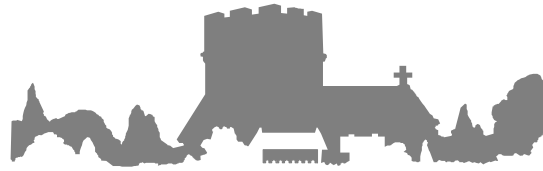




A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS



RINGING ROUND DEVON

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

Newsletter 76: December 2009

THE MYZANTHA RING (FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE BEDROOM RING)

Originally installed in the loft of Frank & Mary Mack's home, *Myzantha*, 7 Bapton Lane, Exmouth, the bells were known as the Myzantha Ring or the Bedroom Ring. Recently they were transferred to the tower at Withycombe Raleigh - there cannot be many people who have had a whole ring of 10, plus frame in the back of their car!

They are in fact a set of 10 handbells; the front 2 are by Taylor and the back 8 by George Welch. After re-tuning at Whitehapel, Frank Mack converted them into a ring of 10 in his garage workshop. The headstocks are oak and the plywood wheels are mainly solid to increase weight and improve handling. The angled aluminium frame is mounted on a wooden base board, and the bells swing on ball bearings. On a small lathe, Frank made the counterbalanced clapper assemblies which became the forerunners of many of the mini-rings around the country. The ropes were hand-made on his improvised rope-walk. Altogether a remarkable feat.

The front 6, hung in January 1970, were first rung by the Mack family. A week later they were opened to the public and a touch of 120 doubles achieved. In May of that year the whole 10 were finally installed, hung as 2 sets of 5 bells, to facilitate everything being taken up the loft ladder and assembled in situ. The first quarter-peal on the 10 was in August 1972, although there are proud recordings of whole courses of Bristol rung by several bands. The next quarter was 5 years later, on the back 8. The first peal on the bells, of Grandsire Caters was not until 1999. The growth of mini-bell ringing brought together a capable band, and a peal of Royal was scored in 2004. Both the peals are recorded as being the lightest of Caters and Royal to be rung by rope and wheel. The next peal, Yorkshire Major on the back 8, was the last in their original home. Over those 39 years, the bells featured on several television programmes, with all income from these appearances donated to the Withycombe Raleigh restoration fund. A host of visiting bands and individuals, including ringers from Down Under and The Colonies, enjoyed the ringing experience and several quarters were rung, as recorded in a visitors' book, which has also been transferred to the tower.



Bells in individual frames in the intermediate chamber



The ringing circle within the tower bell circle

That's a potted history of the first mini-ring 10 in the world. Mary had donated the Garage Ring (6) to the Guild and after much deliberation generously donated the 10 to Withycombe Raleigh - her home tower, and where Frank was Tower Captain for many years.

In February of this year the ring was taken down from the loft, just as they were taken up - bit by bit. They then spent a couple of weeks in my garage, whilst I worked out how best to hang them in the tower. It was originally intended for them to be in the ringing room, but the low ceiling would have caused problems, so it was decided to put them in the intermediate chamber. To get a good circle the original frame was recycled into 10 individual frames, this being done in the evenings in the back of my garage.

The bells were installed during the summer. The original ceiling bosses were recovered from the ceiling in the bedroom, and we drilled through two layers of wood in the intermediate chamber before we could fix them to the ceiling of the ringing room. The 10-bell circle is inside the 12-bell circle, and gives everyone plenty of room.

They have been arranged for ringing standing up, which is far easier than in the bedroom, where they were rung when sitting on the bed, in the wardrobe, on stools, and with the sound coming through a loudspeaker. We discussed the possibility of augmenting them to 12, and making them the lightest 12 in the world, but it was decided to leave them as a 10. The bells are very quiet when rung, and we discovered the best way to increase the sound level was to open up the trapdoor. However, the down-side was that they all sounded quite similar due to the materials the clappers are made of!



This has now been corrected. We took a pair of rubber gloves from Ikea, cut off the fingers and thumbs and used them to cover the striking faces of the clappers. This has had a wondrous effect on them, and there is now a lot more depth to the sound. This is an experimental idea, but if it proves to be acceptable, the clappers will be modified, using the original lathe they were made on, to allow O-rings to be put round them.

The solution to the clapper problem

On the 8th of September this year the bells were officially christened The Myzantha Ring, and the first peal rung on them in their new home - fittingly dedicated to the memory of Frank Mack. It was after this peal that the clappers were modified. The idea came to me whilst watching some handbell ringing at the Cathedral dinner, you don't hit handbells with a hard, solid object to make them sound, you hit them with leather! I can assure you the difference in sound is remarkable.

The bells are readily available for visiting ringers and bands to "enjoy" just for a grab, a quarter or even a peal. Please do come and try them out in their new home. As a final piece, we must be the only tower in the world with two complete rings in it, that are rung from the same room and can even be rung, should it be desired, at the same time!

*John A Foster
Withycombe Raleigh*

THE DEVON CHURCH BELL RESTORATION FUND

The Trustees of the Fund met on the morning of Saturday 14th November at Brian Drake's home in North Tawton.

At the meeting five new grants were agreed, as follows:

Stoodleigh - £5,000 towards a complete rehang of the six bells in a new steel frame with all new fittings;

Kilmington - £850 towards overhauling bearings and pulleys, refurbishing clappers, and cleaning and repainting all steel and ironwork (this work is already complete);

Sheepstor - £2,800 towards rehangng the six bells on new headstocks with part new fittings in the existing frame, removing cast-in clapper staples, and fitting new clappers with independent staples. Tuning may be considered at a later date depending on local fund-raising;

Dodbrooke - £3,200 towards removing cast-in clapper staples, providing new clappers and headstocks, and rehangng with mainly new fittings in the repaired existing frame;

Meavy - £280 towards refurbishing clappers, pulleys and stays, and cleaning and repainting wheel braces, etc.

Since the previous meeting grants of £6,000 to Berry Pomeroy and £300 to Berryarbor had been paid, following completion of work. Also the rehangng of the bells at Membury, towards which a grant of £2,200 had been offered, is now complete.

Taking all this into account, the Fund is currently overcommitted by approximately £1,000, even with the marvellous contribution of £4,200 from the Devon Association following their Annual Draw. The Trustees considered this situation acceptable as several of the larger grants so far offered would not be called upon for a further twelve months. Nevertheless, with some 18 schemes currently on our books – and another 6 in the offing – we cannot afford to be complacent. Any contributions to the Fund will be most gratefully received!

IAN SMITH

N/NW BRANCH AGM.

