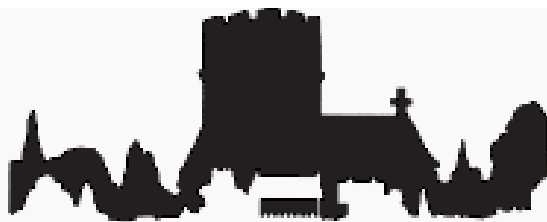


Ringling Round Devon



THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

Newsletter 108, December 2017

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Guild Events

Striking Competitions – Saturday October 21st

The Guild striking competitions 2017- a novice's view

Held at three separate towers and organised by the North East Branch, this year's Guild competitions were a wholehearted success. Seen from the writer's perspective - that of an entirely novice ringer - the day showed all those qualities which ringers tend to take entirely for granted - qualities of true comradeship. Ringers are the most friendly group of people you'll find and they came together on the 21st October with one purpose in mind - that of bringing the traditional music of the church tower to new heights.

But as participants know full well, that description falls vastly short of the whole. What is not immediately visible is the amount of effort previously expended by team members in getting anywhere near competition level, let alone proceeding to the top places. The help and enthusiasm exhibited by all concerned in achieving this is, to this relatively new struggling ringer, really quite astonishing. When you take into consideration that ringers as young as 14 were participating, it says much for the quality of instruction within the Guild given in bucketsful by dedicated tutors and other ringers at all levels, all giving of their help and experience over the year.

And what was the view expressed by the judges? Well, after the 8-bell event at Silverton competition judge David Warwick remarked 'A very enjoyable afternoon of ringing... really good ringing was heard which was a joy to listen to'. I know all who listened to both morning and afternoon sessions would wholeheartedly concur with those remarks - well done to all participants who, without exception, provided moments of sheer delight with your ringing.



The winning novice team from Tiverton St Peter

David took the trouble to go into detail about the principles behind the judging, how judges like he and his wife Felicity approached the subject, what they looked for. He also gave detailed advice on how to proceed at the event, how to make the most of the time and tips and hints for leading and tenor ringing. With his kind permission, we have put together a transcript of his remarks which is published as a separate article in this issue.

But the ringing is only part of a successful competition day. The venues of Bampton and Stoodleigh in the morning and Silverton in the afternoon provided what we all are tempted to take for granted in this Guild, that someone always provides tea, coffee and biscuits for a mere pittance of a contribution. But at Silverton the whole distaff side seemed to have been galvanized - no bread and fishes here, our 'cakes and ale' were the most delicious bounty of continuous provender with endless tea and coffee. Well done and a big thank you to all those who participated in the provision and serving of such fare. It certainly rounded off what was a most enjoyable Saturday.



David Willis collecting the 8-bell trophy for the NNW branch

John Skinner - North East Branch Publicity Officer

The Results

6-BELL COMPETITION FOR THE J. P. FIDLER CUP

Judges: Lynne Hughes and Catherine Thorpe

Held at St. Margaret's, Stoodleigh (7 cwt)

Place	Team	Faults
1	Exeter Cathedral	9
2	Exeter, St. Mark's	17
3	Withycombe Raleigh	20
4	Tiverton, St. Peter's	23
5	Plymouth, Emmanuel	25
6	Plymouth, St Andrew's	45
7	Tavistock	Did not complete

NOVICE 6-BELL COMPETITION FOR THE JOHN LONGRIDGE PLATE

Judges: Martin Mansley and Fiona Rock-Evans
Held at St. Michael and All Angels, Bampton (14 cwt)

Place	Team	Faults
1	Tiverton, St Peter's	15
2	Bampton	24
3	Plymouth, Minster Church of St. Andrew	27
4	Topsham B	30 ½
5	Plymouth, Emmanuel	31 ½
6	Topsham A	41

8-BELL INTER-BRANCH COMPETITION FOR THE ANDREWS TROPHY

Judges: David and Felicity Warwick
Held at St Mary's, Silverton (16 cwt).
Methods: Grandsire and London Bob Triples

Place	Team	Faults
1	North & North West	28
2	North East	30
3	Exeter	32
4	South West – Tavistock	33
5	Aylesbeare	73
6	South West – Plymouth	111
7	East Devon	Did not complete

How we Judged the Ringing – David Warwick

This is a near-verbatim account of David's remarks while giving the results of the Guild 8-bell competition at Silverton in October.

Judging – our principles

We consider that there are two main aspects to judging:

Firstly, the general accuracy: here we went down the traditional route of marking faults at every change where there were faults and ticking changes which were accurately struck. We were looking for the accuracy of the method ringing and also the evenness of the ringing.

But secondly, we looked for a sense of rhythm and a sense of unity and purpose between the eight members of the band – something which creates some really interesting and exciting ringing for the listener. If you have been un-rhythmical or there was a clip or a fault, this gets marked for not being as good as it might be. On the other hand, there were some changes which rattled off in a really rhythmical way which got a positive mark. This balanced up the places where perhaps it was not so good.

Thus, the judges' verdict is a balance between the sense of rhythm and the accuracy, or otherwise, of the ringing within that sense of rhythm. Particularly, what we were looking to hear was a sense of unity and purpose in the teamwork of ringing, with all the eight ringers contributing to that sense of rhythm and responding to the rhythm with the same speed. Some teams did this rather better than others.

The Practice – some tips and hints for teams

Using the practice time: some teams used the whole of the five-minute practice to their benefit, while others took less than four minutes and this had some bearing on their performance. Also, the amount of rounds rung before the actual test piece began showed that it had a bearing. Those teams that went straight into the piece after five or so rounds hadn't quite got the rhythm precise. So, when they went into the piece, those little unevennesses perpetuated themselves and certainly affected the results.

The Tenor: tenor ringing is absolutely vital in any ringing, but particularly so in Triples ringing. It's the way the tenor sets the pace and maintains it, so that it actually propels the rhythm of the

ringing. You could say although you're the last bell to ring in the change you're somehow in charge of the tempo of the ringing.

So, on the one hand you have to be sensitive to what goes on in front of you in the change, because if someone hesitates slightly you've got to decide whether you are going to hold up slightly and allow the change still to be accurate, or whether you are going to just crash in on the last bell. But also you have to set the tempo and you have to keep the ringing really moving forward.

I think that a lot of tenor ringers sit back and actually allow the ringing to drag so the end of the changes stretch out and the last blow, the tenor blow, is actually stretched out a bit more. That then means that the leading at the front of the next change tends to fall in and so the rhythm of the ringing never really gets going. So, I think as a tenor ringer you've actually got to propel the rhythm in a positive way and that certainly had a bearing on the success or otherwise of the teams today.

Agreeing the tempo: overall, we felt that there was a sense here in which the little bells seemed to want to go faster than the big bells and this was very evident in the practices the teams had. It often took quite a time for it to be agreed what the tempo was going to be. Teams did not have the same tempo, but it was important that they agreed about how much the little bells needed to slow up from the beginning and how much the big bells needed to move along to an agreed tempo.

Leading and bells in seconds: there seemed to be just some suggestion that the leads were just a bit slow at hand. We noticed in quite a lot of the teams that the leads were a bit of a problem and also noted that the bell in seconds place in any particular change was critical to how the rest of the change was going to pan out. So, if the leading was nice and consistent, which in a lot of the bands was the case, if the bell in seconds place was slightly hesitant, which also happened quite a lot, it meant that the bells in 5, 6 and 7 tended to pile up a bit and that was critical to the end result.

We had a very enjoyable afternoon of ringing and heard some really good ringing which was a joy to listen to. Thank you.

David & Felicity Warwick

Denmisch Management Committee



Oliver, Tim and David at the meeting – please ignore the gin bottle which we had for David

The Denmisch management committee met on 18th November after the ringing session at the cathedral to discuss the use and support of the ten simulators belonging to the Guild that are installed in the Exeter Cathedral School. Those present were Ian Campbell, Oliver Coldrick, David Hird, Tim Bayton and Sue Sawyer. As it was the Exeter Branch AGM earlier in the day there were plenty of refreshments available during the meeting!

Efforts were to be made to encourage those taught to ring at Denmisch to attach themselves to local towers and an attempt would be made to encourage other local schools to make use of the facility. Anyone wishing to use the simulators to ring a quarter peal or for any other ringing is very welcome.

Ian Campbell

Guild Quarter Peal Festival

The festival was held from Friday 20th October to Sunday 5th November. Thirty-one quarters were rung at 25 towers, a slight decrease from last year when 34 were rung. 110 ringers participated, raising a total of £470 (at the latest estimation). The North East Branch raised the largest amount, an average of over £3 per ringer. However, the largest single donation came from Ottery St Mary where the local Probus Club sponsored the quarter peal to the tune of £100 (see separate article in this edition for further details). The leading tower was Huntsham with five quarters. The most popular method was Plain Bob Doubles with eight quarters. The leading ringers were Richard Baker and Sheila Scofield who both rang ten quarters. Thanks go to all who took time out to participate, with congratulations going to Fergus Kettleborough and Josh Meredith on ringing their first quarter, Steve Jackson and Matthew Dancy on ringing their first inside, and Mark Heritage on calling his first quarter.

James Kirkcaldy

Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund

The DCBRF trustees have two meetings a year; the most recent was held at North Tawton on 11th November attended by all seventrustees. Ian Smith announced that he would be standing down as secretary within the next couple of years and we are looking for a younger person to take over. The publicity leaflet has been redesigned and there is a proposal to provide a suitable notice in all towers that receive a significant grant.

Since its inception in 1972 the fund has paid out over £250,000 to help restore bells in Devon churches. Payments in 2017 have been made to:

- Woolfardisworthy (East) - £1,700 (March 2017)
- Chagford - £7,400 (March 2017)
- Chevithorne - £900 (April 2017)
- Payhembury - £2,500 (April 2017)
- Cornworthy - £8,400 (July 2017)
- Harpford - £1,800 (August 2017)
- Combe Raleigh - £10,000 (September 2017)
- Petton - £350 (September 2017)

Grants have been agreed (subject to confirmation) when work has been completed at:

- Ugborough - £11,000— expected completion Summer 2018.
- Woodbury - £5,500
- Beaford - £7,500/£9,000
- Axminster - £700
- Alphington - £3,500

At the meeting three new grants were agreed (subject to confirmation) for Exeter Cathedral (£8,500), Moretonhampstead (£9,000) and Highweek (£450).

