

# RINGING ROUND DEVON

## GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

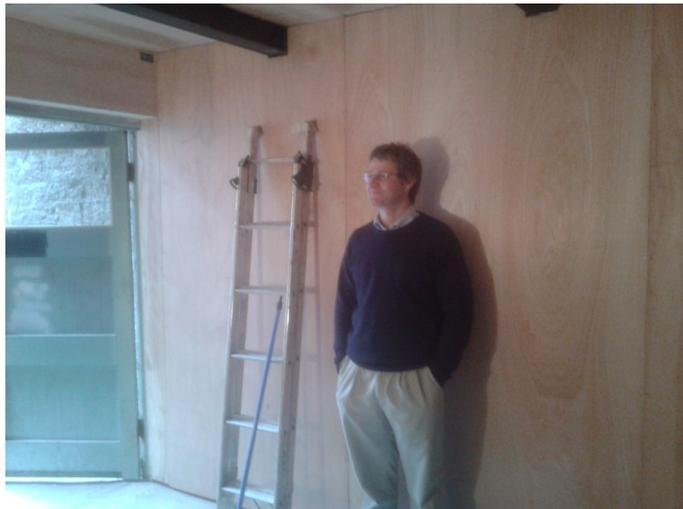
Newsletter 97 March 2015

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### Guild Events

#### Progress Report on the Denmisch Simulator

Close followers of RRD will know that the Guild have been offered a set of ten simulated bells, currently installed in Mischa Thompson's garage in Okehampton, to use for training purposes. Following a number of suggestions it was agreed that they would be installed at Exeter Cathedral School, where they will be available for the school bellringing club and any other Guild functions as required.



The new ringing room being inspected by Oliver Coldrick



The loft space being prepared for the bells

A suitable building was identified but it has taken a long time to get it ready for the bells. Following work on the structure of the building during the recent half term holiday building works are now progressing fast. The builders have been to Okehampton to see what is needed and when I had a look at the progress at the beginning of March the girders and ceiling had been completed, electricians were working on the wiring, and the room walls were being lined.



The rabbit hole gives access to the loft space  
(White Rabbit courtesy of Lizzie)

The location comprises a detached room with access to the loft space being directly from the road outside the school. A separate room is being provided for the computer equipment to keep it safe when not in use.

A group from the bell ringing club went in a school mini-bus to Okehampton to try out the bells before their move and were entertained in Mischa's inimitable style.



Some of the pupils enjoying a break at Mischa's

We are very grateful to Mischa for her generous gift to the Guild, and hope that she will be happy with the use that will be made of the bells when they are installed in Exeter.

*Ian Campbell*

## Guild committee meeting

The Guild Committee Meeting in January was held at St Thomas' church hall, Exeter. This meeting provides the backbone for the Guild's work in the year ahead, setting up a framework from which to move forwards, as well as making many recommendations which will appear on the agenda of the AGM later in the year. So it is an important day for members to share their views, and help to build upon that framework. This year, the themes were mainly focussed upon recruitment and retention of ringers, with several core subjects discussed. Members were especially interested to hear more details of the Denmisch ring, soon to be housed in Exeter Cathedral School, and we touched upon the considerable teaching possibilities that this invaluable resource will provide for the Guild in the future. Hopefully the ring will be installed by the summer, so we shall all have a chance to see for ourselves!

Training of ringers is an important topic, from many angles. One vital paper presented to the meeting came from Robert Brown, and detailed a new and thorough safeguarding policy which the committee proposed to adopt, alongside appointing Robert Brown as our Safeguarding Officer; with his knowledge, we all hope to be guided and advised by him through the many complex issues involved. Tower captains also form an integral part in training new ringers, and as part of our efforts to streamline our message, the Guild will be encouraging branches to set up training sessions for tower captains, where they can meet, share good practices, and learn more, under the guidance of the Guild.

Publicity was another hot topic. We are still actively seeking a Guild Public Relations Officer, so if you are keen to be at the forefront of everything, and believe passionately in promoting ringing throughout Devon, then do please get in touch with us. We will also be working on creating new publicity material for both Guild and Association this coming year, and would welcome any feedback or suggestions from members.

Finally, some dates for your diaries:

Saturday 20 June - Guild Festival and AGM - Crediton. A full programme is promised, including open ringing at Crediton in the morning, a lunch provided by the local ringers in the Boniface Centre, and hopefully a chance to try out the newly installed Denmisch ring in Exeter.

Saturday 17 October - Guild Striking Competitions - North/North West Branch. Do please support these competitions, as always! It is an excellent opportunity for many of us I am sure to ring in some new towers, and whilst the venues are yet to be fully confirmed, we are told that the 8-bell inter-branch competition will be hosted by Braunton. Methods this year are Triples - either St Clement's College Bob Triples or Grandsire Triples. So start practising! More details will follow in due course.

Friday 23 October - Sunday 8 November - Guild Quarter Peal Fortnight. As you will see, the quarter peal fortnight has been born! This will allow many more of us to ring even more quarter peals, with no less than three weekends to choose from. Not only is it a good chance to stretch your ringers, this event is also an excellent fundraiser for the DCBRF. Do please also consider that, in addition to quarter peal fortnight, the Guild is also encouraging members to ring their first peals this year. As many of you will have seen, 2015 is the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first recorded peal at St Peter Mancroft, and as part of those celebrations, the CCCBR are aiming to see 300

ringers achieve their first peal. So, do please think about this milestone, and encourage your ringers to enjoy their quarter peals, and also to step into the world of peal ringing!

Another final date for your diaries is Saturday 25 April, when the Devon Ringers' Council will be organising the annual 10-bell striking competition. This will take place in the morning at Exeter Cathedral as a part of the Association festival day celebrating their 90<sup>th</sup> year. At the committee meeting we were all delighted and grateful when Geoff Hill presented a new trophy to the DRC for the 10-bell competition, crafted in John Scott's memory, with the hope that many more of us will take part in this event. I hope that teams will do so, please.

*Clare Griffiths*

## First Peal 2015



There is an exciting project at Mancroft in Norwich to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the first ever recorded peal, which took place there. See the link below:  
<http://www.mancroftapeal300.co.uk/wp/>

But this isn't just about East Anglia. The Central Council is supporting a nation-wide plan called 'First Peal 2015', with the aim of getting 300 people to ring their first peal this year (double the usual number). It's not too soon to start thinking about who you could encourage to ring their first peal.

The initiative seems to be gathering momentum, and has three aims: helping more ringers to ring their first peal, lots of ringing around 2nd of May for the tercentenary of the landmark peal in 1715, and lots of publicity for ringing based on these.

There was an introductory article in *The Ringing World* on 23rd January, and you can find more information at: <http://cccborg.uk/FirstPeal2015/>

*Lynne Hughes*  
*Central Council PR committee*

## Ringing for England



The St George's Day ringing for 2014 was terrific and again the campaign was mentioned with great enthusiasm on most of the BBC regional radio breakfast shows and local newspapers and radio stations. It even got mentioned in *The Times* and all thanks to your wonderful and continuing support for which I am most grateful.

The feedback from all the media contacts was very positive with requests to keep them informed for next year. With social media added to the campaign there is no doubt it is reaching a wider audience and all with happy results. There is also the fact that more ringers, guilds and associations are connected via these sites and this in turn helps to spread the word. In all honesty I have received only a handful of complaints, all mild, since the campaign started and these were brought about through misunderstandings which, once explained, brought them on side.

I hope you will encourage as many towers as possible to participate. It would be of enormous help if they could confirm that they will be able to take part in 2015 and to let me know. The campaign is now on Facebook and Twitter which can be accessed via the web site <http://ringingforengland.co.uk/> and it would be hugely helpful and fun to receive messages, comments, and 'likes' and so help the campaign evolve with a powerful input from your ringers.

This year will be the campaign's fifth year – a huge achievement. There is no doubt there is a growing awareness of your hard work which is received with delight by everyone. Perhaps you would like to be involved – please chat to your ringers and consider becoming involved.

*Libby Alexander - Ringing for England*

### Devon Bellringers' Carol Service

It was evident from the well filled pews and the queue of those hoping to have the chance to ring before the service, that Devon ringers valued the opportunity to return to Buckfast Abbey for the 2014 carol service, the bells of Buckfast Abbey having been essentially unavailable for ringing for several years while bell repairs and a major refurbishment of the abbey itself were being undertaken. The Guild President reflected this appreciation in his welcome, reminding those gathered of the uniqueness of the Buckfast Abbey bells – the only ring of twelve in a Roman Catholic church in the UK.

