



RINGING ROUND DEVON

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

Newsletter 87: September 2012

Good News and Goings on at Cruwys Morchard

Well, I'm exhausted! I've just spent the whole day in Cruwys Morchard church entertaining 36 children and several teachers, along with four other Cruwys Morchard bell ringers, one non-ringing but interested member of the community and Ian Campbell. And it wasn't just today either. When we proposed the idea to two primary school headteachers, they were so keen that they wanted all their 9 to 11 year olds to come, which really added up to too many. So today was a repetition of a nearly identical day last week with 46 children.



And this is only the beginning. By the time you read this, we shall probably have organised and carried out various other events. The reason for all this activity is . . . ah, do I begin to hear cries of relief and shouts of joy from those who have rung at Cruwys Morchard and have already guessed the good news? Yes! We are going to have the bells re-hung.

We have a lovely set of listed bells by Evan & William Evans, five of which were cast in 1721 from the molten metal of the original four bells which melted in a fire when the tower was struck by lightening in 1689. The treble was added in 1755. They hang in a very good Harry Stokes oak frame which we are told will last another 100 years. But the trouble is - the bearings. The reason nobody much wants to come and ring our lovely bells is that they are still on plain bearings dating from 1905 and frankly, they've had it! And judging by what some people say, I think they'd probably 'had it' donkey's years ago.

So we started thinking about fund raising and decided to apply for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant. This meant that we had to come up with lots of ideas to show we were going to involve the community in 'learning activities'. So we started by inviting two primary schools to come and enjoy a day of bell related activities - which brings me full circle to where I started...



...Ian brought the demonstration bell and gave the children an excellent talk. Then we divided them into four groups, called Treble, Tenor, Sally and Tail. They took it in turns to do four different activities. Ian did hand bells with one group; Hilary had another group doing bell related drawings, which we asked them to go back to school and turn into paintings suitable for us to use as posters to advertise our tower open day; Liz took a group outside and engaged them in the subject of parachutes...Parachutes? Yes, this was a little ploy to try to get them and their families to come to the open day. They had to go back to school and design and make parachutes suitable for their teddies and then bring them to be tried out from the top of the tower on the open day. And lastly, Les and I took a group up the tower to the old ringing room, where we split the group into two. Les took half up to the belfry to see the bells and half stayed with me. Then the two halves swapped. So by the end of the second day, Les had expounded on the bells and I had expounded on the two items of historical interest in the old ringing room, sixteen times! Not to mention having accompanied the children up and down the fifty-one steps umpteen times. So now you know why I'm exhausted.

However, the days were greatly enjoyed by all, so that actually tones down the exhaustion to the rather pleasant feeling of satisfaction of a job well done.

Picnic lunches were eaten out on the grass. (In the middle of weeks of rain we were blessed with two fine days.) And after lunch, there was time for various other activities, like having a go at chiming the tower bells. I saw one ten year old boy gallivanting out of the church to participate in what was on offer out in the churchyard - parachute games - and shrieking as he went, "Ooh, this is the best day ever!"

Guy spent both days following everyone around with his camera, and you can see some of the results here.

Nellie Croft

Ringling all day at Stoke Canon

If you ever rung on the old bells at Stoke Canon you would know that they were not memorable for their tone! But following major fund raising and money from the Heritage Lottery Fund they have been completely rehung in a new steel frame with four new or recast bells (including a donation of a second-hand bell from the Keltek Trust) and all retuned. The ringing chamber has been moved upstairs and they are now a joy to ring. They were initially a little loud (cotton wool in the ears helped) but following some work they are now ideal.

In order to celebrate the rehang a service was arranged in the evening and we were asked to keep the bells ringing all day. This was achieved with a peal in the morning, and two quarter peals in the afternoon, interspersed with excellent call changes provided by visitors from the Devon Association.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Stoke Canon, Devon

St Mary Magdalene

Saturday 23 June 2012 in 2 hr 41 (9-3-19)

5040 Cambridge S Minor

- 1 Robert E Franklin
- 2 P Wendy Campbell
- 3 Lester J Yeo
- 4 Michael J C Cannon
- 5 Andrew P Digby
- 6 Ian L C Campbell (C)

The first peal on the restored bells, rung on the day of their rededication.



Michael, Rob, Andrew, Ian, Wendy and Lester

Ian Campbell

Devon Young Ringers' Fun and Food

The annual Young Ringers' extravaganza in Devon was held at Pinhoe again this year, on 14th July. Joined by several new people including two up-and-coming families, there were at least 17 young ringers with a wide spread of ages and experience. Call changes and bell-handling was interspersed with methods, and more boxes had to be brought in for all the little ones!



In a very wet summer we were blessed with a virtually dry day. The churchyard was put to good use for games and a challenging quiz: eventually somebody did find the grave with a skull and crossbones on it, and the winner received chocolate buttons which they kindly shared round. Handbells also came out for some rounds on 10.

Meanwhile a couple of barbecues had produced large quantities of sausages and burgers, so the feast began, with puddings to follow; but there was yet more ringing before everyone dispersed.



Thanks go to the church for the use of bells and facilities, Wendy for getting all the food, Phil and John for cooking, Heather for preparing the quiz and everyone for coming. It really was a lovely day.

Lynne Hughes

A World First for the North East Branch

Official records will show that the first Gold Medal of the 2012 Games was awarded to China. However, posterity should be aware that, in fact, it was on the previous day that this primacy was established - and not by representatives of the Peoples' Republic but by the Olympic (can I say that without infringing copyrights?) team ringing for Cullompton.

In a major scoop for Ringing Round Devon, pictured below on the podium – well, Matt's on the Tenor box – are the stalwarts of so many Tuesday, latterly Thursday night practices culminating in the eight Golds so proudly disported here and leaving the rest of us vicariously to enjoy the glory. A few other towers competed in "The Big Ring" but no additional gongs have been mentioned, although your reporter modestly scored a plastic self-adhesive sticker proclaiming him "Star of the Practice" at Bampton on the eve of the opening ceremony.



