

Ringings Round Devon



THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

Newsletter 101 , March 2016

GUILD COMMITTEE MEETING



Our esteemed leaders: Clare, Lester and Sue

The Guild General Committee meets twice a year - in January and then at the time of the Guild's AGM in the summer. The meeting held on 16th January was well attended by representatives from all Branches of the Guild and again chaired by Lester Yeo. It was noted that this was Lester's final meeting as President since after ten years in this role, he had indicated his intention to step down at the AGM. This will be a point of major change in the Guild officers, as Clare Griffiths will also be stepping down as Guild Secretary.

Points from the meeting: The Guild accounts remain in a healthy position, although slightly down on last year, mainly because of a donation of £1000 to help with the installation of the Denmisch simulator. The Treasurer also pointed out that tower fees and subscriptions were slightly down. It was recommended and agreed that subscriptions would remain the same as last year.

There were 542 quarter peals rung by the Guild. 82 were rung by Devon bands outside

the county and 58 on handbells, both down on the previous year. There were 212 peals scored in 2015, bringing the total rung by the Guild to 6,437. Fourteen Guild members rang their first peal during the year.

Future format for the Guild Annual report: should some of this be electronic rather than paper-based? Some heated discussion started to materialise, revolving around the cost of printing and whether it would be better being published online only. Most of the debate revolved around reference information such as tower contacts, which can be more easily kept up to date on the web, and historical information, such as quarter and peal records which needs hard copy to be filed in the guild library. No real conclusion was reached, so this will be discussed further at the AGM in June. The issue of cost of *Ringings Round Devon* was brought up. Whilst the majority are circulated to members through their branches and towers, which keeps costs down, the postal charges incurred in sending issues out to some of those who take out individual subscriptions continues to increase. It was therefore agreed that a proposal would be put forward at the AGM to include a small surcharge to the individual subscription fee to help towards postage, which is effectively being subsidised at the moment.

Proposals for new vice-presidents: Lester Yeo, Clare Stagg and Ian Smith.

A brief report was given on the Denmisch simulator in its new home at Exeter Cathedral School. A committee is to be set up to oversee its maintenance and use.

The issue of recruitment was raised, with Tim Bayton reporting there was a problem not so much with recruitment of new ringers, but that of retaining them. The Guild is currently working with the Association looking at a countywide recruitment drive. Tim also touched on the idea of moving initial bell handling training away from towers, where success depends on there being someone keen, willing and able to teach a learner. He also raised the point of having focused and structured teaching for the learners to stop them getting bored waiting for their turn and making slow progress due to the lack of ringing time on practice night.

Tower handbook: updates will be provided to the A4 ring binder distributed to every affiliated tower. Material in the handbook will be available for downloading.

Plans for 2016 Guild Festival on Saturday 18th June: hosted by South West Branch, and focusing on St Andrew's Minster, Plymouth. This is to include local ringing in the morning, the AGM at 2pm, followed by a service at 4.30pm.

Special ringing for 2016: 21st April (HM Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday); 11th June (Queen's Official Birthday); Heritage Open Days, held nationwide on the second weekend in September.

Guild striking competitions on Saturday 15th October: hosted by Exeter Branch, with the 8-bell competition at Exeter St Mark on the back 8 bells (Little Bob Major or Yorkshire S Major), 6-bell competition at Stoke Canon; novice competition at Exeter St Mark on the front 6 bells.

The Guild quarter peal fortnight, funds from which go to Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund, will be known in future as Guild Quarter Peal Festival. The dates for 2016 are Friday 21st October to Sunday 6th November.

Compiled from reports from Harry Andrews and Janet Ritterman

DEVON RINGERS' CAROL SERVICE AT EXETER CATHEDRAL

This is definitely one of the highlights in our Devon ringing calendar and it certainly did not disappoint this year. The afternoon started with open ringing at St Petrock's whilst the Cathedral ringers produced some fine ringing on their bells as the congregation gathered. The service was held in the Choir area of the Cathedral which provided an intimate feel to the service. As usual, Ian Avery had gathered together a choir which mainly consisted of ringers. Once again they provided some very high quality 'solo' singing as well as leading the congregation in traditional carols. We again proved that ringers can also sing and we tried hard to shake the dust off the rafters with some lusty singing. We were also entertained by some superb handbell ringing. Firstly, the Cathedral ringers rang three leads of Kent Treble Bob Royal and later the Lamerton Ringers demonstrated the 'Queens Peal on eight' by 'lapping' the bells. Just in case you have not come across this before, lapping means the ringers always ringing in rounds order but pass the bells from one to another to produce the changes. Both teams showed great skill particularly considering the very knowledgeable audience. Despite initial problems with the microphone the five lessons came over loud and clear and at the end of the service we were given a wonderful demonstration of the capabilities of the recently restored organ. Following the service there was open ringing on the Cathedral bells: altogether the afternoon made a superb prelude to the Christmas festivities.

Martin Mansley

RINGING FOR ST GEORGE'S DAY – APRIL 23RD



A letter from Libby Alexander

Another year and this year being a Saturday it would be excellent if more towers would ring out making a wonderful sound and encourage others to take up the skill. It is not only St. George's Day but also the 400th Anniversary of William Shakespeare - a double reason to celebrate. Hopefully you will all gain more publicity now that the Churches Conservation Trust and English Heritage are coming on board and they will give you extra publicity and all their support. They will also encourage their followers to have a go at ringing in as many of their properties as possible which will hopefully in turn bring newcomers to your bands.

In the Campaign's web site: www.ringingforengland.co.uk you will now find in the top blue menu two new additions. One is titled Ringers and the other Achievements. Please do take a look and if there is anything you wish to add, or comment on please do let me know. This whole project is about you, the ringers, so it is important for me to hear what you wish to say. Also letting me know that you are going to ring will all help in promoting you in the media.

May I wish you all Good Luck and look forward to hearing from you.

A Second Letter

I am contacting you because I wonder if I could put to you a proposition. In the past I have suggested to all the Branches/Guilds that perhaps, since the act of ringing is special on April 23rd, a tower within each city could be dedicated to being 'open' to the public for them to try their hand at ringing. I am always being told there are not enough ringers or they are worried about the future and I thought this was the perfect solution. In the past, whenever it has been done, the response has been excellent and local media have loved it. By having an open day on St. George's Day would unite the idea of being part of a national event, being part of a community activity, being a celebration of our special churches and, most important, being exposed to the skills of bell ringing. It would also make the public feel

more at ease in approaching a church, which they might not otherwise do if they felt others across the country were doing the same.

Your city of Exeter has several lovely churches and with everyone out and about on a Saturday it must surely be an excellent draw. The first one this year to come forward is in Somerset and the response from social media has been terrific even though it is only in a village. I feel sure being in a city would definitely be a positive move for your Guild. I would love to hear your views on this and look forward to hearing from you. I have just heard that the Churches Conservation Trust and English Heritage have now been joined by The Landmark Trust who also want to be involved. My best regards, Libby

Libby Alexander, Ringing for England Campaign

FROM THE CENTRAL COUNCIL Central Council 125 / Sir Arthur Heywood 100

It has many critics but ringing would be in a very different situation without it. The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers was formed 125 years ago this year mainly by the untiring efforts of Sir Arthur Heywood who became its first president. Sir Arthur died 100 years ago this year so the Council is keen to mark these joint anniversaries with special ringing.

Sir Arthur Heywood was very much a man of his time with an estate at Duffield Bank near Derby. His main passions were engineering and bell ringing. Living near the headquarters of the Midland Railway it was not surprising that his engineering interest should be channelled towards railways and he was keen to promote narrow gauge railways for estate use. He built an exhibition railway in his garden, where he had extensive workshops. Like other landed gentlemen who were interested in ringing, he tended to employ ringers to assist in his workshop and estate. Troyte at Huntsham was another. Sir Arthur had ten bells hung in his local church in Duffield, made the bearings himself, and then taught a band to ring them.

125 years ago ringing had several factions who had different agendas, particularly the Yorkshire six bell bands who were extremely competent but whose peals did not comply to the rules which the fledgling Central Council was proposing. Sir Arthur used terrific powers of diplomacy to bring all these people together and the Council, with all its achievements and foibles, is his lasting legacy. In the world of railways he is commemorated on the Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway in Cumbria and the Perrygrove Railway in Gloucestershire, among others.

The Central Council would like commemorative ringing over the weekend of 23rd and 24th April. 23rd April is, of course – (see above!)

90th Birthday of HM the Queen plan your ringing on 12 June 2016

Ringers will know that Her Majesty will be 90 on Thursday 21st April 2016. There will doubtless be much ringing that day. Buckingham Palace has announced that the main celebrations will be held over the weekend of 10th to 12th June, to coincide with her annual official birthday.

On Friday 10th June there will be a special service at St Paul's Cathedral. On Saturday 11th June there will be the Trooping the Colour ceremony and on Sunday 12th June there is to be 'the Patron's Lunch' along The Mall, celebrating Her Majesty's patronage of over six hundred organisations in the UK and around the Commonwealth since 1952. It is hoped that there will also be many other street parties in the UK and elsewhere at the same time.

Ringing is likely to be very appropriate at almost any time everywhere over that weekend, especially if it fits in with any local celebrations planned. However Buckingham Palace has agreed that special ringing should take place at lunchtime on the Sunday, to coincide with the 'Patron's Lunch' particularly as this would be an unusual time for ringing in many towers. Ringers are therefore encouraged to arrange special ringing at some point between 12 noon and 2 pm that day and to let local media and residents know why they are ringing. The PR Committee will also be working to raise media awareness nationally.

