



# RINGING ROUND DEVON

## GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

Newsletter 78: June 2010

### RINGERS AT DEVON COUNTY SHOW

After a successful Devon County Show in 2009 we were invited back for 2010 and another very worthwhile 3 days were spent with the Frank Mack Garage Ring as part of the Devon Churches Stand. Guild and Association ringers manned a display and demonstrated ringing the small bells. The mini-ring had a fitted rain hood, which was not needed in the soaring temperatures! Volunteers sported shorts or went off to buy hats from nearby stalls.



The bells were rung for the daily service at the adjacent churches' tent, and as demonstrations throughout the day (including one quarter peal), when not actually teaching.



A number of current or lapsed ringers were attracted to the mini-ring, and large numbers of non-ringers had a go, nearly all mastering the technique in a few minutes. One whole family

of non-ringers managed to ring rounds together! A good age range tried their hand - a total of 174 people over the 3 days - all leaving resplendent with their "I've rung on the Devonshire Guild Mini-Ring" sticker. You will see from the photographs we had some eminent people having a go... the Dean of Exeter Cathedral did very well.

Handbells were also rung as a demonstration to the public a little further off, and two quarters were rung in hand on the Thursday, despite a marching band drowning out all sound, and people nailing prayers to the pole behind one ringer!



There was still time for helpers to wander round the show and take in its many varied sights and experiences. The mini-pigs were a hit with some helpers. There was even talk of dancing sheep.

A big thank you to all helpers who gave their time. The dates for the 2011 show, where it is hoped to make it "3-in-a-row", are May 19th-21st.

*Ian Avery & Lynne Hughes*

## **POSTSCRIPT TO THE COUNTY SHOW**

One of the visitors wishing to ring on the Frank Mack miniring was Wendy Harvey, who remembers ringing them when they were 'The Garage Ring' in Exmouth. The photo left shows Wendy ringing confidently after a gap of about 40 years.



Wendy (centre) ringing at the Show

Following the Show, she mailed a scanned copy of a newspaper article on the Garage Ring, (as they were formerly known) dating from 1969. Although rather indistinct, she has managed to identify the ringers of that time: Wendy Harvey (11yrs), Nigel Mack (5yrs?), Frank Mack, Shirley Mack (11yrs), Peter Mack (9yrs), Hazel Mack (7yrs?), Tom Harvey (9yrs).

Happy memories for Wendy, who is delighted the Guild is using the mini-ring so productively.

### **AMENDMENTS TO ANNUAL REPORT**

Page 2. Subscriptions and Fees for 2010: the entry for Junior Members (under 18) should read £3.

Page 48. Sampford Spiney: Service ringing is restricted to the first Sunday of the month.

### **FROM THE FOOTNOTES**

The peal of Bill S Major at Newton Abbot on 30th March was for Bill Avery's 90th birthday, as was the peal of Grandsire Triples at Kingsteignton on 6<sup>th</sup> March.

The peal of Lincolnshire S Royal on 5th April at Thorverton, was to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of Guild Vice President Richard Bowden.

Tom Waterson's 1st peal as Conductor was achieved on 12th May at Okehampton, with a peal of Yorkshire S Major; on the 31<sup>st</sup> of the same month he notched up his 100<sup>th</sup> peal, ringing Surprise minor at Thorverton.

The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Frank Mack's death on the 1<sup>st</sup> June was recognised with a peal of Stedman Cinques at Frank's home tower, Withycombe Raleigh.

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the handbell peal of Plain Bob Major is believed to be the first of Major by an all-undergraduate ECG band.

*Mike Mears*



## 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](mailto:newcourtfarm@aol.com)**

### **NEW MASTER TAKES OVER AT GUILD AGM**

The AGM was held at Braunton on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June, and although attendance was a little light, some important business was conducted. Mo Hawkins (previously Master elect) was confirmed as Guild Master for 2010/11, in a handover ceremony with outgoing Master, John Steere.





The new Master, Mo Hawkins with outgoing Master John Steere

Other Officers elected at the meeting:

PRESIDENT: Lester Yeo

MASTER ELECT for 2011/12: John Foster

VICE PRESIDENTS, as listed in the Annual report: Re-elected en bloc

SECRETARY: Janet Coles

TREASURER: Sue Sawyer

LIBRARIAN: Leslie Boyce

BELLS AND BELFRIES ADVISORS: James Clarke, Ian Smith

REPORT SECRETARY: John Foster

PUBLICITY OFFICER: Roger King

PEAL SECRETARY: Mike Mears

QUARTER PEAL SECRETARY: Tim Bayton

EDUCATION OFFICER: Lynne Hughes

DCBRF TRUSTEES: Ian Campbell, Mary Mears, Ian Smith

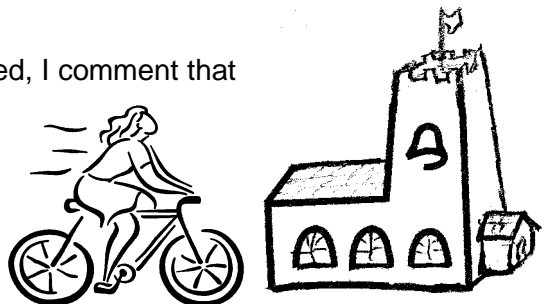
CENTRAL COUNCIL REPS 2011-2013: Les Boyce, James Clarke, Lynne Hughes, Ian Smith

DEVON RINGERS COUNCIL: Don Roberts, Lester Yeo, Ian Avery, Martin Mansley + one vacancy

## RING AND RIDE

When I am discussing my hobbies with the uninitiated, I comment that the wonderful thing about both bell ringing and cycling is that they take you to places in the countryside that are off the regular tourist trail.

