# RINGING ROUND DEVON GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS 

Newsletter 94 July 2014

## Guild of Devonshire Ringers celebrates 140 years!

The Guild of Devonshire Ringers celebrated their 140th Anniversary in style on Saturday 21st June, when the NE Branch hosted the Guild Festival and AGM at Tiverton.


Tiverton St Peter


The outgoing master (Les Boyce) hands over to Anne Bailey

The theme for the day was 140 bells for 140 years, and this ambitious and imaginative idea was made possible by a combination of organisation and committed ringing by members from across Devon. During the morning, quarter peals were scored (and lost!), handbells were rung, and tower bells pealed out across Tiverton as members gathered for the service at St Peter's.
Events then focussed on Tiverton Rugby Club, where refreshments and the Guild Mini-Ring greeted those arriving fresh from the service. Soon, it was time to assemble on the rugby terraces for the all-important commemorative Guild photograph, where President and Master were flanked by Vice-Presidents in the very front row.
Being a warm, sunny day, more refreshments were needed before members retired indoors for the Annual General Meeting. Some seventy ringers attended the meeting, with the room filled to capacity, and business was conducted with the usual mix of
efficiency and warmth by our President, Lester Yeo. Thanks were extended to the NE Branch for all their hard work in organising such a successful day.
A wide range of topics were discussed at the meeting, including praise for the new Guild website, designed by Matthew Hilling, with members encouraged to use and update the website regularly. All Officers were re-elected without change, with Anne Bailey becoming Guild Master, and Geoff Hill becoming Master Elect for 2015/16. There was warm support for the election of James Clarke as Vice- President, in recognition of his long service at Branch, Guild and Central Council level.
The largest debate of the meeting concerned donations to the Ringing Foundation, with members eventually voting to direct money into the Guild Education Fund, specifically to finance local ringers wishing to attend ITTS training courses in Devon. Les Boyce gave his report on the recent Central Council meeting in Bearstead, Kent, and a written report from lan Campbell detailed the latest developments with the DenMisch ring of ten simulated bells, kindly donated by Misha Thompson. These bells will be installed at Exeter Cathedral School with work starting during the summer, hopefully ready in time for installation by Christmas. They promise to form an exciting and positive training resource for ringers across the county.
Lester Yeo detailed his aims to assess the progress of the Guild Review during the autumn, and then members' attention was drawn to various forthcoming events. The Central Council 'Have Your Say’ seminar on 19th July, to which everyone was encouraged to attend; the Ringing Roadshow on 6th September where the Guild and Association need support, and Quarter Peal Week (31st Oct - 9th Nov), where Tim Bayton asked Branches to make sure as many ringers as possible took part in quarter peal attempts.
The Guild Striking Competitions were confirmed as being held on 18th October, hosted by the Mid-Devon Branch, with full details to appear shortly on the Guild website. And the 2015 Guild Festival and AGM was also confirmed to be hosted by the Exeter Branch in the Crediton area on 20th June 2015.
Following closure of the meeting, many ringers stayed behind to enjoy the displays, sales tables and mini ring, before relaxing together and socialising at the superb barbecue organised by the Cruwys Morchard ringers, where a hot air balloon provided unexpected entertainment! And with a gloriously warm and sunny evening ahead, what better way to celebrate the end of yet another successful day in the Guild calendar?

Clare Griffiths, Guild Secretary

## Central Council 'Have Your Say' seminar - July 19th 2014

## WHY YOU SHOULD BE THERE!

How many of us can look around our towers and say with confidence that the band will still be flourishing and ringing the bells in ten years' time? Sadly, very few of us. The ageing profile of ringers has been much discussed, with the statistics displayed in a worrying pattern that shows the future of ringing in a precarious state. We all know the scenario, or we think we do.
For, with effort and vision, many ringers are trying to change the way we all think about the future, trying to pinpoint where we have all gone wrong, and where we can
go from here. Because gone wrong we all surely have - and that responsibility lies with all of us, in failing to recruit younger ringers and teach them well, in failing to retain them for the future. We need to motivate and include our younger ringers, showing them all they need to take the reins and carry ringing forward. We have all been guilty for too long of complacency, of settling for our comfortable band of contemporaries. And all the while the gap has been springing up, creating a chasm of lost ringers in their 20s, 30s and 40s who have never been engaged or drawn to join their local band, to enjoy the same ringing and take the same challenge and thrill of responsibility still yet held to this day by a now worryingly ageing core of ringers.
But it is not too late. We all care passionately about the future of ringing, about ensuring church bells will still be rung across this land in years to come. And if you feel passionately, if you are rightly aware of your duty to carry forward all you were taught when you were young, then you will come to Cardinal Newman House in Exeter on Saturday $19^{\text {th }}$ July. Here, you will take part in a ground breaking Central Council seminar that has been touring the regions over the course of the year. Now, on your doorstep, you have the unique opportunity to listen to a range of speakers. Elva Ainsworth will draw our attention to the developing ringing trends; Les Boyce will introduce us to the Association of Ringing Teachers, and Integrated Teacher Training Scheme, which promises to revolutionise the experience of teaching and being taught forever. Roger Booth will describe the work of the Ringing Foundation, and Chris Mew will tell us about the latest Central Council initiatives and services that are available to us all. Additionally, guest speaker Mark Regan will enthuse us with the Worcester experience, and Chris Mew will detail the inspirational Birmingham School of Bell Ringing; both these are examples of the most forward thinking and positive teaching methods currently in the forefront of ringing.
But the seminar is not just about listening and learning. It is called 'Have Your Say' for a reason; the Central Council are here to learn, to find out what is happening locally here in Devon, and there are group sessions throughout the day when you can discuss your problems, share your views and opinions, review initiatives and hopefully find a positive way forward. A way forward that could well lie within the topics we will be fortunate to have presented to us in Exeter; as well as the chance to meet ringers from neighbouring Guilds, to chat, to learn and to be inspired. We are extremely lucky to have this opportunity on our doorstep; please, can everyone come and join us and make the most of it. For the sake of the future of your tower.

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) is seeking to reach out to ringers everywhere - from the newest recruit through to those with 50 or more years of experience under their belt - and exchange views on a number of topics that should be of concern to us all if the art of ringing is to continue and flourish in the years to come.
This promises to be an interesting and informative day, with speakers drawn from the various committees that make up the CCCBR, so do come along and 'Have Your Say'! If you need any other information, or want to let us know that you will be attending, please do get in touch directly with the Guild Secretary, Clare Griffiths secretary@devonringers.org.uk.
A poster giving details is available from the web site.

