



RINGING ROUND DEVON

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

Newsletter 95 September 2014

Ringing Roadshow

Guild mini-rings very popular!

The national Ringing Roadshow was held at Newbury Racecourse on Saturday 6th September. The Frank Mack Garage mini-ring was set up outside the main grandstand, along with a number of other mini-rings. It was very popular, with a queue of ringers wishing to ring from soon after the start at 10am right up to half an hour after the advertised finish at 5.30. A total of 263 ringers signed the visitors' book on the day – and I am sure that a lot of people rang but did not sign the book!



The Garage Ring outside the main grandstand

On the Devon Ringers' Council stand upstairs in the main building copies of "Bells of Devon" were for sale, and a number of Devon Association artefacts were on display, but the highlight was the George Tribe micro-ring which normally resides in St Petrock's church in Exeter. This set of six bells in an eight bell frame was built as a

working model by George (who still lives in Bratton Fleming) but we spent some time adjusting the ropes so that the bells could just about be rung (on hands and knees) from within the base of the display case. A large number of ringers tried their hand on these very tricky bells with some success – I certainly rang a short touch of Doubles with some competent mini-bell ringers. Apparently the bells were widely discussed on Facebook the following day!



The George Tribe ring on display

The following is a personal view of the Roadshow from Lynne Hughes:

THE RINGING ROADSHOW: A PERSONAL LOG

When Ian asked me to write about the Roadshow, I realised that everyone's day would be different. So without any attempt at the usual objective report, here's my personal log...

The drive over to Newbury on Friday 5th September took me past Stonehenge, as I found later, a few hours before US President Barack Obama dropped in, though I thought at first this was a wind-up as it seemed so unlikely! Having put my one-man tent up at a little campsite just off the A34, I carried on to Newbury Racecourse. Preparations were well under way for the Roadshow the following day, and I joined some other members of the Public Relations Committee in setting up the stand. Ran out of sticky Velcro. Back to the tent for some food, and, having forgotten the lamp, a very early night indeed! Woke once or twice to the sound of owls, and the rumble of the A34.

Saturday, and back to the racecourse for final touches to the stand, and a cheeky early go on Whitechapel's 'Adelaide Dumbell', the rope going over a pulley and down again to the bell wheel right in front of you, so the learner can see it turn (or watch themselves break a stay, it was pointed out.) Had a go at Alva Ainsworth's 'Who's that Ringer' quiz on the Ringing Trends stand: part of a serious survey of what motivates ringers.

10am, the show opened and visitors thronged in. When I could get away from the PR stand I dashed round for a ring on all eight mini-rings before they got too busy, getting at least one new 'grab' and re-acquainting myself with the others. Included the Frank Mack Garage Ring, which felt reassuringly familiar. Another break saw me

homing in on the method handbell groups, where they could accommodate my every whim: “you want to ring Bristol – no problem”, and I made up the numbers for others to ring too. Lots of people having their first go at handbells.

Manning the stand again, and encouraging people to use Twitter to promote ringing. One man thought we were the Ringing World stand. It had been an odd conversation.

Lunchtime – glad I’d brought food as the queue for it looked horrendous, but I stood a while to talk to friends. Caught most of the very impressive handbell orchestra. Loved their version of Coldplay’s *Viva la Vida*. How many hundred bells did they have, I wonder? Had a go at tune ringing myself later, which was great fun.

Sat with Wendy and Amy Gill for the Young Ringers’ seminar, where we’d been warned that no-one over 25 (and I’m twice that) could speak. Mind you, I was too young to speak in the “Over 60 but so what” seminar, if I had gone to it! One of the main concerns of young ringers was transport to other towers, as they were keen to ring at more than one practice a week.

Final hour on the stand, everyone flagging, then 5pm came, the show closed, and everything had to be dismantled. A pleasant sit out in the sunshine with the Devon contingent helped me wind down for the drive home.

Only one question remains: does ringing rounds on the George Tribe miniature bells count as a grab?

Lynne Hughes

Guild Events

Central Council “Have Your Say” Seminar



Lester Yeo in full swing

On Saturday 19th July, ringers from across Devon and its neighbouring counties gathered in Exeter for the Central Council regional seminar – 'Have Your Say'. These meetings have been touring the country, with Exeter providing the focal point for westcountry views, so we were delighted that sixty delegates chose to attend and helped to make the day such a success.

Cardinal Newman House was selected by the Guild as a suitable venue, and indeed with a packed lecture room plus comprehensive catering to organise, it proved an ideal base.

The day was divided between guest speakers, alongside smaller group sessions and opportunities for discussion together. This formula provoked engagement from everyone, and the perfect chance for people to share their views and concerns, as well as question the visiting speakers.

First to inform us was Elva Ainsworth, who presented an efficient and clear picture of ringing by comparing fascinating and thought provoking statistics, focussing on the age of our ringing population whilst also addressing the decline in church attendance. We were all left in no doubt that ringers need to seriously consider their ageing demographics.

Guild President, Lester Yeo, combined humour and knowledge as he then broadly outlined the state of ringing in Devon, tackling the relevant problems of geography and history, as well as positive steps for the future such as the potential within the DenMisch ring to be housed in Exeter Cathedral School. Following some stimulating small group sessions, where we discussed how we could improve things locally before giving our feedback to the group, Mark Regan then spoke about the truly inspirational Worcester Cathedral Teaching Centre. Everyone enjoyed his engaging and positive presentation, a real highlight of the day.



Chatting over lunch



Some of the ladies enjoying their lunch outdoors

As the morning drew to a close, Leslie Boyce gave us all an informative and comprehensive talk on the benefits of ART and ITTS, explaining how these two new, ground breaking schemes will help us to teach the much needed new ringers of the future.

Lunch followed – a superb spread laid on by the now famously impressive team of ladies and helpers from the Exeter Branch. Elva Ainsworth was heard to remark that the puddings were the best of any seminar yet!

Refreshed, we returned for the afternoon sessions, ably hosted by Central Council President,

Chris Mew. Following on the theme of new teaching approaches, he gave a presentation on the relatively new Birmingham School of Bell Ringing, where pupils from around the city are taught on a Saturday morning at four different towers depending on their stage of ringing, whilst also being introduced to Sunday service ringing at a local tower.

Interspersed with more group discussions, Chris Mew then detailed the work of the Ringing Foundation, and highlighted the invaluable comprehensive range of services offered by the Central Council. These services are key in facilitating local help from a national source of information and funding.



The magnificent catering team

At the day's close, all those attending were left energised and enthused by new possibilities, and the potential to change the future of ringing for the better.

Fundamental points were to make our local towers open and welcoming; only by making ringing attractive can we attract ringers. We need to be positive, to recognise our value as stewards and practitioners, and to work with our church and community.

More teachers are needed

and more people need to be taught, but with a fresh look at our ringing institutions we can all still ensure that we ring in our churches on a Sunday, and this most English of traditions flourishes for years to come.

