



A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS



# RINGING ROUND DEVON

## GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

Newsletter 80: December 2010

### CENTENARY OF 1<sup>ST</sup> PEAL OF BOB MINOR IN DEVON



The 1910 peal board at Holbeton

The peal board (left) from the ringing room of All Saints Church, Holbeton, in the South Hams shows the names of three members of the band well known to many Devon ringers. William Marsh and his son Ernest were, respectively, Chairman and Secretary of the South West Branch of The Guild when it was founded on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1919, and Ernest was a member of both the first all-Devon band to ring a peal at the Cathedral in 1905 and the first peal of Cinques, also at the Cathedral, in 1926. The Revd E.S. Powell is if anything better known for having succeeded the Revd Maitland Kelly as the third President of The Guild, holding that post from 1924 to 1934. After his curacy at Exeter St Thomas he became Vicar of Holbeton and later Rector of Clyst St George. Elected to the Central Council in 1914, he served on the Methods Committee. He and his wife Mary compiled *The Ringers' Handbook*, still in print and widely used since 1932.

Whilst Vicar of Holbeton he was a regular visitor to Charles Church and was a great friend of the Marshes. It was undoubtedly at his invitation that the first peal of Plain Bob Minor was rung at Holbeton, perhaps surprisingly without the involvement of any of the Myers family. A hundred years to the day after that first peal of Minor in the County, another band met with the intention of replicating their predecessors' achievement. Whilst that attempt met with success, it is doubtful whether the contribution of the 2010 peal band to the development of the Exercise can bear comparison with that of their illustrious forerunners.

Geoff Hill & John Steere

**The Guild of Devonshire Ringers  
All Saints Church, Holbeton**

on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2010 in 3 hours 12 minutes

5,040 changes of Plain Bob Minor

Treble	Geoffrey C Hill	4	Christopher H Wardle
2	John F Steere	5	Ian V J Smith
3	Robert D S Brown	Tenor	Fergus M S Stracey (C)

To celebrate the Centenary of the first Peal of Minor rung in Devon

**....AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT**

The Aylesbeare Branch (and friends) enjoyed an outing with a difference on Saturday, 25 September. On offer was a walk, ringing, a pub meal and a visit to the Norman Lockyer Observatory.

Only two of us braved the walk along the river bank at Harpford, where we had to push aside a herd of cattle that waded across the shallows to meet us at the gate. Seventeen ringers enjoyed a mixture of call changes and method at Harpford and Seaton. At Seaton, the Ringing Master managed to sneak in a Little Bob Major practice. Our thanks go to the contacts at both towers for their hospitality. We were warmly welcomed at our rearranged pub venue, The Bowd Inn, where they coped happily with regular updates of our increasing numbers and served us with excellent food.

On to the Norman Lockyer Observatory for 7.30pm. We always hope for good weather on our outings but never has it been so important than on this occasion. Clear skies were a necessity if we were to be able to view Jupiter "in opposition" through the telescope. We were not disappointed and everyone enjoyed the unusual end to a ringing outing.

Thank you, everyone, for coming and special thanks to the various people who organised or assisted with the ringing, collected tower donations, filled in visitors' books, sorted out the food bill and spoke up to ensure we were grouped together at the Observatory. Anyone who has organised outings will know how much I appreciated this.

*Cathy Civill*



Outside Harpford Church



An image of Jupiter through the telescope the following evening. Our view was wider angled so that we could also see 3 of its moons.



## AYLESBEARE BRANCH QUARTER PEAL WEEK

We had no chance of repeating last year's quarter peal attempt in every tower because too many method ringers were away or unwell. However, three successful quarter peals were organised and rung by branch members and friends. One was a first quarter for Rosemary Cann and another was a first quarter as conductor for me. Congratulations to both of us! The third quarter was rung at Broadclyst as the branch's welcome back to the Guild. Other than that, we very nearly achieved a quarter of Cambridge at Withycombe and Aylesbeare benefited from a quarter rung by a visiting band. Congratulations also to Matt Pym, who was away for QP Week, but rang his first quarter peal the week before.

Anyway, despite fewer quarter peals, the donations have rolled in and I am proud and grateful to report that the Aylesbeare branch has been able to contribute £117.35 to the fundraising effort for the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund. Thank you all for your generosity.

*Cathy Civill*

## MORE FIRSTS IN EAST DEVON

In line with our plan to ring a monthly quarter peal for anyone who would benefit, we have scored another 3 firsts.

On 23rd October Trevor Hitchcock scored his first quarter, on tenor behind, and on 27th November, there were 2 firsts; Mark Moran scored his first quarter, on tenor behind, and Lisa Clarke scored her first on the treble.

23rd October 2010

1260 Plain Bob Doubles at St. Mary, Offwell

1 Mary Boulton

2 Sue Tucker

3 Richard Coley

4 Robert Goodwin

5 Derek Ballard (C)

6 Trevor Hitchcock (1st QP)

27th November 2010

1260 Plain Bob Doubles at St. Mary, Offwell

1 Lisa Clarke (1st on treble)

2 Kathy Matthews

3 Richard Coley

4 Paddy Priscott

5 Derek Ballard (C)

6 Mark Moran (1st QP)

Anniversary of 2 years ringing (1)

*Derek Ballard*

## THREAT OF REDUNDANCY

There is a move to make St Michaels, Honiton, Devon (at the top of the hill and currently unringable) redundant. Many people have expressed concern because they were lovely bells. I believe they are the heaviest 6 in Devon? If anyone out there is concerned about the church being redundant and sold, you have 6 months to make representations to the management committee.

For contacts try <http://www.achurchnearyou.com/honiton-st-michael/>

*Derek Ballard*

## A `SCILLY` IDEA: Island-hopping with Teignmouth Ringers and Friends

What we originally wanted to do was to go to the Isle of Wight and ring all the bells! This proved a step too far and we didn't have enough ringers willing to go SO....there was a hint that a trip to another island might be popular.

Fortunately someone had a contact and this idea was floated. YES a day trip to the Isles of Scilly would be possible. The tower was willing – there were seats to be reserved on the helicopter and names were taken. As the summer progressed and the weather was so changeable the great fear was that it would be wet or there would be low cloud, volcanic ash or any of the other hazards that prevent flying.