Our AGM day (9th November) started with general ringing on the two 8- bell towers at Ilfracombe. Firstly it was St Phillip & St James (known locally as "Pip and Jims" or "bottom Church") and because a road accident delayed some of our Members we started with the back six; in fact, this turned out to be no bad thing as the six sounded much better, we thought, than the full octave! We moved on to the Parish Church of Holy Trinity, where the bells were easy going - a nice tuneful peal. It was a good opportunity for our Members to ring in both Towers and for the bells to ring out over the town, as sadly they are not heard much these days. Our thanks go to the Incumbents and the Tower Captains for making the bells available.

We moved on to Combe Martin for the main part of the day and are indebted to Keith Wyer the Rector, and Stuart Neale the Organist, for leading a well attended Service of Praise. Also to the lady ringers of Combe Martin who produced a sumptuous traditional Ringers tea.

The meeting was well attended by over 30 Members and friends, including the Guild President and Master. The Branch Officers were re-elected for another term and the various Reports suggested another successful year. Monthly Practices are mostly well attended and the Branch Team achieved a commendable 3rd place in the Guild inter-Branch striking competition; we also rang 8 Quarters for the Guild Quarter Peal week, all organised by the St Brannocks Society. We were also very pleased to welcome the affiliation of St Peter's Shirwell to the Guild, together with six of their Ringers.

We decided to put on hold suggestions that there might be a time limit in holding Branch Officer appointments; similarly re. the need for an Education Officer. We did, however, appoint a Bell Adviser – David Willis agreeing to take on the job.

The day was rounded off with general ringing at Combe Martin, where we are blessed with a fine ring of bells and a dozen or so Ringers who support their Church not only by ringing the bells but in many other ways.

Bruce Hicks
N/NW Branch Secretary

NEWS FROM ST BRANNOCK'S

It has been another busy time of the year for the Society, with the Guild Sponsored Quarter Peal Week and our Annual Dinner.

Several ringers were on holiday this year so it was quite a challenge to arrange quarter peal attempts for everyone. With our members living as far afield as Camelford to Chawleigh and Combe Martin to Okehampton , a lot of travelling was necessary , but we succeeded in scoring eight of the nine quarters attempted in methods ranging from Plain Bob Doubles to 4- Spliced S Major with twenty five ringers taking part. We were sorry that John Conduct was unable to ring with us and are pleased that he is well on the road to recovery.

We were grateful to Tim and Jan Hine, our regular "holiday" visitors, who helped make up numbers at the last minute.

The Tuesday following Quarter Peal Week is traditionally our Annual Dinner. As in previous years we went to The Black Horse in Great Torrington where twenty eight of us sat down to a splendid meal.

The Clapper Plate (a wall plate with raised clapper across the centre) was awarded to Andy Lancey, Deputy Ringing Master, for his outstanding support during the year, and for wanting to conduct Plain Bob Doubles! Unfortunately Andy could not be at the Dinner, but by the time this article is published will have been presented with the trophy.

*Louise James
Ringing Master*

TROYTE RINGING CENTRE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

The Troyte Ringing Centre (TRC) held a Dinner at The Redwoods, Uplowman, on Friday 4th December to mark its fifth anniversary and to review its future development. Representatives from each affiliated tower in the North East Branch were invited to join members of the TRC committee. Chairman of the Branch, Les Boyce, thanked Mike Hatchett for his vision and energy in setting up and running the Centre during the last five years and Mike gave thanks to members of the committee and helpers for their continued work in supporting it. Representatives from Bampton, Tiverton St Peter, Uffculme, Cruwys Morchard, Silverton and Bickleigh gave suggestions from their members on the future initiatives for the Centre to consider and written comments were received from Tiverton St Paul's and Culmstock.

During the five years the TRC has raised over £13,000 which has been distributed between Huntsham Church, the NE branch, TRC, the DCBRF and local charities.

The TRC holds regular Saturday training events, weekly Branch practices on Mondays, monthly advanced 6-8 bell practices on Wednesdays, has hosted special events and now runs training sessions on the Practice Bell at Bampton three times a week.

To celebrate the Anniversary the TRC merchandise will be enhanced by 'TRC anniversary mugs' - these will be on sale from January.

Sheila Scofield

FRED EDWARDS SHIELD

This annual striking competition took place again this year at Uffculme Church on 14th November.

Three Teams took part. The winners, with 47½ points were from St. Peters Tiverton, with home team from Uffculme coming a very close second with 48 points. The third team, mainly from Silverton but with a little help from their friends, came in not far behind with 49 points. In true tradition the competitors all adjourned to the Ostler Inn for refreshments and supper, where the judges Peter Walter and Terry Hargreaves gave their verdict.

The photographs show the judges deep in discussion and Les Boyce, the captain of the winning team being presented with the trophy by the judges.

Tony Trigg



Judges Peter Walter and Terry Hargreaves



Les Boyce receiving the Shield

NORTH EAST BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On 3rd October 2009 around fifty ringers attended a successful AGM held this year at the Church Hall in Silverton. Members were pleased to welcome three guild officers President: Lester Yeo, Ringing Master: John Steere and Secretary: Janet Coles.

Officers for the NE Branch were elected as follows:

Chairman:	Leslie Boyce
Committee Secretary:	Allison Milne
Programme Secretary and Branch Publicity Officer:	Tony Trigg
Treasurer and Membership Secretary:	Alan Edwards
Ringling Master:	Sheila Scofield
Education Officer, and Member of the Guild General Committee:	Mike Hatchett

Six ringers from towers at Cruwys Morchard and Uffculme were elected as new members.

Lester Yeo, the Guild President, praised the Branch for its commitment to training and recruiting new ringers, and particularly for the work done for publicity of our ancient art by manning the stand at the Mid Devon Show, where the now completed display boards were on show. These display boards, costing around £3000 have now been used successfully in recruitment by the majority of the Towers in the Branch.

A most excellent ringers' tea was provided by our hosts at Silverton. The "produce" stall raised over £35 for Branch Funds and the meeting concluded with a lively Members Forum.

Tony Trigg



The splendid produce stall

EXETER BRANCH AGM

Exeter Branch held this year's AGM at St Michael and All Angels' Church, Pinhoe on Saturday 21st November. The day began with a training event for those learning to plain hunt and ring doubles inside. During the morning two groups, led by Ian Campbell and Matthew Hilling and supported by experienced ringers, had opportunities to understand the theory using handbells, to ring on the tower bells and a computer, and to enjoy a listening session using the Central Council tapes where they were encouraged to identify faults in some ringing.

Members arrived in the afternoon for an hour of ringing prior to the service led by the Rector, Reverend Michael Partridge, with Pam Miller playing the organ and contributions from our youngsters, Amy, Gareth and Felicity. During the service three leads of Kent Treble Bob Royal were rung on handbells.