The idea of combining the two exercises was readily taken up by a group of quarter-pealers and



a pleasant outing in spring sunshine was planned. However, the best laid ..., and all that, meant that at 8am on the day we were still undecided whether to risk cycling or go for the alternative car assisted programme. Fortunately, courage prevailed and despite the cold dark sky we escaped with only a couple of showers.

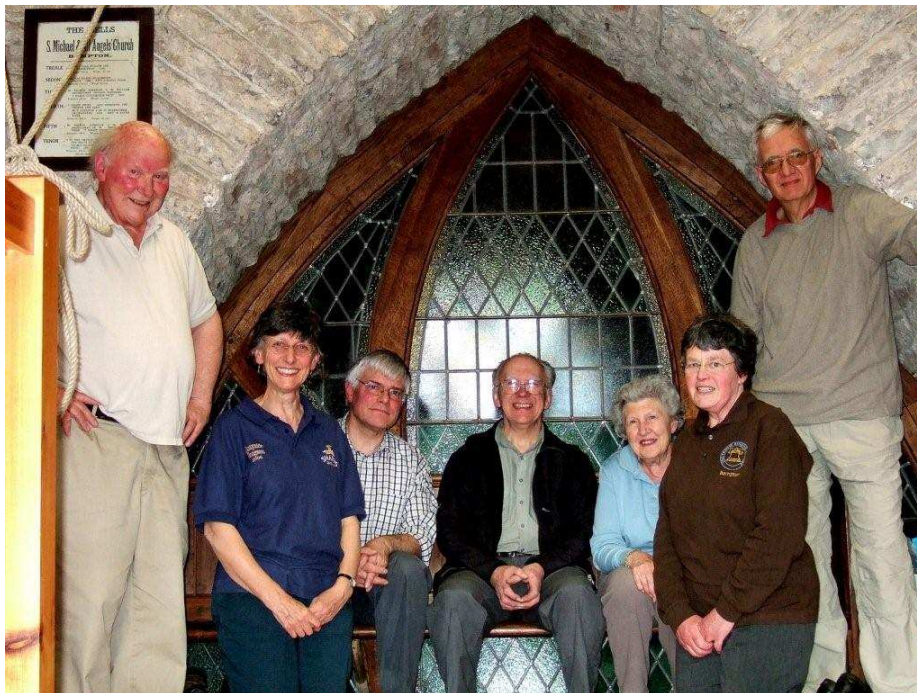
The route began and ended at Ipplepen and also visited Littlehempston, Staverton, Broadhempston and East Ogwell, 18 miles along quiet country lanes. The ringing went well, all 5 quarters successful, and a new method for all was rung. Arthur Bob Minor was selected in appreciation of Arthur Civill's hospitality at the caravan in Denbury, where he served up tea and cakes.

Sorry there's no photo. Just picture the tired but triumphant faces of Sue Sawyer, Lesley Tucker, Janet Coles, Cathy Civill, Roger King, Neil Deem, Graham Tucker and Tim Bayton at the end of the day. Thank you to all the participants and to the keyholders who were prepared to make arrangements for the alternative wet day programme.

*Cathy Civill*

## **RETIREMENT AT BAMPTON**

Sunday, 3 March saw Bampton's St. Michael and All Angels' last service taken by The Reverend John Stone before his withdrawal from full-time service in the Ministry. John has been a popular vicar and a stalwart supporter of the Bampton band of ringers. He joined our annual dinners and other events, chaired bellringers' meetings and was always keen to receive visiting bands provided they could be accommodated within the church schedules. He is now enjoying life at a slower pace in Hemyock but as a farewell gesture of appreciation, the Bampton band marked his retirement from St Michael's with a Quarter Peal of Plain Bob Minor.



The ringers for this occasion were, from left to right, Mike Hatchett (6 and Conductor), Sheila Scofield (3), Les Boyce (5), Rev. John Stone (listening!), Pat Hatchett (1), Ann Barrow (2) and Tony Trigg (4).

We all wish John much contentment in his retirement.

*Dermot Elworthy*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

I would not claim to be unusually observant but one cannot fail to notice all those cars driving about with St George's flag fluttering from little poles and every house, it seems, has a fenestrated flag. I thought it very heartening to see such an enthusiastic revival of interest in our long-neglected patron saint.

So judge then, if you will, of my astonishment in mentioning this to a friend who felt obliged to point out that this has absolutely nothing to do with Saint George - evidently they are all supporters of some football team playing in Sath Efrica.

Parallel with this is a dawning awareness of the number of local church towers proudly flying the same bunting; I had no idea that the dear old C of E was such an active football supporter. However, I shall become very discountenanced if The Church introduces those vuvu-thingies to disturb my ringing.

Yours etc.  
Dermot Elworthy.

## GARETH'S FIRST QUARTER.

Everyone will know Gareth - the practices at St Mark's church, Exeter, wouldn't be the same without his enthusiasm & excitement!

Gareth has been making solid progress with learning to plain hunt to doubles and now that he is that little bit older and bigger the time had come to attempt his first quarter peal.

