



# RINGING ROUND DEVON

## GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

Newsletter 77: March 2010

### NATIONAL 12 BELL CONTEST, CREDITON, JUNE 26<sup>TH</sup> 2010



**Holy Cross Church, Crediton**

Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup> promises to be a very special day in Devon ringing circles. Following on from such prestigious venues as St. Paul's Cathedral, Lincoln Cathedral and Worcester Cathedral the 2010 final of the National Twelve Bell contest for the Taylor Trophy will take place on the lovely new twelve at Holy Cross, Crediton. This annual Festival of ringing promises ringing of the highest standard and a great social occasion. Crediton ringers, along with members of Exeter Cathedral Company of ringers are preparing for an expected attendance of some 400 people and detailed planning has been in hand for several months.

The nine top teams in the country, having triumphed in the eliminator competitions in London at the end of March, will be heading for Devon along with their supporters and many other interested spectators. It is hoped, and expected, that many Devon ringers will want to take the opportunity to come along and socialise and hear some top class ringing on this fine peal of bells. The test piece this year is 264 changes of Cambridge Surprise Maximus. The draw takes place in church at 11.00 a.m. and the first team start ringing at 11.30 a.m. 15 minutes are allowed for practice and the judged piece starts at 15 minutes to the hour. Teams will then continue at 30 minute intervals until 4.00 p.m. With some 400 visitors to accommodate considerable thought has been put into the provision of refreshment! All produce used will be local. The Beer Engine at Newton St. Cyres is to supply two real ales, one specific to the contest, and Devon scrumpy will be supplied from orchards at Sandford. These will be served from two separate outlets, a bar in the Boniface Centre adjacent to the church and in a beer tent, to be set up in the lower vicarage garden, adjacent to the car park, an excellent vantage point from where to hear the bells. Food will be supplied throughout the day. From 9.00 a.m. bacon butties, coffee etc will be available from the Boniface centre and the bars will open at 11.30 a.m. Lunch and snacks will be served in the Boniface centre and from a catering tent in the lower Vicarage garden. This will consist of local pasties, rolls and sandwiches with a variety of fillings plus cakes, tea and coffee etc. Cream teas will be served in the Boniface Centre from 3.00 p.m.

**NEWS FLASH:** CONGRATULATIONS to the Exeter Cathedral team who have qualified to ring in the Final. It has been 13 years since the Cathedral have been in the final and is an excellent achievement after months of hard work and practice from the selected squad of 14. The eliminators were held at three venues in London on March 27<sup>th</sup> with only the top three teams from each eliminator qualifying for the final.

At 5.00 p.m. the renowned Holy Cross choir will be singing evensong in the church and the judges should be ready to pronounce their judgements, followed by the trophy presentation at around 5.45 p.m. The bars will remain open until 7.00 p.m.

I hope I have whetted your appetite to come along and enjoy the atmosphere of what promises to be a very special ringing Festival. Car parking is limited to 70 cars in the church car park although there are plenty of other car parking spaces available within 10 minutes walk of the church. Public transport from Exeter is well served with buses every half an hour with a bus stop outside the church. There is also a less frequent train service from Exeter St. David's.

See you there!

*Howard Egglestone*

### **FIRST HANDBELL PEAL AT FIRST ATTEMPT**

Congratulations are due to Steph Hills who rang her first handbell peal on 9th March. She only started handbell ringing when she began her University course in the autumn and has progressed to ringing Kent Treble Bob in a very short space of time. Her only other peal (so far) was rung at St David's in Exeter on 5th December 2009 (Plain Bob Triples) also for the ECG.

When not at University Steph rings at Claines, Worcester and has been a keen member of the Exeter Colleges Guild during her time here so far. We will be expecting much from her over the next few years!

Guild of Devonshire Ringers (Exeter Colleges Guild)  
Exeter, Devon, 84 Whipton Village Road  
Tuesday, 9 March 2010 in 2h18 (15)  
5088 Kent TB Major  
Composed by: R W Lee (No.4)

1-2 Stephanie E Hills  
3-4 Thomas J Hinks  
5-6 Ian L C Campbell  
7-8 Matthew J Hilling (C)  
First peal in hand, and first of Major: 1-2.



The team after their successful peal: Steph, Tom, Ian and Matt

## THINKING OF EMIGRATING TO EUROPE?

'As you may have noticed in *The Ringing World*, we are starting up a change ringing society on the Continent. The critical problem is locating British expatriates. I am writing to ask if you happen to know of anyone from your area who has emigrated to Germany or Switzerland - I know this is a rare event!'

If anyone can help, I am sure Rodney will be delighted to hear from you so that the numbers of the newly-formed Central European Association may be swelled. He is already acquainted with Tony Parry (ex-Whitchurch)!

Rodney's contact details are: Zeughausweg 1, 89165 Dietenheim, Germany (email [rodney.yeates@ukmedicalwriting.de](mailto:rodney.yeates@ukmedicalwriting.de) or phone 0049 734 795 7868)

Wendy Campbell

## GEOFFREY HILL – HANDBELL RESTORER

RDR regularly has a sponsored advertisement for Musical Handbell Restoration by Geoffrey Hill of Lamerton. Knowing Geoff is a farmer, I wondered how the two activities fitted together and arranged to visit him to learn more. The answer is very well; he balances occupation with hobby.

Geoff Hill formed a fascination for handbells when he learned to ring them at school. Deciding he wanted his own set he placed an advert in the WMN, and for £15 acquired a set of 17 Mears bells dating from the 1830s, and in very poor condition. Their refurbishment at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, London cost almost as much as the purchase price. The farmer in him reasoned that with practice he could probably have done the job as well himself. And that's how it started.

His first refurbishment job was on a set of bells from Milton Abbot cast in 1850 by one of the many Bristol brass founders of the period, Jeffries & Price. Geoff learned quickly, and word of mouth ensures he has regular commissions for complete or partial refurbishment. The leather handles become stiff and crack after a century or so of use, and Geoff replaces with new leather from Whitechapel, or Taylor's of Loughborough, embossed with the bell's musical note. In earlier years they were also embossed with the manufacturers' names. He gets a number of registered parcels, with requests for refurbishment of handbell parts; metal staple pins wear excessively and need replacement (although Gillet & Johnson experimented with ebony which was much more tolerant). His replacements are nylon which, as he says are 'tougher than a pig's snout'. Apart from handles and caps, he also refurbishes clapper assembly springs, felts, and clapper pegs. On average, he completely refurbishes one set per year – a set consisting of 12 to 15 bells. The biggest set he worked on was the 38 bells for Plympton St Mary (interestingly, the bells were once part of the carillon housed in the church organ). The bells travelling furthest for restoration came from Wangaratta, Australia.

He loves the feel, the touch and history associated with each component – 'look at this' he said as he showed me a leather cap produced by one of the 5 generations of Oliver family for Mears at Whitechapel – 'that squiggle like an elongated S confirms it's an Oliver cap'. Ernie, the last of the Olivers retired in the 1970s.

