

RINGING ROUND DEVON

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

Newsletter 99 September 2015

Exeter Cathedral Team Fourth Best in the World

The National 12-bell competition



The twelve bell team in Norwich

We had just finished all of our Christmas ringing, looking forward to the challenges of 2015 and suddenly we were propelled into a new year with an email from our Master, Matt Hilling, with a whole list of practice dates for our Exeter team arranged at a number of other towers as well as the Cathedral and Withycombe Raleigh. It was rather like signing one's life away for three months until the eliminator at Shrewsbury in March.

And so the practices took place, the whip was regularly cracked and we learned phrases like 'backstrokes up', 'focus', 'handstrokes sharp' and 'control'. Many miles were covered with visits to South Petherton, Shrewsbury and Wolverhampton for what seemed like endless half courses of Cambridge for the eliminator. It was hard work but gradually our ability to perform as a team matured and in the eliminator at Shrewsbury in March we qualified for the final by being placed a very creditable third.

The next three months then followed a similar pattern but with Lincolnshire now being the method for the final at St Peter Mancroft, Norwich in June. Now, these are generally considered to be a scary ring of twelve with an incredibly long draught and

the reputation for elastic ropes. I still have memories (or nightmares) of the two peals I have rung there.

Our Master recorded and analysed our practice ringing via the Hawkear software that shows clearly when you are only a millisecond out on your striking. He sent a string of emails out after each practice, urging self analysis and soul searching of the resulting printouts. One could become suicidal eventually with despair that you will never get it quite right.

A 700 mile round trip was made to Norwich for an hour's practice. How dedicated is that? We came away encouraged by our ringing and the fact that they had changed to ropes with Dynema tops which means no more elastic. We have a Dynema top on the tenor at the Cathedral which works a treat, with no stretch. However at the extra cost, I hate to think what the Norwich ropes (all twelve) must have cost.

Then finally in late June we made the 700 miles round trip again to compete with all of the great and good of 12 bell finesse. Drawn in a comfortable centre slot, we rang to our best but perhaps felt that the ringing didn't quite flow as well as hoped. Of course, we did not hear it outside, so it was a bit of a surprise on descending the tower that listeners greeted us with encouraging compliments.

Hours later when the teams had finished after the usual relief drinks, the long awaited results were declared in a modern nearby building in the town that resembled an aircraft hangar and was crammed with ringers from end to end. We were declared 4th out of the 10 finalists so not only had we managed to attain a position in the final but had moved significantly up the ladder to a creditable position. The Ancient Society of College Youths were declared the winners, pushing the favourites, Birmingham, into second place. I remember looking at the scores and noting how close the top marks were and thinking if only we had been a bit more focussed.... However soon will dawn another year and already the signs are there that next year will be as hard, exciting or frightening as this year. Bring it on!



Celebrating after the results

David Hird

Guild Events

Guild AGM and Festival

Saturday 20 June saw the Guild gather once again for their annual festival, this year hosted by the Exeter Branch, and held at CREDITON. This fine ring of twelve bells proved popular, with open ringing in the morning preceding the church service. Then it was time for lunch, admirably provided by the CREDITON ringers and held in the Boniface Centre, where ringers ate, chatted and rang handbells, before settling down to the business meeting in the early afternoon.

As the meeting started, CREDITON bells rang out once again to celebrate a wedding being held in the church, adding to the musical enjoyment of the afternoon.

Attendance was slightly down on previous years; the meeting passed with swift efficiency, with members keen to head into Exeter for the official inauguration and blessing of the DenMisch bells later in the day.

Several new officers were elected or changed posts, and we welcomed Tim Bayton as Education Secretary, James Kirkcaldy as Quarter Peal Secretary, and Rusty Hartley as Publicity Officer. Geoff Hill was also congratulated upon his election as Guild Master, and Anne Bailey was elected as a Vice-President. Later in the meeting, members voted to contribute £1,000 to cover the installation costs of the DenMisch bells in Exeter Cathedral School.

The next date for the Guild diary is for the striking competitions on Saturday 17 October, this year being hosted by the North/North West Branch. The 6-bell competition will be held at Shirwell, the Novice competition at Combe Martin, and the 8-bell will take place at Braunton. Methods for the 8-bell are St Clement's College Bob Triples or Grandsire Triples, with the touches given below. Do please start thinking about your teams - I am happy to take entries and bookings as early as possible!

After the AGM, members gathered in Exeter at the Cathedral School, to see the DenMisch simulator bells for the first time in their new home there. The bells were kindly donated to the Guild by Mischa Thompson, and are now available to be used at any time out of school hours. The opening ceremony was well attended, with a blessing by the Dean of Exeter Cathedral, Dr Jonathan Draper, and the school had kindly provided a full tea for the ringers, which was much appreciated by all.

Everyone then enjoyed the opportunity to ring the bells for the first time; it is hoped they will prove to be an invaluable and exciting teaching and training facility for the future. Our appreciation goes to all those involved in the project, and especially to Mischa for her generous donation.

Clare Griffiths
Secretary, Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Members might like to know that the full minutes of this meeting and the committee meetings are all available online from <http://devonringers.org.uk/guild/agms> or follow the links from the Guild home page via "The Guild" to "Guild AGMs".

Ian Campbell

Guild Striking Competitions

Saturday 17 October - North/North West Branch

Morning: Please book your slot (in 20 min intervals from 10am-1pm) by email to secretary@devonringers.org.uk

6 Bell - Shirwell

Judge: Geoff Hill

240 changes of any Doubles or Minor method

Inter-tower competition for the J P Fidler Cup

6 Bell Novice - Combe Martin (back six)

Judge: John Hill

120 changes of Plain Hunt Doubles or Minor

Inter-tower novice competition for the John Longridge Plate

Afternoon: (draw at 2pm)

Please inform secretary@devonringers.org.uk if your branch is entering a team

8 Bell - Braunton

Inter-branch competition for the Andrews Trophy

224 changes of St Clement's College Bob Triples or Grandsire Triples (touches below)

Judges: Christine and Peter Hill

224 St Clement's CB
Triples

234567

246375

S 642375

627453

B 276453

265734

B 652734

623547

S 326547

Repeat

224 Grandsire
Triples

234567

S 572634

567423

S 435267

423756

472635

467523

B 354267

325746

372654

367425

346572

B 253746

275634

267453

246375

234567

Guild Quarter Peal Fortnight

The annual event takes place this year from Friday 23rd October until Sunday 8th November. Please arrange as many quarters as possible and encourage as many ringers as possible to take part. It is a good excuse for that first in method, etc. If you're having difficulty organising what you would like to ring, I am sure that your branch officers will be happy to help.

