



RINGING ROUND DEVON

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

Newsletter 96 December 2014

Happy Christmas to all our Readers



Father Christmas with appropriate hat!
(with apologies to John Langabeer)

Guild Events

Striking Competitions 2014

As autumn draws in, the thoughts of Devon ringers turn to striking competitions, and what better way to spend a Saturday than ringing and socialising around the rural villages of the county? Saturday 18th October saw the Mid-Devon Branch hosting this year's Guild striking competitions, with the morning boasting two simultaneous events, the novice and the six-bell inter-tower.

6-BELL NOVICE COMPETITION FOR THE JOHN LONGRIDGE PLATE

Stokeinteignhead, a charming thatched village, was the venue for the novice competition, with these light, easy bells, proving an enjoyable experience for the four teams entering and ringing Plain Hunt Doubles. Judges Alison and Tom Waterson were comfortably situated in the nearby Church House Inn, and the results were as follows:

Position	Tower	Faults
1st	Plymouth Youths	21.5
2nd	Littleham (nr Exmouth)	22.5
3rd	Plymouth Emmanuel	24.5
4th	Plymouth St Budeaux	29

6-BELL INTER-TOWER COMPETITION FOR THE J P FIDLER CUP

The six-bell inter-tower competition took place at Marldon, where the weighty bells and long ropes provided a suitable challenge and produced some excellent ringing all morning. Six teams competed, ringing anything from Plain Bob Doubles to Cambridge Surprise Minor, with many ringers spending all morning at the church socialising and listening. Nigel Birt and Lynne Hughes had a hard task judging this closely fought competition, but the results were announced as follows:

Position	Tower	Method	Faults
1st	Exeter Cathedral	Cambridge S Minor	12.5
2nd	Exeter St Mark (D)	Plain B Doubles	13
3rd	St Marychurch	Cambridge S Minor	18
4th	Withycombe Raleigh	Southrepps Doubles	21
5th	Tavistock	Cambridge S Minor	21.5
6th	Exeter St Mark (T)	Plain B Doubles	24



Matt Hilling accepting the J P Fidler cup on behalf of the Cathedral team

8-BELL INTER-BRANCH COMPETITION FOR THE ANDREWS TROPHY

After a quick lunch in nearby pubs, everyone converged on Berry Pomeroy to hear the results and presentation from the morning's ringing, followed on swiftly by the draw for the eight-bell inter-branch competition. This fine ring of eight bells, with some odd-struckness, proved testing to all, as they rang either Oxford Treble Bob Major or Plain Bob Major, with eight teams competing in a long afternoon of ringing. At one point, an entry had been received from every branch, but a last minute drop out due to illness meant that one branch was sadly missing. However, still an excellent turn out. Refreshments and cakes provided by the local villagers were much enjoyed.

We were particularly appreciative of our judge for this competition, Chris Kippin, who provided excellent summary of all the ringing, perfectly blending expertise and experience with humour. Everyone benefitted from his helpful comments and encouragement. The results were as follows:

Position	Branch	Method	Faults
1st	Exeter	Oxford TB	26
2nd	South West	Plain Bob	43
3rd	North/North West	Plain Bob	44
4th	North East	Plain Bob	55
5th	Mid Devon	Plain Bob	74
6th	Exeter	Plain Bob	82
7th	Aylesbeare	Plain Bob	150



The triumphant 8-bell team from Exeter

Our thanks go to the Mid-Devon Branch for organising such a superb day; the team who provided such excellent refreshments; and especially to all our judges for giving up their time to be with us. A successful and enjoyable day was had by all!



Enjoying the sound of the bells and the good company outside Berry Pomeroy church

Clare Griffiths - Guild Secretary

Guild AGM entertainment



After-hours at the Guild AGM. The evening entertainment included impromptu community singing of the ringing folk song 'The Men of Northlew', led by an ad hoc folk ensemble!

Guild Review 2014

As many members will remember, in 2009 a review body was established to produce a strategic plan for the future of the Guild. Now, five years on, some of those involved in the original review have met to gauge whether the recommendations have been implemented fully, and if not, what more needs to be done.

So, on a Saturday morning in November, Lester Yeo, Anne Bailey, Les Boyce, Ian Campbell, Clare Griffiths, Lynne Hughes and Martin Mansley set out to discuss the original report and its success or failure in three areas. These were Recruitment and Publicity, Support and Development of Ringing Skills, and Bell Restoration and Tower Maintenance.

Within Recruitment and Publicity it was generally felt that the Guild had performed well, particularly in redesigning the Guild website. Important points highlighted though were the necessity to recruit a Guild Public Relations Officer; to develop a coordinated list of all recruitment resources available to members; and one suggestion, to set up a Guild Facebook page, has already been implemented (see below). All agreed it would be important to highlight and publicise the official opening of the new DenMisch simulator, as an excellent opportunity to aid recruitment and retention within the Guild.

The next topic for discussion was Support and Development of Ringing Skills, which covered such broad subjects as the importance of branches to appoint Education Officers and attend the annual Education Group meeting; the necessity of the Guild to support ringing centres and tower captains, alongside encouraging the practice of good teaching through the ITTS scheme. Look out

Finally, the meeting focussed upon Bell Restoration and Tower Maintenance. Particular issues raised to be addressed were for branches to aim to appoint Tower Bell Advisors; improve information on bell maintenance for towers; and consider the future balance of funding priorities within the Guild for education and the Bell Restoration Fund. One recommendation has already been acted upon, as Ian Campbell has set up an email list of tower bells advisors, steeple keepers, and anyone interested in bell maintenance: gdr-steeplekeepers@exeter.ac.uk This will improve contact and communication, so if you wish to be included in the group list, please contact Ian at bellsadvisor@devonringers.org.uk.

The meeting was considered productive by everyone involved, proving the benefits to be gained from the Guild regularly reviewing its aims and ambitions, and ensuring that it is doing all it can to support its branches, towers and ringers.

Clare Griffiths, Guild Secretary

Guild Facebook Group

For some time there have been Facebook groups set up by Devon ringers for specific groupings such as young ringers, and maybe towers or branches. But at the recent Guild Review meeting it was agreed to set up a Facebook group for the whole Guild to make better use of social media, and this I have now done.

It can be used to arrange ringing (helpers needed at a practice, or an outing you can join for instance), spread snippets of news etc, and generally keep more people better informed and motivated.

For peace of mind it is a closed group, so only members can see posts. If you are on Facebook, search for 'Guild of Devonshire Ringers', click to join, and I will add you. Then tell your Devon-based ringing Facebook friends!

And of course post on it regularly, as there is no point in a little-used group.

Lynne Hughes

A Note from the President

There has been some discussion recently about the proper use of Guild and Branch money. The Guild constitution makes it clear that the Guild can only use its money for its charitable purposes which are to provide financial help for bell restoration and maintenance within Devon and to promote and foster ringing in any way, especially for divine service. The Charity Commissioners have confirmed that although our area of operation is Devon, this does not prevent us from giving money to any ringing-related project, although clearly we have a duty to concentrate, especially where bell restoration is concerned, on towers within the county. However the Guild is not in a position to give money directly to any good cause that does not match the purposes of the Guild. Therefore any donation to a non-ringing charity by Guild members should not go through the Guild or Branch accounts.

Lester Yeo

Quarter Peal Week 2014

A smattering of footnotes and 41 quarter peals were scored mostly within quarter peal week. Congratulations to those who achieved special firsts. Thank you also particularly to the people who organised these quarter peals: there would be no quarter peal week without your contribution. A few of the footnote highlights from the week are listed below.

Tim Bayton

1st Quarter:	Claire Clark, Kate Kelly, Ed Morris
1st inside:	Anne Vardy
1st Stedman:	Nellie Croft
1st Surprise Major inside:	Lin Horrocks

Braunton, Devon. 26 Oct, 1260 Plain B Triples: Christine Harris 1, Val Hicks 2, Bruce Hicks 3, John Ross 4, David C Willis 5, James Clarke 6, Michael Rose (C) 7, John Barnes 8. Rung by the St Brannock's Society for Guild quarter peal week.

Ilfracombe, Devon. 26 Oct, 1260 Plain B Triples: Val Hicks 1, Rachel Taylor 2, Christine Harris 3, Stephen Taylor 4, Bruce Hicks 5, Andrew Vincent 6, David C Willis (C) 7, Michael Rose 8. Rung by the St Brannock's Society for Guild quarter peal week.

Shirwell, Devon. 29 Oct, 1260 Plain B Doubles: Wendy Skelcher 1, Kenneth Edwards 2, Rachel Taylor 3, Pete Byass 4, Stephen Taylor (C) 5, David Clark 6. Rung by the St Brannock's Society for Guild quarter peal week.

Hemyock, Devon. 31 Oct, 1260 Doubles (3m/2v): Linda Holway 1, Sheila Scofield 2, Paul Mainwaring 3, Darren Osborne 4, Leslie Boyce 5, Brian Samuels (C) 6. Birthday

greetings to former churchwarden Christine Brown and Guild Vice President Ron Trickey.

