

Newsletter 129 March 2023

Devon Bellringers' Carol Service - Saturday 17 December 2022

Although the day of the carol service dawned bright in Mid Devon, plummeting temperatures overnight meant that on the Saturday morning Kingsteignton and surrounding areas found themselves affected by icy roads and pavements, if not by quite the amount of snow that had fallen in other parts of the county earlier in the week. While the weather may have deterred some with long or difficult journeys, it was heartening to see that a sizeable number of ringers had been able to make their way to Kingsteignton parish church to take part - the first 'in person' Devon Bellringers' Carol Service since before the pandemic.

For this service of lessons and carols, which was led by Kingsteignton's Vicar, Fr Mark Smith, the choir, trained and conducted by Ian Avery, provided some finely judged performances of Christmas music, ranging from items by Bach and Handel, to arrangements of several lovely carols, concluding with John Rutter's tender setting of 'God be in my head'. Between these were interspersed handbell items - two teams from the Exeter Handbell Ringers provided short touches of Kent Treble Bob Major and Grandsire Triples - and five of the traditional readings, the first four of which were shared between representatives of the Association and of the Guild: Suzanne Driscoll, President of the Devon Association of Ringers; Michael Cannon, Master of the Guild; Sandra Coombes, Kingsteignton ringer, and Nigel Birt, Secretary of the Mid-Devon Branch of the Guild.



The B-team of handbell ringers?

The Vicar, when welcoming everyone to the service, mentioned his expectation that those attending would maintain ringers' well-established reputation for hearty singing – singing almost strong enough to raise the roof, but not, he hoped, such as to damage any of the recent work that the parish had needed to undertake.



The A-team?

Not least thanks to the fine playing by organist Wyn Turner both in accompanying the choir and for the items sung by the whole congregation, the singing proved to be a real highlight, particularly when for the final hymn, 'O Come all ye faithful', the organ's trumpet-like resources were given full voice. And at the close of the service, those present were treated to a spirited performance of Widor's Toccata as recessional music. This, followed by the sound of Kingsteignton's lovely ring of eight bells ringing out in the darkness as ringers said their farewells and made their way homewards, provided a fitting end to what must have been, for those able to take part in person – and perhaps even for those who were able to join online – an uplifting way of marking the lead-up to Christmas.

Barbara Hock

General Committee Meeting 2023 Report

The Guild General Committee Meeting was held in the Village Hall, Newton St Cyres on 21 January 2023. The meeting began with a prayer, followed by President Tim Bayton's welcome in which he shared his vision of the Guild's priorities over the coming year: a focus on training, particularly young ringers, greater involvement from more ringers at events rather than the usual volunteers and an improved focus on publicity, particularly relating to recruitment.

Guild Secretary's report (John Martin): Following two years of restrictions he welcomed the gradual return of normality in 2022 in ringing and socialising together and in particular meeting in person for the June AGM in Crediton after two years on Zoom. He also said how encouraging to see Devon enter a team in the Ringing World National Youth Contest held in Exeter in July, and thanked Elena Brake and her team of helpers.

Treasurer's report and proposals (Charlotte Boyce): The increase in subscription and tower affiliation fees from £6 to £10 has helped keep the Guild accounts healthy even though there was a 10% drop in membership numbers to 531 paying members. The Guild donated £3,774 to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund in 2022.



At the front: Charlotte Boyce (treasurer), Tim Bayton (president) and John Martin (secretary)

She recommended transfers of £2,400 this year, including £1,600 to the DCBRF and £700 to the Young Ringers Fund to subsidise entering the RW Youth Contest (in York). Although almost equal to the surplus the Guild made in the year, this was unanimously agreed by the Committee.

There followed a discussion on the amount by which the Guild should subsidise our Central Council representatives attending this year's Annual Meeting in Ipswich. Although the reps will incur substantial travelling costs this year, savings will be made when the meetings are held closer to home (eg in 2024, when Devon is due to host the event). After exploring whether four representatives were necessary, it was agreed the Guild would subsidise the cost of all four, equivalent to £275 per representative. The Treasurer's report ended with an estimate of the Guild's expected spending over the next two years, recommending that the membership fee remain at £10 for 2023 with a review and likely increase next year.

Officers' reports: The various officers' reports were largely accepted with no changes necessary. Extracts from a selection of these reports follows:

Education Officer (Christine Harris): Although most trainers relied on the ART materials, the teaching of new ringers varies across the Guild. In some branches, the teaching of learners was run by individual towers, but in others there was a more cooperative approach. She suggested that it could be beneficial to run some intensive weekend courses for both new and improving ringers at branch and Guild level.

Young Ringers' Co-ordinator (Elena Brake): The highlight of the Young Ringers' year was the National Youth Contest held in Exeter, in which the Devon band came a very commendable 4th place out of 16 bands. They continue to meet monthly at Pinhoe, Exeter, and efforts are continuing to attract more young people in Devon. If you have any young ringers please do encourage them to join in.

Peal Secretary (Michael Mears): The Guild recorded 110 peals in 2022, including 16 on handbells. Although it looks as if peal ringing is in a reasonably healthy state, several peal bands contained a high proportion of ringers aged over 70. Clearly new talent is needed. Rather disappointingly there were no first peelers or firsts as conductor in 2022. The coronation of King Charles this year should provide plenty of opportunities for encouraging aspiring peal ringers and conductors to score.

Quarter Peal Secretary (James Kirkcaldy): Guild members and visitors recorded 397 quarter peals in 2022, significantly lower than the last pre-pandemic year total of 558. The leading tower was Lundy with 68 (all rung by visiting bands) followed some way behind in second place by Exeter Cathedral with 29.

Ringling Round Devon (Ian Campbell): As normal, four issues of the printed version of RRD were produced in 2022. The September version was a full colour edition covering the ringing for HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the Ringling World Youth Competition in Exeter. The number of personal subscribers has reduced as several members are happy to read the online version; modern printing techniques mean we only pay for the number of copies printed.

Bells and Belfries Advisors (Ian Smith and Ian Campbell): 2022 proved to be a busy year with a large number of major inspections carried out including at Walkhampton, where unfortunately ringing has had to cease due to a rotten floor. On a more positive note, they reported that following their inspections, corrective work by professional bell-hangers has brought several other rings back into service.

The Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund (Janet Coles): continues to support projects around Devon. In 2022, grants totalling £35,000 were paid out, including assisting Milton Abbot, where the bells were tuned, turned, and rehung in a new frame. However, new initiatives are needed for fund-raising with options of expanded practice nights as some towers did this year, or a return to a targeted quarter peal week rather than the present Guild Festival.

Webmaster (Matthew Hilling): The Guild website received an average of 89 page views per day, up almost 40% on 2021. The average total time for each page view was just over two minutes, indicating that the information on the website can be identified and extracted very efficiently.

Ringling Recruitment and Retention Workgroup: The workgroup has modernised the Devon Ringling display posters and tri-fold leaflet with local news. Analysis of feedback from branches on the various recruitment activities continues. The most successful seem to be holding taster sessions advertised locally on social media. A Guild Publicity Officer has been appointed to help develop a publicity strategy for exploiting occasions. The Coronation of King Charles and the 'Learn to Ring to Crown a King' campaign, the Guild's 150th Anniversary in 2024 together with hosting the Central Council Meeting should provide valuable press opportunities. One of the stated objectives is to put structures in place

to assist towers to train and retain new ringers, particularly the more rural towers who may struggle with numbers and experience, making it difficult to teach new ringers.

Guild 150th Anniversary planning group: The Guild was formed on 21 March 1874, and its 150th anniversary is therefore due next year. Because of conflicts with other events around 21 March, it was decided that the celebrations would be held the weekend before, with a Guild Dinner on the evening of Friday 15 March and a service with ringing on Saturday 16 March 2024. Venues have yet to be decided.

Ringling World 2024 calendar: The calendar will feature twelve of Devon's iconic churches selected by the Guild and Association in conjunction with *The Ringling World*. Printing is planned for June. Calendars will be on advance sale in Devon at the reduced price of £2; the full price is likely to be about £10 on general sale in August. Profits will benefit the DCBRF.

Guild hosting the Central Council Meeting in 2024: Arrangements are still in the research stages and a location has yet to be chosen, though this will probably be Exeter or Plymouth due to the size of conference facilities and accommodation required. The Guild are looking at ways we can use this to promote ringing and recruitment opportunities. Suggestions would be welcomed.

Guild AGM Saturday 17 June: This year's AGM is being hosted by the North/North-West Branch. There will be general ringing at Appledore and Northam. Ringling workshops and the AGM will be held at Fremington, followed by general ringing.

Guild Striking Competitions Saturday 21 October: Hosted by the Aylesbeare Branch. Arrangements are: 6-bell competitions to be held at Lymstone and Clyst St George and the 8-bell competitions at East Budleigh and Woodbury. The methods for the 8-bell competition are Single Oxford Bob Triples and Hunslet Bob Triples.

Guild Ringling Festival 20 October – 5 November: The amount raised for DCBRF through each annual Festival has been in decline over the last few years and the general opinion seemed that it had become diluted into two weeks of more general ringing rather than fund raising. It was suggested that the quarter peal week should be reinstated.

Membership System Progress: The Guild proposes moving to an online membership subscriptions system. Although incurring additional costs, it will allow the Guild to better manage the information it holds on members and ensure legal compliance governing the storage of this information. It should also save time for branch and Guild officers, who are all volunteers. Members will be able to sign up and pay their annual subscription online rather than having to fill out a paper form. However, not all members have access to computers and discussions are under way with branch treasurers to explore methods of facilitating such applications.

Proposals for new Vice Presidents: Peter Bill, Michael Rose and Pauline McKenzie were proposed as Vice Presidents and unanimously agreed by the Committee.

Vacant Guild post: There is a forthcoming Guild vacancy as CC rep when Lynne Hughes leaves.

Date and Venue of next Committee Meeting: Saturday 23 September, by Zoom.

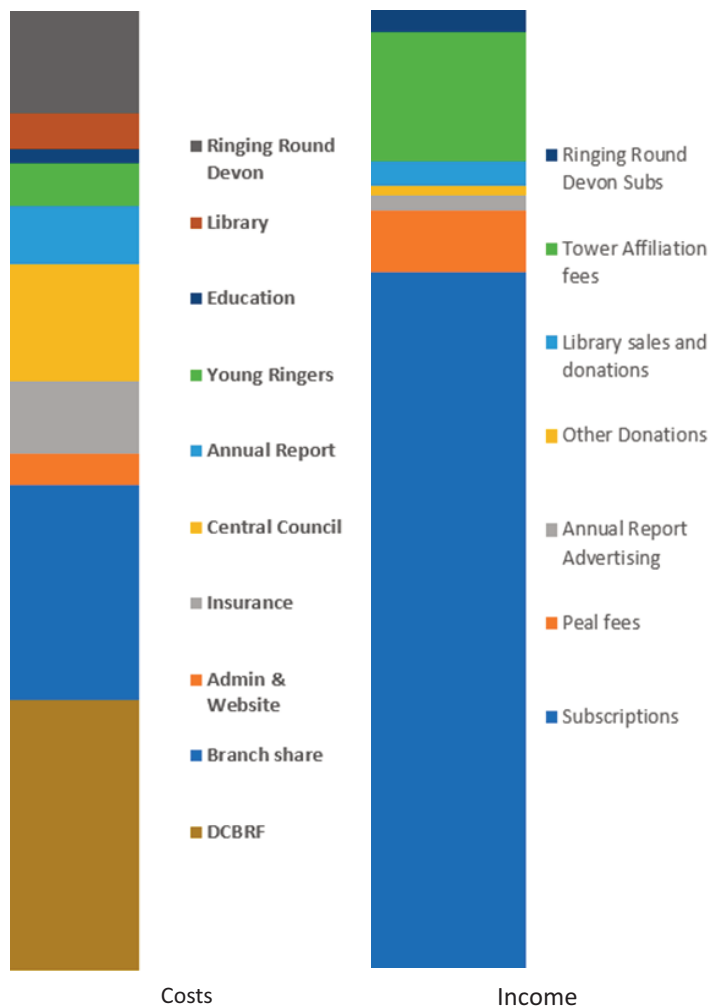
Roger King, Aylesbeare Branch



For many the tea and company is the best part!

