

Ringling Round Devon



THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

Newsletter 104 , December 2016

GUILD EVENTS

AREA 51 COME FOURTH

Or... The Guild Striking Competition 2016

The morning of 15th October saw teams compete for the inter-tower 6-bell and the 6-bell novice contests at Stoke Canon and Exeter St Mark's respectively. The full results are shown below. As we can see, only Topsham entered the novice competition, which requires Plain Hunt, although they did manage to put in three teams. Feeling guilty myself for not getting my own novices in it, I feel motivated to try harder next year. Let's see what we all can do to make it a more interesting contest!



The winning novice team from Topsham

The afternoon carried on at St Mark's for the inter-branch 8-bell contest, teams ringing Yorkshire Surprise or Little Bob. The rain fell, the judges who stepped in at short notice (Jill and Mike Hansford from Somerset) huddled in a porch to hear, as did anyone wanting to listen to the other teams, and everyone else mingled inside the church. Body and soul were kept together by a splendid assortment of cakes from the local ringers, washed down with endless tea. David Hird tried on a baby blue knitted hat and young Toby Hilling walked round with a large silver trophy cup from the morning... they start them very young now?



The Exeter Branch 8-bell team



The cathedral team which won the inter-tower 6-bell competition

So what about the teams? Six entered, one of these being the mysterious 'Area 51'. Did we have aliens in our midst? No, just a mixed branch team, though it was largely from Mid Devon.

The standard was noticeably high this year. 'All bands did extremely well' were the opening words of Mike Hansford as he delivered the results he and Jill had arrived at. He went on to say that everyone had used the practice time well to sort out any problems. Exeter had been 'very nice to listen to', Area 51 had 'a competent start and a good performance', Aylesbeare had a 'slightly hesitant start but then a good rhythm'. The North East branch had 'difficulties settling down, but recovered well', the North/North West branch had 'good clean changes and finished well', and the South West branch 'settled into a good rhythm very quickly'. The winners? Exeter branch again, 'despite the sneeze' we all said, as one ringer had suffered this distracting event during the test piece. The results are always interesting, but in many ways not as important as the fact of 48 plus ringers coming together for the afternoon to enjoy some good ringing and each others' company.

The results, with number of faults listed:

Novice – judged by Charlotte Boyce and Sarah Chadburn

Topsham A	27
Topsham C	29
Topsham B	Failed to complete the piece



The novice award was presented to Matt Pym by the president and judges

Inter-Tower 6-bell – judged by Nigel Birt and Ian Avery

Exeter Cathedral	8%
Withycombe Raleigh	11
Exeter St Mark's	14½
Tavistock	17
Exeter St David's	63%



The 6-bell trophy was collected by Matt and Toby Hilling from Nigel Birt

Inter-Branch 8-bell – judged by Mike and Jill Hansford

Exeter	17
South West	29
North/North West	33
Area 51	39
Aylesbeare	41
North East	68



The 8-bell trophy was collected by David Hird from Mike and Jill Hansford

Lynne Hughes, Publicity Office

**MARGARET EGGLESTONE 4TH AUGUST
1940 – 31ST OCTOBER 2016**

Margaret was born in Broomfield near Chelmsford and grew up in the area, first learning to ring at Broomfield. Margaret and Howard were married at Chelmsford Cathedral in 1962 and set up home in the Ipswich area, becoming keen supporters of Ipswich Town football team. Following the move to Crediton in 1992 they became season ticket holders of Somerset County Cricket Club.

Margaret rang 55 peals in total, all before the move to Crediton. She recently rang a number of quarter peals with our local band.

Margaret's final ringing was for morning service on Sunday 30th October when she appeared to be her normal quiet but friendly self. We were all shocked by her sudden death the very next day. She was a reliable supporter of all our activities and will be greatly missed. The funeral service was held in Crediton church on Friday 25th November.

My thanks go to Margaret's sister Marion for much of this information.

Geoff Sparling

DCBRF MEETING

The trustees of the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund held their six monthly meeting on 24th October. The fund was in a healthy position, with income from both the Guild and the Association, and also from the Smale Bequest investment. However a number of fairly large restorations are in the pipeline so continued income from all sources is still very important. Grants were agreed to Ugborough, Woodbury, Chevithorne, Harpford, Beaford, Axminster and Payhembury.

The DCBRF and the Guild arrange free inspections of bell installations. Recent reports include Brendon, Colebrooke, Eggesford, Great Torrington, Morebath, Plymouth Laira, Powderham, Sidmouth, Thorverton and Yarnscombe. Concern was expressed about the situation of the bells at Monkton where the building is in private hands although the bells still belong to the diocese.

Ian Campbell

QUARTER PEAL FESTIVAL

The annual quarter peal week has now grown to longer than a week and is called a quarter peal *festival*. This year it ran from 21st October to 6th November. So far there have been 33 quarters recorded according to Bellboard (the records from *The Ringing World*) of which 13 were Doubles methods.

Ian Campbell

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL

What do you want the Central Council to be and do for ringers in the coming decades? The Change Ringing Action Group (CRAG) for the Central Council have come up with their first output - a vision statement, that the council should be:

A vibrant community of ringers; with bell ringing valued as an enjoyable performing art that is open to all, a beneficial mental and physical exercise, and a unique musical and cultural pursuit which provides service to both community and church.

They are welcoming comments from ALL ringers, including very new ones, to the email address: vision@crag.cccbr.org.uk

Lynne Hughes

CHALLENGE 500... WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY!

For many years there has been a number of towers open to the public on the Heritage Open Days in early September, but this year was different. I became aware about a year ago that the Central Council was working behind the scenes, and successfully got the HoD organisation to have 'bell towers' as one of its main themes for the 2016 days.

Why was this such a big deal? National publicity would be rolled out, and (though limited in supply) registered towers could apply for advertising banners, bunting, stickers and notices. The Royal Institute of British Architects also got involved, offering free display boards to fill with local information. One-off opportunities not to be missed! I know of at least one tower which was lucky enough to receive all this material, which will be useful in the future too.

Was this about recruitment? Not directly. The HoD organisation saw it as opening Britain's heritage for people to explore, and even as ringers our main aim was probably fostering awareness of ringing and good relations with our local communities. Any recruits would be a bonus!

The aim was to have at least 500 bell towers open nationwide. So, was this achieved? Registering on the HoD site involved jumping through a number of hoops, a cut off date of the end of July, and even then a long wait while they dealt with each one manually. Not everyone seems to have been successful with this, so nationally it was well over 300, and in Devon an official listing of twelve: Bovey Tracey, Culmstock, Dawlish, Georgeham, Ottery St Mary, Plymouth St Andrew, Tavistock, Teignmouth St James, Teignmouth St Michael, Tiverton St Peter, Totnes, and Ugborough. I know of Tedburn St Mary, Lymptone and Wolborough open as well.

How did Devon publicity go? This was my first project as Publicity Officer for the Guild. I tried to establish contact with half a dozen newspapers and other media well beforehand, and sent specifically tailored press releases to the *Western Morning News* and the *Mid Devon Gazette*, as well as to my local paper.

