



# RINGING ROUND DEVON

## GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

Newsletter 88: December 2012

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### An Outing with a Difference

Most of us have been on tower or branch outings and some of us on training days, but on September 22<sup>nd</sup> a group of us experienced a combination of the two. Indeed to some it felt like one of Tim's quarter peal days, but without the quarters!

Tim Bayton organised the outing to nine towers in east Devon to give consolidating practice to three or four young or not so young ringers, with carefully chosen helpers to ensure good ringing. The towers were: Gittisham, Farway, Northleigh, Combe Raleigh, Cotleigh, Dalwood, Shute, Kilminster and Lyme Regis. The organisation was breathtaking – who was to ring which bell in every touch being planned out before the day, and followed very closely. It was a gorgeous sunny early autumn day and many of the churches were being decked out for harvest festivals with flowers and garden produce. A picnic and handbells were enjoyed at lunchtime, and those who stayed to the end had a pub meal to round off the day.

The day was a great success, with ringing consolidated and a lovely time had by all. Many thanks go to Tim.



The group at Dalwood



Gareth attempting the temporary access at Gittisham

*Lynne Hughes*

## **Devon Young Ringers' Autumn Outing**

Young ringers from around Devon gathered at the light six bells of Ideford on 13th October to start off their autumn outing with some good ringing. Moving on, a broken clutch on one Mum's car, a quick transfer to another vehicle, and we continued to Highweek for another hour's ringing, this time on eight. We had call changes and methods, supported by some experienced 20-somethings, and the usual mature contingent.

Lunch was a relaxed and social pub meal with plenty of time for handbells and making new friends. The final destination was possibly the highlight of the day: Wobbly Bob's Campanile in Bovey Tracey. This is Devon's newest mini-ring, an easy going 10 lb octave hung in the roof space of Robert Brown's garage and rung from the garage floor. Those new to mini-rings soon got the hang of them, and some double-handling was tried by the more experienced. Rob's friendly dog added to the pleasure.

As the group dispersed, plans were being made for another gathering near Christmas.



The young ringers at Wobbly Bob's

*Lynne Hughes*

## **News update from the Mid-Devon Branch**

### **September 8 bell practice**

Although not as well attended as some recent practices, we had a very useful evening at Wolborough. We finally managed a touch of Erin; remember, we will be ringing it for the next few practices, and the highlight was a full plain course of Bristol. We rang several touches of Plain Bob Triples and a touch of Bob Major.

### **Ernie and Gail Pryce's Golden Wedding**

Ernie Pryce has been a stalwart of the St Marychurch band for many years. He learned to ring at Cornwood and then moved round the area during his police career. Ernie and Gail were married fifty years ago in Holbeton. On their anniversary they attended a service at Holbeton and Ernie was able to ring there. The St Marychurch ringers felt that the occasion should not go unmarked so on Monday 1st October a quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples was rung in 47 minutes, with Ernie doing a fine job on the tenor and Wendy ringing her first on eight bells. Following the quarter peal a bottle of bubbly was produced and we were able to toast Ernie and Gail and wish them very many more years together.





The band standing in order of ringing from front right clockwise with the conductor absent (behind the camera!)

### **Don Roberts**

You will see from the group photo (see above) that Don is back on the end of a rope. Eight weeks enforced absence following a hip replacement has not diminished his enthusiasm and he was very keen to join us for the quarter peal, which was his first ringing since the operation. I'm sure we will be seeing plenty of him in the quarter peal columns again now and he thanks all those who enquired about his health during the last few weeks.

### **Branch Outing to Cornwall**

So, was it the very reasonable price, the good company or the beautiful coastline of Cornwall? Whatever the reason, the train outing to Cornwall was our best supported for many years with a party of nearly 40 filling up the train on the long haul down through the royal duchy to Camborne, our first stop. Although unplanned it was fortuitous that coffee was being served in the church hall when we arrived at the church; several took advantage of this. The bells with their long draught were not the easiest but everyone coped manfully with them. There followed the only delay of the day when our train to St Erth was over 20 minutes late. Various eating establishments in St Ives were visited and the beautiful weather and superb views were much enjoyed. Our next stop was Carbis Bay and we all eventually found the church. The light but pleasant 10 were soon being put to good use with John in charge – he even allowed us a touch of Grandsire Caters! The new timetable allowed over an hour here so we were able to have a good ring and still get back to the train in good time. When we got back to St Erth they had just locked the doors of our next train but an urgent appeal to the “train manager” (don't think you are allowed to call them Guards anymore!) and we were allowed on board. St Austell was our last stop and the railway station was a very short walk from the church. We were warmly welcomed by the tower captain and soon had the ringing under way. What a superb



ring of bells. Despite the long draught of rope they went well and made a glorious sound. An hour soon went and we were off on a slightly rowdy journey home, Pam being offered a night on the town in Plymouth – how does she do it?

Although we had fewer towers than originally planned, it did allow a relatively relaxed day and the weather and company were excellent! We send a very big thank you to the incumbents and tower captains for allowing us to ring and to Philip for organising the tickets (and finding us such a good deal!)



### **October 8 bell practice**

At the very last minute we had to change the venue for this practice as Upton bells were not available due to a series of meetings in church on Thursdays. St Marychurch was quickly substituted so we had 10 bells available – we also had wall to wall ringers! All levels were catered for from call changes upwards and again we were concentrating on Erin Triples. We even managed a quite respectable touch of it. As it was advertised as an 8 bell practice we concentrated on 8 bell ringing but with 12 people standing out it was tempting to use the ten occasionally for call changes and Plain Hunt Caters. Erin Caters was a little ambitious but we did manage to get a course round eventually. Thank you all for your patience whilst waiting your turn to ring – it did give a good chance for some networking and catching up with each other.

