

RINGING ROUND DEVON

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

Newsletter 98 June 2015

Guild Events

Devon County Show



Association members ringing call changes

Last year's Devon County Show was a washout – the final day of the show was cancelled when the car parks all became a quagmire! Hopefully the organisers made up a bit this year for the loss incurred last year – things were a little quiet on Thursday and Friday but Saturday was packed. As usual the Frank Mack Garage ring was on show on the Churches stand where the bells were demonstrated regularly by members of the Guild and a good number from the Association, and visitors were invited to “have a go” – apparently queuing almost all of Saturday. A quarter peal was scored on the bells on Friday, despite concerted attempts to disrupt the ringing including a three piece band and singer, people wanting to have a ring, and the appearance of an eight foot high robot which sang (in a different key from the bells and the singer) followed by a large crowd. By comparison the handbell quarter earlier was a lot easier!



A quarter peal in hand – Lynne, Margaret and Ian

Ian Campbell

Martin Mansley has his own comments:

The ringers' stand on the Devon County Show is a well established part of the Devon Churches section. The formula tends to be – meet at the “tower” at about 8.30am, prepare seats and display and then get ready to ring for the service. This usually starts about 8.45 if enough ringers have turned up! The stand organiser usually reminds the other participants that the ringers are ringing for service and the service itself starts at 9.00am. The ringers join in and add volume to the singing. Following the service there is often a little hiatus as the visitor numbers gradually build up. This is often the best time to slip off the stand and get a glimpse of the rest of the show. On the Thursday and Friday this year we were well blessed with volunteers so there were several opportunities for more serious ringing and on the Friday two quarter peals were rung – one on handbells provided by the redoubtable Margaret Chapman

There were many interested visitors – some already ringers but several interested in finding out about ringing and how to learn. Friday was the calm before the storm. On Saturday the visitors came in droves and we were hard pressed to keep them all busy ringing – no rest on that day and our last visitors arrived at 6.00pm. This was the day when the volunteers were a little scarce. A peal at the Cathedral, the Central Council Meeting and Bank Holiday Saturday all played a part in this. In practice very little real ringing could take place. The highlight was the service ringing at the start of the day when the distinguished guests at the service (Show Chairman and President with their retinue) were amazed to see the Chairman (Mary Quicke) roll up her sleeves and join in the ringing (she rings at Silverton).

As soon as the final visitors had left on the Saturday it was time to dismantle the bells and load them up into Ian Avery's car for the journey home. Once this was all done there was a chance to reflect on another very successful three days. Once again it is

many thanks to Ian for all of the organisation and to the volunteers who come to help man the stand. If you have not been to the show recently try and make a date for next year – the third Thursday in May is always the start of the three day event.

Having just spent three days as part of a team promoting ringing at the Devon County Show, the feedback we got seemed to put the church, and ringing as part of it, in very positive light. We got many people telling us that bells had meant a great deal to them as part of their wedding. They were keen to see ringing continue particularly in their villages and many (often women with young families) told us they had already contacted local ringing teams and were keen to learn and encourage their children to learn too. After several years at this Show 2015 was definitely the best for a positive response and not one single negative statement. Without being complaisant there is definite hope for the future.

Martin Mansley

Central Council Reps' Report

MAY 2015

The Central Council meeting was held this year in Hull at the end of May, attended by the elected Guild representatives: Les Boyce, Fergus Stracey and Lynne Hughes, with apologies from James Clarke.

Various ringing and social events were available on the Saturday and Sunday, including Radio 4's morning service which was a ringers' service, live from the main church in Hull. Some of the committees, such as the Public Relations committee which I am on, also met on the Sunday. We have committee members in Australia, America and the Isle of Man who usually join meetings by Skype, so it is good to all be in the same room once a year! The Ringing Foundation had postponed its usual AGM from the Sunday till a date in August, which will inevitably mean poorer attendance.

The main Council meeting was held all day on Monday. There are a lot of routine matters, the presentation of committee reports which had been in a *Ringing World* supplement a few weeks ago, and hours of elections to those committees. I say elections, but this year there was mostly the right number of applicants for the vacancies, so the paper voting slips were not needed, though everyone still had to be proposed with a speech outlining their merits, and seconded. There is talk of doing away with committee elections all together, and having committees self-select from those who are interested and willing to give their time, but this hasn't materialised yet!

There were two motions. The first was a minor change to a committee, quickly dealt with. The second was a proposal to move the CC weekend to early September. The explanation was to shorten it to a normal weekend, and make use of cheap out-of-term university accommodation and all the other meeting facilities of a campus. The motion was lost, most speakers' concerns being that the format of a two-day conference hadn't been explained.

A paper "Change Ringing for the Future - Update May 2015" to tackle the shortage of ringers we are all aware of, had been circulated round reps, and thus to Guilds, before the weekend. Unfortunately there was only time to discuss one of the seven proposals. This was the idea of regional groups to share ideas and support training across county borders. We split into separate rooms for each region, Les Boyce

heading up the South West, to bring together successes and needs on myriad post-it notes.

The *Ringling World* AGM was held as part of the day. Despite stringent cut-backs the paper makes a loss every year and is going into reserves. Drastic measures are needed. Without formally voting, shows of hands were asked for, and a majority were in favour of, if necessary, fortnightly publication, charges to print quarters, and charges to print peals in full format. It was pointed out that VAT would have to be charged on everything, including what were previously donations, so there would be little net gain.

So, another weekend is over, Portsmouth next year, and much work for your reps to do on their committees during the year.

Lynne Hughes

Aylesbeare Branch

Roy Berry's Retirement



Roy Berry with Matt Pym

In February, Roy Berry formally retired as captain of Topsham after an amazing 62 years. Roy handed over the keys to the tower in a ceremony during the ringers' annual dinner, following speeches from the new vicar and the ringers thanked him for his long service and dedication to the ringing in Topsham. His achievement was also marked by the church which organised a thank you of their own with a celebratory cake and speeches, thanking him for his commitment not only to the tower but to the church and the community as a whole.

Roy became captain of Topsham in 1953, having served with the RAF in South Africa and Rhodesia during the Second World War. He took over after the previous

captain, Walter Gibbons, passed away. During the following 62 years, he always kept the bells ringing, following a tradition that has remained unbroken (other than during the war) since 1921 when the present six was installed. During his years as captain, Roy maintained a band of at least six ringers at Topsham, something that is quite possibly unique among the towers in the Aylesbeare branch and probably much of the country. He also taught countless people to ring and has left a legacy of ringing not only in the local area but country wide as his pupils have moved on and continued ringing all over the country. He is a well-respected member of the church and of the Topsham community and has worked for five different vicars, much like our present Queen and her Prime Ministers!