What about the BBC interview? Some of you may have heard me on BBC Radio Devon on 4th September. Not directly about the HoD, but an opportunity to mention it, they contacted me regarding a survey which seemed to indicate trouble recruiting young ringers in particular. Aware of the positive points I should try to get across and the negative 'dying art' connotations to avoid, I had a few minutes to compose my thoughts before they phoned

back and recorded an interview. Much of this was cut before broadcasting, but they kept in the points about ringers being from the whole community (not just church goers), recruiting possible from schools and youth groups, and the well-structured teaching scheme which is now available.

How did the HoDs go locally? I was away on holiday so even had to miss my own tower's one which had 40 to 50 visitors, and a lady turning up to learn the next practice night. I also heard of a lapsed ringer coming back due to my interview! I have encouraged local reports to RRD so hopefully these will follow...

Lynne Hughes

AYLESBEARE BRANCH

LITTLEHAM TOWER OUTING



The Littleham ringers had their tower outing on Saturday October 22nd. We visited three towers, enjoying the villages, the churches and the ringing.

Dunsford was the first, then to Holcombe Burnell, which is next to Longdown, where we first had coffee at the Lamb Inn, looking at the lunch menu and ordering for later. We then rang at Holcombe Burnell and returned to enjoy our meal at the Lamb Inn - good food and first class service helped by ordering in advance. We then travelled to Ide for our final ring.

As usual we had invited the Aylesbeare Branch officers to join us on the outing, and both of our churchwardens (Margaret Elms, who of course is a ringer, and Alan Whipps) and a deputy warden (Joy Whipps) were present. The photo was taken by Alan.

These outings offer a chance to visit some Devon villages and churches which are off the beaten track, and enjoy the Devon countryside, which was lovely with a nice sunny day and Autumn colours appearing.

Neville Wright (Tower captain)

EAST DEVON BRANCH

COMBE RALEIGH CALLS THE CHANGES

Three to Two, Two to One, One to Zero, Zero to Six

You're quite right, these are not changes you are likely to hear called in your tower, But they are the changes that are about to take place at St Nicholas, Combe Raleigh.

Following the successful faculty application for the proposed restoration and augmentation of the bells, work is due to start in the New Year and hopefully be completed in early May.

Earlier items in *Ringing Round Devon* (A year in the life of a Novice Bellringer and Another year in the life of a Novice Bellringer) gave some of the background to our present proposals. After almost six years of fund raising we are very nearly at our target of £75,000; this has included income from a variety of events, gifts from ringers and friends and some generous grants

from the DCBRF and the CCCBR. Inevitably, since our proposals were first considered, costs have risen and we cannot yet give up on our fund raising efforts.

Our first idea was merely to augment to five, since we had a five bell frame in the tower. The advice from everyone was to go for six, if we could. Well, yes, it is possible, but this will need a new frame. So, let's do that, but no, the existing frame, built by Harry Stokes in 1900, was said to be of some importance and should be kept. After a little negotiation, it was agreed that an idea by Andrew Nicholson to modify the frame to take six bells was the way forward. Now, instead of two new bells we needed three. Step forward the Keltek Trust. Their help cannot be overestimated; as well as identifying three bells to make up the six, one bell was generously donated. We are now in a position to carry out all the proposed work on the bells.

At present the base of the tower is somewhat cluttered. As well as making room for the ringers, (three fit comfortably enough, but six might be a squeeze), it also provides rudimentary kitchen facilities and general storage. The answer must be to separate the ringers and the most obvious way to do that is to restore the gallery that once existed, but was removed in Victorian times as being unsightly. Our simple proposals were frowned upon as restricting the view of our Green Men, despite the fact they could be seen through glass. The compromise proposal puts them in front of the glass, but does reduce the space for the ringers. However, this is not thought to be too serious a problem. Access to the gallery might be difficult and several proposals were considered, all having some negative aspects. Ultimately it was agreed that access from the tower stairs was the most practical, though the most expensive option and it would require a doorway to be created into the gallery. There is some evidence that this used to exist, but at present it cannot be proven. Funds are now needed to ensure that the gallery work can be completed at the same time as the bell restoration and augmentation.

As part of our Christmas Tree Festival on 2nd to 4th December we opened the tower to visitors in exchange for a small donation, although large donations were and are equally welcome. We also sold a variety of turned wood items and hand made Christmas decorations, (still available, phone 01404 43929 for details), made by our more enterprising and artistic ringers.

In February we will be having our annual Snowdrop Tea, a chance to admire the spectacular display of snowdrops in the churchyard and to enjoy tea and cake in good company and further boost our funds. Over the last six years we have sold some 11,000 snowdrops and served around 1800 cups of tea and a similar number of portions of cake! Please come along and help increase these numbers. By next summer we hope to be able to invite you to come and ring our new peal of six.

Trevor Hitchcock

THINGS TO RING FOR

The CCCBR website 'Things to Ring For' will give you a whole range of excuses for that special piece of ringing, not that you probably need an excuse. Unfortunately, a recent check of the site revealed a glaring omission. One thousand years ago on 30th November 1016 Canute (Knud) became King of England. That's the one who failed to stop the tide coming in. For those who would like to ring in commemoration and missed the November date there is still time, as he was crowned on 6th January 1017.

For us in Combe Raleigh he was a, if not the, most important king of all time. Why? Well it may not be well known, but family tradition has it that Lisa, our lovely lady tower captain, is a descendent of Canute. Her maiden name was Knudsen (Canute's son); will she soon be appearing on 'Who do you think you are?' As far as we know that programme has not been planned, but bear in mind, next time you meet Lisa, it is more than possible she has royal blood and please do give her the respect she deserves - men in kilts should curtsy and ladies in trousers should bow.

Trevor Hitchcock

NEWS FROM SIDMOUTH TOWER



In November Marion Baker celebrated a remarkable achievement; she has been ringing church bells for 70, yes 70, years! On Friday 4th November she also celebrated her 83rd birthday - I probably shouldn't have told you that - and the Sidmouth ringers and friends held a celebratory dinner in her honour at the Anchor. Here we learnt the truth of why the church clock stopped unexpectedly in 1946 and other mysterious happenings. I really can't enlarge on that. As a token of respect for all Marion has done over the intervening years she was presented with an inscribed bell recording her achievement.

Marion is one of an endangered species because she was born in Sidmouth, christened in Sidmouth, grew up in Sidmouth, married in Sidmouth and lived all her married life here too. She also started her long association with bell ringing in Sidmouth in 1946.

Marion's father had been a bell ringer before World War II and he resumed ringing after hostilities ended, becoming tower captain in 1946 when Marion learned to ring under his guidance. Female ringers were relatively rare in those days and not universally welcomed, this particular art form having been pretty much a male preserve, but change was afoot and Marion was in the forefront of that change. She became pen pals with Pam Bird who was a ringer in Hersham and who encouraged Marion to keep ringing; they remained long term friends.

Sidmouth had eight bells at that time and they could be awkward to ring so learners needed to be committed ringers to become proficient. Things did not improve until 1972 when the eight bells were recast and fitted with better bearings.

However none of this deterred Marion who toured the local area on her bicycle or riding in the back of an Austin 7 alongside a lawn mower - don't ask - ringing at every available tower whenever possible. She was soon ringing quarter peals and full peals and many different methods and became a very competent ringer.

Holidays in the south-east meant that she could cover the Folkstone area, whilst her time at teacher training college in Bath allowed her to ring at Bath Abbey and surrounding villages.

