



# RINGING ROUND DEVON

## GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

Newsletter 85: March 2012

### 2012 10 BELL CALL-CHANGE COMPETITION

Following successful competitions at St Marychurch in 2010 and St Mark's in 2011, the 2012 10 Bell Competition was held at Tavistock Parish Church on Saturday 18th February. Teams started to gather soon after 10.00 with the draw, as in previous years, taking place at 10.30. Teams are allowed a five minute practice followed, after a 1-2 1-2 for the judges, by a 10 minute test piece. All teams were punctual allowing the competition to flow well and keep to times allotted. Unfortunately due to other commitments for several ringers, there were slightly fewer teams entering this year's competition. However those present were keen and ready for the challenge.



1<sup>st</sup>, Scott Adams, Wednesday 2



2<sup>nd</sup>. Ian Smith, Tavistock,



3<sup>rd</sup>. Tim Bayton, Quarter peelers.



4<sup>th</sup> Suzanne Driscoll, Weds 1



5<sup>th</sup> Charlotte Boyce, NE Branch

All teams completed the test piece and the ringing was of a good standard. The judges for the day were Mary Mears and Martin Sharland and they did a splendid job under less than perfect conditions. Most ringers will be aware that the beautiful mellow sounding bells at

Tavistock are not that easy to judge as most of the sound comes out the top of the tower and you therefore lose some of the clarity when listening from ground level. Mary and Martin were across the road in the Bedford Hotel and at one point had to cope with a Fire Engine and an Ambulance passing between them and the Church. I suspect the team ringing at the time may have got away with a few dots? They placed the teams in the following order:-

1st	Wednesday night ringers - Band 2	9.5 faults
2nd	Tavistock	12 faults
3rd	Quarter peelers	14 faults
4th	Wednesday night ringers - Band 1	24.5 faults
5th	North-East Branch	39 faults

Kate Jennings, a Tavistock ringer presented the certificates. At the conclusion of the results, thanks were given on behalf of the Devon Ringers' Council to the ringers of Tavistock for hosting the competition and supplying much appreciated tea and cakes, the judges and all competing ringers for making the day a success.

The 2013 competition will be held at Cullompton on Saturday 16th February. The draw will take place at 1pm. This will allow people to attend the Cathedral practice at 5.30pm without too much of a gap to fill in the afternoon.

*Ian Avery*

## **CONGRATULATIONS IN THE NORTH EAST**

31 January witnessed some local firsts at Huntsham. Sadly, Chris Bolt's Reverse Canterbury attempt during the Guild Quarter Peal Week last year failed but at the end of January, he scored a personal triumph with his first successful peal of 5040 changes of Grandsire Major. Coincidentally, this was the first whole peal rung in more than 50 years by a Huntsham resident so the occasion had added significance for Chris. Furthermore, the method originally chosen for the peal is another first; a new composition to be entitled Morrell's Valley (where Chris lives) but unfortunately, after a couple of brief attempts, this failed so the tried and tested Grandsire was pressed into service for three hours. There should be another go at Morrell's Valley later this month.

Those making up the band on this occasion were:

- 1 Mervyn Way
- 2 Lesley Knipe
- 3 Michael Hatchett
- 4 Richard Johnston
- 5 Christopher Field
- 6 Robert Brown
- 7 Jeffery Knipe (C)
- 8 Christopher Bolt

And the peal represented yet another first - this time the "first 400th" rung together by Mike Hatchett and Jeff Knipe.

*Dermot Elworthy*

## **AP-PEAL FOR ST. GEORGE**

Last year, because of the date falling within Holy Week, it was not generally possible to observe St George's Day with a celebratory ring as would be fitting to mark the occasion. However, this year there is no such impediment to our bringing a little joy into the world. Monday, 23 April is the date. The venue? A tower near you.

To date, Hemyock, Cruwys Morchard, Silverton, Uffculme and possibly Cullompton have indicated participation. Out of a total of sixteen towers active within the Guild's North East Branch, 25% to mark this festival is hardly dramatic. I hope that as many ringers as possible will make an effort to turn out on Monday. The bells are a quintessential sound of England and it is up to us as guardians of this rich and unique heritage to maintain its traditions and support the beleaguered saint of a beleaguered culture. I shall be ringing a quarter and I urge fellow rope-pullers to turn out on the day to provide a touch or three. Although it is a bit late for Harry, we can still hear it for England and Saint George!

Look to!