His latest task is the complete refurbishment of the set of 22 handbells from St Michael, Kingsteignton, and cast in the 1890s by J Shaw and Sons Bradford.

Not only does his hobby give great personal satisfaction, any profit is reinvested in acquiring new bells, so that his original 17 now number well over 100, ranging in age from 20 years to 200 years. In 1963 Lamerton Association of Handbell Ringers was formed, and registered with HRGB in 1969. They remain the oldest registered team in Devon. Music for the bells is arranged by his wife Valerie, who is also conductor. The full team comprises 15 members, who are most active from September to January, taking part in concerts, events etc. Each year they raise money for a chosen charity.

Their performance at the last Guild Carol Service at Buckfast Abbey will be remembered for the simulated tower bell raise, top ringing and lower. Geoff proudly mentioned he had been taught to do this in about 1965 by George Grills, the Tavistock ringer and composer of the Devon Ringers Hymn *Ring out ye bells below*. They practice regularly and on the day, it showed.



So, next time you handle a handbell, take a look at the handle and cap – if they're new they could be the result of Geoff's work, and if the cap is old and has a squiggle, then at least you know who may have made it.

*Roger King*



Geoff in his workshop



In need of some renovation....



The finished product



Some of the bigger handbells from his set of over 100

## THE JOHN SCOTT DEVON 10-BELL CALL CHANGE COMPETITION

It was back in the summer of 2009 that Richard Shere sent a proposal to the Devon Ringers' Council for a 10-bell call change competition. The dozen or so members of the council, made up of Association and Guild members in equal proportion, agreed this was a good idea, and went about organising the competition and drawing up rules which would accommodate both traditions. Thus there was the option of rising in peal or ringing off the stay; and of open or closed handstrokes. A test piece of forty changes based on queens was used. The competition was dedicated to the late John Scott who produced a definitive work on Devon bells and was a respected friend of many of us.

On 20<sup>th</sup> February 2010 five teams gathered at St Marychurch and the judges - Mary Mears and Mervyn Way - stationed themselves in a car. The morning proceeded smoothly, teams ringing in quick succession of each other; tea and coffee available in the church or something stronger in the pub. Nigel's handbells were put to good use and a couple of visitors from Hampshire who had come to listen, joined in with these too. The results when presented showed a consistent standard of ringing, and the Exeter Cathedral band was the winner.



Rob Franklin receiving the winners' certificate from Lynne Hughes

1 <sup>st</sup>	Exeter Cathedral	30.5
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Wednesday Ringers team 1	32
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Quarter Peal Ringers	33
4 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday Ringers team 2	37
5 <sup>th</sup>	Exeter Branch	41.5

The success of the day means it will now be an annual event, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2011 already going in the diaries.

Perhaps the only glitch of the day was your scribe forgetting to have John Scott's name printed on the certificates. I know John would have understood and I wonder whether these 'first issue' certificates, like rogue coins, will become a point of interest in years to come!

*Lynne Hughes*

## WELCOME TO THE GDR

Welcome to the following two towers, recently affiliated to the Guild:

### COMBE RALEIGH St Nicholas

- 3 bells
- Tenor 7 cwt
- Monday 2.30pm practice, alternate only
- Sunday 10.45am (4th only)
- Grid Ref: ST159023
- Contact Lisa Clarke [lisaclarke78@hotmail.com](mailto:lisaclarke78@hotmail.com)

### SHIRWELL St Peter

- 6 bells
- Tenor 11 cwt
- Wednesday 7.00pm practice
- Sunday 9.00am
- Grid Ref: SS598374
- Contact Ken Edwards. [k.edwards.1@btinternet.com](mailto:k.edwards.1@btinternet.com)

## STRIKING COMPETITION: SATURDAY 16 OCTOBER

Leslie Boyce has confirmed that the 8 bell Inter-Branch Competition will be held at Huntsham, starting at 2pm. Details will be posted on the Guild website as they become available and can be found at: <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/gdr/competitions2010.html>

The two competition touches are:

### 224 Little Bob Major:

23456 H

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24356 S

32456 -

34256 S

23456 -

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### 224 Double Oxford Bob Major:

23456 W H

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45236 - -

23456 - -

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A plain course of Double Oxford Bob Major is shown below.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	1 4 2 6 3 8 5 7	1 6 4 8 2 7 3 5	1 8 6 7 4 5 2 3	1 7 8 5 6 3 4 2	1 5 7 3 8 2 6 4	1 3 5 2 7 4 8 6
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7	4 1 6 2 8 3 7 5	6 1 8 4 7 2 5 3	8 1 7 6 5 4 3 2	7 1 5 8 3 6 2 4	5 1 3 7 2 8 4 6	3 1 2 5 4 7 6 8
2 4 1 3 5 6 7 8	4 6 1 2 3 8 5 7	6 8 1 4 2 7 3 5	8 7 1 6 4 5 2 3	7 5 1 8 6 3 4 2	5 2 1 7 8 2 6 4	3 2 1 5 7 4 8 6
4 2 3 1 6 5 8 7	6 4 2 1 3 8 7 5	8 6 4 1 7 2 5 3	7 8 6 1 5 4 3 2	5 7 8 1 3 6 2 4	3 5 7 1 2 8 4 6	2 3 5 1 4 7 6 8
2 4 3 6 1 5 7 8	4 6 2 8 1 3 5 7	6 8 4 7 1 2 3 5	8 7 6 5 1 4 2 3	7 5 8 3 6 4 2	5 3 7 2 1 8 6 4	3 2 5 4 1 7 8 6
4 2 6 3 5 1 8 7	6 4 8 2 3 1 7 5	8 6 7 4 2 1 5 3	7 8 5 6 4 1 3 2	5 7 3 8 6 1 2 4	3 5 2 7 8 1 4 6	2 3 4 5 7 1 8 6
2 4 3 6 5 8 1 7	4 6 2 8 3 7 1 5	6 8 4 7 2 5 1 3	8 7 6 5 4 3 1 2	7 5 8 3 6 2 1 4	5 3 7 2 8 4 1 6	3 2 5 4 7 6 1 8
4 2 6 3 8 5 7 1	6 4 8 2 7 3 5 1	8 6 7 4 5 2 3 1	7 8 5 6 3 4 2 1	5 7 3 8 2 6 4 1	3 5 2 7 4 8 6 1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 1
2 4 3 6 5 8 7 1	4 6 2 8 3 7 5 1	6 8 4 7 2 5 3 1	8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1	7 5 8 3 6 2 4 1	5 3 7 2 8 4 6 1	3 2 5 4 7 6 8 1
4 2 6 3 8 5 1 7	6 4 8 2 7 3 1 5	8 6 7 4 5 2 1 3	7 8 5 6 3 4 1 2	5 7 3 8 2 6 1 4	3 5 2 7 4 8 1 6	2 3 4 5 6 7 1 8
2 4 3 6 8 1 5 7	4 6 2 8 7 1 3 5	6 8 4 7 5 1 2 3	8 7 6 5 3 1 4 2	7 5 8 3 2 1 6 4	5 3 7 2 4 1 8 6	3 2 5 4 6 1 7 8
4 2 6 3 1 8 7 5	6 4 8 2 1 7 5 3	8 6 7 4 1 5 3 2	7 8 5 6 1 3 2 4	5 7 3 8 1 2 4 6	3 5 2 7 1 4 6 8	2 3 4 5 1 6 8 7
2 4 6 1 3 8 5 7	4 6 8 1 2 7 3 5	6 8 7 1 4 5 2 3	8 7 5 1 6 3 4 2	7 5 3 1 8 2 6 4	5 3 2 1 7 4 8 6	3 2 4 1 5 6 7 8
4 2 1 6 8 3 7 5	6 4 1 8 7 2 5 3	8 6 1 7 5 4 3 2	7 8 1 5 3 6 2 4	5 7 1 3 2 8 4 6	3 5 1 2 4 7 6 8	2 3 1 4 6 5 8 7
4 1 2 6 3 8 5 7	6 1 4 8 2 7 3 5	8 1 6 7 4 5 2 3	7 1 5 8 6 3 4 2	5 1 7 3 8 2 6 4	3 1 5 2 7 4 8 6	2 1 3 4 5 6 7 8
1 4 6 2 8 3 7 5	1 6 8 4 7 2 5 3	1 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	1 7 5 8 3 6 2 4	1 5 3 7 2 8 4 6	1 3 2 5 4 7 6 8	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