Refreshments were enjoyed, followed by the business meeting. Following reports of the year's activities and acceptance of the treasurer's report the following officers were elected:

- Chair – Ian Campbell
- Secretary – Heather Somerwill
- Treasurer – Lesley Tucker
- Ringing master – Robert Franklin
- Asst. Ringing Master – Matthew Hilling
- Publicity Officer – Jenny Young
- Guild Committee member – Michael Cannon

Further consideration is to be given to the suggested positions of Education and Bell Advisors.

Andrew Digby and Ken Vingoe were thanked for their work as Ringing Master and Publicity Officer respectively.

The committee will meet shortly to consider the events for the coming year. It was agreed that practices should cover as many of the branch towers as possible.

Heather Somerwill

AYLESBEARE BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On 5th December the Aylesbeare Branch held their AGM in Clyst St George church. The chairman welcomed members, and Guild officers John Steere and Janet Coles. The sad loss of Woodbury Tower Captain Jonathan Lear on 25th July 2009 was marked by a minute's silence in his memory.

Officers for the Aylesbeare were elected as follows:

Chairman:	Roger King
Secretary:	Cathy Civill
Treasurer:	Margaret Elms
Ringing Master:	John Foster
Guild Branch Representative:	Sue Sturdy
Bells Advisor:	John Langabeer

After some discussion regarding the election of an Education Officer, it was agreed to leave it in abeyance for the time being. John Foster, as newly appointed Ringing Master offered to get round the towers to assess the requirement, and report back. Meanwhile, Cathy volunteered to represent the branch at Guild Education meetings.

Two ringers were elected as new members.

It was agreed that the Branch purchase some of the Central Council's publications to assist the Ringing Master or just for towers to use at their own practices eg Kaleidoscope Ringing. John

Foster wanted to delay any decisions until he became familiar with each tower but tentatively, a maximum sum of £100 will be made available for this purpose.

Thanks were expressed to the 2009 officers for their efforts, to Tony Williams for running the plain hunt practices and hosting the meeting, to Sue Sturdy for the excellent tea and to the members and visitors for their attendance.

Neville Wright agreed to host the next Annual General Meeting at Littleham on Saturday, 4 December 2010.

Cathy Civill

FROM THE FOOTNOTES

1. Paul Pascoe's peal of spliced S Major at Thorverton on November 16th brought his peal total to 1500.
2. Lester Yeo scored his 1200th peal on November 14th, at Crediton with Yorkshire S Maximus.
3. Tom Waterson rang his 50th peal on Thursday, 24 September - 5040 Cotopaxi S Royal.
3. Wendy Campbell's 60th birthday on 26th November was celebrated with peals of 5040 A'Chailleach D Royal (first in the method) at Thorverton on the actual day, and 5007 Stedman Cinques on Saturday, 28 November at Exeter Cathedral (which was also Roger King's 250th peal).
4. The peal of 5042 Cambridge S Maximus on 30th November at Withycombe Raleigh was in recognition of Mary Mack's 80th birthday on 4th December.
5. The handbell peal of 5088 Spliced S Major, in 40 methods on Tuesday, 24 November is the greatest number of major methods for the Guild.
6. The peal of 15120 Spliced S Minor in 41 methods at Bishops-Ting-Tong on Sunday, 6 December in 5hours11min is the longest length for the Guild.
7. The peal rung at Exeter, St David on 5th December for the Exeter Colleges Guild contained several firsts and was Tom Hinks' 100th as conductor.

Reminder:

The Guild Subs rise to £6 on 1 January; the peal fee will go up to 60p per ringer.

Mike Mears

GUILD QUARTER PEAL WEEK

Thank you to everyone who took part in and contributed to quarter peal week this year. The total raised is £640.70. With the addition of gift aid, this is increased to the unprecedented total of **£798.28**, which the guild will donate to DCBRF. Those branches that opted for collective organisation of quarter peals and fund raising managed to raise considerably more than the others. Sadly, some entire branches managed very few if any quarter peals in the week.

By contrast, the efforts of the Aylesbeare branch ensured an attempt in every affiliated tower, although the attempt at Woodbury was unfortunately unsuccessful. The money raised from these efforts was supplemented by a sponsorship scheme in the branch, as well as the brilliant idea of leaving a donation envelope in every affiliated tower. This encouraged additional contributions from guild members who were unable to ring a quarter peal and its success highlights the benefit that would be achieved by the future consideration of similar schemes in other branches.

The following are some of the footnotes that deserve a special mention:

- 1st quarter peal: Bill Blowey, Nellie Croft, Jack England, Laurie Kirkcaldy, Sarah Peck, Nicola Twibill
- 1st for over 30 years: Edward Cowd

- 1st inside: Christopher Bolt, Elaine Filer
- 1st away from cover: Robin Lavery
- 1st of Stedman: Joanna Lunnon
- 1st of Minor: John Clifton
- 1st on 8: Sid Gardiner
- 1st of Grandsire Triples inside: Lucy Davis
- 1st of Surprise Major on an inside pair: Lynne Hughes
- 1st of Spliced: Rob Corney
- 1st of Stedman Caters inside: Edwin Davis, Geoffrey Hill
- 1st of Surprise Maximus: Neil Williams

Other facts and figures from the week:

- Number of locations: 56 (including 3 for quarters in hand)
- Total number of quarters scored: 59 (including 5 in hand)

*Tim Bayton
Quarter Peal Secretary*

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QUARTER PEAL WEEK IN THE AYLESBEARE BRANCH

It was a very successful week for the Branch. Eight out of the nine quarters were scored, with the one lost at Woodbury only coming to grief at the end of an otherwise creditable attempt.

We have a very small pool of method ringers, diminished further when you eliminate those who were disappointed to be otherwise engaged or not up to 45 minutes ringing. Nevertheless the statistics are good. 13 Aylesbeare branch ringers took part with only 4 non-branch members helping us in more than one quarter.



Arthur Civill of Peninsula Cars presents sponsorship cash to John Langabeer

This year Peninsula Cars of Sidmouth Road, Aylesbeare challenged the Aylesbeare Branch to ring a quarter peal in each of its 9 church towers (Aylesbeare, Clyst Honiton, Clyst St George, Littleham, Lypstone, Sowton, Topsham, Withycombe Raleigh and Woodbury). Peninsula Cars agreed to sponsor the ringers £1 for every bell rung.

