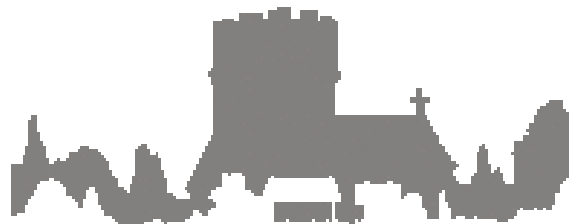


Ringling Round Devon



THE GUILD OF
DEVONSHIRE RINGERS
Newsletter 12 September 2022

Ringling World National Youth Competition

Saturday July 2



The Worcester Young Ringers get to grips with the Cathedral tenor



Enjoying the Bowerdon mini-ring



Young ringers at Exeter Cathedral



Gathered for results

The Dean of Exeter Cathedral writes:



*My early career with a bell
made it clear I would not excel.
I tugged at that rope
but there was never a hope
that at ringing I'd ever do well.*

Last weekend I was delighted to welcome our visitors to the Cathedral for the 11th Ringing World National Youth Contest. Having run my proposed introductory remarks past Matt Hilling, our Ringing Master here at the Cathedral, he suggested I might want to include a joke suitable for 11-18 year olds. Search as I might, the only ringing jokes I could find contained rather tasteless lines about faces ringing bells or dead ringers, none of which did more than raise a wry smile. Which is when Pamela came to the rescue with a limerick – describing my short-lived career as a campanologist in Truro. I learned to ring at the Cathedral there, but my time in the tower certainly didn't last long.

On Saturday nearly 250 young ringers (under the age of 19) plus their fan clubs gathered in the Cathedral, from as far afield as Newcastle and Durham, and Norfolk (I'm never sure which of those takes longer to reach – in time, not miles). And it was great to see so many picking up the ringing baton. It's just like a relay race of course. We have such a long history of bell ringing in this country. Here at Exeter Cathedral, we can trace the history of our bells back to medieval times. Every generation has rung bells. And now it's the turn of these young people to carry on this tradition for the future, and then pass it on to those who come after. A great relief to know our bells are in good hands for the long term. Devon, who haven't entered a team since 2011, came a proud joint 4th, with Essex bagging the trophy for call changes. And Sussex won the method ringing. But many congratulations to all 23 teams that took part. It was great to see every contestant being awarded a medal.

Not all bell ringers come to church services regularly, but they do a fantastic job of supporting us, and of helping to carry the church out to the wider community. As we know, churchgoing is not fashionable for many people nowadays. But ringing takes our message out to them – whether they want to hear it or not! When I was in Brighton, living next door to the church, Bank Holiday Monday was always an excuse for a peal attempt, which could last the best part of three hours. I found it was a good idea to be out and about, in case the neighbours came to ring the vicarage doorbell and let me know what they thought of the lovely loud ringing.

Bells call people to worship. But more than that, they ring on sad occasions for the country. Like the death of Prince Philip. They ring on joyful occasions, like Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, or most often for a wedding. We mark those events inside the building, but thanks to the bells the whole community gets to join in. Though it's important not to get carried away. Our heaviest bell, the Peter bell in the north tower, was cracked in 1606. In London they had discovered the Gunpowder Plot, which saved the life of King James I, and so enthusiastic were the celebrations here in Exeter that they damaged the bell in the process. It

had to be recast in 1676 to repair the crack. Ringing bells requires commitment and enthusiasm and energy – just not too much of it.

We're very fortunate to have such a talented band of ringers here at the Cathedral, and such a fine peal of fourteen bells in the South Tower, the second heaviest in the world after Liverpool Cathedral. They are hidden up high, out of sight, but rarely out of mind as they ring out across the city. It was a real treat to show how proud we are of bells and ringers alike by sharing them with the nation's most enthusiastic young ringers last weekend.

The Very Revd Jonathan Greener, Dean of Exeter

Note from Editor – *A good part of the success of this function was the amazing cooperation of the Dean and cathedral staff. They basically said – 'the cathedral is yours for the day – do with it as you wish. We will help all we can.'* I have his full permission to reproduce his heart-warming message here.

For the first time this competition came to Exeter on 2 July. Around 150 young ringers and their supporters travelled to Exeter from all over the country and what a day it was!! A very full programme of activities was on offer to the youngsters and their enthusiasm was really infectious. A very tightly scheduled programme had been devised and, in general, all went to plan. The main competitions were at St David's (method) and St Mark's (call change). Other towers open for general ringing were Clyst Honiton, Heavitree, St Thomas and St Petrock. There were also mini-rings scattered about inside the Cathedral and several groups took advantage of the Dennisch ring at the Cathedral School. The main thrill for most of the teams was a chance to ring on the 72cwt twelve at the Cathedral. It was a great shame that the tenor clapper broke fairly early in the proceedings but it did not seem to dim the excitement of the youngsters who climbed up and down the long entry to the cathedral ringing room for their turn to ring. The full list of breakages included a rope at Clyst Honiton (we understand a replacement was fitted) and a broken stay at St Petrock's (no shortage of volunteers to ring No 2 without a stay).

Those involved in the organisation stated that this was a whole lot more of an undertaking than organising the National 12 bell competition! The whole ringing community owe a tremendous debt to all those involved at any level in this huge event. Training young ringers is absolutely vital for the continuance of our art. It was great to see a Devon Young Ringers team acquitting themselves very well in the call change section. We are sure they are already preparing for the long trip to York for next year's competition.

Martin Mansley

Exeter Branch hosts the Guild AGM at Crediton

This year was the turn of the Exeter Branch to host the Guild AGM on Saturday 18 June, the first in-person meeting since the very enjoyable AGM at Withycombe Raleigh in 2019. This year's AGM involved open towers at Newton St Cyres and Shobrooke in the morning, following by ringing on the 12 at Crediton after lunch. Our thanks go to Neil Deem for running the ringing. This was then followed with a service kindly taken by Revd Matthew Tregenza, who is the local Rector there. We were also given a musical performance from some of the Guild handbell ringers.



Handbell ringers at the Guild AGM service. Pictured from left to right is Andrew Digby, Sue Sparling, Tim Bayton, Lynne Hughes and Ian Campbell.

The service was followed by a tea and meeting in the Boniface Centre next to the church, which provided us with an ideal venue. During the tea, some members also participated in a fun treasure hunt around the church and grounds which was organised by Alice Holden. This involved collecting clues to form a ringed related word. Well done to Margot who got all the correct answers and who won a box of chocolates. Thank you to everyone who supported this event – it was great to see so many people there.



Serving the teas and cake in the Boniface Centre at the AGM. Pictured here is Rob Neal (left), Peter Richards (middle) and Lucy Neal (right).



John Martin (secretary), Alison Waterson (outgoing President) and Charlotte Boyce (treasurer)



...what to choose???



Elena Brake was awarded her certificate by Neil Deem



Tea was enjoyed by all



Michael Cannon takes over from Neil Deem as Master for the year



Meeting in progress in the Boniface Centre



Much to his surprise David Hird was proposed as Master Elect (seconded by Michael Cannon, grinning to his left)



Tim Bayton was elected as the new President

Rob Neal, Joint Exeter Branch Secretary

Interview with the new Guild President



The Editor of RRD has once again commissioned his trusty scribe and right-hand (wo)man to seek out and interview our new President, who was elected in June to succeed Alison Waterson after seven years in office.

Q: Hello, Tim. First of all, congratulations on your election to the post of President at the recent Guild AGM! I'm sure your face will be well known to a large section of the membership, because of your sterling work as Education Officer over several years, but let's start by finding out more about your early ringing career. Could you tell us when and where you learned, and what attracted you to ringing?

A: For a school activities week in 1994, one of the teachers organised a bell ringing day. This included a trip to see the then recently burnt-out church at Buckfastleigh and a visit to the bells at Buckfast Abbey – including Buckfastleigh church bells, which were temporarily being stored at the abbey. Later the same day, the ringers at Galmpton provided a demonstration and a chance to have a go. That was enough to get me hooked, and I went back to Galmpton for the practice that same evening. I was elected to Guild membership at Galmpton in 1995, a meeting that one of our Vice-Presidents will never forget, owing to the accidental inclusion of bulgur wheat in an apple crumble. As my home tower was over 20 miles from the next method-ringing tower, I was also very fortunate to be able to join the call-change ringers in Kingsbridge for their weekly practice; this was the beginning of a lasting passion for and appreciation of both forms of ringing in Devon.

Q: Moving forward, you returned to Devon and settled in Exeter after graduation, and you have wholeheartedly supported ringing in Devon ever since. Tell us more about the posts you have held and what you feel you have achieved in that time. Is there anything you think was particularly successful and of which you are particularly proud?

A: My first Guild post was as Quarter Peal Secretary from 2008 to 2015. At the time, lots of people seemed to think I would be a good choice, because I was ringing a lot of quarter peals then. Before the job was automated and when many quarter peals were still published in *The Ringing World* without appearing online, this involved trawling through the columns of the comic to ensure that I picked up all the relevant performances. Nowadays, as almost all quarter peals are published on BellBoard, the job is much easier, and James Kirkcaldy has

very successfully simplified it further by automating much of the searching.

After several years as Quarter Peal Secretary, I welcomed the suggestion of a change when Lynne Hughes decided that it was time for her to move on from the role of Education Officer. This was a wonderful chance to meet ringers at all levels and to provide the opportunities they needed. Lynne established a very helpful annual education meeting to discuss and compile a programme for each year, and I soon fell into the pattern that she had set. In addition, when the proposal was made to recruit and train 2018 ringers for the centenary of the armistice in 1918, I welcomed the chance to work with members of the Guild and Association, so that Devon could fully play its part in the Ringing Remembers campaign. I organised seven towers all over Devon to be open simultaneously on one day, with enough helpers to give our potential recruits a go. With excellent publicity, largely arranged by Association Publicity Officer Victoria Tucker, we recruited over 100 learners, all of whom were placed with competent teachers in Devon and beyond. More than any of the peals or quarter peals that I have rung, this effort to secure the future of the exercise is one of my proudest contributions to it.

Q: *What do you think might be the major challenges that lie ahead for the GDR?*

A: Most of us need look no further than our home towers on a Sunday morning to see the challenges faced by the Exercise. Recruitment and retention are vitally important for the future of ringing both in Devon and further afield. Nonetheless, the recent visit of the Ringing World National Youth Contest to Exeter highlighted the bright future of ringing. By offering a solid foundation for these leaders of tomorrow we can all make an enduring contribution to the exercise. In particular here, I want to commend the efforts of our Young Ringers' Coordinator, Elena Brake; the monthly young ringers' practices are a fabulous opportunity for ringers of all abilities to enjoy our art together.