However on Thursday September 9th (in a week of rain and wind) we arrived at Penzance on a bright clear settled day. Thirteen ringers several of whom had not been on a helicopter and equally as many who had not visited Scilly had a breathtaking trip to `Paradise` as the advertisement said. Landing was smooth and the bus driver most informative on the short journey to Hugh Town. We split up to eat and explore, pasties on the harbour-front in the sun for some and fresh crab salads for others, walks around the headlands or a sampling of the local brew; we all enjoyed the blue and gold day. The tide was so far out that *The Scillonian* couldn't dock for almost an hour!

Promptly at 2.0 pm we assembled at St.Mary's church and were met by the local tower captain and taken up to the ringing chamber, entered by a trap door as it is not very big. "Don't open the window" he said, "It will get hotter". They have air conditioning for which we were very pleased as fourteen in the space was a bit crowded. The recently-installed eight bells (Tenor 8cwt) were light and easy to ring for most but a bit of a challenge for those more used to heavy bells. We managed called changes, Stedman Triples, Plain Bob Triples and Major before ringing down.

Cups of tea and a further stroll before the bus back to the airstrip. The weather was changing and it was much greyer on the way back so we were pleased to land at Penzance before farewells and thanks for a God given day. Promises to return to these enchanting islands were made by many of the party.

As an afterthought: the idea of going to the Isle of Wight for a tour over three days, ringing all the towers, has not entirely gone away. I wonder if anyone would be at all interested in joining us at some time during 2011 – it would make our Tower Captain very happy! Contact details are in the Guild Report.

*Gill Furse*



**Standing** (L to R): Martin Mansley, John Martin, Ian Dodds, John Lidstone, Helen Mansley, Wena Mansley

**Seated:** Fiona Rock-Evans, Erica Martin, Martin Dodd, Graeme Potts, Ann Roper, Gill Furse, Alan Furse

## **AN AFTER -THOUGHT ON THE NATIONAL 12-BELL COMPETITION AT CREDITON**

Devon Ringers are to be congratulated on the organisation of the competition which many, including Rod Pipe, said was the best one yet.

During the drive home I reflected on what had been a perfect day - although there was a tinge of sadness as I gave a thought to my old west-country friend Patrick J. Bird 1936 - 2001. For those who might have forgotten, I would mention that it was Pat who had the initial idea and organised the first 12 - bell competition in 1975, with St.Mary Redcliffe Bristol as the venue.

The idea proved popular and the event has been held every year since. I am sure that Pat would have loved everything about the day at Crediton - especially having a chance of a reunion with fellow 1936'er Howard Egglestone.

*Richard Bowden*



## 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**

### DEVON CHURCH BELL RESTORATION FUND

The Fund has been involved with no less than 19 towers during the year and has consequently been struggling rather to maintain its level of grants offered to around 10 per cent of the value of the work being carried out. Another problem we now have to face is the government's decision to amend the provisions of the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme, whereby hitherto it was possible for churches to claim a grant equal to the VAT paid on any restoration work. As from January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011, bells, together with pews, clocks and organs, will not be eligible for a grant under this scheme. With the impending rise in VAT, this will mean that bell restoration work could cost up to 20 per cent more as from next year.

We have been grateful for several significant donations during the year, including £539 in memory of Derek Conway of Ottery St Mary, £500 from the National 12-Bell Competition at Crediton in June, £1,000 from the Guild, and a magnificent £5,000 from the Devon Association following their Annual Draw.

At our meeting in November we were able to offer a further five grants: £3,000 to Brentor towards the replacement of the severely corroded sub-frame; dismantling, cleaning down and repainting the bell-frame, refurbishing clappers and bearings, and replacing wheels, pulleys and bell-bolts: £2,800 to High Bray towards rehanging the six bells in a repaired frame with new fittings and new foundation beams: £550 to Chittlehampton towards refurbishing wheels and bearings, rebushing clappers and replacing pulleys: £420 to Brixton towards refurbishing clappers, replacing worn pulley sheaves, overhauling bearings, tightening tie-rods, cleaning down and painting: and £440 to Uffculme towards overhauling bearings and clappers, and replacing the tenor clapper.

The work at both Brixton and Chittlehampton is now complete, and Uffculme should be finished by the end of the year. High Bray bells will be coming out in December, and it is hoped to start the work at Brentor next spring/summer. An update on Stoodleigh is that the bells were taken out in September and should be back in January. These bells were lucky to escape the burglary at Andrew Nicholson's works in September having been shipped off to Whitechapel for tuning only the day before. Sheepstor bells were taken out in September and will be back just in time for Christmas.

The next meeting of the DCBRF will be on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011, so any further applications for grants will need to be returned by then; but please bear in mind that our uncommitted funds currently amount to only £1,400, so please keep fund raising!

*Ian Smith*

## **SAMPFORD SPINEY RINGERS ATTACKED**

While holidaying in Spain recently, Ros and John Pugh from Sampford Spiney were driving on the motorway outside Barcelona when something was thrown at their car. As it made such a noise they thought they should investigate any damage caused and pulled over. They were promptly set upon and robbed by a group of thugs, during which Ros was thrown to the ground, suffering a dislocated elbow. A local gentleman (who turned out to be something of a pop-star!) came to their aid making several phone calls on their behalf, so enabling them to get sorted out. Of course Ros ended up in hospital where her elbow was treated. Unfortunately, because she could only scream in English, the doctor did not seem to realise that relocating the joint actually hurt somewhat.

They are now safely back in the UK, but it will be a while before Ros is back to ringing.

*Ian Smith*



John & Ros in happier times, hoisting 'their' bell at Sampford Spiney

## **BENEFITING FROM THE CONDUCTING COURSE**

Following the conducting course earlier in the year, two of the students have gone on to achieve their first quarter as conductor. Sue Sturdy called hers from the 5th at Down St Mary on 28th August, and Sophie Hughes called from the 6th at Exeter St Mark's on 29th November. Both quarters were of Plain Bob Minor and both were good performances.

