

# Ringling Round Devon



THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

Newsletter 102 , June/July 2016

## Guild Events Under New Management



Alison Waterson (incoming President)  
and John Martin (new Secretary)

At the Guild AGM on 18th June in Plymouth we were saddened to see Lester Yeo give up his presidency after ten years but very pleased to welcome his successor, Alison Waterson from the North/North West Branch in his place. At the end of the meeting Lester was presented with an engraved decanter and some tokens. He writes:

*Dear Members of the Guild,*

*So many thanks for your absolute generosity in contributing towards the presentation that was made at the end of my time as Guild President. I was overwhelmed not only by the beauty of the decanter, as you can see from the accompanying photograph, with the Guild badge and an entirely suitable inscription, but also by the other gifts that accompanied it. Vouchers for a meal at Riverford Field Kitchen (my favourite place to eat), for vast quantities of books from Waterstones (which will soon be used), and for theatre tickets (and Pat and I have already started making plans to see Kurt Weill's Threepenny Opera in London during the summer). Together with a card showing the roof of Exeter Cathedral lady chapel, with characteristically beautiful calligraphy by Clare, which I will treasure indefinitely! Obviously those responsible for organising the*

*presentation know me very well, and I understand now why Clare kept checking that I wasn't having second thoughts about standing down.*

*I am also grateful so many people came down to Plymouth for the Guild Festival, including those who joined me in a little indulgence in the morning: a trip to the Gin distillery in the Barbican. After the guided tour I was indulged even further in the distillery bar and then in the Wetherspoons next door, and this obviously made the afternoon's meeting go with a certain élan. I cannot fully say how much I enjoyed the whole day as a result of all this generosity, including Geoff's kind words at the meeting.*

*Finally can I wish Alison every blessing as she takes on her new role; every president brings their own style to the post, and I know she will be able to achieve things beyond my capacity. Please cherish her with as much affection as you have shown to me. And thank you all, again.*

Lester Yeo, Immediate Past President,  
Guild of Devonshire Ringers

To complete the changes at the top the Guild Secretary, Clare Griffiths, also resigned after three years' service, to be replaced by John Martin. John will be well known to some of you from his stint as secretary of the Mid Devon Branch. We welcome Ali and John and wish them well in their new posts.



Lester Yeo showing off his present



Geoff Hill (outgoing Master) congratulates Nigel Birt (new Master)

Nigel Birt (Mid Devon Branch) was elected the new Guild Master and Sue Sawyer was proposed as the Master for next year. Sue intends to stand down after many years as Guild Treasurer. Most other positions were refilled by the current holders, with the addition of Mark Heritage and David Willis as Central Council Representatives and Geoff Hill and Alison Waterson joining the Devon Ringers' Council.

The national drive to get more first-pealers during 2015 resulted in a number of members being eligible for a newly designed certificate. Those present had them awarded during the meeting (see photo).



L to R: Billy Moore, Janet Ritterman, Gareth Gill, Mark Heritage, Trevor Vercoe, Katy Owen, Lynette Costello, Richard Coley with Lester Yeo behind

*Ian Campbell*

## REPORT FROM THE GUILD AGM

This year the AGM was held in the attractive surroundings of the hall adjoining Plymouth Minster, which served as the focus for the day, and for ringing both before and after the meeting. For a busy Saturday in June the AGM was well attended. This was perhaps partly in recognition that this was the final AGM to be chaired by Lester Yeo as Guild President. At this meeting Lester stepped down after ten years in this role and, as he indicated in his opening remarks, twenty-six years in various senior officer roles for the Guild.

Despite the apparent length of the agenda, the business of the meeting was dispatched expeditiously. Three new members were elected to the Guild (all from Dawlish); the reports printed in the Annual Report were formally adopted; it was agreed that the annual subscription (£6) should be unaltered for 2017. With the accounts approved, and the transfer of £1500 from the Guild's current account to the Bell Restoration Fund agreed, it was mentioned that may become necessary to reduce the proportion of funding offered from 15% of the cost to 10%, since current work

being considered by the fund trustees involved bell restoration work costing approximately £245,000.

In the election of Guild Officers for 2017 Nigel Birt became Master for 2017, Susan Sawyer (currently Treasurer) Master Elect. John Martin was appointed as Secretary, replacing Clare Griffiths, and Alison Waterson the new President, succeeding Lester, who was one of three new Vice-Presidents appointed at the meeting, the other two being Clare Stagg and Ian Smith. Lynne Hughes, who agreed to serve as Guild Publicity Officer, signalled her new role by encouraging those present to join the Guild Facebook group if they have not already done so. Those serving in the other Guild Officer roles agreed to continue to serve in the coming year.

For the Central Council representatives, Mark Heritage and David Willis agreed to join Lynne Hughes and Fergus Stracey. Fergus' oral report on the meeting in May of the Central Council emphasised the extent to which an appetite for fundamental reform was evident at this year's meeting. Particularly welcome was the news that the financial position of *The Ringing World* was now much healthier than in the previous year (a deficit of £6,000 had now changed into a surplus of about £20,000) thus ensuring continued publication at least for the present.

During the announcements towards the end of the AGM the dates of the Quarter Peal Festival (21 October to 6 November) and the dates/venues and methods for the 6 and 8-bell Striking Competitions were confirmed. Leslie Boyce asked those present to spread the word about a module produced by ART – Teaching Rounds to Plain Hunt – which is to have its first outing, led by Leslie, on Saturday 23 July (delegate fee £20, observer fee £10) and reminded members of the national target of 500 towers for the Heritage Open Days this year (second weekend in September) and the one-off national publicity planned for this occasion. Certificates were presented to those who had rung their first peals for the Guild during 2015 (the 300th anniversary year of the first recorded peal).

Lester's final words of thanks and light-hearted presentation to Clare Griffiths, the retiring Secretary, were followed by the Guild's expression of thanks to Lester as the retiring President – words of appreciation from Geoff Hill, followed by the presentation to Lester of an engraved decanter, a voucher for the Riverford Field Kitchen, vouchers for theatre tickets and a selection of book tokens, all of which clearly delighted him and will provide continuing pleasure. In expressing his thanks Lester mentioned the ordination service on 1st October in Plymouth Cathedral, at which he is to be ordained as a Catholic Deacon and extended an invitation to members of the Guild to attend.



Clare Griffiths (outgoing secretary) with a rather eclectic mix of gifts from Lester

After such an eventful afternoon, it was agreed at a short meeting of the General committee that in view of the changes in officers, the business of the committee would be deferred until January.

*Janet Ritterman (General Committee Member)*



## A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW GUILD PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER



Lynne Hughes

I took over as PRO at the Guild AGM last Saturday. I'll be finding my feet at first, but here is an outline of what I think I will be doing to start with:

1. Raising the general public's awareness of ringing by sending press releases in advance of main Guild events to newspapers (advice on which ones appreciated!) and BBC Spotlight. Hopefully this will also lead to reports on events and interviews in some cases.
2. Encouraging branches, towers and individual ringers to do their own local PR by passing on information I will receive from the Central Council's PR email list, and by offering advice to you when you ask me for it.
3. Aiding internal communications (alongside Ringing Round Devon) by encouraging people to use the Guild Facebook group to share ideas and inspire each other.

*Lynne Hughes (publicityofficer@devonringers.org.uk)*

## GUILD HANDBELL DAY IN OKEHAMPTON



The attendees – apart from Mischa who took the photo!

On a sunny Sunday in June a dedicated group of handbell enthusiasts made their way to Okehampton for this year's Devon Handbell Day. With pasties kindly provided by our host Mischa and a schedule meticulously drawn up by Tim, the afternoon began. We were divided into 5 groups and over a number of sessions, a variety of methods were rung – from Plain Bob Minor to Yorkshire Surprise Royal and everything in between. Several quarter peals were also achieved, including a first quarter in hand for Oliver Bates who then proceeded to ring his second too! Partway

through the afternoon we were treated to a performance of Little Bob Maximus in the garden by the "experts" (see photo). Overall, an enjoyable time was had by all and we look forward to doing it all again next year.



The traditional attempt at a twelve bell touch

*Text by Alice Holden*

## DENMISCH WINS ART AWARD



The Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) has a number of awards that it gives annually. I was encouraged to enter the Denmisch simulator ring (which belongs to the Guild but is installed in the Exeter Cathedral School) which I submitted to three different categories and then thought no more about it. At the ART conference in Loughborough on 12<sup>th</sup> March we were delighted to hear that the Denmisch project had been awarded the Sarah Beacham Prize for the "Best School Group" (which includes a £400 prize) and had been highly commended (2nd prize) for the "Innovative Use of Technology" award. Apparently the judges were particularly impressed by "sustainability and an innovative approach, using Saxilby simulators in a room specially designed at the school, but also taking steps to integrate into local towers."

The weekly meetings of the bell ringing club at the towers continue to take place on Thursday afternoons and we are trying to arrange a suitable time for the presentation of the award to be officially made.

*Ian Campbell*

## WIND OF CHANGE BLOWING THROUGH COUNCIL?

"..Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves" was how John Camp advised members of Central Council to behave at their meeting in Portsmouth on late May Bank Holiday Monday. John quoted Matthew, Chapter 10 in advocating evolution rather than revolution. He suggested that the precedents of the English Civil War, the French Revolution and the Chinese Cultural Revolution showed that the iconoclastic approach is counter-productive – throwing out the baby with the bath water [R.W. pp543-44, 27 May 16]. So, in the event, did Council vote for revolution?