The service began with the bellringers' choir, trained and conducted by Ian Avery, in the lively opening chorus from Vivaldi's *Gloria* in D. Joubert's *Torches*, one of five other carols performed by the choir alone during the service, showed the choir to particularly good effect. Both choir and congregation were fortunate to have Wyn Turner once again playing the organ. When all joined forces in the familiar hymns and carols which punctuated the five traditional carol service readings (the final reading being provided by the Reverend Preb. Philip Darby, who presided), the impressive body of sound and range of colour from the organ loft helped to produce some rousing singing which echoed round the Abbey.

Those present had the opportunity to appreciate some expert handbell ringing – from Exeter Cathedral ringers who rang a touch of Kent Treble Bob Royal and from the Lamerton ringers who again demonstrated their deftness in ringing the Queens' Peal. And at the conclusion of the service, all had the pleasure of hearing the bells of Buckfast Abbey being rung by an experienced band. This was the sound that will have remained in many ears, for as the members of the congregation left the Abbey, the twelve bells rang out over the Abbey grounds, just as dusk was falling, bringing vividly to life the words of the Ringers' Hymn which had just been sung – 'Ring out! Ye bells above, let all the earth resound, till every sphere in love and harmony be bound . . .'

*Janet Ritterman*

### **MARS BARS AND ALL THAT**

Radio traffic reports are not always accurate and that is not always a disadvantage. Dire reports of traffic hold-ups at the Splatford Split due to road works prompted us to

leave early to get to Buckfast Abbey for the Devon Ringers' carol service. In the event there was no hold-up at all and we arrived almost ridiculously early.

'Can we go up to the bells?' resulted in a virtually blank form being thrust in front of us with a "sign here request". Innocents at large as we were, we began the long climb up the stairs, not realising just how far it was. When you normally ring on the ground floor, the idea of having to climb a mountain to reach the ringing chamber never enters your head. With our last breath we came out under a roof and espied a door which we assumed would give entry to the ringing chamber. Instead it gave a most marvellous view down into the body of the Abbey. A brief rest to admire the view and it was onwards and upwards. At some point I'm sure I must have lost count, but I think it was 106 steps up.

We arrived just in time to watch the bells being raised. With all 12 raised we were invited to take a rope. Slow as ever, there was just the treble left for me and then that sense of panic struck home. My mind was in turmoil, I've only ever rung on 12 bells once before and never had to lead. What would they be like? Would I get the feel OK? The Mars Bar advert swirled around my head. What would happen if I over-pulled, or didn't pull hard enough? And, oh dear, it's up to me when we start. 'Look to, treble's going, she's gone'. Heavens above, I'm ringing at the Abbey and it's going all right. I haven't banged the stay and neither have I let the bell come down on me. The tension begins to fade and confidence rises, I'm beginning to enjoy this. Hang on, what did the man in charge say? Well, when only two of us are still ringing, it must have been 'Stand'. What an idiot! Can I crawl in a corner and hide?

Some ringers leave, some more come in. I decide to watch, but once again there is nobody on the treble. This time I take it with more confidence, I have the feel of the bell and I know I can ring it. This time when the man calls 'Stand' I am in control and don't embarrass myself.

It's time to leave, there are many more waiting for the chance to ring and I've been lucky enough to have two goes. I'm sure that for many experienced ringers it was just another tower grab, but for me it was one of the most exciting moments of my brief ringing career, one to be savoured for a very long time.

My wife says that when I came down I looked like the cat that had had the cream. As for the service, I found it so moving and the sound of the organ at the end of the service was quite unbelievably impressive. Oh, and the ringing afterwards was pretty good too.

*Trevor Hitchcock - Combe Raleigh (a 3 bell tower)*

## Email Lists

A number of guild members have asked me about email lists that they could join. Many branches maintain their own lists; contact the branch secretary if you wish to be added to their list. There is also a Devon-wide list for any ringers in Devon. To subscribe to this list send an email to [devonringing-subscribe@yahogroups.com](mailto:devonringing-subscribe@yahogroups.com) and when your application has been checked you will get back an email to confirm your membership. Most of the email lists allow members to send messages which will be received by all subscribers. They are all blocked to prevent SPAM message from non-members. The Guild also maintains email lists for special functions and a Facebook group. For further details see <http://devonringers.org.uk/guild/social-media>.

*Ian Campbell*

## Guild AGM – June 20<sup>th</sup>

This year the Guild AGM is to be held in the Exeter Branch. In the morning we will be based at Crediton where the Boniface Centre will be available for lunch and the meeting. In the afternoon it is hoped that we can try out the Denmisch ring in their new home at Exeter Cathedral School; ringing in the evening will be at the Cathedral.

The provisional timetable is as follows:

GUILD AGM – Provisional Timetable on Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2015 at CREDITON	
10:00-11:45	Open ringing
11:45-12:30	Service
12:30-14:00	Lunch in Boniface Centre, Crediton
14:15	AGM
16:30-17:30	Denmisch simulator in its new home at Exeter Cathedral School
17:30-19:30	Open practice at Exeter Cathedral

## Aylesbeare Branch

### Branch Training Day

On Saturday 7th February, members of the Aylesbeare Deanery Branch travelled the short distance north of Exeter for a training day at the towers of Stoke Canon and Thorverton. The methods of focus for the day were Plain Bob and Grandsire.



The morning ringing at Stoke Canon

The day began at Stoke Canon where our ringing master Janet Coles, ably assisted by some of the stronger ringers in the branch, gave tuition in both Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles. Following a well earned mid-morning break for tea, coffee and some discussion, well struck courses of both methods were achieved along with a quick course of Cambridge Minor by the more experienced ringers before lunch.



Afternoon ringing at Thorverton

Suitably refreshed after a hearty meal and a pint at the Ruffwell Inn, the band then moved on to Thorverton where it was further strengthened to thirteen ringers by the

expert skills of Neil Deem and Roger King. The focus here was to build on the work achieved in the morning and to progress onto ringing Triples. This we did and proved to be so successful that after another break for more tea all of our 'learners' took part in plain courses of Grandsire Caters!

It was an excellent day with lots of good ringing and our thanks go to both towers for the use of their bells along with all of the ringers, especially our 'outside of the branch' helpers, Mo and Derek.

*Matt Pym*

## **East Devon Branch**

### New Format for Branch Practices

2015 will see a few changes in ringing events on offer in East Devon. We are continuing to hold our regular monthly practices and these are detailed in the events list of the web site. The branch is now offering targeted practices for ringers who have requested practice in a particular method or, for example, Doubles or Minor methods. To date, this is proving popular, with courses booked until Easter. As another popular addition, a 10 bell practice is now taking place monthly in Lyme Regis for more advanced ringing. There has been much positive response to this practice as ringers from neighbouring societies and several Devon branches regularly attend. Please contact any of the East Devon Branch Officers if any further information is required.

*Brenda Coley*

### Calling a Quarter Peal



The quarter peal band

You know how it is, that dead period between the Christmas celebrations and ringing in the New Year; the time when there is little to do bar reading, '101 ways to use Turkey Leftovers'? Well, there is something else you can do, you can ring a quarter peal or, even better, you can call one. You've not called one before? Then now is your chance.

The first thing to do is get a band together. Now find a tower and preferably a warm one; this time of year many towers resemble the inside of a freezer cabinet. Good, that's all done, now learn how to call it and, glory be, you've only got two days to go; good job you looked at it some time ago and thank heaven for Steve Coleman.

There's only a day to go now, but the tower captain has a sore finger and can't ring. That's both good and bad news. Good in that you can call something this morning and get some practice, but bad news in losing one of the ringers for the quarter. The practice calling went all right, I think, but ten minutes is hardly a quarter and we're still short of a ringer. A phone call later and it's a relief to hear a friendly voice say that they will be happy to ring on the morrow. Now some intense study, to ensure this is all clearly ingrained in the mind.

The day dawns bright and clear, but with a deep frost, -6 degrees C. We're all glad a tower was chosen with a reasonable chance of some warmth. All are gathered, all are enthusiastic, all encouraging, 'you can do it, we have every faith'. Maybe the comment, 'anyway if you call it wrong we'll just ring what you should have called,' isn't quite such a confidence boost, or perhaps it is. The band of four ladies plus two men, on treble and tenor, acting like a couple of book ends to stop the ladies falling over (not that they will) are ready. Bells up, ropes adjusted, everyone ready, then, let's go and we launch into unknown territory.

'Go Bob Doubles', the calls come and go, the bells roll on, changes are crisp and well struck, everything goes without a hitch, why was there so much worry? Finally, 'that's all' and the smiles can begin. If you think this is all a fantasy, it isn't; a slightly decorated version of the truth maybe but, Lisa, you made it and we congratulate you. Well done!

The photo shows left to right: Trevor Hitchcock 1. Lisa Clarke (c) 2. Kathy Matthews 3. Delie Perry 4. Anne Bailey 5. Mark Moran 6. First Quarter called by Lisa Clarke, 1260 changes of Plain Bob Doubles at St Andrew's Church, Feniton on 29th December 2014.