*Dermot Elworthy*

## HOWARD'S THANKSGIVING QUARTER OF STEDMAN

Following major surgery in December 2009 it has been my pleasure to get to know Professor Andrew Kingsnorth, the distinguished surgeon who carried out the operation. Looking him up in Who's Who I found that we had two interests in common, Fell Walking and bell ringing. Naturally the latter entry intrigued me and with a little investigation I found that he and his wife were Millennium learners at Emmanuel, Plymouth and Andrew had progressed to ringing the tenor behind to a peal of Grandsire Triples. Inevitably, a move to the South Hams in 2004 slowed down their change ringing progress as they have been restricted to call change ringing at Noss Mayo and Newton Ferrers. However, Andrew confided that he did miss change ringing and so it was that on a cold and snowy February morning Andrew bridged an 8 year gap by making a very creditable job of covering a quarter of Stedman Caters on Crediton tenor. Andrew was delighted to take part in such a performance again and his patient was equally delighted to have been able to arrange such an occasion. My thanks to the band for their support.

*Howard Egglestone*

Guild of Devonshire Ringers  
CREDITON Devon  
Saturday February 4th 2012  
**1287 STEDMAN CATERS**  
Howard W Egglestone (C) Treble  
Ian L C Campbell 2  
Lesley Tucker 3  
Wendy Campbell 4  
Susan D Sparling 5  
Peter S Bennett 6  
James Kirkcaldy 7  
David Garton 8  
Geoffrey C Sparling 9  
Andrew Kingsnorth Tenor



Andrew Kingsnorth with Howard Egglestone

## MORE FROM THE NORTH EAST

In memory of the late Colin Davey and to celebrate the previous day's birthday anniversary of his widow, Shirley, six friends gathered at Halberton on Monday, 30 January to ring a quarter peal of spliced Doubles.

Colin, when Tower Captain, usually bumped the tenor, generally regarded in the ringing chamber as "Colin's Bell"; it is easy-going and well-mannered. Nevertheless, 17 cwt and 50 minutes of rock-solid tenor behind left Cathy Thorpe, who is no Amazon, drained but contented from participating in the tribute to the man who taught her to ring. Colin, whose death was reported in the last issue of RRD, continues to be missed.

The band ringing 1260 changes comprising Stedman (60), Reverse Canterbury (240), Plain Bob (480) and Grandsire (480) was made up by;

- 1 Terry Hargreaves
- 2 Paul Mainwaring
- 3 Sheila Scofield
- 4 Leslie Boyce
- 5 Matthew Weighell (C)
- 6 Cathy Thorpe

*Sheila Scofield*

## CLEAN-UP AT POLTIMORE

In order to celebrate St Valentine's Day (???) a working party consisting of Robert Franklin, Neil Deem and Ian Campbell visited the tower of Poltimore. The main intention was to clear up many years-worth of accumulated dirt and rubbish and to check over the installation of six bells. A considerable amount of old oily dirt was scraped off the frame around the plain bearings, and special attention was given to trying to remove some of the dirt that was trapped between the frame and the wall.

The frame and installation were found to be basically sound, although it is thought that some work tightening up the wooden frame and fittings would be worthwhile.

*Ian Campbell*

## SO NEAR AND YET SO FAR...

In order to celebrate birthdays in February for two of the band a peal was arranged on February 10<sup>th</sup> at the mini-ring at Bishop's Ting-Tong. As this would be the first "inside" for two of the ringers Plain Bob Minor was chosen. The ringing proceeded in a satisfactory manner until half-way through the very last course when one of the ringers lost control of the bell and was unable to recover it. The peal was stopped with only two leads or 24 changes to go out of 5040 – that is about a minute short!

Never mind, we can always try again.

Thanks are due to James Grant for the use of the bells and his hospitality.

*NB. This article has been kept anonymous to protect the author from the wrath of those concerned.*



## AYLESBEARE BRANCH OUTING

On a cold winter's morning with the snow falling steadily, a group of determined, possibly insane, ringers set off on day's outing. There were four towers booked, Sampford Spiney, on a snowy Dartmoor, Pillaton in Cornwall, Stoke Damerel and Laira in a rain-lashed Plymouth. It started out as an Aylesbeare Branch Outing, but nearly ended up as a Guild Outing with ringers from the Aylesbeare, Exeter, NE and SW Branches joining together to sample the delights of these towers.

Sampford Spiney, recently remodelled and augmented to 6 was our first stop. Approaching Dartmoor from the Exeter area, heading towards Tavistock, the hills were covered with snow, and looking very wintry. It was bitterly cold! The small electric fire in the tower was more than welcome. We were met by Ian Smith who let us in and joined in the ringing. We ranged from Rounds and Call Changes to Cambridge S Minor, with over 24 people enjoying this superb ring of 6. Even some of the local residents did not mind us ringing and had dressed for the weather better than most of us.



We also were joined here by 4 members of the Plymouth Youths, who acquitted themselves admirably. We sent an advanced party to Pillaton to get the bells up, as the organiser had not allowed enough time to get there, only for them to find the belfry locked. A quick call and this was sorted out, resulting in us starting later than we should have.