Richard Shere and his band are to be congratulated on this topical espousal of the Corinthian spirit.



Dermot Elworthy

Centenaries, Jubilees and Superlative Performances

The eight bells of St Michael the Archangel, East Teignmouth, were cast by Llewellyns and James of Bristol and installed in the newly completed tower in the year of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, 1897. The first peal on the bells was rung on September 4, 1912 by members of the Cambridge University Guild. It is recorded that this was only the second peal that this particular band had rung together and it was rung as part of a peal-ringing tour of Devon.

One member of this band, Maurice Atkins, came to live in Teignmouth in 1950. He served for fourteen years as Captain of the St Michael's band of ringers which he had re-formed on his arrival and there are still former ringers who remember him personally.

2012 has been a year of celebration of past and present achievement, not least in the ringing of church bells. Bells have featured in the Diamond Jubilee of our present Queen just as they did in that of her ancestor. Bells heralded the beginning of the London Olympics both in the stadium and in the country at large. It was, therefore, a privilege to welcome present members of the Cambridge University Guild to ring a peal of Superlative Surprise Major on a date as near as could be managed to that of the original peal. The method was the same one and the composition was by Cox – not the same one, but the coincidence of name is noteworthy.

The local ringers made sure the occasion was special by leafleting local residents, getting articles in the local press and parish magazine and above all by having the church open for people to come in, watch the peal band and the bells on CCTV and talk 'ringing' with local ringers. 'No pressure, then', as one member of the CU band remarked !

All was well, the peal was scored and the cause of ringing in Teignmouth, and further afield, was advanced. Well done, all concerned.

Cambridge University Guild

TEIGNMOUTH, Devon, St. Michael the Archangel
Sun Sept 2 2012 3h12 (22)

5152 Superlative Surprise Major

Comp. A J Cox

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. H C Lewis | 5. M D Dawson |
| 2. R L Underwood | 6. C W Daws |
| 3. R Shipp | 7. C H Rogers (C) |
| 4. J R N Lebon | 8. N M W Haggett |

Centenary of a peal of the same method, also by the C U Guild, the first peal to be rung on these bells.



*The ringers in the photo are, from left to right: Nicholas Haggett (Selwyn), Christopher Daws (Trinity), Richard Underwood (Peterhouse), Henry Lewis (Fitzwilliam), Rod Lebon (Selwyn), Matthew Dawson (Magdalene), Chris Rogers (Emmanuel) and Robin Shipp (Peterhouse).
Photo: Roger Hawkins*

*Alan Furse
Teignmouth Tower Secretary*

St Paul's, Tiverton Have a Day Out

Pictured below, in almost the only bit of sunshine to grace us on 15 August, is most of the band of St Paul's, Tiverton, augmented by guests invited to share the fun of this year's annual outing. Rather younger than the other participants is Kaitlyn McFarlane, granddaughter of Ken and Lynda Smith; she was visiting from the Isle of Wight.

The day started at Churchstanton with the uncommonly fine ring which punches well above its eleven hundredweight. Next stop was the ground floor ring at Pitminster. Rather than spend the limited time available adjusting to eight bells which some of us had not rung in a while, we called "Six to Seven" and rang Doubles. The next touch would have had six and eight dodging to liven-up the back end but lunch was calling from The White Hart, Corfe, so it was Exmoor Gold instead. Corfe tower at 6cwt proved well-suited to post-luncheon exercise before we moved on to Trull. Here, with only the ropes in residence, it was cosy; with six ringers and a couple on the substitutes' bench, it became decidedly intimate. But Trull is a satisfying ring.

Thanks go to Terry Hargreaves for organising an enjoyable day. Nice bells, shame about the weather



*Standing: John Kape, Sharon Sproat, Jenny Jones, Nellie Croft,
Lynda Smith, David Pope, Terry Hargreaves.
Sitting: Dermot Elworthy, Glen Morgan, David Smith.
Kneeling: Kaitlyn McFarlane.*

Dermot Elworthy

Howard Egglestone – Sixty Years of Peal Ringing

It might come as a surprise to some of you that a sprightly, youthful-looking chap like Howard has been ringing peals for sixty years, and no he wasn't a child prodigy like Henry Pipe. His first peal was rung at Boreham, Essex, on 16th February 1952, half muffled in memory of King George VI, the method Plain Bob Major. It is inevitable in an article like this to include some statistics, so I will get those out of the way now.

To date Howard has rung 1408 peals, conducting 380, of which 34 have been rung in hand and he has conducted 18 of these. His peals have been rung in 535 towers with 1157 different ringers – it's amazing the information you get on PealBase these days.

Leading Towers		Leading Ringers		Leading Methods	
Thorverton	91	John Loveless	277	Bristol S Major	103
Grundisburgh	70	Jim Towler	215	Bristol S Maximus	55
Shoreditch	44	Brian Bladon	207	London S Royal (No3)	54
Withycombe Raleigh	40	Mike Mears	193	London S Major	51

Howard's 1000th peal was Bristol S Royal at Ash-next-Sandwich on the East meets West peal week in April 1993, which was quite appropriate, as he, with John Hunt, had started the East meets West peal weeks in 1962. That peal week has now been in existence for 50 years. Fourteen hundred or so peals is not a huge number these days, his most prolific year being 1960 when he rang 52, so you can see that he is no threat to Colin Turner. Howard has always been more interested in quality rather than quantity and he has also been keen on ringing interesting things. Howard is a very good gauge of the standard of the ringing in a peal: if he is smiling you know it is good; if he is scowling it is not quite so good, and if he is hopping up and down tutting and hissing, you know it is not very good at all.

There are quite a few peals in Howard's total that were records at the time they were rung and some of you might be interested in the list below:

April 1960	Kirby Le Soken, Essex	22400 Plain Bob Major
July 1966	Ashbocking, Suffolk	148 Spliced S Minor (conducted)
November 1976	Birmingham Cathedral	12144 Bristol S Maximus
January 1978	Daventry, Northants	15120 Bristol S Royal
February 1981	Worcester All Saints	10560 Spliced S Maximus – 20 methods
October 1984	Shoreditch	8000 Spliced S Maximus – 170 methods (tenor)
March 1987	Shoreditch	8000 Spliced S Royal – 204 methods (tenor)

There have been other long lengths and other peals of multi-method spliced. How did he manage to ring for so long without a puff on his trusty pipe? He obviously had more will-power in those days.