Clare Griffiths, Guild Secretary

Guild Striking Competitions

SATURDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2014

INTER-TOWER 6-BELL COMPETITION at MARLDON

10.00am–1.00pm

Judge: Nigel Birt

240 Changes of method ringing from Plain Bob Doubles to Spliced Surprise Minor

Team must include four of your regular Sunday Service ringers

Please contact the Guild Secretary to book a time slot

6-BELL NOVICE COMPETITION at STOKEINTEIGNHEAD

10.00am–1.00pm

Judges: Alison, Tom & Nick Waterson

120 Changes of Plain Hunt, either Doubles or Minor

Encouraging bands to include less experienced ringers

Your novice must ring a working bell

Please contact the Guild Secretary to book a time slot

INTER-BRANCH 8-BELL COMPETITION at BERRY POMEROY

DRAW AT 2.00pm

Judge: Robert C Kippin

Touch of Plain Bob Major or plain course of Oxford Treble Bob Major

Set composition available on the Guild website: www.devonringers.org.uk

Branch Ringing Masters please contact the Guild Secretary if you are planning to enter

Refreshments available all afternoon at Berry Pomeroy

GUILD SECRETARY–CLARE GRIFFITHS

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Aylesbeare Branch

Peal for the Birth of a Grandson

A great 'Thank You' must be said to the kind ringers who rang a peal of Exeter Delight Major on July 19th 2014 at Broadclyst Church. Special thanks go to James Kirkcaldy for being thoughtful enough to think that a new grandchild warranted such effort and for organising the band.

Alexander Douglas Petrilli was born on June 19th 2014 to proud parents, Thomas and Claire, a first Grandchild for Dick and Glenis Petrilli of Broadclyst. Tom, Claire and Alex made the trip from Southampton to Broadclyst, so were able to hear this special peal.

The peal was recorded and Dick made a CD with covering information and photographs of the ringers to be given to Alex at a later date.



The ringers following the peal

In addition to the peal, Broadclyst ringers also presented Grandma with a small bell for Alex, cast by Whitechapel of London and engraved with his name. Many thanks to all involved.

He is indeed a special child and has begun life with many friends. Hopefully he will become a ringer in later life!

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Broadclyst, Devon, St John the Baptist

Saturday, 19th July 2014 in 3:03

5152 Exeter Delight Major

Composed by Robert D S Brown (No. 1)

1 Alison C Waterson

2 Susan D Sparling

3 Pauline Champion

4 Peter G Brown

5 Thomas J Waterson

6 James Kirkcaldy (C)

7 Reginald T McKenzie

8 Michael E C Mears

Rung to welcome Alexander Douglas Petrilli, born 19th June, a first child for Thomas & Claire and a first Grandchild for Glenis (Tower Secretary) and Dick.

Glenis Petrilli

East Devon Branch

Branch Striking Competition

The East Devon branch striking competition was held on 12th July at the church of St James the Apostle and Martyr, Talaton. Teams from Talaton, Ottery St Mary, Combe Raleigh, Farway and Honiton took part.

The event coincided with a First World War exhibition in the church, and an evening barbecue in the car park. Many of the ringers were fascinated by the stories of Talaton men and their service in that conflict. Unfortunately, worsening weather deterred some of the ringers from staying on into the evening.

The judge, Charlotte Boyce, Chairman of the North-East Branch of the Guild, congratulated the East Devon Branch on the organisation of the event and the support from the towers taking part. In her summing up, she gave useful comments to enable teams to improve on what had been some very enjoyable ringing.

The final result saw Honiton declared the winners of the Edward Summers Memorial Trophy for the second year in succession, with their ringing described as 'a joy to listen to'. Farway were the runners-up with their best ever result in this competition and Combe Raleigh was in third place.

We would all like to express our thanks to everyone associated with the event, ensuring a very enjoyable afternoon's ringing, especially to Charlotte Boyce for judging the competition and to all the teams who took part. Special thanks also go to the Talaton team and their supporters for making us so very welcome and not forgetting the stewards of the exhibition who managed our various comings and goings so amiably.



Photograph by Alison Phelps-Loman

The photograph shows the judge, Charlotte Boyce, presenting the trophy to Derek Ballard, tower captain of Honiton St Paul's.

Trevor Hitchcock, (East Devon Branch Publicity Officer)

Ladies' Days

For the last few years the East Devon Ladies have enjoyed a very convivial morning out every six to eight weeks or so. The programme follows a similar format each time. They ring for an hour at a selected tower and then go on to have coffee and a cake, or a sticky bun (sometimes both) at some convenient watering hole. Then after a chat about this and that they are ready to move on to the second tower of the morning to ring for another hour. This is a brilliantly supportive group, helping each other to improve their ringing and often introducing to the less experienced new methods to widen their repertoire.

On a recent visit to Whimble tower, just as they were about to pull off, the lone male (on rare occasions the odd man is included) called 'Stop! You are all improperly dressed'. As you can imagine, this caused no little consternation. The explanation was that on the wall of the ringing chamber hangs a photograph of an all ladies band from the 1920s and all are dressed very properly with long skirts and hats. This was a far cry from today's sweatshirt, jeans and flipflops, but it is unlikely that the ladies in 1920 had ever heard of such attire!



Whimble ladies with hats in the 1920s

As a result the modern ladies decided that for their next outing they too would wear hats; the long skirts were optional, not compulsory.



East Devon Ladies wearing their hats

All went well as they appeared in a variety of headgear, some of extreme design. All was well in fact until, just as the picture was to be taken, one lady was forced to chase after her 'fascinator' as the wind whipped it away. As one male onlooker remarked 'well, half a chicken would fly away if it

could'.

I leave you with the ancient and modern photographs for you to decide which era was the most elegant. As an aside, in my youth any woman not wearing a hat in church was to be frowned upon and the vicar would almost certainly have had something to say about it. Conversely every gentleman was expected to remove his hat before entering church. I have never heard a clear explanation as to why this convention arose, nor when and why it appears to have been abandoned. I'm sure somewhere among the readership of Ringing Round Devon we have an expert who will explain all.

Trevor Hitchcock

Golden Wedding Celebration



Left to Right: Trevor Hitchcock (1), Paddy Priscott (2), Stan Thompson (6), Carol Thompson, John Horrocks (5) (C), Lin Horrocks (3) and Lisa Clarke (4)

It's not every day that we get to ring a quarter peal to celebrate a Golden Wedding anniversary and it's even rarer to ring one for one of our own ringers. On 29th August 1964 Stan and Carol Thompson tied the knot. There were no bells for their wedding and it was another 45 years before Stan decided to learn how to ring. The ringers at Combe Raleigh felt that they could not let the occasion of their Golden Wedding pass by without some acknowledgement and proposed ringing a celebratory quarter peal.

Stan wanted no 'fuss', as he called it, but a quiet word with Carol ensured that it would go ahead without opposition. Lisa used all her persuasive powers and got Stan to agree to ring the tenor. With two more Combe Raleigh ringers willing and able to ring a quarter and the help of Lin and John Horrocks, who called it, we all met at Feniton St Andrew's church. Initially it looked as if we might have a lock-out, but fortunately a key-holder, seeing our plight, came to the rescue. There was a brief practice to make sure we all knew what would happen when we changed methods and to ensure that all were comfortable with the ropes and we were off. There

followed 600 changes of Grandsire Doubles then 660 changes of Plain Bob Doubles and forty-five minutes later the job was done.

This was only the second quarter for Stan, who rang faultlessly throughout, and hearty congratulations were expressed to Stan and to Carol who had also come along to witness the ringing.

I'm sure that everyone will join in wishing Stan and Carol many more happy years together.

