

# Ringling Round Devon



THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

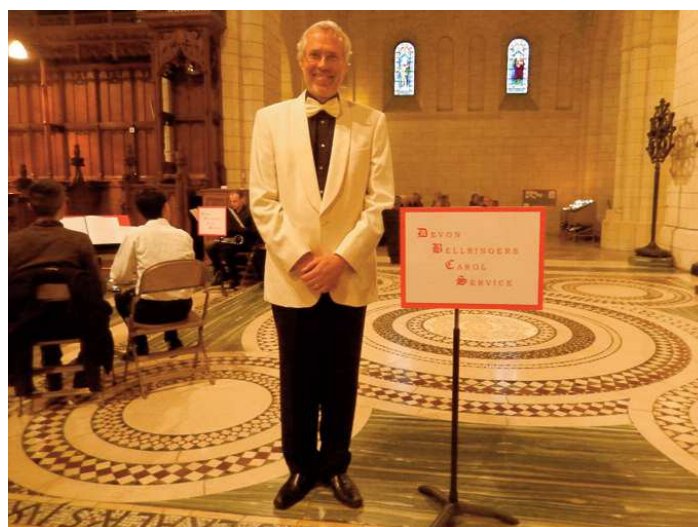
Newsletter 105, March 2017

## GUILD EVENTS

### Devon Ringers' Carol Service at Buckfast Abbey



#### A VIEW FROM THE CHOIR



Ian Avery, Choirmaster

Despite the rain, the carol service at Buckfast Abbey had standing room only for those who arrived near to the start time. Several ringers were disappointed to find a notice next to the rope for Hosanna, the 7½ ton bourdon bell, to say that it was not to be rung. However after the service those in the know removed the sign as the loose clapper had been fixed by Taylor's the week before, and so we could ring the bells in all of their glory. I had forgotten how magnificent they sound from outside, normally only being able to hear them from inside.

We must be very grateful to the abbey community for allowing us the privilege of using both their magnificent bells and their fine building.

This annual event has been going for many years in Devon, and is highly popular. Clergy often express surprise at the hundreds attending! Organised by the Devon Ringers' Council, it brings together the call change ringers of the Devon Association and the method ringers of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers in equal numbers, and this year was held on Saturday 10th December at Buckfast Abbey.

Preparations for the ringers' choir however started several weeks before with practices at Kingsteignton on two Saturday mornings and two Friday evenings, led by choir master Ian Avery. We then met on the day itself for a final practice in the morning and a run through in the Abbey after lunch. The choir is open to all Devon ringers who can sing, and there were a couple of new faces this year. I joined this choir for the first time in 2010, and enjoyed it so much that I've kept coming back. I would strongly encourage anyone else who enjoys singing to give it a go next year. Look out for notices on the guild Facebook group, via the branches, or contact Ian Avery directly.

Ringers from all over Devon began to arrive in good time for a ring on the Abbey bells, one of only four rings of 12 in Devon, for several sets of call changes and some method ringing. The choir opened with the hauntingly beautiful 'Jesus Christ the Apple Tree' then proceeded to lead the congregation in many favourite carols, accompanied by both the organ and a ringers' brass ensemble. Father Christopher from the Benedictine community at the Abbey welcomed us all and gave an amusing potted history of the bells. Officials from the Guild and Association read the lessons. There really was something for everyone.



The Capacity Congregation

Ian Campbell



Choir practice in Buckfast Abbey

Maybe the highlights of the carol service are the handbells. Some of the Exeter Cathedral band rang a faultless three leads of Kent Royal; and call change ringing was represented by Lamerton's now traditional 'Queen's Peal' on eight, performed by passing the bells from person to person whilst maintaining an excellent rhythm.

There was another chance for anyone to ring on the Abbey bells after the service, then all departed with the feeling the Christmas had once again started in earnest and started in style.

*Lynne Hughes, Publicity Officer, Guild of Devonshire Ringers*

## Guild General Committee meeting

PREPARED BY JANET RITTERMAN FOR THE MID-DEVON BRANCH



L to R: Sue Sawyer (treasurer), Alison Waterson (president), John Martin (secretary) and Nigel Burt (current master)

As usual, the New Year began with a meeting of the General Committee, this time under the Chairmanship of the new President, Alison Waterson, and with John Martin as Guild Secretary.

Reports from Guild officers occupied much of the agenda. As these will appear later in the annual report, no comment is made on them here, except where information may be of more immediate relevance or use to members.

In the latter category:

**Guild subscription:** It was recommended that this should remain at £6.

**Annual report:** branches were reminded that John Foster (editor of the annual report) needs text for all reports not later than the end of March. Some debate about the date by which members should receive a copy of the annual report led to the conclusion

that further discussion should take place about timescales, with the possibility that this date might be moved earlier.

**First peals:** There was only one first pealer in 2016!

**Recruitment & Teaching working party report:** this will be put on the Guild website.

**Special ringing for 2017:** attention was drawn to 20th November 2017 (platinum wedding anniversary of The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh). It was noted that the Central Council website has a list of possible dates to ring for at <https://ccabr.org.uk/services/pr/things-to-ring-for/coming-year/>.

**Tower Handbook updates:** the Guild Secretary will put a checklist on the Guild website. Branch secretaries will be asked to draw the attention of tower captains to the list, and invite them to let the Guild Secretary know of any missing items in their copy of the handbook.

Other items discussed at the meeting included:

## WORLD WAR ROLL OF HONOUR

The Central Council has Rolls of Honour which commemorate those ringers who gave their lives in the First and Second World Wars (see [www.cccbr.org.uk/rolls](http://www.cccbr.org.uk/rolls)). As the number of Devon ringers in these Rolls is comparatively low (only 33), it was proposed that efforts should be made to identify the names of other ringers with a view to presenting a more comprehensive list in 2018.

One of the difficulties in Devon is that, prior to the Devon Association being formed, there were only local associations for call change ringers who did not send information to the CC when the Rolls of Honour were being put together. If you are visiting country churches, please look out for any memorials referring to ringers and check if the names are on the website

## GUILD FESTIVAL AND AGM – 17TH JUNE 2017

This will be hosted by the North/North West Branch, and will be held at Braunton. The provisional plan is for open ringing in the morning, a Guild Service at 1.15pm, followed by the AGM and General Committee meeting. In the morning, the intention is to hold a workshop, the theme of which will be 'Running a Practice'. It is intended that the workshop, to which experienced as well as more newly appointed tower captains will be invited, should focus on the exchange of ideas on best practice.

Any bands wishing to ring quarter peals that day will be invited to make this known in advance.

A recommendation was made to the meeting for the election of a new vice-president for the Guild. This was endorsed and will be presented at the Guild AGM in June.

## UPDATING BRANCH INFORMATION ON GUILD WEBSITE

Branches were requested to use their sections of the website to publicise practices, and asked to ensure that the information there is kept up-to-date (e.g. names of branch officers).

## GUILD STRIKING COMPETITION 2017 – 21ST OCTOBER 2017

This will be hosted by the North East Branch. 8 bell competition at Silverton; 6 bell competition at Stoodleigh; 6 bell novice competition at Bampton (with Kentisbeare as a reserve tower).