Well it's probably far too early to tell, but there was a definite mood to accept change at the meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> May. The Council faced an unprecedented agenda of eight motions along

with all the usual reports from its 20 committees and working groups. Some of the motions were technical changes consequent upon the winding-up of the Ringing Foundation or revisions to the council rules on peal ringing and method definition. Peter Niblett deftly steered the Methods Committee proposals between the rocks of revolution and extreme conservatism here!

However, it was the motions proposed by John Harrison to change the objectives of the Council and review its structure and operation which were regarded as controversial. Whether it was the plea of the President, Chris Mew, for tolerance and courtesy in the debates or the presence of video cameras streaming the proceedings live which influenced behaviour I am not sure, but the debates were positive and constructive. In the end both the motions for change and review were accepted.

So what was decided? While the overarching objective of the Council remains:

*to promote and foster the ringing of bells for Christian prayer, worship and celebration*

A new set of "Responsibilities and Relationships" are now defined in the Council's Decisions:

- 1. The Council's primary rôle is to provide support and services to bellringers.*
- 2. The Council recognises its responsibility to undertake actions locally or globally that will help to ensure the long term future of ringing by supporting the development of all aspects of the art, science and practice of ringing, and fostering a sustainable community of competent, motivated ringers.*
- 3. The Council recognises the church as an important partner for the ringing community - most ringers are members of church bands that provide a service within their church communities and most ringers depend on the use of bells in churches. However, the Council seeks to promote ringing as a living tradition open to all.*
- 4. The Council supports ringing for many reasons, including for church services, community celebrations, the development of skills and the personal satisfaction of ringers.*
- 5. The Council will seek opportunities to develop an appetite for ringing and a respect for ringers in the wider community and in all organisations with an interest in bells.*
- 6. The Council recognises the need to ensure the long term availability of bells suitable for ringing, whether in churches, former churches or other buildings in civic, commercial or private ownership, especially in an era of closing churches.*
- 7. The Council recognises itself as one of a number of providers of services to ringers, and will seek constructive synergy with other service providers, taking a leading rôle in helping different agencies to work effectively together.*
- 8. The Council recognises that its responsibility to ringers includes seeking to ensure the continuity of any service on which the ringing community depends, if the original provider is no longer able to do so.*

The roles defined in (1) & (4) are significant changes and for many reflect an attempt to deal with the legacy of the Belfry Reform Movement of the 19th Century which led to ringing being dominated by a concern with "service to the Church". The changes also have echoes of the recent debate on whether ringing should be regarded as a sport and recognise that, while the Church (of England) remains a key partner, many ringers ring for personal satisfaction and as a recreational activity.

Linked with these new Responsibilities and Relationships, Council voted to institute a review of structures and operations over the next 12 months. There is a growing feeling that the work of its current 16 committees needs to be grouped under far fewer, more strategic committees with sub-committees and working groups reporting to them and that these "super-committees" need to be outward-looking in their approach. Interestingly, after some soul-searching, Council agreed that the review group should be composed of members without a vested interest in maintaining the status quo, that is, no existing officers or committee chairmen. Invitations to join this group have already gone out from the Council Secretary.

So how will this affect the grass-roots ringers? Too early to tell obviously, but perhaps in the changes agreed in Portsmouth there is some hope that the Council will give some clearer leadership to the ringing community in tackling the fundamental issues of recruitment, training and retention of ringers and maintaining access to well-maintained rings of bells in an era of increasing church closures.

*Les Boyce, Council Member 1999 – 2017*

## GUILD MINI-RING AT DEVON COUNTY SHOW

As usual, and following a lot of hard work by Ian Avery, the guild mini-ring was at the Devon County Show and manned for all three days by members of the Guild and the Devon Association. Half way through the second day it looked as though it was going to rain so the ring was carried into the tent used for the daily services – and then the rain stopped.

The weather was not over warm and the attendances at the mini-ring seemed rather lower than in some previous years. However the ringing before the 9am service every morning was appreciated by the clergy and congregation, and a number of contacts with previous or prospective ringers were made.



Moving the mini-ring frame out of the rain

*Ian Campbell*

## HERITAGE OPEN DAYS (HODS): 8TH TO 11TH SEPTEMBER

The attached press release has been sent out. Since then the BBC has expressed an interest and we have been asked for more information. I have been asked, regarding towers signed up with the HOD website:

Are there any inspirational characters like "Britain's oldest bell ringer"?

Can we be there for the moment a church rings its bells for the first time in decades or even centuries?

Are there any amazing bits of history attached to any of the churches that would engage our viewers or any quirky local traditions that are tied to the church bells?"

Please do let me know if anyone has anything like this.

So please bear in mind that IT NEEDS TO BE CHURCHES SIGNED UP TO HERITAGE OPEN DAYS. Please do encourage your towers to open up and sign up to this, even if they don't meet the criteria the BBC is looking for. Surely it ought to be fairly simple to get 500 towers signed up - there are only about 80 so far so let's get the



other 400-odd going! This is a fantastic opportunity for us to get plenty of publicity for ringing, open up our towers to a huge public to show off ringing, and possibly to gain some recruits, although this is not necessarily the prime purpose of this particular exercise.

Thank you for your help with this. I look forward to hearing of unusual info we can pass on to the BBC and to more towers signing up!

### **Bell Tower Challenge Has Nice Ring To It**

Churches and cathedrals are being challenged to show people the ropes by bringing to life the 400-year old tradition of English-style bell ringing as part of Heritage Open Days this September. The call to the ringing world to open up 500 sites will provide a unique opportunity for ringing bands across England to share the heritage hidden inside their bell towers as well as their passion with millions of visitors who every year venture out to discover the treasures on their doorstep.

Bell ringers across the country are already signing up to take part in Challenge 500 including enthusiasts at some of the country's most significant and interesting locations such as the ringing chamber at St Peter Mancroft in Norwich. This is where the first recorded peal took place in May 1715 and where there are plans to develop a ringing heritage and teaching centre.

The tradition of change ringing is a unique form of music peculiar to England. Instead of 'tunes' the bells ring in orderly sequences that the ringers learn as patterns and then ring from memory. Ringers control the bell with a rope, while the bell turns full circle, mounted on a wheel. Famous people who are reported to have rung bells include comedians Victoria Wood, Jo Brand and Timmy Mallett, gardener Alan Titchmarsh and entertainer and writer Frank Muir.

In addition to the Challenge 500 ringers are invited to come together to create a collective bell ringing moment as part of the festival on Thursday 8th September between 1800 and 1900 hours.

Lloyd Grossman, Patron of Heritage Open Days, said: "Heritage Open Days provides the perfect opportunity to join together to bring to life the four-hundred year old tradition of English-style bell ringing for a huge audience. We are keen to recruit churches and cathedrals to become involved in the festival by registering an event for visitors to discover their bell towers and to take part in hands on demonstrations."

Chris Mew, President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, said: "We are excited that bell ringers will join this annual celebration of our cultural treasures. There are 5,000 bell towers for change ringing and our challenge is to unlock the doors to 500 of them. What's more, some visitors may be able to see the bells, often locked away over our heads, discover our ringing forebears' achievements recorded on peal boards, learn about bell ringing and maybe have a go themselves."

Clara Govier, Head of Charities at People's Postcode Lottery, said: "Ringing out the bells over Heritage Open Days is a great way to bring people's attention to the cultural and historical significance of bell ringing and its preservation. We are excited that millions of visitors will be able to discover the hidden history of bell towers in churches and cathedrals which will be free to access over four days."

To take part in the challenge and to be counted, bell towers

need to register with Heritage Open Days by 1st August 2016. By registering, all participants will be able to access a free marketing support pack and their event will be listed at [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk) from mid-July. For more information, visit the website or email [info@heritageopendays.org.uk](mailto:info@heritageopendays.org.uk)

*Kate Flavell, Central Council PRO*

## **AYLESBEARE BRANCH**

### **LOCAL RINGERS GET SPICED**

We are very pleased to offer our congratulations to Guild members Neil Deem and Janet Coles who were married at Clyst Court, Exeter on Saturday 19th March with the reception at the church hall in Withycombe Raleigh. Friends and family rang a twelve-bell touch on the bells before the reception. From the photograph you may be able to pick out a number of ringers who were invited to the wedding.

*Ian Campbell*





## **EAST DEVON BRANCH**

### **SIDMOUTH HERALD REPORTERS JOIN SIDMOUTH PRACTICE NIGHT**

**not once but twice!!!**

Earlier this year we were contacted by a reporter from *The Sidmouth Herald* who wanted to include the ringers in a supplementary publication about local groups and societies. We duly welcomed Clarissa to one of our practice nights where she spent the whole evening talking to the ringers – from some of the discussions I overheard I wondered what she would make of it all and what sort of article would emerge!! We managed to persuade her to ‘have a go’ – backstroke only and under supervision - and treated her to the delights of a visit to the bell chamber to see and hear the bells at close hand.

A phone call was received a few weeks later asking if *The Sidmouth Herald* photographer could join us on practice night to take some photos of the bells and ringers for the same article. Simon arrived before practice night started and spent a long time taking photos of the bells whilst enthusing about the shapes and the light. Once the ringers arrived he took several group photos and photos of the ringers in action.