*Martin Mansley*

## The Guild Demonstration Bell gets out and about

Over the summer the Guild Demonstration Bell was having a holiday in Exeter so when I had a couple of talks to do it seemed to make sense to take this one instead of Lillie.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> September the bell was delivered to the University of Exeter where it was used to promote the bell ringing society at the Freshers' squash.

On 28<sup>th</sup> September we talked to the local history society in Thorverton. There was a little concern that the building wasn't high enough to erect the demo bell but it just about fitted between the ceiling joists!

On 17<sup>th</sup> October we went to the Teignmouth Probus Club with the usual talk. There were about 30 people present (all male apart from those who made the coffee!) who took a lively interest in the proceedings. Several of them knew about the recent peal at St Michael's (reported in the previous RRD) and I even had a question about the bells at East Bergholt (which are hung in the churchyard but are still rung full circle).



The Demo bell at Teignmouth

On 23<sup>rd</sup> October the bell was taken to Pinhoe to demonstrate to the scouts (see separate article).

On 20<sup>th</sup> November I gave a talk about bells and ringing as part of the Cruwys Morchard heritage events. There were a number of ringers present and about as many non-ringers, who were all kept entertained with recordings and demonstrations. A number of the ringers later had a try on the demo bell – and found that ringing it was not quite as easy as might be thought! A lot of interest was generated by some of the treasures from the Guild Library which had kindly been brought along by Leslie Boyce. These included the illuminated first peal book and the hand illustrated reports of the cycling club from the early 1900s.



The bells at Cruwys Morchard are currently away in Loughborough and the back of the tower is full of scaffolding while work is being done.



Trying out handbells at Cruwys Morchard



Taking an interest in the demonstration bell at Cruwys Morchard

*Ian Campbell*



## Quarter Peal Week 2012

Thank you to everyone who took part in quarter peal week this year, ringing 34 quarter peals and raising **£408.12** for the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund. Your generosity makes a real difference to keeping the bells in good condition throughout the county.

Congratulations to those ringers who achieved special firsts during the week: Sharon McCabe, Derek Norrish, Katy Owen and Helen Sims each rang their first quarter peal; Gareth Gill rang his first of Major; and Alison Halford achieved several firsts on the same day.

**Exeter, (64 Mount Pleasant Road).** 26 Oct, 1312 Spliced S Major (6m): Lynne Hughes 1-2, Sue Sparling 3-4, Tim Bayton (C) 5-6, Sue Sawyer 7-8.

**Stoodleigh,** 27 Oct, 1260 Doubles (2m): Jenny Jones 1, Sheila Scofield 2, Matthew Webb 3, Nellie Croft 4, Leslie Boyce (C) 5, Dermot Elworthy 6.

**Charleton,** 27 Oct, 1250 Plain B Doubles: Christopher Wardle 1, Alison Halford 2, David White 3, Fergus Stracey 4, Glenn Francis (C) 5, Bob Sanders 6.

**Salcombe,** 27 Oct, 1260 Plain B Minor: Alison Halford 1, Glenn Francis 2, David White 3, Bob Sanders 4, Fergus Stracey 5, Christopher Wardle (C) 6. 1st on a treble: 1.

**Galampton,** 27 Oct, 1260 Stedman Doubles: Christopher Wardle 1, Bob Sanders 2, David White 3, Clare Stagg 4, Fergus Stracey (C) 5, Alison Halford 6. 1st of cover: 6. With get-well compliments to Geoff Hill and Rogenia Bond.

**Stokeinteignhead,** 27 Oct, 1280 Little B Minor: Sharon Lawrence 1, Rowena Mansley 2, Simon Glanfield 3, Russell Chamberlain 4, Rodney Horder 5, Martin Mansley (C) 6. 1st in m for all except 3. To mark the retirement of Stokeinteignhead Rector Rev Geoffrey Richardson and as a birthday compliment to Eric Glanfield.

**Thurlestone,** 27 Oct, 1260 Doubles (6m): Janet Osler 1, Clare Stagg 2, Bob Sanders 3, Christopher Wardle 4, Fergus Stracey (C) 5, David White 6.

**Stoke Damerel,** 27 Oct, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Alena Wardle 1, Katy Owen 2, John Steere 3, Claire Harris 4, Clare Stagg 5, Fergus Stracey 6, Christopher Wardle (C) 7, Alison Halford 8. 1st quarter: 2. 1st of Triples: 8. 1st of Grandsire Triples: 4 and as C.

**Plymouth, (Emmanuel).** 27 Oct, 1260 Plain B Triples: Katy Owen 1, Claire Harris 2, Hellen Richardson 3, Alison Halford 4, Clare Stagg 5, Fergus Stracey 6, Alena Wardle (C) 7, Christopher Wardle 8. 1st on a treble: 1. 1st of Triples inside: 4. In celebration of the life of Audrey Serpell, parishioner at Emmanuel.

**Exeter, (St Mark).** 28 Oct, 1280 Plain B Major: Wendy Gill 1, Gareth Gill 2, Mo Hawkins 3, Lesley Tucker 4, Derek Hawkins 5, Rob Franklin 6, Graham Tucker 7, Tim Bayton (C) 8. 1st of Major: 2.