This sponsorship, together with the ringers donations and the contributions collected by the towers from the non-quarter peelers, totaled £263! After deducting the usual donations which were left for the local towers, we are able to give £195 to the Guild for the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund. Thank you so much for your support, for your donations and, in particular, thanks to the core of ringers who gave up so much of their time to make this a success.

Cathy Civill

SOUTH-WEST BRANCH OUTING

If you are thinking of arranging an outing around Newton Abbot, don't rely on your satnav to get you through the town. On 26th September, one hopeful ringer (myself, as it happens) spent so long driving frustratedly around the fringes of the pedestrian precinct and in and out of the ASDA car park (helpfully arranged with traffic lights at its exit, mostly on red) that the second tower – Abbotskerswell - got missed altogether and a lot of unparliamentary language was used. Apparently they had some nice ringing too, on the 10 cwt six.

A warmer welcome was found at the first tower, Denbury (6, 8cwt) where teas and coffees were provided – free – which is always a good start to any outing.

We had a pleasant arrival at the very pretty village of Coffinswell (6, 11 cwt) with excellent parking next to the church and a good pub where some of the party had lunch. It being very busy, those who couldn't find a table went on to the Barn Owl, where they not only had a good meal but were given apples to take away with them. It was obviously the day for giving away food and drink in that part of Devon, or maybe they are always that hospitable.

The afternoon was spent again negotiating the delights of Newton Abbot road system in order to reach Kingskerswell, with a light six (7-3-0) and Highweek – the first 8 of the day at 11 cwt. Unfortunately, since nobody turned up to unlock the tower we were unable to test these bells for ourselves, although the dogs in the party got a good walk in the fields behind the church.

Once more across the valley, and we reached Wolborough (more good dogwalking here) with what would have been our second 8, and the heaviest ring of the day at 15-3-27.

A good day, with good weather, and our thanks as usual go to David Pike for his excellent arrangements. It's not his fault that Newton Abbot traffic is such a nightmare on a Saturday!

TAVISTOCK RINGING OUTING

A number of factors this year meant that the Tavistock outing, intended for September, had to be postponed until 3 October, and was a shorter and more local affair than is our usual practice.

Nevertheless, it proved as pleasant, companionable and enjoyable a day as ever, and - with a later start and fewer towers - rather more relaxed.

The afternoon began at Plymstock, where we rang methods from Grandsire to Cambridge, and this was followed by a pleasant drive across the moor (thanks, Andy) to Ashburton, arriving in time to join the local ringers in ringing for a wedding. The ringing was well worth the 70 steps climb up the tall tower and one small dog made it all the way to the ringing chamber – her first experience of a spiral staircase.

At Bovey Tracey, we were delighted to be joined by John Rawlings, former Vicar of Tavistock, who showed that he had lost none of his skill, and he and his wife Jeanette also joined us for a hearty carvery meal afterwards, during which we presented George Boucher with an 80th birthday card from us all.

It may have been a shorter and more local outing than usual, but all agreed it was an excellent one, and thanks go to George Mudge for arranging it at such short notice.

HINTS FOR DOG-OWNERS

Quite a number of people now bring their dogs along for ringing practices, outings and other trips. Here are a few tips for those thinking of bringing Fido with them next time:

1. Start them young. Puppies soon get used to the sound of bells, but it's kinder not to walk them directly past the tower just as the bells pull off. Some more athletic dogs have been known to jump nearly as high as the tower itself at the sudden outbreak of sound.
2. If nobody objects to the dog in the church, and it is a ground-floor ring, fasten the lead to the hassock hook on the back pew, and give your dog a rug to lie on and a biscuit to chew while watching the ringing. (Some non-ringers may appreciate this kind of attention, too.)
3. If upstairs, make sure there is somewhere for the dog to lie out of the way and get someone to hold the collar. (You may find this difficult with a St Bernard or Newfoundland. Probably best to get a smaller dog in the first place.)
4. Remember that dogs do not like being shouted at and may take it personally when you reprimand another ringer for not being in the right place.
5. Finally, do not give your dog a 'ringing' name, such as 'Bob'. Even method names such as Stedman or Reverse Canterbury Pleasure (never a good choice for calling a dog anyway, in my opinion) may cause confusion, upset and even chaos when shouted out.
6. Enjoy your ringing – enjoy your dog.

Donna Baker

A DOUBLE CELEBRATION FOR TAVISTOCK!

It was a double victory for Tavistock when they won both trophies in the county striking competitions in October, beating seven other teams in the 8-bell event at Heavitree in the afternoon with a touch of Stedman Triples which they had practised assiduously for several weeks, and six others with Cambridge Minor at Pinhoe in the morning. Colin Kneebone, from Lifton, was a welcome addition in the Stedman with his steady tenor.

Tavistock has won both competitions before, but never both on the same day, and their smiles stretched nearly from Exeter to Tavistock!

Donna Baker

GUILD SW BRANCH 90TH CELEBRATIONS

A quarter peal of mixed doubles was rung at Peter Tavy on Tuesday November 3rd, during Guild Quarter Peal Week to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the formation of the S W Branch of the Devon Guild of Ringers. The Branch was formed at Peter Tavy on November 8th 1919, although nobody seems to know why it took place at that particular venue.

**Guild of Devonshire Ringers
St Peter, Peter Tavy, Devon**

Tuesday, 3 November 2009 in 41 min (8-2-0)

1260 Doubles 3m: 240 Stedman; 540 Grandsire; 480 Plain Bob

- 1 Geoffrey Hill
- 2 Donna Baker
- 3 Sheila Williams
- 4 Ian Smith
- 5 George Mudge (C)
- 6 Colin Kneebone

The celebrations continued on Saturday November 14th in the form of open ringing and a service at Peter Tavy, before the participants travelled to the Blacksmith's Arms, Lamerton, to be met by a number of other members for the Dinner itself. There was plenty of time for talk and to look at the old Minute Book with the record of that first historic meeting, and after the meal Normal Mallett gave a potted history of the Guild and the Branch itself. John Steere proposed a toast to the continuing success of the Branch, and a superb celebratory cake was cut by Yvonne Porter and Sam, whose mother had made, and decorated it.

Donna Baker



Yvonne and Sam cutting the cake



The celebratory cake



Guild Master proposing a toast

PINHOE - EXETER BRANCH OUTING TO THE OKEHAMPTON AREA

After the Exeter branch outing to Dartmoor, some of the young ringers had enjoyed ringing at Denmisch so much, that we persuaded our mums (and my dad) to organise another trip. As we were going to go to Okehampton, we decided to add Okehampton Parish Church to the list. Dad had already rung there, so after looking around the surrounding area, he thought Inwardleigh might be a good option, seeing as he had not rung there. The towers were decided upon, the outing was organised and the "big day" dawned.