Marion married in 1960 but, surprisingly, her husband Ron was not a ringer. However he fully supported her hobby and even the arrival of baby Graham was not allowed to hold her back. Indeed Graham was sometimes taken to ringing practice from a very early age so it's no surprise that he is now a highly accomplished ringer here at Sidmouth: it must be in the genes!

Marion's enjoyment with bell ringing continued and she even found time to become involved with the 'back office' side of the

business; she was a General Committee member of the East Devon Branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers for many years, became Chairman of the Branch for 13 years and is, even now, a Vice President of the Guild. In addition, over the years she has occupied her spare time by becoming a Foundation Governor at St Nicholas School, a member of Sidmouth Parish PCC and the Deanery Synod for many years. Where do you get the energy from, Marion?

Marion continues to be a regular attendee at practice nights and Sunday morning ringing and is a formidable source of information and support for us lesser ringers. We really hope she will continue to ring with us for many more years.

As we said this is a remarkable achievement, but then Marion is a remarkable lady. Many congratulations and thank you for ringing with us.

Raymond Appleby

EXETER BRANCH
BRANCH AGM

The AGM was held on 22nd October – earlier than usual as a number of the officers were going away on a ringing trip to Australia for the whole of November. Following ringing we held a service at Pinhoe church where the organ was played by Amy Gill and three leads of Kent Treble Bob Royal were rung on handbells. Following this a tea and meeting was held in the church rooms which was very well attended and extra chairs had to be brought in for the meeting. We were very pleased to see so many of the Guild officers present.



Ringling before the service



Count the Guild Officers...

Ian Campbell

EXETER CATHEDRAL NEWS
Annual Dinner

For several years the Cathedral ringers’ annual dinner has been held on the first Friday in October to avoid the Christmas rush. Once again we had the use of the very attractive Malthouse at the Globe Hotel in Topsham. As guests we were very pleased to welcome both Dean Jonathan Draper, who gave a short speech, and also Canon Ian Morter. Matt Hilling acted as Master of Ceremonies and Peter Bill gave a speech about his ringing experiences.



Peter Bill giving his speech at the Cathedral Ringers’ Dinner



Matt Hilling tried out some new bellringing jokes

Ian Campbell

A LITTLE HISTORY ABOUT JOHN ERIC RICHARDS

Sometime member of the Exeter Cathedral Bell Ringers



John Eric Richards as a staff sergeant in The Royal Devon and Exeter Regiment.



From left to right. John Eric Richards his daughter Ada, his wife Mary Jane, daughter Rose and his son Eric Jack Richards, my husband's grandfather.

Some time in the early 1970s in Exeter, when my husband and I were first married, we helped clear the contents of the house of my husband's great Aunt Ada Sadd (née Richards). She was the sister of John Eric Richards, proprietor of The Swan Inn, St Catherine's Street, Exeter. We were given two picture frames and an old box, which according to family history were made out of the wood from the Exeter Cathedral wooden bell frame when it was replaced in 1902. At the time we did nothing with the items, putting them in a cupboard and forgetting about them.

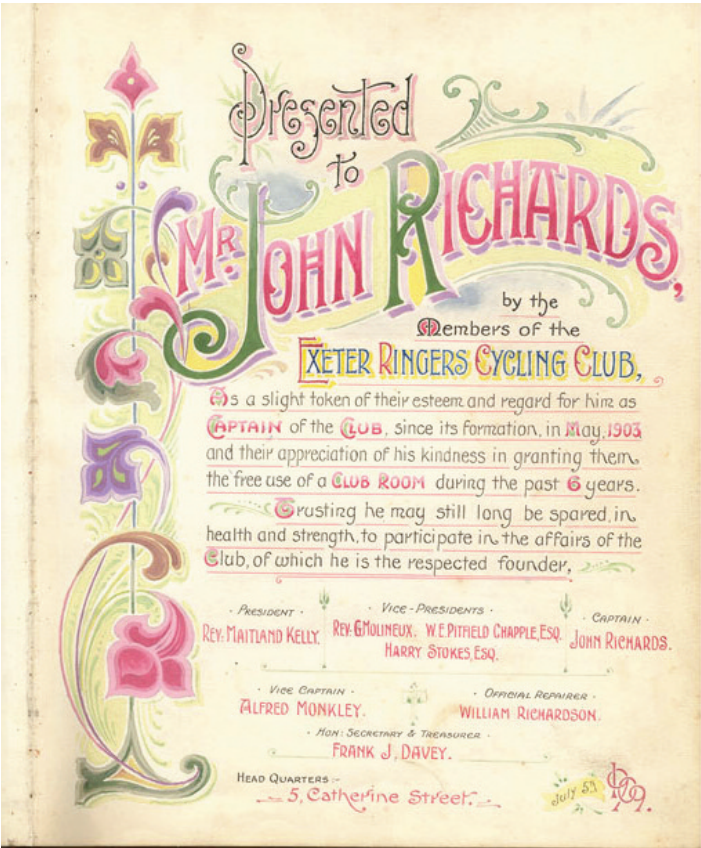


The arrival of the two trebles at the Cathedral in 1923

Twenty years go by, and after many, many moves we found ourselves living in Kentucky, USA. Our son had grown and left for college and I had more time on my hands. So I started going through all the detritus one collects during life, and came upon the wooden box and picture frames. The box was in sad need of care so I enlisted the skills of a great friend who specialized in restoration. While this was being done I decided to remove the old pictures, which were in the frames to replace them with something more to my taste. Much to my surprise I found a photograph of my husband's great, great grandfather and companions, standing proudly beside two church bells on a wagon with the notation reading, *A few old Ringers welcome the arrival of the New Trebles for the Exeter Cathedral peal of 12, Jan 23 1923.* This piqued my interest and as it looked like a picture from a newspaper. I wrote to the *Exeter Express and Echo*, asking if they had any information. I was thrilled to learn they published my 'tale' with the title 'Does this cathedral event ring a bell?'. Not long after I received a post card from a Miss M Leary, of Crescent Mansions, St Leonards, Exeter who suggested I contact The Guild of Devonshire Ringers, which lead me to a delightful gentleman Dr Ian Campbell.

On a trip back home to Devon in 1996 to see family and friends, we met with Dr Campbell who gave us a lovely tour of the cathedral tower and the ringing room. To our surprise there in the corner was a box exactly the same as our box now in Kentucky. On ours the brass plaque reads *Presented to John Richards as a small memento of the Oak Bell Cage of Exeter Cathedral by his friend Frank Davey. June 1902.* And the box in Exeter was the same except *Presented to Frank Davey by John Richards.* We realised that Frank Davey and John Richards were very great friends, fellow bell ringers, and supporters of the Guild. There were many old photographs in the ringing room showing these two men together with many others at various meetings and events. It was such fun to be able to pick out and name many of the gentlemen in the photos. Also on display was a set of hand bells, which Mr Richards had donated to the Guild. It seems many of the early Guild meetings were held in an upstairs room of the Swan Inn, no doubt accompanied by a few drafts of beer, bell-ringing being thirsty work. Sadly the inn is no more; St Catherine's Street was badly bombed in WW2 and the site sold to Colson's department store.