Feniton, Devon, St Andrew. Thursday, 21st August in 45 mins 1260 Doubles (2m): 1 Trevor Hitchcock, 2 Paddy Priscott, 3 Lin Horrocks, 4 Lisa Clarke, 5 John Horrocks (C), 6 Stan Thompson. Rung to mark the forthcoming Golden Wedding Anniversary of Stan and Carol Thompson on 29th August 2014.

*Trevor Hitchcock
Photo: Ruth Hitchcock*

Exeter Branch

Wedding Bells for Rob and Lucy



Rob and Lucy Neal

Rob and Lucy were married at St Giles, Leigh on Mendip, on Saturday 12th July 2014, a beautiful summer's day: how could it have been otherwise when they both work for the Met Office? They met after moving to Exeter to take up their employment but it took several weeks before they encountered each other while ringing at Heavitree... and the rest is history. They returned for their wedding, a most beautiful and moving occasion, to the village where Lucy grew up and learned to ring. The three bells at Downhead, which are within earshot of Lucy's parents' house, were rung by friends in the morning while the bridal party was getting ready, and Leigh were rung before and after the wedding by friends and the local ringers. Three celebratory quarter peals were also rung to wish them every happiness as they start their married life together.



Quarter peal band (11th July)
L to r: Michael Cannon, Ian Campbell, Lucy Davis,
Wendy Campbell, John Davis, Rob Neal



Even the cake had a ringing theme

Exeter, Devon (Heavitree). 6th Jul, 1280 Yorkshire S Major:
Wendy Campbell 1, Helena Mattingley 2, Lucy Davis 3, Tom
Hinks (C) 4, Rob Neal 5, Michael Cannon 6, Steph Hills 7,
Ian Campbell 8. Rung as a compliment to Rob and Lucy on
their forthcoming nuptials (12 July).

Leigh on Mendip, Somerset. 11th Jul, 1296 Cambridge S
Minor: John Davis 1, Wendy Campbell 2, Lucy Davis 3, Rob
Neal 4, Michael Cannon 5, Ian Campbell (C) 6. Rung to
celebrate the marriage at this church the following day
of Rob and Lucy.

Leigh on Mendip, Somerset. 12th Jul, 1260 Doubles (2m):
Margaret Glasgow 1, Ian Tucker 2, Mike Singer 3, Alastair
Weston 4, Julian Back (C) 5, Helen Parkin 6. Rung
immediately following the wedding of Lucy Davis and
Robert Neal.

Wendy Campbell

Farewell to Helena



Helena Mattingley after the quarter peal

Helena Mattingley has been working on a one year contract at Exeter University. She has been an enormous help ringing at Heavitree and also at St David's in Exeter. We have also enjoyed her company ringing handbells at the University with the students. Unfortunately her contract with the University has now finished and she is moving away. Some of her friends rang a quarter peal at St Mark's in Exeter with her as a farewell. We wish her all the best for the future.

Exeter, Devon, St Mark. Wednesday, 13 August 2014 in 49 minutes (12), 1277 Stedman Caters, Composed by L J Woodward: 1 Wendy Campbell, 2 Tim Bayton, 3 Sarah Chadburn, 4 Helena Mattingley, 5 Tom Hinks (C), 6 Steph Hills, 7 Ian Campbell, 8 Andrew Digby, 9 David Hird, 10 Michael Cannon. Rung to wish farewell to Helena, leaving Exeter next week.

Ian Campbell

Blessing of two new bells at Bayeux Cathedral



As a part of the recent D-Day 70th anniversary Ken Vingoe travelled with his father to France and attended the Service of Remembrance. He writes:

This picture was taken inside Bayeux Cathedral as the two newly cast bells were being baptised during the service before their installation in the cathedral bell tower

on 10th June 2014. They were named by HRH Prince of Wales and blessed by the officiating Cardinal. My Dad was present in the Cathedral as a D-Day veteran and was accompanied by myself and my sister. The Queen, other Heads of State and political leaders were also present. Below is a link to many other photos of the two bells, which may be of interest. There is also plenty of information about the bells elsewhere on the internet.

<http://www.demotix.com/photo/4975380/two-new-bells-installed-bayeux-cathedral>

Ken Vingoe

Mid-Devon Branch

Listening workshop

For some time the branch committee have wondered what to do about the branch striking competition. This year it was decided to substitute a workshop on striking. Plans were made and Robert Brown offered the bells at Lustleigh, which are a pleasant 6 in a "picture postcard" village with a good tearoom opposite the church. Ideal in all ways, except perhaps, parking! Robert had arranged for recording the bells and a band duly rang a variety of methods – including deliberate mistakes – not easy to be consistently bad – a bit like Les Dawson on bells!

Geoff Sparling from Crediton had kindly agreed to act as leader for the afternoon and he did a great job for us. He started off controversially by stating that he found perfect ringing "boring". This led to discussions about musical effects in ringing. Geoff used tapes of ringing to illustrate the different ways bells can sound which included half muffled, whole pull and stand and closed lead ringing. This then led to a discussion about open leads and how to achieve them.

Next Geoff played a variety of ringing with errors and we had to work out what was wrong. The final stage of this was ringing with several errors both hand and back and each participant was asked to say what was wrong with one bell at one stroke. Eventually, having gone round the room the bells were back to good rounds. After all this brain work it was time to relax and have a well-earned tea break. After tea we were joined by more experienced ringers for some real ringing and time to put into practice what we had learned in theory. After almost two hours ringing it was clear that much useful knowledge had been gained and all agreed that it had been a very useful afternoon. Many thanks to Robert Brown and the Lustleigh ringers but particularly Geoff Sparling for superb leadership and the experienced ringers for all their hard work.

Members' news

CONGRATULATIONS TO PAUL LATHAM

Paul was a millennium learner at St Marychurch and ever since has been a valued member of the band. Very soon afterwards he and his wife, Janet joined the handbell tune ringing team and have both become very enthusiastic tune ringers. We were all delighted to hear that Paul and Janet were guests at a garden party at Buckingham Palace due to Paul's long association with the work of child protection in the Roman Catholic diocese of Plymouth. They tell us they had a wonderful time – you may

remember the occasion in the press – they did not mention the (93rd) birthday!! Many congratulations, Paul.

MICHAEL BARNICOTT-WHITE

Many of you will have met Michael who was a regular visitor to St Marychurch, Berry Pomeroy and Wolborough among other towers. We recently received a card to say he was off on his travels again and he and family are at present in Norfolk. He did hint that he might be back at some point and insisted that the prospect of 8-spliced was not the reason for his move! Thank you Michael for your support and hope to see you soon – good ringing in Norfolk!

JOSH TRATT

Congratulations to Josh who has just completed his MSc at the University of Warwick – he is now on a well-deserved break in the Lake District.

CATHERINE SAUNDERS

Catherine started ringing about three years ago at St Marychurch. Since then she has become a regular visitor at branch and other practices. She has now taken up a Physiotherapist post in Tewkesbury and has moved to live in Gloucester. Good luck Catherine, and many thanks for your support – enjoy your ringing in G&B land!

