

Newsletter 133 March 2024

Guild Celebrates 150 years



Bell wheel inscribed for 150th Anniversary of founding of the Guild

Anniversary dinner

To mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers, a celebration dinner consisting of three courses with wine has been arranged at The Devon Hotel, Old Matford Lane, Exeter EX2 8XU on Friday 15 March 2024, 7pm for 7.30pm. The date was chosen to be fairly close to the actual date of the founding of the Guild.

The dinner is now fully booked, but spaces may become available if anyone has to cancel at short notice.

Auction at the Dinner



At the conclusion of the dinner Michael Cannon is in charge as the auctioneer. The following items are up for auction:

- A quarter peal opportunity at Buckfast Abbey
- A new method which can be named by the successful bidder
- A bell wheel (from Nicholson Engineering Ltd) with a 150th anniversary inscription added (see above)
- A handcrafted wooden bowl
- A steam locomotive footplate ride (round trip from Buckfastleigh to Totnes and return on the South Devon Railway)
- A one-day experience on a steam traction engine

A follow-up report and photos will be included in future issues of *Ringing Round Devon*.

Janet Ritterman

150th Anniversary Book Launch and Ringing

SATURDAY MARCH 16 IN EXETER

The revised and updated Guild history will be launched at Exeter St Petrock on Saturday 16 March. A programme of open ringing has been arranged to precede the launch; a poster providing details is available: <https://devonringers.org.uk/guild/guild-150th-anniversary#BookLaunch>

All are welcome to attend the practice at the Cathedral that evening; if you would like to attend please let Matt Hilling (matt.hilling@gmail.com) know.

John Martin, Guild Secretary

150 Ringing Things Challenge

To celebrate the Guild's 150th Anniversary we have created the '150 Ringing Things' challenge.

These are 150 ringing related activities you can do in your tower or with a group of towers in your branch. There are many different things to do which we hope will appeal to ringers of all levels and interests. The activities aim to encourage ringers and towers to get involved with things they wouldn't normally do and to have a broader experience of ringing. The ringing things you have completed can be submitted to the special area on BellBoard.

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=17999>

A link to this is available from the Guild's 150th anniversary webpage or scan this QR code:



Please keep a record of all your successfully completed things throughout the year. At the end of the year, send a copy with a brief outline of all your successes and who participated, with photos, to the Guild Publicity Officer, publicityofficer@devonringers.org.uk

Your successes will be shared on the Guild Facebook page and the winning tower will be featured in *Ringing Round Devon*.

If you want a copy of '150 Ringing Things' you might find it easier to get it from: https://devonringers.org.uk/gdr-media/pdf/gdr150/150_ringing_things.pdf

Enjoy your ringing!

Nicola Jones, Guild Publicity Officer

150 Ringing Things



Easy Things		✓
1	Ring on a tied bell	
2	Pull off in reverse rounds	
3	Stand a bell at handstroke 10 times consecutively	
4	Stand a bell at backstroke 10 times consecutively	
5	Stand a bell at hand & back 10 times consecutively	
6	Ring a bell heavier than you've rung before	
7	Ring all the bells in your tower in order	
8	Ring rounds facing outwards	
9	Ring 150 rows of rounds	
10	Ring kaleidoscope	
11	Ring Mexican wave	
12	Ring bell into Queens, backgrounds and back to rounds	
13	Ring bell into Queens (or Kings), Whittingtons and back to rounds	
14	Publish a performance on Bellboard	

Less Easy Things		✓
15	Raise and lower in peal on 6	
16	Ring for your Guild certificate	
17	Ring "60 on 3rds" call changes	
18	Ring tenor behind to plain hunt	
19	Ring the treble to plain hunt	
20	Ring inside to plain hunt	
21	Ring rounds on 10	
22	Ring call changes on 10	
23	Ring 150 rows of call changes	

Special Things		✓
24	Ring for your first service	
25	Ring for a Carol Service	
26	Ring for Christmas Eve or Christmas Morning service	
27	Ring the New Year in	
28	Ring for a wedding	
29	Ring half muffled or muffled	
30	Ring whole pull and stand	
31	Ring for a Remembrance service	

Interesting Things		✓
32	Visit Taylors bell foundry museum	
33	Ring somewhere unusual	
34	Ring at Exeter Cathedral	
35	Ring at one of the towers on the Guild certificate	
36	Ring with an Association Band at their tower	
37	Enter a striking competition	
38	Ring in the tower with the most steps in the Guild	
39	Ring 2 handbells in call changes	
40	Ring 2 handbells to plain hunt on 6	
41	Learn to splice a rope	

Other Things		✓
42	Find the lightning conductor in your tower	
43	Find a film or TV programme with bell ringing in it	

Social Things		✓
44	Have a tower/branch get together	
45	Hold a bellringers coffee morning for your church	
46	Bake something bell shaped	
47	Invite clergy/churchwardens to watch you ring something special for them	
48	Attend the Guild 150 Thanksgiving Service	
49	Attend a ringers service	
50	Organise a fundraising ring for the DCBRF	
51	Bring a guest/s to see ringing in your tower	

Quick Things		✓
52	Take photos of your band	
53	See the bells in your belfry	
54	Wear your Guild badge	
55	Take a photo of the oldest peal board in your tower	

Quiet Things		✓
56	Read the Guild's new history book	
57	Read <i>Ringin' Round Devon</i> online/or the tower copy	
58	Read an issue of the <i>Ringin' World</i>	
59	Visit the Guild Library at St Petrock's, Exeter	
60	Borrow a book from the Guild Library	
61	Visit the CCCBR history page ccbr.org.uk/the-history-of-ringing/	
62	Check out performances by ringers from your tower on Bellboard	

Practical Things		✓
63	Fit a muffle	
64	Tie a bell for silent ringing	
65	Help clean the ringing chamber	
66	Sweep the tower steps	
67	Take photos of the bell inscriptions/brass rubbing of the inscriptions	
68	Check the ropes for wear	
69	Adjust tucks in rope to change length of rope	
70	Adjust the height of a sally	
71	Check all frame bolts on your tower for tightness.	
72	Check there is a First Aid Kit in your tower. If not, help to set it up.	
73	Check if address details for your tower are displayed, for use in an emergency. If not, help set it up.	
74	Make a list of the new ringing-related things you are doing in 2024	
75	Make a list of new methods that you would like to learn in 2024	

Technical Things		✓
76	Draw a method line from memory	
77	Draw the blue line for a method you are learning	
78	Use a simulator to practise method you are learning	
79	Ring a touch on a ringing app on your mobile phone	

150 Ringing Things cont.



Challenging Things		✓
80	Raise and lower in peal on 8	
81	Raise and lower in peal on 10	
82	Call bells into Queens, backgrounds and then rounds	
83	Call bells into Queens (or Kings), Whittingtons and back into rounds	
84	Call "60 on 3rds" call changes	
85	Call a touch of 120 changes	
86	On 8 bells call into Tittums, Queens, backgrounds and then rounds	
87	Ring plain hunt on 10	
88	Ring 150 changes of a doubles method	
89	Ring a new doubles method	
90	Ring something spliced	

Travelling Things		✓
91	Take part in a workshop at Guild AGM in Tavistock	
92	Attend a branch practice	
93	Attend a branch outing	
94	Ring at every Guild tower in your branch	
95	Ring at the towers in your branch where you have not yet rung	
96	Visit a practice night at another branch tower	
97	Hold/attend a joint branch practice with your nearest branch neighbour	
98	Ring in a tower outside Devon	
99	Visit a new tower 150 miles away.	