To make up for lost time

menus were obtained from the local inn and we all chose our meals. Margaret Elms kindly offering to take the list and place our orders. We all arrived in the pub, after enjoying some very good ringing, Stedman Triples, Plain Hunt, Call-changes, Grandsire and Cambridge, to find Margaret settled at a table right by the roaring fire. Pillaton are a wonderful 8, not so long ago they were augmented from 6 and it was noticed, from the bell details, that the back four were 1908 and the middle 2 were 1809 with two trebles added 2009. Logic dictates that the next major addition will be in 2109.

Suitably refreshed with good food and fine ale, we travelled to Stoke Damerel, Plymouth. It was here that we managed to lose some of the band on the way - they eventually arrived just in time to ring before we let the bells down. An interesting and challenging set of bells, at 4 cwt these were the lightest of the day with a treble of 1.5 cwt! After a short while we managed to get the better of them and had some very good ringing, again ranging from



Rounds and Call Changes to Spliced S Major. A very cosy ringing chamber played host, eventually, to 18 ringers, which, along with 2 electric heaters, certainly helped to keep out

the cold. By now it was raining hard, so the snow shovels were not going to be needed. Our thanks to John Steere for permission to ring and supplying the heaters!



We then moved on to the last tower of the day, Laira, where we were greeted by Julie House and her two ladies. A wonderful end to the day. Good bells and a chance of much needed hot tea, coffee and biscuits. Our usual fare did us proud; with at one point an entire band of learners rang call-changes without any supervision. Well done them. After

the group photograph we ended with Grandsire Triples and a Course of Cambridge S Major before letting the bells down and going our separate ways home.

My thanks to all those that came along and made the day an enjoyable one. The ringing was of a high standard throughout and it was a pleasure to see the Plymouth Youths doing so well. Also my thanks to Alena Wardle, Neil Deem and Janet Coles for all the coaching and help they gave to the less experienced ringers amongst us during the day.

*John Foster, Aylesbeare Branch Secretary*

## DEVON YOUNG RINGERS ON FACEBOOK



A Facebook group has been set up for all young ringers in Devon. If you are a young ringer (up to about 25) or support young ringers in your family or tower, then please join it!

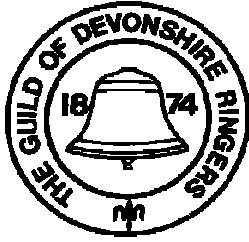
Simply search on Facebook for 'Devon Young Ringers' and click on 'join'.

*Lynne Hughes.*

## RARE BIRTHDAYS

Not too many of us were born on the 29th February and therefore have to wait for four years between birthdays. Pam Bailey of the Honiton St Paul's ringers is one of that rare group. To celebrate the occasion a Quarter Peal of 1260 changes of Plain Bob Doubles was rung at St Paul's on Pam's (17th!) birthday. Sadly, Pam was not up to ringing on the day so Laurie Palmer of Ottery St Mary was drafted in to fill the gap. After the successful outcome the birthday girl was on hand to say 'thank you' and receive birthday greetings from all the ringers.

Quarter Peal Band: 1. Trevor Hitchcock. 2. Lisa Clarke. 3. Laurie Palmer. 4. Paddy Priscott. 5. Derek Ballard. 6. Mark Moran.



## Guild Festival and Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at St John the Evangelist,  
Withycombe Raleigh

### Programme for the day

Starting with Dedicated Practice Sessions at three towers:

**Group A** - Clyst St George - 10.30am-12.00pm - Moving on from Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles with Reverse Canterbury, St Martins and St Simons and introducing the idea of variations, e.g. April Day (Plain Bob with Grandsire Singles). Aimed at encouraging ringers to stretch themselves just a little further without having to learn too much and have some fun. Tutors: Roger King and John Foster.

**Group B** – Clyst Honiton – 10.30am-12.00pm - Kaleidoscope Ringing – This is a very popular course, so if you are coming for the first time or returning for more, Kaleidoscope ringing is an ideal way to practice basic dodging or making places, developing an awareness of your position in the change and building skills for method ringing. Tutor: Lynne Hughes

**Group C** – Withycombe Raleigh – 10.00am-12.00pm - Listening Skills using the simulator – Tutors: Derek Ballard and Martin Mansley

- 1 - Beltower's Listening Challenge for detecting striking errors on different numbers of bells.
- 2 - Individual sessions on a bell with the simulator ringing rounds, call changes, plain hunt.
- 3 - Individual sessions at the keyboard.

**11.30am to 12.30pm – A Talk on Tower/Bell Maintenance** to be given by James Clarke in the Church Hall at Withycombe Raleigh.

**1.00pm to 2.00pm – Any Questions** – Chaired by Lester Yeo – Please submit your questions to the Guild President by the 9<sup>th</sup> of June please. These will be looked at by the panel just before the session to give them time to think of something funny to say! No censoring will take place. Subject matter: Recruitment and retention of ringers in the modern world.