Pinhoe, Devon. 31 Oct, 1287 Grandsire Triples: Brian Dowle 1, Wendy Campbell 2, Ian Campbell 3, Andrew Digby 4, Sue Sturdy 5, Rob Franklin 6, James Kirkcaldy (C) 7, John Langabeer 8.

Thorverton, Devon. 31 Oct, 1260 Plain B Doubles: Sue Sturdy 1, Sue Sawyer 2, Anne Vardy 3, James Kirkcaldy 4, Rob Franklin (C) 5, Brian Dowle 6. 1st inside: 3.

Aller, Som. 1 Nov, 1272 Spliced S Minor (6m): Lesley Tucker 1, Sue Sawyer 2, Charlotte Boyce 3, Tom Garrett 4, Graham Tucker 5, Tim Bayton (C) 6.

Brent Tor, Devon. 1 Nov, 1260 Plain B Doubles: Bill Thirtle 1, Kate Kelly 2, Jane Dunn 3, Louise James 4, Phil Dunn (C) 5. 1st Q at 1st attempt: 2. For All Saints' Day.

Butleigh, Som. 1 Nov, 1280 Spliced S Major (10m): Graham Tucker 1, Sue Sawyer 2, Charlotte Boyce 3, Tom Garrett 4, David Hird 5, Wendy Campbell 6, Ian Campbell 7, Tim Bayton (C) 8.

Castle Cary, Som. 1 Nov, 1280 Bristol S Major: Tim Bayton 1, David Hird 2, Lesley Tucker 3, Cathy Civill 4, Sue Sawyer 5, Wendy Campbell 6, Tom Garrett 7, Ian Campbell (C) 8.

Combe Martin, Devon. 1 Nov, 1260 Plain B Minor: Val Hicks 1, Bruce Hicks 2, Anne Bailey 3, Mike Squire 4, David Willis 5, Mike Rose (C) 6. Rung on the morning of the N/NW Branch AGM.

Ditcheat, Som. 1 Nov, 1260 Stedman Triples: Wendy Campbell 1, Lesley Tucker 2, Sue Sawyer 3, Tom Garrett 4, Charlotte Boyce 5, Ian Campbell 6, Tim Bayton (C) 7, David Hird 8.

Huish Episcopi, Som. 1 Nov, 1250 Somerset S Major: Sue Sawyer 1, Lesley Tucker 2, Tim Bayton 3, Cathy Civill 4, Charlotte Boyce 5, Tom Garrett 6, David Hird 7, Graham Tucker (C) 8.

Braunton, Devon. 2 Nov, 1260 Plain B Triples: Val Hicks 1, Andrew Vincent 2, Christine Harris 3, James Clarke 4, John Ross 5, Bruce Hicks 6, David C Willis (C) 7, Barry Hodgson 8. Rung by the St Brannock's Society.

Cruwys Morchard, Devon. 2 Nov, 1260 Plain B Doubles: Guy Cruwys 1, Richard Barker 2, Nellie Croft 3, David Bromwich 4, Darren Osborne (C) 5, Les Tosdevin 6. 1st on treble: 1.

Exeter, Devon (Cathedral). 2 Nov, 1320 London (No. 3) S Royal: Michael Cannon 1, Sue Sawyer 2, Peter Bill 3, Wendy Campbell 4, Andrew Digby 5, Richard Johnston 6, John Martin (C) 7, James Kirkcaldy 8, David Hird 9, Oliver Coldrick 10. Rung for Choral Eucharist.

Newton St Cyres, Devon. 2 Nov, 1260 Plain B Doubles: Brian Dowle 1, Lynette Costello (C) 2, Lesley Tucker 3, Andrew Digby 4, Graham Tucker 5, Mary Quicke 6.

Sidmouth, Devon. 2 Nov, 1260 Plain B Doubles: Anne Bailey 1, Clare Griffiths 2, Kathy Matthews 3, Andrew Harris 4, Jeff Bailey (C) 5, Ed Morris 6. 1st Q: 6. 1st Doubles in m: 4.

Tiverton, Devon (St Peter). 2 Nov, 1280 Bristol S Major: Lin Horrocks 1, Sue Sawyer 2, Richard Johnston 3, Charlotte Boyce 4, Matthew Weighell 4, John Horrocks 6,

John Martin 7, David Hird (C) 8. In memory of Margaret Cadogan, ringer at this tower, whose funeral was on Friday 31st October.

Buckfast, Devon. 3 Nov, 1259 Grandsire Caters: Philip Stevens 1, Ann Smith 2, Lesley Tucker 3, Wendy Campbell 4, Mike Tompsett 5, Martin Mansley 6, Peter Bill 7, Ian Smith 8, Mike Mears (C) 9, Ian Campbell 10.

Georgeham, Devon. 3 Nov, 1264 Plain B Major: Val Hicks 1, Michael Squire 2, Bruce Hicks, Jenny Sparling 4, John Barnes 5, James Clarke 6, Andrew Vincent 7, David Willis (C) 8. Rung by the St Brannock's Society. Birthday compliment to John Barnes.

Tiverton, Devon (St Paul). 3 Nov, 1260 Doubles (2m): Sandie Reader 1, Jenny Jones 2, Pauline Champion (C) 3, Leslie Boyce 4, Darren Osborne 5, Brian Samuels 6.

Cruwys Morchard, Devon. 4 Nov, 1260 Plain B Doubles: Les Tosdevin 1, Sheila Scofield 2, Lynette Costello 3, Nellie Croft 4, Leslie Boyce (C) 5, Claire Clark 6. 1st Q: 6.

Littleham, Devon. 4 Nov, 1260 Plain B Minor: Rachel Taylor 1, James Clarke 2, John Ross 3, Stephen Taylor 4, Tim Hine (C) 5, David Willis 6. Rung by the St Brannock's Society.

Huntsham, Devon. 5 Nov, 1260 Plain B Minor: Pat Hatchett 1, Ann Barrow 2, Richard Barker 3, Sheila Scofield 4, Richard Shere 5, Michael Hatchett (C) 6.

Kelly, Devon. 5 Nov, 1260 Plain B Doubles: Geoffrey Hill 1, Kate Kelly 2, Kate Jennings 3, Sheila Williams 4, Ian Smith (C) 5, Bill Blowey 6.

Northam, Devon. 5 Nov, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Val Hicks 1, Michael Rose 2, Bruce Hicks 3, Rachel Taylor 4, David Willis (C) 5, Stephen Taylor 6, Jenny Sparling 7, Michael Squire 8. Rung by the St Brannock's Society.

Sydenham Damerel, Devon. 5 Nov, 1260 Doubles (2m): Colin Kneebone 1, Sheila Williams 2, Geoffrey Hill 3, Bill Thirtle 4, Ian Smith (C) 5, Bill Blowey 6.

Winkleigh, Devon. 5 Nov, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Val Hicks 1, Bruce Hicks 2, Rachel Taylor 3, Jenny Sparling 4, David Willis 5, Michael Rose (C) 6, Aled Jones 7, Stephen Taylor 8. Rung by the St Brannock's Society.

Kentisbeare, Devon. 6 Nov, 1260 Stedman Doubles: Pauline Champion (C) 1, Nellie Croft 2, Sheila Scofield 3, Leslie Boyce 4, Darren Osborne 5, Guy Cruwys 6. 1st Stedman: 2.

Chudleigh, Devon. 7 Nov, 1296 Meldreth LB Major: David Hird 1, Sarah Chadburn 2, Sue Sawyer 3, Don Roberts 4, Charlotte Boyce 5, Nigel Birt 6, Graham Tucker 7, Tim Bayton (C) 8. 100th together: 1&6.

Stoodleigh, Devon. 7 Nov, 1260 Doubles (2m/1p): Jenny Jones 1, Lynette Costello 2, Matt Webb 3, Matthew Weighell 4, Richard Johnston (C) 5, Mark Heritage 6.

Bridestowe, Devon. 8 Nov, 1260 Plain B Doubles: Kate Kelly 1, Geoffrey Hill 2, Jane Dunn 3, Louise James 4, Phil Dunn (C) 5, Bill Thirtle 6.

East Coker, Som. 8 Nov, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Jenny Jones 1, Sue Sawyer 2, Lin Horrocks 3, Charlotte Boyce 4, Sarah Chadburn 5, Andrew Digby 6, Tim Bayton (C) 7, John Horrocks 8. 100th together: 6&7.

Halberton, Devon. 8 Nov, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Mark Heritage 1, Richard Barker 2, Sheila Scofield 3, David Bromwich 4, Darren Osborne (C) 5, David Farrant 6.

Hardington Mandeville, Som. 8 Nov, 1250 Cambridge S Major: Sarah Chadburn 1, Lin Horrocks 2, Tim Bayton 3, Cathy Civill 4, Sue Sawyer 5, Matthew Weighell 6, Andrew Digby 7, John Horrocks (C) 8. 1st in m: 2.

West Coker, Som. 8 Nov, 1280 Spliced S Major (8m): Sue Sawyer 1, Sarah Chadburn 2, Cathy Civill 3, John Horrocks 4, Matthew Weighell 5, Charlotte Boyce 6, Andrew Digby 7, Tim Bayton (C) 8.