On Thursday 29 April 2010, he rang the treble to Plain Bob Doubles without any problem, and even had enough brain power to exclaim to us all half way through that he was very hot! Gareth said afterwards "I can't believe that I have done a quarter peal!". It may have been a while coming, but it was completed in fine style.

Well done Gareth!

Exeter, Devon

St Mark

Thursday, 29 April 2010 in 41 minutes (4-2-0)

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Gareth Gill
- 2 Wendy Gill
- 3 Matthew Hilling (C)
- 4 Maureen Hawkins
- 5 Jenny Young
- 6 Derek Hawkins

**First quarter peal at first attempt: 1.**



(L-R: Jenny, Mo, Matthew, Gareth, Derek Wendy)  
Photo by Amy (Gareth's sister, who rang her first quarter in June last year!).

## **FAMILY QUARTER IN WALES**

When Jasper Hughes's first quarter was reported in RRD 77 (March 2010), mention was made that a family quarter wasn't far off. And indeed it wasn't. The family are semi-regular visitors to practice night at Llanbedrog in North Wales, when staying at Morfa Nefyn. Being a light ring of 5, the bells were ideal, and a quarter was duly rung after a midweek morning service, Jasper coping well with the lack of a cover bell.

**Llanbedrog, Gwynedd.** 7 Apr, 1260 P B Doubles in 37 mins: Jasper Hughes 1, Sophie Hughes 2, Roxanne Hughes 3, Lynne Hughes (C) 4, Phil Hughes 5.

*Lynne Hughes*

## **THE DEVON CHURCH BELL RESTORATION FUND**

At the meeting held on March 29<sup>th</sup> at Ian Campbell's home in Exeter the following grants were awarded:

**Coffinswell:** £500 to towards overhauling bearings, clappers, headstocks and pulleys; removing the crown staple stubs on the 5<sup>th</sup> bell, and cleaning down and repainting the metalwork.

**Awliscombe:** £300 towards replacing the cracked headstock on the 2<sup>nd</sup> bell.

**Sourton:** £350 towards repairs to the corroded sub-frame.

**Plymtree:** £1,400 towards the provision of new bearings, one new headstock, and refurbishing pulleys and wheels.

**Sheepstor:** A further grant of £200 towards the cost of tuning the bells, this being in addition to the grant of £2,800 already offered towards the cost of rehanging the six bells.

Two further applications had been received. Due to our current shortage of uncommitted funds it was agreed to defer a decision as to the level of grant offered to these two schemes until it is clear how our fund raising is going during the remainder of the year.

**Brentor** are having to raise about £34,000 to replace their severely corroded sub-frame, and for dismantling, cleaning down and repainting the bell-frame, as well as refurbishing the clappers and bearings, and replacing the wheels, pulleys and bell bolts.

**High Bray** are aiming to raise about £30,000 to rehang their six bells in a repaired frame with mainly new fittings and new foundation beams.

The next meeting of the DCBRF will be on November 13<sup>th</sup> at North Tawton.

*Ian Smith*

## **MORE THAN A RINGING OUTING IN CORNWALL**

The South West Branch outing in May was a fantastic day out. I thoroughly enjoyed myself. I hadn't rung at any of the towers we visited before and found it very interesting ringing at these places that had always been of local interest to me. It was wonderful to be in the beautiful Cornish countryside yet be so close to Plymouth. All the churches are set in stunning locations.

I think that living and working in Plymouth you become too comfortable with the urban make-up of buildings, houses and roads so really appreciate the quintessential rural parish church. They have religion, character and a rich history, they tell a story about the local area and illustrate how norms and values have changed over the centuries. A ringing outing is not just about the methods you can practise and perfect. It's about learning and exploring the history of other parishes.

We had a good turnout of ringers of all ages. A troop of ringers came from Emmanuel, as well as ringers from St Andrew's, St Budeaux, Tavistock, Stoke Damerel and Thurlestone. We started at St Stephen by Saltash, a six bell tower, then went on to Botus Fleming, where the church was neatly tucked away. The bells seemed a bit jumpy to begin with but settled down after a while. We focused on simple methods like Plain Bob Doubles, Grandsire Doubles and call changes. Next was Pillaton, a lovely smooth newly augmented ring of eight. By then, there were quite a few of us and we sat cosily around the belfry. We took a lunch break before moving on to St Mellion. The ropes there felt a bit thin but the bells sounded charming. Next was Callington where the church stood boldly in the town. It is a ring of eight which allowed some of the more experienced ringers to try different methods. It was mesmerising watching the methods I hadn't seen rung before, which I found impressive. The last tower was Landulph with such a gorgeous location beside the river it felt enchanting. It was like travelling back in time. Inside, the church retains many original features with carved wooden chancel screen. Between rings I explored the church, reading the inscriptions on the walls. It was fascinating.

Rounding the day off, we piled into the Ploughboy in Saltash and enjoyed a good slap up meal with a few drinks. It was a well organised interesting day. There was plenty of ringing and everyone got to ring several times. It allowed the younger ringers to become more confident with their bell handling, using a variety of bells, and ringers like myself to totally nail Plain Bob Doubles! I'm definitely looking forward to the next outing.