One peal that Howard is justifiably proud of is the Superlative S Major he conducted at Henley, Suffolk, in December 1977, when the other seven ringers had all been taught to ring from scratch by Howard himself. He has rung peals at such places as St Paul's Cathedral, Liverpool Cathedral, York Minster and Westminster Abbey, and you don't get to ring peals at these towers unless you know what you are doing on the end of a rope. It is a little surprising that someone who spent so much time in East Anglia has only rung five peals of Double Norwich C B Major and there can't be very many people who have rung as many peals of Glasgow S Major as they have of Cambridge S Major.

As well as the achievements in his peal-ringing career, it is worth looking at Howard's contribution to the Exercise in other areas, even if only to disprove the oft-held view that peal ringers are only in it for themselves. He has been on the Central Council since 1969,

becoming a life member in 2001. During that time he served on *The Ringing World*, as committee member and then Managing Director, for a total of 25 years. Howard has served in various Guild/Association offices, including five years as Master of the Suffolk Guild as well as thirteen years as Secretary of the Exeter Cathedral Society. He has judged eliminators and finals in the National Twelve Bell Competition.

Howard over the years has had to move to follow his job, starting in Essex and Suffolk then moving on to Newbury and finally settling in Devon in 1992. This turned out to be very good for us, because at the time we had just started entering the National Twelve Bell Competition. We had a lot of enthusiasm but we needed guidance. It was a bit like Somerset County Cricket Club in the 1970s when Brian Close moved in and started to knock them into shape. Howard did something similar for us – a “grizzled old pro” who could point us in the right direction. On the subject of the National Twelve Bell, the final has been to Devon twice, Exeter in 1994 and Crediton in 2010. On both occasions, Howard was in charge of the organisation and both days turned out to be a great success – he even made the sun shine. Does he walk on water as well?

This leads us on to Crediton. He had been involved with bell restoration projects in Suffolk and at Newbury and when he came to Crediton he found a heavy-going old eight, short on musical quality, not very easy to ring. Like Martin Luther King, Howard had a dream – that Crediton could have a brand-new twelve, worthy of the impressive parish church of the Holy Cross. He became the leader of the £150,000 project which resulted in a brand-new ten being dedicated in November 2004 and the twelve being completed early in 2007. There can be few places that have seen such a transformation from the old to the new.

What else can we say about Howard? Well, he has a great interest in sport and since his retirement he has become very keen on golf, and can also often be seen with Margaret at the County Ground in Taunton, watching the cricket. He is a keen walker and has completed a number of long-distance routes, including Wainwright’s Coast-to-Coast, in both directions so that he didn’t miss out on the views. In the recent past he has walked the Thames path, raising money for charity. Coming from Suffolk and then Newbury, when he arrived in Devon he had to learn to walk up hills; Dartmoor and the South West Coastal Footpath are somewhat different to walking beside the Kennet-Avon canal. However, if you do go for a walk with him you have to be prepared for frequent breaks while he gets his pipe out and in his own words “lights a bonfire”.

Mike Mears

Points from Peals

- 23rd June – Stoke Canon, Cambridge S Minor. First peal on the refurbished bells.
- 1st August – Bovey Tracey (Wobbly Bobs Campanile), Yorkshire S Major. First peal on the bells
- 15th August – Wolborough, Yorkshire S Major. First peal for Josh Tratt.
- 1st September – Shepton Beauchamp, Spliced S Maximus (6 methods). First peal of Variable Hunt maximus for the Guild.
- Two new methods rung in peals:
 - 7th August – Thorverton, Braeraich D Royal
 - 6th September – Thorverton, Ipplepen D Royal

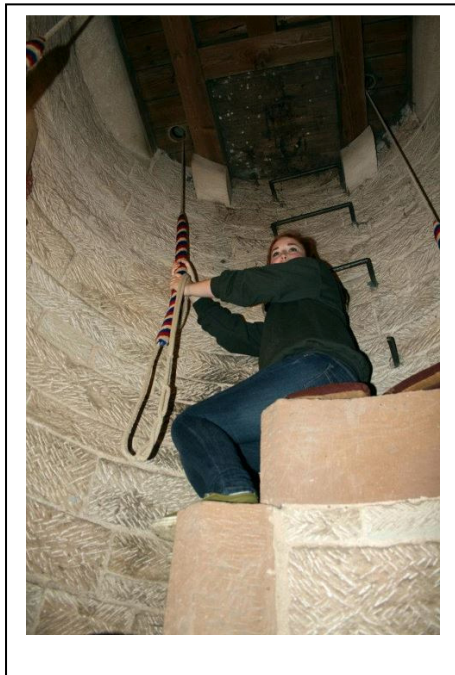
Mike Mears

The Plymouth Youths Take To The North!

Amongst the wind and the rain of early July the Plymouth Youths ringers set off towards Cheadle in Staffordshire for the "Summer" weekend outing. It's fair to say that the morale was not overly optimistic about this venture as weather reports were sent via phone of roads to avoid due to flooding!

Eventually everyone had made it to Cheadle Primary School (our base for the weekend). Following everyone's arrivals the first evening's activities involved tucking into some delicious casserole made by "Mummy Ridley", and flicking through diagrams books as Phill reeled off the list of things people had to learn and things people ought to know.

The next morning brought with it glorious sunshine as cars were packed with lunches ready to set off in convoy for a day's ringing around the local area (Alton, Denstone, Cheadle (Roman Catholic), Kingsley, Leek, and Alstonefield). The day out ringing proved successful, with ringers having the opportunity to push themselves by trying to ring new methods or to really work on their striking. There was a wide variety of methods across the day, with a particular emphasis on Cambridge Minor and Major, St Simon's and St Martin's, Bristol Minimus and Little Bob Royal. The ringers rose to the challenges of the day and to a very high degree of success, thus resulting in everyone coming away from the day feeling relaxed and yet productive.



