.

We teach people the skill required to ring a church bell and then go on to help them learn to ring with other people. Ringing a bell is not a trivial task. While it requires little strength or physical stature, being mostly about timing and technique, it does take considerable practice to get it right.



The bells are mounted on wheels and are rung by pulling a rope wound around the rim of the wheel. We start by swinging the bells more and more until they are upside down - mouth in the air. With

careful judgement the bell can be held in this position - it is then said to be set or up. There is an arrangement by which you can actually let go of the rope at this point and the bell will stay there - upside down.

By pulling steadily on the rope, the bell will swing back and continue right round until it is upside down again - ringing once on the way. The rope winds itself around the opposite side of the wheel as it goes - ready for the next pull. By pulling less hard, the bell will not swing quite so far up and will start to swing down sooner. Conversely, by pulling harder, the bell will swing farther up and swing down later. In this way the speed of your ringing can be adjusted to fit in with other people.

The extreme case is when the bell is actually stationary upside down - it can then wait there for ever.

At its simplest, ringing with other people involves each bell ringing right after the bell immediately higher than itself in pitch. This is called ringing in Rounds. The next step is for someone to call out a new sequence for the bells and the ringers adjusting their speed to change places appropriately. Bells only change places with an adjacent bell. If the bells are numbered 1 to 6 then the sequence will start as 1,2,3,4,5,6,1,2,3,4,5,6... but a change can be called - perhaps “2 after 3” in which case the sequence will be 1,3,2,4,5,6,1,3,2,4,5,6 ... If the next change is “4 after 5” then it becomes 1,3,2,5,4,6,1,3,2,5,4,6... and so on. This is called “Call Change Ringing”.

The next step is for the changes to be automatic - with no one calling them. The simplest example is “Plain Hunt” when the bells swap places with the bell next to them at the time. This can be made more complicated by getting one bell to stay in the same place for an extra blow which means other bells have to do extra swapping. These are called methods and the ringer has to learn the rules of the method and not the sequence of bells.

1,2,3,4,5,6 (rounds)
2,1,4,3,6,5
2,4,1,6,3,5
4,2,6,1,5,3
4,6,2,5,1,3
6,4,5,2,3,1
6,5,4,3,2,1
5,6,3,4,1,2
5,3,6,1,4,2
3,5,1,6,2,4
3,1,5,2,6,4
1,3,2,5,4,6
1,2,3,4,5,6 (rounds)
Plain Hunt on 6 bells

Please contact Andy Austen, our Tower Captain, for more information: [Hartshorne@derbyda.org.uk](mailto:Hartshorne@derbyda.org.uk)

Read our BLOG to see what we're doing.

<http://hartshornechurch.org.uk/hartshorne-society-of-bell-ringers/>