In the medium term, it would be good to consider how well the structures and organisation of the Guild serve the needs for which they exist: do they meet our fundamental aims and are they fit for the future? It may be an unfashionable or even an unpopular view, but I believe the essential purpose of ringing is to call people to worship and that the Guild consequently represents a key part of Christian worship in Devon. Our role as ringers is to ensure that the worship we offer is the best it can be and that our call to worship inspires a positive response.

Q: *Ringing obviously plays an important part in your life. Do you have any other interests too?*

A: Even before I started ringing, I was a member of a brass band, and playing brass music is another important hobby for me. Although I don't play in a band at the moment, I do play the euphonium for an excellent brass quartet based at St James' church (no ringable bells) in Exeter. We are occasionally available for concerts, church services and other events. Also at St James', I edit and typeset the triannual church magazine and I direct the newly formed choir. The latter is a particular success story, as it is one of the very positive products of the pandemic. So, if I'm not in a bell tower, it is very likely you will find me making a noise somewhere else!



Tim in a non-ringing role

Tim Bayton (with help from Wendy Campbell)

CCCBR pre-meeting briefing to Guild

The 2022 Central Council meeting will take place in Nottingham between Friday 2 and Sunday 4 September and be attended by our elected representatives. In order to know how the members feel, a pre-meeting was arranged by Zoom on Sunday August 14 to discuss a few items. The minutes of this meeting are below. After the CCCBR meeting a virtual debrief session will be offered so that Guild members can hear a report from our representatives of decisions and other activities that may be of interest; see below.

Attendees: Phil Dunn, Richard Johnston, Fergus Stracey, Clare Stagg, Les Boyce, John Martin, James Kirkcaldy, Janet Ritterman, Anne Bailey, Charlotte Boyce, Alena Wardle.

The agenda for the meeting was reviewed, discussions centred around the amendment to standing order F1.1, which is to be amended to read:

The Annual Subscription for each Affiliated Society shall be £0.20 per member of that Society based on its Society Membership, subject to a minimum of £40 and a maximum of £400 per annum per Affiliated Society.

The discussion considered the risks to the Guild from this change and potential future fee increases and considered the improved clarity of cost of the CCCBR to each member. This change was agreed with in principle, but there was an outstanding question about the definition of 'member'. Richard Johnston agreed to prepare some words for the reps around this issue.

The CCCBR has acknowledged the invitation from the Guild to host the 2024 meeting. The new format is such that the hosts do not need to do as much organisation as previously but can tailor the events to suit local requirements or themes. It was suggested that early consideration is given to preparations for this.

There are also two other proposals:

- 1 *Welsh Colleges Society of Change Ringers have applied for membership, having been informed that they have too many active members to join as a small society.*
- 2 *Election of two trustees for which there are only two nominations.*

Guild of Devonshire Ringers CCCBR reps

Post-meeting debrief – Wednesday 28 September, 9pm

Please join our Guild Central Council representatives following the recent Central Council meeting held in Nottingham. The details of the Zoom meeting have been distributed to members by email.

John Martin, Guild Secretary

Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund

This summer has seen three grants being paid following the completion of major projects at Cadbury, Milton Abbot and East Anstey. The value of these totalled £20,700.



I was lucky enough to be able to join the North East Branch practice at Cadbury in July and to hand over our very first certificate to the tower captain.

We are expecting Denbury's augmentation and restoration project to be completed very soon. This was confirmed whilst watching the lunchtime edition of BBC *Spotlight* where the bells were seen being returned to the church. This is another large project and will see us paying out a further £9,200. We do not give towards the augmentation part of any project.

As a group, the Trustees don't only agree (or not) to provide grants for bell restoration projects but also carry out inspections on bell installations for anyone who requests one. August has seen requests come in from two churches in the South Hams. These inspections are carried out free of charge, although a donation is very often received, and a very comprehensive report is provided. It is hoped that by inspecting the whole tower as well as the bells, any minor issues can be dealt with before something more serious occurs. These inspections complement the work carried out by the Guild and Association bell advisers as well as the DAC consultants. This ultimately means that when a request for an application form for a grant arrives in my in-box or on the door mat, it's not a big surprise to the DCBRF Trustees as usually someone has already inspected, and reported on, the problem. Currently we have committed funds of £32,650, leaving approximately £21,000 of cash available for grant applications. Eleven application forms have been sent out but not returned. Based on our current 10% donation we would expect be around £30,000 short if all forms were received prior to the next meeting in November. So far this year, we have received approximately £10,200 of income from multiple sources, but the vast majority has come from our investment portfolio, the Smale Bequest. All donations are always gratefully received and made very good use of as we virtually always spend all of our income. Our next meeting is on Saturday 12 November. If you have an application form within your possession and are ready for us to look at your request for a grant, please sent it back to me by 31 October. Any forms received after this date will be included in our meetings in 2023.



This little piggy was spotted at a tower recently. Just one tower's answer to fundraising for the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund!

Janet Deem

Guild Striking Competitions

This year's Guild striking competitions are scheduled to be held in the Mid Devon Branch on Saturday 15 October. The host towers are Dawlish (both 8 bell competitions), Bishopsteignton (6-bell) and Stokeinteignhead (6-bell novice).

The methods for the inter-branch 8-bell competition have been chosen to be Grandsire Triples or Plain Bob Major and the touches are available on-line at: https://devonringers.org.uk/gdr-media/competitions/8_bell_touches_2022.pdf

John Martin (Guild Secretary)

Using Gift Aid to increase the value of collective donations

Small Donations Scheme for Events

This is a scheme where the value of collective donations given at an event can be increased by claiming gift aid.

If you are arranging any event, say a branch practice or meeting, where donations are collected in a tin/bucket etc there are a few simple things that need to be done with the proceeds to make a significant difference to the amount collected. These are:

- Make it clear for whom the money is being raised, i.e. church, Guild or DCBRF
- Record the total cash collected
- The date of the collection
- The address of the event including the postcode
- The date the collection was paid into the bank

Both the Guild and the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund (DCBRF) are registered charities and therefore able to claim back the gift aid on money donated.

Donations for the DCBRF should be sent to Mary Mears (dcbfrftreasurer@devonringers.org.uk).

Donations for the Guild should be sent to Charlotte Boyce (treasurer@devonringers.org.uk).

John Martin (Guild Secretary)

Guild Ringing Festival - 22 October – 6 November

Fundraising Event for the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund

Once again, the Guild is holding its annual ringing festival (previously known as Guild Quarter Peal Week) to raise funds for the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund. This is your chance to give a small amount to the DCBRF whilst making progress in your hobby. The suggested donation is £1.00 per rope for your special piece of ringing. It can be anything you like but the hope is to do something that will stretch you and your local band. Some ideas for your performance:

- Ring your first quarter peal
- Call your first touch
- Call the call changes for the first time
- Ring inside to a touch for the first time

Hopefully you will think this is easy to arrange and with a little bit of practice relatively easy to achieve. Many of the suggestions can take place during your normal practice so no need to find a tower and arrange a special band.

All donations should be sent to James Kirkcaldy (mrjameskirkcaldy@gmail.com).

Don't forget to submit your performance onto BellBoard and add it to the event that has been created. You can either scan the QR code below or click on this link

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=14979>

Janet Deem



Guild Library Update

Guild Annual Reports

Our collection of Guild annual reports is nearly complete back to the earliest days of the Guild in the 1870s. They are an invaluable source of information about ringing in Devon and the usual first stop for people with enquiries about history of ringers and towers in the county.

We are pleased to announce therefore that a further batch of reports has been scanned and digitised. Using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) individual years are searchable using key text words such as

surnames or place names. After opening the pdf file for a particular year, pressing Ctrl F will open a search box for your keyword and any instances of that word will be highlighted.

We are grateful to Richard Johnston for his help in making these files available. The link to the annual report pdf files is on the Library's 'Online Publications' page at:

<https://devonringers.org.uk/guild/library/on-line-publications>.

We now have complete coverage of the years 1910 to 1961 and hope to process the remaining early years shortly. Happy searching!

Recent Acquisitions – and Disposals

We are grateful to Lynne Hughes and Alan Sinden for their recent donations to the Library. Amongst the items we are pleased to have acquired are copies of the CDs *Dartmoor Changes* and *Glorious Devon Bells* and some classic ringing texts such as *Campanologia Improved* and *Tintinnalogia* in modern facsimile editions. The modern editions will allow us to lend these titles without risking damage or loss to our copies of the original editions.

We have also acquired some recent publications from *The Ringing World*:

Criblines: Plain Minor, Surprise Minor and Treble Dodging Major
The core seven and beyond: A guide to Treble Dodging Major inspired by Project Pickled Egg by Simon Linford
The Education Column: Series 1, 2 and 3 by David Smith. [Laminated sheets for use in towers]

At the Guild AGM in Crediton we held a sale of duplicate stock and raised a useful £117 for library funds – thank you to those who bought books. There is still a number of items we are looking to dispose of and plan to hold another sale at a suitable Guild event – please watch for publicity if you are interested.

Library Opening

The Library will be open at St Petrock's, Exeter on the following Saturday afternoons, 3 00 – 5 00pm up to Christmas:

17 September, 8 October, 19 November.

If you are visiting to use or borrow a particular item, we suggest you contact the Librarian in advance (librarian@devonringers.org.uk) to check on its availability. Some stock is stored at Tiverton but can be made available at St Petrock's with notice.

Les Boyce

Obituaries

JENNIFER ROWLANDSON

Tower Captain – St Margaret's, Stoodleigh

Following a long and bravely fought battle with cancer, Jennifer sadly died on 28 July.



Jennifer had first become interested in campanology when she moved to Stoodleigh and approached the former tower captain, Gerald Palfrey, in the early 1990s, with a view to giving it a try. She loved it! She was a regular member of the team until Gerald retired and she was invited to take over the role.

Since then, she has been the driving force behind the team, welcoming new people into the team and teaching many people over the years the wonders of bell ringing. She remained in her role until her own enforced retirement when she became too unwell to continue.