**2.00pm to 2.30pm – Service** – to be held in the Parish Church

**2.30pm - Guild Annual General Meeting** – to be held in the Church Hall

*(Nominations for Guild officers may be made in advance, in writing to the General Secretary, including a note of the proposer and seconder and the candidate's willingness to stand. Further nominations may be made from the floor of the meeting, as must all proposals for Guild Master)*

There will be Drinks and light refreshments available between 10.30 and 2.00pm in the church hall. There will be a charge of £4.00 to include Tea/Coffee, Pasty/Sandwiches and a slice of cake. This will also entitle you to a cream tea after the meeting.

Naturally we will require some volunteers to provide assistance at Clyst St George and Clyst Honiton, so if you are able and willing to help, please contact John Foster, Aylesbeare Branch Ringing Master ([johntheringer@talktalk.net](mailto:johntheringer@talktalk.net), 01395 272494)

We have a wedding to ring for at 12.30pm, ringing at 1.15pm, and it would be wonderful if those that are not attending the Any Questions session could help us ring as many of the bells as possible.

## **UPTON PYNE**

I can remember ringing for a wedding on the six bells of Upton Pyne several years ago but I was surprised to hear that ringing had not been allowed on them since 2000, when a significant crack had been found in the tower. We were interested to know the state of these bells, so made some investigations.

The crack in the tower has been repaired but the state of the frame was suspect and movement of it was thought to have caused the problems with the tower. As a result it had been decided to suspend ringing indefinitely. Initial contact showed some reluctance to do anything about it; as with so many places the Church had a small and aging population, and could not afford to do anything substantial such as rehanging the bells. Following a little gentle persuasion we were allowed access to the tower and bells to investigate the situation, so a party consisting of Rob Franklin, David Hird and Ian Campbell visited on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

The frame appears to be in good condition, although an investigation showed several of the bolts holding it together were a little loose. It had been wedged to the wall in several places; this is known to create a "battering ram" effect which could well have caused the crack in the tower – a frame is designed to take all the stress on the foundation beams at the bottom which are fixed securely into the sides of the tower. The bearings were still slightly oily, and the ropes were just about serviceable apart from the treble which had been tied in a knot just below the garter hole in the wheel!

With permission the back five were rung up one by one while the frame was examined for movement; nothing untoward was observed. It was seen that a recent modification to the clock had involved the installation of a chiming wire which intruded slightly into the tenor pit and was touching the bell when it was rung but this can easily be moved out of the way.

It has been agreed that we will reconvene with plenty of WD40, some big spanners to tighten everything up, an oil-can and some spare ropes, with a view to having a test ring, in the presence of a professional, to ascertain if any remaining frame movement is likely to cause tower damage. If all goes to plan the bells will then be available for occasional ringing, such as special services and weddings. The churchwardens were delighted at the idea of having the bells ringing again. Initially they were very sceptical about the cost involved; when we said that it would be done entirely by volunteer labour providing their own materials they were surprised and very grateful.

*Ian Campbell*

## **MID-DEVON QUIZ**

Friday, February 25th was the date for the Mid-Devon branch Quiz, followed by a Beetle Drive, for after the brains had been drained.

This is an annual event, this year held at St Paul's church hall in Newton Abbot. It's looked forward to by an increasing number of budding eggheads and masterminds, of all ages to do their bit in raising money for the branch.

Quiz master Alan Furse and his wife Gill, putting the scores on the board, were at the ready. Forty or so bell-ringers, hangers on (sorry, same thing), conscripts, and others who came for the excellent "bring and share" supper, not realising there was a quiz, assembled into teams, with brains at the ready, if persuaded to bring them.

There were about 8 rounds of questions, each of 10 questions. There were also a page of anagrams and a photo identification page of local churches, to be worked on whilst answering the questions. The rounds covered the upcoming Olympics, Food, Drink, General Knowledge plus various other subjects. Prior to each round, where a team decided they might get a good number of points, a joker card could be played to double up the earned points. A vital tactical decision had to be made concerning this.

The quiz was followed by a novel way of playing a beetle drive, arranged by David Robertson. Instead of the normal beetle parts, being a bell-ringers' event, bell parts were used. Frantic dice throwing ensued. All good fun.



The quiz was won by Team No.1 mostly made up of Kingskerswell ringers, with Team No.2 second. So in future, being in the right numbered team is obviously the key to success!

Thanks must go to Alan and Gill, and various helpers for a very enjoyable evening. £120 was raised for Branch funds.

*Ian Dodds*

### **MID-DEVON BRANCH FIRST QUARTER PEALERS**

Congratulations to two Mid-Devon branch members who were presented with "First Quarter Peal" certificates at recent Branch practices.

John Robinson completed his first quarter at Upton during the last Guild quarter peal week and we were delighted that David Robertson and Don Roberts were able to present his certificate at December's Upton practice.

And as mentioned in the last edition of Ringing Round Devon, Janet Ritterman completed her first quarter at Heavitree in December. Martin Mansley was on hand to present Janet with her certificate at January's Teignmouth practice.