*Lynne Hughes*



## BROADCLYST JOINS THE GUILD

Welcome to the church of St John the Baptist, Broadclyst. Details of the bells, times of service and contact are as follows:



- 8 bells
- Tenor 20 cwt
- Friday (3rd) 7.30pm practice (check first)
- Sunday 9.30am (2nd and 4th only)
- Grid Ref: [SX982973](#)
- Contact **Glenis Petrilli**  
[broadclyst.bells@talktalk.net](mailto:broadclyst.bells@talktalk.net)

## NEWS FROM BROADCLYST

On 12th September at Exeter Cathedral Julia Dallen was ordained by the Bishop of Exeter along with seven others. Julia was, for several years, a ringer at Broadclyst and by teaching many new ringers was responsible with her husband John for keeping ringing for services going at our Church. The present team would like to wish her well in her new vocation.

We also note with sadness the death of Peter Wills for many years a ringer and clock winder at Broadclyst.

*David Moon*

## CHARITY BEGINS IN AFRICA - via COMBE MARTIN

We all know that bell ringers come from a wide variety of occupations, backgrounds and interests, and two of our regular Sunday Service Ringers at Combe Martin recently put their particular – and very different - skills to good use on separate visits to West Africa to work on projects for two Charities.

The first to make the journey was Maureen Richards, a Dentist in a Practice at Ilfracombe. Maureen was accompanied by Kate Rogers, her Practice Nurse and they spent two weeks with the Charity “Mercy Ships” in BENIN, a Country with little public health care, minimal and generally unaffordable private care, and consequently a population suffering all sorts of medical problems. Because of the poor infrastructure, the Charity provides the whole range of healthcare from a state-of-the-art Hospital ship staffed by volunteers from all over the World, covering the full range of medical specializations. All the volunteers live on board the ship, and everyone – from the Captain to the cooks – had to fund the whole cost of the trip themselves. For Maureen this involved much hard work raising funds via donations and sponsorship before the equally hard, but rewarding, work on the ground in Africa could begin. There were long hours in high temperatures and in far from ideal working conditions.



Maureen is in no doubt that the work being done there by her dental colleagues and other medical specialists, supported by the ship's crew, make a big difference to the quality of life for the people living in that part of Benin (see [www.mercyships.org.uk](http://www.mercyships.org.uk) for more details).

L to R: Maureen, Fortune (local translator and Dental Nurse), & Kate

While Maureen's dentistry involves the use of generally small items of equipment, our other Charity volunteer – Mike Johns – is used to working with somewhat bigger tools, for Mike is a heavy plant Contractor specializing in groundworks and is often seen around the Combe Martin area driving massive JCBs and the like (not surprisingly he often rings the tenor on a Sunday morning!). Mike went to The Gambia with the Charity "Seedlings for Christ", which helps to provide a basic education for over 60 children by supporting teachers and support workers at a school which accepts Christian and Muslim children. Mike thought the trip would "broaden his horizons" and it certainly opened his eyes to the living standards of the people he went to help.



Mike and the part-completed accommodation block

It was hard, physical, work in temperatures of 40°C, with helpers turning their hands to all sorts of tasks associated with building a 3-roomed block for staff accommodation at the School (see picture). Some in the team also carried out missionary work among the general population in the area. Mike was taken aback by the extremely primitive living conditions in the area and is convinced that help provided by the "Seedlings for Christ" Charity really does make a difference. (see [www.seedlingsforchrist](http://www.seedlingsforchrist) for more details).

Bruce Hicks  
Combe Martin

## NE BRANCH TOUR AND 'ROBBIAMNANIA'

On 15 September, the NE Branch staged its second mini-outing of the year. First stop was the unusual octagonal tower and cosy ringing chamber at Bishops Hull, from where The Old Inn pub lunch was an easy walk. Thence to Nynehead where the ground floor ring of six has only recently been brought back to life after twenty years of silence.



Nynehead provided two unexpected surprises; firstly, the *Robbia Madonna*, a magnificent 15<sup>th</sup> Century Italian marble placed in the north wall of the ringing chamber and set behind a pair of small wooden doors to protect it from wayward bell ropes. The second bonus was Jean Parkinson's unexpected discovery of her great grandfather's gravestone in the churchyard and that her forebear's farm is now owned by Alan Howe, Tower Captain at Nynehead.

The day ended at Langford Budville and the easy-going six always popular with visiting ringers, some of whom are pictured below and against the backdrop of the grand Nynehead House.





*I to r, John Kape, Tony Trigg, Ann Mitchell, Dermot Elworthy, Alan Howe, Glen Morgan, Jean Parkinson, Terry Hargreaves and Brian Samuels.*

Grateful thanks are due to John Kape for organising a very enjoyable day during which the weather proved dry, if not very warm.

*Dermot Elworthy.*

## **CHANGES AT NE BRANCH**

Elections held at the recent AGM of the North East Branch resulted in the following popular appointments. Congratulations to both!

**Publicity Officer:** Dermot Elworthy. **Membership Officer:** Tony Trigg

## **HELPERS DATABASE**

The Guild Education Officer, Lynne Hughes, is putting together a database of ringers who are willing to help with training on occasions. This is one of the actions recommended by the Guild review. If you would like to be included, email Lynne ([lynnephughes@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnephughes@hotmail.com)) with your name, tower (or area) and ability at which you are solid in helping others. Your email address will serve as contact details. The database won't be put in the public domain, but will be available to Guild members requesting help with training.

*Lynne Hughes*

## **GUILD STRIKING COMPETITION A VIEW FROM THE NE BRANCH**

On Saturday, 16 October, the GDR NE Branch hosted the annual Guild striking competitions. Good bells, good ringing, good company, good food and splendid autumn sunshine combined to ensure that everyone had an enjoyable day, even if, in the end, some were not placed first in their respective competitions. The occasion was divided into three competing classes: 8-bell, 6-bell and Novice.