Another aspect of the work of the trustees is to inspect and report on bell installations anywhere in the county. This is done both as a function of the Guild for their affiliated towers but also offered to anychurch as a part of their regular quinquennial (five yearly) checks. The hope is that any serious work, such as rotting or rusty foundations beams, can be identified before it becomes a very expensive problem. For example with some steel frames, a coat of paint now can protect the frame from having to be completely replaced in 10-20 years'time. This year we have also been to examine a number of rings (often of only three bells) whose state is unknown, to see if they could be resurrected, at least for swing chiming. Also, on behalf of the Guild, we have checked out problems at several towers, and helped with maintenance. The following are some of the towers visited this year: George Nympton, East Anstey, Satterleigh, Huntshaw,

Newton Tracey, Upton Pyne (maintenance), Broadclyst, Torquay Assumption, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Alverdiscott, Newton St Petrock, Milton Damerel, Sowton, Harpford, Coryton, Abbotskerswell, Dunchideock, Cockington, Huntsham (advice given), Milton Abbot, Frithelstock, Butterleigh, Kings Nympton, Dunkerswell, Newton St Cyres, Sutcombe, Harberton, Chittlehamholt.

The fund is in a healthy state, with contributions from the Guild, the Association, branches, towers and individuals. It is helped by income generated by a large investment (the Smale bequest) and a number of specially arranged functions (such as the quarter peal festival). As you can see from the above there is a steady demand for money so please keep it coming in as much as you can. And as the fund is a registered charity please gift aid any donations where possible so that tax paid on the donation can be reclaimed.

Ian Campbell

More Ringers needed for Next Year

Ringling for Peace *Armistice 100*

Many of you will have seen the media coverage about the newly announced campaign to recruit 1,400 ringers across the country in the run-up to the 100th anniversary of the Armistice in November 2018.

An article appeared in a recent *Ringling World* and is also reproduced on the Central Council website at the link below:

<https://cccbr.org.uk/2017/11/11/ringing-for-peace-armistice100-in-2018-what-you-need-to-know/>

This is not simply an initiative from the bellringing community as the articles on the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Big Ideas Company websites show:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nations-bells-to-ring-out-together-to-mark-armistice-centenary>

<http://www.bigideascompany.org/project/ringingremembers/>

The initiative was briefly discussed at the recent Guild Education Committee meeting and we have already contacted the Devon Association of Ringers to see whether this scheme is something we could collaborate upon across the county.

The initiative will be included on the agenda for the Guild committee meeting on Saturday 20th January 2018 but the Guild officers will be pleased to receive any feedback and suggestions from branch officers and members for consideration in the committee meeting discussions.



John Martin (Guild Secretary)

Aylesbeare Branch

Aylesbeare Branch Activities

The AGM took place on Saturday 14th October. A few of us decided to make a day of it starting out with a quarter peal attempt of Grandsire Triples at Clyst Honiton. This was partly to continue practising for the striking competition and partly to just improve our 8-bell ringing as a whole. Unfortunately the quarter was miscalled but we came away happy that we could ring Grandsire with a certain level of confidence. It was probably just as well we hadn't rung for too much longer as the tenor rope was slowly disintegrating. We did at least manage to leave it with enough life to tape it up for another day.

A small group went on to the pub for lunch before reconvening at Clyst St George for an hour of Plain Bob Doubles and Minor. It was definitely time well spent. Finally it was on to Lymptone for the main event of the day, ringing, tea and meeting. Having been joined by John Martin and Charlotte Boyce we had an hour of varied ringing from call changes to Surprise Minor. For some reason unknown to me the Aylesbeare Branch does not hold the usual church service before tea, and perhaps this is something we can look to start up again for next year. After a chat and some tea the meeting was opened with a prayer by our chairman, David Wills. We got through the business in a reasonable time despite knowing that two established officers were not seeking re-election. As we are a small branch I think most of the truly active members know they are likely to end up with a role. As such I have taken on the role of secretary from Matt Pym and Keith Copestake is Deputy Ringing Master backed up by me (having tried to stand down as Ringing Master) with a view to him taking on the main role next year. I have a lot to live up to taking on the Secretary role from Matt as he has done an excellent job over the last few years. Thanks very much, Matt, for all your hard work.

We took part in the 8-bell striking competition at Silverton coming fifth out of seven. Well done and thank you to the ringers who were in the band. A major method will be rung next year so this will be something new for us to work on.

Our November branch practice took place on Wednesday 8th also at Lymptone (there *are* other towers in the branch!). Keith ably ran proceedings with just the odd suggestion from me. However my first notice as branch secretary wasn't quite so successful, having put the wrong date for the practice on the email. Perhaps I should have just stuck to running the ringing after all.

I am very pleased to say that Neville Wright is back ringing at Littleham both Sunday and practice night after his recent spell of ill health.

Janet Deem



East Devon Branch



A model of the proposed statue of Coleridge

Ottery St Mary's famous son, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, was born on 21st October 1772, and each year the Ottery St Mary Heritage Society celebrates his birthday with an anniversary lunch on the Saturday nearest the date of his birth. This year it was decided to increase the number of events during the weekend, to incorporate a reading of 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner', a talk by an expert from the British Museum and an exhibition in the church. In addition, I was asked if it would be possible to ring the bells on the Saturday morning, which the Otter Vale Probus Club was prepared to sponsor for £100. Naturally, this was an offer too good to miss, and a quarter of Plain Bob Triples was duly rung at 9.30 am.

It was particularly appropriate to ring for Coleridge, as he was born in sight of the tower. Though he left Ottery at the age of eight soon after the death of his father, it is clear that he still had a soft spot for the town of his birth. In his poem 'Frost at Midnight', he writes:

.... and as oft
With unclosed lids, already had I dreamt
Of my sweet birthplace, and the old church-tower,
Whose bells, the poor man's only music, rang
From morn to evening, all the hot Fair-day,
So sweetly, that they stirred and haunted me
With a wild pleasure, falling on mine ear,
Most like the articulate sounds of things to come!

It is proposed to erect a statue of the poet next to the tower, in a position opposite the site of his house, which was demolished in the 1860s. The photograph, taken by Phyllis Baxter, is of a model of the statue.

Incidentally, Coleridge's father, the Revd John Coleridge, was vicar and schoolmaster from 1760 to 1780. It is said that he read the Bible to the congregation in Hebrew, being, he thought, the language nearest to that of the Holy Spirit.

Ottery St Mary, Devon, St Mary the Virgin

Saturday, 21 October 2017

1260 Plain Bob Triples

- 1 Bruce Odlin
- 2 Judith Reynolds
- 3 Anne Bailey
- 4 Kathie Matthews
- 5 David Barrance
- 6 Andrew Digby
- 7 Laurie Palmer (C)
- 8 Richard Coley

Sponsored, for the Guild Quarter Peal Festival by the Otter Vale Probus Club.

Rung to mark the anniversary of the birth in 1772 of Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Coleridge was the son of the then vicar.

Richard Coley

Exeter Branch

All Change at the Exeter Branch AGM



David Hird



David Maynard



Nathan Evans



Oliver Bates

The Branch's AGM at Heavitree on Saturday 18th November was certainly notable for the winds of change blowing through; actually it was a veritable gale of change, since seven out of the ten officers stood down from their posts and were replaced for the most part by bright young things. Between them they have experience stretching over many years, so we welcome them warmly and look forward to seeing their enthusiasm and fresh ideas being rolled out in due course!

The new committee is comprised of the following members:

Chair: David Hird

Joint Secretaries: Rob and Lucy Neal

Ringling Master: David Maynard

Assistant Ringling Master: Nathan Evans

Treasurer: Lesley Tucker

Publicity Officer: Oliver Bates

Guild General Committee Member: Wendy Gill

Education Adviser: Sarah Chadburn

Bell Adviser: Geoffrey Sparling

We were also very pleased to welcome two new members into the Branch: Garry and Lily Bater from Hatherleigh.

Wendy Campbell

Quarter Peal for Christening



Rob and Lucy (new Exeter Branch Secretaries) with Joseph

A quarter peal was rung at Broadclyst before the Christening service of Joseph Neal, son of Rob and Lucy who are now the new joint Exeter branch secretaries. A number of ringers attended the service, including those who rang in the quarter peal.

Broadclyst, Devon, St John the Baptist

Sunday, 19 November 2017 in 48 minutes

1260 Grandsire Triples

Composed by Andrew Johnson

1 James Kirkcaldy (C)

2 Wendy Campbell

3 Helen Maynard

4 Steph Hills

5 Nathan Evans

6 Rob Franklin

7 Ian Campbell

8 Richard Johnson

Rung prior to the Christening of Joseph George, the son of local ringers Lucy and Robert Neal.



Some of the ringers at the Christening

Ian Campbell

Ringling for the New Year

For several years Pinhoe church has celebrated the new year by ringling the old year out with the bells half-muffled, then ringling just after midnight with them open to welcome the new year. With its ground floor belfry and elevated position it is a wonderful place to celebrate, and from outside you can see the firework displays all over Exeter.

If anyone (ringers or not) would like to join us on December 31st they would be very welcome from 11:15 pm. Nibbles and drinks will be available but do feel free to bring some if you wish.

Rob Franklin



Dunchideock



The three bells of Dunchideock are rarely rung full circle. The original balcony ringing room cannot be used since the organ was installed underneath the holes for the bell ropes but it is now possible to ring them from the upstairs clock room – although they are a little loud as you are directly underneath the bells!

On 17th October four of us visited the tower and performed some basic maintenance on the bells including cleaning out and oiling the plain bearings, supplying and fitting a new (second-hand) rope and freeing the pulleys. Following a test ring they were declared perfectly ringable.



A view of the old ringing gallery with the organ in the way of the ropes

Ian Campbell

Exeter Colleges Guild

ECG@50 'Not the dinner weekend'

The idea of a peal/quarter peal weekend, as part of the 2017 50th anniversary celebration of the Exeter Colleges Guild, started to take shape in 2016. In addition to the ringing it would of course be another chance for catching up with friends old and new.

About 30 of us came together, with the ringing focused around a peal attempt at the Cathedral and quarter peals at the two towers most associated with the ECG over its 50 years.



The peal band at Exeter Cathedral (L-R, front-back)

Exeter Colleges Guild

Exeter, Devon, Cathedral Church of St Peter

Saturday, 9 September 2017 in 3h58

5050 Stedman Cinques

Composed by M R Eccleston

- 1 Janet E Carless (1993-1997)
 - 2 Thomas J Hinks (2007-2010) (C)
 - 3 Stephanie E Hills (2009-2013)
 - 4 Martin J Gentile (2007-2016)
 - 5 Andrew J Mead (1971-1974)
 - 6 Malcolm N Evans (2000-2004)
 - 7 Anthony J Crabtree (1977-1980)
 - 8 Simon J Reading (1972-1975)
 - 9 Malcolm S Turner (1966-1969)
 - 10 David G Maynard (2001-2005)
 - 11 Matthew J Hilling (1995-1998)
 - 12 Richard M Trueman (1979-1982)
- and Nathan Evans (2013-2016)

Rung to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Exeter Colleges Guild.

First on 12 for Steph, Richard and Nathan.