One of the most remarkable things she achieved was her commitment to getting all the bells rehung and single-handedly went about organising fundraising events to acquire the required £55,000 to do this. This included her gaining sponsorship to walk the South West Coast Path and Exmoor Ancient Forest, from which she raised a significant amount toward the goal. Due to her commitment to the church and her fantastic fundraising efforts, all the bells at Stoodleigh were rehung and will hopefully continue ringing out across the countryside for many years to come. For many years she was also a churchwarden and organist at St Margaret's.

Jennifer remained very involved in the training and encouragement of all her bell ringing team members, both old and new, all of whom will remain very grateful to this amazing lady who will be so sadly missed.

Philip Turner (Tower Captain) and Catherine Thorpe

For those who knew Jennifer, she was a very much hands on individual with a 'will do' attitude and I recall one particular act of kindness (amongst the many others) when on a wet and blustery evening she had prepared the tower for us in advance of a quarter peal attempt. The heater had been on all day drying out the sodden ropes and sallies, the kettle and brew kit was set up just in case we felt the need and she stayed in the vicinity just in case we needed anything further from her. That was Jennifer to a tee: a kind, considerate and thoughtful lady. Jennifer was an individual with great character and we will all miss her.

Mark Heritage, Chairman of the North-East Branch

Keith Fursdon 22 December 1945 - 8 August 2022



Keith learned to ring at Torre in the 1960s where he was also in the choir. He was taught by Bill Harvey and eventually became tower captain there before the church became Greek Orthodox in the 1970s. He was a clockmaker and restorer by trade and looked after many of the public clocks in Torquay. He had hoped to reach 60 years winding and looking after the clock on Torquay harbour which he would have achieved in February next year. At St Marychurch we never needed to worry about changing the clock in March or October – Keith would see to it! He was very well known locally and had appeared in the local press and television on several occasions.

He had quite a number of interests, particularly music, and was a member of several choirs over the years. Bowls was another passion and he had been club president and was fixture secretary at the time of his death. Whenever he was free, he was keen to keep up with his ringing and rang regularly at St Marychurch up to his final illness. He had been married to Elaine for over 50 years and we were told at the

funeral that she took up bowls so that she could see a bit of him from time to time!

The funeral service was held at St Luke's church in Torquay, a large Victorian church without bells. All of Keith's interests were represented at the funeral, the bowlers being conspicuous in their whites and a large joint choir giving impressive performances of American Trilogy and Morte Christie. Several ringers were present and Mike Tompssett, Peter Bill and Martin Mansley rang a course of Plain Bob Minor on handbells as their contribution. The whole service was one of celebration, starting with the Blue Danube waltz and followed by three rousing hymns ('O praise ye the Lord', 'Lead us Heavenly Father, lead us' and 'Praise my soul, the King of Heaven') and ended with the Radetzky March from a recording of the New Year's Day concert in Vienna. We were encouraged to clap along in time. Altogether it was a very fitting send off. RIP Keith.

Martin Mansley

Revd Michael Haighton 1952 – 2022

Michael was born in Nantwich in Cheshire and learnt to ring when he was about 12 years old. He trained for the Ministry at Cliff College in Derbyshire and served in many different parishes around the country, eventually receiving a call to pastor two churches near Cullompton. It was during this time that he became a Guild member and attended many meetings, frequently playing the organ or taking the service.

When Michael was about 30, he became ill with rheumatoid arthritis, and with medication it became manageable. However, while living in Devon it flared up again and he was told to take early retirement at 49.

His final move was to Rugby where he did a little ringing and became an active member of the Peterborough DG until illness began to take over his life. He lost his battle with cancer on 18 August 2022.

Michael didn't really keep records of his ringing activities but according to PealBase he rang eleven peals, and he is also known to have enjoyed ringing at new towers.

Submitted by wife Barbara

Terry Summersby



Terry a few years ago, third from right.

We are sorry to report that Terry Summersby passed away on 13 June. Many will remember him from ringing at Woodbury and also at practices. He had been in a home for a while but unfortunately failed to survive a hip operation.

Terry left instructions that he should be cremated with no funeral service so we were unable to attend or ring at that time, but a quarter peal was rung instead on Sunday 17 July at Woodbury to celebrate his life and friendship.

Woodbury, Devon, St Swithun

Sunday, 17 July 2022 in 41m

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Janet Deem	4 Oliver Coldrick (C)
2 David Wills	5 Neil Deem
3 Chris Wakefield	6 John Fisher

Rung in affectionate memory of Terry Summersby, friend and loyal Woodbury ringer since 2006, who passed away on 13 June.

This quarter peal was preceded by general ringing (rounds on 8, plain hunt on 7) with the additional help of the following Aylesbears Branch members:

Margot Le Vesconte, Mike Burrow, Chris Lear, Matt Hood, Eileen Pye, Debby Mullier, Peter Grist, Julia Thornton.

Peter Grist and Janet Deem

Aylesbears Branch Forthcoming Branch events

Branch Practice

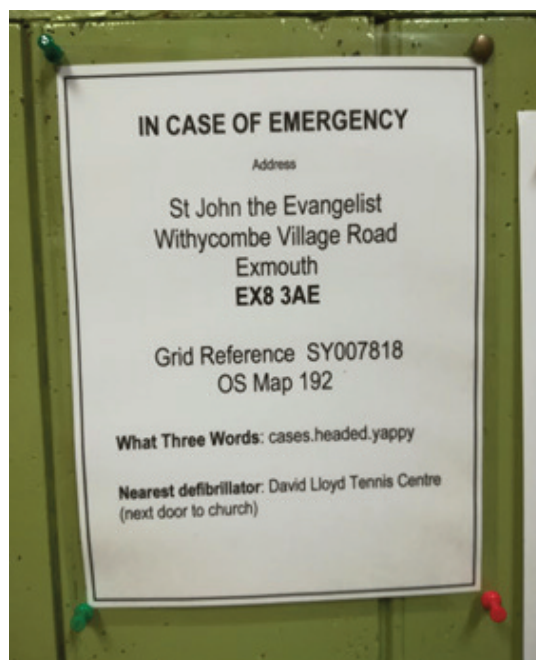
Monday 26 September - Withycombe Raleigh - 7.30 pm start
Everyone welcome as ever (we won't ring 12 bells all night so don't feel put off!)

Branch AGM

Thursday 13 October - Topsham - 7.00 pm
Ringing from 7.00 - 8.00 pm
Meeting with refreshments 8.00 pm onwards in the back of the church, when we will endeavour to keep the meeting as brief as possible.

Janet Deem

Tower Emergency Notices



The emergency notice at Withycombe Raleigh

Several years ago at Heavitree we had one of our ringers taken ill and eventually had to call an ambulance. The emergency services obviously wanted to know where we were but the address seemed irrelevant – all they wanted was the postcode of the church which we didn't actually have. Given that the tower overlooks the Accident and Emergency section of the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital we told them to come out of the ambulance station and look across the other side of the road where the church is fairly obvious, together with the path leading up to the foot of the tower. However they still insisted on a postcode! Since then the postcode has been clearly displayed in the tower and the church. But as technology moves on there is more information that could help. The sign above was spotted at Withycombe Raleigh church and provides almost more than you could use, including the map reference and the location of the nearest defibrillator, which could save someone's life in the event of a heart attack.

But you may not have met 'What Three Words'. This is a system where the whole world is divided up into three-meter squares, each of which can be identified by three apparently random but consistent words. These are supposedly easier to remember than numerical digits and more accurate than postcodes. The one above (conventionally written as ///cases.headed.yappy identifies not just the church but the tower door! For further information have a look at <https://what3words.com> where you can locate a given code and generate codes from a map. But of course the real benefit comes when you load the app on a mobile device so that it is always available to you.

So I would advise every tower to make sure that their information is clearly displayed in the tower and includes as much relevant information as possible.

The only thing that could be added to the Withycombe notice is the latitude and longitude!

Ian Campbell – idea and photo from John Martin.

Trevor Bradley`s Land`s End to John O`Groats on a motor scooter

June 2022



Trevor with his trusty steed at the Scottish border at Carter Bar

What do ringers do during the silly season? Mad things like riding a small motor scooter to the extreme ends of the UK to raise money for the Historic Churches Trust.

I left Exmouth at 8am on 16 June. It was a pleasant morning and I was wearing just my leather jacket and a short sleeve shirt, but by the time I got to Steps Bridge (between Exeter and Mortonhampstead), on rather a shady road, I was feeling the cold and stopped to put on an extra jumper. By the time I got to Tavistock it was hot and I was stripping off again.

After Tavistock it was perfect weather all the way to Helston where I stopped for a pasty and Land`s End where I had my picture taken by the famous finger post. I then rode back to Exmouth, just stopping for a tea break and fuel at Liskeard.



On Friday 17 I rode from Exmouth to Leicester via Ilminster, Langport (coffee break) and then followed the Roman Fosse Way to Leicester, stopping at Bath for lunch, and Stow-on-the-Wold for ice-cream and a cold drink mid-afternoon. The weather was now really hot.

I stayed in an Airbnb in Leicester and during the night the weather broke and we had a thunder storm. Next morning it rained all the way to Mansfield (Notts) where I stopped to drip dry and have lunch at the Co-op cafe. The weather was now improving - dry but chilly. My next overnight stop was a nice B&B just up the road from The World of James Herriot in Thirsk (North Yorkshire).

On Sunday I had a most enjoyable ride from Thirsk to Dunfermline (near Edinburgh). I stopped for coffee at the Hexham Abbey refectory café, crossed the Scottish border at Carter Bar and had lunch at Jedburgh.

I stayed at the Adamson Hotel near Dunfermline, and had hoped for a nice Sunday roast for my evening meal but the restaurant was fully booked for Father`s Day. I finished up with pie and chips from a local fish and chip shop, eaten with fingers in my room.

On Monday 20 I had a wonderful ride from Dunfermline through the back roads to Perth, then on the A93 to Blairgowrie for coffee then over the Cairngorm mountains via Braemar and Balmoral to Grantown-on-Spey, Inverness, and Dingwall. My next two overnight stops were at Dingwall, where I left most of my luggage for the day while I rode the last 112 miles to John O`Groats and back (224 miles in all). I stayed at John O`Groats for about an hour and a half during which time I had lunch and took photographs at the signpost (similar to Land`s End) and also of me and the scooter in the parking space reserved for `end to enders`. I then returned to Dingwall where I had an eat-in Chinese meal to celebrate.