## Ringing Roadshow

6 September 2014, Newbury Racecourse
Everything for the ringer you are and the ringer you want to be

The Ringing Roadshow is coming up at the start of September. It is being held at Newbury Racecourse and is a wonderful opportunity for anyone interested in bells and bell ringing to explore what is available. It includes a large exhibition area with information on rope making, bell casting, tuning and hanging, simulators, muffles, computer software and so on. There are regular demonstrations and talks, including handbell demonstrations (tune and method) with a chance to join in, improving your ringing skills, teaching, etc. Outside there will be a number of mini-rings for you to try. The Guild will have a stand and are planning to take the George Tribe mini-ring which normally lives in St Petrock's in Exeter and set it up for full circle ringing. I do hope that as many of you as possible will be able to come. For further information see http://www.ringingroadshow.co.uk/

Ian Campbell
Devon Ringers' Council
John Scott 10-bell Call-Change Competition


Enjoying the sun at Brixham

The John Scott Devon 10 Bell Call-Change Competition was held at St Mary's, Brixham on Monday $26^{\text {th }}$ May (the May bank holiday), having been postponed from $3^{\text {rd }}$ February owing to other commitments. It is organised by the Devon Ringers' Council and is an opportunity for method and call change ringers to get together.
Following a prompt draw at 1245 and explanation of the rules, the ringing got underway and proceeded smoothly through the afternoon - so much so that we got ahead of schedule!
DIY teas and coffees were made available in the church but most participants and supporters chose to enjoy the sunshine and listen from the churchyard. A few took the short stroll to the park to use the swings, the roundabout (some of us are too old!) and the exercise trail.

There was a mixture of both closed and open handstroke leading and all teams completed the prescribed "peal". At the conclusion of the ringing the judges (Colin Avery and James Grant) were ready immediately to announce the results. Well done to all teams.


Matt receiving the winning certificate for the Cathedral team

## Mini-ring at the Devon County Show



Some youngsters try their hand on the Frank Mack bells
The Frank Mack mini-ring made its annual excursion to Westpoint, to take part in the Devon County Show as a part of the Churches' stand. It attracted the usual interest, although this waned a little on the Friday as the weather deteriorated. Indeed the weather got so bad that the entire show was cancelled on the Saturday - thought to be the first time ever!

Ian Campbell

## Aylesbeare Branch

## LITTLEHAM TOWER OUTING

The Littleham Ringers, with Branch officers and Lympstone ringers invited as usual, ventured north and east for our Spring outing on Saturday 7th June. We were a party of 15, including four branch officers and two Lympstone ringers. Arrangements had to be changed at the last minute, when we found out that we had to delay our ring at Seaton, due to various church activities and attractions, and that we were one of them!

Our first ring was at Shute, and we extended our time there to fit in with our second ring at Seaton, where we started with coffee in the church. We found the bells in very good condition and enjoyed the ringing, although a little later and shorter than planned. On a personal note, my wife Betty and myself were Seaton ringers for nine years, and were very pleased to renew acquaintance with three of the Seaton ringers who are still ringing 27 years after we left. One of them, Bruce Roberts, now the captain, made the arrangements for us.
We lunched at The Kings Arms in Seaton, then rang at Farway and Offwell in the afternoon. An enjoyable day was had by all.

## Mary Mack hangs up her Bell Rope



After 55 years' ringing at St John the Evangelist church, Withycombe Raleigh, Exmouth, Mary Mack has decided the time is right for her to bow out. 'The bells seem to have put on weight and l'm finding them increasingly difficult to ring' she says. Although we think of Mary mainly as a ringer, the fact is she features in so many other ways in the life of the church. We accept her decision, but can't let her simply fade away. We feel it's important to record and say thanks for her contribution and commitment.

Surprisingly, for some of us, we learned that as a youngster, Mary rang a handbell peal and 20 tower bell peals, and decided this was quite enough. She met Frank Mack at Bristol University through the University Ringing Society, after which she taught maths at a prestigious girls' school in Bedford. After marrying, they later moved to Exmouth (where Frank was to teach at the Grammar School) in 1959 and both quickly became much valued members of the ringing community in Exmouth and beyond. True to her earlier conviction, she never rang any peals as Mary Mack. They have four children, all of whom learned to ring, 'probably as a means of survival' as Mary says. At one stage all four children were under the age of five, and managing the various ringing commitments became quite a balancing act.

In 1971 a major problem was discovered with the old wooden bell frame at Withycombe Raleigh and Frank organised a fund-raising programme for its replacement. Remarkably, ringing continued during this time; it was only when the frame was eventually removed that the truly precarious state of the bells and fittings was fully appreciated! Although already involved with coffee mornings, sewing, patchwork, pottery, and flower arranging classes, not to mention running a home, for years Mary ran weekly whist drives as fund-raising activities, while other members of the band helped by doing sponsored walks, cycle rides etc. In an attempt to beat inflation, various hardware items (such as girders) were purchased as funds allowed. A bell purchased in this way sat on their drive for over ten years waiting to be installed.

The fundraising went on for over 20 years and 'would still be going on', according to the amazingly tolerant Mary, 'if it were not for a generous gift from a parishioner, which enabled the number of bells to be augmented to 10 and for a new metal frame to be provided, in 1991'.

At home, Frank installed mini-rings in their garage and in the bedroom of eldest daughter Shirley and invited ringers from far and wide to experience both rings. Wendy Campbell from Exeter says 'I think that one of Mary's great qualities is her generosity of spirit: for many years she welcomed into her home an endless stream of visitors who had come to ring both the garage and the bedroom mini-bells, doubtless at minimal notice on many occasions. I particularly remember in the early 1980s being part of a filming session for the TV programme 'You've Been Framed' on a hot summer's evening we had 10 ringers, one of the show's presenters (Henry Kelly) PLUS the film/sound/lighting crew all crammed into Shirley's bedroom to create a spoof item on the bells. It was typical of Mary to put up with the invasion in such a good-humoured way'.

Mary has rung something over 300 quarter peals in WR tower and countless others elsewhere. Until recently she attended reunions of or extensive tours with the University of Bristol Society of Change Ringers, the Universities Association and the Society of Friends of the Exercise (started by Cyril Savage of East Budleigh).
As an ex-teacher, she communicates easily with folk of all ages and is particularly good with young people. In her time at Exmouth, Mary has been Secretary and Treasurer of the tower and in 2001 was elected a Vice President of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers in recognition of her lifetime contribution to ringing. Until very recently she could be relied on to be first up the tower, and always available for ringing for services and weddings. Her dedication and loyalty are exemplary and conducted with quiet efficiency.

So what will she do if she is no longer able to ring bells? Well, she has two other interests, patchwork which she does when she can, and by giving up ringing she can enjoy playing bridge on five nights a week!

We're going to miss you in so many ways. Thanks for all you have given to ringers and to ringing life in Withycombe Raleigh. The tower door is always open and if you feel like a chat, we'd love to see you.

The Withycombe Raleigh Band

## Lympstone Ringers celebrate St George's Day

I attach a photograph of the Lympstone Ringers who rang a Devon Peal at 6pm on 23rd April to celebrate St George's Day as part of the Ringing For England project.


