



RINGING ROUND DEVON

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

Newsletter 91: September 2013

Barn Dance and Barbecue

JOINT EVENT RAISES £400 FOR BELL FUND

On 6th July, the Exeter and Mid Devon branches teamed up for a barbecue and barn dance with some added extras.



Five BBQ's cooked the food – while the cooks had to shelter from the baking sun

Wow! What an evening. The weather was brilliant, the band was first class and the food was superb. Over 100 ringers and friends from across the county assembled at the Deepway centre in Exminster at the beginning of the heat-wave. Full advantage of the warm evening was taken to spend most of it outdoors with forays indoors to join the fun on the floor. The barbecues were soon providing a constant supply of sausages, burgers etc. so you could eat your fill outside for a while and then go inside to burn it off! Debs, the caller of the Dawntreader Ceilidh Band, was very

impressed with the dancing ability and managed to fit in several more dances than she was expecting to because everyone learnt them so quickly.



Dancing got underway in the hall...

After everyone had danced the early evening away it was time for a break and the sweets were wheeled out – what a spread!! Janet had persuaded all and sundry in the Mid-Devon branch to bring out their signature dishes and everyone rose to the occasion magnificently. Despite the tables groaning under the weight of every imaginable delicacy the hungry dancers soon made a big hole in them. Before long, Debs had everyone back on the floor for more fun.



...while others were outside enjoying the sun and food

Meanwhile anyone who wanted a break from dancing could enjoy the delights (and smuts!) of Richard Newman's full size steam roller which just happened to be passing by – ably piloted by Richard and Michael Cannon.



Richard Newman's steam roller arrives to give rides

Very many thanks to anyone who helped in any way on the evening and in the long planning process – it really was a night to remember. The Devon bell fund will benefit by over £400 so this was a great way to raise money and enjoy ourselves at the same time.

Martin Mansley and Amy Gill

Guild Matters

Annual General Meeting

GUILD HOPES TO HOST CENTRAL COUNCIL

At the Annual General Meeting held at Kilminster in June, Guild members agreed to investigate further the possibility of hosting the Central Council meeting in 2024, when the Guild celebrates its sesquicentenary. As the Association has its centenary at about the same time, it was agreed to suggest that this might be jointly organised, and jointly staffed, by the two ringing Societies in Devon.

The Festival day was full of activity, with efficient organisation by the East Devon Branch under the leadership of Anne Bailey; as she has recently retired as branch secretary it was appropriate to mark her contribution to ringing in the east of the county by making her the Master elect for 2014-15. Leslie Boyce was finally installed as Guild Master for the current year (he has been resisting his nomination for quite some time, but now he has retired he could find no excuse), and also from the NE Branch Mike Hatchett was elected a vice-president in recognition for all his work within the branch and in the Troyte Ringing Centre. Fergus Stracey was appointed as a new Central Council representative, Daisy Atkin was elected as Publicity Officer,

and Clare Griffiths took up the reins as Guild Secretary. The Guild showed its gratitude to Margot LeVesconte for her stop-gap year as secretary with a big bouquet of beautiful flowers, which appeared to take her breath away. It certainly is an achievement for someone with little experience of ringing to take on, even just for a year, such a daunting task.



The top table showing the new Master, Treasurer, President and outgoing Secretary



Steve Coleman in full swing

Lynne Hughes has done much work over the past few years encouraging young ringers, and asked if the Guild might appoint a co-ordinator for events for young ringers; this was agreed, and Amy Gill was persuaded to fulfil the role.

Before the meeting, a delicious lunch had been provided, and there had been workshops in local towers, and a talk by Steve Coleman; it was gratifying to see real progress in method ringing being made by the students at the workshops, while Steve gave a trademark talk – on rising and lowering, which was surely a brave choice of topic in Devon. As usual he made a technical subject both understanding and entertaining, and drew his assistants out of the audience to demonstrate how a bell swings, and how a ringer takes coils. He even managed to answer some of the questions raised by the more experienced teachers in the audience!

After the meeting, many of the members joined in the service in Kilminster church, and there was the open practice at the Cathedral in the evening. Many thanks go to the local ringers and all who helped in the organisation of a most enjoyable and fruitful day.

The draft minutes of the Guild AGM are available at <http://devonringers.org.uk/gdr/agms.html> if you would like to keep up to date with happenings in the Guild.

Lester Yeo

Interview with new Guild Secretary

NEW GUILD SECRETARY – AN INTERVIEW WITH CLARE GRIFFITHS



On Saturday 15th June, Clare agreed to take on, and was duly elected to, the role that nobody ever wants – that of Hon General Secretary! Anyone who has ever taken on the secretarial role for a group or organisation will know that it can be demanding but also very rewarding. As a past holder of the post myself, I can honestly say that it was a pleasure and a privilege to hold the reins of the Guild in my hands for over ten years. The duties are varied and all-embracing, but can be summed up quite simply:

- to be a fount of all day-to-day knowledge
- to be a sage and a counsellor
- to be a supporter and an encourager

Your scribe was therefore commissioned by the Editor of RRD to track Clare down and find out more about her (actually, he said ‘I’m really busy with bell restoration work at the moment, so here’s a little job you might like to find time for: usual rates of pay apply’). Clare moved to Devon relatively recently, so you may not yet have come across her.

Q: First of all, Clare – what brought you to Devon?

A: We had been visiting Devon for many years on family holidays, so it was a place I had known and loved from an early age, and after many seaside holidays in Torquay, Dartmoor then became established as a firm favourite. Chagford itself was a lovely and unexpected discovery and I returned time and time again. It is such a special place, on the fringe of the moor, and with a friendly, thriving local community; I consider myself very lucky to live here.

Q: Could you tell us a bit about your ringing career? When and where did you learn to ring?

A: I learnt to ring in 2001, at Carisbrooke on the Isle of Wight. Opportunities were fairly limited on the island, so that when I moved to Romsey in 2004 I could only just about struggle through a course of Cambridge Surprise Minor! However, six years intensive ringing at Bishopstoke taught me just about everything I know; my highlight was to be made a member of the ASCY in 2007, which by chance then led me to my current employment as their peal writer.

Q: You are a very active Sunday service ringer at two churches, one a call-change and the other a method ringing tower. Do you have any particular difficulties with reconciling the two traditions in your own mind?

A: Not at all! On the contrary, I think gaining such a broad experience of ringing within Devon has taught me a great deal. I consider myself very privileged to be a member of the Exeter Cathedral band, something I value enormously; but of course my home tower is Chagford, where I have enjoyed the challenge of adapting to the rigours of call-change ringing . . . I still remember coming ringing here for the first time on holiday and being told to 'Take a loop, you're in Devon now!'. I find that both traditions complement each other richly within my ringing life, offering me warmth and sociability, set against a sense of community spirit and duty, teaching me to appreciate the value of Sunday service ringing, wherever that may take me.

Q: You have just completed a term of office as Hon General Secretary of the Winchester & Portsmouth DG and have immediately taken on the same role in a different territorial society – the height of madness, it would seem to me! Are you happy about doing this without a break to draw breath?

A: It could possibly be the height of madness – you'll have to ask me again next year! But I have been living in Devon for almost three years now, and as time passes the W&P seems ever more distant. They always say that as one door closes another one opens, and I am extremely happy indeed to now work for the Guild of Devonshire Ringers, and to be able to contribute and give back something to the ringing community here at last.

Q: This might be a bit of an unfair question, but what do you see as the major differences between the W&P and the Guild of Devonshire Ringers?

A: Firstly, the W&P does not have such a superb newsletter! Seriously though, clearly the topography of the two counties would be the major difference, which has obvious effects upon the ringing available to us all. The W&P is a much larger Guild, with some 1,500 members, and broadly speaking, Hampshire is a far more urban county, where everything is much closer together and easier to travel to. Thus in the W&P there are greater opportunities and more centres of ringing excellence, but as a consequence, the ringing community has become far more tower based and disconnected. Devon is a far larger county, predominantly rural, and with ringers widely scattered which presents many problems. But it also leads, I think, to a focussed and far greater sense of Branch and Guild identity here, which is a benefit to all of us.

Q: What do you think might be the major challenges that lie ahead for the GDR?

