



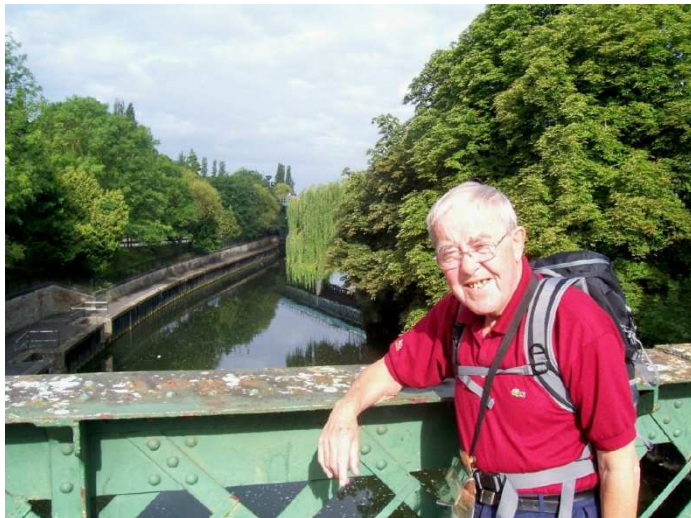
RINGING ROUND DEVON

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

Newsletter 83: October 2011

HOWARD CELEBRATES HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY, WALKS 75 MILES AND RAISES OVER £3,000 FOR CHARITY

Howard writes: In July I set out from Bath to walk the 75 mile tow path of the Kennet and Avon to the Thames at Reading by way of celebrating my 75th birthday I didn't touch a rope during the walk but ringing seemed to be a regular theme! Firstly my walking companion for over 20 years is John (Spike) Thorne, a ringer from Southam, Warwickshire. He convinced two other Southam ringers, Malcolm and Liz Peters that it would be a good idea to have a canal holiday on the K&A on their narrow boat "Water Lilly" and shadow our walk so providing a floating B&B each night! This made a considerable improvement on our normal search for B&Bs on our walks!



Our hero at Bath

Setting out from Bath on a bright and sparkling Sunday morning we were sent on our way by the sound of some good Stedman Caters from Bathwick ringing for service. Spike experienced an extra thrill as we had a superb view of the weekly excursion train from Bath to Weymouth being pulled by a Castle Class locomotive through the cutting in Sydney Gardens. The first 10 miles to Bradford on Avon were very popular with walkers, runners, cyclists and anglers on land and much activity on the water.

At Avoncliff Viaduct we were met by Margaret Chapman from Marston Biggot, out to give us encouragement and support! She also joined us at Bradford on Avon as we ate our lunch on a bench beside the canal. Having met Malcolm and Liz at Hilperton marina as they collected the boat we carried on to Seend where Water Lily had moored up for the night. Unfortunately Malcolm had moored next to the Barge, a super canal side pub to which we repaired for the evening. This then seemed to be a feature of the rest of the walk.

After 16 miles walking on day one day two might appear something of a doddle with just four miles to cover. Not so!!! There are some 30 locks between Seend and Devizes Town bridge, including the famous Caen Hill staircase of 16 locks.



The team. Howard, Spike, Liz and Malcolm

With Spike and I acting as ground crew, (with Liz's help!) we reached the summit in late afternoon. I have never felt so tired after a 4 mile walk. Later that evening we were joined in the Bear in Devizes square by Lewis Cobb, late of Minster, Crediton and St. Mary Redcliffe for a pleasant evening of first class 6X (it was brewed just 100 yards away) and reminiscing.

Tuesday was a lock-less day on the summit level so Spike and I had to put in another 16 mile day through lovely Wiltshire countryside to Wootton Rivers where we again met up with Water Lily. On Wednesday we reached the Bruce Tunnel which marked the half-way point and the watershed as the canal now flowed east towards the Thames. All downhill from here!



Water Lily approaching Hungerford

At Crofton pumping station we were met by two more ringers, Peter and Marion Bennet from Newport and in-laws to yours truly. After lunch with them we carried on to Great Bedwyn where we were again met by Margaret Chapman. Since seeing her at Devizes she had attended two ringing meetings and "taken the hat round" getting sponsorship. Thank you Margaret.

At Great Bedwyn the canal meets the Great Western railway line from Taunton and we were to follow it to Reading. Heading into the Kennet valley I was in familiar territory as Margaret and I had lived in Newbury from 1976 to 1992 so I knew the towers along this stretch very well. Hungerford, where Robert Grange was responsible for installing the lovely eight during the 1980s, Kintbury, which were a pretty ordinary left handed six in my time but are now a nice light eight, Newbury, the 21cwt 10 where I was Tower Captain for 14 years and Thatcham, the Berkshire peal factory. At Kintbury we were joined for our evening meal by Janet Carless (nee Rothera,) who many of you will remember from her days at Exeter University and as a member of the Cathedral band.

I was very disappointed that there were no bells ringing in Reading to welcome us to journey's end. (When we walked the Thames Path a few years ago there was a peal being rung at Caversham as we passed!) However, we arrived at the River Thames in good order

and after farewells I caught the train to Exeter and as I arrived home Crediton bells were ringing some well struck call changes on the back ten for Evensong.

So, no actual ringing but plenty of ringing memories and the encouragement and support of so many ringing friends. We were fortunate to be blessed with superb weather throughout the week and the most attractive countryside was much enjoyed. As were the host of attractive canalside hostelrys with which the K&A seems to be well blessed.



HWE and Spike at journey's end

As many of you will know I was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in late 2009. The only reason I am here to even contemplate such a walk were the wonderful skills of Professor Andrew Kingsnorth and his team at Derriford Hospital.

As a token of my gratitude I asked for sponsorship for the walk in aid of Operation Hernia, an extremely worthwhile charity set up and run by Professor Kingsnorth to send volunteer teams to third world countries to carry out hernia operations on those without access to medical help (over 4000 operations to date).

I am delighted to say that my walk raised over £3000 for Operation Hernia. Professor Kingsnorth is considering "ring fencing" this sponsorship to form a bursary which will fund the training of local doctors to carry out hernia operations. £750 is needed to train a doctor in a typical third world country and he plans to train four doctors over the next four years. I am truly grateful for the generous support of so many of my ringing friends who will in turn be very satisfied that their money is going to such a worthwhile and practical use. Thank you all very much.

Howard Egglestone

SPOTLIGHT ON DENMISCH RING

Saxilby Simulators are weighted wheels that function as bells hung for rope-operated full circle ringing. They are linked to computers that simulate the sound of bells when the ropes are pulled.

In 2007 six simulators were installed in the loft space above Mischa Thompson's garage in Okehampton. Two years later they were augmented to 8 and in 2010 increased to 10. They have become a well-used local attraction.



This photo appeared in the Daily Telegraph under the title *Garage Music*....

Mischa wants to spread the message that ringing is for everyone, by ensuring the bells are available to all ringers and particularly in helping to get youngsters interested. As she says, 'There are so many things for children to be interested in these days and I'm afraid bell-ringing isn't one of them. There's a danger it will die out unless the younger generations take it up'.