The complete article appeared in the Sidmouth magazine which was issued free with *The Sidmouth Herald* on 20 May and I think it's fair to say that we were all delighted with it.

Although we haven't been inundated with enquiries about learning to ring this was a wonderful opportunity to get some positive publicity and keep bellringing in the public eye.

*Anne Bailey*

### **EAST DEVON'S ROLLING RING**

To celebrate St George's Day and commemorate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death bells rang out from 25 towers across East Devon in a rolling ring. Starting at Combe Raleigh at 9am towers followed each other at half hourly intervals throughout the day, though at Payhembury and Feniton, where quarter peals were rung, the ringing lasted longer.



The quarter peal band at Feniton, from the left: Trevor, Janet, Delie, St George (Stan Thompson), The Dragon (Ruth Hitchcock), Anne, Maureen and Lisa (conductor)

#### **Feniton, Devon, St Andrew**

Saturday, 23 April 2016 in 44 mins

240 Dragon Place, 540 Reverse Canterbury, 240 St Nicholas, 240 Winchendon Place

1 Maureen Davey

2 Lisa Clarke (C)

3 Janet Ritterman

4 Delie Perry

5 Anne Bailey

6 Trevor Hitchcock

Two ringers were appropriately dressed as St George and as a dragon and were to be seen ringing at Combe Raleigh and Honiton as well as putting in appearances at Feniton, Shute and Colyton.

#### **Payhembury, Devon**

St Mary the Virgin

Saturday, 23 April 2016 in 44 mins

1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

1 David Barrance

2 Lin Horrocks

3 Linda Nicholson

4 Richard H Johnston

5 Andrew Digby

6 John P Horrocks (C)

To ensure enough ringers were available, a number of people rang at more than one tower. The entire Combe Raleigh band rang at Honiton, after which two of them went on to ring in the quarter peal, which included the suitably named method 'Dragon's Place', at Feniton. With three towers behind them they went on to Shute and Colyton taking three others from the East Devon ladies' band who rang in the Feniton quarter peal with them, one of whom then continued on to ring at Sidmouth later. Sidmouth had organised a dinner for their ringers to follow after the celebratory ringing.

Adding to the occasion, the Devon Association of Ringers held their 10 bell competition at Sidmouth in the morning, followed later by their 8 bell competition at Sidbury and their 6 bell competition at Otterton.

The ringing of tower bells is the quintessential sound of England and thanks to all the ringers who rang the bells at Awliscombe, Axminster, Beer, Colyton, Combe Raleigh, Dalwood, Duneswell, Farway, Feniton, Honiton, Kilminster, Luppitt, Musbury, Northleigh, Offwell, Otterton, Ottery St Mary, Payhembury, Salcombe Regis, Shute, Sidbury, Sidmouth, Talaton, Upottery and Whimble there can be few in East Devon unaware of England's patron saint's day.

*Trevor Hitchcock*



Ian Avery and Anne Bailey with the Association Ringers

### **PAYHEMBURY VILLAGE BELLS**

The bells in the village of Payhembury ring out to announce births, marriages and sometimes, sadly, to remember a person that we've lost. Three of the bells are very ancient and are over 500 years old. Considering their age they are not in bad condition but they are now at a stage where they need a little TLC. We have only a small band of ringers in the village but feel that it is the responsibility of each generation to make sure that the bells remain in a ringable condition for the next. In order to repair the bells we are aiming to raise £15,000 by a combination of local events and grants and would be very grateful for any donations received.

We are planning a Village Fair on the afternoon of July 9th to raise some funds. There will be tea, cakes and sandwiches and many stalls to tempt you to part with your money! Various teams from all over East Devon will be competing in a ringing competition which we are hosting in Payhembury this year and you will be able to hear them trying to out-do each other during the afternoon. We hope that you will all come along to cheer the local team and enjoy the village fair. If anyone has donations for either the bell fund or the fair (books, plants, toys, tombola and raffle prizes) we would be very pleased to receive them.

## **PAYHEMBURY BELL FAIR**

**Village Hall, Payhembury**  
**Saturday 9th July 2016 1.00 -5.30pm**

|           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| BOOKSTALL | REFRESHMENTS  |
| PLANTS    | SANDWICHES    |
| CAKES     | TEA AND CAKES |
| TOMBOLA   | BRIC-A-BRAC   |

The East Devon Branch striking contest will be taking place in Payhembury during the fair.

Teams from around East Devon will be competing.

In aid of Repairs to the Bells of Payhembury Parish Church

## **THE DAY THE 1ST HONITON SCOUTS CAME TO ST PAUL'S, HONITON**



They found out about the bells, learned a bit about the history of change ringing and how quintessentially English the art of bell ringing is, watched some demonstration ringing (rounds, called changes, plain hunt and a touch of Bob Doubles), learned how to tie the ringer's knot and then had a go themselves - including the leaders! Everyone did so well. It was a fun evening and, you never know, there might be some budding ringers among them.

*Lisa Clarke*

*Note from Editor – apparently this article made the front page news in The Honiton Midweek Herald! Lin Horrocks*

## **COMBE RALEIGH FUND RAISING**

### **Traditional Garden Fete**

a fund-raising extravaganza in aid of the  
Combe Raleigh Bell Restoration and Augmentation Project

**Sunday 21st August 2016, 2.30-5.30pm**

at

the Combe Hill Estate, Combe Raleigh, EX14 4UQ

by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Edmund Lazarus

Traditional stalls, cream teas on the Orangery Terrace, ice creams, tombola, raffle, bouncy castle, garden games, pony rides, football shoot-out, tennis challenge (beat the pro!), music, hand bells, woodland walk and more...

Admission: adults £5, children £2

Enquiries: Lisa Clarke on 01404 43929  
(lisaclarke78@hotmail.com)

## **EXETER BRANCH**

### **ELAINE'S FIRST QUARTER PEAL**



L to R: Lesley, Graham, Elaine, David, Wendy, Ian

Elaine has been ringing for two years and we thought that it was time that she rang her first quarter peal. She was unhappy about ringing a changing bell adequately for a service so agreed to ring the tenor behind on the light six at St Mark's.

#### **Exeter, Devon, St Mark**

Sunday, 15 May 2016 in 42 mins

1260 Doubles: 60 Stedman, 2 extents each St Simon, St Martin, Grandsire, Rev Canterbury, Plain Bob

1 Ian Campbell

2 Graham Tucker

3 Lesley Tucker

4 Wendy Campbell

5 David Hird (C)

6 Elaine Bradford

1st quarter peal - 6. Rung for Evensong

*Ian Campbell*

## **WITHYCOMBE RALEIGH BELLS RING OUT FOR THE QUEEN**



L to R: Peter, Jo, Ian, Wendy, Charlotte, Lynne, Janet, Roger, Oliver, with Neil in front

#### **Withycombe Raleigh, Devon**

St John the Evangelist

Sunday, 12 June 2016 in 47 mins

1282 Cambridge Surprise Royal

1 Janet Deem

2 Jo Brown

3 Wendy Campbell

4 Charlotte Boyce

5 Neil Deem

6 Lynne Hughes

7 Roger King

8 Ian Campbell (C)

9 Oliver Coldrick

10 Peter Brown

Rung prior to evensong, and to mark the official 90th birthday of HM The Queen.



## NEWS FROM EXETER CATHEDRAL

### Fire safety training

Everyone groans when you mention yet more red tape and procedures that have to be followed by the ringers. However if there was ever a fire in the body of your church or someone was taken ill would you know what to do and where to go? The Cathedral members attended a presentation which included details of safe(er) places to hide on the roof if the stairs are blocked, and locations where the fire brigade ladders will reach (mostly at the west front at two different levels) as well as graphic footage of how quickly fires can spread and a discussion on the use of fire extinguishers. Apparently the brigade are always interested to investigate and rehearse how to evacuate awkward buildings *before* there is an incident and church towers must be one of the more difficult ones so do contact them if you want some advice and, perhaps, a practice evacuation.

*Ian Campbell*

### First Aid Training

As a part of their strivings to tick all of the boxes the Cathedral authorities arranged a First Aid course for volunteers to attend. Wendy and I had an interesting day learning about resuscitation, bandages and the required contents of a First Aid box. However whether or not we will remember it should an emergency arise up the tower I am not certain. However I would encourage all towers to check their First Aid boxes if they have them and to ensure that all of the supplies are up to date.

*Ian Campbell*

### Open Evening – 19<sup>th</sup> April



The mini-ring in use in the cathedral

Exeter Cathedral opened its doors for the evening of Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April to showcase everything done by the volunteers as part of the spiritual and working life of the Cathedral community. Entry was free and all visitors were able to meet the groups of people who do so much “behind the scenes” work and also visit some of the restricted areas not normally available to the public. Over 500 people attended the event.



