



Castor Ringing School

Report to the Peterborough Branch AGM January 2022

1. David Teall retired as Head Tutor for the Castor Ringing School in August. In 2020, he said that he planned to retire at the AGM in 2022, but decided to bring it forward, with immediate effect, in August 2021. The School Committee nominated me to replace him, and that was formally ratified at a meeting of Castor PCC in early September.
2. The School AGM in November agreed that that the ringing community in this area owes substantial thanks to David for all that he has done as Head Tutor over the last few years. Many of us in this room learned to ring with David's excellent teaching. The meeting agreed a formal vote of thanks to David for all he has done.
3. We restarted sessions at the end of August 2021, with appropriate Covid precautions in place, initially just for those learning methods and limiting the numbers, at ground floor towers. We returned to Castor from the middle of September, and this has worked well. After a number of sessions, we felt it was safe to restart handling sessions for those who had started prior to lockdown.
4. A number of new learners started in autumn of 2021 from Wittering, Elton, Nassington, Castor and Barnack, including 2 ringers returning after a considerable gap. I have already had contact from a further 2/3 people who wish to start learning to ring in January. This is positive news for the future of ringing in this area, and hopefully all of them will convert into membership of the Guild over time.
5. With a number of our previous tutors and helpers unavailable, we are just managing to get enough experienced ringers to give our pupils a solid band for methods, but some weeks it has been a struggle.
6. Thank you to all those experienced ringers who give up their Saturday mornings to support us.

The meeting is asked to note the report.

Hilary Hardie
Head Tutor
December 2021