On 24th July 2011, the BBC sent their regional news team to film the simulators in action. About 60 ringers gave their enthusiastic support and ringing continued non-stop from noon until 5pm. Mischa produced a wonderful buffet lunch. The BBC presenter, John Henderson, made a good job of sifting through all the recorded material and the Denmisch Ring was featured very positively in the SPOTLIGHT programme at 6.30pm the following day. Highlights of the Spotlight transmission can be seen and heard on <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-14273818>



Notable amongst the visitors were the participation of both the President Mervyn Way and Chairman Claude Nicholls of the Devon Association and President of The Guild of Devonshire Ringers Lester Yeo. As a result of the Spotlight filming Mischa has had visits from Exminster and Sampford Courtenay church ringers who have come on their practice evenings.

Trying to ignore the camera

Mischa wanted as many ringers as possible to attend for some method and call change ringing on the day. She was well-rewarded as the photos show:



Mischa is keen to have visitors come and enjoy the Denmisch Ring. You are invited to contact her at (mischa@mdthompson.me.uk)

NE BRANCH OUTING

Tower outings invariably are fun. The Uffculme shindig on Saturday, 24 September was no exception.

The St Mary's band, joined by ringers invited from Cullompton and other local towers, piled aboard a 1985 23-seater mini-coach and headed for the wilds of Exmoor. The first taste of adventure came at Winsford where the venerable Mercedes had to ford the river in order to get us to the 6 bells (12cwt) of St Mary Magdalene and the first ring of the day. The bells went well, but of greater interest to the writer was the organ here as it is one of the very few instruments retaining its original G-compass (this is a historically important technicality I shall be happy to explain on request!).

Next stop Withypool for another 12cwt ring of 6 and then over to Wheddon Cross for lunch at the Rest and Be Thankful. From there it was downhill to Exford and St John's to be followed by a switchback ride over to Luccombe and the lighter (10cwt) six there. All the while we were entertained by the colourful anecdotes of the moor's history and people as well as the fine baritone singing of Martyn Babb, the driver who did much to dispel the sense of fright occasionally experienced on the precipitous narrow roads of Lorna Doone country.

Most of those on the trip are pictured here and all are grateful to Gordon Milne and Bill Rosewell for organising an outing with a difference; it was a thoroughly enjoyable day.

Dermot Elworthy



Most of the outing ringers

Guild Quarter Peal Week 2011

Friday 28th October to Sunday 6th November

IT'S NOT TOO LATE: START ORGANISING NOW!

Get together with others in your branch and see how many members and towers you can involve!

For more information, see page 25 of the 2010 annual report or contact the quarter peal secretary:

Tim@TimBayton.co.uk / 01392 499286 / 07743 066225

EXETER BRANCH STEAM AND BARBEQUE

On the 2nd of July 33 ringers, family and friends went to Exminster for a fun-filled evening of games, a barbeque and riding around on a steam engine.

First of all a few of us walked down to Berrybrook to get the engine, we then had the first ride up to the field to start the rides around the field.

Rob arrived with the barbeque and soon Ian and Gareth were helping heat up the barbeque and cook the food.

Some of us were riding on the steam engine and others were chatting and playing games in the park. It was very embarrassing when someone (not me!!) got stuck in the baby swings and had to have three people to lift them out!!

After quite a few rides on the steam engine the barbeque was ready and everyone tucked into a delicious meal. Then with everyone full up some people had a few more rides on the steam engine.

Eventually people started to leave and soon it was time for Michael to take the steam engine back to Berrybrook. Gareth enjoyed being pulled around on the unattached trailer!!

I'm sure everyone that went would like to thank Heather for organising the lovely evening, Michael for bringing the steam engine and finally Ian for cooking a delicious barbeque.

Amy Gill



The arrival of the engine



3 ringers enjoying a ride

WHERE?



This cautionary notice was seen recently in a Devon tower, but which one?

Exeter Diocesan Advisory Committee

wish to recruit a

A Volunteer Trainee/Assistant Bell (and Clock) Adviser

Candidates should be interested in and have an enthusiasm for the history of bells and clocks and their installations, as well as an understanding of their preservation in use. An appreciation of the technicalities involved in both would also be an advantage together with an appreciation of conservation issues. They should also be able to travel to attend meetings or inspections from time to time, during a normal working day, for which expenses can be claimed. Training will be given by the current Adviser.

Anyone wishing to discuss the post should 'phone James Clarke on 01237 451667

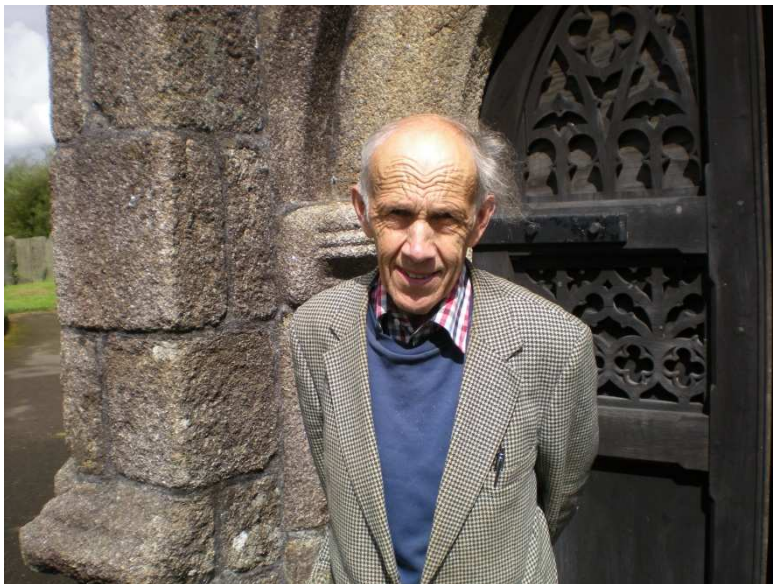
Applicants should send their CV to:

The Secretary, Exeter Diocesan Advisory Committee,
The Old Deanery, The Cloisters, Exeter, EX1 1HS.
Tel: 01392 294945

Applications should be submitted by 29 February 2012

HENRY TREWIN'S QUARTER PEAL DAY

The Taw, Torridge & Tamar Midweekers, or 3T's as they are affectionately known, meet on the fourth Thursday of each month. The relaxed format is usually an eight late in the morning, an excellent pub lunch followed by a six. Details appear in the preceding week's Ringing World". (The editor of this mag. has been promising to join us - for several years!)



Henry Trewin

Henry Trewin of Kilkhampton runs the ringing on the day and always likes to ring a course of London minor at the six if possible. Louise James helps organise the towers and pub for the day. A casual remark by the writer to Louise that we ought to try for a quarter of London minor set things in motion. What had been intended as a single quarter peal turned into a very pleasant day out on the Devon/Cornwall border. Henry and Louise were joined by Geoff & Sue Sparling, Steve and Rachel Taylor, and John and Chris Clarke.

The day started with Henry's London minor at Welcombe at the second attempt. The first attempt came to grief because the conductor wasn't shouting loud enough for Henry's ageing ears! This was Henry's first in the method the whole event was watched in fascination by a local call change ringer who appeared never to have seen method ringing before.

A quarter of St Clements and Cambridge at Morwenstow was followed by lunch at The Bush. The afternoon continued with Plain, Little and Cambridge at Poughill and finished with all eight participants ringing Bob Major at Bridgerule.

Many thanks to Louise for organising the day. Anyone wanting to come on a 3T's outing would be very welcome. Just watch the RW for details.