A: Very simple – recruitment and retention. And these are the same challenges that face every Guild across the country. We are all aware of struggling Sunday service

bands, vacant Branch posts, and this can only be resolved by training more ringers. There has been much said of the vital necessity to teach young people, with many excellent new national and local initiatives, but retention, that mix of stimulation and encouragement, of belonging to a tower, a Branch, a Guild, is something we can all be responsible for. And as someone in the 30-50 age group, I am also acutely aware of the void that exists in this age bracket; and these are the very ringers who should be the next natural step down when we are looking for new tower captains, officers, or teachers. We need to be nurturing many ages, and many ringers, to inspire and encourage for the future.

Q: And, finally, do you have any other interests or hobbies apart from ringing (perish the thought)?

A: Living in Devon, I clearly enjoy getting out and about as much as possible, either on the moor or by the sea, walking my dog. My allotment also keeps me fairly busy! Since moving to Chagford though, where there are endless opportunities, I have also rediscovered my love of music, and now play my flute again, as well as enjoying singing in our local church choir.

Thank you, Clare, for agreeing to be interviewed, and I'm sure that everyone will join me in wishing you a very happy tenure in the post of Guild Secretary – we'll certainly do our best to keep you busy!

Wendy Campbell

Guild Publicity Officer



At the Guild AGM Daisy Atkins was appointed as the Guild Publicity Officer. Daisy rings in Exeter and would love to hear from anyone about future events or past events that could be brought to the attention of the local press, radio and/or television. She can be contacted at d.atkin@aol.com.

Her responsibilities do not include the production of *Ringing Round Devon* for which I will remain responsible!

Ian Campbell

Joint Bristol-Plymouth-Exeter Outing, 2013

On 1st June, at the rather unpleasantly early time of 7.30am, I had to get up to prepare for my first Bristol outing with Exeter Change Ringing Society, which this year also included the Plymouth Youths. As the youngest (and only) fresher this year, it was my responsibility to bear our gnome mascot, Gnorman, who the ringers from Bristol traditionally attempt to steal or destroy. With him safely in the pocket of my hoody, I arrived in time for our first tower of the day: St Petrock's in Exeter.

It did not take long for the ringers from Bristol and Plymouth to arrive, and everyone was ready and eager to actually get some ringing done. However, the tower remained locked, and it soon emerged that the man who was supposed to open the tower for us was on holiday, and hadn't told anyone about our visit. A replacement tower opener was called in to try and prevent this being a total lock-out. Eventually, at 9.45 we were let into the tower, and had time to ring four times. It was my first time ringing in this tower, and on light bells, so my ringing didn't start very well, but fortunately I got a bit more used to it and didn't ring too badly in the end.

We then got on the train and arrived at our next destination: Topsham. Here we rang at another six bell tower. Daisy and Steph also joined us there, and Daisy hatched her cunning plan to ensure Gnorman's safety, by giving me a decoy gnome, who was transferred into my pocket when no-one noticed. The church was set in a very nice area, with a stunning view from the wall, and many of us looked out at it, and also at the front of the tower where a wedding party was gathering (ultimately, the bride was more than 20 minutes late, so we moved on to lunch). This tower felt a bit easier to ring than St Petrock's for me, and I was happy with my ringing. The more experienced ringers rang things such as Cambridge, Stedman, Grandsire and Norwich and did a good job.

Before our third tower of the day, we had lunch at the Swan Inn in Lympstone. It was a lovely day, so we all sat out on the benches outside, and it was a good opportunity for a bit of a rest. After lunch, we headed to our tower, another six bell tower, and arrived just in time for the wedding to finish. After everyone had finally left the church itself, we began our ringing with a crack touch of Cambridge as a compliment to the bride and groom, followed by some smashing called changes. The Bristol ringers, who had been surprisingly uncommitted to stealing our gnome, started eyeing up the decoy between methods. When it was time for me to ring, the wedding guests still had not left the church grounds. It was a daunting prospect having to ring when so many people could hear, as I had only started ringing in September and could just about manage rounds, but I managed to do well here, to my amazement, only losing the bell once towards the very end of the ringing.

The final tower for us was a twelve bell tower in Withycombe Rayleigh, Exmouth. This was going to be my first time ringing on a twelve bell tower and fortunately Grich helped me with the ringing, doing the handstrokes for me; I was able to give it a reasonable attempt and learn a little bit about how twelve bell ringing is different. At this tower, we rang a variety of methods, branching out our repertoire and ringing methods such as Grandsire cinques and Yorkshire major. Everyone rang well.

With our final tower behind us, we headed to Exmouth for some fun and relaxation. After stopping at an ice-cream hut, we found a long open stretch of beach, sat there, and set up a game of rounders. It was Exeter against Plymouth and Bristol and it's fair to say that we were annihilated in the first game, going out before everyone had

had a chance to bat. The second game proved much more successful for us, even though we still didn't win. Some of us also played some ultimate Frisbee, and we all enjoyed watching Plymouth's dog, Cookie, playing fetch.

On the way back from the beach, Bristol decided to actually take the gnome seriously, however I had found two willing accomplices to take care of the gnomes while I played rounders. We split up to go separate ways to the fish and chips shop where we would be getting dinner, during which time I was given back the decoy gnome, and upon Bristol's arrival, they noticed that I still had a gnome (I may have shown them to prove it), and pounced. Despite mine and Vicky's best efforts to protect him, the decoy gnome was stolen from me, and ferried off to Bristol. However, they never found Gnorman, the real gnome, so the decoy did his job well.

The Exeter ringers were now the only ones left, as Plymouth had gone back towards the end of our time on the beach, and we enjoyed dinner on a few park benches near the train station, before deciding to head back home.

All in all, I had a very enjoyable day. It was good to socialise with some ringers from other universities, and have a go ringing for myself at some other towers, with more success than I had expected, and I'm very much looking forward to next year's outing.

Andrew Browne

South West Branch

Plymouth Youth Ringers Annual Outing 2013



Top row left to right: James, Joseph, Josephine, Emma, Billy, Tim, Mark, Harry
Bottom row: left to right: Phill, Sarah, Helen, Matthew

It was a glorious sunny day, Friday 12th July when ten of us travelled via Portsmouth to the beautiful Isle of Wight. We arrived to find our accommodation was a most comfortable large cottage attached to the post office in the picturesque village of Shorwell.

A very busy ringing weekend lay ahead, planned to the minute by Phill Ridley with breakfast supplies on laid on and evening meals prepared by 'mummy Ridley' who suddenly, but happily inherited a lot more 'children' of all ages than she traveled with and coped with it all seamlessly, as well as fitting in ringing and a touch of DIY!

Friday evening, once we had all arrived and settled into our rooms a quick visit to the local pub, which had a great garden and swings, brought out the kid in a few of us! A meal at the cottage was enjoyed by all and prepared us for the evenings entertainment; a murder mystery, brilliantly written by Matt Smith. A gathering to celebrate 50 yrs of the marriage of Dominic and Emily Stand, both characters portrayed so well as it was not easy to make oneself look so much older...!! Everyone played their characters well, some with such conviction it was not possible to determine who the murderer was. The 'not so good' doctor Joe Slider was murdered by....? Strangled with his own stethoscope ! Stephanie Stay and her ex-husband David continually argued and Doris Clapper proved to be rather naughty! The evening moved on into a mad game of Irish Snap which led to some bruised fingers, and loads of laughter as ferocious spoon grabbing ensued !!



Fun at the murder mystery

Saturday started early at 7am with breakfast over maps of the Island. With towers marked we were off – I learnt the term 'tower grab' and that my mobile sat nave was not to be relied on! A 'tower grabber' waits for nobody so trying to follow the keenest was not easy, a good map reader was essential. It was a bell ringers treasure hunt; and what treasure it was: Towers at Freshwater, Brighstone and Chale before lunch at the White Mouse Inn. Good food, great garden, brilliant tyre swing and amazing views over the bay. A packed afternoon of ringing at: Niton, (where the six bells were impressively stacked two on two), Whitwell, Carisbrooke then back to Shorwell where we joined the evening practice. Our band was a mixture of abilities; we set ourselves a goal to learn bubbles bob minor and isle of wight treble bob minor, we were pleased with our attempts and for the less experienced ringers like myself I was thrilled to get in so much practice at rounds, call changes and basic handling. The day was really catered to all abilities.

Saturday evening was a BBQ on Freshwater beach, with a match lighting competition; the coals were proving a little stubborn to light! Plenty of food, chatter and laughter, and a few brave ringers diving in for an exhilarating swim. The evening turned chilly as the sun went down which led to efforts to keep warm such as hiding under a sleeping bag and the more energetic frisbee players.