### **NOVICE COMPETITION**

The easy-going, light six (8cwt) at St Paul's, Tiverton were an ideal choice for the Novice competition and that may have been responsible for encouraging a record number of teams to enter. It was good to see youngsters from Exeter and Plymouth performing well but no less encouraging to have recently recruited adults demonstrating that it is never too late to learn. The youngsters of Emmanuel Plymouth were unlucky to have been pushed into third

place by the grey hairs of St Peter's Tiverton by a mere quarter of a fault! Judge John Foster emphasised the need for bands to concentrate on establishing a good rhythm at the outset. However, he commended all the Novice teams for some good ringing. This section was the only one for which NE ringers did not field a side. Let's hope for better support next year.

### **8-BELL COMPETITION**



Les Boyce receives Certificate from judges David Trist & Steph Browne.

A noteworthy performance (37 faults) of Double Oxford Bob Major was given by the band representing the N E Branch, gaining a highly creditable 2nd place behind the winners, Exeter 1, who, as one would expect of a Cathedral band, were in a rather different league at 13¼ faults.

### ***Some thoughts from Mike Hatchett, the Branch Training Officer and Conductor of the 8-bell band:***

"Each year we enter a team for the Guild 8 bell striking competition. We have limited experience ringing major methods together and have struggled during the last two or three years to bring the team together for pre-competition practices. However this year we were able to, on I think, five occasions over a six week period. After the first practice we decided we would ring Double Oxford Bob Major and after the second practice we decided to ring a little faster than we normally ring. Richard Johnston helped considerably by making constructive comments after each touch. In my opinion there are three stages in the preparations for a striking competition; the first stage is to eliminate method errors, the second stage is to strike the whole touch well, and the final stage is to ring the test piece with confidence. As each practice session progressed the number of method errors increased and we had some difficulty in striking the first three or four leads really well. Our test piece during the competition went well, we settled down quickly and our confidence grew and we probably rang as well as we could without significant additional practice. In my opinion our ringing would benefit from a quarter peal or two as part of our pre-competition preparation. This would help us to develop our concentration and we may then be able to ring together at a more consistent speed. We enjoyed our tea, we were all very pleased with our second place in the competition and we considered the Exeter team were very worthy ringers."

### **6-BELL COMPETITION**

6 teams competed for the 6-bell prize on the 8cwt ring at Uplowman, where Withycombe Raleigh won the J P Fidler Cup. St Peter's Tiverton proudly took second place with 120 changes of Plain Hunt Doubles.



Sue "Marigold" Partridge; just one of the hard-working stalwarts behind the scenes

A splendid Ringers' Tea was provided by the host Branch and grateful thanks must go to those who slaved at home and subsequently in the Huntsham village hall to lay on such an excellent spread. In all, it was a very successful and much-enjoyed day. Two bands from the NE Branch competed in two of the three categories and gained a second place in each case; a hearty "Well done!" to them both. However, for a few this may not have been enough ringing - later that evening your roving reporter spied several contestants engaged in Cambridge Maximus at Exeter Cathedral!

*Dermot Elworthy*

## NE RINGERS WELCOME NEW CLERGY

Members of the NE Branch recently extended a warm welcome to two new incumbents in the Tiverton and Cullompton Deaneries who between them will have responsibility for 12 churches with ringing peals of bells! On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September the Revd. Steve Goodbody was installed as Team Rector of the Exe Valley Group of parishes at a service in St Peter's, Oakford. Steve was previously curate at St Leonard with Holy Trinity in Exeter, and he and his wife Sarah will live at the Withleigh Rectory. At the end of September the Revd Sue Blade was officially made Team Rector of the Sampford Peverell Group of churches at a service at St John the Baptist's Church. Sue was previously a chaplain at the University of Christ Church, Canterbury.

Ringers from across the Branch came together to ring quarter peals of Mixed Doubles to welcome them. In both cases the bands included ringers from churches in their respective group of parishes, at St Mary's Washfield, on 11<sup>th</sup> September, and at St Peter's Uplowman on 1<sup>st</sup> October)

We wish both Steve and Sue every success in their ministries and look forward to working with them in the future.

*Les Boyce  
Branch Chairman*

## SIX YOUNG RINGERS IN THE SOUTH HAMS



The six young ringers in the South Hams

Devon Young Ringers headed down to the South Hams on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October for their Autumn outing. This far corner of the county proved to be too remote for many to come, but provided some interesting rings. After a good start at Dodbrook where the church was being decorated for harvest, we walked into the town centre to ring at Kingsbridge. These bells were more of a challenge, even to the adults, and Phil had to put a wayward rope back on the tenor, but the town sold some scrumptious biscuits as compensation!

Lunch was at the 'Creek's End' where a WW2 event was going on outside, with military vehicles and a rendition of 'we'll meet again'. On to Salcombe with its brand new narthex and light, easy going, favourite bells of the day. Finally low-ceilinged Galmpton, and a good effort all round. Thanks to all who came and to both Amy and Sophie for doing some conducting on the day.

*Lynne Hughes.*



## THE TOWERS & BELLS OF DEVON

Those of you who have purchased a copy of this magnificent tome may not realise that I am continually updating the material and correcting any mistakes where these have come to light since publication.

These corrections and additions are available on the Guild website  
([http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/gdr/pdf/Devon\\_Errata.pdf](http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/gdr/pdf/Devon_Errata.pdf)),

and on the website of the nationally renowned bell historian, George Dawson  
([www.georgedawson.homestead.com/files/Devon\\_Errata.doc](http://www.georgedawson.homestead.com/files/Devon_Errata.doc)).

I update the entries on a six monthly basis, so you may want to keep a copy inside the cover of your books, rather than deface them in any way.