*Text: Trevor Hitchcock  
Photo: Ruth Hitchcock*

## Exeter Branch

### Rebecca Harrison's first peal

#### HOW I CAME TO RING MY FIRST PEAL



The peal band in order – starting from front right

I ring regularly at Inwardleigh and Okehampton where I practise Surprise Minor and Major methods. Pushed along by Tom and Ali Waterson, I found myself with a few quarters under my belt (Minor and Major), which I thoroughly enjoyed. It was my personal goal to try for a peal before my 15th birthday in April. Before I knew it a date was set by Tom for my first attempt. The band was lined up and confirmation email sent.

The day arrived and to calm my nerves, my dad gave me some wise words of advice and we set off to Okehampton. Everybody arrived in good time and we set off. Time seemed to pass by quickly at first until I looked at the clock realising that there was still another hour to go! By this point tiredness had crept upon me but I was determined to get through that last hour. A huge smile came over me when Pauline whispered to me that there was only one more lead to go. "That's all" and with a great sense of achievement all retired to the pub for a celebration drink of beer and a Coke for me!

My thanks go to Tom, Ali and the rest of the band for pushing and helping me to achieve my goal. I'm now looking forward to the next one...

Guild of Devonshire Ringers  
Okehampton, Devon  
All Saints  
Tuesday, 17 February 2015 in 3hrs 4min  
5152 Yorkshire Surprise Major  
Composed by A J Cox  
1 Alison C Waterson  
2 Pauline Champion  
3 Rebecca J Harrison

4 Nicholas O Waterson  
5 Richard Harrison  
6 John R Martin  
7 Thomas J Waterson (C)  
8 Michael E C Mears  
First peal at first attempt, aged 14: 3

*Rebecca Harrison*

### Celebrating Pat Yeo's birthday



Left to Right – Wendy, Lesley, Sue, Ian C, Pat, Clare,  
Ian S, Alison, Pauline, Lester, Mike

Pat Yeo (the wife of our esteemed president) recently celebrated a rather large birthday. The ringers responded in the traditional way:

Guild of Devonshire Ringers  
**Thorverton, Devon**  
St Thomas of Canterbury  
Saturday, 7 March 2015 in 2hrs 57m  
5000 Bristol Surprise Royal  
Composed by A J Cox  
1 Lesley A Tucker  
2 Lester J Yeo  
3 P Wendy Campbell  
4 Clare J Griffiths  
5 Alison C Waterson  
6 Susan D Sparling  
7 Ian L C Campbell  
8 Ian V J Smith  
9 Pauline Champion  
10 Michael E C Mears (C)  
60th birthday compliment to Pat Yeo

## More Restoration Work by the Geriatrics

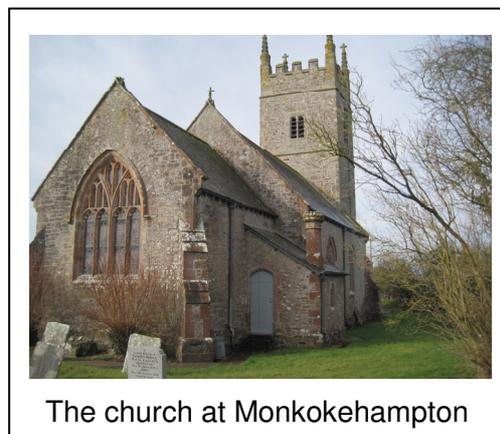
A working party has done some more work on the single bell at Mount Dinham, in Exeter. Further tightening up of the gudgeons and the replacement of a couple of nuts that we split last time have got the bell so that it can be swung – but not rung full circle yet. Only a part of the shrouding on the wheel has been replaced, and the plain bearings are in such a state that it takes two people even to get it half way up. In addition the clapper prefers striking on the wrong side of the bell, although a determined attempt (including one person under the bell forcing the clapper “right”) got it to ring correctly.



David Hird wielding the spanner extension (a bit of gas pipe!!)

Thanks go to the team (David Hird, Rob Franklin, Ian Campbell) for their work on the bell. If you are interested in ringing there do let me know and we may be able to arrange it as part of the Guild AGM which is being held in the Exeter branch this year.

This bell was included in a recent visit by a group of enthusiasts from Germany (Sebastian Schritt) who are recording a number of English bells. During their visit we accompanied them to St Mark's, Heavitree and the single bell at the Blessed Sacrament in Heavitree. We understand that they also went to Buckfast Abbey to record Hosanna.



The church at Monkokehampton

A trip was also made to investigate the four bells at Monkokehampton in north Devon. Although these were rehung in 1901 the fittings are in reasonable condition (including Aggett's patented self-aligning plain bearings) but the Aggett frame is not very strong and is badly rotten in one corner. We cleaned out and oiled the bearings, tightened the frame as best we could, and sorted out the ropes. Following this we chimed the bells frame high but did not think that the frame was sufficiently sound to ring them completely up.



The unusual "swastika" four bell frame at Monkokehampton

*Ian Campbell*

### Rust discovered on Pinhoe Bell Frame



The foot of the H-frame supporting the tenor

During a regular inspection of the bell installation at Pinhoe significant rust was discovered on the bell frame. It is not thought that there is any immediate risk to the bells and ringing has not been curtailed but it does require attention before it deteriorates much further.

The bells at Pinhoe are supported by “H-Frames” made of cast iron – these are in the shape of a large letter “H” about six feet high, one each side of a bell, with the bell supported on bearings on the horizontal part of the “H”. The tops of the H-Frames are joined together with steel angle girders which are fixed into the wall. The bottom of each of them rests on large H-Section steel girders which are set into the wall; these enable the tower to take the full stresses which occur when the bells are rung.

The installation has been well cared for and regularly painted and is largely in good condition. However in one place, just under the south window, it is clear that ingress of rain has allowed this section to get wet; where one leg of the H-frames holding each of the largest two bells is fixed to the RSJ considerable rust is apparent (see photos). At these points the H-frames themselves have not rusted significantly, being made of cast iron, but the top web of the girder is in a very poor condition (see photos).



Close-up showing the delaminating of the steel girder

It is hoped that the two bells and frame sides can be unbolted and lifted or jacked up by a few inches to enable the rusty parts of the girder to be cleaned up and steel sheet welded in place to strengthen them if necessary. The work has been scheduled by Nicholson’s to take place towards the end of this year, with some local assistance.

This tale shows how important regular inspections are. If left too long a fairly simple job can become a major repair issue. The problems at High Bickington, which are mentioned elsewhere in this issue, were exactly the same but on a far larger scale. In that case the bells and complete frame had to be removed and all of the foundation steelwork replaced at considerable cost.

*Rob Franklin (Tower Captain)*

*Ian Campbell (Bells Advisor to the Guild of Devonshire Ringers)*

## Exeter Colleges Guild Annual Dinner

The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual dinner of the Exeter Colleges Guild was held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February. During the day ringing was held at St Marychurch, Babbacombe and Upton with the dinner at the Rougemont Hotel in the evening. This was followed by dancing to the live band "Buttoned-up" with everyone joining in. The next day included service ringing at some of the local towers, concluding with the Cathedral in the afternoon.



ECG members collecting together outside the Cathedral

*Ian Campbell*

## **Mid-Devon Branch**

### Ringling for a school carol concert



Kizzy and her brother Josh (school years 6 and 5 respectively) started to learn to ring at Dawlish in the summer. With Christmas approaching, they asked if they could ring for their school carol concert, which takes place in the church – a midweek daytime service which hasn't usually had bells. We were delighted to get a band together for Kizzy and Josh to ring rounds on 6 totally unaided. They were keen for their classmates to know what they were doing, so their names appeared in the programme and were announced by the vicar at the start. The photo shows them posing before we began!

*Lynne Hughes*

## Santa Specials 2014

Santa's little helpers from the Guild were out in force again to support First Great Western's 2014 charity appeal on 21<sup>st</sup> December in aid of the Dame Hannah Rogers Trust. This year it was based at Newton Abbot Railway Station, from where special trains were running on the little used branch line to Heathfield, which is a section of the once existing Teign Valley line that has not apparently been used by the public for fifty years. The Frank Mack ring had been set up on Platform 3 underneath the footbridge at Newton Abbot, and two quarter peals were rung on the bells on the Sunday before Christmas. A further quarter was rung in hand on one of the trains, and a peal was almost successful the previous Wednesday (the loss of bell control by one of the ringers near the end has been video recorded!).



A quarter peal in progress on platform 3



Class 150 234 enters the Heathfield branchline

The line had been out of action for many years, but recently weekly freight trains have been running; therefore it only took the persuasive skills of Rusty Hartley to convince First Great Western that it could easily be brought back to passenger standards. Father Christmas rode on all the trains, as did a sprinkling of bellringers.