*Jo Maddick,  
St Budeaux*

## **EXETER BRANCH STEAM AND BARBECUE**

After the torrential rain last year we were looking forward to a sunny June evening to enjoy the annual steam and barbecue event held at Exminster. Luckily the weather did not disappoint as the rain held off and the indoor facilities were not needed! The evening saw



the return of 'The General' and the children (and adults!) were able to enjoy steam engine rides. An excellent barbecue was cooked by Head Chef Ian Campbell accompanied by some lovely salads. And of course no barbecue would be complete without a selection of delicious desserts! Thanks to everyone who contributed.

*Jenny Young*



Michael Cannon with 'The General'

## **EXETER BRANCH TRAIN OUTING**

There was no lie-in for the Exeter Branch ringers on May Day bank holiday (3<sup>rd</sup> May) as we set off on this year's train outing to North Devon. From various stations between Digby and Crediton we boarded the train to Barnstaple where a coach was waiting to take us to our first tower, Great Torrington. Luckily we arrived early enough for a quick coffee at Dartington Crystal before the ringing which set the standard for the day ranging from rounds and call changes to Glasgow Surprise Major. The next stop was Bideford where we had lunch and nearly everyone managed a Hockings ice-cream despite the chilly wind! We were slightly late setting off for the next tower due to some slow service at lunch but the time was not wasted as some members of the group took the opportunity to entertain us with handbell ringing. The afternoon saw ringing at Appledore, Northam and Pilton before catching the train back to Exeter where a delay at St David's station provided a much needed cup of tea break! The day's excitement was not over, however, thanks to Gareth who managed to get stuck in the toilet on the train back to Digby - luckily we didn't have to leave him there!

Thanks to everyone for attending and particularly to Heather for organising such an enjoyable day.

*Jenny Young*



Handbell ringing at Bideford

## **Wine Tasting Party**

on Friday 8th October 2010  
at St Mark's Church Hall, Pinhoe Road, Exeter  
at 7.30pm



Tickets £6.00  
(to include wine & nibbles)  
from Wendy Campbell ([wendy.campbell@lineone.net](mailto:wendy.campbell@lineone.net))  
or members of the St Mark's band of ringers

**ALL PROFITS TO THE DEVON CHURCH BRF**

## UNDERGRADUATE HANDBELL PEAL SUCCESS!

With an influx of new handbell talent over the last academic year, it was realised that a peal of Major in hand by an undergraduate band was a distinct possibility. So, on Wednesday 2nd June, after the usual lunchtime handbell practice, Martin, Steph, Tom and Jon went over to Rosebarn Lane to attempt a peal of Plain Bob Major. After a 10 minute false start, the peal settled down, and there was plenty of excellent ringing, along with just one or two hiccups, before, after 2 hours 25 minutes, the peal came round. This peal is believed to be the first peal of Major ever rung by an undergraduate band for the Exeter Colleges Guild, on either handbells or tower bells – a fantastic achievement, made even more so by the number of footnotes accumulated. The peal was Jon's first handbell peal (hopefully the first of many?!), Martin's first peal on eight in hand, and Steph's first handbell peal on an inside pair. Well done all! After some celebratory chocolate brownies, we took a couple of photos; a serious one, and the one here in the 'normal' ECG pose!



Martin, Steph, Tom and Jon

Guild of Devonshire Ringers (Exeter Colleges Guild)

Exeter, Devon

West Cobham, Rosebarn Lane

Wednesday, 2 June 2010 in 2h25 (15)

5040 Plain Bob Major

Comp: M C W Sherwood

1-2 Martin J Gentile

3-4 Stephanie E Hills

5-6 Thomas J Hinks (C)

7-8 Jonathan H Potter

## **NEW SERVICE FROM THE GUILD LIBRARY**

While the Guild Library holds much valuable material on the history of ringing and about bells and their founders, there have been only a few up-to-date books and pamphlets bought recently on learning to ring and the teaching of ringing. A major purchase of Central Council publications has now sought to address this situation and the Library now holds a copy of all C.C. titles currently available. We also now hold copies of the Steve Coleman books, but further titles from other publishers will be added as funds permit.

While the Library lacks a permanent home it is difficult for members to access materials. Therefore I have set up two travelling collections of items on these two topics: the "Learner's Library" and the "Trainer's Library". These are contained in two attaché cases which can be used as table-top displays – they made their first appearance at the Guild AGM in Braunton.

The idea of these two collections is not so much to lend to individuals, but that they be used at meetings to make ordinary members aware of the publications available to help them. Members can then preview titles before deciding to buy copies for their personal libraries. The collections come with current ordering details to make purchase easy.

I hope to take these collections to meetings through the year, but branches may like to borrow them for a few weeks' loan to display at their own events. If any branch officers are interested in arranging a loan please contact me: 01884 256819 or e-mail – [lesboyce@gmail.com](mailto:lesboyce@gmail.com).

*Les Boyce  
Guild Librarian*

## **CONDUCTING FOLLOW-ON DAY**

Following the success of the first conducting workshop in February, tutor Tim Bayton organised and ran a follow-on day on 15<sup>th</sup> May, to take those who were ready a little further: Sue Sturdy, Sophie Hughes, Lynne Hughes and John Steere.

The day started with theory and coffee in the comfort of Tim's home, as we practised transposing coursing orders without having to ring at the same time! Then it was on to Clyst St George for two hours calling and transposing touches of Plain Bob or Little Bob Minor, aided by the helpers: Tom Hinks and Andrew Digby.

Lunch was enjoyed at the White Hart in Woodbury, and touches of Major planned for the afternoon.