Tavistock, Devon. 9 Nov, 1277 Grandsire Caters: Geoffrey Hill 1, Kate Jennings 2, Sheila Williams 3, Jane Dunn 4, George Mudge 5, Bill Thirtle 6, Andrew Queen 7, Philip Dunn 8, Ian Smith (C) 9, John Cook 10. For Remembrance Sunday.

Tiverton, Devon (St Peter). 9 Nov, 1260 St Simon's B Triples: Charlotte Boyce 1, Sheila Scofield 2, Leslie Boyce 3, Michael Hatchett 4, Richard Johnston 5, Matthew Weighell 6, Darren Osborne (C) 7, Catherine Thorpe 8. Rung half-muffled on Remembrance Sunday to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War and in memory of all those Tivertonians who lost their lives in that war and subsequent conflicts. 1st in m: 2, 3.

Exeter, Devon (Cathedral). 9 Nov, 1311 Stedman Cinques: Paul Pascoe (C) 1, Sue Sawyer 2, Wendy Campbell 3, Alison Waterson 4, Pauline Champion 5, Lynne Hughes 6, Andrew Digby 7, James Kirkcaldy 8, Tom Waterson 9, Ian Campbell 10, David Hird 11, Nick Waterson 12. Rung half-muffled following the service of remembrance.

Withycombe Raleigh, Devon. 9 Nov, 1346 Cambridge S Maximus: Ian Avery 1, Paul Pascoe (C) 2, Sue Sawyer 3, Alison Waterson 4, Susan Sparling 5, Tim Payne 6, Jennifer Sparling 7, Pauline Champion 8, Richard Harrison 9, Mike Mears 10, Tom Waterson 11, David Hird 12. Rung half-muffled prior to evensong on Remembrance Sunday.

Aylesbeare Branch

Withycombe Raleigh Church Celebrates 150 years



The church of St John the Evangelist Withycombe Raleigh, Exmouth was consecrated on 3rd November 1864. So this year is its 150th anniversary and to mark the occasion, the following peal of Yorkshire Surprise Maximus was rung by members of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Withycombe Raleigh, Devon

St John the Evangelist

Thursday, 6 November 2014 in 3hrs 15m (17-1-10)

5042 Yorkshire S Maximus

Composed by D F Morrison (No 3760)

1 Ian W Avery

7 Ian V J Smith

2 Pauline Champion

8 James Kirkcaldy

3 Alison C Waterson

9 Neil E Deem

4 Jill M Hansford

10 John A Foster

5 Janet M Coles

11 David Hird

6 Roger King

12 Michael E C Mears (C)

Rung to mark the 150th anniversary of the church

1st Yorkshire S Maximus: 9.

Mike Mears conducted the peal and also organised the band, which contained the present Withycombe Raleigh tower captain (5), the past tower captain (10) and two members of the regular Sunday service band (6 & 9).

When the church was built and consecrated in 1864 there were no bells. In 1889 six bells were installed and by 1893 these had been augmented to eight. 50 years ago, in 1964 the centenary of the consecration of the church was celebrated by Guild members ringing a peal of Grandsire Triples, as shown in the peal board here. The

band had 2 first-pealers and a first peal in the method by Bryan Coles (7), the father of the present tower captain, Janet Coles.



In 1992 the bells were augmented from 8 to 10 under the leadership of the then tower captain Frank Mack. John Foster, his successor as tower captain, masterminded the augmentation to 12 bells in 2006 with the aim of making Withycombe Raleigh a centre for 12-bell ringing in the South West. Although referred to as augmenting from 10 to 12 it actually involved adding another 3 bells (2 trebles and a flat 6th) to allow 6, 8, 10, or 12 bells to be rung in musical scales. Certainly we attract ringers from all over the country; more locally the Exeter Cathedral band practise here quite regularly.

Now all that remains is to record the 150th anniversary peal on a new peal board and hang it in the tower alongside the centenary peal. Who knows which band will be ringing in 50 years to celebrate the church's bicentennial?

Roger King

East Devon Branch

Combe Raleigh Outing 2014

This year's outing started on a misty autumn morning, then as we climbed the hill out of Honiton we came into brilliant sunshine and looked down on a mist filled valley and a scene that we might expect if sea levels rise to the extent some people tell us they will. We were on our way into deepest, darkest Dorset.

When we crossed the Dorset border grey skies and threatening clouds took over as we threaded our way through narrow lanes to our first tower at Whitchurch Canonicorum. It is amazing just what one discovers on a ringing outing. This is a magnificent church with a fine tall tower; there are 62 steps to the ringing chamber up a narrow spiral stairway, I counted them, twice! Here on a fine ring of eight bells we rang anything from simple call changes to Grandsire Triples, something to suit everyone from the newest learner to the elite ringers.

It became quickly apparent as to why such a small village has such a magnificent church when it was pointed out that it contains the only Saint's shrine, (complete with its relics intact), in Britain, bar that of St Edward in Westminster Abbey. In medieval times it was a site of pilgrimage, to pray at the tomb of St Wite. Little is known of her, but the bones of a woman of about 40 remain in the tomb. We also discovered the burial places of Sir Robin Day, 'the inquisitor', and of the Bulgarian dissident Georgi Markov, victim of the umbrella murder on a London Street. Here they lie in a quiet and peaceful Dorset country churchyard.

Next stop Symondsburry and by now the overcast skies were weeping for us. The outside stone staircase giving access to the ringing chamber was made slipperier with the rain. This six was enjoyed by all, especially by the Cambridge Minor ringers, though it was a squeeze to get everyone into the chamber at the same time and standing on the stairs was not an option.

In a deluge we made our way to the Spyway Inn near Askerswell, (where do they get these names?), for a splendid lunch. Then it was on to Askerswell to ring on a light-ish six. Here a nice touch of Plain Bob Minor was rung. If you can ring Plain Bob Minor and read a book at the same time, then you may consider that you have arrived in the ringing world. Well done Lin. Please refer to the photo, the camera never lies, (though it may mislead).



The dash to Bradpole was more of a dash and splash as the skies once more emptied down upon us. A nice lady there welcomed us with tea and biscuits, warming and reviving us. The eight bells here were a joy to ring and a bright, dry and warm ringing chamber made us forget the dark, dismal conditions outside. Here the more ambitious rang Little Bob Major and Kent Treble Bob Major. A final ring of Plain Hunt Triples for the less experienced finished the day and we were ready for home.

Thanks must go to all the towers who welcomed us and especially to Lisa who arranged the whole thing. It wasn't your fault that the weather was so terrible, but it is to your credit that the day went so well and was enjoyed by everyone, from the tour virgin, whose first ringing tour this was, to the most experienced ringers who had come along to help us. Thank you.

Trevor Hitchcock

A first for Ed

Congratulations to Ed Morris, a regular ringer at Sidmouth, who rang his first quarter peal on the tenor to Plain Bob Doubles. After the QP for Evensong on 2 November one of the ringers was heard to comment 'that must be one of the most uneventful first QPs ever!!' Ed rang confidently and provided a steady beat throughout. Will he be inspired to ring another quarter peal soon? We know that having recently enjoyed his first ringing tour he is keen to repeat that experience and we hope he will soon repeat the experience of ringing a quarter peal. When is it to be, Ed?

Congratulations too to Andrew Harris who, after being Tower Captain at Sidmouth for 27 years, finally rang his first quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles. He'd rung Triples many times, but perhaps as captain of a ten bell tower ringing Doubles was a bit beneath him!



Our photo taken immediately afterwards (thanks to Clare's technological knowhow!) shows the band left to right Jeff Bailey (5 and conductor) Anne Bailey (treble), Ed Morris (6) Andrew Harris (4), Kathy Matthews (3), Clare Griffiths (2)

Anne Bailey

Geriatric Bellhangers go to Honiton

Geriatric: [jer-ee-a-trik] - Adjective: of or pertaining to geriatrics, old age, or aged persons.

The town church of St Paul's, Honiton, is well known for its ring of eight bells. Less well known is the church of St Michael (or "Old Church" as it is affectionately known) which stands proudly in a large and well kept churchyard on the edge of the town, largely surrounded by a modern housing estate. The sturdy tower houses a heavy ring of six bells (tenor 22½ cwt) hung in a solid wooden frame on plain bearings. The church is now closed as it is considered redundant and the bells have not been rung since 1995, partly because the tenor is badly cracked – it has been strengthened with

a rusty metal band around the top – and the cannons on the fifth (the loops cast into the top of the bell from which it is secured) have cracked and are likely to come off.

Following some difficulties getting permission to examine the bells, David Hird eventually managed to gain access to find that birds had got into the tower and the ringing room. The bells were knee deep in sticks and bird excrement! The smell was overpowering. It was impossible to examine the bells in any detail, although there was no apparent reason not to ring the front four bells once the tower had been cleaned out.



Then the East Devon Branch swept into action. Lisa Clarke says: “Here are some facts about the clearing we did: a team of 6 on average spent 5 mornings fitting weldmesh to the louvres and then clearing the pits which were knee deep in twigs and pigeon poo. In all we filled over 60 bags for the skip!”