The last part of this story occurred this year, 2016. My husband's mother, the grand daughter of John Richards, was celebrating her 95th birthday. She had always lamented that a book about the Exeter Bell Ringers Cycling club, presented to her grandfather in 1909 had been given to a church in Babbacombe, by her sister, without my mother in law's knowledge. Many an argument was had over the years at family gatherings about this deed, so I thought I would try and find out where it had gone, if anywhere. Babbacombe church knew nothing about it but suggested I contact the Guild of Devon Bell Ringers, Why had I not thought about that! So back I go to my trusted friend Dr Campbell with my



A typical page from the cycling club book

request, and to cut a now very long story shorter he found it in the Guild Library in Exeter. He copied it to me, I got it printed and made into a book to be able to present to the birthday girl.

It is a most interesting book, beautifully written in 1909 and illustrated by hand. It recorded peals of Stedman Triples - heavens I am learning the jargon - which were rung on five consecutive days by the Exeter Ringers Cycling Club, travelling by bicycle!

To celebrate the Millennium the present bell ringers replicated this feat and Dr Campbell wrote an amusing article about it in your Newsletter No 64.

On the front cover of the book it notes that the book was specially produced for John Richards as a token of their regard for him as club captain and for his kindness in granting them free use of a club room at his pub, obviously more reason for beer!

This seems to bring my story to a happy conclusion. I wish we had known about this earlier, especially when we lived in England as I feel we could have been closer to the Cathedral in many ways. I am intrigued by bell ringing, and maybe you would have had another recruit especially for the bicycle event. If you decide to do it again, just let us know.



Graham and Georgina with the cathedral box

My thanks to Dr Ian Campbell for his help and support in my quest. I feel I have made a friend indeed.

Georgina and Graham Beare, Kentucky, USA

Devon Eight call change competition won by cathedral band

Of all of the annual call change competitions held by the Devon Association, the Devon Eight is probably the most prestigious. So we were very proud to be able to topple Kingsteignton from their perch and win both the full competition and the top ringing on 17th September at Dartmouth, St Saviour.

1. Exeter Cathedral	38%
2. Kingsteignton	42%
3. High Bickington	45%
4. Chagford	70
5. Exminster	79%
Georgeham	90 (rang under time)

Top Ringing Results

1. Exeter Cathedral	18%
2. Kingsteignton	23%
3. High Bickington	27
4. Exminster	37%
5. Chagford	42%
Georgeham	54½ No result

Judges were James Clarke, Neil Holloway, Barry Osborne and Mervyn Way, Scrutineer John Cole.

The enormous shield now takes pride of place in the cathedral ringing room, although it was noticeable that it was hidden by a coat when some call-change ringers came to ring one Sunday. There must be a large blank area of wall at Kingsteignton!

Ian Campbell

Old Cathedral Ringers

I recently came across this old picture from the late 1970s of some Exeter Cathedral ringers. Sadly many have passed away, although several are still around.



Back Row: Tony Crabtree, Wendy, Sharon and Ian Campbell, Colin Barr, Bill Harvey, Martin Whiteley, Arthur Trueman
Middle: Bryan Coles, George Retter, Fred Wreford, Mary Mack, Maggie Whiteley
Front: Frank Mack, Jenny Campbell, Bill Ware, Charles Yates

Ian Campbell

EXETER COLLEGES GUILD 50TH ANNUAL DINNER – SAT 4 FEB 2017

The dinner will be held on Saturday 4 February 2017 at The Rougemont Hotel in Exeter. A sumptuous three course meal with wine, entertaining speeches and excellent handbell ringing awaits you! If after all this you still have some energy the ceilidh will round the evening off. For those who want to relax rather than dance a private bar will be available and will be serving real ale.

Everyone is welcome - young and old. Bring your friends. Bring your family. Why not get a group together to make up a complete table? As this is a special anniversary we are hoping for a great

turnout so do consider joining us. We really want to share this special occasion with our friends from across Devon and beyond.

Full details are available on request. Replies must be returned (to m.j.hilling@exeter.ac.uk) by Friday 6th Jan.

We do hope you will be able to be with us to help mark the ECG's 50th birthday.

Matt Hilling

MID-DEVON BRANCH

HERITAGE OPEN DAY



Visitors at St James' Teignmouth

Both St James' and St Michael's Teignmouth and also St Gregory's in Dawlish were very pleased to welcome visitors on 9th September as part of the Heritage Open day scheme.

St Gregory's, Dawlish had a non-stop stream of interested folks, who climbed the tower, looked at the bells and took in the atmosphere of the ringing chamber. Fiona Rock-Evans was there to welcome between 20 and 30 visitors and give them a little introduction into the 'Exercise'. Not bad for an hour's opening time!

Although there were fewer visitors at St James', Teignmouth it was still a worthwhile experience, and this flurry of visitors was exchanged for a veritable rush of interest at St Michael's, Teignmouth. Martin Dodd welcomed everyone, and, a number took the opportunity to try a rope and to listen to a demonstration of ringing. Martin also took questions from the audience. Fiona enjoyed the Dawlish experience so much that she kindly drove over to help us at St Michael's!

As well as the many who braved the 40 steps up the tower at St Michael's there were many more who were content to watch the ringing from below on the video link. Alan Furse had cleverly linked up cameras to a monitor so that viewers could see not only the bells as they rung but also the screen switched to the ringing chamber where our efforts could be displayed to the public! There was also a tempting selection of cakes to go with a nice cup of tea. The relaxed atmosphere was rounded off by a lovely concert by the Red Rock ladies *a capella* group. The afternoon was rounded off by a visit from a local photographer, which resulted in a photo front page of *The Teignmouth Post*.

Fiona, Martin, Lynne Hughes and myself all felt that this was a positive and well received day. Hopefully our enthusiasm and knowledge of ringing was communicated in a celebratory atmosphere. We were pleased that, as well as locals, visitors had also made the effort to seek us out. We felt that we had met the objectives of the Heritage Open day, to celebrate ringing, but also, by a secondary happy accident, possibly found some new future ringers.

Julia Brett

ITEMS FROM MID-DEVON TOWER TALK

Branch outing

Philip Stevens, that veteran organiser of ringing outings, was unable to attend this year due to family commitments but he did organise the bus! For several years we have used Abbot Coaches and their 25 seat coach which is ideal for ringing outings. Clevedon was the suggested venue as there are four rings of bells. Unfortunately, two of them were unavailable on the day – one (the eight) due to weddings that did not require bells and the five due to work on the tower requiring wheels to be removed to allow scaffolding to be erected. However, there are compensations and it meant we had a later start and still arrived in plenty of time to join in the coffee morning which was being held at St John's. The entry to the ringing room here is 'interesting' involving a steep ladder (see photo). This meant that some ringers decided it was a step too far and rather than risk becoming stuck did not go up. This was a shame as they turned out to be a superb light six that went and sounded well. Call changes and methods up to London Surprise (not forgetting Spliced Plain and Little Bob), all went well here.



Lunch Break

Lunch was taken near the pier where there were several eating establishments and a miniature train! St Mary's proved to be a very similar ring to St John's – slightly heavier and minus the dodgy access! There was a slight feeling of 'after lunch-ness' about the ringing at first but it soon settled down and there was similar method fare to our first tower. The substitute tower for All Saints (the five) was well worth a visit although our coach driver may disagree as we met two very large tractors on the narrow lanes. Kingston Seymour is a ground-floor six with a tenor of 17 cwt. They go well and sound majestic. The church was also interesting as there are records of a major flood in the early 1600s which is now thought to have been a tsunami. The water level was five feet up the walls and the flood did not recede for ten days.