Helpful Things		✓
100	Ring on a mini ring	
101	Ring on a simulator	
102	Teach someone to tie up a bellrope	
103	Attend a branch training session	
104	Attend a Guild training session	
105	Arrange a visit to a mini ring in your area	
106	Help to organise a practice session at your tower	
107	Help out at a recruitment event	
108	Help organise a Guild stand with the portable mini-ring for a recruitment/awareness event	
109	Ring in a band to help someone achieve their Guild certificate	
110	Ring in a band to help someone achieve their first quarter peal	
111	Ring in a band to help someone achieve their first peal	
112	Help at a branch training session	
113	Help at a Guild training session	

The Best Things		✓
114	Recruit someone/a friend to ring	
115	Teach someone to ring	
116	Ring an un-named method for a quarter peal + name it	
117	Ring an un-named method for a peal and name it	
118	Learn Devonshire Surprise Major and ring a quarter peal	
119	Learn to call something 'Surprising'	
120	Compose a new touch of a method	

Thoughtful Things		✓
121	Create a tower scrapbook/photo album	
122	Write an article for <i>Ringing Round Devon</i>	
123	Write and publish a poem/short story about ringing	
124	Write an article/news item for your parish magazine	
125	Write a short article about your bellringing experience (for your branch or another local publication)	
126	Research one of the ringers from the peals/certificates/photos on display in your tower	
127	Interview an experienced ringer in your tower or branch, and (if they agree) write an article about their bellringing journey for publishing	

Sharing Things		✓
128	Create a recruitment leaflet/flyer for your tower	
129	Create a ringing information board for display in your church	
130	Display some ringing publicity leaflets locally (e.g. library, church, community centre)	
131	Video your bells being rung and put on Youtube	
132	Create a tower Facebook page	
133	Post some news about ringing in your tower on a Facebook page	

Recording Things		✓
134	Make a list of the oldest bells in your branch and the different bell foundries from which they came	
135	Prepare a list of bell weights for your tower with equivalent objects of similar weight	
136	Research and list all the quarter peals and peals rung in your tower	
137	Update your ringing records (towers/performances)	
138	Make a recording of your tower bells for the Guild website/Bells on Sunday	
139	Using the online Guild Annual Reports, find the year your tower first affiliated to the Guild	
140	Make a list of the towers in Devon where you have rung	
141	Take a collection of photos of early peal boards in your branch	

Long Things		✓
142	Ring your first quarter peal	
143	Call a quarter peal	
144	Ring your first peal	
145	Call a peal	
146	Ring a number of spliced methods	

Important Things		✓
147	Ensure the tower sweetie jar is kept stocked up	
148	Humanely remove all ringing room spiders	
149	Adopt a tower mascot and take on an outing	

The Last Thing		✓
150	Go to the pub after practice	

Central Council visit, September 2024

Members of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers are visiting Exeter 6 to 8 September for their annual meeting. The current plans include:

- Mini tours on Friday afternoon, and ringing at St David's, Friday evening.
- Networking/social, open to all, Friday evening, at a location in Exeter.
- On Saturday, various displays and a mini-ring will be set up at West Exe School, Alphington.
- A ticketed event at Topsham Brewery, Exeter Quay, Saturday evening.
- Several towers will be open on the Saturday and Sunday, and volunteers will be needed to help ensure that every tower has enough ringers to ring with visitors.
- Presentations on the Sunday morning covering topics such as: using a simulator for teaching, and the future of ringing. Location TBA.

Volunteers will be needed to help with the various events throughout the weekend. Please watch for information about signing up as a volunteer.

John Martin

Devon ringers' Carol service 2023 – St Marychurch

This has become established as a major part of the ringing calendar in Devon and a chance for ringers from both traditions to get together to celebrate Christmas. This was the first time that it had been held at St Marychurch and we had a very warm welcome from Preb Nick Debney who led the service. The bells were rung beforehand for an hour, led by Guild Ringing Master David Hird. As usual, Ian Avery had assembled a choir to provide some of the music and to lead the congregation in the carols. We are very grateful that Wyn Turner travelled all the way from Wales to play the organ for us.

Opening with Vivaldi's *Gloria* we soon moved on to 'Once in Royal David's City' to start our carols. St Marychurch handbell ringers played 'Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring' and also joined the choir for 'the Carol of the Bells'. Readings were given by Steven Came, Wendy Gill, Nicola Jones and Don Roberts.

The Exeter ringers rang Kent Treble Bob Major on handbells. Once Fr Debney had read the final lesson we had the ringers' hymn 'Ring out ye Bells Below' and the proceedings came to an end with 'O Come All Ye Faithful'. Wyn made sure no-one was dozing by starting with a fine fanfare on the organ and we ended with a spirited descant 'Sing Choirs of Angels'. Everyone agreed that it was a wonderfully uplifting service. Next year it moves to Crediton parish church.

Martin Mansley

Guild Committee meeting 20 January 2024

The January Guild committee meeting is attended by Guild officers and representatives from all branches. The main business is to approve the reports from each area of Guild activity which will be printed in the annual report and to make proposals which will be put to the membership at the AGM in June.

- It was agreed to propose the increase of the subscription from £11 to £12 which will produce an estimated surplus of £2,900.
- It is proposed to increase the contribution from peals rung for the Guild to £1 per ringer (from 60p) to cover the costs of updating the Guild's peal records.
- The new membership system is mostly working well, with a few relatively minor matters that need attention.
- It is suggested that quarter peals recorded on BellBoard that are rung by bands comprising over 50% Guild

members should be entered under the GDR to simplify identification as Guild quarter peals.

- Three new Vice-presidents will be proposed at the AGM.
- Peter Bill is the current master-elect and will become Master at the AGM. A new master-elect will be sought to become Master in 2025.
- The officers are looking for someone to help administer the membership system for 2025 and beyond. Volunteers would be welcomed!
- The Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund has an upcoming Trustee vacancy. The Fund will be looking for someone who has practical experience of bell maintenance and restoration.

Ian Campbell (with help from notes from Robert Law)

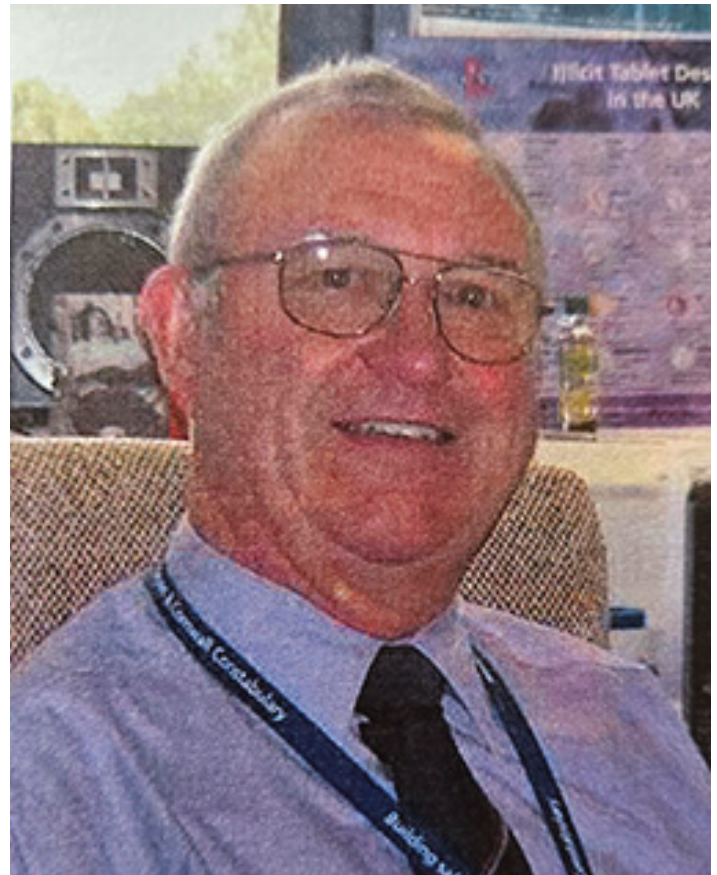
Forthcoming Guild AGM, Saturday 22 June 2024

This year's Guild AGM will be held in Tavistock, at St Eustachius Church and Hall. There will be training and various workshops offered in the morning, and in the afternoon there will be open ringing, the AGM, and a special service to mark the Guild's 150 year anniversary. It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend.