James M. Clarke

## ROXY'S ROPE SPLICING

Roxy Hughes has been helping her father Phil with steeple keeping for the past year and at the recent Dawlish AGM she became Assistant Steeple Keeper. Within a couple of days she had learnt to splice ropes, and did a good job of splicing in a new tail end for the second. Roxy learnt splicing by reading the Central Council book, 'Splicing Bell Ropes Illustrated', and was shown by her father how to start the splice off. She then did a practice splice with a couple of pieces of old rope, before going on to do the splice that was needed. Others may find it useful to have a look at this book, which gives a step by step approach, as well as asking someone in their tower to demonstrate, and having a go on scraps of rope. The book costs £3.50 from [cccbr.org.uk](http://cccbr.org.uk)

*Lynne Hughes*



Roxy, splicing



the finished splice

## FROM THE FOOTNOTES

- 1) Devon Guild rang a peal of Stedman Cinques at York Minster on 11/9/2010
- 2) 41 Surprise Minor at St Buryan on 3rd October (5 of the band rang same thing at Ting - Tong previous Tuesday)
- 3) Peter Bill rang 41 Surprise Minor for first time on 19/10 at Ting-Tong (this was also Peter's 950th peal & MECM's 3700th)
- 4) The peal for Bampton fair on 28th October was Ian Smith's 800th for the Guild
- 5) Peal at Atherington on 31/10-1st on the bells.
- 6) Two peals for Mervyn Way being elected Devon Association President (Paignton on 6/11-for Association; Thorverton on 11/11-for GDR)
- 7) Peal at Holbeton on 5/11-on 100th anniversary of 1st peal of Plain Bob Minor in Devon
- 8) Broadclyst on 8/11 to celebrate Ian Smith's 65th birthday.
- 9) Ting Tong-31/8-100th peal on the bells; 9/11-100th peal in the "tower"

*Mike Mears*

## GUILD QUARTER PEAL WEEK

Thank you to everyone who took part in and contributed to quarter peal week this year. At £642.85, the total raised was slightly lower than last year. However, with the addition of gift aid, this is increased to a fantastic total of **£792.11**, which will make a great difference to DCBRF. Those branches that opted for collective organisation of quarter peals and fund raising again managed to raise considerably more than others. The Aylesbeare and North East branches and the St Brannock's Society did particularly well in this respect. All branches managed at least one quarter peal during the week, although more is almost certainly achievable in the future with more collective effort by the branches, particularly in the East and Mid-Devon branches.

Many donations were also received from guild members and friends who were unable to ring quarter peals and these people deserve particular thanks.

The following are some footnotes that deserve a special mention:

- 1<sup>st</sup> quarter peal: Rosemary Cann, Steve Chapman, Mike Heard, Graeme Potts, Lucy Tame, Richard Thomas
- 1<sup>st</sup> away from cover: Wendy Rennie
- 1<sup>st</sup> as C: Cathy Civill
- 1<sup>st</sup> S Major as C: Matthew Weighell
- 1<sup>st</sup> inside for more than one m: Christopher Bolt, Laurie Kirkcaldy
- 1<sup>st</sup> Major inside: John Barnes
- 1st S Major: NE branch
- 1<sup>st</sup> Plain B Triples: Christine Harris
- 1<sup>st</sup> Plain B Caters: Tim Bayton, Matthew Higby, NE branch

Other facts and figures from the week:

- Number of locations: 52 (including 2 for handbells)
- Total number of quarters scored: 60 (including 6 in hand)

*Tim Bayton*

## ONLY JOKING?

A man and his wife walked into dentist's room. The man said to the dentist "I'm in a real hurry. I have two mates sitting out in my car waiting for us to go and ring a peal, so forget about the anaesthetic, I don't have time for the gums to numb. I just want you to pull out the tooth, and be done with it! We've got a 10 o'clock start and it's 9.30 already".

The dentist thought to himself "My goodness, this is surely a very brave man asking to have his tooth pulled out without using anything to kill the pain". So the dentist asked him "Which tooth is it, sir?"

The man turned to his wife and said "Open your mouth, dear, and show him ....."

*DK  
(wife of a ringer)*

## A COMMUNITY COHESION PROJECT:

A small group of children from the Bampton C of E Primary School investigated whether or not they live in a diverse but cohesive part of Devon. The team of four, helped by a parent, discussed what makes a good picture and then took photographs of their village and its inhabitants and entered them in a primary school photographic competition.

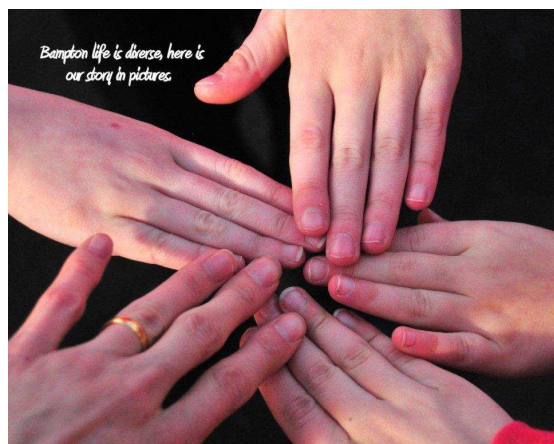
They started by visiting the bell ringers to learn more about what bell ringing is as well as taking pictures. They really enjoyed being encouraged to "... have a go ..." which was a highlight for them. They also went to the weekly toddler group and loved playing with the youngsters. They took photographs during the School's "Quiztastic" evening, when many parents turned out to support their children.

Finally, they selected their best photographs, added captions and submitted them. There

were 120 entries, and a few weeks later they discovered they had won the competition! In September, they were presented with their prize of £500 to be used to buy photographic equipment.

Well done kids!! Here are just a few of the photographs with their captions reproduced, which they included in their entry.

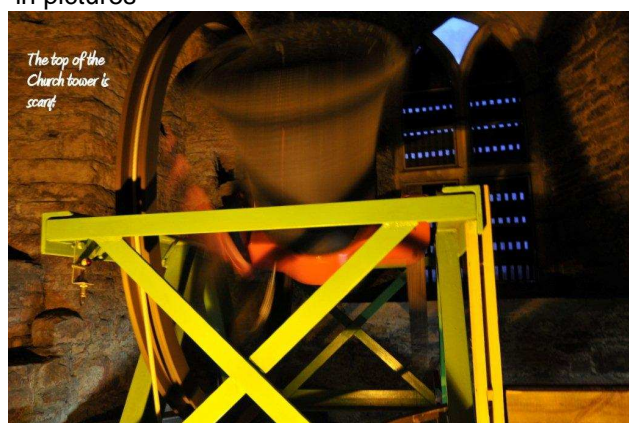
*Tony Trigg*



'Bampton life is diverse. Here is our story in pictures'



'The bell is very heavy and makes us fly'



'The top of the Church tower is scary'



'Older kids and younger kids together is fun. We like Bell Ringing'

## **GUILD GRANDSIRE TRIPLES TRAINING DAY**

As a part of the intensive Guild Training program, 18<sup>th</sup> September was set aside for training in Grandsire Triples. Six students were quickly recruited from five different branches; they appeared with the instructor, Ian Campbell, at Thorverton, where some willing helpers offered hot drinks and biscuits.

