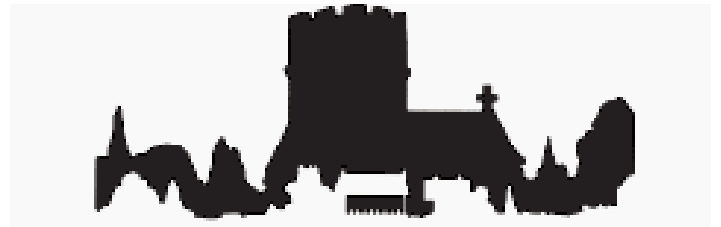


# Ringling Round Devon



THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

Newsletter 106, June 2017

## COMBE RALEIGH BELLS RETURN



The bells at the bellhangers with their new masters

The work to augment the three bells at Combe Raleigh to six started on 30th May and is hoped to be completed within two weeks. The wooden frame and the three bells were removed to Nicholson's Engineering in Bridport at the end of January. The frame has been modified to take six bells, and some rotten parts of it replaced, and is being refitted with the retuned three bells and three new ones which have come from various sources (see below).

The Right Revd Robert Atwell, Bishop of Exeter, has accepted an invitation to come to St Nicholas' in the autumn to rededicate the bells. The afternoon service will be on Sunday 29th October. Let's hope we can make it a day to remember.

*Lisa Clarke and Ian Campbell*



Three new wheels ready to install

### THREE PLUS THREE, CHAPTER TWO – THE FAIRY TALE CONTINUES...

'How much longer are we going to have to sit here doing nothing?' demanded Buoy.

'Stop grumbling' said tenor, 'you know as well as we do what is going on, be patient.'

'Patience,' remarked Poole, 'is something Buoy never had much of.'

'I did hope' commented Philippa, 'that now he hasn't such a big head he might become more reasonable.'

'You hope. My hope was that all this bickering would stop and we could all work happily together' said Little Me.

'That's the trouble with the young these days – no patience and no consideration for others.' Treble couldn't resist making a snide remark.

Once more Little Me was to become the mediator. 'You all know there has been a problem with the dreaded beetle in the frame and this has to be sorted out first. In any case, I understand that in only a few days we will be going to our new abode; though for some of us it's hardly new, just modernised a little'.

'Modern, whatever that means,' said Buoy, 'what was wrong with the old tried and tested ways that served us all so well in the past?'



Modifications being made to the wooden frame

'Yes, in the past they served us well, but now there are better ways and so we need to adopt them. For a start we are all having new bearings that will run much smoother than the old. That must be worth having,' said Philippa. She was not one to go crashing through life.

Treble had been keeping his own counsel largely, but now intervened. 'Did you take any notice of all the visitors we had recently? I think you'll find that they were the ringers from our old tower and I for one will be pleased to be going back there. It would be a good thing if we all reconciled our differences and were prepared to work together when we are back in place.'

'It's all right for you, you know where we're going, but for some of us it is going to mean getting used to a new place and new people,' groaned Buoy.

'I thought,' said Little Me, 'that we had all agreed to look to the future. The past is gone and won't be coming back. This is a new era and it is up to all of us to do our best.'

'Listening to our recent visitors who will shortly be our new masters, or they think they will be, I believe that they are keen for us to do our best and for them to do their best for us. They've had to work hard to get the money to do everything and have had a lot of help from a lot of people who clearly think they are doing a good job. Let's do our bit and make it a real success,' pleaded Tenor.

'I'm not against that,' said Buoy, 'I'm just bored with sitting around all day and doing nothing.'

'Make the most of it,' advised Treble. 'I heard that in a couple of days we're being moved, ready to be installed at Combe Raleigh. Soon after that you'll be busy enough.'

'I'm fine with that,' said Buoy, 'but I'm worried about Philippa, she hasn't had to do anything for the best part of forty years, beyond trying to look pretty. Will she be up to it?'

'Don't you worry about me, I'll be fine, just look out for yourself.' Philippa tried not to look too cross.

Poole still looked slightly worried; 'you know I've never been in a church before, aren't they all a bit solemn, even gloomy at times?'

Treble was happy to put him straight, 'This is Combe Raleigh, they do things differently there, they don't do gloom and solemn is kept for those very rare occasions when it is most appropriate.' Little Me and Tenor nodded in agreement.

'We shall all be in place by the middle of June,' said Tenor, 'and by then we must all be in the right frame of mind to work closely together.'

There were a few sage nods; they were now determined that they would be ready to work for the common good.

Little Me decided to once again keep quiet and keep the peace, by saying nothing. He knew that they wouldn't be ringing right away for there was other work to do in the tower before that would be possible. For a start the ringing gallery had yet to be constructed and the floor to the clock chamber had to be made safe and largely reconstructed before the clock drive could be finalised. He knew, even if the others didn't, that it was unlikely they would be called upon to work for another two months.

*Trevor Hitchcock (pictures from Lisa Clarke)*

## Historical Notes

The 1553 inventory of church property lists Combe Raleigh as having three bells

The existing bells are:-

Treble, which was recast in 1758 by Thomas Bilbie II of Cullompton.

Second, cast c.1430 by Robert Norton of Exeter and bears a Latin inscription translated as 'the people rejoice when they hear little me'.

Tenor, which was recast in 1671 by Thomas Pennington III of Exeter and again recast in 1867 by John Warner & Sons of London.

The 'new' bells are:-

'Philippa', from St Philip's Church, Bolton, cast in 1911 by John Taylor of Loughborough. This bell had been varnished and stood on the floor of the church for many years.

'Poole', from the Poole Sanatorium, near Middlesbrough, cast in 1932 by John Taylor of Loughborough.

'Buoy', an ex-Trinity House Buoy bell, cast in 1960 by Mears of London. This bell had a large flange on the top (now removed).

## GUESS THE WEIGHT OF THE TENOR



Dove's Guide gives the weight of the Combe Raleigh Tenor as 7 cwt. The photograph below shows the bell after tuning when, as is obvious, some material was removed both from inside and outside of the bell. In a last effort to raise funds for the project (barring unforeseen calamities, we need just £1,800 more) have some fun and enter our competition to win a £20 voucher from Wine World in Honiton. All you need do is guess the weight of the re-tuned tenor in cwt, qtrs and lbs and pass your entry to Lisa Clarke, School House, Combe Raleigh, Honiton, Devon EX14 4UL (Tel: 01404 43929) with your entry fee of £2. The winner will be the person who most accurately gives the weight. Entries close on 31st July 2017, after that you can sit back and enjoy a glass of fine wine, win or lose.

*Trevor Hitchcock*

## What to do with your spare time?

What do you do when your tower bells have been removed and will not be available for six months or so? Is this a time to go on holiday, take up serious gardening, run a marathon or just drown your sorrows and get 'blotto'? The correct answer is none of these, but instead, find somewhere else to ring. For the Combe Raleigh ringers Easter Sunday was a particularly good opportunity to ring elsewhere. As a result there were five of them at Cotleigh, four at Farway, three at Honiton and two at Offwell. If that seems to you to be more than the total number of ringers they have, then you are quite correct. However, because of the different times of the church services some were able to ring at more than one church. Even with all this activity three of them still managed to get to the Combe Raleigh service as well.