Robert Law

Obituaries

Wilfred Reynolds 1949-2024



Wilf learned to ring at East Budleigh and met Judith in Woodbury bell chamber. They were married in Woodbury in 1978 and started ringing at Ottery St Mary in 1982. More recently Wilf volunteered at Exeter Cathedral as a Serving Clerk, Virger, Eucharistic Assistant and Sidesman. He spent many hours at Exeter Cathedral and loved it. May he rest in peace.

A quarter peal was rung on the minor ten at Exeter Cathedral prior to the funeral:

Exeter, Devon, Cathedral Church of St Peter

Tuesday, 20 February 2024 in 58m (40)

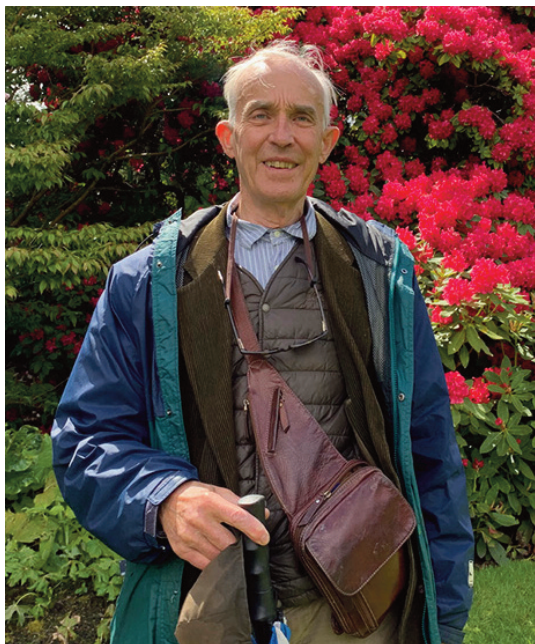
1277 Grandsire Caters

Composed by David Macey

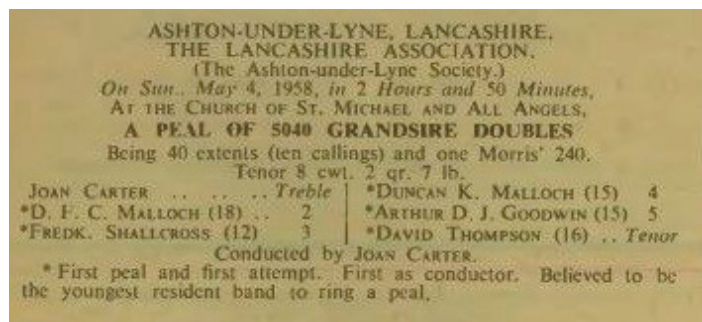
- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Wendy Campbell | 6 Graham Tucker |
| 2 Susan Sparling | 7 Andrew Digby |
| 3 Peter Bill | 8 David Hird |
| 4 Lesley Tucker | 9 Matthew Hilling (C) |
| 5 Patricia Slade | 10 James Kirkcaldy |

Judith Reynolds

Duncan Malloch 1942-2024



Duncan was born in Greater Manchester in 1942, the 2nd of 5 siblings. In the late 1950s, ringing at Ashton under Lyne was at a low ebb. Several youngsters were recruited from the congregation including Duncan and his older brother. They were all taught by Joan Carter, herself not much older than the recruits. They made steady progress such that they formed the basis of a new band ringing regularly for service and practice. Duncan's first peal was in May 1958 with it being a first peal for five of the recent recruits and first as conductor for Joan – a great achievement for the band.



After leaving school, Duncan studied medicine in Edinburgh but did not ring there. He worked as a GP in Exeter and while waiting to collect his son from a bagpipe lesson, he heard bells being rung at a practice. He returned to ringing at Heavitree and Exeter Cathedral. He was diagnosed with cancer in 1988 which then led to his retirement from medicine in 1990. He moved to Scotland and for many years was involved with ringing at the two towers in Dundee including many quarters and one peal – Plain Bob Triples for the SACR 75th anniversary celebrations. He hosted one memorable pizza party and enlisted neighbours' ovens to ensure that all the offerings were ready at the same time!

With the installation of a ring of six at St Andrews in 2011, Duncan became involved in ringing there for service, practice, weddings and graduations. Health issues occurred frequently but each time he was determined to return to ringing – as well as

other interests including dance and art – as soon as possible. One of the last times that he rang was at St Andrews following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II. His health deteriorated further and he was well cared for by his wife at their home where he died on February 21 2024.

We will remember his determination to not let serious health issues interfere with the rest of life and his encouragement of others as they made progress with ringing.

Peter Williamson

East Devon Branch John Bass hits landmark age



John Bass (2nd from left) was surprised with cake and bubbles at the Colyton practice on 25 January to celebrate his 75th birthday.

We finally got round to ringing a quarter peal for John Bass's birthday:

Dalwood, Devon, St Peter

Monday, 19 February 2024 in 44m

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1 John Bass | 4 Crispin Denny |
| 2 Maureen Davey | 5 Patricia Slade |
| 3 Lisa Clarke (C) | 6 Keith Smith |

Congratulations to John Bass, who rang his first quarter peal on the treble to celebrate his 75th birthday.

Lisa Clarke

Cubs visit Kilmington Tower



On a gusty Saturday afternoon in February Seaton Cubs descended on Kilmington church for a visit to the bell tower.

Their leader Richard Norman had arranged with parents and Kilmington bell ringers to show the Cubs around the bell tower, and a demonstration of the workings of the clock.

When they first arrived it appeared chaotic but Richard soon had us all under control, firstly with a talk on the safety of everyone and he expressed to the Cubs the importance of listening and doing what the adult said who was their chaperone for the visit.

On the way up to the tower the Cubs stopped to see the tower clock workings and had the opportunity to wind one of the weights by turning the large wooden handle which they enjoyed. Next stop was looking at the bells in their frames, where to some of the Cubs standing by the door the bells looked huge. When we got to the top the Cubs were delighted to see how high they were. Eventually they all climbed down and had turns at chiming the bells. Richard had set up large and small handbells and after much laughter parents and Cubs managed to ring happy birthday which delighted everyone.

To round off the afternoon the bell ringers gave a short demonstration of ringing.

Maureen Davey

Elf and Happiness to us all!



Front: Maureen, Richard, Janet, Trevor (Branch Chair), Charles
Back: Sue, Lisa and Derek.

We had a lot of fun attempting to ring 'elfnappiness' Slow Bob Doubles at Combe Raleigh this morning. Led by our fantastic branch Education Officer, Lisa. What a hoot! Perfect for the season, and we'll try it again next week!

Last week it was a mixture of other eclectic seasonal Doubles which were equally entertaining. I love attempting all these random Doubles and Minor methods.

What a pity that there does not appear to be a Triples version of 'elfnappiness' that we could try!

I wish you - and all of us - a healthy, peaceful and happy New Year.

Sue King

Bats in the Belfry Major surprise!

A lovely crisp sunny Sunday morning ringing at Cotleigh turned out to be more eventful than you might expect. Raising the bells was going well when suddenly a dark object bounced off me and onto the floor. A quick glance down, what a surprise! A fairly large bat, with wings spread out, was lying on the floor, not something you see every day. After we completed the raise, I bundled the



On the floor of the ringing room



Being looked after

poor thing up in my gloves. It appeared unharmed, if a little stunned. Well done to the band for keeping going. Definitely a case of bats in the belfry!