Treasurer's Update

At the Guild committee meeting in January the draft accounts for 2022 were presented. The charts on the following page show the costs of the Guild during 2022 compared to sources of income.



Subscriptions rates

Currently membership rates are £10 per member. There are no reduced rates for the young or the old as everybody gets the same benefits.

Branches retain 30% of subscriptions to be used locally which is shown in the chart above as the branch share.

The tower affiliation fee is currently £10 per annum. Towers receive an affiliation certificate, annual report, updates to the tower handbook, and a copy of *Ringing Round Devon* each quarter.

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) is the national representative body for bell ringers. We pay an annual membership fee of £160 which is based on the size of our membership and we also pay reasonable/economical expenses to our elected representatives to attend the CCCBR annual meeting. In 2022 the event was held in Nottingham. For the previous two years the meeting was held on-line so there was no cost to the Guild.

Members now receive a printed copy of the **Guild Annual Report** by request. An online version is published on the Guild website. The cost within this pie chart is net of the advertising revenue and the cost of producing the peal report pages which are covered by peal fees.

This year our splendid newsletter, *Ringing Round Devon*, returned to a printed version. A printed copy is distributed to each affiliated tower. The online version is published on the Guild website. You may also receive your own copy by paying a subscription. Please contact Ian Campbell if this is required. The cost of the newsletter is covered by the tower affiliation fee and individual subscriptions.

Insurance is a necessary requirement of running a charity, with cover provided for members.

We budget approx. £100 per annum for acquisitions and preservation of the **Guild library** assets. The library is now housed in St Petrock's church in Exeter and fees of £180 were paid for nine afternoon access sessions. Donations received from the Library Friends and the sale of duplicate items in the collection have helped to cover these costs.

We have provided support to **Young Ringers** for practices and outings and taking part in the Ringing World National Youth Striking Contest. In 2022, the competition was held in Exeter and our team did very well. If you'd like to get involved in Young Ringing activities, please contact Elena Brake for details.

Our **Education Fund** helps support ringers and potential new teachers with training and materials.

At each AGM, members elect for a donation to be made to the **Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund (DCBRF)**. In addition to this donation to DCBRF, all monies claimed back from HMRC from gift aid donations, all monies raised in the annual ringing festival, any sundry donations and collections are donated to DCBRF. We claim gift aid on your donations and subscriptions. It should be noted that the branches also make donations to DCBRF from their funds.

The benefits of Guild membership go far beyond the tangible benefits explained above. Guild and branch officers put in huge amounts of voluntary time on administration, and holding practices and events which provide ringing opportunities outside of your tower. We are a community which supports ringing throughout our affiliated towers and beyond.

One of the fantastic things about ringing is we don't have to buy the bells which we ring, so therefore it is important that we support the work done by the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund to maintain and improve bell installations around Devon. Equally it is also important that we support the recruitment and teaching and encouragement of new ringers so there are enough ringers for the future.

Charlotte Boyce, Guild Treasurer

New Guild Publicity Officer

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as I begin my role as Guild Publicity Officer.

I started ringing in 2017 in the Mid Devon Branch and in 2020 I took over as branch treasurer. More recently I joined the Guild's Recruitment and Retention Workgroup as the Mid Devon rep. I have a background in communications, community engagement with charities and administering community grants programmes for some well-known national companies.

As your Publicity Officer, I am here to help and support you publicise ringing at the local level and promote ringing via external media channels across Devon. My strengths lie in developing and implementing communication strategies and creating resources which will help local towers recruit and retain new ringers. Working in close co-operation with the Recruitment and Retention Workgroup and the Guild Education Officer; communications for recruitment and retention and awareness raising will be my emphasis.

I know there are lots of good things happening already across the Guild and it would be useful for me to know what communication channels local towers and branches are making best use of, as well as understanding what help you feel you need. If your branch has a publicity officer, I will be in touch via email. If not, I will contact the branch secretary. And if anyone has any great ideas for improving communications across the Guild, especially in the areas of recruitment and retention, then please email publicityofficer@devonringers.org.uk.

I am, however, still very much a junior ringer and so there will be times when I need the help and support of experienced ringers, particularly when it comes to giving interviews to the media.

So I look forward to working with you all over the coming months.

And as my esteemed colleague, the Guild Education Officer stated – the more cake involved, the better!

*Nicola Jones,
Guild Publicity Officer*

Autumn Striking Competitions

The 2023 striking competitions will be hosted by the Aylesbeare Deanery Branch on Saturday 21 October. These include six- and eight-bell for novice ringers, a six-bell inter-tower competition and an eight-bell inter-branch competition.

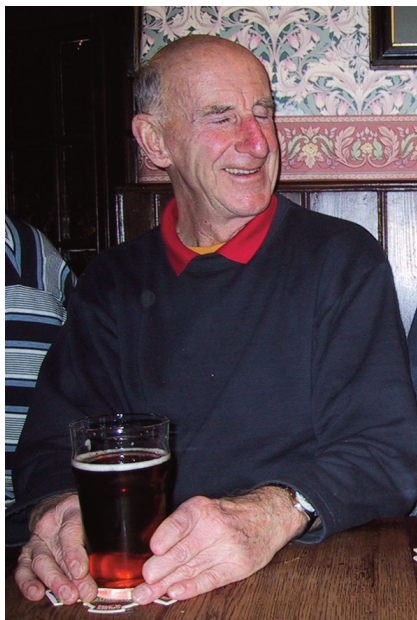
For the latter a set method and touch has to be rung. This year the competition is to be held on the rather heavy bells at Woodbury and it has been decided that the method should be either Single Oxford Bob Triples (with a touch of Bob, Bob, Plain four times) or the lesser known Hunslet Bob Triples (two courses with a Single at the end of each). In case teams are scared by the Hunslet, this is simply Plain Bob Triples with the dodges in 5-6 replaced by places like those in Reverse Canterbury Doubles (or even Kent!). Just make sure that ringers of 5 and 6 have sorted out their starts!

The hope is that teams will be able to practise these methods between now and October so that every branch can enter a team. Further details are available at: <https://devonringers.org.uk/news-events/2023/striking-competition-2023>

Ian Campbell, John Martin

Obituaries

Clive Temperton



We are sorry to have to report the death of Clive Temperton in January of last year, news of which only reached us quite recently. Clive moved to Exeter from Cornwall in the mid-1990s, but he actually originated from Hull and was a proud Yorkshireman. He was a loyal member of the Heavitree band, serving faithfully for ten years until 2006. He said he did not want to become the 'old codger' letting the rest of the band down, and so he retired gracefully while the going was good and he could still ring up to and including the simpler Surprise Major methods.

Clive left a wonderful testament to his skills as a woodworker: starting with improving the seating at Exminster, he was then persuaded to take on a much larger project and create a long run of benches with storage space underneath around the belfry at Heavitree. I believe these were fashioned in solid elm, but am happy to stand corrected, and they display to full advantage the beautiful grain of the wood. Clive received many plaudits for his work but he was quite dismissive, saying that any average handyman could have done the same. No, he was far prouder of having designed the installation as this was infinitely more interesting to him than the actual construction. He also designed and built a clapper turner for the tenor, which was at that time a very awkward bell to get up 'right'. A trolley on small wheels was created to run along the top of the bell frame and, using a short length of cord, the clapper was then scooped up and dropped on to the right side of the bell. Please contact the RRD editor if you want to know more!

On retirement from ringing, Clive busied himself with other projects: he was keen on urban gardening and making something out of otherwise semi-derelict pieces of land. Examples of his input can be seen in the grounds of St Sidwell's church and the Queen's Crescent Garden in Exeter. He was very curious about technology and spent many hours with the



The seating at Heavitree designed and made by Clive – note the copy of RRD!
P.S. Does anyone know who the white hat belongs to?

RRD editor learning about computers. He also led guided walks around Exeter in his spare time. Sadly, it was while he was walking to catch a bus that he suffered a bad fall from which he went into decline and it eventually led to his passing at the age of 92. May he rest in peace.



Clive (back left) in a striking competition in 2001.
You might recognise some of the other ringers?

Wendy Campbell

Keith Middleton



Keith Middleton, a clever, funny and loving husband to Jackie, father to Giles and Henry and grandfather to Poppy, died on 18 January 2023 aged 71. His funeral service was held at Breakspear Crematorium, Ruislip on 21 February.

Keith came to Exeter in 1978 to work as a pharmacist at Torbay Hospital and then the RD&E. He had learnt to ring in Yorkshire and quickly joined in with Exeter ringing, becoming a tower member at St Mark's. He rang many quarters and 56 peals; 48 for the GDR between 1979 and 1982. He moved to Harrow on the Hill in 1982 to work at Northwick Park Hospital where he met his wife-to-be Jackie. He continued to ring for a while but rang less as he became busier with family life, work, and house improvements. He took up other hobbies including bridge, scuba diving and potholing and hadn't been ringing for quite some time. Clearly ringing wasn't dangerous enough.

Keith would entertain in his Exeter flat and was fond of a cheese fondue party. He joined in with university ringing and many ringing holidays including John Longridge's quarter peal weeks and the Exonians. On one self-catering holiday in Cornwall the group chartered an aircraft to fly to the Isles of Scilly. In those days, before a tarmac runway on St Mary's, the



Keith playing Connect4

approach was to head straight for the cliffs and hope the thermal winds were sufficient to lift the plane at the last minute. Fortunately, on this occasion they were and everyone survived.

Keith might be remembered for his relaxed style, love of his Yorkshire roots and the need to have a pint mug of tea in the mornings which often started off on the car dashboard on ringing outings! A quarter peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal was rung in his memory at St Mark's on 19 February.



Peal board at St Mark's, Exeter

Graham and Lesley Tucker

Derek Rogers

Stokeinteignhead ringer Derek Rogers died in January. He was 93 and had not rung for some time. He was active in the tower during the days of Bob Southwood and, as well as ringing, his practical skills were often employed around the church, including the tower and bells.



The bells were rung before and after the funeral, including some excellent 'Whole Pull and Stand' as the coffin was brought into the church. Candle holders made by Derek were attached to most pews for the service by request of his wife, Margaret, also a ringer in the past.

