



# RINGING ROUND DEVON

## GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

Newsletter 73: March 2009

### EXETER CATHEDRAL BELLS AND RINGERS

This year, churches of all denominations across Devon are celebrating 1100 years of the westward expansion of Christianity from the Diocese of Wessex at Sherborne to Devon in 909. Initially, the home of what became the Diocese of Exeter was Crediton, moving to Exeter in 1050. The Cathedral has organized a number of events for the year, the climax of which is a Celebration Day in Exeter on Saturday 27 June. So with the Cathedral as the seat of the Diocese and thus of the celebrations, it seemed appropriate to spotlight the Cathedral bells and ringers.



The South Tower



Andrew Digby illustrates the size of Grandisson

The South Tower contains 14 bells that are hung for full circle change ringing. They are an eclectic mix of weights and ages and constitute the second or third heaviest ring of bells in the world (depending on definition). They are usually rung as a 12, with the two semitones allowing lighter combinations of 8 or 10 to be rung. The tenor, Grandisson is 72½ Cwt in B<sup>b</sup>, and the treble is 6 Cwt. The oldest bell in the tower (the 4<sup>th</sup>) dates from 1616, and the newest (the Jubilee treble) was added in 1977. Several bells have been re-cast over the years; Grandisson itself was last re-cast in 1902.

Ringling here is not for the faint-hearted. The bells are heavy and demanding, the ringing chamber is enormous and can seem intimidating, even after several visits, and the huge range of bell weights and sizes means that ropesight is quite a challenge.

The bells are rung regularly by the 32 members of the Exeter Cathedral Society of Ringers. Ranging in age from 18 to over 70, the Society consists of some of the most able ringers

drawn from churches throughout Devon. All are also members of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers. The Cathedral Ringing Master is Matthew Hilling and the Tower Secretary is Ian Campbell. The Society of Ringers is responsible for ringing for the great festivals of Christmas and Easter, ringing for regular services on at least one Sunday each month and for weddings and other special occasions as requested. The Society members practice twice each month to help extend their repertoire of methods, which ranges from Cinques to spliced Surprise Maximus.

On the third Saturday of each month there is an 'open' practice at which visiting ringers from across Devon and beyond can observe or experience ringing on these majestic bells. Visitors can also be given a guided tour of the bells, by Ian Campbell. However, before visiting, please check on the web page or contact Ian or Matthew:

Matthew Hilling: Email: [M.J.Hilling@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:M.J.Hilling@exeter.ac.uk).

Dr Ian Campbell : Email: [I.L.C.Campbell@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:I.L.C.Campbell@exeter.ac.uk)



The North Tower



The Peter Bell

The North Tower houses the Peter Bell, thought to date from 1355, and according to its' inscription was re-cast in 1484 and again in 1676. Mounted within a huge wooden frame, it is difficult to appreciate the sheer size of the bell, which weighs approximately 4 tons and sounds a sonorous A. It is hung dead from the original massive oak beam using canons on the bell's crown.

Peter is sounded by striking with two hammers mounted close to the bell. One of the hammers is operated by the clock, to strike the hours. The other hammer has a rope attached, allowing the bell to be struck by the virger from the nave, for the daily curfew and for funeral services.

The Exeter Cathedral Society of Ringers was invited to mount a display, for the month of March, to give visitors and regular attendees a better understanding of what goes on unseen in the Cathedral's two towers.



Society display boards; the Frank Mack model bell was also on display

Together with a number of enlarged photographs and explanatory text pages we made available copies of the CCCBR recruitment leaflet 'Bell Ringing' as shown on the middle display board. These proved to be something of a main attraction and during the month about 150 copies will have been taken from the supply tray. On one occasion, when the tray was empty, some enterprising but over-zealous visitor removed the sample leaflet pinned to the display board! Hopefully, prospective ringers or even benefactors will soon be contacting Ian, Matt or their local towers.

*Roger King*

## **GUILD 8-BELL STRIKING COMPETITION**

The 8-bell Inter-branch striking competition, postponed from last year was successfully held on Saturday 17 January 2009, at Okehampton. The test piece consisted of 224 changes of either Cambridge S Major or Little B Major.

The Andrews trophy was awarded to Exeter Branch, for their Cambridge performance. Results and positions are as follows:

1	Exeter	12.25 faults
2	South West	16.5 faults
3	North/North West	34.25 faults
4	Mid	44.5 faults
5	East	Finished 6 changes too soon!
6	North East	Fired Out

Thanks to Tim Bayton for judging.

