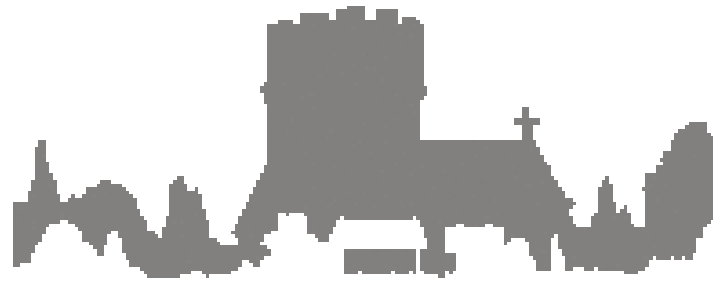


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Newsletter 132 December 2023

Merry
CHRISTMAS

The word 'Merry' is in a red, cursive font. 'CHRISTMAS' is in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter 'M' is decorated with a Santa Claus head. The letter 'S' is decorated with a red Santa hat. There are green holly leaves and red berries to the left of 'CHRISTMAS', a green snowflake above 'Merry', a red snowflake to the right of 'Merry', and a green Christmas tree between 'M' and 'S'.

St Mark's, Exeter in the snow

Guild 8 bell Competition

The Aylesbeare Branch were this year's hosts for the Guild striking competitions. Sadly, there were no bands entered in the two novice competitions so the morning just featured the inter-tower six bell competition which was held at Clyst St George. A lunch had been laid on at Withycombe Raleigh and all assembled in good time to hear David Hird give the results.

1 Exeter Cathedral	23.5 faults	4 Heavitree	40.5
2 Tavistock	29	5 Withycombe Raleigh	69.5
3 Exeter St Mark	35	6 Topsham	116.5



The winning team from Exeter Cathedral

The afternoon inter-branch competition gave teams the choice of either Oxford Bob Triples or Hunslet Bob Triples (a simple Plain Bob Triples variation). The South-West and Mid-Devon Branches rang Oxford Bob, while the other two teams rang Hunslet. Copious amounts of tea and cakes were provided while the ringing was in progress.

The competition was judged by Robert Perry from Truro. The results were announced as:

1 Exeter	5.5	3 Aylesbeare	21.5
2 South-West	9.0	4 Mid Devon	43.75



The 8-bell trophy was presented by Robert Perry to David Hird on behalf of the Exeter Branch

This was followed by a presentation by Lester Yeo about his forthcoming book about the history of the Guild.



Ian Campbell and Martin Mansley



David Hird presenting the Fidler Cup to Paul Pascoe on behalf of Exeter Cathedral

Guild Ringing Festival 2023

The ringing festival was held from October 20 until November 5. It is arranged annually to raise money for the DCBRF (bell fund) and also to encourage ringers to try something new, such as ringing a first quarter peal or calling some call changes or a first touch, or ringing inside for the first time.

According to BellBoard (the on-line ringing database) there were 36 performances recorded. This includes six quarter peals with several 'firsts'. Special mention should be made of Combe Raleigh with eleven entries and Woodbury with six entries.

Ian Campbell

1874-2024 Guild Anniversary Update

2024 is now only weeks away, so plans are well underway for various projects to mark the 150th Anniversary of the founding of The Guild of Devonshire Ringers.

Anniversary dinner

The Anniversary Dinner on Friday 15 March will offer an opportunity for members of the Guild and guests to celebrate this special landmark. The evening will include a talk by Lester Yeo, a display of Guild memorabilia, some handbell ringing and an auction.

All those who have places booked for the dinner will be contacted early in the New Year to be asked for their menu choices and for the balance of payment for the meal (£32). These will be required not later than February 1.

Due to a small number of cancellations, a few places have become available for the dinner. There is a waiting list, so those at the top are being contacted and offered these places.

Guild Service of Thanksgiving

A Service of Thanksgiving is being planned for 2024, when it is hoped that many members of the Guild, guests and friends will attend.

Special ringing for the Anniversary year

Have you considered doing some special ringing next year to mark the Anniversary? A page is being set up on the Guild website with suggestions for compositions and methods that you might like to ring during the year. This includes Devonshire Surprise Major (and Royal and Maximus) and compositions of 150 changes in various methods from Grandsire Doubles upwards.

There will be a link on BellBoard so that all celebratory ringing can be linked and recorded together. There will also be a list of '150 Ringing-Related Things to Do', which is intended to offer ideas for ringers of all levels of experience, including learners and novices. Additional ideas will be welcome. Please keep your eye on the Guild website for details, which will be published early in the New Year.

The special calendar

By the time you read this we will have sold nearly 250 Ringing World calendars for 2024. In a joint project between the Guild, the Association and *The Ringing World* we put together a special Devon edition with extra pages for our 150th anniversary year and to mark the Association's centenary in 2025. The locations and images chosen make a wonderful evocation of Devon's varied landscape which will appeal to ringers everywhere. It is expected that a significant contribution will be made to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund (DCBRF) as a result of sales. Copies are available to purchase from *The Ringing World* Shop at £10 including postage.



Look the part! - Guild clothing order

Would you like to order something new? A clothing order on behalf of Guild members will be placed early in the New Year. These items will feature the green logo and will celebrate the 150th anniversary. You will soon find details on the website, where you can place your order.

Guild Badges



Charlotte has a stock of Guild Badges for sale at £5 each. They are just the accessory for 2024. Please contact Charlotte (treasurer@devonringers.org.uk) if you would like make a purchase.

New history of the Guild

Orders for this new book written and edited by Lester Yeo are now being taken. The publication will be an illustrated hard-cover book of about 180 pages and is the result of extensive research by Lester which has uncovered many new and interesting facts about the early history of the Guild as well as continuing its story up to the present day.

The book contains John Scott's very readable original centenary history published in 1974, supplemented by footnotes and a section of biographical notes on twenty of the key personalities who shaped the Guild in its earlier years together with Lester's history 1974 – 2023. You can get a flavour of the project from Lester's very entertaining talk given at the Withercombe Raleigh striking competition in October which was videoed and is available on YouTube (link from the Guild 150th anniversary page - <https://devonringers.org.uk/guild/guild-150th-anniversary>). You can also go to this page to order your reduced price (£12) copy of the book by 10 January and have your name printed in the book as a subscriber. When published in March the full price will be £15. There is a sample chapter from the book reproduced below.

Members of the Working Group

Welcome to our visitors

Central Council weekend - September 2024

Another special event in the calendar for the Guild's 150th anniversary year is the Central Council Meeting, which for 2024 we are proud to be hosting in Devon. A small team is meeting regularly with representatives from the Central Council to plan the weekend (Friday 6 to Sunday 8 September), which will be held in Exeter. This will be a big occasion: approximately 200 Central Council people will be descending on us that weekend. The format of the weekend is likely to be as follows:

- Friday afternoon: Open ringing at a number of towers which are on the route to Exeter
- Friday evening: Registration followed by a social evening at The Imperial Hotel
- Saturday: Meeting to take place at a venue in Exeter. The team has visited many venues and identified a short list which is now being considered by the CC Executive)

- Saturday evening: ringing and a social evening at a venue, probably on Exeter Quay
- Sunday morning: CC reps to help out with service ringing at towers

We hope that Guild members will want to take part in the ringing and social events and will also drop into the CC Workshop presentations on the Saturday. If you would be willing to help with organising the weekend, please contact John Martin Secretary@devonringers.org.uk now, as we would like to increase the size of the organising team. Hosting this event is a big undertaking, so offers of help from Guild members on the weekend will also be appreciated. In the Spring there will be advertisements for people to help with stewarding at various times during that weekend.

Members of the Working Group

Fluid Prejudice?

Thoughts about writing a history of the Devon Guild



I believe it was Mark Twain who said, 'The very ink with which history is written is merely fluid prejudice.' I hope that in continuing John Scott's centenary Guild history to the present day, the prejudices I have are as well-behaved and timid as possible. Perhaps by using a word processor, I have even kept them in their proper place!

I began by dictating John's book into my computer, in order to imitate the way he wrote. I encountered some idiosyncratic punctuation, and a number of minor factual errors: John was very good at confusing people with the same surname, for example. And so it became clear that as well as writing something fresh about the fifty years that I have been a member of the Guild, I would need to do some editing – and some expansion – of the original work. For the chapters on recent history, I read and took notes on every Guild report since 1975, every issue of *Ringing Round Devon*, every minute taken at Guild meetings. I also spoke to a number of members to clarify some of those issues where my memory was hazy or incomplete. And then I was in a position to cobble together some sort of text, in which the different aspects of the Guild's development were dealt with in the order they arose, but their history carried through to the present. I also included biographies of some of the leading Guild members taken from their obituaries; if they are still alive, they only received a brief mention!

But the editing of John's history proved to be a much larger task. He mostly drew on old Guild reports and minutes, and since 1975 much more material has been made available, including easy access to the ringing press of the period (Church Bells, Bell News

etc...). So as well as correcting the minor errors, I added footnotes that expanded on what was there previously, but then discovered that there was so much further information on the major players in the early history of change ringing in Devon and of the Guild, that it was desirable to include some additional biographical notes. Mornings were spent in the Devon Record Office, the Exeter Cathedral Library, and the Devon and Exeter Institution, looking at everything relevant that I could find, especially on the Fulford family at Woodbury, as well as on Charles Pearson (who was elected President but declined to serve) and Robert Trefusis (the Guild Secretary who became the first Bishop of Crediton), whom John failed to mention.

A number of people were very helpful. John Eisel, the former CC librarian, is very knowledgeable about the early history of change-ringing, as was the late Dick Bowden. Mike Mears answered every question about the Guild's significant peals very promptly. Les Boyce was always very supportive and encouraging, and delighted to learn about areas of the Guild's history of which he had not been aware. I am so grateful to all who offered help.

Proofreading is always a challenge, as there is also the temptation to tinker with the text, to improve the style or to slip in a newly discovered gobblet of fact. And even the indexing brought to light one of John's mistakes, that I had not noticed before – at one point he confused William Marsh with Walter Marsh. But that makes me very conscious of the difficulties in writing history, apart from the risk of bias: there are always so many loose ends, so many further avenues that need to be explored. For I have not yet discovered whether William and Walter were father and son, or brothers, or just happened to share the same surname!

So I know that there will be many gaps, and perhaps a few mistakes in the new Guild history: the errors are all mine. But I am really looking forward to seeing it published, and I'm certain that every active Guild tower will want to have a copy in their library, not to mention many individual members who will want one on their shelves.