The 8 bell methods will be: London Bob Triples or Grandsire Triples.

Some discussion took place about the desirability of introducing an 8 bell competition for less experienced bands (to complement the arrangements for the 6 bell competitions). It was agreed that a proposal should be put to the Guild AGM in June, for possible introduction in 2018.



## ASSOCIATION OF RINGING TEACHERS (ART) NEWS

There are two new ART publications (see <http://ringingteachers.org/resource-centre/shop>), one of which is a DVD on Raising and Lowering, produced by Graham Nabb, which includes two Devon bands (cost £15).

Details of ART training modules are posted on the Guild website. Branches were urged to draw the attention of members to these events and encourage attendance.

The latest edition of the Association of Ringing Teachers' newsletter (ARTWorks) is available at <http://ringingteachers.org/news/art-works>. This should be of interest to anyone who is involved in teaching ringing.

## OTHER DATES

Quarter peal festival: Friday 20th October – Sunday 5th November 2017

10 bell call change competition: Saturday 22nd April 2017, Crediton

Devon Ringers' Carol Service: Saturday 9th December 2017, Exeter Cathedral

The Guild Calendar of Events for 2017 is on the Guild website (and downloadable) at <http://devonringers.org.uk/guild/events>.

*Janet Ritterman*

## Guild Publicity Material Update



I have recently added to the Guild's stock of publicity material. Firstly, we now have four hundred of the recruitment leaflets produced by the Central Council.

Secondly, I have added to the stock of photographs: a dozen or so large (A4) high quality pictures of towers, bells and ringing from Tim King; and several more slightly smaller ones from my own stock, showing wider ringing themes: competitions, teaching handling and training days, simulators, the mini-ring, handbells, young ringers and the social side of things. Anyone is encouraged to borrow any of these for their tower open days, giving talks in schools or to the local Women's Institute or whatever! All are laminated and labelled. I'll bring them to Guild meetings in the coming months.



*Lynne Hughes, Guild Publicity Officer*

## Aylesbeare Branch

### Topsham Plain Hunt Morning



Walking plain hunt

On the morning of Saturday 1st October, nine ringers from St Margaret's, Topsham gathered for a morning of plain hunt tuition. The aim of the morning was to cover the basics of plain hunt, both theory and practical, for the benefit of all the ringers, both new and slightly more experienced! Matt, Harry and Keith taught different areas and every topic provoked a lot of interesting debate amongst the group. As well as practice on the bells, there were PowerPoint presentations, use of Abel, and some walking plain hunt practice as seen in the accompanying picture to burn off the mid-morning tea and biscuits! Both pupils and teachers had a very productive morning and it put us in good stead for our entries into the novice striking competition a few weeks later.

*Matt Pym*

## Raising and Lowering Training Day



Theory Lessons at Stoke Canon

At the Aylesbeare branch AGM last year, the members requested help with raising and lowering so a training morning was organised on 14th January at Stoke Canon. Ten learners and ten helpers attended from across the branch and under the expert guidance of Janet and Neil Deem the pupils were split into three groups of ability, alternating during the morning between theory and practical sessions as well as plenty of breaks for tea and cake! The morning was very enjoyable, mostly due to the enthusiastic attitude of everyone present, and a lot of improvements were made. The intention is that the skills learnt can now be taken back to tower practices for the benefit of all the ringers and towers in the the branch. Janet and Neil are going to follow up the course by attending practices in the near future to help apply the skills learnt on our own specific bells, most of which are a little heavier than those at Stoke Canon!





Putting it into practice

*Matt Pym*

### John Langabeer celebrates his 80th birthday

Two peals were rung to celebrate the 80th birthday of John Langabeer. The first was rung on the day (18th January) at Clyst Honiton where John is tower captain, with a follow-up on the Saturday at Pinhoe where he also rings.

Our congratulations and best wishes go to John and we hope to see him for many years to come.



### Guild of Devonshire Ringers Clyst Honiton, Devon, St Michael and All Angels

Wednesday, 18 January 2017 in 2hrs 58m

5024 Cambridge Surprise Major

Composed by D F Morrison (No 4186)

- |                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 P Wendy Campbell | 5 James Kirkcaldy       |
| 2 Ian W Avery      | 6 David Hird            |
| 3 Susan D Sparling | 7 Michael E C Mears (C) |
| 4 Ian L C Campbell | 8 Pauline McKenzie      |

With best wishes to John Langabeer, celebrating his 80th birthday today.

1600th Major: 6.



After the peal at Pinhoe

### St Michael and All Angels, Pinhoe

Saturday, 21 January 2017 in 2hr 52m

5024 Cambridge Surprise Major

Composed by T B Worsley

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 James Kirkcaldy  | 5 Richard H Johnston |
| 2 P Wendy Campbell | 6 Ian L C Campbell   |
| 3 Susan P Sturdy   | 7 Graham P Tucker    |
| 4 Lesley A Tucker  | 8 David Hird (C)     |

Specially arranged as an 80th birthday compliment to John Langabeer.

*Ian Campbell*

## East Devon Branch

### Combe Raleigh Bell Project update



This is an exciting time in the history of the tower. Work has begun at last! The clock dial drive rod, weights and cables were removed first. Our village team of Mark, Stan and Laurence thought that opening up the hatch in the clock chamber floor looked to be a simple job, but it turned out to be nothing of the sort - more



unexpected work, more unexpected expense! The steel lifting beam was installed in the belfry so that the bells could be hoisted out and the rope guide was removed. We were ready for Monday 23rd January.

With expert volunteers from the Guild of Devonshire Ringers, who are used to doing this sort of thing, it took just two and a half days to get the bells removed, the frame dismantled and everything out of the tower and off site. By noon on Wednesday all was loaded on the lorry and bound for Nicholson Engineering's workshops in Bridport. This was a great team effort, thank you and well done. Two of the bells were then swiftly transferred to the Whitechapel Bell Foundry for tuning.



Four building firms had been invited to tender for the installation and access to the new ringing gallery. They were all significantly more expensive than anticipated, bringing our revised project target figure up to £95,000. In the light of this we have split the project into two phases, first of all to complete the bell work and secondly to construct the new gallery, giving us time to raise more funds to cover the extra costs of the ringing chamber. We have appointed Skinner Construction of Sidmouth to carry out these works later this year. This was a setback admittedly, but we are determined to do it and we will! Be assured, we will keep you posted on progress.



Our annual Snowdrop Tea on 19th February was a huge success, so much so that we sold out of cake and snowdrops (all 2,000 of them), but we were able to meet all orders the next day, another 250. Profits from this event have brought our total funds raised to date to £77,287 and we have other events to come. Please don't forget our Great Plant Sale on Sunday 14th May.

*Lisa Clarke (Tower Captain)*

## Three Plus Three, a Fairytale from Combe Raleigh

'Well' said Little Me, 'it appears that we are all going on a journey.'

'A journey; what do you mean?' asked Treble.

'A journey, it means you're going somewhere else, stupid' grumbled Tenor.