Rose Lynn

Training programme for 2024 in East Devon

Last November I sent an email to every branch member via the distribution list in an attempt to find out exactly what ringers needed help with. Not surprisingly, the top choice was for raising and lowering in peal. There were also requests for Plain Hunt and Plain Bob Doubles/Grandsire Doubles training sessions. Furthermore, five tower captains requested help at their own practices to boost the support for their learners. Once the replies were received, Ian Rees, Sue King and I drew up a training programme for the first few months of this year which is already underway:

January – Raising and Lowering in Peal (1) at Kilmington. The middle four bells (2-5) were chosen with a learner ringing 4, expertly led up and down by Ian. It was a highly successful training session.

February/March – a Plain Hunt three-week two-hour course at three different towers. The four learners are at different stages of plain hunting but all are making excellent progress and we have a lot of fun!

March – Raising and Lowering in Peal (2) at Kilmington (fully booked).

May – a three-week two-hour course focusing on Plain Bob Doubles and Grandsire Doubles at three different towers (fully booked).

We are planning to arrange further training sessions along similar lines from June onwards.

For the five towers whose captains requested in-tower help, three experienced ringers have been along to occasional practices to boost their bands. So far, four such practices have taken place and I'm certain that more will be arranged before long.



Learners and helpers at Feniton

This is the first time I've tried to organise a training programme and I'd like to thank all the learners who have signed up and the experienced ringers for being willing to give up their time to support them. I'm delighted that we have two ringers with potential among our helpers who have been ringing for just a couple of years themselves.

All the above workshops/courses are in addition to the regular branch practices and Ian Rees's special monthly practices on eight bells.

It's been a busy and rewarding start to the programme and I think it's going to continue that way!

Lisa Clarke, East Branch Education Officer

Ringling for Ukraine on the second anniversary of the war



On Saturday 24 February at 6pm the band at Combe Raleigh rang to mark the second anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Our ringing was also to mark the upcoming 10th anniversary of the annexation of Crimea. On 27 February 2014 Russian forces without insignias seized strategic sites in Crimea. A pro-Russian government was subsequently installed and Crimea was formally annexed on 18 March 2014.

Well done to Beccy who rang the tenor to Plain Hunt Doubles for the first time – this performance on BellBoard has been linked to 'East Devon Branch Score in 24'.

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=18000>

Come on, you ringers in East Devon! If you ring something for the first time – anything at all – submit it and link it to the 'Score in 24' challenge. It would be great to see how many firsts we can get during this special anniversary year.

Lisa Clarke

Exeter Branch Exeter Colleges Guild Dinner



The Oldies table

The annual get together of members of the ECG, past and present, was held at the Rougemont Hotel as usual on 3 February. It was preceded by ringing at Culmstock, Uffculme and Cullompton, with ringing at Exeter Cathedral after lunch on the Sunday.

Ian Campbell

Mid-Devon Branch Extracts from Mid-Devon Tower Talk Branch AGM – Stokeinteignhead

Combeinteignhead was the first tower of the afternoon as there was a wedding at Stokeinteignhead. Numbers were down a bit, but we managed a variety of ringing on these bells which take a bit of getting used to. We were all impressed by the well decorated ringing room and the array of certificates etc from the local band.

Numbers had increased significantly by the time we all gathered at Stokeinteignhead. Even with more ringers it was not too easy to get a band to ring as we caught up with each other and some warmed up with very welcome cups of tea. It was soon time for the service, and this was very professionally led by Hugh (Mac) of the local band. As usual we proved that ringers can sing well and Mac also gave us a thoughtful address. Thanks also go to Rodney for showing his versatility by playing the organ.

The local band had excelled themselves with the tea and we enjoyed a wonderful spread ably supervised by Sheila and Jenny.

The meeting was dispensed with fairly swiftly. These are not the official minutes so we will just give a flavour of the proceedings. Reports from the officers showed that our membership was reasonably stable and finances were sound. It was decided that in general tower donations will be taken from branch funds which means that this will be a benefit of membership. Non-members will be asked for a contribution – particularly for training events. Outing donations will be reduced for members as well, with these donations being decided depending on the number of towers involved.

The branch events had been fairly well attended and mention was made of good work in training ringers at Babbacombe and in almost all branch towers – an outcome of initiatives such as 'Ring for the King' and the WI days at Buckfast Abbey. Several returning ringers were mentioned as well but still there is evidence that there are more out there if we can find them.

The programme for 2024 was approved and a few changes mentioned. It was announced that we intend holding a 'Meet the Branch Day' in April. This will probably be on the lines of a very successful day held a few years ago.

A guild certificate was presented to Jenny Rose of the local band and it was announced that Berry Pomeroy had been awarded the Edden Clapper trophy for excellent progress in the last 12 months. This included progress in Plain Bob and up to Cambridge Surprise. In the absence of Berry Pomeroy members at the meeting it was agreed that Martin Mansley should present the trophy following service ringing at Berry Pomeroy the following day. This was done to loud applause from the congregation.



Jenny Rose being presented with her guild certificate by Rodney Horder

All officers were re-elected but Martin Mansley gave notice that he will not be standing for re-election for 2025, so we need to look for a new branch ringing master. Leslie Boyce brought along the final batch of Guild calendars for 2024 and told us that all 250 of the Devon allocation had been sold but more were available from *The Ringing World*. This is a fantastic achievement and has gained over £1000 for the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund.

The bells had been made available in the evening but very few people wanted to stay so the bells were quickly lowered and several enjoyed a drink in the Church House Inn to round off a very good meeting.

Branch 8 bell practice at Dawlish

Some discussion has been had from time to time about the purpose of the Branch, and we even once (many years ago) had a proposal to wind it up. The practice at Dawlish was an excellent example of the good that can be done. The methods suggested had been Plain Bob and Stedman Triples. Practice in both of these methods was taken advantage of by members of the local band and we also rang Cambridge Minor and Cloister Triples at their request. This last was ideal to introduce the concept of plain hunting to Philip who had come from Lustleigh to learn a bit about the mysteries of method ringing. Finally, we rang a course of Little Bob Major. Very many thanks to Mick and Deborah and the Dawlish ringers for a warm welcome and for feeding back afterwards how useful the evening had been for them. Thanks to all who had travelled some distance to attend, the prize going to Bob Sanders who told us it was 75 minutes each way – true dedication.

U3A visit Dawlish tower

Thanks to Deborah Wallis for letting me know about a recent project. She gave a talk to a group from u3a (University of the Third Age) about ringing. A full account of the visit was given here <https://u3a.dawlish.info/adv-gp-climb-st-gregorys-tower> written by John Vick. It is great to hear of these initiatives going on across the Branch – please let me know of any others. Deborah tells me that she has another at the planning stage, so we look forward to hearing more.

Central Council Films

The Central Council has produced two excellent films which are ideal for publicity and recruitment – details at <https://ccbr.org.uk/2023/11/26/discovering-bellringing-enjoyment-films/>

Christmas Jumpers

To give a seasonal feel I include a photo of Kate, Anne and Graham in festive mood whilst ringing for the school carol service at Berry Pomeroy. Churchwarden Nicola said how interested the children were in the sound of the bells while lining up to go into church, and they wanted to know where the sound was coming from, so job done – as one of our objectives in ringing for this service is to make the children aware of the bells.



Kate, Anne and Graham in festive mood

Carolathon – Stokeinteignhead

On Friday afternoon 7 December Sheila and Rodney Horder started 24 hours of carol singing entitled a Carolathon. The proceedings started with ringing the bells and we are told that this included well struck call changes with the Revd John Good performing faultlessly on the tenor. John's association with us goes back many years. His ministry took him all over Devon and he was instrumental in the augmentation to ten at Axminster.