On the administrative side:

- The Guild asks that each ringer makes a minimum donation of £1 per ringer per quarter, all of which goes to the DCBRF (Bell Restoration Fund).
- All monies should be forwarded to me. I will then make a single payment to the DCBRF.
- Submit your quarter peals through BellBoard in the normal way. Link all such quarters to the event "Guild of Devonshire Ringers - Quarter Peal Fortnight" which I have set up. The event is listed in the BellBoard diary of 23rd October.
- If you wish your quarter peal to appear in *The Ringing World* please forward this yourself. I will not be sending them as a block as this has not worked in previous years - in fact I believe the 2014 report never appeared, despite many requests to *The Ringing World* to publish it.

James Kirkcaldy

Quarter Peal Report

In the first six months of the year 281 quarters were recorded for the Guild in 123 towers in Devon (and beyond) by a total of 413 ringers. Those outside Devon were rung by ringers resident in the county.

The leading tower is Lundy with a total of 54, three times the total of the next tower (Bishops-Ting-Tong with a total of 18).

The leading ringer is Sue Sawyer with a total of 108. The leading conductor is Tim Bayton with a total of 54.

The most popular method is Plain Bob Minor (14) with Cambridge Surprise Minor (13) close behind.

James Kirkcaldy

Messages from the Central Council

CENTRAL COUNCIL TOWER STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Tower Stewardship Committee of The Central Council has recently updated their guidance note on Insurance and Ringing.

This note covers the following topics:

- What is insurance? Do we need it?
- What insurance the Church has: Does it cover ringers?
- Insurance for tower open days
- Insurance on outings
- Association insurance
- Bell restoration and maintenance insurance
- Insurance and safety

This note can be found on the Tower Stewardship website:

<http://www.cccbr.org.uk/towerstewardship/>

Also on this page are two notes on liability insurance for bell ringers and insurance implications of leaving bells up.

FOR THOSE STARTING UNIVERSITY THIS YEAR



You will know that many university ringing societies are great recruiters of ringers and teachers of ringing and all also offer great ways for those new to university to continue and develop their ringing and to make new friends quickly. Once A-level results are out in mid-August those going to university this year will be really busy finalising their choice and preparing to start. Please ask all your towers to do everything they can to encourage their youngsters to continue their ringing, to join their university's ringing society or to find a tower close by where they will be welcome.

To help we have created a new website www.universityringing.org and produced a poster for you to put up in all towers please! I do hope we can see this up in as many towers as possible during the summer – please do pass it on as widely as possible in your area.

600TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT: 25TH OCTOBER

This year celebrates the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt, Henry V's famous victory on St Crispin's Day. We know that some ringers aren't always keen to mark anniversaries of battles, but others like to mark notable anniversaries and there is likely to be some national media coverage of this anniversary. If ringers in your area are arranging any special ringing it is another opportunity to link local and national events and to obtain good publicity for ringing.

On a final note, regarding publicity: "If you are aiming for local publicity, do get some good photos to offer, preferably including some younger ringers, and remember to stress all the positives, such as that ringing is good fun, great teamwork and good exercise."

*Kate Flavell
Central Council PRO*

Aylesbeare Branch

Broadclyst Fun Day 27th June

As part of an attempt to gain ringing recruits for Broadclyst tower the Guild demonstration bell was set up as part of a fun day on 27th June. Looking at the picture I wonder if they managed to recruit the dog!



Ian Campbell

Gerry Bray 1927 – 2015



Although we know that Gerry learnt to ring during WW2, with the bells tied up at his local church in Bradford on Avon, not much is known about his early years and to what extent ringing featured.

What we know for definite is that when he moved to become landlord of the Half Moon Inn at Clyst St Mary in 1981, he decided it was time to help revitalise ringing at the neighbouring church of Clyst St George (Clyst St Mary had no bells). His encouragement led to a few of his customers taking up ringing and others to return to ringing. The pub became known as the Branch Office, ringing flourished and before long the annual outing of the Ringers and Frothblowers became an established event.

Gerry went on to ring several methods but his favourite was Grandsire Doubles, of which he rang several quarters.

After a lengthy illness Gerry died earlier this year. Fittingly, on July 14th, we rang a quarter of Grandsire Doubles in his memory and to his contribution to ringing at Clyst St George.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Clyst St George, Devon

Tuesday, 14 July 2015 in 42 mins

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 John Langabeer

2 Roger King

3 Sue Sturdy

4 Tony Williams

5 David Wills (C)

6 Robert Franklin

Rung in memory of Gerry Bray



The Gerry Bray memorial quarter peal band: John, Tony, Sue, Roger, Rob, David

Tony Williams

East Devon Branch

Lisa calls another quarter peal



L to R: Anne, Maureen, Lisa, Delie, Janet and Kathie with Smut

I was delighted to be included in a quarter peal at Cotleigh on Wednesday 17 June not least because this would be Lisa Clarke's first of Grandsire Doubles as conductor. Lisa has already been part of a quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles where the calling was shared between 4 ringers. She then progressed to calling her first of Plain Bob Doubles unaided.

I have no idea what was going on in Lisa's head during the ringing but the calls were spot on and clearly made: the band responded by striking well with no method mistakes. The only slight problem we had to contend with was the occasional bit of fluff from the new ropes!