Geoff Sparling

Taw, Torridge & Tamar Midweekers

Welcombe, Devon

St Nectan

Wednesday 3 August 2011 (7 cwt)

1272 London S Minor

- 1 Rachel Taylor
 - 2 Louise A M James
 - 3 A Stephen Taylor
 - 4 Henry Trewin
 - 5 Susan D Sparling
 - 6 Geoffrey C Sparling (C)
- 1st in the method - 4

Taw, Torridge & Tamar Midweekers

Poughill, Cornwall

St Olaf King & Martyr

Wednesday 3 August 2011 (12 cwt)

1272 Minor (3m)

- 552 Plain & Little, 720 Cambridge
- 1 Christine M Clarke
 - 2 Louise A M James
 - 3 John M Clarke
 - 4 Henry Trewin
 - 5 A Stephen Taylor
 - 6 Geoffrey C Sparling (C)

Taw, Torridge & Tamar Midweekers

Morwenstow, Cornwall

SS John the Baptist & Morwenna

Wednesday 3 August 2011 (8 cwt)

1260 Minor (2m)

540 St Clements, 720 Cambridge

- 1 Christine M Clarke
- 2 Rachel Taylor
- 3 Susan D Sparling
- 4 John M Clarke
- 5 Louise A M James
- 6 Geoffrey C Sparling (C)

Taw, Torridge & Tamar Midweekers

Bridgerule, Devon

St Bridget

Wednesday 3 August 2011 (10 cwt)

1264 Plain Bob Major

- 1 John M Clarke
- 2 Christine M Clarke
- 3 Rachel Taylor
- 4 Louise A M James
- 5 Susan D Sparling
- 6 Henry Trewin
- 7 Geoffrey C Sparling (C)
- 8 A Stephen Taylor

DIAMOND AND GOLD IN CREDITON

Long-standing members of the band at Holy Cross Crediton, Les & Shirley Burrige were married at Holy Cross on the 4th August 1951. They therefore celebrated their Diamond Wedding in August this year. To celebrate, at the weekend immediately following the big day, two quarter peals of Grandsire Triples were rung at Holy Cross, one on the Saturday

morning and the other before Evening Prayer on the Sunday. Each was followed by the bells being called into the change "Tittums" at the particular request of Les, who listened to the Sunday performance from Newcombe's Meadow.

Following our programme of developing the band through quarter peals, three members scored notable "firsts" in these two performances.



Diamond: Les and Shirley Burridge

Another special anniversary - on Friday 9th September John & Chris Clarke celebrated their Golden Wedding. The event was marked at Shobrooke that evening by a quarter peal of the appropriately named Golden Wedding Treble Place Minor. Unfortunately an attempt at Stedman Triples on the back 8 of our own bells the following morning came to grief shortly before the end. This was particularly disappointing as it would have been Helen Weeden's first in the method.



Gold: John and Chris Clarke

John & Chris weren't able to listen to their special ringing as they were holidaying with a ringing friend in Africa, a thoroughly enjoyable holiday they reported on their return.

Geoff Sparling

A BUSY TIME AT CRUWYS MORCHARD

There are some of certain ages who will remember Sergeant George Dixon observing, with accompanying knees bend, "It's been a busy week down at The Green." And so it proved to be during the first week of July at Cruwys Morchard.

The Quarterly general ring and service of the Guild's NE Branch was held at the church of The Holy Cross, Cruwys Morchard on Saturday, July 2. The bells here provided a fine upper-body workout and tested the level of fitness – imagined and otherwise – of many of the ringers; this ring is widely held to be unusually hard work.

Following an excellent tea in the church, people indulged in some advanced orienteering to find Nellie Croft's version of Southfork where a barbecue had been arranged. Those who succeeded in this were rewarded with an uncharacteristically (for Devon) grand summer's evening, views of the local geography and a splendidly arranged social get-together which made such a change from the more prosaic venues at which we ringers tend to congregate. It was a profoundly enjoyable evening, marred only by Muffett (my usually impeccably behaved dog) deciding that she took precedence over the two much larger animals upon whose territory she was a guest. Not surprisingly, the residents took a dim view of this with the usual canine consequence but no real harm done. I complimented Nellie on the excellence of the sausages so expertly grilled by Guy Cruwys and was horrified when she replied "They should be good, they were my pigs!" Suddenly, I had lost my appetite . . .

The following Tuesday evening found many of us back in the Cruwys Morchard church, this time for a concert of 18th and 19th century settings of music which might have been performed in the church by contemporary musicians, but on this occasion by the *West Gallery Quire* of Crediton. This was both imaginative and informative – I particularly liked the vernacular rendition of the Psalms and was caused to wonder when these might have been abandoned in favour of the now more familiar metrical psalmody. Those gloomy late Victorians again, I shouldn't wonder.

Like last year's 'cello recital, the aim of the concert was to contribute to the raising of the forty-odd thousand needed for the overhaul of the Cruwys Morchard bells which have been creaking around on their plain bearings since 1905. It was with considerable self-interest that those familiar with this ring were particularly generous in their financial support!

Dermot Elworthy.



Cruwys Morchard bbq at Nellie Croft's.



Enjoyment for all ages...

HEAVITREE RINGERS IN BLOOM



The ringers at Heavitree were asked to help with the church flower festival in July. In order to provide a "bells" theme the demonstration bell was borrowed from the Guild and installed in the entrance, where it was decorated with flowers and adorned with a bell rope by Jen Osborne (Tony's wife). A matching vase of flowers was placed opposite. Despite all of the flowers it was still possible to ring the bell, and a few of the ringers had a go after practice on the Thursday!

IMAGINE: COMMEMORATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11 ON EXETER CATHEDRAL BELLS.

Sunday 11 September 2011 was the 10th anniversary of 9/11. Exeter marked the occasion with (amongst other commemorations) a "peace walk for interdependence" from Exeter Mosque to the Cathedral, where the Cathedral bells were used in a performance of John Lennon's famous anti-war song '*Imagine*'. The performance was broadcast live worldwide on the internet.

Six members of the Cathedral Society of Ringers performed the song by chiming the bells with the ropes tied to the clappers. In 2009 a similar performance of *Imagine* was given on the bells of Liverpool Cathedral. Two of the ringers on that occasion (Geoff and Sue Sparling) were in this Exeter band.

Matthew Hilling, Ringing Master of the Exeter Cathedral Society, writes...

The Cathedral bell ringers were approached in mid-August by Cleo Evans, Producer at Activate Performing Arts who addresses groups that do not easily access the arts. She wanted to perform this thought-provoking song on a set of change-ringing bells in order to encourage debate about issues affecting everyone. The ringers thought that it was possible to perform *Imagine* at Exeter Cathedral so once approval from the Dean & Chapter was received we set about organising some dates for practices.

This was something completely different. Four of us hadn't done anything like it before. We obviously couldn't ring the bells full circle, so they would be chimed. We decided to tie the ropes to the clappers so that we could ring them using the normal rope rather than using the already installed chiming apparatus at the Cathedral. Doing this meant that we could give



Ian conducting – and ringing

more volume when striking the bell. We also needed a conductor as maintaining a consistent speed and achieving the correct timing for the chords was vital. Fortunately Ian Avery agreed to take part and conduct so we were all set.