Sunday morning all were up early with bags packed as the days ringing would take us back to Portsmouth we bid farewell to our cottage. We joined the Sunday service ringing at Ryde for the first tower; it had a really nice set of eight. Then a walk down to the beach and ice cream by Ryde harbour completed the morning. After lunch we rang at Brading and finished with a mad dash to Newchurch after which we left in time to get the ferry back to Portsmouth. At Portsmouth we had time to visit the waterside shopping centre and walk the water front before the finale at Portsmouth Cathedral. What a way to finish, it was the first time I had rung on twelve bells, it was amazing. While I was there a bespoke spider's web caught my attention, the way in which they hook up their ropes was rather quirky, it was a unique 'spiders web' spider, complete with a tarantula, all carved in wood.

The weekend was fantastic, ringing was great and the towers were all unique in their own way. We are very thankful to Phillip Ridley for arranging the weekend. We will certainly miss him as he moves away from Plymouth to begin in post graduate studies at Nottingham University.

*Billy Moore
Josephine Maddick
South West Branch Publicity Officer*

Mid-Devon Branch

Striking Contest results

Three teams competed for the "Masters Shield" at Powderham on the evening of Saturday 8th June. Our judge for the evening (Richard Johnston) made constructive and useful remarks before announcing the results:

- 1st - Dawlish (75 faults)
- 2nd - Teignmouth (119 faults)

Kingskerswell did not complete their test piece but Richard noted that when their piece broke down (approximately 90% of the way through) they had accumulated 43 faults.



The trophy being awarded

Mid Devon Branch News

ST MARYCHURCH FETE

A position under the trees gave welcome shade as St Marychurch ringers demonstrated the Frank Mack bells to visitors to the church fete. Much interest was shown and we have gained at least one new recruit.



ROYAL BIRTH – PRINCE GEORGE

Quarter Peals were rung at Dawlish and St Marychurch to mark the royal birth. Many congratulations to Wendy Rennie who valiantly stuck to the task to score her first quarter peal “inside”.

Dawlish, Devon

Sunday, 28 July 2013 in 44 minutes (11 cwt)
1260 Plain Bob Triples
1 Liz Wood, 2 Phil Hughes, 3 Fiona Rock-Evans,
4 Sophie Hughes, 5 Jasper Hughes, 6 Martin Dodd
7 Lynne Hughes (C), 8 Nicola Twibill

To celebrate the birth of Prince George Alexander Louis of Cambridge.

Torquay, Devon, St Marychurch

Sunday, 28 July 2013 in 44 mins (6cwt)
1260 Plain Bob Minor
1 Don Roberts, 2 Tim King, 3 Wendy Rennie
4 Rowena Mansley, 5 Paul Latham, 6 Martin Mansley (C)
First inside – 3

For evensong and to mark the birth of Prince George of Cambridge

Teignmouth, Devon, St Michael's

30 July, 1260 PB Triples

Janet Clutterbuck 1, Hannah Martin 2, Erica Martin 3,
Fiona Rock-Evans 4, John Martin 5, Alan Furse 6, Martin
Dodd 7 (C), Jason Dowling 8.

To celebrate the birth of Prince George of Cambridge.

JOINT 10 BELL PRACTICE

This event had been planned for Brixham but sadly, these bells were not available on that date so we moved to St Marychurch. Good use was made of the time and quite a few less-experienced ringers made good progress on improving their 10 bell ringing. This meant quite a lot of rounds and call changes but we also managed Plain Hunt on 9 and a very good attempt at one of the methods of the evening – Cloister Caters which, with its double dodging, gave a chance to get to grips with 10 bell striking. We also rang Erin and had a go at Cambridge Royal. It was really good to see such an enthusiastic gathering (and no sign of our complaining neighbour this time!).

QUARTER PEAL – DOUBLES

An unusually low attendance at a St Marychurch practice gave the opportunity to ring a quarter peal – although not everyone was aware of what was planned until it started to lengthen! Grandsire and Plain Bob were rung in 44 minutes and we congratulate Catherine Saunders on a fine performance in her first Quarter Peal. We are very grateful that Jason Hughes from Southwark Cathedral was visiting that evening – ringing 4 is hard work!

Torquay, Devon, St Marychurch

Tuesday, 6 August 2013 in 44 mins (6cwt)

1260 Doubles (2m), 660 Grandsire 600 PB

1 Catherine Saunders, 2 Josh Tratt, 3 Jason Hughes

4 Tim King, 5 Martin Mansley (C)

First Quarter Peal – 1

Martin Mansley

65TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY FOR REVD JOHN & ELAINE HAREWOOD

John and Elaine Harewood were married at Silsden in Yorkshire in July 1948 and moved to the West Country shortly afterwards. After a successful teaching career John trained for ordination and served as Rector of the Camelot parishes in Somerset before moving to Devon to become Rector at Kenton.

There will no doubt be those in Devon who remember John during this period and although he retired from Kenton in 1993 John and Elaine stayed in Devon, moving to Budleigh Salterton.

John and Elaine did learn the basics of bell handling while they lived in Taunton but their daughter Cathy and grand-daughter Hannah have both become enthusiastic ringers.

Having celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with a family party in Lancashire a complimentary peal was specially arranged and rung at their nearest tower, East Budleigh on Saturday 3rd August.

Congratulations to Hannah Martin who rang her first touch of Cambridge Major – and it lasted for 2 hours and 46 minutes! This was her first peal of Surprise Major – well done!

East Budleigh, Devon, All Saints

Saturday, 3 August 2013 in 2h46 (9)

5056 Cambridge Surprise Major

Composed by T B Worsley (reversed)

1 Ian W Avery

2 Lynne P Hughes

3 Hannah R Martin

4 Richard H Johnston

5 Philip Stevens

6 Michael E C Mears

7 John R Martin (C)

8 David Hird

First peal of Surprise – 3.

Specially arranged and rung as a 65th wedding anniversary compliment to the Revd J and Mrs E Harewood, grandparents of the ringer of the third.

Also a 75th birthday compliment to David Pratt, tower captain at East Budleigh.



The peal band after completing the peal

John and Elaine listened to the last third of the peal and after having their photograph taken with the ringers entertained us at the *Walter Raleigh*.

John Martin

East Devon Branch

East Devon Branch Striking Competition

The East Devon Branch Striking Competition was held on 13th July at Dunkeswell. Teams from Ottery St Mary, Combe Raleigh, Luppitt, Farway, Sidmouth and Honiton took part.

On the hottest day of the year, ringers were glad of the facilities provided by David Garrod and his team, though one wit commented that this was the first time he'd been in a beer tent with no beer! No beer maybe, but cold and hot drinks were available, with a wide selection of food, all afternoon.

The judge, John Foster, in his summing up, said that we were all equal last, when it came to the open hand stroke leads! Memo to self – remember this next time.

The final result, with the top three teams separated by only small margins, saw Honiton declared the winners of the Edward Summers Memorial Trophy, with Sidmouth runners-up and Farway in third place.



The judge, John Foster, presenting the trophy to Derek Ballard, tower captain of Honiton St Paul's.

Three of the Honiton ringers, taught by Derek Ballard, are relatively new to bell-ringing and the result was an enormously satisfying reward for all their hard work.

We would all like to express our thanks to everyone associated with ensuring a very enjoyable afternoon's ringing, especially to John Foster for judging the competition and all the teams who took part.

Trevor Hitchcock

Is Chivalry Dead?

Thanks should go to the geriatric bell-hangers for getting the Widworthy bells ringing again, though how the lovely Lisa became mixed up with a bunch of geriatrics was hard to fathom. I've since discovered that husband Laurence made a new stay to complete the servicing of the bells, perhaps that's the link.

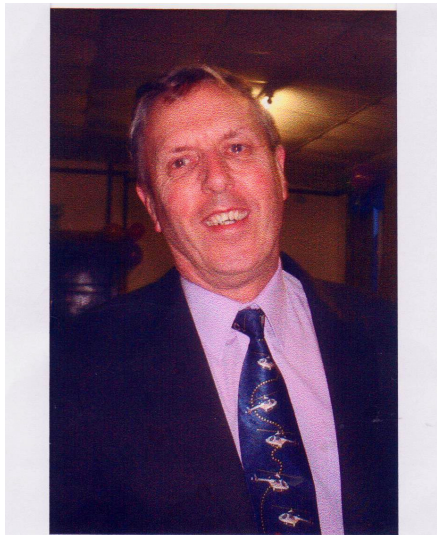
Come the Widworthy Fete and Lisa gathered together a motley bunch of local-ish ringers to ring for twenty minutes, to announce the opening of the Fete held at Widworthy Barton. There were three ladies and three gentlemen, well men, males, anyway. Instructed to raise the bells singly, 'who wants to raise the treble?' Step forward male number one. 'Now for the two, who wants it?' Step forward male number two. 'The three?' And the first lady, Cathy shows how it should be done. A reluctant Lisa takes bell number four and yet another lady, Brenda, takes the tenor. So, the ladies are expected to do all the hard work, nothing changes.