Afterwards we gathered in the churchyard for a group photo just as a local gentleman was about to take his dogs out so he obliged by taking the attached photo of Anne Bailey, Maureen Davey, Lisa Clarke, Delie Perry, Janet Ritterman and Kathie Matthews and his dog, Smut!

Celebratory coffee was taken at the Honiton Garden Centre and later that day Lisa was quoted as saying: 'Although it was a bit daunting, I did enjoy it in a funny sort of way!!'

Congratulations Lisa and here's to the next one!

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Cotleigh, Devon

St Michael and All Angels

Wednesday, 17 June 2015 in 43 mins

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Janet Ritterman

2 Maureen Davey
3 Lisa Clarke (C)
4 Anne Bailey
5 Kathie Matthews
6 Delie Perry

Anne Bailey

Exeter Branch

Exeter St Mark's Cycling Outing – 11th July

The annual outing on two wheels for the St Mark's ringers and friends this year took us to east Devon in a circular route involving four towers starting from Buckerell. Graham Tucker had done a wonderful job sorting out the flattest route possible except for the bit immediately after lunch which involved two black arrows according to the OS map I was looking at! Needless to say most of us walked (especially after filling our tummies so much) but hats off to Andrew and Guy who managed to cycle all the way.

A total of about 15 miles was cycled, avoiding main roads and using some 'interesting' paths & bridleways including a ford! There were 17 cyclists including the 'tag-along' for Toby (I think he was helping) and several who supported us in cars. Four towers were visited: Buckerell, Awliscombe, Broadhembury and Payhembury.

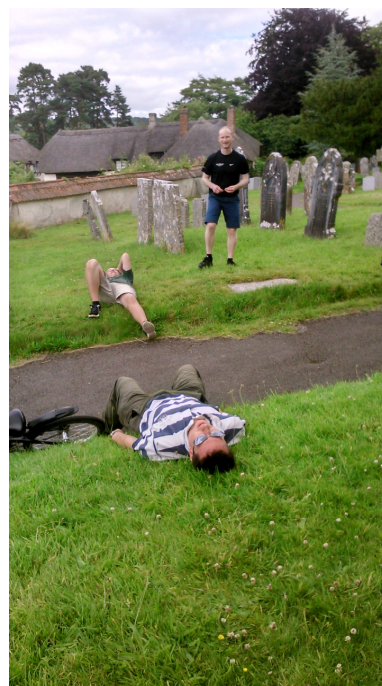
There was some ringing, the sun shone and we enjoyed ourselves. We finished in Whimple at Matt & Rosie's house for a barbecue. Cooking 23 sausages, 23 burgers, 23 chicken thighs, 23 ribs and 23 skewers takes a long time! We sat outside as long as we could and then moved inside for puddings.

Thanks to Graham for organising and everyone who came.

Matt Hilling



Harry and Gareth getting wet feet to keep their bikes dry!



Gareth and Matt after getting to the top of the 1:5 hill after lunch. Andrew seemed unaffected...



The assembled group at Broadhembury

Matt Hilling

Maintenance work at Awliscombe

One of the towers visited on the cycle tour (see above) was Awliscombe. We had significant problems ringing the treble, especially when rung to methods, when it

occasionally felt as though the rope had been suddenly jerked off the wheel. The problem did not seem to occur when ringing rounds or call changes. A few weeks later I had a call from Mary Boulton, one of the ringers, who asked if we could help to investigate as there was no one at the tower who felt competent to climb among the bells.

A date was fixed and Rob Franklin and I climbed up the tower with Mary, and Rob quickly spotted the problem. The treble is hung in a separate frame above the second and the rope from it falls close to the end of the second's slider. At some time in the past it had apparently been rung with rather a slack rope which had become looped around the slider. This didn't affect it much when the second was set or being rung off the balance, but if it was rung over the balance at backstroke the rope would be pulled well out of line which would cause the bell to drop badly and would also probably affect the second.

The problem was remedied by simply slipping the rope over the slider into its correct position and it is hoped that it now behaves normally. If the problem recurs then we may have to look for a longer term solution.

While we were there we had a quick look at the rest of the installation. It is always surprising how often nuts that look as though they are completely rusted in can be turned a half a turn or so to tighten up the installation. In particular the crown staple nut that holds in the tenor clapper was found to be loose, while one of the bell bolts supporting the fourth bell had no nut on it at all. The missing nut was found on the floor and reattached although we didn't have a large enough spanner to fully tighten it or the tenor clapper. Both of the nuts holding in the treble stay had gone missing. These were replaced with spares that I found in the car and the holes in the stay opened out slightly to make them fit better.

All in all it was a useful morning's work although Mary (and her non-ringing husband) still have a couple of things to sort out.



The treble rope is supposed to go behind the second slider



...but was found in front of it



Look what happens to the rope when the slider is moved!

Ian Campbell

Call Changes at Exeter Cathedral

Following on from the Devon Association 90th anniversary celebrations at Exeter Cathedral (see June RRD) the Association has started providing a first rate call-change band to ring for the 10am service at the cathedral once a month. This is in addition to the occasional ringing for the 4pm service which they also perform. And in June the Ringkley ringers rang for a service.

The cathedral bells are now rung just about every Sunday, and for more than one service on several occasions. This may seem normal but you need to realise that the cathedral band is made up from members of the Guild from all over the county (and outside) from as far away as Tavistock, Barnstaple and Wellington (Somerset) and all normally ring at their own towers on a Sunday. The ringers are happy to have time off and allow the Association to ring!

Ian Campbell

Guild mini-ring at Crediton

Lots of visitors tried their hand at ringing the mini-ring at the Crediton event in the park. The bells were set up on the bandstand where they would be safe in the event of rain but that didn't occur and a glorious day was had, interrupted only by most of the ringers having to go to ring at a wedding during the afternoon.



The Frank Mack Ring on the bandstand in Crediton park

Ian Campbell

Mid-Devon Branch

Donald Roberts BEM



It has been mentioned elsewhere that Don was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Don tells us there will be a ceremony in Devon followed by an invitation to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party. He wishes to thank all those who have congratulated him on this honour. At least one peal and quarter peal were rung to mark the occasion.