Visitors sitting two-deep ready to watch the ringing

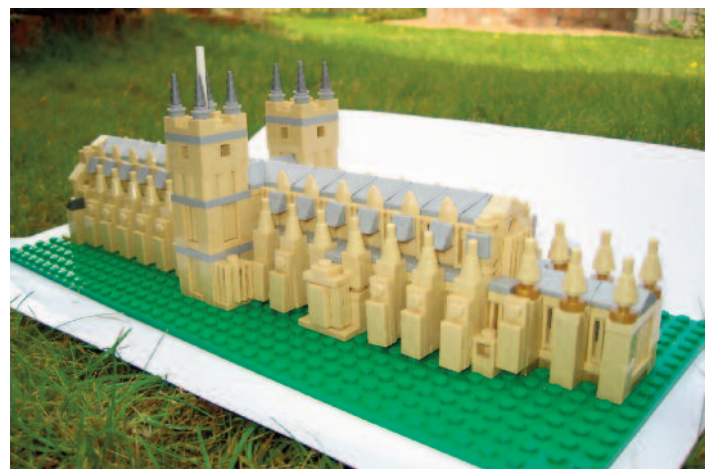
The bellringers’ stand was set up in the nave near to the tower entrance in the south west corner. We were fortunate to have use of the Frank Mack mobile mini-ring which attracted a lot of attention. People of all ages had a go and some of the Cathedral band did a short demonstration ring. The mini-ring was kept busy all evening. Two tours to the south tower were organised with both booked beyond capacity. In the tower a short explanation of what bell ringing is and how it works was given by Matthew Hilling, Ringing Master, before the Cathedral bellringers rang a course of Erin Cinques as a demonstration. All of the visitors were very interested and asked many sensible and thoughtful questions. Following both tours it was difficult to bring the session to a close and get everyone back downstairs.

In conclusion this was an evening that showed bell ringing to be accessible to people of all ages and is fun. It was well worth doing. We are told that similar events will be held in the future.

*Matt Hilling*

### LEGO Model

Those of you who follow RRD closely will be thrilled to know that I managed to complete my LEGO model of Exeter Cathedral with only a few small pieces left over.



My small model of Exeter Cathedral in LEGO

The large model at the cathedral is progressing with most of the west front now in place and some of the internal pillars and a little of the north wall. It still has a long way to go so do pop in to look at it if you are in the town and, perhaps, buy a few bricks to help with the fundraising.

*Ian Campbell*

### BRANCH TRAIN OUTING



Waiting for the train at Redland

The Exeter Branch train outing on bank holiday Monday 2nd May was organised to try out the branch line from Bristol to Severn Beach. We took the train to Temple Meads and rang at SS Philip and Jacob, Bristol. Then we went back to Temple Meads to catch the train to Lawrence Hill and rang on the light 10 at St Ambrose, Whitehall, followed by lunch in the Wetherspoon's where a few people had fun sampling the gin and other drinks that they offered.





Lynne enjoying her lunchtime  
Sex on the Beach

The train then took us to Sea Mills where, after walking up a very long and winding hill (made harder after a big lunch!) there was ringing on the six bells at St Mary Magdalene, Stoke Bishop. After walking back down the hill (far easier than the climb up!) we returned on the train to Redland to ring on the eight at Kingsdown. There was a lot of walking but everyone got to all of the towers and we were able to relax on the journey back to Exeter. Thanks go to Wendy Campbell and everyone who contributed to make such a lovely day.



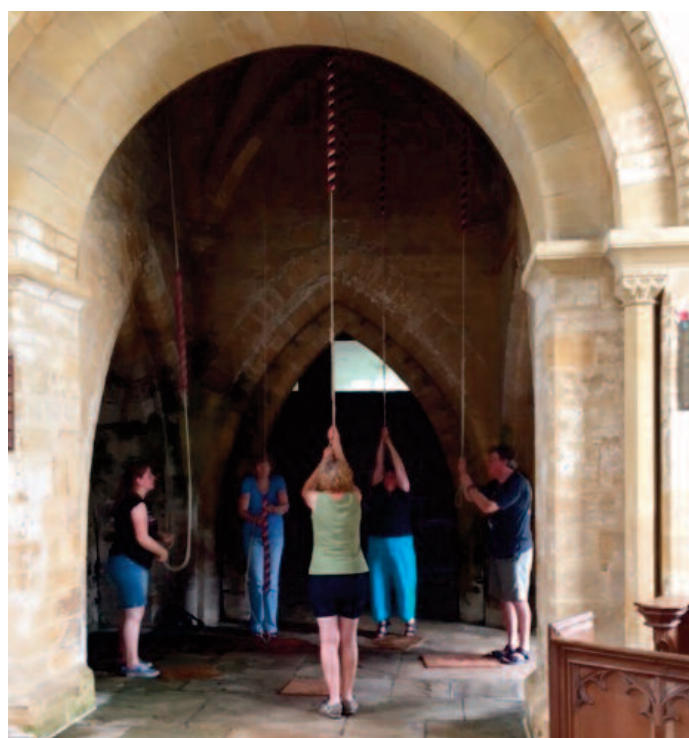
Lunch in the churchyard at Middle Chinnock

The lunchtime pubs were all too busy to take us as they were dealing with the street party (for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday) so we had a picnic in the churchyard before going to the four bells at West Chinnock. Several members of the team had a drink in the pub and a look around the street party before overcoming a nearly vertical metal ladder and a leap across the opening at the top to get into the ringing chamber. We rang a number of Minimus methods before cycling on to the unusual five at Chiselborough where the bells are hung in front of the altar.



Ringing on the light 10 at Whitehall

*Ian Campbell / Amy Gill*



The unusual ringing chamber at Chiselborough

## ST MARK'S ANNUAL CYCLE OUTING



Most of the group – apart from the photographer!

Over a dozen intrepid cyclists and several hangers-on joined the St Mark's ringing outing held in Somerset on 11<sup>th</sup> June. We met at the rather heavy going six at Hinton St George, then cycled through some pretty villages to ring on the light three bells at Middle Chinnock which were clearly well maintained and a delight to ring. Stedman Singles is more challenging than you might think!

The only trouble was that we now had to cycle back to Hinton St George to collect the cars before we could return to Matt's house in Whimple where he provided a splendid barbecue. Although we seemed to avoid the rain all day it caught up with us on the way home and we had to enjoy the barbecue indoors.

Thanks go to Matt and Rosie Hilling for feeding us (with help from some of the others) and to Graham Tucker for organising it all. And to Toby who wore us all out playing hide and seek all day!

*Ian Campbell / Amy Gill*

## TWELVE BELL HANDBELL QUARTER BY EXETER COLLEGES GUILD

Over the year the handbell team has been practising as usual at lunchtime on a Wednesday. With six regular attendees we have extended our repertoire to ten bells but a suggestion was made that we should attempt a quarter peal on twelve before we lose Nathan at the end of term. Having only tried (badly) to ring twelve on one or two occasions we steamed through this quarter rather by surprise and were very pleased to score it with a lot of "firsts"



as a footnote. Although only one person (Nathan) is a current student, Alice is an ex-student working on the campus, Matt, Sarah and Oliver work on campus, and Ian is an ex-member of staff.

#### **Exeter Colleges Guild**

Exeter University

Wednesday, 15 June 2016 in 50 mins

1264 Little Bob Maximus

Composed by MJH

1–2 Alice Holden

3–4 Sarah Chadburn

5–6 Matthew Hilling (C)

7–8 Oliver Coldrick

9–10 Ian Campbell

11–12 Nathan Evans

First on 12: 1-2, 11-12.

First on 12 in hand: 3-4, 7-8.

First on 12 in hand away from tenors: 9-10.

First on 12 in hand as conductor: 5-6.

*Ian Campbell*

### **HANDBELLS FOR A WEDDING**



The tower at The Blessed Sacrament housing the bourdon bell

It is not often that we get asked to ring handbells and very rare that we get paid for it! However on 4<sup>th</sup> June the bride getting married at the Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic church in Heavitree, Exeter wanted to come out to the “proper” sound of bells. So four of us (myself, David Hird, Andrew Digby and Steph Hills) waited outside the church until the end of the service and serenaded the wedding party with a course or so of Kent Treble Bob Major.

And then, in order to make a real noise, we swung the four ton bourdon bell for several minutes while they were getting ready to drive away. This bell is a magnificent modern Taylor bell, hung for swing chiming, which we got well over half way up before the clapper started double striking. The ringing was helped because, earlier in the week, we had replaced the worn out washing line that was previously on it with a recycled rope from the Cathedral tenor. We hope that it will now be rung properly (rather than hit with its electric hammer) more often.

*Ian Campbell*

### **MILESTONE REACHED AT HATHERLEIGH**

A major milestone was achieved at Hatherleigh on 27<sup>th</sup> June. This was a fantastic effort from Lucy, Mark & Tom L for their first quarter peal at the first attempt.

#### **Hatherleigh, Devon, St John the Baptist**

Monday, 27 June 2016 in 43min

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Lucy Lumby

2 Richard Harrison

3 Rebecca Harrison

4 Mark Wonnacott

5 Tom Waterson (C)

6 Tom Lumby

First quarter at first attempt: 1, 4 & 6.

First in method: 3 and as C.



L to R: Lucy, Mark, Richard, Tom (W), Rebecca, Tom (L)

*Richard Harrison*

### **BELL FOUND IN TURKEY**



I took this photo three years ago when Lesley and I went to Istanbul. I estimated its weight to be around 7 cwt but there was no information about it. It was on display in the Topkapi Palace which used to be one of the top palaces for the Ottoman sultans for almost 400 years of their 624 years reign. It is now one of the major museums in Turkey and contains many relics of the Muslim world including Mohammed's cloak and sword.