Lympstone Ringers

## East Devon Branch

## St George's Day Celebrations



The sound of bells was heard across East Devon to celebrate St George's Day.
Several East Devon Towers rang their bells to celebrate St George's Day, including Awliscombe, Axminster, Combe Raleigh, Dalwood, Dunkeswell, Feniton, Honiton, Luppitt, Shute and Sidbury. Dunkeswell ringers got off to an early start, ringing at 8 in the morning before going to work. At Dalwood the East Devon Ladies Group rang a very fine quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles.
Pictured is the successful quarter peal band attired in red and white and carrying their St George's flags. From the left: Delie Perry (Hawkchurch), Maureen Davey (Shute), Anne Bailey (Sidmouth), Kathy Matthews (Colyton), Lisa Clarke and Janet Reynolds (Combe Raleigh).

## Leading by Example



The above photo (courtesy of Lin Horrocks) shows the successful band of David Hird, Anne Bailey, Lisa Clarke, John Horrocks, Kathy Matthews and Derek Ballard.

Five years ago Combe Raleigh had three bells and no ringers. Since then Derek Ballard in Honiton has taught six villagers to ring and now they are planning to augment to a ring of six. These new ringers elected Lisa Clarke to be their tower captain at St Nicholas' and since then she has led by example. She was the first of the six to ring a quarter peal on tenor, the first on treble and the first inside. She continues to encourage the rest to follow suit, while extending her own repertoire. Her most recent achievement is treble bob hunt to a quarter peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor, at the Church of St Peter, Dalwood on $11^{\text {th }}$ April. Ringers from Combe Raleigh and Honiton offer their sincere congratulations.

```
Friday, 11 April 2014 in 40m (8)
1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor
    Lisa Clarke
    Anne Bailey
    Kathy Matthews
    Derek Ballard
    John Horrocks
6 David Hird (C)
1st TB hunt - 1.
```


## Exeter Branch

## Exeter St Mark’s Annual Cycling Tour



The intrepid (and wet) cyclists at Whimple
This year Graham Tucker arranged the cycling outing on $24^{\text {th }}$ May to start and finish at Whimple, while touring around East Devon, ringing at Clyst Hydon, Talaton, Feniton and Whimple. The total distance cycled was estimated as 16.9 miles. Once all the exhausted (and rather wet) cyclists had returned we were treated to a barbecue at the Hilling residence - the chef had to cook outside in the rain but the rest of us sheltered inside and watched cartoons with Toby or caught up on gossip!


Well, we didn't get wet!

## Exeter Branch Barbecue

The annual Exeter Branch barbecue took place on the 14th of June at lan and Wendy Campbell's house. 26 people came and enjoyed the fantastic weather, the great food and catching up with everyone. Huge thanks go to lan and Wendy for opening their home to us, it was a great evening!


## Mid-Devon Branch

## Grandsire Training event

This took place over two days, with Grandsire Doubles being practised at Stokeinteignhead on the Friday evening. Good use was made of these lovely bells although lighting problems meant we were peering a little at each other! Perhaps this made us concentrate harder but it was obvious that progress was made. Thanks to Rodney and Simon who met us and took a very active part.
On the Saturday we moved to Wolborough where we are always given a warm welcome. Now it was up a gear to Triples but we were pleased to welcome John

Martin to join us - he is, of course, a great enthusiast for this method!! A lot more hard work with several plain courses interspersed with touches. The Wolborough ringers had kindly laid on refreshments but we were not allowed to dawdle as important matters needed to be dealt with - the photo shoot!!


Then it was back to more Grandsire Triples until there was a cry of "What would I give for a course of Double Norwich?" - so we rang one!

Very many thanks to all who came, either as helpers or as trainees - the enthusiasm and hard work were infectious although I'm afraid JRM is still not impressed with the stuff! Thanks also to the ringers and incumbents of the two towers used - we are extremely grateful for your hospitality.

Martin Mansley

## From the mid-Devon Library Corner

Want to do some follow up after the Grandsire Training Event?
The branch library has quite a number of publications that could help with this. Chris Adams' Ringing Circles includes the basic information for both Grandsire Doubles and Triples, set out in a very clear fashion and provides a useful aide-mémoire. Also useful for its clarity is the little A6 booklet, Beginners' Grandsire by A. Waddington, which devotes a page to each element - the plain course, work at a single, work at a bob, calling, and so on. If you'd gained the impression that Grandsire was out of favour with some ringers, there is an interesting article entitled 'Why learn Grandsire?' originally published in The Ringing World and reproduced in volume 2 of The Learning Curve. This is also available online http://cccbr.org.uk/education/thelearningcurve/pdfs/200203.pdf.
For anyone wanting more detail about Grandsire Doubles and how it works, the Central Council Beginners Handbook explains the method very thoroughly, with pointers for what to watch (and listen) for when ringing. Doubles and Minor for Beginners - another Central Council publication - does this too, while adding something about the origin of the method and showing how the number of extents (120s) of Grandsire Doubles can be arranged to produce different touches. For detail
on Grandsire Triples as well as Grandsire Doubles, Wilfrid G Wilson’s Change Ringing and E.S \& M. Powell's The Ringers' Handbook remain excellent standbys. Both include guidance on the calling of touches and peals, including Grandsire Caters in the first of these.

If you're thinking that you might like to move on to conducting Grandsire Doubles, there is a series of two articles in The Learning Curve (volume 4) entitled 'Conduct Grandsire Doubles' which offers guidance on how to progress from calling from the observation bell to nesting touches - the latter described as 'something for the adventurous'. Like all the other items mentioned above, both of these can be borrowed from the Branch Library, but like the article mentioned in the first paragraph, they are also available online -
http://cccbr.org.uk/education/thelearningcurve/pdfs/200601.pdf and http://cccbr.org.uk/education/thelearningcurve/pdfs/200602.pdf

The Library does have one shortcoming where Grandsire is concerned: we do not have a copy of the major tome on this method - Snowdon's Grandsire, the method: its peals and history. Originally published in 1888, it is now available in a recent reprint. If anyone has a copy that is no longer required, the Branch Library would be delighted to give it a good home. It would be put to good use!

Janet Ritterman

Branch Librarian

## St Marychurch go 10-pin Bowling

Last year the St Marychurch ladies had a few social events, such as cinema trips, but this year they decided to let the rest of us join in. Eventually 16 of our ringers, regular visitors and friends assembled at the bowling alley in Torquay. Once the preliminaries were over (sorting out the right shoes, deciding who should bowl in which lane and setting up ancillary equipment) it was down to business. Anyone who has been to St Marychurch recently may know that there tends to be a bit of indulgence in "high fives" and even "tens" at times (hope l've got the terminology right). The bowling alley allowed this ostentatious behaviour to blossom almost out of control! Whatever, the result was a very enjoyable evening which was great fun. Sadly we do not have any pictures as Wendy was so excited that she could not hold the camera still long enough to get a publishable shot!! Many thanks to Jeanette Thompson for all the hard work of arranging it. What will she come up with next?