Lester Yeo

An Extract from the New Guild History



Ferris Shepherd

Ferris Shepherd. 1857 - 1921

'A painstaking and skilful instructor'

The early history of the Guild reveals a rivalry between the bands in the Three Towns and Exeter, each proudly recording their 'firsts'. In Plymouth, the initial leader in promoting method-ringing was clearly William Banister, but there is no obvious single person

who fulfilled a similar role in Exeter. But the most prominent of the Exeter ringers, from his election to the Guild in 1876 until his departure for Ireland in 1904, was Ferris Shepherd. Described at the time of his election as a carpenter by trade, but subsequently as a builder, Shepherd was a member of a ringing family that dominated Exeter ringing during this period. With his three brothers in the band, he called a peal of Grandsire Triples at St Sidwell's in 1884, and he later rang a handbell peal with his three sons. The RW obituary records that 'he had long desired to ring a quarter-peal with Mrs W Shepherd, wife of one of his sons, and this event practically brought his ringing life to a close'! But the earliest records of the activity of the St Sidwell ringers, when there were two bands, one attempting to learn method, the other persisting in prize ringing, do not mention any of the Shepherd family, even though the obituary claims that he learnt to ring at an early age. He only became a member of the St Sidwell's Society in 1875, when in his late teens and learning to ring, and by this time the change-ringing society had total control of the tower. He offered to make peal boards for the significant peals rung by the band, and even redecorated the ringing chamber in 1883. After a contested election and a secret ballot, he became its Ringing Master in 1887.

Not only was Ferris Shepherd involved in the peal ringing in Exeter (he rang his first peal at St Sidwell's in 1879, when W Bartholomew Fulford was the tower captain), but he also took an active role in providing instruction to local towers who wished to learn to ring method. He was one of the instructors appointed by the Guild for the Exeter area, and, for example, in 1883, he was giving training to the bands at Bradninch and Kenn; when the new bells in Heavitree were installed in 1897, and a new band created, Shepherd became its instructor, and eventually transferred his membership there from St Sidwell's. His service to ringing was exemplified by his being elected a Central Council representative for two triennia, and the Guild's assistant secretary for the archdeaconry from 1890 until he left Devon. Furthermore he appears to have acted as a peacemaker when there were disagreements; when in 1899, the St Sidwell's ringers objected to the ringers from more than one tower being invited to form a band to open newly restored or augmented bells, it was Ferris Shepherd who came up with a satisfactory compromise that appears to have satisfied the objectors, as the members who had resigned over the issue quickly rejoined the Guild.

Shepherd had rung a peal at Alphington with the St Sidwell's ringers in 1880, but he was not in the local band peal at St Sidwell's in 1881, possibly because he was not yet a full member of the tower. Yet his name predominates in the list of conductors of early Guild peals in the Exeter area; the only contenders are his brother Edwin, and Richard French, an Exeter ringer who had moved away to London. In 1887, Ferris conducted the first peal in Dorset, and the first peal on the ten at St Sidwell's after augmentation in 1891, which was the first peal of Caters by the Guild, and first on ten in the county. He called the first peal at Heavitree in 1898, and by 1900, some of the local band that he had trained were able to take part in a peal there. And although he had objected to the proposed recasting of the tenor at the Cathedral when those bells came to be restored, arguing that the new bell would not be of such a good tone as its predecessor, he was the only local ringer to take part in the first peal on the bells, strapping the tenor to Grandsire Caters, 'all the band being much gratified that one who had taken such a prominent place as a ringer in Exeter should be among those who scored the first peal on the noble bells of the Cathedral'. On a visit to Exeter in 1906, he and his son rang a peal of Stedman Triples at St David's, the first by an Exeter band, and when a St Sidwell's band rang its first peal of Stedman Caters in 1909, Shepherd was prompt in offering his congratulations from Ireland.

He moved to Arklow in 1904, and was presented with a clock 'of chaste design' by the Heavitree ringers, who described him as 'the father of the band'. The Guild too determined that he should not depart without some acknowledgement of his contribution to ringing in Devon; on his behalf his son accepted an illuminated

address together with a gold watch-chain, bell pendant and cuff links – the testimonial states that he had rung sixty peals with the Guild, of which he had conducted twenty-eight. During his stay in Ireland he rang a number of peals, mostly at Arklow, with James Washbrook; they had been in a peal of Stedman Caters together at St Sidwell's back in 1892. His total number of peals was 113, including three handbell peals, including the peal with his sons. In 1908 he returned to England to be close to his family, and lived (and rang) at Hershaw in Surrey. In old age his health deteriorated, as his asthma progressed, and for the last two months of his life, he was bedridden; he died in April 1921.

Lester Yeo

Items of historical interest in your Tower or your Branch?

Does your tower or your branch have any items of historical interest that you might be willing to lend for display at the Guild's 150th anniversary dinner?

Such as:



For the Guild's 150th Anniversary Dinner, on Friday 15 March, which is being held at The Devon Hotel in Exeter, we would like to mount a display of objects of interest from across the Guild, over as wide a time span as we can manage – items such as shields, medals, cups, peal boards, minute books, photographs, early magazines, newsletters, certificates from competitions or . . . The display will be organised so as to ensure that items are kept safely throughout the evening.



A dinner ticket from the centenary dinner in 1974. A little cheaper than the one fifty years later! Loaned by Graham Tucker

The 150th Anniversary Working Group would be grateful to have offers of items for display on this occasion - or suggestions of items that you think might be available for the purpose. If you have something to offer, or to suggest, please email me – rittermanje@gmail.com

Janet Ritterman, on behalf of the Working Group

Recording of debrief from Central Council Meeting

For those who were unable to attend the debrief from our Central Council members a recording is available on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AH_z2sO4o6Q

John Martin

Update from the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund

So far in 2023 four projects have been completed, seeing us pay out a total of £4,980. This isn't to say that we aren't busy, with inspections at 14 different churches across the county having been carried out and several applications received and forms sent. We also held our usual two meetings during the year on 17 March and 18 November.

Income for the year up to 31 October 2023 – £18,753

Some notable amounts are as follows:

- £7,585 – the Smale Bequest Investment Portfolio (one further payment is due meaning income should be around £10,000 from this source in 2023)
- £1,338 – Bank Interest
- £2,121 – Devon Association towers and events
- £3,903 – Guild of Devonshire Ringers and its branches
- £1,187 – personal and miscellaneous donations
- £1,200 – tower inspections by DCBRF Trustees
- £920 – Donations via the CAF button on both Guild and Association websites
- £80.80 – Amazon.Smile (last payment as this has now stopped)

Grants paid in 2023 - £4,980

- £3,700 to Huntshaw to have their three bells rehung, one for swing chiming and the others for electronic chiming (for now!)
- £300 to Tiverton St Paul for new clappers
- £380 to Sampford Peverell for the replacement of the tenor gudgeon
- £600 to Stoodleigh for welding the cracked treble

Grants offered in 2023 - £18,950

We have offered grants to nine projects in 2023 totalling £18,950. You must bear in mind this is only 10% of the overall cost of these projects, meaning the actual cost is an eye-watering £189,500 including VAT. Something as seemingly straightforward and simple as repainting a frame currently costs anything from £12,000 - £16,000. I suspect this is a job that needs doing in many a tower in Devon, particularly those near to the coast or moors.

- £800 – Tedburn St Mary for repair to the bell pads on 2nd and Tenor, rebushing of the clappers and a refurbishment of the bearings
- £1,500 – Holcombe Burnell for work on the sub frame
- £1,250 – Colaton Raleigh where work is needed to stabilise the frame, repair cracked headstocks on the 5th and tenor, plus an overhaul of the bearings and clappers
- £2,400 – Tiverton St Peter who are having a general overhaul for the 100th anniversary of the bells including replacing mesh, refurbishing (or replacing where necessary) the clappers, wheels and bearings, repainting the steel foundation beams and cast-iron A frames



- £1,600 – Tawstock where the bell frame has been repainted plus general maintenance of all woodwork
- £6,800 – Kingswear who are augmenting the ring of three to a ring of six, repainting the frame and refurbishing of the tenor wheel
- £1,450 – Malborough to repaint the frame
- £1,900 – Sidmouth to repaint the bell frame and replace the mesh walkways
- £1,250 – Talaton to repaint the frame

Grants offered pre 2023 but not paid - £17,300

- Bigbury – £6,250 agreed – Complete rehang using refurbished original frame
- Ilfracombe St Philip & St James – £2,000 - general refurbishment
- Hatherleigh – £8,100 - complete rehang
- Uplyme – £950 - repainting the frame

This means the total committed funds comes to £36,250 which is more than we have in our current account as it stands today. Therefore, if all the projects listed above were to complete in the very near future we would have to delve into the savings account which is something we have little desire to do, bearing in mind they have earned us over £1,200 already this year. Thankfully, we have small amounts of almost guaranteed income from our investments due by year end which will cover the shortfall.

There are a further seven application forms that have been sent out but not returned yet. Of those, four are complete rehangs, either using the existing frame or having a new frame. So, if we were to offer our usual 10% this could see us committing a further £24,000. As you can see, we still need everyone to continue to raise funds and give generously whenever possible. Please don't forget to have your bucket collections at events and provide us with the postcode of where it took place, as we can then claim the gift aid. As ever, all donations are very gratefully received and put to immediate and very good use.

Janet Deem, Secretary, DCBRF

Guild subscriptions

The new online membership system is now available for all members to use to make their 2024 annual subscription payment. You will find more information and explanation at the following webpage: <https://devonringers.org.uk/guild/guild-membership-subscription-form>.

On that page you will find links to short YouTube videos which provide walk-throughs showing how to sign up with the membership subscription system and make a subscription payment along with a walk-through of how to use the membership system at any time to:

- Update contact details
- Access documentation, including the Guild annual report
- Make optional donations and pay tower affiliation fees

You are strongly encouraged to make use of the facility to pay your annual subscription using a debit or credit card as this will reduce the effort required to administer subscriptions by our volunteer branch and Guild officers.

Your payment from now on will confirm your membership through to the end of 2024.

One member from each tower should use the system (via the 'Store' section) to pay the affiliation fee for the tower.

If someone is unable to use the online system to renew their membership, it is possible for another member to complete it for them via their own renewal.

This may all sound a bit complicated, but my advice is to follow the link to the Guild website above, watch the videos and take it from there!

John Martin, Guild Secretary

Obituaries

In loving memory of Pat Hatchett (17.06.1933 – 16.10.2023)



Pat started learning to ring in 1965, being taught by Mike Hatchett. Although it started out with him simply being her tutor, the relationship blossomed and they married in 1972. Pat enjoyed ringing but never chose to ring a peal or progress to Surprise methods. However, she learnt a great deal during these years which she enjoyed putting to good use for Sunday service and practice night ringing. She was a great observer, especially around novice ringers learning bell handling, and would kindly identify faults missed by the tutor and offer ideas to improve the learner's technique.

Throughout her life, Pat also enjoyed sport. At the age of eight she was playing rounders competitively and realised the importance of the bowler, back stop and first post trio. She and two of her school friends practised these positions every day until they had perfected their actions, which led to them rarely losing a game. She always said the secret to success was frequent and focussed practice, and this became her motto for life. Pat also enjoyed playing tennis, but when she no longer able to reach the high standard she had set herself, she decided to take up squash. Mike would work late on a Tuesday evening, which coincided with Pat's squash club night. When he arrived to take her home, Mike recalls that she would come out of the club, red in the face and say, 'I really enjoyed that; I won again!' A man at least 20 years her junior would then exit the club looking very cross, get into his car and roar off. Pat would chuckle and respond, 'Oh well, he'll get over it'. For any keen squash players out there, Pat said it was all about the placement; putting the ball where the opponent couldn't reach it and not just hitting it as hard as you can. When Pat was no longer able to play at the intensity she wanted, she took up bowls and again reached a very high standard, playing competitively for her Tiverton club.