On the day, after some traffic problems in Okehampton due to 4-way temporary traffic lights, we all arrived at Inwardleigh on time. We rang call changes and plain courses of plain bob doubles to include everyone. Inwardleigh are a nice six, with an unusual feature of the treble being half on the steps leading up to the bell chamber, therefore there is a box specially designed to fit over the step.

We all then moved on to Okehampton Parish Church – an excellent 8, where everyone was catered for in the ringing from rounds and call changes to grandsire triples. We then had to

move through the town centre again to Denmisch, fortunately the traffic problems were not as bad in this direction.

At Denmisch (with 6 simulators mounted in the garage) we found that everyone had brought cakes, doughnuts and cookies, the pile of food in the kitchen was enormous! There we rang everything up to Cambridge Minor, we had hoped to ring on eight but unfortunately Mischa had been let down on the delivery of the two extra simulators. We now know they will be delivered and installed later this year and we hope to return next year to ring on all eight.



Concentrating on the Denmisch ring

We rang our usual rendition of “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star” and even tried “Jingle Bells”, seeing as it is nearing Christmas! Non-ringing family members that had tagged along had a short lesson in the art of bell ringing and we are hoping they start ringing properly soon.

We have heard that everyone said the outing was excellent, especially the Denmisch simulators. Dad enjoyed the outing, even though when he got back to write up his ‘grab’ he found that he had rung at Inwardleigh 21 years earlier!

Many thanks go to all the towers for use of their bells and especially to Mischa who made us so welcome. We hope to see her again soon!

Laurie Kirkcaldy

ARE YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR COMMUNITY?

Michael Webster, editor of *Devon Calls*, and of the latest edition of *Interchange* writes:

From the articles in the latest edition of *Interchange* we hear that bell ringing is a sound to alert the community as to a certain event. Many bell ringers join in with the local community and ring the bells to announce the local or national events. One such tower is Bampton where the bells will ring to call the people to the town centre for a community Christmas event. Most ringers will recognise that they do not wait to be asked but take the initiative to promote community events. It is important to recruit ringers from within the local community so that they can hear about events and hopefully support them. If we publicise our ringing, people will know why we are ringing and because we are ringing, they may be encouraged to take it up (at some time), and be able to play their part in ringing for the local community.

Many towers have to borrow ringers to ring for events and it is better for more ringers to come from the local community. Recruitment of new ringers is the responsibility of us all and hopefully mentioned often. It is wonderful to hear that churches across the country are ringing for National events. The latest was ringing on Wednesday 11 November for Remembrance Day.

Our local team was able to ring half muffled at 11:02 whilst members of the Royal British Legion were gathered around the War Memorial. It was a moving experience.

Michael Webster

GUILD STRIKING COMPETITIONS RESULTS

The Guild Striking Competitions were held this year on Saturday 17 October in the Exeter Branch: the 6 bell at Pinhoe, the Novice competition at St Marks and the 8 Bell at Heavitree.

After some last minute panics by me, the day seemed to go off almost without a hitch, just half of one team arriving a bit later than scheduled at Pinhoe which meant a quick swap of the ringing order.

Thankfully it was a glorious autumn morning which meant being positioned outside Pinhoe church was no hardship, except the bells are very loud! Once again we had a full morning's ringing with 7 teams taking part which kept our judges Lynne Hughes and Ian Avery very busy. S W Branch were declared winners.

The Novice competition was not so well subscribed with just two teams from the host tower going head to head. One victory St Mark's could be assured of! Lester Yeo kindly swapped hats from President to judge to decide the outcome of this "battle".

After lunch we headed off to Heavitree for the results from the morning's ringing and also the draw for the 8 bell. With 8 teams entered we needed to ensure a military operation was put in place in order to keep proceedings moving along. The threat from Lester of having to ring last if your team wasn't ready at the allotted time meant the teams were ready and waiting!

All teams completed the test piece of either Stedman Triples or Plain Bob Triples which was extremely pleasing for everyone present. The judge for the afternoon, Keith Beale from Halse, Somerset, duly came and gave his thoughts on the afternoons performances and declared the South West Branch the 2009 winners.



Ian Smith, S W Branch and 8 bell trophy
SW Branch earlier won the 6-bell Fidler Cup



Amy (Exeter 1) accepts the certificate from Lester



Gareth (Exeter) and the Novice Trophy



Sharon receives her certificate from the President

My thanks to the Exeter Branch for their organisation, Lynne Hughes, Ian Avery, Lester Yeo and Keith Beale for judging the competitions and the incumbents for allowing us the use of the bells. The North East branch is the host in 2010 and I look forward to seeing you there.

*Janet Coles
Guild Secretary*

Results:

6 Bell - 240 Doubles or Minor – Pinhoe
Inter-tower competition for the J P Fidler Cup

Judges: Ian Avery & Lynne Hughes

- 1 Tavistock 15 faults
- 2 Exeter St Mark (1) 17 faults
- 3 Heavitree 22 faults
- 4 Exeter St Mark (2) 25 faults
- 5 Exeter Colleges Guild 46 faults
- 6 Tiverton St Peter 47 faults
- 7 Ottery St Mary 61 faults

6 Bell Novice - 180 changes of Plain Hunt Doubles or Minor - Exeter St Mark
Inter-tower novice competition, set up in memory of John Longridge

Judge: Lester Yeo

- 1 Exeter St Mark (Gareth) 69 faults
- 2 Exeter St Mark (Sharon) 77 faults

8 Bell - 252 Plain B Triples or Stedman Triples - Heavitree
Inter-branch competition for the Andrews trophy

Judge: Keith Beale

- 1 South West Stedman 17.25 faults
- 2 Exeter Stedman 24.25 faults
- 3 North/North West Plain Bob 27.25 faults
- 4 North East Plain Bob 33 faults
- 5 Exeter Plain Bob 33.5 faults

6 East Plain Bob 37.25 faults
7 Exeter Colleges Guild Plain Bob 48.25 faults
8 Mid Devon Stedman 53.25 faults

PLYMOUTH RINGERS GO TO UNI

If the Exeter Colleges can produce a band of ringers which evolved over forty years into a fully fledged Branch of the Guild, then why not Plymouth? This was part of the thinking that motivated Plymouth ringers to try a recruitment drive at Plymouth University Freshers' Fair at the start of this academic year.

Plymouth has 30,000 students. By the law of averages, there must be enough ready-made or at least potential ringers to form a band in that able, energetic and youthful number. How could we have most impact?