But when the last train of the day stopped at Heathfield Station families and railway enthusiasts were allowed to disembark to take photographs, before the train ran to the very end of the line and returned via the passing

loop into the disused bay platform at Newton Abbot. Your correspondent was also privileged to remain on the train as it returned to the depot at Exeter, although I had to take down the Christmas decorations as my part of the bargain.

The Dame Hannah Rogers Trust is such a well-respected charity that all the refreshments, raffle prizes and gifts from Santa were donated, as was the cost of running the trains, so that all income, including ticket sales, went directly to the charity. Congratulations and thanks to all who took part and especially to Rusty, who was the hard-working organiser of the entire event: over £5000 was raised for the charity.



Newton Abbot Station (Frank Mack Garage Ring), 21 December 2014 in 31 minutes. 1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor. 1 Lynne Hughes, 2 Sue Sawyer, 3 Wendy Campbell, 4 Lesley Tucker, 5 Graham Tucker, 6 Ian Campbell (C).

Newton Abbot Station (Frank Mack Garage Ring), 21 December 2014 in 29 minutes. 1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor. 1 Wendy Campbell, 2 Graham Tucker, 3 Lesley Tucker, 4 Lester Yeo, 5 Peter Bill, 6 James Kirkcaldy (C).

Heathfield Branch (Multiple unit 150 234), 21 December 2014 in 35 minutes. 1312 Kent Treble Bob Major. 1-2 Lynne Hughes, 3-4 Sue Sawyer, 5-6 Tim Bayton (C), 7-8 Ian Campbell.

*Lester Yeo*

## Mid Devon Branch News update

### **BRANCH PRACTICE AT EAST OGWELL**

Those who have rung at East Ogwell in the past will probably remember the tricky treble or the experience of ringing whilst sitting in a sink! All this is now in the past and it was a very different situation when the branch held its first practice there since the recent work. The bells are now rung from a new ringing room high up in the tower. Russell told us it was once the room used by visiting priests to stay in whilst on their travels round their extensive parishes. We refrained from lighting a fire in the fireplace but we did enjoy the now transformed light ring of six. Various methods were rung including the method of the month – London S Minor. It was great that one of the new band at Ogwell (Virginia) was able to join us and ring some call changes ably called by Maddy.

## **STOKEINTEIGNHEAD**

Great news here! We are delighted to say that practices have been resumed and new recruits are being trained. Practices are on Monday evenings at 7.30pm and all assistance will be gratefully received! It is worth checking before travelling – the contact info is on Guild website or via Rodney Horder [rlhorder@hotmail.com](mailto:rlhorder@hotmail.com)

## **BIRTH OF THOMAS JOSEPH PARTRIDGE**

Thomas was born in the morning of 12 January, a son (8lbs 5ozs) for Charlotte and Richard Partridge of St Marychurch and Berry Pomeroy. He is a grandson for Hilary and Mike Tompsett and (of course) a nephew for Chris. This is wonderful news and we send hearty congratulations to all – a tenor ringer of the future?

## **MID-DEVON ADVERTISER**

The tower at St James, Teignmouth featured in a two-page spread which included an excellent photograph of the ringers. The article mainly concentrated on the contents of the tower such as the clock and bells and was very well illustrated. One interesting photo is a close-up of the internal clock-face used to adjust the outer dial. The finger stays still and the face moves in an anti-clockwise direction!

## **MID DEVON PEALS**

Two recent peals are of interest:

### **Babbacombe**

Peals at Babbacombe are quite rare these days but even rarer are peals of New Cambridge. This relatively minor variation on “traditional” Cambridge allows the conductor a much greater choice of composition as it removes quite a lot of the “falseness” (tendency for changes to repeat if the composer is unwary).

#### **Guild of Devonshire Ringers**

Torquay, Devon: Babbacombe, All Saints

Saturday, 3 January 2015 in 2h53

5024 New Cambridge Surprise Major

Composed by R D S Brown

- 1 Charlotte A Boyce
- 2 Hannah R Martin
- 3 Hilary A Beresford
- 4 Richard H Johnston
- 5 Michael H Tompsett
- 6 Martin G Mansley
- 7 John R Martin (C)
- 8 David Hird

### **Wolborough**

Russell is counting down to retirement and invited a band to join him for a final peal at Wolborough before he and Caroline depart for Wiltshire in March. He chose Rutland as the method and with John Martin at the helm it was brought round in 3

hours 4 minutes. Six of the band joined Russell for a celebratory drink afterwards. And the tipple? It had to be Ringmaster!

Guild of Devonshire Ringers  
Wolborough, Devon: St Mary  
Saturday, 24 January 2015 in 3h04  
5024 Rutland Surprise Major  
Composed by D F Morrison (no 6900)

1 Robert J Corney  
2 Lynne P Hughes  
3 Michael H Tompsett  
4 Richard C Shere  
5 Jonathan G Rose  
6 Russell C Chamberlain  
7 Martin G Mansley  
8 John R Martin (C)

First in method - 6.

Specially arranged and rung as a compliment to Russell on his forthcoming retirement as Rector of Wolborough and Ogwell.

## **KINGSKERSWELL / COFFINSWELL PRACTICES**

The Kingskerswell band will now practise at Coffinswell on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. All other weeks will be at Kingskerswell. Visitors are very welcome but it is probably worth checking before you visit.

## **QUIZ NIGHT**

A better turn out for this and four teams of various sizes(!) battled it out for a closely fought contest. Julia and her family had come up with a variety of different rounds from "who am I?" to two rounds with a final question asking the connection between the previous nine answers. Everyone had provided food and raffle prizes so there was plenty to feed our brains on! Some of them needed it! – speaking personally, of course! The winning team was Dawlish with 69 points. Altogether an excellent evening. A big thank you to all involved, particularly John Brett (a non-ringer who was persuaded to be Quiz-master) and all the Brett family. We also thank Sharon who was chief organiser from the St Paul's end. Thank you all for your hard work.

*Martin Mansley*

## **100 Peals at Kingsteignton**

The current eight bells at the parish church of St Michael were installed by Gillett & Johnson in April 1929. The first peal, Grandsire Triples, was rung less than two months after their installation on 1st June. Peals were certainly not a regular occurrence in those days as only a further six peals were recorded during the next twenty years including in 1948 a peal of Stedman Triples in which Bob Southwood and Charlie Yates rang their first peal. Peals then became even less regular with a huge gap of 38 years - the next peal being rung on 30th July 1987.

Leading methods are:-

Bristol S Major (21)  
Grandsire Triples (17)  
Spliced S Major - 8 methods (9)

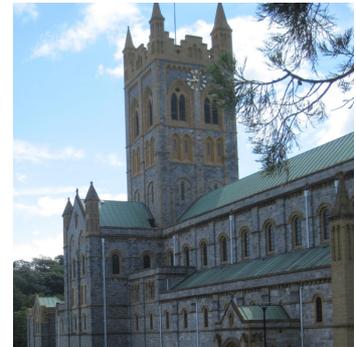
Notable peals include: a Sunday Service band peal in February 2008 in which Lee Avery rang his first peal; peals for the Golden, Diamond and 65th wedding anniversaries of Bill (tower captain) and Betty Avery; 1000th peals for Mike Mears and Ian Avery; 2000th peals for Mike Mears and Robert Brown and 3000th and 4000th peals for Mike Mears. Unsurprisingly, leading peal ringers are Mike Mears and Ian Avery.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers  
St Michael, Kingsteignton  
Wednesday 24th December 2014 in 3hrs 3m  
5184 Bristol S Major  
Composed by R D S Brown  
1 Ian W Avery  
2 Pauline Champion  
3 Lester J Yeo  
4 Nigel G Birt  
5 Ian V J Smith  
6 Robert D S Brown  
7 Ian R Fielding  
8 Michael E C Mears (C)  
100th peal on the bells  
2000th peal: 6

*Ian Avery*

### Regular ringing at Buckfast Abbey

Now that the bells at Buckfast Abbey are fully functional, a twelve-bell band has been ringing a quarter peal regularly for the midday service on the first Monday of each month. The authorities seem to be enthusiastic about this and we toll *Hosanna* while the bells are being lowered each month. Grandsire Cinques was scored in February and March.



*Ian Campbell*

## North East Branch

We have introduced monthly six bell practices into the NE Branch calendar this year. Practices are held on Saturday mornings between 10 and 12 which is a long session but gives more rope-time opportunities. Tea, coffee and biscuits are available on a help-yourself basis which helps to keep us fortified given we are missing Saturday morning elevenses. Due to some date confusion two practices were held in January at Cruwys Morchard. The February practice was held at Hemyock. Practices have been well attended by the local tower members, while a number of ringers are keen to travel to get extra practice opportunities with some more experienced ringers. Our next practice is at Cullompton on 21st March. Plain Hunt, Plain Bob, St Clement's and Double Oxford are the main methods we will be concentrating on. Do come along if you can and help us decide which six bells we should ring.