When Matt Hilling suggested I write a few words to cover the event his words were 'Well done yesterday – first peal on 12 and by ringing a heavy tenor. Pretty unusual!'. The first thing to say of course is that this equally applies to Nathan. The difference, and what perhaps makes it unusual, is that I seem to have taken a good while to get around to it whereas Nathan's progression to this doesn't look at all out of place. Well done to Steph, her first on 12 as well; for her they'll be many others I am sure.

For me, being asked to ring in this peal sort of came out of the blue. I am glad I agreed to ring. It would have been easy to find an excuse not to. I knew it was going to be challenging and, yes, I was pretty apprehensive about it for the months before. I hardly ever ring on 12, so this was big scary stuff!

By strange coincidence, and I hadn't twigged this until afterwards, my first peal on 10 was also at the Cathedral (17/01/1981: Grandsire on the 'light ten'). I was 18 and I remember well it being in the 'scary stuff' category: at 3h36 it was also the longest peal I had rung to date (and remained so until this one). Just to top it all, Tony Crabtree rang in that one too!

So, what was it like ringing this heavy tenor for 4 hours? Well, I'd rung the bell a few times during my time in Exeter. I remember ringing it on my own to some Stedman Cinques and thinking to

myself 'that'll be about long enough', only for the Stedman to fire out and the conductor say 'Go Again'. Time to dig deep. That experience came in useful. One hour in, felt it was going OK and that we had sort of got our ears tuned in to the bells. Two hours in I knew we were working hard. For me the 3rd hour was the 'dig deep' hour (and probably not our finest) and by the end of that hour I was increasingly sure that if the peal was to be lost it wouldn't be because we had expired on the tenor. Tom's 'four courses to go' chivvy-up wasn't unwelcome and 'That's All' were sweet words to hear for sure.

Much needed refreshment was taken at George's Meeting House (unaltered 18th century chapel, Weatherspoons) where we were joined by some of the quarter peal ringers and our partners.

Twenty of us rounded the day off by taking over the Tap Room at the Exeter Brewery, down near St David's station. Excellent company, perfect (and cheap) beer and a very tasty wide-ranging menu (as long as your range doesn't go beyond pies)! Before the evening was out we had made it to the 'Featured Performance' on BellBoard, reminding us once again of what we had achieved.

A big thanks to Matt for organising the whole weekend, including the ringing. Thanks to Tom for calling the peal and my congratulations again to the rest of the band and indeed to the ringers of the quarters as well.



The quarter peal band at St Mark's, Exeter (clockwise R-L)

Exeter, Devon, St Mark
 Saturday, 9 September 2017 in 44mins
 1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major
 1 Richard Johnson
 2 Helen Maynard
 3 Roger King
 4 Clare Griffiths
 5 David Atkins
 6 Dom Meredith
 7 Andrew Digby
 8 Ian Campbell (C)
 Rung as part of the celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the Exeter Colleges Guild.

Exeter, Devon, St David
 Saturday, 9 September 2017 in 43mins
 1260 Grandsire Triples
 1 Helen Maynard
 2 Dom Meredith
 3 Clare Griffiths
 4 David Atkins
 5 Andrew Digby
 6 Roger King
 7 Ian Campbell (C)
 8 Richard Johnson
 Rung as part of the celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the Exeter Colleges Guild.



(left-right) Tom Hinks, Steph Hills, Alice Holden, Richard Johnson



(l-r) David Atkins, Linda Trueman, Richard Truman, Janet Carless



(l-r) Roger King, Andrew Digby, Malcolm Evans

Richard Trueman



Mid-Devon Branch

Heritage Open Day at Dawlish

Heritage Open Days take place across England on the second weekend in September every year. People look out for open properties and things to do in their area, so at Dawlish we registered the tower as open during the morning for the second year running.

We still had the Heritage Open Day banner, posters, stickers and even some balloons from last year, but could have ordered more for free if we'd needed them. Dawlish church, like many others, was also open for the Historic Churches' Ride and Stride event which helpfully happens the same weekend, though a churchwarden commented that the tower was the main attraction! We also advertised the event in the local paper, on the town's 'Eyes of Dawlish' Facebook page, and by setting up a Facebook 'event' which could be liked or shared.

On the day we had ringers stationed at various points up the staircase: someone to greet at the bottom, one or two in the ringing chamber to give a go at chiming and demonstrate one bell full circle, someone in the bell chamber to allow safe viewing, and yet another on the roof! Well over 30 people visited during the two hours, and many left with Central Council leaflets explaining ringing. Some commented that they live close by and had always wanted to see what was up the tower.

The main idea was engaging with the community, not recruitment as such, but nonetheless we have ended up with three more recruits from it!

Lynne Hughes

September 6 bell practice – Cockington

In the midst of the seaside towns of Torbay is a definite anachronism – the village of Cockington is a time capsule of what a village was like 50 or even 100 years ago and in its midst is Cockington Court and church. This was the setting for our September practice and many of those visiting were doing so for the first time. You get to the church down a long drive protected by a lodge and gates which are firmly locked during the day as this is one of the honey-pots of the Torbay tourist trail. Fortunately the gates are open during the evening and we were able to park close to the church.

The bells are interesting to say the least and take a bit of getting used to. However, we persevered and were able to produce some very respectable ringing aided by one of the local ringers and Julia from near Cork in Ireland who made this her first stop on a weekend of ringing. Methods ranged from call changes to method-of-the-month, Westminster Surprise Minor. We were able to wish Maddy Brett a happy time as she leaves for university in Bath – we do hope she manages to get some ringing there as there are some lovely bells in that area.

Upton Tower Outing

This year Don had booked six towers in the South Hams. The small party from Upton was swelled by a number of guests who helped to make up bands and with raising and lowering the bells. Towers visited were Blackawton, East Allington Slapton Stokenham, Sherford and West Charleton. Lunch had been booked at the Queen's Arms in Slapton and all agreed that it was an excellent choice with a welcoming atmosphere and great food.

The bells were quite a variety but it was generally felt that the best had been saved to the last with West Charleton – a very pleasant six allowing some good ringing. Altogether another great outing – thanks go to Don Roberts for the organisation and to all the locals and incumbents for permission to ring and for meeting the ringers.

Branch Outing to Somerset

Anyone who has organised a ringing outing will tell you that either all towers agree to your request or you have to completely change your plans – there seems to be no middle ground! This year's outing was certainly of the latter kind with several of the towers unable to let us ring for various reasons. In the end all the changed plans worked well and all agreed that it was a very enjoyable day.

The advent of the 24-seater coach has definitely made it easier for branch outings as we no longer need to find enough people to fill a 52-seater and 24 is an ideal number of ringers. Everyone was in good time for our meeting so as soon as the coach arrived we were off up the motorway. First stop was Banwell where there is a fine ring of ten and Deputy Ringing Master, Mike Tompsett soon had the ringing under way. We rang quite a lot of call changes but also some Cloister Caters which is an ideal method for ringers who are less experienced on higher numbers. It was then back on the motorway up to our next tower at Tickenham which were a pleasant six and we added York Surprise to our repertoire. Lunch was taken at Nailsea where there are a number of different possibilities. Most popular were a Chinese restaurant and the local Weatherspoons. Once the delights of Nailsea had been sampled it was a fairly short journey to Barrow Gurney. These bells often feature in the peal columns as they are fairly isolated. The church was fascinating with some very interesting memorials. Our ringing was slightly 'after-lunch-ish'! Still all got a good ring and many made use of the interesting 'facilities'!

Backwell were next where we were met by Tony Cox who also rang with us. Most agreed that these bells were the best of the day and our ringing improved noticeably. Methods here included Double Norwich and Bristol Surprise Major. These bells are soon to become a ten and we look forward to a visit some time in the future. Our final ring was at Churchill where the heavy six seemed to make the tower sway quite considerably. These are not the easiest bells to ring but we certainly did our best.

That was the end of the ringing but Wellington was an ideal spot for supper and everyone descended on the Weatherspoons where a table had been booked. From there it was a fairly easy journey home.

Thanks go to all the local ringers and incumbents who made us so welcome, some at fairly short notice. Thanks are also due to all who took part and made it such an enjoyable day.



Martin Mansley

Stoke Fleming

Controlling Rope noise in the Ringing Chamber

During our recent re-hanging and augmentation most of the floors in the tower at Stoke Fleming were found to be in a poor state of repair and had to be replaced. The new arrangements were generally a closer fit around the walls than the old floors had been and, in an attempt to try to improve the sound levels in the ringing chamber, we went to some trouble to seal off any large holes that remained either with timber or insulating material.

The old ceiling of the ringing chamber was of fibre-board (in part, in poor condition) and the floor above the 6-inch joists from

which it hung three-quarter-inch tongue and grooved, also pretty rotten and with some large sections missing. We were advised that it is better to have a good solid ceiling to minimise any vibration caused by the ropes rubbing where they pass through, so we specified a inch-and-a-half tongue and grooved ceiling at a height understood to be near the maximum for a space without a rope guide. This meant that there is now a void of about 18 inches between the new ceiling and the floor of the clock chamber above, made of three-quarter-inch ply.

We find we have created a near perfect sound box similar to that of a stringed instrument, so any rubbing or scraping on the ceiling is amplified. The new floor of the belfry is also inch-and-a-half tongue and grooved (known in the trade as 'dung board' because it is used by farmers as walling for cow sheds and slurry compounds!), thicker than the previous and well sealed around the edges.

From these new arrangements two problems have arisen: first the volume of the bells in the ringing chamber is quieter (some visitors have commented that the front end bells are indistinct), and second that the sound of the ropes rubbing on the ceiling bosses is amplified and to some extent drowns out the lighter bells. We have been pursuing several courses of action over time to try to eliminate these difficulties.

Concentrating on the rope noise to start with we tried replacing the new steel ceiling bosses with wooden ones turned out of hardwood. There was little improvement. We tried various ways of insulating the new wooden bosses from the ceiling, to no avail. We discussed the use of various materials that we could fit inside the hole in the ceiling to guide the rope through the centre but decided that this could cause excessive rope wear, or the chosen material would wear away and need frequent replacement, requiring a long ladder and some death defying acrobatic skill. We tried a small amount of silicone grease on the inside of the bosses but that didn't help.

Next we fitted a temporary wooden rope guide on two of the ropes about 15 inches below the ceiling, which gave a slight improvement. It certainly helped to keep the rope in the middle of the hole in the ceiling, but there was still some rope noise from the guide, so here again we tried different bosses in an attempt to eliminate the noise at this point.

Then came the eureka! moment. We decided that the problem might be the rope material. As part of the renovation package we were supplied with new ropes with Terylene tops – we had our misgivings about stretch but these seem to be unfounded. However, the new top ends are much harder than the old hemp rope; perhaps that was the problem. We tried ringing with one of the old hemp ropes; a slight improvement but there was still some noise. Then another breakthrough: we tried splicing a piece of old yachting rope made of polyester above the sally of an old rope. This polyester 'braid on braid' (or double braid) has a smooth woven outer cover to protect the strong but soft inner core. Yachtsmen use it because it does not stretch as much as laid rope made of nylon, where this is a requirement. It was still too stretchy for bell ringing but the smooth outer casing was much quieter on the ceiling bosses, and that gave us the idea to cover the Terylene rope with the outer core of another old piece of yachting rope. Ah, silence – well almost. The faces of our home team were a delight to observe – we could now hear the lighter bells a bit more clearly.