The Topsham ringers and community thank Roy for his amazing service to the tower and wish him an enjoyable retirement. His dedication over the last 62 years has inspired many generations of ringers and it is testament to him that the bells remain an integral part of Topsham life.

Matt Pym

Change of date for Aylesbeare AGM

Please note that in order to avoid the Christmas events and to encourage more members to attend, the Aylesbeare branch AGM has been moved to the second Saturday in October which will be:

SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2015

Ringling for VE Day, then and now

At 11am on Saturday 9th May, bells in churches and churches and cathedrals the length and breadth of the country rang out to celebrate the 70th anniversary of VE Day, marking the end of World War 2 in Europe.

In Exmouth, ringers from the parish church of St John the Evangelist, Withycombe Raleigh joined in with the celebrations by ringing on the 'red' six of their 12.

Included in the number was Robert Perry, still a regular band member, who learned to ring at St John's when the wartime ban on ringing was lifted in 1943. When he was just 17 years old, he helped to ring the bells for the original 1945 VE Day celebrations, little realising that seven decades later he would be doing the same for this special anniversary.

Like most bands, St John's rings regularly for services, weddings and other events, but they felt privileged and proud to mark this anniversary in such a quintessentially traditional way, just like the original.



(L to R) Roger King, Trevor Bradley, Janet Coles (Tower Captain), David Wills, Tony Williams and Robert Perry

Roger King

East Devon Branch

SIDMOUTH TOWER OPEN MORNING

This was held on Saturday 18 April partly as a PR exercise but also to try to attract new recruits. The event was widely advertised with an article in the parish magazine, posters on notice boards and in shops around the Sid Valley. Local schools and youth groups had also agreed to advertise the event. The *Sidmouth Herald* offered to attend and local *Radio Exe* was sent details for their *What's On* list.

Ian Campbell kindly agreed to come along with the Guild demonstration bell, laptop running the Abel programme and a set of handbells. We completed the exhibits with the Craft of Bellringing DVD projected onto a screen, the excellent North-East branch display boards which were erected and, of course, we offered free refreshments!!

Then the panic – would anyone come! Yes they did! There was a lot of interest in the hands-on exhibits and about 40 people made the journey up to the ringing chamber for a brief talk. This was followed by a visit to the bellchamber where they could see (and hear!) a bell being rung and glimpse our mediaeval bell.

Despite the interest on the day we've so far had no new recruits but the seeds have been sown so who knows?

I'd like to thank Ian Campbell for all his help and advice and for giving up his Saturday morning, the North-East branch for lending us the display boards, the Sidmouth rector and churchwardens for their support and encouragement and finally to the Sidmouth ringers (and those from other towers who came along) for their commitment and enthusiasm – you're a great bunch of people.



Ian Campbell puts the Guild Demonstration bell through its paces



Jeff Bailey was kept busy on the reception desk :-)

Ray Appleby

Ed's Second Quarter Peal

Ed so enjoyed his first quarter peal during QP week 2014 that we felt it was time for him to ring another. So it was that he rang the treble to Plain Bob doubles on the back six at Sidmouth on Sunday evening 24 May. At the end of the quarter peal Ed was what can only be described as 'ecstatic' and is keen to ring another one soon. The ringers of the back three bells: Graham Baker, Andrew Harris and John Mason, were less enthusiastic at this point as it was very warm in the ringing chamber

(despite having a window open) and they were all feeling the effects of the heat! The quarter was ably conducted by Jeff Bailey and was rung for Pentecost and also to congratulate Andrew's son, James, on his engagement to Nikki Sibley. Well done Ed.

The band comprised: Ed Morris, 1; Anne Bailey 2; Jeff Bailey (Cond), 3; Graham Baker, 4; Andrew Harris, 5; and John Mason, 6.



The quarter peal band (minus Anne who took the picture!)

Anne Bailey

Cake v. Quarter

I've written in these columns before about the East Devon Ladies Group and their addiction to coffee and cake. Recently when one of the towers they'd booked became unavailable at the very last minute the coffee and cake stop was greatly extended. There then started a deep philosophical discussion as to whether or not the ringing was really necessary as a part of their morning's activity. In the end the general consensus was that without the ringing it might be more difficult to justify to husbands and/or boyfriends time spent in the watering hole. The rationale being that ringing was thirsty work and used up a lot of energy thus the coffee and cake was an essential.

Delie's birthday was coming up (39 again?) and a small group decided to join her in ringing a celebratory quarter peal. They met early at St Andrew's Feniton on the morning of 12th May to ring a quarter comprising four methods, Stedman, April Day, Grandsire and Plain Bob. After a couple of false starts, while their brains warmed up and the circulation got going, all went well. There was a sigh of general relief when Kathy called 'only two more extents to go' and then with a final 'that's all' it was successfully accomplished.

This was Janet's first quarter as cover, though probably not her last. In the pub afterward, sharing Delie's birthday cake, there was a feeling of immense satisfaction in the accomplishment, achieved in a nice atmosphere with a lovely group of people. Amid the euphoria they all resolved to meet up again for another quarter in the very near future, (more cake!) Just watch this space for details.

The band comprised Maureen Davey 1, Lisa Clarke 2, Kathy Matthews (C) 3, Anne Bailey 4, Delie Perry 5, Janet Ritterman 6.



L to R: Janet, Delie, Maureen, Anne and Kathy – photo by Lisa Clarke

Trevor Hitchcock and Anne Bailey

..... and another one

I know our publicity officer thinks the coffee and cake is the important bit, but we do ring with other thoughts in mind. This time in honour of Lisa and Laurence Clarke's wedding anniversary: congratulations to you both.

After our last quarter a date, time and venue for the next QP were quickly arranged and Delie offered (or was she cajoled) to call it. We met again on 27th May at St Andrew's, Feniton to ring Stedman, Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles. A pre-QP comment that summer must be here looking at the various colourful tops, trousers and sandals being worn by the band made us all smile and a successful quarter was scored in 47 minutes (the conductor ringing in bare feet!) The band, as shown in order in the attached photo, comprised Lisa Clarke 1. Maureen Davey 2. Janet Ritterman 3. Kathy Matthews 4. Delie Perry (c) 5. Anne Bailey 6.

Someone has commented on the halo effect behind the ringers! (Oh come on, they're not that righteous – *EastDevon Publicity Officer*)

Plans for yet another quarter with a different conductor were discussed over coffee, (what, no cake?), so please continue to watch this space.