**Exeter, (Cathedral).** 28 Oct, 1320 Stedman Cinques: Wendy Campbell 1, Sue Sawyer 2, Clare Griffiths 3, Sue Sparling 4, Lynne Hughes 5, Richard Johnston 6, Andrew Digby 7, Geoff Sparling (C) 8, Stephen Taylor 9, Richard Harrison 10, Ian Campbell 11, James Kirkcaldy & Philip Stevens 12. Rung immediately after sung evensong.

**Tiverton, (St Peter).** 28 Oct, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Alan Edwards 1, Sheila Scofield 2, Leslie Boyce 3, Matthew Webb 4, Charlotte Boyce 5, Michael Hatchett 6, Matthew Weighell (C) 7, David Farrant 8.

**Cullompton,** 29 Oct, 1260 Doubles (2m). Sharon McCabe 1, Charlotte Boyce 2, Matthew Webb 3, Matthew Weighell 4, Richard Shere (C) 5, David Farrant 6. 1st quarter: 1.

**Dawlish, (17 Eastcliff Road).** 29 Oct, 1280 Pudsey S Major: Lynne Hughes 1-2, Sue Sparling 3-4, Tim Bayton (C) 5-6, Sue Sawyer 7-8.

**Huntsham,** 29 Oct, Plain B Minor. Ken Wannell 1, Carla Dawes 2, Sheila Scofield 3, David Bromwich 4, Leslie Boyce 5, Pauline Champion (C) 6.

**Thorverton,** 30 Oct, 1282 Lindsey S Royal: Bill Ford 1, Ian Campbell 2, Sue Sawyer 3, Lesley Tucker 4, Janet Coles 5, Hilary Beresford 6, Nigel Birt 7, Graham Tucker 8, Tim Bayton 9, Donald Cart (C) 10. 1st in m by all.

**Uplowman,** 30 Oct, 1294 Cambridge S Minor: Brian Samuels 1, Sheila Scofield 2, David Bromwich 3, Leslie Boyce 4, Richard Johnston 5, Pauline Champion (C) 6.

**Bampton,** 31 Oct, 1260 Plain B Doubles: Pat Hatchett 1, Ann Barrow 2, Charlotte Boyce 3, Matthew Weighell 4, Michael Hatchett (C) 5, Jack Ward 6.

**Kentisbeare,** 31 Oct, 1260 Doubles (4m/1p): Martin Turner 1, John Kape 2, Richard Shere 3, Matthew Webb 4, Pauline Champion (C) 5, David Farrant 6.

**Sampford Spiney,** 31 Oct, 1260 Plain B Doubles: Sheila Williams 1, Rita Hopwood 2, Rosemary Ruddick 3, William Thirtle 4, Ian Smith (C) 5, William Blowey 6. In memory of David Sommerfelt, member of the local congregation, who died this morning.

**Stoke Canon,** 31 Oct, 1260 Plain B Doubles: Bill Ford 1, Lynette Costello 2, Lynne Hughes (C) 3, Phil Hughes 4, Tim King 5, Derek Norrish 6. 1st quarter: 6. 50th as C. Specially arranged for Derek to ring a quarter after 62 years of ringing. Also a 100th birthday compliment to John Ellison of Stoke Canon.

**Tiverton, (St Paul).** 31 Oct, 1260 Plain B Doubles: David Smith 1, Sharon Sproat 2, Terry Hargreaves 3, Wilfred Dunn 4, John Kape (C) 5, Dermot Elworthy 6.

**Buckfastleigh,** 1 Nov, 1280 Bristol S Major: Don Crocker 1, Hilary Beresford 2, Martin Mansley 3, Fergus Stracey 4, John Rose 5, Michael Barnicott-White 6, David Crocker 7, Donald Carter 8 (C).

**Hemyock,** 1 Nov, 1260 Doubles (2m): Linda Holway 1, Sheila Scofield 2, Pauline Champion 3, Leslie Boyce 4, David Bromwich 5, Brian Samuels (C) 6. In memory of Hemyock ringer Tim Goodman.

**Doddiscombsleigh,** 2 Nov, 1272 Spliced S Minor (7m): Don Roberts 1, Graham Tucker 2, Sue Sawyer 3, Nigel Birt 4, Lester Yeo 5, Tim Bayton (C) 6.

**Exeter, (Harrison Building, University of Exeter).** 2 Nov, 1260 Plain B Minor: Daisy Atkin 1-2, Stephanie Hills 3-4, Ian Campbell (C) 5-6.

**Kilhampton,** Cornwall. 3 Nov, 1280 Cambridge S Major: Ian Campbell 1, Lester Yeo 2, James Clarke 3, Robert Corney 4, Mike Rose 5, Bruce Hicks 6, Graeme Booth 7, David Hird (C) 8.

**Exeter, (64 Mount Pleasant Road).** 4 Nov, 1250 Superlative S Major: Lynne Hughes 1-2, Sue Sparling 3-4, Tim Bayton (C) 5-6, Sue Sawyer 7-8.

**Exeter, (Cathedral).** 4 Nov, 1296 Grandsire Caters: Amy Gill 1, Sue Sawyer 2, Graeme Booth 3, Wendy Campbell 4, Richard Johnston 5, Michael Cannon (C) 6, Peter Brown 7, Ian Campbell 8, David Hird 9, James Kirkcaldy 10. Rung prior to sung eucharist.