Martin Mansley

## John Martin hits the big $\mathbf{5 0}$

For quite a few months before the first week in April emails had been flying around, mainly from Hannah Martin but not including John. The upshot was that a large gathering of around 60 friends and family met at the Red Rock Brewery near Bishopsteignton (l'm afraid I hadn't heard of it either!). The early arrivals were treated to a tour of the brewery and then a tasting of beer. By this time John (who thought he was picking up some of Hannah's friends from the railway station) had arrived and was, at last, let into the secret. His group then had their tour of the


brewery by which time the rest of the party were starting to arrive. Erica had produced an amazing cake with a bell theme which was much admired. The place was soon buzzing with chat as everyone caught up with the news and tried to complete the two quiz sheets that Hannah had produced, one about events in 1964 and one about John's life. It was then time for the barbecue which was much enjoyed.

Eventually we were given the answers to the quizzes amid much hilarity as John was asked to compete against the rest of the party in the quiz about his life - surprisingly, he won!! Toasts followed and all agreed that the rest of the Martin family had done a great job of planning and organisation (and, of course, keeping the secret from John). All in all a superb evening - how to follow that in 10 years time?

John Martin in full swing

A peal had been rung earlier in the week:

```
Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Broadclyst, Devon, S John the Baptist
Wednesday, 2 April 2014 in 3h09 (20)
5024 Bristol Surprise Major
Composed by A J Cox
1 Hannah R Martin
2 ~ R i c h a r d ~ H ~ J o h n s t o n ~
3 Robert D S Brown
4 ~ P a u l i n e ~ C h a m p i o n ~
5 \text { Michael E C Mears}
6 \text { David Hird}
7 \text { John R Martin (C)}
8 \text { John A Foster}
Specially arranged and rung as a birthday compliment to
the Conductor (50 today) and to the tenor ringer (60
today).
Also a birthday compliment to Glenis Petrilli, tower
correspondent whose birthday is also today.
```


## Hannah Martin's 20th Birthday

One of the reasons that John could be kept in the dark about his party was that Hannah's birthday falls about the same time. So it was that the day after John's party a surprisingly hang-over free band met at St Michael's to ring a fine quarter peal of Stedman Triples. Congratulations Hannah!

```
Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Teignmouth, Devon, S Michael
Saturday, 5 April 2014 in 45mins
1260 Stedman Triples
Composed by T Thurstans
1 Sophie J Hughes
2 Fiona L Rock-Evans
3 \text { Hannah R Martin}
4 ~ J o n a t h a n ~ D ~ C a l v e r t ~
5 Edward R Mack
6 \text { Martin G Mansley}
7 \text { John R Martin (C)}
8 \text { Martin Dodd}
Rung as an early 20th birthday compliment to Hannah (9th
April).
```


## Julia Rings her first Quarter peal

Many congratulations to Julia Brett who rang her first quarter peal at Dawlish - a real landmark!

```
Dawlish, Devon, St Gregory the Great
Sunday, 30 March 2014 in 43 mins (12)
1260 Plain Bob Doubles
1 Julia M A Brett
2 ~ F i o n a ~ L ~ R o c k - E v a n s
3 \text { Rodney L Horder}
4 ~ J o h n ~ R ~ M a r t i n ~ ( C )
5 \text { Martin Dodd}
6 ~ J a s o n ~ S ~ D o w l i n g ~
First quarter peal, rung at the first attempt - 1.
Rung for Evensong on Mothering Sunday.
```

Despite several ringers being otherwise engaged (the Martin family had a house full of visiting ringers but they decided to spend the evening enjoying a meal out to celebrate Hannah's 20th birthday!) there was a good turnout for the meeting at Teignmouth St James. We managed a wide variety of methods including DNCB Major again and, after persuading our chairman to have an intensive revision course, half a course of Cambridge Major. The most important event of the evening was the presentation to Julia Brett of her quarter peal certificate.


Julia Brett receiving her certificate from Rodney Horder

## Branch Committee Meeting

The main business of the recent branch committee meeting was the Striking workshop in June and the outing to the Roadshow in September. Robert Brown had offered to help organise the striking workshop at Lustleigh and Philip Stevens is the branch "Outing Guru"(!!) so both had been invited to the meeting. Robert offered to host it so that a pleasant half hour could be spent trying out his mini- ring known as "Wobbly Bob's Campanile", a ring of eight with a tenor weight of 10 lbs . The picture shows some of our efforts to get to grips with ringing such small bells. Eventually we mastered call changes on 8 and Stedman Doubles on the back six among other things.


The committee ringing at Wobbly Bob's

## North East Branch

## Branch Outing



Having recently retired I was able to join the branch mid-week outing for the first time. The sun shone all day on Wednesday 12th March, and 23 ringers were attracted from around the Branch. Ken Wannell had arranged ringing at three towers between Exeter and Dartmoor with a pub lunch at Bridford. Ringing at Holcombe Burnell and Dunsford in the morning, despite long drafts, we acquitted ourselves well. Many of the band were some of the Branch's less experienced members, but rounds, call changes and plain hunt were struck with reasonable accuracy. The Bridford Inn made us very welcome with excellent service and food and was all the more enjoyable by being able to eat outside in the spring sunshine. The final tower was Bridford where we struggled with more challenging bells (and full stomachs), but nevertheless it concluded an enjoyable day all round.

Sheila Scofield

## St Peter's Shield Competition



The St Peter's Shield being presented to the Cullompton team

The 19th St. Peter's Shield Competition was held at Kentisbeare on Saturday 10th May 2014. The judges were Mike Mears and David Hird. The results were as follows:

```
1st Cullompton (Call changes)
2nd Kentisbeare (Call changes)
3rd Troyte Ringing Centre (Method)
4th Tiverton St Peter (Call changes)
5th Culmstock (Call changes)
    Tiverton St Paul
```

54 Faults
89
90
117
153
Did not complete

NE Devon Branch Ringers' Tower tour in Somerset


NE Branch Members group picture outside Bleadon Church.
Brian Samuels, ably assisted by Sheila Scofield, arranged with military precision a one-day ringing tour for members of the North East Devon Branch. The tour totalled six towers within Somerset and naturally, each tower was unique in its own right. The programme incorporated one five, four six and one eight-bell ring and just for good measure, one of the six bell rings was a reverse. For the experienced amongst the group, a reverse ring did not pose any undue challenge, but for the less initiated, of which I class myself, it felt like a quantum leap! Interestingly, there are only a small number of reverse rings in the country and so the opportunities to become more proficient on these is somewhat remote.....l am sure there is someone out there who will be able to advise how many there are?

The towers visited were at Brent Knoll, East Brent, Bleadon, Brean, Berrow and Bridgwater. Of particular personal note were the rings at Brent Knoll, a heavy six having a wonderful tone and the eight-bell ring at Bridgwater that had the feel and tone of a city tower. We must be grateful for YouTube, affording us the foresight of what we should expect to encounter along the way, as I for one hate going into an unknown tower completely blind!
Fortunately, we were graced with fine weather, making the occasion even better, all taking a well-earned break at lunchtime sampling the hospitality at various local hostelries, with the day culminating in an evening meal and merrymaking at the Waterloo Cross Inn whilst reflecting on the fantastic day we had all experienced.