Maureen, Anne, Kathy, Janet, Delie, Lisa

Anne Bailey

Not just the ladies...

It is not just the ladies who are active ringers in the East Devon area; there are also some promising young ringers. Arthur Yarnold rang the tenor for his first quarter peal, of Grandsire doubles, in Lyme Regis on Thursday 14th May on the back six, with the intention of it being for the Guild of Devonshire Ringers.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. Charles Barber | 4. David Barrance |
| 2. Delie Perry | 5. Andrew Nicholson (c) |
| 3. Maureen Davey | 6. Arthur Yarnold - 1 st QP |

Arthur is a teenager who rings in Kilminster on Sundays, where he lives, and goes to school in Lyme Regis where he comes on practice nights.

We are getting a first quarter certificate for him. Kathy Mathews has played a considerable role in encouraging Arthur, along with Andrew Nicholson's tuition. We would like to congratulate Arthur on his fine achievement and wish him every success in his ringing career.

Delie Perry

Exeter Branch

Rob Completes the County

At a quarter peal at Atherington Rob Franklin completed ringing quarter peals in every ringable tower in Devon with more than four bells.



Photo taken with Graham's self-stick
L to R: David, Ian, Rob, Graham, Wendy and Lesley

Atherington, Devon, St Mary

Monday, 27 April 2015 (11-0-9 in F)

1296 Netherseale Surprise Minor

1 Lesley Tucker

4 David Hird

2 Graham Tucker

5 Rob Franklin

3 Wendy Campbell

6 Ian Campbell (C)

Completes Devon's ringable towers (5 and above) for
quarters: 5.

Ian Campbell

Lisa rings Cambridge

Congratulations go to Lisa Clarke on ringing her first quarter peal of Cambridge.

Exeter, Devon, St Petrock

Monday, 1 June 2015

1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

1 James Kirkcaldy

4 Richard Johnston

2 Lisa Clarke

5 Ian Campbell

3 Wendy Campbell

6 David Hird (C)

1st of Cambridge inside - 2



L to R: James, Richard, David, Wendy, Lisa, Ian

Ian Campbell

Mid-Devon Branch

Hannah celebrates getting the key to the door

Hannah Martin celebrated her 21st birthday by ringing a peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal at Thorverton on 6th April. We were pleased that two of Hannah's godparents (Pat and Robert Newton) travelled from Oxfordshire to ring with her and that several others in the band travelled back from ringing at St Mary, Redcliffe in Bristol in order to take part at Thorverton.

After the peal we all retired to the Ruffwell Inn to celebrate with the birthday girl.



The peal ringers celebrating Hannah's 21st birthday
Clockwise round the table: Hannah, John, Lynne, Ali, Pauline, Tom, Sue, Mike, Pat, Robert

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Thorverton, Devon, St Thomas of Canterbury

Monday, 6 April 2015 in 2h51 (15)

5040 Cambridge Surprise Royal

Composed by D F Morrison (No 6297)

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Robert H Newton | 6 Hannah R Martin |
| 2 Susan D Sparling | 7 John R Martin (C) |
| 3 Lynne P Hughes | 8 Pauline Champion |
| 4 Patricia M Newton | 9 Thomas J Waterson |
| 5 Alison C Waterson | 10 Michael E C Mears |

First Surprise Royal - 6

1,500th for the Guild - 8

Specially arranged and rung as a 21st birthday compliment
(9th April) to Hannah

John Martin

Tower Talk – mid-Devon news

RUSSELL AND CAROLINE CHAMBERLAIN



Russell Chamberlain officially retired from Wolborough church at the end of April but his last service was on 15th March. The previous Friday was his last practice at Wolborough. To mark the occasion several furtive emails had been flying around so that a suitable “secret” celebration could be held. A large spread of food had been prepared and a number of “guests” were able to be present. Richard Wills gave a short speech when he thanked Russell and Caroline for all they have done for ringing in Wolborough and East Ogwell. Russell said how much he had enjoyed his time in the team ministry but particularly seeing the ringing team at Wolborough grow and flourish. Now there was a new team at East Ogwell which was really pleasing. Martin Mansley brought greetings from St Marychurch thanking them for their support and hoping that they would still be able to visit from time to time. Caroline expressed her gratitude to all

the ringers for encouraging her to return to ringing when she thought her ringing days were over. Despite a prolonged break to enjoy all the food Russell insisted on a busy practice and it was a little later than usual that Grandsire doubles brought the evening to an end.

PHILIP STEVENS RINGS HIS 56TH ANNUAL PEAL

Congratulations to Philip Stevens who has now rung at least one peal every year since 1960. His first peal was on 19th March 1960 at Belstone (Grandsire doubles) and his first of 2015 was on 24th February at Bishop’s Ting Tong (Annables London Surprise Minor). He has rung 634 peals at the time of writing. These are at 189 different towers with 585 different ringers, Congratulations Philip – we hope you ring many more!

VE DAY – 70TH ANNIVERSARY

A rather late request by the government seems to have brought out the best from ringers and there was much publicity for the ringing in the press. I expect there were others but I have heard of ringing at St Marychurch and Dawlish.

Dawlish

Lynne Hughes writes:

At Dawlish, we were asked by our town council and vicar to ring at 11am on 9th May, for the 70th anniversary of VE Day. To include as many of our ringers as possible, we had an hour’s general ringing. Fourteen of the local band kept all eight bells going almost continually with call changes, Plain Bob and Grandsire. Contact with the local newspaper a couple of weeks beforehand resulted in a press release and photo

being published before the day, so that many local people would know why the bells were ringing.



L to R: Kizzy, Mo Hawkins, Phil Hughes, Josh, Kate Wolfendale, Lynne Hughes, Fiona Rock-Evans, Jenny Clark, Jean Pluck, Kathy Davis, Liz Wood, Nicola Twibill, Derek Hawkins, Pam Anthony

St Marychurch

A fine quarter peal of Plain Bob minor was rung at St Marychurch starting at exactly 11.00.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Torquay, Devon, St Mary the Virgin, St Marychurch
Saturday, 9 May 2015 in 46 mins (6 cwts)
1260 Plain Bob Minor

1 Rowena Mansley	4 Hilary Tompsett
2 Michael Tompsett	5 Rodney Horder
3 Tim King	6 Martin Mansley (C)

To mark the 70th Anniversary of VE day and also to congratulate Tom and Bernice Sagar, parents of 4, on their 70th wedding anniversary.

