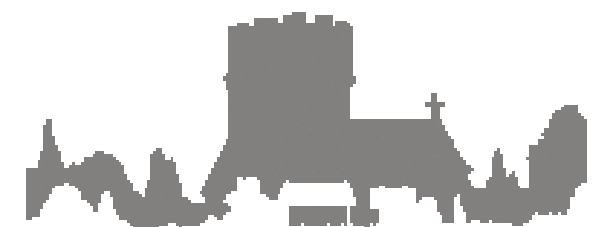


# Ringling Round Devon



THE GUILD OF  
DEVONSHIRE RINGERS  
Newsletter 125 March 2022

## Ringling World National Youth Competition

The eleventh annual Ringling World National Youth Contest will take place on Saturday 2 July 2022 in Exeter. Teams will compete for the coveted Whitechapel Trophy and the RW Editor's Trophy for Excellence. The headquarters for the day will be Exeter Cathedral; the contests will take place at St Mark's and St David's, subject to final confirmation.

The contest is open to bands comprising ringers aged under 19 on 31 August 2022. Bands will compete in either a method or call change competition. It is hoped to put in at least one band from Devon.

Various towers in and around Exeter will be open, with the participants also having the opportunity to ring at the Cathedral, alongside the ever-popular handbell workshops and mini-rings, both of which will be in the nave of the Cathedral. There will be a social event in the nave after the results have been announced which will be arranged by the Young Change Ringers Association.

About 100 volunteers are needed to assist with all kinds of activities from stewarding at towers and mini-rings through to welcoming participants, serving refreshments and helping with setup/take-down. Could you spare some time please? Maybe just a few hours. Or all day. If you can help please complete the volunteer sign-up form at: <https://forms.gle/Yx2rhHAKD8scEKsr5>. For safeguarding reasons all helper volunteers must complete the form.

This competition and day of ringing inspires and encourages young ringers. Please consider giving up some of your time to help the next generation of ringers.

Details are at <https://rwnyc.ringingworld.co.uk/>

Please send any queries to [rwnyc@ringingworld.co.uk](mailto:rwnyc@ringingworld.co.uk) or to [Matt Hilling](#).

*Matt Hilling*

## Ringling for HM the Queen's Jubilee

Sunday 6 February 2022 marks the 70th anniversary of HM Queen Elizabeth II's accession. The main Jubilee celebrations take place over an extended Bank Holiday, with the late May Bank Holiday being moved to Thursday 2 June and an additional Bank Holiday on Friday 3 June. The four-day celebrations will feature an extensive programme of events that showcase the best of British ceremonial splendour and pageantry. It was disappointing to note that despite the relevant parties being informed of our intentions, it was not included in the recent announcement of plans by the government. I shall continue to pursue that!

Whilst the whole weekend lends itself to plenty of celebratory ringing, in collaboration with the Church of England and the Royal Household, it has been agreed that a focus for collective bellringing should coincide with the Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's, London on Friday 3 June. The timing of the Service has not yet been confirmed but is likely to be in the morning. As more definite information is released, it will be shared across the usual

formats. A BellBoard event has been set up, 'Platinum Jubilee Celebrations for HM Queen', where you can record ringing over the course of the weekend's celebrations.

If you are looking for inspiration for what to ring, there are plenty of options listed in the Composition Library such as Jubilee Court Bob Triples, Royal Jubilee Surprise Royal, Queen Elizabeth II Surprise Minor, Queen Elizabeth Treble Bob Major, Platinum Bob Triples, Platinum Surprise Major, and many more.

After the Bank Holiday weekend, details of the ringing that took place for both the Accession Day and over the Jubilee Weekend will be collated and presented to Her Majesty with the grateful thanks of the bellringing community for her unique service to the nation and Commonwealth.

*Vicki Chapman, Central Council of Church Bell Ringers,  
Public Relations Officer*



Handbell ringing under the moon

## Devon Ringers' carol service

Once again, the annual Carol Service was held online via Zoom. John Martin (Guild Secretary) and Charlotte Boyce (Guild Treasurer) were in charge of the technical side and Nigel Birt was MC. Funds were raised for the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund and proceedings started with a presentation of the work supported by the fund.

Ian Avery had recorded the Kingsteignton church choir singing a selection of carols and Christmas music, with quite a number of the singers also being ringers. We are sure that many people joined in singing lustily but as we were all muted it was hard to tell!

The music was interspersed with the nine bible readings from both Guild and Association members. We also saw an edited clip of the Queen's Peal being rung by the Lamerton ringers on handbells.

Prayers and the final reading were given by Fr Mark Smith of Kingsteignton and we ended by listening to call changes and a lower on the bells of his parish church. It was altogether a truly inspiring service, although there were quite a few less attendees than last year. Several of us agreed that we had rather lost the habit of Zooming since the summer and perhaps that was the reason. However, those who did not join in missed a treat. The final wish was that we will be back in person by next year. At the end of formal proceedings, the opportunity was taken to wish Ian Avery a very happy birthday for the following day. It only remains to say a very big thank you to all concerned with keeping this important Devon institution alive until we can do it for real once more.



Some of those present at the virtual carol service

*Martin Mansley*

## Guild Committee Meeting – January 15

Owing to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, this January's Guild committee meeting was, once again, held via Zoom. Some of the key discussions are summarised below.

### Guild AGM: Saturday 18 June 2022

To be hosted by the Exeter Branch. Plans are being made for social events/activities and open towers in addition to the meeting. This date also coincides with Exeter Cathedral's open practice evening, to which ringers are invited.

### Guild Striking Competitions: Saturday 15 October 2022

- Both the 8 bell competition and the novice 8 bell competition will be held at Dawlish and the chosen methods are Grandsire Triples and Plain Bob Major
- Novice 6 bell competition will take place at Stokeinteighhead
- 6 bell competition will take place at Bishopsteignton

The new novice 8 bell competition trophy in memory of David Willis has kindly been donated by a member.

## Guild Ringing Festival: Saturday 22 October – Sunday 6 November

The 'festival fortnight' aims to support the work of the DCBRF. It is an opportunity to celebrate any ringing activity and is not restricted to quarter peal and peal ringing.

### Guild 150th Anniversary (2024)

The workgroup exploring how we can mark this momentous occasion are keen to gauge the level of support for:

- A formal dinner (possibly on Friday 22 March 2024)
- Ringing and a service (possibly on Saturday 23 March 2024)
- If you have any thoughts, please do let the group know!

### Committee Roles

The following roles will become vacant at the AGM in June:

- President (currently Alison Waterson)
- Publicity Officer (currently vacant, previously Lynne Hughes)
- Education Officer (currently Tim Bayton)

If you are interested in any of these roles, or wish to find out more about them, please do express your interest to the officers.

### Membership records update

Since January 2021 members have been asked to complete a membership form. As a charity we are required to comply with GDPR regulations and the Trustees are liable for ensuring that compliance is met. The most important aspects for us are; the reasons for collecting data, how long the information is held and the accuracy of those records.

The following updated documents can be found on the Guild website: Data Privacy Notice, Data Retention Schedule and the Membership form. A possible future option could be the use of a membership subscription system, for example Membermojo, where information is maintained by members themselves and payment can be made at the same time. There is the possibility of a direct link with mailing lists enabling publishing of information to members only, including an electronic version of the Guild report.