Almost certainly the highlight for many of the younger ringers was the interesting ring of 4 at Denstone. This unique ring of 4 was accessed via a rather narrow staircase up to the ringing room. Once we had received a message from the local ringer saying we were okay to start we made our way up to towards the ringing room with everyone walking up in single file. However we were all soon halted in our tracks as the ringers at the front of the queue called back saying that we weren't all going to fit in the tower. Mumbling and grumbling, everyone bar the first four people made their way back down the stairs and waited at the bottom of the tower whilst the first band set off ringing. As time went by everyone soon came to realise that indeed we would not all fit in the tower. It was so small that the treble ringer was balanced on the top of the stairs whilst ringing (see photo). This tower was indeed a highlight for many of the younger ringers as it was so out of the

ordinary and "wacky".

After a long day's ringing everyone was rather hungry, so Mark and Phill volunteered to go out into Cheadle town centre to get everyone some take away pizza (and beer for those over 18) for dinner. This resulted in a rather comical scene which attracted a lot of attention in the sleepy town of Cheadle as Phill walked back from the restaurant carrying 14 takeaway boxes full of pizza alongside Mark with a large carrier bag from "Bargain Booze". Slaving aside, the pizza went down very well and the evening was topped off with a highly entertaining evening with a bellringing themed murder mystery party. This resulted in many a ringing pun being

thrown across the circle, and the shock when we found the victim had been killed with 4 blows behind from a broken stay!



All of the ringers dressed up for the murder mystery party

Sunday morning was an early rise as we set about “decamping” and cleaning up the school, led in true motherly style by Sarah Peck! Once the cars were packed we set off for Alton Towers. This was a fantastic day, with highlights including: Matt Smith’s confused face on the Hex ride, the group’s free queue jump after Jo’s complaint, a pirate ship water fight, and a chance to relax and unwind with friends! At the end of the day, we all set off home to Plymouth or London to get some sleep and unwind after another epic PY’s weekend away!

Bring on 2013!



A way to kill the time while waiting for dinne...



Matt, Jo, Ben and Emma waiting to board Air...

Phill Ridley

Forthcoming Events

Guild Education Meeting

The annual Guild education meeting will take place on Sunday 4th November, 2.30pm, at 64 Mount Pleasant Road in Exeter (directly next to St James's church). This is a chance to review the past year's ringing education in Devon, share good practice, and plan for 2013. The meeting is open to anyone who is interested. Please let Lynne Hughes know if you intend to come: lynnephughes@hotmail.com.

Young Ringers

The last Young Ringers' event of the year is the autumn outing. This will take place on Saturday 13th October, and include Devon's newest miniring!

9.00	Ideford	6 bells	7 cwt	
10.30	Highweek	8 bells	11 cwt	
12.00	Pub lunch in the Cromwell Arms, Bovey Tracey			
14.00	Wobbly Bobs Campanile, 58 De Tracey Park, Bovey Tracey			8 bells 10 lbs <i>Lynne Hughes</i>

Quarter Peal Week

This will be held from Friday 26th October to Sunday 4th November inclusive - so, rather more accurately, it's Quarter Peal 10 Days! The idea, for anyone not familiar with it, is to attempt as many quarter peals as reasonably possible, with a donation of £1 minimum per head per quarter being made. This is in addition to any donation left as a thank you to the host tower. Forward the details and monies to Tim Bayton, Guild Quarter Peal Secretary, who will send them up en bloc to *The Ringing World* and ensure that the profits all go to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund. A useful sum - usually several hundred pounds - is raised annually by this means. It is also a good way of encouraging those who do not usually attempt quarter peals to take part. Is there something new you've been dying to ring? Or just want to consolidate? Never rung a quarter peal before? Then contact your local ringing master and let them know!

Guild striking competitions

These are to be held on Saturday 20th October in the East Devon Branch: the novice competition will be held at Farway, the 6-bell inter-tower competition at Feniton and the 8-bell inter-branch competition at Luppitt.

Exeter Branch BBQ

When the morning of the 7th of July dawned everyone who was going to the annual Exeter Branch barbecue thought it was going to be a wash out. But thanks to the facilities of Ian and Wendy Campbell it was a success.

Altogether there were 32 attendees who all turned up on the door step of the Campbells' home for a lovely evening.

The barbecue soon was going and we all tucked in to the delicious feast that we were given. We thought that we couldn't eat anymore but then a whole table of amazing puddings came out and we all managed to 'force' it down.

After the meal two quizzes were set, with Andrew Digby winning the logo quiz and the Vingoe family winning the general knowledge quiz.



Barbecuing in the rain with Ian (chef) and Gareth (sous chef)

It was a great evening and a huge thank you goes to Ian and Wendy Campbell for their excellent hosting skills and to all those who helped out. A profit of £30 was made on the evening and this will be forwarded to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund.

Amy Gill

All the Bells

Many towers rang their bells for the opening of the Olympics in London.

St Mark's bells in Exeter were broadcast live on BBC Radio Devon in the morning as part of the "All The Bells" project. There was a short interview with Matt Hilling and then the ringing was broadcast at the appropriate time. A number of the participants were interviewed after the quarter peal which was to be broadcast in the bulletins at either 1200 or 1300.

Matt Hilling

I've had reports of ringing at **St Marychurch**, where all 10 bells were rung to call changes at 08:12 for about 10 minutes. **Wolborough** also rang (twice) and they had the services of a town crier in full regalia! **Kingskerswell** were also among the early risers. **Dawlish** rang on Friday at 08:12 (three minutes of fast rounds) – I have not been told but I imagine they rang as loud as they could as well!! The Cathedral bells were chimed by the virgers and a group of visitors collected under the tower to ring various types of handbells.

Although not strictly Guild towers I have also heard that there was ringing at **Stoke Gabriel**, **Collaton St Mary** and **Paignton**. **Broadhempston** rang 5 Rings Doubles by call changes twice and **Kingsteignton** rang loud and fast – Ian Avery told me so it must be right!