We hope to ring all ten bells at Cullompton for our joint practice with East Devon Branch on 28th March. The practice starts at 6.30pm so leaves plenty of time for a Chinese meal or visit to the Pony & Trap afterwards.

An interesting debate was started when Nellie asked whether we could ring a quarter peal of Little Bob Minor to celebrate the birth of Robert, grandchild of fellow Cruwys Morchard ringer Liz Chadwick. With the treble only going up to 4th place not all 720 changes can be rung, therefore, could three 480s of Little Bob Minor constitute a quarter peal? Does a quarter peal of a Minor method have to include all 720 changes or simply all the possible changes the method allows? I'm afraid I'm still none the wiser, I had to rush off to ring a peal so couldn't stay for the whole discussion.

A week later, the following was rung and Grandma was delighted!

Sunday 8 March 2015  
Kentisbeare, St Mary  
1260 Doubles and Minor  
480 Little Bob Minor, 780 Plain Bob Doubles  
1. Richard Barker  
2. Nellie Croft  
3. Richard Shere  
4. Mike Hatchett  
5. Matthew Weighell (c)  
6. Charlotte Boyce

Rung to welcome the birth of Robert Alan Moon -  
First child for Fiona and Dominic, and first grandchild  
for Liz Chadwick.  
First Doubles and Minor 1,2,5 and 6.

*Charlotte Boyce*

## South West Branch

### Anniversary at Kelly

Wednesday 21st January was quite a momentous occasion for the small village of Kelly, for it was here, exactly 150 years ago, that the first recorded method ringing took place in the County of Devon when three six-scores of Grandsire Doubles were rung by a band trained by Maitland Kelly, son of the local squire. This is recorded in the tower on a board hung on the north wall of the ringing chamber:



The church at Kelly

#### ***BE IT REMEMBERED***

*That on Saturday January 21st 1865  
was rung on these bells by the  
undermentioned members of the  
Kelly Society of Change-Ringers  
A true and complete Peal consisting of  
3 six-scores of Grandsire Doubles  
being the Greatest number of Changes in  
the Scientific or Half-pull system ever rung  
in DEVONSHIRE by Men of THE COUNTY*

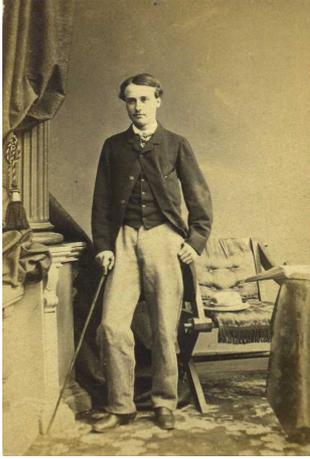
<i>John Yole</i>	<i>Treble</i>	<i>Benjamin Bloomfield</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Edwin Yole</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Frank Yole</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Maitland Kelly</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>James Wilcock</i>	<i>Tenor</i>

*CONDUCTED by JOHN YOLE*

*Rev H. T. MORSHEAD Rector  
WILLIAM PERRY  
THOMAS PALMER Churchwardens*

At the time of this performance Maitland Kelly was an undergraduate at the University of Oxford. He had shown interest in ringing at an early age and claimed to have tolled a bell for the death of the Duke of Wellington in 1852. It was while at Oxford that his interest in method ringing flourished. He took Holy Orders while at Oxford, initially serving as curate at Abingdon, before returning to Devon and serving at Newton Ferrers, Plympton St Maurice, Salcombe and Ottery St Mary, before becoming Rector at Kelly in 1905, having succeeded his brother as squire of Kelly in 1900.

He did much to promote method ringing in the county, inviting selected ringers to ring peals in order to demonstrate to the local ringers what was possible, and then travelling many miles to instruct and help struggling bands. Even after losing a foot in a shooting accident he would still travel to towers, propping himself up against the wall, and ring, conduct and assist with teaching others. He served as Guild Secretary for six years before becoming Guild President in 1896 and serving for 14 years.



Maitland Kelly as a young man

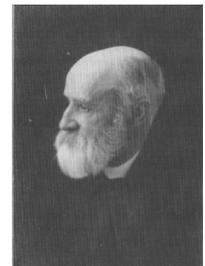
Fifty years after the above performance, on January 21st 1915, he entertained the past and present ringers of the parish to supper at Kelly House, after which a six-score of Grandsire Doubles was rung at the church with three of the original band taking part, Edwin and John Yole and Maitland Kelly himself.

Maitland Kelly died in 1929 and is buried in Kelly churchyard. The last surviving member of the band, Edwin Yole, died two years later and is buried in Milton Abbot churchyard.

And so to the present day. A large gathering, including many descendants of the original band assembled in Kelly church on the evening of Wednesday 21st January, and were welcomed by Warin Kelly, great grandson of Maitland Kelly. A full-page spread about the anniversary

had appeared in the previous week's Tavistock Times and a reporter and technicians from BBC South-West's "Spotlight" programme were there to record the event. Some of the ringing was broadcast live during the programme that evening.

The bells at Kelly have not had any major work carried out on them for 148 years, and the previous week Ian Campbell and Ian Smith (Guild Bell Advisors) and Geoff Hill (Guild Vice-President and Master Elect) had spent about six hours working on the bells to assure that they would be fit for the occasion.



Maitland Kelly in later years

At about 5.45 pm the bells were raised by a band including Warin Kelly and also George Boucher, whose grandfather had been employed by Maitland Kelly as a coachman, not because he could drive a coach and horses, but because he was a method ringer! The bells in the bell chamber being raised was shown on television – however the sound accompanying it was Grandsire Doubles!



Kelly's tombstone in Kelly churchyard

Shortly after 6 o'clock, after a preliminary prayer by Prebendary Tim Deacon, Priest-in-Charge of the Lifton Benefice (himself a ringer), the peal band caught hold, with Geoff Hill from nearby Lamerton on the treble, Don Roberts from Torquay on the 2nd (Don had also rung a peal to commemorate the 100th anniversary), Mike Hatchett, representing the other cradle of Devon method ringing at Huntsham, on the 3rd, Ian Smith from Tavistock on the 4th, Fergus Stracey from Plymouth on

the 5th, and George Mudge from Tavistock on the tenor. Interestingly Maitland Kelly had included Tavistock in the list of towers where he had tried (though unsuccessfully) to introduce method ringing, and many years later George Mudge and his family had returned the favour by helping to teach a band at Kelly.



The peal was achieved in fine style with Fergus doing an excellent job as conductor in spite of all the distractions in the church, only one prolonged “Shhhh.....” being necessary to quieten down the enthusiastic onlookers. The conclusion of the peal was met with a resounding round of applause, refreshments then being offered to the participants.

THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

On Wednesday January 21st, 2015, in 2 hours and 36 minutes

A PEAL OF 5040 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES

(42 extents, 10 callings)

Geoffrey C Hill	Treble	Ian V J Smith	4
Donald J Roberts	2	Fergus M S Stracey	5
Michael Hatchett	3	George E Mudge	Tenor
Conducted by Fergus M S Stracey			



The reredos at Kelly church which was given by the Guild

*Ian Smith*

## Old Photos found in Plymouth



Peal Band at Exeter Cathedral, 1905

*Clare Stagg writes:*

I have been turning out old family photos to donate to the Kingsbridge Museum. I have 3 framed photos, each of groups of 10 men, and I had no idea who they were. I was going to give them away and took them out of the frames and to my amazement one of them had an inscription on the back saying it was a peal band who rang a peal at Exeter Cathedral in 1905 as follows:-

Sat 14th Jan 1905 Exeter Cathedral  
Grandsire Caters 4 hrs 13 mins  
Treble Edwin Shepherd (cond)  
2 Alexander Evans  
3 William G Hiscott  
4 Ernest W Marsh  
5 Arthur Searle  
6 John K Baker  
7 Edgar Manning  
8 Frank Davey  
9 G Harry Myers  
Tenor William Ford and Frank Murphy

This was the first peal on the bells of Exeter Cathedral by an all Devon band. A copy of the photo can be found in John Scott's book "Devon Bellringing 1874-1975". David Willis has found me obituaries of most of the ringers, which are extremely interesting and inspiring. I am so grateful to him for all his help.

The other two photos have no details and I want to try and find out about them. They are taken outside churches and Peal Band 1 looks like St Andrews. We think we have identified Harry Myers in this one because of the gold bell on his watch chain.

This bell is now owned by the SW Branch and is used as the badge of office for the Chairman. I really need photos or details of any likely ringers from Exeter, Plymouth and Ottery etc around 1890-1900 to identify the others. I don't know if any other copies of these photos exist? If not they could be quite important. Do you know anything about any of the ringers? Some may have been from Exeter and some from Plymouth.