### Accounts for the year 2021

The General Fund showed a surplus of £1,974 for the year with total Guild funds amounting to £9,252. The reduction in expenses reflected reduced activities and a financial saving was achieved by printing fewer Guild reports. Following advice, employee liability has now been included in the insurance policy, adding £120 to the premium. Volunteers are regarded as employees and this means that those helping at events are now covered should an accident occur.

The Zoom subscription will not be renewed. Donations to the DCBRF totalled £3,830, including £971 raised through the subscription collection and an increase in gift aid which all goes to the DCBRF.

The members present passed the following recommendations:

- A transfer to the Bell Restoration Fund of £2,035 (£2,000 plus £35 badge sales during the year)
- Support for young ringers - £500
- Top up to the Education Fund - £90.25 up to £500
- Using reserves for recruitment and retention projects; ongoing advertising on social media, press etc.
- Central Council expenses – a maximum of £800 for four representatives to attend the Nottingham meeting
- Subscriptions and tower affiliation fees to remain at £10
- Peal fees to remain at 60p per person.

*Catherine Saunders, Mid Devon Branch and  
Lisa Clarke, East Devon Branch*

## Young Ringers

Monthly practices at Pinhoe began in August 2021. Numbers attending have varied from six to four. There are ten ringers in total who have attended at least one practice. The focus for 2022 is to reach more young ringers and arrangements are underway for those who can't make the Sunday afternoon practices such as outings during the school holidays. It is hoped that at least one team can be raised to enter the RW National Youth Contest coming to Exeter this year. This will need a focused approach such as additional practices targeted at the selected team. The monthly practices will continue on the second Sunday of the month from 14:00-16:00. All abilities are welcome – there are young ringers who are just learning to handle a bell right up to ringers who have rung peals and the mixture of abilities creates a nice environment where the young people can support one another.

*Elena Brake*

## Guild Insurance – Employers' Liability

Also discussed at the committee meeting was an extension to the Guild insurance. This is an update received from Will Carew (our Guild Insurance Advisor) in support of the recommendation to add Employers' Liability cover to the Guild insurance policy.

Essentially, the definition of 'employee' for insurers is now much wider and includes people acting under the instruction of others. Volunteers and other helpers would be therefore considered 'employees' whilst acting under instruction during Guild activities/events. As such, the Guild needs to provide Employers' Liability cover to protect its own interests in terms of liability claims being held against it. We have therefore added cover at the (non-optional) standard level of £10 million. Given the relatively low risk of Guild events/activities, we were able to secure a reduced minimum premium for Employers' Liability of £112 for the year which represents excellent value. The existing public liability/trustees insurance (minus the additional cover) only increased by £23.25 which again I would consider very fair given current market conditions.

Some practical examples of when the new Employers' Liability sections would apply versus the existing Public Liability:

- Ian Avery setting up the mini ring and seeks help of volunteers around to lift bells into position. The lifting goes wrong and someone damages their back or gets seriously injured. The person would be considered an 'employee' acting under instruction and any claim for injury/negligence would be held against the Guild under the Employers' Liability section.
- Catering team leader instructs someone to pour cups of tea. They don't know how to use the urn properly and get badly scolded. Again, any claim for injury/negligence would be held against the Guild under the Employers' Liability section.
- A learner gets seriously injured whilst ringing a bell under instruction at a Guild event (rise and lower workshop for example). Unable to work for months, so the above rule applies.

If we did not have any Employers' Liability in force, any claim for negligence against the Guild in respect of volunteers under instruction being injured would not be covered. I should highlight that this is not personal accident/injury cover and only operates if the Guild and therefore 'the instructor' are found to be negligent. For example, this could equate to not showing said person how to complete a task successfully or not conducting an adequate risk assessment.

- A bystander (who could still be a member of the Guild but not under instruction) gets injured when a sign falls over at a Guild event. This would be claimed under the existing Public Liability section, as would the majority of slips, trips or falls associated with attendees at events.

The Employers' Liability is specifically for when someone gets injured or, even worse, killed whilst undertaking a task under instruction.

*John Martin – Guild Secretary*

## Guild Subscriptions

This is just a gentle reminder that Guild subscription monies are now due. Fees for the 2022 period are set at £10.00 per member and in accordance with the Guild rules, members who omit to pay their subscription by 31 March 2022 will need to be re-elected if they wish to become a member again.

There are of course many benefits in being a member, not least of all the indemnity insurance cover it provides. Opportunities for ringing courses and additional bespoke training sessions are open to members unless otherwise stated (for example designated method practices), access to a wealth of information through the Guild Library to name but a few advantages of membership and so can I encourage you to renew your membership please?

The easiest way is to fill in the form at:

<https://devonringers.org.uk/guild/guild-membership-subscription-form> and send your subscription and any additional donations to your branch treasurer.

Tower affiliation fees for 2022 are also set at £10.00 per tower and again, may I encourage captains and representatives to affiliate their tower with the Guild.

*John Martin*

## Guild Library

The Guild library has a stock of nearly 500 items – books, pamphlets, journal back issues. The Library pages on the Guild website have been updated to include a catalogue which can be used to discover what's available – either specific titles you know about already or items on a topic in which you are interested.

<https://devonringers.org.uk/guild/library/guild-library-catalogues>

The Library is located in St Petrock's church in Exeter and is regularly open, usually on the third Saturday of the month. For details see the web site.

*Les Boyce*

## Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund (DCBRF)

### 50th Anniversary Year (1972 – 2022)

On 26 February 1972 a joint meeting was held in the vestry of St David's, Exeter consisting of the committees of the Devon Association of Church Bellringers and the Guild of Devonshire Ringers to discuss the establishment of a bell restoration fund for the Diocese. The Revd John G M Scott, vicar of Newton St Cyres, was asked to take the chair.

The meeting agreed unanimously that a fund be set up and for it to be named The Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund, its objective being to collect and hold money for bell restoration in the county of Devon.

In our 50th anniversary year, the fund has now given over £326,000 through 282 grants to churches in Devon. This is definitely something to celebrate! Look out for an article later in the year detailing the history of the fund.

**Please note Ian Smith has stood down as the secretary for the fund, but thankfully is remaining as a Trustee. The new secretary is Janet Deem:**

**7a Salterton Road, Exmouth, Devon, EX8 2BR**

**Telephone: 01395 272444. Email: [dcbfr72@gmail.com](mailto:dcbfr72@gmail.com)**

All requests for new grants, queries regarding projects coming to a conclusion or grants that have been agreed but not paid should now go through Janet. Our next meeting is scheduled for 11 April 2022 where new grant requests will be discussed. Any applications should be with me by 7 April to be included on the agenda. Easy ways to give to the fund include switching your online shopping to Smile Amazon, and the Charities Aid Foundation giving page. Full details of both can be found on the DCBRF page of the Guild website: <https://devonringers.org.uk/guild/dcbfr>

Cheques can be sent to our treasurer, Mary Mears, 1 Applegarth Avenue, Newton Abbot, TQ12 1PR or contact for bank details by email, [dcbfr@1applegarth.co.uk](mailto:dcbfr@1applegarth.co.uk).

*Janet Deem*

## Denmisch bell simulators

The Denmisch bell simulators, which are located at Exeter Cathedral School, were inspected on January 9 following two years of not being used. It was discovered that the bells were in reasonable order despite the damp conditions, except that most of the pulleys were either stiff or seized and unlikely to turn, given the light weight on the rope. In addition both computers (the main one and a spare) that are needed to generate the sound were inoperable.