'Let's start with some call changes'. Step forward macho male to ring the tenor, sadly it proved to be very hard going. The ringers are moved around a bit and what do we find, but the men, males, on the light bells and the ladies on the heavy bells! Now, of course, it all goes very well and the gathering crowds are delighted to hear the bells after nearly sixty years of silence. Many come into the church and fall over each other in a bid to photograph this historic event.

I really can't give you a photo; it would be too embarrassing for the weakling, un-chivalrous, presently anonymous, males!

Contributed by one of the males who signs himself 'Anon'.

Brian Henry Francis Gardner 1944 – 2013



Brian Gardner, Tower Captain at Shute Church
Nr Axminster

Brian Gardner sadly passed away on the 23rd May 2013
after losing his bravely fought battle with cancer.

Brian was born at Burts Farm, Whitford on 16th April 1944, the eldest of three boys. He attended Musbury Primary School followed by secondary education at Axminster and Exeter Technical School.

His father, Francis Gardner, was a keen ringer and so Brian followed in his footsteps and started to learn to ring in his teenage years, first taught by the late Henry Sprague.

His adult career started with the National Provincial Bank Ltd at Axminster followed by a transfer to the Wareham branch. It was while he worked in Wareham he met his lovely wife Fay and they married on 8th June 1968.

He and Fay set up home back in Whitford and soon bought Lower Hampton farm. Due to the work load Brian could not commit himself as much as he would have liked to the world of ringing, but was always at hand to ring for special occasions.

During this time Brian had also become the father of three girls. In 1986 he sold the farm and followed a new career with the civil service. Now that he had more time in the evenings he soon got back into regular ringing at Shute church.

In 1993 he took on the role of ringing captain from the late Alf Pring at St Michael's church, Shute. His youngest daughter Stephanie had also taken up ringing. Over the years Brian has taught and guided many ringers, young and old, as well as being a regular visitor to many neighbouring towers. He became a well known face in the ringing world around East Devon over the last 20 years.

Each year he organised a grand bell ringing outing for Shute ringers, which he spent many hours preparing beforehand to ensure the day ran smoothly.

As well as his bell ringing Brian was also a St John Ambulance member for 25 years and moved on to commercial team training at Exeter until he was 65. He was a keen model railway enthusiast and on retirement converted his back garden into a Silverton G-scale model railway which is a popular attraction for his five grandchildren!

As if all this wasn't enough to fill his time he was also a parish church council member for forty years holding positions of secretary, treasurer and church-warden. He has also been a participant of the Axe Valley Community Choir, as well as a member of the Whitford and District Produce Association.

A packed church, filled to overflowing, gave testament to the high esteem in which Brian was held. He will be sadly missed by all in the World of Ringing.

*Stephanie Mabbutt (Brian's daughter)
Trevor Hitchcock*

Awliscombe Bell Ringing Outing – 29th June 2013

Saturday dawned bright and clear for Awliscombe, Buckerell and Gittisham's annual bell ringing outing to four churches in South Devon. The ringers congregated at Awliscombe village hall's car park and by 9.00am the party of fourteen set off in high spirits and with keen anticipation of a glorious day of ringing.

Mike (our bus driver) made excellent time and by 10.00am we pulled up outside the church of St Mary, Dartington. We were half an hour early, so we quickly made our way to Dartington Cider Press Centre, where we all enjoyed splendid freshly-brewed coffees.

The sun seemed to shine even more brightly as we made our way back to St Mary's to greet Jan and Barbara, who had travelled down independently. We were all eager to begin the exercise of the day. A lovely bell ringer from the tower was there to welcome us with generous steaming mugs of coffee and biscuits. The tower has six bells and under the expert guidance of Crispin Denny (Buckerell tower leader) and Roger Sprigg (Awliscombe tower leader) we rang a variety of call changes,

interspersed with some scientific method ringing. When we were not ringing we joined the non-bell ringers amongst us (our loyal fans) and enjoyed reading up on the history of the churches and, of course, drinking in the marvellous scenic views.

We journeyed onwards through the lush and verdant Devon countryside to the church of St Mary, Berry Pomeroy, to delight the parishioners as they prepared for their summer fete. The bell tower can only be accessed by climbing up a hazardous spiral stone staircase of some stature. A thin iron rod, acting as a banister, was grasped grimly as each bell ringer wended their way precariously in a seemingly never-ending upwards trajectory. Barbara refrained from ringing in this tower of eight bells. Nevertheless, the bells pealed forth with sombre magnificence, delighting the pasty-eating tower captain who sat in the churchyard listening intently to the labours of those so far above. Richard (retired, beloved vicar from Gittisham) particularly delighted in the unspoilt, pastoral surroundings, which would have inspired Wordsworth and Coleridge had they ventured southwards.



Left to right: Sue Marshall, Hannah Barrows, Mary Boulton, Maggie Walker, Crispin Denny, Geof Turner, Debbie Barrows, Bill Griffiths, Sara Trumper, Roger Sprigg and Frank Letten.

And so we were off again, by now ravenous from our labours and keen to satiate our appetites in the alternative town of Totnes. Bill (Gittisham tower deputy Leader) and Sara (spokesperson) were overheard discussing the merits of the 'toothsome veggie nibbles' to be sampled; Maggie, being familiar with all things 'other', directed some members of the party to Willow Restaurant where copious quantities of organic, vegan, gluten-free fare were digested. The remaining diners sought out more conventional gastronomic establishments, with Jan Sutcliffe's moules mariniere being the highlight of the courses consumed.

By 2.30pm the bus was rolling along the lanes once more on the way to the church of St. Mary, Collaton St. Mary. The six bells here were much lighter than those in the previous two towers and the team of ringers confessed to finding the belfry somewhat cramped. This may have had something to do with spreading waistlines, and one thinks it was here that Roger began to have some trouble securing his

trousers. Fortunately, being country folk, a piece of bailer twine was found and Roger was able to improvise a belt. A merry little ditty sang out from this tower as the ringers once more produced a selection of call changes and scientific ringing from their extensive repertoire.

Once more we were on the road and hastening towards a pre-ordered Devonshire cream tea, which Mary and Sue (Awliscombe ringers) had been anticipating all day. Richard, having succumbed to a chocolate brownie in Totnes, was unable to eat his scone, yet Sara seemed unaffected by her earlier indulgence. Roger had butter instead of cream on his scone, and no-one really knew whether this was in deference to his cholesterol intake or the bailer twine holding up his trousers. At this stage in our adventure Barbara and Jan conceded defeat and, taking Richard with them, returned to East Devon.

The team concluded their expedition at the church of St. Bartholomew, Coffinswell. This was a most picturesque setting and a fitting backdrop to the mellifluous chimes of this superlative set of six bells. At this stage all ringers had completely mastered their art and Geoff (Harpford church) astounded us all with his tenacious stamina, as he continued to ring when other younger ringers were wilting. Roger surprised everyone by suddenly setting his bell to 'stand' and then we realised that his trousers were falling down, as the bailer twine could no longer take the strain. We all agreed that we had had a lovely day and that it is necessary to repeat such events, so that the art of campanology never dies in our wonderful churches. Thank go to Roger and Rosemary for organising such a memorable day.

Maggie Walker

North-North West Branch

James (Jim) Rich 1925-2013

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS



Jim spent all his life, and did almost all his bellringing, along both sides of the northern stretch of the Cornwall/Devon County border.

He was born in Bude, went to school in Marhamchurch and Stratton, and was taught to handle a bell and introduced to "scientific" method ringing by Jack Hicks at Marhamchurch. Jim was elected to membership of the Ancient Society of College Youths in 1949, and at various

times was a Member of both the Truro and Devon Guilds.

As far as I can ascertain, Jim rang six full Peals. His first was on 29th November 1947 at Kelly (Grandsire Doubles on an inside bell); there were two 8-bell peals of Grandsire Triples – at Stratton and Buckland Monachorum in 1953; PB Minor at North Petherwin in 1959; and Grandsire Doubles at Lewannick and Coryton in 1960, these last three peals being the first peal in each Tower.