**Heavitree,** 4 Nov, 1280 Spliced S Major (5m): Michael Cannon 1, Stephanie Hills 2, Lesley Tucker 3, Sue Sawyer 4, Wendy Campbell 5, Graham Tucker 6, Ian Campbell 7, David Hird (C) 8. First of Spliced S Major: 2. Rung for evening service.

**Pinhoe,** 4 Nov, 1260 Plain B Minor: Sue Sturdy 1, Matt Pym 2, Bill Ford 3, John Langabeer 4, Rob Franklin 5 (C), James Kirkcaldy 6. For evensong.

**Tavistock**, 4 Nov, 1287 Stedman Caters: Ann Smith 1, Sheila Williams 2, Kate Jennings 3, Jane Dunn 4, Richard Harrison 5, Philip Dunn 6, Ian Smith (C) 7, John Cook 8, George Mudge 9, David Pike 10. 1st Stedman Caters: 4. For evensong.

**Teignmouth, (St Michael)**. 6 Nov, 1260 Plain B Triples: Fiona Rock-Evans 1, John Martin 2, Erica Martin 3, Tim King 4, Martin Dodd 5, Alan Furse 6, Martin Mansley (C) 7, Trevor Pearce-Jones 8.

**Sampford Spiney**, 7 Nov, 1260 Doubles (2m): Helen Sims 1, Sheila Williams 2, William Thirtle 3, Edward Cowd 4, Ian Smith (C) 5, William Blowey 6. 1st quarter: 1.

*Tim Bayton*

## **News from the Bell Fund**

The Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund is well supported by the Guild and its branches and attempts to make grants to all churches in Devon that are doing work to maintain their bells. A recent initiative has been for representatives of the fund to speak at Churchwardens' Days - so far at Holsworthy, South Molton, Plymouth, Okehampton and Cullompton. By offering to perform bell inspections and reports it is hoped that any maintenance issues will be addressed before major work is found to be necessary.

At a recent meeting of the trustees the following grants were approved:

- **Talaton:** £1,000 towards servicing of bearings and renewal/replacement of wheels and pulleys.
- **Bishopsteignton:** £4,250 towards retuning and rehanging the six bells with all new fittings in the existing frame.
- **Bradworthy:** £1,800 towards removing cast-in crown staples, tightening frame ties, quarter-turning the 2<sup>nd</sup> bell, cleaning and repainting all ironwork, and rehanging the bells in overhauled fittings.
- **Plymouth, St Budeaux:** £3,700 towards replacement of the heavily corroded support beams, cleaning and treatment of the bell-frame, removal of crown staple stubs, servicing of bearings and refurbishment of clappers.
- **Fremington:** £2,600 towards replacing the cracked 4<sup>th</sup> bell, and also the listed 3<sup>rd</sup> bell.
- **Shobrooke:** £240 towards the refurbishment of clappers and replacement of ground and drawing pulleys.

Further donations are always welcomed – just about all of the money given is issued as grants to towers. Anyone who would like to make a personal donation, and especially regular payments (perhaps via standing order), is invited to contact Mary Mears for details.

*Ian Campbell  
Ian Smith*



## Littleham Outing

Littleham (Exmouth) ringers, with guests from Lymptstone and Topsham, enjoyed a winter outing to Harpford, Colaton Raleigh and Otterton on Saturday 17th November. A total of 18 (14 ringers) also enjoyed a meal at The Otter Inn, Colaton Raleigh, which also opened at 11.00am especially for us for coffee and toilets.



The ringers outside Harpford church.

*Neville Wright*

## Maurice Atkins – a Personal Memory

The interesting article by Alan Furse concerning the Centenary Peal of the Cambridge University Guild (in Newsletter 87) brought back fond memories of Maurice Atkins.

I was aware of Maurice as a ringer as long ago as 1945 when the author Earnest Morris sold me a copy of his book *The History & Art of Change Ringing*. It was a fascinating book for a 15 year old schoolboy as it contained many interesting sepia coloured photographs. One in particular that caught my eye was a group on page 479 of ten uniformed officers who rang a peal of Grandsire Caters on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 1919 at the church of St Peter's Croydon. Seated in the front row, sporting a moustache, was the youthful conductor – Lt E M Atkins (Royal Engineers).

From his early days Maurice developed a good reputation as an instructor, composer and conductor, initially in Northampton and afterwards at Cambridge. Following his demobilisation from the Army he was employed in the Patents Office at Kilburn where he built up a good band at the church of St Augustine. In 1950 he retired to Devon and energetically set about building up a band at St Michael's Teignmouth and other towers in the Mid Devon Branch of the Guild.

I first met Maurice in 1956 on the sad occasion of E J Taylor's funeral and our next meeting was at my home tower, St Peter's Tiverton, where Maurice conducted a peal of Double Norwich in March 1957. Normal Mallett and myself, both octogenarians, are the only survivors of that band. On several later occasions I found Maurice at the annual Glastonbury Anglican Pilgrimage where he organised bands to ring at the local 6-bell tower of St Benedict as part of the programme. He will be remembered as a kindly Christian gentleman who did much to promote the work of the Guild.

When Maurice died in 1964 a memorial peal was rung at Buckfast Abbey and tributes were paid to him in *The Ringing World* issues of October 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

*Richard Bowden*

## Bampton

Once again the bellringers of Bampton joined in the Christmas tree Festival held at St Michael & all Angels Church. This year's theme was 'music' and the band were unable to resist the temptation to decorate the tree in the theme of 'Ding Dong Merrily on High'.