Sowton, Devon

St Michael and All Angels

Friday, 19 June 2015 in 41 mins (9-1-25 in G)

1260 Oxford Treble Place Triples

- 1 Don Roberts
- 2 Lesley Tucker
- 3 Sue Sawyer
- 4 Charlotte Boyce
- 5 Nigel Birt
- 6 David Hird
- 7 Tim Bayton (C)
- 8 Graham Tucker

1st in method by all. Congratulating the treble ringer on being awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's birthday honours this year.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

East Budleigh, Devon, All Saints

Monday, 15 June 2015 in 2h52 (10)

5100 Rowlands Gill Alliance Major

Composed by M Maughan

- 1 Charlotte A Boyce
- 2 Susan D Sparling
- 3 Ian V J Smith

- 4 Michael E C Mears
- 5 Fergus M S Stracey
- 6 David Hird
- 7 John R Martin (C)
- 8 John A Foster

Rung as a compliment to Guild Vice President Don Roberts on being awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's birthday honours list

Excerpts from MID-DEVON TOWER TALK

BRANCH MINI-OUTING

It was a relief that after two failed events the outing was a great success. Our chairman, Rodney Horder, had chosen the west side of Dartmoor as the venue and what an inspired choice! Our first tower was Peter Tavy where the six bells were soon going to a variety of methods including Cambridge Surprise and Grandsire Minor. Comments so far rate the next tower as the highlight of the day. Brentor church is perched on the top of a Dartmoor tor, 1100 feet above sea level. From this lofty position there are 360 degree views taking in large areas of Devon and over into Cornwall. It is the highest working church in England. We enjoyed the light ring of five which go extremely well. Another first here was a Terylene tail end which actually worked very well.

Everyone then scrambled back down to the car park and on to Marystow. The six bells here went well but sound slightly odd with an unusual tuning – Dove gives them as G#, A#, B#, C#, D# and E#. Still they went alright and we enjoyed ringing them. The last tower was Lydford where the long ropes and sign saying 'no knots' made ringing a little more of a challenge but still enjoyable. Rodney had booked a table in the Fox and Hounds and eleven of us took the advantage of a well-earned rest. The table layout was inspired and allowed easy conversation across the whole group. The meal certainly went down well and a chance was taken to thank Rodney for an exceptional afternoon – he had even arranged good weather! We were delighted to be joined by Alan and Maureen Frost from Dorset who were on their way back from holiday in Cornwall. It was also good to see several branch members who have not been out with us for some time.



It's a long walk up to the church...



...but we all made it

BISHOPSTEIGNTON

We have mentioned before that Bishopsteignton bells have been out for re-tuning and re-hanging. The work is now complete and we are pleased to include a report taken from notes sent by Phil Turner – thank you, Phil.

The bells were a Thomas Mears ring of 1840 last re-hung in 1900. All the bells sounded sharp of the note they should have been, for example G was nearer G#. The clappers had indented the bells and were on cast-in staples, so the bells were in danger of becoming cracked owing to corrosion of the staples. The plain bearings were worn out as were the headstocks.

The work carried out by Nicholson's (with tuning by Whitechapel Bell Foundry) has involved a novel tuning process which has lowered the pitch of the bells to bring them down to the key of G. Normally when bells are tuned the pitch is raised by taking metal out of the inside of the bell – this process involved taking metal from the lip of the bell. New headstocks have been provided with roller bearings. The bells have been quarter turned and the wheels have been re-conditioned. The frame made by Harry Stokes of Woodbury was still in good condition so has been re-used. The tenor weight is now 9cwts and 25lbs.

The end result is a total transformation, making a fine sounding ring that go like the proverbial tops! The team has been increased by several new recruits and they are working hard to make their ringing worthy of their wonderful bells. Practice night is Thursday from 7.30 to 9.00 and you are assured of a warm welcome.



The old bells came out...



...and the refurbished ones came back

A special service to celebrate the bells was held. The bells were rung for over an hour before the service by local ringers joined by a few visitors including Guild members. All were complimentary about the improvement in sound and go of the bells. The service was led by the Reverend Stephen West who had designed it as a service celebrating bells and ringing. Hymns included 'Unchanging God' and 'Ring out glad Bells' (to the tune of Jerusalem). He talked about the heritage of bells and ringing in England and said how pleased the villagers were to have their bells back in action. Tea and cake followed the service.



Ringling at the celebration service

TOWER OPEN DAY ST MARYCHURCH

What a day!! After much planning and midnight oil the sun shone and the visitors came. By sheer co-incidence this year's church fete was exactly forty years to the day (18th July 1975) since ringing re started following the wartime ban and then the destruction of most of the church in 1943. The ringers were keen to mark the anniversary so got fully involved with the fete. The official opener of the day was Kevin Foster, the newly elected MP for Torbay. He was keen to visit the tower so he became the first visitor of the day when he had an impromptu tour before the official starting time.

The St Marychurch Handbell ringers led by Wena Mansley got the official proceedings underway with a half hour concert of popular tunes. A special feature was a performance of 'The Bells of St Marychurch' written by Margot Sharp to celebrate the return of ringing. Don Roberts sang the verses and the audience joined in with the chorus. Our 'front of house' team of Derek and Mo Hawkins had been busy taking bookings for tower tours and the first one was soon being led up the spiral steps. This one went straight to the top where the extensive views were much admired. As they came down they met tour 2 in the ringing room where a short demonstration of ringing was given. Tour 1 carried on down and tour 2 proceeded to the top. The same procedure was carried out with tours 3 and 4. In all about 80 people visited the tower. The ringers did a sterling job acting as stewards and demonstrating our art.

Downstairs there were all the usual sideshows of a church fete from tombola to bric-a-brac. A flower festival was on display in the church as well. All in all it was a very busy but successful day. We have yet to see if we managed to recruit any new ringers. A very big thank you to all who helped – we were pleased to hear that the tower tours made well over £100 and the whole day a very respectable £2500+.