At the area reserved for `end to enders`

My return journey to Exmouth was via Fort William, through Glencoe, over mountains to Crianlarich, then beside Loch Lomond. I skirted Glasgow via the Erskine Bridge and stayed in a farmhouse B&B just south of Kilmarnock.

On Thursday 23 I rode south to Dumfries and Carlisle, stopping for lunch in the Carlisle Cathedral refectory.

I then followed the A6 (now a nice quiet road) over Shap Fell to Kendal, Lancaster and Fulwood. The weather had been getting hotter and hotter all day and true to form I got caught in a thunderstorm for the last 10 miles. However my landlady for the night made me welcome and gave me a nice cup of tea while my waterproofs were dripping dry.

On Friday 24 I rode south to Southport where I stopped for coffee, then on down the coast to Liverpool. It seemed a long ride through heavy city traffic before I arrived at the Birkenhead Mersey Road Tunnel. Another new experience! Once through the tunnel I turned south to Chester where I stopped for lunch in the Market Cafe.

After lunch I headed south again through Whitechurch, Shrewsbury and Ludlow towards Hereford.

Just a couple of miles from Hereford I met up with Matt Hood, a bell ringing friend, in the tiny village of Stretton Sugwas where we were to stay the night with Matt`s friend Matt Hall and his wife. Matt and Matt and their wives and I enjoyed a delicious dinner and a convivial evening together.

On Saturday 25 the two Matts on their large motor bikes (a BMW R1250GS and a Triumph Tiger 955i) and me feeling rather overwhelmed on my SYM Fiddle 200i scooter set off for Exmouth. We rode down the Wye Valley to Chepstow. I had intended crossing the (old) Severn Bridge, but this was closed for maintenance so we had to divert over the (new) Prince of Wales Bridge. With the extra distance on the motorway I was glad of my two outriders. Once over the bridge we followed the coast to the Avonmouth Bridge and briefly rejoined the motorway before following the Gordano Valley to Clevedon. At

Clevedon we had a heavy shower which conveniently fell while we were enjoying lunch, but it had dried up by the time we returned to the bikes.

From Clevedon we headed eastward to join the A38 to Taunton where we refuelled all three machines. We then travelled by back roads to Dunkeswell Airfield for tea and cake, and finally on to Exmouth where we arrived in the churchyard at Withycombe Raleigh at 4:40pm - just 10 minutes late. Not bad after a journey of 1,920 miles.



The reception committee back in Exmouth

The Devon Historic Churches Trust tell me that so far the total amount raised including gift aid is £2,744.

Trevor Bradley

East Devon Surprise Practices

The monthly Surprise Major practices have begun again after a summer break with the first being held on Saturday 3 September at Honiton. If you are interested in going to these practices or would like further information, please contact branch Ringing Master Derek Ballard at dereballard@beltower.co.uk

Judith Reynolds

New ropes for Northleigh



Jeanne Mills by the tenor bell

Deep in the Coly Valley between Honiton and Colyton lies the village of Northleigh with its parish church of St Giles. The four bells are believed to be the oldest ring of bells in the country, with the tenor dating to 1450 and the other three to 1490. The bells are rung regularly for church services and also for weddings, funerals and the occasional baptism. We also use a simulator with one tied bell for extra practice, giving us more flexibility to ring methods.

Earlier this year we noticed that one of the ropes was wearing quite alarmingly and the sallies had been moth-eaten for a while - although this was useful when I was learning to ring as I was instructed to grab hold of the sally where it was particularly worn! We therefore made the decision to replace all four ropes and sallies. Word soon travelled

around the village and many were keen to contribute along with donations from the ringers themselves.

Tower captain Jeanne Mills talked to the rope manufacturers and was advised that hemp tails with pre-stretched polyester tops would be the most appropriate for our tower. The order was placed in the new year and the ropes arrived in mid-July. The installation of the new ropes went smoothly with the final job of sorting out the tucks in the tail ends falling to David Hurford, Northleigh's longest serving ringer for the past 70 years.

Then finally a few rounds of 'Three Blind Mice' to test the new ropes which felt lightly unfamiliar but look very smart!



The ropes, all individually labelled according to their bell



David Hurford tucking the tail ends

Kathryn Lambert

Exeter Branch

Exeter branch ringing outing and summer BBQ

Ringing at Poltimore and BBQ at Broadclyst

On Saturday 23 July, the Exeter Branch held a lunchtime ringing practice at Poltimore. Although just outside Exeter, this ground floor ring of six bells was still a grab for several members. We rang everything from rounds and call changes up to spliced Surprise Minor. Since Poltimore became a 'Festivals Church' in 2021, the bells are now rarely rung and so our visit came at the delight of several locals who commented after on how nice it was to hear them again. Our thanks go to Rob and Peter Franklin for checking the bells were in good ringing order before we arrived and also to Esme Gibbins (a past ringer at Poltimore) who kindly let us in and locked up after.

We rang for around an hour and a half before going to Rob and Lucy's house close by in Broadclyst for drinks, a barbecue and desserts.



Poltimore church just outside Exeter, pictured in the cloud during our ringing practice.

This was the first time in three years that we have been able to meet in this way following the two years of COVID restrictions. The weather was relatively kind to us, although on the cold side compared to the heatwaves we experienced over the summer. We even had some light rain towards the end, resulting in a few members sheltering under the gazebo and children's playhouse! A good time was had by all and thanks to everyone who came – especially those who provided the drinks and delicious homemade desserts. A small profit of six pounds was made which has been returned to the branch account.



Hiding under the gazebo in case of rain

Rob Neal (Joint Exeter Branch secretary)



Ringing at Poltimore (clockwise from front right): Steph Hills (treble), Alice Holden (2), Susan Illing (3), Maff Glover (4), Oliver Bates (5) and Richard Johnson (tenor).

Trip to the Netherlands



The Grote Kerk in Dordrecht

A group of ringers, mainly from Exeter, spent a busy weekend at the start of September in Dordrecht, some 15 miles south-east of Rotterdam in The Netherlands. We travelled there on the Eurostar train, which goes all the way from King's Cross St Pancras in London to Rotterdam through the Channel Tunnel.

If you look at the photo, the bellhouse ('t Klockhuys) is just at the left of the entrance between the two pillars in front of the tower. Paul de Kok very kindly gives visiting ringers the free run of this building, which is comprised of a well-stocked kitchen (including plenty of beer and wine), tables and chairs – and a light ring of eight bells (1-2-7) which can be rung any time you like although you need to stop ringing when eating inside as the ropes would land on the table!

During the Covid lockdown Paul designed and installed a peal of ten ringing bells (tenor 16 cwt) in the tower of the 'Grote Kerk' to join the heavy five swinging bells already there, and the 67 bells of the carillon (tenor 10 tons). Here the new bells take up half of one side of the massive tower. Soundproofing was an important part of the installation so that they can be rung almost any time without disturbing the neighbours (or the church).

Over the weekend we rung a peal on each of the rings, and a number of quarter peals, including one of Bristol Royal in which both Paul and



Back at Broadclyst for the post-ringing barbecue

his daughter Thirza took part – it being the first blows in the method for Thirza. Opportunities for ringing are fairly rare in central Europe.

We were well looked after by Paul and Thirza who provided copious quantities of food and drink for us all. I understand that the weather in Exeter was wet and cold but in Dordrecht it was warm and sunny with balmy warm evenings and we were able to eat outside in the courtyard the whole time. All thanks go to them as perfect hosts and to David Hird for organising the very enjoyable weekend.



Enjoying a meal outside under the tower. You may recognise some of the ringers.

Ian Campbell

Mini-ring and Demonstration bell at Hatherleigh Church Fête

Hatherleigh bellringers borrowed the Frank Mack Garage Ring and the Guild demonstration bell for our church fête in June. We positioned ourselves on one of the few flat areas of the garden and attracted a steady stream of visitors despite competing with teas, games and the famous Hatherleigh Silver Band. We thought it a very successful 'contact' event, with non-ringers and some lapsed ringers joining us to try the mini-ring and demo bell all through the afternoon. One young ringer from a neighbouring village had learned that we would be there from our Instagram posts. He came over specially to meet us and see the set-up and has been joining us for ringing and practice ever since.



Hatherleigh ringers and visitors on the mini-ring



Tower Captain Mark Wonnacott (left) and Ringing Captain Richard Harrison at the end of a busy afternoon

Images and text by Isabella Whitworth

Mid-Devon Branch Branch at the Torbay Steam Fair



l-r Michael Cannon, Nigel Birt, Martin Mansley, Neville Stanford, Nicola Jones, Ian Avery, Debbie Birt

The first weekend in August sees the annual Torbay Steam Fair, which is held on a large site just off the A379 at Churston, near Brixham. A quick glance at the website will show what a well-established and popular event it is, with steam traction engines taking the starring role alongside steam lorries, steam powered farm equipment and many vintage tractors, military vehicles, army land rovers and vintage motor cycles and cars.

The Mid-Devon Branch committee have been exploring various ideas for ringing recruitment this year and sadly had to cancel our planned Open Day at Newton Abbot clock tower in May. However, the



suggestion of taking the Frank Mack mini-ring to the Torbay Steam Fair was explored and having been put in touch with the organisers by Michael Cannon of Exeter, who regularly displays his steam engine at the show, we set about making arrangements. The organisers welcomed us with open arms and ensured we had a suitable and level pitch on one of the main thoroughfares, where we were well visible to the visitors.

After several weeks of preparation, during which the bells were booked, the Guild display boards were tracked down, collected and updated; leaflets were sourced; a suitable gazebo was sourced and adapted to cover the bells and a rota of helpers was drawn up, we were ready to go. The weather was perfect, with bright sunshine throughout the three days and footfall was good - would folk stop and talk to us? We didn't have to wait long to find out!

A good stream of visitors to the stand continued throughout each day with Saturday perhaps the busiest; very much a family day out. There were probably equal numbers of children and adults having a go at ringing, with many successfully managing to handle both strokes after a few minutes of tuition. We were surprised at how many visitors spoke to us of family members who 'used to ring' or had 'been ringers'. Tracking down and encouraging returning ringers is definitely something which needs to be pursued in future. We feel there is certainly a pool of ready-made ringers out there somewhere but we just need to try and find them! The main purpose of this exercise was to give the public a general introduction to ringing and many conversations were had, encouraging adults and children to present



themselves at their local tower if they wished to learn to ring. One visitor I spoke to (with her son who was very keen to learn and thoroughly enjoyed himself trying the mini ring) was on holiday from Stafford, so hopefully they might benefit from our efforts!