At the first practice we spent most of the time working out how best to attach the rope to the clapper and how to prevent it slipping off. A few times the rope came completely off the clapper half way through practising the song – this couldn't happen on the day. After trying different knots, we found that using three half-hitches on the clapper was sufficient and we had no further problems.

We used the same musical arrangement (devised by Sam Austin) as was used for the performance at Liverpool Cathedral. This uses eleven of the twelve bells. The main part of the song is played on bells 5, 6, 7 and 8, with 1, 3, 4 coming in occasionally. Bells 9 – 12 are used for the harmonies. The sections of the song with only a single bell sounding at a time weren't too difficult, but we had to really practise the more difficult timing of the chords – something that bell ringers usually try to avoid!



3 half-hitches and no slippage

During the week prior to the performance we met three times for practice. At each one we had some form of media attention. The BBC Spotlight team came with their camera to record us both inside and outside. They interviewed Ian Campbell (Cathedral Secretary) and took close-ups of the bells being chimed. The filming and interviews were quite disruptive. At the next practice a photographer from the Devon Arts Council was present; although less intrusive it still made it difficult for us to give proper concentration to the timing and accuracy. Our final practice was the day before the performance and this time the sound engineers were present along with all their equipment. They installed eight microphones in the belfry which connected back to a mixing desk in the nave. The amount of cable used was astonishing! From the mixing desk the performance was broadcast to the internet using a laptop and a wireless dongle. We spent about two hours repeating the song over and over whilst the microphones were adjusted to get the balance correct.

On the day of the performance we met early and were taken out to dinner by Cleo. Following this we headed to the Cathedral to get the ropes & clappers set and to have what we thought was just one more final run through as a warm up. However, the sound engineers thought differently – six full performances later and they were happy... and the ringers were already tired!

At this point the peace walk was starting from the Mosque. Word got to us that there were about 200 people there. Twenty-five minutes later they began assembling at the Cathedral, and the crowd had grown. Standing on the Cathedral roof, we estimated that by now there were about 400 people gathering in the south cloisters with more waiting at the west front. After the Bishop had spoken we got the radio call to start. Ian counted us in and we began. Five and a half minutes later the final note sounded. We rushed outside onto the roof again to hear the end of the applause and witness a further two minutes of silence and the lighting of candles.



The band of performers

We were very pleased with how the performance went. All bells sounded at the correct time and we kept good timing throughout. It was an emotional evening and something that we will remember for a long time. However, I think it is safe to say that it isn't something we shall be doing again – well, not soon, anyway!

The performers were:

Bells 3 & 4: Geoff Sparling

Bells 5 & 6: Ian Campbell

Bells 7 & 8: Ian Avery

Bells 9 & 10: Sue Sparling

Bells 1 & 11: Paul Pascoe

Bell 12: Matthew Hilling.

Recordings & videos can be seen & heard at:

<http://www.imagineproject.info/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ERVFYGDGYo>

<http://princesshaylife.wordpress.com/2011/09/11/cathedral-bells-ring-imagine-exeter-peace-walk/>

<http://mixlr.com/performed-by-the-exeter-cathedral-society-of-ringers>

MARION BAKER'S RETIREMENT FROM EAST DEVON BRANCH

To mark the Retirement of Marion Baker as Chairman of the East Devon Branch (reported in the June edition of *Ringings Round Devon*) the following quarter peal was rung.

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

St. Nicholas and St. Giles, Sidmouth

15 August 2011. 1260 Plain Bob Triples

- | | | |
|---|----------------|------------------|
| 1 | Steve Bibey | (1st of Triples) |
| 2 | Brenda Coley | |
| 3 | Anne Bailey | |
| 4 | Kathy Matthews | |
| 5 | Derek Ballard | |
| 6 | Crispin Denny | |
| 7 | Jeff Bailey | (Cond.) |
| 8 | Terry Rowland | |

EAST DEVON STRIKING COMPETITION

The East Devon branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers held their annual striking competition for the Edward Summers Memorial Shield on Saturday 9th July at the newly refurbished Church of St Andrew, Feniton. There they were warmly welcomed and kept fed and refreshed thanks to the hard work of the Feniton PCC and the local ringers.

Seven teams entered and the order of ringing was decided by lot, with the eventual winners Sidmouth I ringing first and setting a standard that could not be bettered on the day. After an interesting, entertaining and enjoyable afternoon's ringing, judged by Andrew Nicholson from Lyme Regis, it was confirmed that Sidmouth were the worthy winners. To emphasise their superiority, Sidmouth II filled the runners-up spot. Combe Raleigh surprised everyone, including themselves, by securing third place. Teams were also entered by Honiton, Ottery St Mary, Awliscombe and Buckerell.



Kath Summers presents the Edward Summers Memorial Shield to Andrew Harris, Captain of Sidmouth

After the competition the ringers all retired to the Talaton Inn for an evening of beer, skittles and a buffet supper. Here it was proved that being a good bell ringer doesn't necessarily make a good skittles player!

Congratulations to those who competed and thanks to all who supported the event by just being there. We hope to see even more faces at next year's event!

Trevor Hitchcock

STOKE CANON BELL RESTORATION

During the weekend of 17th/18th September people in Stoke Canon and the surrounding area had an excellent opportunity to learn about church bells and the ancient art of bell ringing. The worship area of Stoke Canon church was changed into a bell tower with hand bells, a demonstration bell and the Frank Mack Garage ring. We were able to learn about the types of ringing, "What Ringers do", "Local Traditions" and "Who Rings Bells" while a DVD was running which showed some of these in practice.

Bell ringers, both local and from farther afield, came and lent their support and enthusiasm and persuaded everyone to have a go.



The administration of the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund was explained and those involved with the restoration of the Stoke Canon bells were able to record thanks for the ongoing advice and encouragement received from the committee, including the promise of a handsome donation towards the restoration of our bells.

Almost persuaded to have a go

The weekend extended into the Monday morning when each class came in from the next door Primary School and the children were able to hear how bells are made and try hand bell ringing. After that the church became a "bell ringing" playground for them and they had a wonderful time, after which many said they wanted to be "bell ringers" when they were older. My abiding memory is of the two year old who loved the demonstration bell, which she could just reach. She rang for a long time on Saturday and gave her father no peace until he brought her again on Sunday. The fact that the father is one of our new ringers bodes very well for the future of ringing in Stoke Canon.

After all this excitement and fun we now have to concentrate on raising the £4,000 we still have to find before next March, when our well-loved bells will be returned to our tower.

*Maureen Owen-Jones
Chair, Stoke Canon Bell Restoration Committee*

The Stoke Canon weekend was a part of the Heritage functions put on to justify the Lottery funding for the replacement of the bells. The Guild provided information boards, the demonstration bell and the Garage Ring (many thanks to those involved), while Nicholson's provided some large display boards, and the Stoke Canon handbells were on display. At the same time the entries in a local art exhibition were displayed at the back of the church, together with refreshments, showing off the flexibility of the recent re-ordering.



Trying out the Garage Ring



The re-organised church area

We had intended to ring a quarter peal on the Garage Ring on the Sunday afternoon (immediately following ringing at the Cathedral – talk about a contrast!). When we arrived the church was full of people and noise; before we could start we had to evict the local children from the bells, and following a short introduction silence reigned as we started to ring. Unfortunately the correct changes would not flow from the bells so we rang Norwich Surprise Minor for about 40 minutes before calling it a day, which was followed by tumultuous applause!