The Frank Mack ring

The Frank Mack mini-ring seemed the obvious visual aid and stimulus of interest, and Ian Avery was his usual helpful and efficient self in enabling us to dismantle and transport it to the campus. On the day, which was fortunately mild, dry and bright, about twenty ringers from the four towers nearest the City Centre came for at least part of the afternoon to give demonstrations on the mini-ring and on handbells. We were perfectly sited next to the queue of students waiting to register at the Student Union. Robert Sworder, a South-West Branch member from Salcombe recently graduated from Oxford, used his experience of university ringing and engaging personality to work the crowd. Special thanks to him, and to all who gave their time and expertise on behalf of ringing in the City.

That day we signed up ten students and stood by to welcome them, first to St Andrew's, then at Emmanuel, Stoke Damerel or Laira should those ten be the first of a huge influx. We're still waiting. To continue the comparison with Exeter, we probably need a John Longridge or a Matt Hilling, with skill and charisma, to initiate ringing in Plymouth from within the student body. If nothing else, maybe we can regard our visit to the university this year as a rehearsal for another more effective event in future.

John Steere

LEARNING TO METHOD RING AT SHIRWELL, NORTH DEVON

Some 23 years ago, my wife, 2 young daughters and myself moved to Shirwell from Highclere in Hampshire. Three of us were method ringers and we were aware that there was little or no method ringing in N.Devon. However we were delighted to find Shirwell had an active band of call change ringers and were welcomed immediately.

At almost the same time, Mike Rose also rang to welcome us and gave details of The St. Brannock's Society, of which we were pleased to be members. After 2 or 3 years we found that due to village and church commitments together with work demands on our small farm and in Barnstaple, we were unable to continue to support the St. Brannock's Society. We did, however, manage to ring for Sunday services and weddings. As time went by the band changed and about 18 months ago, 3 experienced call change ringers said they would like to learn how to method ring and we grasped the opportunity enthusiastically.

Thus we began an interesting journey, which proved more difficult than I anticipated for people with Devon Call Change training. My wife and I continued optimistically and even more so when Steve and Rachael Taylor, and Louise James joined our practice night 10 months ago. Matters accelerated from this point because the learners (all church goers) could have a minder standing by them as we moved from plain hunt call changes to ringing the method on the treble.

Two quarter peals have recently been rung, with a bit of help from Louise, and other members of the band have now grasped the method ringing 'nettle' and are progressing excellently. At the recent N/N-West A.G.M. we were delighted to be elected to the Guild as a tower and we do retain a joint affiliation with the Devon Association.

Learning to method ring takes time and patience but when the cloud of mist evaporates there are tremendous challenges to be had and the learning can continue as long as the commitment is there. I am delighted also to say my own enjoyable challenge continues with the St.Brannock's Society after a 20 year absence.

Ken Edwards

EXETER BRANCH SKITTLES EVENING

Prior to the main social event, a number of us climbed the steps of Woodbury church tower to attempt some ringing. Sadly the 7th was unavailable as it had a broken clapper, but we still managed some call changes on 6 and 7 bells and Grandsire Doubles. We noted that it was a very long time ago that the record for the quickest raise by one person of all 8 bells was set and as with all records, they are there to be challenged!

Then off to the White Hart, Woodbury, a lovely cosy village pub setting. Our Skittles event was well attended, with some fierce early evening competition, nearly resulting in a draw! Our menu was an excellent hot buffet - Sweet and Sour Chicken and Beef Lasagne served with rice, crusty bread and salad followed by selection of 2 desserts. There was also an excellent range of drinks available at the bar. Afterwards, there was a further opportunity to show off our bowling skills with an individual sudden death competition.

Our thanks go to those who helped organise this annual event.

Ken Vingoe

FIREWORKS PARTY - EXETER BRANCH SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2009.

Once again Graham and Lesley Tucker kindly hosted our Bonfire Night celebrations on an evening which dried up enough to give a weather slot just big enough to accommodate our magnificent display alongside the wonderful fire. It's a pleasure to report that there were no accidents and that the same number of children was eventually accounted for at the end of the evening that we had at the start. In order to comply with the latest Health and Safety Regulations, we have been obliged for the first time this year, to provide example evidence that the Chief Fireworker was wearing adequate fire protection. A picture of this evidence is presented herewith and it may be that similar evidence will have to be recorded in future. About 30 of us travelled from far and wide to enjoy our evening and we all thank Graham and Lesley for their very kind hospitality.

Ken Vingoe



Health & Safety footwear.



The outcome

NEWS FROM THE GUILD LIBRARY

Recent Acquisitions: The following items have been added to Guild Library in 2009:

John Scott, Frank Mack and James Clarke: Towers and bells of Devon. 2 vols, pub'd: 2007

David Potter: The bells and bells and bellringers of York Minster, pub'd: 2009

Cyril Wratten, Rowena Gay and Alan Ellis: The Ringing World Index, 1911 – 2003, pub'd: 2004

The Bell News and Ringers Record 1881 – 1915: DVD containing digitised images of the journal's pages together with index, pub'd 2007

Campanology, 1896 – 7 and The Bellringer, 1907: CD ROM containing digitised images of the two journals together with indexes, pub'd 2000

Central Council Library: Catalogue of the Library to 2002 with updates.

Devon ringing pamphlets and emphera: Two collections of personal records and Dedication Service sheets have been received. These are an important future source of information about ringers and towers in the County and we are grateful to the donors.

Donations

I am grateful to Lester Yeo and John Glanvill for their donations of ephemera and personal records. I am indebted to Alan Ellis of Vancouver for his generous gift of the Ringing World index. We hold a run of *The Ringing World* from 1950 and this will be a valuable tool in exploiting that resource.

I am also pleased to be able to thank publicly Richard Bowden for a generous donation to the Guild for Library purchases in memory of John Scott. As a result we have purchased a set of John's own book on Devon bells, The Bell News DVD and the new book on York Minster bells. We are most grateful for this support for the Library.

Loans and Enquiries

I am always pleased to receive enquiries for information about Devon ringing matters or requests to borrow items from the Library. Please contact me:

Mr Leslie Boyce, 75 Belmont Road, Tiverton, EX16 6EQ or email: lesboyce@gmail.com

Leslie Boyce, Guild Librarian

DEVON YOUNG RINGERS' HALLOWE'EN OUTING

When it was realised that the Young Ringers' outing on the last Saturday in half term week fell on 31st October, a theme, though not over-played, was established for the day. Sophie designed a gothic ghost poster for the event, and a tub of 'trick or treat' chocolates did the rounds on the day (they seemed to be all treats) as well as Wendy's cookies.