*From the GDR Website*

## **MODEL TALKS**

Word seems to be spreading about the talks on bells and bell ringing that I have been giving. On 11th December I was invited to give yet another of my presentations about ringing, this time to the Cullompton Forum. It was held in the town hall and included sound clips (both real bells and simulated ones) and tests for the audience to identify the number of bells rung and to spot when call changes were made. Some members of the audience were invited to take part in "lapping" handbells - the treble was identified in a festive manner by a length of tinsel which was acquired from the hall decorations! A prize exhibit was the spare rope from Exeter Cathedral tenor which happened to be in the boot of the car following repair. The session was warmly received by about 30 delegates, and followed by a buffet lunch.

On the wet evening of 13th January I found myself unloading the car into the village hall at Dunchideock in order to amuse and entertain the ladies (and a few men!) of the local Womens' Institute. I am grateful to Lynne Hughes, who came along and helped with the ringing of handbells, holding the model bell down while it was rung to demonstrate the stresses on the tower, and answering the numerous questions that were generated by the talk. A lot of interest in bells and ringing was forthcoming, and there were several people there who were already looking at augmenting the three bells at Dunchideock and were especially interested to hear of financial help that was available.

On Wednesday morning 4th February I was invited to give a talk to the Ladies Probus Club at Totnes. This followed the now well-established routine of talking about tower bells and hand bells, and how they are rung, with demonstration sound clips of carillon ringing, and call changes and methods on tower bells. Particularly popular is the "guess how many bells are ringing" test, and the "put up your hand when the bells change their order" competition. After the meeting it was commented that "I have often HEARD bells ringing but never LISTENED to them before".

I must thank John Foster for the loan of Lillie, the model bell from Withycombe Raleigh, which was used to demonstrate tower bell ringing at both locations. While these talks can never be considered a recruiting drive I hope that they bring ringing a little more to the attention of the public and provide an insight into what happens up the tower.

Further dates already booked include 18th June (Torquay Probus Club), 23<sup>rd</sup> September (Exeter Forum), 2nd December (Widecombe History Group) and 8th December (Bishopsteignton Probus Club - a repeat visit!). The last two of these have explicitly asked for a handbell demonstration so I will be calling in a few favours from other ringers!

*Ian Campbell*

## **GUILD REVIEW'S RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE – E-SURVEY**

The recruitment committee would like to thank the 70 or so members who responded to an email and took part in our survey last Autumn. A lot of thought had clearly gone in to the replies which gave us plenty of material for our report. The interim report currently to be found on the Guild website includes a compilation of the answers given to our four questions at Appendices 1 and 2. These have necessarily been summarised and only the committee members have been privileged to read some very personal reflections. For the most part the replies are anonymous because the questionnaires have been detached from their emails. I hope, therefore, that individuals whose permission I have not been able to seek will forgive me for sharing their words here.

#### Q1 What drew you into ringing?

Most ringers seem to have first been introduced by family, friends or the vicar. A vicar clearly did this recruit a favour:

"There was only one other girl my age, but it didn't bother me that they were all adults. Everything about it appealed to me: the responsiveness of the bell on the end of the rope; the occult nature of what was going on around ...; the feeling of privilege in being allowed access to the hidden world of ringers; the sense of history ....; the kind and friendly members of the band – I felt I couldn't wait for the next practice night."

#### Q2 What keeps you ringing?

This question produced a wide variety of answers but the ones I liked particularly were those that conveyed people's passion for ringing:

"The enjoyment and satisfaction of a well struck touch. I .... have played with various ability (or lack of it) piano, organ, trumpet and guitar but change ringing beats them all"

"Friendships, challenges, commitment, madness, obsession – wouldn't know what else to do – glued into the anorak – or so my daughter says!"

And another aspect of ringing that I value:

"You can go to any tower ... and be sure of a welcome. There is no social divide and no one asks what you do for a living – the question always is "What do you/ can you ring?"

If we could only get these attitudes across to the public we would surely stimulate more interest.

#### Q3 If your tower has held an open day were you pleased with the attendance?

"Our open day was combined with the Church spring festival and visits to the tower especially among young people were a great success."

This struck me as a good idea. If the tower open day is held as part of a wider event, some of the pressure is taken off the ringers for the organisation and publicity.

#### Q4 Any thoughts on how the Guild could help your tower recruit new learners or publicise ringing in general?

There were lots of suggestions for posters and leaflets etc to be supplied by the Guild, and for wider publicity via newspaper articles and talks to schools and groups. But the need for local effort was also recognised by many:

"...very important for the tower to make the effort and invite people in because many of the people who came in were fascinated by ringing and had never thought to approach anyone about learning"

It comes back to the fact that word of mouth and personal introductions work best. Who could you encourage?

Thank you, once again, for your input.

*Cathy Civill*

## STRAPPERING GRANDISSON AT CHRISTMAS



Laurie Kirkcaldy is 12 and rings regularly at Pinhoe. He was elected a member of the Guild at the November Exeter branch meeting. He has strapped the tenor at the Cathedral on a number of occasions going back many years. He first rang a bell at the Cathedral, on his own, at the 20 December open practice. The photo was taken when Laurie, with Paul Pascoe's assistance, covered to Stedman Cinques on Christmas morning. On finishing the touch they then rang the bell down, in peal, before the service.