Martin Mansley

JOAN ANN CLARKE, NEE HAYWARD
(5TH JUNE 1947 TO 13TH FEBRUARY 2016)



Joan was born in Eastchurch on the Isle of Sheppey, Kent, into a large old Island family. Her mother was, however, Devonian, having met her father at the beginning of WW2. Joan's father was captain of the ringers and taught her to ring at Eastchurch when she was eleven. Soon after, a good little band developed, and after Joan went out to work, she was travelling around Sheppey and farther afield on the buses and trains, to attend practices and meetings, and ring quarter-peals and peals. During this time she enjoyed encouragement from the young band and in particular Peter Wilkinson, whose father was Rector of Eastchurch during that time.

Joan took up handbell ringing and, with the young local band, scored several six-bell quarters and a peal or two. This brought her to regular practices and peal attempts with some wonderful senior handbell ringers from the Gravesend area, and into contact with the Cumberlands. They met weekly at Ted Beer's house in Shorne. The pinnacle of her achievements was a peal of Bob Royal. She subsequently became Ringing Master of the Rochester District of the Kent County Association.

However, and this is where I come in, Joan aged 19, came to Devon for a holiday with her aunt in Exmouth. The place to get a good practice in those days was Withycombe Raleigh on a Friday night, under the captaincy of Frank Mack. That was about the same time when I was starting to find my feet (a late starter compared to Joan), and on my first visit to Withycombe in Joan's presence, I accepted an invitation to join them on an outing to Somerset on the following day. So did Joan.

The story from then would be long and tedious to most of you and so I will just relate that we paired up at the first tower, and never looked back. After some months of correspondence, Joan decided to move to Devon to live with her aunt. She joined the bands at Littleham (where her mother's family lived), and Withycombe. Three years later, we married at Withycombe and bought a little Wimpey house in the parish. During that time we enjoyed many an outing, Sunday evening quarter-peal and the occasional peal. Joan

didn't record her peals and quarters but I believe that she rang about thirty peals for the Kent County Association, before she 'emigrated'. She then rang about twenty for the Guild of Devonshire Ringers. The Withycombe band was rather far sighted for those days and we participated in both Guild and Association events. The pinnacle of our achievements at call-change ringing was a second place in the Tawstock Shield at Bideford. We thought that we were robbed of the shield because the fire siren went off half way through the winners' (Chittlehampton's) peal, drowning out the ringing for a period; but in truth, we were quite pleased with the result.

During our engagement, and with the encouragement of Frank Mack and Brian Coles, Joan and I started to attend practices with, and eventually joined, the Cathedral band. We remained members until we moved 'up north', and remember in particular Christmas Day mornings when we always seemed to ring at our best. Because there was insufficient time for worship between all of the ringing throughout the rest of the day, we used to attend 8am Said Eucharist in the Quire at the Cathedral. It made a special beginning to our Christmases.

Soon after arriving in Devon, Joan got a job at Lloyds Bank in Budleigh Salterton, a job that she had always wanted. She was to work for them in Salterton, Bideford and Barnstaple for the rest of her working life, retiring in 2002.

In 1977, we moved to North Devon to live, when I got a job at the then new North Devon District Hospital. Our first home was in the parish of Pilton, on the edge of Barnstaple. At that time they had a good strong band there and so we looked around for a tower that needed our support. Barnstaple bells were very difficult to ring and did not have much of a band, but at Marwood, we joined the band and congregation. When the band there gradually diminished, we joined the new St Peter's, Barnstaple band and rang on the newly rehung bells.

In 1986 we moved to the parish of Alwington, just west of Bideford, and have been there ever since. After taking some time to settle in, Joan and I started to ring with the Littleham and Alwington bands, and made up a strong enough band to restart their competition tradition. Joan became our regular treble ringer and we gradually made progress until eventually we became regular participants in the Devon Major Six-Bell Final. On the way we twice won the Minor Final and many local competitions.

We remember many of the ringers with whom we shared our love of ringing, our bells, our Cathedral and our churches, who have now gone on to higher service. I would like to mention them all but that would take up too much space, and it would not be entertaining for readers, but the Lord knows who they are. There seem to be so few of them left now.

On retirement, Joan started to acquire 'jobs' to keep her out of mischief. She did this slowly and sensibly at first, but they seemed to come thick and fast after that. Before her recent illness she was: Competition Secretary (north) for the Devon Association of Ringers; Ringing Master of the North and North West branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers; Treasurer for Hartland Deanery Ringers; Secretary and Treasurer of our busy village hall; Secretary and Treasurer of Alwington Horticultural Show; and probably a few more that I have forgotten about. Along the way, she had been Secretary and Treasurer of the Bideford Small-bore Rifle Club. She had started to reduce this workload so that we could have bit more time together, but unfortunately the turn of events overtook her and she had to hand over all of these jobs in some haste due to the diagnosis of an inoperable brain tumour in July 2015. Due to Joan's hard work and thoroughness, this was accomplished quite quickly but she was still remembering details to pass on and making suggestions, some weeks and months later.

And so ends a long and faithful service as a ringer and as a person who joined in and did things. Those of you who knew Joan will have your own memories of her and I hope that you find them comforting. She was a one-off, a truly remarkable lady and my best friend for nearly fifty years, and wife for over forty-five.

James Clarke

DENMISCH

The Denmisch simulators at Exeter Cathedral School now have their own web page on the GDR website. The school pupils practise during term time on a Thursday between 4 and 5 pm. They are getting to the stage where one or two more competent ringers would help to stabilise the ringing and provide assistance. If anyone is in Exeter at this time please feel free to join us, although you may not be expecting the rather unusual type of ringing practice produced by six or seven boisterous youngsters. It is probably best to contact me in advance so that I can explain access arrangements and make sure that it is not half term or a concert which might cause ringing to be cancelled. The simulators are also available for your own function – how about ringing here in Holy Week?

Ian Campbell

EAST DEVON BRANCH

Branch AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the East Devon Branch was held at Ottery St Mary on Saturday 13th February. This followed immediately after a wedding in the church, when local ringers saw the bride and groom on their way with the traditional ringing of bells. There followed an hour and a half of open ringing, on both tower and hand bells, to suit all abilities, before the Ringers' Service taken by the Rev Steve Weston, with the lesson read by Ottery St Mary ringer Mike Pash. This was followed by a splendid tea before the formal business of the day.

We were honoured by the presence of Lester Yeo, president of the Guild. Members paid silent tribute to those who had died during the past year.

The officers were all re-elected, Laurie Palmer as Chairman, Brenda Coley as General Secretary, Jeanne Mills as Treasurer and Derek Ballard as Ringing Master.

The chairman congratulated Lin Horrocks, Lisa Clarke and Richard Coley on ringing a first peal during the year. Richard (at age 79) was reported as being the oldest person in the world to ring a first peal in 2015. There really is no age limit when it comes to ringing.

Central Council of Church Bell Ringers' first quarter peal certificates were presented to Gordon Bird and Mike Pash (both Ottery St Mary), Lawrence Wayne (Buckerell) and Ruth Hitchcock (Combe Raleigh). Ruth rang her first quarter peal to celebrate her and Trevor's Golden Wedding Anniversary.

When discussing the accounts, it was resolved by the meeting that £250 be donated towards the Combe Raleigh Bell Project from branch funds.

A suggestion had been received that the branch should endeavour to ring for twelve hours on Saturday April 23rd, St George's Day, both to celebrate England's patron saint and also the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. Anne Bailey, a former GDR Ringing Master, was volunteered to co-ordinate the event. The intention is that all the bells in all twenty-one towers in the branch should be rung for about thirty minutes each in a rolling ring, so that as one tower finishes the next starts.

Trevor Hitchcock

THESE SPORTING TIMES

Snowdrop Tea at Combe Raleigh

Is ringing a sport? I'm not sure of the answer to that question, but it appears we do have to compete against other sports, in particular the six nations international rugby. That is, if the experience of the Combe Raleigh Ringers annual Snowdrop Tea is any guide.

This year was the fourth year we have held this event in aid of the St Nicholas bell restoration and augmentation fund. We hang the whole event on the splendid display of snowdrops growing in the churchyard and, in recognition of this, share the profits with the church. This has had additional benefits in that church members who were once ambivalent about the bells have become staunch supporters of our project.



As for the last two years, the weather in the days leading up to the event resembled the start of Noah's flood, yet come the day the skies cleared and the sun came out, the one snag being the bitterly cold wind. No doubt that had an effect on numbers attending, with not as many people taking a walk from Honiton out to Combe Raleigh as in previous years. We also noted that a lot of male supporters were missing and on asking if they were alright were told, 'oh, he's at home watching the rugby'. Possibly, also, the more romantic were getting over their Valentine's Day lunch. The overall effect was to reduce the numbers to about three quarters of the attendance we had last year. In addition to providing tea/coffee and famously large pieces of cake, naturally at a charge, we also sell snowdrops in the green, either loose or potted. In a year when two of the biggest garden centres in our area said that they had not been able to get a supply of snowdrops we happily sold 1,000 singles and 700 doubles, none of which came from the churchyard. So far, over the four years, we have sold over 7,000 snowdrops, all helping to boost the bell fund.

Our treasurer, with sums yet to be finalised, has indicated a profit of close to £400: a very satisfactory result. So maybe the Combe Raleigh Ringers' Snowdrop Tea isn't a sport, but it very definitely is a winner. This latest event pushes our funds raised to date past £57,000. Our thanks go to all who have contributed in any way and helped to achieve this.

Trevor Hitchcock

SPRING CONCERT TO RAISE FUNDS FOR COMBE RALEIGH BELLS

The clock is being turned back a couple of centuries in Combe Raleigh. St Nicholas Church is hosting an afternoon concert of 'West Gallery' music by Beaminster Gallery Quire, who specialise in the lively village church music of former times.