Angels and bells adorned the tree but best of all was Eve's representation of the priest in charge, retired clergy, congregation, young church & mums and the bellringers at the base of the tree. The pictures show the tree and 'the band' in detail.



*Sheila Scofield*



## Exeter Branch Outings

### Non-ringing outing



Lester Yeo arranged an interesting outing around some of the locations in Exeter with bells – that are chimed or not ringable. We met in the recently renovated Royal Albert Memorial museum in Exeter “by the bell”. The staff appeared surprised that so many people were asking how to find the bell! We had a brief talk about this and a few other bell-related items in the museum. Apparently there are many more which are currently not on view but which they are prepared to show us by prior arrangement – at a cost and on a weekday. If you might be interested do get in touch with Lester.

Following the museum we walked to the large church at Mount Dinham where we inspected the tower, complete with ringing room, open spire above the bells, and one solitary bell which was originally intended to be the tenor of a ten. We rang some imaginary rounds on the ten in the ringing room. Perhaps one day...

The single bell at Mount Dinham - with seized bearings, part of a wheel, and a bit of a rope!



Pretend rounds on 12 at Mount Dinham – note absence of ropes!



After that we made the difficult ascent up a series of vertical ladders and through narrow doors to see the four bells at St Mary Arches. These are hung dead but we chimed them as best we could.



The four bells at St Mary Arches

Visiting the four at St Mary Steps it was pleasing to see that the tower has been cleaned up since our last visit, although the bells are far from ringable. We did manage to chime Bob Minimus from underneath the bells!



One of the bells at St Mary Steps – note the metal “peg” stay and the guano!

Finally we had a trip up the tower at St Petrock's (where we did manage to ring the bells!) and those who squeezed their way to the top were rewarded with some unusual views of the centre of Exeter and the Cathedral.



A view of the church at Mount Dinham from the tower of St Petrock's

We just had time for a cup of tea before joining the Cathedral practice in the evening. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, and Rusty demonstrated the inadvisability of wearing a micro-mini-skirt while climbing vertical ladders!

*Ian Campbell*  
*Some photos by David Trist*

### **Fireworks Evening**

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November 27 people went to the home of Lesley and Graham Tucker for the annual bonfire and fireworks party. It was an evening of fun, food and fireworks which was enjoyed by all, the food was lovely and the fireworks were good as well.

I'm sure everyone that went will join me in thanking Graham and Lesley for their kindness and hospitality and also for a lovely evening.



Members of the Exeter Branch keeping warm by the fire

*Amy Gill*



## South-West Branch September Outing or.... Ringing with a hangover

I am a newbie when it comes to ringing. I started in February 2012 after being encouraged by a friend to join Plymouth Youths. As it turns out I love it, and whenever I am in Plymouth I attend as much as possible. However this was one day that I could have done with staying in bed rather than going on a ringing outing...

I woke up to a loud shrill ring of my mobile phone ringing. Answering it with a croaky voice my sleepiness was quite quickly turned into panic; James was in the car waiting outside, ready to take me to the south west ringing tour. I threw my clothes on and dashed out of the door, then the headache hit. As a student, and with it being Freshers' week, it is one's duty to drink in the evenings.

We reached our destination at Roche surprisingly on time, despite my state, and the rest of our group enjoyed greeting me with the loud, headache piercing, bells. We went to seven towers that day, which was fantastic for me and James, who is equally new to ringing.

From Roche we went to Lanivet where the kind local ladies offered us tea and coffee (the black coffee was a godsend to me at that point) and then on to Bodmin. After some nice bells, and others more tricky to handle, it was time for lunch where we all decided to treat ourselves, some with pints, others with masses of food. Our mistake however was that we ordered too late meaning that out of roughly 15 of us only 5 made it to the next tower on time, but the food was tasty which helped me personally I think more than anybody else! The afternoon ringing included towers along the Glyn valley ending up at St Germans. It is safe to say that my ringing improved massively throughout the day!



One thing I did find about this ringing tour was how long the ropes were in some towers and in others the ceilings were so tall that it proved difficult not to hit my 'watcher' with the rope but it was all good practice and I don't think he minded too much!

In true ringing style after the day ended we again ended up at the pub. Hangover nursed, exhaustion creeping upon us all, a pint is what some of us needed to celebrate our good day's ringing.

*Sarah Morley*

## 80 years young! Happy Birthday John Hill – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2012

John Hill celebrated this milestone birthday with a peal of London Surprise Royal at Tavistock on Saturday 22nd September, a meal with the peal band afterwards and then a family lunch on Sunday 23rd September.

The peal band comprised the people he has rung many peals with over years including his son Ian, David Hilling, and other Devon-based peal ringers. John rang without fault throughout the peal, showing the rest of the band how it should be done!

Afterwards the band managed to organise themselves for a photo to be taken before heading off to the Peter Tavy Inn to be treated to an excellent meal.