*Matt Hilling*

## PROPOSED BELL MAINTENANCE ADVICE SESSION.

An invitation from James Clarke, Guild Towers & Bells Advisor:

It is my intention to arrange a Saturday morning instruction session for those who think that they may benefit from it, in the East Devon area. I ran a session in North Devon in 2008 and one in South Devon last year, both under the auspices of The Devon Association, and both were well received. The new session will be run on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and it is intended to meet at 10.00 for coffee/tea, and to be complete by 13.00. The venue is not yet confirmed and so anyone wishing to register their interest should contact me at [jclarke1947@btinternet.com](mailto:jclarke1947@btinternet.com), and further details will be made available when they are finalised.

If there is enough interest and this session is oversubscribed, I will run another in 2011. I would hope that the new Branch Bell Advisors will be able to undertake this type of training in the future, and they may wish to brush up their knowledge at this event. It is my intention to extend this offer to Association members as well as Guild members and I will take the first dozen or so persons to "sign up".

*James Clarke*



## BAMPTON CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



St Michael?

'As long as I'm not the fairy on the top of the tree', were the last words from Mike Hatchett as he and Pat went off for their Christmas weekend, with family, during mid-December. Well, it was too late. Plans were already underway and in production. The bellringers contribution to the local festival had been delegated at the last ringers meeting as the 'bosses' would be away. We took them at their word and with the expertise of one of our latest recruits, Eve Grosse, we made a tree that represented the ringers and what we do. The obvious route to go was bells, but so would the handbellringers and we had to make a statement. The end result was strings of model cakes and sandwiches to represent the teas, Roses chocolates hanging to show our rewards for 'good ringing', 6 magnificently decorated bells complete with sallies and most importantly the ringers themselves. Being St Michael and all angels - well who could resist? The tree was titled 'St Michael and some of his angels'.

*Sheila Scofield*

## NEW PEAL BOARD AT HEAVITREE

More than ten years after some of the events, a new peal board has been installed at Heavitree to commemorate three special peals rung between 1997 and 2002. These mark the centenary of the original dedication of the bells (1897), the centenary of the first peal on the bells (1898) and the 100th peal on the bells.

The peal board was kindly donated to the tower by Tony Appleton who found a company that was able to make the board in an unusual manner. The company (Optima Graphics in Topsham) was able to take standard computer output (using any fonts and graphics required) and print it directly onto a plastic film. For the board in the tower this film was attached to a suitable piece of oak boarding but, as a demonstration, the company printed a second version which they fixed to a light plastic board with the same dimensions. All of the required information can be sent by email, and a PDF is provided showing the finished result for checking before it is actually printed. A plastic peal board such as this would cost about £70 to produce in total, which is far less than a conventional board, especially when, as in this case, it holds details of three peals.



The photograph shows the plastic board on the left, next to a conventional wooden board. Ian would be happy to bring the new board to a Guild meeting if anyone would like to see it - or he says you could come to Heavitree to see both versions!

*Ian Campbell*

## CONDUCTING DAY

Theory coming out of our ears! By the end of the day brains were so hard-worked with coursing orders that we'll be seeing them in our sleep!

This was the Guild conducting course on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February, held at Brampford Speke in the morning and Holcombe Burnell in the afternoon. The students were Helen Hitchins, Sophie Hughes, Sue Sturdy, Richard Coley and Lynette Costello; cheerfully helped by David Willis, Phil Hughes, Lynne Hughes (who became more of a student as the day went on); and tutored by Tim Bayton.

Starting from the basics of putting in calls, the morning was a mix of theory and practice of Plain Bob and Grandsire. Over a pub lunch the pens and paper were out again, and the mysteries of coursing order were tackled, along with calling positions, how to work out what the other bells are doing, and 'nesting' extents. The afternoon theory built up an understanding of the different ways touches are written. Then all the students called touches, mostly of Plain Bob Minor, transpositions being muttered by those ringing or watching. Mrs Blight from Holcombe Burnell kindly served us drinks and fancy biscuits, on top of the puddings consumed at lunch.

There is much to take back and try in home towers. "I learnt a lot of interesting and challenging things" said one student at the end. And so say all of us.

*Lynne Hughes.*





First, the theory.....



.....preparing to tackle the practise

(As testament to the benefits of the course, Helen Hitchins very confidently conducted her first 120 of Grandsire Doubles at Withycombe Raleigh next morning, ably correcting those of us who obligingly erred. Ed)

## FROM THE FOOTNOTES

- 1) The peal of Spliced S Major (26<sup>th</sup> January on handbells) was a Guild record in terms of S Major and was the final peal in the series that Matt's band have been ringing (see article in this issue).
- 2) On January 28<sup>th</sup>, the peal of Grandsire Caters at Thorverton was rung for Ann Smith's 65th birthday.
- 3) The peal of Cambridge S Maximus at Exeter Cathedral on 27<sup>th</sup> February was rung as a 60th birthday compliment to Ian Campbell, and unusually, was conducted by the tenor strapper-ringer (Matt Hilling)
- 4) On March 19<sup>th</sup> Phil Stevens celebrated the 50th anniversary of his first peal (see article in this issue), by ringing the same bell at Belstone, though with a change of method (Cambridge S Minor).
- 5) The peal of London S Royal (No3) at Exeter St Mark on March 20<sup>th</sup> was the first peal for Howard Egglestone since his major surgery. Welcome back!
- 6) Mary Mears' 60<sup>th</sup> birthday was celebrated in style at Thorverton on March 25<sup>th</sup> when two 'first in method' peals were scored. They were named as *Old Dragon S Royal* and *Wellenkuppe Delight Major*. Congratulations!
- 7) The 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Bill Avery, Tower Captain of Kingsteignton, was celebrated on the day (29<sup>th</sup> March) with a quarter peal of William S Minor at Bishops –Ting -Tong, and with a tower bell peal of Bill S Major, next day, at Newton Abbot. Congratulations!