*James Kirkcaldy*

Ringing down - Christmas at Exeter Cathedral

## SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST – GLEANED FROM THE GUILD DIARY AND PEAL BOOK IN THE LIBRARY

*125 years ago:*

1884. The start of the year saw the re-opening of the bells at Rackenford. Taylors of Loughborough had been entrusted with the task of recasting three of the five original bells and providing a new tenor to increase the ring to six. After the dedication service members of the St Peter's Society from Tiverton rang six scores of Grandsire and some Minor. A public tea inevitably followed at which Grandsire Triples on handbells was rung. *The Bell News* reports: "A numerous assemblage of round ringers attended from various parishes, and not a few from long distances, the parishes of Witheridge, Cruwys Morchard, Worlington, Puddington, Cadeleigh and Cadbury being represented. Among these, several copies of the Christmas and back numbers of "THE BELL NEWS" were distributed; many appeared only too pleased to receive them, but one individual to whom a copy was offered eyed it with evident suspicion, fearing it might contain something referring to that horrible and deleterious invention, *change*-ringing, in his opinion no doubt a far worse and more dangerous invention than dynamite or other highly explosive substance; eventually, however, he accepted it, and let us hope it will be the means of stirring up in his manly breast a desire to learn the art, and persuade others to do so also."

The activities of the St Sidwell's Society in Exeter are extensively reported in *The Bell News*. Members had been busy in visiting other towers in and nearby the city. Upton Pyne, St Thomas's, Ide, Alphington, and Kenn were all visited during the year and some converts to method ringing were made. However the Society's attempts at peal and other ringing met with a number of mishaps over the year.

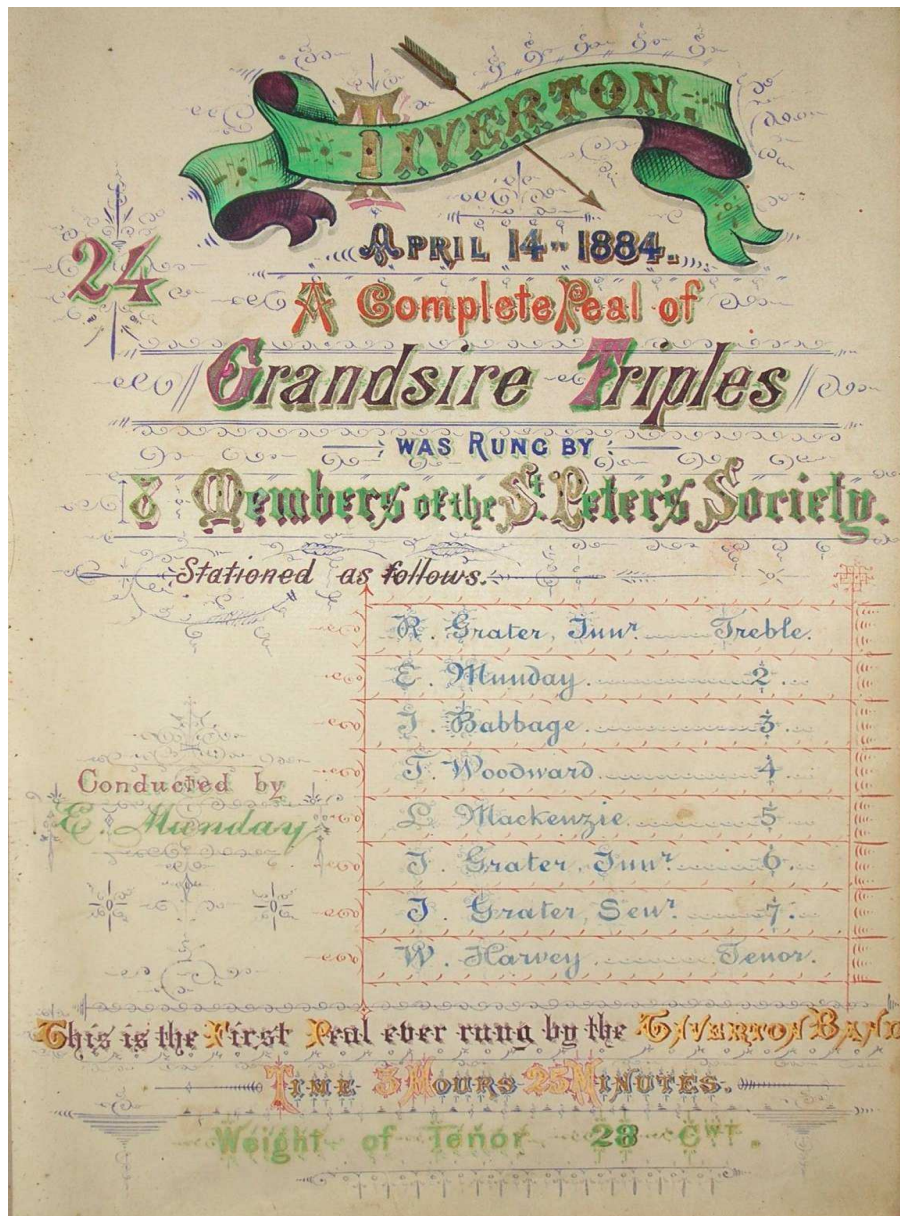
February: "Alphington was again visited for the purpose of attempting a peal, but a parishioner near the church being dangerously ill, the party were disappointed. Nothing daunted, steps were again turned towards Exeter, and though it was late before their destination was reached, a capital start was made for a peal of Grandsire Triples, but unfortunately, when nearly 5000 changes had been rung, the clapper of the tenor broke, and this in the spot where it had been previously welded together after a former fracture. This is the second occasion within a fortnight in which a similar accident in connection with this bell has been the means of breakdown while a peal was in progress;"