Another of Pat's great loves was bird watching and when she was no longer able to go out into the countryside to twitch, she enjoyed watching the birds that came to visit the numerous bird feeders situated around the house and garden.

Prior to married life, Pat worked in the beauty industry. She initially trained at a London college before opening her own beauty salon. She gave up her business after having children, Mark and David, but continued to work as a beautician from home on a private basis. Even in her later years, Pat took great pride in her appearance and always looked a million dollars.

Many years ago, when Huntsham parish merged with Bampton and three other churches to form the Hukeley Mission Community, Pat visited Troyte's ring of eight at Huntsham and was shocked at the terrible state of repair it was in; the tower leaked and the floor was rotten and dangerous. Pat was keen to work with Mike to raise the funds needed to repair and restore the tower to create the Troyte Ringing Centre. Over a two-year period, Pat identified a range of people to contact and Mike began writing letters in the hope they would be able to raise the initial £65,000 needed to start restoration work. Pat would repeatedly say, 'This is all about little and often; write one letter a day which the recipient cannot ignore, and the money will come in'. Incredibly, the funds were raised within just two years, allowing the work to take place. After the Huntsham project was completed Pat said, 'I don't think anyone else will do what we have done, so why don't we continue to raise funds so that in 50 or so years' time all the funds needed to rehang these bells will be available for the work to take place, and no-one will have to write all those letters again.' At the time of her passing, the funds for future major works on the Huntsham ring of eight and the Bampton ring of six bells exceed £27,000 in value.

In the fifty plus years Pat and Mike were married, together they made over 5000 jars of marmalade and a similar amount of apple chutney. At today's prices, they raised about £20,000 for their local churches. In addition, when visitors came to ring at Bampton or Huntsham, Pat would provide tea and cakes for refreshments. Not only did this give a warm welcome, but any donations given would go into the bell fund. Very few people know what Pat did over her lifetime to create and encourage the growth of these funds, neither did she expect or seek praise or recognition for her hard work and tenacity which has helped preserve local churches for future generations.

Pat's very last words on the evening before she passed away were to ask for her shoes as she 'was going walking'. This is a lesson to us all; never give up. Instead, keep on taking small steps, even when the going is tough, and no-one notices what you are doing. Pat was very much loved throughout her life and will be greatly missed by her friends and family. She has, however, left a great legacy for future generations of ringers and the local community.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Bishopsteignton, Devon, Bishops-Ting-Tong

Tuesday, 17 October 2023 in 1h 49

5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (20m)

(1) London, Wells, Cunecastre (2) Chester, Carlisle, Munden
(3) Durham, Beverley, Berwick, Hexham, Surfleet (4) Westminster, Allendale (5) York, Durham (6) Surfleet, Beverley, Berwick, Hexham
(6) Cambridge, Norfolk, Ipswich, Hull, Primrose, Bourne

1 Ian W Avery	4 James Kirkcaldy
2 P Wendy Campbell	5 John A Foster
3 Peter L Bill	6 Michael E C Mears (C)

In memory of Pat Hatchett

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Bovey Tracey, Devon, Wobbly Bob's Campanile

Tuesday, 24 October 2023 in 1h 52

5024 Yorkshire Surprise Major

By Robert D S Brown

1 Roger King	5 Charlotte A Boyce
2 Peter M C Richards	6 James Kirkcaldy
3 Ian W Avery	7 Robert D S Brown (C)
4 John R Martin	8 David Hird

In fond memory of Pat Hatchett

Lesley Nipe, with some help from Mike Hatchett

Ernie Price



St Marychurch ringers were very sorry to hear that Ernie Pryce died on 1 October. He last rang with us in late April and had been looking forward to ringing for the Coronation but did not feel up to climbing our stairs. Soon after that he suffered a stroke and moved into Didsbury Court residential home where he died peacefully.

Ernie learned to ring at his home church of Cornwood, following his father into the tower. He first started work as an agricultural engineer repairing machinery round the farms on the edge of Dartmoor. National Service was in the Military Police and on returning home he soon decided to join the Devon Police force. His early postings took him to the South Hams where he soon fitted in well to his role as a rural 'Bobby'. He rang at several churches in the area and always retained a great affection for his time there. Eventually he moved to Torquay and promotion to Sergeant. This is where he joined the St Marychurch band of ringers. In the 1970s St Marychurch bells were far from easy to ring, having been derelict since the Second World War when the church was bombed. They were re-started in 1975 but Taylors had inspected them just prior to hostilities so they were obviously not in a good state even then. Eventually a plan evolved to rehang them and augment to ten. Most of the early work was done by the ringers and Ernie was a key member of the team.

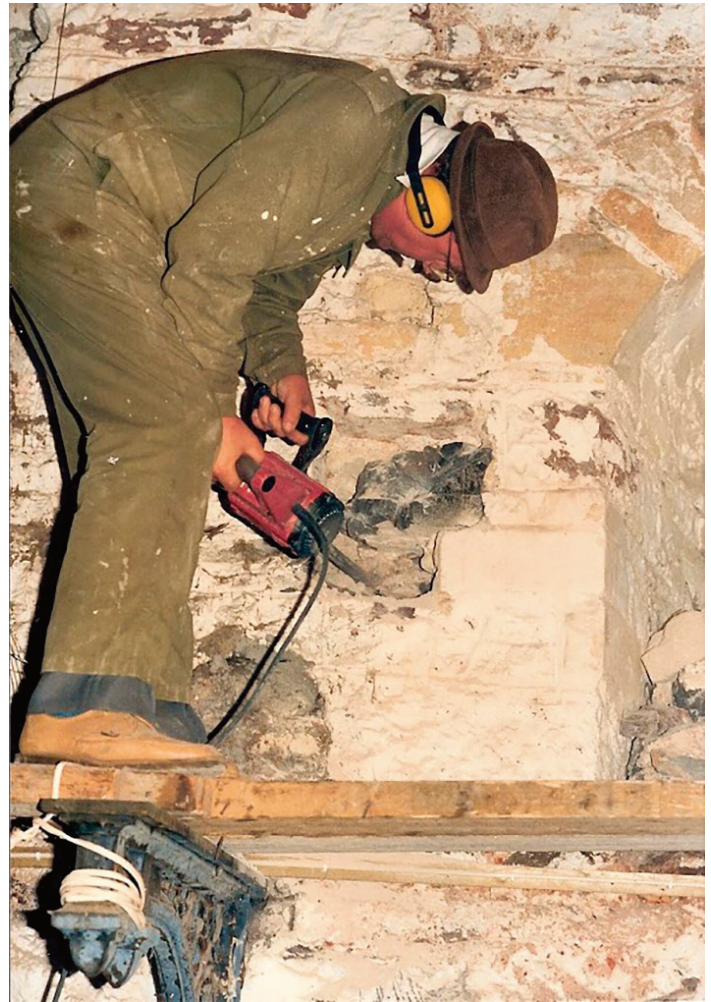
Once the bells and frame were removed quite deep holes were required to be dug into the walls to take the new foundation beams. This was a tough job and Ernie managed to persuade a hire firm to lend us a Kango hammer at no cost. Quite a few hours were spent on rather rickety scaffolding working our way deeper into the very hard stonework.

Ernie was often to be seen helping out with this back breaking work. He even managed to cadge another hammer when we burned out the first one! Outside ringing he was a keen golfer and member of several masonic lodges. His participation in these activities was very much valued by his colleagues.

Although a call change ringer at heart he was always willing to ring the tenor behind to methods. If we were ringing call changes he often liked to leave the tenor and venture nearer to the 'shallow end'. He was a regular presence each Sunday morning and always willing to help out for special occasions or weddings.

He is very much missed by all the band. At his funeral the bells were half muffled and we rang a touch of Grandsire Caters. We also rang 'whole pull and stand' at his request – something he often rang the tenor to over the years. We send our very sincere condolences to his family. RIP

Martin Mansley



William (Bill) James Harvey 20 June 1929 – 3 November 2023



William Harvey, normally referred to as Bill, was born on 20 June 1929 at Totnes to parents Harriet and Tom; the latter died as a Japanese POW during the Second World War. Neither were ringers but Bill had ringing in the family with relatives who were ringers at Dartington and Harberton.

Bill had a wide and varied career not only in terms of ringing but also linked very much to his service with the Police: firstly the

Devon Constabulary and then on amalgamation to become the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary. In those days you were moved fairly often, giving the opportunity to join local bands across the county. Bill served over 30 years, retiring in 1983 with exemplary service.

Bill was very much the family man, having married Valerie in 1956. Val also became a ringer, and they had two children: Wendy, another ringer, and Tom, the singer and musician of the family.

In terms of ringing Bill learnt to ring at Totnes when ringing was resumed after WW2. On the 24 August 1946 he was elected a member of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers. Val Harvey was elected to the Guild in 1956 and Wendy Harvey in 1966. Bill was made a vice-president of the Guild in 2008.

Bill rang at Totnes until he joined the Police in 1953. He was initially posted to Oreston, Plymouth and at that point joined the band at St Andrew's, Plymouth under G Harry Myers.

In 1956 on being posted to Torquay he and others tried to get ringing going again at Tormohun (also known as Tor Church), but struggled. Having moved to Torbay he switched allegiance from the South West Branch to the Mid Devon Branch, only to switch back when he was posted to Lifton the following year.

That posting only lasted a short period as he was soon posted back to Torquay and went back ringing at Tormohun. He was captain there from 1960 to 1962, having taken over from Bill Simmonds. In 1960 he joined the National Guild of Police Ringers and actively supported them when they came down towards the South West. He also rang three peals for them.

In 1962 he was transferred to Topsham, where Roy Berry was the captain at the time and in 1964 was appointed a member of the band at Exeter Cathedral.

In 1965 he was transferred to Exmouth and became an unattached member of the Aylesbeare Branch, eventually serving on the general committee from 1972 to 1974. He also rang at Withercombe Raleigh to help them out.

In 1980 he relinquished membership of the Cathedral band and, also according to his records, stopped helping at Withercombe Raleigh as 'unable to accept the captain's views on the speed of ringing'.

In the 1980s he regularly rang quarter peals at Totnes, arranged by Wendy and in the early 90s taught Natalie, his granddaughter, to ring at Topsham.

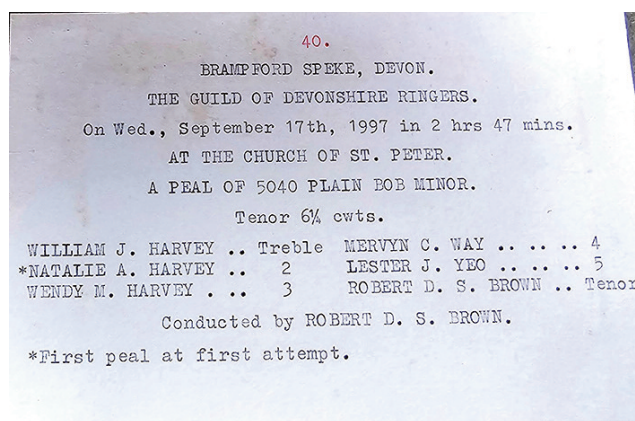
Bill loved his ringing, particularly good striking, and if it wasn't, you would definitely know about it. Whilst a keen method ringer he would always favour good striking over everything else, preferring to ringing good call changes over poor method and was more than happy to have an evening or trip out with a call change band. As such he was also well known in the local call change scene and was a regular supporter of the Moorland Ringing Society on their Friday night and day trips out.