We had enough old polyester rope of a larger size to strip off the cover and fit it on three more of our new ropes: progress indeed. Then we discovered that some towers were now using Dyneema ropes. This is another spin off from the yachting industry. There are different grades but this relatively new type of man-made rope has carbon fibres in its core, which is stronger, lighter and virtually non-stretch with a blend of polyester and other tough fibres for the outer cover which make it very hard wearing. But it is very expensive. However, you can buy Dyneema cover on the Web much cheaper than the full rope. And that is what we have done. It is important to buy the right size, not least because the price goes up exponentially as the size increases but

also for ease of threading the Terylene rope through it. So far we have successfully covered one rope with a Dyneema sheath and sewed the ends to keep it in place and make for a smooth run over the pulleys. We expect this to last longer than the polyester covers that we first experimented with. It is white, looks very smart and the rope noise is all but eliminated.

We still think it might be a good idea to fit a rope guide eventually and plan to take a closer look at this when time and money allow.

Now that we can hear them better we will be turning our attention to the sound level of the bells. We have tried removing a couple of short planks of the flooring under the front bells but this did not seem to improve the situation to a significant extent. More experimentation will be required and perhaps, eventually some kind of sound tube to bring the sound down through the clock chamber and into the void beneath the floor. We will let you know how we get on.

When so much effort has to be expended to get a major project to fruition it can be very tempting to sit back and take a breather so it is good to hear that the Stoke Fleming ringers are determined to finish the job they have started – good luck to them and we look forward to hearing from them in future.



The secured end of a dyneema sheath



The wooden bosses on the ceiling and the temporary rope guide

One of the new steel bosses can be seen on the right and an older type of wooden boss on the left. The middle of the three ropes in the picture has a woven polyester cover from a bit of my yachting rope, the others are as yet uncovered Terylene.

Peter Bailey

Buckfast Abbey Service Ringing

The branch was privileged to be invited to provide the ringing for Sunday service at Buckfast Abbey. Great efforts are being made to make sure that there is ringing each Sunday on these wonderful bells. We all met at the door of the Abbey waiting for the service to end. On a signal from Peter Bill we were shepherded up the tower and were ready to get the bells up, starting with the 'middle' eight. The back bells are fairly heavy but they were soon up and we were able to ring call changes on the back ten. Call changes on ten were interspersed by Plain Bob and Grandsire Triples on the middle eight. All too soon it was time to get the bells down again but there was one more treat in store – Hosanna. This is the seven ton bourdon bell which dominates the centre of the frame. Appropriately our smallest ringer (Wendy) was given the job of ringing this enormous bell. Most of the ringers took the opportunity to watch (and listen to) the bell from the viewing gallery. We got the other bells down as Hosanna gradually slowed down to stop just as we finished lowering. Most ringers then moved over to the Grange for lunch and all agreed that it had been a memorable experience. Thanks go to Paul Hext of the local band and to Peter Bill for meeting us.



Wendy ringing Hosanna

Quarter Peal fortnight

Several quarter peals were rung – at Dawlish congratulations to Jem Meredith who rang his first quarter following his son, Josh:

Dawlish, Devon, St Gregory
Sunday, 29 October 2017 in 43 minutes
1260 Grandsire Doubles
1 Josh Meredith
2 Fiona Rock-Evans
3 Lynne Hughes (C)
4 Phil Hughes
5 Martin Dodd
6 Jem Meredith
1st quarter: 6

Berry Pomeroy, Devon, St Mary
Friday, 3 November 2017 in 47 minutes
1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Wena Mansley
- 2 Justine Peberdy
- 3 Nicholas R I White
- 4 Tim King
- 5 Martin Mansley
- 6 Michael Tompsett (C)

1st of Minor and 1st Q for 17 years - 2

Congratulations go to Justine Peberdy who rang her first quarter of Minor before returning to Austria. She has been a most welcome addition to Berry ringing over the last twelve months during her secondment to Dartington.

Torquay, Devon, St Mary the Virgin, St Marychurch
Saturday, 4 November 2017 in 50 minutes
1260 Plain Bob Triples

- 1 Wendy Rennie
- 2 Tim King
- 3 Rowena Mansley
- 4 Don Roberts
- 5 Geraint Thomas
- 6 Peter Clements
- 7 Martin Mansley (C)
- 8 Ernie Pryce

To mark the 80th birthday of Ernie Pryce



Ernie has rung at St Marychurch for many years and, although a call change ringer at heart, tolerates our method ringing and rings a fine tenor to our Doubles, Triples and Caters. We hope to celebrate many more birthdays with him!



Ernie Pryce

Martin Mansley

Bell frame painted at Berry Pomeroy



The newly painted frame at Berry Pomeroy

St Mary, Berry Pomeroy, has a good ring of eight bells with a tenor weighing 14¾ cwt. A significant project was recently completed to clean out the belfry and wire-brush and paint the bell frame and bell headstocks which were suffering from surface rusting. All the work was carried out by the ringers, involving more than 80 man-hours of work in the belfry plus additional time spent in planning, material ordering, travel, trips to the tip, etc. The church authorities are very grateful to the ringers for their time and expertise in completing this project.

Mike Tompsett

Branch AGM



The committee: Fiona, Rodney, Julia and Martin

It may have been one of the coldest days this winter but the welcome at Wolborough was as warm as ever. Ringing got underway at 3pm with a variety of methods interspersed with call changes. A touch of Stedman Triples went especially well and Plain Bob Major was the service touch.

David Wittchell took the service and we managed reasonably well without service sheets! He pointed out several features of the church building, some of which are unique, such as the ornate screen which contains more depictions of saints than any other church in the country. In his address he highlighted the camaraderie of ringing mentioning the unvaryingly warm welcome everyone receives in belfries throughout the English-speaking world. He felt this was a good example of Christian values at work.

The service of prayer and praise includes a place for handbell ringing, so Wendy Rennie, Wena Mansley, Martin Mansley and Jeanette Thompson 'lapped' Plain Hunt Major which involves passing the bells up and down whilst the ringers ring rounds – looks more difficult than it is!!

The tea was soon demolished in the way that only ringers can, whilst lots of networking filled the church with a real buzz. It was then time to get down to the meeting itself.



Lapping on Handbells



Simon receiving the trophy from Martin

Once the formalities of such things as apologies and minutes were out of the way we elected new members and it was good to hear that Brixham has now re-joined the Guild.

Edden Clapper: This year the clapper was presented to Stokeinteignhead who have been working hard to move from call changes to plain hunt and Plain Bob Doubles. Receiving the trophy Simon Glanfield thanked the branch and also the ringers from Dawlish and St Marychurch who have boosted numbers at their practices. He pointed out that Stoke won the clapper on its first presentation in 1980.

Reports followed with Chairman Rodney Horder remarking on the growing emphasis in the Church of England on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. He also mentioned that in the next few months the branch will need to plan the Guild AGM which we will host in June.

Ringmaster: Martin Mansley reported on a busy year and picked out the training sessions (plain hunt and raising and lowering), our two visits to Buckfast Abbey and the two outings as particular highlights. He felt that the centres of ringing within the branch are real strengths which need to be celebrated. Here ringers from several towers get together for mutual benefit.

Acting secretary: Julia Brett explained that Catherine Saunders is still unwell and Julia has been acting on her behalf. She particularly wanted to mention the Central Council initiative to recruit 1400 ringers nationally next year. This is to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the first world war (1400 ringers were killed in that war).

Treasurer: Fiona Rock-Evans reported a healthy balance in funds and said that she would normally suggest a donation to the bell fund but with the coming Guild AGM she felt that it was best to wait to see how much this will cost the branch.

Library: Jeanette Thompson reported that there had not been many books borrowed this year although the emphasis had been on the teaching and learning area which was encouraging. Wena Mansley led a discussion on ways to encourage use of the books. It was felt that learners should have sections of books and videos pointed out to them so that they could use them to further the study of the topic they were working on. They could possibly report their experiences in *Tower Talk*, the mid-Devon newsletter.

Guild Committee rep: Janet Ritterman mentioned the new 8-bell competition which will start in 2018 which will entail ringing plain hunt on seven, aimed at novices who have not rung a quarter peal. The rules only require one novice in the team – full details are at <http://devonringers.org.uk/gdr-media/pdf/agmdocs/Novice8BellCompetitionRulesDraft.pdf>

Election of officers: Julia Brett was elected as Secretary and best wishes were sent to Catherine Saunders in the hope that her health will improve in 2018. Anne Bailey was elected to the new post of IT/website officer.

All other officers were re-elected.

Any Other Business: It was reported that Martin Mansley had attended a practice in Wiltshire where he met Russell Chamberlain, our previous branch chairman. Russell is enjoying retirement and sent warm greetings to the branch – he and Caroline enjoy reading about our doings in *Tower Talk*. He also sent news that Rusty Hartley has moved to Westbury and is getting involved with ringing in that area.

Don Roberts asked that great efforts be made to enter a team in the Guild 8-bell competition.

The meeting then closed officially but there was still plenty of buzz as we enthusiastically discussed the doings of the day.

Many thanks go to all who helped in any way to make it such a positive and enjoyable meeting.

Martin Mansley

North East Branch

Dunster joint practice and canal boat trip 9th September 2017

The first activity for this event was ringing at St Michael and All Angels in Bampton at 3:45pm. We rang some methods and call changes with our visitors from Minehead and Milverton but the practice had to finish sooner than planned in order to allow a window of silence for an impromptu exchange of rings in the church below (somewhat ironic as earlier that day we had been ringing by request for a wedding in Huntsham). So we ended the Bampton practice at 4:30pm and moved onward to the next venue, the acclaimed St Peter of Tiverton, reputed to have one of the top ten rings of eight in the country. I had been looking forward to ringing there for the first time and was not disappointed and nor were the now enlarged band of visitors. The kids and novices (including me) rang a variety of changes and Plain Bob while the more expert rang things like Stedman Triples.



Then at 6pm we moved on for the social event - a two hour evening cruise from Tiverton on the Grand Western Canal in a horse drawn barge. The ranks of the visitors had now swelled substantially but it felt quite spacious on board. After introductions from the skipper to the barge layout (toilet at bow, seating in middle, bar at stern) and to the horse (likes to eat 140 Polos a day apparently), we set off to our destination: Manley Bridge some 1½ miles away.