'Now, now, let's not have a row about it, we've been friends for a long time, we should stick together'. Little Me had always been the peacemaker, standing between Treble and Tenor. 'You should remember that I've been here for nearly six hundred years and I've seen them all come and go, even you.'

'What do you mean – even you?' asked Tenor.

'Well, you are the youngster here, just 150 years this time around.'

'This time around, are you talking in riddles?'

'No, but you have been re-incarnated, twice.'

'I don't think I believe in re-incarnation' said Treble.

'You should' said Little Me 'for you too had a previous existence and in your present form only came here 259 years ago, though I admit that in your previous life you were here longer than that.'

'I'm not sure I understand that' said Tenor, 'are you suggesting that I had two previous lives?'

'You surely did' answered Little Me 'though your second one didn't last long, only 196 years.'

A long silence followed while they tried to take in the enormity of what had just been said. Treble was the first to break the silence, not surprising really, as she usually took the lead, 'so exactly what happens with this re-incarnation thingy?'

'Oh it's very simple; they melt you down and recast you in a different form.'

'I don't think I like the sound of that' commented a worried looking Treble.

'Don't worry, they're not going to do that this time, just dress you a little, so that you sound better when you ring with me.'

'Why?' asked Treble. 'I usually take the lead, so why should I be changed to be like you, why can't you be made more like me?'

'Old age has its compensations, in a truly civilised society, the old are respected and this is reflected in the way they treat old bells. When you're as old as me, you should get the same respect.'

'Ah' said Treble 'then I should be more respected than Tenor.'

'I'm bigger than you and you need to learn respect for me' boomed Tenor.

'STOP' exclaimed Little Me 'let's not get into any arguments, let us just think of the future and our new partners whom we will shortly meet.'

'I hope they won't be as crotchety as Tenor, what we really need is some new young active blood around here, someone light on their feet, more like me!'

'I said enough, no more arguments. I hear that we are getting three new companions and all with very different backgrounds, it should be interesting.' Little Me was becoming slightly cross with his old friends.

Meanwhile, three strangers were meeting up, equally worried as to what their future was to be.

'Hullo' said Poole 'who are you and what do you do?' His gnarled companion looked a little rough around the edges. 'Not much now, I've just retired from a life at sea.' 'So what are you called?' Poole didn't like his questions being ignored.

'You can call me Buoy, if you like. If I seem a bit grumpy you need to know that I've always worked alone and I'm not used to idle conversation.'

'Were you a single handed sailor then?' Poole was determined to find out everything.

'You could say that, but I never went far.' He was about to enlarge on this when he noticed a spruced up shiny faced stranger listening in.

'Hello-o-o. My word, you're a pretty looking little thing. Are you joining us too?'

'My name is Phillipa and I'm from Bolton. I haven't worked for quite a while and I am a little worried. For a start, I'm told that I can't wear this make-up and it's become an essential part of me.'

Buoy burst in 'I never understood why you had to put all that muck on, what's wrong with you in the natural state?'

'Nothing at all' Phillipa replied 'at my last place they said it would protect me and if you're as coarse as you seem, I may need it.'

Poole smiled 'don't bother with him, he has no people skills and in any case I'll protect you.'

'People skills, is that what it is? Get on with your work and you won't have time for that, is just another name for gossip. By the way, what are we all doing here? I'd be happy to get back to sea.'

'I'm sorry, my dear, but there is no demand for sea-going grumps these days. You had better get used to us; I understand we'll be miles from the sea in a little place called Combe Raleigh.'

'At least it has a sea connection, good old Raleigh, one of the best sailors there ever was.'

'Yes' agreed Poole, 'but like you, with no people skills, his end was to have his head chopped off.'

'Are you suggesting that I'm to have my head chopped off? I don't fancy that.'

'No, but it needs a bit of reduction and you'll have to get some of your rough edges smoothed off before they'll accept you in Combe Raleigh.'

'What about Flossie, sorry Phillipa, won't she have to get some attention too?'

'I expect so and will welcome it' answered Phillipa in a rather prim manner. 'We know Buoy had a life at sea, but what did you do Poole?'

'Me, oh I was in a sanatorium.'

'For the insane' burst in Buoy, with a chuckle.

'No, it wasn't. It was a hospital for treating patients with TB.'

'Poor you' whispered Phillipa 'and are you cured now?'

'Well, if I'm not, I'm sure that fresh country air will do me good.'

'Me too' said Phillipa, 'I'll be glad to be away from Bolton and its polluted air.'

Not to be outdone, Buoy interjected 'that's all very well, but what if we don't like our new companions. I understand one of them is nearly 600 years old and all three of us together don't add up to half that.'

'The old get stuck in their ways, so we'll just have to bend them to our manner of thinking' said Poole.

'And we're young, amenable to change and light on our feet, we'll be fine, won't we?' added Phillipa. They all smiled, 'Let's look to the future.'

### HISTORICAL NOTES

The 1553 inventory of church property lists Combe Raleigh as having three bells. The existing bells are:-

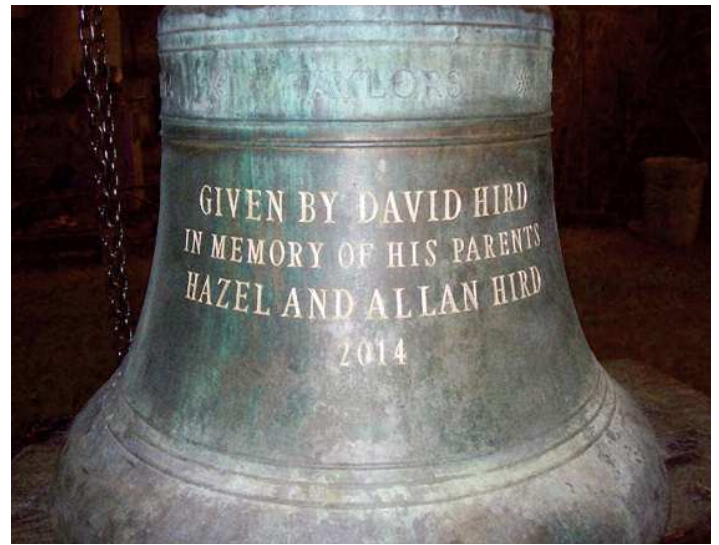
Treble, which was recast in 1758 by Thomas Bilbie II of Cullompton.

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.



Little Me, Tenor and Treble on the lorry off to the bellhangers



"Buoy" – with his new engraved inscription

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 has a large flange on the top.

*Trevor Hitchcock (from an idea by Ian Campbell)*

## Exeter Branch

### Exeter Colleges Guild '50 Not Out'

The first week-end in February is a special time for those members, past and present, of the Exeter Colleges Guild of bellringers. It is the time when the annual dinner takes place. This year, 2017, was 'extra special' because it was the 50th anniversary dinner.

Celebrations began on Friday 3rd February with some peal attempts. Kent TB Royal was successfully navigated on handbells in the morning. In the afternoon a mixed band ranging from recent graduates through to those who graduated over 35 years ago gathered at St Mark's, Exeter, to ring a peal of 5050 Spliced Caters. Two hours and fifty-six minutes and just a few minor hiccups later the peal came round and a commemorative photograph was taken.