*Trevor Hitchcock*

## Guild Events

### A Year in the Life of the Guild Master

When I was proposed as Master Elect by Lester Yeo at the Guild AGM held at Crediton in June 2015, he explained '...we propose the Master Elect a year in advance, to enable you to clear your diary!'

How right he was and it was advice I'm pleased I listened to! Following my election as Master, my first duty was to run the ringing following the AGM on the heavy 10 at Plymouth Minister. Enjoyable Grandsire Caters, call changes and Little Bob Royal were all rung before we made our way home after a long day. I was glad I took the train!

There followed what has been a most enjoyable year where I have visited all areas of the Guild, met lots of enthusiastic ringers, enjoyed some glorious bells, eaten many delicious ringers' teas (prize for the best sausage rolls goes to the East Devon Branch) and attended what seemed to be a never-ending round of branch AGMs and practices! My only regrets were that I had to miss the N/NW AGM at Combe Martin due to a family bereavement and the Exeter Colleges Guild 50th Anniversary Dinner, which unfortunately coincided with the Kingsteignton Annual Dinner.

There have been many other ringing highlights too – enjoying the newly re-hung bells at Bishopsteignton and the augmented



Nigel Birt

eight at Stoke Fleming, singing in the ringers' choir and reading the fourth lesson at the Guild carol service held in Buckfast Abbey and listening to the superb touch rung after the service by the Exeter Cathedral band, judging the Guild six-bell striking competition on the new six at Stoke Canon and ringing in the John Scott eight-bell Striking Competition at Newton St Cyres. As I write I still have the Guild handbell afternoon in Dawlish to look forward to, when I'll hopefully be able to blow some of the cobwebs off my rusty Little Bob, and a peal attempt at Kings-Ting-Tong with a band made up entirely of current Guild officers.

It has been an honour and a pleasure to have been your Guild Master in 2017 and something which I have really enjoyed. Looking back through the list of esteemed ringers who have held the office before me I feel truly humbled. Among them of course are Frank Mack (the first Guild Master and one of the few to have been Master on two separate occasions), who taught me the basics of method ringing during my year studying at Rolle College in Exmouth in the late 1970s when I attended practices at Withycombe Raleigh, and Mike Mears who has guided me through many of my peal ringing 'firsts' during the past 35 years and with whom I ring at Kingsteignton. I am the sixth member of the Mid-Devon Branch to hold the office and if I can continue ringing for as long as the first, my good friend Don Roberts who was elected Master in 1973 (we are still actively ringing quarters together), I think I will be doing pretty well!

My predecessor as Guild Master, Geoff Hill, once wrote that he had had a busy year but would like to have done more! I can certainly concur with that and wish my successor Sue Sawyer all the best for her year – I hope she has cleared her diary!

*Nigel Birt*

## Momentous Decisions at Central Council Meeting

Lynne Hughes sent the following brief report of the Central Council meeting from her phone so that it could be included in RRD:



The main meeting about to start

### CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

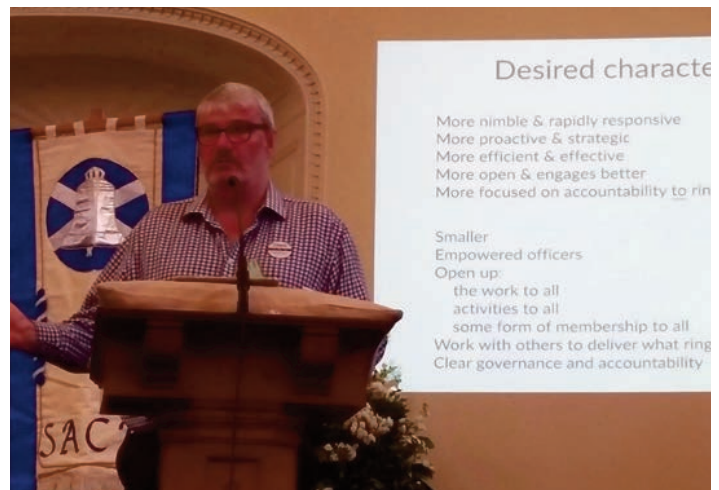
Two of the Guild's Central Council reps (Lynne Hughes and Fergus Stracey) travelled to Edinburgh over the late May Bank holiday weekend for the annual meeting.

In fact there's more than one meeting, starting on the Sunday with a Council Review Action Group (CRAG) update meeting, giving plenty of time for discussion on the widely advertised proposals for reform of the Council. Look on the CC website if you'd like to refresh your memory of them. This was followed by an open meeting with the chair of the Church Buildings Council, in which we were reassured that as some churches become 'festival churches' we can still ring their bells.

The main meeting lasted all day Monday. Everyone was interested to see if the CRAG motions would be passed, and they were! Reservations had been voiced, and there was an attempt to 'kick it into the long grass' with a year's delay for further consultation, but in the end support was overwhelming.

What does this mean for us? A national body for ringers fit for the 21st century, structured in line with charity commission guidance. It won't all happen overnight, in fact rule changes can't come in until this time next year, but new structures can be set up to shadow the current ones ready for then.

Other motions were passed and business dealt with, but that will have to wait for another time!



Phillip Barnes explaining the CRAG proposal

*Lynne Hughes*

## Sunshine and Showers at the Devon County Show



The mini-ring and display stand – while the sun was shining!



Not always quite so good though!

As is now traditional the Devon Ringers' Council showed off the Guild's Frank Mack mini-ring at the Devon County Show. Unfortunately, although there were some hot and sunny moments there were also some rather prolonged heavy showers. Attendances seemed a little down on some previous years perhaps because of the weather. Nevertheless we met up again with several lapsed ringers from both Devon and Somerset and a number of children and other people who wanted to have a go with some genuine enquiries about specific practice nights and contact details. Thanks go to all those who helped man the stand over the three days.

Ian Avery

### MINI-RING ENJOYED BY ALL AT DEVON COUNTY SHOW

For several years now, Ian Avery has taken the Guild's mini-ring to the County Show for three days at the end of May, and this year was no exception. Aided by a band of volunteers from the Guild and also the Devon Association, long days were filled with giving demonstrations and with giving people a go.

It was fascinating talking to those who came over to try their hand at ringing. Many were ringers, lapsed ringers, or knew someone who rang, but many others had no ringing connection. Regardless of this, some got the technique almost straight away,

others took a few minutes, and a few gave up! School groups came on the Thursday and Friday, but it was on the Saturday that the families of children were in abundance. Pre-schoolers weren't going to get the proper technique, but loved chiming the bells. From 6 or 7 years, if they were prepared to listen, no problem!

On the Thursday we appeared briefly on BBC Spotlight in the evening, and I've had a few positive comments from people who saw this. On the Friday the churches' area was graced with a visit from Sophie, Countess of Wessex. We rang as she left, and a cheery 'hello' from one of us brought her over to exchange a few words with us about the ringing.

The Guild's new display boards were set up by the mini-ring, complete with photos and explanations of ringing, and led to several conversations. The boards and photos are all available for Guild members to borrow from me.

The weather was variable, but no-one got too wet and the experience, though exhausting, turned out to be a great three days.