Jim lived and worked in many different locations in the North Cornwall/Devon area, and wherever he was he became involved in the local bellringing scene. He retired to

live at North Tamerton where that interest continued, and at a memorial service in St Denys church at North Tamerton the bells were rung half-muffled by a number of his ringing friends in thanksgiving for his life. His service to bellringing had been formally recognised in 2008 when, after 60 years of membership, he was elected as a Vice-President of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers.

Bruce Hicks

North East Branch

John Hutchings Memorial Trophy

On Friday, 21st June, Silverton as usual were hosts of the John Hutchings Memorial Trophy. John was a Silverton ringer who died at a young age of 31 years and was at the time a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths and Ringing Master of the North East Branch. Five bands took part in the thirteenth competition for the prize awarded for the best striking over 240 changes of any Doubles or Minor method.



The winning team with the judges

David Hird and Amy Gill were the judges, placing the contestants as follows:

1	Cullompton	47 faults
2	St Peter Tiverton	70.5 faults
3	St Paul Tiverton	71 faults
4	Silverton	84.5 faults
5	Bampton	95.5 faults

A fish and chip supper was held afterwards at the Lamb Inn and enjoyed by all. Our thanks go to Martin Clough of Silverton for hosting the competition and to David and Amy for judging.

Richard Shere

Celebrations at St Paul's, Tiverton

1260 well-struck changes of Plain Bob Doubles were rung at St Paul's, Tiverton on Thursday 22nd August to congratulate Alan Edwards on his seventieth year as a ringer; a noteworthy accomplishment in itself but coupled with this was a celebration of Wilfred Dunn's sixty-seven years of marriage to Phyllis. Not to be outdone, fellow

band member Phil Smart and his wife Mabel were included as they each celebrated their ninety-second birthdays! We may be getting up there in the age department but we are still ringing, and well enough to win the St. Peter's Shield this year!



Participating members of the band, left to right: Dermot Elworthy (6), Alan Edwards (1), Matthew Weighell (5 & C), Sharon Sproat (2), John Kape (4), and Wilf Dunn (3)



Regrettably, the occasion also marked the final quarter peal rung with the band by John Kape. John has been tower captain for the last seven years and now moves to Berkshire to be nearer his family. He will be much missed for he has been a good leader, mentor and friend to us all. He was presented with an engraved pewter tankard as a memento of his time with us.

John Kape (left) accepts his gift from David Smith, the Tower Secretary

Dermot Elworthy

Teddy Parachute Day at Bampton

August Bank Holiday Monday saw the annual Teddy Bear Parachute organised by the Bampton Bellringers. This year gave near perfect weather conditions for both teddies and our regular audience. Seats are booked well in advance to watch this annual spectacle. Two hours of organising teddies and their owners to wait their turn to be harnessed with parachutes, hauled up the tower in a basket and launched one at a time from the top of the tower amused onlookers and sent out 'oohs', 'ahhs' and gasps in equal measure. Only 4 teddies had to be rescued from the maple tree this year and the trusty First Aid kit (tin of jelly teddies) was not needed to console upset owners this time. Certificates were awarded for bravery and a total of more than £200 was raised through parachuting and prior sponsorship in local shops.



Mike Weight asking teddy his details to put on the certificate



Mike Hatchett and Darren Brice on the tower roof

Sheila Scofield

Exeter Branch

Exeter Branch Outing for Anoraks: Saturday 10th August

It was Peter's idea to refer to the event as an outing for anoraks, and who can argue with the organiser of a quirky afternoon of poking around in towers with four or fewer bells?

The first church of the afternoon, Landscope, is situated next door to Hill House Nursery. The early arrivals amongst us were soon enjoying lunch in the tea rooms, while the inveterate gardeners investigated the wide and unusual selection of plants for sale, many of them not normally seen in garden centres.

Lanscove is part of the parish of Staverton and the church (designed by J L



Pearson, who was also responsible for Truro Cathedral) was built in 1851. At that time the population of this part of the parish had grown enormously because of the industrial development of the Penn Recca slate mine about half a mile away. The land for the church was given by the Diocese of Exeter and the building was funded by the Champernowne

Six of the eight hemispherical bells at Lanscove
– in a normal four bell frame!

family, who lived at nearby Dartington Hall. Unfortunately the development of the railways made the supply of Welsh slate much more viable and the population of the village dwindled to much as it is today. The mine closed around the turn of the century. One bell was provided at the time the church was built and possibly it was intended that there should be more since the present installation of eight hemispherical bells is hung in a standard four-bell frame. The single bell was removed in 1912. The hemispherical bells are 'cupped' one within the other, and look like a set of soup bowls on their sides; we were all fascinated by these and spent quite a lot of time looking at them as it was a new experience for most of us. The bells are chimed via an Ellacombe apparatus and it was challenging to find suitable hymn tunes that could be rung using just one octave! Simple methods were also attempted, including an attempt at Bob Major with four people, each chiming two bells.

We moved on to Woodland, where an earlier chapel, part of the parish of Ipplepen, was rebuilt in the mid-16th century because Woodland became a parish in its own right. The three bells in the tower are now clocked, with ropes attached to the clappers, although it is believed that they were rung full-circle until about fifty years ago and could probably do so again with a little remedial work since all the necessary fittings are in place and the belfry is very clean and tidy. Two of the bells are from the Exeter Foundry: the treble c1400, and the tenor by Thomas Pennington II in 1636. The second is by Mordecai Cockey of Totnes and dated 1678. Three bells are listed in the inventory of 1553, so two of these must have been replaced in the 17th century.



Two of the three bells at Woodland – note that the stay is nailed to the wheel!

At West Oghwell the three bells are hung dead and chimed with carillon levers. The two small parishes of East and West Oghwell were combined in 1881 and presumably the church at West Oghwell then became redundant. It is now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. The building is an enchanting little gem, constructed from the local stone that is commonly known as Oghwell Marble, and full of architectural interest. The tower is Norman, built on Saxon foundations, and the rest of the church dates from the 13th century. The bells all date from the 15th century, the second and tenor being products of the Exeter foundry. In the inventory of 1553 there were four bells listed, but the fate of the additional one is unknown, although there is a small bell in a cupola at the front of the adjacent West Oghwell manor house.



Amy chiming the three bells at West Oghwell

Our final tower of the afternoon was Torbryan, which is home to a large colony of bats, evidenced in the ringing room by many holes cut in the floor and ceiling to allow them access to their roosts. Again, the church is in the care of the CCT since becoming redundant. The handsome building dates from the 15th century and it was

devastating to note that two priceless medieval panels depicting saints had recently been stolen, thieves cutting the artworks from the rood screen.

The four pre-Reformation bells are hung for full-circle ringing, and very fine they are too! They are undated but were listed in the church inventory of 1553. In 1972 they were refurbished and rehung in a six-bell cast iron frame by Taylors, and bells 1, 2 and 4 were retuned to the third, a very clean casting described by John Scott in his book *Towers & Bells of Devon* as 'a bell of exceptionally beautiful tone'. We all enjoyed our time here, with ringing ranging from rounds and call changes to Bristol S Minimus.



Some of the intrepid tourists

The outing ended as it had begun, with more refreshments being taken, this time at the adjacent Church House Inn. Our grateful thanks go to Peter Bill for organising such an interesting and unusual afternoon.

Wendy Campbell

St Mark's Annual Cycle Outing



The band of ringing cyclists in Powderham churchyard

On Saturday 31st August, a group of ringers, friends and family met at Starcross car park for a day of ringing, eating and socialising. To start with, the cyclists went on the ferry from Starcross to Exmouth. Thankfully it was a sunny day so everyone sat outside and enjoyed the views. A special detour enabled us to see the seals basking on the sandbank near Dawlish Warren.



We then cycled to Lymptstone along the recently completed cycle path by the railway line where we met up with more ringers and rang the bells, before cycling down the road to the Swan Inn where we all enjoyed a delicious lunch.

After lunch we continued along the cycle track past the Royal Marines' commando camp and then via the main road to ring at Clyst St George. The ringing ranged from Plain Bob to Surprise Minor. We then went back to Dart's Farm for an ice cream or a cup of tea (or both!) before cycling just over seven miles up to the Exeter bypass and back down the canal cycle track to Powderham for our last ring.

A final burst of energy was needed to complete the course back to the Starcross car park where we loaded the bikes and went home for a well-earned rest, apart from Janet and Neil who cycled on their tandem all the way back to Exmouth! All together there were 14 cyclists and many more ringers who took the easy way out and travelled by car. Thanks go to Graham and Lesley Tucker for organising another lovely cycle outing!!