The Follow-on Group at Littleham

Then on to Littleham (Exmouth) to be joined by helpers Lester Yeo, Cathy Civill and Roger King, for an afternoon of nearly all Little Bob, and some spliced Plain and Little. As a break from conducting, a well struck half course of Cambridge Major was rung with 15 year old Sophie to finish.

Thanks to Tim for organising and tutoring the day with enthusiasm and to the helpers who gave their time so readily.

*Lynne Hughes*

## **TEACHING THE TEACHERS IN DEVON**

On 17<sup>th</sup> April the Guild of Devonshire Ringers hosted a Central Council 'Teaching the Teachers Bell Control' course. With four tutors, eight students, four 'guinea pigs' who'd never rung before and two towers in use all day, it proved to be a busy and successful day. A student and a guinea pig tell their tales...

Janet Osler (student) writes: "When you want to start a new band of ringers but have no-one in your tower able to teach what on earth can you do? In the past I had helped an experienced tower captain with the learners many years before, but never thought about doing this from scratch! Well, for me it was time to put my money where my mouth was and try to acquire a new set of skills. So it was off to the 'Teaching the Teachers' day - a daunting prospect! However I need not have worried. My thanks go to Geoff Horritt, who broke it down into 'bite size pieces' and covered everything that you have to consider, and to David Hill who had never touched a bell rope before, but by 4pm could handle back stroke and hand stroke, on his own! What a star pupil he was. I now feel much more prepared to launch the project to start a new band at Thurlestone. We begin with our Tower Open Days on Sat & Sun 5th & 6th June 3-5pm at All Saints Church (who can resist a small plug!). So

enormous thanks to all involved in the running and organisation of the day, especially those who travelled long distances to be in Exeter on that day.”

Chris Cozens (guinea pig) writes: “I arrived at Silverton Church slightly apprehensive for what might be required of me but looking forward to learning a new skill. Within minutes of everyone arriving I had forgotten any worries. The day started off with a trip up the tower to see the bells and how they worked and to learn some of the physics behind bell ringing along with a talk on health and safety (bit scary as I didn’t fancy flying or breaking anything). The students were then given some instruction on the best practice and methods for teaching and I started to realise this was going to be a crash course in bell ringing. It was then time for me to get my hands on the bell, with two students (experienced bell ringers) and a trainer with me I felt in capable hands and ready to learn. We started with the basics of how to hold the rope, do the backstroke, hand stroke and catch the sally. My head was full of when to pull, feel the balance, bounce & catch, trying not to pull too hard (but make sure it was hard enough) and not wanting to break the stay. It was then time to break for lunch and meet up with the group from Pinhoe at the Lamb Inn, Silverton. It struck me how sociable bell ringers are with tales and advice. After lunch it was back for a recap of the morning practice and then to move on to try and put the hand and back strokes together. At the end of the day I have a greater appreciation and understanding of ringing and the technique required. While I had a crash course in the basics of handling, I had a great day and have already been back to Silverton for another practice this week. I am intending to continue learning to ring along with my wife. This course enabled me to get an insight into bell ringing and the social life of ringers! A truly enjoyable and informative day.”

*Lynne Hughes*



Silverton: Brian Sanders, Chris Cozens, Lynne Hughes, Albert Campbell



Terry Summersby, David Hill, Janet Osler, Geoff Horritt.

## AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE MONDAY RINGERS' OUTINGS



Monday Ringers at the Dolphin Inn, Kingston

The Monday Ringers were formed in 2007, with those who wanted to continue from the Ravers group which had been wound up the previous year. The group consists of ringers who can take a day off work or who work part time or are retired; three people taking it in turns to organise each outing and two run the ringing.



The group usually goes out on the third Monday of the month from March to November (with the exception of August), ringing at two towers before a pub lunch and two after, in different parts of Devon. It is a very social, relaxed and good-natured group of people.

All competent ringers are welcome, the expectation being to ring within our abilities and maintain acceptable standards of striking, so it is not for novice ringers, nor is it to be regarded as training. Reliable trebling or covering is a good starting point, and call changes are also rung at times; though for example we often ring Cambridge, Norwich, Little Bob, Double Oxford and Stedman, as well as the standard fare of Plain Bob and Grandsire. So if you'd like to join us, contact the people below or look out for a notice on the DevonRinging email list.

Contact:

David Robertson: [dthrobertson@googlemail.com](mailto:dthrobertson@googlemail.com)

Lynne Hughes: [Lynnephughes@hotmail.com](mailto:Lynnephughes@hotmail.com)

## **BANK HOLIDAY SUN STROKE - OR JUST A MAD IDEA?**

I'm sure we can all think of many different ways to spend a sunny Bank Holiday Monday, but a plan had been hatched a few months ago and the challenge was set to ring three peals in a day - at three different stages...! Somehow, I still don't remember who came up with the idea - but think it was definitely conceived in the pub!

The original plan was to ring the Stedman family (from Doubles to Caters in a day), but with so many other things taking local ringers to all corners of the UK for a Bank Holiday break it was decided to ring something slightly 'safer' instead! Six ringers agreed to ring in all three, so we had the nucleus of the band pretty quickly and the plan was hatched!

Composers were dispatched to produce a special length (at rather short notice) so that we could ring something special for the Diamond wedding anniversary of Claude and Joyce of Littleham, and with some nice bells and company we met at Huntsham at 9.45!!