## Combe Raleigh Plant Sale result

Our plant sale turned out to be a wonderful fund-raising event. The sun shone for us and the visitors came to buy almost all the plants we had to offer (as well as all the cakes!). We made a staggering profit of $£ 848$ for the bell fund!!!
THANK YOU to everyone who helped make it such a successful event and, of course, to those who came along to support us.

The bell fund has now reached £20,715 purely from fund-raising events and donations.

Lisa Clarke
That strikes me as a staggering amount from a plant sale. And the total in the bell fund looks remarkably healthy. Congratulations to you all.

Lester Yeo

## South West Branch

## Wedding Peal



L-R Pauline Champion, Jill Hansford, Mike Mears, Geoff Hill, Robert Brown, Ian Smith
A wedding peal with a difference took place at St Mary the Virgin, Ideford recently. On $30^{\text {th }}$ April 1914 my grandparents, James and Florence Hill, were married at Ideford and I wanted to celebrate the centenary of this wonderful occasion with something special. Foundations were laid last December with Mike Mears and I was told to book the bells and leave the rest to him. So it was that on $30^{\text {th }}$ April 2014, one hundred years to the day, an anniversary peal to mark the event was rung on this delightful ring of six, with a photograph of my grandparents proudly displayed on the altar. Both my grandparents loved the sound of church bells and would certainly have approved of the performance. My very grateful thanks go to Ann Rigby-Jones, churchwarden and tower captain for the use of the bells and her kind hospitality. Thanks also go to Pauline, Jill, lan, Robert, and the genius of it all, Mike, for putting it all together. It was an event that I shall treasure forever.

```
Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Ideford, Devon, St Mary the Virgin
Wednesday, 30 April 2014 in 2hrs 37m (7-3-9)
5040 Spliced S Minor (41m)
Composed by J S Warboys (SUO309;SUO403)
1 Geoffrey C Hill
2 Pauline Champion
3 Jill M Hansford
4 ~ I a n ~ V ~ J ~ S m i t h ~
5 \text { Robert D S Brown}
6 ~ M i c h a e l ~ E ~ C ~ M e a r s ~ ( C ) ~
Rung to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the marriage
of James and Florrie Hill at St Mary's Ideford on 30th
April 1914; grandparents of the treble ringer.
```

Geoff Hill

## SW Branch Outing



Back row: Billy, James, Chris, Roger, Harry, David, Kate. Front row: Josephine, Glen, Bob, Alena
On Saturday $17^{\text {th }}$ May the South West Branch enjoyed their spring outing. The day started at Torquay Upton where we had a good turnout of ringers from across the branch, the weather was great and the ringing sounded good. The next tower was Torquay Babbacombe where we unfortunately had a lock out; however it was a lovely day for a lock out or two and we were happy to make an early start in the beer garden at Teignmouth. We made our way to The King's Arm, where we enjoyed a good slap up meal and an ice cream on the sea front. Looking around, the beach was filled with holiday makers so we were careful not to make a racket and aimed for good striking; the tower is positioned close to the promenade and anyone enjoying a quiet sun bathing moment on the beach was going to have it interrupted! We hope they enjoyed our ringing.
The tenor there did prove rather difficult to raise and it took the team effort of both Glen and Harry providing a great bonding/comedy moment as they both held the sally and were lifted off the floor together.

The next tower was a short walk away at Teignmouth St James It is a ground floor ring and we were able to enjoy the sunshine with the doors wide open. While we were there, several passers-by stopped, listened and said how great it sounded.
The next tower was Dawlish where we weren't able to get in. We took the opportunity for a group photograph and to enjoy some more sunbathing. Our thanks go to Chris Wardle who took time out to arrange the outing; we had a great time.

Josephine Maddick
New towers affiliated to the Guild
At the South West Branch AGM it was a great pleasure to have two new towers requesting affiliation to the Guild. The correspondents for Bridestowe and Brentor are, respectively, Bill Thirtle and Ian Hardy.

Louise James

## Bell Maintenance Workshop in Plymouth



On Saturday $8^{\text {th }}$ March there was a bell maintenance workshop at St Andrew's church in Plymouth. This was a great opportunity for ringers in the area to learn steeple keeping techniques and best practice with keeping a belfry maintained. The students were able to get hands on with the bells, looking at all the different components and learning which tasks periodically required attention. We were very grateful for the expert tuition and advice from lan Smith and Fergus Stracey.

## Devonport Police Cadets learn to ring



On Wednesday 30th April John Steere, Harry Andrews and Jo Maddick ran a bell ringing workshop for the Devonport Police cadets. The cadets are normally involved in all sorts of useful activities such as test purchasing of alcohol, promoting crime prevention to residents and being a visual presence in community. They were aged 13-18 and have volunteered with Stoke Damerel church before, so the workshop was a great opportunity for them to find out what happened in the tower and what bell ringing was all about.
We began the workshop with introductions, safety, the back stroke, the hand stroke and so on. We had a useful model on hand to demonstrate how the rope worked with the wheel and gave the ringer control. Then splitting the cadets into groups of two and three John took them up to the bells and talked about the different components. Putting the model in action we rang one of the bells and they were able to see the whole process. They finished up enthusiastic and covered in dust!

We explained how we rang 'patterns' without trying to baffle them and their leader Tracie Robinson asked us 'which one was the wedding one!?' They all had a go at ringing the back stroke on the tenor and enjoyed the challenge. As the training session came to an end it was conveniently held before the regular Wednesday practice and the Stoke ringers arrived and were able to give a rendition of bob minor.

We got great feedback and thanks following the workshop. It was a great way to promote bell ringing and give young people a snap shot of what it's about.

Josephine Maddick

## St Andrew's Tower Open Day



Fergus Stracey entertaining the visitors
On Saturday 10th May there was another highly successful tower open day held at St Andrew's church. The first one was held back in November when the doors opened to the public to raise money for the St Budeaux bell restoration fund; it was very popular and raised $£ 120$ for the fund. The recent tower open day was held as part of Plymouth History Festival; it was well attended with dozens of people arriving hoping to get a tour of the tower. The format ran smoothly with groups of six to eight people moving up into the ringing room where Chris Wardle delivered a talk about the bells, we then rang some rounds for them and sent them up to Trevor Vercoe who explained the carillon in the clock room and the working of the four faced clock mechanism. They then climbed further again to the bell chamber to see the bells in action. It allowed another group to move up into the ringing room and so the groups were rotated between the different presentations. This system worked well and pretty much non-stop from 10am-4pm. Our hero was Roger Compton who had arranged for delicious pasties and cakes to be delivered to us from his pals at Friary Mill bakery. It was a much needed lunch break for which we were very thankful.