Lynne Hughes

## News from the Guild Library

### RINGERS FALLEN IN THE TWO WORLD WARS

David Willis is working hard to track down all the Devon ringers who were killed in action in the two World Wars. To assist with research Richard Johnston has kindly digitised the Guild reports for the war years. This resource has been made available to assist researchers wishing to check for ringers in rolls of honour and on war memorials. This is a trial for a what we hope will be a wider project to make more resources from the Guild library available on line and thereby make access easier for members.

The Guild annual reports for the First and Second World War years (1910-1920 and 1936-1950) are available via a link on the library page of the Guild website. You can browse the report for a particular year by clicking on "Browse from GDR Home" and then opening the folder 'gdr001' to see all the years available. You are recommended to use the PDF version of each report to get the clearest view of the text. By going to the report for a particular year, the entry for an individual tower can then be checked for the names of the fallen taken from rolls of honour or war memorials. Text conversion by OCR from older documents is very prone to error, so using the OCR text search box for personal names or places may give unreliable results and is not recommended.

### NEW ACQUISITIONS

Two Whiting Society publications have recently been purchased and added to the trainers' and learners' libraries, travelling collections. *From Rounds to Ropesight* is a training package in DVD/book format by Stuart Bamforth. It contains graded exercises for teachers to use with their learners. The aim is to get new ringers to improve their observation skills, develop their sense of place in the row and ultimately gain ropesight. Using the demonstrations and exercises needs careful preparation on the part of the teacher, but its package is a valuable resource for use on training days and in practices. *Bob Minor: a mine of information* by Anthony Bishop has a self-explanatory title and is aimed at both learner and teacher.

Recent work by Janet Ritterman on the early women ringers of Devon have prompted the purchase of two volumes about the Ladies Guild by Janet Stevenson: *A History of the Ladies' Guild of Change Ringers, 1912-2000* and *Millennium to Centenary: The Ladies' Guild of Change Ringers, 2000-2012*.

### HERE TO HELP – YOUR GUILD LIBRARY

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

Les Boyce

## Aylesbeare Branch Branch Outing



Ringing at Uffculme

On the last Saturday in May, eighteen members of the Aylesbeare Deanery Branch got together for an outing, our first for a few years. Four churches in the Tiverton area had been chosen, specifically targeting eight bell towers to help improve our ringing on a greater number of bells. Despite a rather damp start, we rang at both Tiverton St Peter and the somewhat lighter, but no less enjoyable, bells of Huntsham before taking a well earned break for lunch at the Globe Inn in Sampford Peverell. Feeling suitably refreshed and with the sun now shining, we continued on to Uffculme. We finished the day at Silverton where an excellent cream tea was provided by the local church group. As ever we rang a mixture of call changes and a variety of method, ably directed by our ringing master Janet Deem. Something was rung to suit everyone's needs and much progress was made by the group as a whole. Notably, surprise major was rung at every tower, demonstrating how much the branch has progressed in recent years. Our thanks to all the towers we visited and whose bells we enjoyed ringing during the day.



The end of the day at Silverton

*Matt Pym*

## Topsham band visit Exminster

On a still evening, the bells of Exminster can be heard drifting across the river Exe to the churchyard of Topsham and, as we share a Thursday practice night, we often hear them at St Margaret's. Due to a mutual friend in David Wills, who somehow often manages to visit both towers in the same evening, we arranged for the Exminster ringers to join the Topsham band for a practice night in March whilst their bells were out of action having maintenance work done. It was a very successful and well attended practice and a return visit was arranged for May. For one



View of Topsham Church from Exminster Churchyard – no sign of the river!

night only we gave up our familiar surroundings for a visit to the 'other side', both of the river and of ringing traditions. We travelled around to Exminster in cars and on bikes (though no one was brave enough to swim!) and as with the practice at Topsham, we joined together for both disciplines of ringing. The ringers from each tower enjoyed sharing their skills and ringing together for various touches during the evening. The Topsham ringers had a great time, embracing the opportunity to ring on eight bells and meet other ringers. Our thanks to Exminster's captain Colin Adams for welcoming us so warmly. I'm sure we will get together again in the near future.

*Matt Pym*

## Exeter Branch Annual Train Outing 6th May



Sherborne Abbey

For several years we have been trying without success to obtain permission to ring at Sherborne Abbey on the branch's annual outing. The cause of the problem had been the date, since traditionally the outing was held on the early May bank holiday Monday and we therefore clashed with the Abbey's music festival. Note to self: let's try another date!

Saturday 6th May therefore saw two dozen or so enthusiastic ringers and supporters meet at Exeter St David's station to catch the 0824 London-bound train for a day out on the charming and picturesque Waterloo line. Obviously the organiser was slightly nervous because of having little room for manoeuvre with the day's programme: trains running late, tower lock-outs, sluggish pubs serving drinks and food very slowly, losing the odd person or two – no thanks, we don't need any of those! However, everything ran like clockwork without the slightest hitch and we enjoyed the bells at Axminster, Sherborne, Templecombe and Gillingham, and an excellent lunch at the Plume of Feathers in Sherborne where the staff couldn't have been more helpful with serving us quickly and efficiently so that we could catch our train on time.



Ringing at Axminster



Most of the assembled crowd at Gillingham



Lunch in Sherborne

*Wendy Campbell*

## Celebrations in the Exeter Branch

### BIRTHS:

As mentioned elsewhere, we congratulate Rob and Lucy Neal on the birth of Joseph George on 14th April. A few weeks later, on 7th May, we were pleased to have another arrival with a daughter, Beatrice, for Jenny and Alex Wilson – Jenny rings at St Mark's.

### WEDDINGS:

Congratulations go to Sarah Chadburn and James Allen who got married on 18th April with celebrations on 22nd. Sarah is the deputy ringing master at Exeter St Mark's, as well as being a member of the cathedral band and ringing regularly with the University handbell team which meets on Wednesday lunchtimes. Andy Withers and Helena Wilding got married on 29th April at the Sacred Heart in Exeter, attended by a large number of friends, including many ringers. I understand that young Joseph Neal (see above) behaved himself impeccably during the service! Andy rings at St David's in Exeter.

*Wendy Campbell*

## Harry Grange gets married



Harry and Jessica

Talking of weddings, I received a card from Robert Grange (who rings at Lyme Regis) to say that his son Harry got married to Jessica at a civil ceremony held in his garden in Phoenix at the beginning of May. Harry learnt to ring at Heavitree as a small boy before he moved to America. Our best wishes go to them both. A quarter peal of Grandsire Caters was rung at Manchester Cathedral on 7th December 2016 to congratulate them on their engagement. Harry was living and working there at the time.

*Ian Campbell*

## Celebrations at Heavitree



Proud parents with 3 week old Joseph walking along the Goat Walk in Topsham.

Last year we heard the joyous news that two of our ringers at Heavitree, Rob and Lucy Neal were expecting their first baby in April this year. They both work for the Met Office and we are always pulling their respective legs on the vagaries of the British weather! Following the practice one Thursday we met as usual in the Royal Oak at Heavitree and I suggested to Rob that now he had rung 100 quarters it was about time he called one and wouldn't it be a good idea if it coincided with the arrival of their first born. A plan was hatched (why are all good plans thought of

in a pub?) and we decided that Cambridge Minor would be a good choice.