The homeward journey was then started but a break was made at Wellington where good use was made of chip and coffee shops



before an hour on the 19 cwt eight. These are another fine ring made quite tricky by the fact that the tower sways and bells interact with each other so that even experienced ringers found their bells 'misbehaving' at times. Plain Bob, Grandsire Triples and Cambridge S Major joined the repertoire here. A good journey home meant we were back in Newton Abbot around eight o'clock. A very big thank you goes to all who arranged the outing and those who gave permission and met us at the towers. Thanks also go to everyone taking part – there was a great atmosphere and we actually managed some very creditable ringing.

Quarter Peal Festival

It was quite a good time for us this year. First off was Bob Doubles at Stokeinteignhead

Stokeinteignhead, Devon, St Andrew
Thursday, 27 October 2016 in 46 mins
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Wendy Rennie	4 Martin Mansley
2 Fiona Rock-Evans	5 Rodney Horder (C)
3 Geraint Thomas	6 Vidas Cooling

First Quarter Peal - 6

Then Bob Doubles again at Upton

Torquay, Devon, St Mary Magdalene, Upton
Thursday, 3 November 2016 in 44 mins
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Geoffrey Williamson	5 Martin Mansley (C)
2 Peter Clements	6 John Robinson (cover)
3 Wendy Rennie	7 Michael Squire (cover)
4 Rodney Horder	

First Quarter - 1,7
First Doubles inside 3

and then Yorkshire Surprise Major at Bovey Tracey

Bovey Tracey, Devon, SS Peter, Paul and Thomas of Canterbury
Friday, 4 November 2016
1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major

1 Chris Sawyer	5 Philip Stevens
2 Peter Bill	6 Rodney Horder
3 Robert Brown	7 Peter Sawyer
4 Michael Tompsett	8 Martin Mansley (C)

First Surprise Major 6

In thanksgiving for the life of Jean Palmer neighbour of Chris and Peter Sawyer

Unfortunately, Stedman Doubles at Dawlish went the way that Stedman often does. Better luck next time!

In all, several 'firsts' – Vidas Cooling rang his first quarter at Stokeinteignhead, then Geoff Williamson and Michael Squire rang their first at Upton and finally Rodney Horder rang his first of Surprise Major at Bovey Tracey. Many congratulations go to all of them.

Training Morning - Raising and Lowering - East Ogwell

This was a new venture for the Mid-Devon Branch, but one which proved very popular. Perhaps as method ringers we see raising the bells as a means to an end before we get on with the real stuff, so it can be a bit neglected. This was a chance to redress the balance. We started promptly at 9.30am with a short discussion and demonstrations highlighting a few common faults such as trying to follow a bell when it is at a different height. We then got into the practice session proper. East Ogwell bells had been chosen on purpose as they are relatively light and go extremely well. It meant that we did not wear out our helpers quite so quickly(!) but on the other hand several of our 'students' who were used to heavier bells realised they needed to be a little more restrained on light bells. By 11.00 when it was time for a break all our eight trainees had raised and lowered a bell at least once. Janet Ritterman had

kindly provided bacon rolls and these proved very popular along with tea and coffee. During the break there was a chance to peruse a selection of relevant books from the branch library and take the obligatory group photo. Soon it was time to get back up the tower. The main thrust of the second session was Plain Hunt and Plain Bob Doubles to give some of our trainees their first chance to try method ringing. We did manage to get a bit more raising and lowering practice as well.

A lasting impression of the morning was of an enthusiastic group eager to learn and share knowledge. It was very pleasing to have ringers with us experiencing a branch event for the first time and several whose first contact had been our 'Meet the Branch' day back in March. To all we say thank you for all the hard work and particularly to Sharon and Janet from East Ogwell/Wolborough who made us so welcome. It may have been our first course on this subject but it will surely not be the last.

Honolulu Trip



The most westerly bell tower in the world

Thanks to Jeanette Thompson for the following –

The lengths some people will go to well 7,232 miles to be exact!! After saving hard and finally booking a dream holiday in Hawaii, I found myself 'googling' towers and lo and behold, I find St Andrew's Cathedral in Honolulu. A few emails later, I'd arranged to join them for their practice night on 4th October. Nervously I waited outside what I thought was the tower entrance ... only to be proved wrong! I was immediately put at ease by Susan who was the first to arrive. She showed me information on the bells which is on the wall inside the Cathedral and then let me see the bells themselves. Another five ringers arrived shortly after and we thoroughly enjoyed a couple of hours ringing. I asked if I could ring all eight bells which I did (you can't go all that way and not!). The eight included the most westerly bell in the world, which I hadn't thought about before I went. The bells were cast in 1812 for St Alkmund's Church in Shrewsbury, Shropshire and were shipped to Honolulu in 1990. They range in weight from 5-1-7 to 12-0-26 and have each been engraved with the names of the eight Hawaiian monarchs and the dates of their reigns. When we finished the ringing, which was mainly plain hunt as this is what they are currently practising, we made our way to Murphy's Bar for a good old chat and a lovely meal. All the ringers made me so welcome and I have emailed them again since returning. They now have photos of the view from the top of St Marychurch. If anyone decides to go to Honolulu, do call them, you will not regret it.



The Ringing Chamber at Honolulu

NORTH EAST BRANCH

NE BRANCH OUTING – WEDNESDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2016



Becky working on a sally

Mike Hatchett arranged an excellent day out in Somerset. Fifteen members of the Branch met up at our first visit of the day at the church of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Isle Abbots. We were joined by four ringing friends from Somerset. This is a six bell tower (tenor 14-2-26) and Les led in us ringing a very enjoyable mixture of call changes and methods.

Lunch was at the Barrington Boar where we enjoyed good food with a fabulous pud menu!

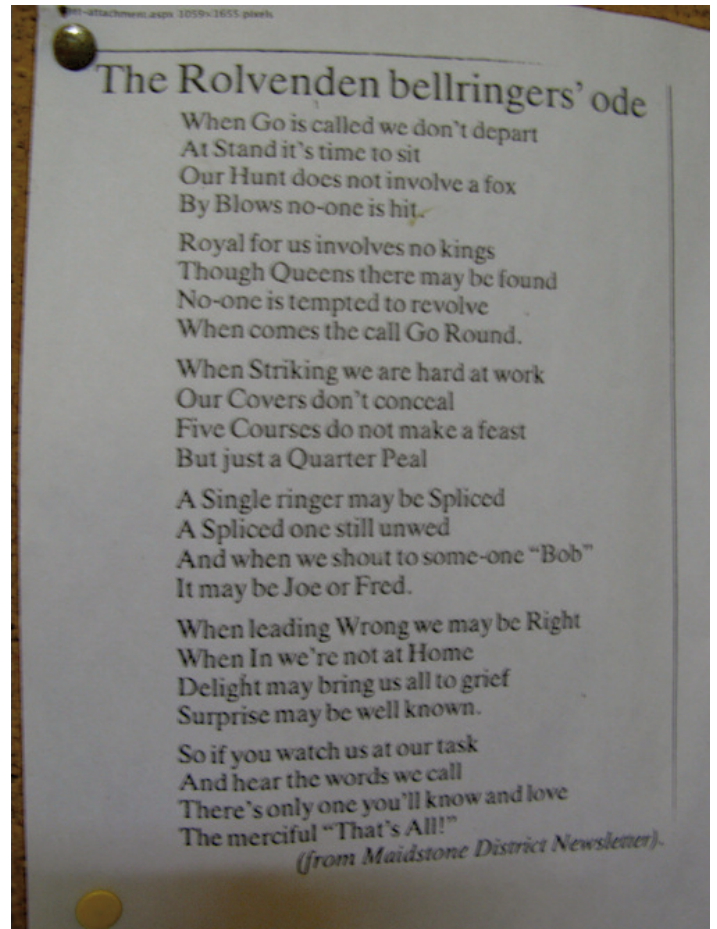
A visit to Mendip Ropes was next on the agenda. We were met by top dog (literally) Henry, who brought us in to meet the humans: Becky, Peter and Bryan. Becky explained and demonstrated the process of splicing and making the ropes, making the sally and discussing the merits of hemp over flax as a rope making fibre.