The event had been organised and publicised by Roger and Clare; there was plenty of preparation to be done with information material on the ground floor, a bell ringing DVD running on a television screen and a good spring clean beforehand. There was good support from Plymouth bell ringers who had name badges and were on hand ready to give direction and answer questions.
There was such a variety of visitors who came with genuine intrigue and enthusiasm. There was one remarkable 90 year old lady called Olive who was fairly determined to get up into the ringing room! She was there with her daughter, granddaughter and great grand-daughter; four generations! The steps at St Andrew's are steep and uneven like wedges of Emmental cheese stacked on top of each other, so it's a full work out each time you climb the tower, even for the fit and able. I knew straight away this wouldn't be easy and suggested she could jump on my shoulders; she declined so we took it slowly a step at a time. I helped by guiding her foot onto each

step and then a gentle 'push' upwards; it was funny and her family were amused by the assisted climb. Unfortunately, she ran out of steam about halfway up and needed to come down. She had done really well but realised maybe it was a bit too much. The climb down was tricky; coming down backwards was the best way and we were there to catch her! When she reached the bottom she was disappointed she hadn't made it to the top, but we so proud of what she had done.

The day was a great success. The following day there were tours held for the congregation after the Sunday morning service. This attracted fifty plus people! It was so busy Clare Stagg had to implement a one-in-one-out door policy! There was so much excitement you couldn't hear the bells strike and people had to be strictly directed to seats and safe corners of the ringing room. There were three teachers on hand to show the hopeful new recruits the back stroke. Altogether it was a brilliant, busy weekend for the Minster and it was followed up by some great coverage in the Plymouth Herald.

A young ringer having a go
Josephine Maddick

## Plymouth Youths' Four Bell Outing



It was first mooted so long ago that I can't remember what actually started the idea but finally after much procrastination and discussion, plans were finally formalised and a date agreed for an outing of a more esoteric nature! And so it was on Sunday 2 March, following morning service ringing at Emmanuel Church, Plymouth, four intrepid Plymouth Youths set off in the direction of the first tower, a rarely rung ring of four at Torbryan ( 14 cwt ). The state of the tower and bells sadly reflected how little they are rung. After goes at ringing Stedman and the Plain Bob based Minimus
methods plans for the quarter were scaled back from 14 methods to seven after it became apparent that not all of the ringers had taken the time to learn the methods!

With ringing at Torbryan concluded it was time to move on to Southleigh for a spot of lunch before ringing at the four bell tower there (7cwt). However, once again plans had to be redrawn after discovering the main road was closed owing to damage caused during the recent bad weather! So after a lengthy detour, during which those not driving had to eat on the move we arrived in Southleigh with only minutes to spare before we were due to start ringing there. Three contented passengers and one hungry driver got some more practice of Stedman along with the Single Court based methods before moving on a few miles down the road for the final tower of the day at Northleigh (9cwt).

With the practices now over it was time to get down to the business of the quarter peal. With some of the methods lost on the way there was some quick mathematics done by the conductor to figure out how many extents of each method were needed whilst the driver finally found the time to eat some lunch. With no bobs or singles in Minimus the usual shouts from the conductor were replaced with the number of extents rung at the end of each course: 1.., 2.., 3.., last course! being shouted out across the tower. With the tricky Stedman out the way first the ringing sailed smoothly through the Plain Bob methods and into the Court methods. With the finish line in sight and everything going well it proved to be the last method in the set that caused the problems with a few mistakes in the Double Court causing the worst ringing. With no problems in the practices it might have been a case of switching the brain off too early with the finish line coming up!


With the quarter a success there was time for one last bit of excitement on the way home, as getting back onto the main road involved crossing a ford. Not normally a problem but following the recent bad weather it was deeper than normal. With the driver being overly-cautious having borrowed the car in place of his normal two seater one of the passengers was swiftly dispatched onto the pedestrian footbridge to watch the water level as the driver slowly drove across (see picture)! With the last obstacle of the day dispatched it was plain sailing back to Plymouth where we met up with the rest of the Plymouth Youths for a more conventional six bell practice at Tamerton Foliot.

```
Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Northleigh (St Giles), Devon
Sunday 2 March 2014 in 38 minutes (9cwt)
1260 of Mixed Minimus (7 Methods)
252 Stedman, }168\mathrm{ each Plain Bob, Reverse Bob, Double Bob,
Single Court, Reverse Court and Double Court
1. Matthew M J Smith
2. Josephine Maddick
3. Benjamin T G Smith
4. Harry J Andrews (C)
First of Minimus for the entire band
```

Harry Andrews

## Training

Devon Handbell Day, Okehampton 2014


Mischa Thompson has hosted a very popular handbell day in Devon for several years now. Following on from a Plain Hunt day earlier in the year, the focus on 1st June in Okehampton was Plain Bob Minor. Seven students signed up, a number of volunteers and conductors filled in, and a comprehensive programme was put together by Tim Bayton to keep everyone busy. It was really encouraging to see people make progress over a few hours.
Another popular aspect of visits to Mischa's is the Denmisch simulated campanile. This was probably one of the last times that it will be rung in its present location, so it was put to good use during breaks. A band of ten rang together at the start, and a number of individuals challenged their listening skills during the afternoon.
Thank you to Mischa for her legendary hospitality of pasties and other goodies.


The handbell course attendees
Lynne Hughes

## Young Ringers visit Plymouth



The ringers at Stoke Damerel
On Saturday 7th June, the Devon Young ringers set off down to Plymouth for the day. With seven young ringers and five helpers attending we had a fun day of ringing and socialising. The first tower was at Stoke Damerel. Ringing ranged from rounds and call changes to Grandsire Triples and Cambridge Minor. After lunch we headed to Emmanuel where we were joined by Alena Wardle. Finally we all went to the newly refurbished St Budeaux where we had some lovely ringing and enjoyed the amazing views. Thanks to everyone who came to the day, those who supported it and to those who let us in at the towers! I hope that the next outing will be even more successful.

At eight years old, Dulcie, was the youngest ringer on the young ringers outing. She enjoyed the event so much that she wrote this report:


Church No. 1 - Stoke Damerel: It was a church with eight bells but the tenor was lighter than the treble at our church. The tenor was my favourite because it wasn't too light.
Lunch: For lunch I had sausages, mash and beans (but Grandpa gave me four of his chips!). For pudding I had ice cream with chocolate sauce. My meal (because it was a kid's meal ) came with a fruit shoot and a packet of apples and grapes.

Church No. 2 - Emmanuel: After lunch we went to Emmanuel Church to ring and the treble felt really heavy because we'd just rung really light bells. For the first time I did call changes and I felt really proud of myself but I was really worn out!
Church No. 3 - St. Budeaux: For the last church we couldn't stay long because we had to go home, but I got to have a go on the treble (doing rounds) and on the 2 (doing call changes). Then we left earlier because I needed to get home.

My favourite tower: My favourite tower was Stoke Damerel because I was proud of myself for ringing the tenor.