The date chosen was 30th April which worked out well as Joseph was born on Good Friday 14th April. After 51 minutes and 1320 changes Rob proudly called 'That's all' and we were all pleased with our efforts. I was also pleased as this was my 1000th recorded quarter. This should have taken place a few weeks earlier when we attempted Spliced Grandsire and Oxford Bob but I miscounted in the last few leads and mis-called it. (Note to self – I must learn to count to five, maybe that is why I struggle with Lincolnshire and Superlative!)

Anyway, it was good to welcome Joseph into this world and also for Rob to celebrate this with his first quarter as conductor. What are you going to call next, Rob?

**Exeter, St Michael and All Angels, Heavitree**  
Sunday, 30 April 2017 in 56 minutes

### 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Rob Franklin
- 2 Anita Lee
- 3 Wendy Campbell
- 4 Michael Cannon (1000th quarter peal)
- 5 Ian Campbell
- 6 Rob Neal (first as conductor)

Rung prior to Evensong to celebrate the birth on 14th April of Joseph George, son of Rob and Lucy Neal, members of the local band.

*Michael Cannon*

## Upton Pyne



Rob Franklin attending to the treble



David Hird working out what to do with a spanner

The six bells at Upton Pyne were serviced a few years ago by volunteers so that they could be rung again after falling into a poor state. A working party recently checked and tightened everything up again and oiled the bearings (see photos). We were then surprised when the churchwarden asked if we could provide ringers over the bank holiday weekend to ring 'as much as possible' while an exhibition of wedding dresses and memorabilia was displayed in the church and village hall. I put out a call for visiting bands and only had two replies, both from peal bands, so a full peal was rung on both the Sunday and Monday afternoons. These are the first peals on the bells since 1995. The church raised over £1400 during the weekend.

*Ian Campbell*

## Exeter Cathedral School comes to St Mark's



A group of nine pupils from the Exeter Cathedral School are learning to ring at weekly practices on the Denmisch simulator. On 25<sup>th</sup> May instead of the usual practice they had an afternoon out in the school minibus and visited St Mark's church in Exeter to try real bells for a change. A couple of them had already rung on proper bells before, but for the others it was largely a new experience. After a few worries most of them rapidly gained in confidence and a couple of them were keen to come to a regular practice.



Ed enjoying his ringing

We are grateful to Mrs Kitto on the school staff for doing all the paper work (permission from parents, risk assessments, etc) and donkey work (driving the van and the children!) and for giving permission for the photo of her son to be published.

*Ian Campbell*

## Mid-Devon Branch

### PLAIN HUNT MORNING – STOKEINTEIGNHEAD

A fine, early Spring morning saw us meeting at Stokeinteignhead for a concentrated session of Plain Hunt practice. We started with a short theory discussion which emphasised the importance of counting places, ringing at the appropriate speed and introduced basic rope-sight.



Then it was time to move into the tower and get some practice. Most of our 'trainees' had some previous experience of plain hunting so several soon graduated to ringing the treble to Plain Bob Doubles.

After a good hour's work it was time to break for coffee and more discussion. Other guides to rope-sight such as course bells were introduced and visual aids such as the tower steps and a plain hunting 'machine' were used. Many questions were asked and one or two 'light-bulb' moments occurred! We also enjoyed the coffee and biscuits!



Back up the tower and it was obvious that definite progress was being made – several ringers who had been tentative at first were becoming much more confident. It was also good to see ringers who had been trainees on previous courses now being confident and reliable helpers.

At 12.30 the bells were lowered but it was not quite time to leave as we still had to have the team photo.

Thanks – to the trainees who tried so hard and were ever-ready to listen to advice and put it into practice, to the helpers who were always ready for more Plain Hunt or Plain Bob, to Wendy and Sharon for organising the refreshment and last, but not least, to the Stokeinteignhead ringers for their warm hospitality.



Thanks to Anne and Peter Bailey (honorary photographers to Tower Talk!) for the photos.

### SIX BELL PRACTICE AT COFFINSWELL

Although we did not have quite so many ringers at this practice we had a good mix of experienced and less experienced ringers. This meant that effective use could be made of the time and a wide variety of methods were rung. This included touches of Bob Doubles and a plain course of Norwich Surprise along with methods of the month – Grandsire Doubles and St Clement's. We were grateful to the Coffinswell parish council who moved their meeting forward to accommodate us. All in all, it was a very useful evening.

### FIRST QUARTER CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Maria Hiscoe who rang her first quarter peal at Dawlish on Mothering Sunday:

**Dawlish, St Gregory**

Sunday, 26 March 2017 in 43 mins

**1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

1 Derek Hawkins	4 Lynne Hughes (C)
2 Mo Hawkins	5 Martin Dodd
3 Fiona Rock-Evans	6 Maria Hiscoe

1st quarter:6. For evensong on Mothering Sunday.

### AND ANOTHER QUARTER PEAL

Congratulations to Wendy Rennie who rang her first quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples inside on Tuesday 28th March. Thanks also to Anne Bailey. Both she and Wendy came along expecting a normal practice but when there were just eight it was decided to go for a quarter. Both of them looked very slightly shell-shocked by the end but had put in 110% effort – well done!

**Torquay, St Mary the Virgin, St Marychurch**

Tuesday, 28 March 2017 in 47 mins

**1260 Plain Bob Triples**

1 Anne Bailey	5 Andrew Evans
2 Madeline Reeder	6 Nathan Evans
3 Wendy Rennie	7 Martin Mansley (C)
4 Rowena Mansley	8 Tim King

First PB Triples 1, First Triples inside 3

### WEST CHARLETON PRACTICE

Last month we mentioned there is now a method practice at West Charleton in the South Hams on the first Tuesday in the month. Method ringing in that area has always struggled but with some new blood it is hoped to have useful practices – If you are able to help you will be made very welcome. The contact is Bob Sanders [mandrsanders@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mandrsanders@hotmail.co.uk) or Maggie Berndt [margaret.berndt@btinternet.com](mailto:margaret.berndt@btinternet.com)



## BRANCH PRACTICE APRIL – STOKE FLEMING

We have been kept very well informed about the work done on Stoke Fleming bells so it was a real delight to go and sample them at last. Apparently, it was quite a few years ago that the branch last held a practice at this tower, so we were long overdue another visit! Anne and Peter Bailey had arranged for the tower to be open early so that anyone interested could inspect the work done. It really has been a major undertaking which was obvious to all – from new frame and base girders to extensive re-tuning and many other ancillary jobs such as moving the clock - it really is impressive.



It was soon time to try them out and all agreed that a good job has been done – the 4th gave some a little trouble to set until it was realised that we had got it up wrong clapper! It improved considerably once that was put right! A good mixture of methods was rung from call changes to Cambridge Major and including a well struck touch of Stedman Triples.

Anne and Peter had ordered chips at the Green Dragon and most of us made our way there for a pleasant hour or so of socialising – the chips were good too!

Very many thanks must go to tower captain, John Dietz and to Anne and Peter for making us so welcome – we'll even forgive Peter for referring to Tower Talk as 'Martin's monthly mumblings'!! It also made us realise how far they travel to join in branch activities – thank you indeed.