In February I had a day amongst the bells, dismantling each one to remove the pulley block, shaving a little wood off the blocks holding them, and replacing everything. The pulleys now all turn freely. The school has installed two heaters amongst the bells, and one in the computer room so this should prevent further problems.

Three spare computers have been setup with the appropriate software but they remain to be tested out and installed at the school. Once this is done it is proposed to ring a quarter peal (or even a peal) to check that everything is working correctly.

There is a small problem with access to the school premises as the school is reluctant to divulge the access code for the door to get into the area directly from the road. I hope that this can soon be resolved, so that everything is ready for the young ringers' competition at the start of July.



Working on one of the pulley blocks



Some of the bells had to be unscrewed from the floor and tipped over to reach the screws

Ian Campbell

## Guild bell advisors get back to work

As Covid gradually retreats, the Guild and bell-fund bell advisors have been asked to do more bell inspections. Future ones booked include Holcombe Burnell and Walkhampton, while recently completed ones include Romansleigh and St Peter's, Tiverton. From the last we received a very complimentary thank you letter:

### *Parish Church of St Peter, Tiverton*

*To: Ian Campbell and Ian Smith*

*Re: Inspection of the bells at St Peter's*

*On 15 November I wrote to you on behalf of the Churchwardens of St Peter's to ask if as Bell Advisors to the Guild of Devonshire Ringers you would be willing kindly to inspect the bells in our church. Your report on the condition of the bells, the bell-frame and fittings has now reached us, and I write on behalf of us all at St Peter's to thank you for all the detailed and meticulous work you have done in the preparation of that report.*

*The report which is so impressively thorough and comprehensive will count among the most important of the documents that define the church and its contents, and for the present it is particularly helpful to have the summary of the detailed work which has emerged as a necessary part of our responsibility for those bells. I am sure that every effort will be made in consultation with Sheila Scofield to take this further in the near future, but for the present I wanted to express our sincere gratitude to you both for this very fine document.*

*With all good wishes*

*Yours sincerely*

*David Catchpole*

Ian Campbell

## Aylesbeare Branch Centenary Peal at Topsham

On 24 December 1921, the first peal was rung on the bells at St Margaret's and this event is commemorated on a peal board in the ringing chamber.



The original peal board at Topsham

We were keen to mark the centenary so agreed to attempt another peal on Thursday 23 December 2021, having decided that

ringing for three hours on Christmas Eve might not be ideal for either the ringers or our neighbours! Practices were planned but inevitably Covid got in the way and we only managed one in the end. However, we decided to attempt the peal all the same on the basis that if we didn't get it, we'd hopefully still ring a quarter to commemorate the centenary and then ring a peal at a later date.

But against all the odds three hours later, six very pleased (and very tired) ringers went for a celebratory pint at The Bridge! Particular congratulations go to Daniel Copestake who rang his first peal with his dad, Keith, his teachers, myself and Harry Fowler (also ringing his first peal) and our friends Janet and Neil Deem from Withycombe who kept us right and called it for us. In fact, we only learned afterwards that it was Neil's first as conductor, but he expertly negotiated us through all seven methods without mistake! We plan to commemorate the new peal with a peal board in the tower in the near future, adding to the rich history of ringing at Topsham.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers  
Topsham, Devon, St Margaret  
Thursday, 23 December 2021 in 2h 41  
5040 Doubles (7m)

720 each Winchendon Place, St Nicholas, Reverse Canterbury  
Pleasure Bob, St Martin, St Simon, Plain Bob, Grandsire

1 Daniel Copestake	4 Matthew P Pym
2 Keith Copestake	5 Neil E Deem (c)
3 Janet M Deem	6 Harry Fowler

First peal 1 and 6. First peal as conductor 5.

Centenary of the first peal on the bells, 24/12/1921.



The band left to right - front row 1,2,3 back row 4,5,6

*Matt Pym*

## East Devon Branch Branch AGM

The branch AGM, held at Ottery St Mary on 12 February, was probably the best attended for many years, so much so that there was an emergency foray for more food to feed the hordes attending. This was despite a request to order teas in advance, with failure to do so making it very difficult for the organisers.

After last year's virtual AGM held on Zoom it was a pleasure to

be able to meet in person and enjoy ringing on Ottery St Mary's eight bells before the service, tea and meeting.

Members stood in silent memory of Heather Appleby of Sidmouth who sadly passed away last year.

With all the officers' reports having been circulated to members before the meeting the business of the AGM proceeded swiftly and smoothly.

After many years as chairman, Laurie Palmer of Ottery St Mary relinquished the post, to be replaced by Trevor Hitchcock of Combe Raleigh, previously our publicity officer. In thanking Laurie for his sterling service Trevor recalled how, at his first attendance at an AGM, when, as a new learner, he expected to be no more than an interested spectator, Laurie had insisted that he should ring and much to his surprise Trevor found that he could. Jeanne Mills of Northleigh retired as treasurer after several years managing the finances, to be replaced by Lesley Houghton of Sidmouth. Members expressed their appreciation for all the work done by Laurie and Jeanne. Anne Burn of Axminster was elected as our new publicity officer. It is hoped that Anne's experience of social media may be useful in spreading the message to a wider audience that ringing is important, is fun and new ringers are always welcome.

Guild certificates were presented to Shan Allen of Feniton and Lesley Houghton of Sidmouth and we were delighted to welcome Broadhembury and Colyton as tower members of the Guild.

*Trevor Hitchcock*

## Branch AGM - alternative thoughts

'Well, that had the feel-good factor for me today! What an exceptional meeting that was at Ottery St Mary. Thanks to all who organised it. And thanks to Maureen, who knitted my magnificent new hat. I think I might have to wear it whenever and wherever I ring now! Forget the 'Masked Singer' - how about the 'Masked Ringer'? When did we last all meet up and ring and socialise together like that? It was at Sidmouth, and a fair old while ago! Two years ago, to be precise. Just a few weeks before our first lockdown. It feels much longer than that, somehow.

I was presented with a Guild certificate then (total surprise) and I cannot now recall what I gained it for, but I was super proud, none the less. And felt that I really 'belonged' to the Guild. Congratulations go to Lesley Houghton on receiving her certificate today. And also to Shân, on her first quarter peal - trebling to a variety of Doubles methods. Also to Theo on conducting his first quarter peal of Bob Doubles. And congratulations to our new chairman, Trevor, and new publicity officer, Anne.

Yes, today was really something extra special. So nice to see ringers from many of our East Devon towers. The ground floor ring in that magnificent open space at Ottery meant we could all convivate and chat and still be a part of the ringing. Which was varied and exceptional, catering for everyone from the newest to the most experienced.

Here I am now, a good five years into my 'ringing journey' and I really do feel that I know a lot of the ringers from the various towers in East Devon. I have rung with quite a few of them, too. And that feels like a real privilege and an honour to me.

It felt like a family reunion today. Just lovely. And that's without the delicious tea, or any of the 'business of the day', either. It was extra nice seeing people like Marion Baker, who to me is 'ringing royalty', and who has helped me so much with her tips and wise advice as I tottered through trebling to things like Grandsire Triples. Though I miss ringing with her up the tower now, I have been lucky to join her to ring handbells recently.