We were pleased to include Hilary's parents in the dedication – they were married just after VE day having not seen each other for two and a half years – still together 70 years later – very many congratulations to them.

I was very pleased to be able to take part in celebratory ringing as my mother often talked about that day. Petrol was in very short supply but a local farmer (and ringer) came to the rescue and they all piled into his car with bikes tied to the back to ring in several churches in the Chorley and Leyland area of Lancashire. Of course, ringers were in very short supply so all were made very welcome

Martin Mansley

Teignmouth Outing

Planning this event proved to be an exercise in two things: where to park and how to get through Dorchester traffic. In the event, neither proved to be a serious problem but that didn't stop me worrying about it!

First stop, Litton Cheney. Pretty, well cared-for church with nice bells but a formidable climb; no, not the stairs, just the walk up to the church door, especially for those who missed my instruction to turn right about 30 metres after a T-junction, past some white cottages ('what turning? what cottages?').

Next was Martinstown; comfortable light 6. We rang both Stedman and Grandsire, a real treat.

Now followed a carefully-planned, if tortuous, route through Dorchester using the main street as little as possible. Actually I think I was the only one who used it; everybody else relied on SatNav and got to Fordington before me. Lots of free, on-street parking here, mostly occupied but we all managed to find somewhere.

Lunchtime: the car park by the new Dorchester library was suggested, 10-figure grid reference and postcode provided. Actually we left the cars at Fordington and walked.

At St Peter's in the centre of Dorchester there was no-one to let us in; a quick phone-call was followed by the arrival of someone vaguely resembling Bill Sykes, complete with dog. Dog proved to be amiable, owner even more so. Rather brief ring then off to Bradford Peverell where previous experience had promised ample parking. On arrival, most of this parking was occupied by the cut-up remains of a huge tree.

Our hostess at Bradford Peverell informed us that my planned route to Puddletown via Charminster (enthusiastically endorsed by an earlier host) was impassable due to a bridge closure. Hence it was necessary to brave central Dorchester again. In fact it seemed that everyone was avoiding central Dorchester which, though not quite deserted, was certainly very quiet.

Apparently our call-changes at Puddletown were so impressive as to warrant an invitation to go straight on to a striking competition that same evening. We politely declined and instead returned to an enjoyable supper at The Smugglers Inn. At least that bit went as planned.

Alan Furse

North/North-west Branch

Combe Martin – St Peter ad Vincula

Our church is shortly due for its quinquennial Inspection, and some weeks ago the churchwarden asked the ringers if they would produce some information about the tower and the bells. Knowing that the Guild offers an inspection and report service on bells specifically for this mandatory 5-year process, I contacted Ian Smith and the rest, as they say, is history!

On the day of the Inspection, Ian Smith and Ian Campbell arrived at about 10am after lengthy journeys from their respective points of the compass. Two of us here hung around for the day to offer any support required, and we were fascinated as the two Ians set to work. We could not believe the attention to detail which ensued for the



next 5 or 6 hours. Rooms were measured, many notes taken, and of course the whole of the bell installation from the ringing room, through the interim levels of rope management systems, and on to the actual bell installation within the belfry, were examined and tested in detail. It must have been a very busy day for the two lads who then had to make their long drive home.

A few weeks later the written report arrived and again we could not believe the detail and quality, with coloured photographs supporting pages of text which covered every aspect of the structure of the tower and the bell installation. Fortunately their report did not identify any serious problems, but we now have a maintenance plan of action to follow over the next few months to rectify a few things and general advice on keeping the bells in good working order in the longer term. And all this was

at no charge – although we will be making a donation to the DCBRF.

So a fantastic effort from the two lads, for which our church PCC and ringers are extremely grateful – thank you both.

*Bruce Hicks
on behalf of the Combe Martin PCC and the bellringers*

Henry Trewin

Henry lives in Bude at the northern end of the Devon/Cornwall border and is very well known in ringing circles throughout the Devon and Truro Guilds – and indeed much further afield as many who have joined his outings to the extremes of the SW Peninsular will know! He is a member of our branch and a vice-president of both the Devon and Truro Guilds. Henry is over 80 now and has been unwell recently. At the time of writing this he is being well looked after in Stratton Hospital and we wish him a speedy recovery and hope that he will soon be seen again among his many ringing friends.

First Peal 2015

At the younger end of the age scale, our congratulations go to Andrew Vincent who recently rang his first peal – treble to Yorkshire S Major. Andrew is a very accomplished call-change ringer who is involved in many of the Devon-wide call change competitions. A few years ago he was introduced to method ringing via the St Brannocks Society (based in Braunton) and he is a promising talent. The St Brannocks Ringing Master – David Willis – organised the peal for Andrew as part of the National “First Peal 2015” project. We hope it will be the first of many for Andrew.

Bruce Hicks - N/NW Branch Secretary

North East Branch

Young Ringers



L-R Mike Hatchett, Daisy, Elaine Trump, Sheila Scofield, Mandy Burnett, Alex, Les Boyce, Pat Hatchett and George

Since starting an after-school club at Bampton in January, we have trained three young ringers and one parent to ring. Weekly term time practices give limited time for developing practical ringing skills using the practice bell one student at a time, but we use the sessions for learning other things about ringing and having fun. All four recruits were able to ring with the Bampton band for their School Easter Service, ringing the backstrokes in rounds. During the Easter holiday we had two morning sessions at Huntsham which proved popular as they found the lighter bells easier to raise. At the Ascension Day school service the young ringers, with their teacher, impressed their peers by ringing the handbells for 'cross & pass'.

This May half term we again had a session at Huntsham. Although they could not all attend this time, we were joined by George (our young learner at Tiverton, St Peter) and Alex (from Uffculme, as yet unattached). With the help of our 'Improvers', Mandy from Bampton and Elaine from St Peter's, the Troyte Ringing Centre team were able to give the group a morning's practice to further develop their skills and achieve some more targets on the 'Learning the Ropes Scheme'.

Unfortunately Daisy and her Mum are moving to the Isles of Scilly at the end of term, but hope to continue their new interest there. We wish them well in their adventure and hope the rest of the family will also be tempted to ring by their enthusiasm. We plan to hold sessions at Huntsham for the young ringers in the N E Branch during the summer holidays and hope to recruit some more from the locality.

Sheila Scofield

St Peter's Shield Striking Competition

SAT 9TH MAY 2015 - STOODLEIGH

On the 9th May, four teams from towers in the NE Branch commenced 'battle', competing for the coveted St Peter's Shield in the annual six bell striking competition, this year celebrating its 20th anniversary.