Mini-outing in the Exe Valley



What a recipe for a great day – good weather, good bells and good company. It really was a superb outing. Rodney Horder (Chairman) organised the day and did a great job for us. First tower was the recently re-hung six at Stoke Canon which really are a fine ring now – much enjoyed. It was then on to Rewe, a very short drive down the road. “You can’t miss it!” Well, I only went a short distance past! These were probably the most difficult bells of the day but we managed them in the end and had some enjoyable

ringing. Next was a fairly long drive but well worth it when the prize is a ring at Cruwys Morchard. These bells used to be very difficult but after a full re-hang go extremely well. The last tower of the day was Rackenford. By this time several ringers had left but we were still able to manage some good ringing. Rodney had organised a meal at the “Stag” so most made their way over there. A superb meal and a pleasant evening rounded off a really memorable outing – many thanks to Rodney for his organisation and to all the locals who gave us permission to ring and met us on the day.

Martin Mansley

East Ogwell

It is really good to be able to report that East Ogwell bells are now back ringing. The new tenor sets them off a treat and Whites have managed to turn the old adage on its head and made a velvet purse out of a sow's ear so the bells have been completely transformed from a grotty six. The tryout ringing ended with a nice course of Cambridge - a very pleasing result. The rededication was on 14th September.

Many congratulations to all at Ogwell/Wolborough. Fantastic news!!!

Russell Chamberlain

News from Combeinteignhead



The bells at Combeinteignhead had not been rung for several years. With a wedding of a local couple coming up who had asked for the bells to be rung the Guild Bell Advisors were requested to do an inspection of the bells to make sure that they were safe to ring. So on a sweltering hot day at the end of July Ian Smith (helped by Ian Campbell) spent several hours checking out the installation. David Kelly (of the Keltek Trust) also attended, and we spent some time tightening up the frame and bell bolts and oiling the bells. Following a short tryout the bells were considered "ringable" and certainly not dangerous, although they are not particularly easy to ring, being on plain bearings in an old wooden frame.

The Guild Bell Advisors are prepared to do a detailed inspection and detailed written report for any bell tower in Devon. If it is not a Guild tower the inspection will be done under the auspices of the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund as it is a part of their remit to encourage remedial work to be done as soon as problems are discovered rather than waiting until a full rehang is required.

Ian Campbell

Powerhouse Kidz have a Go



The group outside the church at Dawlish

On 29th June, seven children from the 'Powerhouse Kidz' (8 to 11 year olds) group at Teignmouth Baptist Church, together with their youth minister, visited Dawlish tower as part of their summer outing. This came about as I had enthused about ringing to the youth minister Glenda Chadwick-Down, and the latter suggested a trip to find out more. With a Baptist church full of families and young people, it's only a shame we don't have our own ring of bells, as there would be no shortage of young recruits. Jaz tells the rest of the story in her own words below. See if you can spot when she describes chiming, and when they were ringing backstrokes with expert help.

Lynne Hughes

After a lovely morning at church, the Kidz went to have a picnic lunch on the beach. After we had finished, we made our way to St Gregory's church in Dawlish.

When we got there, we walked through their big and very interesting cemetery and then went into the church. Unlike TBC, it wasn't modern - it looked historical. I think we were all very amazed by the stone statues and the old bricks. After that, we met some ladies who worked at ringing the bells. As we had all seen, there was an extremely small doorway and then we found out what it was for! It led up to the church's tower. When we looked at the stairs, I have to admit I think at least everyone of us felt a little anxious - I mean, the stairs were very narrow and we only had a rope to hold onto. When we reached the first door, we didn't go in but we saw it was the room where Lynne and her friends would ring the bells. Once we had climbed some more stairs, we reached the second floor, which was where the actual bells were. They were much bigger than I had expected, Lynne told us that there were eight bells and that they were all very old. We also talked about the dangers of the bells but that was just to keep us safe, not make us frightened.



Excited faces in the bell chamber



Chiming the bells

Then we carried on up and up! At last when we reached the top of the tower, we looked out across Dawlish and saw my house and the sea, along with everything else! We had a few photos and then back down the narrow winding stairs. We passed the bell room and then, after a minute or so, we reached the room where Lynne would ring the bells. First we had a chance to ask questions, and were told the things we needed to be careful about.

Then, excitedly, we rang the bells ourselves. It sounded like there was going to be an invasion, but when the pros rang them it sounded great! The bells were very heavy and even lifted Glenda off her feet. Again we had another go with the help of the pros. Afterwards we had a go at playing some tunes like 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star' on some small instrumental bells.

Then after a few more steps down, we had reached the bottom. The ladies kindly made us some cakes and biscuits and then our parents came to fetch us! WOW! What an exciting day."

Jaz

North East Branch

North East & Dunster Branches Joint Event

The NE Branch hold a joint practice with the Bath & Wells Dunster Branch each year. This August it was the turn of the Dunster Branch to host the event. The practice was held on 16th August in the evening at Wiveliscombe. Attendance was the largest ever as the organisers had arranged an afternoon tour of the Cotleigh Brewery to wet everyone's appetite before ringing.

We were met on the brewery site by the owner, Stephen Heptinstall, who gave us a guided tour and history of the independent brewery which began life originally a few miles from Tiverton, at Washfield. Thirty bellringers were educated in the brewing process without actually being given the secret recipe which gives Cotleigh beer its distinctive taste. We sampled the raw ingredients (malted barley and hops) and inspected the mash tun and copper and learnt about the 'grist in the mill'. Later we found ourselves clambering over the open stairways to peer into the five stainless steel fermenters where beer was brewing at different stages. Stephen explained each stage of the brewing process until eventually we found ourselves in the cold store where beer was conditioning before being dispatched.

After that, our tour ended with some tasting in their own hospitality room so that we could decide just what makes the taste of Cotleigh so distinctive and, for those unable to resist, a visit to the shop was essential for the 'take home' bottles.



Back at the church crypt we were fed and watered with an excellent ploughman's style buffet before climbing the spiral stairs to the ringing room. Here ringing master, Jon Rose, ran the ringing expertly with nearly forty ringers taking part in the joint practice.

Our thanks go to the Dunster Branch for a memorable event.

Sheila Scofield

New demonstration bell has its first outing



The "Dalek"

Teddy-parachuting for Bampton open day has been an annual event for thirteen years now. This year, armed with our new demonstration bell, we hoped to combine the parachuting with a recruitment drive. Unfortunately someone had other ideas and the weather was against us. Undeterred we assembled the bell in the morning and the bellringers were all ready by 2pm to begin launching teddies. As the rain eased we assembled a small group of enthusiasts clutching small bears and eventually launched forty from the top of the tower to the usual 'Ooohs' and 'Ahhs'. The demonstration bell kept a few children entertained whilst waiting to see their little friends fly through the air. Towards the end of the allotted time the sun began to shine. Well at least it was dry to disassemble the bell. In the meantime it's back to the drawing board for recruitment ideas.

Sheila Scofield

TROYTE RINGING CENTRE – BAMPTON & HUNTSHAM

Forthcoming Events

Extended Practices

The number of students at our Extended Practices is carefully limited to ensure that all learners get a good opportunity for plenty of ringing supported by experienced helpers – book in advance

SAT 25th October, 10 00 – 1 00 Plain Hunt Doubles - Huntsham

Want to make a start with method ringing? If you can ring call changes and know a little of the theory of Plain Hunt already, then this practice will give you the chance to ring Plain Hunt on several different bells or to ring the treble to a variety of methods. Fee: £6 inc lunch.

“Working with the numbers” workshops

Short classroom sessions designed to help you understand how methods work and how to learn them:

SAT 27th September, 11 00 – 12 30, in Tiverton, beyond the plain course

SAT 22nd November, 11 00 – 12 30, in Bampton, moving on from Bob Doubles

Fee for each session is £3 inc coffee. Tutor: Mike Hatchett. Please book places with Les Boyce.