Worthy of special mention should be a ringing compliment from a branch band to Mid-Devon Branch member and Guild Vice-President Don Roberts, who was celebrating his 92nd birthday during the weekend. We decided to ring a short touch during the show on the Friday specially for Don, and details can be found on BellBoard.

Thanks should be recorded to all those branch members involved with helping at the show, and especially Ian Avery, Martin Mansley and Nicola Jones who all worked tirelessly throughout the event



Nigel Birt, Mid-Devon Branch Secretary

Excerpts from Mid Devon Tower Talk Platinum Jubilee Ringing

We know that much ringing was organised throughout the country and our branch was no exception.

One of the rarer performances was a quarter peal at Shaldon (yes, I am aware that they only have two bells!). By special request a quarter peal on handbells was rung during the Shaldon Jubilee festival.

Shaldon, Devon, St Peter
Wednesday, 1 June 2022 in 32m
1260 Plain Bob Minor

1-2 Peter L Bill

3-4 Martin G Mansley

5-6 Michael H Tompsett (C)

Rung in public during the Shaldon Jubilee exhibition.

First quarter peal in the church.



Ringers l to r Peter Bill, Martin Mansley, Michael Tompsett

Teignmouth were kept busy - on Thursday 2 June they rang a quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles:

Teignmouth, Devon
St Michael, E Teignmouth
Thursday, 2 June 2022 in 52m
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Trevor Pearce-Jones | 5 Richard Barter (C) |
| 2 Julia Brett | 6 John Stern |
| 3 Fiona Rock-Evans | 7 Jason Dowling |
| 4 Ian Dodds | 8 Roger Treweek |



Teignmouth ringers l to r in ringing order

Very many congratulations – a great local achievement.

Then on the next day a peal was rung at St James by the 'Rare tower peal ringers club' with the local ringers providing information and refreshments to interested passers-by. In the process Colin Turner added one more to his massive list of over 4200 towers pealed!

Teignmouth, Devon, St James the Less, W Teignmouth
Friday, 3 June 2022 in 3h 8
5024 Yorkshire Surprise Major

J H Potter

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Nicola J Turner | 5 John A Foster |
| 2 Lester J Yeo | 6 Ian V J Smith |
| 3 Colin M Turner | 7 John R Martin (C) |
| 4 Robert D S Brown | 8 Michael E C Mears |

First peal on the bells since 1950.



(l to r) Robert Brown, John Foster, Colin Turner, Ian Smith, Lester Yeo, John Martin, Nicola Turner, Mike Mears



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then on Sunday 5 June:

Teignmouth, Devon, St James the Less, W Teignmouth
Sunday, 5 June 2022

Call Changes

The Queen's Peal

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Janet Clutterbuck | 5 Fiona Rock-Evans |
| 2 Erica Hornsby | 6 Roger Treweek |
| 3 Julia Brett | 7 John Stern |
| 4 Jason Dowling | 8 Richard Barter (C) |



(l to r) Richard Barter, John Stern, Roger Treweek, Fiona Rock-Evans, Jason Dowling, Julia Brett, Erica Hornsby, Janet Clutterbuck.

Dawlish rang for a marathon 70 minutes on Friday 3 at St Gregory, Dawlish:

Friday, 3 June 2022 in 70m

Call Changes and Others

Lynne Hughes, Phil Hughes, Amrik Tumani, Becky Gee, Pam Anthony, Anne Heywood, Kevin Feaviour, Kate Wolfendale, Nicola Twibill, Hannah Pullen, Ria Pullen, Deborah Wallis, Michael Wallis, Lynette Costello.

70 minutes continuous ringing, 14 ringers swapping in. Call changes, Kaleidoscope, Plain Bob Doubles, Grandsire Doubles, Stedman Doubles.



L to R: Hannah Pullen, Ria Pullen, Amrik Tumani, Lynne Hughes, Kevin Feaviour, Lynette Costello, Deborah Wallis, Pam Anthony, Nicola Twibill, Phil Hughes, Michael Wallis, Becky Gee

Coffinswell rang a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor:

Coffinswell, Devon, St Bartholomew

Thursday, 2 June 2022 in 44m

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Michael Tompsett | 4 Tim King |
| 2 Rob Law | 5 Martin Mansley |
| 3 Don Roberts | 6 Philip Stevens (C) |

and a branch band rang a quarter peal of 1270 changes at Abbotskerswell:

Abbotskerswell, Devon, Blessed Virgin Mary

Thursday, 2 June 2022 in 47m

1270 Original (10) and Plain Bob Doubles

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Janet Ritterman | 4 Robert Law |
| 2 John Rees | 5 Martin G Mansley (C) |
| 3 Michael H Tompsett | 6 Philip Stevens |

Kingskerswell managed to fit in the majority of their large band with general ringing on the Friday:

Kingskerswell, Devon, St Mary
Friday, 3 June 2022 in 60m
Rounds and Call Changes

James Abbott, Jo Coldrick, Trevor Heal, Gill Keites, Pauline Lawrence, Alisha Leggett, Peter Lister, David Moate, John Rees, Janet Ritterman, Helen Rowswell, Megan Rowswell, Mia Rowswell, Elizabeth Smyth-Osbourne, Maureen Stevens, Philip Stevens, Elizabeth Stentiford, Josh Tratt, Alison Wills, Richard Wills, Michael Wright

A peal on the Sunday meant that Philip Stevens has rung at least one peal every year since learning to ring at school. Very many congratulations to him, an amazing record!

Kingskerswell, Devon, St Mary
Sunday, 5 June 2022 in 2h 48
5056 Jubilee Surprise Major
D F Morrison (No 442)

1 Philip Stevens	5 Michael C Hansford
2 Charlotte A Boyce	6 Peter G C Ellis
3 Roger King	7 John R Martin
4 Jill M Hansford	8 Michael E C Mears (C)

Philip has now rung a peal in 63 consecutive years.



Mike M, Peter Ellis, Roger, Phil, Jill, Mike H, John, Charlotte

Newton Abbot clock tower bells were rung for an hour by members of the Devon Association following a special request of the town council, while at Bishopsteignton the Devon Association also rang call changes. St Marychurch were ringing a very creditable attempt for a quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples when the treble (3 of the 10) slipped wheel and set irretrievably after more than 20 minutes ringing! Some you win and some...!

All in all, an impressive group of performances - Congratulations all round! I do hope I have covered all the ringing in our branch area. There really was an unprecedented amount of ringing nationwide and I have tried to find as much as possible – please let me know if I have missed anything that should be recorded.

Branch six bell practice, June – Ideford

These days Kent and Oxford Treble Bob are rung much less than they were and ringing them spliced is even rarer. Perhaps for this reason the choice of these methods for our June six bell practice seemed quite popular. The system of splicing these two methods has often been referred to as laminating. This is because the change of method is called before the lead end rather than at it, as is the convention with most other splicing. It is possible to have long touches with no other calls than changes of method and most of the touches used at Ideford were of that type. We are always made very welcome, even though we rather disrupt their own practice, and many of us took advantage of the refreshments on offer.

Of course, there was a good variety of other methods from call changes to Surprise and we were delighted to see the local ringers joining us in some method ringing as well as their more usual fare of call changes. Altogether a very pleasant evening – many thanks to Ideford ringers for their hospitality.

Branch 8 bell practice, July - Bovey Tracey

We had a small change this month as we needed to move the usual first Saturday event (the mini-outing) as it would clash with a national event being held in Exeter. The Friday evening practice at Bovey Tracey was well supported, particularly by the local ringers. Bovey are quite unusual as bells 7 and 8 are rung from a platform about 6 inches higher than the rest! Again, we had a very warm welcome and a wide variety of methods was rung. The Spliced Surprise was successful to a point – twice we negotiated the less familiar Superlative and Lincolnshire only to come to grief in Cambridge!! Other methods included Stedman Triples and Little Bob Major. Grateful thanks go to Bovey Tracey ringers for a very enjoyable evening.

Combeinteighhead win Devon Association

Major Final

Congratulations to the Combeinteighhead team that won the Devon Association Major Final. This is an important competition for 6 bell towers. The team was Ian Avery, Mike Mears, David Burgoyne, Mark Pring, Will Carew and James Grant. Only David is not a member of the Mid Devon Branch. An extremely full account of the competition appeared in the Ringing World dated 17 June written by Central Council President Simon Linford.

Memorial Service for Alan Furse –

St Michael's, Teignmouth

There was a pleasingly large congregation for this service. Proceedings started with open ringing on the bells for about 30 minutes before the service which was taken by Rev Carol Green and Rev Sue Astbury. It was definitely a celebration of Alan and featured many aspects of his very full life. His handbell team – The Estuary ringers – played their signature tune, La Morisque by Susato as arranged by S Winter. And there were rousing hymns all chosen by Alan – 'Angel Voices ever Singing', 'Praise the Lord, ye Heavens Adore Him' and 'I Vow to Thee, My Country'. Alan's personality came through constantly as we learned of his life as a schoolmaster – in particular at Blundell's School in Tiverton. Of his love for chemistry and his joy in teaching this hard subject to others. This came through strongly in a moving tribute from his grandson explaining how much Alan had helped him with his own study of Chemistry as he awaited the results of his exams this August. We also heard of his love of music and in particular his work to establish and nurture the Estuary ringers. Of course, for ringers he will be remembered as a driving force in the Teignmouth bells project.

A very individual way that Teignmouth ringers remember their past members is by placing small plaques on a very large bell wheel hung in the area underneath the tower. At the end of the main service there was a final act when the plaque in memory of Alan was dedicated. The excellent narthex was the venue for a sumptuous feast after the service. This was much enjoyed, although there were definite butterflies in some of the ringers' stomachs. This was because they were about to attempt a quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles as this was Alan's favourite method. Several had only recently started practising Grandsire so were understandably nervous. But.. they need not have been as the quarter was brought round successfully and there were many sighs of relief – very well done to Julia and Richard who were ringing a quarter in the method for the first time. We understand the effort required Jason to have two ice creams on the way home!! Altogether a fine way to celebrate Alan's life. RIP.