*Martin Mansley*

## North East Branch Mid-Week Outing

The prospect of our mid-week outing with three towers and pub lunch meant that an early start, for some of us at least, was no hardship. The forecast of a dry day, in contrast to the recent weather, meant that our first tower at Clyst St George glowed amongst primroses, daffodils and Anemone Blanda. A few of us are novice ringers, so the fact that the light ring of six bells (10-2-21) went easily, with the ropes hiding no tricky secrets, made them a pleasure. On then to Topsham. With a little time to spare, some of the party went off for a coffee whilst others headed to the quay for a browse around the village and its antique shops. The main body of St. Margaret's church, (six bells, twelve cwt) is Victorian. The tower however dates from the fifteenth century. Again the bells were kind to us newer ringers. We rang some simple touches, and enjoyed listening to some more challenging methods from those who were more experienced.

Lunch at the Lighter Inn was rounded off with some handbell ringing.

The ropes at the final tower at Lymptone, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin (six, twelve cwt) had a slightly longer draft, but were none-the-less pleasant.



With a comfortable seating area out of the now chillier breeze, there was time for some more handbell ringing. This time, we managed to have ten bells out and ringers and non ringers alike were keen to have a go at trying out 'patterns' Thank you to Nellie for bringing the handbells along.

Many thanks go to Les Boyce for his organisation and to all the members who supported the good day out.

*Liz Chadwick*

## Model Bell at Bampton



I made this piece for our school Easter 'Eggstravaganza'. I took part in the contest for the best decorated egg. I wasn't going to take part until I thought of making a bell. It was difficult to build but I got there in the end.

*Fergus, Bampton*

## NE Branch Young Ringers' Easter Ringing

The final day of the Spring term the Bampton after school club helped to ring for the school service assisted by the local ringers. After two terms, four more primary pupils are now enjoying ringing the tower bells, having progressed from the practice bell.

At the start of the Easter holidays we took the opportunity to take our young ringers to two towers in the Branch. We rang at Huntsham on Tuesday and Stoodleigh on Thursday. Six of our young ringers were supported by seven members of the branch in developing skills using the ART scheme, 'Learning the Ropes'. Ranging from first attempts in rounds to calling call changes and ringing Plain Hunt Doubles they all achieved new targets. Thanks to Nellie for bringing her handbells to Stoodleigh where they rang various call changes whilst waiting their turn to ring. Red and Flo were presented with their Level 2 certificates for the LTRs scheme.

This was Alanna's first holiday ring:

'When we went to Huntsham it was very different to Bampton church because the bells were much lighter than Bampton Church bells. Also they needed a lot more pull to get the bells up, but when you take the bells down they also need to be pulled a lot lighter.

'When we went to Stoodleigh it was also different. Different to Huntsham and Bampton for many reasons, one of the reasons is because the ropes are a lot longer than the other churches and it is very different because you have to be higher up the rope.'



Easter Holiday ring at Stoodleigh.

Young ringers: Fergus, Red, Flo, Alanna and Ella  
Helpers: Sheila Scofield, Les Boyce, Nellie Croft, Jenny Jones, Mandy Burnett and Hazel Turner

## Mandy achieves level 5 Learning the Ropes



Sheila presenting Mandy with her certificate

In late August 2014 Mandy Burnett appeared in Bampton tower holding a scrap of paper which turned out to be an advert for recruits from the 'ONE' magazine. Less than three years later she has gained her level 5 certificate.

Using the Learning the Ropes scheme she has progressed well despite part-time theatre props work in Leeds, which takes her away from Devon six weeks at a time at least twice a year. Through taking opportunities to attend many local practices after learning to handle a bell and ring rounds, she became an active member of the Guild.

She has taken on the role of steeple keeper at Huntsham and jointly acts as bell maintenance support officer for NE Branch. Since ringing her first quarter peal in June 2015 she has rung a further 22 quarters and has recently begun sharing the running of Bampton practices.

In May she achieved the final target of LTR by ringing a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor inside to complete level 5.

This is not the end of the journey however. She now rings when she can at Ilkley when working in Leeds, helps weekly with the after school bell club in Bampton and NE Branch young ringers' holiday events and is now progressing through Level 5+ targets.

*Sheila Scofield*

## South West Branch

### Past President is Champion Sheep Shearer



George and Andrew competing in the world competition

Last year George Mudge, a previous president of the Guild, and his son Andrew (also a ringer) came first and second in the English sheep shearer of the year with blades competition – this is with hand operated shears without the use of power. As a result they qualified to represent England in the Golden Shears World Championship at Invercargill in New Zealand in February 2017 where they came fifth in the World Teams final. Our congratulations go to them both – and hope they can still occasionally find time to ring!

*Ian Campbell*

## Branch Outing

We left early on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May to visit five towers located in the North of Cornwall. One ringer's need to stop in what was thought to be a quiet country lane and view the other side of a hedge was rudely interrupted by passing fellow ringers...thanks for that! The weather promised to be a reasonable day and did not let us down, unlike Lyndsey's car...however, very impressive action was swiftly taken and with the car heading home on a tow truck she joined us well in time for lunch.

St Teath at 10am greeted 18 ringers from Plymouth and two from Tavistock all in fine spirits and keen to enjoy the day; whatever it may bring! St Teath and the 2nd tower at Lanteglos-by-Camelford (both a ring of six) provided a good opportunity for the learners to overcome their fears of different bells and improve their handling skills.

Lunch was a lively event at the King Arthur's Arms in Tintagel, excellent food and service. We all dispersed in various directions to explore the town, however the main attraction seemed to be Grumbly Granny and her ice creams. Some walked the scenic route to the tower where we all met to start the afternoon's ringing, 3 towers, all with 6 bells of 7cwt. After ringing off the lunch, we went to Lesnewth for an enjoyable ring, the tower set in a beautiful location with a stream and the graveyard left as a wild flower meadow.



Lunch at Tintagel

The final tower of the day was at Otterham, with a convoy of 5 cars via narrow country lanes, the traditional method of travel for any ringer's day out. The photographers amongst enjoyed taking photos of the grounds and in particular the mossy bridge.

The outing also included the opportunity for Alena to demonstrate her expertise at splicing.

Sadly, we waved goodbye to the Tavistock ringers and 15 of us headed back to Saltash for the evening meal and round up at The Ploughboy.



Outside the church at Tintagel

*Billy Moore*

### John Kelly - 18 September 1935 to 4 May 2017

John Kelly was born 18 September 1935 and died at Brixham Hospital on 4 May 2017.

John was taught to ring at Moretonhampstead in 1948 and when the family moved to Torquay, John visited Upton and Cockington where he met some Paignton ringers who encouraged him to continue with his ringing. He joined Paignton Parish church in 1952 and had been Captain there from 1958 until the day of his death.

While at Paignton, John started handbell ringing, and raising money for the Dame Hannah Roger's Trust in 1956. This group was started by John Lippiett in 1955 and John supported the trust by raising funds through hand bell ringing every year until 2016, making 50 consecutive years of raising money for Dame Hannah Roger's School at Ivybridge.

John married Jenny, in September 1967. She started ringing at Paignton in 1957. Jenny died in May 2003 leaving a son and two daughters.