Our 5060 produced some raised eyebrows and giggles from most of the band when one of the ringers realised that they had made 3rds at the single in consecutive leads for what seemed like ages - but was relieved to make it to 4ths place bell eventually! But the rest of the day went without a hitch, including a picnic in the church yard at Thorverton - although I understand a few of the six that rang in all three were a little sore on the Tuesday!!

Well done all - what to do with the Bank Holiday next year?

*Paul Pascoe*

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

HUNTSHAM, Devon, All Saints

Mon May 31 2010 2h 47 (8)

5060 Cambridge S Major

Comp. R D S Brown

1 Paul J Pascoe (C)

2 Lesley A Knipe

3 Jeffrey Knipe

4 Alison C Waterson

5 Michael Hatchett

6 Jonathan H Potter

7 Robert D S Brown

8 Thomas J Waterson

Rung as a Diamond Wedding compliment to Claude & Joyce Nicholls of Littleham.

750th Peal: 3.



GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS  
THORVERTON, Devon, St Thomas of Canterbury  
Mon May 31 2010 2h 57 (15)  
5040 Cambridge S Royal  
Comp. R Bailey  
1 Paul J Pascoe (C)  
2 Mervyn C Way  
3 Lesley A Knipe  
4 Susan D Sparling  
5 Jonathan H Potter  
6 Alison C Waterson  
7 Jeffrey Knipe  
8 Robert D S Brown  
9 Thomas J Waterson  
10 Pauline Champion

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS  
THORVERTON, Devon, St Thomas of  
Canterbury  
Mon May 31 2010 2h 24 (5)  
5040 Cambridge S Minor  
(1 x 720, 2 x 2160)  
1 Lesley A Knipe  
2 Robert D S Brown  
3 Jonathan H Potter  
4 Jeffrey Knipe  
5 Thomas J Waterson  
6 Paul J Pascoe (C)  
Rung on the Whitechapel 6.  
100th Peal: 5.  
First '3 Peals in a day': 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5.

### **TROYTE RINGING CENTRE REPORT**

On 1<sup>st</sup> May 2010, five intrepid improving bellringers from Newton Abbot, Bampton and Tiverton gathered at The Troyte Ringing Centre in picturesque Huntsham to learn the finer points of ringing Plain Bob Doubles on an inside bell. Under the patient guidance of Mike Hatchett and many supportive helpers we were all able to learn our chosen method as the observation bell changed with each attempt to keep us on our toes. To reward us for our efforts we were treated to a wonderful lunch provided by Pat Hatchett, who managed to lay on a sumptuous spread and still fulfil her role as a helpful expert ringer.

Our grateful thanks go to all the helpers, who must find it very tedious ringing the same method over and over so that learners can sort their bobs from their plain hunting, but hopefully, we can ring Bob Doubles inside with confidence in our own towers.

*Margaret Cadogan,  
St Peter's Church Tiverton*

### **PLAIN HUNT TRAINING DAY**

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June five of us went plain hunting at Huntsham: Libby Ford, Sue Partridge, Lesley Walker and Eve Grosse from the Troyte Ringing Centre and Gordon Milne from Uffculme.

Mike Hatchett was there of course, to teach us, Pat to mother us, and a team of patient and generous helpers to ring with us: Sheila Scofield, Leslie Boyce, Charlotte Boyce, Richard Shere and Dermot Elworthy.

Mike explained the intricacies of plain hunting on three bells and then Libby pluckily went first, while the rest of us watched intently from the bench silently counting, lips moving, like a row of baby birds. Then on we went to 4 bells, 5 bells and a plain course of plain bob doubles. We were forging ahead, the mental confusion was clearing and in varying degrees we 'got it' and we 'did it'.

In no time at all it was one o'clock, and down below Pat was busy with cheese and cold cuts, salad and crisps, crusty baps and Muller corners. We even had a party pack to take home; a workbook with dots to join, grids to fill in and crayoning to do.

Then out we went into the sunshine of a perfect afternoon for the Huntsham Church Fete.

*Eve Grosse*



Sue, Lesley and Gordon at the Troyte Ringing Centre

## **REVERSE CANTERBURY TRAINING DAY**

A warm welcome awaited those attending the Reverse Canterbury training morning at the Troyte Ringing Centre, Huntsham. Coffee and biscuits were served by Pat and Mike Hatchett to learners, Carla Dawe, Libby Ford, Chris Bolt, Chris Shere and Ann Barrow and helpers, Sheila Scofield, Leslie Boyce, Matthew Weighell, Richard Shere and Charlotte Boyce.

Each learner was able to make good progress with individual instruction from Mike Hatchett and a good team around them. There was time for everyone to get plenty of ringing practise and to watch and count the way around while sitting out. We are very grateful to helpers who gave up their time to make this a useful morning, to Mike Hatchett for his continued enthusiasm and to Pat Hatchett who prepared a delicious lunch.

*Ann Barrow*

## **NE BRANCH OUTING**

Being a novice ringer of 10 months and inexperienced of other bells I approached the day with a little trepidation. Clive, having more experience and youth on his side seemed to take the day in his stride!

However, everybody was treated equally, given assistance and guidance if needed and there was a good mix of called changes and method ringing. It was great to experience ringing with others and listening to their "classy" ringing, visiting other towers and experiencing other bells.

Our favourite was Lyme Regis, not just because of ringing 10 bells but because of their lovely tone. Thoughts at the end of the day? Appreciating how nice our bells sound even though they may be hard work!!