Teignmouth, Devon, St Michael, E Teignmouth

Tuesday, 26 July 2022 in 51m

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Trevor Pearce-Jones	5 Martin Mansley (C)
2 Julia Brett	6 John Stern
3 Fiona Rock-Evans	7 Jason Dowling
4 Richard Barter	8 Martin Brown

7,6,8 cover. Rung following an inspirational memorial service for Alan Furse. Grandsire was his favourite method. Alan was a tireless supporter of the Teignmouth bells project and leader of the Estuary Ringers handbell team. First in method 2,4.

Mini Outing

East Devon was the venue for this year and our chairman, Rodney Horder, had spent much time and effort to make sure things ran smoothly. We started at Combe Raleigh. These bells were rung as a

three for many years but eventually the very enthusiastic local band had them augmented to an excellent ring of 6. We were delighted to find an excellent turnout of ringers including Cambridge University ringers Greg Chu and Kirsten Hawkins. Kirsten is originally from Combe Raleigh but Greg had travelled down for the day especially to join our outing. Next tower on the list was Feniton where our group photo was taken.

Talaton was next stop and we were extremely fortunate to be allowed to ring here as the church was about to be closed for extensive building work – in fact the first part of the job had just been completed and we were the first ringers to use the new floor to the ringing room.

The final tower was Cyst Hydon where we were met by local ringer, Sue, who told us she had recently returned to ringing after a long layoff and has been helping to teach new ringers there. She joined us for some Bob Minor and later rang the treble to Cambridge before telling us that it was over 40 years since she had last rung it! We wish her well with teaching new ringers.

Final stop of the day was at the Keeper's Cottage Inn at Kentisbeare. All had pre-booked meals and we found a very warm welcome and an excellent meal efficiently served. This was a chance to relax and reflect on a first-class outing.

Very many thanks go to Rodney for all the arrangements and to all



the local ringers and incumbents for giving us permission to ring.

Don Roberts – 92 not out!

Many congratulations to Don Roberts who turned 92 at the beginning of August. Don is as enthusiastic as ever about his many passions – ringing, swimming and family history among them. A 240 of Doubles was rung to celebrate during the Torbay Steam Fair. Congratulations to Debbie Birt for her first touch 'with rope and wheel'.

Churston (field off A379), Devon
Frank Mack Mini-Ring
Friday, 5 August 2022 in 6m (1lb 9oz)
240 Doubles (2m)

120 Plain Bob, 120 Grandsire

1 Sheila Horder	4 Nigel Birt
2 Ian Avery	5 Martin Mansley (C)
3 Rodney Horder	6 Debbie Birt

92nd birthday compliment to Don Roberts, Guild Vice-President and member of the Mid-Devon Branch.

Rung at the Torbay Steam Fair where the Frank Mack Mini-Ring was a public attraction and being used to promote bellringing.

1st touch with rope and wheel - 6

Branch Outing – with a difference Saturday 1 October – the Avocet Line

In the past we have had train outings but not for quite some time. At the branch committee meeting last week it was decided to have one again. Finding a route with regular trains can be difficult so the Avocet line to Exmouth was decided upon. Trains run regularly from Paignton to Exmouth with calls at stations on the way and a programme has been devised to take in a number of towers on the line with reasonable access – approximately ten minute walk or less. A full programme will be published once we have all the towers booked. A return ticket should be less than £10. Please support this outing – should be a great day!

Martin Mansley

North-East Branch Branch AGM, 1 October at Cruwys Morchard, 10.00

Please make every effort to attend as this is your opportunity to elect the branch committee and to have your say in what the branch provides for its members. The morning will start with a service and ringing, then meeting in the hall afterwards. Refreshments will be served.

Jenny Jones

Troyte Ringing Centre activities

The hot weather on Wednesday 10 August tempted us out into the churchyard to hold 'afternoon teas' for the folks in Bampton. Groups sheltered from the sun under the yew tree to sample scones and homemade cakes. The local ringers also set up stalls, bohemian style under the Maple tree, for shelter, selling preserves, craft items, white elephant and a raffle. It was a very successful fund raiser and an enjoyable time for participants.



Cream teas being consumed under the yew tree



Sale stalls under the maple tree

At Huntsham we have run two courses on raising and lowering in peal. Both sessions in June and August gave participants plenty of experience and further skills to develop.

The ever popular 'parachuting teddies' took place on the August Bank Holiday Monday at Bampton. The weather was at its best, with a light breeze, plenty of sun and dry ground for the spectators. Thirteen TRC members helped with the event, setting up in advance of the 2pm start. Members of the church offered refreshments, which could be consumed inside away from the frenzy of children and teddies, or taken outside to sit and watch the fun. After running this event for many years we have fine-tuned the organisation and 'dropped' 60 teddies in less than one and a half hours. Much enjoyment was had by participants, helpers and audience.



Launching



Flying



One of our young ringers using the safety line



Young ringers ready with safety lines attached for the next teddies



Another teddy or is it monkey?



A queue of teddies waiting for their harnesses and parachutes to be attached



Mike and Pat handing out certificates of bravery for teddies and chocolates for their owners

Sheila Scofield

South West Branch Milton Abbot Rededication Service Perseverance Rewarded



It was with great joy that the rededication and blessing of the church bells at Milton Abbot was held on Saturday 4 June. It was arranged during the weekend of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of Her Majesty the Queen.

The service was conducted by the Revd Andy Adkins, together with the Right Revd Mark Rylands who rededicated the bells. With the church packed with congregation the singing was quite overwhelming. The highlight had to be the singing of the well-known ringers' hymn 'Ring out ye bells below' to the tune composed by George Campbell Grylls, himself a ringer at St Eustachius, Tavistock for many years. The singing of the hymn was accompanied by the Lamerton handbell ringers.

During the service Revd Atkins thanked everyone for the enormous effort that had gone into the fundraising. He had also done a tremendous amount himself and I was pleased to propose a vote of thanks to him, something that he did not expect but wholly deserved. After the service, ringing continued on this now much easier ring of bells. The event ended with a fine bun feast served by the local congregation.

The bells are now available to visiting teams. Our thanks go to everyone who has subscribed to the tower fund and please accept our heartfelt thanks to you all.



Ringling after the service, including Don Roberts and Geoff Hill (front)



Tea was served in the hall

Geoff Hill

Colouring in at Emmanuel



We caught a fantastic moment at Emmanuel, Plymouth, with Harry and Sam discovering their colourful original progress charts, compared to Zeph's brand new chart! We also discovered that several members of the band were owed badges so congratulations go to Emil, Zeph and Liza for their colouring in efforts!



Elena Brake

Jubilee bells ring out in Tavistock

Tavistock ringers turned out in force to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with two quarter peals.

The first, lasting for 51 minutes from 5.30pm on Friday afternoon and rung on the original eight bells, was of Platinum Bob Triples, a method first written in 2017 to celebrate the Platinum Wedding Anniversary of the Queen and Prince Philip. To date, only seven quarter peals and one full peal had been rung countrywide in this method but records now show that at least five more quarters have been achieved over this weekend. The Tavistock team have been learning and practising the method for some weeks now and it was a 'first' for all, including the conductor Phil Dunn, and the first to be rung in Tavistock.

Tavistock, Devon, St Eustachius

Friday, 3 June 2022 in 51m

1260 Platinum Bob Triples

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1 Bill Thirtle | 5 Peter Hinton |
| 2 Jane Dunn | 6 David Pike |
| 3 Sarah Hinton | 7 Phil Dunn (C) |
| 4 Ian Smith | 8 Chris Walke |



The band (l to r) David, Bill, Chris, Phil, Jane, Sarah, Ian, Peter

The second quarter peal was rung on Sunday after the morning service. Using all ten bells, this was of the more familiar Grandsire Caters, conducted by George Mudge, and lasting 52 minutes.

Tavistock, Devon, St Eustachius

Sunday, 5 June 2022 in 52m

1259 Grandsire Caters

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Kate Jennings | 6 Jane Dunn |
| 2 Sheila Williams | 7 George Mudge (C) |
| 3 Peter Hinton | 8 Bill Thirtle |
| 4 Phil Dunn | 9 Andrew Clark |
| 5 Sarah Hinton | 10 Chris Walke |

Donna Baker

Other News around the County

Denbury bells to return



The new treble, with some of the other bells

The bells at St Mary's, Denbury, have been away being tuned and are shortly to be returned to the tower to be rehung with all new fittings and the addition of a sixth bell. The ringing room is to be raised from the ground floor to make the bells easier to handle. The total cost of the project, which has taken over seven years, is £120,000, some of which has been covered by grants, including one from the DCBRF.



A tight squeeze through the trap

Ian Campbell

Training and Education Recruitment successes

The following message was sent out to all branches by Phil Dunn: *The Guild Recruitment and Retention Work Group is keen to learn of any ongoing or planned recruitment activities either at branch or tower level within your branch. In addition, members of the working group would be happy to discuss your ideas and plans with you or point you in the right direction for useful ideas and resources.*

It had a number of responses:

Combe Raleigh

We have three learners at Combe Raleigh, all still at the handling stage. This afternoon before our Jubilee Tea we're offering the opportunity to chime our tenor as part of our celebratory 70 chimes. I'll give some tuition on our third before they chime the tenor that will count towards the magic 70. You never know, we may even get some takers wanting to learn to ring...

Yesterday's Jubilee chiming opportunity turned out to be hugely successful. Take-up was slow at first so we thought we'd limit each person to ten chimes on the tenor. I'd allowed half an hour before the start of the Jubilee Tea – how long does it take to chime a bell 70 times? – but the session lasted almost an hour and a half as people just kept coming into the ringing room. In total we had 19 people who wanted to have a go, resulting in two new recruits plus one youngster who wants to learn once his Duke of Edinburgh's award and one other commitment are over. The enthusiasm was extraordinary and I would definitely do this again alongside a suitable event. It took very little effort to set up and only four of us on duty, including two of my learners at the handling stage. It may have worked especially well for us as the tea was set up right next to the church and it was easy for some people to encourage their friends as well. Everyone had so much fun and they all relished making a noise. In some cases it was difficult to stop them! In the end the tenor was chimed 217 times for our Queen but don't tell anyone that.

Lisa Clarke

Feniton

St Andrew's, Feniton has a new ringer who started at the end of last year. Tim Bayton very kindly supports us all with our ongoing learning. He has also supported our new ringer and she is now ringing rounds, call changes and has started leading and tenoring behind.

We now have another ringer who joins us on a Friday evening, still having one-to-one prior to the practice proper but did join in ringing rounds for the first time a few weeks ago. However, she is learning to be able to ring with Talaton.