In the 1970s he brought together a band that attempted to ring 5040 call changes, a full peal, but with every change called manually. Sadly, this foundered after two hours. The band on that occasion was made up of Bill and Ian Avery, Bert Wheeler, who was a member of the Police ringing team at Wolborough, John Foster, James Clarke, Don Roberts and Frank Mack as well, of course, as Bill who called the changes. This was an attempt to beat the previous record of 2,861 changes that was set by the North Tawton Band in 1914. A full 5040 call change peal was not achieved until March 1990 at Buckland in the Moor. Although not ringing in the band Bill had kept a copy of the peal report in his records and on speaking with Graham Pascoe, he told me how Bill had rung him up prior to the attempt to wish the band luck.

Bill was not a prolific peal ringer, ringing 40 peals and 229 quarter peals in total.

His first peal was at Dean Prior on 29 March 1952, called by E Maurice Atkins, and his last and probably one of his proudest peals was at Bramford Speke on 17 September 1997 which allowed three generations of the Harvey family to ring a peal together and which was also Natalie Harvey's first peal.

Bill also rang peals for some notable occasions, particularly a peal at Totnes (his leading tower for peals) for the Coronation of



the Queen on 6 June 1953, recorded by a peal board in the tower. A few weeks later he rang another Coronation peal, this time at Highweek where there is a small framed peal card in the tower. The significance of this was that earlier this year (2023) we rang a peal at Highweek for the Coronation of King Charles. Bill and Wendy came to listen to the end of the peal and joined the band afterwards in the Highweek Inn. Bill was the only surviving member of the 1953 band and him being able to get there provided a unique link between the two events. He really enjoyed being there and the after-peal repartee. This was also probably his last trip out where ringing was involved.



Details of the Totnes Peal

Bill was always one who was not backward in coming forward, whether it was an opinion on the retuning and rehangings of the bells at St Andrew's, Plymouth, the quality of ringing or the state of policing. He also knew very much what he liked and didn't like and again liked routine. It was a standing joke that every Tuesday he would go to the White Horse at Woodbury Salterton and have ham, egg and chips, but without the egg.

Sadly, Bill passed away at the beginning of November and given his age he was very much one of the last of that generation. He has had a life well lived and whilst it was his time and he is reunited with Val, he will be missed by those he has left behind. Rest in Peace, old friend.

Two peals have been rung in his memory:

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Uffculme, Devon, The Piglet Ring
Sunday, 5 November 2023 in 2h 15
5184 Whiz Bang Delight Major
By R D S Brown

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Lesley A Knipe | 5 Robert D S Brown |
| 2 Jane C Spencer | 6 John A Foster |
| 3 Charlotte A Boyce | 7 John R Martin (C) |
| 4 Michael R Spencer | 8 Paul J Pascoe |

First peal in the method.

Celebrating the life of William (Bill) J Harvey.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Huntsham, Devon, All Saints

Thursday, 9 November 2023 in 2h 41

5040 Surprise Minor (7m)

1 extent each of London, Westminster, Allendale, York, Beverley, Surfleet, Cambridge

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Michael Hatchett | 4 Lesley A Knipe |
| 2 Richard H Johnston | 5 James Kirkcaldy |
| 3 Jane C Spencer | 6 Fergus M S Stracey (C) |

Thanking Nick Lawrence for standing down.

Remembering Bill Harvey

Robert Brown

Gay Harris

Gay Harris sadly passed away on Friday 17 November after a few days in hospital. It is planned to have a service of thanksgiving for her some time in December. Gay rang for many years at Topsham until ill health prevented her ringing.

Matt Pym

East Devon Branch

Raising and Lowering Practice at Huntsham

On Saturday 23 September Lesley Houghton and I ventured up to All Saints at Huntsham for an extended practice in raising and lowering in peal.

Les Boyce and Sheila Scofield, of the Troyte Ringing Centre, aided by five other excellent ringers, tutored, supported and guided us through, willingly sharing their wealth of ringing knowledge and expertise. Places on the session were limited to four, which resulted in plenty of rope time for us all, with attention being given to help us individually with our own particular difficulties. Initially we were ringing just three bells, but by the end of the morning we were all raising and lowering on the six more confidently than we had been three hours previously. The outing was much enjoyed by us both and I hope that I'll remember at least some of the very valuable lessons in practice.



L to R: Sheila, Annie, Lesley, Les

Annie Ashton



East Devon Ladies

On the morning of 8 November fourteen East Devon ladies managed to assemble by 9.30 to ring at Blessed Virgin Mary, Aylesbeare. The tenor of the ground floor six was a challenge to raise but apart from this the bells were just fine and Doubles methods were successfully brought round. The church was being repaired and was full of projects, ideas and displays reflecting efforts to keep this building at the centre of the village. There was a poppy display hung above the centre aisle moving gently as the breeze from outside entered the church.

Coffee, tea, lemon drizzle cake and jam and cream sponge were enjoyed at the New Fountain Inn, Wimple. The bells were tied for simulator training in St Mary's but were still a joy to ring and provided successful courses of Doubles and Minor. It was such fun to meet locals and have catch ups all morning.

Thanks go to Sue King for taking her turn to arrange this morning, to Judith and Sara for running the towers and as ever to Mo Davey for keeping us all together. Thank you, ladies.

Delie Perry

Sidmouth Tower Outing, 18 November 2023

Jon Rose kindly organised an outing for us to ring at some beautiful churches in Somerset and we were joined by friends from Crowcombe, also in Somerset, where Jon used to ring.

So, early on Saturday morning twelve ringers from Sidmouth made their way in three cars to St Andrew's at Whitestaunton (6 bells, tenor 10-1-9), where we met with eleven friends from Crowcombe. Both towers fielded a mix of new and experienced ringers. The ringing chamber was above the entrance and boasted a rather scary glass panel in the middle of the floor. We rang several sessions of rounds and call changes interspersed with Plain Bob and Stedman Doubles Stedman, so that each could have a go.

After our first church, we had a very welcome break for coffee and cakes at Barleymow's Farm Shop near Chard and then made our way to our second church at Combe St Nicholas, a ground floor ring of 6 bells, tenor 14cwt. There was a very fine walnut tree laden with fruit in the churchyard. Again we rang rounds and call changes with some method ringing.



Lunch

Lunch time then beckoned and we had a pleasant interlude at the George Inn at Donyatt before walking round the corner to our third church, the Blessed Virgin Mary with 5 bells, tenor 11-1-16, high up in the tower. We could feel the tower swaying as we rang the heavy bells.

We came out to meet a rain shower and quickly drove on to our final church of the day, St Aldhelm and St Eadburgha's at Broadway, with 6 bells, tenor 11-0-9, where we climbed up a wooden ladder through a trap door to the ringing chamber. Again we rang rounds and call changes and some method to suit everyone.

Afterwards we bade farewell to our friends from Crowcombe and returned in the dark back home to Sidmouth, arriving at 5.30pm after a full and happy day of ringing.

Thanks go to Jon for organising the outing, to the car drivers who wended their way along the narrow Somerset lanes with great fortitude and skill, and to all who came along to enjoy the splendid day out.

Lesley Houghton

90th Birthday Celebrations at Sidmouth



Marion with some of the Sidmouth ringers at her 90th birthday celebrations

November 2023 saw Marion Baker celebrating her 90th birthday. Many of you will know Marion through her long association with the bells of Sidmouth parish church.

Marion's father – Percy Davis – was tower captain there for over 60 years until 1987 when arthritis prevented him from climbing the 45 steps to the ringing chamber. During that time Percy taught many Sidmothians to ring bells – including Marion and her son, Graham. Marion learnt to ring when she was a young teenager, and some may remember an article a few years ago when we celebrated her 70 years of ringing. She continued regularly ringing each Sunday morning and Tuesday practice until all ringing ceased during the pandemic. Sadly, when we were able to ring together again, Marion was unable to join us. However, she is always keen to learn who is ringing the bells, and what we are ringing and generally keeps in touch with the ringers. Whilst chatting to former and current ringers the same message was coming through – 'I appreciated it that Marion always took an interest in my ringing, explained things to me and encouraged me'. Graham still rings at Sidmouth, so there may well have been a 'Davies-Baker' in the tower for 100 years.

Although no longer able to ring tower bells, Marion joins some of us for some 'online' ringing, at which she has proved most adept. This involves a bit of Zoom technology so the ringers can see each other coupled with a software programme called 'Ringing Room' where a circle of bell ropes appears on the screen. Ringing is carried out by tapping the space bar of a computer keyboard with one's finger whilst sitting in the comfort of one's own home!!! So, Marion has attained 90 years with a lifetime of experience in ringing bells and all else. The Sidmouth ringers decided to mark the occasion by doing a 'special ring' during practice night early in November. Marion could listen to the ringing and afterwards share bubbly and nibbles. This allowed her the opportunity to chat with former and current ringers as well as to meet some of our

new recruits. On the following Sunday 5 November, we rang a quarter peal for Evensong and to mark Marion's 90th birthday. Very many congratulations, Marion.

Sidmouth, Devon, St Giles and St Nicholas

Sunday, 5 November 2023 in 43m

1260 Mixed Doubles (6m)

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Jeff J Bailey | 4 Elisabeth Robertson |
| 2 Anne E Bailey | 5 Paul V M Parkes |
| 3 Revd Jonathan G Rose (C) | 6 Annie Ashton |

Rung for Marion Baker's 90th Birthday. Janet Deem wishes to be associated with this quarter peal.

Rung for Evensong and for the Guild Ringing Festival.

1st quarter peal – 6

Anne Burn

Two items from The Holyford Herald

Congratulations to Grace Bass

Grace is learning to ring at St Winifred's, Branscombe, under the watchful eye of the tower captain, John Bass, who also happens to be her grandfather! She has received her bell handling certificate, which is a core skill in ringing. It represents a considerable level of achievement in managing a bell by ringing faster or slower to fit in with the others, judging carefully by listening to make sure that you place your bell so that it doesn't sound too close or wide to the others. All this requires physical skill and strength.

Ringing is a great pursuit. The ringers are always keen to welcome new recruits! If you are interested in ringing, contact one of our tower captains.

Save Seaton Hospital

Last Saturday our church bells rang out in support of the efforts to save Seaton Hospital. Our thanks go to the ringers who rang at Colyton, Musbury, Branscombe and Colyford.

Fr Steve Martin, The Holyford Herald



Exeter Branch Handbells at the Exeter Branch AGM

The Exeter Branch held its AGM on Saturday 18 November at Pinhoe church. It was well attended by 31 members and guests, and involved an afternoon full of activities.

We started with open ringing at 2pm run by Peter Richards, our Ringing Master. This was followed at 3pm by a short service taken by Reverend Wiz Slater from Pinhoe, which included organ music from Amy Hurlock, and a handbell touch of Kent Royal by members of the Branch.