Then the team of geriatric bellhangers took over. To our amazement the belfry was completely clear of rubbish; you could almost eat your lunch off the floor under the bells and the smell was just about acceptable! Congratulations go to Lisa and her team for what must have been a really unpleasant job. Within a few hours we had cleaned out and oiled the bearings, dug out the rubbish that was blocking the rope holes to the ringing room, fixed on some second-hand ropes and were ready to try out the front four.

So from a very dingy ringing room (there is currently no electricity in the church) and with the help of Lisa we attempted to ring the four bells. Despite the normal difficulties associated with the very short draft (the sallies are nearly touching the ceiling before you start and go right round the wheels when ringing!) the bells went fine and some good rounds and call changes were rung. David is now wondering if the tenor would be OK to ring...



The ringing room with the new ropes to be installed

Following our work the bells are not to be considered generally available although there is no reason why they could not be rung for special occasions. And there are some discussions underway about possible new uses for the church so it may have further repercussions.

Many thanks go to Lisa Clarke and her helpers for their unbelievable work, and to David Hird, Ian Campbell and Rob Franklin who did the easy bit!

Ian Campbell

Exeter Branch

Local Peal of London Royal

There can't be many bands of Sunday service ringers who can ring a peal of London Royal! Congratulations to the team from St Mark's, Exeter for a good peal which was rung on 22nd September. Unfortunately no one was on hand with a camera at the time but we have made up a suitable picture from previous photos. You can barely see the joins!



The band with at least their heads in the order of ringing

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Exeter, Devon, St Mark

Monday, 22 September 2014 in 2h57 (12-1-19)

5000 London S Royal (No.3)

Composed by J S Warboys

1 Lesley A Tucker

2 Matthew J Hilling (C)

3 Jennifer H Wilson

4 Sarah E Chadburn

5 P Wendy Campbell

6 Timothy M Bayton

7 Richard H Johnston

8 Ian L C Campbell

9 Graham P Tucker

10 David Hird

First of London Royal: 3, 4.

Rung by the Sunday service band

Ian Campbell, photo by Sarah Chadburn

Quarter peals with a difference at St Michael's Heavitree

Each year around Remembrance Sunday the Heavitree ringers attempt a quarter peal with the bells rung half-muffled. This year, being the centenary of the outbreak of WW1, we thought we would try something both different and appropriate. Michael Cannon came up with a composition of Grandsire Triples he found some years ago. A ringer from Burton-on-Trent, one Sgt. Albert Wakley, managed to compose this quarter peal of Grandsire Triples whilst serving in the trenches during WW1. Our attempt on the Remembrance Sunday evening came to grief after 15 minutes. However we managed to have another attempt on the evening of 11th day of the 11th month. This time we were successful:

St Michael, Heavitree

Tuesday 11 November 2014 in 54m

1260 Grandsire Triples "The Remembrance Day composition"

1 Gareth Gill
2 Wendy Gill
3 Lesley Tucker
4 Timothy Wylie
5 Michael Cannon (C)
6 Nathan Evans
7 David Hird
8 Rusty Hartley
Rung half muffled

234567

- 532746 5
- 675432 1
- 536724 3
- 365724 4
s 423576 2
6-part
Composed: Albert Wakley

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

This well known verse is from a poem by Laurence Binyon and dates from September 1914. It is probably his best known poem and was composed while sitting on the cliff-top looking out to sea from the dramatic scenery of the north Cornish coastline at Pentire Point, north of Polzeath.

This year St Andrew's Day happened to fall on a Sunday and so Michael Cannon again delved into his ringing archives and came up with St. Andrew's Triples. We therefore gathered on the Sunday evening and rang the following quarter peal:

St Michael, Heavitree

Sunday 30 November 2014 in 54 minutes

1260 St Andrew Bob Triples

1 Susan Illing
2 Ian Campbell
3 Nathan Evans
4 Wendy Campbell
5 Rusty Hartley
6 Rob Franklin

7 Michael Cannon (C)

8 James Allen

First in the method for all except conductor

Rung prior to Evensong on St Andrew's Day and Advent Sunday; also an 81st birthday compliment to Eric Illing, former Rector of Heavitree and father of the treble ringer. It was also rung as a birthday compliment to Wendy Campbell and Rob Franklin.

Bell talk for the NHS

I had an unusual request for one of my talks about bells. A group from the National Health Service was holding a team day in the meeting room at the back of Broadclyst church (their leader has connections there). They thought that they would have finished their main business by lunchtime and wondered if I would like to provide some light entertainment by way of a chat about bells and ringing together with a trip up the tower to see the bells.

So on 13th November David Hird and I met at to set up the Guild demo bell in the nave and the usual bits and pieces (including laptop computer and handbells) in the meeting room and talked to them for about 45 minutes before going up the tower. Here we demonstrated raising and lowering bells and the brave ones climbed up to the bells to see the tenor being turned over.



Some of the delegates try out handbell ringing in Broadclyst church

I don't think that we got any recruits but we did get a significant donation to the bell fund!

Ian Campbell

A New Ringer for the Future!



Matt and Rosie with Toby and new baby Alice

Congratulations go to Matt and Rosie Hilling on the birth of their daughter Alice on 15th November. The Cathedral ringers responded in the traditional way!

Exeter, Devon, Cathedral

Sunday, 23 November 2014 in 68min

1344 Littleport Little S Maximus

1 Ali Waterson

2 Sue Sawyer

3 Sue Sparling

4 Pauline Champion

5 Ian Smith

6 Paul Pascoe

7 David Hird

8 Nick Waterson

9 Richard Harrison

10 John Martin

11 Mike Mears

12 Tom Waterson (C)

Rung for Evensong.

To celebrate the birth of Alice Margaret Hilling;

Daughter to Matt and Rosie and sister to Toby.

Exeter Branch AGM

The Exeter Branch held its annual general meeting at Alphington on 15th November. This church has recently been re-ordered and now boasts a large enclosed area at the back of the church which we used for our tea and meeting and a similar area upstairs which leads directly onto the ringing chamber, which has been extended into the space formally taken up by the access staircase from the ground floor.

We were very pleased that Lesley Phillips-Cannon (Michael Cannon's wife) agreed to take the service – she is a lay reader at this church. Her sermon, which was written from a well informed but non-ringer's view gave a real insight into how other members of the church may see ringers and is included here with her permission:

There is no doubt in my mind that you bell ringers have been given special musical gifts and that for many of you the ringing of Church bells is regarded as service to God and to the Church. However I have to confess I didn't always think that. Let me tell you a little story about my first real encounter with bell ringers, when I was a lot younger.

I guess I must have been in my early teenage years and had been delivered by my father, rather late, to our local church in Harwell Village, Oxfordshire. I was hurrying up the front path to the church, the bells having just stopped, when out of the church tower spilled this rather motley group of people fairly casually dressed for that time. I expected them to follow me into church and when they didn't I looked back and saw them wandering away down the path having a bit of a joke. My teenage self was scandalised, how dare these people leave the church, just as the service was starting!

It was only later, when I married a bell ringer that I learnt to understand you all a bit better. Of course the humour is still there and the casual dress, but my understanding of your service to the church has changed over time.

Recently I heard one of your number talk about his bell ringing in terms of, "it is an honour to ring", "the external voice of bell music", "music in my soul", "conductors and scores", and the "Ministry of bell ringing". Not casual language but the language of the serious musician. You take time out to practise as all good musicians need to do and you maintain your bells and keep them in good order. You learn your music and have developed the skills to ring one bell in harmony, and in time with others. Team working to produce beautiful music.

Of course the sound of bells is still the indication for some that they need to hurry to church, but for those that don't come it is a reminder that there are many people who do still go to church and that the Church is still there when they need it. I am sure that is a comfort to many. The media continues to tell us that church goers are a dying race but in fact there are more people in church on a Sunday than there are at football matches.

The skill you all have that I most envy is the way in which you remember the method sequences in your head and revise them as they change and you swap places in the sequence. Being a dyslexic, unable to remember a sequence beyond three places I find your ability amazing. You need precision, co-ordination and the mathematical ability to translate your unusual music into sound. I am quite sure most people do not understand the skills you use to produce bell music.

Sometimes you are the only external voice of the Church, that non church people hear, so there is no doubt you have a ministry to the population but there is also another aspect of your ministry that makes you an "alternative worshipping community", in today's parlance, rather than the heathen non-church goers I mistook you for.

These days the Church's understanding of service to the Church and to God is very much wider than it used to be. You don't have to meet in a church to be a worshipping community, in fact some who do are not always good examples, but you do act as a Christian community in the way you care for one another.

When one of your number was hospitalised recently she and her children were in need of care. I saw the bell ringers' community swing into action, providing transport, meals at the end of the school day and visits to hospital, as well as emails to co-ordinate it all, rather all like a military manoeuvre.