As the teams gathered in the church at Stoodleigh for the draw, there was an increased sense of nervous tension building, but great humour amongst the ringers all added to the atmosphere of the evening. The weather was kind to us, the thinning air carrying the music of the bells across the green pastures potentially making Ian and Wendy Campbell's unenviable task of scoring a little easier.



Three teams rang call changes and the fourth, method. On completion of the ringing, we all honed in on the local pub where we tucked into a buffet and supped much needed liquid refreshment as we eagerly awaited our scores. Ian and Wendy very kindly gave feedback on each team's performance, delivered in a very positive and encouraging manner, advice on which all teams could build. After this a cake specially baked and decorated for the occasion was cut and eaten.

Celebrating 20 years of the St Peter's Shield

A well-rounded evening was had by all and we would like to thank Ian and Wendy once again for taking time out of their busy schedule to score the competition; to Jennifer Rowlandson for organising and allowing us to ring the bells at Stoodleigh; and finally yet importantly to Glen Morgan, St Peter's Secretary, for co-ordinating the event with military precision. It was fitting that, after several years' absence, the Shield should return to its home tower on the 20th anniversary.

Competition results were as follows:

- **Tiverton St Peter's:** 1st (1¾ faults) – Grandsire doubles
- **Silverton:** 2nd (33 faults) - Call changes (sixty on thirds)
- **Cruwys Morchard:** 3rd (44¾ faults) – Call changes
- **Bampton:** 4th (45½ faults) – Call changes



The winning team: Tiverton St Peter

Mark Heritage

A Chance to ring the Tenor

For a young ringer, being able to practise ringing the tenor behind to a method can be a challenge, especially if the bells in your own tower are fairly heavy. With this in mind, Nellie Croft and a number of willing helpers took some of the younger members of the Rackenford band to Calverleigh, where they were kindly allowed to practise on their light ring of six. Bethan, Peggy and Bobby had a very productive morning and all finished by competently tenoring behind to Plain Hunt.



L-R Les & Hilary Tosdevin, Glen Hookins, Liz Chadwick, Peggy, Bethan, Bobby & Nellie Croft.

Liz Chadwick

NE Branch Questionnaire

Following the branch AGM in 2014 members of the committee attempted to plan a programme for the coming year. This has become increasingly difficult over the years given an increase in branch membership (a good thing) and a decrease in ringers/helpers with ability/availability to support those who, the committee thought, want to develop their skills. We decided that a survey was needed and circulated all Branch members with a questionnaire. The Questionnaire addressed the issues of:

1. Who, where and what things members ring?
2. How members feel about their ringing?
3. What are their ringing ambitions?
4. What plans/thoughts have they about their ringing development?

As expected the results were as varied as the ringers themselves, but it has given us a starting point for targeting those who want support. It has also given us a greater understanding of what members want to give and receive from their ringing. It seems that most are not as obsessed as some of us about the Art!

Well, you may wonder what we are going to do with the results. We are still at the planning stage, as with most things in Bellringing it takes a while to get under way. We have a planning meeting at the end of June with a group consisting of the Education Officer, the Ringing Master of the branch, a trainer, a novice and a teacher/captain/improver. We will keep you updated.

I'm sure you are all interested to know what the data threw out too. From 120 members we had 58 responses:

- 40 ring to support the Church and 28 ring as a village activity
- 31 don't want to spend any more time than they do already
- 26 have no further ambitions beyond what they do already
- but 28 have a twelve month target for themselves
- 23 felt their local band could provide what was needed to make this progress
- 26 said the NE Branch practices & the Troyte Ringing Centre could provide this
- 7 asked to have some individual/mentor support to develop their ringing skills
- 17 members are willing to support others in their learning journey by attending extended practices, mentoring or ringing Quarter peals

This is the start of a process to support those who want to progress further with their ringing skills. As with many Branches and Guilds we have a few dedicated members who are already at full stretch, but we are keen to do whatever we can to teach more ringers and help those who want to progress. One other thing which the data picked up was the age demographic of the Branch. From those responding we had: 6 x 80yrs+, 10x 70yrs+, 15x 60yrs+, 14x 50yrs+, 4x 40yrs+ and no-one under 40.

With the majority being retired we no longer have to hold events in the evenings or at weekends. We can ring all day, every day!

Sheila Scofield, Education Officer NE Branch

Bickleigh Ringers Tie the Knot



The pretty hillside village of Bickleigh on Exe near Tiverton was the setting for the wedding of two local ringers on Saturday 23rd May. Tristan Billing and Emily Stevens have recently learned to ring, and wanted not only bells but bellropes as they came out of the church. Eight extra ropes were quietly draped around the porch while the service was taking place, including the two ropes they had learnt with earlier in the year.

Both Tristan and Emily studied at Exeter University, and there were lots of their fellow Exeter graduates at the church. After the ceremony everyone was invited to enjoy ice cream provided by a traditional ice cream van outside the church. The service was conducted by Revd Alan MacDonald, and the reception was held near the river in Bickleigh.

Tristan and Emily started learning to ring in January and are now ringing rounds. They are following the Learning the Ropes scheme, and are being taught by a team from the North East branch. Tower captain Steve Batt is doing the ITTS course, and the others in the team are local ART teachers Les Boyce, Lynette Costello, and Sheila Scofield.

Bickleigh ringers meet with Cadbury and Cadeleigh on the first Tuesday of each month for a joint practice, and the three bands work together to support Sunday ringing at each of the towers.

Steve Batt

South West Branch

Branch Spring Outing



Left to right - back row: Matt, Ben, Mark, Hellen, Glen, Mandy, Janet, Chris, Alena, Trevor
Front row: Billy, Sarah, Lindsey, Josephine and Cookie the dog

On Saturday 16th May the South West branch enjoyed their spring outing. It was arranged by our newly appointed ringing master Hellen Williams. She did a great job in choice of towers around the Okehampton area with well organised timings and pub stops. A crowd of us started the morning at Inwardleigh with some good ringing then onto the pretty village of Hatherleigh where we rang Grandsire triples and plain hunt. We were a mixed bunch of skills from touches of Cambridge minor to Lindsey practicing basic handling; there was something for everyone. The tower before lunch was Jacobstowe which was a cute five bell tower and interestingly they were having work done there to replace their pew platforms and they had uncovered ancient remains of the original foundations. Discovered under the floor and top soil the stone formation resembles a western apse which is said to date back to pre-Anglo-Saxon times; it's received lots of attention nationally and is said to be very rare.