Amy Gill

Heart Radio

Back in June I received an unusual email:

My name is Josh and I am the Producer of Heart Breakfast with Matt & Caroline at Heart Radio. We cover the South West across Devon and Cornwall and have a weekly audience of over 250,000 people.

We run a feature called 'Matt & Caroline Try...' where they attempt lots of different activities. Everything from milking cows to open water swimming!

One thing we would LOVE to try is bell ringing with your club. I wonder if you would mind us coming down to have a go?

They were requesting a time on the following day!

So on 11th June I agreed to meet them at Heavitree church. The producer, Josh, had a tiny audio recorder and separate video recorder and seemed most interested in filming Caroline going up the stairs (she was wearing some rather fetching hot-pants!). In order to make it more interesting we went up to the clock room to see the clock, and then on to the roof of the tower to admire the view and the surprise of all of the mobile telephone equipment and aerials that are there but almost entirely invisible from the ground.

Having tied up the treble and started up the simulator – which is based on authentic “Heavitree” bell sounds, they each had a go at backstrokes, and then handstrokes, to see what ringing was all about. Matt tried hard to persuade me that he had done better than Caroline – I suppose he actually had as Caroline was rather scared of the whole episode, but I was reluctant to give into his chauvinistic sentiments!

I was told that the recording would be broadcast on 21st June but I gather from people who listen to this program in the morning that it actually appeared sometime later. Still, as they say, all publicity is good publicity – I hope that it has brought ringing a little to the public’s attention!

Ian Campbell

Ringling at Exeter Cathedral

We get a large number of ringers from all over the country who are interested in the bells at Exeter Cathedral. The following attempts to answer most of their questions.

Q: I am a ringer at our local church. Are the bells at Exeter Cathedral much different from these?

A: The bells at the Cathedral are the second heaviest ringable bells in the world (the only heavier tenor is at Liverpool Cathedral). Apart from this they are rung in the same way as smaller bells.

Q: How heavy are the bells at Exeter Cathedral?

A: The tenor weighs 72cwt but if you include the clapper and the headstock it is over 4 tons. Even the treble weighs over 6cwt.

Q: Is the tenor rung by one person?

A: Very experienced ringers on heavy bells will usually ring the tenor on their own. It is possible to attach a "strap" rope so that help can be given by a second person, and when raising the bell a third person is required.

Q: Are the bells difficult to ring?

A: Because the back bells swing so slowly, the smaller bells all have to be rung under complete control, and held on the balance at every stroke. In addition there is significant tower movement, so the bells have to be pulled enough to ensure they always reach the balance in case the tower sways at the wrong time. And a number of the bells are rather odd-struck. Ringing the smaller bells after the larger bells requires an enormous visual gap; this can only be judged by listening very carefully and picking out the sound of your bell from the other eleven.

Q: I would love to hear the bells ringing: when are they rung?

A: The Exeter Cathedral Society rings them three Sundays a month - for the 10am service on the first Sunday each month, and for the 4pm service on the third and fourth Sundays. Some of these sessions are quarter peal attempts by selected bands. The practices for the local band are on Monday evenings and on the third Saturday. There is additional ringing at other times, for example Christmas, Easter, Whitsun, weddings, patronal festival, etc.

Q: How can I get to ring at Exeter Cathedral?

A: If you are a competent and experienced 12-bell ringer please contact the Ringing Master and he will arrange for you to join the local band at a suitable occasion. Otherwise, provided that you can handle a bell safely (we would suggest that you have been ringing competently for at least a year) then you would be welcome to join one of the Saturday practices. We meet under the South tower at 5.30pm and ring until 7.30pm. Occasionally times are shifted if there are functions in the Cathedral so it is worth contacting the Ringing Master or Secretary if you are planning to travel any distance.

Q: Do you get many ringers at a practice?

A: There are at least 20 local ringers at every practice, and the Saturday practices often attract more than 50 people. So don't expect to ring more than once or twice if you come as we have to fit everyone into the fixed time available.

Q: I have never rung on more than eight bells: will I get a chance to ring all twelve?

A: All ringing visitors are invited to ring rounds on the twelve bells. However this is not a tower to learn to ring on higher numbers - at least not on the first visit!

Q: I am arranging a ringing outing for our local ringers: when could we come to the Cathedral?

A: Owing to the close proximity of the town with its offices and shops, ringing at times other than those above is not possible. Ringing outings are often arranged so that they finish up at the Cathedral on a third Saturday in time for the regular practice. For bands very experienced at ringing on higher numbers and heavy bells it might be possible to arrange a special session to ring for a Sunday service (first or second Sunday of the month only).

Q: I ring with a Devon call-change band. Could we ring some call-changes?

A: Competent call-change bands are welcome to ring the bells. It is important that the standard of ringing is kept high as befits a Cathedral and most call-change bands are happier ringing the middle eight bells - although the "light" tenor is still 28cwt! It may be possible to include a call-change peal during the third Saturday practice (depending on how many people are present) or arrange a special session for a competent band to ring for a Sunday service (first or second Sunday of the month only).

Q: I don't feel up to ringing the bells, but would love to see what happens. Is this possible?

A: Visitors are welcomed on the third Saturday to watch the ringing. It is usually possible to climb the tower to the bells and watch them ringing.

Q: Are there a lot of steps involved getting to the ringing chamber?

A: YES - you need to be reasonably fit just to get up the stairs!

Q: Where can I find more information about the Cathedral bells?

A: More information is available at: <http://devonringers.org.uk/gdr/cathedral.html> which includes a link to the current ringing schedule.

Ringling Master: Matt Hilling - M.J.Hilling@exeter.ac.uk

Secretary: Ian Campbell - I.L.C.Campbell@exeter.ac.uk

Ian Campbell

Exeter Handbells

12-BELL QUARTER PEALS

Tim wanted to ring on his recently refurbished twelve handbells, so the opportunity was taken when Margaret Chapman was visiting to ring a couple of quarter peals.



Margaret, Sue, Tim, Geoff, Ian and Andrew

Exeter, Devon, 64 Mount Pleasant Road

Saturday, 22 June 2013 in 52 mins (15 C)

1344 Kent TB Maximus

1-2 Andrew Digby

3-4 Margaret Chapman

5-6 Sue Sparling

7-8 Tim Bayton (C)

9-10 Geoffrey Sparling

11-12 Ian Campbell

1st Maximus in m, 1st TB Maximus in hand, and completes the Kent family (Minor to Maximus) in hand as C: 7-8.

Exeter, Devon, 64 Mount Pleasant Road

Saturday, 22 June 2013 in 48 mins (15 C)

1320 Little Bob Maximus

1-2 Andrew Digby

3-4 Margaret Chapman

5-6 Sue Sparling

7-8 Tim Bayton (C)

9-10 Geoffrey Sparling

11-12 Ian Campbell

Ian Campbell

Celebrations in Dartmouth

During June the Frank Mack Garage mini ring and the Guild Demonstration Bell had an outing to Dartmouth. It is 75 years since the bells in the town centre church of St Saviour (8 bells 18 cwt) were rehung and the ringers are marking this anniversary with a series of events throughout 2013. The first event was an open day which, in addition to the portable hardware, included bell ringing demonstrations, a rope splicing demonstration and



guided tours up to the bell chamber. Visitors were also instructed in the use of the chimes and there was a specially made video running showing the bells in action and some still photographs to further enhance the exhibition.

Cream teas and beverages were available at a moderate price to draw in the visitors and a raffle was held to boost the tower fund. The throughput of guests was slow to start with but peaked just after mid day. In all, during the day there were at least 150 visitors from as far afield as the United States, Canada, Australia and various European countries as well as local Dartmothians and UK tourists.

Some of the home band had a few hours to practice on the mini ring and could just about manage some call changes but, as time was limited, they decided not to give a

demonstration to the general public. However, many visitors did try their hand and it seemed that children and others with no experience of ringing big bells were able to pick up the skills required quite quickly and that doing so gave them great satisfaction and pleasure.

The ringers of St Saviour's would like to thank the Guild for the loan of these valuable assets; their availability certainly enhanced the open day experience.



Anne Bailey

Training

The next Devon ITTS Course

Module1 - Teaching Bell Handling

Saturday 2nd November, 9 15 – 5 15
in the Exeter area

A practical course. Learn how to make your tower teaching flexible and effective

Use the latest techniques based on sports coaching and learning theory

Get help from an experienced mentor

Gain national accreditation and membership of the Association of Ringing Teachers

Fee only £10.