Martin Mansley

Madeline Reeder



Madeline with Andrew

Madeline and her partner, Andrew, have been regular (fortnightly) visitors to Torquay for quite a few years, ringing at St Marychurch and Upton but also joining in branch practices and outings when they coincided with their visits. She has been battling cancer for most of that time. Recently we heard the sad news that she had finally lost that battle, one she fought with great courage and dignity.

She was quite a late starter with ringing but threw herself into it with great enthusiasm. She was an avid quarter peal ringer and a born organiser. These skills she put to great use in her home towers in the Pershore area. She had organised a weekly quarter peal attempt for many years but she also set up tours abroad including Australia and her native America. She will be greatly missed, and we send our sincere condolences to Andrew, her family and her many ringing friends.

Martin Mansley

East Devon Branch AGM

The AGM of the East Devon Branch was held on Saturday 18 February in Honiton. It was well attended with about 35 members present at the meeting, tea and the service.



Trevor

Not everyone rang but we managed a variety of ringing including Bob Major, Grandsire Triples and call changes on the eight bells.

The service was conducted by the Reverend Sue, ably assisted by Ian Rees (Honiton tower captain) on the organ.

A delightful tea was provided by the local band and friends, and special thanks go to Lisa, Ruth, Janet and Sally who organised and delivered this on the day. Tea was followed by the AGM presided over by Chairman Trevor Hitchcock.

There were three changes to the committee: Ian Rees takes over as ringing master from Derek Ballard, Lisa Clark exchanges her Guild role for education officer and Shân Allen replaces Lisa on the Guild general committee. Special thanks were given to Derek for his many years as ringing master.

Anne Burn

24-hour Vigil at Colyton



Colyton church held a 24-hour Prayer for Peace Vigil which started on Sunday 26 February with a service and sharing lunch. Prayers and meditation continued through the day and night, offering an encouraging and challenging continuous stream of prayer. Pupils from Colyton Primary and Grammar schools made peace doves to decorate the church and joined the service of Dedication and Commitment on Monday lunchtime. After the service a band of ringers from Colyton, Honiton and St Mark's, Exeter rang a good quarter peal of Rutland Surprise Major on these challenging bells. The ringing had previously been advertised in the *Rector's Ramblings* and also mentioned on Radio Devon at 0720 am. There is a short video of the ringing available on Facebook.



The peace doves in the church

Colyton, Devon, St Andrew
Monday, 27 February 2023 in 55m (24-3-16)
1250 Rutland Surprise Major

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1 Patricia Slade | 5 Ian J Rees |
| 2 Lesley Tucker | 6 Graham Tucker |
| 3 Sue Sawyer | 7 Ian Campbell |
| 4 Wendy Campbell | 8 David Hird (C) |

Rung to mark the end of the 24 hour Prayer Vigil for Peace.

Also to welcome Ian Rees as the new Ringing Master of the East Devon Branch.



From left to right - Ian R, Sue, Ian C, Wendy, Graham, Trish, David, Lesley and Fr Steven Martin

Patricia Slade

Shelter Box Fundraising Concert

Handbells rang out at the start of the Shelter Box fundraising concert at Sidmouth parish church on Sunday 26 February.



Kathie, Delie and Sue

Kathie, Delie and Sue, all from East Devon, started proceedings with Plain Hunt and then Plain Bob Minor. Both Kathie and Delie regularly ring methods on 6, 8, 10 (and sometimes 12 bells) at churches all over Devon, and further afield.

They have been patiently teaching Sue the intricacies of how to ring 'method' on handbells weekly for the past two years or so. It does require a lot of practice. And a lot of 'focus', too. But it is great fun, and unlike church bells, handbells can be rung anywhere. The patterns and changes have to be memorised, as there is no 'music' to read.

It was an excellent and very varied concert with piano, organ, clarinet, light-hearted vocal duets, humorous poetry and thought-provoking folk songs. But the highlight was the amazing tea and cake! The church was packed and everyone had a very enjoyable afternoon - and for such a worthwhile cause.

Extra thanks go to all the cake makers and to the servers of the tea after the concert. Blessed are the cake makers! And thanks too to everyone who helped with the organisation, and collection of donations. And the clearing away!

Can we do this every Sunday afternoon? Or at least, again, soon?

Sue King

East Devon Ladies' Christmas Outing



Christmas outing

Our name may seem a bit odd in the current PC climate so I thought I would clarify why we call ourselves East Devon Ladies, so as not to offend anyone!

Just over ten years ago, in the summer of 2012, some of us thought we would like to start going out to ring in other towers in East Devon, mainly to give us confidence and experience ringing in other places. At the time, many of us were new to ringing and felt that going out with a group of friends for a social ringing outing was the way to gain confidence. Of course, the essential relaxing cake and coffee break was also a major factor! As we were all ladies and all from East Devon it seemed natural to call ourselves East Devon Ladies. Obviously, as the name implies, we are primarily a group of lady ringers, but we do not totally exclude men. From time to time we do invite men to join us. One of the first was Trevor, who we invited to help him master Bob Doubles. He always says he still trying, although, as he knows very well, he has rung a number of quarter peals of it with our group. He did say that as long as he didn't have to wear high heels and a tutu he was more than happy to be joining us.

We meet every six weeks throughout the year and I'm pleased to say that the group has gone from strength to strength, We take it in turns to organise the outings and to run each session. We have now widened our area and have ringers from outside East Devon and into Dorset joining us. The group has grown in confidence and we have regularly rung quarter



Dressing up in summer 2013

peals, especially for St George's Day, and other special occasions, with the appropriate attire of course. On one occasion, following the example of some ladies in the 1920s, shown in a photo in Whimble tower, we all wore long skirts and hats, except for Trevor, who wore a bowler hat and bow tie. As you may have guessed our outings are full of fun and laughter.

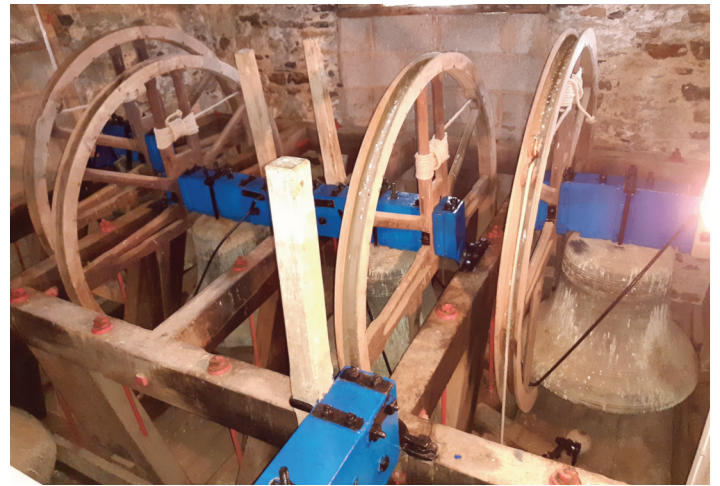
We round off every year with a Christmas outing and lunch to which partners/spouses and friendly male ringers are also invited. This year, decked in Christmas jumpers and accessories, we rang at Sidbury before a very enjoyable festive lunch at The Bowd Inn, Sidmouth, during which Trevor handed out one of his famous quizzes. This usually ends up with us all badgering him to give us clues!

It was felt that we have had another very successful year and look forward to many more enjoyable outings in 2023.

Maureen Davey – Shute

Improvements at Feniton

The tower at St Andrew's, Feniton has been receiving some care and maintenance recently. The current band is made up of some members who are from the village and others who come from further afield but who ring at the tower regularly. We are keen to keep our instruments in good condition to ensure their availability for current and future ringing. Over the last few weeks rubbing down and painting of the headstocks, bell fixings and frame fixings has been completed.



All looking very smart now!

The work culminated in a full tower clean when six ringers spent a Saturday morning sweeping, vacuuming and dusting the five levels of the tower, from roof to ground level. We are looking forward to a visit by the Guild bell advisors to guide us as to what further maintenance is required. Ringing practice nights at Feniton are lively and varied. We have recently had one new ringer begin to learn and another who has returned to ringing after an absence of many years. One of the band has attended the ART level 1 training course and is now putting the contents to good use as she progresses towards accreditation. Practice nights usually include rounds, call changes, Plain Hunt, Bob Doubles and sometimes Grandsire, along with continuing work to improve our raising and lowering. New ringers are welcome, as are individual visitors and visiting bands.



The cleaning team

Shân Allen

Exeter Branch 56th ECG Dinner Weekend – 4 February 2023



Emily at Broadcyst with Gnorris

In traditional style, the 56th ECG dinner weekend kicked off in the Impy (Imperial Hotel, Exeter), and for the first time in many years there were even some students present!

Saturday began with the introduction of a new gnome, Gnorris, after Gnathan's unfortunate accident last year. Happy to finally have a new fresher to pass gnome-bearing duties onto, Emily gave Gnorris to me, and I quickly learnt how keen everyone else would be to steal him off me! Emily also brought the new, slightly less fragile ECG gnome Gnigella along, so at least the band had more than one target!

The ringing began first at St Peter's in Tiverton, followed by St Mary's in Silverton, which involved a fun amount of shuffling up and down the steps and into the church in order to give everyone a go at ringing! Then it was off to the Lamb Inn to grab some lunch and catch up together. After carefully keeping him close for the first two towers, it was at this point that Gnorris first got stolen and failed to reappear for the whole meal! Gnigella took this as her moment to shine and enjoyed the special care and adoration of many of the ringers.

The final tower was Broadclyst, where Gnorris worryingly reappeared at the top of a tall cabinet, and the risk of another accident seemed high. Luckily, he reappeared safely, and the ringers enjoyed a nice mix of call changes, Grandsire Triples, and Cambridge Major.

After some sprucing up, everyone came together in the evening at the Rougemont Hotel for the traditional dinner and ceilidh. After a delicious three course meal, we enjoyed a touch of 'Fat Controller Maximus' on handbells, rung by Andrew Digby, Tom Hinks, Steph Hills, David Maynard, Matt Hilling and Nathan Evans. Next came two fantastic speeches from

our guest speaker Ben Carey and Emily, this year's student Master, with Helen Maynard winning the customary sweepstake. Next came the daffodil toast, which came as quite a shock to me as a fresher who just thought the daffodils were a nice decoration! Finally, everyone moved to the dancefloor for the ceilidh, with even Gnorris having his party hat on and keen to get involved!

Despite exhaustion from all the dancing the night before, St David's was packed on Sunday morning for service ringing. This was followed by breakfast at Boston Tea Party, a reminiscent walk around campus for some, during which Emily learnt many a story of past ringing escapades, and ended in George's Meeting House for lunch before heading to the Cathedral to end the weekend. A mix of ringing involved courses of call changes, Stedman, and Grandsire. The new (and old) ringers also got the chance to go up and see the bells ringing, an exciting insight into just how big and loud they really are.

As a fresher, I wasn't sure what to expect from the dinner weekend, but it went far beyond my expectations! From all the lovely new faces, range of ringing opportunities and quirky traditions, I can't wait for next year! And nor can Gnorris, who you'll be pleased to know made it through the weekend unscathed and is now safely back at St David's.



