BISHOP'S STORTFORD DISTRICT • TOWER OUTING

District Ringers Tour - Orwell, Wallington, Cottered and Benington

Hertfordshire • Saturday 21 November 2026



Ringers gather inside the church during the outing.

Twenty-five ringers from the Bishop's Stortford District took to the road on Saturday for an autumn tower outing, organised by Tracey and Ro, calling in on four towers — Orwell, Wallington, Cottered and Benington — under bright, crisp skies. The band was swelled by two welcome surprise visitors, one from the Eastern District and one from the Northern District, making for a sociable and well-attended outing.

The day began at Orwell before moving on to Wallington, a village with a literary connection for ringers to enjoy between touches — George Orwell once lived there and was married in the parish church. Ringing across the morning ranged from rounds and call changes up to Cambridge Surprise Minor and Plain Bob Major, giving both newer and more experienced ringers plenty to get their teeth into.

Lunch was taken at the Bull in Cottered, where the ringers appreciated an opportunity to get warm; before returning to the church to ring. Not everything went entirely to plan: one ringer's car broke down at Cottered, and at his own insistence he stayed behind to wait for the AA rather than hold up the rest of the band, finally being rescued some four hours later. There were a few anxious minutes while everyone worked out whether the chimes had been taken off correctly, but happily no harm came to the chiming hammer and ringing carried on as planned.

The day's final stop was Benington, where an enthusiastic start on the kettle set off the fire alarm — an unscheduled addition to the afternoon's entertainment! Ringers there also paused to sing Happy Birthday to Tracey, with a fabulous cake baked by Irene for the occasion, a sweet note to end the ringing on.

Despite the fire alarm, chimes anxiety and breakdown, it was another thoroughly enjoyable District outing, and thanks go to Tracey and Ro for organising such a good day, and to everyone who took part.



Lunch at the Bull, Cottered.