Abbotskerswell decided not to risk the wrath of their listeners in the early morning so rang to mark the opening of the games in the evening. Well done, everyone. Not easy when it is work time and in the middle of the holiday season.

Martin Mansley

The following towers in mid-Devon rang quarter peals for the Queen's diamond jubilee:

Stokeinteignhead – Plain Bob Minor

Coffinswell – Plain Bob Doubles

Dawlish – Plain Bob Triples

Wolborough – Grandsire Doubles – first quarter peal for Sharon Lawrence and Richard Wills

Teignmouth(St James) – Plain Bob Triples
Kingskerswell – Plain Bob Doubles – first quarter inside for 30 years for John Rees
Teignmouth (St Michael) – Stedman Triples

At St Marychurch a peal was rung – Plain Bob Minor on the front six bells in 2hrs and 57 minutes. This was a mainly local band and we congratulate Wendy Rennie and Richard Partridge on fine efforts in their first peal.

There was also general ringing at-
St Marychurch – followed by a cream tea - the rain didn't stop us!
Torre – following several weeks of work to get them ringable again
Abbotskerswell
Babbacombe
Clock Tower (Newton Abbot) – several branch members helped with ringing on these civic bells.

Martin Mansley

Tim King's Birthday Festival

Mid-Devon branch chairman, Tim King has become a bit older recently and has celebrated in good ringer's fashion with two quarter peals and a peal. The peal, Yorkshire Surprise Major at Wolborough on 15 August, kicked off proceedings. This was followed by a quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples at Wolborough on 2nd September and finally a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor at Newton St Cyres on 5th September.

In the midst of this ringing was a surprise party. Shortly before the beginning of the Friday evening practice session on 31st August, the Wolborough tower - festively decorated with balloons and banners - was crowded with ringers who had come to share in the surprise party being held in honour of Tim King's fiftieth birthday. Regular members of the tower were joined by ringers from further afield - among them, David Hird, Wendy, Amy and Gareth Gill from Exeter and Tom and Nick Waterson from Okehampton. After an hour of spirited ringing everyone adjourned downstairs for the party itself, all of which had been devised (and catered for) by Rusty Hartley. Champagne corks popped, and to add to the festive spirit fireworks candles were lit on the cake (which Rusty had made in the form of the two important numbers for the occasion - 50), Wyn Turner provided a stirring rendition of 'Happy Birthday' on the organ, and Russell Chamberlain proposed a toast to Tim, warmly endorsed by all present, who then set to, to enjoy the magnificent spread which Rusty had prepared. It was a highly enjoyable way to mark an important landmark for Tim - one which all present hope that he enjoyed as much as they did. Judging by the look on his face when he arrived at the door of the tower, no whispers about what was being planned had reached Tim in advance. His surprise and pleasure were a delight to behold.



Janet Ritterman

Exeter St Mark's Cycle Outing

With the weather forecast set to be horrible for the bank holiday Monday many of the people who were going on the annual St Marks outing thought that no one would be silly enough to cycle in the rain and mud...

It turns out that there were six people that were silly enough to attempt to conquer the rain, wind, mud and fords. They were Andrew Digby, Graham Tucker, Sue Sturdy, Gareth Gill, Ian Campbell and myself.

All cyclists and those with more sense turned up at Okehampton station to set off on the Granite Way. We cycled for a while and met the non-cyclists at the challenging six at Bridestowe. It was nice because we could lock Gareth up in the stocks that they had!

We then set off again a little bit down the road to the pub for a lovely lunch. Then we cycled up a huge hill (which was difficult after a large meal!) and eventually arrived at the six at Lydford; by now some of us were completely covered in mud.



Lunch – including the wimps who left their bikes at home

After ringing at Lydford we set off to ring at our last tower which was Sourton. To get there we had to cross two fords. The first one was fine because there was a bridge but the second one we had to cross through the water; all of the cyclists got across except one (not me!) who ended up putting their feet in the ford, but at least it washed the mud away!!

We rang at Sourton which were a nice five and afterwards we had a lovely cream tea or cake in the church hall. All that was left to do was cycle back to the station.

Finally all six rather muddy and wet ringers turned up at the station after cycling 20.2 miles and went home for a well deserved shower.



Five of the intrepid cyclists – Graham, Sue, Gareth, Amy, Ian

Thanks go to Graham Tucker for a well organised day, but next year can you organise the weather too please?

Amy Gill

Pilgrims come to Combe Raleigh

The Arundel and Brighton Diocese have for almost the last fifty years held a Pilgrimage Walk. This year the walk was from Bath to Exeter, passing through Combe Raleigh en route. We thought it might be nice, and appropriate, to welcome them to St Nicholas' church with the sound of bells. It was arranged that the leader would telephone at five o'clock on the day to report progress and indicate their probable arrival time. Two of the ringers were sitting outside the church quietly enjoying the sunshine, a rarity this summer, when a group of walkers were seen approaching, these were the advance guard. We hastily raised our three bells and our third ringer ran down through the village, passing walkers to make up the number. Our churchwarden had come down to offer some refreshments, the odd cup of tea, or juice for the walkers. One of the ringers' wives, Val Moran, amazed by the number of people passing her door, scuttled down to the church to lend a very welcome hand. Meanwhile, the ringers were in full flow, ringing their hearts out, sounding a welcome to all the walkers. Finally forty-four crowded into the church, thankful for the refreshments on offer and interested to watch our ringers' efforts. One of the Pilgrims, Rev. Simon Dommett, is himself a bell-ringer and joined with us in ringing, before pausing for prayers. At the end, before continuing with the walk to an overnight stop at Awliscombe, Rev Simon thanked us all for our warm welcome and invited those assembled to show their appreciation with a donation to the bell fund. The result was very generous, showing how much they had appreciated the welcome. The leader of the group said that it was the first time in all the years that she had been on the pilgrimage that they had ever been welcomed with the sound of bells. One gentleman claimed it had raised his flagging spirits and energy as he came up the hill and it was a delight to walk through the village accompanied by the sound of the church bells.