*Mike Mears*

## PINHOE RINGERS

At the beginning of December Pinhoe had a Christmas Tree Festival and invited groups and individuals to produce trees. The ringers were volunteered and Laurie and I produced the bell as a variation on a theme. We had it hanging in the middle of the ringing chamber.



The easily-overlooked Seasonal visitor

The following Saturday we had a seasonal visitor ringing with us for a Wedding. Most of the congregation totally ignored the fact.

Rob Franklin arranged a half day outing on New Year's Eve for those who ring at Pinhoe. We visited the sixes at Cadeleigh, Bickleigh and Rewe. The group photo was taken at Bickleigh taking advantage of their magnificent Christmas tree. At Rewe we rang after a wedding. The ringing was arranged to give our younger ringers a chance to experience different bells. Everyone who went said that they had enjoyed it so much that it looks like becoming a regular occurrence. Two of our regular Tuesday night helpers were missing on the day - they turned up at Cadeleigh at the correct time but on the following Saturday!

*James Kirckaldy*



The group at Bickleigh

## **ONLY SUPERMAN OR SUPERWOMAN NEED APPLY? THE N.E. BRANCH TOWER CAPTAINS' SUPPORT PROGRAMME**

Few, if any, were given training in how to be a tower captain when they took on the role. Often captains seem to be given little support in tackling problems in towers such as recruiting new ringers, keeping recruits on board, teaching learners and existing ringers, coping with more regulation such as Child Protection and Health and Safety and trying to keep everyone, including the vicar, happy! The North East Branch Mini-Seminar programme aims to redress that situation.

Back in November the Branch held its first Tower Captains' Forum in Uffculme. The aim was to meet together as a group of captains and discuss common problems and share ideas and good practice to help solve those problems. Topics covered in the two-hour session included ideas for moving on from call changes, top tips for teaching and learning in ringing, how to retain our ringers and an update on the latest safeguarding regulations. Les Boyce and Sheila Scofield led the session and shared handouts and ideas they had brought back from a recent Ringing Foundation Seminar in Birmingham. Copies of the Ringing Practice Toolkit CD from Pip Penney and the C.C. Tower Captain's Handbook were also given to the eight representatives who attended.

Being given information and ideas is one thing; having the time and opportunity to do something about it is another! We therefore agreed to meet again as a group in the spring to hold a practical workshop to try out some of the suggested ringing development exercises. That workshop recently took place at Huntsham. We agreed we would not worry about trying things that turned out not to work and that the aim was for captains and teachers to leave the session with the confidence to use some exercises with their own bands. We tried "Dodgy Call changes", some Kaleidoscope Ringing exercises, the Mexican Wave, Bastow Little Bob and Penultimus Doubles, using each exercise as an opportunity to discuss how we would introduce and explain it to our learners.

As a result of these two sessions I hope we now have a group of captains and instructors in the Branch who feel they have some support and are confident to use some of the techniques in developing basic ringing skills in their towers. We shall certainly hold another Captains' Forum in the autumn. We might still feel that we need to be a combination of teacher, manager, diplomat, lawyer and engineer to be a tower captain, but perhaps not necessarily superman or superwoman to do a successful job!

*Les Boyce  
Chairman, North East Branch*

## **RINGING, SUPPER & SKITTLES**

St. Gregory the Great, in the attractive village of Harpford, was the first tower we visited on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. It was a good opportunity for our less experienced ringers to handle the long ropes in the very noisy tower. Then it was on to the heavier bells at Colaton Raleigh where some more experienced ringers joined us. Ringing there and at the final tower of the day at East Budleigh included Grandsire and Stedman Triples. By this time we were ready for the welcome warmth of the fire at The White Hart, Woodbury. Here we were treated to a lovely supper of lasagne and sweet and sour chicken followed by some extremely tempting desserts including a banoffee pie that was definitely worth the effort of cutting it!

Once we were all suitably full the skittles began. After three exciting rounds which included strikes, zeroes and some questionable tactics for distracting players of the opposite team, a narrow victory was won by the team calling themselves "Banoffee Pie" (who obviously still had food on their minds). This was followed by a sudden death game in which Amy Gill managed to fight off competition from several other players, including the defending champion, to become the winner for the evening. We look forward to challenging her for the title next time....

Thanks to all who attended and to The White Hart for a very enjoyable evening.

*Jenny Young*



## TRAVELS WITH LILLIE

Hello. I am Lillie, known to many of you since the nice Frank Mack made me a frame and wheel as a model bell ringing installation. I normally live on top of the clock case at Withycombe Raleigh where many people have been known to pull my rope to see how a bell rings. I have had a number of outings recently with Ian Campbell, who uses me to demonstrate tower bell ringing when he is asked to do a talk about bells and ringing in all sorts of different places. On 23rd September we were privileged to go to the Exeter Central Library where I was a part of the talk given to the Exeter Forum. I was joined by a set of handbells which were used to demonstrate method ringing (by "lapping") and also a computer which played recordings of larger bells and call changes on a simulator.



That's me....Lillie

December was very busy. The Widecombe in the Moor History Group had asked us for a talk on the 2nd December. Some extra ringers came along so I was able to really enjoy methods rung on the handbells from two to ten bells. There were two sets of handbells and the local ringers had also unearthed a set from Widecombe church so I had lots of company. On 8th December we went to meet the Bishopsteignton Probus Club in a very smart hotel. The organisers thought that handbell ringing would be appropriate for Christmas. I hope that they weren't disappointed that we didn't ring any carols but they seemed to enjoy method ringing on up to 10 bells. I spent Christmas in the hall at Ian's house where all the visitors admired me and many had a go at ringing me.

So, I was ready for a further outing on 21st January when we demonstrated bell ringing for members of the National Trust at Feniton. I am now back at Withycombe Raleigh waiting for another outing. This is not likely to be too far away - a date is already being sorted out for the local MENSA group!

*Ian Campbell*

P.S. Thanks to the ringers who helped me out in December - Sue and Geoff Sparling, Tim Bayton and Lynne Hughes, and thanks to John Foster for the loan of Lillie – *Ian*



## 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**

### FATHER AND SON 1<sup>ST</sup> & 100<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER

On 24<sup>th</sup> January Jasper Hughes (13) rang his very creditable first quarter peal, trebling to Grandsire Doubles at Dawlish. Both his parents were in the band, and it was only realised at the end that it was his father, Phil's, 100<sup>th</sup> quarter, and that his mother, Lynne, had just missed coinciding with her 1,000<sup>th</sup> some three quarters before. Also chosen for the band were Tower Captain Fiona, who has done much to teach Jasper; regular Dawlish quarter peal mainstay Nigel; and Tim who completes the set of calling the Hughes children's first quarters (all of Grandsire). There wasn't room for Roxy and Sophie in the band, but a family quarter has to be on the cards soon.