Booking required for all events — contact Les Boyce 01884 256819 or lesboyce@gmail.com

North/North West Branch

Seventy years of service commemorated

The North/North West Branch monthly practice on Saturday 2nd August at Bridgerule was a very special occasion. Two of our members were each presented with a certificate marking seventy years membership of The Guild.

John Bowden, who has been a member of the Bridgerule band all his ringing life, was taught to ring in 1944 by Frank Gilbert. John tells me that Frank was very keen that John should learn to rise and fall a bell from the very beginning. John's one and only peal was in 1947 at Marhamchurch (Grandsire Doubles) of which he has fond memories. The band was Bill Vinnicombe, Charlie Taylor, Jim Rich, Alan Hicks (conductor), John Bowden and Reg Pearce. It is worth mentioning that there was only a handful of method ringers north of Exeter at the time. John and Barbara, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding last October, have two sons who ring, Trevor and Paul, both at Bridgerule.

Charlie Taylor first learnt to ring at Marhamchurch at Easter 1944 and has been a member of the band ever since. He was taught by Jack Hicks (who was the uncle of Bruce Hicks, the current Secretary of the N/NW Branch). Charlie's first peal was in 1947 of Grandsire Doubles at Poughill. The band consisted of Fred Sangwin, Olive and Ted Collins (Croydon), Charlie Taylor, Alan Hicks (conductor) and Bill Critchley. Charlie and his wife Bett will celebrate their Diamond Wedding in October this year.



Charlie Taylor and John Bowden receive their 70 year membership of the Guild certificates from the chairman of the N/NW branch, James Clarke

It is worth pointing out that both John and Charlie started to learn to ring before the end of World War Two. It was regarded in this part of England that no one would 'bat an eyelid' if their bells were rung during this time! In 2013 both were elected as Vice Presidents of the Guild.

Joan Clarke

South West Branch

Half-muffled ringing for the service on Monday 4th August 2014

I arrived at St Andrew's church, Plymouth, at 9.30pm to attend the Service of Commemoration, to mark the beginning of the first World War, one hundred years ago. The church was packed with people from all walks of life, including representatives from the armed forces and dignitaries in their uniform, representing a public who could not remember the day, one hundred years ago, but felt they must not forget it either.

Walking to the back of the church I found a group of ringers sitting together all wanting to participate in the service, along with everyone else. During the final hymn, 'O God our help in ages past' the ringers ascended the tower to the ringing chamber, where we found an entire band of ringers, already by their bells and a candle burning on the table. Fergus had given explicit instructions on how they should ring their bells, slowly and holding up at hand stroke and back stroke, to create the slow dignified sound of half-muffled ringing.

There were 22 ringers in the room representing the four Guild towers of St Andrew's, Emmanuel, Stoke Damerel and St Budeaux. We rang three sets of half muffled ringing between 10.15 – 10.55pm, so that each of us took a rope to ring at that special time. During this ringing, the congregation were making their way to the Hoe in a candlelit procession for a further act of remembrance at the Royal Navy war memorial.

Between the end of the ringing and 11pm, the moment when war was declared one hundred years ago, the electric light was turned off and Alena Wardle read out the Roll of Honour of all those known Devon ringers who had lost their lives on active service. Then the 11pm hour was struck on the 30cwt tenor bell during which the candle was extinguished by Clare whilst we remembered Sir Edward Grey's words: 'The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime'. The two minute silence was observed with us all sitting around the sides, each remembering in our own way, at the end of which Fergus read the fourth stanza of Laurence Binyon's 'Poem for the Fallen'- They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old, etc.

The thoughts and awesome atmosphere of this evening at St Andrew's will stay with me for a very long time. The world seems an ever more dangerous place as our ability to hear and see news from all over the world is beamed onto our television screens, all day every day. May we never again witness the horrors that many experienced during those four long years of WW1, now one hundred years ago.

Janet Osler

Training

Guild basic bell maintenance course

On Saturday 11th October, 10am - 4pm, there will be the Guild training day on basic bell maintenance, for budding steeple keepers, or indeed anyone who is interested in the hardware of ringing. There will be the chance to learn about a modern installation at Stoke Canon in the morning, and a traditional wooden frame and plain bearings at Upton Pyne in the afternoon.

This is the first time such a day has been included on the Guild education programme – and it is now fully booked. Please let me know if you would be interested in it and we will arrange a repeat run if there is sufficient interest.

Lynne Hughes

Other News

Guild Website Training

Now that the Devon Ringers website is becoming established it is possible for all officers to make changes and additions to their own web pages. In order to facilitate this Matthew Hilling arranged a number of hands-on seminars at the University of Exeter over the summer. These were well attended, so you can now look out for regular updates to the Guild web pages – and possibly spot disasters before they are corrected! Many thanks go to Matt for all of his effort.



Intense concentration – or is it puzzlement?

Ian Campbell

Ringling resumes at Buckfast Abbey

It was reported in RRD 93 that the bells at Buckfast Abbey were having some work on them. In April we heard that the tenor had been taken off its headstock while the supporting pad and cracked gudgeon were being repaired and that all of the clappers had been returned to Taylor's to be rebushed. When the work was complete we were invited to try out the bells on Monday 21st July and to ring for the midday service. This was duly accomplished and only showed up one small snag (the seventh stay seems to be binding a little on the slider track).

A number of the staff at the Abbey had forgotten about the bells and were very impressed with the sound, so much so that we were invited to ring again on a very important occasion on Monday 8th September. This was the launch Mass for the School of the Annunciation which is a type of Catholic version of the open university offering degrees in Catholic Studies, based at the Abbey. The event was attended by the School's patron, His Excellency George Pell, two Bishops, Fr Abbot and various other Catholic dignitaries plus numerous priests of the Plymouth Diocese. At the last minute we were told that we could not start in time to ring a quarter peal because of other things going on in the Abbey but this was made up for by being asked to ring Hosanna, the seven ton bourdon bell, as part of the celebrations. So we rang a couple of touches of Grandsire Caters, raised Hosanna as high as we dared, and then rang the ten down in peal while Hosanna rang down on its own.



Most of the band who rang for the service at Buckfast Abbey

It is really good to hear these magnificent bells ringing again, and to have the full support of the authorities. We are planning to ring for the midday service on a Monday once a month. If you would like to ring at the Abbey you are reminded that the Devon Ringers' carol service is being held there in December.

Ian Campbell

Stoke Fleming Tower Open Day

As part of their tower renovation project, St Peter's in Stoke Fleming held an open day to educate members of the public about bell ringing and inform them about the problems with the corroding bell frame.



The Guild demo bell being used to explain how a bell is rung



The Frank Mack Garage Ring in action

The Frank Mack mini-ring was a very popular attraction in an informative ground floor exhibition about the history of bell ringing and the day-to-day practice of our art. The Guild demonstration bell was set up in the ringing chamber to help explain to the visitors on the tower tours what happens when you pull a rope.

Over 250 people visited the exhibition in a six hour period. The tower tours were very popular but, because of the need to control numbers, only eighty people were able to see the bells, the Victorian clock and the magnificent view from the top of the 83 foot tower. Nearly £900 was raised for the renovation project.