Ringling started at Dean Prior (6) and was followed by Buckfastleigh (8), where there was time to explore the ruins of the church of which only the tower remains. The local key-holder was surprised and delighted to see so many young ringers; an added bonus of these days is the encouragement it gives to those who haven't seen young people coming into ringing for a while.

Lunch followed in the café at Buckfast Abbey, and although we didn't attempt the tower bells, Laurie's father soon produced a set of pocket handbells which were keenly caught hold of. There was also time to look round the Abbey and gift shop before our final ring of the day at Holne (6).

The ten young ringers present represented six towers from Musbury in the East to Plymouth in the West of the county. Richard joined us for the first time, becoming the 37th young ringer to have come since we started in 2006, most of whom are still active in the exercise.

Lynne Hughes



Unwinding before ringing at Buckfastleigh



The ten young ringers in Buckfastleigh tower



Trying out handbells in Buckfast Abbey grounds

MARY MACK'S BIRTHDAY



Last month, the above band rang a peal of Cambridge maximus at Withycombe Raleigh (Mary Mack's home tower) to celebrate her 80th birthday on December 4th. We send her our congratulations and best wishes.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers Withycombe Raleigh, Devon

St John the Evangelist

Monday, 30 November 2009 in 3h 17 (17-1-10)

5042 Cambridge S Maximus

Composed by: D F Morrison (No.33)

- 1 Pauline Champion
- 2 Elisabeth A G Bowden
- 3 Susan D Sparling
- 4 Alison C Waterson
- 5 Roger King
- 6 Paul J Pascoe
- 7 Matthew J Hilling (C)
- 8 Thomas J Waterson
- 9 Ian V J Smith
- 10 Geoffrey C Sparling
- 11 Michael E C Mears
- 12 John A Foster

CATHEDRAL BAND RUNNERS-UP FOR TAWSTOCK SHIELD

On Saturday, November 7th, eight teams competed for the Tawstock 8-bell Shield in a call change competition held at Tawstock. Included in their number was a team representing Exeter Cathedral, who won the respectable 2nd place cup. Congratulations to all the bands. The published results, taken from the Devon Association website are given below. The teams, total number of faults, and Top ringing faults (excluding raise and lower) are:

1st	Kingsteignton	41	(20 Top ringing)
2nd	Exeter Cathedral	53	(29)
3rd	High Bickington	62	(34)
4th	Chittlehampton	70	(45)
5th	Paignton	77	(47)
6th	Exeter St Petrock	87	(46)
7th	Kingsteignton B	108	(65)
8th	West Alvington	157	(68)

Judges: Mary Mears, Cedric Hocking & Maurice Sharland.

DOES ANYONE KNOW?

In the Ringing World earlier this year, David Robertson, of the Mid-Devon Branch, asked for information on the founder of a bell which he rescued some 50 years ago from the redundant Frome Mill in Somerset just before it was demolished. Risking life and limb David persuaded a digger driver to lift him up in the bucket so that he could dislodge and bring down the 60lb bell. By the time he had cleaned it up he realised that he had acquired a handsome trophy worth preserving.

The bell has conventional canons, two moulding wires at the top of the sound-bow and a further three a little higher up but none on the shoulder to form an inscription band. There is an inscription on the middle of the bell which reads

**WASBOROUGH HALE & CO,
BRISTOL
1838**

What David particularly wanted to know was the site location of Wasbrough Hale & Co and whether their original foundry building still exists.

In the 19th C there were 23 brass founders in Bristol who could cast or supply bells. They were situated in a close group - 17 were south of Bristol Bridge and 6 were just above on the northside of the bridge. Wasbrough Hale & Co were located on the northside just 100 yards to the west of a large building in Castle Green into which Llewellins & James moved. The area and buildings were little changed from the 19th C until the heavy bombing raid of 24 November 1940 which obliterated No.5 Narrow Wine St and most of the surrounding area.

On a modern street map the former site of Wasbrough Hale & Co would be under the south-west corner of the Galleries in the post-war thoroughfare named Newgate. As a result of our research we were able to supply David with a list of 19th,C Bristol brass founders, copies of pre- WW2 photographs (including one of the Wasbrough Hale & Go building taken in 1925) and current street maps of the Bristol Bridge area, and finally we found what David most wanted - a print circa 1830 of the front of the Wasbrough Hale foundry as it appeared when David's bell was cast.

The Wasbrough family, with various partners, were trading as brass founders in Narrow Wine Street from 1797 to 1848 when Rice Wasbrough died. From then on the business continued as Thomas Hale and Sons until it closed down in 1875. It was interesting to discover that two of the Wasbrough principal partners had held the position of organist at Bristol Cathedral - Rice Wasbrough was organist from 1781 to 1802 and his son John was organist from 1807 to 1825. Both are buried within the Cathedral precincts.

On 5th August, by kind invitation we visited Bishopsteignton where David's bell has pride of place mounted on a wooden plinth in his lounge. From a video recording made that day my son was able to confirm the note of the bell and he later provided a full tonal analysis to complete an interesting piece of research.

Richard Bowden

WIND IN THE RINGING CHAMBER!

A couple's special day did dawn,
One blustery October morn.

The wind was blowing a raging gale
Father and bride hung on to her veil.

Vows exchanged and joined for life
The priest proclaimed them "man and wife"

In the ringing chamber off they go -
St. Mark's ringers in full flow.

The door suddenly opened wide
Hitting Amy on the side.

Matt the captain gave a shout
"We are ringing – GET OUT!"

No one was standing by the rail
It was the wind still blowing a gale!

Matt one handed the bell he rang
As he shut the door with a bang.

No sooner had the door been shut
It opened again, hitting Amy's butt!

On they rang with Matt fighting the door
In the end he could take no more.

As he was ringing number three
He thought "I know I will grab the key!"

"I will try to lock the door"
Call changes continued"Three to four"

"Amy you are number two
Push the door shut with your shoe!"

"Matt I'm ringing on one leg.....don't call-
Or I know that I will surely fall!"



Amy, Matt and the problem door

Matt tried to lock the door
"Come on Amy - PUSH IT MORE!"

The lock was now securely in place
(Matt was looking quite red in the face!)

"The door will now open no more -
Amy you can ring with both feet on the floor!"

The ringing had sounded very grand
And at last came the call to "STAND!"

Wendy Gill

OBITUARIES

Donald Salter 1930 – 2009

Don's funeral took place on Monday, 5th October. He was born and grew up in Hemyock, did his National service in the RAF, then met Mary and they married in 1954. He started working in the building trade, initially working for his father, then Miller & Lilley and moved to Honiton in 1959. He worked for many years as a sales rep for a number of builders' merchants and plumbing merchants, travelling to customers all around Devon and Somerset for Miller & Lilley, Rowe Brothers, Graham Rowe and Double Tee. Because of all the travelling he knew the roads well and the location of every public toilet and fish and chip shop.