**Dawlish**, Devon  
St Gregory the Great  
Sunday, 24 January 2010 in 41 minutes (11-2-21)

#### **1260 Grandsire Doubles**

- 1 Jasper Hughes
  - 2 Tim Bayton (C)
  - 3 Lynne Hughes
  - 4 Phil Hughes
  - 5 Nigel Birt
  - 6 Fiona Rock-Evans
- 1st Q: 1. 100th Q: 4.



Phil and Jasper

## LITTLE BOB TRAINING DAY

On January 30<sup>th</sup> the Guild education programme for 2010 began with a Little Bob Major training day, held at the Wolborough Ringing Centre. The six available places were fully booked with students from four different branches of the Guild.

Caroline Chamberlain had kindly turned the church heating on in advance, and the day kicked off with one of several coffee breaks. Matt Hilling began with a theory session and worked hard all day tutoring the group, nine helpers also giving generously of their time. Plain courses were rung in the morning and no less than fifteen touches in the afternoon, following lunch in the Jolly Sailor at Ogwell.

Noticeable progress was made by all the students, and even Wendy Gill, who had fractured a vertebra and could not ring, did plenty of standing behind to watch. During breaks Ian Campbell ran an Abel program on his laptop with dummy handbell sensors, thus more Little Bob was practiced one-in-hand.

An enjoyable day all round, and a format that can be repeated in future.

*Lynne Hughes.  
(Guild Education Officer)*



Students Pam Miller, John Langabeer, Richard Coley, Caroline Chamberlain, Liz Wood, Wendy Gill



Tutor Matt Hilling and helper Martin Mansley

## 53 SPLICED S MAJOR IN HAND

This was a series of peals that originally didn't intend to go this far! After peals of the easy 4 and 5 methods and one of Rutland on its own, we decided to bite the bullet and attempt the standard 8. This was rung in October 2008, and we actually found it not too difficult. What next? Don Morrison's website provided the answer with a series of compositions extending the number of methods to 53. Could we actually remember that many method names?

The initial plan was to work our way up to 27 methods (for the conducting gurus out there you will know that 27 methods falls neatly into a 6 part composition), adding two or three new methods each time. Before long we were ringing new methods such as Stockport, Guiseley and Adelaide with unfamiliar names and lines. However, with Andrew doing a part time course in Bristol, Tom taking exams and Norman living in Truro, finding convenient times for all of us was quite difficult. This sometimes led to periods of more than a month between attempts which meant revision of all the lines each time. Quite a challenge. After Tom's exams we rang 23 methods very confidently but was that to be the last attempt before October? Fortunately, a visit to Exeter for a wedding in the middle of the summer provided the answer. So we arranged the attempt for 27 methods which was duly rung in July 2009.



At that time, 27 methods were the most Major methods rung for the Guild. We thought we could beat this. With the 27 under our belts, 53 methods didn't seem quite such a challenge – the next plan was hatched! We decided to start with 32 methods (the base composition) and again build up in increments of two or three methods. To fit all the attempts in we were getting together more frequently which in turn made the ringing better as less revision was required. Some of the Glasgow type methods were proving quite tricky, but the more we rang them the easier they became. Methods such as Lincoln (at 43 methods) and Ramsay (at 46 methods) with their wrong hunting added to the complexity, and Zverinogolovskoye (at 50 methods) added to the conductor's name pronunciation nightmare!

There was a small hiccup at 47 methods when snow prevented our attempt starting, but no matter as we ploughed on to 50 methods at the next attempt. Finally the full 53 methods were rung at the end of January 2010, establishing a new record for the Guild, and most methods for 3 members of the band.

**Guild of Devonshire Ringers**  
**Exeter, Devon**  
Harrison Building, Exeter University  
Tuesday, 26 January 2010 in 2h19 (15 in C)  
**5088 Spliced S Major (53m)**

(53m: 96 each Adelaide, Alderney, Ashted, Bicester, Bloxham, Bristol, Cambridge, Cassiobury, Cornwall, Cray, Crowan, Dereham, Dorking, Double Dublin, Dublin, Ealing, Easthampstead, Glasgow, Glazebury, Guiseley, Havant, Heighington, Hollywood, Ipswich, Jersey, Kensington, Leckhampton, Lessness, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, London, Painswick, Preston, Pudsey, Putney, Quedgeley, Ramsey, Reverse Dublin, Ruardean, Rugby, Rutland, Stockport, Superlative, Turramurra, Ullesthorpe, Urchfont, Uxbridge, Watford, Whitwick, Yorkshire, Ytterbium, Zelah, Zverinogolovskoye; 158 com)

Composed by: D F Morrison (No.108)  
1-2      Andrew P Digby  
3-4      Thomas J Hinks  
5-6      Matthew J Hilling (C)  
7-8      Norman R Mattingley  
Most methods: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6.  
Most Major for the Guild.



The successful band after ringing 53 methods:  
Andrew Digby, Tom Hinks, Matt Hilling, Norman Mattingley.

## SATURDAY MORNING AT THE TROYTE RINGING CENTRE, HUNTSHAM

Firstly an article written by one of our enthusiastic learners Dermot Elworthy, following a Saturday morning consolidating Plain Bob Doubles at Troyte Ringing Centre Huntsham:

"Saturday, 6 March, was a delightful, early Spring day and provided a cheerful background to another of the Troyte Ringing Centre's regular tutorials. Five "improvers" enjoyed an intensive but relaxed three hours given to the exploration and development of Plain Bob Doubles, that universal introduction to method ringing. The Troyte tower at Huntsham is fitted with an effective sound attenuation system, one of the benefits of which is that it provides the opportunity for extended ringing that usually is not available on normal practice nights - so often when starting off in The Exercise, one has just got one's "eye in" and it's time to move onto something else or, frustratingly, go home! So, Saturday's ringing and the lunch was much enjoyed with useful progress being made on both fronts. There is something special about ringing at Huntsham where the atmosphere is pervaded by the historical significance of the place and its associations with Charles Troyte and his brothers. One touches the peal boards with reverence . . . As always is the case, grateful thanks are due to the band of experienced helpers who generously give their time in support of the learners; time which they probably would prefer to devote to Annable's London in preference to PBD!"

*Dermot*

A smiling Jack Ward looks on as Mike Hatchett steers Eve Grosse in the right direction.



## NE BRANCH BELL ADVISOR

Jack Ward has just taken on the job of the N.E. Branch Bell Advisor. He completed his first quarter peal on an inside bell at Huntsham on the afternoon of Saturday 6th March. Jack very modestly says that he was appointed to this post because he is a Chartered Engineer and had been the Project Manager for the restoration and the augmentation of the ring at Aller – not because of his ringing skills!