As you can see I have revised my one time scandalised opinion of your irreverent bell ringing community in no small order. Your community reaches across the country, and as I discovered when we were in New Zealand this year, across the globe as well. If you can ring, your welcome is almost universal wherever you are; your music and skills an instant point of communication and a passport anywhere there are bells.

When you meet up in the church tower that is your service, for we read in the Bible "where two or three people are gathered together in my name". Your bells, as they ring out across us, your ministry to the people and your worship.

It seems to me that this is a good time to say thank you for all your hard work, commitment and the gift of music to us all, as well as the gift of love which you offer one another, empowered by the Spirit. For me England is not England without your music on a Sunday giving glory to the Lord.

Thank you

Lesley Cannon

A case for Sherlock?



Look what I found in my back garden one morning!

We rang a peal at Thorverton on the Sunday (as part of the attempt to ring a peal there on every date in the year) with no problems, but when the local ringers tried to ring on Wednesday the following week, the treble wheel was found to be broken in several places (including a couple of spokes) and was rubbing so badly that the bell couldn't be rung. Following a check by Andrew Nicholson the wheel was removed by the two Devon bell advisors (Ians Smith and Campbell) and delivered via local ringing connections to the bellhangers in Bridport. A few days later I found the repaired and rebuilt

wheel outside my house first thing in the morning (see picture). It was a good thing that it didn't rain that night!

However the mystery of how the wheel got broken was not clarified until David Hird and I replaced it in the tower. Some visiting ringers on the Tuesday had admitted that when they rang up the third bell (which is above the other bells) they found that the stay was broken and they had replaced this, but denied any knowledge of the damage to the treble wheel. Then when we were up the tower replacing the wheel Jane Flaxington noticed that there was some damage to a couple of spokes of the third wheel and that the clock hammer had become bent.

The clock hammer on the third strikes the bell through the wheel so will always be hit if the bell is swung without pulling off the clock chimes. It has been damaged so many times that Bill Ford designed and fitted a unique contraption which locks the stay when the clock hammer is on so that the bell cannot be swung. What appears to have happened is that an attempt to ring up the third without pulling off the clock chimes had broken both the stay and the protection device which had presumably fallen and lodged through the spokes of the treble. When the treble was later the wheel had come off worse!



The clock hammer has now been straightened (thanks to Michael Cannon) and is awaiting refitting, together with the repaired protection device.

So the moral of the story is always to check clock hammers before swinging any bell, and to stop immediately if anything feels slightly unusual!

Ian Campbell

Mid-Devon Branch

Mid Devon News

DON ROBERTS IN THE NEWS

Don Roberts is very well known to ringers and swimmers throughout Devon and further afield. Recently he was featured in the Torbay Herald Express when he completed his final church tower in Devon. Don first rang in the early 1950s when he learned to ring at Babbacombe. Over the years he has kept meticulous lists of all his tower "grabs" and finally rang at his 370th Devon tower earlier this year with the 5 at Widworthy. Will he now turn his attention to mini-rings? Well done, Don – we hope you continue to enjoy new towers for many more years to come.

GUILD COMPETITIONS

We were host branch for the competitions this year with the novice competition at Stokeinteignhead and the six bell at Marldon. The afternoon was taken up with the eight bell competition at Berry Pomeroy. Despite a lot of pre-competition nerves – (will there be enough teams to run the Novice competition and where on earth can we put the judge for the eight bell – most of all will he be able to hear the bells?) the day went very well.

MARTIN DODD COMPLETES 50 YEARS OF RINGING

A brisk quarter peal of Stedman Triples was rung at Teignmouth (St Michael's) to congratulate Martin Dodd on 50 years of ringing.

Teignmouth, Devon, St Michael

Tuesday, 21 October 2014 in 46 mins (22)

1260 Stedman Triples

Composed by T Thurstans

1 Rowena G Mansley

2 Fiona L Rock-Evans

3 Martin G Mansley

4 Erica M Martin

5 Peter G Brown

6 Martin Dodd

7 John R Martin (C)

8 Alan J Furse

Rung as a farewell compliment to Revd. Preb. Graham Stones, Rector at St Michael's.

Also rung as a compliment to Martin Dodd on the completion of 50 years of ringing.

The following is a reply from Rev Graham Stones when told of the dedication:

Thank you so much for this! I am honoured that you chose to ring a quarter peal under such circumstances! Sharing the dedication with Martin is a further pleasure!

I have always been so grateful for the steady presence of the band serving these two Teignmouth towers. Whatever else might from time to time shake the composure of St James' and St Michael's, I have always felt sure that the ringers were secure! I have great affection for Martin as captain. In a world that seems increasingly interested in taking shortcuts to "fame and fortune" (neither of which exactly figure in this context) I have always rather revered Martin as a prime example of someone who has simply built up a wealth of experience by putting the hours in. I have always felt too that he gives of that experience and his time so freely and generously.

Congratulations Martin. We look forward to celebrating again in 10 years!

BRANCH AGM DAWLISH

As usual there was a very warm welcome from the Dawlish ringers and we started with 90 minutes of ringing. This included some nice Stedman and Yorkshire with the inevitable Plain Bob and even a touch of Erin. The service took the form of the Guild office of prayer and praise. Rodney and Martin shared the intercessions and Russell gave an uplifting sermon and a sort of early farewell as he retires next March. Towards the end of the service St Marychurch ringers rang plain hunt major on handbells by "lapping". (Many thanks to Jeanette, Wendy and Wena who were persuaded to ring with only 24 hours notice). It was good to welcome several visitors including Guild Master Anne Bailey and also Catherine Saunders who made a quick weekend trip from her new home in Gloucestershire.

The usual sumptuous tea followed and was much enjoyed. The meeting was swiftly and efficiently dispatched by our Chairman taking his seat for the first time.

Main points were Janet Ritterman took over from Alan Furse as representative on the Guild committee. Alan was warmly thanked for his hard work in this role particularly with regard to members' insurance. Otherwise, there was no change in the officers. A full programme of events for 2015 was suggested and approved. The Edden Clapper trophy was presented to Verity Brett on behalf of Teignmouth. Many congratulations to them.



The Edden Clapper trophy being presented to Verity Brett

Another reminder was given that there are grants available for anyone going on a residential ringing course – if you are thinking of attending one then speak to a branch officer. While still on the subject of training Janet Ritterman reminded the meeting that the branch library has an extensive collection of material for the learner at any level. At the same time you may be thinking of buying a more expensive book. The library gives you a chance to try before you buy.

The meeting ended with a resounding thank-you to Dawlish for their hospitality.

BERRY POMEROY

Regular practices have now been resumed at Berry and several learners are being taught by Mike Tompsett and his willing helpers. It is a great pleasure to see this tower moving towards a regular band – we wish them every success. This is very much inspired by the branch initiative which has seen regular ringing once a month so thank you to all who have been involved. If you are free on a Monday evening then you will be made very welcome.

On Sunday 14th December there is a carol service in the evening and ringing will take place from 18.00 to 18.30. All very welcome.

Martin Mansley

East Ogwell Bells Re-dedicated

The bells of St Bartholomew's church, East Ogwell were rededicated on Sunday 14th September. Immediately prior to the service a quarter peal of 1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor was rung by a band drawn from the local branch.

During the service Brian White of Whites of Appleton handed the bells back to Rev Russell Chamberlain, Rector of the parish, who dedicated the new tenor bell and rededicated the other bells. A superb touch of Stedman Doubles was then rung by Guild members led by president Lester Yeo.

The new tenor bell weighing 6 cwt was cast by the Whitechapel Bellfoundry last March and replaces the previous poorly toned tenor from a local 19th century founder which has been retained as a service bell. The positioning of the front bells was altered to improve the rope circle and they have been re-hung with new fittings. The project included the construction of a new ringing room higher in the tower, reducing the long rope draught and together with the bellhanger's work has transformed the bells.

Our thanks to all who have helped fund the project: through local donations and fund raising events as well as for the generous grants from Viridor Landfill credits, the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund and the local Wolborough Charity.

Russell Chamberlain, Rector

Congratulations to all involved at East Ogwell. The bells have been transformed from a tricky six with a long draught in an awkward ringing room to a fine light six which go really well. To bring this story up to date a full peal was rung last week to round off phase 1 of the project – phase 2 is to start a new band – this has already got under way.



The East Ogwell quarter peal band (clockwise starting from the front right)

East Ogwell, Devon, St Bartholemew

Sunday, 14 September 2014 in 39 mins (6 cwt)

1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Donald J Roberts
- 2 Rowena G Mansley
- 3 Russell Chamberlain
- 4 Josh J Tratt
- 5 Tim J King
- 6 Martin G Mansley (C)

Rung prior to the service to dedicate the new tenor bell and re-dedicate the re-hung bells. First of Surprise Minor inside - 4.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

East Ogwell, Devon, St Bartholomew

Saturday, 4 October 2014 in 2hr 29mins (6cwt)

5040 Surprise Minor

7m: 1 ext each London, Durham, Ipswich, York, Beverley, Surfleet, Cambridge

- 1 Timothy J King
- 2 Russell C Chamberlain
- 3 Michael H Tompsett
- 4 Jonathan G Rose
- 5 Martin G Mansley
- 6 Robert D S Brown (C)

First peal on the restored bells & new tenor

Martin Mansley

Education Grants

Last year at our AGM we discussed giving grants to ringers who would like to go on a residential ringing course. The branch empowered our treasurer to make grants available to help pay towards the cost of a course. So far no requests have been made. This is the time of the year when these courses are being planned for next year and will soon be advertised. Several of our members have been to the Hereford course which is probably the longest running course – it is well worth asking one of them about their experiences – let a committee member know and they will put you in touch. There is also a Guild education fund which gives similar grants. For information on residential courses go to <http://www.ringing.info/> and scroll down to “Recruitment, training, learning” and then “Ringing Courses”.