More 'getting together' took place that evening in various hostelries in Exeter as people arrived from all over the country in readiness for the dinner.

Saturday morning ringing took place on the magnificent twelve at Crediton where methods from call-changes to Stedman Cinques were rung by a growing band of ringers. This was where the meetings of long lost friends began with the inevitable comments of 'you haven't changed a bit' and 'I would never have recognized you'. In some cases people were meeting for the first time in over thirty years!

As bell ringers do, we then adjourned to the Crediton Inn for an excellent buffet lunch and liquid refreshment.

The afternoon entertainment was a more varied affair. Over fifty ringers, other halves and children assembled in St. David's, Exeter, and were split into five teams to undertake a tower bell striking competition; a treasure hunt to find clues which spelt the name of a ringing method (FRANCIS GENIUS DELIGHT if my team got it right); practice for tune ringing on hand bells (the competition to take place during the dinner); and gnome painting! Thank you to Ian Campbell for sitting in his car to judge the tower bells. Thus, brains slightly addled and hands speckled with paint, all then returned to their accommodation to don their glad rags for the evening.





Members and friends at the ECG dinner

As this dinner was the 50th, those attending were invited to wear something gold in celebration and some magnificent outfits were worn. One hundred and nine people descended on the Rougemount Hotel at 6.30pm in preparation for a commemorative photograph and to partake of an excellent meal. In one corner of the room was a looping slide show of photographs submitted by members dating from the earliest days of the Guild to the present day and expertly set up by current guild president David Atkins. (Was my hair really that long? Did I ever wear flares like those?).

their way through the very tasty daffodil head. Dancing to the celidh band, Buttoned-Up, then took place until midnight and a barrel of ale brought in for the evening was drunk dry.

Sunday brought, no doubt, a few sore heads. There was good attendance at Sunday service ringing at a number of Exeter towers before all coming together for coffee and lunch. The final event of the weekend was an invitation to ring for evening service at the Cathedral. By my reckoning almost forty ringers climbed up to the ringing chamber and some very nice ringing for all abilities was rounded off by a service touch of three leads of Yorkshire Maximus – a very fitting end to an excellent week-end.

Thanks are due to many people for organising such an excellent event but special thanks must be given to Matt Hilling who coordinated the weekend.

The weekend was great fun. Shall we do it again in another fifty years?

More photos can be found at <http://devonringers.org.uk/ecg>



In full flow during the ceilidh

After the meal the final of the handbell tune ringing and the judging of the painted gnomes took place. These results were combined with those of the treasure hunt and tower bell competition. It was a draw between The Presidents' Men and Norfolk-n-Chance! The guest speaker was Tom Longridge, son of one of the founding members of the Guild, John Longridge. John is no longer with us, but the fact that the Guild and the annual dinners continue to thrive is in no small measure due to John's efforts. Evan Jones, Master, spoke about the activities of the current students over the previous year. Handbell touches of Surprise Royal and 16-in were rung before, finally, the origin of the daffodil toast was explained by Simon Reading (along with suitable health warnings) and all graduated members munched



Tom Longridge



**Guild of Devonshire Ringers (Exeter Colleges Guild)  
Exeter, Devon**

**Flat 5, 155 Magdalen Road**

Friday, 3 February 2017 in 2h 44 (15 in C)

5040 Kent Treble Bob Royal

Composed by D G Maynard

1-2 Nathan Evans

3-4 David G Maynard (C)

5-6 Matthew J Hilling

7-8 Oliver Coldrick

9-10 Ian L C Campbell

First on 10: 1-2

Rung on the annual dinner weekend to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Exeter Colleges Guild



Handbell peal band in order clockwise from front right

**Guild of Devonshire Ringers (Exeter Colleges Guild)**

**Exeter, Devon, St Mark**

Friday, 3 February 2017 in 2h56

5050 Spliced Caters

(2 methods:5039 Grandsire; 11 Tabernacle Differential Little Bob; 1 com)

Composed by Albert M Tyler & Donald F Morrison

1 Michael O Esbester

2 Nicola J Turner

3 Stephanie E Hills

4 Stephen J Chambers

5 Nathan Evans

6 Matthew J Hilling (C)

7 Anthony J Crabtree

8 Richard M Trueman

9 David G Maynard

10 David M Lay

First peal on 10: 3, 4.

First peal on 10 towerbells: 5.

Rung on the annual dinner weekend to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Exeter Colleges Guild .



Peal band in order clockwise from front right

*David Lay*

**The Great War Centenary 2014-2017**

Since 2014, many events have been organised in this country and abroad to mark the centenary of what was once called 'the war to end all wars'. There was the stunning and very poignant display of poppies outside the Tower of London in 2014 and I can remember being at the Great Dorset Steam Fair in 2014 where several acres of the rally field were given over to a display of the trenches along with many vehicles of that era and even a number of steam traction engines built for the War Department at that time all in authentic WD grey livery. There have been events to remember the Battle of Jutland (1916), the Battles of Ypres (1914, 1915 and 1917), and plans to mark the Battle of the Somme (1918). There were of course so many more battles during the conflict, a conflict in which about eleven million military personnel and about seven million civilian personnel lost their lives.

There have been efforts throughout the ringing fraternity to remember ringers that lost their lives on active service during the Great War. Private John Seager is recorded in the Rolls of Honour for Bell Ringers as having been a Heavitree ringer.

He died on 02/02/1917 age 33. Devonshire Regiment 9th Bn. Service No.26504. Commemorated at Gezaincourt Communal Cemetery Extension, France, Grave II F 5.

Born 1884. Son of Isaac Thomas and Charlotte Seager, of No. 9 Sowton Village, Exeter. He was one of 8 children and worked as a nurseryman's labourer before enlisting.

His brother, Private Thomas Seager, Coldstream Guards, also fell, 27/11/1917. Born: Sowton, Devon. Enlisted: Exeter. Resided (1911 Census): No. 9 Sowton Village, Exeter.

The Heavitree ringers felt that a fitting tribute to "one of their own" would be to ring a quarter peal near to the date on which he fell and we recorded the following:-

**Exeter, Devon, St Michael and All Angels, Heavitree**

Sunday, 5 February 2017 in 54 mins

1260 Grandsire Triples (the Remembrance Peal)

Composed by Sgt Albert Wakely

1 Ian Campbell

2 Adrian Rowland

3 Oliver Bates

4 Wendy Campbell

5 Michael Cannon (C)

6 David Maynard

7 David Hird

8 Robert Neal

9 Robert Neal

10 Robert Neal

Arranged and rung in memory of Heavitree ringer Private John Seager of the Devonshire Regiment who was killed in action on 2nd February 1917.

The composition of this quarter was appropriate as it was composed by Sgt. Albert Wakely whilst serving in the trenches during the conflict.



L to R: Rob Neal, David Maynard, Oliver Bates, Adrian Rowland, Michael Cannon, Wendy Campbell, David Hird, Ian Campbell.