He writes: "I started to learn ringing in 1998 at Huish Episcopi in Somerset under the tutelage of Derek Astridge. Sadly Derek died in 2001 and I never progressed very far as we had a band of very inexperienced ringers at my home tower of Aller where the bells, which had been unringable, were restored for the Millennium. In 2006 I moved to Bampton and was 'taken in hand' by Mike Hatchett aided by his wife Pat as I had developed some very bad habits and virtually had to start again from scratch. At first I only aspired to ring Bob Doubles and then last year as I slowly improved and rang the tenor to a number of quarter peals, Mike introduced me to St Simons Doubles I began to think that just possibly I might be able to ring a quarter of Bob Doubles on

the inside. I achieved it on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March, despite being very nervous before we started, with a lot of help from other members of the band in the form of nods, winks, smiles and shouts, and a hug from Pat Hatchett before we started!

I am 75 so if anyone thinks that it's too late, don't be discouraged. However, at my age you do need a good trainer and an experienced and sympathetic band. Luckily I came to Bampton and the Troyte Ringing Centre which I can't recommend too highly to any aspiring ringers whatever their age".

*Jack*



Celebrating with cake after successful completion of Jack's quarter peal... L to R: Jack Ward, Tony Trigg, Sheila Scofield, Les Boyce, Pat and Mike Hatchett.

*Tony Trigg*

## **DEVON YOUNG RINGERS' SPRING OUTING 2010**

On 27<sup>th</sup> March eleven young ringers from across the county had an outing in East Devon in the warm spring sunshine, assisted by numerous parents and other helpers. Ten year old Gareth even rang with a broken arm in plaster. The three towers were all light, easy going sixes, with some young ringers getting round the back end for the first time, taking charge of the calling where possible, and ringing from rounds to Grandsire, Stedman and Cambridge. It was good to see two very novice ringers venturing away from their home towers and experiencing different bells.

The morning started at Offwell and continued at Dalwood, with Easter Biscuits as sustenance in between. Over 20 people descended on the pub, which had no record of our booking, and mayhem ensued as tables were hastily re-arranged and all were eventually fed. But the trouble was not over, the landlady collaring a carload as they tried to leave, over the unpaid meal of one of the party! It later transpired that the meal had been paid for so all was well.

Exuberant games in the churchyard at Farway between ringing cemented old friendships and formed new. The day ended with Laurie and Amy playing the organ at Farway: we were expecting a basic tune or two and were blown away by the musical accomplishments of the pair.

Thanks to the local bands and incumbents for the use of the bells, to all who came and to all who helped on the day.

*Lynne Hughes.*





Back: James, Sarah, Laurie, Hannah.  
Front: Thomas, Amy, Millie, Richard, Gareth  
Sophie, Roxy.



Amy and Laurie at the organ.

## PHILIP STEVENS' FIRST PEAL, 50 YEARS ON.

I rang my first peal at Belstone on 19th March 1960. The band consisted of 5 first-pealers and first as conductor. I learnt to ring whilst at school at Shebbear College. At that time the C of E boys (it is a Methodist school) went to a school service at Shebbear church every Sunday and there was a school band of call-change ringers. It was not long before I had my first lesson. In due course a master, who was an experienced ringer, joined the school and he introduced us to method ringing.

In my final term at school he thought we might be able to achieve a peal with a school band. It must have been touch and go as the actual peal, at the first attempt, consisted of ringing the same extent of Grandsire Doubles 42 times!

As far as I know, I was the only boy to continue ringing after leaving school. By this time, a friend of my grandmother's, who was a ringer at Chichester Cathedral, had invited me to go there. My ringing progressed under the enthusiastic guidance of the late Winnie Keys, and I subsequently became Ringing Master at the cathedral until I moved to the Bristol area in 1973.

I have rung a peal in every year since my first peal and have rung just over 600 peals. The details of my first peal are as follows:-

### **Guild of Devonshire Ringers**

St Mary's Belstone, 19th March 1960

5040 Grandsire Doubles in 2 hours 43 minutes

- 1 Peter R Turner
- 2 Philip C Plant
- 3 Philip Stevens
- 4 Ian R Slee
- 5 John L Queen (cond)
- 6 Ian Collins

*Philip Stevens*

## SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST – GLEANED FROM ITEMS IN THE GUILD LIBRARY

*25 years ago: 1985*

In the 1985 Guild Report Mike Mears analyses the first 2000 peals rung for the Guild. This milestone had taken over 107 years to achieve between the first peal at Huntsham in February 1875 and the 2000<sup>th</sup> in May 1982. It is interesting that a further 3000 peals have been rung since then - in under 27 years. The 5000<sup>th</sup> was rung at Yeovil in March 2009.

*GDR Annual Report for 1985*

*50 years ago: 1960*

The Committee expressed satisfaction that Guild membership had passed the 600 mark for the first time and that a large proportion of the 111 new members were of school age. 50 Guild certificates were presented that year. Sadly the Guild lost some notable ringers: Harry Myers, a mainstay of Plymouth ringing and ringer for 76 years, died. The deaths are also recorded of E. W. Biffin, Ringing Master of the Exeter Branch for 34 years, and John L. Glanville, Ringing Master of the Aylesbeare Branch and Deputy Ringing Master at the Cathedral.

*GDR Annual Report for 1960*

*75 years ago: 1935*

Buckfast Abbey bells were taken down to be recast. The 27cwt Warner 12, installed in 1910, had been rung from a stone gallery in the crossing. Although the Abbey Church, being rebuilt from 1907, was formally consecrated in August 1932, the last stones of the final stage of the tower were not laid until July 1937. In the meantime the new 41cwt Taylor ring of 14 bells plus Bourdon bell had been installed in the new tower. They were rung for a joint South West and Mid Devon Branch meeting in 1936.

*GDR Annual Reports for 1935 and 1936, Buckfast Abbey: [www.buckfast.org.uk](http://www.buckfast.org.uk)*

*100 years ago: 1910*

The death of the Rev F. E. Robinson is noted. A frequent visitor to Devon and a Life Member of the Guild, his influence and encouragement of method ringing in the county is acknowledged. The Committee resolved: "That 5,040 changes of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles be recorded, provided that the 42 six scores be rung in ten different callings, to be certified by the conductor; and likewise that 720s of Minor, rung in seven different ways, be also recorded; that these records be entered in the peal book at the end of the peals rung in any particular year under the heading of 'performances'." The first such recorded performances were Grandsire Doubles rung at Clyst St George on 20<sup>th</sup> May, Bob Minor rung at Holberton on 5<sup>th</sup> November (the first of Minor in Devon) and Grandsire Doubles at Cockington on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

*GDR Annual Reports for 1910 and 1911*

*125 years ago: 1885*

The death of Rev. Henry Thomas Ellacombe, Rector of Clyst St George, in August 1885 at the age of 95 is recorded in the local press and in *The Bell News*. Eulogised by his contemporaries, The Bell News wrote: "In the decease of Mr. Ellacombe, a prominent man has gone from among us – figuratively speaking, a Prince has fallen in Israel." Muffled peals in his memory were rung across the whole country. Guild Diary, 1875 – 1909. Trained as an engineer under Marc Brunel, he was a very practical man undertaking much of the restoration work in Clyst St George church himself where he was appointed priest in 1850.