Trevor Hitchcock

ITTS launches in Devon

The Integrated Teacher Training Scheme (ITTS) holds its first course in Devon on Saturday 10th November at Silverton. This will be a Module One course, "Teaching Bell Handling". The full day course is part of a programme to enable those with little or no previous experience of teaching ringing to gain the confidence and knowledge to teach a new ringer to handle a bell well from scratch. However, those who have already done some teaching are also welcome to join to improve their technique and gain some accreditation for their teaching skills. More experienced teachers of ringing in the area may be invited to join the scheme as mentors to the new teachers.

Why do we need an ITTS?

The average age of ringers is rising significantly. Two out of three ringers are currently over 50 and three in four tower captains are also over 50. The evidence from researching the current generation of ringers is that today's good ringers and the leaders of the bell ringing exercise nearly all learnt to ring as young people in their teens or twenties.

The quality of current bellringing teaching is also a concern. We know that many learners drop out of ringing; a significant number are left feeling frustrated through lacking the handling and foundation skills to master change ringing effectively. Consequently, the Ringing Foundation and the Central Council have made improving the quality of ringing teaching a key priority, before launching national initiatives to support local drives to recruit new ringers. If drop-out rates can be reduced and more well taught ringers can be retained in ringing, the alarming trend of an ageing and declining population of ringers might be reversed. Hence the need for an Integrated Teacher Training Scheme to produce the effective teachers of ringing required to reverse these trends.

What is the ITTS?

ITTS is a scheme to train up new teachers of ringing which arose from the experiences of "Kids Ring Out" in South Wales and the Worcester Teaching Centre. It uses recent knowledge from other fields such as sport to give new teachers an insight into how physical skills are learnt, how individuals can be coached and mentored and how a band of ringers can be built up as a team exercise. It is particularly suitable for younger and newer ringers who are likely to find themselves in charge of a tower and responsible for teaching new ringers and running the band.

Two one-day courses are offered for aspiring teachers. Module One covers learning how to teach bellhandling from scratch and Module Two how to get new ringers started on method ringing. More specifically, the Module One (Teaching Bell Handling) training day has practical sessions on:

- *The basic components*
- *Joining both strokes together*
- *Ringing up and ringing down*
- *Solving common handling problems*

These are interspersed with theory sessions on:

- *Teaching a skilled activity*
- *Becoming a good teacher*
- *Solving common handling problems*

Module Two (Teaching Elementary Change Ringing) has these practical sessions:

- *Developing foundation skills*
- *Easy steps to Bob Doubles*
- *Using unusual teaching methods*

while the theory modules cover:

- *The importance of foundation skills*
- *Coaching considerations*
- *Running a good practice*

Special Features and Benefits of the ITTS

A unique feature of the ITTS is that the one-day course is not the whole of the programme. Once enrolled on the ITTS the new teacher has access to a range of online learning materials through a Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle). There will be follow-up support from the tutor and a local mentor who will be an experienced teacher of ringing. The trainee teacher and mentor will work together to ensure that a new ringer is taught how to handle a bell well and how to make a start on method ringing.

To assist the new teacher with the work with their new ringer he or she will have exclusive access to the “Learning The Ropes” (LTR) programme for new ringers. This can be used in parallel with existing schemes such as the Sherbourne Teaching Aids, but using LTR with their new ringer ensures that the new teacher covers all the ground for the ITTS and gains accreditation successfully. That accreditation gives membership of the Association of Ringing Teachers where the teacher can get on-going support and development as a qualified teacher of ringing. ART also offers its members other benefits such as insurance for teaching ringing and a “universal” CRB clearance applicable to all ringing situations.

What does the ITTS Trainee Teacher have to do?

To complete the Teaching Bell Handling module successfully the trainee teacher has to undertake a number of tasks before gaining accreditation:

- being essentially a practical course, the teacher must have a new ringer to teach in order to put the skills they acquire into practice and to demonstrate their teaching ability.
- after the one-day course the teacher will be allocated an experienced teacher to act as a mentor. Together they will plan the teaching of the new ringer and the mentor will assess the trainee teacher and give them assistance and support with any problems they encounter.
- the trainee teacher must complete a logbook of their teaching practice and this is signed off by their mentor.
- the trainee teacher will do an on-line test of the theory they have learnt.
- an external moderator, usually another local mentor, will observe and assess the teacher in action with their learner along with the original mentor.

To help the trainee teacher through the process they will have access to Moodle which has a wealth of practical tips, articles and handouts. Up to two years is allowed for the trainee teacher to complete so there is a recognition that events don't always run smoothly – learners drop out, illness and other life events can get in the way. Many trainee teachers have managed to complete the programme and get accreditation within months, however, and have now moved on to tackle Module 2 on “Elementary Change Ringing” which follows a similar pattern.

Future ITTS Courses in Devon

The event at Silverton on 10th November will be the first of what is planned to be a series of ITTS courses in Devon. Specifically we are intending to run another Module One course in early 2013 for Mid and West Devon. This will be followed by a Module Two course in late spring or summer. Further courses will be run in 2013-14 if there is a demand for them.

Enquiries about joining the ITTS

Les Boyce is the local organiser for ITTS in Devon and will be a course tutor. Anyone interested in joining as a brand new teacher of ringing, a teacher looking to brush up their skills and get new ideas or as an experienced teacher who might be willing to mentor others is invited to contact Les on 01884 256819 or by e-mail at: lesboyce@gmail.com. The number of places on courses will be limited to ensure that new teachers get an effective start to their teaching career and receive good support throughout the programme. Information about the ITTS can also be found on the ART website at: <http://www.ringingteachers.co.uk/>

Les Boyce
National Secretary
Association of Ringing Teachers

Recent Additions to the Guild Library

Dove

The most notable publishing event for ringers this year has probably been the arrival of the new edition of *Dove's Guide*. This long-awaited publication of the 10th edition is most welcome and includes the return of several appendices removed from the 2000 edition – those on Lost and Transferred Rings, Carillons and Notable Bells of Britain. Also included for the first time are rings of three bells.