Once everyone could be torn away from their refreshments (and chat!) a little while was spent discussing the theory of Grandsire. Special emphasis was made on the way that the work all occurs when the treble leads – so all you need to do is to work out when that is! Identifying the treble lead was attempted using perfect Grandsire produced by a computer but many found this rather difficult. It was also illustrated by “lapping” handbells, which involves switching them around on a table so that the order of the bells changes. A special move is needed when the treble leads to accommodate the bell that makes thirds, which in turn causes all the other bells to dodge.

Following the theory session we moved up the tower and initially kept to plain courses, with the invaluable aid of helpers who gave up their Saturday to help with the course. The lunch break came all too quickly and people were soon refreshed in the Thorverton Arms.

The afternoon session saw a transfer to Silverton. It started with a discussion of bobs and singles which were then put into practice by all with the aid of some new helpers (and



several of the old ones). By 4pm everyone had had enough for the day, but it is hoped that all of the students gained from the experience and can continue ringing the method regularly. Grateful thanks are extended to all of those who helped to make the day a success – especially the willing helpers and the tower captains who made their towers so readily available, and to Lynne Hughes who made all the arrangements but then was unable to attend.

*Ian Campbell*



The six students at Silverton:

I to r: Maureen Davey, Glen Morgan, Jeanne Mills, Margaret Elms, Trish Kirkcaldy, Amy Gill.

## **MORE ADVENTURES WITH LILLIE**

*Lillie is the demonstration model tower bell made by Frank Mack which usually lives in the tower at Withycombe Raleigh. She is regularly used by Ian Campbell when he gives his talks about bells and ringing.*

Well, I had a quiet summer watching over the activities in Withycombe tower, but was very excited in the start of November when John Foster took me in his car to listen to my big brothers and sisters ringing a quarter peal at Broadclyst. And then I was transferred to Ian Campbell's car for a trip back to his home. I wondered what was in store for me.

On 8<sup>th</sup> November I was packed up back in the car with a number of familiar objects (handbells, laptop computer, speakers, books, etc) and we had a trip to Totnes. I got more and more excited as we got nearer, and on the winding road through Dartington I couldn't help dinging away on all the corners!

Once at Totnes I was carried through the town from the car park to the Methodist Church hall, which was full of women! This was a meeting of the Townswomen's Guild and Ian gave his usual talk, using me to demonstrate full-circle ringing. Four of the ladies rang some surprisingly competent plain hunting on handbells (by "lapping" them) to illustrate method ringing, and the usual tests of "how many bells" and "put your hand up when the order changes" were performed using the computer. Some interesting questions followed, such as "are the ringers still paid for their services?" and "are you one of those that rings and then skips out of the back of the church?" Ian managed to find suitable answers for them. Another query concerned the bells of St John's, Bridgetown (which I found out was part of Totnes), which one lady claimed to hear every week. The tower wasn't mentioned in any of the books available, but the mystery was solved when someone else said that they used a recording of bells through an amplifier – what a cheat!

After a week in the hall at Ian's house (together with a double bass – just don't ask why!) I was packed up again and on Thursday morning (18<sup>th</sup> November) we set off in the rain to Teignmouth to meet with another group of women – the Masonic Widows' Association – in a very smart hall opposite the station. I was introduced to everyone and showed them how

church bells were rung. Ian also used me to explain how muffles were used on sad occasions (Remembrance Sunday was the previous week) and how only one side of the bell was usually muffled. By the time we had finished the sun had come out and we had a lovely drive back by the sea.

But now it is back to Withycombe for a rest and to meet again with all my friends there – both the large bells and the ones that used to hang in the bedroom at Frank Mack's house.

## **RINGING, AND ST GEORGE'S DAY 2011**

Libby Alexander of the *Campaign for ringing for St George's Day* writes:

The first year of the Campaign to Ring for England to celebrate St. George on April 23rd was a wonderful success and I have been enormously encouraged by your tremendous response. However, there is a National dilemma for 2011 in that April 23rd falls within Holy Week when bells should not be rung, as confirmed by The Archbishop of York, who also confirmed that in the Church Calendar St. George's Day will be celebrated on Monday 2nd May 2011. I fear this will have very little meaning to the populace at large, and might even create a division between Bell Ringers. As a result it would be difficult for a full and collective response to ring out on the day. The BBC is very keen on the Campaign and I have had several meetings to this effect. They would love to be more involved, however, the caveat is that I have to get everyone on board, and this, patently will be impossible.

My feeling on the matter is that we just have to accept this unusual situation, which will not be repeated for many years, and give 2011 a miss but - to make lots of noise as to why. There will of course be those that will want to ring anyway but, as a representative of a National Campaign, I do not wish to go against The Church's authority.

On a more positive note, this will allow us time to co-ordinate, inform, involve, advertise and engage with every Region right across the country to make 2012 an even more stupendous, comprehensive, mammoth celebration. We will have the added bonus of riding on the back of the year of the 20Olympics. Whilst there might well be some Towers who are not interested in the Campaign I am delighted to say I received only positive e-mails with requests to continue and to this end I am most happy to oblige. It would be enormously helpful if you could engage with as many of your Ringers as possible letting me know what their thoughts might be on the problem and any ideas for its future. They could always contact me direct. I very much look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your help. With Very Best Wishes - Libby Alexander [libby@ringingforengland.co.uk](mailto:libby@ringingforengland.co.uk)

## **CHANGE OF SECRETARY AT MID-DEVON BRANCH**

At the recent Mid Devon branch AGM Russell Chamberlain stepped down as secretary and was replaced by John Martin. All other officers remained as last year.