We enjoyed lunch at The New Inn at Sampford Courtenay, sat in the sunshine and then went onto ring there and at two more towers; Okehampton and Bridestowe. It was lovely to see the churchyards look so green and radiant. At Bridestowe we were met with cake and tea, which is always welcome and the park next door has some decent play equipment; big enough for adults to try out between rings!

It was a good day and ended with an evening meal at the Fox and Hounds hotel. As a branch we really enjoy our outings and look forward to the next one.

Jo Maddick

Ringling Talk to Old Plymouth Society

On Friday 17th April Ian Campbell came down to Plymouth to give a talk to the Old Plymouth Society about church bells. The group arrange talks each month about different topics and our friend Roger Compton is a member so he rounded a few us of up to go along.



Some of the participants attempting “lapping” on handbells

The talk was fascinating and the crowd seem to really enjoy it; there were about 50 people there. Ian seemed in his element and certainly knew a lot about bell ringing. He explained about call changes, method ringing, how to identify ringing faults, how dangerous ringing can be, bell tuning, bell foundries and more. It was interesting and entertaining; at one point Ian got members of the audience to ring plain hunt on handbells; they just about managed it! He had a replica bell frame and bell that you could ring, which helped everyone to visualise the ringing action itself.



Ian demonstrating changes using handbells – and helpers

I learnt loads that evening; one thing which stuck with me that I didn't know was that English Heritage opposes tuning old bells. So even though an old set of bells might sound a bit duff they can't be improved and it's because we have plenty of images of what the past looked like with paintings/photographs but we don't have any audio clips of what it sounded like. It made me think during an outing a few weeks ago that for some towers the sound hasn't changed for hundreds of years and I found that quite remarkable. I'm sure everyone has their own view on this though!

We thoroughly enjoyed the talk – thank you Ian.

Jo Maddick

Training

TROYTE RINGING CENTRE

Forthcoming Events

EXTENDED PRACTICES

10 00 – 1 00 at Huntsham

Plain Bob Doubles – Wed 29 Jul & Sat 1 Aug

Plain Bob Minor – Sats 22 Aug & 5 Sep

Plain Hunt – Sat 26 Sep

Raise & Lower in Peal – Sat 10 Oct

Moving on from P B Minor – Sat 31 Oct

WORKING WITH NUMBERS

Why have bobs? – Sat 7 Nov 10 30 – 12 00

Calling a simple touch – Sat 5 Dec 11 00 – 12 30

Venues to be arranged

More information at: <http://www.troyteringingcentre.org.uk/>

Bookings/Enquiries to: lesboyce@gmail.com

Devon Handbell Day 2015



The assembled company

The Guild of Devonshire Ringers' handbell day was held once again in Okehampton on 7th June. Mischa did us proud as usual with her catering and warm welcome, and the sun shone in the garden to make a lovely afternoon.

Four 'students' working on Plain Bob were kept very busy as there were enough helpers and sets of bells for four groups to run simultaneously. The afternoon was punctuated by tea breaks, mini breaks and micro breaks. Where were we up to? It didn't matter, as there was lots of ringing, eating and socialising. Some of the helpers got through three leads of Kent Maximus in the garden, but the best ringing came from the student groups. Nellie rang her first quarter in hand, whilst Mischa's attempts at a second in hand didn't quite go on the day. The Cruwys Morchard two even rang some Minimus together. The only thing missing was the Denmisch Simulator, as the 10 Saxilby 'bells' have now moved to Exeter.



The "experts" attempted three leads of Kent Maximus in the garden

Lynne Hughes

Denmisch Simulator Ready for Grand Opening

A lot of work has been going on with the the Denmisch simulated bells which have been moved from Okehampton and installed in their new home at the Exeter Cathedral School. As reported last time, the school handymen have been working hard converting a derelict workshop into a locker room which doubles up as a home for the bells. The Exeter ringers have made three trips to Okehampton (amply rewarded with pasties!) to remove the “bells” (for want of a better word) from the loft over Mischa’s garage and transport them to the school in Rob Franklin’s trailer. They were a little heavier than expected, and felt to be about 1cwt each!

They then had to be positioned in the loft space over the new room so that the ropes fell in a circle, keeping clear of the proposed space for the lockers, and avoiding both the steel joists and the underlying wooden beams that had been marked out on the floor. The school staff then drilled all the holes, fitted the rope bosses (including making a new one to replace one that was of a different design), and fixed down the bells. Meanwhile the electricians had installed the wiring for the sensors, the computer and the speakers and monitors.

All that remained was to connect up the computer links, and test everything out. This turned out not to be quite so simple: the computer refused to run for more than a few minutes at a time, and the bells had been connected up randomly to the computer. Furthermore the display screen was in a different room from the keyboard and mouse! It took several attempts to get the computer correctly configured so that the bells could be rung in rounds. Eventually the faulty computer was swapped for another one which was reconfigured, a faulty sensor was replaced, and the bells were ready for use. A tryout was organised on 1st June following the Cathedral



practice – there was no problem ringing after 9pm as they can’t be heard outside! We were surprised and pleased that the headmaster and his wife (Stephen and Catherine Yeo), who are both ringers, took the trouble to attend and ring. And then the first practice with the school bellringing club took place the following Thursday, and was met with much enthusiasm with the pupils. With a few helpers they managed rounds on the ten, and some of those who had found the bells at St Petrock’s difficult were soon making really good progress. We hope that the skills learnt will help with ringing “proper” bells – this appeared to be the case when ringing the following Saturday morning at St Petrock’s for the opening of the school fete on the green when acceptable rounds were rung probably for the first time by some of the pupils!

The tryout with some of the cathedral members – yes it was raining!

The Guild is very grateful to Mischa for donating the bells, and to the school for their support and work on the building. It is hoped that they will be a very useful training facility for the Guild which will be well used.

The official opening is due as a part of the Guild AGM festivities. All are welcome. The bells can be made available at most times outside school hours either for group or even individual use with the computer.



Some of the school pupils ringing at Denmisch for the first time

Ian Campbell

Training at Wolborough

As some of RRD's readers will be aware, when Wolborough's tower captain, Russell Chamberlain, retired earlier this year, he and his wife, Caroline, moved to Westbury, where (as at Wolborough) they are able to enjoy the delights of yet another eight-bell tower with Taylor bells dating from the 1920s. At Wolborough, and at East Ogwell (one of the three churches in the Wolborough parish), with its recently rehung light six, Russell left behind a loyal group of ringers, most of whom he had begun to teach during the last five or so years. For some of the group, however - several adults and a couple of children from one of the local secondary schools - their first taste of bellringing came only shortly before Russell's departure.