Our final destination was the church of St Michael in Shepton Beauchamp which has twelve bells (tenor 10-3-16). Here we all had a chance to ring rounds on the twelve which was a first for quite a few of us, and an experience not to be missed. Sheila then took us through an assortment of Kaleidoscope exercises to make good use of the bells. A copy of the witty and clever Rolvenden Bellringers' Ode was pinned up in the ringing chamber – worth a read if it's new to you!

Our hosts, Jeff and Lesley Knipe, then provided us with very welcome tea and cakes before we all set off home again.

Thank you Mike for arranging such a fabulous day.

Hazel Turner, Tiverton St. Paul



The Rolvenden bellringers' ode

SILVERTON OUTING



Silverton Ringers at Mendip Ropes

St Mary's Silverton ringers held an outing on 25th October to visit Mendip Ropemakers in Somerset. The outing also included ringing at three six bell towers, namely Ashill, Puckington and Isle Abbots, with lunch at the Rose and Crown, East Lambrook.

Martin Clough

NE BRANCH QUARTER PEAL FORTNIGHT 2016

With fewer participants than in previous years eleven quarter peal attempts were made during the fortnight with eight successes. Seventeen members of the Branch took part and we rang in eight different towers. Thanks go to all those who were able to participate, conduct and to those who arranged the use of the bells. We have raised £152 for the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund.

At Hemyock we succeeded in ringing on three occasions for celebration events in the village and at St Paul's, Tiverton a band rang for Ron Tricky's birthday.

- Notable firsts during the fortnight:-
Nellie Croft, 1st as conductor
Matt Webb, 11 doubles methods

Sheila Scofield

RICHARD SHERE'S PHOTO FOUND IN AUSTRALIA



Seen in the tower at York, Western Australia

Quarter peal rung for the first anniversary of the bells in October 1986. Richard Shere is in the back row, third from left.

Ian Campbell

YOUNG RINGERS' MORNING AT HUNTSHAM



Five young ringers showed how well they had progressed at a varied and active morning of ringing at Huntsham during half term. Only stopping for a short break mid-morning to devour Sheila's delicious apple cake, they kept ringing. George from St Peter's, Tiverton was plain hunting on an inside bell as well as plenty of tenoring behind. Fergus and Jess from Bampton and Huntsham were ringing the treble to Plain Bob Doubles. Red and Flo, also from Bampton and Huntsham were showing very much improved bell handling skills and can now ring a Mexican wave with control and understanding.

Thanks to Nellie and Liz all the young ringers also had a chance to try handbell ringing. By the end of the morning they could all ring rounds and call changes. Afterwards they were treated to lunch at Redwoods in Uplowman. Here they are at the bar ordering a well earned drink (non alcoholic, of course).

Mandy Burnett

THOSE DUFFLE COAT DAYS

If you were in Cullompton in the mid 1960's you might have seen young children playing in the new Tufty Park. There were two children in particular - one is pictured here with his brother just in view:



The other is pictured here with her two brothers on either side:



The two children went on to go to school together at St Andrew's, Cullompton and then Tiverton Grammar School. They lost touch and didn't see each other for 40 years. They were reunited in a ringing chamber very recently. Who are they?

Author's name withheld by request

SOUTH WEST BRANCH

RINGING OUTING 3rd SEPTEMBER

Going like the Clappers

The 3rd September appeared to a novice ringer as both a terrifying and daunting prospect - ringing in another tower! Removed from the cosy surroundings of a well known ringing chamber and familiar faces, with a feel for all the quirks and individual characteristics of the bells, the beginner sees what can only be described as a challenge. Outings provide a great experience to

get to meet other ringers and ring at different towers and also to develop technique and bell handling skills as one learns to grapple and tame a different peal of bells. The outing was good fun, providing a friendly and nurturing environment that allowed for all ringers to further develop their skills and enjoy some beautiful surroundings, from lovely traditional country parish churches to elaborate ringing chambers with more glass than Plymouth Aquarium!

Tower 1: Holy Trinity, Galmpton

The first tower of the outing was Holy Trinity Galmpton. This is a very small and quaint church just outside South Huish, with the tower armed with a light ring of six bells (tenor 6 cwt) tuned in C. With a beautiful and historic church in remote surroundings, this tower provided a relaxed and enjoyable start to the outing. The small and dusty ringing chamber, accessed by ladder and hatch, provided the ringers with the authentic country tower ringing experience - 'intimate', close and riddled with what appeared to be a small city's worth of local spiders. Definitely doesn't come highly recommended for the recovering arachnophobe! The ringing began with rounds, call changes and some Plain Hunt on five for the beginners, followed by Cambridge and Bob Doubles. This tower although small and, as mentioned, 'intimate' provided an enjoyable and exciting start for the beginning of the outing. Such a dainty and light, but springy, set of bells is definitely worth a visit for those who have not rung there before.

Tower 2: Holy Trinity, Salcombe

Holy Trinity, Salcombe provided an interesting contrast to the first tower. The set of six (8 cwt), recently hung with new ropes, offered an interesting ring. The ringing chamber was accessed via a mezzanine level above the main church, with a large glass wall at the end that allowed the ringers to be able to look out on the church (and those in the church to look in on the ringers!). After the ringing at Salcombe, when everyone had mustered a decent thirst, it was time for the pub.

Lunch: The Fortescue Inn

The weather decided to hold off for the first two towers and during the walk down the hill from the church to the pub where lunch at the Fortescue Inn was very good indeed. The food was delicious, and as advised by a few of the cohort, the Fortescue passed the 'ham, eggs and chips test' with flying colours. After leaving the pub however, in true British fashion, the heavens opened meaning that everyone reached their cars absolutely soaked. The rain continued torrentially during the car journey from Salcombe to the next tower at West Charleton, where some of us had to turn back due to a flooded lane, all from the 45 minutes of rain that had fallen so far that day!

Tower 3: St Mary, West Charleton

Arriving in West Charleton, having negotiated treacherous roads from Salcombe to arrive there the rain continued to pour down with a stream running down the road outside the church. Once inside the church, somewhat damp and soggy, the ringing continued. The bells (ring of six, 9 cwt) were a pleasant ground floor ring that were enjoyable and relatively easy to handle. This was a pleasant relief after the journey to get there! Having been re-hung and tuned in 1997 this peal was both tuneful and a delight to ring.