Mike and Pat Hatchett had laid on a wonderful feast of pies, quiches, sausages, cheeses and deserts, for which they gave strict instructions that the former was for outbound and the latter for the return. We took a thirty-minute break at the bridge as an opportunity to walk in the twilight to the Halberton aqueduct, to meet and feed the horse, and for Sheila Scofield to present Tony Trigg with a well-earned ringing retirement gift. In addition to dessert the return journey was very memorable for a few special minutes of planned darkness as we switched off the lighting and opened the windows and all we could hear was the murmur of water and gentle clip-clop of the horse.

Many thanks go to Jenny Jones and all the other organisers of this memorable event!



Young Ringers feeding Polos to the horse

Mike Ward

Mid-Week Outing to East Devon

Never let it be said that a non-ringer can't organise a bellringing outing. Karen Lewis did a splendid job on arranging the NE Branch mid-week outing in September. Three excellent 6-bell towers, coffee and a wonderful lunch was enjoyed by a dozen members. And she even arranged some good weather too!

Our first stop was at Farway, where Les Boyce led the ringing. Some well struck call changes as a warm up were followed by plain methods and a course of Kent. Then off to the Grazing Cow, where we had to make excuses for Mike wanting to report them to the RSPCA for not giving their (plastic) cow enough grass. At this point Nellie, Liz and Guy took themselves off to the end of the garden for a handbell session.

Then to the delights of Offwell where Richard Barker regaled us with stories of ringing there when he was a 'lad'. For those who have not rung there they are lovely bells and certainly worth returning to for a quarter peal. Once again there was some good striking including a plain course of Cambridge. Lunch had been previously booked by Karen at the Tuckers Inn, Dalwood where we received excellent service and delicious food. Highly recommended if you are in the area.

Our final ring was at Kilmington where we were joined by locals, Richard and Celia. As we left the rain started so we all felt we had had the best of the day.



Ringling at Farway



Ringling at Offwell, with the beautifully decorated balcony

Sheila Scofield

Ringling for Private Thomas Henry Sage VC

On 4th October 1917 Private Thomas Sage from Tiverton smothered a grenade that had fallen back into their trench, thereby saving the lives of six men. Miraculously surviving after being peppered with shrapnel and making it back to the rear echelon, he returned to Tiverton to a hero's welcome and was awarded the Victoria Cross. Pte Sage passed away in 1945.

This year Tiverton Town Council commemorated the 100th anniversary of Private Thomas Henry Sage VC with a ceremony on 4th October at the front of the Memorial Hall. This involved local dignitaries as well as the military regiments involved. A commemorative stone on the wall of the War Memorial was unveiled to mark the 100th anniversary of his selfless act.

When Thomas originally received a hero's welcome by the people of Tiverton, the bells of St Peter's rang out. A request was received to ring again for this commemoration, so the following quarter peal was arranged and rung:

Tiverton, Devon, St Peter

Wednesday, 4 October 2017 in 49minutes

1260 Grandsire Triples

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Mark Heritage | 5 Richard Johnston |
| 2 Jenny Jones | 6 Martin Mansley |
| 3 Sheila Scofield | 7 Ian Campbell (C) |
| 4 Les Boyce | 8 Catherine Thorpe |

To commemorate the brave action of Pte Thomas Henry Sage VC who on this day in 1917 smothered a grenade that had fallen back into their trench, thereby saving the lives of six men. May he rest in eternal peace.

Following the ceremony an email was received:

'I would like to thank you and your fellow bell ringers that did us proud yesterday for Private Thomas Henry Sage VC. We really appreciated your group giving up their time to put on this performance of bell ringing. It gave an extra element to the ceremony and sense of occasion. You will receive an official letter of thanks to follow but I just wanted to contact you asap to thank you all.

*Kind regards
Julie Hubbard
Tiverton town Council'*

Ian Campbell/Mark Heritage

First Quarter Peal

Congratulations to Fergus Kettleborough on ringing his first quarter peal, at the first attempt, during the Guild festival. Fergus began ringing in January 2015, aged 9, with the Bampton after-school bell club. Despite limited rope time he made steady progress using the Learning the Ropes Scheme. He received his Guild certificate in February 2017 then tragically broke his arm three months later whilst skateboarding. Not being able to ring for a few months and being out of practice, he was uncertain when I suggested he would like to have a go at a quarter during the 2017 festival. On Saturday morning Fergus joined the 6-bell practice at Bampton for five minutes on the treble, 120 Plain Bob Doubles. After a discussion about options for the afternoon, followed by lunch with the family, Dad brought Fergus over to Huntsham with his ready smile and determination. We were all so pleased with his success and the fact that he smiled throughout, keeping a wary eye on the clock as we had told him it would be about 45 minutes. Well done, Fergus.

Huntsham, Devon, All Saints

Saturday, 4 November 2017 in 45 mins

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Fergus Kettleborough

2 Leslie Boyce

3 Richard Barker

4 Sheila Scofield (C)

5 Mark Heritage

6 Mandy Burnett

First quarter 1



The band in order anti-clockwise, starting front left
The board gives details of the quarter peal

Sheila Scofield

Picnic at Calverleigh

A quarter peal was rung at Calverleigh as part of the quarter peal fortnight to enable Hazel Turner to ring the tenor. It was an enjoyable quarter and by all accounts, there was some good striking to be heard. It was a cold day; the first frost had covered the grass with its chilly white blanket. Winter was most definitely in the air. I arrived early so that I could visit my grandparents' grave and have a quiet moment. Looking down at the large pond which was covered in pond weed no-one would know there was deep water under there.

It is hard to believe that four months earlier on 1st July on an

extremely hot day the NE Branch had a picnic on that very spot. There was a good turn out and the picnic followed a varied and enjoyable range of ringing. Like the ringing the picnic was varied and enjoyable. As with all bring and share events we seemed to each bring too much food. There was a veritable banquet laid out on the Calverleigh grass and I for one was absolutely stuffed by the end of it. There were homemade cakes, pies, fancies, sandwiches and nibbles a-plenty and we sat and munched and listened to the karaoke coming from the 40th birthday party event being held at the village hall. We sang along a little to all that jazz but didn't muster up enough enthusiasm to sing a full-blown boogie-woogie bugle boy of company B.

Mark Heritage took this splendid photo of us relaxing after the picnic. Don't be deceived by Mark's horizontal relaxed pose, only one second earlier he was setting the timer on the camera and preparing to run in to shot.

So on this very hot July afternoon the karaoke singers and the picnicking ringers shared the facilities at Calverleigh, only thankful that we were all able to strip off and have a swim.



Mandy Burnett

NE Branch Contributions towards Quarter Peal Festival

I would like to thank all those who supported the quarter peal festival this year and share their successes with you all. Of the eleven quarters planned we were successful in all eleven and we rang nine different methods during the fortnight. This year we had 22 members of the Branch involved and we rang in seven different towers, including three non-branch towers. My thanks go to the towers who allowed us to ring in their tower but donated the tower fees to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund.

We had a number of 'firsts' this year:

- Fergus Kettleborough- 1st quarter
- Mark Heritage- 1st as conductor
- First in methods- St Simon's Bob Doubles (Mandy Burnett & Lynette Costello), Oxford Bob Triples (Mark Heritage) and Single Oxford Bob Minor (Mark Heritage)

During the festival we rang for many special events including:

- The marriage of Revs Robert Gordon & Steph Jeffs
- Birthday compliments for Ron Trickey (89), Alan Craig (90) and Air Vice Marshal Donald Attlee (95)
- Brian and Glenis Samuels' Silver Wedding Anniversary
- All Saints Day, Huntsham patronal festival
- Rev Sue Blade's final service at Holcombe Rogus, upon leaving the ministry
- In memory of Joe Turner

Ringers have been very generous with both time and donations. This year we have raised £222 for the DCBRF. Thank you all for such a successful event

Sheila Scofield (NE Education Officer & QP Organiser)

St Peter's, Tiverton - Learning the Ropes Level 2

Presentation for Moira Bell

Moira has worked tirelessly since taking up this fine art back in October 2016 and has strived at every opportunity to gain as much rope time as possible. She has been a first class student who listens avidly and heeds all advice imparted to her, equally questioning why we teach certain aspects in the syllabus too.

It therefore gave me great pleasure to present her Level 2 Certificate from the Learning the Ropes (LtR) Training Scheme on Tuesday 17th October, during a welcome break in what was to be a busy night with a tower fully packed with eager ringers. Unfortunately, our 'Piggy' on the table was a little camera shy on this occasion and so decided to save his blushes by turning away as pictured below.

For those unsure of what Learning the Ropes (LtR) is, it is in essence a systematic approach to ringing, covering five graded levels, and in broad terms teaches aspects of Health and Safety, raising a bell, rounds, ringing with a band, call changes through to method ringing and the ringing of quarter peals from Level 3 onwards.

It's an invaluable aid for teachers and provides the ringers with their own personal log book, which once a level of competence has been achieved at each given task, is then signed off by the tutor. Ringers can see for themselves the various aspects that need to be covered and can read up on the theory before their next hands-on session in the ringing chamber. It's a fantastic motivational tool and I highly recommend this means of teaching if you aim to teach or assist others in training ringers.

I would like to conclude in congratulating Moira once again for an outstanding achievement and with this, my sincere thanks go to all who have helped her along this path thus far. Fearful of erroneously missing names from the list, I will leave it there. You all know who you are and I salute each and every one of you; your support has been nothing short of outstanding.



Moira receiving her certificate from Mark Heritage

Mark Heritage - Picture by Mandy Burnett

Court Appeals?

The sound of the Bampton bells has attracted a new ringer. John (not his real name) heard the bells and made contact saying he was interested in learning to ring. He came along to our practice night and watched for the whole evening.

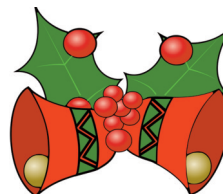
It was the first Thursday of the month and the day we all head to the pub after ringing for notices and a bit of a social. John also came to the pub and listened intently.

Two days later John had his first lesson. He came with his cousin and they had a tour of the bells and learned to ring backstrokes on the practice bell. They seemed to enjoy it.

Afterward Mike asked them if they had any questions and if they would be interested in having another lesson. 'I am interested', John said, 'BUT what are all these court appeals you are all involved in? And why was it Mandy's first time inside? Sheila talked about it in the pub the other night'.

We answered John that we weren't talking about Court Appeals, we were talking about Quarter Peals. It was half way through quarter peal fortnight and Sheila had been asked to talk about how it was going. It was Mandy's first time inside for St Simon's Doubles, it was Mark's first time as conductor, there were eleven quarter peals planned and so far we had been successful in all of them, more people than ever involved this year and lots of firsts... no wonder John was confused. We had to chuckle.

Mandy Burnett



St. Peter's Society – 150 not out!