Anne Bailey

The next Devon ITTS Course:

Module1 - Teaching Bell Handling

**Saturday 29th November, 9:15 – 5:15
in the Exeter area**

- *New to ringing teaching or wanting some fresh tips and hints as an existing teacher? The Integrated Teacher Training Scheme can help you!*
- *A practical course. Learn how to make your tower teaching flexible and effective*
- *Use the latest techniques based on sports coaching and learning theory*
- *Get help from an experienced mentor and support from online learning materials*
- *Gain national accreditation and membership of the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) for continuing development*
- *You will be given use of the “Learning the Ropes” scheme for your learners*
- *Fee only £15 + £5 for tower fees and refreshments. Help with course fees available from the Guild Education Fund*

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

For more information and to book a place go to: <http://www.ringingteachers.co.uk/>

Not sure if ITTS is for you or not yet able to teach regularly – you may still be able to come as an observer for all or part of the day – talk to Les Boyce if you are interested in doing this.

Guild Demo Bell gets around



ISCA Ladies trying their hand at “lapping”



Students at Exmouth School getting some professional help from Roger King and Janet Coles

The Guild demo bell has been set up several times recently as a part of the talk given by Ian Campbell about bells and bell ringing. In March the talk was given to the ISCA Ladies Club in Exeter and it was repeated in July to the Whimble Women’s Institute – which seemed to include a fair number of men. The talk was also given at Exmouth Community College in an attempt to attract youngsters to learn to ring at Withycombe Raleigh church. Only two pupils (twins) attended but they have both since been to ring “real” bells and are still progressing. In all cases the audiences enjoyed listening to various sound clips and simulations, and tried their luck at ringing changes on handbells by “lapping” (see photos). Although these sessions are not intended as recruitment drives there have been one or two lapsed ringers who have returned to ringing after hearing the talk, and even a couple of new recruits, including one who wanted to take up ringing at Whimble. Talks are already being booked up well into next year, including presentations for the National Trust in Sidmouth and part of a team building day for the NHS at Broadclyst.

Ian Campbell

Nicholson's working in Devon

Andrew Nicholson has given me some brief details of work that the bellhangers, Nicholson Engineering, are doing in Devon:

Currently High Bickington are coming out of the tower and will go back in early 2015, this being part of a major project to make the tower safe.

We have just finished a heavy overhaul of the six at Manaton, this including new bearings and rebuilt wheels.

We are due to begin work at Bishopsteignton mid-September, this to include re-tuning and rehanging with all new fittings. The work is due to be completed in January 2015.

Andrew Nicholson

Devon meets New Zealand 2014



Ringling on the Frank Mack Garage Ring

Peter Bill usually spends winters in New Zealand and this summer was able to repay some of the hospitality given by the Wellington Cathedral ringers when their tower captain, Derek Williams, and his wife Mary visited Devon for two weeks in August as part of an extended trip to Europe. As well as Sunday service ringing and practices at Bovey Tracey and Lustleigh they were able to join in with Mid Devon Branch ringing at Wolborough, Brixham and Berry Pomeroy, and also Exeter practices at the Cathedral, St. Mark's and Heavitree. The highlight proved to be a (literally) mini-outing where we arranged an afternoon ringing the three mini-rings in the South Devon area. Wellington (N.Z.) Cathedral ringers have ordered a new Matthew Higby mobile ring which they intend to use in much the same way as the Guild uses the Frank Mack bells for demonstration and publicity purposes and we were able to show Derek that mini-ringing is not difficult and very enjoyable. Three quarter peals were scored in the afternoon, including one in the open air where Ian Avery had set up the Frank Mack ring outside in the sunshine. Another first for Derek. We hope to catch up with them again at the Ringing Roadshow and wish them a safe journey back to New Zealand.

Bovey Tracey, Devon, Wobbly Bobs Campanile. Friday, 15th August, 1320 Cambridge S Minor: 1 Margaret Chapman, 2 Ian Avery, 3 Derek Williams, 4 Peter Bill, 5 Michael Mears, 6 Robert Brown (C). As a congratulation to Alex Brown on achieving his A level results.

Kingsteignton, Devon, Frank Mack Garage ring. Friday, 15th August, 1320 Bourne S Minor: 1 Derek Williams, 2 Margaret Chapman, 3 Peter Bill, 4 Ian Avery, 5 Robert Brown, 6 Michael Mears (C).

Bishopsteignton, Devon, Bishops-Ting-Tong. Friday, 15th August, 1320 Ipswich S Minor: 1 Margaret Chapman, 2 Robert Brown, 3 Ian Avery, 4 Derek Williams, 5 Michael Mears, 6 Peter Bill (C). 250th quarter peal on the bells.

Most Minor Methods for the Guild

On Friday 25th July we rang a peal of 60 treble dodging Minor on the front six at Thorverton (details below), which was the most Minor methods for the Guild.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Thorverton, Devon, St Thomas of Canterbury

Friday, 25th July 2014 in 2hrs 29m

5040 Spliced Treble Dodging Minor (60m)

(Fountains D, Evesham D, Tewkesbury D, Morpeth S, Melrose D, Tintern D, Sherborne D, Alnwick S, Chester S, Carlisle S, Wooler S, Witley S, Northumberland S, Sandiacre S, Canterbury S, Newcastle S, Munden S, Coldstream S, Lincoln S, Wells S, Combermere D, London S, Kelso S, Cunecastre S, Vale Royal D, Crowland D, St Werburgh D, Cambridge S, Surfleet S, Hexham S, Beverley S, Norfolk S, Primrose S, Berwick S, Hull S, Bourne S, Ipswich S, Durham S, York S, Norwich S, Warkworth S, Annable's London S, Rossendale S, Neasden D, Merton D, Bacup S, St Albans D, Charlwood D, Stamford S, Wragby D, Old Oxford D, Wearmouth S, Netherseale S, Bamborough S, Lightfoot S, College Bob IV D, Westminster S, Allendale S, Newdigate D, Willesden D)

Composed by P G C Ellis

1 Ian W Avery

2 Jill M Hansford

3 Susan D Sparling

4 Pauline Champion

5 Ian V J Smith

6 Michael E C Mears (C)

Most Minor methods for the Guild

Mike Mears

6000 Peals for the Guild

...CONTINUED FROM RRD 94

Linked to the increase in the number of peals on higher numbers are the methods rung and at all even-bell stages there has been a great increase in complexity and variety of methods rung. The first peal of Surprise Minor by a resident Guild band was at Holbeton in 1928, but there wasn't really much progress from there until the John Longridge inspired series rung at the end of the 1970s which eventually reached 50 methods. We now ring the standard 41 Surprise Minor quite regularly.

The first peal of Surprise Major by a resident Guild band was Cambridge at Wolborough in 1956, followed by Yorkshire and Superlative in the 1960s, but London, Bristol and eight-spliced were not rung until 1979. By these standards, progress in the 1980s was much quicker, with Glasgow, Belfast and 23 Spliced, all the work, rung by the end of the decade by resident bands. Most of the progress in Surprise Major dated from the regular Sunday evening quarter peals organised by John Longridge in the early 1970s. This was the first time that Surprise Major really got a foothold in Devon ringing and more regular peals in the standard methods soon followed.

The first resident peal of Surprise Royal was rung at Exeter Cathedral on the Jubilee ten in 1984 and included in the band was Norman Mallett, who had also rung in the first peal of Surprise Major, in 1956. However, it was not until the augmentations at Withycombe Raleigh (1992) and Thorverton (1994) that things really started to take off with London (No. 3), Bristol and 14 Spliced Surprise all being rung in the 1990s.