June: "Saturday afternoon saw a goodly party on the road to Sowton ... and the first four parts of a peal of Grandsire Triples were rung without a hitch of any sort. The bells were then lowered and a move made to the farmyard (there is no public house in the village) where the horse was stabled, and here the visitors found plenty of good Devonshire cider awaiting them, which, with the accompaniments of pork pies and sandwiches, formed an agreeable repast. After replenishing the inner man, the handbells were brought into requisition, but no sooner had they been struck, than the fowls, who had gone to roost, commenced such a clatter, that it became difficult to distinguish, even by the ringers themselves, whether Triples or Major was being rung; to the fowls it was evidently Superlative Surprise."

December: "Christmas Day at 5 p.m., the members met to receive Messrs French and Rowbottam of London, and have a pull with them, but a long touch was out of the question, as the late storms had fairly deluged the fine oak cage, causing it to swell and twist, so that the bells could not be rung longer than about twenty minutes at a time.

On Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, it was arranged to go for a peal at St Mary's Church, Torquay; out of the eight that promised to go, seven had the pleasure of meeting, and losing the train, the other one did not turn up at all.

Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>. As a last attempt for a peal, it was decided to try at Sowton, and at 5 p.m., eight of the company met for that purpose. Here permission was kindly granted, but with strict warning from the sexton that none of the ropes were to be removed from their present tucking (as it "hurt" them so), so after oiling the bells and seeing that there was plenty of oil in the lamp, the peal was commenced, and all went well for one hour, then the light began to get lower, and so, adds our correspondent, did our spirits: the faces of those present were a sight to see. Bye and bye 'pop', and out it went, and left us in the dark. Of course we had to stop, then there was a search for matches; when these were obtained, we found plenty of oil in the lamp, but the wick was short. The bells were then lowered in the dark, and after some good Zider, bread and cheese, and plum pudding, very kindly provided by Mrs Carnall, a start was made for home."



On the 14 April 1884 members of the St Peter's Society rang the first peal of Grandsire Triples in Tiverton with an all-local band.

*Leslie Boyce, Guild Librarian*

## FROM THE PEAL FOOTNOTES

1. Pauline Champion rang her 1500th peal on Christmas Eve at Wolborough
2. The peal of Yorkshire at Paignton on Boxing Day was the first there since 1959.
3. February recorded two first pealers. : Robert Deitz(on handbells) 4<sup>th</sup> February and Ian Dodds on 24<sup>th</sup> February at Kingskerswell.
3. The peal of 5082 Cambridge S Royal, on 12<sup>th</sup> February at Thorverton was for Bill Ford's 82nd birthday.
5. Mike Mears rang his 3500th peal on 27th Feb at Calverleigh, where, coincidentally, he also rang his 1500th peal.



**Devon Young Ringers' Morning Outing**  
**Saturday 25th April, 2009**  
**'The Teign Valley'**

10.00 - 11.00	Doddiscombsleigh <i>Map ref SX857866</i>	6 bells	10cwt
11.20 - 12.20	Trusham <i>Map ref SX856822</i>	6 bells	6cwt

12.30 LUNCH: The Old Coaching House Fore Street, Chudleigh  
*A selection of basic meals, also burgers, baked potatoes & sandwiches.*

NB The route has been chosen to include anyone involved in the Association eight bell competition at Ipplepen in the afternoon.

To book a place on the Outing please contact: [lynnephughes@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnephughes@hotmail.com)

### **S.W. BRANCH DINNER**

38 members and friends of the S.W. Branch of The Guild of Devonshire Ringers held their dinner at The Hunting Lodge, Cadleigh, Ivybridge on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2008. The event had been reinstated due to popular demand of members at the last AGM. The venue proved to be an ideal location being both central to the Branch and with the name like The Hunting Lodge even had a ringing theme!!!