John can be contacted on [mdb.secretary@jesspuss.plus.com](mailto:mdb.secretary@jesspuss.plus.com).

Or by mail: 2 Windward Rise, Holcombe, Dawlish EX7 0PW.

## DONORS GET TO RING THEIR BELL.

When the new ring of ten bells was installed in Holy Cross, Crediton in 2004, they were placed in a 12-bell frame. It was felt that later generations in possibly 25 – 50 years' time would install the other two. Within 2 years an offer was received to provide one of the extra bells. This prompted two of the Crediton ringers, John & Chris Clarke, generously to donate the second. So in 2006 the current ring of 12 was completed.

Although John and Chris frequently rang their bell for Sunday service and on practice nights, neither of them had rung a peal or quarter on it. This was put right at the end of October. On Saturday morning of the 23rd Chris rang their bell to a Quarter Peal of 1253 Grandsire Cinques. Then on Sunday 31st before Evensong John rang a similar performance. The two quarters involved 8 of the local Crediton ringers with help from 10 others from the area.

Incidentally these performances have prompted a request from another of the local ringers to do something similar late next year for a "significant" birthday. (No names – no pack drill!).

*Geoff Sparkling*



John & Christine with their bell.

The Saturday 23rd band L to R: Howard Egglestone(Ringing Master), Geoff Sparling(Conductor), Chris Clarke, Joanna Lunnon, Sue Sparling, Ali Waterson, Tom Waterson, Andrew Digby, Tom Hinks, John Clarke, Rob Franklin and Louise James.

### **Guild of Devonshire Ringers** **Crediton, Devon Holy Cross, (26-2-23)**

Saturday, 23 October 2010 in 53 mins

#### **1253 Grandsire Cinques**

- 1 Joanna Lunnon
- 2 Christine M Clarke
- 3 Susan D Sparling
- 4 Howard W Egglestone
- 5 Thomas J Hinks
- 6 Andrew P Digby
- 7 Alison C Waterson
- 8 Louise A M James
- 9 Geoffrey C Sparling (C)
- 10 John M Clarke
- 11 Thomas J Waterson
- 12 Robert E Franklin

1st on 12: 1,2.

1st Grandsire Cinques: 10,11.

Sunday, 31 October 2010 in 53 mins (26-2-23)

#### **1253 Grandsire Cinques**

- 1 Sue Sawyer
- 2 John M Clarke
- 3 Christine M Clarke
- 4 P Wendy Campbell
- 5 Howard W Egglestone
- 6 Lesley Tucker
- 7 Susan D Sparling
- 8 Robert E Franklin
- 9 Geoffrey C Sparling (C)
- 10 David J Garton
- 11 Richard Harrison
- 12 Graham Tucker

For Evensong and Guild Quarter Peal Week



## THE EXETER BRANCH TRAINING MORNING.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2010 was the day of the Exeter branch AGM held at Pinhoe. But before all that there was a training morning run by Ian Campbell and Rob Franklin.



Hunting up to the pulpit

Ian had a good idea to use the steps on the pulpit to demonstrate hunting up and down. When we had got the hang of it, we used the steps to walk the line to other methods. It was especially funny when Ian 'Fell off the line!!!'

Mid morning we stopped for coffee and biscuits kindly supplied by Heather.

After our pit-stop we moved on to ringing the methods that we had just run up and down the steps to. By the end of the morning all the learners had progressed well, ringing from plain hunt to touches of plain bob minor inside.

We would like to thank everyone who came to help and a special 'thank you' to Rob and Ian. We all had fun and learnt lots.

*Amy Gill*

## EXETER BRANCH AGM

Exeter Branch held this year's AGM at St Michael and All Angels' Church, Pinhoe on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November. Our new Publicity Officer, Amy Gill, has written about the training event in the morning which was enjoyed by the young and not so young!



Volunteer organists practicing their voluntaries

Members arrived in the afternoon for an hour of ringing prior to the service led by the former Rector, Reverend Tony Mortimer, with Pam Miller playing the organ and Laurie Kirkcaldy and Amy Gill playing the voluntaries.

In his sermon Tony's focus was on the purpose of the bells. He referred to part of the preface to the Book of Common Prayer stating 'the curate that ministereth.....shall cause a bell to be tolled.....before he begin'. At that point Rob Franklin tolled the fifth bell which in the fifteenth century was the treble of a ring of four at Pinhoe. Following the talk three leads of Kent Treble Bob Royal were rung on handbells.

Refreshments were enjoyed, followed by the business meeting; Ian Campbell welcomed members, Guild President Lester Yeo, Ringing Master Mo Hawkins and thanked Tony Mortimer for leading the service, the three organists and all who helped provide the tea. Following reports of the year's activities and acceptance of the Treasurer's report the following officers were elected:

- Chair – Wendy Gill
- Secretary – Heather Somerwill
- Treasurer – Lesley Tucker
- Ringing master – Robert Franklin
- Asst. Ringing Master – Ian Campbell
- Publicity Officer – Amy Gill
- Guild Committee member – Michael Cannon
- Education Adviser – Jenny Young
- Bell Adviser – Geoff Sparling



Gareth (left) receiving his Certificate from Ian

Matthew Hilling and Jenny Young were thanked for their work as Assistant Ringing Master and Publicity Officer respectively and Ian Campbell for his twenty five years service as Chairman! The loss of John (Jack) James last March was recorded. Guild certificates were awarded to Gareth Gill and Sharon Sproat (who was unable to attend).

The committee will meet shortly to consider the events for the coming year.

*Heather Somerwill*

## **ANOTHER YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A NOVICE BELLRINGER**

You may recall an earlier article entitled 'A Year in the life of a Novice Bell ringer'.