In 1991 John was presented with the British Empire Medal for services to the Community. John had long service with the Gas Board and had been raising money for charities continually from 1956. He had been a regular church bell ringer and a handbell ringer. He had been a special constable and also a volunteer with the Paignton to Dartmouth Steam Railway since 1968 where he was a guard and signalman at Britannia Crossing and had been regularly inspecting the line up to 2009.

Being a ringer in one place, Paignton, for so long meant that although he was a call change ringer he was often called upon to ring the tenor, covering in a number of different methods and also rang in a number of quarter peals, again, covering on the tenor.

He remarked on several occasions that he had been privileged to have been President of the Devon Association of Ringers from 2009 to 2010. A position he took great responsibility in and enjoyed every moment of that 12 month period.

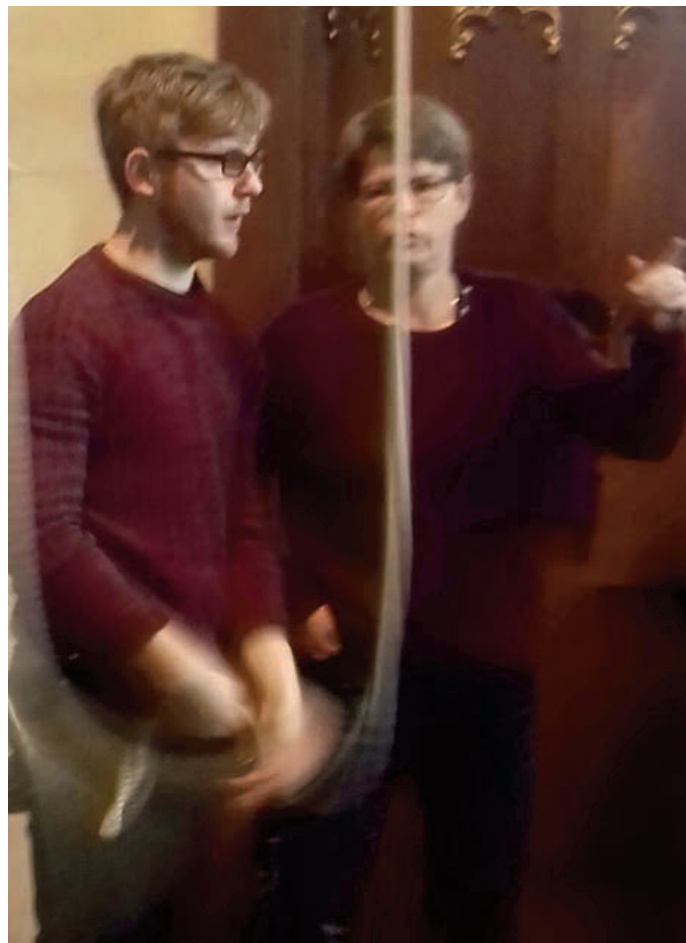
John was an excellent role model. He was enthusiastic, he had perseverance and never thought once to give up on anything. He astounded the medical profession by his strong will to live and managed many years beyond what was expected.

*Michael Webster, Tower Captain, Stoke Gabriel*

### Branch Doubles Practice on 29th April

After six years of ringing I still, frustratingly, need the Doubles practice, so a return visit to St Mary's Laira was most welcome. With eleven ringers keen to start the doubles practice, plain hunt to settle in, Grandsire and St Helens, we had a very busy time. A total of thirteen attended and all rang well, with a break to enjoy sharing a home made Simnel cake; baking a cake is an essential skill for all ringers and one should be provided at every practice event...!

Many thanks to those who attended the practice, also thanks goes to the experienced ringers for supporting the learners. Special thanks to Alena for arranging and running the practice.



Sam under careful tuition of Alena

*Billy Moore*

## Kaleidoscope Practice

St Mary's, Laira opened its doors on the 11th March for a kaleidoscope practice for those of us learning to make places and dodges. Experienced ringers joined us from Tavistock, Stoke, Brentor, Emmanuel, St Andrew's, St Budeaux, Plympton and St Dominic, making a total of 23 ringers who helped to make it a very enjoyable learning experience. We then lost some ringers to the bells as they couldn't turn down the opportunity to climb up to the bell chamber where Owen gave a very informative talk, not just about the Laira installation, but about many aspects of hanging bells.



Ringling at Laira, Plymouth

*Billy Moore*

## 24th March Bells, Beer and Bounce !

One of great things about being part of bell ringing is the social side. On Saturday 25th March a group of us went to the Adrenline Urban Activity Park at Derriford in Plymouth - It's a trampolining park with a ninja academy assault course! After an hour of bouncing, somersaulting and nainja-ing we filled up on flapjacks and brownies to energise ourselves for the second (and most



Guess the ringer!

important) course of the day, ringling! We nipped over to Plympton St Marys to ring their 25.5cwt set of eight bells, which for most of us was a tower grab, followed by a go of the ropes at Eggbuckland. After a somewhat energetic day, we finished up at the Real Ale Festival at the Wetherspoons on Mutley Plane, where ironically our favourite ale was Oakham Ales 'Enough Rope', which is a fruity amber ale brewed in Peterborough. After a couple of pints and a tasty meal, we were all ready for bed as we had service ringling first thing in the morning. Thank you to Alena Wardle for arranging the afternoon, it was great to be a kid again.



A bunch of happy bouncers!

Left to right - Paul, Sarah, Ed, Gem, Jess, Matt, Jo, James, Lindsey, Netty, Alena

*Lindsey Pollard*

## Training

### ART Award for Use of Technology in Teaching



Lisa being presented with her award by ART Tutor, Les Boyce at an East Devon Branch meeting in Offwell.

This is the second year that the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) has promoted a series of national awards in ringling. Awards are made to both individuals and groups and cover a range of achievements from individual ringers reaching Level 5 in the 'Learning the Ropes' scheme to school, youth and university groups making the greatest impact in teaching or recruiting new ringers. The awards are sponsored by both ART and other bodies and consist of a winner's certificate and a cheque to spend on developing their ringling activity or training facility.

This year's 'ART Award for Innovation in the Effective Use of Technology in Teaching' was sponsored by John Taylor & Co. and won by Lisa Clarke from Combe Raleigh. Lisa has been the lead person in training a new band of ringers for this three-bell tower in a small village near Honiton. Though the number of traditional bells available is very limited, Lisa has exploited the possibilities offered by simulator technology to the full. Starting with a home-made sensor and 'Beltower' software, she has developed the facility to include a second, heavier bell and, crucially, introduced a large screen monitor. The 20-inch screen allows learners to use the images of ringers to develop ropesight alongside honing their listening skills while ringing with other 'perfect' (virtual) ringers. The learners taught this way have found it an easy transition to ringing competently with other (real) ringers. At the end of each ringing session Lisa has used the software's capabilities to review the performance (striking) of the learner. Three learners have been taught this way in the last year and all are now ringing for service and one has already rung a quarter peal. You can read more about Lisa's teaching approach in her award submission at: <http://ringingteachers.org/recognition/awards/2017/lisa-clarke>

Lisa is also heading up a restoration and augmentation project which will shortly see the rehangng of the original three bells, the installation of a further three to create a ring of 6 and the construction of a ringing gallery in the tower.