*John Martin*



John Robinson (left) receives his Certificate



.... as does Janet Ritterman (right!)



## FROM THE FOOTNOTES

a) Peals rung for Ian Avery's 60th birthday:

Silverton, 12th December – a new method in Ian's honour.

Bishop's Ting-Tong, 13th December- rung by an all-Kingsteignton band

Kingsteignton 24th December – rung jointly for his brother's 50th birthday (a 5060 composed especially for the occasion)

b) The peal of Bristol S Maximus at Withycombe Raleigh on 19th December marked the 60th anniversary of John Hill's first peal of Bristol S Max.

c) With the peal at Liverpool Cathedral on 1st January, the Guild has now rung peals on the heaviest 12,10,8,6 and 5. This was also Pauline Champion's 1000th for the Guild.

d) The peal at Offwell on February 6<sup>th</sup> was Robert Brown's 1000<sup>th</sup> for the Guild.

e) The peal of Old King Roger S Royal, rung at Thorverton on February 9<sup>th</sup> was to celebrate Roger King's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, and Les Boyce's 60<sup>th</sup>. The peal at Longcot on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February was also a 70<sup>th</sup> birthday compliment to Roger King.

f) The 60th anniversary of Howard Egglestone's first peal was marked with peals on 16th February at Thorverton (GDR), 17th February, handbells in Crediton(GDR) and 17th February, Kingsteignton (Devonshire Society).

g) The visiting band that rang a peal of Yorkshire S Max at Withycombe Raleigh on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February turned up short so one of their number rang bells 2 & 3.

*Mike Mears*

## JOHN HILL – FIRST TO RING BRISTOL FROM MAJOR TO MAXIMUS

John learnt to ring at Ewell in Surrey in 1945 and rang his first peal at Henfield, Sussex, in May 1949. This peal was rung for the Boy Scouts Association and was conducted by Peter Bond, who later went into the Church, and in the 1970s spent his summer holidays staying with his cousin in Topsham and attending local practices and ringing quarter peals. John went to university in Leicester and rang his first 12-bell peal at Leicester Cathedral, Superlative S Maximus, in November 1950. He returned there in November 2000 to ring a peal in the same method to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He rang his 1000<sup>th</sup> peal on the treble to Cat's-Eye S Royal, at Thorverton in December 2005, and has now rung in the region of 1200 peals. He is still actively ringing peals and is currently arranging a peal as part of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations in September of this year.

John rang his first peal of Bristol S Maximus at Leicester Cathedral in March 1951, this being only the second peal in the method – the first had taken place at the same venue in May 1950. He also rang in the third and fourth peals in the method, at High Wycombe and Reading St Laurence, early in 1968. These peals were organised by a young David Hilling. John spent 20 years in South Africa, from 1973 to 1993, where he rang at Parktown, Johannesburg but had no opportunity for ringing on 12. His next two peals of Bristol S Maximus were on the treble, the first on College Youths dinner day in 1994 and the second in 1995 for a father and sons peal. The next time he rang it inside was at Buckfast Abbey in January 2002, for the Exeter Cathedral Society and this was the first in the method by a resident GDR band. It was also the first time he had rung it with 4ths-place calls. Later that year he was proud to ring in the first peal of Bristol S Maximus at Exeter Cathedral by a Cathedral Society band. He has now rung 20 peals in the method.

His first peal at Exeter Cathedral was Stedman Cinques in December 1953, for the Society of Roving Ringers and conducted by David Parsons. This was a landmark peal because it

was the first on 12 at the Cathedral in which ladies took part and Cyril Deem from Exmouth strapped the tenor. John's most recent peal at the Cathedral was again Stedman Cinques, in February 2011, when Tom Waterson became the youngest person to ring the tenor to a peal single-handed. A couple of other interesting facts about John are that he was the first person to ring Bristol from Major to Maximus and in 2011 completed 60 years membership of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

*Mike Mears*

## **WORKING PARTY ON THE AGM**

Lester Yeo invites comment on the following; please send responses directly to him at [lester.yeo@btinternet.com](mailto:lester.yeo@btinternet.com)