Martin Mansley

Please note that grants are available to members from any branch - Ed

North East Branch

NE Branch Mid-Week Outing



Wednesday, 17 September, dawned bright to herald an excellent day's sport in mid-Devonshire. Eleven members of the North East Branch, being of mixed ringing abilities, set out for our first tintinabular engagement; the pleasant six in Kilmington. Most of us had rung here before; indeed, it seems quite amazing that it was as recently as last year's AGM that we were here and Steve Coleman was entertaining us to his wonderfully amusing treatise on hauling bells up and down. The notice board proclaimed a forthcoming performance in the church of "Tosca" and this seemed appealing; I enquired where the chorus and orchestra were to be accommodated to be told that musical accompaniment was to be provided by the church organ, a piano and a drum. Well, the first act does take place in a church but that seemed the only connection I could make with Puccini so it was quickly off to Dalwood.

Tucked away in the boonies, Dalwood took a bit of finding. However, it certainly proved to be worth the effort as the bells went well – the treble was pronounced particularly fine - and the lunch at The Tuckers' Arms was much enjoyed. Like The Swan at Bampton, the Tuckers' Arms originally was built to provide lodging for the artisans working on the church, so clearly the pub is of ancient lineage.

Next stop over the hill to the eight at Honiton. It was here that the numerical shortcomings of our band became evident; we had too few "grown ups", so Stedman had to be confined to the back six but we did manage Grandsire Triples. Nevertheless, these and other touches went well and no blisters from the new ropes were reported.

However, for me anyway, the greatest treat of the day was saved until last - Broadclyst. I had not been here before and wondered why the church provided an

unexpected familiarity. On seeing it, I was transported back many years to Derbyshire, Tideswell and the “Cathedral of the Peaks”. Perhaps there is only a looseness of similarity in the architectural styles but a strong sense of *deja vu* prevailed. For a long time I have held the view that in my (very limited) experience, Heavitree was, perhaps, the finest ring of eight in the county but (*pace* Dr Campbell!), I have been seduced by the glorious sound of Broadclyst. This ring went delightfully well and was described by Terry Hargreaves as being “cheerful”, an adjective I found singularly apposite. If ever there was a ring ideally suited to Fabian’s Triples, surely this has to be it; such a pity we could not quite muster a band to accomplish this.

We covered a lot of miles but it proved to be a fun and rewarding outing and many thanks go to the Branch Ringing Masters who maintained a brisk pace and particularly to Martin Clough of Silverton for arranging a varied and interesting selection of towers.

Dermot Elworthy

NE Branch AGM & Dinner



The annual gathering of the NE Branch took place on Saturday 4th October at Cruwys Morchard. Before the commencement of the church service and the Annual General Meeting, we were afforded the opportunity to ring the characterful ring of six and I am pleased to report some well accomplished ringing sounded out during this phase of the proceedings, much to the delight of the neighbours I am sure.

Following the service, we all convened to the well-appointed village hall for the AGM where we were provided, courtesy of the Cruwys Morchard band, a selection of superb homemade cakes and biscuits and copious amounts of tea and coffee, much needed sustenance following the exertion of both ringing and singing!

The AGM opened with prayers led by Lester Yeo and considering the length of the agenda, it all passed by in a flash. Of worthy note were the discussions on the DenMisch ring installation taking place in Exeter Cathedral School and the opportunities it has opened up to all ringers and of course the annual appointing of the branch committee that saw some committee members standing down, being replaced with ‘new kids on the block’.

After the more formal proceedings had concluded, the chairman held an open forum, providing branch members a free floor to openly discuss a number of given topics. This for me was quite innovative and as such, I would highly recommend this style of format to any branch as it allowed ideas to flow that would otherwise have remained under wraps. I know the saying goes, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it", but equally because we 'have always done it like that' does not always make it right either. It is quite refreshing to look inwardly and be self-critical at times! As such, the branch can adopt some of the ideas thrashed out that will go some way in its ability to plan more effectively.



Having all worked up healthy appetites after stretching the grey matter, we moved onto The Mount Pleasant Inn, Nomandsland near Tiverton for our dinner. Here we all relaxed, unwound and seemingly grazed for hours...for some though their eyes were bigger than their bellies and they struggled to plough through their desserts - even the complimentary mints at the end of the meal would have put them over the top. It was a brilliant conclusion to a well-organised and structured day; thanks to all.

Mark Heritage

NE Branch email list

We had our branch (NE) committee meeting on Saturday and one of the requests was to establish a NE branch mailbox, therefore allowing all branch members to openly communicate with one another. This will of course be particularly useful when I send out timely reminders of forthcoming events etc and ensure all branch members who have signed up to the mailbox will receive such emails. There is always a danger with our current system of personnel 'falling between the cracks' which naturally we aim to avoid.

Mark Heritage

In response to this a new email list has been set up for members of the North-East branch. All known email addresses of members have been added. Any member of the list can send an email to gdr-northeast.exeter.ac.uk and it will be delivered to all members. Anyone who is not a member will not be able to send anything. If you wish to belong to this list please contact Mark Heritage who can arrange it.

Ian Campbell

Troyte Ringing Centre celebrates 10 years

It has been 10 years since the Troyte Ringing Centre was set up in Bampton and Huntsham towers. Mike Hatchett has undoubtedly been the inspiration and leading light throughout this time and once again he came to the fore on 27th September. His was the idea that we should host a dinner for all those involved in the Centre over the years. We enjoyed an excellent meal provided by Acer Catering and guests were also given a commemorative booklet outlining the development of the TRC from the start to the present day.



The Anniversary Celebration

The journey that the Ringing Centre has made started in 2001 when the North East Branch applied for a grant from *Awards For All* to locate a practice bell within the branch. After a lot of hard work and organisation a 1616 redundant bell from Dorset was installed above the ring of 6 in Bampton. Computer, simulator and other equipment followed to provide a silent practice facility.

As the Practice Bell project was being completed another challenge took the eye of Mike Hatchett. The bells at Huntsham had become increasingly difficult to ring, the treble and tenor were unringable and the bells were in danger of falling further into disrepair. £65,000 was raised over three years to restore the bells, with the work completed in 2004. The bulk of this was done by Mike & Pat Hatchett, Lynda & Ken Smith with Neil Thomas (Whitechapel Bell Foundry). Richard Newman made the new wheels and other volunteers gave their time when possible to support the project. Other work included restoring the tower roof and floors, re-locating the clock mechanism, installing electric power and lighting and installing sound control, as well as remodelling and re-hanging six of the original bells and installing 2 new bells in a galvanised frame.

It was at this stage that the two towers were combined to make the Troyte Ringing Centre. You can read more about the TRC, its events, peals and development and history by going to: www.troyteringingcentre.org.uk. Currently we run about a dozen training events a year and host quarter peals, peals and branch practices.

But Mike was not content with this mammoth achievement. He followed this up with organising the design and creation of a set of display boards about ringing. These are often seen around Devon and beyond being used by towers and other organisations for PR and recruitment days. Following on from this we have acquired our own demonstration bell - see September 2014 RRD. No wonder, then, that the Centre won the Founders Prize for the best ringing centre in 2007.

As with all organisations the TRC is continuing to develop. Les Boyce is now the Manager of the Centre with Mike taking a back seat (difficult to imagine!). Both towers are constantly busy, with Huntsham available for use almost anytime for peals, quarters, wedding and celebration rings. From the excess income raised each year we contribute to the DCBRF, local charity groups and to Bampton and Huntsham PCCs.

One thing was obvious at the 10 Year Anniversary celebration that none of this would have been possible without the principal hosts for the evening, for which we are all extremely grateful. Thank you, Mike.

Sheila Scofield and Les Boyce

South West Branch

Branch Dinner



Don't we scrub up well..!

On Saturday 8th November the South West branch enjoyed their annual dinner at the Moorland Garden Hotel. It was great to see friends from across the region and catch up over a tasty three course meal.

Earlier that day there had been several quarter peals rung which had been well organised by Chris Wardle; Grandsire Triples at St Andrew's in Plymouth, Plain Bob Triples at Callington on the simulator, Cambridge Minor at Whitchurch and Plain Bob Minor at St Budeaux.

The ringers then made their way over to Laira to join other members of the branch for the traditional ringers' service which was led by Rev Trevor Smith. There was an opportunity to ring on the bells at Laira beforehand which meant a tower grab for some people. There are currently six bells in action there, with the seventh needing a

new rope. We hope to ring there more often in 2015; hopefully for quarter peals and Plymouth Youth practices.