Whilst the online version of *Dove* is undoubtedly very useful for specific searches, the browsing, dipping into, skimming and serendipity capabilities of the printed version are still valuable. This 10th edition, coming in at over 300 pages, is well produced and has greater content than the 236 pages of the 9th. A copy has been placed in the Guild Library and it is available to purchase from Central Council Publications at £15 including postage.

Yorkshire Association Publications

The following titles have been added to stock:

Diagrams, 14th ed., 2011 – an expanded and clearly printed update of the previous 1972 edition.

Inspired by Bells: A Bell Anthology. Compiled by Frank Foden. 1991 – a collection of prose and poetry on a range of bell-related themes.

Campanalogia: Or the Art of Ringing Improved. By Fabian Stedman. A 1990 facsimile reprint of the first edition of 1677 – an early successor to *Tintinnalogia* by Duckworth (published in 1668) showing the rapid development of change ringing after the Restoration.

Whiting Society Publications

The following titles have been purchased and most added to the travelling collection, "The Learners' Library":

Carry on Counting: An introduction to Plain Hunting and the plain course of Plain Bob Doubles. By Karl Grave. 2nd ed., 2009

Discovering Twin-Hunt Triples Methods. By Edward Martin. 2010

Exploring Plain Minor Methods. By Michael Day. 2009

Forbidden Methods. By Karl Grave. 2010 – the revised edition of 'The Old Irregulars' Companion an collection of lost Delight and Treble Bob Minor methods

How to Learn Methods. By Michael Foulds. 2nd ed., 2008

An Introduction to Ringing Multi-Method Doubles. By Stuart Bamforth. 3rd ed., 2008

Ringling Down 'Ere: Call Change Ringing in the far South West. By John Purdey and Owen Borlase

For more information about Whiting Society publications go to: www.whitingsociety.org.uk

Borrowing

Single titles are available for Guild members to borrow. The "Learner's Library" and "Teacher's

Library" travelling collections are loaned to Branches for meetings, etc on a short-term basis. Enquiries to Les Boyce (01884 256819 or lesboyce@gmail.com)

Les Boyce, Guild Librarian

This Couldn't Happen to You

The following sequence of events couldn't possibly happen to you, could it? After all, you have a copy of the Guild's Tower Handbook to hand and are fully familiar with all of its content. Well, so has this tower and the steeple keeper has read it, but still it happened.

'Look to, treble's going, she's gone', and so they started. Unfortunately, as the four pulled off down came the rope, yards of it, a seemingly never-ending stream. It's always amusing to see the changing facial expressions of the ringer who suffers such a fate, surprise, bewilderment, panic and finally embarrassment. As an extra surprise the bell, freed from normal constraints, set itself on the backstroke. Yes, you guessed correctly, the rope had failed at the garter hole. It clearly wasn't safe to leave the bell up so the tower captain pulled the bell off by hand. No harm done and the rope was suitably spliced and replaced.

'No harm done'; well, no obvious harm. But the next event in the sequence showed that the stay peg had suffered. At the second time of asking the peg broke and the bell turned over when trying to stand it after ringing. The ringer let go, very swiftly, and the rope disappeared up into the bell chamber, almost immediately the bell stopped ringing. Now this is unusual, with no stay and nobody on the rope, one might expect the bell to keep ringing for quite a long time. Another trip up to the bell chamber and the peg was replaced, the rope retrieved, (with some difficulty), and re-threaded. Once again the bell was raised and they were again ready to go.

'Look to, treble's going, she's gone', and so they started again. Now there was what can best be described as the sound of a giant football rattle. Hastily they stood the bells again, only to notice that the five was, like the Grand Old Duke of York, 'neither up nor down'.

They were getting used to the stairs by then, 'must really get that woodworm treated'. The five was standing at an angle of about 30 degrees, for no immediately obvious reason. 'Lower the rest and then we can get among the bells and see just what the problem is'. Of course there is a law that says, in effect, if you have a problem it should always be in the most inaccessible place. It is fortunate that the steeple keeper is a bit of a contortionist and by scrambling around under the (lowered) bells he found that the clock hammer was fouling the spokes of the wheel on the five. Once the problem was identified, it took but a moment to

relieve the pressure from the bell, release the hammer and let the bell resume its correct at rest position. However, the problems were not yet over.

It was clear that the hammer was badly bent and in danger of fouling the wheel again. Many years ago, as a result of complaints from nearby residents, the clock hammer had been disconnected. If it is not being used then the most reliable option is to take it out entirely and now, many years later, out it came.

It was a lucky day; the wheel spokes were marked, but not seriously damaged. Nobody was hurt and though a night's practice was lost everything was ready for the next service ringing. It seems that when the stay on the four failed the rope caught around the redundant hammer and bent it, so that it now fouled the wheel on the five. This could have had potentially far more serious consequences. I am now inclined to the view that if you have anything in your bell chamber that is not being used and is not essential, then get it out of there. But, of course, none of this could ever happen in your tower, could it?

*Fly on the Wall
name and address supplied.*

Mid-Devon Mini outing

Well, it could have been a disaster – a month's rain in 24 hours and warnings not to travel unless your journey was necessary – a recipe for cancellation. Fortunately by late morning the torrential rain had reduced to light rain and a phone call to one of our towers gained the information that things were improving in the west, so it was on. In fact the roads were relatively quiet and we saw little sign of the damage that has been wreaked in other parts of the Southwest.



First tower was **Stoke Climsland** where some of the band had their first experience of a long draught of rope. Despite that, these bells go and sound well and we managed to acquit ourselves honourably – probably the highlight being well struck Grandsire Triples despite the shriek from Wendy when she recognised Titums!

Next up was **South Petherwin** where we had the honour to be the first visiting band to ring the bells

following a full re-hang – the dedication was last Monday. Obviously these bells go quite well but perhaps the prospect of a tea break meant that we were not on our best form here. We did get complimented on our ringing by a group of villagers who dropped into the church – they were sheltering from the inevitable rain which had started again!