Ringing in East Devon was shown to be alive and kicking today. I am sure it will continue to be vibrant and healthy, and with recent new recruits at several of our towers, it will continue to go from strength to strength. We can't rest on our laurels though and have got to keep our eye on the future and with recruiting youngsters. Maybe we can lure them in with the promise of a fine bespoke knitted hat from you, Maureen?

*The Masked Ringer, aka Sue King, Sidmouth*

## Platinum Jubilee Ringing

Bells were rung across the country to mark the 70-year reign of HM The Queen.

In East Devon, quarter peals were rung at Honiton and Feniton with Theo Millard conducting a quarter peal for the first time at Honiton, and Shan Allen ringing her first quarter at Feniton. At Combe Raleigh 70 changes were rung in two methods as well as the Queen's Peal. Sidmouth rang Queens on ten bells before the morning service and an extended touch of Grandsire in the afternoon. Dunkeswell, Farway, Ottery St Mary and Sidbury towers were also among those who rang in celebration.

Further celebrations are planned for later in the year when we hope all our towers will ring.



Combe Raleigh: Janet Reynolds, Lisa Clarke, Charles Boyce, Stan Thompson, Sally Church, Mark Moran, Trevor Hitchcock



Dunkeswell: David Palmer, Marion Beenham, Peter Quinain, Jane Luscombe, Gerald Burrough



Feniton: Shan Allen, Mark Heritage, Richard Shere, Tim Bayton, Tom Mitchell, Roger Algate



Honiton: Lisa Clarke, Patricia Slade, Theo Millard, Anne Burn, Derek Ballard, Kathie Matthews.



Sidmouth: Liz Robertson, Helen Wilde, Revd Jon Rose, Anne Bailey, Sue King, Cheryl Fellows Bennett, Tom Clarke, Sylvia Gibbard, Lesley Houghton, Jeff Bailey  
*Trevor Hitchcock*

## Recruiting via social media

I moved to Axminster in 2013 as a non-ringer and whenever I heard the bells ringing I remember assuming that a Minster church would have a band of elite ringers. It wasn't until 2015 when I invited myself to a practice that I discovered ordinary townsfolk keen for more members. Had I not ventured out of my comfort zone I would not have found out about the Axminster bellringers. After a couple of years our numbers were falling. I tried to find new recruits by employing a poster campaign but this resulted in no interest. The reason seemed to be a general disconnect with the local community. After all the ringers are hidden away in a part of the church that is not open to the public. We needed an identity and some way of connecting with the local community.

In 2017 I started the Axminster Bellringers' Facebook page to form a bridge to the town community. Using the page to communicate when the bells were being rung outside of regular times or on special occasions publicised our identity, while sharing key page posts on the town Facebook pages generated thousands of views. In 2018 I used the page to promote recruitment for Ringing Remembers and found four of our eight learners this way. The page has continued to provide an accessible means of contacting us and we regularly get asked to ring for town events.

At the beginning of 2022 I launched a new recruitment campaign to bolster our numbers. Publicised through Facebook, a series of open evenings drew in ten people with five starting ringing lessons. Of these learners four are new residents looking for a way to get involved in their community. Without our identity and local exposure new residents wouldn't, in all likelihood, know about Axminster ringers or consider bell ringing as an interesting way to contribute to their new town.

The Facebook entry (over) had: People Reached: 2,811, Engagements: 311

## Axminster Bell Ringers

2 January 2022

Happy New Year to you all from Axminster Bell Ringers.

2021 has been challenging for us as some ringers have retired and we sometimes struggle to pull a band together. To survive 2022 we need you to volunteer to learn the ropes. Could you offer a few hours a week to help us keep the Minster bells ringing?

During January we are giving introduction to ringing Mondays at 7.30pm

Here are the answers to a few frequently asked questions:

- Bells are one of the oldest and largest musical instruments
- They are rung by regular Axminster townspeople
- It takes six to ten people to ring and is a fun team activity
- It doesn't cost anything, only committing a few hours a week
- You don't have to be a church goer to ring the bells
- It is definitely not swinging around the tower on ropes
- It is far more enjoyable and rewarding than you would imagine
- You don't need to be strong: ringing provides gentle aerobic exercise.



L-R: New recruits Sarah Clinton, Rosie Dean, Georgina Perryman, Graham Walmsley, with band members Heather White, Gayle Herbert, Anne Double, Roger Willis, Margaret Peirce, Peter Simpson and Anne Burn.

*Peter Simpson, Axminster*

## Exeter Branch

### Ringling Under the Moon in Exeter Cathedral

Luke Jerram's 'Museum of the Moon' has been on display in various church buildings around the country. During February it was the turn of Exeter Cathedral to host the art installation.

Museum of the Moon consists of a 7m diameter 'balloon' which features 120dpi detailed NASA imagery of the lunar surface. It hangs from the Cathedral nave spanning almost the full width and sitting about 4m above the ground at the bottom. At an approximate scale of 1;500,000, each centimetre of the internally lit spherical sculpture represents 5km of the moon's surface. This means the exhibit really comes into its own at night as the Cathedral is lit internally with blue lighting. A soundscape is also played with simulated moon sounds to create ambience.

At the point of writing several thousand visitors had been in the Cathedral to see the display since it was first installed.

To promote bellringing the Cathedral ringers suggested we perform a handbell peal in the nave whilst the evening session for visitors was taking place. On Monday 21 February four members

of the Exeter Cathedral Society (Ian Campbell, Oliver Coldrick, Matthew Hilling and David Hird) met in the nave at 6pm to prepare to ring a peal of 5088 Kent Treble Bob Major. As we prepared, we were informed that over 600 tickets had been sold for entry that evening. Gulp!

A cordoned-off area had been created at the chancel crossing for us to sit in a circle and various notices were placed around to inform visitors about our performance and requested for us not to be disturbed. By 6.20pm we were seated, and the peal began as visitors began entering the Cathedral. At first, with few visitors, there was little background disturbance and the peal quickly settled down into a good rhythm but about half an hour in, there were hundreds of visitors, and the background noise meant our ringing was not so easy to hear which required very high levels of concentration. At times it seemed like there were a large number of curious visitors all around us. Fortunately, our stewards from the Cathedral Society kept them under control whilst explaining what we were doing. The cordon was only a couple of feet behind us all but thankfully no one tried to talk to us or reach out. Many visitors took photos or videos, most having not witnessed or heard change ringing on handbells previously.

Sue Sparling, one of the stewards, said *'Everyone I spoke to really enjoyed the atmosphere created by the handbells. They liked the combination of the moon, the evening lighting in the Cathedral and the sound of the handbells. Many commented that it enhanced the whole experience and one person commented that it was 'the best part of the visit'. One young woman stood listening for ages.'*

Another steward, Peter Brown, said *'I believe lots of people were quite mesmerised by the ringing. It was an excellent opportunity to promote bellringing. I engaged with one couple early on who had obviously read the Cathedral newsletter advertising the ringing and attended specially to see and hear the ringers in action.'*

The large circle of observers kept up for nearly all the peal and only began to reduce in the last few minutes of ringing. The peal was successfully completed in 2 hours and 20 minutes, just before the Cathedral began closing its doors. It was a great performance given the surrounding distractions and was a good standard throughout. The art of bell ringing has now been shared with many more people.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers (Exeter Cathedral Society)  
Exeter, Devon

Cathedral Church of St Peter (Under the Moon)

Monday, 21 February 2022 in 2h 20

5088 Kent Treble Bob Major

Composed by R W Lee

1-2 Ian L C Campbell

5-6 Matthew J Hilling (c)

3-4 Oliver Coldrick

7-8 David Hird

Rung in public in the nave of the Cathedral during the display of Luke Jerram's 'Museum of the Moon'.