The first peal of Surprise Maximus by a resident band was rung at All Saints, Worcester in 1993, and again Cambridge was the method. Bristol, however, did not appear until 2002, the band including Wendy Campbell and Mike Mears, who had both rung in the first peal of Bristol Major by residents in 1979, as well as John Hill, who had rung in the second ever peal of Bristol Maximus in 1951. Since then Bristol, Avon and Spliced have been regularly rung for peals.

Having been on the peal ringing scene in Devon for over forty years, I have been fortunate enough to see, and take part in, a lot of the advances that have been made in that time. We have certainly benefitted from augmentations. I have already mentioned Withycombe Raleigh and Thorverton, and there have been others such as Exeter St Mark and Pinhoe. The availability of these towers has also been a factor. The mini-ring at Bishops-Ting-Tong was the catalyst for ringing 41 Surprise Minor. We have also benefitted a lot in recent years from the ringers who have moved into the area. We also have more able conductors than we used to have. In the early and mid 1970s, if John Longridge wasn't around we could only really manage Plain Bob and Grandsire; now we have more than half a dozen capable of calling (and keeping right) Surprise Maximus.

We are certainly in a much better position now to give people opportunities to try new things. When I first rang methods like Bristol S Royal and Cambridge S Maximus it was in peals. Now we ring them, and a lot more besides, on practice nights at places like Exeter Cathedral and Exeter St Mark. We now also travel further to ring our peals. In times past, we seldom travelled further than Cornwall, Somerset or Dorset, whereas the Guild has now rung peals in France, Holland, Ireland and Scotland. In recent years we have had the leading peal ringer, leading tower and leading

conductor in the country which would have been unthinkable as recently as twenty years ago. We have also rung peals on the heaviest 12, 10, 8, 6 and 5, again something we wouldn't have thought possible two decades ago.

One main area of concern is the age of the people ringing peals. Thirty years ago, we were making progress but we had a shortage of experienced older ringers, who tend to be steady, reliable performers – Terry Hampton is the first one that I can recall, when he moved from Birmingham in the late 1980s. Now, we have an abundance of such ringers but we have a shortage of younger ringers. We do have some very promising young ringers to whom we can give opportunities. We just need a few more of them.

Mike Mears

Guild Photograph June 2014



This is a proof of one of four photos you can choose from but it has been cropped a bit to fit Your last chance to order! Please see the Guild Website (<http://devonringers.org.uk/>) for all four photo proofs. To order send a cheque, payable to "G.D.R. – N.E. Branch", to the North East Branch Secretary, Jenney Jones, with a note of the proof number(s), sizes and quantities you want. Last date for receiving orders: 25th October. A key showing the names of all those in the photograph will be supplied with each order. All photo orders will be dispatched at the end of October.

6 x 4 ins	£2.50	8 x 6 ins	£4.00
7 x 5 ins	£3.00	10 x 8 ins	£6.00
Post on above	£0.80	Post on above	£1.00

*Jenny Jones, 33 Spencer Drive, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 4QB.
(northeastsec@devonringers.org.uk)*

Guild Festival 2014 – A Postscript to “140 bells for 140 years”

On behalf of the North East Branch committee I would like to thank everyone across the Guild who took part in the events to ring “140 bells for 140 years” celebrating the founding of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers in 1874; we achieved our target with bells to spare. In addition to the quarter peals listed we have to thank those who rang at the open towers on the morning of the 21st: Cullompton, Silverton, Uffculme, Bickleigh, Tiverton St Paul and Tiverton St Peter and those who rang, but didn't

score quarters, at Honiton and Thorverton. Thanks once again for your support. It was a magnificent effort!

THE QUARTER PEALS FOR 140 BELLS, ALL RUNG ON SATURDAY 21ST JUNE:

Pinhoe, Devon. 1400 Grandsire Triples: 1 Margaret Egglestone, 2 Jo Brown, 3 Christine Clarke, 4 Lester Yeo, 5 John Clarke, 6 Peter Brown, 7 James Kirkcaldy (C), 8 Colin Wroth. Composed by the conductor for the 140th anniversary of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers.

Stoke Canon, Devon, Churchyard. 1260 Plain Bob Minor. 1-2 Amy Gill, 3-4 Lynne Hughes, 5-6 Tim Bayton (C).

Dawlish, Devon. 1260 Plain Bob Triples: 1 Sharon Lawrence, 2 John R Martin, 3 Fiona Rock-Evans, 4 Rodney Horder, 5 Hannah Martin, 6 Martin Dodd, 7 Martin Mansley (C), 8 Jenny Clark. Birthday compliments to 4, 8. First on 8 - 1, 8.

Huntsham, Devon. 1260 Plain Bob Doubles (768 covering): 1 Sheila Scofield, 2 Chris Bolt, 3 Ann Barrow, 4 Tony Trigg, 5 Michael Hatchett (C), 6 Carla Dawes, 7 Jack Ward, 8 Hardington S Bartlett. First quarter by an all-local band for many years.

Crediton, Devon. 1346 Cambridge S Maximus: 1 Ian Avery, 2 Paul Pascoe, 3 Alison Waterson, 4 Susan Sparling, 5 Tim Payne, 6 Ian Smith, 7 Geoffrey Sparling, 8 Tom Waterson, 9 Richard Harrison, 10 David Hird, 11 Mike Mears, 12 Matthew Hilling (C).

Braunton, Devon. 1260 Plain Bob Triples: 1 John Barnes, 2 Christine Harris, 3 Joan Clarke, 4 Andrew Vincent, 5 James Clarke, 6 David Willis, 7 Mike Rose (C), 8 John Ross.

Shobrooke, Devon. 1260 Doubles (3m/2v): 1 Robert Lunnon, 2 Joanna Lunnon, 3 Susan Sparling, 4 David Hird, 5 Geoffrey Sparling (C), 6 Anthony Keulemans.

Cadbury, Devon. 1272 Spliced S Minor (6m): 1 Ian Avery, 2 Lynne Hughes, 3 Nigel Birt, 4 Richard Shere, 5 Tim Bayton (C), 6 Mike Mears.

Littleham, Exmouth, Devon. 1260 Doubles (2m): 1 Mike Burrow, 2 Margaret Elms, 3 Janet Coles, 4 Sue Sturdy, 5 Neil Deem (C), 6 Margot Le Vesconte. 1st away from cover 1, 1st on the tenor.

Clyst St George, Devon. 1260 Doubles (5m): 1 Richard Winnall, 2 Janet Coles, 3 Sue Sturdy, 4 Ian Baker, 5 Neil Deem(C), 6 Trevor Bradley. 1st quarter peal (1), Most methods (4).

Ideford, Devon. 1259 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Jill Wigney, 2 Ann Cotton, 3 Jasper Hughes, 4 Phil Hughes, 5 Sophie Hughes, 6 Robert Brown (C).

Plymouth, Devon (Emmanuel). 1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 Samuel Peck, 2 Clare Stagg, 3 Mark Williams, 4 Harry Andrews, 5 Joseph Peck, 6 Christopher Wardle, 7 Fergus Stracey (C), 8 Trevor Smith. Rung by members of the South West branch.