Having agreed to talk to each year group of the primary school on the Monday I was a little perturbed to find that this included the reception class and the pre-school children. I entertained them by suggesting that we make the new bells for the church from paper – then cardboard, wood and pottery (together with examples) until we decided that some kind of metal would be best – although none of them were able to suggest the use of “bell” metal! To give them some idea of the weight of a bell we looked at trying to push – or even lift – a broken down car which is a similar weight to the tenor. Finally they rang rounds on the twelve handbells in two groups before moving onto the Garage Ring where they all earned a “I have rung on the Garage Ring” sticker.

Overall several hundred pounds were raised, even though this was not the real aim of the operation. Thanks are due to all the ringers who supported the event in many different ways, including the touring band from Okehampton who popped in as an unexpected part of their outing.

Ian Campbell

REMINDER TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS

Generally, articles received by RRD are well-written and easily understood, but as a guideline to the preparation of future contributions, the following seemed to offer witty and helpful advice.

Please check that the fundamental facts are included for every story, long or short. As Rudyard Kipling put it, in his poem *The Elephant's Child*:

“I keep six honest serving-men
(they taught me all I knew)
Their names are WHAT and WHY and WHEN
And HOW and WHERE and WHO”

Roger King

PAM'S SPECIAL BIRTHDAY AND SURPRISE PARTY

This year has already seen a number of special birthdays and anniversaries for Mid-Devon branch members: the latest in that list is Pam Anthony, who celebrated her 70th birthday on 26th September.

Pam never ceases to entertain with her fund of stories and useless facts and some of her many friends were very pleased to be able to join with her to ring a quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples at Dawlish, in anticipation of the birthday on Sunday 25th September.

Dawlish, Devon

St Gregory the Great

Sunday 25 September 2011 in 46 mins

1344 Plain Bob Triples

Composed: D F Morrison

- 1 Pam Anthony
- 2 Martin G Mansley
- 3 Fiona Rock-Evans
- 4 Hannah R Martin
- 5 Martin Dodd
- 6 Erica M Martin
- 7 John R Martin (C)
- 8 Liz Wood

For Evensong. Also rung as a 70th birthday compliment to the treble ringer.

While the quarter peal was in progress many other of Pam's friends were gathering for a surprise party where we toasted her birthday in fine style. We look forward to many more!

John Martin



Seven of the quarter peal band (l to r): Fiona Rock-Evans, Hannah Martin, the birthday girl, Martin Mansley, Martin Dodd, Erica Martin, Liz Wood

EXETER BRANCH TRAM OUTING

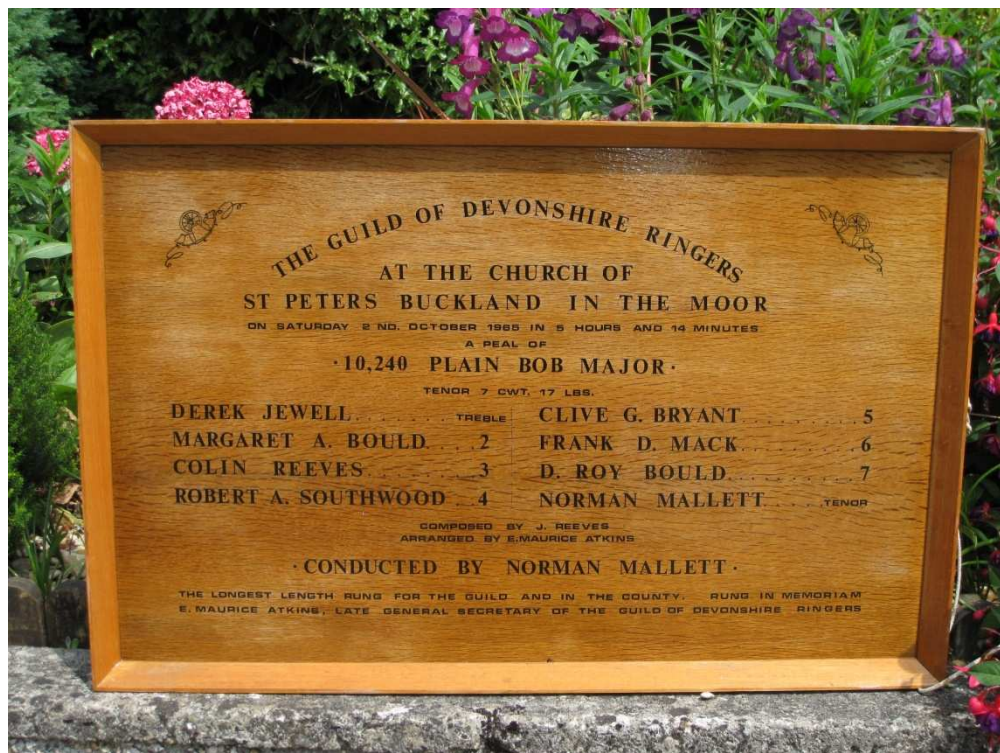
On Saturday 10th September 23 ringers met at Colyton Tram station for the branch outing. Luckily the weather was dry and we all travelled on the top deck of the tram. Our driver was a lovely man who pointed out all the places of interest and made it a really enjoyable ride. After we had arrived at Seaton we rang on the nice ring of eight. We then got back on the tram to Colyton where we went and rang on the heavy but nice eight. The highlight was watching Ian eat a Mars Bar whilst ringing!! After ringing at Colyton we rang at Shute which was a very light six - compared to Colyton it was like there was nothing on the end of the rope!! Sue and Lynette joined us here. After a very good day out we all thanked Heather for organising a lovely trip and Rob for running the ringing.

Amy Gill



'Our' tram

RESTORED PEALBOARD CELEBRATES THE GUILD'S FIRST LONG LENGTH PEAL.



The photograph shows the restored peal board recording the Guild's first peal of 10,000 changes, in 1964.

The 10,240 changes of Bob Major were rung by resident members on 2nd October 1964 in 5 hours 14 minutes at Buckland in the Moor.

When making the board in 1965 it was necessary to apply several coats of varnish to protect it from the wet winter conditions inside the tower. After surviving 47 years the board has been cleaned, re-varnished and returned to the tower. Chris Pascoe kindly retrieved it for me.

Composed by E. Maurice Atkins, late Secretary of the Guild, the peal was rung in his memory by resident members of the Guild, five of whom are now deceased.

Norman Mallett

SPECIAL QUARTER AT CULLOMPTON

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Cullompton, St Andrew

Wednesday 5 October 2011

1260 Plain B Doubles & Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Sandie A Reader
- 2 Pauline Champion (C)
- 3 Matthew A Webb
- 4 Richard C Shere
- 5 Timothy M Bayton
- 6 Charlotte A Boyce

First quarter for Sandie for over 50 years.

Rung to welcome Jasper Dale Cozens born 27th August 2011.