Ringling during the 'Museum of the Moon'

L to R: Matt, David, Ian, Oliver

*David Hird, Exeter Cathedral*

## New Treasurer and Secretary at the Cathedral

At the Exeter Cathedral ringers' AGM on January 24 it was reported that some work had been done to try to improve the audibility of the middle bells in the ringing chamber. This consisted of making a hole in the floor under each bell, removing as much as possible of the sawdust that had been packed in to reduce the sound, and connecting the hole to the floor below with a pipe.

The post of secretary has been taken over by Paul Pascoe, who is doing this together with his job of deputy ringing master. Pauline McKenzie had to resign as treasurer after at least twenty years due to ill health; her post has been filled by Rebecca Harrison. A card and bouquet of flowers was delivered to Pauline the following day.



Pauline with her bouquet

It turned out that the 'anti-terrorist' on-line training that all members had been asked to complete had been sent to us by mistake. At least by undertaking the training I have learnt the best place to position (or look for) an explosive device on the London Underground!

*Ian Campbell*

## Fire Brigade rescue from Crediton Tower

While ringing for the morning service at Crediton on January 9 a ringer suffered a 'medical episode' in the tower and had to be rescued from the ringing chamber by the local fire brigade, who in turn called in specialist fire and ambulance crews.

Once the patient had been treated by paramedics it was necessary to work out how to get them down the tower, which is accessed by a tight spiral staircase. After considering various options the decision was made to open the trap doors in the floors. Firefighters constructed some internal scaffolding and used a winch and pulley system so that the patient could be lowered down into the church. They were subsequently transferred to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital in an ambulance.

A spokesperson for Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue said: 'Following a call from Ambulance requesting our attendance to help them extricate a casualty from the bell tower from the local church, Control mobilised two fire engines and additional appliances carrying equipment from Barnstaple and the Urban Search and Rescue Team based in Exeter. Upon arrival, firefighters

confirmed that the casualty was located up a spiral staircase. To extricate the casualty crews used an Abtec Tripod and Basket Stretcher.' The patient has since made a full recovery and was at the practice the following Tuesday - and hasn't missed a ringing session since!

*Ian Campbell (with information from various sources)*

## First Quarter Peal

Congratulations go to Taihei who has been faithfully coming to practices at both St David's and Heavitree for about six months and is just becoming a useful ringer, but is returning to Australia at the end of March. We hope that he can keep up his ringing there.

Exeter, Devon, St David

Sunday, 27 February 2022 in 45m

1260 Grandsire Triples

1	Richard Johnson	5	Michael Cannon
2	Peter Bill	6	Maff Glover
3	Wendy Campbell	7	Ian Campbell (C)
4	Andrew Digby	8	Taihei Baker

First quarter: 8. Rung for Evensong.



L to r: Michael, Wendy, Ian, Andrew, Maff, Taihei, Peter, Richard

*Ian Campbell*

## Mid-Devon Branch Extracts from Tower Talk

### Ian Avery celebrates a significant birthday

Ian is very well known to us all: his direction of the music for the Devon Ringers' Carol service is only one of his many ringing activities; leadership of Kingsteignton ringers, one of the most successful bands in Devon Association history; over 1800 method peals to his name, not to mention chairmanship of the Devon Association of Ringers. So, when he joined the ranks of septuagenarians on 12 December he was not allowed to forget it. A peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal was rung the previous day.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Withycombe Raleigh, Devon, St John the Evangelist

Saturday, 11 December 2021 in 3h 7

5040 Cambridge Surprise Royal

J Clatworthy

1	Charlotte A Boyce	6	Michael H Tompsett
2	Ian V J Smith	7	Richard Harrison
3	Peter L Bill	8	James Grant
4	Ian W Avery	9	John R Martin
5	Mark Pring	10	Michael E C Mears (C)

With best wishes to Ian Avery for his 70th birthday tomorrow.

First Royal: 5.

1000th peal on ten: 10

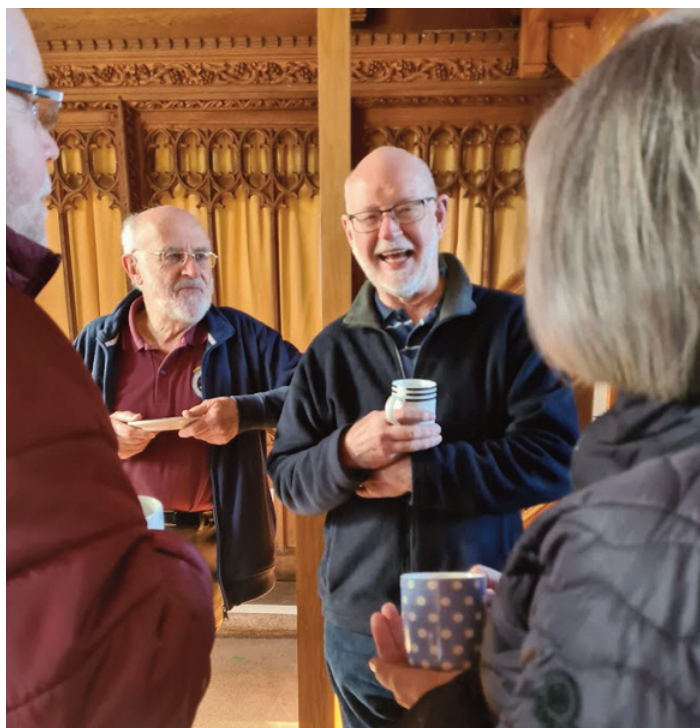


On the day itself (a Sunday) much planning went into Ian walking up the church path at Kingsteignton with members of his family to hear the bells suddenly start up – a great surprise to him! Entering the ringing room he found a tower full of ringers waiting to congratulate him. Members of his family had suitably decorated the room and provided a cake. Ringing included him ringing with a complete family band.

Many congratulations, Ian. I know that several of you reading this will agree that 1951 was a very good year! Thanks to Mike Mears for info here.

### Plain Hunt and Plain Bob training morning 5 March 2022

There can be few better places to hold a training event than Stokeinteighhead. With excellent bells, easy access and superb kitchen facilities it really is ideal. Add to that the warm welcome we always receive and perhaps it is no wonder that we all came away feeling really positive. With five 'students' it meant that everyone could get plenty of 'rope' time. At the same time a band of experienced helpers meant that each time there was the best possible chance of success. So it proved. Each student had a different focus from Plain hunt to touches of Plain Bob Minor. All were easily catered for, and the bells were kept going from 9.30 with a brief break for coffee and cake, until we were starting to wilt a little at noon! Without exception, our students made marked progress and there was a real feeling of achievement. Thank you to all who made it such a good morning – to the Stokeinteighhead ringers (especially Sheila for all her hard work in the kitchen), to all the helpers who worked so hard to provide steady bands for whatever methods were suggested and to the students for their obvious enthusiasm and willingness to learn. With many thanks to Janet Ritterman and Debbie Birt for providing the photographs.