Emily with some of the junior members at the dinner

Cordelia Thompson

Mid-Devon Branch Ringing Restarts at Buckfast Abbey Guild and Association join forces

There has been very little ringing at Buckfast Abbey since the pandemic but in the past few months the Warden, Geoff Pring, who also rings at Bovey Tracey and Highweek, has raised a band to ring after Mass on the second Sunday of each month. In addition, Ian Campbell was able to organise a quarter peal in memory of Fr Christopher Delaney who passed away in the summer and who was a friend to ringers and would be remembered by everyone who had attended a ringers' carol service at the Abbey in the past. The numbers on Sundays have varied from being only six but on other occasions enough to enable the ringing of ten or twelve bells.



Ringing at Buckfast Abbey

In January Geoff decided that numbers might be increased by arranging for us to meet up after ringing for lunch in a similar way to when we had had the Buckfast Abbey Ringer's Epiphany Lunch in the past. We were able to utilise the facilities in the Grange Restaurant at the Abbey where we could partake in the excellent carvery that the staff put on for Sunday lunch. Geoff had also reserved a separate room for us and organised some mince pies to continue the festive feel. It certainly had the hoped-for effect with 18 ringers present in the tower enabling us to ring some good call changes on the twelve and a nice course of Grandsire Triples on the back eight. More than twenty of us sat down to lunch and Geoff is hoping that in the coming months the numbers will increase even further. It is also hoped that we will also be able to restart the occasional quarter peals rung on specific feast days and that the Abbey bells will be available for peals again in the future.



Celebration lunch

Peter Bill

Excerpts from Tower Talk Bob Edden



The Edden Trophy being awarded in 2017

We have now been awarding the Edden Clapper Trophy for over 40 years. I realised that the majority of present-day ringers will not know who Bob Edden was. I asked Don Roberts and got a very full reply.

Bob was born at Kineton in Warwickshire in July 1901. In 1939 he was listed as a Foreman Electrician at Comfort Works in Southern Warwickshire. I don't think Bob and his wife had any children. I believe they came to live in Brixham early in 1967 and joined the ringers at St Mary's where Frank Shepard was a prominent member. It was not long before Bob started to make the journey across the bay to Babbacombe

to get involved in the flourishing band of change ringers there.

On 18 December 1967 he rang in a 1344 of plain Bob Major on All Saints, Babbacombe bells. He was a regular attender at the Monday practices and in all rang 12 quarter peals there, the last being 1260 Plain Bob Triples on 2 December 1976.

Earlier that year Richard Newman called John Longridge's peal of 5024 Plain Bob Major at Holy Trinity, Buckfastleigh in 2 hours 58 on the exact birthday (10 July) of Bob, who rang the 4th. Paschal Dowling rang the treble, Peter Bill 2nd, Colin Barr 3rd, Edric Broom 5th, Bill Simmonds 6th, Don Roberts 7th and Richard Newman tenor. My footnote to this peal was that the first half was almost perfection but on a very hot afternoon the standard was not maintained!

Kineton has a peal of eight bells with a tenor of 10-0-5 but I could not find out whether Bob learnt to ring there or somewhere else in Warwickshire. Kineton only became 8 in 2008 – if he learned there it would be on the six. It is now an important ringing centre.

Bob was a very practical man and late in the 1960s and early 1970s he put in an enormous amount of work to keep the bells of Berry Pomeroy ringing. This information has been verified by Bryan Tuckett, another member of the workforce.

Bob died in Brixham in January 1980; he was a friend to everyone who knew him and it is only right and fitting that his name lives on 42 years after his passing through the Edden Clapper trophy which is presented to the Mid Devon tower that has made the most progress over the previous year.

Don Roberts

Video about ringing

I recently came across this video which is an excellent introduction to ringing. It is part of a series called Hidden London Hangouts produced by the London Transport Museum:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cvOTLwWMIKQ>

Hope you enjoy it.

Branch Practice at Babbacombe

The January practice is often not very well attended as ringers recover from the Christmas festivities. This was definitely not the case this time and was quite possibly a record turn-out for the first practice of the year. A good range of methods was rung although these bells (not rung very often) are quite a challenge! We made a good try at Pudsey Surprise Major (method of the month) although we did not quite manage a full course. We also rang Stedman Triples and Cambridge Major along with staples Grandsire and Plain Bob and Little Bob Major. The writer would like to draw a veil over his handling of the third bell!!! Wendy has offered lessons!

February Branch Practice – Brixham

Brixham is very much at the Southern end of our branch and with much publicised road closures as well, there seemed a good chance that there may have been a poor turn-out. But.. we actually had a full tower and were able to admire the re-decoration under way there. Often at a branch practice the local ringers are conspicuous by their absence but this was definitely not the case here and they were really out in force to welcome us. We were also delighted to welcome visitors in the Bay for a bowls weekend.

Brixham bells are what might be called an 'acquired taste'. You need to know the idiosyncrasies of each bell and one or two can catch visitors out! Having said that, we learned how to manage them during the evening, ringing mainly call changes on all ten bells and method ringing on lower numbers. We were very impressed by a local learner who had only been ringing a few weeks and managed to ring rounds on ten. Definitely good news for the local band.

Very many thanks to Guy and the Brixham ringers for such a warm welcome.

February 8 bell practice – Upton

After the last two full houses it was inevitable that at some point we were going to have a practice that was less well attended. Upton was that practice, and there were several reasons. Clashing activities and illness seemed to be the main ones this time. However, we did manage to ring the full eight most of the evening even if we did not quite manage the 'method of the Month' – Erin Triples.

We rang some good Plain Hunt Triples for the local ringers and a good course of Stedman Doubles. Stedman Triples did not fare quite so well

but Single Oxford Triples was achieved at the second attempt. Thanks to Don and the Upton ringers for allowing us to join their practice.

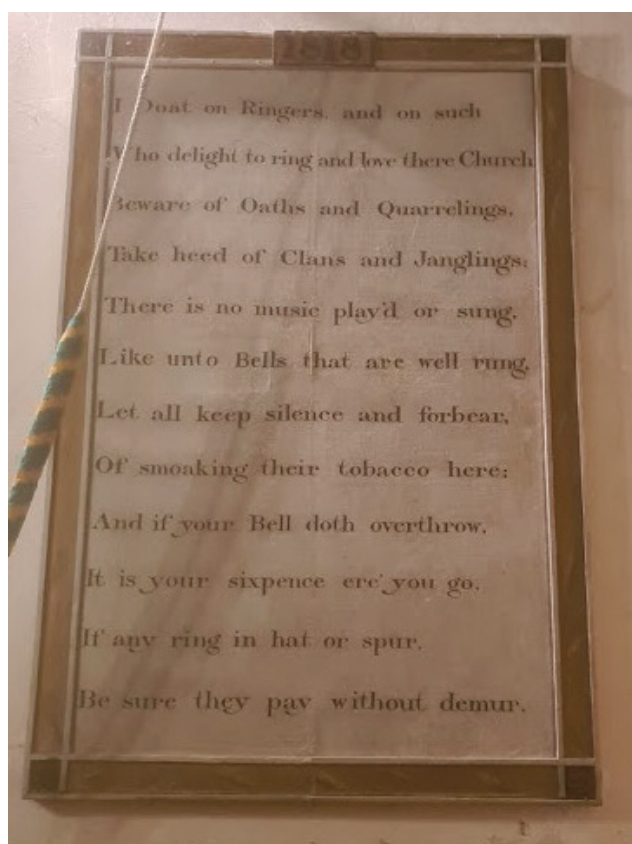
Farewell to Lynne Hughes

Lynne arrived in Devon when the Met Office moved to Exeter and has been based in Dawlish ever since, eventually becoming tower captain there. She has become very involved with ringing in Devon, having served as Guild Education Officer followed by Publicity Officer. She is a keen quarter peal ringer and also a passionate handbell change ringer. At Dawlish she has taught many ringers, including her own family.

She and Phil have now decided to move to Cambridge and will be leaving soon. We know Lynne's energy and enthusiasm will be much missed but she has left the local ringers in a strong position and we know they will be keen to continue to thrive. We wish the Hugheses all the very best and we will be watching BellBoard keenly to see what they get up to next!

Ringers' Rules

Thanks to David Williams of Berry Pomeroy for this photo of ringers' rules which he took at Spetisbury in Dorset in October. You might be interested to hear that 6 pence (now 2.5 pence in modern money) in 1818 could buy you around £25 worth at current prices - till next week, of course!



1818

I Doat on Ringers, and on such
Who delight to ring and love there Church
Beware of Oaths and Quarrelings.
Take heed of Clans and Janglings:
There is no music play'd or sung,
Like unto Bells that are well rung.
Let all keep silence and forbear,
Of smoaking their tobacco here;
And if your Bell doth overthrow,
It is your sixpence ere' you go.
If any ring in hat or spur,
Be sure they pay without demur.

Ring for the King

This is the broad heading of a national publicity drive to increase the number of ringers – particularly targeting returning ringers. Campaigns have also been run locally. The ART co-ordinators of this project have had over 1000 enquiries and quite a few of them have been for Devon. Locally Katie and Robert in Bovey have been using social media to spread the word and have passed their contacts on to suitable towers. These are mainly on top of the ones coming in via ART. This is a really hopeful initiative at a time when we desperately need more ringers. Very many thanks to all involved in this exciting initiative. We look forward to reporting how the new/returning ringers are getting on.

Martin Mansley

North-East Branch Practice at Bickleigh



North-East Branch members met for their monthly Saturday morning practice at Bickleigh in January. It's a ground floor ring of six, which take some pulling and effort to produce good striking but the ropes are in very good order. During ringing, those standing out had a chat over a hot drink and helped take down the Christmas decorations.

It was great to see ringing friends from Cadbury, Cadeleigh, Bickleigh, Holcombe Rogus, Silverton, Cullompton, Tiverton and Uffculme. We also welcomed a visitor, David Hird (DAC bells advisor, DCBRF Chairman).

We rang several lots of call changes and plain hunt, and methods included Grandsire, St Simon's, Cambridge and Kent. This gave opportunities to all, with everyone able to ring several times.

Charlotte Boyce

Note from the Editor: Following reports of the poor 'go' of the bells at Bickleigh, a working party was assembled on February 28. Everything was tightened up, the bearings had the old grease flushed out and replaced with fresh oil, sliders were degreased and missing bolts in a couple of clappers were replaced. A brief test indicated that they certainly go better now than they did at the branch practice.

Branch Triples and Major practice

Eleven members of the branch enjoyed a varied programme of methods at St Peter's, Tiverton on Tuesday 7 February. We rang plain courses of Single Oxford Bob Triples, Stedman Triples and Yorkshire Surprise Major and touches of Grandsire Triples, Little Bob Major and Plain Bob Major.

We are keen for more members of the branch to join in this practice. If you are able to ring Plain Bob Doubles inside to touches or treble to Plain Bob Minor you will be supported in taking a step into Triples or Major. These monthly practices are held at St Peter's on the first Tuesday each month. Please contact me if you are thinking of attending.

Sheila Scofield

February Surprise Practice

Six North-East Branch members were joined by four colleagues from the Aylesbeare and Exeter branches at February's Surprise practice at Pinhoe. Here our ringing consists only of method ringing whereas at our monthly branch practices we are currently ringing roughly equal amounts of call changes and method.