Sandie took up ringing in 2010 after a gap of over 50 years. She thinks her last quarter peal was rung in 1960 for the birth of Prince Andrew when she was a teenager. It was also a good opportunity to ring a quarter peal to celebrate the birth of Jasper Dale Cozens. Jasper's

proud parents Chris and Rachel started ringing in April 2010 after being the guinea pigs at a "Teaching the Teachers" Central Council Course held at Silverton. Look out soon for quarters from Chris and Rachel and maybe also from Jasper in a few years?

*Richard Shere
Cullompton Tower Captain*

MID DEVON / SOUTH WEST BRANCHES – JOINT PRACTICE

I don't know how other branches feel but in the Mid Devon branch we always struggle to get enough ringers to hold a practice in August. In the South West branch they don't even hold one – so when a joint venture was suggested they were very enthusiastic to give it a go. In the event 22 ringers spent a very useful 2 hours at St Marychurch getting to grips with 10 bell ringing. We started off with Plain Hunt 9 for those who had never or rarely rung on 10 and by the end of the evening many of this group were keen to try Plain Bob Caters. Almost every touch improved as it went on showing that we were learning by our mistakes. Methods up to Cambridge Royal were attempted although it does have to be said that the Cambridge could best be described as "work in progress"!!!

Such was the enthusiasm that we hope to do the same again next year when the South West Branch has offered to host the evening. Very many thanks for making our August practice so enjoyable – we look forward to next year.

Martin Mansley

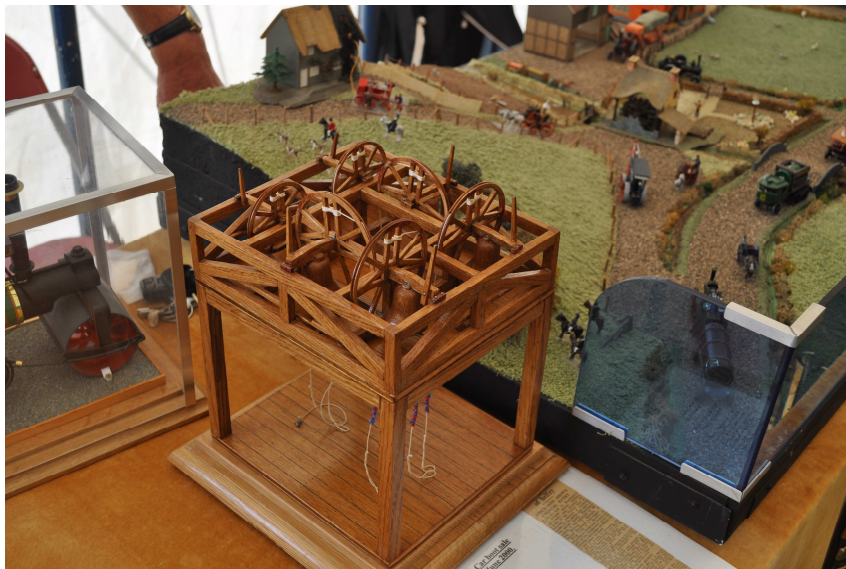


Thanks to Adam Sparkes for the photograph

MODEL BELFRY AT STEAM RALLY

Gordon Pope is a skilled woodworker and model engineer from Butleigh in Somerset. In about 2000 he was asked if he could help with the renovation of the bells at Butleigh and paid a visit to the tower. A couple of weeks later he was at a car boot sale looking for tools – one of the stall holders told him he would find what he wanted in a box behind the stall. When he was getting it he noticed a wooden model in the same box. He asked about it and was told he could buy it for £5. Because of his recent visit he immediately recognised it as a fine model of a ring of six bells. In the same box were cuttings and a certificate indicating that it had been made by Ray Selway a ringer from Martock and former Ringer at Stockland in Devon. It purported to be a model of Stockland bells.

At this year's Torbay Steam Rally Mr Pope had the model on display where it generated a great deal of interest. The whole thing including bells etc. is made of Oak and the craftsmanship is extremely fine and complete – no broken stays!!



Stockland model bells

Mr Pope knew very little about it and had heard that it was a model of Stockland bells prior to augmentation to 8. I was able to tell him that Stockland are still a six so that story is not quite right. A little research in Dove shows that Stockland were re-hung on a metal frame by Taylors in 1953. It is therefore more likely that the model is of the old oak frame taken out at that time. It is also very likely that it is actually made out of timber from that frame although that is difficult to prove.

It is so good that Mr Pope recognised the value of what he saw and preserved it. Although not a ringer he is creating interest in our art by his display.

Martin Mansley

DEVON AIR AMBULANCE PEAL

In September 2010 The Devon Air Ambulance saved Kate Wilford's life when she had a severe heart attack and went into cardiac arrest. To thank them for their action and in a way to pay off an immense debt of gratitude The Wilford family and friends over a period of several months have been raising money for the Devon Air Ambulance Trust; coffee mornings, younger members of the family running half-marathons and 10 K's, and money from peals has also been given.

As part of these efforts and to mark a number of significant events, a fund raising coffee morning was held in Chawleigh Church on 9th July whilst a peal was in progress. Cameras had been set up so that those attending could see both the ringers in action and the bells swinging through the changes, which proved fascinating to all those attending. Prior to this event, the Wilford's had raised over £2000 and are very grateful to everyone who has helped.

It was also rung to congratulate Mervyn Way on his Presidency of The Devon Association at the tower where he was taught to ring 60 years ago. Coincidentally, it also fell on the anniversary of his first peal. Hopefully David Wilford will celebrate his 65th birthday on July 11th and 50 years of peal ringing, averaging 1.9 peals per year!

Robert Brown

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Chawleigh, Devon

St James

Saturday, 9 July 2011 in 3h 8mins (15)

5040 Surprise Minor (7 methods)

In 7 extents: (1) London, (2) York, (3) Norwich, (4) Beverley, (5) Bourne, (6) Ipswich, (7) Cambridge.

1 David G Wilford

2 Mervyn C Way

3 Brian V Mountjoy

4 Richard H Johnston

5 Robert D S Brown

6 Timothy F Collins (C)

Rung during a fund-raising Coffee Morning for Devon Air Ambulance.



L to R: Dave Wilford (Treble), Mervyn Way (2) Brian Mountjoy (3) Kate Wilford (tea maker extraordinaire) Richard Johnston (4) Robert Brown (5) Tim Collins (Tenor)

YOUNG RINGERS BARBECUE

On the 9th of July 10 young ringers, a few friends and bell ringers met at Pinhoe for ringing, eating and playing games.

First of all we rang for an hour, the methods ranged from call changes to Stedman doubles so there was a challenge for everyone.

Then everyone helped by either setting up the barbecues or getting out the games. Soon the food was cooking and there was a mini swing ball tournament!



Where there's smoke...



The ringing master looking cool

After some very tough games of swing ball and Frisbee the food was ready and we all enjoyed a lovely meal. After, some people played cards and others sat around laughing and having fun.



We all had a great evening and I would like to thank Lynne for organising everything and thanks to Heather for letting us use Pinhoe church and the hall. It was greatly appreciated.

Amy Gill

AGE DISCRIMINATION IN THE TOWER?

I think we should take issue with Ian Campbell over his remark in the last edition of Ringing Round Devon when, at the end of the article 'More Travels with Lillie', he says of his audience, 'I doubt that many are young enough to even consider becoming ringers'.