Fortunately in Tim King, Wolborough has the benefit of an experienced ringer to help take things forward. In addition, however, all who ring regularly at Wolborough have been very grateful for the support provided by other expert ringers from further afield who have come to practices and to some of the teaching sessions. This additional input – and the resources that have been shared – everything from the short-term loan of the Guild demonstration bell (which also proved of great interest to a number of parishioners while it was on display in the church) to games and exercises to develop ringing skills and understanding – have been of real benefit (and not just to

the newest learners), giving rise to some interesting discussions about approaches to the teaching of ringing.

At Wolborough, we are conscious that there are quite a few other learners at a similar stage – including quite a number of young learners – being taught in towers both in the Mid-Devon Branch and close by. If there were opportunity to bring some of these learners together, we would be keen to join in. Some of these ringers are probably at a stage where it would encourage them to see that there are others out there, trying to master just the same sorts of things. We're conscious that the main reason that people give up is that they tend to become more aware of how far they have to go, rather than of how far they have come. Time spent with other learners can often help to counteract this. Support provided by other learners can be not only a powerful motivator but also quite an effective way to learn.



Two of the youngsters trying out the demo bell at Wolborough

Janet Ritterman

Mid-Devon Plain Bob Training Weekend

The weekend started on Friday evening at Stokeinteignhead when we concentrated on Plain Bob doubles and minor (and some Plain Hunt!). It was good to have Virginia from East Ogwell join us for the evening – sadly work commitments meant that she was unable to be at Wolborough for the Saturday session. Very good use was made of the time and several touches of 240 changes or so were successfully brought round. Singles in Plain Bob (or anything else, come to think of it!) seem to cause panic in many ringers so it was good to see people really getting to grips with them.

On Saturday we moved to Wolborough and the focus changed to 7 and 8 bell ringing. Despite Russell wearing his famous tee shirt he was persuaded to ring quite a lot of

Bob Triples (as we all were!) – we did manage some Bob Major as well plus a half course of Yorkshire as a thank you to the helpers. Halfway through the morning a welcome break was taken when bacon sandwiches (etc!) were very kindly produced by Janet and Sharon. A busy morning closed about noon with votes of thanks to all – particularly the helpers and everyone at the two towers – Stokeinteignhead and Wolborough. It did feel like the end of an era as we said goodbye to Russell and Caroline – probably their last branch event before they move to Wiltshire and well-earned retirement.



Refreshment time at Wolborough



Group Photo

Martin Mansley

Association of Ringing Teachers

ASSOCIATION OF RINGING TEACHERS

Forthcoming Courses in Devon

ART Teacher Training (ITTS) Day Courses:

MODULE 1 – Teaching Bell Handling

Venue: West Devon– Sat 8th August

MODULE 1 – Teaching Bell Handling

Venue: East Devon – Sat 14th November

Both courses run 9 15am – 5 00pm

Course fee: £20 + local costs (£10 or less)

Support from Guild Education Fund available

Enquiries: Les Boyce (lesboyce@gmail.com; 01884 256819)

Information and bookings:

<http://www.ringingteachers.co.uk/>

The latest ART WORKS magazine from the Association of Ringing Teachers is available from <http://www.ringingteachers.co.uk/aw/AW12-May15.pdf>. We hope that this may be useful in updating you on the work of the Association of Ringing Teachers and its schemes - the Integrated Teacher Training Scheme (ITTS) and Learning the Ropes.

Les Boyce

Other News

Ring in 2015 First Pealers Update



Two more first pealers, Paul Hext a ringer at Holne and Buckland in the Moor rang his first peal at Highweek, conducted by John Pladdys who congratulated him on his efforts at the conclusion. Paul has since rung another peal at Buckland in the Moor on the day before his wedding. Andrew Vincent who rings with the St Brannocks Society rang his first peal at Braunton with an all St Brannocks band, made more noticeable by the Guild President venturing around the back end. Both peals were of a high standard and in both cases the first pealers did extremely well.

Devonshire Society

Highweek, Devon

Friday, 20 February 2015 in 2hrs 40Min (11-1-11 in F)

5040 Stedman Triples

Composed by John Pladdys (No14)

1 Lesley A Knipe	5 Jeffrey Knipe
2 Timothy F Collins	6 Robert D S Brown
3 Lynne P Hughes	7 Michael E C Mears
4 John Pladdys (C)	8 Paul Hext

First Peal - 8

First peal of Stedman on the bells

Guild of Devonshire Ringers (St Brannocks Society)

Braunton, Devon, St Brannock

Saturday, 16 May 2015 in 3hrs 5min (16-0-25 in E)

5024 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Composed by Robert D S Brown

1 Andrew P Vincent	5 James M Clarke
2 Jennifer R Sparling	6 A Stephen Taylor
3 Michael R Rose	7 Lester J Yeo
4 David C Willis	8 Robert D S Brown (C)

1st Peal - treble

Birthday compliment to David Willis

Robert Brown

FIRST PEAL FOR JAMES

A further first peal was rung at Broadclyst for James Allen, who rings in Exeter. This was actually rung on the day of the 300th anniversary of the first recorded peal.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Broadclyst, St John the Baptist

Saturday, 2 May 2015 in 3:09 (20-0-25)

5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Composed by D F Morrison

1 Lynne P Hughes

5 P Wendy Campbell

2 Sarah E Chadburn

6 Peter G Brown

3 James P Allen

7 James Kirkcaldy (C)

4 Nigel G Birt

8 Ian L C Campbell

First peal at first attempt - 3

Especially arranged to mark the 300th anniversary of the first recorded peal



L to R: Lynne, Wendy, Sarah, Peter, James K, James A, Ian, Nigel

Ian Campbell

EIGHT MALMARK HANDBELLS FOR SALE

1 octave diatonic C5-C6

Open to offers

Please telephone 01395 267058 or email julie.sinden@yahoo.co.uk for further details

Devon Association 90th Anniversary celebrations

This year is a special year for the Devon Association which celebrates its 90th Anniversary. To mark this Exeter Cathedral and its bells were booked all day on 25th April. As is inevitable call-change competitions were arranged with the John Scott competition taking place on the light ten in the morning and an eight-bell competition on the light 8 in the afternoon. Simultaneously a six-bell competition was held at St Petrock's church over the Cathedral Green from the Cathedral.