Front row (l-r): Ian Avery, Matt Hilling, Paul Pascoe, Ian Smith, Peter Bill  
Back row (l-r): John Hill, Pauline Champion, David Hilling, Ian Hill, Mike Mears

### **Guild of Devonshire Ringers**

**Tavistock, Devon**

St Eustachius

Saturday, 22 September 2012 in 3h11 (24-0-5)

5080 London S Royal (No.3)

Composed by D F Morrison (no.2605)

- |    |                       |
|----|-----------------------|
| 1  | Ian W Avery           |
| 2  | Matthew J Hilling (C) |
| 3  | Paul J Pascoe         |
| 4  | Ian V J Smith         |
| 5  | Peter L Bill          |
| 6  | John Hill             |
| 7  | Pauline Champion      |
| 8  | David P Hilling       |
| 9  | Ian P Hill            |
| 10 | Michael E C Mears     |

With congratulations to John Hill  
on the eve of his 80th birthday  
250th peal together: 6 & 7

*Matt Hilling*



## Guild Striking Competitions

This year's competitions were held in the East Devon Branch with the Novice competition held at Farway (judged by Les Boyce and Matthew Weighell), the inter-tower 6-bell at Feniton (judged by Ian Campbell helped by Rusty Hartley) and, in the afternoon, the inter-branch 8-bell competition at Luppitt (judged by Mary Mears).

The 6-bell finished up with a very close final result with only a quarter of a fault between the first two teams. For the 8-bell competition there was a choice of either Double Norwich Court Bob Major or Plain Bob; the teams coming in the first two places both chose to ring Double Norwich.

Refreshments were provided from lunchtime right through the afternoon at Luppitt so no one had to go hungry or thirsty.

The full results were:

### Novice Competition: Farway

Judges: Les Boyce and Matthew Weighell

<b>Position</b>	<b>Tower</b>	<b>Faults</b>
1	Plymouth Emmanuel	41.5
2	Plymouth Youths	43.5
3	Farway	46



The Emmanuel Band

### 6 Bell Competition: Feniton

Judges: Ian Campbell and Rusty Hartley

<b>Position</b>	<b>Tower</b>	<b>Faults</b>
1	Withycombe Raleigh	4.25
2	Exeter St Mark (Matt)	4.5
3	Tavistock	6.25
4	Exeter St Mark (Derek)	22.5
5	Plymouth Youths	42
6	Plymouth Emmanuel	Did not complete the test piece



The Withycombe Raleigh band (l-r):  
Nigel Mack, Janet Coles, Neil Deem, Roger King, David Wills, John Foster

### 8 Bell Competition: Luppitt

Judge: Mary Mears

<b>Position</b>	<b>Branch</b>	<b>Faults</b>
1	Exeter	13
2	North East	67.75
3	South West (Tavistock)	73.5
4	South West (Plymouth)	98
5	East	101



The Exeter Branch band:  
(front) Ian Campbell, Sue Sawyer, Lynne Hughes, Tim Bayton  
(back) Sue Sparling, Geoff Sparling, David Hird, Matt Hilling



## Scouts come ringing at Pinhoe

It was a dark, damp evening at the end of October (not quite Halloween) at about seven o'clock when Ian and Rob turned up at Pinhoe church with the Guild demonstration bell, computer, handbells, etc, expecting about a dozen explorer scouts to turn up and hopefully enough ringers to demonstrate church bell ringing on the eight bells.... What did we get? - the scouts as expected and about 20 ringers! While Ian gave a talk to the scouts about ringing the bells were raised and a touch of Bob Triples rung. After that there were several trips up to the clock room, where, with the trap wide open, the scouts could see the bells being rung (with fingers in ears!). When the trips up the tower finished each scout and the leaders were given a lesson in the art of bell handling.

While this was going on the scouts were shown how to ring handbells and how to ring with the computer, and also watched a ringing video on DVD. They also tried their skill at handling the demonstration bell and there was a lot of talking and explaining on how things worked.

The bells were lowered at about 9.10 and most folk just drifted away to home or wherever leaving Ian and Rob to collect up the bells, computer, etc and return the church to normal before wanderering down the path at about 9.30.

My thanks go to all who helped on the evening. The feedback I have had is that the scouts found it was very enjoyable and interesting.



One of the adventure scouts (Megan) trying out a bell with Rob's help

*Rob Franklin*

## N/NW Branch AGM

Our AGM this year was held in the extreme western end of our Branch territory – at Bridgerule near the Devon/Cornwall border. About 25 of our members attended and we were well looked after by the Bowden family and their helpers. The arrangements for the meeting and service, and an excellent tea, were first class. Plus, of course, the use of their tuneful ring of eight bells.

The meeting itself covered all the usual management aspects of running the Branch and the existing committee of James Clarke (Chairman), Bruce Hicks (Secretary/Treasurer) and David Willis (Bell Advisor) was re-elected. During the past year we had not had a Ringing Master, the idea being that the committee members would run the monthly practices and see how things worked out; in fact Joan Clarke took on the job most of the time and did so well that at the meeting she was formally elected as Ringing Master for 2013.

Another welcome development was the election of TWO new towers to the Branch/Guild; namely St Peter, Bratton Fleming (6 -14cwt) and Holy Trinity, Ilfracombe (8- 12cwt). Existing Guild Members Steve and Rachel Taylor at Bratton Fleming and Christine Harris at HT Ilfracombe have been instrumental in getting ringing re-established in their respective Towers and Branch Members were very pleased to welcome them to the Guild. Two new members were also elected.

We had six monthly practices during the year (1<sup>st</sup> Sat. 7-9pm) and an extra Saturday morning at Combe Martin in March to concentrate on consolidating Plain Bob for some of our members. John McKee from Fremington again organised an outing in July, with ringing at Bridgerule, Kilkhampston, Morwenstowe and Hartland.

Once again we were pleased to see Guild officers – this time Lester, Ian and Margot - make the long journey to support our AGM, and I thought I would try to make the trip a bit more interesting for some of them by organising a couple of quarter peals in the morning. We lost Stedman at Stratton, but achieved a quarter of Cambridge on the nice 8 at Kilkhampston – see details below.