The St Marychurch Handbell ringers

Martin Mansley

North East Branch

Questionnaire Follow-up

As a follow-on from the last article in RRD I promised an update on our planning for the NE Branch as a result of the questionnaire. The planning group met primarily to look at the list of members who had desires to achieve certain goals which could not be met within their own towers. There were a few distinct groups: those wishing to extend beyond Plain Bob Doubles, those who wanted opportunities to ring basic Triples methods and a group who wanted to ring the standard Grandsire and Stedman Doubles. The questionnaire showed that Plain Hunting and Bob Doubles were already available and being used within the branch programme.

We therefore set a programme to address these three issues by adding specific extended practices. These are:

- Six fortnightly extended practices for 'Beyond Plain Bob Doubles' (Wednesday mornings beginning 5th August)
- Six fortnightly sessions for Grandsire and Stedman Doubles (Friday mornings from 30th October)
- Monthly Triples practices (2nd Wednesday evenings starting in August).

Letters were sent to all members who had expressed an interest in developing their ringing and to those who had offered support. Details were given for every specific

request for support which included opportunities within the Branch at branch practice towers, monthly 6 bell practices, Troyte Ringing Centre events and the new practices listed above.

At the point of writing we have had sufficient responses to know that the practices have adequate numbers, including helpers, to run and the first two sessions of 'Beyond Plain Bob' went well. We have rung St Simon's, St Martin's, St Osmund's and Eynesbury Bob. Our next practice we will begin to explore the 1-2 variations. The Triples practice in August was well attended and we achieved some good striking in Plain Hunt and Plain Bob.

Sheila Scofield

South West Branch

Fergus rings his 1000th

Congratulations go to Fergus Stracey for ringing his 1000th peal in July.

Ancient Society of College Youths

Callington, Cornwall, St Mary

Tuesday, 7 July 2015 in 2:48

5040 Stedman Triples

Composed by John Pladdys (No 7)

1 William P Carew

2 Gwen Rogers

3 Penny J Salisbury

4 John Pladdys (C)

5 Andrew L Mainwaring

6 Philip Rogers

7 Fergus M S Stracey

8 Michael E C Mears

1000th peal-7

To mark the 10th anniversary of 7/7

Ian Campbell

Plymouth Youths' Summer Tour



Top row: Matt, Lindsey, Harry, Mark, James, Phill
Bottom row: Hellen, Sarah, Hannah, Josephine
Dog: Cookie

This year the Plymouth Youths annual bell ringing tour visited Oxford. The weekend's schedule was arranged by Harry and filled with towers and antics. We arrived at the Dorchester sailing club on the Friday night where we set up our tents and camped the next two nights. We were grateful to have such a great location – thank you to Hannah for having us there, her membership meant we could use the grounds for camping and the club house had quality toilets, showers and cooking facilities. Our tents were positioned right beside the lake, which gave stunning views!

The first evening we enjoyed fish and chips, games and catching up – it was great to have us all together including Hellen and Mark's dog Cookie. In the morning we awoke to hot tents in the morning sun and set about having breakfast, showers and being ready for the day ahead. Our first tower was Kirtlington: a 16 cwt ring of 8. It was a good start for us – the band was a mixture from Lindsey who was handling by herself and ringing rounds with a few nudges, to Phill who is a College Youth. There were ten of us in all and we were able to ring simple methods comfortably throughout the day.

The next tower was Woodstock: a 12cwt ring of 8. It was positioned along a High Street with tall terraced houses, antiques shops and gastro lounges – imagine Tavistock with fewer charity shops, more sandstone and the average property price being around £450k. The bells were nice and we rang well. Next stop Kidlington: a 21 cwt ring of 8. The ringing chamber was spacious and the tower captain was friendly. We were impressed with the ironmongery skills of one of the bell ringers there who had hand crafted beautiful church door keys and made an impressive Meccano model of a ringing bell. We rang some Cambridge minor, plain hunt on 7 and other methods. For lunch we split into two groups and enjoyed a pub lunch.



The tower after lunch was Charlton-on-Otmoor which was a bit different. It was a ground floor ring but the ringing chamber had another use as store room too. On one bell you had to stand with your back to a cupboard door and be careful with where the rope landed, or you could twist around and face the cupboard door to make it easier. Boxes of religious paraphernalia sat around the room and in between the 2nd and 3rd there was a massive ventilation shaft – I'm sure you'd get used to it if it was your home tower. The bells were a little difficult to ring but we kept going – that first tower after lunch is always a tricky one.

The penultimate tower of the day was Ambrosden – where we enjoyed Cookie racing! The church was perfectly positioned with a path around it - or race track. As we waited to be let in we positioned ourselves around the church and encouraged Cookie to run to each person. She is a whippet cross greyhound and quite

fast on her feet. It was entertaining but did need a little more practice. Getting up the tower was a little scary, the access was a 10ft tall ladder disappearing into the ceiling – just don't look down! It was a 20cwt ring of 8, we rang well - call changes, bob doubles, Cambridge minor – and the lesser experienced members of the band became more and more confident.

The last tower was Great Milton: a 15cwt ring of 8. We were feeling a little tired by this point, as you do. Hopefully the wedding party in the venue next door enjoyed the bells – we spied on them from the tower window. I really liked the collection of wine corks the resident band had displayed in the tower and the impressive clock



mechanism was exposed in the corner of the chamber. Everyone put in their last efforts before the final ring down of the day and we were really pleased with how the day went. That evening we were grateful to the Wedge household for having us over for a barbecue; there was loads of food and beers and cider on ice. It was the perfect end to a brilliant day. We played Kubbs, a game James brought with him until we needed torches to see the blocks! It was competitive and addictive – you have to

knock down your opponents' pieces by throwing wooden blocks at them: thoroughly entertaining!

The next morning it was time to pack up and say goodbye to the beautiful lake. We joined the Sunday service ringing at two towers in Abingdon where they were friendly and welcomed us to stay for a cuppa afterwards; we declined needing to do the final packing bits before heading into central Oxford for our day out. Some of us hadn't been to Oxford before – it's a great city for a day trip with the architecture, history and canals. We enjoyed a decent lunch at the Wetherspoon's Oxford Castle Quarter where we sat outside and after lunch we waved farewell to members of the group who needed to get home.