Don and Mary have two sons and he was immensely proud of his four granddaughters, Emma, Nicola, Madeleine and Vivienne. Neil and Mayo presented him with a grandson just three months ago, but sadly, Don never got to see Benjamin.

After his family, his two great loves were Exeter City and Bellingring. Don had played football for Hemyock and managed youth teams at Honiton when both Neil and Gary played. He was a supporter and season ticketholder at Exeter City for many years, rarely missing a home game and travelled away to many games including organising coach trips for supporters from

Honiton to places such as Wolverhampton, Cardiff, Leicester and Tottenham. He often berated the referees. He had not been able to go to many matches in recent months but kept in touch by listening to radio commentaries at home on Saturday afternoons under his headphones.

Don started bellringing at the age of 10 and continued this throughout his life. He was captain of the Honiton Ringers for 18 years and was Deputy Ringing Master for the East Devon Guild for 16 years. He rang a total of 37 peals and 1728 quarter peals, of which he conducted 288. He managed to ring at nearly every church in Devon, enjoyed his outings to all parts of the South West, knowing about most of the bells and always let us know how many bells there were and what they were like. 'A pretty little six or a heavy old eight.'

After he retired, he was part of a 'senior group' that went off each week, rang a quarter peal in the morning, had a pub lunch and rang another quarter peal in the afternoon, days he thoroughly enjoyed.

He had a traditional and good moral upbringing, very clear on right and wrong. He has passed on to his family the sense of doing things right and a strong moral code. He would constantly remind the boys – Manners Maketh Man - among many other sayings.

He touched the lives of so many people, which is clear from the number of people who attended the funeral. RIP

Derek Ballard

Ray Capps

It is with great regret that I have to announce the death of Ray Capps on 3 December 2009. Ray started his ringing career with Exeter St. Petrock and Ide. He was a founder member of the St. Petrock's Ringing Centre and treasurer of that until his death. He worked tirelessly and without any wish for recognition or reward towards running the Chamber Pot Competition and the Masterclasses. He then went on to become Captain of Ide Bellringers where he held the team together during the loss of key members and his solid, reliable style of leadership was a constant presence. When his health started to decline, he stood down as Captain but maintained an interest and participation to the end. He was a great character, a reliable and invaluable colleague, his ready smile, sense of humour and unflinching positivism will long be remembered and I shall miss him sorely. My thoughts go to his family.

David Trist.

Ray was born in Kenilworth and went to Warwick Boys Grammar School. He moved to Exeter in 1988 with his wife and 2 daughters however the marriage did not last and Ray remained single. His daughters now live in Manchester and Poole and have three children between them.

Ray was a Chartered Accountant and at one point was with the Audit Commission auditing Parish Accounts throughout Devon and Cornwall.

When Ray first moved to Devon he rang at Alphington and at St Petrock where he was Treasurer at both churches. He became Captain of Ide in 1999. During his illness he continued to do as much as possible and had the kind assistance of Simon Tucker who took on all the responsibilities in 2005. Ray was quite reserved and had many interests; he belonged to many groups and societies, and he particularly enjoyed walking and classical music.

The funeral is to be held at Ide on 14 December at 12:30.

Charles Connibear

NEW RECORD FOR GUILD

Ringling a long peal of 10,000 changes is almost commonplace these days, but in 1965 it was quite rare. In that year the Guild rang 10,240 of Plain Bob Major in 5 hours 14 minutes at Buckland in the Moor conducted by Norman Mallet. This fantastic feat stood as the longest peal for the Guild for 42 years, when in 2007 a new record was set when 10,800 Riggwelter Surprise Royal was rung at Thorverton in 6 hours 31 minutes. But it was thought possible to ring quite a few more changes: could we add another peal length on top of this?

On 6th December 6 people met at the home of James, Elaine & Thomas Grant to attempt a new record for the Guild. The aim was to ring the standard 41 Surprise Minor methods over 21 extents on the Bishoos-Tina-Tona mini-ring in the upstairs bedroom.

Ringling a normal peal on these bells is an achievement. Ringling the standard 41 is an achievement. Putting all this together is a big challenge. And maintaining that level of concentration over 3 peal lengths is an even bigger challenge. Could it be done?

Comfort was a big consideration. Paul arrived with 3 big cushions as he was going to sit on a kitchen stool all the way through. He even brought a bit of string to attach to the tail end so that he could reach without stretching. Mike decided he was going to lean against one of the kitchen stools and Ian A leant against the wall to alleviate some of the pressure off the back. Ian F and Matt switched between sitting and standing and Pauline borrowed an electronic muscle stimulator to make sure nothing seized up!

So we were all set. Everyone was ready. All we had to do now was ring the bells for something over 5 hours without missing a sally and without ringing a bell down! Off we went with determination into London and a moderate pace was set. Soon we were knocking off the extents quickly and confidently. Then the rain and hail started blowing in through the window and not only did Paul get wet but his Extra Strong Mints got soggy and stuck to the window sill! Extent after extent came and went and soon we were into the last block of Norwich and Warkworth. Extra concentration required now. Then the bells came into rounds for the 21st time and 'That's All' was called. 5 hours 11 minutes.

At last we could relax. A new record had been achieved. Very well done to all, especially to Mike for calling it so ably, and of course our thanks to the Grant family for making us so welcome, allowing us to rearrange the furniture in their house, and providing the much needed cup of tea at the end!



Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Bishopsteignton, Devon
Bishops-Ting-Tong
Sunday, 6 December 2009 in 5h11 (10 lbs)
15120 Spliced S Minor (41m)
1 Ian W Avery
2 Paul J Pascoe
3 Pauline Champion
4 Ian R Fielding
5 Matthew J Hilling
6 Michael E C Mears (C)
Longest Length for the Guild

The photo shows the band (in clockwise order from front right) looking a little tired at the end of the peal. Perhaps we'll do it on "real" bells next time!!

Matt Hilling



MUSICAL HANDBELL RESTORATION

*Specialist repairs and restoration by
Geoffrey C. Hill*

**New Court Farm, Lamerton, Tavistock, Devon, PL19 8RR
Telephone (01822) 614319 or newcourtfarm@aol.com**

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 Roger King. The cost is £5.00 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.

Any comments and inaccuracies in articles contained in this newsletter are the responsibility of individual contributors, and the opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the Guild.

Items for inclusion may be sent by post to Ringing Round Devon, 215, Exeter Road, Exmouth EX8 3DZ or by e-mail to rogerking60@aol.com