*Michael Cannon*



## Exeter Cathedral clapper replaced in a hurry



The new clapper at the foot of the stairs

The peal at the Cathedral on 11th February was successful, but during ringing by visitors from Salisbury the next day the clapper shaft on the 7th broke and the clapper crashed to the floor. Repairing a clapper by welding tends not to be very satisfactory so the old one was taken to Nicholson's Engineering in Bridport on the Monday for a new one to be machined to match. We had plans to fit a temporary clapper (we just happened to have an old spare for the 7th) in time for the Saturday practice but this was not necessary – the replacement clapper appeared on my doorstep late Wednesday afternoon so that it could easily be fitted in time. Many thanks go to Nicholsons for working so quickly and to Andrew Digby who carried the new one up the stairs, saving a couple of old codgers a lot of hard work! It is a good job that the old clapper didn't fail during the peal after several hours ringing!

*Ian Campbell*

## Ian Campbell retires as Cathedral Secretary



### INTERVIEW WITH IAN CAMPBELL, RETIRING CATHEDRAL RINGERS' SECRETARY

Dr. Ian Campbell recently stepped down as Exeter Cathedral bellringers' secretary after some 37 years holding office in various roles. Cathedral ringer and Devon ringers' Publicity Officer Lynne Hughes recently met up with him to find out a little more.

**Q:** Hello Ian, Can you tell us something about how you got into bellringing in the first place? When and where was this?

**A:** When I was in my early teens one of my sisters learnt to ring at Finchley (London) where we lived. I was always fascinated by

ringing and as soon as I was considered old enough my mother took me up the tower to meet the rest of the ringers. I was taught on several sessions on a tied bell and then allowed to ring with the rest of the ringers.

**Q:** And what has kept you ringing for all these years?

**A:** Ringing very quickly became a way of life. Meeting Wendy at Finchley when I was just 17 cemented the hobby and after we got married we have been able to continue and learn together. When I went to University at Essex the first thing I did was to find out about the ringing society and rang at the local towers. Wendy would come down to Colchester for ringing outings so that we could go together.

**Q:** How did you come to be involved with ringing at Exeter Cathedral?

**A:** When I had finished at University in 1974 I needed to find a job. Looking through the newspaper adverts I read out one at the University of Exeter to Wendy – she immediately said "Exeter – there is a heavy 12 there – that will do fine".

**Q:** I've seen a few changes myself in the last ten years, but you must have seen many more. What was the standard of ringing like at the Cathedral when you started there, and how has it changed?

**A:** The first time we came to a Monday practice Fred Wreford (past ringing master) was on the door. I asked him how good the ringing was and got the reply "rubbish as usual". The ringing was limited to mainly Grandsire and Plain Bob Cinques, with occasional forays into Stedman and three leads of Kent. Often we rang the light eight (the sharp treble had not been installed in those days) and only rang up the back bells when we were sure that there were enough ringers present to ring at least ten.

**Q:** You have held a number of roles on the Cathedral ringers' committee over the years. Can you explain briefly what each was, and what it involved?

**A:** I was elected to Society membership on 22nd February 1977. I was then elected to Assistant Ringing Master in 1980, Joint Ringing Master (with Frank Mack) in 1982 and then Ringing Master in 1987. From then until 2006 I was responsible for the ringing and the tower upkeep although, of course, we also had an Assistant Ringing Master, Secretary, Treasurer and Steeple Keeper. In 2006 I thought that it was well time to hand over to someone younger and more enthusiastic and Matthew Hilling was elected as Ringing Master but I was left as the Tower Captain (a new post) for a year before moving to Secretary where I could still make use of my experience and contacts within the Cathedral. I now feel that it is time to hand over again to someone with more enthusiasm and I am grateful to Clare for taking on the work. This ranges from sorting out the AGM and the minutes and matters arising, coordinating ringing dates with the office, and taking the register and keeping the bottled water supplied.

**Q:** Of course, Exeter Cathedral isn't an 'ordinary' village church. What have been the challenges and pleasures of keeping the ringers in touch with the Dean and Chapter and wider cathedral community over the years?

**A:** A lot of the ringing was "routine" and fitted a fixed pattern – third Saturday and Sunday, first Monday, Christmas, Easter and Whitsun, with the occasional wedding. It has been hard to get the ringers accepted as workers in the church and for many years we were working under a possible misunderstanding – that the bells should only ever be rung once on a Sunday. Since then things have improved enormously and we are frequently asked to ring for special occasions and now ring as often as we can on a Sunday.

I have been invited to give presentations to the Friends of the Cathedral on several occasions, and also a talk to the sidesmen so that they know what we do. I have been to many meetings, including several diary meetings where it is fascinating to see how all the competing events are made to coexist, the Fabric Advisory Committee meetings, where decisions about building changes (such as any work to the bells) are undertaken, and meetings to discuss safeguarding and fire precautions. I have trailed around the roof space looking at necessary work, including guiding the party to the Peter Bell in the north tower as no one else seemed to know how to get there!



**Q:** How do you see the future of ringing at the Cathedral?

**A:** Good ringing at any tower seems to be self-perpetuating. The better the ringing, the more the good ringers want to be involved. Unfortunately, however, as the standard of the ringing has improved some less competent but nevertheless very loyal ringers have felt that they were being pushed outside their comfort zone and decided to retire. However we are all getting older; at a recent practice which was very well attended more than half had grey or no hair! In ten to twenty years as the stairs and the weight of the bells take their toll not many of those ringers will still be ringing so we need to start bringing in younger people now to train up and take their place. But there seem to be plenty coming on in Devon so it need not be all gloom and despondency.

**Q:** And finally, what other interests do you have outside ringing? Am I right in thinking you play in an orchestra at times?

**A:** They say that when you retire you need at least two interests. All the various facets of ringing take up most of my time – practices, services, peals and quarters, hand bells, tower maintenance, bell inspections, teaching, editing Ringing Round Devon, etc but I keep Wednesday evenings to play my cello with the Newton Abbot Orchestra and for occasional charity concerts and it is an opportunity to make a completely new set of friends. Even then several of them are bell ringers!

Thank you Ian for all you have done for ringing at the Cathedral. We'll still be seeing you up the tower for many years to come, I am sure.

*Lynne Hughes*

## Mid-Devon Branch

### Janet strikes again!!

Very many congratulations go to Janet Ritterman who has been awarded the Austrian Cross for Science and Art for her outstanding contribution to the Arts. There is a lovely photo and article in *The Mid-Devon Advertiser*. The award included a special cake which she subsequently shared with the Berry Pomeroy ringers. As usual, Janet keeps quiet about her 'other life' but she continues to fit ringing into an incredibly busy diary. Her annual mileage would be daunting for many people but she always takes it in her stride.

*Martin Mansley*

## Excerpts from Tower Talk

### BRANCH AGM REPORT

Many ringers avoid business meetings – they are for the experts! This is definitely not the case in the Mid-Devon branch. We only have one business meeting each year and that is the AGM. It is an afternoon for socialising, ringing and reviewing the last year before planning the next. All these activities are relevant to all our members.

This year it was the turn of St Marychurch to host the meeting. Promptly at 3pm the ringing got underway with call changes on eight before there were enough ringers to man all ten bells. This was one of the last duties performed by Maddy before her 'retirement'. Methods rung during the afternoon included Yorkshire Major, Plain Bob Caters and Plain Hunt with plenty of call changes to give experience to those less experienced on ten bells. Little Bob Royal was the service touch.