The annual branch dinner is growing year by year; it's certainly an event we look forward to! We had around sixty guests this year. Normal dinner antics include: getting drunk! Always try to get a lift as there aren't many buses around on Dartmoor at that time of the night. Crash the wedding next door - always a good challenge: can you nip next door to a random wedding and get one dance in before they realise you're not part of the party? I've yet to convince branch members that we should have a dance floor or an evening of karaoke! Instead, swapping chairs is a favourite activity; it enables everyone to have a good catchup. Everyone loves to see things happening in branch; ringing improving, quarters and peals being rung, 10 bell practices, outings, social events and bonds between towers growing stronger. Thank you to Clare Stagg and those who keep the South West Branch thriving and well organised; it was great evening.

Josephine Maddick

Autumn Outing



Left to right James Vockins, John Steere, Sarah Lippett, Chris Wardle, Hannah Wedge, Trevor Vercoe, Josephine Maddick, Harry Andrews

The South West Branch autumn outing began on a September morning, with eight people meeting at Cullompton St Andrew's, our first tower and a 19cwt ring of ten. This was my first ringing outing so I wasn't entirely sure what to expect, and having only rung at three towers prior to this outing I was the person with the least tower grabs in the group! This didn't put me off however, and I was looking forward to lots of different ringing. We managed some good ringing, including call changes and plain hunt for the less experienced (me!), and some Bob Doubles for the more experienced ringers.

St Mary the Virgin in Uffculme was the second tower on our itinerary, which is a 21cwt ring of eight. There were no stairs to climb at this church, which was a bonus! Some good ringing was done by all, and there was an interesting tomb inside the church for those not ringing to have a look at.

After this we travelled to Culmstock and headed over to the local pub for a spot of lunch. After an incredibly long wait (we nearly wasted away!) our food arrived in dribs and drabs. We later found out that this delay was due to most of the staff having a day off for a scout soapbox race! Gradually we made our way over to Culmstock All Saints, a 19cwt ring of eight, but we sadly missed the cream teas which were being laid on as part of the Heritage Open Day (Josephine was particularly disappointed!). Despite the disappointment of the lack of scones, we managed some good striking.

Wellington St John the Baptist, a 19cwt ring of eight, was our next church, and despite the slight hitch in finding someone who had the keys to the tower, ringing was good. We were welcomed to a surprising sight of the room being fetching shades of pink and green. More surprising than that, however, was the fact that the tower was covered in butterflies – yes, real life butterflies! After a small delay whilst we took photos of all the butterflies we began ringing. The people who sat out of the first lot of ringing discovered that the tower wobbled a lot, especially when rounds were being rung, which was a bit disconcerting, but they soon got used to it. When we had finished ringing, we took the opportunity to have a group photo outside the church.

We arrived in Taunton for our penultimate tower of Wilton, a ring of ten. The bells in this tower were very light, the tenor weighing just 8cwt! Another novelty in this tower was that the ringing platform was on a balcony half way up the tower with only a waist-high balustrade, which made ringing the third and fourth (which were nearest the balcony) a bit scary (especially for James!).

Our last tower was Taunton St James, which was a 17cwt ring of 8. After a quick stop at Tesco for dinner supplies, James, Sarah and I arrived, looking forward to the ringing but also slightly late... When we were all up the tower, a unanimous decision was made that this tower had the nicest carpet of the whole outing. The bells felt very heavy after the previous tower's incredibly light ring, but with a little help from a local ringer, we managed some good ringing and were complimented on our striking.

Lots of ringing was done by all on this outing as sadly not many people attended. However the benefit of this was that we improved our striking throughout the day, and my plain hunt technique definitely got better! We all had a good day which was topped off by a nice drink in our local pub when we got back to Plymouth. I had a great time on my first outing, and despite being shattered at the end (and achy the next day!) I'd definitely do it again.

Hannah Wedge

Plymouth Youths weekend away

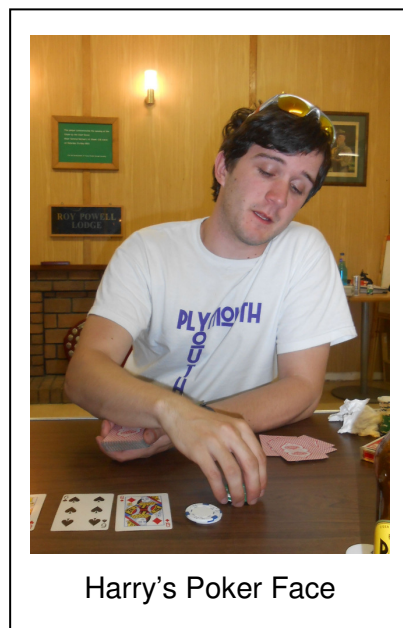
Back in June, the Modern Society of Plymouth Youths went to South Wales for their annual weekend away. The weather forecast promised some fine summer weather, and when combined with the promise of a good range of towers and some great company, was sure to make a very enjoyable visit.



Plymouth ringers (front row) left to right: Harry Andrews, Josephine Maddick, Sarah Lippett, James Vockins, Tim Hatrey, Matthew Smith

Our weekend started on the Friday afternoon where, after driving along narrow, and sometimes quite steep, country roads, we all met up at our base for the weekend: a scout activity centre at Newbridge. It was basic and quirky and lacked electricity in some areas! Thankfully the electrical problems happened after the pizza was cooked but not before we showered! Having a wash had to wait until the following evening. We enjoyed a competitive game of monopoly that evening which was a little heated at times and lasted late into the night.

We were a small group this year with only six ringers, though this would give us plenty of opportunity to practise doubles and minor methods. We were up early on Saturday to get to our first tower, Aberdare, at 9.30am. This was a nice easy eight to get us into the swing of things. Our next tower was Pontypridd, again a good 8, although we were told that they were not rung often.



Harry's Poker Face

After Pontypridd we made our way to Caerphilly, where a bustling church fete greeted us. This meant that there were lots of cakes and treats on offer to keep us going until lunch, including proper Welsh cakes; traditionally made and still hot! There was a large audience at the church with the fete so we were mindful to achieve good striking! We had help from the local ringers there which enabled us to ring on all eight.

Next we moved on to Radyr, where we ate a hearty pub lunch before continuing to the tower. Radyr was interesting; a sign on the wall in the ringing room said 'This tower is a plain bob doubles and plain bob triples free zone' So, we asked the captain with a smile about his aversion to good old plain bob and persuaded him to ring some well struck plain bob with us!

Our penultimate Saturday tower was perhaps the most challenging, a 3cwt ring of 6 at Llanishen. After getting

used to the cosy ringing circle and tripled-up tail ends, we managed some good call changes, more Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles.

The final tower was St. John's Cardiff, we were grateful to be joined by Cardiff ringers there which meant we rang on ten each time. Upon heading back to the scout hut that evening we found the electricity had not yet been fixed! So after feasting on various salads, sandwiches and cookies, the game of choice for the evening was poker! Harry taught us the rules and we played for hours, there was no money was involved just plastic chips and it was far calmer and less intense than Monopoly the night before!

The next morning we enjoyed the beautiful views along the Upper Rhymney valley from the church at Bedwellty where we rang for their Sunday service. We were greeted warmly at the church, where they were pleased to see us, as they did not always have a regular Sunday band. Sunday's schedule had a large section in it marked 'Activity'. There was much debate as to how to fill this gap, but after some deliberation, we headed to Cardiff Bay. After a large lunch involving burgers and hot dogs at an American style diner, some of us took in the sights by way of a speedboat ride around the bay, whilst the rest wandered around enjoying the summer sunshine. (The speed boat ride was awesome!) Our weekend concluded with ringing for compline at Llandaff Cathedral. We were joined by some of the locals we had met at St. John's the day before. This gave us a great opportunity to ring on 12 bells which we don't often do. In all the weekend was a great success; over the two days we became a tight team of six and enjoyed our time together. We are grateful to Harry for arranging it and planning has already started for next year's outing!

James Vockins

Training

Kaleidoscope Day

Another successful Kaleidoscope day was held at Bovey Tracey on 16th August, making good use of the simulator to allow ringing all day.



Students and helpers pose outside the tower after tackling dodges, places and for some Stedman whole-turns.

Helpers for Guild training events

As Education Officer, I hold a list of ringers who are willing to be contacted as potential helpers from time to time. Organisers of branch training days, targeted practices etc, may like to be reminded of this, and to contact me for the list as and when they need it. To protect people's private data, the contents of the list are not published, but are only shared with organisers.

I am also looking for new people to add to the list. If you think you could help with a training day, half day or evening occasionally, and ring at least good solid touches of Plain Bob (not easily put off by others), then please contact me as below, giving your name, tower, email address, and (if I don't ring with you and already know it!) some indication of ability. You could also add any restrictions if you like, such as how far you are prepared to travel.

Those currently on the list have been contacted separately, so if you didn't get that email, you are not currently on it!