Peal Band 1



Peal Band 2



Who could this be?

Any help you could give me would be very gratefully received. I am longing to know more about it. How I came to have these photos in with my family ones is a complete mystery and I don't know if I am related to one of the ringers. There is one other photo, with these three, of a man in uniform. I am assuming he is one of the ringers but I am unable to find out who he is or even what the uniform is. Has anyone any ideas? My father, Fred Jarvis, was a call change ringer from Galampton and certainly didn't know of any peal ringers in the family or he would have told me, I am sure.

*Clare Stagg*

## Report of 2015 South West Branch AGM

The AGM and activities day for the South West Branch took place on Saturday 24th January 2014. The day began with open ringing on the simulator at Tavistock and after lunch it continued with open ringing at St Budeaux where we were able to enjoy the newly restored bells. The blue lines of several unusual Doubles methods were handed out and ringers attempted to ring them after just a short time to learn them. This was followed by a bring and share tea and the meeting. There were 34 members present and four guests.

We stood in memory of Dennis Gilley of Emmanuel who died last year.

Several new members were elected, Andrew Overy of Whitchurch, Robert Sanders unattached, Hayley Smith of St Budeaux, Mathew Thewsey of St Andrew's, Elizabeth Cook of Tavistock and Colin and Carol Sargent of Brentor.

There were two changes to the list of officers, Hellen Williams was elected Ringing Master following the resignation of Chris Wardle and Harry Andrews was elected General Committee Rep following the resignation of Geoff Hill.

Certificates were presented to Natalya Davie (Emmanuel), Madeleine Cook (Tavistock) and Trevor Vercoe (St Andrew's) by Anne Bailey the Guild Master.

Thanks were expressed to Peter Sparkes and the ringers of St Budeaux for their hospitality and our congratulations were extended to them on the fine restoration of the bells. Ringing continued after.

*Clare Stagg*

### Minster Church of St Andrew's Bell Ringers Christmas Dinner

Twenty four bell ringers, friends and guests gathered on Sunday 7th December at the Tudor Rose Restaurant on Plymouth's Barbican for the Minster Church of St Andrew's bell ringers Christmas dinner. The dining room had been festively decorated specially for the dinner and it was very cosy with such a large group, but a good time was had by all.

Angela Thomas, Churchwarden at the Minster, gave the blessing before the meal, and once the Christmas crackers had been pulled, and the party hats put on (don't people look different once they put paper hats on their heads!), the meal was served. The drinks were organised and supplied by Roger Compton, steeple keeper at the Minster, as well as individuals bringing their own. It is sufficient to say that there was plenty of wine available!

Fergus Stracey, tower captain at the Minster, addressed the gathering after the meal, emphasising the importance of bell ringing within ecclesiastical circles, and that bell ringing is more than a hobby: it is a duty and service. He also spoke of the friendship generated within bellringing groups, as illustrated by the friends and guests present at the dinner, and that bell ringers can always be assured of a warm welcome throughout the ringing world when visiting towers further away from home.

In response, Peter Sparkes, tower captain at St Budeaux church, presented a pair of gloves to Fergus, to help him ring when the new bell ropes are installed at the Minster!

Everyone enjoyed the meal, the joviality and festive spirit that accompanied the dinner. The dinner was arranged especially for the bell ringers by the restaurant, and organised by Roger Compton. Thanks must go to him for the organising such a successful event. It is hoped that this will be repeated in the future.

*Trevor Vercoe*

## Plymouth Emmanuel Social Event

The band at Emmanuel enjoyed their annual social on Saturday 7th February.



Left to right - Hannah Wedge, Sarah Lippett and Matt Smith

Everyone was welcome including siblings, parents, friends, partners and ringers from around Plymouth. About 25 of us sat down to enjoy a delicious carvery at the Hunting Lodge. It was great evening with lots of laughter and food; plates were piled high with vegetables and gravy. Some of us, like Matt Smith (pictured above), enjoyed dessert!

*Josephine Maddick*

## Mrs Smith enters her eighth decade

On Wednesday 28th January eight people assembled at Highweek church to celebrate the 70th birthday of Ann Smith. Ann is not often persuaded out to ring peals these days, but on this occasion she was and even made the arrangements herself, persuading Mike Mears to call one of her favourite compositions, Pitman's 4 all the work Surprise Major. The peal was duly rung and, after the obligatory photo, everybody, plus a couple of spouses, made their way to the Old Rydon Inn at Kingsteignton for lunch.



Ian A, Lester, Mike, Ann, Robert, Ian S, Wendy, Ian C

Guild of Devonshire Ringers  
Highweek, Devon  
All Saints  
Wednesday, 28 January 2015 in 2hrs 51m  
5152 Spliced Surprise Major (4m)  
(1568 Cambridge, 1312 Bristol, 1280 London, 992  
Superlative; 106 com; atw)  
Composed by A J Pitman

- 1 Ian W Avery
- 2 Ann Smith
- 3 P Wendy Campbell
- 4 Lester J Yeo
- 5 Ian L C Campbell
- 6 Ian V J Smith
- 7 Robert D S Brown
- 8 Michael E C Mears (C)

With best wishes to Ann Smith, celebrating her 70th birthday today.

*Ian Smith*

## Training

### Coombeshead School activity morning

#### **SO BELLRINGING IS COOL AFTER ALL!**

Bellringing was among the activities represented at a school event in Newton Abbot on 28 January. At the invitation of one of the local secondary schools – Coombeshead Academy – over twenty organisations ranging from sports clubs to Japanese drumming came together in the



Janet demonstrating the model bell

Academy's spacious sports hall to provide displays giving the students an idea of some of the opportunities on offer

in the immediate area. The brainchild of one of the teachers, Peter Rose, the event (which he called the 'Don't just sit there . . .' Fair) was planned to encourage more of the students to take part in out of school activities – to 'get involved'.

During the course of the morning students visited the sports hall one year group at a time. The model bell (made by George Tribe and kindly lent by Exeter Cathedral) attracted quite a number to the bellringing display, which had been put together by Janet Ritterman (on behalf of Wolborough) and Lynne Hughes. By the end





Pupils having a go under Lynne's guidance

of the morning, about thirty students had indicated that they would be interested in taking part in a taster session. Bellringing, they decided, having experimented with the model bell (under Lynne's capable supervision) and handled a real sally, was likely to be 'cool', an impression which the peal being rung at Highweek Church, just up the hill from the school, conducted by Mike Mears, only helped to confirm. (This was not part of the planning for the school event – simply a happy coincidence, discovered during the course of the preparations. *Note from editor – this was actually the peal for Ann Smith reported above*).

The experience of taking part in the event alongside so many other local organisations provided plenty of food for thought about how best to put together a display for

an occasion such as this. It also suggested that those looking to recruit more young ringers might do well to see if schools in their area are organising similar events and offer to take part. During the course of the morning at Coombeshead Academy, about 800 students came through the hall, all of them aware that the purpose of the morning was to encourage them to try something new and to 'get involved'. Now we just need to make sure that the follow-up arrangements are equally effective: the interest is there.



The stand in the school hall

*Janet Ritterman*

## Teaching People to ring

### **A VIEW ON THE ITTS COURSE AT SILVERTON**

One of the pleasures of ringing is being part of a local band, but we all know that establishing and maintaining a band isn't easy. Local bands are the feed-in points that suck in non-ringers and, with luck and persistence, turn them into members of our unique fraternity; but understandably, many bands lack the expertise to take on with confidence the training of raw recruits.

ITTS (the Integrated Teacher Training Scheme) was set up to address this problem. It was recognised that if ringing is to have a healthy future we need to train a lot more

recruits; and unless they are trained in a way which is competent, enjoyable and safe, then much of the effort will be wasted and a lot of trainees will lose interest.

I doubt that many people would disagree with the above, yet the establishment of ITTS generated quite a lot of controversy, as evidenced in the pages of *The Ringing World* over the last couple of years. I was therefore pleased to have the opportunity to attend an ITTS one-day session on Teaching Bell Handling at Silverton at the end of November 2014, since I was keen to form my own opinion. As we had just started training three new recruits at Berry Pomeroy, the timing was particularly appropriate.

The Silverton course was led by Les Boyce and the day was a mix of classroom sessions and practical work in the tower on tied bells (and a nice and convivial pub lunch). There were about a dozen of us: the classroom discussions were open and lively, the practical sessions intensive, useful and revealing. Neither was in any way prescriptive: obviously we were focussing on what have been found to be useful and productive techniques, but there was no hint of a suggestion that “this is the only way”.

Obviously there’s a limit to what can be done in a day. I only attended the session as an “observer” (although I’m glad to say that I had no option but to participate fully in everything throughout the day!); but if you actually enrol on the ITTS programme, then you are involved in an ongoing process of practical and theoretical development in order to work toward a certain level of teaching ability. There is excellent written course material and you have access to more resources online.