Most found tea-shops in Launceston so we were well refreshed by the time we reached **Egloskerry**. A new experience for many greeted us here – the tenor is lighter than most of the trebles we usually ring – at 2 cwt they are “interesting” to say the least. Our first couple of rings produced several red faces and pained expressions but eventually we did manage to tame them and we rang Cambridge with a new tenor ringer – well done, Caroline!

The journey to our last tower involved lanes that grew narrower and steeper the further we went but eventually we all made it to **Altarnun** – and what a joy that we did! It is a delightful village with a fine church which is known as the Cathedral of Bodmin Moor. The bells went well and sounded wonderful – a really fine end to the day. The highlight here was a well struck touch of Stedman Triples but all the ringing was enjoyed on these lovely bells.

So, many thanks to all who turned out on a winter's day (in July!!) and to all who met us and made us so welcome.

John Martin

Cruwys Morchard Open Day

Never should it be said of the Cruwys Morchard gang that it lacked enterprise. As part of a series of concerts and activities aimed at raising money for restoration of the church bells, Saturday 18 August provided another event of diverting entertainment for the family.

As if to demonstrate that Bampton did not hold the monopoly on teddy bear parachuting, there was a lively programme of ursine leaping from the tower top, much to the delight of the children enjoying the unusually pleasant weather. The break in the seemingly never-ending rain characterising this summer allowed a barbecue at which Nellie Croft's sausages, as last year, were star performers.

Sharing star billing was the band who rang 1260 (7m/1p) in celebration of the Cruwys Morchard Open Day and to mark the retirement of Leslie Boyce after 31 years at the East Devon College/Petroc-Tiverton; Les can now bring some youth to us ageing mid-week quarter peelers! North East Branch ringers were joined by the Ians Campbell and Avery in some excellent striking on a ring which is not an easy go - it will benefit enormously from the forthcoming overhaul. Also providing fun, but of a different kind, were the Exeter Morrismen who, like us tintinabulists, struggle to maintain a tradition once endemic in English culture.



It is hoped that this edition of RRD will appear in time to provide notice of the next Cruwys Morchard initiative - a concert by The Throwleigh Players who will be performing on period instruments in the church on Thursday evening, September 27. Come if you can.

Dermot Elworthy

Poltimore Church Fete
August Bank Holiday Monday



The Poltimore church fete was held at Poltimore House. As it was so wet it was under cover in the chapel and the old kitchens of the house. The demonstration bell was borrowed and attracted considerable interest as to how things work. Hopefully there could be one or two new recruits to bellringing.

Rob Franklin

Trying out the demonstration bell at Poltimore

Branch Simulator session at St Mark's

St Mark's church in Exeter has recently installed a "dumb" bell which is connected to a computer simulator. At a recent Guild training session Lynne Hughes gave three students the opportunity of ringing it to a number of different things, from ringing the tenor behind to hunting the treble. All seemed to manage the rather light bell with little difficulty after a short practice. Some of the more advanced even tried ringing on 12 bells...



Ian Campbell

CALENDAR to end of 2012

OCTOBER 2012

Wed	3	Advanced 10 Bell practice: Exeter St Mark (19:30)	Exeter
Sat	6	Branch Outing	Mid-Devon
Thur	11	Plain Hunt: Sidbury (19:30)	East
Fri	12	* Surprise Minor: Buckerell (19:30)	East
Sat	13	Branch meeting: Sidbury (15:00)	East
Sat	13	Young Ringers: Autumn outing	Young Ringers
Thu	18	8 bell practice: Upton (19:30)	Mid-Devon
Fri	19	Doubles for All: Offwell (19:30)	East
Sat	20	Guild Striking Competitions: East Devon	Guild
Mon	22	Branch practice: Heavitree (19:30)	Exeter
Tue	30	Triples: Sidmouth (19:30)	East
Fri	26	Guild Quarter peal week starts	Guild

NOVEMBER 2012

Sun	4	Guild quarter peal week ends	Guild
Wed	7	Advanced 10 Bell practice: Exeter St Mark (19:30)	Exeter
Thur	8	Plain Hunt: Sidbury (19:30)	East
Fri	9	* Surprise Minor: Buckerell (19:30)	East
Sat	10	Bonfire party: Newton St Cyres (19:00)	Exeter
Mon	12	Branch practice: Shute (19:30)	East
Fri	16	Doubles for All: Offwell (19:30)	East
Sat	17	Branch AGM	Exeter
Mon	19	8 bell practice : Wolborough (19:30)	Mid-Devon
Sat	24	Annual General Meeting: Abbotskerswell	Mid-Devon
Mon	26	Branch practice: Heavitree (19:30)	Exeter
Tue	27	Triples: Sidmouth (19:30)	East

DECEMBER 2012

Wed	5	Advanced 10 Bell practice: Exeter St Mark (19:30)	Exeter
Thur	13	Plain Hunt: Sidbury (19:30)	East
Thu	13	8 bell practice : Teignmouth, St James (19:00)	Mid-Devon
Fri	14	* Surprise Minor: Buckerell (19:30)	East
Sat	15	Ringers' carol service	Guild/Assn
Fri	21	Doubles for All: Offwell (19:30)	East
TBC		Triples: Sidmouth (19:30)	East

*Please contact [Derek Ballard](#) to confirm date, as this can sometimes change.

Under New Management

As you may be aware, Roger King has finally managed to pass on the reins of *Ringings Round Devon* to me. We are all very grateful for his dedication over the last few years. I would also like to thank all those who have contributed to this issue. Without contributions the newsletter could not be produced. If you would like to be added to the email list of those who contribute regularly please let me know. A few branches have started producing regular bulletins which are distributed via email lists. These have been scanned for suitable inclusion.

If you think that this edition seems a little biased to certain regions then the answer is in your hands! I hope that everyone finds something of interest. Finally thanks go to John Foster for his help with the layout and printing.

Ian Campbell

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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, 84 Whipton Village Road, Exeter EX4 8AL or by e-mail to I.L.C.Campbell@exeter.ac.uk