Les Boyce

In a Lighter Vein

A LETTER FROM THE RINGING WORLD OF 1946

Dear Sir

Ringers occasionally get interesting information from "secular" sources. For instance, the "Sunday Express" of February 2nd last told us, "For the first time in 900 years there are insufficient ringers for Trowbridge's famous peal of bells." Nine hundred years! It takes us back to "1066 and all that" and many years earlier than our oldest bell. I hope our own historians will look into this and publish the result of their investigations.

More information may be had from a "thriller" by R A J Walting - "The Strike of One." This concerns a murder in the ringing chamber of a Devonshire church. There is a true peal of eight bells, and "as you stand in the ringing chamber you look up and see them like monstrous iron flowers hanging from the branches of some gargantuan tree, and their ropes like racemes descending." When the man from Scotland Yard arrives he produced "a powerful lamp with a wide radius of reflection." He goes up to the ringing chamber and after carefully examining floor and walls he "threw his light upwards and could see the immense bells in their framework, and the daylight percolating faintly through the louvered windows."

We are told the Devon Guild of Ringers "come once or twice a year, and after a sermon from the Rector and an organ solo by the organist, they would get to work and go right through a full peal of Grandsire Triples before retiring to the Royal George for supper and toasts." Let us hope they had a plentiful supply of cotton wool for their ears during the peal, wore overcoats if it was cold, and had umbrellas if raining!

The exact time of the murder was important. The church clock struck the hours, and a passer-by heard it strike one at 12.45, and another heard it strike one at the correct time. The gentleman from the Yard spent two nights in the belfry and solved the problem. Three shots were fired in the ringing chamber. One killed the man, another wounded the murderer and the third hit the shoulder of a bell and was deflected into

the beam above. This third shot hit the bell at 12.45 and accounted for the evidence of the first passer-by!

The detective, of course, noticed the mark on the shoulder of the bell and extracted the bullet from the beam. All three bullets were exactly alike. So everyone got their deserts, and I hope the detective got promotion. The moral for us seems to be - if we are thinking of shooting somebody in the ringing chamber (and who has not done so when the ringing is rough!), be sure there is a floor below the bells! I am wondering if a bullet, striking the shoulder of a bell, would really sound like a clock striking "one" on an "immense bell"?

"B"

Text provided by Martin Mansley

Calendar for 2014

September				
Wed 24	19:30	Branch Practice (Method)	Huntsham	North East
Sat 27	10:00	Young Ringers' Autumn Event	Honiton, Sidmouth and the Donkey Sanctuary	Young Ringers
Tue 30	19:30	General Practice	Sidmouth	East
October				
Wed 1	19:30	10 Bell Advanced Practice	Exeter St Mark	Exeter
Sat 4	15:00	Branch Annual Meeting, Members Forum and Dinner	TBC	North East
Sat 4	19:00	Branch Practice	Ilfracombe Holy Trinity	North/North West
Mon 6	19:30	Triples Practice*	Ottery St. Mary	East
Wed 8	19:30	Branch Practice	Lympstone	Aylesbeare
Thu 9	19:30	Plain Hunt Practice	Sidbury	East
Fri 10	19:30	Surprise Minor Practice*	Buckerell	East
Sat 11	10:00	Basic Bell Maintenance	Stoke Canon & Upton Pyne	Guild
Sat 11	15:00	Autumn Business Meeting	Ottery St. Mary	East
Mon 13	19:30	8-bell practice	Wolborough	Mid Devon
Sat 18	10:00	Guild Striking Competitions [weblink]	Stokeinteignhead, Marldon and Berry Pomeroy	Guild
Mon 20	19:30	Stedman and Doubles Methods	Offwell	East
Wed 22	19:30	Branch Practice (Method)	TBC	North East
Wed 22	19:30	6 Bell Branch Practice	Brampford Speke	Exeter

Tue 28	19:30	General Practice	Sidmouth	East
Fri 31		Guild Quarter Peal Week starts		Guild
November				
Sat 1	14:00	Branch AGM - Ringing/Service/Tea/Meeting/ Ringing	Bratton Fleming	North/North West
Mon 3	19:30	Triples Practice*	Ottery St. Mary	East
Wed 5	19:30	10 Bell Advanced Practice	Exeter St Mark	Exeter
Sat 8		Calling Grandsire Doubles		Guild
Sat 8	19:00	Bonfire Party	Byways, Newton St Cyres	Exeter
Sat 8	TBC	94th Anniversary Dinner	Moorland Garden Hotel, Yelverton	South West
Sun 9		Guild Quarter Peal week ends		Guild
Mon 10	19:30	Branch Practice	Littleham, Exmouth	Aylesbeare
Wed 12	19:00	Branch Practice	Hawkchurch	East
Thu 13	19:00	8-bell practice	Newton Abbot, Clock Tower	Mid Devon
Thu 13	19:30	Plain Hunt Practice	Sidbury	East
Fri 14	19:30	Surprise Minor Practice*	Buckerell	East
Sat 15		Branch AGM		Exeter
Sat 15	tbc	Fred Edwards Shield Competition	Uffculme	North East
Mon 17	19:30	Stedman and Doubles Methods	Offwell	East
Thu 20	19:30	8 Bell Branch Practice	Heavitree	Exeter
Sat 22		Branch AGM	Dawlish	Mid Devon
Sun 23	17:00	10 Bell Practice	TBC	South West
Tue 25	19:30	General practice	Sidmouth	East
Wed 26	19:30	Branch Practice (Method)	TBC	North East
December				
Mon 1	19:30	Triples Practice*	Ottery St. Mary	East
Wed 3	19:30	10 Bell Advanced Practice	Exeter St Mark	Exeter
Sat 6		Branch AGM	TBC	Aylesbeare
Mon 8	19:30	8-bell practice	Wolborough	Mid Devon
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
Sat 13	15:00	Devon Ringers' Carol Service	Buckfast Abbey	Guild
Mon 15	19:30	Stedman and Doubles Methods	Offwell	East
Sun 28	17:00	10 Bell Practice	TBC	South West
Tue 30	19:30	General Practice	Sidmouth	East

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

Editorial

Despite everyone's worries the "Have Your Say" seminar was well attended; the presentations were thought provoking and the discussions stimulating. And the lunch made it all worthwhile!

The Ringing Roadshow took a whole weekend of my time, with two overnight stays. Transporting the two mini-rings is a lot of effort for Ian Avery and we have to thank him for his dedication. It is pleasing that the bells were well used.

For once, every branch of the Guild is represented in this newsletter. Thank you all for providing the articles, and especially to Joan Clarke for dipping her toe into the water of journalism and providing something from the North/North West Branch. I put her photo in to thank her (website training).

I am tempted to put in a few requests to those submitting articles. Life for me is easier if the pictures can be provided separately from a Word document as it is rather tedious trying to extract them. And the better the resolution the better – this is usually the largest file but I can cut it down before printing. Formatting and fancy fonts are not important as these are redone before it is printed but it is easier if there is only one space between sentences and only one "return" between paragraphs. "Hard" returns generally need to be removed. And one or two contributors might like to look at the rules for capital letters – only for proper nouns! And "church" is the building, "Church" is the people! Nevertheless I welcome any articles in any format that I can read so please keep them coming in.

Ian Campbell

Rusty feels left out



I have had a complaint that Rusty Hartley did not appear in the last issue of RRD – almost the first time ever. So here is a photo to correct that, with her showing off her favourite publication.

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