We plan to continue our “first Saturday” monthly practices through March to December in 2013; details appear in *The Ringing World* and we would be pleased to welcome visitors from within the Guild or further afield.

**Kilkhampston.** Cornwall. 3 Nov. 1280 Cambridge S Major: Ian Campbell 1, Lester Yeo 2, James Clarke 3, Robert Corney 4, Mike Rose 5, Bruce Hicks 6, Graeme Booth 7, David Hird 8 (C). Rung for the Devon Guild QP week prior to the N/NW Branch AGM.

*Bruce Hicks  
Branch Sec*



## Exeter Branch AGM

The Exeter branch held their AGM at Thorverton on 17<sup>th</sup> November. The service was a family affair taken by Julia Dallen (who used to ring in the branch) and the organ was played by Laurie Kirkcaldy.

The ringing and social events had been well supported during the year; similar ideas were proposed for next year. We were pleased to accept the tower at Hatherleigh into the branch, together with 13 members, and elected two new members (from Heavitree and Stoke Canon) at the meeting. The branch officers were re-elected *en bloc*.

Leslie Boyce (Guild Librarian) kindly attended and gave a short presentation about the Integrated Teacher Training Scheme (ITTS) Module 1 course that had been held at Silverton the previous Saturday, outlining exactly what the scheme entailed. Further courses are planned for the future.

Tim Bayton reported on the recent Guild Education planning meeting. This included the compilation of a list of all of the towers known to have simulator equipment installed. It is hoped to include towers affiliated to the Devon Association in due course.

*Wendy Campbell*

## Aylesbeare Branch AGM

The Aylesbeare Branch held it's AGM at Lymptone on 1<sup>st</sup> December. Further details will be available later but, following the resignation of John Foster who has moved from the branch, the secretary is now Matt Pym, and the ringing master is Janet Coles.



Deep discussions at the Aylesbeare Branch AGM

*Ian Campbell*

## **Guild Insurance**

Since last year a part of your annual subscription has been used to purchase insurance. A number of people have been asking what this covers. Here is a response from Janet Coles, who administers the scheme:

*Who is insured?*

All paid up members of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers are covered by Public & Products Liability with Ecclesiastical Insurance.

*How much are we insured for?*

Up to £2,000,000 with an excess of £250 on Public Liability

*What does this actually mean?*

If any paid up member of the Guild is deemed to be legally liable for damage caused whilst ringing or teaching someone to ring they are insured up to the amount quoted above.

*Am I insured whilst away from my home tower?*

Yes you are and if you are asked by a tower to provide evidence of this I am happy to provide a letter of confirmation.

*How do I claim?*

Please contact Janet Coles on 01395 272444 or 07775 424575 immediately after the damage has been caused in order that the insurers can be notified of the claim. It is important to do this in order that they can put their own wheels in motion such as appointing a loss adjuster or case handler to the claim.

*Janet Coles*

## **Unusual use for Handbells at Cathedral**

We had a surprising request from one of the Canons at the Cathedral: "Please could we borrow the handbells for a service?" It turned out that on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September they were holding a special service for women who had experienced miscarriage, still-birth or neo-natal death.

During the singing of a special arrangement of psalm 23 several handbells were passed around the congregation and any woman who had lost a child was invited to ring the bell when it got to them. It was apparently a very moving occasion and, you will be pleased to hear, the Cathedral handbells survived intact! The service is to be repeated at Cathedrals up and down the country, and will be in Exeter again later next year.

*Ian Campbell*

## **ITTS launches in Devon**

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November in Silverton a Module 1 (Teaching Bellhandling) course took place for the new Initial Teacher Training Scheme, aiming to develop a professional group of trained and accredited teachers of bell-ringing.

The scheme pairs experienced mentors with new trainee teachers, allowing sharing of expertise and mutual support, and leading to growing expertise amongst bell-

ringing teachers. The course focuses on breaking down the process of bell-ringing, giving techniques not only for how to teach each part but also why each part needs to be taught separately before adding sections together to create the whole motion. Sessions on teaching theory and troubleshooting potential problem areas are also included, and finally each new teacher left with a pack of teaching resources, sources of assistance, and support materials to pass on to new learner ringers to help them on their way towards bell-handling competence.

The group that met on Saturday included some trainee teachers who have a lot of experience in teaching new ringers but are interested in ensuring that their teaching practice is soundly based in good theoretical foundations, and some trainee teachers who have interest and enthusiasm but no previous experience of teaching ringing. It's fair to say that the course is very well-designed and gave a lot to all the new trainees, regardless of their starting point. The day was very intensive but also very enjoyable, with realistic targets, great tutoring and humour throughout, meaning that although we all learned a huge amount I'm sure everyone would say they had a lot of fun as well!

Les Boyce, the course tutor, is planning another Module 1 course in west Devon next spring.

*Alexandra Robertson  
Trainee Teacher*

## **Winners and Losers**

We are very pleased to welcome the tower of Stockland into the Guild under the East Devon Branch. They have six bells with a tenor of 13 cwt and practise every fortnight on a Tuesday evening, with service ringing at 10.30am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. The contact is Wendy Urquhart; further details are available on the Guild web site.



The Church at Stockland

The tower of Hatherleigh joined the Guild in June under the Exeter Branch. We welcome them and hope to help them to improve their ringing under Richard Harrison.