Those present included The Guild President Lester Yeo and his wife Pat together with a number of Vice Presidents who we are very privileged to have as members of our own Branch. The President presented Guild Certificates to 2 young members of the Stoke Damerall band and congratulations were extended to them both for the outstanding progress they had made.

The evening was rounded off with a Draw together with a couple of interesting photos brought along by Norman Mallett, one of which depicted a gathering of members taken at Peter Tavy on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of The Branch. This was particularly significant as this year we celebrate our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The evening was deemed a great success and special thanks were expressed by the Chairman to John Steere, Branch Secretary, for organising the event.

## DENNIS THOMPSON

Over 100 people attended the Funeral and Thanksgiving Service for the life of Dennis Thompson at All Saints Parish Church, Okehampton on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2009. Although Dennis had been ill for some time his death still came as a great shock to all who knew him. Dennis was best known to us all for the installation of "The Denmisch Simulated Campanile" at his home in Okehampton. Dennis was very much a perfectionist in all that he did and the half-muffled ringing at Okehampton prior to and after the service would have certainly met with his approval.

Our sympathies are now extended to his wife Mischa, his sister-in-law Zonnie and to Geoffrey and the rest of the family.

May he rest in peace.

*Geoff Hill*

## FIRST UNDERGRADUATE HANDBELL PEAL FOR 40 YEARS

With the Annual Dinner fast approaching, it seemed like a good time to finally get around to organising the undergraduate handbell peal which had been mooted last term. So, after the handbell practice on 4th February, Martin, Rob and Tom gathered at 14 Danes Road to attempt the peal. Two hours and nine minutes later, it was all over, and the first all-undergraduate handbell peal for the ECG since 1968 had been rung. Congratulations to Rob on ringing his first peal, and to Martin for his first handbell peal! What next???

Guild of Devonshire Ringers (Exeter Colleges Guild)

Exeter, Devon

14 Danes Road

Wednesday, 4 February 2009 in 2h9 (14)

5040 Plain Bob Minor

1-2 Martin J Gentile

3-4 Thomas J Hinks (C)

5-6 Robert C Dietz

First peal: 5-6. First in hand: 1-2

Rung by an undergraduate band in eager anticipation of the Annual Dinner this weekend.

The first handbell peal for the ECG by an undergraduate band since 1968.



L to R: Martin, Tom, Rob after the peal.

## AYLESBEARE BRANCH WINTER MINI-OUTING

We thought we had done with the post Christmas wintry weather but it was back with a vengeance on January 31st when a dozen Aylesbeare branch ringers and their three staunch supporters from Exeter assembled at Thorverton. How pleasant then to walk into a heated church and the usual warm welcome from Bill Ford. The hour here passed very quickly, with the novice ringers having a taste of call changes on 10 bells and Plain Hunt Triples, and other members managing touches of Grandsire Triples and Stedman Caters. Unfortunately, I was last in the toilet queue and emerged to find myself locked in behind the partition! I had two consoling thoughts: I had three passengers waiting for me somewhere, who would surely come looking, and unmistakably, the organist was still present, but in full blow so that my cries for help went unheard. Eventually, the charming lady came to the end of her piece and released me to join my friends.

Derek Norrish made us welcome at Bickleigh. The ringing was the usual mix of call changes and method ringing with everyone very comfortable on the six bells. Another three ringers joined us there so we had no difficulty keeping the bells going for the hour. Thank you, Derek, for coming some distance to greet us.

Then to Bickleigh Mill for lunch where the Bistro doubles up as an art gallery. Squeezed up tight so that we could sit round one long run of tables, we enjoyed excellent food chosen from a very varied menu. A good time was had by all. Bickleigh Mill also has a shop where you could while away some time browsing round, but we ushered everyone outside for a group photo. The best spot was already occupied by a pair of macaws, looking very out of place and, with the occasional shiver, wondering how much longer they had to remain on duty. Well, not for us. Time to say our goodbyes and head home.



Squeezed up tight at Bickleigh Mill



Bickleigh macaws

On the way back, I remembered a piece of tourist information I had intended to share. Some may not be aware, but Paul Simon stayed at the nearby Fisherman's Cot and Bickleigh bridge is rumoured to be the inspiration of his "Bridge Over Troubled Water".

*Cathy Civill*

## THE DEVON CHURCH BELL RESTORATION FUND

The Committee met on the morning of Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November at Brian Drake's home in North Tawton. Mervyn Phillips, who had attended the meeting in 1972 at which it was agreed to set up a bell restoration fund, and who had subsequently served as a Trustee since 1980, expressed a wish to retire at the end of the meeting. He was warmly thanked by chairman James Clarke for his services. Later that day, at the Devon Association AGM, John Barnes from Georgeham was elected to take Mervyn's place on the Committee.