One of our ringers helps with the publishing of the parish magazine. She often tries to put articles in that to encourage others to join us.

Lesley Oats

Honiton

In Honiton, I've finally had some success. After progressing well with four learners, who for various reasons dropped out (although two promise to come back later) we now have three joining the band and ringing rounds, albeit a bit shakily.

Derek Ballard

Axminster

The Jubilee ring provided a great opportunity for Axminster. By the end of 2021 our band were not able to manage our heavier bells, and despite having a fabulous ring of 10 we could not ring them together without importing help. Our January recruitment campaign yielded five new recruits, with four of them sticking with it and completing their training by the end of March. Until the end of 2021 our staple ringing had been on the front 6, so the leap from 6 to 10 was enormous but the Jubilee provided a focal point to work towards. This mission had the effect of rekindling interest from a couple of good ringers who had stopped turning up regularly. With lots of determination over the preceding months we were able to perform rounds and call changes on 10 to a respectable standard over the weekend. Our 19:52-20:22 performance was co-ordinated with the town council 'Lighting of the Beacon' ceremony which provided a good audience to show off our capability.

Peter Simpson

Northleigh

We have a new ringer at Northleigh who is learning at Farway as we have a joint practice. She is very keen and is just at the handling stage.

Jeanne Mills

Mini-ring at Youth Music Festival



The mini-ring looking a bit lost in the field – but 2000 children are on their way!

We were delighted to have the Frank Mack mini-ring at The Mix, a schools' music festival which covers the whole of Devon. It was set up in the middle of a field at Killerton House, surrounded by marquees of other activities, while upwards of 2000 school children came and tried out various activities, including ringing the bells. Thanks go to Janet Ritterman for helping with the event and Ian Avery and James Grant who brought the bells to Killerton, set them up, and then packed them up at the end of the day to go to Hatherleigh.

Ian Campbell

Guild 150 (Sesquicentenary) – can you help?

A year ago (RRD No 123, Sept 21, p3) we outlined plans for celebrating the Guild's Sesquicentenary (Guild 150). These included a celebration weekend comprising a dinner, ringing and a special service, a Guild presence at some of the local agricultural shows across the county in 2024, an anniversary publication on the history of the Guild, a commemorative beer and a special Devon issue of *The Ringing World* marking the Guild's 150th and the Association's 100th anniversaries. We have also been working on preparing photographs and commentary for a Devon edition of *The Ringing World* calendar for 2024 marking both anniversaries. 30 or so iconic Devon tower locations have been identified and our two photographers have made a start on capturing images of these. We have, however, lost one member of the team to a house move, so we are looking for anyone else with an interest in photography capable of producing high quality images to join the team.

Petrol money can be offered where this involves significant travelling to locations and other reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

If you are interested in joining the photographic team or contributing to the work of compiling a new Guild history to complement that written by John Scott 50 years ago, please get in touch with Les Boyce (librarian@devonringers.org.uk).

Les Boyce

Guild Demonstration Bell goes to Cullompton



As a part of local Cullompton festivities I was asked to give my presentation about bells and bell ringing on the evening of July 26. The photo shows the setup in a marquee – you can see the demo bell at the right-hand side and also handbells at the left of the stage.

Unfortunately the attendance was rather poor (but better than shown in the photo which was taken before the start!) but the talk was well appreciated. It was immediately followed by a short presentation on the Bilbie family of bell founders who cast the original eight bells of Cullompton from a foundry set up in the local almshouses in 1746. Thomas Bilbie II settled in Cullompton in 1754 where he cast bells for many local towers, including Bow, Brampford Speke, East Budleigh and Upton Pyne.

A donation has been made to the DCBRF.

Ian Campbell

Devon Young Ringers

Success in National Youth Contest

Devon Young Ringers entered a call change band of six ringers into the RWNYC and we were absolutely delighted with the result - coming 4th place out of 16 teams. We are all very proud of the effort put in by all the ringers to make it such a success and were particularly proud that our choice to ring closed handstroke leads was noticed by the judges and earned a special mention in their commentary at the results.



Ringing Exeter Cathedral tenor – with some help



Ringling at Exeter Cathedral



The team ringling at Exeter St Petrock



Competition band in order from front to back: Theo, Niamh, Red, Fergus, Oliver, Thomas (C)

Elena Brake

If you have young ringers under 18 in your area, please let them know about our monthly Devon Young Ringers practices which takes place at St Michael and All Angels church, Pinhoe. We meet each 2nd Sunday from 2-4pm and our next meeting will be Sunday 11 September. Following from our achievement of coming 4th place in the RWNYC (out of 16 call change bands!) we are keen to grow our group and to continue to provide young ringers a space to meet one another, to have fun and ring together.

All abilities are welcome. We have friendly volunteers who can support ringers from bell handling onwards, and we welcome ringers from both the Guild and Association. Parents/carers of young ringers are asked to fill in a permission to ring form – please contact me at yrcoordinator@devonringers.org.uk.

I would appreciate your support in encouraging your young ringers to join our practices and displaying our poster in your tower if possible. If you have any questions please contact me by email and I'll be happy to help. We would love to take a larger group of ringers up to York next year to enjoy the amazing atmosphere of RWNYC.

Elena Brake, Young Ringers Co-ordinator

Training Events

Raising and Lowering on 6-bells

The Troyte Ringing Centre has received several requests for help with raising and lowering in peal, so the TRC's autumn programme will offer three training mornings on raising and lowering at Huntsham, 10:00 – 13:00 on:

- Saturday 29 October
- Wednesday 16 November
- Saturday 10 December

Details are on the TRC's website at:

<https://troyteringingcentre.org.uk>. Bookings must be made in advance with Les Boyce as numbers on these events are strictly limited to ensure that students have adequate rope time.

ART Training Scheme

A Module 1 (Teaching Bellhandling) day course will be held in Devon (location tbc) on Saturday 26 November. This is for those new to teaching recruits to ring and existing ringing teachers who would like a refresher or some tips and hints.

Details will appear on the ART Events website at:

events.bellringing.org where bookings should be made, and enquiries can be made to Les Boyce (lesboyce@gmail.com or 01884 256819)

Les Boyce

Notable Ringing Events Peals

The following peals were rung for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Kilmington, Devon, St Giles

Saturday, 28 May 2022 in 2h 52

5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (23m)

(1) Carlisle, Northumberland (2) London, Wells, Cunecastre (3)

Lightfoot, Wearmouth, Rossendale, Stamford (4) Westminster,

Allendale (5) Beverley, Surfleet, Berwick, Hexham (6) York, Durham (7)

Cambridge, Ipswich, Bourne, Hull, Primrose, Norfolk

1 Peter M C Richards

4 Lynne P Hughes

2 Charlotte A Boyce

5 James Kirkcaldy

3 Michael J Wigney

6 John R Martin (C)

Taunton, Somerset, Minster Church of St Mary Magdalene

Saturday, 28 May 2022 in 3h 28

5040 Cambridge Surprise Royal

J Clatworthy

1 Ian W Avery

6 Mark Pring

2 Peter L Bill

7 Timothy M Payne

3 Timothy M Bayton

8 Michael C Hansford

4 Jill M Hansford

9 David Hird

5 Robert D Crighton

10 Michael E C Mears (C)

Bovey Tracey, Devon, Wobbly Bob's Campanile

Tuesday, 31 May 2022 in 1h 51

5152 Buachaille Etive Mor Delight Major

R D S Brown

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | Ian W Avery | 5 | David Hird |
| 2 | P Wendy Campbell | 6 | John R Martin |
| 3 | James Kirkcaldy | 7 | Robert D S Brown |
| 4 | Charlotte A Boyce | 8 | Michael E C Mears (C) |

Huntsham, Devon, All Saints

Thursday, 2 June 2022 in 2h 44

5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Composed by Robert D S Brown

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1 | Michael Hatchett | 5 | Lesley A Knipe |
| 2 | Richard A M Newman | 6 | Marion Newman |
| 3 | R Nicholas Lawrence | 7 | Fergus M S Stracey |
| 4 | Richard H Johnston | 8 | James Kirkcaldy (C) |

First peal on the bells

Landkey, Devon, St Paul

Thursday, 2 June 2022 in 2h 54

5040 Surprise Minor (12m)

(1) London, Wells (2) Carlisle (3) York, Durham (4) Westminster (5)

Beverley, Surfleet (6) Norwich (7) Ipswich, Bourne, Cambridge

- | | | | |
|---|------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | Ian L C Campbell | 4 | John A Foster |
| 2 | David Hird | 5 | Robert D S Brown |
| 3 | Ian V J Smith | 6 | Michael E C Mears (C) |

First peal on the bells.

Exeter, Devon, St Thomas the Apostle

Saturday, 4 June 2022 in 2h 57

5056 Cambridge Surprise Major

J Clatworthy

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1 | Peter L Bill | 5 | James Kirkcaldy |
| 2 | Timothy M Bayton | 6 | Kevin J Skillings |
| 3 | Charlotte A Boyce | 7 | John R Martin (C) |
| 4 | Stephanie E Hills | 8 | David Hird |

Special congratulations to John Hill – see footnote

Exeter, Devon, St Mark

Friday, 10 June 2022 in 3h

5070 Stedman Caters

Composed by Mark R Eccleston

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 1 | Ian V J Smith | 6 | John Hill |
| 2 | Peter L Bill | 7 | Matthew J Hilling (C) |
| 3 | P Wendy Campbell | 8 | Michael E C Mears |
| 4 | Michael H Tompsett | 9 | David Hird |
| 5 | Ian L C Campbell | 10 | James Kirkcaldy |

John Hill has now rung peals for the Coronation, the Silver Jubilee, the Golden Jubilee, the Diamond Jubilee and the Platinum Jubilee.



The band, l-r: Matt, Peter, Ian C, Wendy, John, Mike M, Ian S, David, James, Mike T

New Royal method in handbell peal

Whimble, Devon

17 Bramley Gardens

Thursday, 25 August 2022 in 2h 38 (15 in C)

5040 Upwood Surprise Royal

Composed by J Clatworthy

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|------|-----------------|
| 1–2 | Jill M Wigney | 7–8 | Oliver Coldrick |
| 3–4 | Oliver C Bates | 9–10 | Lynne P Hughes |
| 5–6 | Matthew J Hilling (C) | | |
- First in method for all

50th Anniversary of first peal for Mike Mears

Highweek, Devon

All Saints

Friday, 1 July 2022 in 2h 49

5024 Spliced Surprise Major (8m)

672 London, Rutland; 640 Lincolnshire, Pudsey, Superlative; 608 Bristol;

572 Cambridge, Yorkshire; 129 changes of method; all the work.

N R Aspland

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | Leslie E Boyce | 5 | Michael C Hansford |
| 2 | Michael H Tompsett | 6 | Ian V J Smith |
| 3 | James Kirkcaldy | 7 | David Hird |
| 4 | Peter L Bill | 8 | Michael E C Mears (C) |

On the 50th anniversary of the conductor's first peal which was organised by the treble ringer. He has a lot to answer for.