Dulcie

## Reprint of Popular Ringing Book



Many of you will be familiar with a series of ringing booklets published by the late John Longridge some thirty or so years ago; titles include Method 300, Quarter 500, Composition 500/501/502, Conducting and Coursing Order, and several others. Hopefully you may even find copies on the bookshelf in your own tower!
One of the best loved, Standard 70, is an all-in-one booklet, compact enough to be carried to practices, quarter peal days, peal weeks and the like, yet broad enough in its scope to be of real use as an instant reference to the standard methods and their compositions, from Doubles to Maximus, touches to peals.
Unfortunately the book has been out of print for several years . . . until now. Tom Longridge, John's son, has just launched a revised and beautifully modernised version under its new title of Standard 90: all compositions have been computerproved and some of them removed to make space for an extra 20 methods - mainly Surprise Minor, Surprise Major (to include the Nottingham 8) and Surprise Royal (to include the Standard 8) methods.

John Longridge did so much for the advancement of method ringing in Devon, and was one of the most talented people l've ever known, not only for his considerable ability as a ringer but also for his versatility in many other spheres outside the belfry. I am therefore delighted to see his 'must have' Standard 70 hit the market again in its new format and warmly commend it to you all. I do have a supply of copies available for sale, so please let me know if you are interested in this and likely to see me, since it will save you P\&P.

Alternatively, you can go online and place your order: http://jnlrb.wordpress.com
Wendy Campbell

## Other News

## 6000 Peals for the Guild

The 6000th peal for the Guild was rung at Thorverton on Saturday 28th December 2013, less than five years after the 5000th was rung. You can see from the table below how peal ringing for the Guild has increased over the last 30 years. It took us 127 years to ring the first 2000 peals, but only 31 years to ring the next 4000.

| First peal | Huntsham | Grandsire Triples | $2^{\text {nd }}$ February 1875 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1000th | Heavitree | Grandsire Triples | $19^{\text {th }}$ November 1955 |
| 2000th | Newton St Cyres | Yorkshire S Major | $10^{\text {th }}$ May 1982 |
| 3000th | Exeter St Mark | Yorkshire S Major | $16^{\text {th }}$ September 1993 |
| 4000th | Thorverton | Verulam S Royal | $2^{\text {nd }}$ October 2003 |
| 5000th | Yeovil | Yorkshire S Royal | $21^{\text {st }}$ March 2009 |
| 6000th | Thorverton | Lincolnshire S Royal | $28^{\text {th }}$ December 2013 |

If you look at the number of peals rung per year, you can see that before 1980, there had been fifty peals in a year on only three occasions - 1962, 1969 and 1977. The first two of those years had visiting bands on peal tours and the other was the Silver Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II. It is also quite interesting to note that in the years leading up to the First World War, the Guild was ringing as many peals in a year as it did in the early 1970s. In 1980 we rang 67 peals and there has been a steady increase, with a few minor ups and downs, since then. 1988 was the first time that we rang over 100 in a year, and since 2001 we have rung over 100 every year, including from 2007 at least 200 every year.
The first year that we started including tables in the annual report showing leading towers, conductors etc. was 1985 and it is quite interesting to compare the tables for that year with those for 2013.
If we look at towers first, in 1985 the leading tower was Heavitree with 73 and Thorverton tenth with 37, and there were still towers in the list which had been lost during the Second World War (Exeter St Sidwell and Plymouth, Charles Church). Also in the top ten of that year, unlike today, were Clyst Honiton, Exeter St Thomas and Tiverton St Peter. Withycombe Raleigh was the first Devon tower to have 100 peals (1991) - there are now 13 - and was also the first tower to have 100 Guild peals (1992) - there are now eight. At the end of 2013, Thorverton was at the top of the list with 773 (over 500 ahead of the next tower); Exeter St Mark (3rd), Pinhoe (5th), Buckfastleigh (6th) and Newton St Cyres (7th) did not appear in the 1985 list while Bishops-Ting-Tong (4th) did not exist until 2002.

In the conducting list for 1985, there were only two people who had called 100 peals for the Guild: John Longridge (143) and Charles Lilley(110). In the 2013 list there are now eight ringers who have called over 100 peals for the Guild and two have gone on to call over 300 (Michael Mears and Matthew Hilling). Michael Mears was at the top of the list at the end of 2013 with John Longridge still as high as 4th; of the top ten in the current list, seven are still active.

Next we will look at the stages, i.e. Maximus, Cinques, Royal, etc., where there has been a big increase in the number of peals on the higher numbers. In the case of Royal, particularly, this has happened since the early 1990s with the augmentations at Withycombe and Thorverton. In 1985 there had been 47 peals of Royal and 85 of Caters; by 1991 this had risen to 74 and 94 respectively. By the end of 2013 there had been 576 peals of Royal and 240 peals of Caters. The rise in the number of peals of Maximus started a bit later with numbers not really starting to increase until 2002. In 1985 there had been 17 peals of Maximus and 23 peals of Cinques, most of these by visiting peal bands: all we could manage in those days was Grandsire Cinques and Plain Bob Maximus. At the end of 1991 the totals stood at 19 Maximus and 29 Cinques and by the end of 2001 there had been 22 peals of Maximus and 37 of Cinques. By the end of 2013 the peals of Maximus had increased to 169, including 20 in 2006, and Cinques to 56. Again augmentations have assisted greatly, with Withycombe Raleigh and the Somerset towers of Shepton Beauchamp and South Petherton being less that an hour from Exeter. (To be continued in RRD95)

Mike Mears

## Photos required for Guild website

It is hoped the new Guild website (http://devonringers.org.uk/) will feature a seasonal and regularly updated photograph of a Guild tower. So, if you take a good shot of your local church during the coming months, please send it on to me (secretary@devonringers.org.uk; photo in jpeg format please!) - and then you may get to see your photograph featured on the Guild website home page!

Clare Griffiths

## Reunion Peal

For various reasons the usual international ringing tour arranged by Peter Bill could not take part this year. Instead some of us rang a peal on the mini-ring at Little Orchard in Somerset and dedicated it to the memory of Frank Mack - the father of the mini-ring.