Mary Mears reported the Fund to be in a healthy state, currently standing at £23,951. (This was augmented later in the day with the receipt of £2,750 from the Association following the Annual Draw.) Significant donations during the year had been £1,000 from the Guild, £600 from the Ottery St Mary ringers, £575 from the Troyte Ringing Centre, £303 from the Competition arranged for the Fund by Graham Sharland, and £100 each from the Withycombe Raleigh ringers, the Association 'Wrinklies' and the St Brannock's Society. £1,300, mostly gift-aided, had been received as donations from Guild quarter peal ringers, etc.

Since the last meeting four grants had been paid: £1,500 to Plymouth Emmanuel; £900 to Lustleigh; £1,000 to Walkhampton; and £5,000 to Sampford Spiney. Four further grants were agreed: £4,600 to Sampford Courtenay for rehangng the six bells there; £450 to Parkham and £400 to Buckland Brewer, both for replacing heavily corroded beam ends in the sub-frame; and £1,000 to Merton for a general overhaul of the six bells.

Assuming that all previously grants are taken up, the uncommitted balance of the Fund currently stands at about £10,100.

It was understood that the work at Sidmouth had now been done, and that the rehangng of the eight bells at Berry Pomeroy should be complete within the next two months. Stoke Canon bells had been taken out during the first week of November, though no date has yet been set for the continuation of the restoration scheme there. Other work is planned at Hawkchurch, Kilmington, Ashton and Abbotskerswell.

It is hoped that the Fund may be able to join with the Guild and Association on the Church Stand at the Devon County Show next May.

*Ian Smith*

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**or by post from:** D. J. Ballard, 23 laurel Road, Honiton, Devon, EX14 2XN.

## **MID DEVON BRANCH RINGERS' QUIZ**

On Friday 13th February, twenty-one ringers and friends gathered in Newton Abbot for a quiz evening. As in previous years, there were two sets of questions on ringing, and six sets on other subjects, with a break in the middle to take refreshments and draw the raffle. Teams called 'The Genii' (Wolborough) and 'Kerswellites' drew in first place, closely followed by 'The Seaside' (Dawlish & Teignmouth). The remaining team 'Big Ben' put in a valiant effort, hampered on the ringing rounds by not having an experienced ringer on the team.

The two winning teams were presented with a bottle of Harrods Champagne, which was soon opened and shared amongst all present who wished to partake of it.

Russell was thanked for the use of the hall, Lynne was thanked for setting the questions and £65 was raised for branch funds. Next year we would hope to be joined by ringers from beyond the branch for this entertaining event. The ringing questions are included for readers to have a go. Answers elsewhere in this issue.

*Lynne Hughes*

### Devon Ringing Questions

1. Which diocesan anniversary do we celebrate this year?
2. Where in Devon has a minor 5 recently been rehung and remodelled as a major 6?
3. Which tower was on the 2008 Guild Affiliation card?
4. Which phrase appears on both sides of the Devon Ringers' bags?
5. What is the name of Mike Cannon's recently acquired steam showman's engine?
6. Which Devon ringer scored his first 1,000 peals in record time?
7. Name Buckfast Abbey's bourdon bell.
8. Where was the Devon Ringers' carol service held in December 2008?
9. An old ringers' attendance book from Huntsham appeared for sale where?
10. What's the name of the 19<sup>th</sup> century mechanical equivalent of modern simulators, with parts surviving in Huntsham, Merton and Tiverton?
11. What would you find at 5 Moorcroft Close, Okehampton?
12. How many bells at each of the following: Beaworthy, Dunchideock, George Nympton and Exeter (Mount Dinham)?

### Ringing Miscellanea

1. How many bells appear on the Ringing World masthead?
2. What does 'Big Wilf' make and sell?
3. Where would you find a crown staple?
4. What is unusual about Basildon bell tower?
5. Which radio drama included a visit to the Ringing Roadshow in its storyline?
6. Name the Ringing World Editor.
7. What does CRU stand for?
8. Name the three people who rang the record length peal of 72,000 changes on handbells.
9. Who won the Founders Prize for the Encouragement of Young People in Ringing in 2008?
10. Name the two common simulator programmes.
11. What do the Keltek Trust deal in?
12. Name the 4 badges in the Sherborne Teaching Aids 'Bell Club' awards.

## A VIEW FROM DOWN UNDER

Exeter Cathedral ringer Peter Bill is spending the winter in New Zealand and writes on his ringing experiences there.