This month we were pleased to be able to ring Yorkshire, Cambridge, Bristol and several half courses of Cornwall Surprise Major as well as a touch of Spliced Surprise Major in eight different methods. For some of

those present this was their first opportunity to ring Spliced since the pandemic. We wouldn't have been able to manage such a wide variety of methods without the help of our visiting colleagues and we are very grateful for their help. This is also a great illustration of how groups of ringers collaborating can help 'raise the game' if there is not sufficient experience in your local team to achieve a particular goal.

John Martin, North-East Branch Chairman

Open Practice – Kentisbeare



The North-East Branch held its monthly open bell practice at Kentisbeare on March 4. These are a lovely ring of six bells (tenor 10-1-2 in G) and we are grateful to John Western for granting us permission to practise there. A total of 14 branch members attended, ringing a variety of methods that included Plain Bob Doubles, Grandsire Doubles, Double Oxford Bob Minor and Cambridge Surprise Minor along with a number of call change sessions.

Midway through the morning we stopped to have a welcome tea break, to hear the 'Parish Notices' and to elect two members into the Guild, Alison and Samuel from St Paul's in Tiverton. May we take this opportunity to welcome them both into the Guild and the North-East Branch and we look forward to seeing them on the ringing circuit soon.

The open practices are an ideal opportunity to hone and progress ringing skills at all levels and I therefore highly recommend them to all. Invariably there will be the prospect of ringing something more advanced than could otherwise be achieved at tower level due to the calibre of ringers who attend such events. We are therefore most appreciative of such ringers in helping others to achieve their personal ringing goals.

The next branch get-together will be on 1 April at Silverton. This will be a combined service, meeting and open ringing on eight bells. We look forward in seeing as many of you as possible at this event.

Mark Heritage, Branch Treasurer

Cadbury Ringers learning to raise and lower in peal

Having recently had the bells re-hung, the band approached the Troyte Ringing Centre for some support in raising and lowering the bells in peal. Having had to cancel the date in December because of snow, it was possible to meet the request on Saturday 25 February. On a cold yet sunny morning in a church which has yet to raise further funds, this time for heating, seven members of the band were supported by six helpers from other towers.



The group photo in Cadbury church around the font

Beginning the session with raising four bells, one student in at a time, tips and hints on improving performance along with video clips from the ART Raising and Lowering DVD, all progressed to ringing all six bells. With two or three students in at a time, the morning soon flew by. All made significant gains in understanding and performance.

Thanks go to Gordon and his wife, Chris, for a warm welcome and time to catch up over lunch at Cadbury House.

Sheila Scofield

Excerpts from North-East Tower Monthly Events and News

Tiverton Call Change and Method Practice 7th January



On Saturday 7 January the North-East Branch held its first call change and method practice of the year on Tiverton St Peter's glorious eight bells. Ringing time was split 50/50 between call changes and method touches, so that everyone could have ample ringing. I loved hearing the bells called into the changes of Queens and Tittums. For those wanting to ring some method there were touches of Grandsire Triples, Bob Triples and Plain Bob Minor. Coffee and cake followed the practice.

Surprise Major Practices

Developing ringing skills for more advanced ringers in a small branch is a challenge. We have combined with the Aylesbeare Branch during the last few S Major practices, which has benefitted us both. Taking things steadily with Yorkshire as a foundation method, we are now working towards increasing our repertoire. In January we rang plain courses of Cambridge and Yorkshire and half courses of Cornwall. We chose Cornwall as it is on the 'Pickled Egg' list. Next month we may even ring a whole course.

These practices are also an opportunity for ringers to begin to treble bob the treble on eight bells. We try to arrange adequate numbers so someone can stand with a learner (treble or inside). Future plans are to ring any of:- Cambridge, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Cornwall. Please let Sheila know if you are planning to attend.

Margaret Shackleton

How to get new recruits

With many members of the St Peter's band either ill or otherwise busy with friends and family, New Year's eve in Tiverton was a silent affair as regards bells. This has not happened (apart from 2020) in all the time that I have been in Tiverton. As this was such a rare event I asked Les to put something on the local Facebook page to alert the local residents as we know many people listen out for the bells. Along with stating the reason for the bells being silent I asked him to put the Guild recruitment poster, 'Learn to ring, to crown a King'. I have had four emails as a result of this posting, with three people coming to investigate learning to ring and one other offering to help (a lapsed ringer 'somewhere near Tiverton'). We wait to see if these people are prepared to put in the time to learn and become part of the band, but I was surprised to get such a promising response. The poster is on the Guild website if anyone would like to use it anytime: <https://devonringers.org.uk/guild/useful-docs>.

Margaret Shackleton

South-West Branch Plympton ring for St Agatha

On Monday 5 February, St Mary's, Plympton celebrated the feast of St Agatha, a Christian saint and patron saint of bells, bell-founders and ringers. The icon held by the youngest ringer present is by Ikon Johannes, a Dorset bell ringer, and was published in *The Ringing World* some years ago. We celebrate by each choosing a prayer, hymn or poem to read from our collection and sharing a thoughtful moment together, prior to practice.



Ringing on St. Agatha's Day in St Mary's, Plympton (image Kerry Vaughan)

By Gabrielle Stooks

South-West Branch AGM

The AGMs in the South-West Branch tend to be embedded into ringing. 2023 was no exception, and saw a good turnout at St Eustachius, Tavistock. The ringing chamber of the ten-bell tower was packed for a chance to ring Minimus on the simulator. We rang with two covering and proceeded to six-bell methods later on. All present found it very worthwhile, life-like and good fun. The lush red carpet in the ringing room is worth a mention – every tower deserves one of those!

The meeting itself took just under an hour because as ever it was well-prepared by Alena Wardle and Trevor Vercoe and we are now set up for another year.

A highlight was the presentation of certificates to new members. Guild Ringing Master Michael Cannon did the honours for the three ringers. Congratulations!

Open ringing for all abilities on the ten bells concluded a fine day out.



Tavistock carpet (image Barbara Hocke)



Receiving their certificates: L to r - Elisabeth Field, Sheila Reynolds, Michael Cannon, Jinny Jeffery

Barbara Hocke

Intense! Practice for advanced ringers

The SW Branch offers special practices, organised by ringing master Phil Dunn. This winter these addressed ringers of Minor beyond Plain Bob. The three Saturday meetings in Sampford Spiney, Tavistock and Whitchurch could be attended individually, however the more sessions, the more progress, as the sessions were designed to build onto each other. The first two sessions were led by Alena Wardle. In tucked-away lovely Sampford Spiney we had an intense session indeed. Six happy helpers had come along to mentor four learners with – as we whittled it down from several possibilities – St. Clement's College Bob Minor and Single Court Minor. With a strong band around us we could either observe our chosen bell or be the only learner inside. It doesn't get much better than that!

Building on that we went to the simulator in Tavistock. Sadly it was broken, so we tried to ring nicely for the Saturday market crowd in town and we attracted the right kind of response: ringer Andy Smith from Truro heard the bells, came up to investigate and kindly joined in as a helper. Lucky us! We added Single Oxford to our (small) quiver of minor methods, haltingly, it must be said. So many things to consider as each pointer in one method can be the other way round in another. It is not easy, simple as that. The third instalment in Whitchurch could only be attended by two learners, however they made the most of it with this time being coached by Ian Smith. Each teacher has a different approach and can offer advice accordingly, helping to improve.

For us learners it is good to know what to work on in our towers if the band is strong enough. We practised on different bells and can progress from here on, even in a band at the same time. Many thanks to everyone involved!



Experienced ringer Elena Brake turned 30 on the day of the Tavistock practice

Barbara Hocke

An exercise in splicing

Bell maintenance can appear to be a bit daunting. After all, bells are pretty heavy and they sit in these massive frames ... On the other end, the rope end, it can feel easier to get involved.

A splicing workshop was held at Emmanuel, Plymouth. Our group consisted of some old hands (ringers) or sailors, or both, for others it was a first.

Under the supervision of Alena Wardle and John Bowler we explored the twists of a rope and looked inside a sally, quite a new perspective for most, followed by giving splicing a go. After getting one's head round all the twists, the technique as such is quite straightforward, it is the quality of the splice which can take the longer time.

To start with, pieces of rope are unravelled for about 15 cms, and then the individual strands are woven into the other rope. These weavings are called turns.

Over, under, and in. We taped the endings to avoid fraying, which made sense. It was quite fiddly and hemp is made up of fine fibres. At all turns the important part was pulling and twisting each strand to achieve a tight centre, no wobbly middles please! Finally we thinned out the strands and tucked these slimmer bits in to taper the new connection.

Followed the best (and unexpected) bit: rolling the new splice under your boots to even it out.

We finished the workshop with a West Country whipping as a traditional method to avoid fraying. A bit of thread is needed and simple overhand knots will do it, the same knot you would secure a parcel with for example.

Two hours flew by. What a useful and interesting thing to do. We highly recommend!



Splice and west country whipping (image Barbara Hocke)



Rope splicing workshop 1
(image John Bowler)



Splice turn (image Roger Compton)



Rope splicing workshop 2
(image John Bowler)



Splicing with dog (image Roger Compton)

Raising and lowering in peal by invitation of the Devon Association

When I attended my very first practice evening as a potential learner at Emmanuel, Plymouth, I was blown away by the glorious sound of lowering the eight bells in peal. As the ringing went faster and faster, and the sound seemed to fuse into a manic reverberating, humming roar - I knew my fate was sealed: I would be a ringer too. Like many novices, having achieved a degree of competence in ringing rounds, call changes and raising and lowering a bell independently, I was keen to learn how to raise and lower in peal and was delighted when Suzanne Driscoll, President of the Devon Association of Ringers, organised Raising and Lowering in Peal workshops at Ashwater and Clawton.

Ten 'improvers' from a wide area of Devon attended, supported by ten able helpers who kindly helped coach us one at a time. As we all had two goes in each tower the helpers increasingly needed riding gloves and elastoplasts to protect sore hands but showed us great kindness and encouragement. My grateful thanks too for those who made delicious cakes and hot drinks, the local teams and the local residents who had to listen! Visiting new towers both to ring and explore is always rewarding and this was no exception.



Ashwater church



Clawton church



Workshop in progress with Suzanne Driscoll



Jonathan Gale at a happy break

Jonathan Gale

Training and Education Recruitment the Bovey way!

Recruitment: not necessarily an uphill battle

When I'm one of the youngsters in a tower then clearly we need to attract more ringers from the next generation - or even the one below that. We began after Christmas - after all hundreds of people sign up to the gym in January so why wouldn't they be interested in free regular exercise in a bell tower? Maybe we do lack the carpeted reception area, lifts, pool and jacuzzi but we can provide ambient music, weights, and personal trainers!

It started with Facebook - first we created a Facebook page for Bovey Bellringers and shared a link on 'What's on Bovey'. At this point we weren't actively campaigning for recruits but trying to raise the profile of

bellringing within the local community. It is a public page, anybody can join, members can post and there are only three rules (be kind, no bullying, posts should relate to bellringing).