In the afternoon the six of us went punting on the river; which is harder than it looks! It requires you to push the boat along with a heavy, long pole – without falling in. We hired a pedalo too which was much easier. It was very funny – especially when we did see people fall in! The sun was shining and the scenery was beautiful. We then enjoyed relaxation and an ice cream watching the ducks along Christ Church Meadow Walk. Thank you to Hannah for being our guide in Oxford and providing great accommodation. It was a fantastic weekend. We are looking forward to next year where we plan to visit the North Somerset area.

Josephine Maddick

St Andrew's Summer Fayre



Saturday 13th June saw the annual St Andrew's Summer Fayre take place in the grounds outside the minster. As well as the multitude of stalls, the bellringers of St. Andrew's had set up the Frank Mack mini-ring. This garnered much interest from the public as most would never have seen a full size set of bells let alone a scaled down version. Many children and adults alike were

keen to have a ring and all did very well. The St. Andrew's ringers also provided a demonstration of a few rounds once they (myself included) had got to grips with the bells and how to handle them.

Overall it was a great day in the sunshine and hopefully those who did have a go on the mini-ring might be inspired to come along and take it up on some slightly bigger bells!



Sarah Lippett

Other News

William Henry Trewin 1932-2015



St James' Church, Kilkhampton, was full for the thanksgiving service for the life of Henry Trewin held on Monday 27th July. The enthusiastic singing of ringers' hymns, the moving delivery of the eulogy by Carl Hambley, Henry's nephew, and an amusing poem read by Fr Russen Thomas made the occasion a memorable event.

Henry learned to ring on the banks of the Tamar, at Landulph, and then joined the Stratton band where he started his method ringing. He rang a quarter of Grandsire Doubles at Week St Mary in 1957 and his first of Plain Bob Minor at St Juliot in 1958. His determination to keep learning made him ring his first quarter of London Surprise Minor for his 78th birthday.

Henry did not keep a record of his early ringing, but we believe that he rang 23 peals.

He'd rung at every tower in Devon and Cornwall to the end of 2014, and in his retirement enjoyed travelling abroad for the first time to ring in Australia, New Zealand and North America.

Of course, Henry did a lot for other ringers. He organised outings and competitions and helped local towers at practices and service ringing. He was still scrambling nimbly over bellframes fitting new stays in his 80s. He served as President of the Truro Diocesan Guild of Ringers of which he was then made a Life Vice-President and, as a mark of the respect with which he was held in our area, was also a Vice-President of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers, a unique combination.

The congregation of almost 250 which packed St James' celebrated a ringer who had devoted himself to The Exercise. His close family, his band at Kilkhampton, fellow church choir members, and his 'ringing family' in Cornwall, Devon and further afield will miss him greatly. May Henry rest in peace.

Rob Corney

Stoke Fleming Tower Open Day

For the second year running St Peter's in Stoke Fleming held a tower open day to publicise their major renovation project. The aim was to inform members of the public about bell ringing and the problems with the corroding bell frame and other structures in the thirteenth century tower. It was also meant to be a bit of a ringers' recruiting exercise and, as an aside, any money raised would be put towards the cost of renovations.

The demonstration bell was again pressed into service in the ringing chamber to help explain the black art of church bell ringing to the visitors on the tower tours. The Frank Mack mini-ring was a very popular attraction in an informative ground-floor exhibition about the history of bell ringing and the day-to-day practice of our art.

The event was opened by Adam Hart-Davis, scientist, historian, author and TV presenter, who gave a brief but interesting talk which featured George Parker Bidder, 'The Calculating Boy', a local character who worked with Robert Stephenson and is buried in St Peter's churchyard.

Approximately 180 people visited the exhibition in a six hour period. The tower tours were very popular but, because of the need to control numbers, only 65 people were able to see the bells, the Victorian clock and the magnificent view from the top of the 83 foot tower. Nearly £800 was raised for the renovation project and we have the names of three potential recruits.

There won't be time for another open day next summer as work should be in progress. We will publish an article giving full details of the proposed renovation work and augmentation of the ring once Faculty permission has been obtained.



Anne with Adam Hart-Davis and his wife Sue Blackmore



The Guild Demo bell in the ringing chamber with John Dietz

Anne Bailey (Stoke Fleming)

Training

Stedman Triples Training Morning, Saturday 26th September

Despite being over 300 years old Stedman is a method (OK, principle) which remains popular particularly for Triples and upwards. It is an ideal method for short touches for services or practices as there is a multitude of interesting and musical touches. This course is intended for ringers who can ring a plain course and have started to ring touches but lack confidence and need to consolidate their knowledge. The majority of the time will be spent ringing but there will be a chance to ask questions and receive advice from experienced ringers. Maximum number five trainees.

Course details

Date: Saturday 26th September

Venue: Denmisch Simulator Ring - Exeter Cathedral School

Start time: 9.15 for 9.30

End time: 13.00

Cost: TBC

For further details, please contact Martin Mansley at
martin@mansley5040.freemove.co.uk

Martin Mansley

TROYTE RINGING CENTRE

Forthcoming Events

EXTENDED PRACTICES

10 00 – 1 00 at Huntsham

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

Guild Kaleidoscope Training Day

Saturday 10th October

9.30 – 12.00 Exeter St David's (11cwt)

Lunch at the 'Boston Tea Party'

2.00 – 4.00 Exeter Denmisch (simulator)

Come for the first time or come back for more!

Kaleidoscope ringing is an ideal way to practise basic dodging or making places, developing an awareness of your position in the change and building skills for method ringing.