Beaminster Gallery Quire is part of the modern revival of West Gallery music, as heard some 200 years ago from the galleries of country churches. Sung and played by village folk using whatever instruments were to hand, it was necessarily 'homespun'; yet today it remains strong and vibrant with wonderful tunes and harmonies.

This is the music so beloved of Thomas Hardy, whose father and grandfather were both gallery musicians at Stinsford in the early 19th century. Anthems, metrical psalms, hymns (many still in use today) have been found in West Country manuscripts and, together with some dance tunes, form an entertaining and 'not-too-serious' afternoon of music with some opportunity for audience participation,

The Spring Concert on Sunday 10th April at 3pm in St Nicholas Church, Combe Raleigh is in aid of the St Nicholas Bell Restoration and Augmentation Fund. Tickets are £7.50 (including refreshments) from Lisa Clarke (Tower Captain), Telephone: 01404 43929

MYSTERY HANDBELLS



I bought this set of eight diatonic handbells (tenor 18G) from an antique shop in Honiton a few months ago, and the owner said that he had bought them at an auction house in Exeter about 18 months ago. I have spoken to the auctioneer to try and trace where they came from, but have had no reply from them, so no luck there. I have been told that they are a Warner's set probably made between 1880 and 1890. New leather straps etc had been fitted by Taylors, but these now need replacing together with all new fittings as well. It appears that these bells have been used a lot as some straps have split and one has a very thin strap fitted. I would like to find a bit about their history as they have clearly been well used by someone keen on handbell ringing and it seems likely that it was somebody living local to Exeter, within about a twenty mile radius I would guess. I am hoping that some of your readers might be able to help me with a bit of their history. Please contact the editor if you are able to help. Thank you

Rod Ellway, Honiton

EXETER BRANCH

NEWS FROM EXETER CATHEDRAL

The Big LEGO Build

As part of a fundraising scheme Exeter Cathedral has commissioned a scale model of the Cathedral made out of LEGO bricks. The final model, made up of 300,000 LEGO bricks, will be an impressive 3.6m long, 2m wide and 1m high. The base of it is portable and is mostly in the west end of the Cathedral. Building has started – so far a small part of the west front has been completed – it is still crawling with LEGO builders! If you want to see it do call in – despite the warnings about admission charges you can visit the model without going past the till. And if you wish to buy a brick or two (at £1 a time) you can place them on the model yourself (with guidance).



A long way to go yet. I like the armed guard on the roof!

If you know anyone who likes LEGO (over 14 but no upper age limit!) there is a (much smaller) limited edition 'Collector Model' of the Cathedral which can be bought in the shop (£40 unless you can get a staff discount – try to find a friendly member of the Cathedral band). Tell them at the till that you are visiting the shop to avoid admission charges. Incidentally the shop is also selling 'pick and mix' LEGO figures – for a few pounds you can choose a head with the required expression, hair, body, legs, implement to hold, etc which might appeal to younger people – or grandparents!



The limited edition smaller model that I have bought for – erm – me

Chiming Peter at the Cathedral

I had a call from Diane Walker to say that her husband had recently died. Malcolm was heavily involved in the life of the Cathedral and was a tour guide who had often visited the ringing chamber and explained the working of the bells to visitors. After some discussion it was agreed that we would muster a band to ring Grandsire Caters (on the light ten) after the service, and that I would chime the Peter Bell (about four tons, in the North tower) once a minute for 30 minutes before the service. Apparently Malcolm had ascertained that the bell resonated for a minute after the clock struck.

I had never tried the Peter bell before. It is fixed dead right at the top of the tower and is chimed with a 'drop' hammer – pulling on the rope downstairs in the north transept lifts the hammer and the bell strikes when it is released. The hammer was a lot heavier than I



Photo courtesy of Tim King

expected but I set up a chair and a stop watch to do my duty. I could just hear the bell ring way above me but when the organ started I had no idea if it was chiming or not. I increased the pull on the rope in an attempt to increase the volume when released – and then on one pull I overdid it – the hammer rested back on its stop and refused to drop when released. I could only see one course of action: I ran all the way up the stairs to the top of the north tower, clambering over and round the notices warning of no unauthorised access. Before even catching my breath I reset the hammer with a dong, and then realised that to keep up with the schedule I had precisely one minute to get back to the bottom of the tower for the next dong. My throat was sore for the rest of the day from so much panting.

But this was not the end of our problems. I asked the staff on the door if they could ring the phone up the tower when we were to start ringing: Diane was insistent that we should start at the moment the coffin passed through the west doors. When the service was over I chased up the stairs (this time the south tower) and we caught hold, awaiting the phone call. It never came. Eventually a rather out of breath floor manager appeared at the top of the stairs down into the ringing chamber panting that we should start NOW. Apparently the phone up the tower had failed and the poor lady on the door had only been able to leave a message on the answer phone! Anyway we rang a really good quarter peal of Grandsire Caters which apparently started at exactly the right moment so it was all worth while in the event.

Annual General Meeting

The Cathedral ringers' AGM was held on January 25th, presided over by the Dean. All officers were re-elected, thus keeping Matthew Hilling as the master, helped by Paul Pascoe, with Ian Campbell as secretary and Pauline Champion in charge of the money. David Hird and Andrew Digby continue as steeple keepers.

The Dean explained that the recent emphasis on Health and Safety, and Safeguarding were being driven by an inspection and audit that were due shortly. He outlined the financial difficulties that were foreseen over the coming years and how they were addressing them (see, for example, the note on LEGO above).

The national 12-bell competition is booked for Exeter Cathedral on June 22nd 2019. Book this date NOW – if you have a diary that goes that far forward.

Ian Campbell

RADIO DEVON LIVE FROM HEAVITREE CHURCH

A few Technical Problems

As always with the media, the request for an interview about whether bellringing counts as a sport came at very short notice, with a flurry of emails and mobile phone numbers on the Thursday morning (18th Feb). I was deluged by the Cathedral (which I chose to ignore as had just got back from ringing a peal in the morning and was shortly due to get a meeting at the Cathedral about fire safety!) but then the phone rang with the BBC wanting to arrange something with Heavitree – they thought that would make a change from the Cathedral and then finished up with me anyway!

They wanted some background ringing and sounds of going upstairs, so it was agreed that they could come to the Heavitree practice that night. In the event they cried off at short notice, preferring to send a reporter to Ugborough (I suppose that Radio Devon does work out from Plymouth) where they managed to get a poor recording of what sounded to me like 3,4 and 7,8 of their eight bells. A video was available on their web site which hardly made ringing look very sport-like.

So then they asked me to be at Heavitree church at eight o'clock the following morning for a live interview. This was originally going to go out on air at 0815 which I thought was cutting it a bit fine so I scraped the ice off the car and sat in the freezing cold under the tower for fifteen minutes waiting for them to arrive. On the dot of eight the little, highly decorated BBC van came up the drive. The plan was to use the satellite dish on the van to connect to the studio and a wireless link between the ringing chamber and the van. They particularly wanted

to record the presenter attempting to ring a bell and finding it hard work – I thought I would let him try to get a note from the tenor (26cwt) which had been let down after the practice the previous evening.

I used to have a cutting on my notice board at work: 'Never let anything mechanical know when you are in a hurry'. The automatic satellite finder on the van is far from quick as it scanned 360°, changed its elevation angle slightly, then scanned back again – half a dozen times. After what seemed like hours the conclusion was that the trees were shielding the satellite signal so the dish was packed away and the van was relocated the other side of the church at the top of Kingsway, in the parking space reserved for the Vet.

The clock was still ticking as we restarted the satellite scan, only to be rewarded quickly by success. The next stage was to start up the computer controlled equipment in the back of the van which apparently had to download a series of IP addresses which would enable contact all over the country – even directly to Radio 4 if that was necessary! In the event this was very fast – worryingly fast according to the presenter who phoned into the studio but still could not make a satellite connection. 'Never mind – we can just reboot the computer' (which only takes about five minutes!), 'Oh, and by the way, we are not on now until 0825'. I didn't dare look at my watch. The first reboot seemed to hang, so after several minutes it was restarted. Success...but then the satellite signal was lost. 'I don't think that we have time to setup the wireless link to the tower' – I didn't mention walking round the church and climbing the tower – 'and the satellite link isn't working so we will have to do the interview here'. So I found myself talking into a mobile phone live on the radio, trying to answer the awkward questions that were asked, in the freezing cold, only able to listen to one side of the conversation, with cars, people and the dustcart going past. If you heard the broadcast you will know that we got everything ready with no more than five seconds to spare, and that even then the mobile signal was lost when the dustcart passed.

Still, they say that all publicity is good publicity. I went home for a hot coffee and some breakfast!

PS: The broadcast will be available on BBC iPlayer for a month if you want to hear it.

Ian Campbell

HANDBELL DAY IN EXETER



*Back row: Peter Felton, Ian Campbell, Lynne Hughes, Andrew Digby
Front row: Margaret Chapman, Tim Bayton, Sue Sawyer*

Tim's handbell quarter peal day is becoming a regular fixture. We met at his house on 2nd January with an ambitious program to ring eight quarter peals in the day, ranging from spliced Maximus and Surprise Royal, to simultaneous six-bell quarters (in different rooms!). In the event four were scored, of Kent Royal, Little Bob Royal, Grandsire Triples and Plain Bob Minor. Thanks go to Tim for arranging it and providing the bells and the hospitality.

Ian Campbell

MID-DEVON BRANCH

BRANCH AGM COFFINSWELL

On a cold winter's afternoon the welcome at Coffinswell could not have been warmer. Ringing was wide ranging and included call changes, Plain Bob and Surprise Minor. This included a course of Norwich Surprise which is quite a popular 'social ringing' method. It was good to have our Guild ringing master (Geoff Hill) with us for the afternoon and to hear from him that ours was one of the better attended meetings he had visited.