Bookings & Enquiries to Les Boyce, 01884 256819 or lesboyce@gmail.com

For more information go to: <http://www.ringingteachers.co.uk/>

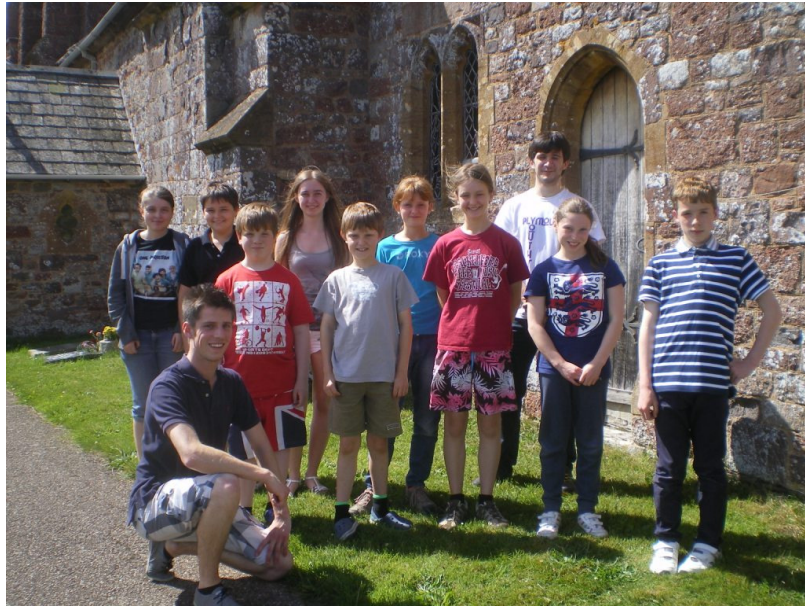
Annual Guild Education Meeting

The annual Guild education meeting will take place on Sunday 13th October, at 2.30pm, at 17 East Cliff Road, Dawlish EX7 0DN. Training in the Guild can be reviewed, good ideas shared, ITTS news in particular brought up to date, and ideas put forward for next year. It is good to have present people responsible for training in each branch, but the meeting is also open to any individual who is interested and would like to come along. It is helpful to let me know if you are coming, please.

Lynne Hughes

lynnephughes@hotmail.com

Devon Young Ringers' Summer Fun



L to R back row: Amy, Gareth, Sophie, Peggy, Harry.
L to R front row: Arthur, Bobby, Bethan, Natasha, Sam.
Kneeling: Phill

This would normally include the word 'barbecue' but that became a moot point. More on that later!

29th June presented us with perfect summer weather, and at 2pm eleven young ringers and plenty of family and friends gathered at Stoke Canon for a good ring. An hour later we were at Pinhoe for the third year running, for the rest of the afternoon. Quite a bit of ringing for all abilities was followed by a church treasure hunt, and informal games such as swing-ball, frizbee and boules outside. It wasn't long before the more athletic of all ages were having a go at leapfrog! Efforts were watched by a flock of noisy free-ranging churchyard guineafowl, while a nearby field contained two nervous and very recently shorn alpacas. Many young people and interested parents

had a go at tunes or ringing rounds on handbells.



Yes, the day was sunny, but also rather windy, and the barbecues just would not get going. Wendy Gill kindly drove off to grill most of the meat at home, while Phil Hughes nurtured a patch of glowing coals, producing a slow stream of burgers for the very hungry. A good supply of cakes, eaten first, meant that no-one minded too much, and eventually Wendy returned with cooked goods, and all ate their fill.

Handbells in the churchyard

Grateful thanks go to the churches for hosting us, and to all who helped to make it such an enjoyable afternoon.



Non-ringing fun!

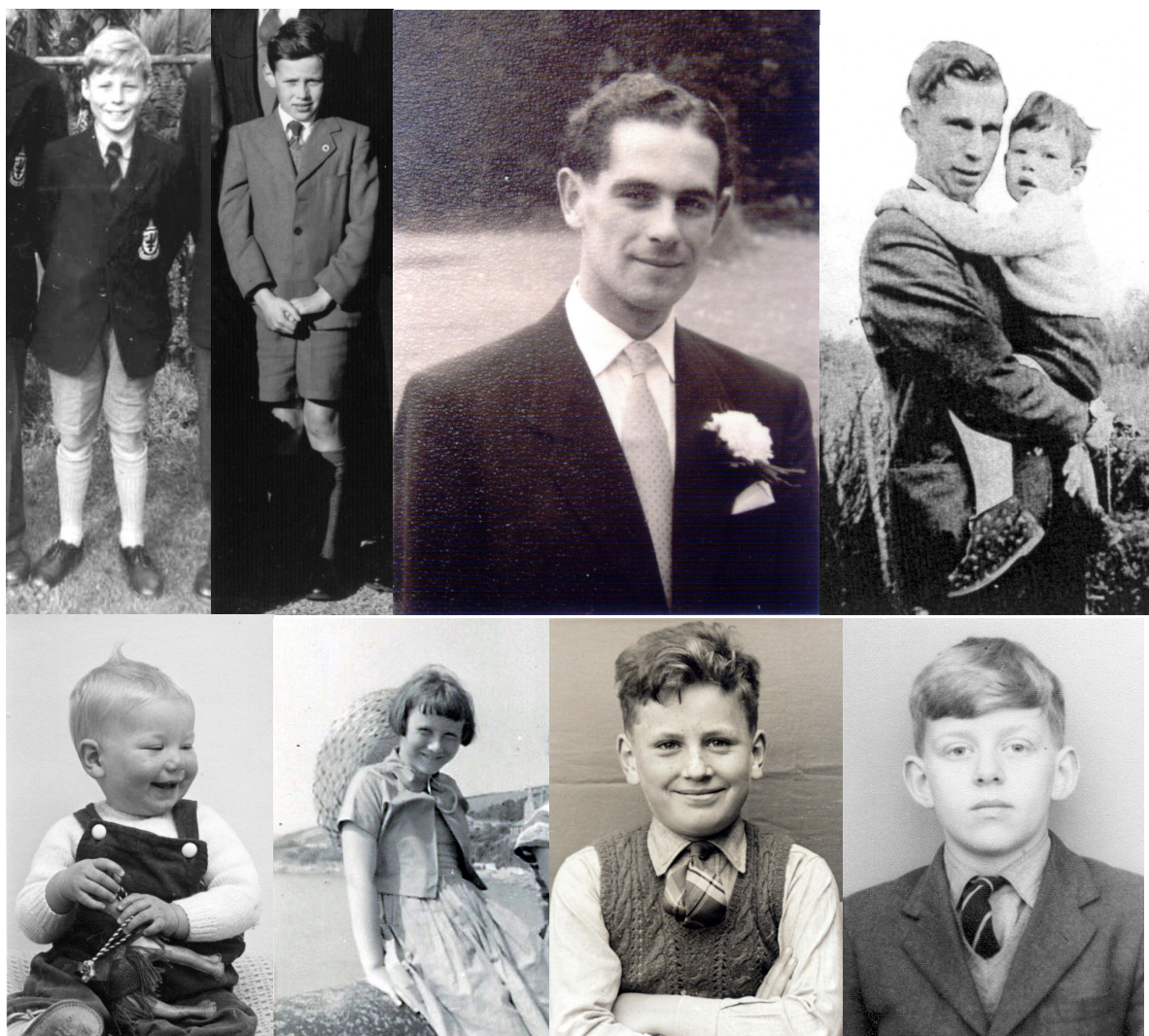
Lynne Hughes

Other News

Notable Peals

January 13th 1960: what a long time ago that was! Have you any idea what you were doing that day (if you were even alive then)? Thanks to the PealBase website, we know that John Kape rang a peal that day - Grandsire Triples at his then home tower of Hughenden, Buckinghamshire. This was not his first peal; that took place way back in 1948, when John was aged only 13, and there had been another 50 peals in between. No, the 1960 peal was to be his last.... until 1st July this year, when he was persuaded that he was quite up to the challenge of ringing another, more than 53 years on.

The list of John's earlier peals is quite impressive: it includes Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques, two of silent and non-conducted Grandsire Triples and more than a dozen of Surprise Major. His first peal as conductor, in 1954, was of Stedman Triples, and four more of these followed, including one of Carter's odd bob 20-part. Stedman (Triples and Caters) is his favourite method, but he also conducted peals in one or two other methods. There are some well known names too among John's fellow ringers back then: John Mayne, Bill Birmingham, Alan Hartley, Bill Butler and Arthur Barker, to mention just a few.