So how young do you have to be? In my own tower, with the exception of the lady captain who, like all ladies, doesn't admit to an age, we all have our bus passes and in fact had them before we even thought of taking up bell ringing. Without us the bells would remain as silent as they had been for the previous fifty years. It's true that we will probably never meet the standards or ability of Mr Campbell, but should we be condemned for that? It may also be true, as my tutor says, that I am not good enough to treble for a quarter peal of Bob Doubles, but I really would like the chance to try, or am I just too old? You see, I didn't take up ringing until I was over seventy, just about the age of many of his audience I suspect. We may be old ringers, but we are also new ringers and that is far more important. Please, Mr Campbell, encourage older people to take up ringing, don't disparage them.

Finally, in the Ringing World of July 22nd there is a report of Horace Handley who has just rung his first quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples at the age of ninety and he didn't take up ringing until he was seventy-five. Good Lord, we're mere youngsters!

Trevor Hitchcock

Using the 'right of reply', Ian Campbell writes:

I am sorry if Trevor has taken exception to my comments regarding the Probus club members. However, quite apart from the difficulties of getting a walking frame up the tower steps, I would think that it would get in the way of the rope, especially when attempting those dangerous first handling lessons. However, perhaps all things are possible, as I am reminded of an occasion many years ago when Andrew Brown (who has a wooden leg) was visiting Exeter Cathedral to ring. "You won't be able to get up the stairs with those crutches" was met with "OK - I will have to leave them at the bottom of the stairs". He then proceeded to climb the stairs unaided and rang the tenor on his own.

Keep up the good work, Trevor!

Ian Campbell

A BRANCH PRACTICE WITH A DIFFERENCE!!!

On Monday 26th September 2011 it was the Exeter branch practice at Pinhoe. A good number of people turned up and soon the bells were raised and the practice began.

During the first touch the lights started to dim and after 2 minutes all the lights went off and everyone was plunged into darkness.

The ringing stopped with no incidents in the pitch black.

Luckily several people had brought torches because Pinhoe Church is so out of the town that there are no street lights and we couldn't see a thing!

Rob then had the idea of lighting some candles around the church so that we could see where we were going.

We still couldn't see to ring then a few people had the idea to tie a few torches to the spider in the middle of the ringing room so we could at least see the ropes!

As soon as the torches were fixed everyone got to ring again and the practice went on as if nothing had happened even though we couldn't really see that well!! James Kirkcaldy took the photo (there are 3 ringers in it!).

The practice was coming to an end so we rang the bells down but then a strange thing happened...

As soon they had chimed the bells for the final time the lights came on and we could all see again!

It was definitely a practice with a difference

Amy Gill



Just visible: ringing by torchlight

COMBE RALEIGH ROYAL WEDDING CELEBRATION

About two and a half years ago three members of the PCC and one husband set about learning to ring, with the intention of awakening the St Nicholas Church bells from their fifty years of silence. Soon after, two others joined them. None had ever rung before.

Their early trials were recounted in previous articles, 'A Year in the Life of a Novice Bell Ringer' and 'Another Year in the Life of a Novice Bell Ringer'.

For the Royal Wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton it was thought appropriate to ring a long 'peal' to mark the occasion. By now there were seven ringers for three bells and all wanted to ring, but at the same time wanted it to be a long piece of continuous ringing, without interruption. The answer was to swap ropes between ringers in mid-ring, without hesitation or deviation and certainly without disrupting the ringing. The bells rang out the moment the couple emerged from the Abbey and for the next 45 minutes the ringers changed seamlessly until all seven had taken part. A real piece of change ringing!

Mission successfully accomplished, a letter of congratulation was sent to the couple from the ringers of St Nicholas' Church, Combe Raleigh, with a brief description of what was rung. For several weeks nothing more was heard, though past experience showed that such letters always receive an acknowledgement.

Then it became time for the Branch Striking Competition. Having been last of six in their previous effort, some hoped there would only be five teams this time so, whatever happened, could claim to be better than last year. With seven entrants the aims changed; 'let's just ring better than last year and be happy with that'.

On the morning of the Striking Competition, held at Feniton, a reply to their Royal Wedding letter came from St James's Palace, '*The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge . . . send you all their warmest thanks and best wishes.*'

Perhaps it was the apparent royal approval, but they rang above themselves and, as is reported elsewhere, secured third place. Surprising many, not least themselves! The reaction of the team would give the impression they had won; in a moment of impropriety the old man of the side was seen to kiss the lovely lady captain! Third place was a result beyond their wildest dreams.

Now, serious thought is being given to the possibility of completing the bell project started in 1900. Then, a five bell frame was fitted, but the two additional bells for it never materialised. Maybe, one hundred and eleven years later, it is time that they did.

Trevor Hitchcock



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**

DENNIS BERESFORD – A PERSONAL APPRECIATION



I suppose I first met Dennis in 1962 when a small group of us from Sussex started attending Cumberland Youths practices in London. Dennis would then have been Master for about two years, and had already raised the Society from near oblivion to be a very competent group of ringers. He was very definitely "in charge". I remember him bellowing out: "Keep the 5th in at hand and the 8th up at back." What was he talking about? For rookies from the country it was hard enough ringing on twelve bells at all, let alone such a difficult twelve as Shoreditch. Surely we weren't expected to ring them accurately as well!..... It was made quite clear that we were.

Even the experienced ringers did not escape the sharp edge of Dennis's tongue. Poor Peter Wilkinson was instructed quite firmly on one occasion to: "Pull the bell, man; don't fondle it!" Sometimes he would be almost cruel in order to achieve the standard of ringing he demanded. Rumour has it that, at one practice, they had been ringing rounds for an interminable length of time as the standard had not yet reached his satisfaction when wife Mary set her bell, saying: "I've had enough of this; I'm going home."

He was not without humour, though. As usual, before any ringing at Shoreditch, it was necessary to check the bells over and do some oiling. Before one practice Dennis had obviously brushed against something, for Derek Sibson commented: "Dennis, you've got a line on your head", to which Dennis responded in quite stern fashion: "I beg your pardon!" Derek repeated what he had said. Dennis smiled: "Oh, I thought you said I had a lion on my head." At that time every British-produced egg had to have a lion stamped on it – even in those days Dennis had very little hair!

Dennis was always anxious to improve the standard and expertise of members of the Society, and at the end of 1967 very kindly arranged a band to come to Battle, my home tower, to enable me to ring a peal of Bristol. Dennis called the peal, and also in the band was big sister Joan, one of the best ever lady ringers. I was fortunate enough to ring two further peals with him the following year, both of which he conducted.

I then rather lost touch with the Cumberlands, being away at university and then with work commitments, though Ann was able to attend a few Cumberlands' practices, when Dennis had already introduced Bristol Maximus into the Society's repertoire.

I did not meet Dennis again until the Cumberlands' 250th anniversary in 1997. Sadly, in 1976, he had suffered a devastating illness which had left him unable to stand for more than a very short time, and which had ended what would have been a brilliant ringing career, leaving him virtually wheelchair bound for the rest of his life. It was however a privilege to be in his company at the Anniversary Dinner. It must have been so frustrating for him to watch the progress of ringing over the years knowing that he should have been at the forefront of all the advances made, especially in ringing on the higher numbers. He never lost his interest in ringing, and it's a tribute to Mary that she enabled him to get through the many very difficult years following his illness. The family moved to Devon, a county he had always enjoyed and in which he had already rung a good number of peals, in 1991, to live in Petrockstowe.