Throughout the 24 hours Sheila and Rodney were supported by several members of the congregation including fellow ringers. Then... they came to support the carol service at St Marychurch – wow! Very well done and we do hope you raised a good sum of money. And then got a well earned rest!

Highweek training Saturdays

Sitting in The Grange listening to Sunday ringing at Buckfast Abbey I remembered that Martin asked me to write a paragraph or two on our recent training mornings at Highweek. January has been a busy month for training which is why the task has slipped my memory: we have now had three Saturday mornings there, extra sessions to the weekly Wednesday practice. These have focussed on the first steps in learning Plain Hunt and we have had just two 'students' per session. One could say this is by invitation only, but if you'd like an invitation please ask because there are more sessions in the pipeline.

If you are a Guild member it's pretty obvious why we are doing this. Method ringers in Devon are scattered and most towers manage only call changes for Sunday service ringing. Whilst this can sound lovely, in my opinion a mix of call changes and method is a more pleasant start to a Sunday morning and makes for a more stimulating practice.

Recruitment under the 'Ring for the King' initiative went well in our part of the Mid Devon region, resulting in a regular practice at Highweek, some brand new ringers at Bovey and Lustleigh and a significant number of lapsed ringers now adding to our numbers. We have now reached the point where most of our new learners are competent at rounds and call changes but have not yet had the chance to try method ringing.

For a while now at Highweek we have tried some kaleidoscope ringing such as making long or short places, dodging and plain hunting on 3 bells. With only Robert and me as method ringers we've made the most of visitors to extend this, so we were excited when Robert Brown (Wobbly Bob) and Mike Wigney suggested Saturday morning training.

Armed with coffee and biscuits, a portable heater and the promise of lunch at The Highweek Village Inn we tackled Plain Hunt on five bells. We actually stretched to Triples on the second week with some additional volunteer ropes.

What have we learned? Well of course the students have made a start on hunting up and down, but we have learned things too. Being 'just a rope' for two hours can be rather boring so it is important to either share the teaching or have something extra for the more experienced ringers: taking turns to stand with a learner, to call a touch, to lead up/down or to be asked to critically watch and comment on a learner as they ring. Two hours seems an optimum duration; using the lighter six is easier on the arms and adding in odd little Doubles methods makes it an interesting challenge for everyone.

So, if you are an experienced ringer looking to do some teaching or a learner wanting to cement your plain hunt, please send an email to Robert or myself and we will see what we can set up. Kt51law@gmail.com or boveybellringers@gmail.com

Katie Law

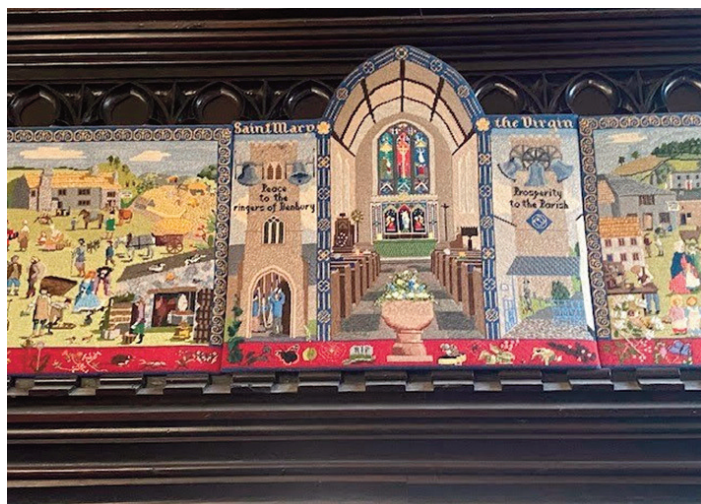
January Branch Practice – Denbury

It soon became obvious that I was not the only one who had been looking forward to going to Denbury. Eventually 24 ringers were present at some point during the afternoon and several of those were attending a branch practice for the first time, making it by far and away our best attendance at a January event for some

considerable time. It would also appear to vindicate our decision to move the timing to the afternoon.

The welcome from the local ringers was amazing and refreshments were available in their very pleasant church hall. Ringing featured a lot of rounds and call changes, reflecting the number of relatively inexperienced ringers present. An attempt for a touch starting with a course of Unsaiph Little Bob never quite materialised but we did manage 150 changes of Grandsire Doubles. The stories we had heard about the quality of these bells following re-hanging and augmentation were all proved to be true and everyone was delighted with the wonderful transformation of a pretty poor ring of five into an excellent ring of six.

Very many thanks to Steve and the local ringers for such a warm welcome.



Thanks to Rodney Horder for this photo of the brilliant mural in Denbury church.

Also an apology – I thought I was taking photos of the ringers but had obviously pushed the wrong button – technology wins again!!

Plain Hunt and Plain Bob Training morning – Bishopsteignton

Our first training morning of the year focussed on Plain Hunt and Plain Bob on five and six bells. We had purposely kept the trainee numbers fairly low, so we do hope those who were disappointed this time will be able to join the next session on this subject in August. We were lucky to have lots of volunteers to assist with the ringing so that each of the trainees could have some one-to-one theory on the subject they were working on whilst the rest were getting on with practical ringing. We were made very welcome by Roger of the local band and we were able to take this first opportunity to welcome Bishopsteignton as members of the Branch. Refreshments were on offer and much appreciated as a break from the hard work. All the trainees had a good opportunity to get practice at their chosen topic and the helpers even managed to beat the problems of the pesky Unsaiph and splice it with Plain Bob Minor for a touch of 150 changes as another celebration of the Guild's 150th anniversary.



L to R – Katie, Robert, Rodney, Sarah, Martin, Wena, Sherene, John (behind) Nicola, Nigel, Anne, Emma and Philip (photo by Sarah)

Comments afterwards included one learner saying how much she enjoyed it and that she is confident the input will pay dividends for her once everything has sunk in. And another: 'It was a great morning, I learnt loads! It was so useful to have the focussed, intense session. It would have taken me weeks to learn as much as I did without the chance to spend the time yesterday. Thank you also to the experienced ringers who made the morning possible'.

I can only reiterate those thanks. The good humoured hard work was definitely worth it and much appreciated. Exactly what the Branch is all about.

A potential new ringer for Stokeinteignhead



Great news, we are delighted to announce that Emma, who has been learning at Stokeinteignhead (until her bump got in the way!!), has let us know that baby Adeline has arrived safe and well and weighed in at 7lb 5oz. Many congratulations and we all look forward to meeting her very soon.

Future events

Triples and Major practice Kingskerswell Saturday 8 March, 2.30 – 4.00pm

At this practice we will be mainly focussing on the basic methods of Plain Hunt and Plain Bob on seven and eight bells but also methods such as Grandsire and Stedman Triples. For Major we will be working on Plain Bob and Little Bob but also Duffield Major, a quite rare example of an even bell principle, as it is probably going to be a method for the eight bell competition in October. Worth having a look now. This is a chance to get some practice at these methods, and for the more experienced ringers a go at some conducting. Don't feel you need to be able to put people right – just learn a touch (probably up to 240 changes) and let us know that you would like to try calling it.

Meet the Branch day Saturday 13 April

Planning is under way for this day. It will be based on towers near to Newton Abbot. We particularly would like to see new members at this event. It will be an opportunity to meet and get to know each other. There will be some open ringing but also other activities as well and a chance to let ringers know what the Branch and the Guild has to offer. Please try to encourage your ringers to put the date in their diaries. More details very soon.

Martin Mansley

North-East Branch Devon Folk and Cream Teas



Tiverton St Peter's ringers held a further fundraising event on 10 February. Afternoon tea, scones and cakes were in abundance for those being entertained by the Courtenay Folk Ensemble. Archie gave a rendition of Scottish airs on the bagpipes and Dave sang a solo version of the Devon ringers' folk song, 'The Men of Northlew'. Along with cakes, raffle, new or nearly new and craft stalls, the event raised a further £800 towards the centenary overhaul of the bells.