From left to right: Ian Campbell, Wendy Campbell, David Hird, Brian Mountjoy, Marion Newman, Richard Newman, Lester Yeo, Margaret Chapman

```
Guild of Devonshire Ringers
East Huntspill, Somerset
Little Orchard Tower
Saturday, 31 May 2014 in 2hr7 (21lbs)
5 1 8 4 \text { Quedgeley Surprise Major}
Composed by D W Beard
1 Margaret E L Chapman
2 Lester J Yeo
3 Richard A M Newman
4 \text { Marion Newman}
5 Ian L C Campbell
6 ~ P ~ W e n d y ~ C a m p . b e l l ~
David Hird
8 Brian V Mountjoy (C)
Rung in fond memory of Frank Mack by members of the Peter
Bill Touring Club
```


## A Peal on the Army Firing Range

The church at Imber, on Salisbury Plain, is about the only part of the original village that still exists since the whole area was taken over by the army during the war for
 training purposes - and was never given back. The church belongs to the Churches' Conservation Trust and has recently had a small ring of six bells installed. The church (and access to it) is opened up a few times a year (mainly on bank holidays) so the opportunity was taken on $21^{\text {st }}$ April of ringing a peal at this unique location, while a large number of visitors wandered around the building, watching the ringers on the ground floor ring.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

```
Imber, Wiltshire
St Giles
Monday, 21 April 2014 in 2hr 17m (2-2-15)
5040 Surprise Minor
methods. 1 extent each London, Norwich, York, Durham,
Beverley, Surfleet, Cambridge.
1 Lester J Yeo
2 Ian L C Campbell
3 Brian V Mountjoy
4 ~ P ~ W e n d y ~ C a m p b e l l
5 \text { Thomas J Waterson}
6 ~ D a v i d ~ H i r d ~ ( C )
```



The Peal Band

## Calendar for 2014

| July |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Wed 2 | 19:30 | 10 Bell Advanced Practice | Exeter St Mark | Exeter |
| Sat 5 |  | Branch Outing | To be confirmed | North/North West |
| Sat 5 |  | National Youth Contest |  | Young Ringers |
| Sat 5 | 14:00 | Mini-Outing | Exe Valley | Mid Devon |
| Sat 5 | eve | Quarterly Meeting | tbc | North East |
| Mon 7 | 19:30 | Triples Practice* | Ottery St. Mary | East |
| Thu 10 | 19:30 | Plain Hunt Practice | Sidbury | East |
| Thu 10 | 19:30 | Branch Practice | Topsham | Aylesbeare |
| Fri 11 | 19:30 | Surprise Minor Practice* | Buckerell | East |
| Sat 12 | 14:30 | Branch Striking Competition | Talaton | East |
| Sat 12 | TBC | 6 Bell Practice, Surprise Minor | TBC | South West |
| Thu 17 | 19:30 | 8-bell practice | Dawlish | Mid Devon |
| Sat 19 | 10:00 | CCCBR "Have Your Say" Seminar | Cardinal Newman House, Exeter | Guild |
| Mon 21 | 19:30 | Stedman and Doubles Methods | Offwell | East |
| Wed 23 | 19:30 | Branch Practice (Method) | Huntsham | North East |
| Tue 29 | 19:30 | General Practice | Sidmouth | East |
| August |  |  |  |  |
| Sat 2 | 19:00 | Branch Practice | Bridgerule | North/North West |
| Mon 4 | 19:30 | Triples Practice* | Ottery St. Mary | East |
| Wed 6 | 19:30 | 10 Bell Advanced Practice | Exeter St Mark | Exeter |
| Fri 8 | 19:30 | Surprise Minor Practice* | Buckerell | East |
| Sat 9 | 19:00 | Practice meeting | Brixham | Mid Devon |
| Sun 10 | TBC | Joint Practice with Mid Devon Branch | Brixham | South West |
| Wed 13 | 19:30 | Branch Practice | Clyst Honiton | Aylesbeare |
| Thu 14 | 19:30 | Plain Hunt Practice | Sidbury | East |
| Sat 16 |  | Ringing Skills: Kaleidoscope |  | Guild |
| Sat 16 | eve | Joint meeting with |  | North East |


|  |  | Dunster Branch |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mon 18 | 19:30 | 8-bell practice | Wolborough | Mid Devon |
| Mon 18 | 19:30 | Stedman and Doubles Methods | Offwell | East |
| Sun 24 | 17:00 | 10 Bell Practice | TBC | South West |
| Tue 26 | 19:30 | General Practice | Sidmouth | East |
| Wed 27 | 19:30 | Branch Practice (Method) | Huntsham | North East |
| September |  |  |  |  |
| Mon 1 | 19:30 | Triples Practice* | Ottery St. Mary | East |
| Wed 3 | 19:30 | 10 Bell Advanced Practice | Exeter St Mark | Exeter |
| Sat 6 |  | Ringing Roadshow | Newbury | Guild |
| Sat 6 |  | Branch Outing | Ringing Roadshow Newbury | Mid Devon |
| Sat 6 | 19:00 | Branch Practice | Shirwell | North/North West |
| Tue 9 | 19:30 | Branch Practice | Clyst St George | Aylesbeare |
| Thu 11 | 19:30 | Plain Hunt Practice | Sidbury | East |
| Fri 12 | 19:30 | Surprise Minor Practice* | Buckerell | East |
| Mon 15 | 19:30 | Stedman and Doubles Methods | Offwell | East |
| Wed 17 | 11:00 | Branch Mid-week Outing | tbc | North East |
| Thu 18 | 19:30 | 8-bell practice | Teignmouth, St Michael | Mid Devon |
| Thu 18 | 19:30 | 8 Bell Branch Practice | Exeter St Thomas | Exeter |
| Fri 19 | 19:00 | Branch Practice | Uplyme | East |
| Wed 24 | 19:30 | Branch Practice (Method) | Huntsham | North East |
| Sat 27 |  | Young Ringers' Autumn Event |  | Young Ringers |
| Tue 30 | 19:30 | General Practice | Sidmouth | East |

* You are advised to contact the branch secretary to confirm these events


## Editorial

This "June" edition has been delayed in order to include items about the recent Guild Annual General Meeting. Unfortunately this means that the "Have Your Say" seminar in Exeter will be over before most of you get to read about it. I hope that it will still be well attended and will be a useful event.
Congratulations are certainly due to the team at St Budeaux in Plymouth. The last issue showed the very poor state of the frame as it was being removed, and now they are ringing again but from the ground floor. I understand from the Young

Ringers' outing attendees that they are really easy to ring and sound good as well. I am looking forward to an opportunity to ring there.

The Ringing Roadshow at Newbury in September is a wonderful opportunity for an enjoyable and informative day out for anyone interested in bells and ringing probably everyone reading this newsletter. I do hope that you will support it.

Ian Campbell

## Musical Handbell Restoration



Specialist repairs and restoration by Geoffrey C. Hill

New Court Farm, Lamerton, Tavistock, Devon PL19 8RR Telephone (01822) 614319 or newcourtfarm1@btinternet.com

Some more Photos from the Guild AGM


Ringing at St Peter's, Tiverton


Handbells during the service


Members made extraordinary efforts to get to the Guild AGM


The Frank Mack Mini-Ring at the Rugby Club


RINGING ROUND DEVON is the newsletter of The Guild of Devonshire Ringers and is circulated free to all affiliated towers. Any individual members who wish to subscribe should
contact lan Campbell (01392 469695). The cost is $£ 6.00$ for four issues (cheques made payable to Guild of Devonshire Ringers). RRD is also available on line on the Guild's website, which holds back-issues.
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. All photos and text © Guild of Devonshire Ringers or author. No reproduction without permission of the editor.
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