One year on, how have things progressed? There is a distinct improvement in the standard of our Sunday ringing, for which those living near the Church give hearty thanks. Unfortunately, they still suffer on alternate Mondays when we try to ring more than just rounds. Our real practices continue to take place at a nearby tower, where our saintly instructor tries hard to raise our standards. To my mind he has infinite patience, but on the other hand we do now regularly provide three and sometimes four ringers to his band for Sunday service. That way we repay in kind, in some small measure, for all he has given us. There have been some highlights that mark the year for us as a success. It was a proud moment when we were elected a tower member of the Guild. Of course this placed certain obligations upon us, not least that we should enter a team in the Branch Striking Competition. I could gloss over that, after all we were last! Taking a sneak preview by practicing in the competition tower a week or so earlier resulted in an interesting episode when a rope broke. On the positive side, wasn't it better that it broke then rather than during the competition? It is a sad fact that breakages do occur and the writer does seem to have more than the average. When it happens on a visit to another tower it is excruciatingly embarrassing and it can also be an expensive experience. While ropes can perhaps be simply spliced, the replacement of stays is another matter.



Our 'burgundy band' – the ringers from St Nicholas, Combe Raleigh.  
L to R, standing: Mark Moran, Trevor Hitchcock, James Hancock, Stan Thompson,  
Seated: Ruth Hitchcock and Lisa Clarke (Captain).

Bringing our bells back to life has had an interesting side effect; it has drawn ex-ringers out of the woods. While not all have returned to the tower at least one (James) now rings regularly again, after a gap of over twenty years. At his first practice we heard him say, 'I'm not sure I can do this, I haven't rung for over twenty years'. He then proceeded to demonstrate that ringing is a bit like riding a bicycle, it's a skill you never lose. Whisper it softly, but he was better than any of us – but we've only been doing it for less than two years! As spring turned to summer our lovely tower captain, (she is the youngest of us), successfully rang her first quarter peal, thus laying down a challenge to the rest to follow suit. Our second member has now done so and before this article can be published we expect a third to follow in their footsteps. To those who have rung for years this may not seem very much, but to those of us who have only been ringing a short time, and did not start to learn until after we got our bus pass, it is a great achievement.

With twice as many regular ringers as we have bells it was clearly time that we made an obvious statement that we were here to stay and the decision was made to have our own logo. So if you see someone with a burgundy shirt bearing a logo of three bells surmounted by a golden cockerel, you'll know it's one of us. The cockerel's name by the way is Harold and he is the weather cock that tops our tower, sitting above our three bells.

At the end of summer, having enjoyed the experience of ringing with other towers on their tours, both around East and South Devon and into Somerset, it was decided that we should have our own tour. Since we only have three bells we looked for towers with a limited number of bells to visit. To our amazement we found a surprising number of ringers from other towers interested in joining us, as a result we were outnumbered! We were delighted to see them, for, without exception, they had all helped us in our early days of learning to ring and continue to do so. We started with two four bell towers at Northleigh and Southleigh. After lunch we rang six bells at Branscombe and three at Salcombe Regis, before finishing on the five at Gittisham. We have a five bell frame, perhaps we should be thinking of finding another two bells to fill it. It would be nice!

Now we are approaching Christmas again and the end of our second year; last year we all said 'what a year we've had' and this year we are saying, 'what a great year we've had'.

Once more I must say a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who has helped us along the way and especially to all those who have welcomed us to their towers and their tours, thank you all.

*Trevor Hitchcock*

## **SOUTH WEST BRANCH CELEBRATES 91<sup>st</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2010, a group of bell ringers from all over Devon met in Plympton for an evening of ringing and socialising.

We met first at the church of Plympton St Maurice, a nice ring of eight bells in a cosy tower overlooking the church. Our group of ringers ranged enormously in both age and ability, but



all needs were catered for, from rounds and call changes rung for the beginners, to Stedman Triples and Cambridge Major for the more experienced ringers. It was a great opportunity for us all to ring together, perhaps with people we had never met before, on a completely different set of bells to what we were used to.

Following the ringing, we descended downstairs into the church itself for a church service led by Trevor Smith of Emmanuel, with hymns and prayers in appreciation for bells and bell ringing.

The group then left Plympton St Maurice and travelled ten minutes down the road to The George Inn, where we were shown to a long table that appeared to have taken over the whole of one half of the pub! Everyone was soon settled together with drinks, and it wasn't long before plates of delicious food were brought out to us.

Members from all different towers talked together while we enjoyed the meals, and then most enjoyed a dessert. Although the table was so long, conversation tended to be limited to those around you. As a younger person new into ringing, it was great to see and talk with other ringers, and hear of their experiences in ringing. Entertainment, too, was found down our end of the table, with many members of the group giving the art of origami a go, using the napkins. Although our attempts were mostly unsuccessful, it was fun all the same.

Overall, it was a highly enjoyable evening, and I hope there are many more opportunities for us ringers to get together again.

*Robyn Owen*



The Long Table at The George

## CALENDAR 2010/11

### DECEMBER 2010

Thur	16	Branch 8 bell practice: Upton (19:30)	Mid
Tue	28	Branch practice: Sidmouth (19:30)	East

### JANUARY 2011

Sat	15	General Committee Meeting	Guild
Sat	22	Branch AGM	SW

### JUNE 2011

Sat	18	Guild Festival: Mid Branch	Guild
-----	----	----------------------------	-------

PLEASE NOTE: Ringing meetings and social events are not usually restricted to members living in the Branch in which they are being held. A warm invitation is extended to all members to attend any Guild function, regardless of location. However, it is always advisable to check with branch officers in case of cancellation or last minute changes.

## GUILD STRIKING COMPETITIONS 2010

Saturday 16 October

### Inter-tower 6-Bell Novice competition for the John Longridge Plate, held at Tiverton St Paul's.

(120 changes of Plain Hunt Doubles or Minor)



Gareth of Exeter St Mark's receiving the plate from judge John Foster

### Inter-tower 6-Bell competition for the J P Fidler Cup, held at Uplowman.

(240 Doubles or Minor)



Judge Richard Johnston presents the trophy to John Foster of Withycombe Raleigh



Ringers and listeners relaxing outside Huntsham church, during the 8-bell competition.

### Inter-branch 8-Bell competition for the Andrews trophy, held at Huntsham.

(224 Little B Major or Double Oxford B Major)



Matt Hilling of Exeter receives the trophy from judges David and Steph.

Congratulations to the winners and to all the teams who participated - full details on the Guild website:  
<http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/gdr/competitions2010.html>

**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 (01395 274776). 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](mailto:rogerking60@aol.com)