Some of our band were sceptical and some feared it would replace the current methods for communication within the band which were email focussed rather than using social media. We had to tread carefully since neither of us hold office in the tower and we didn't want to upset the tower captain or ringing master or risk losing any of our long-serving members. But we felt that without recruitment then bellringing really will be a dying art.

Then along came the 'Ring for the King' message. So we had a purpose for active recruitment. Our campaign intensified: posters printed (thank you to Jill and Mike) and laminated and placed around the town and specific posts on Facebook. Then, fortunately as it turns out, someone removed our posters - to this day we don't know why - so I complained publicly on the local 'what's on ..' page. This particular post was the one that generated most of our original recruits - it seems argumentative debate on where posters could be placed gave rise to lots of views and subsequent enquiries about ringing.

It was hard work keeping track of all the enquiries, responding individually and this remains the hardest element of the whole process: specific individual encouragement and information depending on where they live and where they currently are in the learning curve. Initial enquiries came through Messenger since it's attached to Facebook but I prefer to be able to use email or WhatsApp. Knowing some people are reluctant to share contact details this was another area where we had to tread carefully. With permissions we have established a small WhatsApp group (The Clangers) and we are careful to use 'bcc' with email addresses.

'Initial enquiries' are great, but they have to be converted to 'first attendance' to the tower and that in turn needs to morph into a habit. To date we have had nearly 50 initial contacts, half of whom have attended at least one learners' session. Some do not respond when we try to contact them, some find that ringing is not for them, and some are waiting for something to happen later in the year (warmer weather, hip replacements, etc!).

There is no point in recruiting unless you can follow through with rope time. We knew that half an hour of tied bell before the main band practice was not going to be enough. So we recruited the churches too! There are several local towers without their own bands - we ring there occasionally on Sundays and special days and there may be one or two locals at each but since lockdown they've not been able to re-establish regular ringing. With permission and PCC agreement we set up two bespoke learner sessions at Highweek (Wednesdays) and Lustleigh (Thursdays). This has proved vital to coping with the influx of learners., it is variable, however, with a current peak of 8 learners/novices at Highweek, plus trainers to a low of 2 at Lustleigh in the same week. We have suggested which towers people might prefer but on the whole left it to them to decide and of course some have come to our usual weekly practice night.

We have also directed people to other towers: two to Kingsteignton, one to St Marychurch, five to Wolborough and some others who have not yet converted into turning up! These were from responses we had to the second arm of our campaign where we branched out into specific Facebook groups for Newton Abbot, Ogwell, MoretonHampstead, Lustleigh, and Bickington. If we aim to recruit specifically for those towers we will need more ropetime available as well as a local contact who can help with placing notices and spreading the word - that's for later in the year!

Ongoing input includes regular email and messaging to remind people to come, check they are happy with their learning and encourage them to keep at it. We have been fortunate in getting support from within our band at Bovey to help with the training - two regularly help us at Highweek and a different two at Lustleigh. We are hoping that in the future we may have enough locals to continue at Highweek and that the current learners practice will become a cohesive band in its own right, at which point we will withdraw but remain available for ongoing support if needed.

We don't expect to create anywhere near 40+ new ringers from this process but given the context of just one learner at Bovey in the last 18 months, we are delighted by the situation so far!

It has been a fair bit of work for us two retirees who were happy leading a quieter life. We hope that by the end of 2023 we have more ringers than we started with. Time will tell.

And yes, we have been on an ART course! It was very helpful. Thank you to Les Boyce and Charlotte . . .

Also our thanks to Steve Miners for lending us his excellent model of a church bell in frame ('it is not a toy!'), which has been invaluable.

Katie and Robert Law

Young Ringers

We have some really exciting things planned for Devon Young Ringers for 2023 so I am looking forward to the year ahead. We will continue to meet at Pinhoe church on the second Sunday of the month, apart from in April where we will meet one week later so as not to clash with Easter Sunday.

Please encourage your young ringers to attend our practices and activities. All abilities are very welcome.

The dates for practices are as follows, and will be held from 2 to 4pm.

- Sunday 12 March
- Sunday 16 April
- Sunday 11 June

We will also be organising a Young Ringers' outing during the week commencing 10 April, and details will be confirmed closer to the time.
yrcoordinator@devonringers.org.uk

Elena Brake, Young Ringers' Coordinator

BBC News Report

Please share this article by the BBC about the need for younger ringers on your village or towns social media sites, please include photos of your local youth if you have some and they are happy for their photos to be shared. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-63873253>

Margaret Shackleton

Troyte Ringing Centre Training Events

Exploring Kaleidoscope Ringing:

Sat 10 June, 10.00 – 13.00 at Huntsham

Aimed particularly, but not exclusively at tower captains and those who lead practices, in this session we will examine and practise some of the exercises which can be used to develop bell control, listening skills and ropesight in new ringers. The session will explain their value for those who are tackling call changes and plain hunting after learning their initial handling and show how foundation skills can be fun!

Places must be booked well in advance with Les Boyce (les@troyteringingcentre.org.uk; 01884 256819) Fee £10 including optional lunch.

Please note: The short course on 'Moving on from Plain Bob Doubles – the St Simon's Group' being run in April is already fully booked.

Les Boyce

Devon Ringers' Council Festival

Saturday April 22

This regular festival is arranged by the both the Guild and the Devon Association through the Devon Ringers' Council. It consists of call-change competitions on 10, 8 and 6 bells using standard callings. This year they are being held at:

- 10-bell – Buckfast Abbey, from 9.30am
- 8-bell – Buckfastleigh, from 2.00pm
- 6-bell – Bickington from 4.00pm

Please try to enter a band into as many of the competitions you can – we don't want to be shown up by the Association!

To book a time please contact Ian Avery ianwavery@gmail.com.

Ian Avery

Guild Social Media

The Guild is increasingly making use of electronic media to bring members together, advertise events, and to spread news. The Guild Facebook group at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/989159587790643> is a closed group, so only members can see posts. Some branches have their own Facebook groups. There is also an email list for all ringers in Devon, both Guild and Association. Full details of these are at: <https://devonringers.org.uk/guild/social-media>.

If you are a keen follower of *Ringing Round Devon* you are welcome to join the email list rrd-contributors which you can find at: <https://lists.devonringers.org.uk/mailman/listinfo> This list is used to remind members when copy is due, and to let people know when each issue is available and being distributed.

Ian Campbell

Notable Ringing Events

Peals

64 Methods in Hand

Many congratulations to Jill and Mike Wigney along with Peter Richards for a peal of 64 methods on handbells. For those of us who struggle to ring simple methods on handbells, 64 Treble Dodging Minor methods is mind blowing. We know that this is not the end of their ambitions so we look forward to reporting more peals from this band.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Bovey Tracey, Devon, Sorrento

Friday, 16 December 2022 in 2h 5 (8 in C)

5760 Spliced Treble Dodging Minor (64m)

British Scholars' Pleasure TB, Nelson TB, Woodcock's Victory TB, Chadkirk TB, Chiltern TB, Cheviot TB, Mendip TB, Pennine TB, Cotswold TB, Norton-le-Moors TB, Glastonbury Delight, Tintern Delight, Tewkesbury Delight, Evesham Delight, Sherborne Delight, Melrose D, Fountains Delight, Berwyn TB, Killamarsh TB, Waterford TB, Trinity Sunday TB, Kent TB, Quantock TB, Snowdon TB, Combermere Delight, Abbeyville Delight, Vale Royal Delight, Southwark Delight, Canterbury Delight, Crowland Delight, St Werburgh Delight, Morning Star TB, Rochester TB, Burton TB, Sandal TB, London Scholars' Pleasure TB, Capel TB, Kingston TB, Oxford TB, Duke of Norfolk TB, College Exercise TB, Ockley TB, Norbury TB, Elston Delight, Kirkstall Delight, London Victory Delight, Burnaby Delight, Waltham Delight, Clarence Delight, Burslem Delight, Bedford Delight, Merton Delight, Neasden Delight, St Albans Delight, Charlwood Delight, Wragby Delight, Humber Delight, Braintree Delight, Old Oxford Delight, College Bob IV Delight, Newdigate Delight, Willesden Delight, Taxal Delight, Marple Delight

J Warboys (TD0802)

1-2 Jill M Wigney 5-6 Peter M C Richards (C)

3-4 Michael J Wigney

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first peal for 1-2

110th anniversary peal

PealBase (a web based list of peals) is a wonderful resource for anyone interested in peal ringing. It now includes all known peals rung since 1913. For some time I have been researching the peals rung by my grandfather, George Bradley, who learned to ring in 1910 at St John's church, Whittle-le-Woods in Lancashire. I was delighted to find confirmation on PealBase of his first peal. This was rung on 1 February 1913. I only found it in the middle of January and was amazed that Mike Mears was able to assemble an eight-bell band and a suitable tower at incredibly short notice. The method he suggested was Ribblesdale Delight Major and what a superb choice. It had great musical potential which was exploited to the full in a one-part composition by Alan Reading. My very grateful thanks to Mike and all the band for helping me to celebrate 110 years of peal ringing in my family. Unfortunately, Philip Stevens, who had kindly arranged the tower was not able to ring on the day.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Kingskerswell, Devon, St Mary

Wednesday, 1 February 2023 in 2h 54 (7-0-3)

5152 Ribblesdale Delight Major

A G Reading

1 Robert D S Brown 5 Martin G Mansley
2 Ian V J Smith 6 Michael C Hansford
3 Michael H Tompsett 7 David Hird
4 Roger King 8 Michael E C Mears (C)

Rung on the 110th anniversary of Frederick G Bradley's (Martin's grandfather) first peal

Martin Mansley

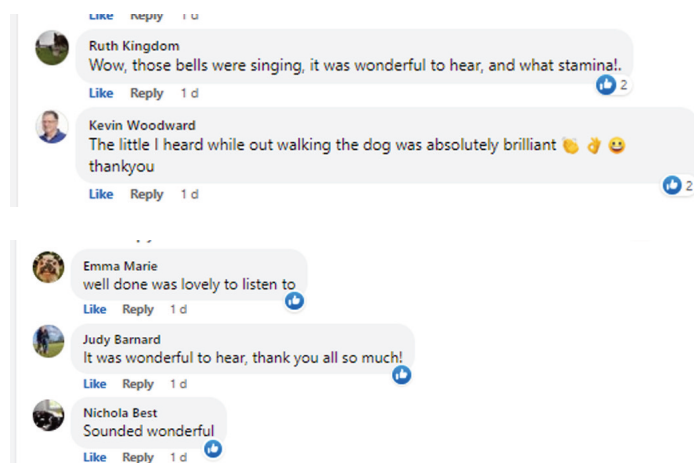
Uffculme peal on New Years Eve

A peal was rung at Uffculme on New Years' Eve and we thought we might share with you how we publicised the ringing.

In November we published an advance notice in the parish magazine explaining that the bells would be ringing between 2pm and approximately 5pm. Then between Christmas and the day of the peal we posted reminder notices through the letter boxes of the hundred or so houses closest to the church. At the same time we posted a notice on the

village Facebook page and were surprised at the number of 'likes' the post received - one response before the ringing started was '... can't wait for the bells to start ringing'

The peal was successful and we followed up by posting a picture of the band on Facebook along with a short write-up. Here are some of the comments we received:



Not everyone is comfortable with using social media but you may find there is someone in your tower who could act on your behalf as your tower social media contact.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Uffculme, Devon, St Mary the Virgin

Saturday, 31 December 2022 in 3h 6 (21-3-6)

5024 Cornwall Surprise Major

Composed by Anon

1 Lesley A Nripe 5 Ian V J Smith
2 Charlotte A Boyce 6 James Kirkcaldy
3 Peter L Bill 7 John R Martin (C)
4 Peter M C Richards 8 Michael E C Mears

Specially arranged and rung to mark the accession of King Charles III.