Tower 4: St Michael and All Angels, Stokenham

Due to the challenging conditions this was the last tower for some of the ringers that left after ringing here. It however proved to be one of the more interesting and challenging rings of the day. With tail ends 'long enough to rival a Burmese python' this set of bells (ring of six, 15 cwt) proved to be quite tricky to handle. Much amusement was found in the small model of the church with a recording of the bells, ringing a perfect rendition of various methods. Clearly this was intended to shame all those brave enough to try the bells in this tower! After this ring, abandoning all further attempts at ringing and gathering a swift one at the pub became a viable and very tempting option.

Tower 5: St Martin, Sherford

The last tower of the day at Sherford proved to be an enjoyable and pleasant way to end the day. The bells (ring of six, 12 cwt) were enjoyable and a pleasure to ring. From learners ringing rounds and call changes, to St Helen's and Cambridge, this set of bells proved enjoyable for many. The added benefit of the beautifully painted medieval rood screen and ancient stained glass windows helped to enhance the beauty and tranquillity of the tower, despite the rain that continued to batter on outside. After avoiding various lanes due to flooding, the way was made to the final and most important destination, the pub!

Evening Meal: The Church Inn, Stokenham

Having worked up quite an appetite ringing at the towers across the day, the time came for dinner. Although a few had left previously, those that remained were treated to an entertaining and jovial atmosphere that had been the theme across the entire day. Tips, tricks and reviews of the bell towers and each other's bell handling skills were offered across the meal, cementing the philosophy that more is learned about ringing with a pint than a rope in hand. The day had truly been a success and even as novice ringer, it goes without saying that I cannot wait until the next one! Thanks go to all involved.

James Wray



Empty glasses and empty plates: A well earned meal after a successful outing.
L to R: Mo, Jo, Lindsey, Jo, Christine, Alena, Ted, Pete, Sam, Billy, Trevor. James took the photo

YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD TO LEARN SOMETHING NEW

Having taken early retirement in the year 2000 I was keen to maintain my fitness so I joined a Dartmoor walking group where we take turns to lead a five mile walk every Wednesday. Coincidentally, one afternoon in August I was watching an episode of *Flog it* on TV when Paul Martin, the presenter of the programme, did an item on bell ringing. At the end of the item he asked a group of bell ringers what they enjoyed most about it. One answer that came back was 'It keeps you fit'. That's it, I thought, I get plenty of exercise for my legs and lungs but I need more exercise for my arms and upper body.

My wife found out on the internet that to join the bell ringers at St Andrew's all you need to do is wait by the church tower at 7:30 pm on any Tuesday. The church tower is about a ten minute walk from where we live so that is where I met a couple of members of the group on 23rd August 2016 and the rest, as they say, is history.

When I entered the ringing room for the first time it looked so simple. People pulling on ropes and bells clanging away – it all looked so easy... After several rounds and bob majors, etc it was my turn to have a go – just on the backstroke. Three months later, after attending every Tuesday practice session and most Sunday mornings I am just about managing to ring rounds without too many mistakes. I still need the close supervision of David or Fergus, my tutors, but I am beginning to get the hang of it. Of course I realise now that there is so much more to it than I first thought...

The people in the St Andrew's group are a lovely bunch. They are all very friendly and encouraging. What I particularly like is the evenly balanced mix of men and women and young and old. As a relative newcomer, I was also a bit surprised to be included in the invitation to the Devonshire Guild's 95th Anniversary Service and Dinner on 12th November. The evening began with bell ringing at Walkhampton church, followed by a short service and then dinner at the Moorland Garden Hotel in Yelverton. Again, everyone was very friendly and my wife and I had a very enjoyable evening sharing a table with John Martin (the new Guild secretary) and his partner.

John Worsley

TRAINING

CONDUCTING COURSE AT DENMISCH

The Guild course on conducting was run by John Martin (Guild secretary) on 17th September. The morning session was held on the Denmisch simulators and was followed by lunch at the Ruffwell before going on to Thorverton for the afternoon session.



Getting ready to put theory into practice



In depth discussions outside over a cup of coffee

Ian Campbell

GUILD DEMO BELL GOES OUT AND ABOUT

The Guild demonstration bell has been out for most of the summer. It spent about a month at Matt Hilling's so that he could teach Toby to ring a bell but I am not sure how successful that was!

It was then borrowed by the Devon Association for an open afternoon on *The Art of Devon Call Change Ringing* which was held at Ottery St Mary church on 24th September (as advertised in the last edition of RRD).

Jonathan Bint, who some of you may know, then took it to star in the Chagford CofE Primary School assembly the following Friday, where it caused great interest.

Following on from this I found myself giving three talks about bells and bell ringing, using the demo bell as a prop. The first was to the Hedley Way Centre talking to the Dawlish Wives on 4th October:



Getting ready for the Dawlish Wives

Dear Ian

May I, on behalf of everyone at Dawlish Wives, thank you for a most entertaining evening on Tuesday. We all loved hearing the bells and all their different chimes. Everyone agreed it was a most enjoyable evening.

Valerie Adie (secretary)

Then on Monday 10th October I was called to give a talk to the Friends of Exeter Cathedral with an emphasis on the cathedral bells. This was given in the Chapter House and finished with a buffet lunch.



Some of the Cathedral Friends try their skill on handbells

Dear Ian,

Thank you for a most enjoyable talk. I was particularly taken by your explanation of method ringing with the hand bells. I thought it worked very well.

My own attempt at ringing ended when I broke the stay of Purdue and went up to the hoop where the ropes go through!

David Snell

Dear Ian

Thank you again for a splendid presentation for the Friends. I bumped into several people in the Cathedral afterwards who went out of their way to say how much they enjoyed it and I've also had some complimentary emails.

Diane Walker

And then, later the same week (Wednesday 12th) I was asked to give a talk about Cullompton Bells and the Cullompton Bell Foundry for the local history society. While I am happy to give my standard talk about bells and ringing, my knowledge of history is minimal. However Richard Shere gave me enormous support (he had to as he had dropped me in it in the first place!) and found me a load of relevant references so that between us we were able to put something together. The talk was held in the 'Waldrons' in Cullompton. This is a magical old building which has recently been restored with the help of a large lottery donation. With its oak panelling and low ceilings we had to move everything in very carefully and when standing up the demo bell there was no more than an inch clearance to the ceiling!



Richard Shere with the demo bell – just missing the ceiling!
Very civilised – it started with a glass of wine

Dear Ian and Richard,

I am so sorry that I have been so slow in writing to you to thank you for your most interesting and entertaining talk to the History Group. Everyone was completely fascinated and I have been asked to express their appreciation.

Very many thanks for finding the time to come and talk to our group, it was truly appreciated and enjoyed.

Jane Campbell

Ian Campbell

YOUNG RINGERS' DAY IN EXETER/ART AWARD

Attendance at the young ringers' events has been flagging so it was decided to kill two birds with one stone. The simulators at the Cathedral School (Denmisch) were booked for the whole of Saturday 8th October and were opened to all young ringers. A special effort was made to contact those who had rung with the school bellringing club and since left the school (thank you Oliver and Oliver) with good results. Sheila Scofield and Leslie Boyce brought the three learners from Bampton, and other youngsters made an appearance during the day.

Lunch was very kindly provided by the Cathedral School and we were pleased to welcome Steph Warboys from the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) who presented Oliver Coldrick with the Sarah Beacham school award. During the ringing in the morning Steph was heard to comment that she had never seen so many happy faces during a ringing session!