1. A working party consisting of Lester Yeo, Martin Mansley and Leslie Boyce met after the Ringers Carol Service in December.
2. We agreed that most people disliked business meetings, and that this could be one major reason why there are often poor attendances at the Guild AGM. Therefore we discussed the possibility of finding other democratic ways of governing the Guild which retained a high level of accountability. We therefore are setting forward as a discussion paper outlining an alternative method of governance which puts greater responsibility on the branches to appoint suitable people on to the General Committee, which thus acts as a representative parliament for the entire membership.
3. Such a system would necessitate two committee meetings per year, with the committee consisting of:
  - one representative elected by each branch
  - senior branch officers (chair and secretary)
  - officials appointed by the committee (education, publicity, towers and belfries etc)
  - elected Guild officers (see paragraph 5 below)
  - vice presidentsProbably it would be necessary to set a quorum, of approximately 50% (not counting vice-presidents without another role). Observers would of course be welcome but would not have voting rights. It would be the responsibility of branch representatives to bring forward concerns from their branches, and to discuss matters with branch members in advance of the committee meetings
4. The committee would have the power to remove officers from their office, and to transact all business of the Guild – on financial and constitutional issues by a two thirds majority of those present.
5. The Guild officers (President, Secretary, Treasurer, CC reps) could be elected every three years (and when there is a vacancy) by a ballot of all members following a nomination process (this could begin at the first committee meeting of the year). This would be done by secure electronic ballot, with a postal option for those who desire it. The elections would take place after 31 March when all subscriptions have been received by the branches, and so a list of all Ringing Members is available. This would possibly involve a lot of work where members are not on the internet.
6. A Guild event would continue to be held in the early summer with training and social components, and an open forum where matters can be discussed informally; this Guild festival would continue to be organised by the geographical branches of the Guild in turn. The Master would begin her/his year of office at the Guild festival, and the Master for the subsequent year would also be chosen. The Competition day could be held in the autumn, also organised by the Guild branches in turn.

7. All these dates would not necessarily be on the third Saturday. The advantage is that many of the leading ringers will be about as it is Cathedral practice. The disadvantage is that they will want to be at the Cathedral at 5.30pm, which precludes any evening activities.

It would be desirable to expect the standing committee to meet regularly between the two General Committee meetings. Obviously before any changes were implemented, there would need to be consultation with the Charity Commission and subsequent revision of the rules.

## **LILLIE GOES TO STOKE CANON**

The Heritage Lottery Fund has generously assisted Stoke Canon Church with funding to re-order their bells. As a part of this a Heritage Club has been created which has been giving talks and presentations about the church and the area. On January 17<sup>th</sup> Ian Campbell was invited to talk about the history of bell ringing in Devon. Lillie (the model bell from Withycombe Raleigh) came along to demonstrate the concept of full-circle ringing and a nice article and photo appeared on the local newsletter "Forum" under the title "Is that all you get for £70,000?" – suggesting that Lillie was the only bell to be installed!

The work on the bells is nearly complete; they are to be installed during March with local help but will not be available for visiting ringers until after the celebration service on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The two trebles (Llewellyns and James, Bristol, 1885) have been recast, the third (1699) has been replaced by a Taylor bell kindly donated by the Keltek trust, the fourth (1641) and sixth (1724) have been retuned, while a new fifth has been cast from the metal of the old third and some additional metal. The old fifth (1691) is being hung dead for chiming. A new band of ringers is being trained at Rewe and other towers ready for the return of the bells.

With the current spate of metal thefts across the country concerns have been expressed about the safety of the bells while in the church before hanging. This is being addressed by members of the congregation who will be sleeping overnight in the newly re-ordered church, which has all mod-cons, including kitchen and heated floor!

On the day of the celebration (June 23<sup>rd</sup>) it is hoped that the new bells will be ringing almost all day up to the service at 6pm. A full peal will be attempted in the morning and the afternoon will be open for bids for slots for bands of ringers, quarter peals, or call-changes. Open ringing will be available after the service. Cream teas will be available in the afternoon.



Bill Blake and Ian Campbell with Lillie at the demonstration.

## YOUNG RINGERS' SPRING OUTING

**Saturday 24th March 2012:** Young Ringers' Spring outing. Starting at 10.00 with ringing at Belstone, searching on the moor for the stone circle, and going to Mischa's for a pasty lunch and afternoon ringing on the Denmisch simulated campanile. All young ringers welcome, with whoever brings them.

Please contact Lynne Hughes ([lynnephughes@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnephughes@hotmail.com) ; 01626 862797) for more details on either event or to make a booking.

## KALEIDOSCOPE DAY

This year's Kaleidoscope training day took place on 25<sup>th</sup> February, with a morning session at Dawlish and the afternoon at Exminster. The Kaleidoscope system allows pairs of bells to ring continuous places, long places and dodges - or any combination. The ringers only have to think about being in one of two places in the change, but may be striking over different bells. Thought needs to be given to holding up or pulling in for accurate striking, and there is plenty of time to work on this until rounds is called.

Eight students came on the day, supported by a number of helpers, and good progress was made. Lunch was enjoyed at the Royal Oak in Exminster, and a group photo taken there before walking up to the church.

With a full complement of students, and some on a waiting list, the Kaleidoscope session as part of the Guild AGM day on 16<sup>th</sup> June should prove popular.

*Lynne Hughes*



The Kaleidoscopers outside the Royal Oak

## EXETER AT LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL

Six members of the Exeter Cathedral Society, in company with several friends from other parts of the country, were lucky enough to be offered the chance of ringing a peal on New Year's Day at Liverpool Cathedral – the only ring of bells with a heavier tenor than that of our own Cathedral. This was quite a privilege, as peals there are infrequent: there had been just 38 in the 60-year history of the bells.