John Martin

Denbury – first on bells since augmentation

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Denbury, Devon, St Mary the Virgin

Tuesday, 3 January 2023 in 2h 39 (8-3-12)

5040 Surprise Minor (7m)

1 extent each Carlisle, London, Bourne, York, Norwich, Beverley, Cambridge

1 Ian L C Campbell 4 Peter L Bill
2 P Wendy Campbell 5 Ian V J Smith
3 Michael H Tompsett 6 David Hird (C)

First peal following rehanging and augmentation to 6.



The two old bells removed from the tower at Denbury are displayed in the church

First of Surprise Major

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Newton St Cyres, Devon, St Cyr and St Julitta
Saturday, 21 January 2023 in 2h 53 (12–3–22)
5056 Cambridge Surprise Major
J S Wilde

1 Charlotte A Boyce	5 Ian V J Smith
2 Elena L Brake	6 Michael E C Mears
3 Timothy M Bayton	7 John R Martin (C)
4 Michael H Tompsett	8 David Hird

First Surprise Major: 2
Rung as a 75th birthday compliment to Mike Tompsett.

Firsts of Spliced Surprise Maximus

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Withycombe Raleigh, Devon, St John the Evangelist
Saturday, 28 January 2023 in 3h 21 (17–1–10)
5042 Spliced Surprise Maximus (5m)
1056 Zanussi; 1010 Bristol; 1008 each Cambridge, Yorkshire;
960 Littleport Little; 46 com, atw.

Composed by A G Reading

1 Matthew J Hilling (C)	7 John R Martin
2 Joanna C Franklin	8 Ian V J Smith
3 Oliver Coldrick	9 Paul J Pascoe
4 Andrew P Digby	10 Richard Harrison
5 Lynne P Hughes	11 David Hird
6 Timothy M Payne	12 Michael E C Mears

First of Spliced Maximus: 2
First of Spliced Maximus on tower bells: 5

Farewell to Lynne Hughes

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Dawlish, Devon, St Gregory
Saturday, 18 February 2023 in 2h 49 (11–2–21)
5152 Dawlish Delight Major
R D S Brown

1 Robert D S Brown	5 Donald B Carter
2 Charlotte A Boyce	6 Lynne P Hughes
3 Russell C Chamberlain	7 John R Martin (C)
4 Kevin J Skillings	8 Michael E C Mears

First peal in the method
Dawlish Delight Major
b -38-14-1258-1236-14-18-1256.56.78

Specially arranged and rung as a farewell compliment to Dawlish tower captain Lynne Hughes as she prepares to move to Cambridge.

Firsts of Spliced S Major

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Highweek, Devon, All Saints
Saturday, 25 February 2023 in 2h 46 (11–1–11)
5088 Spliced Surprise Major (4m)
1344 Rutland; 1248 Cambridge, Lincolnshire, Yorkshire; 90 com atw.
P G K Davies

1 Robert D S Brown	5 Mark Pring
2 Timothy M Bayton	6 Michael H Tompsett
3 William P Carew	7 David Hird
4 Michael C Hansford	8 Michael E C Mears (C)

First Spliced S Major: 3, 5.

Quarter Peals

First Quarter Peals

Congratulations to Anne Heywood who rang her first quarter peal as cover at Dawlish on December 13.

Dawlish, Devon, St Gregory
Tuesday, 13 December 2022 in 42m (6–1–22)
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Nicola Twibill	4 Michael Wallis
2 Deborah Wallis	5 Lynne Hughes (C)
3 Russell Chamberlain	6 Anne Heywood

Rung on the front six, during the setting up of the Christmas Tree Festival.
First covering: 6.

Also

Plymouth, Devon, Minster Church of St Andrew
Sunday, 18 December 2022 in 50m (9–2–0)
1260 Doubles (2m)
480 Plain Bob, 780 Grandsire

1 Jinny Jeffery	4 Christopher H Wardle
2 Christine Harris	5 Fergus M S Stracey (C)
3 Elena L Brake	6 Barbara M Hocke

1st quarter - 1
Rung before the church carol service
First of Spliced Surprise Major

First of Spliced S Major

Kingskerswell, Devon, St Mary
Friday, 30 December 2022 in 44m (7–0–3)
1280 Spliced Surprise Major (4m)
4m: Cambridge, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Rutland

1 Sue Sawyer	5 Robert D S Brown
2 Patricia Slade	6 Robert Law
3 Mike Tompsett	7 Peter M C Richards
4 Richard Shere	8 Tim Bayton (C)

First quarter of Spliced: 6.

Father and Daughter

Roger Avery of Bishopsteignton has come very recently to quarter peal ringing. His daughter Rachel is also a ringer but usually rings in Inverness which is about as far away (ringing wise) as you can get from Bishopsteignton. Roger and Rachel are really keen to ring together so on her visits to Devon they try to grab every opportunity. On her Christmas visit this year the chance was taken once more and on Friday 16 December a quarter peal was planned. For various reasons (ringer availability, a carol service, etc) there was a very small window of opportunity so when 'That's all' was called at the end of the quarter of Grandsire Doubles there was rejoicing all round, only partly because then the band could get warm again. We look forward to more exploits from the couple in future.

Bishopsteignton, Devon, St John the Baptist
Friday, 16 December 2022 in 45m (9–0–25)
1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Rachel Milner	4 Martin Mansley
2 Fiona Rock-Evans	5 James Grant (C)
3 Ian Avery	6 Roger Avery

Rachel and Roger are daughter and father, both keen ringers, but very rarely get to ring together because Rachel's home tower is over 600 miles away in Inverness. They were delighted to ring their second quarter peal together.

Eighteenth Birthday Compliment

Buckerell, Devon, St Mary and St Giles
Saturday, 7 January 2023 in 40m (8–1–4)
1260 Doubles (3m)

420 each St Simon, St Martin, Plain Bob.

1 Shân Allen	4 Patricia Slade
2 Tim Bayton (C)	5 Theo Millard
3 Lisa Clarke	6 Susan A King

Belated 18th birthday compliments to 5.



Tricia, Theo, Tim, Shân, Lisa (Sue took the photo!)

First on an Inside Bell

Combe Raleigh, Devon, St Nicholas
Tuesday, 10 January 2023 in 52m (5–2–19)
1380 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Lisa Clarke	4 Lesley Houghton
2 Jonathan G Rose	5 Jeff J Bailey (C)
3 Anne E Bailey	6 Susan A King

First quarter on an inside bell - 4, and completes Level 4 of Learning the Ropes. Well done, Lesley

Celebrating the Life of John Denning

Compton Gifford, Devon, Emmanuel
Sunday, 22 January 2023 in 45m (19–3–14)
1260 3m Doubles

Stedman, Grandsire, Plain Bob	
1 Elena L Brake	4 John F Bowler
2 Daniel T Calvert	5 Alena J Wardle (C)
3 Sam D Peck	6 Trevor C F Vercoe

Rung for evensong and to celebrate the life of John Denning, Alena's father, who passed away on 24 December 2022. After many years of resistance he finally joined his wife and daughter in the Exercise, learning to ring in his 70s

Other News

What did you do in the War Pandemic, Daddy?

Although ringing has seen a number of initiatives and innovations in the last 80 years, perhaps notably the Millennium recruitment drive and Ringing Remembers, nothing has had the same impact on the Exercise since the Second World War as the COVID pandemic. As well as the loss of ringers, which was accelerated in 2020 and 2021, there appears to have been a change in the approach some existing ringers are taking to their level of engagement in ringing activities and the commitment they are prepared to offer. Some of the changes brought about by COVID are likely to be long-lasting and mean we may have to modify how we operate as an activity in future.

Because of the immense impact of the pandemic it seems sensible to record some of the changes and limitations it put on our activities and to reflect on where towers and branches are in 2023. Did your tower organise alternative activities when you weren't able to meet in the tower or join the Guild Zoom meetings at 'The Internet Arms'? Did you make use of Ringing Room or other online ringing platforms? Did you ring one bell, then six and restart ringing fully as soon as restrictions allowed? Has your tower made any permanent modifications to the way you operate such as improving ventilation?

Back in the June 2021 edition of RRD I invited individuals and towers to send me their stories from the first 15 months of lockdown. I received a few contributions, but as we now know the disruption was to continue well into the following year. So, can I repeat that invitation to send me your stories, descriptions of activities, photos and videos describing what happen during the pandemic.

Lester Yeo is leading a project to write the history of the Guild from the centenary year of 1974 to the end of 2022. We would like to devote a chapter to Devon ringing in the pandemic and would like your contributions. Remember: Your Guild History needs you!

PS. Contributions from 'mummies' are equally welcome!! (librarian@devonringers.org.uk)

Les Boyce, Guild Librarian

Seminar on Training ringers Sat 4 March

A very cold and frosty morning was made much better by the warm welcome received from the Stokeinteignhead ringers who had coffee and tea waiting for us at the back of the church.

The church was already set out with chairs and a screen which could be used to project video or the images from Abel which had been connected to a mobile simulator bell made by Martin Mansley. Also available were various books and a model bell which prompted the local clock winder to say that there was one in the clock room at Stoke which he proceeded to produce – Rodney had no idea it was there!

The proceedings got underway with a welcome from Mid-Devon

branch Chair Dr Rodney Horder who gave a brief background to the reasoning behind the day – the need to train more ringers and the hope that we can share good practice and support ringers who are starting to train recruits. He then asked everyone to give a brief introduction to themselves and their experience (or not!) of teaching.

The next stage was to proceed to the ringing room to look at what constitutes a good style. On the question of 'does good style matter?' there was general agreement that it does and that it is much easier to progress if the ringing style is natural, safe and uses as little energy as possible. There was quite a bit of discussion about what we mean by a good style and a few tips on how to teach it.

Back in the church a video was viewed which had been produced by Association of Ringing Teachers (ART). This started by discussing three stages that a learner goes through when learning to ring –

1. Cognitive - learner
2. Associative – improver
3. Autonomous – expert

It also suggested what approach the teacher needed at each stage.

Elements of good style were then discussed and these broadly followed what we had discussed in the tower.

Probably the most popular part of the morning was the next part of the video - a selection of common handling faults and suggestions of ways to correct them. This produced quite a bit of discussion and quite a few heads nodding in agreement with much of what was being suggested.

A few examples are.

Ringling with stiff arms and throwing the rope forward particularly at backstroke.

One cure for this was the 'Hand Ring' exercise. This involves the learner standing in front of a rope (bell down) tail end on the ground and hanging as straight as possible. They then put their hands up to the sally and surround it by making a ring or O shape. Reaching as high as possible they then move down to knee level without touching the rope. This is done faster and faster until they are comfortably managing the speed they will need when ringing. The need to bend the arms becomes obvious when they do this.