*Les Boyce*

## ART Newsletter

The April edition of Tower Talk, the newsletter from ART (Association of Ringing Teachers) can be downloaded from <http://www.learningtheropes.org>. You can also find out a lot more about the ART 'Learning the Ropes' method of teaching. This issue is largely based on Scotland and the Tulloch Ringing Centre, and makes interesting reading – especially if you were thinking of having a holiday in the Highlands! They are running a 5-day course in September on learning to ring (all aspects!) and also one on improving your ringing. I am sure that you would be welcome. See <http://tullochbells.com/> for further details, where there is currently a sound clip of Devon Association Ringers trying out the bells.

*Ian Campbell*

*Note from editor – it appears that the Improve Your Ringing course is already fully booked.*

## Kaleidoscope Day at Thorverton



Explaining Kaleidoscope with the use of diagrams

This year, branches are being encouraged to run their own Kaleidoscope training days, but the Exeter one was soon opened up to the Guild and beyond to get enough takers. Perhaps the choice of a bank holiday weekend hadn't been too wise!

Places were all filled, 29th April came around, and we met at Thorverton with the sound control in use so we could ring all day. During a theory session it was explained how people might find their ringing improved by the exercises: listening for accurate changes of place, rudimentary ropesight, and getting into the feel and rhythm of the bell as it is held up or pulled in. There was much emphasis on handling to move a bell accurately, and starting to anticipate what to do.

In the tower the morning session concentrated on long places, short places and continuous dodging. As different pairs of bells started to do different things, the ropesight of choosing between one of two bells to follow came into play, as well as trusting to your own rhythm to ring in the right place!

Making up longer combinations of work (eg dodge, place, place, repeated) was discussed over lunch and put into practice during the afternoon.

It was, as always, a pleasure to run such a day, and many thanks go to all the helpers who came.



Those that lasted until the end of the afternoon!

*Lynne Hughes*

*Hi Lynne*

*Thank you for a day that was both informative and enjoyable. I learned a great deal and improved my understanding.*

*Please pass on my thanks to Tim and all your helpers - and thank you for arranging such a useful day.*

*Hazel*

## Education Program for 2017

**18th June 12.30-2.30**

Young Ringer's Practice – Denmisch simulated campanile  
Oliver Coldrick

**19th August 2.30-4.30**

Striking competition Triples methods practice – Denmisch simulated campanile TBC

**17th September 12.30-2.30**

Young Ringer's Practice – Denmisch simulated campanile  
Oliver Coldrick

**30th September**

ART Module M1: Teaching Bell Handling

**17th December 12.30-2.30**

Young Ringer's Practice – Denmisch simulated campanile  
Oliver Coldrick

Further information about training is available from the Guild web site at <http://devonringers.org.uk/education/training>

## Notable Ringing Events

### FIRST PEAL OF BRISTOL MAXIMUS FOR CHARLOTTE BOYCE:

Guild of Devonshire Ringers  
 Withycombe Raleigh, Devon, St John the Evangelist  
 Saturday, 18 February 2017 in 3h17

#### 5090 Bristol Surprise Maximus

Composed by A G Reading

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Alison C Waterson | 7 John R Martin (C)    |
| 2 Susan D Sparling  | 8 Timothy M Payne      |
| 3 Peter L Bill      | 9 Pauline McKenzie     |
| 4 Ian V J Smith     | 10 Jennifer R Sparling |
| 5 Lester J Yeo      | 11 David Hird          |
| 6 Charlotte A Boyce | 12 Michael E C Mears   |
- First in method - 6  
 100th in the tower - 4

### COMMEMORATING JOHN AND MARJORIE HILL'S DIAMOND WEDDING:

Guild of Devonshire Ringers  
 Broadclyst, Devon, St John the Baptist  
 Thursday, 27 April 2017 in 3hrs 4m

#### 5056 Diamond Delight Major

Composed by D W Beard

- |                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 John Hill        | 5 Ian L C Campbell      |
| 2 P Wendy Campbell | 6 Ian P Hill            |
| 3 Ian V J Smith    | 7 Pauline McKenzie      |
| 4 James Kirkcaldy  | 8 Michael E C Mears (C) |
- A compliment to Marjorie and John Hill on their Diamond wedding anniversary. They were married at St James, Accrington on 27th April 1957.  
 1250th peal 1 and 100th peal together for 1 and 6

### FIRST OF BRISTOL MAXIMUS FOR SARAH CHADBURN:

Guild of Devonshire Ringers  
 Withycombe Raleigh, Devon, St John the Evangelist  
 Thursday, 11 May 2017 in 3hrs 20m

#### 5042 Bristol Surprise Maximus

Composed by P J Sanderson

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Ian W Avery         | 7 Ian V J Smith          |
| 2 Pauline McKenzie    | 8 James Kirkcaldy        |
| 3 Susan D Sparling    | 9 Richard Harrison       |
| 4 Alison C Waterson   | 10 John R Martin         |
| 5 Sarah E Chadburn    | 11 David Hird            |
| 6 Jennifer R Sparling | 12 Michael E C Mears (C) |
- In memory of Peter Beresford  
 First peal of Bristol S Maximus: 5

*Mike Mears*

## Things to Ring For

If you are looking for an excuse to ring a peal or quarter peal how about the following dates which are mentioned on the Central Council web site?

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July – 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jane Austen's death in 1817 (English novelist – Pride and Prejudice)

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August – 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Stanley Baldwin in 1867 (British prime minister)

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August – 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Michael Faraday in 1867 (English scientist)

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September – 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Hiram R Revels in 1817 (1<sup>st</sup> African American US senator)

*Ian Campbell*

## Left Handed Ringing

If you ring with a style that is generally known as 'left handed', with the tail end held in your right hand, you may have found that the rope has a tendency to twist around your arm in a rather awkward way. This can be counteracted by finding somewhere with a rope that is wound in the opposite direction from normal. If you look closely at this photo, taken at East Coker, you will see

that the two ropes are different. Ropes that are made in the usual way (right-handed) will always have the colours in the sally going **down** from right to left (as on the left rope here) while a rope with a left-handed lay such as the right hand rope here will be the other way round. Even if you hold the rope the other way up the colours will still go **down** right to left as you can see from the sally that is hanging up!

Splicing left-lay ropes is different, to say the least – especially if you try to splice them into a normal rope!

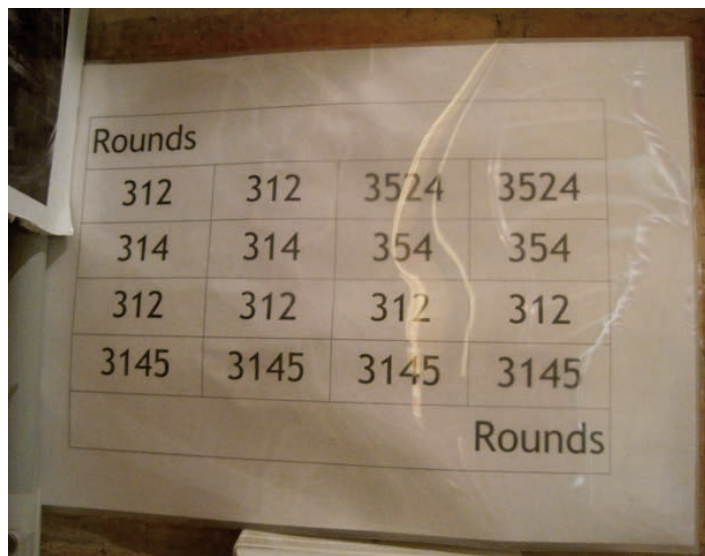
Do keep an eye out for left-handed ropes – I would be interested to know of anywhere else where they are seen.