The service was led by John Leonard in his inimitable style and included the poem *High Tide on the Coast of Lincolnshire* by Jean Ingelow. John used this to illustrate the various ways that bells are used in our lives. There was rousing singing particularly with the ringers' hymn. For many the highlight came next with the superb tea laid on by the Kingskerswell/Coffinswell ringers. At the start of the meeting there was a resounding vote of thanks for this marvellous spread.

Rodney Horder led us efficiently through the business. This included the election of six new members and a new affiliated tower – Berry Pomeroy. We were reminded that two people were not standing for re-election – our secretary, John Martin and librarian Sharon. Both were cordially thanked for their hard work for the branch. In their places Catherine Saunders was elected as secretary and Wena Mansley and Jeanette Thompson were elected as joint librarians.

It was agreed that an interim programme be set up and that a meeting of tower captains held to try to ensure that an eventual full programme would support the members as fully as possible. Next year's AGM would be at St Marychurch.

Martin Mansley

EXCERPTS FROM MID-DEVON TOWER TALK 50 years ago

When John Martin handed over as secretary he passed on a large box containing much material relating to the past 50 or 60 years of the branch's history. These are mainly minute books and it is proposed that the majority of them be placed in the Branch library. We have decided to dip into these archives from time to time to see what was happening in the branch 50 years ago.

In 1966 the AGM was held in January in Dartmouth. General ringing was held at St Petrox and St Saviour's. A number of Doubles methods and Plain Bob Minor was rung at St Petrox and Stedman Triples and Bob Major was rung at St Saviour's, where over 50 ringers were present for the service. The tea and meeting was held in a local restaurant (name unspecified).

At the meeting reports were given by the Treasurer – a loss of £2 3s 4d, and the Secretary – increased membership but not enough youngsters (*no change there, then!*), 3 peals and 14 quarter peals rung during the year. The Ringing Master did not give a report as he agreed with all that the Secretary had said!

The officers appointed were

Secretary/ Treasurer: Brian Shingler

Chairman: Mary Russell

Ringing Master: Bill Simmonds

Committee Reps: Messrs Bartlett, Goss and Fursdon.

Several ringers who are happily still ringing in the area were mentioned including Don Roberts, Keith Fursdon (St Marychurch) Martin Dodd (Teignmouth) and John Good – now Rev. (Stokeinteignhead).

St Marychurch Christmas Party

For several years it has been a tradition to cancel the practice before Christmas and meet for a convivial evening of socialising and entertainment. Under this heading we include plenty to eat, a little(!) to drink and some games. The games this year were a variety of light hearted quizzes including picture quizzes ('where in the world' and 'name the brand') and ending with a James Bond quiz convincingly won by Chris Tompsett and his team. This was a great way to celebrate all the hard work carried out during the year.

Forty-one Minor Method Peal

Congratulations to Mike Tompsett and Martin Mansley who rang in a peal of Spliced Surprise Minor consisting of 41 different methods at Thorverton on 14th December. This was the third in a series – there were two previous 'practice' peals of 21 and 32 methods and they were all conducted by Mike Mears.

Thorverton, Devon, St Thomas of Canterbury

Monday, 14 December 2015

5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (41m)

(1-3) Carlisle, Wooler, Whitley, Newcastle, Chester, Northumberland, Morpeth, Sandiacre, Canterbury, Munden, Alnwick, London, Kelso, Lincoln, Coldstream, Cunecastre, Wells

(4-7) Ipswich, Bourne, Cambridge, York, Durham, Hull, Primrose, Norfolk, Beverley, Berwick, Hexham, Surfleet, Norwich, Netherseale, Westminster, Allendale, Warkworth, Wearmouth, Lightfoot, Bamborough, Annable's London, Rossendale, Stamford, Bacup

Composed by J S Warboys

1 Jill M Hansford

2 Pauline Champion

3 Susan D Sparling

4 Michael H Tompsett

5 Martin G Mansley

6 Michael E C Mears (C)

First of 41 Surprise Minor: 4,5.

Help!!

We have had a request for help from Liz Smyth-Osborne of Abbotskerswell:

Our seven-man band has been reduced to four by illness and hospitalisation and we won't be back to full strength until May. If there is anyone who could adopt Abbotskerswell as their home tower for a few months we would be extremely grateful. We practise from 7-8pm on Wednesdays. Sundays it is 9.30am (gather at 9.25am) until 10am.

As you can tell – if you are free at all and can help, you will get a very warm welcome.

Martin Mansley

MEET THE BRANCH DAY

For some time, our branch has been concerned that attendance has been dropping at branch events. It was decided to try a 'Meet the Branch Day' as a way of meeting ringers and as a 'shop window' of branch activities.



Walking Plain Hunt at Berry Pomeroy

The day started at Berry Pomeroy where Chairman Rodney Horder welcomed everyone and introduced the branch officers. Martin Mansley (Ringing Master) then gave a brief introduction to method ringing using first 'lapping' on handbells and then getting some of the participants to 'walk' the changes. Finally, there was a demonstration of Bob minor rung more traditionally on the handbells. Then it was up in the tower where Mike Tompsett led the first session of ringing which was mainly rounds and call changes to allow the less experienced a chance to ring 'away from home'.



Handbells at Berry Pomeroy

Next stop was Wolborough where Janet Ritterman and Sharon Lawrence had the kettle on and hot drinks waiting for us. Over the refreshments Janet spoke about the wealth of material in the branch library and pointed out a few books and DVDs that might interest less experienced ringers. In the tower Tim King and Janet demonstrated 'Abel' set up on the simulator with 'virtual' ringers projected on a screen. It was then time to practice more ringing on the open bells. Along with lots of rounds and call changes there was a demonstration touch of Stedman Triples and some Plain Hunt on eight.

Orders had been sent to the Church House Inn at Stokeineighhead who had a superb lunch waiting for us. This was an opportunity to relax and get to know each other better with much networking taking place. Once in the tower, the six bells were soon in action again. A short break was taken and Martin Mansley demonstrated and discussed a few common bell handling faults. The day ended with a summing up from Rodney Horder and a vote of thanks from Hilary Tompsett. It was a real pleasure to meet some new faces from Brixham, Berry Pomeroy, Stokeinteighhead and Kingskerswell. We hope to see them again very soon.

Martin Mansley

NORTH EAST BRANCH

BRANCH RINGING TEACHERS' SUPPORT GROUP

In my role as Education Officer of the Branch I have become aware that experiences for new recruits can be many and varied. There has been a great deal of publicity recently about the need to recruit more ringers, poor retention of new recruits, the demise of the 'Leaders of Bellringing' etc, etc. If we are to turn around this trend it is essential that we make the learner's experience as good as possible. With my background in teaching I see that part of the solution to this problem can be addressed through a Ringing Teachers' support group.

An invitation was sent to members of the Branch inviting anyone who had experience in teaching bell handling past or present and anyone who wished to help or become involved in teaching in the near future. This first meeting was to give an opportunity to share

experiences and knowledge and begin to resolve some of the issues we face in teaching new recruits.

We held the first meeting on Saturday 23rd January in Bampton church. The response was overwhelming with 19 interested members (four unable to join us on the day). We were also pleased to have Tim Bayton attend in his role as Guild Education Officer and willing to take notes from the discussion.

Topics discussed before coffee included:

Recruitment (ideas & successes)

Paperwork needed before starting (risk assessment, health and safety, insurance, young ringers: DBS, parental consent)

How to begin teaching (teachers and helpers, demonstration and explanation, tied/silent bell, frequency of lessons, bell up/down, planning and review of lessons, observation/assessment of progress, theory ahead of practical)

Joining the band (when to move from one-to-one sessions, running practices with learners, keeping learners' interest)

After refreshment we went into the ringing chamber and began demonstrating some techniques using the practice bell and simulator. Discussion continued about meeting the needs of individual learners and tailoring the lessons to suit teacher and learner. Use of *Learning the Ropes* (Association of Ringing Teachers) was put forward as a suitable scheme and since the meeting a further four members of the NE Branch have attended a Module 1 course to become teachers of bell handling.

The next Ringing Teachers' support session will take place on Sunday 20th March to continue with further demonstrations on how to teach individual parts of handling before joining the whole process together.

Notes from the first meeting were circulated to all those who had expressed an interest in joining the group and can be forwarded on request. Any branch wishing to do something similar can contact either Tim or Sheila for further information.

Sheila Scofield, NE Education Officer

WEDDING

It was one of George Broadworthy's proud boasts that, apart from the first Saturday in July, wedding bells could be rung, if requested, on any day at St Swarfega's, so, when Rachel Johnson and Jack Fletcher decided to exchange their unofficial granny knot for a thoroughly legal reef knot by getting married, the Rev Ken informed George of the date and time straight away.

'Half past two. Saturday 3rd of May. That be OK?'

'No problem, Vicar. We'll be there.'

But George's confidence was, for once, misplaced. He had not realised that Saturday 3rd May was the day of the Cup Final. Not the Wembley Cup Final but a far more important occasion. On that day Little Odford Wanderers would be playing Lowcliff Bay United in the final of the Whiffing Cup at the Great Whiffing sports ground (a good ten miles from Little Odford), kick-off at 3pm.

The implications of this were that he would be without Sharon, his niece, who would be at the match to support Darren, her boyfriend and Little Odford's captain and goal-keeper, but more importantly, another of the regular St Swarfega band.