With one substitute in the band (thanks Sue), we took advantage of an opportunity to ring a practice quarter peal in late November, allowing us to become familiar with the bells and the vast and gloomy, rather intimidating ringing chamber. This proved to be a very worthwhile exercise, as it enabled us to start the peal with confidence, settling into a good rhythm straight away.

With his wealth of heavy-bell experience, Mike Mears was the obvious ringer of choice for the massive tenor (82 cwt.) and he made a fine job of it, occasionally being seen to bend his knees but otherwise giving the appearance that it was hardly a challenge. Ian Fielding fortunately recovered sufficiently from a nasty cold to be able to conduct, and everyone put in the effort to enable us to produce some very good ringing. (Well I *think* it was good, because that's what we were told by those who were listening outside; the sound in the ringing chamber is less than clear, to say the least!)

It was a long and cold (at least for those of us round the 'light' end) slog, but a memorable experience, and another long-held ambition accomplished.

*Pauline Champion*

### **Guild of Devonshire Ringers**

**Liverpool**, Merseyside

Cathedral Church of Christ

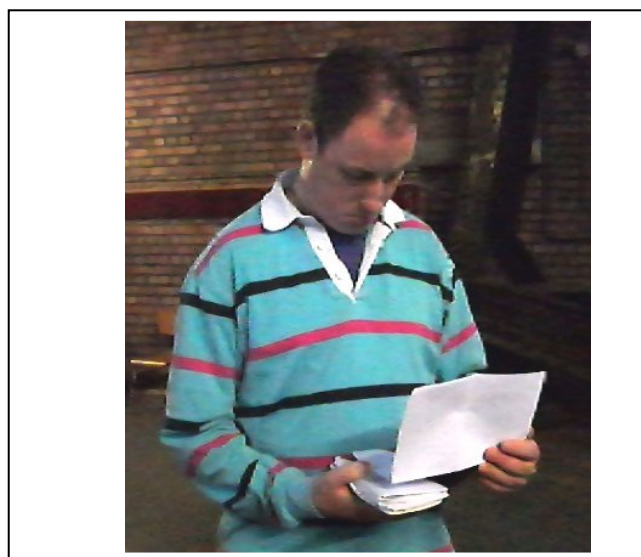
Sunday, 1 January 2012 in 4h 41 (82-0-11)

### **5007 Stedman Cinques**

Composed: R E J Dennis

- 1 Ian R Fielding (C)
- 2 Alison C Waterson
- 3 Linda M Garton
- 4 Pauline C Champion
- 5 Ian P Hill
- 6 Ian W Avery
- 7 Paul J Pascoe
- 8 Thomas J Waterson
- 9 Andrew J Palk
- 10 Alan G Reading
- 11 John P Loveless
- 12 Michael E C Mears

1000th peal for the Guild: 4



*The conductor with the composition before the peal, "Just checking that it hasn't changed since I last looked at it".*





*Liverpool's immense ringing chamber, showing the ringling platform in the centre and with the bells set at backstroke.*



*The band in the cathedral after the peal, standing in order, treble to tenor, clockwise from front right.*

## NEWS FROM THE EAST DEVON BRANCH

St Paul's, Honiton hosted this year's East Devon Branch AGM of the Guild of Devonshire ringers, attended by ringers from across East Devon and also by Officers of the Guild, Lester Yeo (President), John Foster (Guild Master) and Janet Coles (General Secretary). Special thanks are due to Rev. Sue Roberts for conducting the service, to Gwen Martin for playing the organ and to Grace Carter for organising the tea which followed. Before the Ringers' Service there was open ringing on the 8 bells of St Paul's.

In the election of Branch Officers, Chairman Laurie Palmer (Ottery St Mary) and Secretary Anne Bailey (Sidmouth) were re-elected. After 12 years in the post, Anita Mason (Sidmouth) stood down as Treasurer to be succeeded by Jeanne Mills (Northleigh).

Richard Coley (Ottery St Mary) and Derek Ballard (Honiton) were re-elected Education Officer and Ringing Master respectively. Lisa Clarke (Combe Raleigh) was re-elected to the General Committee and Trevor Hitchcock (Combe Raleigh) was elected Publicity Officer to succeed James Harris (Sidmouth).

Members stood in silent tribute to remember Alan Tucker (Farway) and Jack Sage (Luppitt). Congratulations were offered to Ray Appleby (Sidmouth), Lisa Clarke and Trevor Hitchcock on gaining Guild Certificates during the year.

All towers are being encouraged to join in national celebrations and ring for St George's Day, the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and the opening of the Olympic Games.