I am saddened to hear that the tower of St Mary's Charleton, Kingsbridge, currently in the South West Branch, has ceased to ring due to lack of ringers. It can be hoped that this is only a temporary situation and that ringing can be resumed, at least on special occasions, perhaps with help from Guild members.

*Ian Campbell*



## Concert at Cruwys Morchard

In searching for a single adjective to convey the essence of last night's (27 September) concert in the Cruwys Morchard church, I settled upon "delightful".

The Throwleigh Players, a group from the village of that name not far from Okehampton, rather in the manner of a conjurer, from various boxes produced Renaissance recorders, Baroque viols, lutes, cornett, cornamuse and a beautiful theorbo. The characters and histories of these instruments were explained by their respective players before each piece in which they featured.

This well-attended concert was one of a series continuing the organisers' cultivation of imaginative and, perhaps to some, recondite programming; the surprisingly successful juxtaposition of a jazz trio and Bach unaccompanied 'cello Suites being an example of this. Despite the multiplicity of instruments suggesting a larger band, there were only four performing as The Throwleigh Players and they provided a varied selection of essentially "Tafelmusik" from the Renaissance and Baroque. We were treated to a balanced selection of relatively short pieces from composers as well known as Handel and Purcell and others bordering upon the obscure; Ortiz, Patafino and Boismortier. The inclusion of "La Folia" in a programme always is popular but the inference to be drawn from the programme notes that this is an original from Michel Farinel (1649-1726) is incorrect – the melody pre-dates him by at least a century, although his variations are pleasant enough.

As has become customary on these occasions, the Cruwys Morchard team provided excellent wine and nibbles to accompany this very pleasant entertainment. It was indeed a delightful evening, the proceeds from which making a useful contribution to the bell restoration fund which, thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund and other institutions, has grown to the point where the bells have now been removed from the tower and are being treated to their first wash and brush-up since 1905.

Whilst they are away, there are to be three interesting "Local History" evenings to be held at Cruwys Morchard. These will include the involvement of the Stokes family with the construction of the Cruwys Morchard and other local bellframes, Dr Ian Campbell's authoritative history of bells and their ringing and a talk by Guy Cruwys (whose family has lived next to the church since the 12<sup>th</sup> century) about the other "Great Fire", this one of 1689 when the church was destroyed and the bells melted. Dates are 18 October, 20 November (both now sadly past!) and 18 February respectively.

*Dermot Elworthy*

## First quarter peals

I would like to pass special congratulations to David Farrant and Sharon McCabe who both rang their first quarter peals this week.

David rang the tenor on Sunday to a quarter of Grandsire Triples at Tiverton St Peter's and followed this up ringing the tenor on Monday at Cullompton to a quarter of Doubles and also on Wednesday rang the tenor again to a quarter of Doubles at Kentisbeare. Sharon rang the treble on Monday to a quarter of Doubles in 2 methods at Cullompton.

**Tiverton**, Devon

St. Peter

Sunday 28 October 2012 in 50mins

### 1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Alan Edwards
- 2 Sheila Scofield
- 3 Leslie Boyce
- 4 Matthew A. Webb
- 5 Charlotte Boyce
- 6 Michael Hatchett
- 7 Matthew Weighell (C)
- 8 David Farrant

First quarter peal (8)

Well done to you both!

**Cullompton**, Devon

St Andrew

Monday 29 October 2012 (19-2-04)

### 1260 2 Doubles

- 1 Sharon McCabe
- 2 Charlotte Boyce
- 3 Matthew Webb
- 4 Matthew Weighell
- 5 Richard Shere (C)
- 6 David Farrant

First quarter at first attempt for Treble

*Richard Shere*

### *Postscript*

For everyone's encouragement - I met a father and son on Sunday morning who came to church because they heard the bells ringing. They were on holiday from Sheffield in a caravan.

*Steve Hellier*

## Starting them Young

The head teacher at Exeter Cathedral School, Stephen Yeo, is a ringer and was very keen when approached by Oliver Coldrick (tower captain at Woodbury) to set up an after school club to teach some of the youngsters to ring. There have been several sessions on Thursday afternoons. Most are at St Petrock's ringing centre in Exeter (an easy walk from the school) but on a couple of occasions they have had a visit up the tower at the Cathedral.

In parallel with learning to handle a bell they have been ringing handbells and looking at the theory of change ringing including the use of *lapping* on handbells, where the bells are physically swapped around to produce plain hunting.

A special treat was provided at the school Christmas fair on 24<sup>th</sup> November when Ian Avery very kindly brought the Frank Mack Garage Ring to the Cathedral Chapter House where it was enjoyed by a large number of pupils – and some local ringers who found out about it! Special thanks go to Roger King who helped to man the ring during the day, and to David Trist for allowing the use of St Petrock's bells.



The pupils from the Cathedral School lapping the handbells at the Cathedral,  
watched over by Oliver Coldrick and Stephen Yeo

*Ian Campbell*

## From the Editor

Thanks go, as always, to those who have contributed to this edition and to John Foster who has done the hard work with the layout and organising the printing.

In my current role as Guild Master I get to go to all of the current round of branch AGM's. It is interesting to see the wide variation of what is discussed by each branch; it is good to get reports from most of these and other functions before the information is out of date. Perhaps the branch secretaries (or suitable person) could ensure that these are all available in time for the next issue?

*Ian Campbell*



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*Happy Christmas to all our readers!*



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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 Ian Campbell (01392 469696). 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.

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