I caught up with him again in 2004 when he began conducting method practices on the 6 bells at Black Torrington and Inwardleigh and on the 8 at Okehampton. He would be delivered to the door at Okehampton in his wheelchair, then would bravely rush up the stairs after which he would bury his head between his knees until his blood pressure recovered sufficiently for him to take charge of the practice. He was nothing but determined. He demanded the same standards he had always set in his London days – nobody could ever get away with any sloppy ringing. However, with his "bullying" a number of people achieved things they would never have dreamed of, with previous "dyed-in-the-wool" call-change ringers ringing quarter peals and even peals of Surprise Major. Dennis's ability as a conductor shone through: while guiding one person through Glasgow he was still able to keep three or four others right at the same time.

Dennis and grandson Tom

In 2008 he rang his final peal, after a gap of some 32 years, when he conducted Plain Bob Major on handbells with brother Peter, daughter Alison and grandson Tom making up the band. In all he rang 22 peals for the Guild, out of a total of 565, of which he had called 256.

Sadly, in 2009, he contracted leukaemia and, though he continued to attend practices when he felt well enough, he was clearly struggling. He would not come unless he felt able to contribute fully. Nevertheless he battled bravely to the very end.

His funeral was at the little church of St James, Huish on July 11th. The congregation of some 140 people, many of whom had to stand outside, contained no less than eight former Masters of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths together with many other notable ringers, such was the respect in which he was held. Whether he would have approved of being laid to rest to the sound of just three bells, we can only imagine.

Some years ago John Eisel wrote two books on the subject of "Giants of the Exercise". If he is ever to write a third then Dennis should surely be included.

Ian Smith

GUILD HANDBELL DAY



The annual Guild handbell day on 3rd July was kindly hosted once again by Mischa Thompson in Okehampton. Here we had several places to ring, good food, and of course the 10-'bell' Denmisch simulator for breaks between handbells, with advice from designer David Horrocks.

Over thirty people turned out on this hot July day, some twenty-three of them ringing handbells at some point. Ian Hayes had yet another curiosity in addition to his usual hemispherical bells: micro handbells hardly bigger than thimbles, with a shrill clear tone. Several plain hunt or plain bob groups ran

simultaneously, but there was also time for a course of Kent Major on beautifully toned old bells out in the garden, and a go at Grandsire Cinques. A small tune group was also in evidence, and a pair of handbell simulators linked to a computer could be tried.

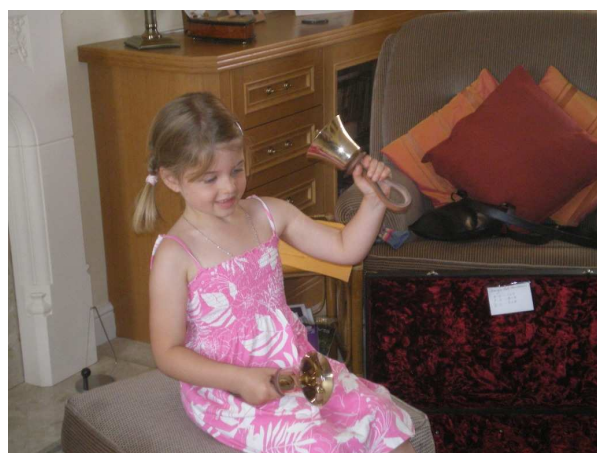
Young ringer Owen picked up plain hunt very quickly and struck it well, his younger brother



William having a go too. Six year old Charlotte only rang rounds on handbells, but stole the show in the garage by ringing a simulator bell unaided. However most of the ringers were somewhat longer in the tooth.

Thanks must go to Mischa and her kitchen helpers, and to all who gave their time to bring on the handbell skills of others.

Lynne Hughes



Charlotte ringing rounds

CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2011

Sat	15	Guild Striking Competitions: South West Branch (6 bell am, 8 bell pm)	Guild
Mon	17	Branch Plain Hunt practice: Axminster (19:30)	East
Mon	17	Branch practice: Teignmouth St James (19:00)	Mid
Mon	24	Branch Doubles for all: Offwell (19:30)	East
Mon	24	Branch practice: Heavitree (19:30)	Exeter
Tue	25	Branch practice: Sidmouth (19:30)	East
Wed	26	Branch practice: Huntsham (19:30)	NE
Fri	28	Branch novice 12 bell practice: Withycombe Raleigh (19:30)	Aylesbeare
Sat	29	Training: Visit to Worcester Cathedral Training Centre	Guild
Sat	29	Quarter peal week starts	Guild

NOVEMBER 2011

Wed	2	Advanced 10 bell practice: Exeter St Mark (19:30)	Exeter
Fri	4	Branch Listening practice: Honiton St Pauls (19:30)	East
Sat	5	Bonfire and Fireworks: Newton St Cyres (19:00)	Exeter
Sat	5	Branch practice: (19:00)	NNW
Sun	6	Quarter peal week ends	Guild
Mon	7	Branch practice: Shute (19:30)	East
Thur	10	Branch Plain Hunt practice: Sidbury (19:30)	East
Fri	11	Branch practice: Clyst St George (19:30)	Aylesbeare
Fri	11	Branch Surprise Minor practice: Buckerell (19:30) *	East
Fri/Sat	11/12	Branch training - Moving on from Plain B Minor: Huntsham (10:00)	NE
Sat	19	Branch AGM: Exeter St Mark	Exeter
Sat	19	Branch anniversary service and dinner	SW
Mon	21	Branch Plain Hunt practice: Axminster (19:30)	East
Mon	21	Branch practice: Wolborough (19:30)	Mid
Wed	23	Branch practice: Huntsham (19:30)	NE
Fri	25	Branch novice 12 bell practice: Withycombe Raleigh (19:30)	Aylesbeare
Sat	26	Branch AGM: Kingskerswell	Mid
Sat	26	Branch dinner	NE
Mon	28	Branch Doubles for all: Offwell (19:30)	East
Mon	28	Branch practice: Heavitree (19:30)	Exeter
Tue	29	Branch practice: Sidmouth (19:30)	East

DECEMBER 2011

Fri	2	Branch Listening practice: Honiton St Pauls (19:30)	East
Sat	3	Branch AGM: Sowton (14:30)	Aylesbeare
Sat	3	Branch practice: (19:00)	NNW
Wed	7	Advanced 10 bell practice: Exeter St Mark (19:30)	Exeter
Thur	8	Branch Plain Hunt practice: Sidbury (19:30)	East
Fri	9	Branch practice: Clyst St George (19:30)	Aylesbeare
Fri	9	Branch Surprise Minor practice: Buckerell (19:30) *	East
Sat	10	Ringers' Carol Service: Buckfast Abbey (15:00)	Guild/Assn
Thur	15	Branch practice: Upton (19:30)	Mid
Mon	19	Branch Plain Hunt practice: Axminster (19:30)	East
Fri	23	Branch novice 12 bell practice: Withycombe Raleigh (19:30)	Aylesbeare
TBC		Branch Doubles for all: Offwell (19:30)	East

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 £6.00 for four issues (cheques made payable to Guild of Devonshire Ringers). RRD is also available on line on the Guild's website, which holds back-issues.

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

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