## Kingskerswell celebrate New Year 2022

Kingskerswell ringers were pleased to be able to ring in the New Year this year, after last year's absence. We had planned to have an evening together in the church prior to ringing, with more people than we had two years ago, shortly after the completion of the restoration of our bells with our new balcony ringing chamber. Because of the Covid pandemic we had to scale back our plans, but we still had a very successful evening.

Fifteen of us met in church at 11pm for drinks and mince pies and nine ringers then proceeded to the tower. We rang the old year out half muffled, as is our tradition, before ringing the bells open at midnight. Our ringing was publicised beforehand on the village Facebook page and we received many complimentary comments.

## Teignmouth

Commiserations to the Teignmouth ringers as this year they have been thwarted on all sides with their desire to celebrate the life of Martin Dodd, their very long-standing captain. Initially the funeral had to be very low key and then various proposed dates for a memorial service came and went.

Fortunately, the dedication of a plaque and a ringing day went off really well. It had always been the desire to mark his passing with at least one quarter peal with as many Teignmouth ringers as possible. This was planned to be prior to a service for the RNLI, a charity very close to Martin's heart. First the service on the 12 December was cancelled, then the worsening Covid situation decided the band to give it a miss. As it happened the guest conductor went down with the dreaded C%\*\$%d the day before so it probably would not have happened anyway! We wish them all the very best as they plan for a new date in 2022.

## MORE NEWS FROM TEIGNMOUTH

After their sad losses the Teignmouth band have re organised and the new officers are:

- Tower Captain – Roger Treweek
- Deputy Tower Captain – Richard Barter
- Secretary – Julia Brett
- Steeple Keeper – Martin Brown
- Treasurer – John Stern

We know that the Branch will support the band as they work hard to keep the two towers – St James and St Michael – ringing week by week.

## A Dream come true

In 1966 I was a 15-year-old schoolboy just about managing to hunt the treble to Bob Minor. My home tower was Higher Walton, just outside Preston in Lancashire, where my father was tower captain. He was asked by Cyril Crosssthaite for the bells for a peal attempt in early January 1967.

During the previous year a band had been attempting peals of Spliced Surprise Major. They were using a new plan to ring 'all the work' (atw). Early peals of spliced Surprise tended to be in short courses, often only three leads long. This meant that some of the bells only rang certain leads of the method. At first this was fine, but ringers wanted to push the boundaries. Composers such as Albert Pitman had produced some atw peals which were pretty complicated to call but had only reached 11 different methods.

A peal of 5152 Surprise Major consists of 23 courses so it was clear that in theory you could ring a course of each of 23 methods to a peal. Norman Smith from Burnley discovered a way of doing this by using a seven-part structure. Once he had done this, he was surprised that no one else had done it before and decided to ring the peals secretly, only publishing the 'practice' peals once the final one had been rung. The band realised that ringing 23 different methods when all the ringers had to know all the methods really well was quite a tall order. They started to build up from 13 methods and by Christmas 1966 were in sight of completing the task, having finally reached 19 but experiencing several losses on the way. They therefore booked two towers for two final attempts. It would appear that they were surprised to score at the first attempt at Bilsborrow on 31 December. They still decided to carry on with the next attempt and scored again at Higher Walton with the previous treble ringer ringing 'inside'.

At that stage I was totally in awe of anyone who could learn and ring 23 different methods. As it has turned out 'Smith's 23' has become an iconic composition which has been rung over 800 times. For me it became a sort of Everest that I longed to be able to ring. My daughter Helen moved to Bristol for University and has stayed there ever since. Eventually she rang the 23 and repeatedly encouraged me to have a go. Having built myself a simulator and (much to my surprise!) being allowed to have it at home during lockdown, I started to feel it might really be a possibility. Mike Tompsett rang in Lancashire before moving to Devon and he rang the peal many times, some of which were marking the anniversary of the first peal.

Having decided to take the plunge I invited Mike to ring in the attempt and asked Helen and her partner, Matt, to organise a band. So, on Saturday 12 February my dream finally became a reality at Wolborough. After 3 hours and 6 minutes the final lead of Pudsey came to an end and we heard that wonderful phrase 'That's All!'. In Alan Reading we had an incredibly talented conductor and the rest of the band were rock steady so that any lapses on my part were very quickly sorted out.

I must admit that I really felt quite emotional at the end – the culmination of many hours learning blue lines and 55 years of dreaming! My grateful thanks to Alan and the band and to Helen and Matt for persuading me that it was possible. The beer in the pub afterwards has never tasted so good!!!

Saint Michael's Society

Wolborough, Devon, St Mary

Saturday, 12 February 2022 in 3h 6

5152 Spliced Surprise Major (23m)

224 each Ashtead, Bristol, Cambridge, Cassiobury, Cornwall, Cray, Double Dublin, Glasgow, Ipswich, Jersey, Lincolnshire, Lindum, London, Preston, Pudsey, Rutland, Superlative, Tavistock, Uxbridge, Watford, Wembley, Whalley, Yorkshire; 160 com, atw.

Composed by N Smith

- |   |                    |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| 1 | Matthew D Dawson   | 5 | Martin G Mansley   |
| 2 | Helen C Mansley    | 6 | Edward R Mack      |
| 3 | Julian O Howes     | 7 | Alan G Reading (c) |
| 4 | Michael H Tompsett | 8 | Matthew C Gardiner |

First peal of 23 spliced: 5

*Martin Mansley*

## New publication – Criblines

In the 1970s I had the good fortune to be introduced to the wonderful world of Surprise Minor ringing while living in the East Midlands. We used methods mainly from 'the Book' – in other

words the CC collection of Minor methods. This listed 41 Surprise Minor methods among many other types and a mass of other information. To work out how to learn the methods we had to extract lines from the one lead of each method given, which was a useful exercise but quite time consuming. We were then blessed by the publication of 'Criblines'. This was an early use of computer generation to produce the 'blue line' of the method. Its diminutive size meant that we then had a quick reference easy to hand.

Things have moved on a long way since then but the 41 methods have actually gained in popularity. This is partly due to some excellent modern compositions. *The Ringing World* has gained permission to republish the series but with modern ideas of method representation.

These little books (70mm by 100mm) are a really welcome return of a handy reference book. They slip easily into the pocket and at £3 are very good value. There are two other books in the series: Plain Minor and Treble Dodging Major methods. You can buy all three Criblines for £8 which is even better value. Larger size is also available. All are online at the RW shop: <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/rw-shop.php>

### Platinum Anniversary ringing

Although the official celebrations for the Platinum Anniversary of HM The Queen do not take place until June, it did not stop ringers pulling out the stops to mark the actual anniversary. So much so that Ringing World's Bellboard was almost overwhelmed! So far we have seen ringing at Stokeinteignhead, Teignmouth (at both St Michael's and St James's), St Marychurch and an excellent quarter peal at Lustleigh. We were pleased to have four ringers who were alive at the time of Her Majesty's accession.

Many congratulations go to Seymour Street on his first quarter peal and to Robert Law on his first for 40 years! We are sure there was other ringing in the Branch but these are the ones we have spotted so far. There were almost 1000 performances posted on that day so it was quite hard to sort through them!