A large number of ringers attended the 4pm service which included special prayers and the ringers' hymn, This was followed by tea in the chapter house. The evening was filled in with ringing on the twelve bells of the Cathedral. The Cathedral was open all day to visitors and ringers who were able peruse the memorabilia on display and try out the Frank Mack garage ring and also a Saxilby simulator which was on loan. CCTV was specially installed in the ringing chamber and amongst the bells and the pictures were relayed to downstairs.

All present seemed to agree that it was an exceptionally good day which was enhanced by the whole-hearted cooperation of the Cathedral staff and did a lot to foster relations between the Guild and the Association.



Trying out the mini-ring



The TV link was popular



Visitors look at the memorabilia



Waiting for the results in the Chapter House

Ian Campbell

Calendar for 2015

June				
Sat 20	10:00	Guild Ringing Festival and Annual General Meeting	Crediton/Exeter	Guild
Wed 24	19:30	Branch practice	Hatherleigh	Exeter
Wed 24	19:30	8 Bell Practice	Huntsham	North East
Thu 25	19:30	Branch Practice	Farway	East
Fri 26	19:00	John Hutchings Cup Competition	Silverton	North East
Fri 26	19:00	10 Bell Practice	Lyme Regis St. Michael	East
Sat 27	10:00	6 Bell Practice	Cruwys Morchard	North East
Sat 27	14:00	Mini-Outing	Dartmoor	Mid Devon
Sun 28	tba	10 Bell Practice	tba	South West
July				
Wed 1	19:30	10 bell advanced practice	Exeter St Mark	Exeter
Sat 4		Branch Outing	TBC	North/North West
Sat 4	15:00	Branch Quarterly Meeting	Cadbury	North East
Mon 6	19:30	Triples Practice - Stedman/Grandsire***	Ottery St Mary	East
Thu 9	19:30	Plain Hunt Practice	Sidbury	East
Fri 10	19:30	Surprise Minor Practice*	Buckerell	East
Sat 11	14:00	Branch Striking Competition	Farway	East
Thu 16	19:30	8-bell practice	Dawlish	Mid Devon
Fri 17	19:30	Branch Practice	Broadclyst	Aylesbeare
Sat 18	10:00	6 Bell Practice	Hemyock	North East
Mon 20	19:30	Stedman/Doubles methods	Offwell	East
Wed 22	19:30	8 Bell Practice	Huntsham	North East
Fri 24	19:00	10 Bell Practice	Lyme Regis	East
Wed 29	10:00	Plain Bob Doubles	Huntsham	North East
August				
Sat 1	10:00	Plain Bob Doubles	Huntsham	North East
Sat 1	19:00	Branch practice	Ilfracombe (Holy Trinity)	North/North West
Mon 3	19:30	Triples - Stedman/Grandsire***	Ottery St. Mary	East
Wed 5	19:30	10 bell advanced practice	Exeter St Mark	Exeter
Sat 8	18:45	Joint Practice with Mid Devon Branch	St Andrews, Plymouth	South West
Sat 8	09:15	ITTS Module 1	West Devon	North East
Wed 12	19:30	Branch Practice	Lympstone	Aylesbeare
Thu 13	19:30	Plain Hunt Practice	Sidbury	East
Fri 14	19:30	Surprise Minor Practice*	Buckerell	East
Sat 15	10:00	6 Bell Practice	Huntsham	North East
Sat 15	18:00	Joint Practice with Dunster Branch	Tiverton - St Peter	North East

Mon 17	19:30	Stedman/Doubles methods	Offwell	East
Mon 17	19:30	8-bell practice	Wolborough	Mid Devon
Sat 22	10:00	Plain Bob Minor	Huntsham	North East
Sun 23	tba	10 Bell Practice	tba	South West
Wed 26	19:30	8 Bell Practice	Huntsham	North East
Fri 28	19:00	10 Bell Practice	Lyme Regis St. Michael	East
September				
Wed 2	19:30	10 bell advanced practice	Exeter St Mark	Exeter
Sat 5	10:00	Plain Bob Minor	Huntsham	North East
Sat 5	19:00	Branch practice	Combe Martin	North/North West
Mon 7	19:30	Triples - Stedman/Grandsire***	Ottery St Mary	East
Tue 8	19:30	Branch Practice	Clyst Honiton	Aylesbeare
Wed 9	TBC	Mid-week Outing	TBC	North East
Thu 10	19:30	Plain Hunt Practice	Sidbury	East
Fri 11	19:30	Surprise Minor Practice*	Buckerell	East
Sat 12		Young Ringers' Outing	To be decided	Guild
Sat 12	14:30	Branch Committee Meeting	TBC	North East
Sat 12	tba	Autumn Outing	tba	South West
Thu 17	19:30	8-bell practice	Teignmouth, St Michael	Mid Devon
Sat 19	10:00	6 Bell Practice	Cullompton	North East

* - please confirm before attending

Editorial

Letters on the national ringers' email list spell doom and despondency for the future of ringing. However I am very excited by some of the developments to teach young ringers in Devon. I have done a lot of work on the Denmisch ring in Exeter which has the potential of teaching large numbers of people of all ages to ring provided that instructors can be found who can spare their time. The Cathedral School is already heavily committed to teaching ringing and some of the youngsters who have been taught are beginning to appear at other towers in the area. I have also been helping with the teaching at Wolborough (reported here) and am aware of initiatives at other places, including Bampton (see article above), Dawlish and Kingskerswell. These can only be good for the future of ringing in Devon.

We were all shocked to hear of the sudden death of David Trist at Easter. He was the tower captain at St Petrock's in Exeter and rang at Exminster and Kenton. His enthusiasm for well struck "proper" Devon call changes was very apparent when he was the guest speaker at the Exeter Colleges Guild dinner in February and now I will never get to go on one of his "dowsing" courses (water divining). His funeral at Uffculme was packed with ringers – he will be greatly missed.

There seems to be a trend for more ringing for national occasions. St George's day is now a regular spot on the ringers' calendar and this year Exeter Cathedral bells appeared on the BBC's *Spotlight* program. Further ringing was performed for the VE Day anniversary. One of the things most of us forget is how important it is to get

publicity for ringing **before** a special event so that people know why you are ringing. Simply reporting it afterwards doesn't have quite the same impact.

This issue comes out at the Annual General Meeting. Perhaps someone else will be editing the next one...

Ian Campbell

Quarter Peal Submissions

I have been asked to request that all quarter peals rung that are to be included in the Guild annual report should be sent to "Bellboard" and not only to *The Ringing World* in order to aid the collection of the information. *Bellboard* can be found at <http://www.bb.ringingworld.co.uk> where anyone can browse the performances over the whole of the country (and beyond!).

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