Lynne Hughes, educationofficer@devonringers.org.uk

2015 Education Programme

Date	Training	Organiser
28 February	Basic Bell Maintenance - Stoke Canon	Ian Campbell & James Clarke
28 February	ITTTS Module 2 - Plymouth	Les Boyce
21 March	Surprise Major (Beyond Cambridge and Yorkshire)	Tim Bayton
25 April	ITTTS Module 1 - West or Mid Devon	Les Boyce
16 May	Handbells (Plain hunt) - Dawlish	Lynne Hughes
30 May	Raising and lowering in peal	Tim Bayton
7 June (Sun)	Handbells (Plain Bob) - Okehampton	Lynne Hughes
13 June	Young Ringers' Summer day	Amy Gill
27 September	Stedman Triples	Martin Mansley
10 October	Kaleidoscope	Lynne Hughes
14 November	ITTTS Module 1 – East Devon	Les Boyce

The bell maintenance day is already fully booked with those who couldn't get on last year, so it is intended to run another one, possible including tower leadership skills, later in the year.

For the Integrated Teacher Training Scheme contact Les Boyce:
lesboyce@googlemail.com

For the youth event contact Amy Gill: amyturtle.gill@hotmail.com

For other events (some have limited numbers of places available) contact Lynne Hughes: educationofficer@devonringers.org.uk

Other News

Notable Peals

Below is a selection of noteworthy peals rung recently (all rung for the GDR).

Mike Mears

Beer, Devon, St Michael
Thursday, 16 October 2014 in 2hrs 34m (9-0-7)
5040 Doubles (11m)
(2 extents Grandsire; 4 extents each Huntley, St Remigius, Winchendon Place, St Nicholas, Reverse Canterbury, Eynesbury, St Osmund, St Martin, St Simon, Plain Bob)
1 Robert D S Brown
2 Lester J Yeo
3 Pauline Champion
4 John A Foster

5 Michael E C Mears (C)
First peal on the bells in this tower and since transfer
from Braywood, Berks in 1963.

Thorverton, Devon, St Thomas of Canterbury
Thursday, 30 October 2014 in 2hrs 52m (15-0-4)
5088 Yorkshire S Major
Arranged by M J Pomeroy
1 Mervyn C Way
2 Jill M Hansford
3 Timothy M Bayton
4 James Kirkcaldy
5 Ian W Avery
6 Ian V J Smith
7 Pauline Champion
8 Michael E C Mears (C)
1000th peal on the bells.
This makes it the 7th tower in the world to have 1000
peals rung.

Crediton, Devon, Holy Cross
Saturday, 22 November 2014 in 3hrs 28m (26-2-23)
5090 Spliced S Maximus (3m)
(1728 Yorkshire; 1682 Bristol; 1680 Cambridge; 37 com;
atw)
Composed by A G Reading
1 Ian W Avery
2 Paul J Pascoe
3 Clare J Griffiths
4 Alison C Waterson
5 Susan D Sparling
6 Ian V J Smith
7 Pauline Champion
8 Richard Harrison
9 Geoffrey C Sparling
10 Thomas J Waterson
11 Michael E C Mears (C)
12 John A Foster
First spliced on the bells. For the 10th anniversary of
the dedication of bells.

Thorverton, Devon, St Thomas of Canterbury
Wednesday, 26 November 2014 in 2hrs 53m (15-0-4)
5040 Wendy's D Royal
Composed by M E C Mears
1 Ian W Avery
2 Susan D Sparling
3 Pauline Champion
4 P Wendy Campbell
5 Graham P Tucker
6 John Hill

7 Ian L C Campbell
8 Ian V J Smith
9 David Hird
10 Michael E C Mears (C)
With best wishes to Wendy Campbell, celebrating her 65th birthday today.
First peal in the method:
x30x14x50x36x1470x58x16x10.56.78x90 1e12 (b)

Kentisbeare, Devon, St Mary
Monday, 1 December 2014 in 2hrs 43m (10-1-2)
5040 Spliced S Minor (12m)
(1-5) London, Wells, Westminster, Allendale, York,
Durham, Beverley, Surfleet, Cambridge, Ipswich (6-7)
Annable's London, Norwich
1 Martin G Mansley
2 Richard C Shere
3 Robert D S Brown
4 Pauline Champion
5 David Hird
6 Michael E C Mears (C)
On the 30th anniversary of Richard's first peal.
500th peal for the Guild: 2.

Letter from George Tribe

Following the front page article last time about the George Tribe model ring of bells which was exhibited at the Ringing Roadshow, we have received a charming letter from George:

To the members of the Devonshire Guild of Ringers

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing to extend my most grateful thanks to you all for the most encouraging comments and photo of the six micro bells at the Ringing Roadshow at Newbury racecourse. I was truly delighted.

Just for your interest I was collecting bells back in the early fifties. My friend tuned five suitable bells one to six, the fifth happily sometime later. The headstocks were cast aluminium as were the clappers. The wheels were all made to plan as were the ground pulleys. The frame sides were cut from aluminium sheet with angle iron reinforcing. I used to enjoy raising and ringing one bell corresponding to Bratton no. one. I discovered very soon that the assembly had to be eight feet from the frame base so as one could sit and ring, and better stance resulted. I never got round to having the bells weighed.

I hope the details will be of some interest to you. Again, many thanks to you all and God bless.

Yours very sincerely

George (Tribe)

Calendar for 2015

This calendar is copied from the Guild website. You will observe that the data is rather sparse for next year. Branch officers are urged to update the information for their branch as soon as dates have been decided.

January				
Sat 3	19:00	Branch Committee Meeting	TBC	North East
Sat 10	14:00	Branch Quarterly Meeting	TBC	North East
Sat 10	19:00	Practice meeting	East Ogwell	Mid Devon
Sat 17	TBC	6 Bell Practice	TBC	North East
Thu 22	19:30	8-bell practice	Dawlish	Mid Devon
Sat 24	10:00	Extended Practice - Beyond Plain Bob Doubles	Huntsham	North East
Sat 24	TBC	Branch Activity Day and AGM	TBC	South West
Wed 28	TBC	8 Bell Practice	TBC	North East
February				
Sat 7	18:00	Annual Dinner	Exeter	ECG
Mon 16	19:30	8-bell practice	Wolborough	Mid Devon
Sat 21	TBC	10 Bell Striking Competition	TBC	North East
Wed 25	TBC	8 Bell Practice	TBC	North East
Sat 28	TBC	6 Bell Practice	TBC	North East
March				
Wed 11	TBC	Mid-week Outing	TBC	North East
Sat 21	10:00	6 Bell Practice	Bampton	North East
Sat 21	14:30	Branch Committee Meeting	TBC	North East
Wed 25	19:30	8 Bell Practice	Huntsham	North East
Sat 28	10:00	'DIY Call Change Competition'	Huntsham	North East

Editorial

It is good to see that branches are beginning to catch up with the technology. The North East branch has started an email list, while that in the South West is used to disseminate a regular newsletter. Other branches have similar lists but unless they are regularly used they serve little purpose.

I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a happy Christmas.

Ian Campbell

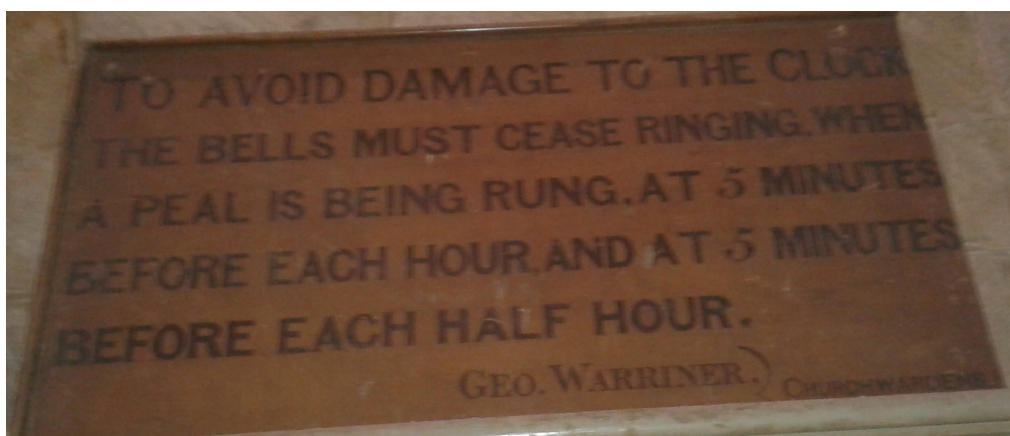
Guess Who?

Someone else has complained to me that their picture has not been in RRD recently but when I offered to correct that they suddenly didn't want their picture taken. See if you know who it is...



Who is hiding behind RRD?

Notice Board seen in Bloxham, Oxfordshire



Their peals must be shorter than ours!

"To avoid damage to the clock the bells must cease ringing when a peal is being rung at 5 minutes before each hour and at 5 minutes before each half hour."

Ian Campbell



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Items for inclusion may be sent by post to Ringing Round Devon, 84 Whipton Village Road, Exeter EX4 8AL or by e-mail to newsletter@devonringers.org.uk