Following the service, we all moved to the nearby meeting room, where a delicious tea was provided for us all - special thanks go to Wendy Gill, Wendy Campbell and Chris Meijburg for coordinating this.

Richard Johnson (our branch Chair) then opened the AGM promptly at 4pm. All of the officers were re-elected, with the addition of Susan Illing as a general committee member to help with organising and promoting some of the new events we plan to hold next year. We also elected eight new members from Crediton, Lapford and Bondleigh and had lots of interesting discussion around possible events to hold in 2024. The new committee will be meeting soon to discuss this and we hope to circulate a calendar of events in January. The meeting closed at 5pm, after which many members went on to Exeter Cathedral to join the monthly open ringing practice.



Kent Royal on handbells – Alice, Andrew, Sue, Ian, Steph

A short video of the handbell ringing is available at: <https://devonringers.org.uk/newsevents/2023/exeter-branch-agm-2023> or by following the QR code:



Rob Neal (Joint Exeter Branch Secretary)



As you were: an old photo of Exeter Cathedral Ringers



Front: Mary Mears

Row 1 (l to r): Sue Sawyer, David Wills, Nicola Crichton (now Nicola Turner), Peter Sawyer, Mary Mack, Wendy Campbell

Row 2 (l to r): Ian Campbell, Philip Stevens, Michael Mears, James Grant, Elaine Grant, Graham Tucker

Row 3 (l to r): Charles Quartley, Derek Hawkins, Howard Egglestone, Frank Mack, Richard Shere, Rob Franklin, Alan Sinden, Lester Yeo

Thanks go to Graham Tucker who came across this photo in his archives. It is believed to date from 1994.

Wendy Campbell

Mid-Devon Branch

Extracts from Mid-Devon Tower Talk Teignmouth Outing to Dorset

Teignmouth outings always seem to require an early start and this one was no exception! However, the sun was up in an almost cloudless sky as we set off eastwards towards Poole. We had full instructions from Julia re parking and meeting place and fairly clear roads meant that we could enjoy a leisurely cup of coffee before joining the group excitedly meeting on the quayside. The ringers were given top priority so were first to board the ferry to Brownsea Island, the first stop of the day. Vessels of many descriptions were out in Poole Harbour so there was plenty to see on the 15 minutes or so that it took to get to the island. Brownsea is owned and run by the National Trust and one of their volunteers was waiting to greet us on arrival. Soon she had us all marshalled and ready for the short walk to the church. The bells are a 4 cwt ring of eight, so quite a contrast to St Michael's. They took a bit of getting used to but with some careful band placing we were soon getting to grips with them. There is no electricity in the church but on such a lovely sunny day this was not a problem. Once we had finished ringing there was plenty of time to have some lunch and a look round the island. Brownsea has several claims to fame: it was where Lord Baden-Powell held the first Scout Camp to start a world-wide movement and it is also home to a colony of red squirrels. Sadly, none were in evidence during our visit but we still had a very enjoyable time exploring part of the island before our lovely volunteer met us again to get us back to the ferry.

Once we landed back at the quay it was a very short walk to Poole parish church where refreshments were available as it was open for the 'Ride and Stride' day in aid of church conservation. We were soon shown the way to the tower where we found a very fine ring of 10 – at just over 19 cwt these were much closer to bells that we were used to. They really are a lovely set of bells and were much enjoyed by everyone.



Relaxing on Brownsea Island

The last tower was Bridport which involved a fairly long drive but everyone arrived in good time. The guardians of the church for the Ride and Stride event were just packing up when we got there. A few minutes later a cyclist arrived to visit his last church of the day and was relieved when our ringers offered to sign his form to prove he had been there. Bridport are not the easiest of rings and signs of exhaustion were creeping in after a long and quite warm day. Spirits were raised by the prospect of the meal awaiting on the way home.

This was another great outing masterminded by Julia and the novel chance to ring at an island tower will be very happily remembered. Thank you, Julia, and the Teignmouth ringers for such an excellent day.

Photos by Julia Brett and Jeanette Thompson

Branch outing to Somerset

Once again, the decision was made to travel by car. Coach prices have risen dramatically since Covid and, sadly, train travel was again threatened by strikes. First stop was the ring of six at Rockwell Green just outside Wellington. A fairly small ringing room meant we had to ring in shifts but we soon got to grips with these very pleasant bells.

Next were Pitminster, a ground-floor ring of 8. We were made very welcome by the parishioners who were keen to show us round their very interesting church. The bells were soon going to a variety of methods and were much enjoyed. The lovely weather meant that picnics in the churchyard were the order of the day for those who had not taken up Mike's offer of organising a pub lunch.

We then moved towards Taunton, starting with the light ten bells and rather cramped ringing room at Wilton. However we managed to get used to them fairly quickly and ringing included a course of Cloister Caters, which was a new experience for some. We were delighted to see the plaque on the wall commemorating Roger A's father who rang at this tower for over 40 years.

Another ground floor ring was next with the six at Staplegrove. This followed the day's trend - small ringing rooms - but it was made less difficult as there was plenty of room in the churchyard for us all to mingle between touches.



The spacious ringing room at Poole



The crowded ringing chamber at Staplegrove



Ringling at Bridport

Our final tower had been much anticipated and definitely did not disappoint. The ring of twelve at St Mary's (now Taunton Minster) are very fine and well worth the climb to the ringing room. For several of the band this was their first time on twelve. Rounds on twelve predominated in order to accommodate as many of our ringers as possible but we also managed Cloister Caters and Plain Hunt Caters – the Plain Hunt Cinques was not quite so successful! So altogether it was a very successful day with one of our best attendances for a long time. Thank you to all who attended and to the local ringers who came to meet us and make us so welcome.



The assembled company

Photos by Hilary Tompsett and Martin Mansley

Guild 8 bell Competition

This year our Assistant Ringing Master, Mike Wigney, agreed to organise a band to represent the Branch. Two methods were available, and Mike decided to ring Single Oxford Triples. The night before the competition we duly assembled at Wolborough for a practice. Although a bit shaky at first, by the end of the evening we were performing much better. Single Oxford can be described as Grandsire Doubles up to 5ths with the bells in 6-7 doing a three pull dodge. Sounds easy but it requires good concentration.

The draw for the eight bell competition put our team as third to ring so we waited nervously as the other teams all successfully completed their test pieces. One of the local young(er) ringers kindly offered to carry Mike up the stairs and once he was safely seated we were ready for our five minutes practice. Still a bit shaky – definite nerves in evidence. Then four blows on the treble to warn the judges and we were off. As all ringing was judged, Mike soon called ‘Go’ and we were off into Oxford Bob Triples. And... yes – definitely a bit nervy with a few method mistakes – very swiftly corrected and the wonderful sound of ‘that’s all!’ meant that we had, at least, completed the test piece and were not eliminated. One more band to ring and it was back to the hall for the results, where we were declared fourth out of four teams.

We then discovered that only we and the South West Branch rang the harder method, the others choosing Hunslet which is a simple variation of Bob Triples. This meant that morally we had come second – yes, really!! Oh well, at least we entered!

Bovey Tracey Ringer finds fame in *The Ringing World*

Sarah McIntyre is a ‘Ring for the King’ recruit who rings at Bovey Tracey (among other places). In the real world she is an Illustrator who specialises in children’s books. One day she produced a slightly mischievous depiction of a Bovey practice and this went down so well with the Bovey ringers that it appeared on the front cover of *The Ringing World*. She has also collaborated with the RW to produce some Christmas cards which can be obtained from <https://www.ringingworld.co.uk/purchase/shop/christmas-cards.html>. Congratulations to her and we look forward to more from her in the future.

Visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury to Torquay Remembrance Day 2023

A special ringing service was held at 9.15 on Saturday 11 November at St Marychurch when Most Reverend Justin Welby (Archbishop of Canterbury) was the guest. The ringers rallied round, and all ten bells were rung half muffled before the service. Very many thanks to everyone for turning out so early on a Saturday morning. Later the tenor was tolled prior to a very well attended and moving remembrance service held at the Cenotaph in the churchyard.

Martin Mansley

N/NW Branch Plain Hunt Training Morning at Shirwell

Learners from Bratton Fleming and Fremington enjoyed a focused Plain Hunt training session at Shirwell on 11 November, prior to the N/NW Branch AGM. Despite a very chilly day, a good time was had by both learners and their helpers.



Sue King, Education Officer



North-East Branch NE Branch Young Ringers



Eddie is awarded levels 3 & 4 Learning the Ropes certificates at a Bampton practice

Congratulations to Gil on receiving level 1 Learning the Ropes certificate. Gil attended the branch practice at Bampton on 4 November to be awarded his certificate, badge and the Ringer's Guide to Learning the Ropes. Gil starting to ring on the practice bell at Bampton in September 2022 and now rings at Tiverton St Paul with the Young Ringers After School practice during term time. With other commitments it is difficult to fit in much ringing time but he is well into level 2 now.

Eddie learnt to ring initially at the Bampton After School Bell Club in 2019. His ringing came to a halt with Covid, but he has returned with great enthusiasm. Since September 2022 Eddie has attended regular practices at Bampton, joined the Guild and helps at the Young Ringers' practices at Tiverton St Paul each week. He has started to ring quarter peals which has gained him both levels 3 & 4 of Learning the Ropes. Despite nearing his GCSEs he has started to ring Treble Bob and Plain Bob Minor. Eddie was presented with both certificates at a Bampton practice night on the second of November.



Gil receiving his Level 1 certificate, 4 November

Jonah, at Bampton, has started to call call changes during practice night and Fergus is ringing more methods to quarter peals and starting to call touches during our practices.

Well done to the Bampton Young Ringers.

Sheila Scofield

This Conducting Business

This conducting business can't be too difficult, or so I thought, just carry on ringing as per normal and throw in a call of 'bob' every so often, easy. How wrong could I be? Well, as it transpired, very wrong.

When it came to what shall we do for the Guild Ringing Festival I was foolish enough, ignorant enough, to admit to a desire to call a quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles. This was from someone who had never called anything other than perhaps 'present, sir' when the roll call was made all those years ago in school. 'Good idea, look it up'. I was advised.

I turned to the writings of the Professor of all things bell ringing, Steve Coleman, to see what he had to say about it. It quickly became apparent that there was a bit more to it than first appeared, but he seemed to explain it all so simply that it must be simple. Study, study, study, get it clear exactly when you call the 'bob', be confident in the calls and then when it comes round make sure you call 'that's all' in the right place. I must admit that when the time came to put it into practice confidence was sadly lacking. This was indicated by the excessive length of rounds before calling 'go'. Hardly able to hold the rope in my shaking hands we got to the first 'bob' which came out as a bit of a croak. Fortunately my fellow ringers got the message, while I started to worry about the next one. Inevitably I missed it and the whole thing became a shambles, 'stand please' was not the call I had hoped for. My fellow ringers encouraged me to go again with, sadly, the same result. I retired from the fray feeling thoroughly ashamed.