The peal band as they were in 1960 when John rang his last peal:

Top Row: Geoff, Ian (A), John (K), John (H) – with son

Second Row: Pauline, Sue, Mike, Ian (C)

So what put a stop to John's peal-ringing career? He explains that moving away from Hughenden, getting married and taking up both sailing and gliding all led to his giving up ringing altogether in 1962. Following the birth of their three daughters, more of his leisure time was devoted to family activities, though somehow he managed to fit in hockey and squash as well. The move to Devon came in 1983, but it was not until 2003 that John resumed ringing, following a conversation with Terry Hargreaves, then a fellow member of John's church choir.

The following years saw John taking on various offices (Ringing Master of the North East Branch, Tower Captain of St Paul's Tiverton) and ringing many quarter peals. When it was first suggested, John seemed a little dubious at the idea of ringing another peal, but as the weeks passed he became more and more keen to do it. A shoulder injury incurred last Christmas put paid to the initial plan, but by the summer John decided he was fit enough for the attempt. Pinhoe was recommended as the ideal tower for the venture, and the band was deliberately chosen: all were born before the time of John's last peal, though not many were ringing at that date. A good peal of Yorkshire was scored, John ringing very well throughout.

Sadly for his friends in Devon, John recently decided that the time was right for him to move to Berkshire in order to be near his daughters. We wish him well and hope that he will continue to enjoy his ringing there. Perhaps there will be another peal when he makes the occasional visit to Devon.



As they are now: Ian (A), John (H), Ian (C), Mike, John (K), Pauline, Sue and Geoff

Pinhoe, Devon

St Michael & All Angels

Monday, 1 July 2013 in 2hrs 49m (10-0-19)

5088 Yorkshire S Major

Arranged by M J Pomeroy

1 Susan D Sparling

2 Pauline Champion

3 Ian W Avery

4 John D Kape

5 John Hill

6 Ian L C Campbell

7 Geoffrey C Sparling

8 Michael E C Mears (C)

First peal since January 1960: 4

Pauline Champion

Other Notable Peals rung for the Guild

Thorverton, Devon

Monday, 1 July 2013 in 2hrs 40m (5-0-27)

5040 Spliced S Minor (41m)

(Norwich, Newcastle, Cunecastre, Durham, Northumberland, Berwick, Rossendale, Norfolk, Stamford, Kelso, Ipswich, Lincoln, Chester, Wearmouth, Carlisle, Alnwick, Wooler, Whitley, Hull, Bamborough, Surfleet, Warkworth, Canterbury, Coldstream, Cambridge, Wells, Netherseale, Beverley, Munden, Lightfoot, Sandiacre, Annable's London, Hexham, Allendale, Bourne, London, Westminster, Morpeth, Primrose, Bacup, York)

Composed by J S Warboys (SU0718)

- 1 Ian W Avery
- 2 Jill M Hansford
- 3 Susan D Sparling
- 4 Pauline Champion
- 5 Ian V J Smith
- 6 Michael E C Mears (C)

First time Guild has rung the 41 regular Surprise Minor methods with a change of frontwork and backwork every lead

Kingsteignton, Devon

Friday, 2 August 2013 in 2hrs 54m (16-3-11)

5065 Bill & Betty's D Major

Composed by R D S Brown

- 1 Lee D Avery
- 2 David Hird
- 3 Peter L Bill
- 4 Nigel G Birt
- 5 Ian W Avery
- 6 Robert D S Brown
- 7 Ian R Fielding
- 8 Michael E C Mears (C)

With best wishes to Bill and Betty Avery on their 65th wedding anniversary.

First peal in the method: x38x14x12x18x14x18x12.34.78. 1e12(b).

75th peal: 4.

Michael Mears

Guild Striking Competitions

SATURDAY 19th OCTOBER 2013

GUILD STRIKING COMPETITIONS (6 Bell, Novice & 8 Bell)

10.00 am – 1.00 pm	Lympstone	6 Bell Inter-Tower competition
10.00 am – 1.00 pm	Clyst St George	Novice competition to include less experienced ringers
2.00 pm onwards	Withycombe Raleigh	8 Bell Inter-Branch competition

To book a time slot for either the 6 Bell or Novice competition please contact Clare Griffiths, Guild Secretary on 01647 432158 or secretary@devonringers.org.uk
Book early to avoid disappointment.

Branch Ringing Masters should also contact Clare to inform her of their intention to enter a band in the 8 Bell competition. See the Guild website for this year's methods and compositions.

Please come along and take part – the more teams, the more successful and enjoyable the day!

Further details and the touches for the 8-bell competition can be found at
<http://devonringers.org.uk/gdr/competitions2013.html>

Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2013

Wed	25	Branch practice: Huntsham (19:30)	North East
Thur	26	8 bell practice: Newton Abbot, Clock Tower (19:00)	Mid
Sat	28	Basic Surprise Major (VI): Pinhoe (14:00)	Guild
Sat	28	Branch training: moving on from Plain Bob Doubles	North East

OCTOBER 2013

Wed	2	Advanced 10 bell advanced practice: St Mark (19:30)	Exeter
Sat	5	Branch rail outing	Mid
Sat	5	Branch AGM & Members' Forum: Uffculme (15:00)	North East
Sat	5	Branch practice: Bratton Fleming (19:00)	N/NW
Thur	10	Branch practice: Topsham (19:30)	Aylesbeare
Thur	10	Plain hunt practice: Sidbury (19:30)	East
Fri	11	Surprise Minor: Buckerell (19:30) (TBC)	East
Sat	12	Quarterly Meeting: Musbury (15:00)	East
Sat	12	Handbells III – Treble Bob/Surprise: Dawlish (09:30-16:30)	Guild
Sun	13	Guild Education Meeting: Dawlish (14:00)	Guild

Mon	14	8 bell practice: Wolborough (19:30)	Mid
Fri	18	Doubles for all: Offwell (19:30)	East
Sat	19	Guild striking competitions: Aylesbeare Branch (all day)	Guild
Wed	23	Branch practice: Huntsham (19:30)	North East
Fri	25	Guild quarter peal week starts	Guild
Sat	26	Targetted practice: Hatherleigh (18:00)	Exeter
Mon	28	8 bell practice: Heavitree (19:30)	Exeter

NOVEMBER 2013

Sat	2	Branch AGM: Fremington (15:00)	N/NW
Sun	3	Guild quarter peal week ends	Guild
Mon	4	Branch practice: Seaton (19:30)	East
Wed	6	Advanced 10 bell advanced practice: St Mark (19:30)	Exeter
Fri	8	Surprise Minor: Buckerell (19:30) (TBC)	East
Sat	9	Kaleidoscope ringing: Berry Pomeroy/Ipplepen (10:00-16:00)	Guild
Sat	9	Bonfire party: Newton St Cyres (19:00)	Exeter
Sat	9	Branch dinner	North East
Wed	13	Branch practice: Clyst St George (19:30)	Aylesbeare
Thur	14	Plain hunt practice: Sidbury (19:30)	East
Thur	14	8 bell practice: Teignmouth, St Michael (19:30)	Mid
Fri	15	Doubles for all: Offwell (19:30)	East
Sat	16	Branch AGM: Stoke Canon (pm)	Exeter
Sat	16	Fred Edwards Shield Competition: Uffculme	North East
Wed	20	10 bell practice: Thorverton (19:30)	North East
Sat	23	Branch AGM: Stokeinteignhead	Mid
Mon	25	8 bell practice: Heavitree (19:30)	Exeter
Wed	27	Branch practice: Huntsham (19:30)	North East

DECEMBER 2013

Wed	4	Advanced 10 bell advanced practice: St Mark (19:30)	Exeter
Sat	7	Branch practice: Ilfracombe Holy Trinity (19:00)	N/NW
Mon	9	Branch practice: Littleham(19:30)	Aylesbeare
Mon	9	8 bell practice: Wolborough (19:30)	Mid
Sat	14	Ringers' carol service: Exeter Cathedral (15:00)	Guild+

Editorial

With the lovely summer weather threatening to draw to a close it is clear from this edition that ringers have not just been sitting in the sun over the summer; the number of contributions to this issue has been unprecedented and much appreciated. Unfortunately a few articles have had to be held over for the next issue. But please keep them coming in!

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