However, it is as a bell historian and belfry reformer that he is remembered most. He collected prodigious amounts of information (not always accurately, notes John Scott) about bells in Devon, Somerset and Gloucestershire by visiting churches and by writing numerous letters to incumbents.

Towards the end of his life he published several books, notably the “Church Bells of Devon” and the “Bells of the Church”. He also invented the “Ellacombe” chiming frame as a result of his experiences with the disorderly ringers at his former parish in Bitton, Somerset. He was the editor of the first regular weekly column about bellringing in a church newspaper called *Church Bells* which started in December 1870 and was the forerunner of *Bell News* and *The Ringing World*.

The Guild Committee in 1885 shared Ellacombe’s concerns about the behaviour of ringers reporting: “There are probably no churches in the West of England now, as there used to be, where drinking, smoking, and bad language are the common accompaniments of ringing; but your Committee regret to be compelled to report that there are still belfries where gambling is encouraged by the holding of matches between different sets of ringers for money. ... We have earnestly endeavoured to promote the art of change ringing in order to encourage ringers to cultivate a new art which may be quite attractive, more intellectual, and more improving than round ringing.”

*GDR Annual Report for 1885*

Comments in the local press about Tiverton ringers some years earlier suggest that these sentiments might once have had some justification and that the issues were not lost on a wider public: “TIVERTON CHURCH BELLS. We have often had occasion to remark that these beautiful bells, - the set consisting of eight in number – were seldom heard to send forth their melodious sounds, even on Sunday. Within the last week, however, they have occasionally rung a merry peal. We understand the ringers are practicing for the purpose of competing in a match for prizes with the ringers at Exeter. We are sorry to say, we cannot compliment them upon their skill, and fear there is little chance of their coming off victorious, unless indeed they improve themselves by practicing a great deal harder.”

*Exeter Flying Post, March 13 1845*

We look forward to hosting the national 12-bell striking competition in Crediton in June this year. While this event may well be the occasion for drinking and smoking (and possibly the occasional expletive by competitors) we hope it will also be an event which will be welcomed by all ringers in Devon!

*Leslie Boyce  
Guild Librarian*



## OBITUARIES:

### DOM PAULINUS ANGOLD

Reproduced from the *Guardian* website Monday 25 January 2010



Dom Paulinus Angold was the last link with the founders of Buckfast Abbey who started to rebuild the church in 1906.

My uncle, Dom Paulinus Angold, who has died aged 95, was the oldest monk of the English Benedictine congregation. Although he spent most of his life in Buckfast Abbey, Devon, Paulinus had lived life to the full. He was the last link with the founders of Buckfast, who rebuilt the church on its 12th-century foundations, a task begun by the monk-builders in 1906 and completed in 1938. A proud Yorkshireman, he was born Dunstan Angold in Kingston upon Hull. He entered the abbey in 1931, and was ordained priest in 1937, taking the monastic name Paulinus. You could spend hours listening to his stories of the building of the abbey and life as an army chaplain during the second world war – thankfully, the education team at Buckfast recorded these memories about the early years at the abbey for visitors to the exhibition there. Paulinus spent much of the war in Egypt, in the desert for two and a half years, and Italy.

At the end of the war, he returned to Buckfast, and served as parish priest in Buckfastleigh and - Ashburton. Buckfast Abbey is famous for its stained-glass windows, particularly the massive window in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Paulinus worked alongside Dom Charles Norris OSB in the stained-glass workshops creating this masterpiece.

I looked forward to my visits to Buckfast and over the years got to see monastic life at first hand. One of my happiest memories of my uncle was taking him out on to his beloved Dartmoor, where he pointed out the many churches he had visited as a bellringer; he was a lifelong member of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers. One day, when he was well into his 90s, he took me up the tower of Buckfast Abbey. Without pausing for a rest, we climbed to the top of the tower, took in the view of Dartmoor and looked at the bells just before they struck midday.

Paulinus never forgot his east Yorkshire roots and frequently visited his brother Gerard and sister Madeline in Hull; they predeceased him.

Richard Swallow

Peter Bill also writes:

Dom Paulinus was one of our longest serving Vice Presidents whom I had visited on a number of occasions. When I emailed to convey my condolences to the Abbey, I received the following response from Br Fergus

"Many thanks for your email, and the thought of having a memorial Peal for him, Fr Paulinus would have liked that; he liked to listen to the bells, and talk to his carers about Bell ringing, he was a wonderful story man, and gave pleasure to his guests. He passed away peacefully without any assistance, he just went to sleep. On the 18th December 2009, four days before his 96th birthday. He had pneumonia again, but this time he was not able to fight it was too much for him. We hoped, but deep down we knew that he would not pull through.

I still miss him after looking after him for nearly four years; it seems strange not hearing his hand bell or his taling clock when he wanted you to attend to him.

Again thank you for your email and I look forward to the Peal, if this can be arranged.

Yours In Christ

Br Fergus"

## **OBITUARY: JEAN TURNER**

We have received an email from Martin Turner advising us that, sadly, his mother, Jean, died last Saturday evening.

Jean gave many years excellent service as Secretary and Treasurer of the East Devon branch of the GDR from 1986 until 1997. She was also an unattached member of the branch.

## **OBITUARY: MERLYN BROADHURST**



Merlyn Broadhurst, who died on December 26<sup>th</sup> 2009, was born in January 1939, the sixth child of Joseph and Edith Broadhurst, at their home in Buckerell, where his love of bell ringing began. He had four brothers and three sisters and was a regular ringer along with his father and siblings at St Mary and St Giles church in the village, where there is a bell dedicated to the memory of his eldest brother, Gordon, who was killed in the Second World War. He married Phyllis in 1963 and moved into their marital home at Hayne Lane, Gittisham. He worked for many years in farming before moving into dairy work from which he eventually retired in 2003.

In 1988 he joined the newly formed Gittisham Ringers when they were training at St Paul's church in Honiton and was quickly appointed Tower Captain, a position he held until his death. He was a conscientious and dedicated Captain, training many new ringers, and he was so pleased when Gittisham gained the five bells (due to hard work by the augmentation Committee of which Merlyn was a Member). It was a great day for Merlyn when the two new Bells were consecrated, together with the three up-graded old bells; as part of the ceremony the Bells were symbolically handed to Merlyn as Captain for his safe keeping. An honour he was proud to accept. Merlyn will be sadly missed; not only by his fellow bell ringers but also by all the people whom he met for his friendliness. He would willingly help anyone and always tried to see the good in others. He lived for his family and also took great pleasure in gardening.