A week later when another opportunity came along it was not much better everything falling apart soon after the second 'bob'. There followed a long lecture on when exactly to call the 'bob', clearly not the point where I was calling it and then a demonstration. Confusingly the call didn't come at the point I'd just been told, so, for me, it was back to the start. Another week, another failure and then a whispered tip from one of the more senior ringers, perhaps this was the secret. Hey ho, it surely was and we sailed through three 'bobs' in fine style. Now for the 'that's all', but in my excitement I called it too early. Some offered congratulations and said well done, but I was brought back to earth when reminded that I hadn't properly completed the full 120. Never mind the quarter peal, at this rate I'd not even make a 120. The Guild Festival was upon us, it was now or never, what happened? A 120 successfully called and even the 'that's all' in the right place. Not a quarter peal; that will have to wait for another day and I need a lot more practice before that happens. Why were my calls in the wrong place and why did I find the demonstration so confusing? I think I've worked it out; there is a delay between the brain deciding something should be done and its actual execution. Does anyone have a better idea (or excuse)?

Trevor Hitchcock

Everything's so Difficult

Everything's so difficult, not just ringing, though ringing has been the big problem for the last few years. Think of all the pieces of advice you've been given, ever since you were a child. Aim high, Keep your eye on the ball and Nose to the grindstone, Ear to the ground, Mouth shut, Chin up, Nose clean, Eyes open, Best foot forward,

Face the music, Keep a stiff upper lip, Play a straight bat and all with your back to the wall. How the hell am I expected to remember even the simplest method while doing all this?

Trevor Hitchcock

South-West Branch

Colin has rung for two Kings, one Queen



Colin Kneebone in 2023

Colin Kneebone, tower captain of Lifton, can look back on more than 70 years of ringing. During that time he has rung for the funeral of King George VI in 1952, the coronation of Elizabeth II in 1953, her funeral in 2022 and the coronation of her son Charles III in 2023.

This amazing achievement was celebrated by a one day ringing festival on which all seven towers in the North Tamar Mission Community (Lifton, Kelly, Bradstone, Stowford, Thrushelton, Lewtrenchard and Broadwoodwidge, the last four being Association towers) were available for ringing on Saturday 18 November from 10am to 4pm.

Additionally learners or the curious about ringing were invited to Lifton St Mary to have a go. At the end of the day a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples in Colin's honour was rung at Lifton, followed by a service where he was commended for his long lasting volunteering services to the community. Thank you, Colin!

Lifton, Devon, St Mary
Saturday, 18 November 2023 in 49m

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1260 Grandsire Triples | |
| 1 Barbera M Hocke | 5 Peter Hinton |
| 2 Sarah Hinton | 6 Andrew Clark |
| 3 Bill Thirtle | 7 Phil Dunn (C) |
| 4 Daniel T Calvert | 8 David Pike |

For the North Tamar Community Ringing Day to celebrate the achievements of Colin Kneebone (tower taptain), who has rung at this tower for over 70 years, including ringing for the death of King George VI, the coronation and death of Queen Elizabeth II and the coronation of King Charles III.



Colin Kneebone (third from left) rang for the coronation of Elizabeth II in 1953

Barbara Hocke

Ring for the King International

Change ringing is mostly confined to countries with Anglican churches. Elsewhere bells are rung in a different way and people don't know much about the English style. That is changing for Germany. St Andrew's, Plymouth has been featured in a programme about Devon on German TV. You know the type of show: beautiful landscapes mixed with traditions. To the surprise of none of the locals, sheep, Dartmoor ponies and cream teas were focal points. The more unusual part was about the recruitment of bell ringers for Ring for the King.



Anne appearing on German Television

I'm sure for most German viewers it was only the second encounter with bell ringing and it was an interesting one. The first encounter was the *Midsomer Murders* episode, Ring out the Dead from 2002 where the bell ringers are killed off. The show is very popular in Germany.

The TV crew visited St Andrew's twice, the second time on the actual day of the Coronation. They conducted several interviews with Anne, a nurse and one of our learners for Ring for the King. She turned out to be a natural in front of the camera.

As I am originally from Germany I'm pleased we could showcase the wonderful art of bell ringing for a wider audience.



The Minster St Andrew's, Plymouth

Barbara Hocke

The hottest day of 2023 fell into Autumn

SW Branch toured five churches on September 9 on one of our popular outings. Notwithstanding the sun burning down, more than 20 ringers explored towers in the Tamar Valley.

St Stephen, Saltash was followed by St Odulph, Pillaton where the group portrait was taken. While some of us hot-footed it back to Plymouth for a wedding, others enjoyed chips in this adorable pub, The Weary Monk.

The wedding ringers returned just in time for a quick ring at St Dominica, St. Dominic. When I later put the four words 'St Dominica, St Dominic' into Google maps, I was presented with an outline of the Caribbean island of Dominica. Seems they have churches dedicated to St Dominic there as well. I had to add 'Cornwall' to get to the right destination. In the heat we did feel tropical, but happy to proceed to St Mary, Callington and last but not least to St Constantine, Milton Abbot. To quote one of our ringers: another happy day.



The group at Pillaton

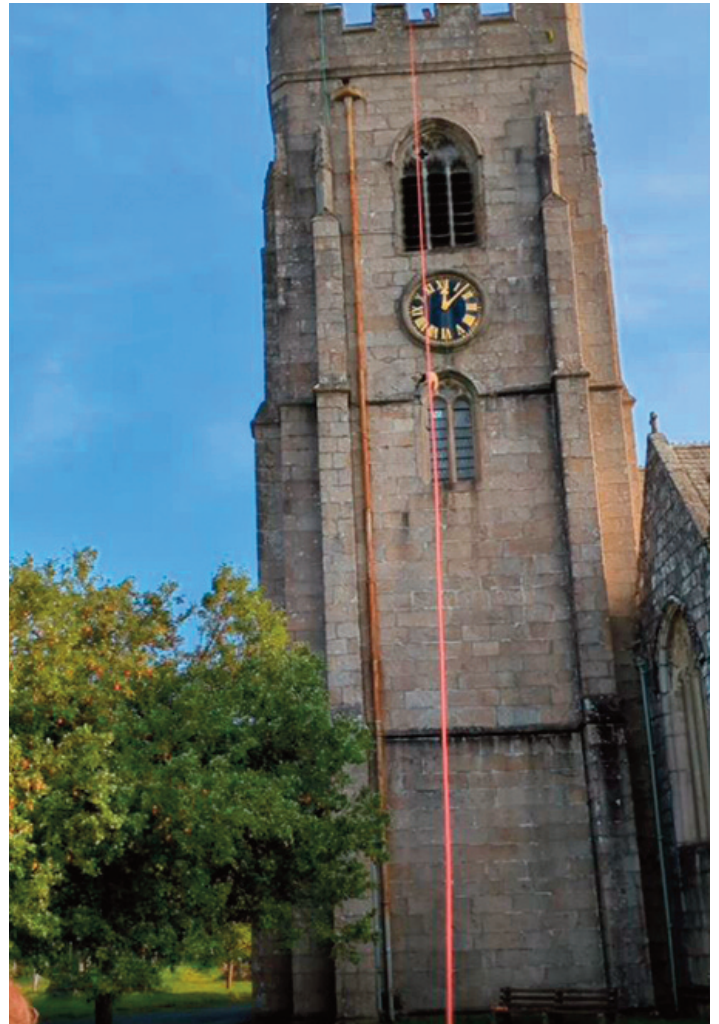


The Weary Monk – next to the church!

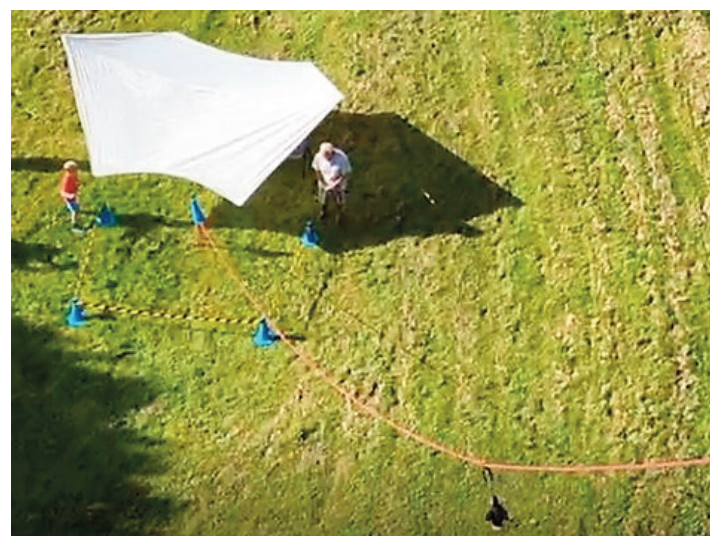
Barbara Hocke

A zip line for cuddly toys

St Mary's, Plympton held their open tower day in conjunction with the open church day for Historic Churches. As special feature we installed a zip line for children's soft toys going from the tower onto a jumping sheet. There was test pilot bear, penguin and Sarah bulldog who enjoyed their flights. Other animals included unicorns and dragons. We had 80+ people go up the tower to have test rings and learn about bells, a much better turnout than previously. There were refreshments available to sustain the queue and those exploring the church or on the guided tours. As a follow-up, the next Monday practice we had four people turn up to learn. Funds were raised for the tower and Historic Churches. Everyone seemed to have fun and plans are mooted for a repeat. Our thanks to all who helped make this a success.



Test pilot bear tries out the zip line



A soft landing for Penguin



The steeplekeeper, Felicity, giving a talk



A trial ringing lesson

Gabrielle Stocks



Sarah bulldog



Christine Harris with the demo bell made by Jinny

Training and Education

The new Guild Education Officer Sue King has organised three training sessions for members wanting to get to grips with Stedman Triples:

- Sunday 28 January 2024 at 2.30pm - Heavitree
- Saturday 10 February 2024 at 10.00am - Broadclyst
- Sunday 25 February 2024 at 2.30pm - Clyst Honiton

I would suggest that the ability to ring Grandsire Triples would be helpful, as well as having possibly rung some Stedman Doubles, as the quick and slow work is the same. Students might benefit from attending all three sessions, but please contact me to discuss your requirements if you can't manage that but would like to go. Places will be limited, so if you're interested please get in touch as soon as possible at educationofficer@devonringers.org.uk

Sue King

ART Masterclass in Birmingham

On Saturday 30 September I attended a ringing masterclass hosted by members of St Martin's Guild of Church Bell Ringers together with the Birmingham School of Bellringing. The latter is a training



programme based at four Birmingham churches and closely follows the 'Learning the Ropes' scheme.

The concept behind the masterclass day was jointly devised by Stephanie Warboys (ART Awards leader and tower captain at St Martin's church) and Clare McArdle (ART Assessor/Tutor, co-founder of the Birmingham School of Bellringing and former Guild Master). I was very fortunate to have Clare as my one-to-one mentor for the day.



This was a most enjoyable training course in the company of some of the top bell ringers in the land. The day started with listening exercises, where the twenty or so 'post beginner' ringers were tested on how carefully we could detect any inaccuracies in the striking of six bells when ringing in various patterns, including call changes, Plain Hunt and Bob Doubles.

The St Martin's Guild and the Birmingham School especially, reiterated that their aim is to achieve perfect striking, whether ringing call changes or method and no matter how simple or complex. To place their bell in exactly the right place at all times. To ring accurately and elegantly. We learners already know this, of course, but it was good to make this aspect of ringing the focus of the day.