The service was taken by Father Robert Ward, parish priest at St Mary's. He mentioned several encounters with ringers over his career and thanked them for the work they do week by week. The reading was given by Nigel Birt, Guild Ringing Master, and a course of Bob Minor was rung on handbells by Tim King, Michael Tompsett and Martin Mansley

The venue for the tea was the Precinct Centre, a purpose-built centre shared by church and community. This was an ideal venue

for the tea and meeting. Quite a spread had been laid out and no time was wasted in making a hole in it.

This was an opportunity to socialise and relax together. John Martin, now Guild General Secretary and formerly our own secretary, had brought along a ledger which included the names of all holders of Guild certificates, now numbering more than four thousand. Much time was spent looking for familiar names and our chairman was able to point out his own entry in 1966.

Once tea was cleared away we got down to business. These notes are not the official minutes so we will pick out a few main points. The meeting was chaired by Rodney Horder. Julia Brett had volunteered to take the minutes in the absence of Catherine Saunders. Best wishes from the meeting were sent to Catherine for a speedy recovery and a return to ringing. Rodney explained that the committee felt it expedient to elect an assistant secretary to assist Catherine and this was agreed by the meeting.

Our branch is lucky to have a trophy, the Eddon Clapper, which is presented to the team that the committee considers has made most progress during the year. It was a great pleasure to award it to Berry Pomeroy who only joined the branch last year. It was felt that the ringers had made a good foundation to method ringing including Plain Hunt and Plain Bob but also the practices enable ringers from other towers to gain experience.

Verity Brett was one of the most recent names in the ledger of certificates and Rodney expressed his pleasure that he was able to present her certificate during the meeting.

The Treasurer (Fiona Rock-Evans) reported that the branch is fairly well off financially and proposed a donation of £500 to the Devon Bell Restoration fund. This was agreed by the meeting.

The Ringing Master reported on a good year for the Branch, highlighting the 'Meet the Branch' day in March as a watershed moment. Several ringers have attended meetings and practices as a direct result. Tower Talk has again been very well received. He stated that renewed efforts would be made to ensure a team entered the Guild eight bell competition in future. It was pleasing to report on a useful quarter peal festival which included firsts Vidas Cooling, Geoffrey Williamson and Michael Squires and also first of Surprise Major for Rodney Horder.

Maddy Brett had told the committee that she felt that she now needs to concentrate on her studies. She was thanked for her work and given the good wishes of the Branch for her future career with the hope that she will be able to continue to enjoy her ringing wherever her studies take her.

Michael Tompsett was elected to replace her and Julia Brett was elected to the new post of assistant secretary. Other officers remained unchanged.

During the afternoon members had the chance to view the branch library in its new home in the old ringing room at St Marychurch. Jeanette Thompson reported that she had tried to build on the work of previous librarians but that the new location meant that they needed to store the books in waterproof boxes which have now been purchased. A spreadsheet of all the library contents has been developed and an email address has been instituted so that members can use it to request loans.

## RINGERS' TEA FAVOURITES

Anyone who has been to a ringers' tea will know that we are well fed. A popular choice on Saturday was Hilary Tompsett's chocolate squares. She has kindly sent the recipe so we thought it could form the start of a regular recipe spot.

### Mars Bar Cake

*This is the smallest quantity; I invariably make at least twice as much if not more as it disappears very quickly!*

*3 normal sized Mars Bars*

*1 pint approx of rice krispies*

*1 to 2oz butter*

*200g Cadburys milk chocolate*



Line a baking tray or anything with 1 inch sides with baking paper. Melt the butter slowly in a pan (non-stick works best) and cut the Mars Bars into the pan with scissors. Stir around with a wooden spoon until all is melted together, it will still look slightly lumpy. Do not boil.

Take the pan off the heat, stir in the rice krispies thoroughly and spread into your prepared tray about ¾ inch deep. Allow to cool.

Melt the chocolate in a pyrex bowl in the microwave, try 50 seconds first and stir, give more time if not melted. Pour the melted chocolate over the mixture giving it quite a thick topping and smooth with the back of a metal spoon. Allow to cool for a few hours, cut into approx 1 inch square pieces and enjoy!

It certainly met with the seal of approval on Saturday!

## HANDLING CLINICS

Recently some ringers requested help to improve their bell-handling style and clinics were held. This led us to wonder if more people might like to make use of this service. Do you find that you have difficulty getting the bell to do what you want? Do you feel shattered after ringing when your colleagues look cool and ready to start again? These and many other faults can be cured with a bit of patience and some hard work which can transform your ringing experience. Clinics are run on a one-to-one basis and can be confidential – your fellow ringers do not need to know! Get in touch initially on martin@mansley5040.freeseve.co.uk.

## DON ROBERTS

It is a great pleasure to announce that Don is back ringing! A trip to Babbacombe for a wedding was his first ringing outing but he is now ringing regularly at St Marychurch and Upton. It is great to see you back, Don!



Don Roberts opening the traps

## ST MARYCHURCH SOUND CONTROL



The Trap Doors used for Sound Control

For quite some time St Marychurch has had sound control which was put in place for extra ringing such as peals etc. This consists of a solid timber floor above the bells with trapdoors in it. These traps had to be lifted out and replaced each time the sound levels needed adjusting, a climb of well over 100 steps! It has been tempting to leave the traps in place on a Sunday morning but recent comments from members of the congregation have prompted a re-think. After a bit of head scratching and Ebay searching a scheme was designed. Three trapdoors have been hinged and winches fitted which allow them to be opened and closed from the ringing room. A grand opening ceremony was performed on 27th November when Don Roberts and Meg Jolliffe (congregation member) did the honours and opened the traps for the first time on a Sunday morning.

## A VISIT TO THE WORCESTER CATHEDRAL TEACHING CENTRE

*Many thanks to Anne and Peter Bailey for this account –*

We have some friends who live in Worcester who we don't see very often, despite them living within 15 minutes of Junction 7 of the M5, because we are normally whizzing past at 70 mph in a North/South direction. They thought they could tempt us to visit with the offer of attending a ringing practice at the Cathedral, and they were right.

We set off on Sunday after ringing at Berry Pomeroy, sustained by the popular ringers' brunch that follows at Occombe Farm, and arrived in Worcester just 2½ hours later.

Monday morning and early afternoon were occupied with a visit to Croome, a nearby National Trust property with extensive grounds, an early example of Capability Brown's work. The church there contains a ring of six which are regularly rung 'to entertain the visitors to the park'. Then in the evening we went to the Cathedral for a quick workout in the training room before going up through the roof space above the nave to ring. The training facility is very extensive. There are six stations each with two ropes attached to weights (dumb bells), each of which is connected to a laptop, running a version of Abel, with a pair of earphones attached. You ring facing inwards with your back to the screen listening to your bell on the earphones; this is specifically to train you in the skill of listening. It wasn't easy and we were grateful for the couple of previous sessions at Berry Pomeroy when we had practised ringing facing the wall. On completion of your session you can use the program to analyse your striking (not too good in our case) and the simulator could also be used to help you remember a new method and other useful things besides.