### Jean Wilson RIP

*From Julia Brett*

The Teignmouth ringers have lost another ringer. Jean Wilson died on Friday 7 January. Jean was our treasurer until November 2021 when John Stern took over.

Jean was not a Guild member, but there may be those who knew her through her work with the Teignmouth bells project. Jean rang mainly at St James, Teignmouth, but she was a founder member and massive supporter of the bells project. Jean was a warm, capable and welcoming person who helped make a real difference to ringing in Teignmouth through her TBP fundraising work.

She sadly had to give up ringing during lockdown when she was diagnosed with cancer. She made no secret of her prolonged and difficult cancer struggle, which she fought with dignity and grit. It really is a sad day for us. We have lost another of our own.

*Another sad blow for this band but we know that they will continue the work that Jean and Martin Dodd spent so much time and effort on. We offer our condolences – we know that the Teignmouth ringers really value the support they have had from the Mid Devon Branch.*

*Martin Mansley*

### John Lidstone

I have just received the sad news that John Lidstone, ringer at Stokeinteignhead, passed away on Wednesday 29 December 2021. He had been ill for a while, but nonetheless it came as a great shock to all. John only rejoined the Guild last September having recently moved back to Devon. He will be sadly missed.

*Nigel Birt, Mid Devon Secretary*

## South-West Branch Another Nonogenarian



Hard to believe, but Yvonne Porter became 90 on 26 February 2022. She served as General Secretary of the Guild from 1979 to 1998 and was honoured as Guild Master in 1989. The following year she was elected a vice-president, one of the most senior members of our Guild.

Her lifetime in ringing began in Chepstow in 1950 when, as a church choir member in her teens, she was recruited to the tower. She rang the first of her 160-odd peals in 1951. On moving west to work as a medical secretary, she rang in the mornings at St Stephen's, Saltash, and in the evenings at St Andrew's, Plymouth.

In her day, she used to buzz around the peninsula on her Lambretta, which helped her to ring at almost every tower in Devon and most in Cornwall. Further afield, she went on a number of ringing holidays, including by canal, so is widely known across the country. Her membership of the Ladies' Guild also forged many a ringing friendship for her.

After being a member of the band at St Andrew's, Plymouth, now the Minster, since 1955 when she first joined the Guild, she began to find the weight of the bells and the steepness of the steps to the ringing room too much for her. Not to be defeated, in 1982 she moved to Stoke Damerel to enjoy the best part of four decades more ringing on bells less than a fifth of the weight of those at the other St Andrew's.

Although Yvonne now finds ringing too hard on her shoulders, she maintains a lively interest in all that takes place in the tower and in the Guild as a whole. Cross-fertilisation between ringing room and choir stalls continues, and Yvonne has been a chorister



at Stoke Damerel for all of the forty years of her being part of the church family. After the morning service on the day after her birthday, ringers and singers sprang a surprise birthday buffet for her. The Rector took great pleasure in 'embarrassing' her by presenting some little gifts, for which she was quietly delighted.

*Checking into a guest house in Worcester on a journey from Plymouth to Cambridge, we were greeted by the owner who was wearing a ringer's sweatshirt. We told him we were ringers too. When we told him it was at Stoke Damerel, he replied 'You must know Yvonne Porter.' It turned out that he had been on the same ringing holidays by canal as Yvonne!*

*Julia and John Steere*

## Training ART 10th Anniversary

St Nicholas church, Combe Raleigh was bathed in sunshine today, 4 March 2022, as it welcomed the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) from East Devon Branch (tower captain Lisa Clarke, plus Sidmouth's Anne Bailey and Honiton's Derek Ballard) as well as teachers from the NE Branch (Lynette Costello, Les Boyce and Sheila Schofield).

All these teachers came together specially in celebration of the ART 'Learning the Ropes' scheme's 10th anniversary.

After a morning of the usual 'silent' ringing practice using the simulated sounds on the Beltower simulator programme the bells were unmuffled, and the band of six ART teachers rang a touch of Plain Bob Minor, as well as a touch of Grandsire Doubles (with two ART pupils ringing as part of the band). All ringing today was in celebration of this special day for teachers and learners alike on the ART 'Learning the Ropes' programme. Daffodils in the beautiful sunlit churchyard nodded their heads in approval and appreciation!

Regular, beginner and post beginner ringers at the Combe Raleigh Friday morning practices had fun beforehand too, successfully ringing plain courses and touches of Plain Bob Minor, and touches of Grandsire Doubles.

The learners, most of whom are pupils on the ART scheme, were supported as always by the stalwart group of more experienced ringers, including regular East Devon ringers Anne Burn (Axminster) Charles Boyce (Honiton) and Maureen Davey (Shute). We must not forget Ottery's Richard Coley, who runs the practice, and Honiton's Trevor Hitchcock, our new East Devon Branch chairman.

So the ART beginners (including Lesley Houghton and Sue King, from Sidmouth) were given extra tuition and support from not only the regular helpers, but also no less than six ART accredited teachers. It was a truly memorable and most enjoyable morning!



Lynette Costello, Derek Ballard, Sheila Schofield, Les Boyce, Anne Bailey, Lisa Clarke

*Sue King*

## Notable Ringing Events

### Quarter Peals

#### FIRST QUARTER PEALS

Feniton, Devon, St Andrew

Sunday, 6 February 2022 in 43m

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1	Shan Allen	4	Tim Bayton (c)
2	Mark Heritage	5	Tom Mitchell
3	Richard Shere	6	Roger Algate

1st quarter peal: 1.

Rung for the 70th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II.

#### FIRST OF MINOR

Dalwood, Devon, St Peter

Thursday, 10 February 2022 in 50m

1440 Plain Bob Minor

1	Susan A King	4	Elisabeth Robertson
2	Anne Burn	5	Anne E Bailey
3	Lisa Clarke (C)	6	Jonathan G Rose

1st quarter of minor on the treble



Sue's 1st QP of minor on the treble. Back row - Anne, Lisa, Jon  
Front row - Anne, Sue, Liz

#### FINALLY SCORED...

Combe Raleigh, Devon, St Nicholas

Friday, 10 December 2021 in 45m

1260 Grandsire Doubles

4 extents of 9 calls each, 6 extents of 6 calls each plus a 60

1	Charles Boyce	4	Anne E Bailey
2	Elisabeth Robertson	5	Susan A King
3	Lisa Clarke (C)	6	Derek Ballard

1st quarter of Grandsire Doubles on an inside bell - 5

## QUEEN'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Lustleigh, Devon, St John the Baptist  
Sunday, 6 February 2022 in 44m  
1260 Doubles (3m)

3m: 300 Stedman, 480 each Grandsire and Plain Bob

1	Mike Wigney (C)	4	Martin Mansley
2	Sue Sawyer	5	Robert D S Brown
3	Robert Law	6	Seymour Street

First Quarter Peal: 6  
First for 40 years: 3

Rung to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Accession of HM Queen Elizabeth



Seymour, Mike, Sue, Bob B, Robert, Martin

Plymouth, Devon, Emmanuel, Compton Gifford  
Sunday, 6 February 2022 in 44m  
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1	Elena L Brake	4	Alena J Wardle
2	James H Wray	5	Daniel T Calvert (C)
3	Ben D Routley	6	Paul M Johnson

Rung for the 70th Anniversary of the accession to the throne of HM Queen Elizabeth