The bells are currently out of action, with wheels, clappers and roller-boxes presently in Loughborough, so the bellringers were able to give their attention to cooking for the event. Our thanks to Dave and his friends, who were pleased to give their services to raise funds for their local tower. Dave learnt to ring at St Peter's in 2015 but had to stop after a serious medical event. We are all pleased to see that he is able to continue singing and playing the accordion. All being well, the bells will be ringing again in time for our centenary weekend in mid-March.

Sheila Scofield

South-West Branch St Paul's visits St Mary's One whoops! And several sighs.

Just an ordinary day in the tower of St Mary's, Plympton, ringing for the last wedding of the year in September. Clunk! Right at the end of the lowering, luckily too late for the wedding band to notice. A quick inspection reveals that the clapper of the 6 has failed, shearing near the head of the shaft. A swift email to the steeple keeper, on holiday in Croatia, is sent.



Moving forward the head of the clapper is taken off with much swearing, estimates obtained and eventually the clapper is at the foundry in November. So far boring and routine.

Then the email, from the previous tower captain, that the band from St Paul's Cathedral in London would like to ring in the New Year. Panic! Contact foundry – the work is scheduled for tomorrow. Our rep will deliver the very red-painted clapper. Big sigh of relief. Then organise maintenance/reinstall. Only available slot with enough support is during 'twixmas'. One helper comes from Bristol and steeple keeper's non-ringer husband and learner's father are drafted. Despite being awkward to remove, the clapper slides in easily and test ring proves proper installation. This time the sighs of relief could be heard into Cornwall. Ropes are checked and sorted, a new tail spliced in, ringing room spruced up. Yes, biggest visit we've had for a long while. The locals are warned/informed.

The day arrives, steeple keeper and I watch video link with some trepidation, will everything hold up? Yes. Time for pictures/sound clips. The band descend, successful. The locals seem to have enjoyed it!



Thanks due to all who helped including foundry, parish secretary, treasurer, clergy, local band, friends and supporters.



The St Paul's Cathedral band got their ring after all!

Gabrielle Stooks

Beyond Call Changes

Acquiring new skills, broadening my circle of friends and visiting interesting new places were among the reasons that I came back to bell ringing after a fifty-year break (I was a novice for a year in my teens). The course that Phil Dunn led during February ticked all these boxes. The three Saturday morning sessions were designed to help novices develop the handling, listening and observational skills that facilitate method ringing.

The first session was at Cornwood church, which I had not visited before. Phil started by getting the novices to ring call changes, paying attention to accurate striking. After a protracted period ringing the same sequence and trying to maintain a good rhythm my brain was almost in neutral. It came as a huge shock when I was suddenly asked, 'which bell is following you?' After a moment of panic I blurted a bell number and was told to think again. It was the start of a steep learning curve as I struggled to develop an awareness of the importance of knowing your place. The next exercise introduced us to changing on both hand and back stroke, not easy after several years of only changing on the hand stroke.



Sampford Spiney

The next week we were at St Andrew, Whitchurch. Phil built on the previous week's exercises by calling the changes by place rather than by bell number – 'third place to fourth place', etc. This reinforced the importance of 'place' and also developed rope sight and listening skills. I found it quite difficult, sometimes needing to stare at sallies bobbing up and down for some time before I worked out who was where!

The final session was at St Mary, Sampford Spiney, a church and an area completely new to me despite its proximity to both home and regularly visited places. As not all the novices had been able to attend all the sessions there was quite a lot of recapitulation and consolidation. The bells were re-hung in 2008 and are a nice peal, but as they are so much lighter than I am used to I did tend to overpull initially.

I would like to thank all those branch members who generously gave up their Saturday mornings to help us. I am particularly grateful to Phil and Alena for their patience and forbearance as I began my journey 'beyond call changes'.

Tony Smither

Training and Education

Forthcoming Surprise Major training sessions

The Guild Education Officer Sue King is now taking bookings for a series of three Surprise Major training mornings. These are taking place on Saturdays 15 June, 29 June and 6 July, all starting at 10.00am. They will all be held in the Mid-Devon Branch, at Bovey Tracey, Highweek and Wolborough.

Sue asks that prospective students for this course should ideally attend all three sessions, be able to treble bob hunt on eight and ideally have rung some Surprise Minor.

If you have any queries or would like to book, please contact Sue direct on educationofficer@devonringers.org.uk.

Nigel Birt

Demo bell travels to South Hams



The demo bell installed at the foot of the new stairs up to the balcony and ringing chamber

As part of the fundraising to repair the frame at Malborough (near Kingsbridge) a tower open day was held on 17 February. The Guild demo bell was transported there to demonstrate how a bell is rung, and used as part of the talk I gave, which included the usual other elements, using handbells and a computer and sound system.

A total of £365 was raised, despite the rather unpleasant wet and windy conditions blowing in from the coast. It is not a wonder that the frame needs regular attention!

Ian Campbell

Raising and Lowering in Peal

Masterclass Video

If you are struggling with raising and lowering in peal, you might be interested in a 26 minute video by Graham Nabb, who some of you might have met on ART courses. There is a link to the video from the Education section of the Guild Web site, or you can go directly to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GuZJEqEapOQ> or you can use this QR code



Sue King writes:

Ringing up and down in Peal:- A 'masterclass' with Graham Nabb at Ducklington (near Witney, West Oxfordshire) in which he starts by playing an audio clip of a band (does anyone know which band?) in Devon. Thanks to Richard Shere for sharing this interesting video. I found it most informative, and I hope it will be of interest and of some use to anyone working on improving this bell ringing skill.

Ian Campbell

Teaching starts at Poltimore

A couple of trial teaching sessions have been held at Poltimore (just outside Exeter) with a number of local people who think that they might be interested in learning to ring their bells. A large number of helpers also turned up and showed the support from the Guild. All the prospective recruits had a turn at basic bell handling, while the Guild demonstration bell was used to explain what was happening 'upstairs'. Future sessions are being planned.



Some of the local villagers who turned up to have a go

Ian Campbell

Other Items

Guild provides labour for work at Colaton Raleigh

Colaton Raleigh Bells back in action

The six bells at Colaton Raleigh are in full swing again - a welcome and inescapable reminder of an active church in the village!

Due to extreme weather in recent years, the oak frame supporting the bells had shrunk, allowing excessive movement when the bells were rung. If allowed to continue, this would have caused serious damage to the bells and potentially to the tower. It had already caused cracking of the headstocks of the tenor and fifth bells, both of which have been ringing since the fifteenth century. The frame has now been firmly stabilised by the addition of wall brackets, and the damaged headstocks have been repaired.



Some of the team who helped to remove and replace the two cannon-retaining headstocks (in the foreground) under the leadership of Neil Deem of Nicholson's on the left

At the same time, the clappers and bearings of all six bells have had their 25 yearly service. This work was carried out by Nicholson Engineering of Bridport with the able-bodied assistance of an enthusiastic team of volunteers organised by Rob Gilding, and Ian Campbell of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers.

This work would not have been possible without generous grants from the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund, Garfield Weston Foundation, Benefact Trust and Colaton Raleigh Church Preservation Fund for which the PCC is very grateful.

Brian Turnbull

A budding Banksey?

Following a recent tour of some Exeter towers by a group from Bovey Tracey, some excellent 'graffiti' depicting two of their ringers was left on the whiteboard at St Mark's:



Only one person I know rings from their wheelchair so that identifies Mike Wigney. But who is the stunning ringer beside him? It didn't take long to track her down, when I caught Sarah McIntyre doing another masterpiece on the whiteboard at Heavitree - the next tower of their tour.

I am hoping that in time, the sketches will be worth millions!