*Trevor Hitchcock*

## FIRST QUARTER PEAL FOR 19<sup>TH</sup> PLYMOUTH SCOUT GROUP

On Sunday evening of 22 January 2012, 6 members of the 19<sup>th</sup> Plymouth Scout Group met to ring a Quarter Peal of 1260 Plain Bob Doubles at Emmanuel Church, Plymouth. The aim was to ring a first Quarter for Harry Andrews, who took up ringing as a result of a challenge from Sarah Peck, the Assistant Scout Leader. The challenge, issued during last year's summer camp in Derbyshire, required Harry to take up ringing in exchange for Sarah taking up rock climbing.

Whilst gathering names of interested ringers for the Quarter it soon became apparent that band comprised entirely of 19<sup>th</sup> Plymouth Group members would be possible, there being a number of members of the Troop that are also member of the regular Sunday Band or are learning to ring on a practice night. Thus, with very few hiccups, the first wholly 19<sup>th</sup> Plymouth Scout Group Quarter Peal was scored. I doubt that it will be the last. Harry, who started ringing in September last year, has made rapid progress in his ringing and has become a mainstay of the band. We look forward to our first Scout Group Quarter on 8 bells.

Emmanuel, Plymouth

1260 Plain Bob Doubles in 42 minutes

For Evensong and Joseph Peck's 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday

1	Harry Andrews*	Section Assistant
2	Christopher H Wardle	Scout Leader
3	Samuel Peck	Scout
4	Joseph Q Peck	Scout
5	Alena J Wardle (C)	Section Assistant
6	Sarah Peck	Assistant Scout Leader

\* 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter



Ringing members of the 19<sup>th</sup> Plymouth Scout Group

## JEREME DARKE: UPDATE



To Devon bell-ringers Jereme Darke is probably best known as the former secretary of the Devon Association of Ringers. He was also Secretary of the Crewkerne Farmers' Skittle League, and Joint Master of the Seavington Hunt. Following a freak accident on a farm last month, in which he suffered a severe head injury, Jereme was air-lifted to Frenchay hospital Bristol which specialises in neurological cases. Jereme is still in Frenchay but has left both the ICU and High Dependency Wards and is now on the Main ward, where they are concentrating on his rehabilitation. He is able to move about on his bed with some support and is able to stand unaided. The doctors are so pleased with his progress that they are considering transferring him to Musgrove Park Hospital at Taunton.

Jereme is beginning to remember people who sent cards and also remembers addresses and telephone numbers of some friends. His work colleagues thank everyone for all the notices of support on the website. Some people have asked if they are able to get a card to Jereme. His work-place will make sure that he gets them. Lorna, from work is visiting regularly and has been passing on cards as well as reading them out to him.

The continuing support and comments are comforting not only to Jereme but also to his friends and family.

*Mike Webster*



## POLTIMORE CHURCH AND THE NUREMBURG COUNTER

With no further explanation, Poltimore church lists a Nuremburg Counter found under the floor in 1883, as one of its attractions. But what was it and why was it considered so important?

Prior to the adoption of Arabic numerals and written arithmetic symbols in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, basic sums used physical analogues, such as counters. Introduced by the Normans at the time of the Conquest, counters were used in a form of abacus on a chequered table, to calculate expenditure and receipts (hence the term "exchequer"). Designs and sizes of 'abacus' varied widely, the most common being similar to a shove ha'penny board with raised sides so that nothing could fall off; the English Exchequer table measured 10ft x 5ft.



Calculations with counters on a chequer board are like those using beads on an abacus. The horizontal rows are the transactions. Based on the old imperial monetary system of £ (pounds), s (shillings) and d (pence) introduced by the Romans, the vertical columns are marked with £sd values. Counters placed in the appropriate squares indicated the value and number of entries for each transaction. To add up the value of all transactions, the counters are moved to the bottom row of their respective columns in turn. For every twelve 'penny' counters in the bottom row, a single counter is added to the 'shillings' square and twelve counters are removed from the penny squares. Similarly, for every twenty 'shilling' counters, one counter was added to the

pound square and twenty removed from the shilling squares. At the end of the process - which in the case of the Royal Exchequer would extend to columns representing many thousands of pounds - the calculation is complete.

Initially counters (or jettons as they were termed in French) were supplied by France, but competition resulted in very efficient mechanised processes in Nuremburg, and by the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century, the Germans dominated the supply.

The introduction of Arabic numerals and written calculations rendered the chequer board/abacus redundant. Manufacturers continued to produce counters until at least the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, diversifying into medals, silver presentation pieces or cheap gaming counters for gaming houses, so use can usually be related to date of manufacture.

The Poltimore counter is undated, and I sent a copy of the photograph below to Thomas Cadbury, the Curator of Antiquities at Exeter Museum who replied '*I think that your piece is a German copy of a French jetton. The shield contains the fleur de lis and dauphine (dolphin) in its quarters which is the coat of arms of the Dauphine (the eldest son of the French king). .....it dates from about 1480-1500 and so is quite early.*'

So, the Poltimore Nuremburg Counter can rightly claim to be just that!

Roger King



## MUSICAL HANDBELL RESTORATION

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