Ringling with a slack rope and not keeping up with the rope as it comes down.

It was suggested that the instructor could put their hand on those of the learner to make them move down at the correct speed.

There was quite a lot of discussion about this technique. One member of the group saying that they would never do this or want it done to them. There was general agreement that it could only be done with notice that it may happen and permission from the 'pupil'.

Poor technique catching the sally

This could be worked on by miming the procedure with the bell down.

These are just a few of the faults which were demonstrated on film and discussed by the group. Much of this discussion then continued while we enjoyed tea, coffee and delicious cakes presided over by Sheila and Jenny of the local band. Some tried the simulator and others had time to look at some of the items on display but most of the time was spent networking and discussing all that had been seen so far.

Our Assistant Ringing master, Mike Wigney, then presided over a question and answer session which tried to address a few questions brought up by members of the group. Topics included recruitment and retention – the importance of a social aspect to our ringing, good communication, and the use of social media (see article by Katie and Robert Law).

Listening skills were also discussed. Martin apologised that the advertised look at the 'Come on, Listen to it' DVD could not take place as the library copy no longer works. The difficulty that some ringers have of knowing when their bell strikes and picking it out within the others was highlighted. A few suggestions were made such as getting the learner to say 'ding' when they thought their bell would ring.

We also discussed an article in *The Ringing World* a couple of months ago which described a system of charging a sort of deposit which was returned if the teacher gave up on the pupil (after a specified time) but not if the learner gave up after much time had been spent teaching.

Again, quite a bit of discussion was generated and there was some sympathy for the ideas, if not total agreement with the detail. It was also pointed out that some ringers who give up may come back at a later point – particularly the case with young people.

Our final presentation was from Wena Mansley. She took part in an ART course just before lockdown and has since started to teach two

learners. She described some of her experiences, Some of the points she made included-

- Don't try to teach unless you are confident with your own ability to completely control a bell (it was strongly felt that teaching makes the teacher analyse their own style and, possibly, correct it)
- Decide whether to teach left or right-handed. This was again discussed at length with no real consensus although many were in favour of teaching right handed but being open to change if it was obvious that the learner was having difficulty.
- She stressed the importance of having a mentor when starting to teach. They were able to see more of what was happening and highlight good practice or things to work on.
- One of her main concerns before starting was how you would rescue a learner when things went wrong. It was felt worth trying this with an experienced ringer or your mentor at an early stage.
- Although she had found it useful to put her hand on that of her pupil when trying to speed up the pull she also felt that gestures and demonstration were very useful
- She discussed fear from the learner and we discussed ways that this could be addressed – it was felt that however nervous the teacher was they should try extremely hard not to show it.

Throughout the morning the enthusiasm and keenness of everyone could almost be touched.

We are extremely grateful for the strong support from the Stokeinteighhead ringers but also the willingness of all to take part so fully with discussions. The support is out there – with the need for new ringers and the national focus which has been put on ringing we are all going to be pretty busy.

*Martin Mansley,
with much use of notes taken by Mike Wigney.*

Small Bells available for sale



When Frank Mack died he left a large number of small bells in his house in Exmouth. Following his wife Mary's death the house has been sold and the bells have been donated to the Guild by their children in the hope that they could raise some money for the bell restoration fund.

In total there are over 50 ranging from one 13cm diameter, labelled size 16, at 537 grams with note B/Bb, down to a much smaller one at 6cm diameter which is 120 grams in D. There are nearly all sizes and notes (with various different tunings and qualities) between these two although I was hard pushed to find even an octave of similar sounding bells.

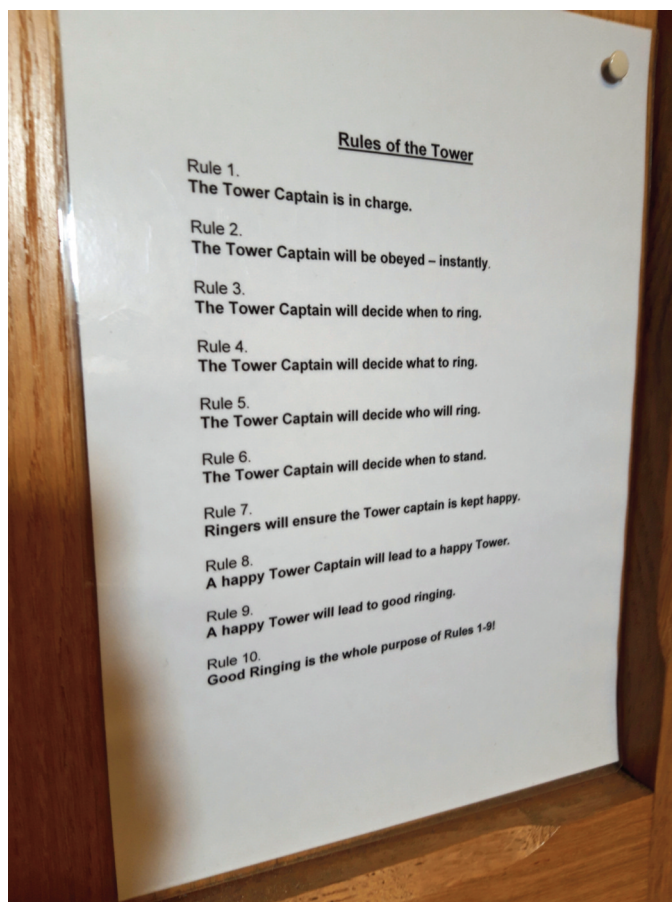
I think that they are mostly old servants' bells rather than handbells - most have cast in crown staples (or they have been removed) and a few still retain their clappers. There are also some servants' bells still on their operating springs in addition to these. I enclose a photo of them on my dining table. They are actually sorted in note order in two rows, with duplicate notes in front or behind. The three in the front are of an unusual ornate design.

I have no idea what you could do with them. They are a little small to make a turning bell model and I doubt that you could make up a set of handbells. I have had offers to purchase them all from two sources but would like to let anyone local have first choice of any of them. I have no idea what they are worth - one has a ticket inside from an antique shop for £5.

If you would be interested in looking over the bells with a thought of purchasing one or more please contact the editor. We can arrange for them to be brought to a Guild or branch function. Any money raised will be passed to the DCBRF.

Ian Campbell

Sound Advice



Rules of the Tower

- Rule 1: The Tower Captain is in charge.
- Rule 2: The Tower Captain will be obeyed – instantly.
- Rule 3: The Tower Captain will decide when to ring.
- Rule 4: The Tower Captain will decide what to ring.
- Rule 5: The Tower Captain will decide who will ring.
- Rule 6: The Tower Captain will decide when to stand.
- Rule 7: Ringers will ensure the Tower Captain is kept happy.
- Rule 8: A happy Tower Captain will lead to a happy Tower.
- Rule 9: A happy Tower will lead to good ringing.
- Rule 10: Good Ringing is the whole purpose of Rules 1-9!

With thanks to the anonymous author.

Ian Campbell



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Keeping Warm



David Hird trying to keep warm

Calendar of Events

March

Fri 17	19:30	8-bell practice, Wolborough	Mid Devon
Sat 18	10:00	General branch practice, Lamerton	South West
Sat 18	15:00	Guild Library opens, St Petrock's, Exeter	Guild
Sat 25	09:15	ART Training Scheme: Module 1 (Teaching Bellhandling), Chagford	Guild

April

Sat 1	10:00	Service, meeting and open branch practice, Silverton	North East
Sat 1	10:00	Taster session (by invitation), Babbacombe	Mid Devon
Sat 1	10:00	Handling clinic, including raising and lowering, Tavistock	South West
Sun 9	17:00	Open 10-bell service ringing, Cullompton	North East
Tue 11	19:30	Triples and Major practice, St Peter's, Tiverton	North East
Thu 13	19:30	Plain Hunt etc., Sidbury	East
Fri 14	19:30	Surprise Major practice (joint NE and Aylesbeare), East Budleigh	North East
Sat 15	10:00	Branch practice, Broadclyst	Aylesbeare
Sat 15	10:00	Raise and lower in Peal, Brentor	South West
Sun 16	14:00	Devon Young Ringers' meet-up and practice, Pinhoe	Young Ringers
Thu 20	19:30	6-bell practice, Coffinswell	Mid Devon
Sat 22	TBA	Devon Ringers' Council Ringing Festival, Buckfast Abbey, Buckfastleigh, Bickington	Guild

May

Tue 2	19:30	Triples and Major practice, St Peter's, Tiverton	North East
Wed 10	19:30	Branch practice, Lympstone	Aylesbeare
Thu 11	19:30	Plain Hunt etc., Sidbury	East
Fri 12	19:30	Surprise Major practice, TBC	North East
Sat 13		Branch Spring outing, TBC	South West
Sat 13	14:30	Spring ringing meeting, Kilmington	East
Sun 14	14:00	Devon Young Ringers' meet-up and practice, Pinhoe	Young Ringers
Sun 14	17:00	Open 10-bell service ringing, Cullompton	North East
Mon 15	19:30	8-bell practice, Berry Pomeroy	Mid Devon
Sat 20	15:00	Branch social, TBC	North East

June

Sat 3	10:00	Open branch practice, TBC	North East
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Sat 3	19:00	Branch practice, Holne	Mid Devon
Tue 6	19:30	Triples and Major practice, St Peter's, Tiverton	North East
Thu 8	19:30	Plain Hunt etc., Sidbury	East
Fri 9	19:30	Surprise Major practice, TBC	North East
Sun 11	14:00	Devon Young Ringers' meet-up and practice, Pinhoe	Young Ringers
Sun 11	17:00	Open 10-bell service ringing, Cullompton	North East
Mon 12	19:30	Branch practice, Clyst St George	Aylesbeare
Thu 15	19:30	6-bell practice, Denbury	Mid Devon
Sat 17		Annual General Meeting	Guild

Editorial

Firstly, thanks go to John Foster for doing the page makeup for the last edition of RRD while away in Hong Kong. Did you work out what the Cantonese characters on the front said?

It seems a long time ago now but the carol service at Kingsteignton was an enjoyable afternoon – it was good to meet up with so many friends from both the Guild and the Association. Wyn Turner made good use of the organ as usual and managed to keep off the spectacular ceremonial trumpet stop right until the end where he blasted us (I was sitting near the back!) with a fanfare at the start of 'O come all ye faithful'. A fitting end to a stirring service on this exceedingly cold day.

Work on the rehang and augmentation of the bells at Denbury has been going on for as long as I can remember, having been involved in meetings to discuss what should be done long before anything actually happened. And then Covid got in the way, so it was lovely to be able to ring on the newly modelled ring, now six, and experience the wonderful enthusiasm and hospitality of the local ringers – and the rest of the village who seem to use the church meeting room to hang out.

As one of the bells' advisors we already have a date booked to revisit Feniton. I was surprised and pleased to see the picture of the bells and frame in the article here, looking very clean and spruced-up. They have taken our previous advice to heart and it appears that the work we suggested has been undertaken – not always the case! I am looking forward to a revisit.

Thanks also go to all contributors and distributors – without the articles there would be no RRD.

Ian Campbell



Gaia, the model of the world, was on display in Exeter Cathedral for the whole of February

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

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