## TOTNES TOWER PROBLEMS

THE 500-year-old St Mary's Church tower in Totnes is beginning to crumble, forcing church leaders to seal off part of the town centre churchyard. Barriers were set up at the western end of the church warning people to keep out and the iron gates into that section of the churchyard below the 100 foot sandstone tower have been locked. Now bell ringers may be banned from ringing the church bells in case the vibrations worsen the problem, as reported in last month's *This is South Devon*.

St Mary's Church was built in 1450 and is known for its distinctive red sandstone tower. The church is planning to spend some £11,000 on making sure all the statues etc around the tower are safe; the tower will be shrouded by scaffolding while that work is carried out.

Later in the month, Mike Webster noted that the small pieces of falling masonry to the west of the tower were possibly as a result of frost damage to the tracery below the window. Ringing has been suspended, initially for 3 weeks, and ringing will be considered after a report has been received on the safety of tower.

## BELLS ON RADIO DEVON

At the last Devon Ringers Council meeting the subject of bells on local radio was discussed. Graham Sharland promised to investigate. He obviously has and this morning (28<sup>th</sup> February) Graham could be heard discussing ringing on the early morning programme. At the end of the interview it was mentioned that bells would be included each Sunday at 7.55am. It was an excellent interview and it is good to know that bells will now feature on Radio Devon each Sunday.

*Martin Mansley*

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## CALENDAR APRIL – JUNE 2010

### APRIL 2010

Sat	3	Branch practice: Denmisch Simulator, Okehampton (19:00)	N/NW
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	Branch Practice: Berry Pomeroy (19:00)	Mid
Sat	10	Branch Quarterly Meeting: Culmstock (15:00)	NE
Mon	12	Doubles for all: Offwell (19:30)	East
Thur	15	Branch 8 bell practice: Upton (19:30)	Mid
Sat	17	Teaching the Teachers: Silverton/Pinhoe (10:00)	Guild
Mon	19	Branch practice: Shute (19:30)	East
Fri	23	12 bell novice practice: Withycombe Raleigh (10:30)	Ayles
Mon	26	Plain hunt practice: Axminster (19:30)	East
Mon	26	Branch 8 bell practice: Exeter St David (19:30)	Exeter
Tue	27	Branch practice: Sidmouth (19:30)	East
Wed	28	Branch Practice: Huntsham (19:30)	NE

### MAY 2010

Sat	1	Branch practice (19:00)	N/NW
Mon	3	Train Outing	Exeter
Wed	5	Advanced 10 bell practice: Exeter St Mark (19:30)	Exeter
Fri	7	Listening practice: Honiton (19:30)	East
Sat	8	Branch quarterly meeting: Kilmington (14:30)	East
Sat	8	Half Yearly Meeting: Dartmouth (14:30)	Mid
Sat	8	Spring Outing: Tamar Valley	SW
Sat	8	Branch Training: Rev Canterbury Doubles at Huntsham (10:00)	NE
Mon	10	Doubles for all: Offwell (19:30)	East
Thu	13	Plain hunt practice: Sidbury (19:30)	East
Fri	14	Plain hunt practice: Clyst St George (19:30)	Ayles
Fri	14	Surprise Minor practice: Buckerell (19:30) *	East
Sat	15	Branch Outing	NE
Mon	17	Branch 8 bell practice: Wolborough (19:30)	Mid
Mon	24	Plain hunt practice: Axminster (19:30)	East
Mon	24	Branch 8 bell practice: Pinhoe (19:30)	Exeter
Tue	25	Branch practice: Sidmouth (19:30)	East
Wed	26	Branch Practice: Huntsham (19:30)	NE
Fri	28	12 bell novice practice: Withycombe Raleigh (10:30)	Ayles
Mon	31	Branch practice: Littleham (19:45)	Ayles

### JUNE 2010

Wed	2	Advanced 10 bell practice: Exeter St Mark (19:30)	Exeter
Fri	4	Listening practice: Honiton (19:30)	East
Fri	4	John Hutchings 6 bell Competition: Silverton (evening)	NE
Sat	5	Steam and Barbecue (18:30)	Exeter
Sat	5	Striking Competition Stokeinteignhead (19:00)	Mid
Sat	5	Mini-Seminar: Tower Maintenance (10:30)	NE
Sat	5	Branch practice (19:00)	N/NW
Thu	10	Plain hunt practice: Sidbury (19:30)	East
Fri	11	Plain hunt practice: Clyst St George (19:30)	Ayles
Fri	11	Surprise Minor practice: Buckerell (19:30) *	East
Sat	12	Branch Training: Plain Hunting on 6, 7 and 8 at Huntsham (10:00)	NE
Mon	14	Doubles for all: Offwell (19:30)	East
Thu	17	Branch practice: Farway (19:30)	East
Thur	17	Branch 8 bell practice: Upton (19:30)	Mid
Sat	19	Guild AGM (NNW Branch)	Guild
Wed	23	Branch Practice: Huntsham (19:30)	NE
Fri	25	12 bell novice practice: Withycombe Raleigh (10:30)	Ayles
Sat	26	National 12 Bell Competition Final: Crediton (11:00)	
Mon	28	Plain hunt practice: Axminster (19:30)	East
Mon	28	Branch 8 bell practice: Heavitree (19:30)	Exeter
Tue	29	Branch practice: Sidmouth (19:30)	East

## THE THREE HARES PROJECT



Medieval roof boss, South Tawton, Devon.



Tavistock Church

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Recently, on a visit to Throwleigh church I noted some interesting carvings on the interior roof beams, and on enquiring was introduced to The Three Hares Project which is researching and documenting an ancient symbol of three hares or rabbits (shown above) running in a circle and joined by their ears which form a triangle at the centre of the design. The symbol is a puzzle, as each creature appears to have two ears yet, between them, they share only three ears. Sometimes the motif is referred to as Tinnens Rabbits, but the project was unable to establish evidence to support any link between it and the tinnens of Dartmoor.

The symbol is as extraordinary as it is ancient, stretching across diverse religions and cultures, many centuries and many thousands of miles. It is part of the shared medieval heritage of Europe and Asia (Buddhism, Islam, Christianity and Judaism).

The bosses are widely spread throughout the county, from Ashreigney in the north to Paignton in the south, and from Broadclyst in the east to Kelly in the west. The north-eastern and eastern fringes of Dartmoor have notable concentrations. Several adjoin a boss depicting a Green Man; some are medieval and others appear to be modern copies.

The three hares motif was clearly revered in all its' different contexts, but, as yet, the project has not found a contemporary written record of its meaning. It may be expected that it would mean different meanings in different cultures; perhaps there was an element of meaning common to all. Linking the motif with the Christian Trinity appears to be an association made long after the image was originally worked.

**For further information see:**

**<http://www.chrischapmanphotography.co.uk/info2.htm>**

I would like to thank Chris Chapman for permission to use the images.

*Roger King*

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**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.

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