*Michael Cannon*



## MID-DEVON BRANCH

### TEIGNMOUTH TOWER RINGING AGAIN

The Teignmouth band had to temporarily cease ringing last year at St James the Less, Teignmouth, owing to structural problems involving the clock dials and the tower. The dials have now been removed for restoration and the tower is safe for ringing. Therefore, practices at St James the Less will regularly occur on the last Tuesday of each month. We ring from 1900 to 2030. It is a ground floor ring and visitors are most welcome.

The eagle eyed Dove readers might spot that the Teignmouth band usually ring from 1930 to 2100 at St Michael's Teignmouth on a Tuesday. So why earlier at St James? Well, we ring earlier there out of consideration to the young families living in the immediate residential area.

We do also practise at St James on the 5th Tuesday of the month, but as there are only about four occasions a year when this occurs we thought that we would like to offer more opportunities for ringing.

If anyone is thinking of joining us, and wants to check the times and/or places of our practices, please feel free to contact myself as tower secretary for the Teignmouth band.

*Julia Brett*

### ITEMS FROM THE MID-DEVON NEWSLETTER

#### Meet the Branch Day March 2016

This time our title seems very apt as the talk around our towers has very much centred on our "Meet the Branch" Day.



The day got off to a good start when everyone was prompt to assemble at Berry Pomeroy and we were able to start early. Rodney Horder (Branch Chairman) got the day started by welcoming everyone and introducing the branch officers. He explained that we had arranged different activities at each venue to try to demonstrate the variety of events the Branch holds during a typical year. It was then time for the first of these activities and Branch Ringing Master Martin Mansley gave a brief introduction to method ringing with a demonstration of "lapping" plain hunt eight on handbells. This was followed up by walking plain hunt round chairs as a further demonstration. Finally, there was method ringing on handbells with Plain Bob Minor – Philip Stevens 1-2, Mike Tompsett 3-4, Martin Mansley 5-6. Mike Tompsett (Berry Pomeroy) then led the ringing in the tower which mainly consisted of rounds and call changes with one course of Bob Minor on the back six. Downstairs the handbells were kept busy and eventually another course of Plain Hunt was "lapped" successfully – mainly by less experienced ringers.

It was then time to move on to Wolborough where welcome hot drinks had been prepared. Whilst these were being consumed Janet Ritterman (ex-librarian) gave a short presentation introducing the branch library with particular emphasis on the items likely to be of interest to less experienced ringers. In the tower Tim King and Janet demonstrated the simulator which was set up with Abel and the "moving ringers" projected onto a screen.



The clapper tie was swiftly removed and the bells were soon in action to more rounds and call changes. As a further demonstration of method ringing a touch of Stedman Triples was successfully brought round as was a touch of Plain Hunt on eight bells.

We all felt we deserved a break and the Church House Inn at Stokeinteignhead proved to be the ideal spot. Food had been ordered and soon we were enjoying a superb meal. We also took the chance to "network" and several future plans were hatched. The final ringing of the day was at Stokeinteignhead and good use was made of the bells. During a short break in the ringing Martin Mansley led a discussion/demonstration on common handling faults. At the end of the afternoon Rodney Horder gave a final summing up and vote of thanks to all who had made the day possible.

Since the event we have had much positive feed-back – thank you very much – we do hope to see you at our practices and meetings this year.

#### Branch Library

As you may be aware, the Mid Devon library is slightly in "limbo" at present. The hope is that it will move to St Marychurch but there is a damp problem at present so our new librarians (Jeanette and Wena) are looking into solutions.

One of the main advantages of a library is the chance to "try before you buy". Ringers are fortunate that many of the books are very reasonably priced. Janet Ritterman has made a list of the main suppliers of books etc.

Ringling Skills (v2, 2014) – John A Harrison (available as free download from author's website):

<http://jaharrison.me.uk/book/RS/index.html#Top>

The New Ringer's Book - John A. Harrison and Catherine Lewis – Central Council (£10):

<http://www.cccbr.org.uk/bibliography/#newRingersBook>

Raising and Lowering in Peal – John A Harrison – Central Council - (£2):

<http://www.cccbr.org.uk/bibliography/#raisingAndLoweringInPeal>

Raising and Lowering - Philip Gay (£5, incl postage):

<https://jnlrb.wordpress.com/books/raising-lowering/>

From Rounds to Ropesight (Whiting Society/ART) – Stuart I. Bamforth (includes DVD) (£10):

<http://www.whittingsociety.org.uk/publications/from-rounds-to-ropesight.html>

Carry on Counting – An Introduction to Plain Hunting and the Plain Course of Plain Bob Doubles – Karl Grave (Whiting Society) (£3):

<http://www.whittingsociety.org.uk/publications/carry-on-counting.html>

Doubles and Minor for Beginners – William Butler – Central Council (£3.50):

<http://www.cccbr.org.uk/bibliography/#doublesAndMinorForBeginners>

Triples and Major for Beginners – William Butler (available as free download) – Central Council:

<http://www.cccbr.org.uk/bibliography/#triplesAndMajorForBeginners>



Ringling Down 'Ere – Call Change Ringing in the Far South West – John Purdey and Owen Borlase (Whiting Society) - (£4): <http://www.whittingsociety.org.uk/publications/ringing-down-ere.html>  
 A Guide to Bell Handling (DVD) – ART – Association of Ringing Teachers) - £17: <http://ringingteachers.org/resource-centre/shop>

How to order  
 Central Council publications  
<http://www.cccbr.org.uk/pubs/pricelist/#order>  
 The Whiting Society of Ringers publications  
<http://www.whittingsociety.org.uk/publications/how-to-order.html>

## DON AND JUNE ROBERTS CELEBRATE THEIR DIAMOND WEDDING

Congratulations to Don and June on their Diamond Wedding. Among the celebrations was a quarter peal at Stoke Canon in one of Don's favourite methods – Ipswich Surprise Minor.

### Stoke Canon, Devon, St Mary Magdalene

Friday, 1 April 2016 in 43 mins

1272 Ipswich Surprise Minor

1 Sue Sawyer

2 Sheila Scofield

3 Ian Avery

4 Sarah Chadburn

5 Don Roberts

6 Tim Bayton (C)

1st in method: 2

700th quarter: 5

Congratulations to Don and June Roberts on their Diamond Wedding anniversary tomorrow.

Don was up bright and early the following morning to run his swimming group and then up the tower for morning ringing at St Marychurch. An example to us all!

## THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY 21ST APRIL 2016

This year marks another milestone in the life of our longest reigning monarch and the celebrations will go on for some time. They started with the actual birthday on 21st April and we have several reports of ringing.

### Dawlish

Eight Dawlish ringers manned their bells on Thursday 21st – the picture shows most of them:



Megan took the photo so is missing

### Teignmouth

We rang at St Michael's on the evening of 21st April. Martin called the Queens Peal on eight bells. It went well and we were all pleased to be able to celebrate such a special occasion.

### ST GEORGE'S DAY, 23RD APRIL

The celebrations for the Queen's birthday merged slightly with St George's Day this year but Dawlish and Teignmouth ringers were out again:

### Dawlish



We have a picture of Dawlish ringers who rang for St George's Day

### Teignmouth

Teignmouth ringers rang at St Michael's, giving them a busy weekend because the next day (Sunday 24th) they rang at St James, Teignmouth:



St James are up and ringing again. They have not been rung for 14 months. We rang all eight bells for morning service. It went well but, as we need to be mindful of our audience, we have decided not to go back to regular ringing practices at St James immediately. We will start by regular service ringing only, at St James, initially. We wish to give the locals a chance to get used to the bells again.



## WOLBOROUGH PEAL

To welcome the new Priest in Charge a peal was rung at Wolborough on Monday 25th April in a new method now named Wolborough Delight Major.

### Wolborough, Devon, St Mary

Monday, 25 April 2016 in 3h03  
5152 Wolborough Delight Major

Composed by R D S Brown

1 Charlotte A Boyce

2 Lynne P Hughes

3 Ian V J Smith

4 Richard H Johnston

5 Martin G Mansley

6 John R Martin (C)

7 Fergus M S Stracey

8 Michael E C Mears

First peal in the method.

Rung to welcome the Revd Patrick Parkes as Priest-in-Charge at Wolborough.

## A DIP INTO THE MINUTES OF THE MID-DEVON BRANCH

A while ago I quoted from the branch minutes of 50 years ago and many of you have remarked that you would like to hear more so here goes. We do not have the minutes of 60 years ago so we have chosen 55 years.

### From Branch minutes 55 years ago

On 18th March 1961 the branch meeting was held at Torre Church (now the Greek Orthodox Church). We are told "the young ringers of the branch excelled themselves on the light ring of bells. Methods ranged from Grandsire Doubles to Cambridge Minor and the Service touch was admirably rung by a ladies band". During his address in the service the Rev G E Porter thanked the branch for helping the young ringers at Torre to progress with their ringing.

The meeting was held in the Parish Hall and following the traditional tea they got down to business. The branch Chairman (Mrs Hood) was absent so the chair was taken by Bill Harvey (the local captain). The next meeting was planned for Widecombe and Ilsington ("if permission is granted"). They also discussed a joint meeting between the branch and the "South Devon Ringers' Association" (Call Change). It was reported that "the way was completely paved towards a most fruitful get together".

The minutes were written by branch secretary (Don Roberts) who, of course, is still very active in the area. Bill Harvey is also still with us and living in Topsham.