So - my objective was to form my own opinion, and I came away in a very positive frame of mind. Whatever issues and concerns have been expressed about the concept of ITTS, at the “coal-face” it seems to be doing exactly what is needed. And I believe it’s not just relevant to training new ringers, but also to the advancement of existing ones. When someone is having a struggle to progress in change ringing, whether the challenge is Plain Hunt or Surprise Major, the difficulty often partly stems from something they may not even consider or be aware of - issues with their bell-handling. If a learner develops a good style from the outset, then not only are they more likely to stick at ringing, but they have a much better chance of progressing and getting even greater enjoyment from our art.

*Mike Tompsett*

I’m sure we will be hearing a lot more about ITTS and ART as the training schemes become more established. If you are interested in attending one of the courses, the Guild is offering to cover some of the expenses. More information about ART and ITTS on - <http://www.ringingteachers.co.uk/>

## Maintenance Workshop

The previous maintenance workshop was quickly sold out, with enough people wanting to come that a second one was arranged for February 28<sup>th</sup>. As before we started at Stoke Canon with a talk and demonstration by James Clarke (DAC Advisor) and Ian Campbell (Guild Bells Advisor). The display included the Guild demonstration bell to show a typical wooden frame, and the model recently donated by George Tribe of a modern bell in a metal frame. It also showed a range of items from tools, protective clothing and clappers to oil and rope splicing equipment.



James Clarke in full swing

Following the talking we went up the tower to examine the modern steel-framed installation, complete with cannon-retaining headstocks and electronic clock with electrically powered hammers.

For lunch we walked down the road to the community-run Stoke Canon Inn, and then went onto Upton Pyne to look at the century old wooden framed installation with plain bearings. We had a brief ring on the bells for those who hadn't been there before.



The group at Upton Pyne

I hope that everyone enjoyed the day and found it instructive. Many thanks go to James for coming all the way down from North Devon.

*Ian Campbell*

## Bastow, Bistow and the Rest

### **ITTS MODULE 2 IN PLYMOUTH**

Six keen students and a couple of observers met in Plymouth on 28th February to be taken through ITTS module 2 by tutor Les Boyce. Whereas module 1 covers bell handling (levels 1 and 2 of Learning the Ropes), the second module is packed with ideas for teaching the gradual transition into method ringing (levels 3 to 5 of Learning the Ropes). Once again we had theory Powerpoint lectures and discussions, interspersed with practicals on the bells of St Budeaux and Emmanuel. One such exercise involved ringing rounds with the bells which had been set on alternate strokes; and I am particularly keen to try Bastow Little Bob from Minimus onwards, and if you want to avoid a second hunt bell at the odd-bell stages, I am assured what you then have to ring is Bistow!

There are two more chances to experience module 1 in Devon this year, on 25th April and 14th November. Contact Les Boyce ([lesboyce@googlemail.com](mailto:lesboyce@googlemail.com)) for booking details.

*Lynne Hughes*

## Forthcoming Guild Training

The Surprise Major course on 21st March is now fully booked, but there are still several places left to try Plain Hunt on handbells on 16th May. This will be from 10.00 until 1.00 at 17 East Cliff Road, Dawlish. Contact Lynne Hughes for details: ([educationofficer@devonringers.org.uk](mailto:educationofficer@devonringers.org.uk)). This is followed by 'Raising and lowering in Peal' on 30th May; with bookings please to Tim Bayton ([tim@timbayton.co.uk](mailto:tim@timbayton.co.uk)).

*Lynne Hughes*

## Association of Ringing Teachers – ART



The latest ART WORKS magazine from the Association of Ringing Teachers has just been published and is available from the ART website at <http://www.ringingteachers.co.uk/artworks>.

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.

I would be grateful if you could also pass this on to any ringers or teachers in your area who you think may be interested.

*Rob Parker*  
*Association of Ringing Teachers*

## Other News

### Ladies band peal

Rather surprisingly, there have only ever been two peals rung for the Guild by a band of ladies:

*Bramford Speke*

*Monday 23rd June 1980; 2hrs 37*

*5040 Minor*

*(2 methods: 3 extents Cambridge S, 4 extents Plain Bob)*

*1 Sally P Green (first peal)*

*2 Rowena G Pierce*

*3 Nicola J Crichton*

*4 Frances M Perry*

*5 Christina R Cooper*

*6 Rosemary Money (C)*

and

*Wolborough*

*Sunday 14th March 1982; 3hrs 10*

*5152 Yorkshire Surprise Major*

*Composed by C P Starbuck*

*1 Helen S Hughes*

*2 Christina R Cooper (C)*

*3 Rowena G Pierce*

*4 Nicola J Crichton*

*5 Lesley A Tomlinson*

*6 Mary E Mears*

*7 Rosemary Money*

*8 Margaret Whiteley*

I had been thinking for some time that the ladies of Devon ought to challenge themselves a little more in this respect, and I also held a long-cherished desire to see an all-female band ring a peal at Heavitree. The ball was therefore set rolling with a throwaway remark in a pub – of course – in London, where the Exeter Cathedral Society happened to be enjoying a weekend of fine ringing and socialising. The enthusiastic response from those present resulted in a date being booked for an attempt the following September, which at the time was eleven months hence, and the band was gradually pieced together.

Being a little melodramatic here, but disaster struck with only a few weeks to go when we discovered that the Bishop of Exeter was coming to ordain the local curate during the afternoon of the attempt, and it was impossible for us to reschedule for earlier or later in the day. It is no mean feat to get eight busy women ringers together in the same place at the same time, but we eventually settled on 31st January for our next attempt. Heavitree bells are BIG, with a tenor of 26cwt, but they are also very good natured and well-behaved bells that don't play nasty tricks on you, such as dropping like a stone when coming away from the lead! We rang a practice quarter peal a week before the peal and had no real difficulties. The day of the peal was quite cold, with that brittle dryness in the air that makes ropes difficult to hold. We therefore had quite a 'slippery period' until the natural moisture in the hands

transferred to the ropes and made them more manageable. We were then delighted when the bells ran round in the relatively speedy time of 3hrs 14:

**Heavitree, Exeter**

Saturday 31st January 2015; 3hrs 14

5056 Bristol S Major

Composed by A J Cox

1 Ann Smith

2 Susan M Sawyer

3 Susan D Sparling

4 Jennifer R Sparling

5 Hilary A Beresford

6 Alison C Waterson

7 P Wendy Campbell

8 Pauline Champion (C)

Unfortunately we overlooked an opportunity for a photo shoot immediately after the peal, but in any case, I was particularly camera-shy that day: having fallen over in the road outside Kenn church only a few days previously, I had a spectacular black eye and was feeling rather unlovely.

We are now looking to the future with the aim of achieving peals on ten and twelve, so watch this space!

*Wendy Campbell*

Nicholson Engineering's recent work in Devon

**HIGH BICKINGTON**

The new bellframe grillage has been installed and erection of the remainder of the bellframe and hanging the bells is due to be completed in the next two weeks. The work has included entirely rebuilding the bellframe including replacement of all steelwork, new headstock to the treble and new gudgeons and bearings to all eight bells, new pulleys and overhaul of the clappers. We have also cleaned the bells and applied a fresh graphite coating.

**BISHOPSTEIGNTON**

We are in the latter stages of rehangng the bells with new fittings. The work has included retuning, which has turned a quite poor six into what should be a musical peal. Rehangng is due to commence in March and should be complete in late March/early April.

**KINGSTEIGNTON**

We are due to undertake a complete overhaul of this fine peal. The work will include replacement bearings and the cleaning and painting of the bellframe. The work will be completed this summer.

*Andrew Nicholson*

## Notable Peals

Congratulations go to those involved in this epic performance:

### **Guild of Devonshire Ringers**

Thorverton, Devon

St Thomas of Canterbury

Thursday, 26 February 2015 in 2hrs 29m (5-0-27)

5040 Treble Dodging Minor (76m)

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

Composed by J S Warboys (TD0702)

1 Ian W Avery

2 Pauline Champion

3 Jill M Hansford

4 Susan D Sparling

5 Ian V J Smith

6 Michael E C Mears (C)

**Most Minor methods for the Guild**

### **FIRST PEAL FOR ANDREW**

Andrew Hoddinott was a Crediton ringer for many years and has now rung his first peal which was on the new light ten at Truro Cathedral. Well done, Andrew.