A different view of the band in ringing order

Tiverton, Devon, St Peter  
Sunday, 6 February 2022 in 50m  
1260 Grandsire Triples

1	Jenny Jones	5	Simon Trott
2	Sheila Scofield	6	Andy Mead
3	Tom Mitchell	7	Matthew Weighell (C)
4	Leslie Boyce	8	Mark Heritage

Rung to mark the 70th anniversary of the accession of HM Queen Elizabeth II. Also for the coming 70th birthday of Leslie Boyce. First in m: 5

## THE SELLEY-STEER FAMILY GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Exeter, Devon, St Michael and All Angels, Pinhoe  
Tuesday, 15 February 2022 in 44m  
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1	Jane Selley-Steer	4	Richard Shere
2	Lesley Tucker	5	John A Foster
3	Graham Tucker (C)	6	Thomas Selley-Steer

Exeter, Devon, St Michael and All Angels, Pinhoe  
Tuesday, 8 February 2022 in 43m  
1260 Plain Bob Minor

1	Wendy Campbell	4	Graham Tucker
2	Thomas Selley-Steer	5	Ian Campbell
3	Lesley Tucker	6	David Hird (C)

1st inside: 2

Exeter, Devon, St Mark  
Sunday, 16 January 2022 in 44m  
1264 Plain Bob Major

1	Wendy Gill	5	James Selley-Steer
2	Wendy Campbell	6	Graham Tucker
3	Ian Campbell	7	Andrew Digby
4	Lesley Tucker	8	David Hird (C)

1st Major inside: 5.

Rung prior to Evensong

Exeter, Devon, St Michael and All Angels, Pinhoe  
Tuesday, 11 January 2022 in 43m  
1260 Plain Bob Minor

1	Thomas Selley-Steer	4	Richard Shere
2	Wendy Gill	5	Ian Campbell
3	Wendy Campbell	6	David Hird (C)

1st Minor: 1

## Troyte Ringing Centre Bampton & Huntsham

We are resuming courses and practices:

Sats 14, 21 & 28 May: Plain Hunting on 5 or 6.  
Theory & Practice. Bampton, 09 30 – 11 30

Sat 25 June: Raise & Lower in Peal on 6  
Extended Practice. Huntsham, 10 00 – 13 00

Sats 13, 20 & 27 Aug: Plain Bob Doubles  
Theory & Practice. Bampton, 09 30 – 11 30

Full details at: [troyteringingcentre.org.uk](http://troyteringingcentre.org.uk)  
Enquiries & bookings: Les Boyce 01884 256819 or  
[lesboyce@gmail.com](mailto:lesboyce@gmail.com)

## David Hird wearing a funny hat



## Calendar of Events

### APRIL

Sat 2	10:00	Service & open branch practice, Hemyock	North East
Sat 2	14:30	Branch practice, Ugborough	Mid Devon
Tue 5	19:30	Triples & Major practice, St Peter, Tiverton	North East
Sat 9	10:00	General branch practice, TBA	South West
Thu 14	19:30	Plain Hunt etc, Sidbury	East
Thu 21	19:30	Surprise Minor practice, Coffinswell	Mid Devon
Sat 23	15:00	Guild Library opens, St Petrock, Exeter	Guild

### MAY

Mon 2		Branch train outing, Bridgwater	Exeter
Tue 3	19:30	Triples & Major practice, St Peter, Tiverton	North East
Sat 7	10:00	Branch open practice, Cruwys Morchard	North East
Sat 7	15:30	Cream tea & mini-ring tour, The Grange, Buckfast Abbey	Mid-Devon
Thu 12	19:30	Plain Hunt etc, Sidbury	East
Sat 14		Branch Spring outing, TBA	South West
Tue 17	19:00	8-bell practice, St Michael, Teignmouth	Mid Devon

### JUNE

Sat 4		Platinum Jubilee ringing, All towers	
Tue 7	19:30	Triples & Major practice, St Peter, Tiverton	North East
Thu 9	19:30	Plain Hunt etc, Sidbury	East
Sat 11	10:00	Branch open practice, Rackenford	North East
Thu 16	19:30	6-bell practice, Ideford	Mid Devon
Sat 18		Annual General Meeting, Exeter Branch	Guild

## Editorial

How wrong could I be! Just as the last issue hit the web, the Omicron variant of Coronavirus hit the streets and restrictions started to be applied. Some ringing was curtailed and face masks became mandatory in some circumstances. However this was

relatively short lived; all legal restrictions relating to Covid were removed on February 24 and ringing seems to have taken off. My diary seems to be even fuller than before the first lockdown! And I have been able to put items from the Guild calendar into this issue as there are now some functions actually booked.

We are expecting this issue to be the first one actually printed for some time. I will be relying on the various branch officers to distribute the copies to their towers.

Wendy and I decided not to send Christmas cards in 2021 and instead made a donation to the DCBRF of the equivalent amount of money we would have spent on the cards and postage. Perhaps other would like to think of this in 2022?

I have already been booked for three forthcoming talks about bells and bell ringing. The first is at Huntshaw in North Devon in May. I don't expect that you have rung there as they are currently an unringable three-bell tower but they are raising money to have some work done, including having the treble hung for full circle ringing. Perhaps one day they will be augmented to six and be fully ringable.

Many towers in Devon took the 70th Anniversary of HM Queen Elizabeth II's accession on Sunday, 6 February as an occasion for some special ringing, including a rather odd touch of 70 changes of Maximus (mostly Bastow with two changes of Cambridge) at Exeter Cathedral, and also a peal of 5070 changes, with a lead of a rather odd Alliance method (strange treble work) to make up the correct number of changes. Some of this ringing is reported here.

Recruitment of new ringers is now becoming a problem. Peter Simpson's use of modern publicity techniques at Axminster using very clear and simple social media messaging appear to be an effective recruitment tool which other towers may wish to emulate (see article).

*Ian Campbell*

## Christmas get together

East Devon Ladies enjoyed their Christmas get-together on Wednesday 8 December. After some most enjoyable ringing on the beautiful eight bells at Sidbury, everyone repaired to the Hare and Hounds, just up the road, for a delicious Christmas lunch.

This was followed by a tricky quiz set by our resident quizmaster and 'honorary lady', Trevor Hitchcock. A very good time was had by all, including several other 'honorary East Devon ladies', some of whom were wearing shorts (brrrr!) and sporting beards.

Thanks go to Anne Bailey and Maureen Davey for organising what was a lovely social event.

Some pictures from the event are below.

*Sue King*

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## More pictures from the Christmas get together:



### Monday Ringers

The next outing of the Monday Ringers will be on 21 March.

10.00 Ashburton

11.30 Holne

12.30 lunch at the Dartbridge Inn on the A384 near Buckfastleigh

2.00 Ugborough

3.15 South Brent

4.15 Diptford.

All welcome with a minimum of competent trebling or covering.

*'The Monday Ringers: good ringing, good company.'*

*Lynne Hughes*

RINGING ROUND DEVON is the newsletter of The Guild of Devonshire Ringers and is circulated free to all affiliated towers. Any individual members who wish to subscribe should contact Ian Campbell (01392 469695). The cost is £10.00 for four issues (cheques made payable to Guild of Devonshire Ringers). RRD is also available on-line on the Guild's website, which holds back-issues.

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