It is a Wednesday evening in November 1867 and a number of worthy Tiverton men have gathered at Blundell's School for a meeting. A certain Charles A W Troyte Esq of Huntsham Court takes the chair. The chairman explains that it is his desire to see a society for change ringing formed in the town and that he would like to aid such a venture. He goes on to give his audience some insights into the science of campanology. At the end of his talk it was resolved to establish 'The St. Peter's Society of Change Ringers', to elect Charles Troyte as its first President and to elect other officers. Thus, the St. Peter's Society (Tiverton) was formed on 13th November 1867 and a brief report of the meeting appeared in the following week's *Tiverton Gazette*. At the end of the meeting Troyte presented the new society with a set of handbells.

Fast-forward almost exactly a year and the following advertisement appears in the *Tiverton Gazette* (17 November 1868):

ST. PETER'S SOCIETY OF CHANGE RINGERS

Notice is hereby given, that whereas, the Rectors and Churchwardens of Tiverton have, under certain conditions, given the whole and sole charge of, and power over, the Bells and Bell-chambers of St. Peter's Church, to the above society, all Ringing done in St. Peter's Tower is now under the direction and control of the St. Peter's Society of Change Ringers, and its officers ONLY are authorised to receive the fees payable. No one is entitled to ask for, or accept any gratuity on account of Ringing. [Scale of fees follows]

In the same issue of the paper a letter from Charles Troyte appears explaining the background to this rather odd advertisement. A year earlier, having formed the St. Peter's Society and attracted young and enthusiastic members, the change ringers found themselves unable to use St. Peter's tower. The 7th bell had cracked during ringing and a few years earlier a bell had fallen whilst being rung. Letters had appeared in the local paper complaining of the state of the bells and the infrequency of them being rung. So, the first task of the Society was to set about getting the cracked bell recast and putting the belfry into good order. In the meantime, no doubt, the set of handbells was put to good use!

A week after the above advert appeared another was published proclaiming the 'Inauguration Festival' of the St. Peter's Society. There was to be a lecture on bells and ringing by Rev HT Ellacombe with illustrative models and touches on handbells on the Thursday evening, 26th November. The St. Stephen's, Bristol ringers had been invited down to assist and were scheduled to ring touches on St. Peter's bells on the Friday and a full peal on Saturday 28th.

Thus the 7th had been recast at a cost of £200 to the Society and the bells put into good order. Fees from future ringing were to be paid into the Society's coffers to defray the expenditure. Accounts of the Festival activities appeared in a number of West Country newspapers the following week.

However, a really detailed account appeared in the *Tiverton Gazette* on 1st December 1868. Most revealing is the report of the Society's dinner held on the Friday evening at the White Ball Inn. A near-verbatim account of the speech made by Troyte reveals the tensions that existed between the existing Round Ringers and the new Society of Change Ringers. Rumours had been spread that the gathering in the White Ball was to be a political meeting, leading to some people staying away. Troyte attempted to refute accusations that, by taking over the belfry, he was trying to become a 'town king'. Arguments had also been thrown back and forth about whether change ringing or round ringing had been responsible for the cracking of the 7th.

All of which suggests that Tiverton might have been an early microcosm of the tensions raised in Devon by the Belfry Reform movement in the later 19th century. Happily, today's members of St Peter's Society are content to ring both method and call changes and are looking forward to a year of celebration marking the Society's 150th anniversary. The following quarter peal was rung as the first event in this special year.

Tiverton, Devon. St Peter
Sunday, 19 November 2017 in 51minutes
1344 St Peter Bob Triples

1 Mandy Burnett	5 Richard Johnston
2 Jenny Jones	6 Leslie Boyce
3 Sheila Scofield	7 Matthew Weighell (C)
4 Mark Heritage	8 Richard Barker

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the formation of the St Peter's Society of Change Ringers on 13th November 1867. Also to celebrate the 70th wedding anniversary of HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.
First in method (all). 1st of Triples (1).

Les Boyce

Bishop Blesses Bells

Regular readers of Ringing Round Devon can hardly be unaware that for the last few years there has been an active group in Combe Raleigh determined to see the three bells at St Nicholas' Church restored and augmented to six. After six years of intense fund raising the project came to fruition on 29th October when the augmented ring of six bells was rededicated and blessed by the Bishop of Exeter, the Right Reverend Robert Atwell.

The church was packed full for the rededication service which was conducted by the Bishop, assisted by the Rev Sue Roberts, Rector and the Rev Jane Lankester, Vicar. Ringers came from great distances, from as far afield as Hereford and Kent to be present on this historic occasion and most of the East Devon churches and their ringers were represented. Organist Kevin Lane, who many years ago learned to play the organ at St Nicholas', travelled from Thrushelton on the edge of Dartmoor, especially for the day. Lessons were read by Rosemary Mapleston, churchwarden and Lisa Clarke, tower captain. After the dedication the St Nicholas' bell-ringers rang a short length of call changes following which the Bishop led the applause of an appreciative congregation. The ringers, Trevor Hitchcock 1, Ruth Hitchcock 2, Lisa Clarke 3, Mark Moran 4, Paddy Priscott 5 and Laurence Clarke 6 were surprised by this unexpected acclaim, unusual during a service.

The Bishop reflected that it was an amazing achievement, raising almost £110,000 in such a tiny community and it showed how much it means to the villagers and the love they have for their ancient church. The Rev Sue Roberts described it as 'a hugely joyful occasion and a truly moving and memorable experience. It is wonderful to think that these bells will call people for centuries to come.' With the rededication of the bells by the Bishop we can look back with a certain amount of satisfaction that we leave a

legacy for generations to come, but we also wonder, had we known the final cost, would we ever have started? It is a huge sum to find for a community of barely 200 inhabitants.

It seems to be true that with faith great things can be achieved but we must never forget the enormous amount of help we have had from so many people, both from the village and from the wider community. All connected with the project wish to express their profound thanks to everyone who has supported it in any way during the long journey that has led to this successful conclusion.

After the service everyone was invited to the Village Hall for tea and to see the Bishop, Churchwarden and Tower Captain cut the celebratory cake decorated, naturally, with six bells.



Photo by Heather Trim



Lisa Clarke (Tower Captain), Robert Atwell (Bishop of Exeter), Rosemary Mapleston (Churchwarden) cutting the celebratory cake. (Photo by Ali Phelps-Beaumont)

Trevor Hitchcock

Parlez-vous Bonglais?

(with apologies to the late Miles Kingston)

Sheila and I have always had an unwritten rule – when on holiday we have a break from routine, including a holiday from ringing. But when some seven years ago we first had a chance to visit Canada it somehow seemed foolish to pass up the chance of grabbing some unusual towers. So, we got in touch with ringers in Vancouver and were treated to wonderful hospitality by Alan and Maie Ellis and their colleagues at the Holy Rosary Cathedral. Similarly, we have rung several times with the Calgary band and enjoyed convivial sessions in the Dog and Duck pub afterwards.

This summer saw us in Quebec in eastern Canada, a wonderful World Heritage city full of exquisite Anglo-French architecture. And staying just around the corner from Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral (an 1830 Thomas Mears eight – 14 cwt) on their Wednesday practice night, we decided to get in touch with their Captain, Benjamin Waterhouse. We had been reminded of our need to revise our French before setting off for Quebec, but 'Waterhouse' seemed a reassuringly English name.

Admission to Holy Trinity is gained by the unusual means of pulling on a cord which dangles from the window of the ringing room and sounds a small servants' bell above. On the evening of our visit an inquisitive Texan couple had pulled on this cord and the ringers, expecting visitors from the UK, had gone down to let them in. The couple undoubtedly enjoyed an unexpected and memorable evening in the tower.

The majority of Holy Trinity's ringers are English speakers, but several are French Canadians, one or two with a limited command of English. So, the usual medium in the tower is French and Holy Trinity claims to be the only French-speaking change ringing band in the world. Standing behind one of these ringers therefore presented particular challenges for my schoolboy French. In call changes 'à quatre' or 'à moi' came easily. Plain Hunt presented more of a challenge – 'en haut lentement', 'en bas vite!'. Fortunately, the band that took hold for Stedman Doubles was all

English-speaking. Otherwise I might have drawn inspiration from Miles Kingston – 'Faissez les coathangers' ou 'Faissez les... les ears des chats'.

If you ever get the opportunity to ring in Canada do grab it; Canadian ringers are most welcoming. But if you are going to be in Quebec, don't forget to brush up your 'Bonglais'!

Les Boyce

South West Branch

50th Anniversary of Handbell Ringers of Great Britain

Six ringers rang a quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles at St Peter's, Lamerton on the 12th November 2017. Nothing particularly unusual about that. However, we feel that we recorded a very important milestone in handbell ringing and also made a bit of history at the same time. The Handbell Ringers of Great Britain (HRGB) was founded at Ashton-under-Lyne on 7th October 1967, and this year marks the 50th anniversary of its formation. From very humble beginnings HRGB now has over 1,600 registered teams from all over the country. The South West Region is one of the strongest and with The Lamerton Association of Handbell Ringers being the first team in Devon to register with HRGB, all those years ago, St Peter's, Lamerton seemed the ideal location. It was in the parish church that the Lamerton team held its first rally in 1974. Remarkably this event has been held annually ever since.

The six ringers taking part all became interested in handbell ringing through their interest in tower bells and are all members of HRGB. Close scrutiny of *The Ringing World* has revealed that no other team of tower bell ringers has yet rung to celebrate the 50th anniversary so we think that we may have made a little bit of history at the same time.

Handbell Ringers of Great Britain (South West Region)

Lamerton, Devon, St Peter

Sunday, 12 November 2017 in 43 minutes

1260 Grandsire Doubles

(10 different extents plus a 60)

- 1 Paul Scoble (Bodmin)
- 2 Roy T Smith (Inwardleigh)
- 3 Owen J Borlase (St Dominc)
- 4 Geoffrey C Hill (Lamerton Association)
- 5 Fergus M S Stracey (C - Plymouth Minster)
- 6 Colin J E Kneebone (Lifton)

Rung to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain by members of the South West Region. Specially arranged to be rung at Lamerton as the Lamerton Association of Handbell Ringers were the first team in Devon to register with HRGB. The ringer of the 4th was a founder member and the treble ringer is the South West Region Chairman.



Cathedral of The Holy Trinity, Quebec



L to R: Owen, Geoff, Fergus, Colin, Roy, Paul

Geoff Hill

Other News

Pudsey Bear sends heartfelt thanks



The ringers at the church of St Nicholas and St Giles, Sidmouth made a late decision to support the UK wide BBC Children in Need fund raising campaign, backed by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, by ringing the bells continuously for thirty minutes on 5th November. The lateness of the decision meant little prior advertising was possible yet it paid off handsomely with members of the congregation and passers by contributing a total of £310. This very generous support was way beyond our wildest expectations. Thanks are due to everyone who supported this most worthy cause and all funds raised went directly to it.