Ian Campbell (with permission from Sarah!)

Bell inspection at Venn Ottery



The treble on the left (in the up position) with the second to the right (down). Note the iron band around the top of the second.

A ringer has recently moved into Venn Ottery and asked if the Guild Bell Advisors could have a look at the bells to see if they could be made ringable. They consist of three bells, tuned approximately chromatically (which sounds a little unusual).

The tenor dates from at least 1553, while the second is comparatively new (Pennington, 1657). The treble is more recent (Mears, 1844). They were rehung in an oak frame by Harry Stokes of Woodbury in 1900. Very little, if anything, has been done to them since then! The treble and tenor are in reasonable condition for their age and can be rung from the ground floor, but only safely if some of the things stored there are removed.

The second is badly cracked across the top of the bell. Some time in the past it has had an iron band put round its shoulder, which will stop it falling into two halves if the crack gets any worse. However it has not been considered safe to ring and the wheel and other fittings have been removed. The advisors did a thorough inspection and presented the church with a printed report which identified a number of ways forward.

Ian Campbell

Notable Ringing Performances

Peals

Rung by members of the Guild Committee

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Newton St Cyres, Devon, St Cyr and St Julitta

Saturday, 20 January 2024 in 2h 48.

5184 Turramurra Surprise Major

Composed by R D S Brown

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Martin G Mansley | 5 Ian V J Smith |
| 2 Charlotte A Boyce | 6 David Hird |
| 3 Alena J Wardle | 7 John R Martin (C) |
| 4 Robert D Law | 8 Michael E C Mears |

Rung by members of the Guild General Committee on the morning of their annual meeting.



Robert, Ian, Alena, David, John, Charlotte, Mike, Martin (Image: John R Martin)

Tenor King

Dorset County Association

Huntsham, Devon, All Saints

Thursday, 18 January 2024 in 2h 43

5024 Pudsey Surprise Major

Composed by P J Flavell

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Michael Hatchett | 5 Jane C Spencer |
| 2 Lesley A Knipe | 6 Jill M Hansford |
| 3 R Nicholas Lawrence | 7 Revd Christopher Renyard |
| 4 Richard H Johnston | 8 David Hird (C) |
- 2000th peal on a tenor:8

Five Hundred Peals rung

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Bridgwater, Somerset, St Mary

Saturday, 27 January 2024 in 3h 30

5042 Cambridge Surprise Maximus

Composed by R J Angrave

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Paul J Pascoe | 7 Ian V J Smith |
| 2 Alison C Waterson | 8 John R Martin |
| 3 David P Hilling | 9 Richard Harrison |
| 4 Charlotte A Boyce | 10 Andrew P Digby |
| 5 Timothy M Payne | 11 David Hird |
| 6 Peter J Williamson | 12 Matthew J Hilling (C) |
- 500th peal:4

Local ringers ring four-spliced Maximus

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Exeter, Devon, Cathedral Church of St Peter

Saturday, 10 February 2024 in 4h 11

5088 Spliced Surprise Maximus (4m)

1296 Bristol, Zanussi, 1248 Cambridge, Yorkshire; 22 changes of method; all the work.

Composed by D F Morrison (6997a)

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Ian W Avery | 7 David M W Threlfall |
| 2 Oliver Coldrick | 8 Jonathan F Young |
| 3 Graham G Firman | 9 Richard Harrison |
| 4 Ian V J Smith | 10 Peter W J Sheppard |
| 5 Stephanie E Hills | 11 Michael E C Mears (C) |
| 6 Kevin J Skillings | 12 Paul J Pascoe |
- Matthew J Hilling

James Kirkcaldy joins the ranks of 1000 pealers

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Broadclyst, Devon, St John the Baptist

Wednesday, 28 February 2024 in 3h 11

5056 Bristol Surprise Major

Composed by D F Morrison (No7619)

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Ian W Avery | 5 James Kirkcaldy |
| 2 Peter L Bill | 6 John R Martin |
| 3 Ian V J Smith | 7 David Hird |
| 4 Michael C Hansford | 8 Michael E C Mears (C) |

1000th peal and first in his eighth decade for birthday boy on the 5th.

A few facts and figures from James follow:

118 days spent ringing peals.

First was on Saturday 27th September 1969 and one thousandth on Wednesday 28th February 2024.



L to R: Ian S, Michael H, James, John, David, Peter, Mike M, Ian A

The 558th person to ring a thousand peals and, having taken an elapsed time of 19,878 days, rank 522nd in length of elapsed time taken.

The peals have been in 314 separate towers; the leaders are **Thorverton:162, Huntsham:66, Wobbly Bobs:47, Exeter St Mark:46, Pinhoe:33, Broadclyst:27.**

The peals have been rung in 407 methods. The stages (and most rung method) are **Doubles:12 (Stedman:3); Minor:126 (7 methods:28); Triples:22 (Grandsire:10); Major:498 (Yorkshire:53); Caters:47 (Stedman:25); Caters + Royal:1; Royal:220 (Yorkshire:43); Cinques:23 (Stedman:21); Maximus:51 (Cambridge:18).**

The peals have involved 742 separate ringers; the leaders are **Mike Mears*:468, Ian Smith*:361, David Hird*:264, Ian Avery*:236, John Martin*:223, Pauline McKenzie:208, Alison Waterson:204, Jill Hansford:186, Robert Brown:175, Peter Bill*:170, John Foster:168, Mike Hansford*:152.** Those marked * rang in the 1000th

The peals have been called by 97 separate conductors; the leaders are **Mike Mears:295, John Martin:132, David House:91, myself:77.**

Thanks to all those who have helped me achieve this milestone.
James Kirkcaldy

Quarter Peals

Sue rings her 10,000th quarter peal



Congratulations go to Sue Sawyer for ringing her 10,000th quarter peal. She is the only person ever to have achieved this landmark. A picture on the wall at St Mark's, Exeter shows her in one of her first in 1970. This includes a very youthful looking John Longridge – Sue looks much the same as ever!



First local band quarter peal, 24 December 1970
John Longridge, Sue Howe (now Sawyer), Linda Barnard, Roger Fox, Diane Owens, Michael Barker



The quarter peal band: Back: Tim, Ian, Graham, David
Front: Sue, Neil, Lesley, Janet, Wendy, Donald

Exeter, Devon, St Mark

Friday, 1 March 2024 in 45m
1282 Yorkshire Surprise Royal

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Donald B Carter (C) | 6 Neil A Williams |
| 2 P Wendy Campbell | 7 Timothy M Bayton |
| 3 Janet M Deem | 8 Ian L C Campbell |
| 4 Lesley A Tucker | 9 Graham P Tucker |
| 5 Susan M Sawyer | 10 David Hird |

Sue's 10,000th quarter peal, rung in the same tower and on the same bell as her first. Rung with eight of her leading quarter peal ringers plus the Master of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers.