So..... Was the branch able to go to Widecombe? – was the meeting with the South Devon Ringers' Association successful? ...  
.... Further thrilling instalment in July!!

*Martin Mansley*

### Martin Mansley's retirement

It was a lovely sunny afternoon on 5th June as we all got together to celebrate Martin's birthday and retirement. Wena and Martin had issued an open invitation to their home where many of us gathered.

During the afternoon, the St Marychurch handbell ringers played four pieces of music in the house with the windows open, whilst everyone else sat in the garden to listen - Ollie the cat included!! Martin and his family put on a cream tea with delicious scones made by Wena. Jam on first? Cream on first? The debate continues!!!!

The afternoon was thoroughly enjoyed by all and on behalf of everyone there, a huge thank you to Martin, Wena and their family for making us all feel welcome and for ensuring everyone had a good time. Finally, we would all like to wish Martin a long, happy and healthy retirement - now you have extra time to do more ringing!!!!

*Jeanette Thompson / Catherine Saunders*

## Dawlish Tribute for the Queen

The Queen's official birthday was celebrated in Dawlish with a street party. Six of the local ringers got together at 1.30pm to add to the proceedings with half an hour's ringing, including of course call changes based on 'Queens'. Note the festive bunting in the ringing chamber!



Lynne Hughes, Mo Hawkins, Derek Hawkins, Fiona Rock-Evans, Maria Hiscoe and Jenny Clark

*Lynne Hughes*

## GOOD NEWS FROM STOKE FLEMING

The funds for the Stoke Fleming tower project received a great boost last month when we received the news that Viridor Credits have made a grant of £18,000 to pay for the new bell frame. This means we now have sufficient funding to complete the work.

Meanwhile work is progressing well, Elliott Construction have cast a concrete ring beam in the belfry which will strengthen the tower structure and provide a base on which the new frame will sit. The frame is now being manufactured by Whitechapel Bell Foundry who will be fitting it in the tower during the next month.

The bells have been examined by WBF, and given a clean bill of health. They have been retuned where possible and some small adjustments have been made to make them easier to ring. Once the new frame has been fitted the six old bells will be rehung alongside the two new bells which were cast to commemorate the bicentenary of Johnson Matthey. Then, after a few final touches they will be ready to ring again.

The project has all gone very well so far and a successful end is now within sight.

*Anne Bailey*

## NORTH EAST BRANCH

### ST PETER'S SHIELD STRIKING COMPETITION

The St Peter's Shield Striking Competition, now in its 21st year, was originally planned to be held at Bampton, but due to their clappers undergoing refurbishment at an unknown date, it was thought prudent to switch venues before 'Murphy's Law' kicked in, causing last minute issues!

St Paul's in Tiverton very kindly took on the mantle of hosting the competition, which was held on Saturday 23rd April. Competition rules were straightforward, but mustering teams less so. We had three teams enter the event, which was down on previous years. Regrettably, switching the date back later in the month to accommodate, as we thought, some Association towers, the Association then held their mammoth striking event which did have an impact on participants. Even some of the best-laid plans are scuppered when you least expect it.

That all said, the event was a very relaxed and enjoyable affair. Our thanks go to Tim Bayton for taking the time in judging the three teams who rang a mixture of call changes and method. By





Tim Bayton awarding the shield to Nellie Croft

far the best ringers on the night and duly winning the coveted Shield were Cruwys Morcahrd who went into battle with Nellie Croft at the helm. Some excellent and well-struck musical call changes were rung, extending to a little over ten minutes of ringing time: our sincere congratulations to the victors. Commiserations go to the two trailing teams, both of whom were from St Peter's ringing call changes and method, coming in second and third place respectively.

With limited team entries, the night was yet young and Lynda Smith, tower captain of St Paul's, thoughtfully allowed for us all to have a practice session ringing various touches including Kent TB Minor and Cambridge Surprise Minor with strong band support, finally ringing the bells down at 9pm.

A thoroughly enjoyable evening and our thanks to all who were involved in the planning, organising and execution of the competition and of course to the competitors, without whom the event could not be held.

*Mark Heritage*

## BREWERY (AND RINGING) VISIT



The photograph shows the group from the North East Branch who took part in a midweek ringing outing combined with a visit to Palmer's Brewery Bridport on March 17<sup>th</sup> - any connection between the brewery visit and St Patrick's Day was purely unintentional! In the morning the mixed ability group rang at St Mary's, Bridport before taking a guided tour of the brewery which was followed by lunch at the relatively nearby Rope makers Inn. In the afternoon the group rang at Lyme Regis and finally at St Giles & St Peter Sidbury where this photograph of the happy and still sober ringers was taken!

*Martin Clough*

## JOHN HUTCHINGS CUP



Silvertown Church from the Judges' Hideout

The annual John Hutchings Memorial Competition was held at Silvertown on Friday 3rd June. It is open to all towers in the North East Branch and attracted five entries including a Ringing Master's scratch team (eligible for marking but not for the competition Cup).

Following the cancellation of the competition last year due to only two entries, the competition rules were changed to make it easier for more teams to enter. The results of the competition were Cullompton (8 faults) followed by Ringing Master's scratch team (14), Tiverton St Peter (35½), Bampton (46½) and Silvertown (66½). The judges for this year's competition were Ian and Wendy Campbell.



Cullompton Tower Captain Matthew Webb receiving the competition cup from the judges.

*Martin Clough  
Picture by Brian Trebble*

## BAMPTON AFTER SCHOOL CLUB RING FOR THEIR EASTER SERVICE

The Bampton After School Club has been running since January 2015. Jess and Fergus have been ringing from the start and have recently both achieved level 2 on the ART Scheme, Learning the Ropes. Flo and Red, who joined the Club in September, are one target away from achieving level 1 at the time of writing. During term time we ring at Bampton using the practice bell and with open ringing on the front bells. During the school holidays we meet at Huntsham to ring the lighter bells to practise six and eight



bell ringing, with thanks due to members of Tiverton and Bampton who support the young band.

From its beginning we have aimed to ring for the termly school services at St Michael's, Bampton albeit initially ringing backstrokes only to rounds. The service this term happened to be in Holy Week, traditionally when we did not ring. We decided to compromise and practised on Monday with the bells half muffled to get used to the different sound. The service ringing was very successful with compliments from the congregation and the Bampton adult band, with two young ringers in at a time ringing either call changes or Kaleidoscope work.

Our two more experienced ringers now ring for services every month at Huntsham and Red and Flo are about to join us for Sunday ringing in Bampton.



Jess, Flo, Red & Fergus at Bampton

*Sheila Scofield*

## A SLIGHT HITCH - PAULINE AND REG MCKENZIE



Didn't he scrub up well!

Congratulations go to Pauline and Reg McKenzie who tied the knot on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016 in Salisbury. Many of you may know Reg from his bellhanging work with Nicholson's Engineering while Pauline rings at Broadhembury and Exeter Cathedral. The wedding was a quiet event with just Pauline's mum and four other friends keeping it secret from everyone until after the big day.

However they had a larger party on 18th June at their local pub where the food and drink flowed freely and was appreciated by the friends and family who were invited.

*Matt Hilling / Ian Campbell*

## **SOUTH WEST BRANCH**

### **A NEW MEMBER FOR THE GUILD!**



Hellen and Mark Williams welcomed their baby Isaac to the world on the 11th March. He weighed 6 pounds 6 ozs and has already attended his first bell ringing outing!

### **DOUBLES PRACTICE - WHITCHURCH**

The weather was kind for our March 12th 6-bell practice at St Andrew's, Whitchurch, with one of those very first clear bright days of the year. One that helps to convince the sceptic in us that Spring is at last on its way. Sun streamed through the stained glass nearby onto us ringers striving to improve our skills at Bob Doubles and the occasional other Doubles method also. We hadn't anticipated company, but hope our efforts were good enough to be a pleasant accompaniment to the team cleaning the church alongside us. Were our efforts as polished as theirs?



The assembled ringers

On a personal note, as an adult long past that age when learning comes easily, I was able to make, with promising results, a first attempt at some remaining pieces of the Bob Doubles "jigsaw". With time for rather more repeat attempts than a regular practice night these themed sessions greatly help the new knowledge to sink in fully.

Thanks go to Jane Doidge, our host, for her excellent cakes and also to those experienced branch members that gave over their Saturday morning to guide and encourage us.

*Andy Overy*



## TRAINING

### KALEIDOSCOPE TRAINING DAY MARCH 2016



The Kaleidoscope course took place in two eight-bell towers and was ideal for those wanting to start method-ringing. Lynne Hughes introduced a relaxed but carefully structured day over coffee at St Mary's, Wolborough.

Lynne showed ringing diagrams, and explained that students would first ring long places, then short places, and finally, continuous dodges. Once that phase was complete, pairs of bells would decide on what to ring, so that within the ring of eight there might be dodges, long places, or short places, all ringing at the same time.



*Lynne explaining the finer points of Kaleidoscope ringing*

There were six student ringers, divided into two teams of three which took it in turn to ring. For each exercise, three students took their places among the ring of eight, supported by a much appreciated team of experienced ringers who had come to help. At times a non-ringing helper was available to give verbal instructions. Lynne was able to adjust the programme because students varied in length of experience; she eased confusions and dealt with any signs of panic. There were plenty of stops and starts when things went pear-shaped, but no-one seemed to struggle and it was all good humoured and fun.