Ray Appleby

St Michael's Kingsteignton Patronal Ringing Festival



Ringling on the George Tribe mini-ring

In recent years, it has become something of a tradition to hold a concert in Kingsteignton church to celebrate the patronal festival, making use of the choir and tune ringing handbell group as the core of items, interspersed with solo items from a variety of

talented individuals at our disposal. However, for various reasons it was not possible this year, so it was decided to hold a ringing festival instead.

Thus I came up with a slightly hare-brained plan! Based on ringing quarter peals using five different rings of bells, we would attempt as many quarters as possible! St Michael's were of course available and with the temporary re-locating of Bishops-Ting-Tong to Kings-Ting-Tong these were also available. The Guild's FDM mini ring was set up in the church, the George Tribe mini ring were set up in the choir vestry and we also had the use of Lynne's handbells.

An email sweep established there was a good degree of support from the Kingsteignton ringers and regular visitors, so with spreadsheet set up I set about trying to arrange a workable programme. There was a core of ringers who were available throughout the day and several who were able to come for part of the time (following a successful peal attempt at Cullompton in the morning), and others who had to leave early. Having the correct numbers available for combinations of 8 and 6 was not always possible, so when I had 9 ringers available I was able to arrange bands to ring on handbells which added to the variety.

Ten attempts were successful, although the George Tribe ring defeated both of the bands who attempted a quarter on them! I think these little bells were originally designed and hung more as a demonstration model than a ring to be rung accurately to method, but we were successful in getting 120 Plain Bob Minor round which gave us hope for a future attempt!

All the successful attempts have been published on BellBoard, so I will not repeat them here. However, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the ringers who took part and especially those who took on conducting responsibilities. Rope fees raised £57. 00 which was split equally between St Michael's Kingsteignton and the DCBRF. Footnote of the day goes to Mike Mears who rang his 2000th quarter (Norwich S Minor at Kings-Ting-Tong).

The day concluded with a meal at The Bell in Kingsteignton, where we were joined by other local ringers who had not been able to ring due to work commitments. The Doombur was excellent as was the food - so ended a successful day and one which I hope we can repeat at some time in the future.



After ringing at Ting-Tong

Nigel Birt

Near Disaster at Exeter Cathedral

On Sunday 3rd December a quarter peal attempt at Exeter Cathedral had to be stopped after about 20 minutes ringing. A thump had been heard from the ringing chamber and fairly soon afterwards Oliver Coldrick found that the tenor was getting impossible to ring. The ringing was stopped and investigation showed that one of the bell bolts that hold the bell to the headstock had sheared off and fallen to the ground.

The bell was now held in by only three bolts and fairly soon two of those had worked, enabling the bell to move on its headstock. Ringing of the tenor has been suspended for urgent action to be taken. It is not currently clear whether or not it will be ringable in time for the carol service next weekend. There are, however, still thirteen other bells to ring!



This picture from 2001 shows Andrew Nicholson (below) and Paul Pascoe (above) attending to Grandisson, the Cathedral Tenor bell. Two of the four bell bolts are clearly visible.

Stop Press news: an attempt to replace all four bell bolts is to be made this Thursday morning by Nicholson Engineering.

Ian Campbell



Experiments at Kingsteignton

It is reported elsewhere in this issue that a couple of attempts to ring a quarter peal on the George Tribe mini-ring had to be abandoned as the bells were too tricky to ring. In an attempt to try to improve the go of these model bells (which were not really designed to be rung but to demonstrate how bells were hung!) Ian Avery has tried temporarily mounting them in the frame that is usually used for the Frank Mack bells. They were setup in Kingsteignton church so that they could be tried out but had to be removed to make space for the Christmas tree. While they are by no means easy to ring they are probably a little easier than before, although a couple of the ropes do come down rather close to each other! I am hopeful that we will be able to report a successful quarter soon! And then what? A peal?



The George Tribe ring temporarily in the FDM bells enclosure
Ian Campbell/Ian Avery

Notice seen at Lugwardine



Ian Campbell

Training

The 2017 ART Awards



These awards are open to all ringing groups – not just those associated with ART - and will be awarded at the 2018 ART Conference in Royston on the 3rd March. The awards event is open to everyone at no charge and details will be advertised in the New Year. Applications should be made before the **31st December 2017** – details at www.ringingteachers.org

Teaching Awards



The **Sarah Beacham** Youth Group Award: Prize of £400 – **sponsored by the Sarah Beacham Memorial Trust**

The **Sarah Beacham** School Group Award: Prize of £400 – **sponsored by the Sarah Beacham Memorial Trust**

The ART Award for Innovation in the Effective Use of Technology in Teaching: Prize of £500 – **sponsored by John Taylor & Co.**

The ART Award for Innovation in Recruitment or Retention: Prize of £400 – **sponsored by AbelSim**

The ART Award for a University Society that has made a Significant Contribution to Promoting Ringing to Younger People: Prize of £500 – **sponsored by CCCBR**

The ART Award for Inspiring Leadership in Ringing: Prize of £500 – **sponsored by Talent Innovations**

Awards open to all teachers - not just ART Members or those using the Learning the Ropes Scheme

Ringing Awards

Learning the Ropes Achievement Awards

Five awards of £25 will be given to the best five achievers as judged from those achieving Level 5 (LtR or LtR Handbells) or participating in LtR Plus. An award of £50 will be presented to the overall winner.

All those achieving LtR level 5 in 2017 will be invited to the Ringing Masterclass hosted by the Birmingham School of Bell Ringing in 2018.

So are you connected to an active University Society? Have you seen examples of excellent leadership, good work with a school or youth group, new initiatives for recruitment or use of technology? If so **get your application in now – closing date 31 December 2017.**

Graham Nabb, ART



Guild Demonstration Bell



Members of the Probus club trying out handbells.

Note the demo bell on the left – it couldn't be installed on its legs as the ceiling is too low!

The Guild demo bell has been out and about over the summer. It was borrowed by the Devon Association and helped to recruit five learners at Manaton who are already contributing to regular ringing events. It then moved up to North Devon before coming to Harberton where it was used to demonstrate how a bell rings. Since coming back to Exeter it has starred in a presentation given to the Budleigh Salterton Probus club – the third time this talk has been given in the football club for different audiences!

The model bell is available to be borrowed by any tower and is useful for demonstrating the way that a bell is rung. It can be fitted into a reasonable sized car although the legs are a little long!

Ian Campbell

Notable Ringing Events

Congratulations to Matt

I hope that you will all join me in congratulating Matthew Hilling (Exeter Cathedral Ringing Master) in ringing his 1000th peal on 13th October. It was rung on the ten bells at Westminster Abbey and was also the 1000th peal for his father, David.

We must also congratulate him on conducting a record length of 25,056 changes of Bristol Surprise Maximus at Alderney on 25th October. This took 16 hours 7 minutes non-stop ringing and qualified as the longest peal yet rung on twelve bells.

Ian Campbell

Rare Peal at Chagford

It was back in 2016 when Jon Bint and I first discussed a peal at Chagford. The bells had just been transported off to Taylors foundry in Loughborough, as part of a major restoration and re-hang project, and we were already planning how to celebrate their return. Although Jon is a staunch local band member and Devon call change ringer, he had also dabbled in method ringing whilst at University in Birmingham, and had held a long held desire to ring a peal at Chagford, his home tower.

Permission for a rare peal was granted, I rashly decided upon Stedman Triples, so that Jon could ring the tenor behind to something musical (!), and began assembling the peal band. Without Paul Pascoe's help, the project would have floundered, but as he was keen to call a peal of Stedman Triples, the three of us suddenly became a team. Bound together through 2017, we achieved practice quarter peals, and even a half peal, with help from many Devon ringers, and Jon began to grow in confidence.

Come September, and the big day approached. One band member, Tim Waller, (a friend of Jon's) had to drop out, and then the night before the peal, Paul Pascoe was struck down with illness and we lost our conductor! But somehow, thanks to a deputy conductor already positioned in the band, and the help of not one, but two, of the Taylors' bell hangers, we still met eight on the morning (even though Andrew Mills had only arrived a few hours previously....)

Three hours later, and a peal successfully achieved, it was time to celebrate. Jon remains delighted by his own personal achievement, it was clearly a very special day for him, but also for the local community, who are so proud and pleased with the success of the restoration and re-hang project. The bells are now beautiful to ring, as well as to listen to, and are a fine tribute to the hard work of all the local band who raised the money and strived tirelessly throughout. It will remain one of the most special peals that I too have rung in, so thank you to Jon, and everyone who shared in the day.

Chagford, Devon, St Michael
Saturday, 30 September 2017 in 3hrs 4mins
5040 Stedman Triples

Washbrook's variation of Thurstans

1 Andrew B Mills	5 Michael E C Mears
2 Alison C Waterson	6 Thomas J Waterson
3 Clare J Griffiths	7 Matthew J Hilling (C)
4 Andrew C Ogden	8 Jonathan Bint

Rung for the patronal festival.

First peal on the rehung bells.

Wedding anniversary compliments to: Julia and Evan Endacott (golden); Ruth and Jonathan Bint (silver); Alison and Mark Waterson.

The band would like Paul Pascoe and Tim Waller to be associated with this peal.

Clare Griffiths

First Maximus in Hand for the Guild

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Exeter, Devon, Flat 5, 155 Magdalen Road
Saturday, 18 November 2017 in 3h5 (15)

5040 Cambridge Surprise Maximus

Composed by T J Hinks (arr.)

1-2 Andrew P Digby	7-8 Matthew J Hilling
3-4 Susan D Sparling	9-10 Thomas J Hinks (C)
5-6 David G Maynard	11-12 Oliver Coldrick

First of Surprise Maximus in hand: 1-2, 3-4, 11-12 and for the Guild.

Ringling for the Queen's Platinum Wedding Anniversary

There was ringing all over the country to celebrate the Platinum wedding anniversary of the Queen and Prince Philip on 20th November. In addition to the peals below, ringing was recorded at Dawlish, Honiton, Dartmouth, Kingsteignton (Kings-Ting-Tong) and Tiverton (sorry for any I have missed).

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Sherborne, Dorset, Abbey Church of St Mary the Virgin
Saturday, 18 November 2017 in 4hrs 3min

5056 Cambridge Surprise Major

Composed by C Middleton

1 Charlotte A Boyce	5 Fergus M S Stracey
2 Michael H Tompsett	6 Tom R Childs
3 Michael R Spencer	7 Michael E C Mears (C)
4 Ian V J Smith	8 John R Martin

To mark the Platinum wedding anniversary of HM Queen Elizabeth II and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh

Sore hands at Exeter Cathedral!

A few ringers worked very hard to ring this peal as could be attested by the blood on some of the ropes afterwards!

Guild of Devonshire Ringers (Exeter Cathedral Society)

Exeter, Devon, Cathedral Church of St Peter

Monday, 20 November 2017 in 4hrs 18min

5070 Stedman Cinques

Composed by Mark R Eccleston

1 Pauline McKenzie	7 Ian W Avery
2 Susan D Sparling	8 Ian V J Smith
3 Clare J Griffiths	9 Richard Harrison
4 Peter L Bill	10 John R Martin
5 Peter G Brown	11 Oliver Coldrick
6 Matthew J Hilling (C)	12 Michael E C Mears

Rung to celebrate the Platinum wedding anniversary of HM The Queen and HRH Prince Philip.