Ian Campbell

First treble dodging

Feniton, Devon, St Andrew

Friday, 29 December 2023 in 39m
1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1 Susan A King | 4 Richard Shere |
| 2 Lisa Clarke | 5 Tim Bayton (C) |
| 3 Kathie Matthews | 6 Andrew Digby |
- 1st treble dodging:1

First Quarter Peal

Manaton, Devon, St Winifred

Sunday, 31 December 2023 in 38m
1260 Stedman Doubles

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Mike Wigney | 4 Robert Law |
| 2 Catherine Crawley | 5 Peter Crawley (C) |
| 3 Linda Georgiades | 6 Sarah McIntyre |
- First quarter peal:6



Sarah, Robert, Linda, Peter, Catherine, Mike

Sarah McIntyre

First of St Clement's



Fergus, Sheila, Mark, John, Matthew, Richard

Stoke Canon, Devon, St Mary Magdalene

Saturday, 6 January 2024 in 45m

1260 St Clement's College Bob Minor

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Richard Barker | 4 Matthew H Weighell |
| 2 Sheila J Scofield | 5 Mark Heritage |
| 3 Fergus Kettleborough | 6 John R Martin (C) |

First in method:3

John Martin

For Taihei, back in Devon from Australia



Lesley, Steph, David, Taihei, Ian, Wendy, Richard, Graham

Exeter, Devon, St David

Sunday, 14 January 2024 in 44m

1260 Grandsire Triples

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Graham Tucker | 5 Lesley Tucker |
| 2 Wendy Campbell | 6 David Hird |
| 3 Taihei Baker | 7 Ian Campbell (C) |
| 4 Steph Hills | 8 Richard Johnson |

First Triples inside: 3

First quarter peal

Axminster, Devon, St Mary

Monday, 29 January 2024 in 44m

1260 Grandsire Doubles

Including Morris' 240

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1 Maureen Davey | 4 Ian Rees |
| 2 Anne Burn | 5 Peter Simpson (C) |
| 3 Simon Kewley | 6 Graham Walmsley |

First QP:6

In a series of 'Firsts' for the 150th anniversary of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers.

First of Minor

Holcombe Rogus, Devon, All Saints

Saturday, 10 February 2024 in 49m

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Richard Barker | 4 John E Buckley |
| 2 Eddie Grabke | 5 Charlotte A Boyce |
| 3 Richard C Shere | 6 John R Martin (C) |

First Minor inside - 2.

Calendar of Events

March

Fri 15	Guild Anniversary dinner, Exeter	Guild
Sat 16	150th Anniversary book launch and ringing, Exeter	Guild
Sat 16	10:00 General branch practice, St Mary, Sydenham Damerel	South West
Sat 23	10:00 Raising and lowering, St Eustachius, Tavistock and St Budeaux	South West

April

Tue 2	19:30 Triples & Major, St. Peter, Tiverton	North East
Sat 6	10:00 Raising and lowering in peal, S Michael, Brentor	South West
Sat 6	10:00 Branch meeting & service, Cullompton	North East
Sat 6	14:30 Grandsire Triples branch practice, Ottery St Mary	East
Mon 8	19:30 Surprise Minor branch practice, Offwell	East
Thu 11	19:30 Branch practice Plain Hunt etc, Sidbury	East
Sat 13	10:00 Branch practice, St Margaret, Topsham	Aylesbeare
Sat 13	10:00 Meet the Branch, Coffinswell, Kingskerswell, Highweek	Mid Devon
Tue 16	tbc 10-bell practice, tbc	Exeter
Fri 19	19:30 Surprise Major, tbc	North East
Mon 22	19:30 Minor methods branch practice, Seaton	East
Fri 26	19:30 8-bell practice, Wolborough	Mid Devon

May

Sat 4	10:00 Open branch practice, Stoodleigh	North East
Mon 6	08:00 Train outing. Newton Abbot, Teignmouth and Dawlish	Exeter
Tue 7	19:30 Triples & Major, St. Peter, Tiverton	North East
Thu 9	19:30 Branch practice Plain Hunt etc, Sidbury	East
Sat 11	Branch Spring outing, tba	South West
Sat 11	14:30 Spring ringing meeting, Membury	East
Sat 11	14:30 6-bell practice. Cornworthy & Dittisham	Mid Devon
Mon 13	19:30 Surprise Minor branch practice, Offwell	East
Mon 13	19:30 Branch practice, St John the Evangelist, Withycombe Raleigh	Aylesbeare
Fri 17	19:30 Surprise Major, tbc	North East

June

Sat 1	19:30 Open branch practice, tbc	North East
Tue 4	19:30 Triples & Major, St Peter, Tiverton	North East
Sat 8	09:30 Raising & lowering, Torquay St Marychurch (front 6)	Mid Devon
Mon 10	19:30 Surprise Minor branch practice, Offwell	East
Thu 13	19:30 Branch practice, Plain Hunt etc, Sidbury	East
Thu 13	19:30 Branch practice, Blessed Virgin Mary, Aylesbeare	Aylesbeare
Sat 15	National 12 Bell striking competition, Chilcompton	Guild
Sat 15	10:00 Guild training, Surprise Major, Bovey Tracey (contact Education Officer to book)	Guild
Fri 21	tbc John Hutchings competition, Silverton	North East
Sat 22	Guild 150th Anniversary AGM, Tavistock	Guild
Mon 24	19:30 Minor methods, branch practice, Seaton	East
Sat 29	10:00 Guild training, Surprise Major, Highweek	Guild

Editorial

Firstly, congratulations are due to Sue Sawyer, who is now the first person ever to have rung 10,000 quarter peals. What a fantastic achievement. And just a few days before, James Kirkcaldy joined the ranks of the 1000 pealers. But it is good also to congratulate those starting out on this journey with their first quarter peals - Sarah McIntyre and Graham Walmsley are mentioned in this issue. And the East Devon training initiative 'East Devon Branch Score in 24' seems to be having an effect with many additional performances being published on BellBoard.

Since the last issue we have had Christmas and the new year, but they seem so long ago that the news is rather old. However this has been overtaken by the build-up to the celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Guild. A number of people have done an enormous amount of work to get everything prepared for and around the dinner and the launch of the new history of the Guild. They are to be thanked for their work which I know you will support.

And then, hot on the heels of the celebrations, the Central Council are coming to Exeter for their annual meeting in September. The organisers have been working quietly away, arranging venues, accommodation, ringing and hospitality, so I am sure that this will all be a success. We will print some additional copies of RRD so that the attendees can see how a newsletter should be presented! And some support in the form of assistance will, I am sure, be gladly accepted.

I have had one or two people ask me about the QR codes that have started appearing in RRD. Many articles now have links to web pages that provide further information, or to sound or video. If you are reading RRD on-line then you can just click on the link to follow it. However if you are looking at a printed copy this is obviously not possible. You could type the entire URL (web reference) into a browser on your phone or tablet, but scanning

the QR code with the phone camera provides the same information without you having to type it. Some browsers can do this automatically; others may need a separate application to be loaded but these are readily available and free. Do let me know if they are any use to you – the codes are rather tedious to produce!

Ian Campbell

Stedman Training Sessions

Three sessions were organised over a month specifically for those wishing to progress with ringing Stedman Triples. These were at Heavitree (Exeter), Broadclyst and Clyst Honiton. Five learners attended all three sessions, ably assisted by a large number of competent helpers. Good progress was made by all, moving forward from plain courses, to touches with pairs of bobs, to odd bobs and even singles. The final session included a brief introduction to calling Stedman, after which one attendee was able to call several touches for the first time.

Many thanks go to those who made the towers available, and to the many helpers, without whom the sessions would not have been able to go ahead.

Here are some pictures from the sessions:



After the ringing some went onto the roof to admire the view



At Broadclyst



Some of the East Devon contingent



At Clyst Honiton



At Heavitree

Anne Burn from Axminster writes:

Clyst Honiton, Broadclyst and Heavitree, all tower grabs for me but more importantly the venues of three Guild Stedman Triples practices. Four East Devon ringers Maureen, Tom, Sue and I, along with Harry from Mid Devon signed up for three sessions run by Ian Campbell and his crew and so well organised by Guild Education Officer, Sue King.

This was a great opportunity of us to try out or hone our Stedman Triples skills with an expert band, an experience rarely if ever possible for us in our home towers. What an experience it turned out to be, brilliantly guided by Ian and an experienced band we all managed to ring a touch by the end of the three sessions. I would not go as far as to say it's hard to go wrong when you have one learner and seven experts but oh how it helps!

Thanks go to all the helpers, too many to mention individually, in all three towers for giving up their valuable time to make this such a helpful and enjoyable experience.

Ian Campbell



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