Having arrived in Wellington in November and exchanged my ringing from one Cathedral with a ring of twelve with 2 semi-tones to another of the same that is about where the similarity ends. For a start the tower is a recent construction, even by New Zealand standards, being completed and the bells installed in 1984. It does therefore have the benefit of such modern amenities as a lift. Exeter Cathedral please take note. The general public are invited to take the lift to the ringing chamber during service ringing where they can watch the ringing and also see the bells in motion via a TV link from the belfry with one of the ringers usually on hand to give a description of what is going on. The bells are based on the ring of eight purchased from the former church of St. Edmund in Northampton and a neat touch is that the peal boards from that now demolished church are hung in the ringing chamber which is a little confusing until one is aware of the history. The bells were augmented and installed by Taylor's, including some additional metal from two of the three bells from the Old Cathedral. This building, now known as Old St. Paul's is one of Wellington's most historic and delightful buildings. It was built in 1864 to serve as a Cathedral to the young Diocese on the site of an earlier church which goes back to the start of the settlement of Wellington in the 1840s. Like most buildings in New Zealand it is built of native timber but has been designed in Gothic Style complete with soaring wooden arches, stained glass windows, brasses and a tiny tower with an octagonal spire. When the new Cathedral was completed, this older building fell into disrepair but after considerable debate about its future was eventually purchased by the Crown, restored and refurbished and is now vested in the care of The Historic Places Trust (National Trust) and open to the public daily. A new peal of Whitechapel bells (5; 4cwt.) was installed in 1979 and even though there are no regular services the bells are put to good use as the building is a popular venue for both religious and civil weddings.

The same band of about a dozen individuals ring both sets of bells as often as possible and with great enthusiasm; in the run up to Christmas we were ringing half a dozen times a week with practice, regular services, weddings, carol services etc.; but that is where the biggest difference to ringing in the U.K. becomes most apparent. The next nearest towers are 8 or 9 hours drive away (Hamilton and Auckland to the North and Christchurch and Dunedin in the South Island) so getting together to develop ringing skills is a major obstacle. Nevertheless Surprise Major is rung regularly and with visitors from the UK Surprise Royal is occasionally achieved. Quarter peals are rung frequently, usually for Sunday evensong, and also the occasional (as yet unsuccessful) peal attempt. Because of the numbers of ringers they tend to ring mainly on the light 10 but occasionally with an influx of visitors will ring all twelve. It is a shame this doesn't happen more frequently because the bells sound much meatier than one might expect from a 27cwt. tenor and I am looking forward to ringing some Surprise Maximums on them. I suspect I will have to arrange my own ringing outing to New Zealand from Devon for that to happen.....Now I wonder if there would be any takers?..... Answers to [peterbill@gmail.com](mailto:peterbill@gmail.com)

*Peter Bill*

More information can be found at:

<http://www.cathedral.wellington.net.nz> and <http://www.oldstpauls.co.nz>



The band that rang a quarter peal last year for the birth of our Granddaughter, complete with new Mum and baby Kate.



Old St. Pauls is a haven of peace in an otherwise busy district of Government buildings and offices.



Wellington Cathedral of St. Paul is now surrounded by the high rise buildings of the downtown area.

## *– The Bells of Devon – 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition –*

The comprehensive contacts directory for all Devon towers with 3 or more bells  
Also includes details of ‘lost rings’ of the past 150 years, chimes of 3 or more bells, and 1-bell towers

**A MUST HAVE for any ringer exploring Devon!**

All proceeds in aid of the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund

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### **BROADHEMBURY QUARTERLY EVENT**

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January was a day of contrasts for the NE quarterly event at Broadhembury. Hosted by the local band the ringing chamber was very cold, due to the recent days of continuous frost. However the welcome was warm, including the service taken by the local vicar, Simon, and the excellent ‘tea’ was even hotter with jacket potatoes and a choice of meat or vegie chilli. Thanks to Pauline and her team for an excellent spread. The evening entertainment proved to be a contrast too, both taxing for our memories and physical. Alan Edwards won the ‘guess the Cathedral’ using his infamous photographic memory, scoring 100%. Tony Trigg and Glen Morgan were the winning team on the Wii scoring the highest in the virtual10 Pin Bowling (see photo below).

*Sheila Scofield*



Virtual 10 Pin Bowling on a Wii (You have to be under 14 years of age to fully understand this)



## TROYTE RINGING CENTRE TRAINING EVENT

Huntsham Churchyard was a mass of snowdrops when the North-East Branch held the latest of their training days. Despite the cold weather the students and helpers were enticed out of the church during the lunch break for a photo. Pat had provided a hot lunch of soup and Chili while Mike had organised the day to help the learners make progress (and in many cases the helpers too!), from plain bob minor and triples to Ct Clements minor and St Simons triples. Unfortunately our attempts to stretch to St Clements major were a touch too far. Better luck next time Mike. More preparation and homework needed by the helpers.

*Sheila Scofield*



A break in the proceedings

## NEWS FROM THE BELL-HANGERS

In Devon, we have:

Meavy which are going ahead with some overhaul work, nothing major, later this year

Dodbrooke are to be rehung with new fittings and possible also tuned. Work due to commence in September with completion in December.