Most of my fellow learners were less chronologically challenged than me and I was a good 50 years or so older than nearly all of them! But it was so heartening to see that the future of our 'art' - the art of bell ringing - is so healthy. We need these young people to keep our bells sounding when we 'oldies' are no longer around. And most of the youngsters were already ringing - and some conducting - Surprise Minor and Major methods with ease. Some, like me, had only recently gained their Level 5, whilst many of the learners had gained that level well before the outbreak of Covid. So we were all at different stages with our ringing.

After our listening tests we collected our packed lunches and then we went off to various towers in and around the city centre to be put through our paces and given the chance to stretch ourselves to attempt more complex methods on 8 or 10 bells. Each one of us was assigned a mentor for the day who stood with us whenever we rang, keeping us right, giving instruction when it was needed, or just giving us the confidence to go out of our comfort zones. To try to ring new and more complex things, or just consolidate our ringing. After each spell of ringing, there was a debrief. This was very helpful. At Harborne (a nice 8 bell tower out in the suburbs) I had fun ringing on an inside bell to my first ever touches of Grandsire Triples and my first attempts at Stedman Triples, too.

This one day ART course had many similarities with the extended three day bell ringing courses at Bradfield, Essex or Hereford, but differed in that each ringer had their own one-to-one mentor for the day and that each ringer in each group had chosen to focus on different methods (my group was mainly Bob Triples, Grandsire Triples and Stedman Triples).

After a busy day of ringing our chosen methods, we all reconvened in the huge ringing chamber at St Martin in the Bullring, right in the heart of Birmingham. It is the oldest church in the city centre and the only tower in the United Kingdom to have a full-circle ring of 16 bells. It was also the first such tower in the world and is still one of only three to have a ring of 16 bells,



St Philip's Anglican Cathedral

the others being in Dublin and Perth (Australia). But Birmingham was the first, as they proudly told us.

We were at last each presented with a Masterclass certificate and the day ended with a super Chinese meal at the Gunmakers' Arms pub, close to St Chad's Cathedral. The whole day was sponsored by the Association of Ringing Teachers, including our travel costs, meals and overnight accommodation. Such a treat for us 'post beginner' ringers.

None of this would have been possible without the endless time and dedication of our own teachers at our home towers who have taught many of us to ring from scratch and then supported us as we made our gradual progress through the various stages of the Learning the Ropes scheme. My grateful thanks to mine.

So, sadly, on that Sunday morning after my most enjoyable ART Masterclass weekend it was time to catch the train home to Exeter and then back home to Sidmouth, just in time to hear a quarter peal of Grandsire Caters being rung on the bells. A perfect end to a special weekend.



A group of the younger ringers enjoying their dinner



Sue at Harborne

New Central Council promotional video

A new promotional video has been launched by the Central Council and is freely available for all ringers to download and use at recruitment events. Enjoyment from bellringing:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RjQCmBYKea8> What do people of all ages enjoy most about bellringing? (2 minutes)

John Martin

Bell Ringing Courses

I was asked by a fellow ringer in my branch about the bell ringing courses I had attended. So I put together the information below.

Basic ringing

Improve your Ringing week - November 13-17 2023. NOW FULL – The Tulloch Ringing Centre (tullochbells.com)

With more advanced Options - Bradfield ringing course (bradfield-ringing-course.org.uk)

North West Ringing Course - A residential ringing course in the North West of England (nwringingcourse.uk)

Hereford ringing course (www.herefordringingcourse.org.uk)

Essex ringing course - Essex Association of Change Ringers (eacr.org.uk)

Leicester Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers (weekend course) (leicesterddg.org.uk)

Courses that I have attended:-

Bradfield (August)

Tulloch (was originally in late September)

Essex (April)

Hereford (April)

Overview

I first went to Bradfield in August 2017 when I could plain hunt and just about ring a plain course of Bob Doubles. I booked on the plain hunt option.

I went to Tulloch in September that year. Booked on the improvers' course. Subsequently I went to Essex (2018, 2019), back to Bradfield (2018, 2022) and to Hereford (2022). I found these courses most useful, specifically in meeting some of my targets in the ART beginners' level book and in getting in extra practice before quarter peals. My theory knowledge improved too, and so did my confidence.

Outline of Format

Almost all courses have the same basic format, except for Tulloch: arrive on a Thursday, and finish after Sunday teatime. You book and pay for your chosen course, and will be assigned a group. The fees are approximately £250 inclusive, depending on whether you are accommodated or not.

Your options vary, starting with bell handling and plain hunt, right up to more complex stuff on 6 or 8. Always a Bob Doubles and a Grandsire option. Always a Minor option.

Ringing sessions are 90 mins. Usually four or five learners per group plus adequate helpers and a tutor. Most courses run about eight groups. Rarely ringing in the same tower twice. So that's about 30 or more church towers needed, all in a 20 mile or so radius of your base camp. Ringers do a car share.

Taught sessions as follows:-

Format: there are six taught practical sessions altogether

- 1: Thursday evening
- 2 & 3: Friday daytime (pub lunch)
- 4 & 5: Saturday daytime (same as Friday)
- 6: Sunday afternoon (after lunch)

Theory sessions take place daily. Often before and after you go out to catch hold. Including on Thursday after you have travelled several hours to get to your course. Tiring, so be prepared.

Free choice activities in between and in the evenings, including conducting, raising and lowering in peal, rope splicing, handbells, mini-ring. Lots more! All activities are bell-related. You do not have to do any of these, of course. You can catch up on some rest. Or do your theory homework! Other things are

- Friday evening tower grab
- Saturday evening tower grab or social
- Sunday morning service

Individual courses - review

1. Bradfield, Berkshire

The best course, in my opinion. The best location in the beautiful grounds of a public school, best accommodation and best food! Very well run. Learned a lot on this course, especially it being my first one. Things like 'Plain hunt happens in so many Doubles methods!' Gained a lot of bell time and a lot of confidence. Excellent tutors. Excellent helpers.

I first went to Bradfield as a learner, but more recently as a helper. Gained a lot from both things. It was at my first ever course, and here that I gained the magic 'rope sight'. Never forget that moment. Or my first ever tutor on a course, who stretched me a lot, but never putting me out of my comfort zone. I ended up trebling to Grandsire. Not what I thought I would be doing at all.

The extra curricular activities at Bradfield included hand bells, steeple-keeping, ART course information, tower grabs, using a simulator, a dumb bell and a mini-ring. There was also a quiz, a cabaret performance and fascinating and entertaining talks by Steve Coleman. An ad hoc choir learned an anthem for the Sunday morning service, held in the chapel of the school.

This course gave tea, coffee and biscuits morning and afternoon. Good coffee!

2. Tulloch, NW Scotland

Farthest away and very remote, being on the train line to Fort William. I first flew to Glasgow. Then on to Tulloch by train. Then taxi or got a lift. Needed to network with others on course to find accommodation. Cooking own breakfasts and evening meals. Trek to Fort William to buy food. But looking at their website it now appears that there is accommodation available at the site. Course was a Monday to Friday one, ringing morning and afternoon, plus theory sessions. Everything in just one location. When I went in 2017 coffee and tea, cake, plus lunch was provided, which was home-made and delicious. The bells are housed in a beautiful barn complex surrounded by wild landscape. Run by Helen McGregor and Peter Bevis. who live on Tulloch Farm. Course fees very cheap but do not include accommodation, breakfast or evening meals.

Bells. A ring of 8 and a ring of 12. The ring of 8 were especially light for beginners or inexperienced ringers to handle, with the tenor only 1.38cwt. The 12 is also light, with the tenor at 7.5cwt. Just two course types were offered then. Either a beginners' week or a post beginners' week. Run one after the other. I did not fit well into the latter category, I realised when I started on the course, but thought that I was beyond the first. So I struggled. Which was disappointing after such a good experience at Bradfield. Mainly I did not quite fit into the category that I had booked for. But it was the first ever course of its type in Tulloch back in 2017, so I expect it is better now.

We did some good ART-style games which were fun. Helped with bell control. Theory lessons were the best I have had anywhere. My tutor, Stephen, was amazing. There were basically two groups, with two tutors, Stephen and Helen. Using each of the two peals of bells in two adjacent rooms of a huge barn. There was also a simulator attached to a dumb bell.

Tulloch is where I learned to ring hand bells, which were well taught with sessions daily. Helen was passionate about hand bells, and how ringing them helps your tower bell ringing. Several experienced ART tutors (tower and hand) on this course. So a big plus there!

3. Essex, Coggeshall

Same format as Bradfield. Good course, well run. Just like Bradfield you go off to different towers for each session. The course centre is in a local secondary school. All activities and sessions happen there. Unlike Bradfield, no accommodation so find your own. No food provided. Based in a small town near Braintree. Super tutors and helpers. Many of them top London ringers. I stayed in the local pub as did many of us. Great atmosphere. Great food.

I loved this course especially because this is where I grew up and I felt right at home in all the little Essex churches and the surrounding villages. My home ground. Coggeshall church had amazing bells. 12, I think. (*Actually, ten bells. Ed*). And all on a simulator. It's where they taught the most brilliant raising and lowering in peal sessions. With a tutor behind you, correcting you at every stroke. Perfect. Very over-subscribed sessions though.

4. Hereford

Exactly the same format as Essex and Bradfield. Same quality. Accommodation available. Similar to Bradfield. Student rooms. Basic, clean. OK. The course is held at the Royal National College for the Blind, where all activities and extra sessions take place, and accommodation is there too. Breakfast and evening meal included. A real plus! Food good. Saturday night social held in the school hall. Huge fun. Pop up bar. Live music, Quiz. Loved it!

Hereford is longest running course. Very well known. Nearest for us to get to, too? Fabulous tutors and helpers. The churches and places we went to to ring were SO lovely. Beautiful. Including going into Wales. Tower grab at Hereford Cathedral. Pretty awesome opportunity there!

5. NW

I don't know it personally, but the online comments on the Facebook page of the Lancashire bell ringers are very positive. It looks good! As good as the others above.

Summary

I would recommend the Essex, Hereford or Bradfield courses. Well run. Good fun. I learned a lot. Had a lot of rope-time. At least 20 minutes in each of the six sessions. Plus learning by standing behind everyone else. I used Essex to prepare me for my quarter peals of Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles.

I used Bradfield (my first ever course) to gain confidence and rope-sight.

I used Hereford (last year) to prepare me for my Plain Bob Minor quarter peal inside. The last on my ART journey up to Level 5.

The courses were all perfect opportunities in giving me the extra experience in a short space of time. And all of them brought on my ringing, sometimes in unexpected ways.

It can also be really good to go on a course as a helper. I did this last year and it built up my confidence. I learned a lot about other aspects of ringing by doing that. How to ring steadily if/when others, probably a learner, go wrong. How to ring by rhythm, and using my ears, as much as my eyes. How not to panic if the treble is 'not there'. How to keep going, ringing steadily even if/when lost. How to keep calm. Relax and enjoy. But stay focussed all the time. How to analyse what else is going on beyond the work of my bell.

I hope this resumé might give a deeper insight into what happens on these courses and help new ringers make a more informed choice.