*Ian Campbell (photo by Janet Ritterman)*

## Confusing Instructions

This note was found in a tower in Sydney, Australia. But what does it mean? Do let us know as we have no idea and didn't like to ask the local ringers!



*Ian Campbell*

## Mystery Devices?



We recently came across these four devices hanging on the wall in the tower at Gorran in Cornwall. But can you guess what they are used for? I had to ask the local tower captain as I couldn't guess!

*Ian Campbell*

## Editorial

It has all been a bit of a rush to get this edition out before the Guild AGM, partly as I have been helping to install the frame and bells at Combe Raleigh. I apologise for any articles that have been missed and will try to fit them in next time. Thanks go to all that have submitted anything; we never seem to be short of information. And thanks also go to John Foster who does all the work on the layout of the finished newsletter and was away most of the time just before the AGM. If you are sending articles, please can you send the photos as separate files rather than imbedded in the text, and can you try to ensure that they are clear and of a good resolution – I would expect a normal sized photo (JPG) to be at least 1Mb (1000Kb) in size.

It is good to see young ringers meeting together and enjoying themselves. The event at Denmisch was very well attended including a number of mums and dads – I hope that there will be as many at the next one in June. And when the Cathedral School Bellringing Club came to St Mark's it was good to observe that two of the pupils already ring at church towers while two more are keen to start. Perhaps the hours spent at Denmisch have not been wasted after all! And the two babies born to ringers in Exeter suggests that the next generation of ringers is already forming.

The Devon County Show is always an opportunity to meet up with other ringers – it is surprising how many lapsed ringers appear. I always make an effort to call in at the sheep shearing to meet up with George Mudge (past president) and was pleased to see that he and Andrew can still keep up with the rest of the world – at least in shearing sheep (see separate article).

The augmentation of the bells at Combe Raleigh has started and is probably complete by the time you read this although work on the floors will still be needed before they can be rung. It is an exciting project that has been largely driven by Lisa who has managed to raise an enormous amount of money to make it all happen, and has survived every problem that has been thrown at her.

It is always nice to receive letters of appreciation, especially from people out of county who you would think weren't interested in parochial Devon affairs so it was especially good to receive the following:

*Your newsletter is wonderful. Really enjoyed the March edition  
Regards*

*Rosalind Martin, Bournemouth*

*Ian Campbell*

## Calendar

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.

### June

Sat 17	10:00	Surprise Major Practic, Ottery St. Mary	East
Sat 17	10:00	Guild Ringing Festival and Annual General Meeting, NNW Branch	Guild Guild
Sun 18	12.30	Young Ringers' Practice, DenMisch Simulated Campanile	Young Ringers East
Mon 19	19:30	Stedman and Doubles Practice, Offwell	East

### July

Sat 1		Mini Outing Bellringing Song	NW Devon & Mid Devon East
Mon 3	19:30	Triples - Stedman and Grandsir, Ottery St. Mary	East
Wed 5	19:30	10 bell advanced practice, Exeter St Mark	Exeter
Sat 8	14.00	Branch Striking Competition, Shute	East
Thu 13	19:30	Plain Hunt Practice, Sidbury	East
Thu 13	19:30	Branch Practice, Topsham	Aylesbeare
Fri 14	19:30	Surprise Minor Practice, Buckerell	East
Sat 15	10:00	Surprise Major Practice, Ottery St. Mary	East
Sat 15	pm	Walking/bells tour of Exeter, Exeter city centre	Exeter
Mon 17	19:30	Stedman and Doubles Methods, Offwell	East
Wed 19	19.30	8 Bell Practice, Dawlish	Mid Devon
Sun 23	pm	Picnic lunch & tennis afternoon, Rose Duryard, Exeter	Exeter

### August

Wed 2	19:30	10 bell advanced practice, Exeter St Mark	Exeter
Mon 7	19:30	Triples - Stedman and Grandsire, Ottery St. Mark	East
Thu 10	19:30	Plain Hunt Practice, Sidbury	East
Fri 11	19:30	Surprise Minor Practice, Buckerell	East
Sat 12		Joint Practice, Buckfast Abbey or Tavistock TBC	Mid-Devon
Thu 17	19.30	8 Bell Practice, Buckfastleigh	Mid Devon
Fri 18	19:30	Branch Practice, Broadclyst	Aylesbeare
Sat 19	10:00	Surprise Major Practice, Ottery St. Mary	East
Sat 19	2.30	Practice for 8-bell striking competition methods, DenMisch Simulated Campanile	Guild
Mon 21	19:30	Stedman and Doubles Methods, Offwell	East

### September

Sat 2	9.30	Raising and Lowering, East Ogwell	Mid Devon
Mon 4	19:30	Triples - Stedman and Grandsire, Ottery St. Mary	East
Wed 6	19:30	10 bell advanced practice, Exeter St Mark	Exeter
Mon 11	19:30	Branch Practice, Clyst Honiton	Aylesbeare
Wed 13	19:30	Targeted practice for local band, Hatherleigh	Exeter
Thu 14	19.30	6 Bell Practice, Cockington	Mid Devon
Thu 14	19:30	Plain Hunt Practice, Sidbury	East
Sat 16	10:00	Surprise Major Practice, Ottery St. Mary	East
Sun 17	12.30	Young Ringers' Practice, DenMisch Simulated Campanile	Young Ringers East
Mon 18	19:30	Stedman and Doubles Methods, Offwell	East
Sat 30		ART Module M1: Teaching Bell Handling	Guild

## Young Ringers' Practice - 19th March

The first of the planned regular Young Ringers' practices was held on Sunday 19th March at the Demnisch simulator ring at Exeter Cathedral School. Some of those who had been learning to ring at the school came to ring some more advanced things and to meet up with young ringers from all over the county. Ringing ranged from rounds and call changes up to simple (and more complicated!) methods. There were even enough youngsters for them to ring creditable rounds on all ten with no adults helping. The time between ringing was filled with ringing handbells, which was a first for some.

After the session most of the ringers and their friends went up the tower of Exeter Cathedral to watch the ringing for the service.

Further practices are planned for June, September and December (see below).

Thanks are due to those who came, those who brought them, and those who helped, and also to the school for making us welcome.





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## STOP PRESS - Combe Raleigh bells nearly ready to ring



## Young Ringers' Practices 2017



All young ringers and their parents/chaperones are invited to come along on Sunday afternoons to these ringing practices, to meet other young ringers and have some fun. The Demnisch simulated campanile uses a computer to make the sounds as you ring!

Where? Exeter Cathedral School, Palace Gate,  
Exeter EX1 1HX  
Day? 18th June, 17th September, 17th December  
Time? 12.30 – 2.30pm



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

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