### **Truro Diocesan Guild**

Truro, Cornwall

Cathedral and Parish Church of St Mary

Saturday, 28 February 2015 in 3:21 (14)

5043 Stedman Caters

Composed by John Pladdys

1 Ruth E Reeves

2 Peter A Sharp

3 David Ralls

4 Norman R Mattingley  
5 John Pladdys (C)  
6 Mark G H Hood  
7 William P Carew  
8 A C John Davis  
9 Robert J Perry  
10 Andrew F Hoddinott  
First peal-10  
First peal on the Bartholomew ten

*Susan Meldon*

## Childhood memories of the Revd Prebendary Ernest Vivian Cox

### **PRESIDENT OF THE GUILD 1934-1961**



Always smartly dressed. Neat white hair and gold-rimmed specs. He would drive his Austin Seven Ruby car to outlying farms in Tedburn to collect all the children. The little car would be packed, their heads and arms poking out of windows. All this after taking the 8am service, then back to church for Sunday school and the 11 o'clock service.

At Sunday School, he taught us so well. Firstly the parables. I remember learning the Ten Commandments, then the Creeds, and later the Collects each week. Interspersed with singing: I think of him every year when "Consider the lilies of the field" comes round, a lovely tune, and when it came to "Yet Solomon in all his glory", we really had to sing that out loud! As the years went on, it was Confirmation, into the choir as well as bell ringing. One choir practice, Sir Sidney Nicholson from the Royal School of Church Music visited us. He gave a special mention to the four men in the choir. I expect Mr Cox had a hand in getting Sir Sidney there. Sad to say, I have no recall of his last service with us.

One day I did get to ride in his little car. We went to the Cathedral for the Church of England Children's Society service. I sat in the choir stalls and took up the collection. I also remember that at the top of Five Mile Hill, he turned off the car engine and it

rolled a long way down the hill; then as the car started to slow he zigzagged, going a bit further, in order to save the petrol which was on ration!

Another memory. Through Lent, after school, we went to the Village Hall. We would start by singing "He who would valiant be". He read "Pilgrim's Progress". It was the only time he bored me. I think I was too young for it and didn't understand it. But I don't want to finish on a negative note, so I'll say what a wonderful good man he was. My mentor, for sure.

Joan Lee

## Calendar for 2015

<b>March</b>				
Sat 21		Surprise Major - Beyond Cambridge and Yorkshire		Guild
Sat 21	10:00	6 Bell Practice	Cullompton	<a href="#">North East</a>
Sat 21	14:30	Branch Committee Meeting (Officers Only)	TBC	<a href="#">North East</a>
Wed 25	19:30	Branch practice	Exeter St Mark	<a href="#">Exeter</a>
Wed 25	19:30	8 Bell Practice	Clyst Honiton	<a href="#">North East</a>
Fri 27	19:00	10 Bell Practice	Lyme Regis St. Michael	<a href="#">East</a>
Sat 28	10:00	Plain Hunt Doubles	Huntsham	<a href="#">North East</a>
Sat 28	18:30	East Devon Joint Evening Practice	Cullompton	<a href="#">North East</a>
Sat 28	19:00	Branch practice	Dartington	<a href="#">Mid Devon</a>
<b>April</b>				
Mon 6	19:30	Triples - Stedman/Grandsire*	Ottery St Mary	<a href="#">East</a>
Wed 8	19:30	10 bell advanced practice	Exeter St Mark	<a href="#">Exeter</a>
Thu 9	19:30	Branch Practice	Topsham	<a href="#">Aylesbeare</a>
Thu 9	19:30	Plain Hunt Practice	Sidbury	<a href="#">East</a>
Fri 10	19:30	Surprise Minor Practice*	Buckerell	<a href="#">East</a>
Sat 11	14:30	Branch Quarterly Meeting	Bickleigh/Nether Exe (TBC)	<a href="#">North East</a>
Sat 18	10:00	6 Bell Practice	Huntsham	<a href="#">North East</a>
Mon 20	19:30	Stedman/Doubles methods	Offwell	<a href="#">East</a>
Wed 22	19:30	8 Bell Practice	Huntsham	<a href="#">North East</a>
Fri 24	19:00	10 Bell Practice	Lyme Regis St. Michael	<a href="#">East</a>
Sat 25		ITTS Module 1	West or Mid-Devon	Guild

Sun 26	tba	10 Bell Practice	tba	<a href="#">South West</a>
Mon 27	19:30	8-bell practice	Wolborough	<a href="#">Mid Devon</a>
<b>May</b>				
Mon 4	19:30	Triples Practice - Stedman and Grandsire *	Ottery St Mary	<a href="#">East</a>
Wed 6	19:30	10 bell advanced practice	Exeter St Mark	<a href="#">Exeter</a>
Fri 8	19:30	Surprise Minor Practice*	Buckerell	<a href="#">East</a>
Sat 9	10:00	6 Bell Practice	Bampton	<a href="#">North East</a>
Sat 9	15.00	Spring Business Meeting	Luppitt	<a href="#">East</a>
Sat 9	TBC	St Peter's Shield Striking Competition	TBC	<a href="#">North East</a>
Mon 11	19:30	Branch Practice	Exmouth, Littleham	<a href="#">Aylesbeare</a>
Thu 14	19:30	Plain Hunt Practice	Sidbury	<a href="#">East</a>
Sat 16		Handbells: Plain Hunt	Dawlish	Guild
Sat 16	tba	Spring Outing	tba	<a href="#">South West</a>
Mon 18	19:30	Stedman/Doubles methods	Offwell	<a href="#">East</a>
Thu 21	19:30	8-bell practice	Teignmouth, St Michael	<a href="#">Mid Devon</a>
Fri 22	19:00	10 Bell Practice	Lyme Regis St. Michael	<a href="#">East</a>
Tue 26	19:30	Branch practice	Pinhoe	<a href="#">Exeter</a>
Wed 27	19:30	8 Bell Practice	Huntsham	<a href="#">North East</a>
Sat 30		Raising and Lowering in Peal		Guild
<b>June</b>				
Mon 1	19:30	Triples - Stedman/Grandsire*	Ottery St. Mary	<a href="#">East</a>
Wed 3	19:30	10 bell advanced practice	Exeter St Mark	<a href="#">Exeter</a>
Sat 6	TBC	Branch Outing	TBC	<a href="#">North East</a>
Sun 7		Handbells: Plain Bob	Okehampton	Guild
Tue 9	19:30	Branch Practice	Aylesbeare	<a href="#">Aylesbeare</a>
Thu 11	19:30	Plain Hunt Practice	Sidmouth	<a href="#">East</a>
Fri 12	19:30	Surprise Minor Practice*	Buckerell	<a href="#">East</a>
Sat 13		Young Ringers' Summer Day		<a href="#">Young Ringers</a>
Sat 13	10:00	Extended Practice - 'DIY Call Change Competition'	Huntsham	<a href="#">North East</a>
Sat 13	14:30	Branch Committee	TBC	<a href="#">North East</a>

		Meeting		
Mon 15	19:30	Stedman/Doubles methods	Offwell	<a href="#">East</a>
Mon 15	19:30	8-bell practice	Wolborough	<a href="#">Mid Devon</a>
Sat 20		Guild AGM	Crediton/Exeter	Guild
Wed 24	19:30	Branch practice	Hatherleigh	<a href="#">Exeter</a>
Wed 24	19:30	8 Bell Practice	Huntsham	<a href="#">North East</a>
Thu 25	19:30	Branch Practice	Farway	<a href="#">East</a>
Fri 26	19:00	John Hutchings Cup Competition	Silverton	<a href="#">North East</a>
Fri 26	19:00	10 Bell Practice	Lyme Regis St. Michael	<a href="#">East</a>
Sat 27	10:00	6 Bell Practice	Cruwys Morchard	<a href="#">North East</a>
Sat 27	14:00	Mini-Outing	Dartmoor	<a href="#">Mid Devon</a>
Sat 27	19:00	Branch barbecue	To be announced	<a href="#">Exeter</a>
Sun 28	tba	10 Bell Practice	tba	<a href="#">South West</a>

\* - please confirm before attending

## Editorial

I was saddened by the death of Bill Blake, who I knew from ringing at Stoke Canon when he moved from Diptford. Fortunately he was able to ring on the restored bells before his death. We also noticed the death of Canon John Thurmer in the local press. He looked after the Cathedral ringers very well during his time at the Cathedral – I well remember holding the Cathedral AGM at his house on Cathedral Close and being well fed afterwards.

I was even more shocked by the death of Peter Ritterman, whose wife Janet is well known to many people. He had been in hospital for a month or so and was about to be discharged when he died suddenly overnight. Our thoughts and condolences go to Janet at these difficult times.

I seem to be heavily involved with moving the Denmisch simulated bells to Exeter. We are really hoping that they will be available by the Guild AGM (June 20<sup>th</sup>) but we are in the hands of the local builders so need to keep fingers crossed until then.

On a lighter note, we were amused when in January, a lady member of the peal band at Wobbly Bob's mini-ring asked, during the preliminary rounds, "Please can we stop so that I can take my top off?" and then, once stopped, asked (apropos her striking!) "Do you think that I am too wide?" We were rendered speechless!

*Ian Campbell*



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