*Clive and Hilary, Cruwys Morchard*



Cream teas all round.

## **OBITUARIES**

### **JACK SIMS**

With great sadness I have to report the death of John P (Jack) Sims, previous tower captain at Emmanuel, Plymouth and VP of the SW Branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers. The funeral will take place at 1030 on 25 Jun at Emmanuel, Plymouth, with open ringing before and after.

*Chris Wardle*

### **A TRIBUTE TO JIM (Albert James Crabb)**

A few observations in thankful appreciation of the life and work of Jim Crabb in the ringing circles of the Luppitt and Honiton area.

In 1927 a ringing curate from Uffculme came to be vicar of Luppitt. Having seen the octave at Uffculme renovated he was soon anxious to get the Luppitt bells put in order. The parish was inspired and John Taylor & Co asked to inspect and report. They suggested that the old oak frame be removed, two new bells be cast as trebles to the existing four and the six be hung on a new steel frame. This was accepted and at the dedication in 1928 the ring was declared a lovely six. The vicar, himself a method ringer was soon teaching some teenagers the art, with Mr George Burrows of Awliscombe also helping; at the time Jim was the youngest member of the band.

Then came the wartime ban in 1942. Post war ringing revived, and in the 1960s the Luppitt band at their AGM decided to go for another augmentation and by started a fund to do so.

Jim was with us all the way and shared in our joy and thankfulness. Much of the time he was Vice Captain or Captain, and we were all delighted when Miss Barnard spotted an advert in the Ringing World of a bell and its fittings for sale which led to an inspection and purchase at

Malvern Link. Our local band decided to tackle the task of building the two pits required to transfer the 1928 trebles to them and when cast and ready put the new bells into the vacated pits. Success came after years of effort and in 1974, the centenary of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers, a dedication service declared our achievement- an octave at Luppitt, giving many the chance to ring a lovely octave with a 10½ cwt tenor.

Jim spent a lot of time teaching and helping others. Apart from ringing Jim also enjoyed walking in the Honiton area with other rambblers. He rang two full peals, one at Yarcombe and the other at Broadhembury around 1966/67. His 142 local quarter peals emphasise his dedication to help the young beginners.

We offer our condolences to his family as we thank God for the life of Jim Crabb.

*John Sage*

### **JOHN (JACK) JAMES**

Jack James, a ringer since the age of sixteen, died on 22<sup>nd</sup> March aged ninety six. He learnt to ring at Silverton where he worked in the local garage. He continued working in the motor trade all his life. He joined the forces in the Second World War and was in R.E.M.E. and posted to India where he rose to the rank of Major.

Jack was a staunch churchman singing and ringing at Alphington Church and latterly singing at Heavitree. He went on to ring every Sunday at Pinhoe Church until three years ago when arthritis in his shoulder forced him to stop. He also rang the bell for communion at St Clare's chapel, Heavitree every Thursday. He was founder of Clavis Lodge, the only Masonic lodge of bell ringers.

His wife died five years ago, shortly after celebrating seventy years of marriage.

*Heather Somerwill*



## CALENDAR

### JULY 2010

Fri	2	Listening practice: Honiton (19:30)	East
Sat	3	Mini Outing East Devon (afternoon)	Mid
Sat	3	Branch Quarterly Meeting: Bickleigh (15:00)	NE
Sun	4	Handbell Workshop: Okehampton (12:30)	Guild
Wed	7	Advanced 10 bell practice: Exeter St Mark (19:30)	Exeter
Thu	8	Plain hunt practice: Sidbury (19:30)	East
Fri	9	Plain hunt practice: Clyst St George (19:30)	Ayles
Fri	9	Surprise Minor practice: Buckerell (19:30) *	East
Sat	10	Striking Competition: Harpford (3.30pm)	East
Sat	10	Devon Young Ringers' Day: Wolborough (14:00)	Guild
Sat	10	Branch Practice: Thorverton (11:00)	NE
Mon	19	Plain hunt practice: Axminster (19:30)	East
Mon	19	Branch 8 bell practice: Wolborough (19:30)	Mid
Fri	23	12 bell novice practice: Withycombe Raleigh (19:30)	Ayles
Sat	24	Dartmoor Outing	Exeter
Sat	24	Ringling recruitment at Mid Devon Show	NE
Sat	24	Branch Practice: St Budeaux (19:30)	SW
Mon	26	Doubles for all: Offwell (19:30)	East
Mon	26	Branch 8 bell practice: Newton St Cyres (19:30)	Exeter
Tue	27	Branch practice: Sidmouth (19:30)	East
Wed	28	Branch Practice: Huntsham (19:30)	NE

### AUGUST 2010

Fri	6	Listening practice: Honiton (19:30)	East
Sat	7	Joint ten bell practice: Exeter St Mark (19:00)	Exeter/Mid
Sat	7	Branch practice (19:00)	N/NW
Thu	12	Plain hunt practice: Sidbury (19:30)	East
Fri	13	Plain hunt practice: Clyst St George (19:30)	Ayles
Fri	13	Surprise Minor practice: Buckerell (19:30) *	East
Mon	16	Plain hunt practice: Axminster (19:30)	East
Thur	19	Branch 8 bell practice: Upton (19:30)	Mid
Sat	21	Joint Meeting with Dunster Branch at Minehead (19:00)	NE
Mon	23	Doubles for all: Offwell (19:30)	East
Wed	25	Branch Practice: Huntsham (19:30)	NE
Fri	27	12 bell novice practice: Withycombe Raleigh (19:30)	Ayles
Mon	30	Branch practice: Littleham (19:45)	Ayles
Tue	31	Branch practice: Sidmouth (19:30)	East