Membury are due to be rehung with mainly new fittings and possibly also tuned. Work due to commence in mid June and due to be completed in mid September.

Kilminster are to be overhauled in June/July.

Further afield in the South West:

Hugh Town Isles of Scilly, the new ring of eight is nearing completion in our works and installation is due to commence towards the end of March. All is due to be completed during Low Week.

Falmouth has now been granted a faculty for the project but funds still need to be raised. I am advised that it may be a couple of years before work can begin.

*Andrew Nicholson, Nicholson Engineering*

Answers to Lynne Hughes' Devon Ringing Quiz

1. *Eleven hundredth.* 2. *Sampford Spiney.* 3. *St. Mark's Exeter.* 4. *"Devon Ringers Do It Different".* 5. *The General.* 6. *Paul Pascoe.* 7. *Hosannah.* 8. *St Peter's Tiverton.* 9. *On E-bay.* 10. *Seage Apparatus.* 11. *The Denmisch simulated campanile.* 12. *3, 3, 4 and 1.*



## MUSICAL HANDBELL RESTORATION

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Answers to Lynne Hughes' Ringing Miscellanea Quiz

1. *Five.* 2. *Muffles.* 3. *Top of a bell/clapper.* 4. *It's glass.* 5. *The Archers.* 6. *Robert Lewis.* 7. *Combination Roll Up.* 8. *Philip Earis, Andrew Tibbets and David Pipe.* 9. *West Lindsey branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild.* 10. *Beltower and Abel.* 11. *Second hand (redundant) bells.* 12. *Ambitious Apprentice, Happy Hunter, Artful Dodger, Champion Campanologist.*

## CALENDAR

### APRIL 2009

Sat	4	Branch practice: Lustleigh (19:00)	Mid
Sat	4	Branch quarterly meeting: Tiverton St Paul (15:00)	NE
Mon	6	Branch 10 bell practice: Plymouth St Andrew (19:30)	SW
Fri	10	Plain Hunt practice: Clyst St George (20:00)	Ayles
Tue	14	Branch practice: Buckerell (19:30)	East
Wed	22	Branch practice: Huntsham (19:30)	NE
Fri	24	12 bell novice practice: Withycombe Raleigh (19:30)	Ayles
Sat	25	Branch striking competition: Huntsham (10:00)	NE
Mon	27	Plain Hunt practice: Axminster (19:30)	East
Mon	27	Branch 8 bell practice: Heavitree (19:30)	Exeter
Tue	28	General practice: Sidmouth (19:30)	East

### MAY 2009

Mon	4	Train outing, West Somerset Railway	Exeter
Mon	4	Branch 10 bell practice: Plymouth St Andrew (19:30)	SW
Wed	6	Doubles for All: Honiton (19:30)	East
Fri	8	Plain Hunt practice: Clyst St George (20:00)	Ayles
Fri	8	Surprise Minor practice: Buckerell (19:30) *	East
Sat	9	Branch meeting: Cotleigh (14:30)	East
Sat	9	Half yearly meeting: Highweek (TBC) (14:30)	Mid
Thu	14	Plain Hunt practice: Sidbury 19:30)	East
Sat	16	Branch outing (including Exeter Cathedral)	Ayles
Sat	16	Branch outing	NE
Sat	16	Branch outing	SW
Fri	22	12 bell novice practice: Withycombe Raleigh (19:30)	Ayles
Tue	26	General practice: Sidmouth (19:30)	East
Wed	27	Branch practice: Huntsham (19:30)	NE

### JUNE 2009

Mon	1	Branch 10 bell practice: Plymouth St Andrew (19:30)	SW
Wed	3	Doubles for All: Honiton (19:30)	East
Fri	5	John Hutchings 6 bell competition: Silverton (19:00)	NE
Sat	6	Steam and Barbecue, Exminster (18:30)	Exeter
Sat	6	Branch striking competition: Dawlish (19:00)	Mid
Sat	6	Quarter peal day: Huntsham	NE
Tue	9	Branch practice: Luppitt (19:30)	East
Thu	11	Plain Hunt practice: Sidbury 19:30)	East
Fri	12	Plain Hunt practice: Clyst St George (20:00)	Ayles
Fri	12	Surprise Minor practice: Buckerell (19:30) *	East
Sat	13	Guild AGM: South West Branch	Guild
Mon	22	Plain Hunt practice: Axminster (19:30)	East
Mon	22	Branch 8 bell practice: Pinhoe (18:30)	Exeter
Wed	24	Branch practice: Huntsham (19:30)	NE
Fri	26	12 bell novice practice: Withycombe Raleigh (19:30)	Ayles
Mon	29	Branch practice: Littleham (19:45)	Ayles
Tue	30	General practice: Sidmouth (19:30)	East

\*\*Please contact [Derek Ballard](#) to confirm date, as this can sometimes change.

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