Tutor: Lynne Hughes

£5 tower donation for the day

Book a place with Lynne Hughes: lynnehughes@hotmail.com

Association of Ringing Teachers

THE CC, ART AND 'CHANGE RINGING FOR THE FUTURE'

Crisis? What crisis? Can we afford today to be as dismissive about the future of ringing as Jim Callaghan famously was about the 'Winter of Discontent' in 1979? I think not! Elva Ainsworth's article in *The Ringing World* (22 May 2015, p544) gave us some stark pointers to the trends in the same weekend the Central Council members were meeting in Hull to discuss a paper on 'Change Ringing for the Future'. The sample survey by ART Committee members, which included data from the Tiverton area, was admittedly a small one, but the other figures quoted (for church attendance and numbers of peal ringers) both point in a similar, downward direction; we could be down from 40,000 ringers in 2000 to 20,000 now. So what to do?

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL

Most of the ideas in the 'Change Ringing for the Future' paper have received general support in the ringing community – developing a better website for prospective learners, launching a new learners initiative and a new learner pack, making ringing leadership training available to help bringing on new tower captains and association officers, conducting a detailed survey into the state of ringing and the needs in each area, partnership working between the Central Council, ART and other leading bodies. It is to be hoped that these initiatives will now be pushed forward quickly. A proposal for the Council to work more through regional groupings of associations has met some opposition and is being advanced more cautiously. At a meeting of South West CC members we collected many examples of good practice happening around the region and there was some support for cross-border working on projects such as a regional youth striking competition. It was agreed to set up a regional electronic forum to share ideas and work on such projects.

ART

The Ringing Foundation identified poor quality teaching as a key barrier to the successful recruitment and training of new ringers. It is ART's remit to address that by training up a new generation of ringing teachers to work alongside existing tower captains and teachers and help improve the experience which new ringers receive. Nationally over 2,000 delegates have attended ITTS courses since 2011. Around 400 of these have already achieved accreditation by ART and many more are working towards it through having their practical teaching assessed in the tower. In Devon so far we have run five 'Teaching Bell Handling' (Module 1) courses and two 'Teaching Elementary Change Ringing' (Module 2) courses. A further Module 1 course is planned this year for East Devon (14th November). You can get a flavour of what it is like to attend an ITTS course from Mike Tompsett's article in the March edition of *Ringing Round Devon*. Observers are always welcome at Devon courses.

Some tower captains have started to ask ART Teachers for help with teaching in their towers and some competent new ringers have been produced. This is alongside the work of some excellent existing teachers. We need to keep replacing the existing good teachers as they retire (many are elderly) and add to their number with some younger teachers. This part of the problem – poor teaching - is on the way to a solution.

SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

If we are starting to make good the shortfall in good ringing teaching, where do we need to focus next? Is recruitment the problem? Many towers seem to be able to get potential learners to make that initial contact to enquire about bell ringing. Tower open days, articles in the church or village magazine, stalls at shows and fetes, word of mouth all seem to work as recruitment strategies. A few towers seem to achieve a steady flow of new recruits. In the best situations new recruits receive intensive one-to-one tuition with sessions two or three times a week and are fast-tracked to competent handling within a short period.

But then often things seem to go wrong. After being the centre of attention for weeks on end and getting perhaps well over an hour's rope time in a week, the new ringer is suddenly plunged into a main practice where they are just one of several ringers with differing learning needs. The focus on them as an individual diminishes greatly and rope time may drop to 20 minutes a week. And this may be good in comparison with some learners, who, having been taught to handle a bell competently, find themselves attached to a local tower where the ringers practise infrequently or not at all and where service ringing is at best occasional. Should we be surprised that new ringers give up? Nine out of ten do for various reasons.

KEEPING 'EM ON BOARD – WORKING TOGETHER

I think retention and ringer development are our next key challenges. Some towers, with the best will, are unable to hold regular practices with their own resources. Clustering of towers, support from branches and making full use of ringing centre facilities all need to be deployed to tackle this problem. Technology too can help. Installing motorcycle tyre mufflers, simulators and sound control can all help to increase rope time for learners. Many recruits are retired or working part-time, so day-time, mid-week practices are possible using this technology. More rope time is likely to increase commitment from learners. Birmingham School of Ringing has pushed its retention rate for new ringers up to around 70% through a structured programme of training opportunities which can take a new ringer from bell handling through various levels of change ringing. Taunton Branch is achieving similar success levels.

While we may not be able to do a Birmingham in Devon, we do need to encourage working together and providing a more structured learning experience for our new recruits. This will mean rethinking some traditional loyalties to towers and branches. "Cross-border working" at many levels is vital if we are not to be wringing our hands in despair at the collapse of ringing in five years' time!

Les Boyce
N E Branch Ringing Master & Secretary of ART

ASSOCIATION OF RINGING TEACHERS

Forthcoming Courses in Devon

ART Teacher Training (ITTS) Day Courses:

MODULE 1 – Teaching Bell Handling

Venue: East Devon – Sat 14th November

Courses runs 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/AW13-Aug15.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

Calendar for 2015

September				
Sat 19	10:00	6 Bell Practice	Rackenford	North East
Mon 21	19:30	Stedman/Doubles methods	Offwell	East
Wed 23	19:30	8 Bell Practice	Huntsham	North East
Thu 24	19:30	Branch practice	Exeter St Thomas	Exeter
Fri 25	19:00	10 Bell Practice	Lyme Regis St. Michael	East
Sat 26	09:15	Stedman Triples Training Morning	DenMisch	Guild
Sat 26	10:00	Plain Hunt	Huntsham	North East
Wed 30	10:00	6 Bell Practice - St Simons & other Dbls Methods	Huntsham	North East
October				
Sat 3		Branch outing	Cornwall, including Gorran	Exeter
Sat 3	15:00	Branch AGM & Dinner (Dinner @ The Swan)	Bampton	North East
Sat 3	19:00	Branch practice	Shirwell	North/North West