Sue King, Education Officer

**Merry
Christmas**

Other Items

Looking for Instructors

The village of Poltimore, just north of Exeter, has a ground floor ring of six bells, tenor 10cwt. The bells are still on plain bearings and have had little done to them for more than 100 years but they have been regularly maintained and still handle reasonably well. There is currently no local band and the bells are rarely rung. However a group of villagers has come forward who would like to learn to ring so that the bells can be heard in the village more regularly. The problem is that there is no-one available to teach them.

A meeting and trial teaching session has been arranged for the new year but teaching a new band from scratch will require a large commitment. If anyone would like to help and be involved with this they are welcome to get in touch with me.

Ian Campbell

Guild Demo Bell reaches North-East Somerset



Lester Yeo demonstrating the demonstration bell

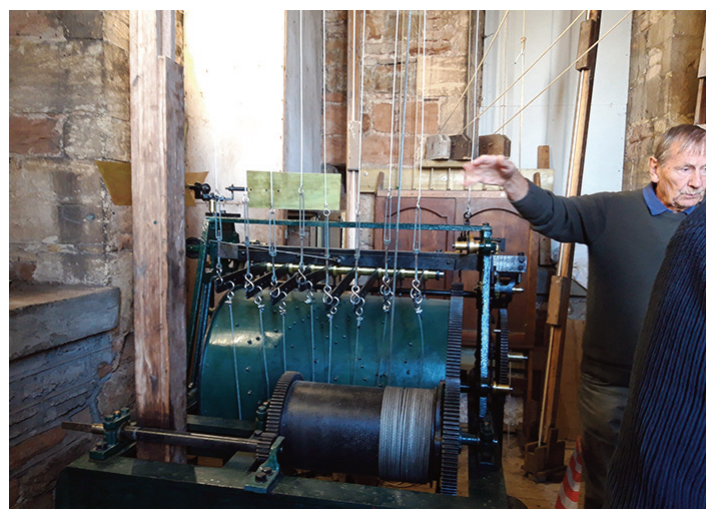
Pat and Lester Yeo have been living in Chew Magna for over two years, and have become members of the local band there. The bells are heavy, and despite a recent rehang, remain tricky to ring and to strike. But the band is enthusiastic, and wanted to organise a tower open day this autumn, to allow visitors to see the bells and climb the tower, perhaps to ask if they might learn to ring. So Lester asked if they might borrow the Guild demonstration bell, to add a little more interest! Ian and Wendy Campbell were free,

and were keen to come up to Somerset with the bell, as long as they could grab the tower and ring a quarter peal! The demo bell was erected at lunchtime, and a steady stream of visitors came throughout the afternoon, many of whom tried the bell. Some experienced ringers stopped and had a go, and one young woman was handling the bell competently after just a few minutes of tuition.

Tea and home-made cakes were available to provide sustenance, and an enjoyable quarter of Grandsire Triples was rung after the doors had been shut, the first on the bells since they were rehung. Many thanks to the Guild and the Campbells for their assistance!



The local ringers try their skill



The impressive carillon machine at Chew Magna

Lester Yeo

Free Equipment



You may know that the Guild keeps a supply of used bell ropes which can be used by any tower that needs them – especially any without local bands which cannot afford (or justify) a new set of ropes. Some ropes even have good quality tops of man-made fibre which will not rot in a damp tower.

We also now have a few old pulley blocks and boxes (see picture) which have been removed and might be of use somewhere. In particular the bell inspections which we undertake sometimes suggest that it would be appropriate for an additional pulley, often on an intermediate floor before the rope goes down to the ringing chamber. Equally some older pulleys barely turn and it might be possible to improve them with these.

Most of them are hardwood pulleys with ball bearings on the shaft. If no use is found for them they may need to be disposed of.

Ian Campbell

Seen in a belfry



Notable Ringing Performances Peals

100th Anniversary of the casting of the bells

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Tiverton, Devon, St Peter

Saturday, 18 November 2023 in 3h 26

5056 Quedgeley Surprise Major

By A J Cox arr R I Allton

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 William P Carew | 5 Mark Pring |
| 2 Alison C Waterson | 6 James Kirkcaldy |
| 3 Jill M Hansford | 7 Richard Harrison |
| 4 Michael C Hansford | 8 Michael E C Mears (C) |

Rung to mark the centenary of the casting of the bells.

Birthday wishes

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Beercrocombe, Somerset, St James

Wednesday, 18 October 2023 in 2h 47

5040 Doubles (11m)

2 extents Grandsire; 4 extents each St Nicholas, Winchendon Place, St Remigius, Huntley, Reverse Canterbury, St Simon, St Martin, St Osmund, Eynesbury, Plain Bob

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Michael C Hansford | 4 James Kirkcaldy |
| 2 David Hird | 5 Michael E C Mears (C) |
| 3 Robert D Crighton | |

With SINCERE best wishes to Robert 'Wobbly Bob' Brown for his birthday today.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Hatch Beauchamp, Somerset, St John the Baptist

Wednesday, 8 November 2023 in 2h 32

5040 Doubles (11m)

2 extents Grandsire; 4 extents each St Nicholas, Winchendon Place, St Remigius, Huntley, Reverse Canterbury, St Simon, St Martin, St Osmund, Eynesbury, Plain Bob

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Robert D Crighton | 4 David Hird |
| 2 Michael C Hansford | 5 Michael E C Mears (C) |
| 3 James Kirkcaldy | |

Wishing Ian (VJ) Smith a very happy birthday

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Bishopsteignton, Devon, Bishops-Ting-Tong

Tuesday, 28 November 2023 in 1h 47

5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (26m)

(1) London, Wells, Cunecastre (2) Chester, Carlisle, Munden (3) Westminster, Allendale (4) Netherseale, Lightfoot, Wearmouth (5) Annable's London, Rossendale, Stamford (6,7) Ipswich, Bourne, Cambridge, York, Durham, Hull, Primrose, Norfolk, Beverley, Berwick, Hexham, Surfleet

Extents 6 and 7 by J S Warboys

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Ian W Avery | 4 John R Martin |
| 2 Ian R Fielding | 5 Peter L Bill |
| 3 Charlotte A Boyce | 6 Michael E C Mears (C) |

Birthday compliment to Wendy Campbell (21 again on Sunday)

Visitation by the Bishop

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Bradpole, Dorset, Holy Trinity

Wednesday, 29 November 2023 in 2h 47

5058 Spliced Surprise Major (4m)

1312 Superlative, 1280 Yorkshire, 1250 Cambridge,

1216 Lincolnshire; 124 changes of method; all the work.

By D F Morrison (No 57)

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 John A Foster | 5 Michael C Hansford |
| 2 Patricia Slade | 6 James Kirkcaldy |
| 3 Robert D Crighton | 7 Robert D S Brown |
| 4 Jill M Hansford | 8 Michael E C Mears (C) |

To mark the visit of Rt Rev Stephen Lake, Bishop of Salisbury, to the Parish of Bridport at the start of the season of Advent

Quarter Peals First Inside

Combe Raleigh, Devon, St Nicholas

Friday, 17 November 2023 in 42m

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

Three different callings, 2 affected throughout.

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1 Anne Burn | 4 Patricia Slade |
| 2 Sarah Clinton | 5 Peter Simpson (C) |
| 3 Anne E Bailey | 6 Lisa Clarke |

First inside 2

Calendar of Events

January 2024

Tue 2	19:30	Triples and Major, St Peter, Tiverton	North East
Sat 6	10:00	Open branch practice, tbc	North East
Sat 6	14:30	Branch practice, Denbury	Mid Devon
Mon 8	19:30	Surprise Minor branch practice, Offwell	East
Thu 11	19:30	Plain Hunt etc, Sidbury	East
Fri 19	19:30	Surprise Major, St Mark, Exeter - tbc	North East
Mon 22	19:30	Minor methods branch practice, Seaton	East
Sat 27		Branch activities and AGM, tba	South West
Sun 28	14:30	Stedman Triples, Heavitree (contact Education Officer to book)	Guild

February

Sat 3	09:30	Plain Hunt/Plain Bob Doubles, Bishopsteignton	Mid Devon
Tue 6	19:30	Triples and Major, Thorverton	North East
Thu 8	19:30	Branch practice Plain Hunt etc, Sidbury	East
Sat 10	10:00	Stedman Triples, Broadclyst (contact Education Officer to book)	Guild
Sat 10	10:00	Open branch practice, tbc	North East
Sat 10	14:30	Branch AGM and ringing, Sidbury	East
Mon 12	19:30	Surprise Minor branch practice, Offwell	East
Fri 16	19:30	Surprise Major, Broadclyst	North East
Sun 25	14:30	Stedman Triples, Clyst Honiton (Contact Education Officer to book)	Guild
Mon 26	19:30	Minor Methods branch practice, Seaton	East

March

Sat 2	10:00	Open branch practice, Rackenford	North East
Tue 5	19:30	Triples and Major, Thorverton	North East
Sat 9	14:30	Basic Triples and Major, Kingskerswell	Mid Devon
Mon 11	19:30	Surprise Minor branch practice, Offwell	East
Thu 14	19:30	Branch practice Plain Hunt etc, Sidbury	East



An Appreciation

Feedback on RRD is fairly rare so it was nice to receive the following letter:

Good morning Ian

It was very good to wake up a week ago and find the latest edition of RRD waiting for me to read with my breakfast! How did it get here?

My usual 'pigeon post' is normally pretty reliable but wasn't used this time so I guess it must have been someone else who would have gone out of their way to deliver it to my house. Whoever it was, thank you for pointing them in the right direction!

I'm afraid I don't get out much these days and my ringing seems to be restricted to Sunday mornings in Lyme Regis. I always look forward to RRD which for me is an invaluable link with the Devon ringers and their activities. I must congratulate you on producing what is now a high quality glossy magazine, extremely well put together and most informative. The content is newsy and well balanced and the excellent colour photos are enlightening. Well done, I can't wait for the next edition!

Robert Grange

Editorial

Following the article in the last RRD showing Elena Brake's Christmas card design it was good to see the final printed version at a meeting. And congratulations also go to Sarah McIntyre who has designed a Christmas card for *The Ringing World* (see article).

The Guild striking competitions were a good opportunity to meet up with friends from around the county who we don't see very often. A special appearance from Lester Yeo (previous President) for his presentation, and Robert Perry from Truro who judged the 8-bell competition were particularly special. The arrangements made by the Aylesbeare branch, including coffee and cake at Clyst St George, lunch (including cake) and tea (and more cake!) at Withycombe were very welcome.

The celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the Guild seem to be rushing up to us. Considerable worries were made known at the Guild committee meeting as to what the support would be for the celebration dinner because the venue had to be booked well in advance and the Guild could not afford to make a loss, which would have had implications for it as a charity. At rather short notice support was requested (including a small deposit) and by the deadline there were sufficient to go ahead. And within days it was over booked. It is pleasing to see that the membership is behind what is arranged by the committee.

The stained glass window proclaiming 'Glory to God in the High Street' which was printed in the last issue is to be seen from the ringing balcony at Morebath.

Finally I wish all Guild members a very Happy Christmas.

Ian Campbell



I couldn't miss Christmas without a picture of David Hird with his antlers on!



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