It took George a good deal of effort to complete his band and he came perilously close to having to ask his arch-enemy Charlie Farmer. Charlie had somehow discovered George's problem almost as soon as George himself, and was immediately on the phone offering to help out.

'Problem? What problem's that then?' asked George

'Well, how are you going to get a band for this 'ere wedding if Darren's playing football and Sharon's on the touchline? I spec Fred'd like to be watching too seeing as Darren's near enough his son-in-law. I'll be around if you want me.'

'No, don't you worry your head about it,' replied George. 'We've got plenty of ringers here. How's things at Nether Odford? I did 'ear something about a couple of resignations.' George knew well enough that Charlie had managed to get up the noses of several of the Nether Odford band following his takeover of the captaincy there.

SOUTH WEST BRANCH

BRANCH AGM

Charlie was suddenly called away from the phone.

In the end George was short of only two ringers; Fred's loyalty to George proved stronger than that towards his son-in-law elect and it was only necessary to import two ringers from Great Odford. As they were a couple new to the area George was fairly certain that they were not known to Charlie Farmer.

Ringling began at 2pm and went very well indeed; the visitors were both very competent.

St Swarfege's was fitted with the latest signalling technology for weddings. When the bride arrived and ringling was to stop, the organist pulled a string which operated a small doorbell fixed on the ringling chamber wall. George had usually reverted to rounds a few minutes before the arrival time and this was the case on May 3rd. Two thirty came and still nothing.

'Maybe 'er's changed 'er mind,' said George. 'We'll give it another few minutes then I s'pose I'd better go down and see what's 'appening.'

At quarter to three George called a halt and descended to find out what was going on.

He found a collection of agitated ushers in noisy discussion with the Best Man and the Groom about what could have happened.

'We've got no bridesmaids, no bride's mother and no bride. Can't imagine why they're not here. We've tried phoning and can't get through.'

Suddenly one of the waiting congregation rushed from his seat, shot out of the door and headed for his car. He leapt in and drove furiously off out of the village.

'Whatever's got into 'im?' asked George, who had almost been knocked over in the rush.

'That's Norman Smith, Rachel's uncle. Runs a garage at Great Odford,' said one of the ushers. 'Looks like he's forgotten something.'

At that moment a furious figure under a gigantic wedding hat stamped out of the church. It was Uncle Norman's wife Nora.

'Just wait 'til I get 'im 'ome. Just WAIT 'til I get 'im 'ome. You wouldn't believe anyone could be so stupid. Says 'e'll fetch the bridesmaids to church in 'is Bentley and then forgets all about it. Sitting there muttering about Ace Cabs not getting their act together, 'e was, and then 'e remembered. Just wait 'til 'e gets 'ome.'

'Well, it's goin' to take another twenty minutes or so for Norman to bring the bridesmaids so I guess we'd better ring a bit more,' said George, adding to himself as he climbed the stairs 'They'd better not expect much ringin' after the service.'

And they didn't get very much; a bare five minutes in fact.

The ringers left the ringling chamber and started down the stairs all keen to get home. One of the visitors led the way and George brought up the rear. The tower stair doorway opens on to the west end of the church – the sheltered side where bridal veils do not blow about and spoil the pictures on windy days. May 3rd was a windy day and the newlyweds' favourite photograph shows them not united, but separated by a surprised and embarrassed ringer in the open doorway.

In the bar of the Ring of Bells later that day George and Fred were enjoying their pints.

'We could do without any more weddings like that one,' remarked Fred

'Wouldn't want to be in Norman Smith's shoes,' replied George. 'That Nora was really wound up. If she'd been in the Wanderers' team this afternoon Lowcliff Bay would've handed over the cup before the match started – then Darren could have come back in time to ring.'

Peter Walker

Our AGM took place on Saturday 23rd January at Tavistock. It was a well organised day with quarter peals rung in the morning and a productive meeting held in the afternoon. Three quarter peals were scored – Bob Doubles, Grandsire Triples and Grandsire Caters. Around 20 ringers got involved, including Guild Secretary Clare Griffiths and Guild President Lester Yeo. It was Lester's last visit to us as Guild President as he is stepping down later this year - he had started his journey with the Devonshire Guild in Plymouth some 30 years when he was the vicar at St Mark's in Ford from 1989 to 1992. Clare Griffiths will also be standing down as General Secretary of the Guild at the AGM in June - she's only been in the post for three years, but will be a hard act to follow. We are grateful to both Clare and Lester for their support over the years.

Our own Geoff Hill was present, resplendent in his Guild Master's badge and our welcome friends Mo and Derek Hawkins, both past Guild Masters, came down in the rain to visit us; we're always pleased to see them at our meetings and celebrations. The *bring and share* format proved a great success again, with lots to eat, plenty of variety, and not too much trouble for the host tower. Nevertheless, the Tavistock ringers gave us a very warm welcome with plenty of tea, for which we were very grateful on a cold and wet January day. The ringling beforehand was enjoyed by all and covered all abilities from rounds to Stedman Caters.

We look forward to an action packed year including the Guild AGM being held at Plymouth Minster this year. Keep an eye out for the information later this year which will include travel and parking advice in Plymouth.

Jo Maddick

STOKE DAMEREL RINGERS KEPT IN THE DARK

On 17th February ten ringers arrived at Stoke Damerel for the usual Wednesday practice. But we were to be frustrated. Try as we might, there was no way to provide lighting in the tower. Not until the next day did we find out the reason. We are in the process of a radical restoration of the church building. The whole floor is being dug up to pave it with limestone, and install underfloor heating. This involves cutting off all the electrics and putting in a temporary supply. Unfortunately, nobody thought about the clock, which is electrically wound, or that if the bells are to be rung it's quite helpful for the ringers to be able to see what they're doing. That night, we all went sadly away from the dark tower back to the warmth and comfort of our firesides.

All is not lost, however. The contractors have installed a temporary power supply to the tower so that we can continue to ring the call to worship while services are taking place in the parish centre next door to the church, and practices will be able to take place as normal. And we have a re-dedication service to look forward to, after the scheduled 22 weeks of building work, some time in July if all goes according to plan. That will be the best reason possible for celebratory ringling, and some compensation for one cancelled practice.

John Steere

TRAINING

GUILD EDUCATION PROGRAMME 2016

The Guild has produced a programme of educational courses and these can be found at <http://devonringers.org.uk/education/training>. It is well worth having a look, as we are trying to offer something for everyone. Some courses are already fully booked but it is still worth contacting me if you are interested, in case anyone drops out or any of the courses are to be repeated. As an additional focus, a working party has been formed to try to tackle the issue of recruitment. If you are interested in contributing to this and/or would like to know more, please let me know.

Tim Bayton

STOP PRESS

The young ringers' event scheduled for April has been postponed until later in the year.

ART LAUNCHES NEW MODULE FOR CALL CHANGE RINGERS

Any ringer who visits other towers and rings in different parts of the country will be aware of the wide spectrum of ringing ability across the UK. Bellringing's national leaders, by definition, tend to be the more experienced and technically expert ringers and not representative of the general level of ringing in many parts of the country. So ART, the *Association of Ringing Teachers*, has been criticised by some leading ringers for not setting high enough the standards required of the teachers it accredits. Yet at the same time, potential teachers wanting to progress from teaching bell handling (Module 1 of the Training Scheme) were complaining that for some of them the requirement to have rung a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor was difficult to achieve and not relevant in towers that only ring call changes.

ART responded to this by surveying the ringing situation in the towers around the home of each member of the Management Committee and by consulting ART members and the ringing community generally at the last Ringing Roadshow in Newbury. The results of these surveys indicated that in most of the more rural areas of the country call changes and plain hunt are predominantly what is rung and that there is clear support for a programme aiming to show how to teach and develop bands at this level. The result is that ART has developed a new module for the ART Training Scheme (the former ITTS) – Module 2F.

ART Module 2F (Foundation Skills: Teaching from Rounds to Plain Hunt) launches in May and a first course in Devon will take place on 23rd July. It is designed to meet the needs of teachers who:

- Would like ideas for improving the bell control, listening skills and sense of rhythm in early ringers.
- Are teaching a band to ring rounds, call changes or plain hunt.
- Would like to explore the rich variety of activities offered by kaleidoscope ringing.
- Want to succeed in getting their ringers to know their place in the row and to count their places.
- Want some ideas on how to encourage ropesight to develop.
- Want activities to increase the variety of ringing activities for early learners.
- Want to arouse their curiosity and get them fascinated in their ringing.

Like the other ART Modules the day course for 2F consists of a mixture of theory and practical sessions. The theory has a big emphasis on coaching early ringers and covers:

- the importance of approaching teaching in easy, understandable stages,
- the critical importance of using effective feedback,
- the theory of coaching,
- how to form a strong band.

The practical sessions are on how to teach call changes and different ways of introducing ringers to covering and Plain Hunt. These activities are congruent with learners pursuing the *Learning The Ropes* (LTR) scheme at Level 3. LTR is only available to those who attend ART courses and to members of ART (teachers who have been accredited under the Training Scheme). Those attending are required to have a good standard of bell handling as defined in the learner Assessment for Level 2 of LTR. As with the other modules the trainee teacher will be supported by a more experienced teacher acting as a mentor during a period of teaching practice.

Module 1 (Teaching Bell Handling) remains unchanged and the existing Module 2 (Teaching Change Ringing) becomes Module 2C and has been slightly updated to include revised theory. Teachers can take any module in any order and Associate membership of ART will be offered to those who complete one module and Full membership to those completing Module 1 and either 2F or 2C.

I am looking forward to teaching the first Module 2F course and hope it will meet a very real need in Devon. Enquiries about the course can be sent to lesboyce@ringingteachers.co.uk.

Les Boyce, ART Tutor.