With a small set of students no-one had to wait too long to ring and through the morning students were improving bell

control, starting to ring more evenly and developing an awareness of their place in the row. Thanks to a full team of helpers, everyone had support at hand to correct and encourage.

A pub lunch in Newton Abbot bridged the day and we all had a chance to get to know each other. It was also an opportunity to discuss how things had gone in the morning, and what would happen next. In the afternoon the course transferred to St Gregory, Dawlish to consolidate and develop the morning's work. The day ended with teams efficiently ringing a Mexican Wave, conducted by Lynne.

Learning is a complex process, and breaking down components of methods into chunks seemed to help all students. I attended as an observer because although I originally enrolled, I had later acquired hand problems and couldn't ring. But without so much as touching a rope I understood more at the end of the day than at the beginning and now acknowledge that ropesight isn't quite the arcane practice I thought it was. By studying the movements of one bell, I had time to identify the rope it was to follow without the pressure of ringing at the same time.

The key to the day's obvious success was the flexible course structure, the relaxed but purposeful atmosphere, a plentiful supply of experienced helpers, and a very calm teacher.

It would be great if more towers could set up days like this.

*Isabella Whitworth, Hatherleigh*

## MANDY MARKS PROGRESS



*Mandy receiving her certificate from Sheila Scofield*

Mandy Burnett achieved Level 4 on the Learning the Ropes Scheme in May. Mandy started ringing in August 2014 at Bampton. She rings regularly at Bampton, Huntsham, St Peter's, Tiverton and around the NE Branch and also helps Sheila and Les with the After School Bell Club at Bampton. When work takes her to Leeds she rings around the location with friends which has added to her progress. To achieve the final target for Level 4 she rang Plain Bob Doubles on an inside bell.

*Sheila Scofield*

## GUILD MAINTENANCE TRAINING DAY



*Having a break at Stoke Cannon*

On the 14th of May, five of us including me, Jeff Bailey, Chris Cozens, Colin Sargent and David Wellington met up at Stoke Canon along with Ian Campbell and David Hird to tell us all about the components of a bell and how the whole mechanism works. We set up downstairs after taking the many things out of Ian's car boot, including a very big model of a working bell, which helped us understand how everything works. We also discussed other things about looking after the tower such as lighting and safety when going into the bell chamber. After having a quick ring we then had a look up in the bell chamber in the church to give us an even better idea about where everything is on the bell.

We had a bite to eat at the pub and after packing up, drove off to Upton Pyne to see how its wooden frame and plain bearings compared with Stoke Canon's more modern installation and steel frame. It was very different up here, with a much older layout, and you could really see the difference between these and more modern bells.





*Enjoying the sun while splicing ropes*

We then ended the day sitting outside in the lovely weather where Ian gave us a quick introduction to rope splicing, which was also interesting to see. Thank you to both Ian and David for coming out and organising a wonderful day, and hopefully it'll happen again next year.

*Oliver Bates*

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **NOTABLE PEALS**

#### **First peal on 12 for the Guild . . . by a band of ladies!**



L to R: Charlotte, Sarah, Hilary, Sue, Clare, Lesley, Alison, Pauline, Wendy, Ann, Jenny, Lynne

Spurred on by our success with a peal of Bristol S Royal last December, the obvious next step was a ladies' twelve bell – another first for the Guild. This was successfully achieved at the first attempt on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and we are now considering other challenges for the future.

#### **SS Peter & Paul, South Petherton, Somerset**

Saturday 2nd April 2016 in 3hr 27m

5042 Yorkshire Surprise Maximus

Composed by Oliver M Austin

- 1 Ann Smith
- 2 Lynne P Hughes
- 3 Lesley A Tucker
- 4 Clare J Griffiths
- 5 Sarah E Chadburn
- 6 Charlotte A Boyce
- 7 P Wendy Campbell
- 8 Susan D Sparling
- 9 Jenny R Sparling
- 10 Hilary A Beresford
- 11 Alison C Waterson
- 12 Pauline Champion (C)

First of Maximus: 3

First of Yorkshire S Maximus: 5

First on 12 by a band of ladies, all resident members of the Guild.

*Wendy Campbell*

#### **First peal by a Band of married couples for the Guild**



L to R: Peter and Jo Brown, Ian and Ann Smith, Geoff and Sue Sparling, Graham and Lesley Tucker, Wendy and Ian Campbell outside the church after the peal

It was while ringing the treble to a quarter peal (so not too much concentration required!) that I noticed three married couples in the band and decided a full peal comprised of 'marrieds' would be a worthwhile aim. After confirming with Mike Mears that it would be a first for the Guild, we duly assembled at Lyme Regis on 1st April – ha, ha – and an uneventful and largely trip-free peal was rung to a very good standard.

#### **St Michael the Archangel, Lyme Regis, Dorset**

Friday 1st April 2016 in 2 hours 57 minutes

5040 Matrimonial Delight Royal

Composed by Ian V J Smith

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

The first peal for the Guild by married couples, all resident Guild members and with 208 (x2) married years between them.

*Wendy Campbell*

#### **First on 10 for Rebecca Harrison First Royal as conductor for Tom Waterson**

#### **Thorverton, Devon, St Thomas of Canterbury**

Thursday, 31 March 2016 in 3h 2min

5040 Yorkshire Surprise Royal

Composed by R W Lee

- 1 Alison C Waterson
  - 2 Pauline McKenzie
  - 3 Rebecca J Harrison
  - 4 James Kirkcaldy
  - 5 Ian W Avery
  - 6 Ian V J Smith
  - 7 Richard Harrison
  - 8 David Hird
  - 9 Thomas J Waterson (C)
  - 10 Michael E C Mears
- Birthday compliments to Jane Flaxington.  
First on 10: 3 & as C.



**Birthday compliment to Don Lawson**  
(on his 80th birthday compliment - using one of his compositions)

**Thorverton, Devon, St Thomas of Canterbury**

Thursday, 7 April 2016 in 2hrs 51m

5024 Lessness Surprise Major

Composed by D G Lawson

1 John Hill

2 Alison C Waterson

3 Ian V J Smith

4 Richard H Johnston

5 Ian W Avery

6 Pauline McKenzie

7 James Kirkcaldy

8 Michael E C Mears (C)

With best wishes to Don Lawson, celebrating his 80th birthday on Friday 8th April. Also birthday compliment to Mervyn Way.

**First of Royal for Wendy Gill**

**Exeter, Devon, St Mark**

Monday, 25 April 2016 in 2h58

5040 Little Bob Royal

Composed by D G Hull

1 James Kirkcaldy

2 Wendy Gill

3 Clare J Griffiths

4 Peter L Bill

5 Roger King

6 Ian L C Campbell

7 P Wendy Campbell

8 Timothy M Bayton

9 David Hird

10 Matthew J Hilling (C)

First of Royal: 2

For patronal festival

*Michael Mears*

**Quarter Peal for Joan Clarke**



L to R Jeff, Wendy, David, Lesley, Tim. Rob, Ian, Mike

We got up early on 19th April to travel to North Devon for a peal attempt at Appledore before the memorial service held for Joan Clarke at Alwington. Unfortunately this was lost after about an hour so we rang a quarter peal instead – which gave us a little more time to grab some lunch. The small church at Alwington was packed for the service and was attended by a number of ringers, some of whom rang handbells during the service.

**Appledore, Devon, St Mary**

Tuesday, 19 April 2016

1280 Cambridge Surprise Major

1 Lesley Knipe

2 Jeffrey Knipe

3 Wendy Campbell

4 Ian Campbell

5 Robert Brown

6 Michael Mears

7 David Hird (C)

8 Timothy Collins

Rung remembering Joan Clarke prior to her memorial service at Alwington later this day.

*Ian Campbell*

**LESTER'S FIRST AS CONDUCTOR**

When congratulating one of the Guild's 2015 first pealers, I was told that 2016 was intended to be the year for firsts as conductor. What better way to mark the end of my ten years as Guild president, I thought, than my first attempt at calling a peal? When I floated the idea, so many people were astounded that, after fourteen hundred peals, I had never called one before, but throughout my forty years of peal ringing, I have always been fortunate in finding competent conductors, and the need never arose. It is also much easier to conduct off the tenor, and I am notoriously not a heavy bell ringer!

But having rung over two hundred and fifty peals on mini-rings, I thought I could easily call a peal from a bell under 20 pounds in weight, and because I have been organising peal bands at Wobbly Bob's Campanile, this appeared to be the obvious tower. A simple but memorable composition, a standard method, a strong band, a reliable person available to offer support, and the project was under way. The date chosen also happened to be the day of Joan Clarke's memorial service, and so the footnote was inevitable too, with many of the band travelling to Alwington for the service. Many thanks to all the band for their co-operation, to Rob in particular for making the bells available, and to Joan for being a good friend.



L to R: John M, Mike, Rob, John F, Lester, Paul, Charlotte, Peter

**Bovey Tracey, Devon, Wobbly Bob's Campanile**

Tuesday, 19 April 2016 in 1hr 56

5184 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Composed by John R Ridley

1 John A Foster

2 Paul J Pascoe

3 Robert DS Brown

4 Charlotte A Boyce

5 Peter L Bill

6 John R Martin

7 Michael EC Mears

8 Lester J Yeo (C)

Remembering Joan Clarke, whose memorial service was today.  
First peal as conductor

*Lester Yeo*

**BUCKFAST ABBEY RINGING**



It is good to see that regular ringing at Buckfast Abbey is becoming normal thanks to a dedicated band which is able to come out on a Monday morning once a month to ring for a special service. At the last session we were surprised and pleased to see that the ringing was mentioned on the flyer that was on every table in the cafeteria – "Come and here (sic) the iconic sound of the Abbey Bells..." – shame about the typo though!