Ringing continued into the afternoon ranging from plain hunt and simple methods to rounds on sheep and ships' hooters (the sound of the 'bells' is computer generated so can be changed!), culminating with a course of Yorkshire Surprise Major by the helpers (and one student). It concluded with some handbell ringing in the courtyard.

It is hoped to arrange regular sessions at Denmisch.



The Bampton youngsters investigating the Denmisch simulators

Comments from the three Bampton delegates appear below:

Exeter Cathedral School bellringing was a great new experience. It was a real challenge getting used to the weight of the bells. The simulator allows great fun as you can make the bells sound like different farm animals such as donkeys.

Fergus

It was a great experience as we got to walk around the ground floor of the Exeter Cathedral School. We explored the haunted music room, the cloak room full of hockey sticks and the play ground. Arri, Ed, Thomas, Amy, Sam and Ollie made great tour guides! It's so different from our school.

It was a great privilege to be able to practise on others practice bells and meet other bell ringers who were all welcoming and kind.

Flo

It was great! The bells were great as you could change the sound of them and watch what the bells were doing. The Exeter School children were experienced ringers and made us feel welcome.

Red



Steph had a go on the Denmish Ring



The ART award was presented to Oliver Coldrick by Stephanie Warboys
Ian Campbell

BELL RINGERS - ROPE IN A MATE!!

Victoria Tucker from the Devon Association has come up with an initiative to get more people aware of ringing, whether or not it leads to recruitment. It seems a good idea, and hopefully many of you may want to join in. It's for all ringers, Guild, Association, anyone. Something to do in the quiet times of January!

Victoria Tucker writes.....

January 2017 is your opportunity to be PROUD and LOUD about your bell ringing skills! Rope in a Mate is a social media awareness campaign running throughout January 2017. All ringers can take part! Here's how it works...

Invite a friend to join you for one practice night at your local tower.

Take a photo of you and your friend in the ringing room.



Post the photo on social media and tag your friend. Search @ropeinamate on Facebook to share to the dedicated page.

That's it! The aim is to de-mystify bell ringing and raise awareness of the need for more ringers. Bring a friend even if you don't use social media! Ask them to talk about their evening with other people. There is no obligation for your friend to learn to ring, or even have a go, just share your love of ringing and record the event so that others can see how much fun you had.

As with all ringing activity, please ensure that tower safety information is shared prior to non-ringers entering the tower.

Lynne Hughes (Publicity Officer)

OTHER NEWS

50 YEARS AND STILL A YOUTH!



Peter Brown celebrated 50 years membership of the College Youths at their annual dinner on 5th November. He took wine with the master, and was presented with a certificate to mark the occasion.

Lynne Hughes

ST PETER'S, STOKE FLEMING

Rededication of the bells and clock took place on Sunday 9th October. The Bishop of Plymouth, the Rt Rev Nick McKinnel performed the rededication, and our new Rector, Rev Alison Shaw, conducted the service. In a symbolic ceremony, Alan Hughes, from Whitechapel Bell Foundry, presented a bell rope to Bishop Nick, who dedicated the bells and passed the rope to Rev Alison, who in turn handed it to John Dietz, the Tower Captain and Churchwarden.

A number of ringers, from Devon and further afield, came to the service and took part in the ringing before and afterwards; all were very impressed with our renovated set of eight bells. Visiting ringers are very welcome; practice night is Thursday and Sunday. The website <http://www.stokeflemingtower.org> gives more information.

Anne Bailey



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WHERE IS RUSTY?

Rusty often appears in RRD but she has been conspicuous by her absence in recent months – perhaps this photo explains why!



For those interested in our steam heritage, this is actually a Fowler class BB1 compound steam ploughing engine built in 1918, works number 15145. She is one of 92 of this type built by John Fowler of Leeds for the Ministry of Munitions. She was delivered new to a contractor in Stanton, West Suffolk on 30th March 1918 along with sister engine no. 15144 (steam ploughing engines always worked in pairs pulling a six or eight furrow plough or cultivator from one side of a field to the other using the cable winch slung underneath the boiler). This particular engine worked until 1955 when she was laid up out of use. She was purchased for preservation in 1995 and a complete mechanical overhaul took place over several years. However the owner decided to keep the outside of the engine as she was when sold into preservation hence the name "Rusty".

With apologies to our great friend and ringer Rusty aka Rebekah Hartley!

Michael Cannon

EDITORIAL

Several members of the Exeter Branch have recently returned from a ringing trip to Australia. The weather was hot almost continuously (too hot at times) and we rang at 37 towers, from Perth in the West to Sydney and Canberra in the East. 28 quarter peals were rung (and TWO lost), of the four peal attempts two were successful (broken rope at Adelaide Cathedral after 30 minutes and two bells swapped half way through Stedman Cinques at St Mary's, Sydney). Everywhere we were made very welcome by the local ringers, who often invited us to dine with them, join them in a barbecue, and even put us all up for the night on one occasion.

You have probably heard about the problems at York Minster: the Dean and Chapter have terminated the volunteer agreement with the ringers, changed the locks, and indicated that there will be no more ringing until new arrangements are in place with a new band. An important lesson to be learned here is that it is the Church that owns the bells and the building and that we ring in what is a mutually beneficial arrangement. It is clearly important to maintain a strong relationship with the Church authorities at all times and to avoid any disagreements that could cause a fall-out between parties.

I was saddened to hear of the death of Margaret Egglestone. I well remember ringing handbells with Howard in the months before he died and Margaret was always in evidence, making coffee or, more often, out to do grandmotherly duties. She will be missed.

Ian Campbell

NOTABLE PEALS

Ladies 12-bell peal



L to R: Sarah, Jenny, Sue, Wendy, Ann, Hilary, Lynne, Ali, Charlotte, Clare, Becka

South Petherton, Somerset, SS Peter and Paul

Saturday, 8 October 2016 in 3h 25m

5042 Cambridge Surprise Maximus

Composed by R.W. Pipe

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Ann Smith | 7 Charlotte A Boyce |
| 2 P Wendy Campbell | 8 Susan D Sparling |
| 3 Rebecca J Harrison | 9 Hilary A Beresford |
| 4 Sarah E Chadburn | 10 Alison C Waterson |
| 5 Clare J Griffiths | 11 Pauline McKenzie (C) |
| 6 Lynne P Hughes | 12 Jennifer R Sparling |
- First peal on 12: 3

Married Couples' 12-bell peal



L to R: Campbells, Sparlings, Smiths, Tuckers, Deems, Browns

Withycombe Raleigh, Devon, St John the Evangelist

Monday, 17 October 2016 in 3h 19

5042 Yorkshire Surprise Maximus

Composed by R W Pipe

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 P Wendy Campbell | 7 Neil E Deem |
| 2 Ann Smith | 8 Graham P Tucker |
| 3 Josephine A Brown | 9 Geoffrey C Sparling |
| 4 Susan D Sparling | 10 Ian L C Campbell |
| 5 Lesley A Tucker | 11 Peter G Brown |
| 6 Janet M Deem | 12 Ian V J Smith (C) |

First peal of Maximus to be rung for the Guild by resident married couples

RINGING ROUND DEVON is the newsletter of The Guild of Devonshire Ringers and is circulated free to all affiliated towers. Any individual members who wish to subscribe should contact Ian Campbell (01392 469695). The cost is £6.00 for four issues (cheques made payable to Guild of Devonshire Ringers). RRD is also available on line on the Guild's website, which holds back-issues.

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