### SEPTEMBER 2010

Wed	1	Advanced 10 bell practice: Exeter St Mark (19:30)	Exeter
Wed	1	Branch Committee Meeting: Castle School (19:30)	NE
Fri	3	Listening practice: Honiton (19:30)	East
Fri/Sat	3/4	Training Days: Wolborough (19:30 & 10:00)	Mid
Sat	4	Branch practice (19:00)	N/NW
Thu	9	Plain hunt practice: Sidbury (19:30)	East
Fri	10	Plain hunt practice: Clyst St George (19:30)	Ayles
Fri	10	Surprise Minor practice: Buckerell (19:30) *	East
Sat	11	Branch Training: Plain B Minor at Huntsham (10:00)	NE
Tue	14	Branch practice: Buckerell (19:30)	East
Wed	15	Branch Mid-Week Outing (11:00)	NE
Sat	18	Training: Grandsire at Thorverton (10:00)	Guild
Mon	20	Plain hunt practice: Axminster (19:30)	East
Mon	20	Branch 8 bell practice: Wolborough (19:30)	Mid
Wed	22	Branch Practice: Huntsham (19:30)	NE
Fri	24	12 bell novice practice: Withycombe Raleigh (19:30)	Ayles
Sat	25	Branch Practice: Thorverton (11:00)	NE
Sat	25	Autumn Outing	SW
Mon	27	Doubles for all: Offwell (19:30)	East
Mon	27	Branch 8 bell practice: Exeter St Thomas (19:30)	Exeter
Tue	28	Branch practice: Sidmouth (19:30)	East

## EXETER WELL PLACED IN NATIONAL 12 BELL STRIKING COMPETITION

26<sup>th</sup> June and Devon ringing raised it's national profile by several notches when Crediton hosted the 35<sup>th</sup> Final of the National 12 bell contest for the Taylor Trophy.

The Exeter team showed that they are now well worthy of a place amongst the big boys with an excellent piece of ringing to finish in a very creditable 5<sup>th</sup> place, out of 9 competing bands, with only 2 points separating 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> places. Congratulations to Matt and his dedicated team whose hard work and commitment over recent months placed the Cathedral team in the highest position ever achieved by Exeter in the competition. The competition was won by Birmingham – for full results see <<http://www.ringingworld.co.uk/news-articles/other-articles/408-twelve-bell-final-2010.html>>

Holding the competition in the West Country had raised a few eyebrows when it was first mooted. "Much too far for the teams to travel, have the locals got the experience and facilities to be able to host such a big event in the National ringing calendar? etc. etc." Perhaps the quotes from a number of ringers as they left at the end of the day might give a flavour of how the day went. "The best competition day ever." "Congratulations to all involved in the organisation of a superb day." "Can we come back again next year?" These and hundreds of similar comments certainly showed that Devon ringing has a lot to be proud of.

Some of the highlights of the day: Wall to wall sunshine enabling our visitors to sit around listening to some top class ringing on Crediton's fine peal of bells. The efforts by the local catering team to provide our visitors with a real taste of Devon. The well supported bar facilities in the Boniface Centre and the Lower Vicarage garden. The fine choral evensong with the choir of Holy Cross. The sight of hundreds of people sitting out in the sunshine enjoying the bells, the food and the beer and, most importantly the fellowship and camaraderie which is such an important part of the day. In total some 46 ringers, members of the local team, the Association and the Guild, were wearing the distinctive polo shirts produced for the day and were busy all day acting as stewards, bar staff, judges assistants, and catering team. Additionally a number of non-ringing members of the Crediton congregation pitched in to help with the catering.

The day was a huge success and puts Devon ringing very firmly into the national ringing consciousness. Well done to everybody involved.

*Howard Egglestone*

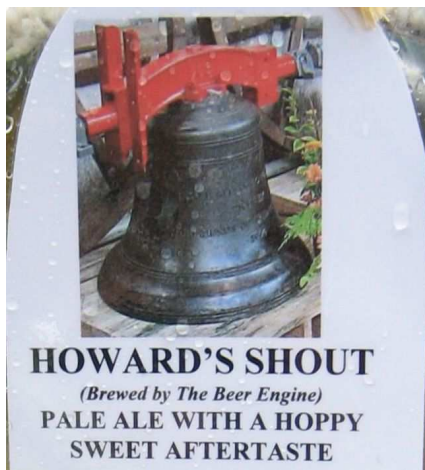


Exeter Cathedral Band  
Front R to L: Ian Avery, Sue Sawyer, Paul Pascoe, Alison Waterson, Susan Sparling, Timothy Payne.

Rear L to R: Pauline Champion, John Foster, Matt Hilling (C), Andrew Palk, Geoffrey Sparling, Michael Mears.



Birmingham Team Captain Richard Grimmatt being presented with the Taylor Trophy by Crediton Rector Revd Nigel Guthrie



The Crediton band selected the name of the bitter specifically brewed for the day. Whilst this is an apparent attempt at humour, the writer prefers to make the obvious links with good taste, a fine head, a mature but virile body, and very good value. (*RW, June 18 2010*)

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