The practice room or 'Ringers' Study' also contained a large screen with live pictures from cameras in the ringing chamber and belfry, a good sized central table and chairs for discussions, meetings etc and a wooden, glass-topped case containing a peal record book with entries in beautiful illuminated script going back to the early 1900s.

We moved on the ringing chamber where we rang rounds on all twelve bells (49 cwt tenor), then we were issued with ear defenders and taken to watch from a viewing platform above the bells. On return to the ringing chamber we witnessed a pretty good touch of Stedman Cinques. However, right at the end, just as they were back in rounds, there was an ominous thump on the floor above; the clapper on the 5th had broken, sheared clean off near the top, at the shoulder where the cross-section changes from square to round.

That precluded any more ringing on our part so we said our farewells and made our way back down to ground level. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience thanks in no minor part to the very friendly, welcoming and encouraging attitude of the tower captain and his team. There were over 25 local ringers in the tower that evening including a strong youthful contingent; we were not the only visitors, there was a ringer from Birmingham and the Precentor of York Minster and his assistant. They seemed really impressed with the friendly, open atmosphere and the extremely well run organisation.

The following day we stopped for lunch with some other friends who live in Bromyard (recently augmented to ten), just twenty minutes from Worcester. One of them is a ringer and she tried very hard to convince us what a wonderful area that is for an outing. Any takers?



Ringling at Worcester Cathedral

## WORCESTER CATHEDRAL ACCIDENT

Anne and Peter's visit was a few weeks before the very well publicised accident to a Devon ringer visiting Worcester. If you have not seen *The Ringing World* this week you may be wondering how a ringer was 'pulled 80 feet into the air' to paraphrase some of the press coverage. The article by Mark Regan tells a much less dramatic story. Whilst assisting to raise the tenor bell Ian Bowman from Widecombe in the Moor got the rope under his foot and was thrown backwards, catching his head on the tenor box and landing on his back. First aid was given immediately to his head wound. As he was also complaining of back pain it was decided to call the paramedics who were soon on the scene. They felt that it was unwise for Ian to walk down the hundred steps before a more thorough examination could be carried out so a specialist team was called to lower him from the ringing room which is about eighty feet from the ground. A very professional operation saw Ian lowered safely to the ground in a special stretcher and taken to the local hospital for a check-up, after which he travelled by car

back to Devon. Unfortunately, the press got hold of pictures and some of the reports completely changed the facts. Hopefully an extremely good interview with Mark on Radio 4 may have helped to give a more balanced story. Ian is now reported to be recovering well and looking forward to getting back to ringing again.

## LIBRARY ACQUISITION – 'COME ON! LISTEN TO IT!'

*The librarians have requested a review of this book / DVD so here it is -*

The title of this book will be familiar to many of us. It is a cry heard from time to time when the striking is not up to standard, often given in desperation by someone who knows the ringing is bad but is not quite sure what to suggest specifically!

Although this is a book/DVD combination the DVD is the important factor with the book giving notes.

The DVD is packed with exercises starting with very basic stuff and going up to some very advanced work indeed. It is not intended that the exercises should be worked through one by one but you can pick out areas that you would like to study. There are eight sections dealing with different aspects such as rhythm, rows other than Rounds, odd struck bells and ringing on higher numbers.

Almost half the book is taken up with answers to the vast number of exercises in the DVD. Many innovative ideas are used to try to make the concepts easier to understand. These include graphics to illustrate such things as the open hand-stroke lead and having one bell slightly harsher so that is easier to pick out. The exercises start with three and four bells and go right up to ten and twelve.

This is by far the most comprehensive work ever published on the art of listening in a ringing context. As a library book it is really just a 'try before you buy'. There is such a lot of material in it that you really need to have your own copy and carefully work through the exercises and examples. One word of warning. Do not be put off by the enormity of the material. The majority of ringers could learn something from this but you do not have to be proficient in all the exercises to be a very useful ringer.

At £15 this is at the higher end of the price range for ringing books but the quality and usefulness of it make it well worth the money. Borrow it, try it then buy one!

'Come on! Listen to it!' is published by the Whiting Society at £15. 108pp A5 format + DVD <http://www.whitingsociety.org.uk/>

## BERRY POMEROY CHRISTMAS MEAL

Ringers who regularly attend the practices at Berry Pomeroy held a pre-Christmas meal at the Old Smokey Inn at Marldon. A mainly traditional meal was much enjoyed with plenty of chat and banter. It was good to see Catherine, our branch secretary paying a flying visit to Devon. She had provided crackers which contained small handbells intended for tune ringing and being ringers we had to ring Bob Minor!

## YOUTUBE CLIPS OF RINGING

On Christmas Eve a peal of Cornwall Surprise Major was rung at Berry Pomeroy. Tim King recorded some of it and has produced a superb video which explores the church at Berry with the ringing in the background:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZhkoF0ofc4>

You may also recognise some of the participants in:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDhUflxNyX0>

Congratulations to Tim for some interesting clips. There are many more to enjoy from the same source.

There are several other excellent videos of ringing in Devon including some from Scott Adams from Exeter, this one being a taster:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SlSmbbTegHY>

Anyone who has played with Lego may be interested in:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABf1uld1c10>

*Martin Mansley*



## North East Branch

### Young Ringers' Holiday Ringing at Christmas

Young Ringers from Bampton, Huntsham, Tiverton St Peter and Cruwys Morchard joined together to enjoy a morning of ringing Kaleidoscope, Plain Hunt and Plain Bob Doubles at Cruwys Morchard. Liz Chadwick and Nellie Croft introduced them to handbell ringing which was a great success.

Dulcie Cruwys wrote, 'The bell ringing day was really fun because we got to ring with other ringers our age. My favourite part was ringing the handbells because I hadn't done it before'.



Back L-R: George, Flo, Jess and Dulcie  
Front: Red, Fergus & Wilbur

*Sheila Scofield*

### Call Changes Ringing Development Programme

This series of monthly development workshops is aimed at the many branch members who normally ring call changes. It offers a chance to get proficient in ringing call changes in the 'Devon Style', that is with closed handstroke leads and, later in the programme, with raising and lowering in the Devon style. We will have help from expert ringers from the Devon Association so this is an ideal opportunity to get to grips with ringing your call changes with precision and style.

#### PROGRAMME DATES AND TIMES:

This programme will run at Huntsham on one Saturday each month in 2017, usually between 10am and 12am. Prior booking is essential and must be arranged with Les Boyce.

*Les Boyce*

## South West Branch

### Annual General Meeting

The SW Branch AGM was held on 28th January. The day began with quarter peals at Stoke Damerel, Bridestowe and Tavistock with a peal of Yorkshire S Major at Laira. After lunch the day continued with open ringing, and this year Plymouth Emmanuel tower warmly welcomed us. We all look forward to this annual event with a bring and share tea; what can be better than open ringing, a chance to catch up, and eat lots of lovely cakes. The AGM was well attended with 38 members and Guild officers present. Nine new members were elected. New officers were elected into the roles of Secretary (Trevor), Publicity (Billy) and Ringing Master (Josephine). The positions of Chair and Treasurer remain in the very safe hands of Alena and Jane, respectively. Branch and Guild events for 2017 were promoted and we are all looking forward to a busy year. A raffle concluded the day's events.