Ian Campbell

Peal of Spotland Surprise Major



Mike Tompsett (on the left!) at Spotland School in 1958

Here is a photograph of Mike Tompsett at Spotland Primary School in 1958. Spotland is a district of Rochdale and we rang a Devonshire Society peal of Spotland S Major at Littleham on Wednesday 13th September.

Mike Mears

Golden Wedding Celebrations

A peal at Withycombe Raleigh was rung for Roger and Deirdre King's Golden wedding anniversary. It was Roger's first of Spliced Surprise Maximus - not bad at 75 - it was also Charlotte's first of Spliced Surprise Maximus.

Withycombe Raleigh, Devon, St John the Evangelist

Monday, 18 September 2017 in 3hrs 19mins

5040 Spliced Surprise Maximus (4m)

1296 Cambridge; 1248 Lincolnshire, Swindon, Yorkshire;

45 changes of method; all the work.

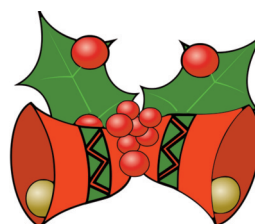
Composed by R D S Brown, from J Clatworthy

1 Ian W Avery	7 Roger King
2 Alison C Waterson	8 Oliver Coldrick
3 Susan D Sparling	9 John R Martin
4 Pauline McKenzie	10 John A Foster
5 Charlotte A Boyce	11 David Hird
6 Ian V J Smith	12 Michael E C Mears (C)

First Spliced S Maximus: 5, 7 (aged 75).

Golden Wedding compliment to Roger and Deirdre King

Mike Mears



Things to Ring for

The Central Council web site (<https://cccbr.org.uk/>) suggests anniversaries that might be suitable for ringing peals, quarter peals, or just general ringing. A few for 2018 are:

- 14th January - 200th anniversary of the death of James Barham who conducted the extent of Major (all 40,320 changes!) rung in relays in 1761.
- 6th February - 100th Anniversary of women first getting the vote in Britain.
- 25 April - 75th anniversary of wartime ban on ringing lifted for service ringing (the ban was lifted for all ringing in June - exact date not provided on CC website).
- 16 August - 250th anniversary of Captain James Cook's departure from Plymouth aboard the Endeavour (his first voyage bound for the Pacific Ocean).
- 26 August - 300th anniversary of the first peal of Grandsire Triples (at St Peter Mancroft Norwich) - this anniversary falls on a Sunday!
- 11 November - 100th anniversary of the end of World War I.

Ian Campbell / Janet Ritterman

Calendar

The Guild calendar is a little sparse at the moment as most branches do not work out the next year's activities until after their officers are elected at their AGM. The latest version is always available on the Guild website. You are advised to contact the local branch secretary before attending any event to confirm that it is still running and at the specified location.

December 2017

Mon 11 19:30	Aylesbeare Branch Practice, Exmouth, Littleham	Aylesbeare
Wed 13 19:30	Triples and Plain Major Practice, Huntsham	North East
Thu 14 19:30	Plain Hunt Practice, Sidbury	East
Sat 16 10:00	Development Programme A - Call Changes, Huntsham	North East
Sun 17 12.30	Young Ringers' Practice, DenMisch Simulated Campanile	Young Ringers
Mon 18 19:30	Stedman and Doubles Methods, Offwell	East
Wed 20 16:00	Minor Methods Practice, Huntsham	North East

January 2018

Sat 13 14:00	Introduction to 10-Bell Ringing, TBC	Guild
Sat 20 14:15	Guild General Committee Meeting, Newton St Cyres	Guild
Sat 27	South West Branch AGM, TBC	South West

March 2018

Sat 3 14:00	Ringing Competitions: Practice at Judging and 8-Bell Methods	Guild
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Editorial

Last month was a bumper edition of RRD with 24 pages – it is normally 12 or 16. Many thanks go to all those who contributed. It looks as though this one is going to be large as well. The December issue is traditionally distributed at the ringers' carol service. I hope that we hit that deadline this time – it may be difficult as we are having to find a new printer for this edition. I hope that not too many articles arrive after the deadline!

Personal copies of RRD – please check the label on the delivery envelope for the latest issue that has been paid for. If this is the last one it should be highlighted and future issues cannot be guaranteed unless further payment is made.

A note from John Stere:

Congratulations to David and Helen Maynard, whose marriage featured on the cover of the September issue of Ringing Round Devon. The ice cream given to guests in Romsey Abbey was a novel touch. Contrary to rumours suspected to have been put about by the Tower Captain of Plymouth Emmanuel, Stoke Damerel was not approached to provide chimes to announce the ice cream with our delightful little bells!

Finally I wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year – enjoy your ringing!

Ian Campbell

On-line Resources

Q: Our tower copy of RRD is always awaited eagerly but often arrives late. What can I do about this?

A: In order to keep down the cost of RRD tower copies are passed by hand (sometimes several hands!) to the local secretaries who then distribute them around the towers. Inevitably this can take some time. If you would like to see it earlier you could try taking out a personal subscription, although, where possible, these are also distributed by hand so are not likely to be any quicker. However a copy of the printed version is always put on the Guild website as soon as the printed copies are available so you can look there if you prefer – and even print off your own copy if you wish. An added bonus is that all of the pictures are in colour, while those inside the printed version are normally in black and white to keep the cost down.

Q: How can I be told when the new issue of RRD is ready online?

A: As soon as the latest issue is put on the web a message is sent out to the Devon Ringers' email list and the national Change-ringers' list. All members of these lists will receive the notification.

Q: What are these email lists?

A: The Devon Ringers' list is for all ringers in Devon (and anyone else who might be interested). It has only a few messages every month and enables ringers to publicise events and things of interest to ringers in Devon. Any member can post a message to the list and all members will receive the post.



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The Change-ringers' list performs a similar function for ringers all over the country (and the world!). It is rather more busy and can have several messages every day. It is possible to subscribe to the digest where each day's messages are collected together and sent as one email.

There is no charge for belonging to either of these lists.

Q: How do I join the Devon Ringers' email list?

A: Send an email to devonringing-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. You will get an email back inviting you to confirm your membership. Once subscribed you can send appropriate email to devonringing@yahoogroups.com where it will be sent on to all of the other subscribers. Please be careful about replying to a message as the default reply address is the group - so your message will be sent to everyone on the group and not the person who wrote the email.

Further details can be found at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/devonringing>.

Q: How do I join the national Change-ringers' email list?

A: Fill in the on-line form at <http://lists.ringingworld.co.uk/mailman/listinfo/changer-ringers>. This page gives further details.

Q: Are there any other online resources I might be interested in?

A: There are a number of other national lists including Ringing Chat (rather verbose!), Ringing Theory, Ringing Software and Bell Historians. For further details see <http://lists.ringingworld.co.uk/mailman/listinfo/change-ringers>.

The Guild also has a Facebook Group which is used to bring all Guild members together, advertise events and spread news. It is a closed group so only members can see posts. There is a link available at <http://devonringers.org.uk/guild/social-media>.

Q: What else might I be interested in?

A: There are a number of programs and apps which might be of interest to ringers. I will try to have a look at them next time. But if you have a suitable satnav did you know that you can download the location of all of the towers in the country into it so that you can get directly to the correct tower, for instance when on a ringing outing? For details see <http://dove.cccbr.org.uk/satNav/pois.php>.



Ian Campbell

Education Programme: 2018

Date	Course	Tutor/Organiser
13th January 2 00-5. 00	Introduction to 10-bell ringing – Withycombe Raleigh	Tim Bayton
3rd March 2.00	Introduction to Striking Competitions: Judging and 8-bell Method Practice - Heavitree	
17th March	ART Module 1	Les Boyce
18th March 12. 30-2.30	Young Ringers' Practice – DenMisch simulated campanile	Oliver Coldrick
7th April 2.00	8-bell striking competition practice	
21st April 2.00	Ringing by ear: Practice with a Simulator	
5th May 2.00	8-bell striking competition practice	
19th May	ART Module 2F	Les Boyce
2nd June 2.00	8-bell striking competition practice	
3rd June 12.30-5.30	Handbells: Plain Bob and Beyond – Dawlish	Tim Bayton
17th June 12.30-2.30	Young Ringers' Practice – DenMisch simulated campanile	Oliver Coldrick
8th Sept	ART Module 2C	
15th Sept 10.00-4.00	Learning to Conduct	Les Boyce
16th Sept 12.30-2.30	Young Ringers' Practice – DenMisch simulated campanile	Oliver Coldrick
27th October	ART Module 1	Les Boyce
3rd Nov 10.00-4.00	Kaleidoscope Ringing	
16th Dec 12.30-2.30	Young Ringers' Practice – DenMisch simulated campanile	Oliver Coldrick

For the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) please contact Les Boyce at lesboyce@ringingteachers.co.uk (01884 256819)
For all other education/training matters please contact Tim Bayton at educationofficer@devonringers.org.uk (01392 499286 / 07743 066225).

A Ringing Week with no Towers!

As part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Exeter Colleges Guild a few days were arranged on the island of Lundy for about 30 past and present members of the ECG. This was to include open ringing, peals and quarter peals, as well as ringing handbells, discovering the island and the Marisco Tavern (about which all life on the island revolves). In the event we discovered a couple of weeks before going that the building work on the church was running behind schedule and the bells would not be available. As a result ringing was limited to handbells but that can be made interesting – how about a peal starting at dawn at the top of the old lighthouse?



Too rough for the boat at Ilfracombe!

Getting to the island was an adventure in itself. Storm Brian was battering the North Devon coast on the Saturday we were booked to leave and there was no chance of the MS Oldenburg leaving Ilfracombe. It was still bad on Sunday but we were shipped by



The church still in scaffolding



Some of the group on a guided walk of the island

coach out to Hartland Point and travelled to Lundy by helicopter – eight rather interesting minutes rather than the very unpleasant usual two hours by boat! For those of us planning to return on the Tuesday the sea was still too rough for the boat and, despite plans, the helicopter could not be used as the fog was too thick all day. Still, that meant we could stay another night (the accommodation was still available as no one could get TO the island!). The fog lifted and the wind died down so we could enjoy a beautiful day walking the length of the island before an easy journey on the boat back to Bideford. Some hardy members stayed on the island until the end of the week.

Many thanks go to Tom Hinks who organised the whole event and managed to coordinate the somewhat difficult transport arrangements impeccably.



Trying for a group photo in the tavern!

Ian Campbell



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. Any comments and inaccuracies in articles contained in this newsletter are the responsibility of individual contributors, and the opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the Guild.

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