First peal of Bristol Surprise Maximus in hand for Guild and two of the band.

Exeter, Devon, Cathedral Church of St Peter

Sunday, 3 July 2022 in 3h 8 (15)

5040 Bristol Surprise Maximus

Composed by A G Reading (No.6)

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|-------|-------------------|
| 1–2 | Andrew P Digby | 7–8 | Oliver C Bates |
| 3–4 | David G Maynard | 9–10 | Matthew J Hilling |
| 5–6 | Thomas J Hinks (C) | 11–12 | Oliver Coldrick |
- First in the method in hand: 1-2, 11-12, and for the Guild.

250th anniversary of installation of the original six bells

Newton Abbot, Devon

St Leonard's Tower

Thursday, 11 August 2022 in 2h 50

5184 Jonah Surprise Major

D F Morrison (No 1430)

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | Ian W Avery | 5 | Michael C Hansford |
| 2 | Peter L Bill | 6 | Ian V J Smith |
| 3 | James Kirkcaldy | 7 | John A Foster |
| 4 | Jill M Hansford | 8 | Michael E C Mears (C) |

For the 250th anniversary of the installation of the original six bells in this tower (numbers 3 to 8 of the current octave).

Devon Young Ringers

Are you a young ringer under 18? Would you like to meet other young ringers in Devon? Join us for Devon Young Ringers monthly practices at St Michael and All Angels, Pinhoe

PRACTICE DATES 2022

The following practices will be held at St Michael and All Angels Church, Pinhoe (EX4 9JF)

Sunday 11 September, 2 – 4:00pm

Sunday 9 October, 2 – 4:00pm

Sunday 13 November, 2 – 4:00pm

Sunday 11 December, 2 – 4:00pm

All abilities welcome!

We welcome method ringers and Devon Call Change Ringers.

For more information and to book your place, email Elena Brake: yrecoordinator@devonringers.org.uk

Other Ringing

Queens's Platinum Jubilee

There was far too much ringing for the Queen's Jubilee to publish everything here, but I have selected a few special ones. I apologise if your ringing is not included.

Tiverton, Devon, St Peter
Friday, 3 June 2022 in 50m
1260 Plain Bob Triples

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



The band in order from front right

Hatherleigh, Devon, St John the Baptist
Friday, 3 June 2022
Rounds and Call Changes
Various rounds and call changes

Richard Harrison, Jess Lewis, Sadie Harrison, Isabella Whitworth,
Natalie Wonnacott, Ian Grantham, Garry Bater,
Alex Harrison, Mark Wonnacott, Zoe Wonnacott, Bertie Wonnacott



The band celebrating the Platinum Jubilee

Axminster, Devon, St Mary
Friday, 3 June 2022 in 30m
Call Changes on 10

Substituting ringers to enable 30 minutes of near continuous ringing.

Anne Double, Heather White, Margaret Peirce, Graham Walmsley,
Sarah Clinton, Bob Hellier, Sue Willis, Nick Bishop, Roger Willis, Anne
Burn, Rosie Dean, Gail Herbert, Georgina Perryman, Peter Simpson (C)
Rung between 19:52 and 20:22



Axminster Band 2022

Sidmouth, Devon, St Giles and St Nicholas
Sunday, 5 June 2022

Rounds, Call Changes, Platinum Place Doubles
Rounds and called changes (Rollercoaster and Queens) on 10, Platinum
Place Doubles, Rounds on 6 changing immediately to Queens then
Kings alternately.

Annie Ashton, Anne Bailey, Jeff Bailey, Michael Burrow, Cheryl Fellows
Bennett, Sylvia Gibbard, Clare Griffiths, Lesley Houghton, Susan A King,
Janet Reynolds, Rev Jonathan G Rose, Margot Le Vesconte

Rung continuously between 1952 hours and 2022 hours to mark the 70
year reign of Her Majesty the Queen



(Standing) Jon, Mike, Jeff, Sue, Clare, Sylvia, Janet, Annie, Cheryl (sitting) Margot, Lesley

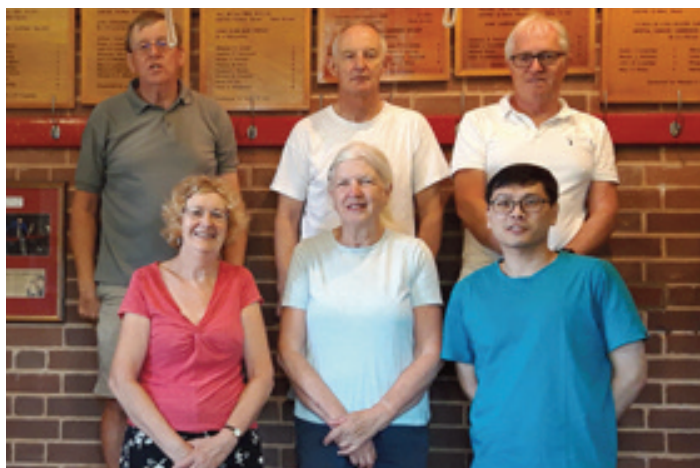
First Quarter Peal

Shane was on a visit from Singapore where he is learning to ring on the newly installed twelve. While he was in Exeter the opportunity was taken for him to ring his first quarter peal

Exeter, Devon, St Mark
Monday, 1 August 2022 in 45m
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1 Shane Yuen | 4 Ian Campbell |
| 2 Wendy Campbell | 5 David Hird (C) |
| 3 Lesley Tucker | 6 Graham Tucker |

1st quarter peal - 1. Shane is the first Singapore Cathedral ringer taught locally to ring a quarter peal.



Calendar of Events

Fri 16 19:00 St Peter's Shield striking competition, Kentisbeare North East

Sat 17 15:00 Guild Library opens, St Petrock, Exeter Guild

October

Sat 1 11:00 Service, Ringing and AGM, Cruwys Morchard North East

Sat 1 TBC Branch railway outing, 'Avocet Line' Mid Devon

Tue 4 19:30 Triples and Major practice, St Peter, Tiverton North East

Sat 8 14:30 Autumn meeting, Shute East

Sat 8 15:00 Guild Library opens, St Petrock, Exeter Guild

Mon 10 19:30 Surprise Minor branch practice, Offwell East

Thu 13 19:30 Plain Hunt practice, Sidbury East

Fri 14 19:30 6-bell practice, Churston Ferrers Mid Devon

Sat 15 Guild striking competitions, Mid Devon Branch Guild

November

Tue 1 19:30 Triples and Major practice, St Peter, Tiverton North East

Sat 5 10:00 Branch open practice, Hemyock North East

Thu 10 19:30 Plain Hunt practice, Sidbury East

Sat 12 Branch 103rd Anniversary Service and Dinner, tba South West

Sat 12 15:00 Branch AGM, tbc Mid Devon

Mon 14 19:30 Surprise Minor branch practice, Offwell East

Sat 19 Branch AGM, St Mark, Exeter (tbc) Exeter

Sat 19 15:00 Guild Library opens, St Petrock, Exeter Guild

Thu 24 19:30 8-bell Practice, Highweek Mid Devon

Sat 26 09:15 ART Training Scheme: Module 1 (Teaching Bellhandling), tbc Guild

Sat 26 10:00 General Branch Practice, tba South West

December

Thu 1 19:30 Triples and Major practice, St Peter, Tiverton North East

Sat 3 10:00 Branch open practice, tbc North East

Thu 8 19:30 Plain Hunt practice, Sidbury East

Mon 12 19:30 Surprise Minor branch practice, Offwell East

Sat 17 Devon Ringers' Carol Service, To be confirmed Guild

Editorial

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee seems a long time ago. The ringers certainly took it on board as a reason for celebration and ringing as can be seen in this issue and on BellBoard where there are even more performances that I didn't have room for here. Of special note is the peal by John Hill who has now rung peals for the Coronation, the Silver Jubilee, the Golden Jubilee, the Diamond Jubilee and the Platinum Jubilee. I understand that he is planning a peal for his 90th birthday later this year.

I confess to being a little worried about how the Young Ringers' striking competition was going to go, especially with it being based at Exeter Cathedral and so many things to be arranged. But, as always, the organisers put everything into it and the national event finished up running smoothly and as an unqualified success, although everyone, from the young people to the organisers, were pretty well exhausted by the end of it. I was very moved by the comments from the Dean of Exeter – so much that I asked him if I could reproduce his entire article here. And our own young ringers are to be congratulated for doing so well. It wasn't clear at first if Devon would be able to even put in a band but those responsible managed not only to find a band but to do well in the call change competition, showing the rest of the country how Devon Call Changes should sound.

The Guild AGM was organised by the Exeter Branch at Credenon. Following a bit of rushing around the week before to fix the 10th clapper it was possible to ring all twelve bells and to remember the wonderful sound that they make. Refreshments were served in the hall and the meeting was able to appoint Tim Bayton as its new president. I look forward to seeing in what direction he moves the Guild.

For a couple of weeks we welcomed Shane to Exeter. He is learning to ring at Singapore Cathedral, which must be difficult as there are only one or two experienced ringers there. But he quickly got used to the bells at St Mark's and rang his first quarter peal at the first attempt. Having only rung the treble or tenor behind he rapidly started learning how to ring inside which he seemed to manage with no difficulties. I hope that now he is back in Singapore he can have the opportunities to continue with his ringing.

As always my thanks go to those who have sent in articles for publication, to my right hand woman for her extensive proof-reading, and to John Foster who, once again, has done all the page layout and liaised with the printers while he was away on holiday with only a laptop.

Stop Press



As I write this, we have just heard the sad news about the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II and I have just returned from tolling the tenor at Heavitree. I expect to hear all about the ringing done in Devon in time for the next issue.

Picture from PRESS ASSOCIATION / Danny Lawson
Ian Campbell

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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