*Ian Campbell*



## MEETH BELLS REMOVED



Some of the pupils from Hatherleigh school with the bells from Meeth in the school playground

Dear Mr Campbell,

I am writing to thank you for coming to our school to lead such an interesting and informative assembly last term. Both staff and pupils were very enthusiastic so I am very sorry that I missed it! They were really appreciative of the fact that you brought in so much to show them and that you were able to make the learning such fun. They particularly enjoyed the demonstration of how the bells work and trying out different types of bell.

We thought you might like to see the photo of the Meeth Church bells in our school playground yesterday on their way to Whitechapel Foundry!

Caroline Boother, Headteacher

Dear Ian,

I am writing to let you know that our bells safely arrived at the foundry on 13th April 2016 and they visited Hatherleigh School on the way, the children were delighted and they obviously remembered a lot of what you taught them.

Jenny Green - Meeth PCC

## BACK ISSUES OF RRD

I have a number of copies of previous issues of RRD which I am happy to give to anyone who wants one or two to make up a full collection. Those available are:

Issue 100: one copy, 99:3, 98:1, 97:2, 96:4, 95:7, 94:10, 93:1,88:3.

Ian Campbell

|              |  |            |
|--------------|--|------------|
| Mon 18 19:30 | Stedman and Doubles Methods, Offwell       | East       |
| Sat 23       | Branch Barbecue, TBC                       | Exeter     |
| Sat 23       | ITTS Module 2 (Teaching Foundation Skills) | Guild      |
| Wed 27 19:30 | Major/Surprise Method Practice, Pinhoe     | North East |
| Sat 30 10:00 | TRC: Raise & Lower in Peal, Huntsham       | North East |

### August

|              |   |            |
|--------------|---|------------|
| Mon 1 19:30  | Triples Practice, Ottery St. Mary                         | East       |
| Wed 3 19:30  | 10 bell advanced practice, Exeter St Mark                 | Exeter     |
| Sat 6 10:00  | 6 Bell Practice, Bickleigh                                | North East |
| Sat 6 15:30  | Joint Practice with Dunster Branch with BBQ, Timberscombe | North East |
| Sat 6 TBA    | Joint Practice with Mid Devon, TBA                        | South West |
| Wed 10 19:30 | Triples Practice, Huntsham                                | North East |
| Thu 11 19:00 | Plain Hunt Practice, Sidbury                              | East       |
| Fri 12 19:30 | Surprise Minor, Buckerell                                 | East       |
| Mon 15 19:30 | Stedman and Doubles Methods, Offwell                      | East       |
| Fri 19 19:30 | Branch Practice, Broadclyst                               | Aylesbeare |
| Sat 20 10:00 | East Devon Surprise Major Practice, Ottery St Mary        | East       |
| Wed 24 19:30 | Major/Surprise Method Practice, Huntsham                  | North East |

### September

|              |   |                  |
|--------------|---|------------------|
| Sat 3        | Annual Outing, Bude area                                    | North/North West |
| Sat 3        | ART Module 2C (Teaching Elementary Change Ringing)          | Guild            |
| Sat 3 10:00  | 6 Bell Practice, Cruwys Morchard                            | North East       |
| Sat 3 TBA    | Autumn Outing, TBA  | South West       |
| Mon 5 19:30  | Triples - Stedman and Grandsire, Ottery St. Mary            | East             |
| Wed 7 19:30  | 10 bell advanced practice, Exeter St Mark                   | Exeter           |
| Wed 7 TBC    | Mid-week Outing, Somerset Area (Mike Hatchett)              | North East       |
| Thu 8 19:30  | Plain Hunt Practice, Sidbury                                | East             |
| Fri 9 19:30  | Surprise Minor Practice, Buckerell                          | East             |
| Tue 13 19:30 | Branch Practice, Clyst Honiton                              | Aylesbeare       |
| Wed 14 10:00 | Reverse Canterbury Doubles above the Treble Group, Huntsham | North East       |
| Wed 14 19:30 | Triples Practice, Huntsham                                  | North            |
| Sat 17 10:00 | East Devon Surprise Major Practice, Ottery St Mary          | North East       |
| Sat 17 10:00 | Calling Simple Touches on 6 and 8, TBA                      | East             |
| Mon 19 19:30 | Plain Hunt Practice, Sidbury                                | Guild            |
| Thu 22 19:30 | Branch practice, Exeter St Thomas                           | East             |
| Wed 28 10:00 | Reverse Canterbury Doubles above the Treble Group, Huntsham | Exeter           |
| Wed 28 19:30 | Major/Surprise Method Practice, Huntsham                    | North East       |
|              |   | North            |

## EDITORIAL

It seems to have been a very busy time for ringing lately, which seems to be reflected in the size of this issue. Many of you were involved in ringing for the Queen's actual 90th birthday on 21st April and then again two days later for St George's day. At Exeter Cathedral we were permitted the unprecedented permission to leave all of the bells up for eight days as we were ringing for services on both Sundays (17th and 24th April) and a practice the Saturday before, as well as the occasions above. And then we were asked to demonstrate ringing to the public on the open day on the 19th (see above). Add to that setting up the Guild mini-ring for the open day, giving the Cathedral School bellringing club an opportunity to ring them on the Thursday, and dismantling them on the Friday I was at the Cathedral almost every day for over a week!

And, just as I am about to go to print, her Majesty seems to be having another excuse for ringing – the official birthday. So I may as well wait a bit longer and include the outcome of the AGM...

Indeed – with holidays and good weather to blame this issue has unfortunately been delayed so you are unlikely to get it before July. I do apologise for any advertisements for functions that have already passed. But at least this has enabled a report and pictures from the Guild AGM. We must give Ali and John our best wishes and help while they find their feet in their new roles. I am sure that they will both do excellently.

## CALENDAR FOR JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2016

| July   |       |   |            |
|--------|-------|---|------------|
| Fri 1  | 10:00 | Developing skills in Kaleidoscope, Huntsham                           | North East |
| Sat 2  | 10:00 | 6 Bell Practice, Halberton  | North      |
| Mon 4  | 19:30 | Triples Practice, Ottery St. Mary                                     | North East |
| Wed 6  | 19:30 | 10 bell advanced practice, Exeter St Mark                             | East       |
| Fri 8  | 19:30 | Surprise Minor, Buckerell   | Exeter     |
| Sat 9  | 09:30 | Surprise Major: Beyond Cambridge and Yorkshire, Broadclyst & DenMisch | East       |
| Sat 9  | 14:00 | Branch Striking Competition, Payhembury                               | Guild      |
| Sun 10 | TBA   | Surprise Major Practice, TBA  | East       |
| Wed 13 | 19:30 | Triples Practice, Huntsham  | South West |
| Thu 14 | 19:30 | Branch Practice, Topsham  | North East |
| Thu 14 | 19:30 | Plain Hunt Practice, Sidbury  | Aylesbeare |
| Fri 15 | 10:00 | Developing skills in Kaleidoscope, Huntsham                           | East       |
| Sat 16 | 10:00 | East Devon Surprise Major Practice, Ottery St Mary                    | North East |
| Sat 16 | 15:00 | Branch Quarterly Meeting, Cruwys Morchard                             | East       |
|        |       |   | North      |



## GOOD FOR HEAVY BELL RINGERS?



Following a pub lunch during a ringing outing this machine was spotted in the Gents which offers wipes which claim to "Boost Your Pulling Power". I suggested to David Hird that it might help when ringing the Cathedral Tenor although I am not quite sure where they should be applied. Only one pound a go!

*Ian Campbell*

## EXCERPTS FROM CHURCH BULLETINS:

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we've a nursery downstairs.

The Ladies' Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.

Evening massage – 6pm.

The Pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.

The audience is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession.

The Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7-8:30pm; please use the back door.

Ushers will eat latecomers.

The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.

The Rev Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.

During the absence of our rector, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J.F.Stubbs supplied our pulpit.

Next Sunday Mrs Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on 'It's a Terrible Experience'.

Due to the Rector's illness, Wednesday's healing services will be discontinued until further notice.

The music for today's service was all composed by George Friedrich Handel in celebration of the 300th anniversary of his birth.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in the church basement on Friday at 7 pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

The concert held in Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister's daughter, who laboured the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her.

Hymn 43: 'Great God, what do I see here?'  
Preacher: The Rev Horace Blodgett. Hymn 47: 'Hark! an awful voice is sounding'

The organist invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.

Please join us as we show our support for Amy and Alan in preparing for the girth of their first child.

*Ian Campbell*

## "The Tower Captain is always Right"?



## MUSICAL HANDBELL RESTORATION

Specialist repairs by Geoffrey C. Hill

Free written quotations

New Court Farm, Lamerton, Tavistock,  
Devon PL19 8RR  
Telephone 01822 614319

E-mail: [newcourtfarm1@btinternet.com](mailto:newcourtfarm1@btinternet.com)

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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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](mailto:newsletter@devonringers.org.uk)