OTHER NEWS

ST PETER'S, STOKE FLEMING TOWER PROJECT

Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund



By now you will probably have heard the rumour that St Peter's, Stoke Fleming are putting in a new frame and augmenting to eight bells. I can confirm that it is true.

The old frame, fitted in 1928, is steel and in common with others of that period was not galvanised. The bells, which were cast by Pennington in 1777, were rehung by Gillett & Johnson and the fourth, which was found to be cracked, was recast.

The frame is now severely corroded where the foundation girders meet the walls. Other steel girders in the tower including those supporting the roof are in a similar condition. The 'Big Four' bell hangers we approached with the problems, and they all proposed different solutions at different prices. Comparing like with like was difficult but, after some research and discussions with the Diocesan clock and bells adviser, the Whitechapel Bell Foundry proposals were accepted.

The Victorian (Benson - 1878) clock, which sits below the bells, was removed in January by the Cumbria Clock Company for refurbishment and conversion to electric auto-winding; they will then reinstall it after all other work is complete. The builders (Elliott Construction, a local firm) started work in February to cut trapdoors in three of the lower floors and replace the corroded girders under the roof. The bell hanger will then use these beams to lower the bells down through the tower before removing the frame.

The total cost of the whole work package, which includes some general improvements to facilities in the tower, is in the order of £135K. Fund raising has been relatively successful so far. The good folk in the village, who really appreciate their bells and clock, have raised over £70K. This includes one large donation, several smaller donations and £15K collected by the Friends of Saint Peter's, a secular

organisation which undertook to pay for the work on the clock. The DCBRF allocated £7.5K towards the bell work and a couple of smaller grants from other charities have been received. The ringers have raised in excess of £2K by holding tower open days and donating their wedding fees. They were delighted to be awarded a grant of almost £40K by the Heritage Lottery Fund which enabled orders to be placed with the contractors.

The architect's estimate for the building work was £30K; in the event the lowest tender was over £55K. To close the gap an application for a grant was made to the Landfill Communities Fund: this was turned down initially as the bid 'did not fit the current funding profile' but we have subsequently been told that the funding profile has now been changed and that we should apply again. We expect to know by the end of May if this has been successful. Meantime, we are looking at a couple of other charities and, if all else fails, the PCC have agreed to take on interest free loans to cover any remaining shortfall.

The cost of adding two new front bells would have been outside the present budget but we have been extremely lucky. Percival Norton Johnson lived in Stoke Fleming and is buried in the church. There is a wall plaque and a window in his memory. Just over 200 years ago he started the firm which became Johnson Matthey, now a FTSE100 Company, and to celebrate their bicentenary in 2017 they have agreed to pay for the two new bells. A group of Stoke Fleming ringers went to Whitechapel in February to watch the new bells being cast.



The new bells being cast at Whitechapel

The current plan is for Whitechapel to remove the bells in March and, if all goes according to plan, the new frame with eight bells will be installed by the end of July. There will be an official rededication in October.

After three years of planning, fundraising and preparation the work has now started. If you are in one of the many towers with similar problems and would like to find out more about their experiences and progress look at the website: www.stokeflemingtower.org.

Anne Bailey

NOTABLE PEALS

Ladies' peal of Bristol Surprise Royal



L to R: Ann, Hilary, Charlotte, Wendy, Sue Sawyer, Alison, Sue Sparling, Clare, Jenny; Pauline took the photo.

After a disappointing loss in the method after about 90 minutes on 14th November, the intrepid ladies regrouped and powered to success on 30th December. It was the first on ten bells and only the fourth peal rung by a band of ladies for the Guild, so we were highly chuffed with ourselves and are looking forward to pushing the boundaries even further. At the time of writing, the peal has been viewed almost 24,000 times on BellBoard, where it has garnered 54 'likes'. It was also the 'featured performance' for some considerable time.

Exeter, Devon, St Mark

Wednesday 30th December 2015 in 3h 2m

5000 Bristol Surprise Royal

Composed by Ian R Fielding

- 1 Ann Smith
- 2 Susan M Sawyer
- 3 Clare J Griffiths
- 4 Charlotte A Boyce
- 5 Jenny R Sparling
- 6 Susan D Sparling
- 7 Alison C Waterson
- 8 P Wendy Campbell
- 9 Hilary A Beresford
- 10 Pauline Champion (C)

First of Bristol Royal: 2

First of Bristol Royal as conductor.

First on 10 by a band of ladies, all resident members of the Guild.

Wendy Campbell

David Hird rings his 3000th Peal

Congratulations go to David Hird who rang his 3000th peal at St Mark's, Exeter in January. Ringing 1000 peals used to be considered exceptional – 3000 is just mad!

Exeter, Devon, St Mark

Friday, 8 January 2016 in 2h 58m

5040 Yorkshire Surprise Royal

Composed by J H Fielden

- 1 Pauline Champion
- 2 P Wendy Campbell
- 3 Lesley Tucker
- 4 Susan D Sparling
- 5 Richard H Johnston
- 6 Peter L Bill
- 7 Ian L C Campbell
- 8 Graham P Tucker
- 9 Ian V J Smith
- 10 David Hird (C)

The conductor's 3000th peal.



The band in order, starting bottom right

Ian Campbell

Other Peals of Interest

Thorverton, Devon, St Thomas of Canterbury

Thursday, 18 February 2016 in 2hrs 59m

5024 Spliced Surprise Major (8m)

(672 London, Rutland; 640 Lincolnshire, Pudsey, Superlative;
608 Bristol; 576 Cambridge, Yorkshire; 129 changes of method;
all the work)

Composed by N R Aspland

1 Michael C Hansford

2 Susan D Sparling

3 Lester J Yeo

4 P Wendy Campbell

5 Pauline Champion

6 Ian L C Campbell

7 David Hird

8 Michael E C Mears (C)

Birthday compliments to Bill Ford and Ian Campbell.

4600th peal and 3000th as Conductor: 8

Crediton, Devon, Holy Cross

Saturday, 2 January 2016 in 3h 23

5042 Yorkshire Surprise Maximus

Composed by Stanley Jenner

1 Ian W Avery

2 Ann Smith

3 Susan D Sparling

4 Lester J Yeo

5 Peter L Bill

6 Jennifer R Sparling

A belated 70th birthday treat for the conductor.

7 Alison C Waterson

8 Pauline Champion

9 Oliver Coldrick

10 Ian V J Smith (C)

11 John A Foster

12 Thomas J Waterson

Kingsteignton, Devon, St Michael

Thursday, 24 December 2015 in 2h 59

5024 Lessness Surprise Major

Composed by B D Constant

1 Ian W Avery

2 James Kirkcaldy

3 Ann Smith

4 Michael H Tompsett

100th peal: 5.

5 Nigel G Birt

6 John A Foster

7 Thomas J Waterson

8 Ian V J Smith (C)

Exeter, Devon, St David

Tuesday, 1 March 2016 in 2h56 (12)

5088 Dewi Sant Surprise Major

Composed by R D S Brown

1 Ian W Avery

2 Timothy M Bayton

3 P Wendy Campbell

4 Ian V J Smith

5 Charlotte A Boyce

6 James Kirkcaldy

7 John R Martin (C)

8 David Hird

Specially arranged and rung to celebrate the launch today of the fund raising Transformation project to repair the West end of the church.



L to R: Tim, Ian A, Ian S, John, James, Charlotte, Wendy, David

GUILD LIBRARY

Researching Ringing History

Amongst recent additions to the library have been the collections of newspaper extracts published by the Central Council Library under the series title *Order and Disorder*. The work of collecting transcripts or cuttings about bells and bellringing from historic local newspapers was begun by Cyril Wratten when Council Librarian and has been continued by John Eisel and a team of researchers. So far four volumes have been published covering the 18th century and the years 1800 to 1839. Given that this period was well before the formation of guilds and associations, local newspapers, although themselves not widespread until after 1850, are good, often the only, sources for information about bells and bellringing before about 1880.

Whereas in the past using this material meant a trip to the one or two libraries holding the print copies of the papers, digitisation, as well as publishing these four books of extracts, means that much of the research can be done from your own desktop. The four volumes of extracts published by the Central Council (title details below) are available from the Guild Library; the most recent volume covering the period 1830 to 1839 contains a significant number of Devon references.

An on-line database of 19th century newspapers is also freely available to members of Devon Libraries and can be accessed from home. *19th Century British Newspapers* by Gale Cengage includes Trewman's *Exeter Flying Post* which has coverage for much of Devon. It is to be hoped that future published volumes pick up this gem from the *Flying Post* dated 13 March 1845. This short paragraph tells us an awful lot about ringing in Tiverton in the mid-19th century! I hope others are encouraged to dip into these sources and share their findings.

TIVERTON CHURCH BELLS.—We have often had occasion to remark that these beautiful bells,—the set consisting of eight in number—were seldom heard to send forth their melodious sounds, even on Sunday. Within the last week, however, they have occasionally rung a merry peal. We understand the ringers are practising, for the purpose of competing in a watch for prizes, with the ringers at Exeter. We are sorry to say, we cannot compliment them upon their skill, and fear there is little chance of their coming off victorious, unless indeed they improve themselves by practising a great deal harder.

Increasingly the Central Council is also making the earlier ringing periodicals and its biographical records available on-line at: <http://www.cccbr.org.uk/library/olpubs/>.