Sun 4	tba	Branch Striking Competition Practice	tba	South West
Mon 5	19:30	Triples - Stedman and Grandsire *	Ottery	East
Wed 7	19:30	10 bell advanced practice	Exeter St Mark	Exeter
Thu 8	19:30	Plain Hunt Practice	Sidbury	East
Fri 9	19:30	Branch Practice	Exmouth, Withycombe Raleigh	Aylesbeare
Fri 9	19:30	Surprise Minor Practice*	Buckerell	East
Sat 10		Branch AGM	TBC	Aylesbeare
Sat 10	09:30	Kaleidoscope	Exeter S David & Denmisch	Guild
Sat 10	10:00	Raise & Lower in Peal	Huntsham	North East
Sun 11	tba	Branch Striking Competition Practice	tba	South West
Wed 14	10:00	6 Bell Practice - St Simons & other Doubles Methods	Huntsham	North East
Wed 14	19:30	8 Bell Practice - Triples Practice	Huntsham	North East
Sat 17	10:00	Guild Striking Competitions	North/North West Branch	Guild
Sat 17	10:00	6 Bell Practice	Cruwys Morchard	North East
Mon 19	19:30	Stedman/Doubles Methods	Offwell	East
Mon 19	19:30	8-bell practice	Wolborough	Mid Devon
Fri 23	19:00	10 Bell Practice	Lyme Regis	East
Sat 24	10:00	6 Bell Practice	Cruwys Morchard	North East
Mon 26	19:30	Branch practice	Stoke Canon	Exeter
Wed 28	19:30	8 Bell Practice	Huntsham	North East
Fri 30	10:00	6 Bell Practice - :Developing skills in Grandsire/Stedman Doubles	Huntsham	North East
Sat 31	10:00	Moving on from Plain Bob Minor	Huntsham	North East
November				
Mon 2	19:30	Triples - Stedman/Grandsire*	Ottery	East
Wed 4	19:30	10 bell advanced practice	Exeter St Mark	Exeter
Sat 7	10:30	Why have Bobs? - TRC Theory Session	TBC	North East
Sat 7	14:30	Branch AGM	Black Torrington	North/North West
Sat 7	19:00	Branch bonfire party	Newton St Cyres	Exeter
Mon 9	19:30	Branch Practice	Exmouth, Littleham	Aylesbeare
Wed 11	19:30	8 Bell Practice - Triples Practice	Huntsham	North East

Thu 12	19:30	Plain Hunt Practice	Sidbury	East
Fri 13	10:00	6 Bell Practice:Developing skills in Grandsire/Stedman Dbls	Huntsham	North East
Fri 13	19:30	Surprise Minor Practice*	Buckerell	East
Sat 14		ITTS Module 1	East Devon	Guild
Sat 14	tba	Branch 95th Anniversary Dinner	Moorland Garden Hotel Yelverton	South West
Sun 15	14:30	Branch Committee Meeting	TBC	North East
Mon 16	19:30	Stedman and Doubles Methods	Offwell	East
Thu 19	19:00	8-bell practice	Newton Abbot, Clock Tower	Mid Devon
Sat 21		Branch AGM	Exeter St Mark	Exeter
Sat 21	10:00	6 Bell Practice	Hemyock	North East
Sat 21	TBC	Fred Edwards Shield	Uffculme	North East
Tue 24	19:30	Branch practice	Crediton	Exeter
Wed 25	19:30	8 Bell Practice	Huntsham	North East
Fri 27	10:00	6 Bell Practice - St Simons & other Dbls Methods	Huntsham	North East
Fri 27	19:00	10 Bell Practice	Lyme Regis	East
Sat 28	15:00	AGM	Coffinswell	Mid Devon
Sat 28	tba	10 Bell Practice	tba	South West
December				
Wed 2	19:30	10 bell advanced practice	Exeter St Mark	Exeter
Sat 5	11:00	Calling a Simple Touch - TRC Theory Session	TBC	North East
Sat 5	19:00	Branch practice	Braunton	North/North West
Mon 7	19:30	Triples - Stedman/Grandsire*	Ottery St. Mary	East
Wed 9	19:30	8 Bell Practice - Triples Practice	Huntsham	North East
Thu 10	19:30	Branch Practice	Topsham	Aylesbeare
Thu 10	19:30	Plain Hunt Practice	Sidbury	East
Fri 11	10:00	6 Bell Practice: Developing skills in Grandsire/Stedman Doubles	Huntsham	North East
Fri 11	19:30	Surprise Minor Practice*	Buckerell	East
Mon 14	19:30	8-bell practice	Wolborough	Mid Devon
Mon 21	19:30	Stedman and Doubles Methods	Offwell	East

* - please confirm before attending

Quarter Peal Submissions

Please ensure that all quarter peals rung that are to be included in the Guild annual report are 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!).

James Kirkcaldy

Editorial

I was saddened by the death of Henry Trewin who rang at Stratton and Kilkhampton on the Devon/Cornwall border. We rang with him on many occasions, mainly on outings he arranged for bank holidays, the most recent of which was only last Easter Monday. He arranged the outing (all by phone – he never converted to email!) and the itinerary was distributed scribbled on scraps of paper. He even drove himself around at the last one – although he did get lost and arrived at the first tower just as we were ringing down. He will be missed.

Congratulations go to Don Roberts for being awarded his British Empire Medal. Despite his advancing years Don is always energetic and enthusiastic about everything, including ringing. It is good to see him being recognised.

I would like to remind you about the Guild striking competitions. The six-bell inter-tower competition is for EVERY tower to take part – there are frequently only a handful of entries which is really disappointing. Similarly with the novice competition – have a look at the requirements and see if there is anyone at your tower who could ring in it. The eight bell competition is between the branches – it would be wonderful if every branch could put in at least one team.

The quarter peal week is now a fortnight running from 23rd October to 8th November inclusive. The aim is to ring as many quarter peals as possible during that period and to raise money for the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund. Please do what you can to help.

I am very pleased to see some course bookings for the Denmisch ring of simulators which I have helped to install in the Cathedral school. I, for one, will be very interested to see how the courses go at this location and would welcome any feedback from students, helpers or tutors. Any outings to the Exeter area are welcome to come and ring them. I am expecting a rush of applications during Holy Week before Easter when ringing at church towers is usually suspended!

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