Order and disorder in the eighteenth century: Newspaper extracts about church bells and bellringing. Comp Cyril Wratten. CCCBR, 2010
Order and disorder in the eighteenth century: A supplement... Comp John Eisel. CCCBR, 2011

Order and disorder in the early nineteenth century, 1800 – 1829 ... Comp John Eisel, CCCBR, 2013

Order and disorder 1830 – 1839... Comp John Eisel, CCCBR, 2015

Ringling Books for the New Ringer and the General Reader

Over the years there have been a number of books about bells and bellringing published for the general reader, but currently there is nothing available in print from British publishers. *Bells and Bellringing* by John Camp in the Shire Books 'Discovering' series used to offer a cheap and simple introduction. However it has been out of print for a little while now. Shire have now commissioned John Harrison to write an updated book to replace it. *Bells and Bellringing* (Shire Books, Mar 2016, 978 0 74781 433 7) is due out this month at £7.99. It is described as an introduction to the world of bells and bell-ringing, explaining how bells are made and how a ringing installation works. Exploring the nature of change ringing, which has mathematical as well as musical aspects, it provides insights into the ringing community – its origins and culture as well as its relationships with the Church and the community.

The Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) also saw the lack of a

simple introduction to ringing and has recently produced a 30 page booklet *Discover Bell Ringing: For new ringers and everyone interested in English-style change ringing*, ART, 2015. Aimed primarily at the new ringer, this covers Bells (making and hanging), Change Ringing, Learning to Ring (with particular reference to the Learning The Ropes scheme), Safety, Who rings and why they enjoy it, History of ringing, and finally When bells are rung. There are also several pages for the new ringer to start personal records of their ringing activities. It has already sold very well and gone into a reprint.

It is available to purchase from the ART Shop (<http://www.ringingteachers.co.uk/shop/>) at £4 or in packs of five for £15. A copy has been purchased for the Learner's Library collection of the Guild Library.

Here to help – your Guild Library

This is a reminder that enquiries and requests for loans can be made to the Guild Librarian, Les Boyce. The Learner's Library, Trainer's Library and Conductor's travelling collections are available for branches to borrow to display at their meetings as 'see before you buy' facilities.

Les Boyce

OUTINGS FOR THE GUILD DEMONSTRATION BELL

The Guild demonstration bell has had several outings recently, accompanying the talk from Ian Campbell. In December we went to the Sandford Women's Institute. This was arranged by Pat Yeo, and Lester also came along to help set up. The talk was held in a member's flat – except that the flat incorporated the Great Hall of Creedy Park and we held it below the minstrels' gallery in front of a roaring log fire with a Christmas tree to the ceiling, drinking mulled wine.



The demo bell looked a little incongruous in such surroundings

A few days later a similar talk was given at the Dawlish Probus club, the main problem being that, once assembled, the demonstration bell was too tall to tip into the upright position without hitting the rather low ceiling so the legs had to be removed and the bell was placed on a table.

A similar problem was encountered in February when I was invited by Carol Bill (Peter Bill's wife) to give a talk to the Broadhempston WI in the new village hall. The adjoining gymnasium/sports hall had enough headroom to play badminton or netball but the meeting room used for the talk was, again, too low for the bell. Fortunately the weather was sunny so the bell was assembled outside and at the appropriate point in the presentation we all trooped out through the French windows to see the bell. Unfortunately it briefly poured with rain earlier on and everything got rather wet but it doesn't seem to have done any damage! Peter Sawyer (who has recently moved to Torquay) came along and with Peter Bill we were able to demonstrate changes on various numbers of handbells. Ringing plain hunt on three, and then on five was much harder than ringing Plain Bob Minor!



Four of the Broadhempston WI try their skill on the handbells

Ian Campbell

PEAL ANGELS

In the last issue of RRD we reported on some more Devon ringers who had rung their first peals. This was partly as a result of the 'First Peal 2015' initiative which aimed to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the first recorded peal by getting 300 ringers through their first peal during the year. It is pleasing to record that despite a slow start the aim was reached and by the end of 2015, with 387 first pealers recorded.

However it is important to remember that no-one can ring a peal on their own and other ringers are necessary to make up the bands and, indeed, to organise the peal attempts in the first place. Mike Mears has done some digging in the records and come up with the following details of Devon ringers who rang peals in 2015 that included Devon first pealers – the Peal Angels! This list includes those who rang three or more for the Guild:

Wendy Campbell: 5
Pauline Champion: 5
Ian Campbell: 4
David Hird: 4
Mike Mears: 4
Clare Stagg: 4
Fergus Stracey: 4
Lynne Hughes: 3
Richard Johnston: 3
Sue Sparling: 3
John Steere: 3
Graham Tucker: 3
Congratulations go to all concerned.

Ian Campbell/Michael Mears

THE RINGING WORLD - THE BELLRINGERS' WEEKLY PAPER

In the last issue we urged you to take part in *The Ringing World* survey. Here are some comments from *The Ringing World* following completion of the survey:

Ringing World Survey - Thank You

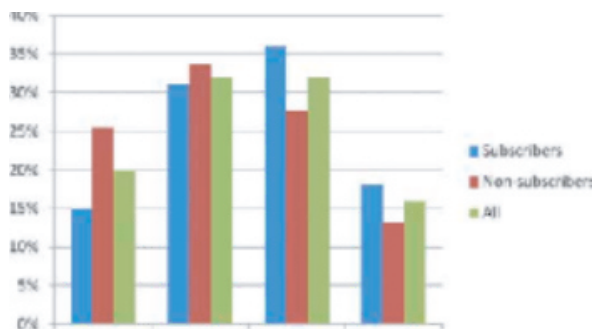
Last March, following several years of financial losses and declining circulation, the Board laid its problems out for you and started a discussion about the future of *The Ringing World*. We proposed to charge for printing performances but the ensuing discussion led to our changing this to asking for a 50p per ringer donation with peals and quarters. You have responded magnificently; donations are up 83% on the previous year and we have turned losses into a substantial surplus for 2015.

See <http://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/news-story.php?id=1034>

Results of the Ringing World survey

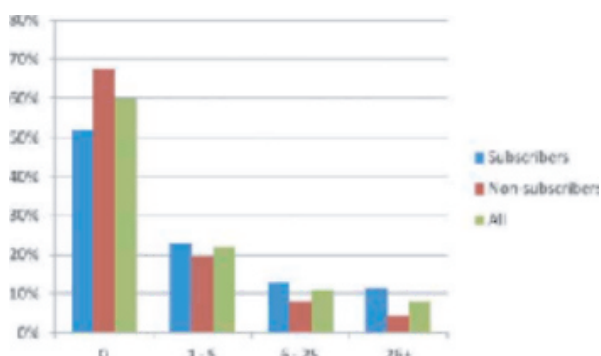
The results from the survey are being printed in *The Ringing World* over the coming weeks. Illustrations are on the web, for example:

Q.10: How many quarter peals do you typically ring per year?



The percentage of each category of responder ringing the number of quarters

Q.11: How many peals do you typically ring per year?



The percentage of each category of responder ringing the number of peals

It is perhaps not surprising that the RW subscribers are more active in performance ringing than the non-subscribers, eg 52% of subscribers do not ring peals compared with 68% of non-subscribers and for quarter peals the figures are 15% and 25% respectively. However, leaping ahead to question 18 for subscribers only, 15% read RW mainly for the performance reports.

Q.12: Typically how many towers do you ring at each week?

	1	2	3	4	5
All responders	27%	36%	24%	9%	4%

A LETTER OF APPRECIATION

I am not one to blow my own trumpet and *Ringing Round Devon* is always dependent on the contributions and not much of my doing. However, the total seems to be more than the sum of its parts, and it was very nice to receive the following letter (which I have left anonymous to avoid any embarrassment) after the publication of the 100th RRD:

Dear Ian

I thought that the 20 page edition was an editorial triumph - a fascinating view of ringing activities around the county, and a real tribute to the skills (of various kinds) of its editor and supporting team. If people look back at the 100th edition when the 150th or the 200th editions are published (in some form or other) - as often happens - there is plenty here to make them interested (and possibly more than just a bit envious).

Thank you for those kind comments.

Ian Campbell

EDITORIAL

I am pleased to be able to report that Bill Ford has had the cast removed from his arm following his fall reported last time. Apparently he was out ringing with his daughter the same evening that it was removed! Mike Mears has also largely recovered from his fractured ankle and seems to be back to peal ringing more or less as usual. He claims that he won't ring more than two in a day for a few weeks (or was it one in a day?) while he is recuperating. We were very pleased to find that David Maynard has returned to live and work in Exeter. He was a student here several years ago, then moved to London where he gained the lofty position of Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths. He is currently attending practices at Heavitree where he is a great help with the more advanced Surprise Major methods that we are trying to learn.

We were very much saddened to hear of the recent death of Joan Clarke, who was well known in North Devon and beyond. She was taken ill shortly after the Guild AGM last summer, and deteriorated from then with an incurable cancer. Our thoughts and wishes are with James; we hope that he will gradually feel able to resume some of his many activities, including his role as DAC advisor, and performing bell inspections on behalf of the bell restoration fund. A memorial service for Joan has been arranged for Tuesday 19th April at 2pm in St Andrew's Church, Alwington. An obituary is in this issue.

News is not so good on Tony Parry, who contracted Motor Neuron Disease several years ago and is now living in Switzerland. I have been sending him a copy of RRD for about a year to keep him in touch with activities in Devon. We have heard the following from Rogenia Bond:

At ringing this morning we learnt that the Turner family, Mick, Judi and Christopher had visited Tony while on holiday in Switzerland for half-term. They had last seen him 18 months ago and said he was weaker but Mick thought this was partly because he was now 60 and due to age. However they did say he was panicking about his breathing although he is on continuous oxygen.

He says the care he is getting in the hospital is excellent and that the handbell ringers go in occasionally and ring for him which I thought was rather nice. Mick said that Tony sends his greetings to everyone who knows him and I think he does like receiving the Ringing Round Devon magazine.

We all feel so sad that his life should end in this way because he did so much for Whitchurch ringers both in tower bells and handbells.

RRD has been available on the Guild website since 1997 (back issues are still viewable). The web version has always differed in layout from the printed version as it tends to be hard to read a document online that is in two columns. In addition the printed version only has colour pictures on the outside pages to reduce the cost. However a number of people have suggested that they would prefer to have a version that could be easily printed so I am hoping to provide both versions from now on. Any feedback would be appreciated.

Ian Campbell

ANSWERS TO 'WHERE IS THAT TOWER' FROM THE LAST EDITION

'This Tower Is Dangerous' – Atherington.

'There was a ringer named Steve' – Newton Abbot clock tower.

'Dirty Washing' – these are wheel stays which support the wheel and hold the two halves together on modern installations. They are at Pinhoe where they are drying after receiving a coat of paint.

CALENDAR FOR MARCH TO JUNE 2016

March		
Wed 2	10:00 Developing skills in Plain Bob Minor above the Treble Group, Huntsham	North East
Wed 2	19:30 10 bell advanced practice, Exeter St Mark	Exeter
Sat 5	10:00 6 Bell Practice, Cruwys Morchard	North East
Sat 5	12:30 Branch Committee Meeting, Calverleigh Rose & Crown)	North East
Sun 6	TBA Surprise Major Practice, TBA	South West
Mon 7	19:30 Triples - Stedman/Grandsire, Ottery St Mary	East
Wed 9	19:30 Triples Practice, Huntsham	North East
Thu 10	19:30 Plain Hunt Practice, Sidbury	East
Fri 11	19:30 Surprise Minor, Buckerell	East
Sat 12	TBA Plain Bob, Grandsire and other Doubles, TBA	South West
Wed 16	10:00 Developing skills in Plain Bob Minor above the Treble Group, Huntsham	North East
Thu 17	10:00 'Mid Week' Outing, Bridport + Palmers Brewery Tour, Lyme Regis, Sidbury	North East
Sat 19	09:30 Kaleidoscope - Fully subscribed, Wolborough & Dawlish	Guild
Sat 19	10:00 East Devon Surprise Major Practice, Ottery St Mary	North East
Sat 19	10:00 Surprise Major, Ottery St. Mary	East
Mon 21	19:30 Stedman and Doubles Methods, Offwell	East
Wed 30	10:00 Developing skills in Plain Bob Minor above the Treble Group, Huntsham	North East
Wed 30	19:30 Major/Suprise Method Practice, East Budleigh	North East
Wed 30	19:30 Branch practice, Thorverton	Exeter
April		
Fri 1	19:00 Branch skittles evening, Royal Oak, Exminster	Exeter
Sat 2	10:00 6 Bell Practice, Rackenford	North East
Sat 2	14:00 Working with Numbers (TRC): 'What can you do with 4 bells?', TBC	North East
Mon 4	19:30 Triples - Stedman/Grandsire, Ottery St. Mary	East
Wed 6	19:30 10 bell advanced practice, Exeter St Mark	Exeter
Sat 9	15:30 Branch Quarterly Meeting, Cullompton	North East
Wed 13	10:00 Developing skills in Plain Bob Minor above the Treble Group, Huntsham	North East
Wed 13	19:30 Triples Practice, Huntsham	North East
Thu 14	19:30 Plain Hunt Practice, Sidbury	East
Fri 15	19:30 Surprise Minor Practice, Buckerell	East
Sat 16	09:30 Leading Up/Down	Guild
Sat 16	10:00 East Devon Surprise Major Practice, Ottery St Mary	North East
Sat 16	10:00 Surprise Major Practice, Ottery St. Mary	East
Mon 18	19:30 Stedman and Doubles methods, Offwell	East
Sat 23	10:00 TRC: Plain Hunt, Huntsham	North East
Sat 23	18:00 St Peter's Shield Striking Competition, Bampton	North East
Wed 27	19:30 Major/Suprise Method Practice, Huntsham	North East
Wed 27	19:30 Branch practice, Exeter St David	Exeter
Sat 30	TBA Plain Bob, Grandsire and other Doubles, TBA	South West
May		
Mon 2	Branch train/walking outing, Bristol	Exeter
Mon 2	19:30 Triples Practice, Ottery St. Mary	East
Wed 4	19:30 10 bell advanced practice, Exeter St Mark	Exeter
Fri 6	10:00 Developing skills in Kaleidoscope, Huntsham	North East
Sat 7	10:00 6 Bell Practice, Hemyock	North East
Sun 8	TBA 10 Bell Practice, TBA	South West
Wed 11	19:30 Triples Practice, Huntsham	North East
Thu 12	19:30 Plain Hunt Practice, Sidbury	East
Fri 13	19:30 Surprise Minor Practice, Buckerell	East
Sat 14	Basic Bell Maintenance	Guild
Sat 14	15:00 Spring Meeting, Upottery	East
Mon 16	19:30 Stedman and Doubles Practice, Offwell	East
Fri 20	10:00 Developing skills in Kaleidoscope, Huntsham	North East
Sat 21	10:00 East Devon Surprise Major Practice, Ottery St Mary	North East
Sat 21	10:00 Surprise Major Practice, Ottery St Mary	East
Sat 21	TBA Spring Outing, TBA	South West
Tue 24	19:30 Targeted practice, Crediton	Exeter
Wed 25	19:30 Major/Suprise Method Practice, Huntsham	North East
June		
Wed 1	19:30 10 bell advanced practice, Exeter St Mark	Exeter
Fri 3	10:00 Developing skills in Kaleidoscope, Huntsham	North East
Fri 3	18:00 John Hutchings Cup Striking Competition, Silverton	North East
Sat 4	10:00 6 Bell Practice, Bampton	North East
Sat 4	TBC Cadbury 'Bells and Flowers' Festival, Cadbury	North East
Sun 5	13:00 Handbells: Plain Bob and Beyond, Okehampton	Guild
Mon 6	19:30 Triples Practice, Ottery St. Mary	East
Wed 8	19:30 Triples Practice, Huntsham	North East
Thu 9	19:30 Plain Hunt Practice, Sidbury	East
Fri 10	19:30 Surprise Minor, Buckerell	East
Fri 17	10:00 Developing skills in Kaleidoscope, Huntsham	North East
Sat 18	10:00 Surprise Major Practice, Ottery St. Mary	East
Mon 20	19:00 Branch practice, Stoke Canon	Exeter
Mon 20	19:30 Stedman and Doubles Methods, Offwell	East
Wed 22	19:30 Major/Suprise Method Practice, Huntsham	North East
Sat 25	TBC Branch Outing (Brian Samuels), TBC	North East

NAME THAT TOWER



So was the ringing so bad as to upset the bells so much? I would steer clear of such dangerous bells until they are in a better mood!

Where have you seen a sign like this?

If it helps, the picture below is of the wonderful golden

cockrel weather vane on the roof of the same tower.



Ian Campbell

Bell Inspections - continued from back page

In February we were called out to have a look at the second bell at **Gittisham**. Following the replacement of the stay the bell was not going well and appeared to be hanging twisted in its frame (see photo) such that the wheel was virtually touching the frame side. We could see nothing that could have moved – the bearings were sound and fixed hard into the grooves of the wooden frame. The only possibility was that the whole side of the frame had moved but it did not seem that fragile even though there was a *gallows end* at both ends; it could not be moved back even by a millimetre. In addition the rope hole was directly under the centre line of the wheel at that point so it seemed likely that it had always been like this. The only thing we did discover when watching the bell being rung up was that the new stay was a tiny bit too long and was just touching the wall. The wheel stayed clear of the frame so would not appear to be a problem. An inch is to be taken off the stay.



Gittisham – note how close the far side of the wheel is to the frame

BELL INSPECTIONS

The Guild bell inspectors have been out and about again, including some rather interesting places.

Ashcombe, above Dawlish, was visited in January. It is one of the most complete pre-reformation rings of bells in the diocese with very little apparently done to them since their installation. The bell frame would appear to date from the 16th century or even earlier. The three bells are hung with what is described as three-quarter wheels although I would call them more like five-eighths! We performed some basic maintenance on the bells and frame and got two of them swinging gently – the tenor could not be rung as the wooden top on the clapper had completely disintegrated and the clapper was on the floor!



The second and tenor at Ashcombe – with three-quarter wheels

Marystowe (or is it Marystow? – no-one seems to know!) consists of a couple of houses and a well kept church between Tavistock and Lifton. It would appear that the six bells were last rehung around the turn of the century (19th-20th!) by William Aggett of Chagford. Although little has been done to them since then they have been well maintained and are in surprisingly good condition.



Marystowe bells

Two Roman Catholic churches in Exeter, each with one bell, have also come to our attention recently. **The Blessed Sacrament at Heavitree** has a magnificent modern bell weighing nearly four tons. The last time we swung it the rope was no more than a clothes line and it soon broke. We have been asked to ring there for a wedding in the summer so are planning to put on a replacement rope – an old one from Exeter Cathedral tenor has been identified as being strong enough! The couple have also asked for handbells to be rung at the end of the wedding.

The Sacred Heart in South Street, Exeter, close to the Cathedral, has a single bell which was cast by Murphy of Dublin. It is in a frame with fittings that are suitable for swinging although it is not rung in any way at present. The headstock is unusual in that it has a pile of bricks clamped to the top of it to provide a counterbalance. We are planning a day there soon to try to get it swinging. It is rather difficult to organise as there are no suitable holes in the stone vaulting for a rope, and work is difficult as there is no electricity or lighting up the tower.

STOP PRESS: We have just heard that this bell is to be rehung with an electric chiming hammer.



The Murphy bell at the Sacred Heart, Exeter

This article is continued on page 15



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