A busy start to 2017 at Stoke Damerel: in January Gordon Ruming celebrated his 90th birthday and Stoke ringers helped him to do this with a lunch at the Elfordleigh and by ringing two quarter peals with him; the last time Gordon rang a QP was 30 years ago! So no excuses now, we think has a few to catch up on.

At the other end of the age scale Stoke's youngest ringer at nine years old is Ed. He started ringing 18 months ago, taught by his very own personal teacher, his dad David. Ed rings plain hunt very well and is fast learning Grandsire so we are looking forward to his first quarter peal hopefully by the end of the year. No pressure, Ed!



Ed and Gordon, Stoke Damerel Tower.

Tower bell maintenance and spring clean; Emmanuel ringers like to start the year with a clean sweep, and turned up to the tower on Saturday 11th February with an assortment of telescopic poles, brushes, ladders and chocolates! There seemed to be no need for instructions as obviously team cleaning is a natural skill for ringers. Just don't try this version at home! The tower captain, Alena,



made an appearance in the ringing room after she had spent some time checking the bells and making minor adjustments - any excuse not to clean! On a serious note, this means a safe and clean tower for another year.

The clean-up day was completed in the evening by ringers and friends meeting at the Hunting Lodge for their annual Emmanuel meal, and as usual an excellent carvery and good company was enjoyed by all.

St Budeaux tower captain, Peter, organised a ten pin bowling evening on 19th February. Taking part was a mix of ringers of all ages from three Plymouth towers, all demonstrating their 'ringing traits and skills' such as: selecting one ball and keeping it all night; bowling too hard or not hard enough; listening to those with more experience, concentration and determination with various expressions of 'I have no idea what I am doing!' Two hours, fifty-eight minutes later the winner was presented with a medal. Well done Glen, a peal will seem easy after that performance.



Peter awarding the medal to Glyn.

Is this a practice night record? Emmanuel tower had an attendance of 25 ringers on Thursday 16th February 2017.

Billy Moore

## Robert Maitland Kelly

There can't be many readers of *The Ringing World* who can't fail to be impressed by the periodic articles and reports of ringers who lost their lives during the First World War. These details, superbly covered by Alan Regin, Steward of The Rolls of Honour, make fascinating reading and I think that we all have a moral obligation to keep their memory alive.

One such report in *The Ringing World* dated 8th August 2014 showed a photo of Lieutenant Robert Maitland Kelly, who died on 11th January 1917 in France. I made a note of the date and promised to ring at St Mary's, Kelly nearer the time to commemorate the centenary of his death.

Robert Maitland Kelly was born at Salcombe, where his father, Revd Maitland Kelly was Rector before he returned to Kelly, his historic family's seat to run the estate. There is no written record of Robert's ringing but all his brothers were ringers and with his father being so involved with bellringing, he most certainly was involved with campanology. Revd Maitland Kelly was Secretary of The Guild of Devonshire Ringers from 1890 to 1896 and was President for 28 years from 1896 to 1924.

I was in the process of putting a team together and it is funny how things fall into place, for the Christmas 2016 edition of *The Ringing World* carried a photograph and report of Lieutenant Robert Maitland Kelly. After consultation with Warin Kelly, great-great-nephew of Robert, we decided to go for a quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles. Grandsire was the staple diet at Kelly in those days and it just seemed rather apt. So it was that six of us

assembled on the evening of 12th January. Before the attempt, prayers were said in the presence of Warin and his daughter to the memory of Lieutenant Robert Maitland Kelly and after 53 minutes we successfully scored our 1260 of Grandsire Doubles. This was quite an achievement as it was the first for many years for two of the band.

Afterwards we were very kindly asked back to Kelly House for a welcome cup of tea and to view some of the memorabilia of Lieutenant Maitland Kelly that Warin had amassed. As well as photographs of Robert on horseback with The Royal North Devon Hussars, his war medals were on display together with the large bronze commemorative medal that was presented to every family that lost a relative during the Great War. The citation of the bronze medal reads 'He died for Freedom and Honour'. This is very poignant for the thousands that lost their lives during that horrific campaign!!

### Kelly, Devon, St Mary

Thursday, 12 January 2017

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Colin Kneebone	4 Keith Hilton
2 Elizabeth Martin	5 Geoffrey Hill (C)
3 Sheila Williams	6 William Blowey

Rung to commemorate the centenary of the death of Lieutenant Robert Maitland Kelly, attached to the Royal North Devon Hussars 5th Battalion of the Dorsetshire Regiment. Died on 11th January 1917.

Geoff Hill

## JULIA Le Messurier HOUSE (26th August 1934 - 25th October 2016)



Julie House

Julia (probably better known as Julie) trained as a nurse at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London in the 1950s. She later travelled to Canada where she was involved in midwifery training with Eskimos, before returning to take up a nursing post in Bristol where she enjoyed ringing at local towers.

Julia's parents retired to Plympton in the late 1950s and Julia became a frequent visitor and ringer at Plympton St Maurice. In the early 1970s she took up a nursing post with the Plymouth and district hospitals. She settled in a cottage close to Plympton St Maurice church where she subsequently became captain of the

ringers, organist and sacristan. She was also a regular visitor to practice nights at St Michael's, Cornwood.

In the late 1980s Julia became the organist at St Mary's, Laira. She soon realised that although the tower housed just a single bell it had sufficient space for a significant ring of bells. Such was her enthusiasm for bellringing and her love of the sound of church bells, she soon set about the formidable task of gaining support, obtaining permission and raising funds to install a ring of eight bells. In 1998 a faculty was obtained and a fund-raising committee was set up. Leaflets were distributed around the whole parish, with Julia extending the appeal to business and commerce in Plymouth and the surrounding area and to all the churches with bells in the Exeter Diocese. An official order for the bells was placed in May 1999 and the fine ring of eight bells was dedicated on 12th July 2000.

Julia rose to the top of her profession being in charge of nursing for the operating theatres of the Plymouth and district hospitals and was responsible for the nursing input at the design stage for the theatres of the new Derriford Hospital which opened in 1981. She latterly obtained a Master's degree in diabetes for which she specialised and worked as a community nurse at a Plymouth health centre before retiring. Sadly, for the last two to three years Julia suffered from dementia. After short periods in Swansea and Derriford hospitals she settled at Asheigh Manor care home in Plympton where she was able to hear the bells of Plympton St Mary. Julia's enthusiasm, inspiration and the bells of St Mary's, Laira will be a lasting tribute to the person she was.

*Dave Farnham*

## Training

### Denmisch simulators in high demand

Over the summer there has been a high demand for the use of the Denmisch simulators. These ten Saxilby simulators were given to the Guild by Mischa Thompson two years ago and installed in the Exeter Cathedral School where they are readily available outside the school day.

The Guild conducting course on 17th September was mentioned in the last issue, as was the Saturday young ringers' event which was combined with the presentation of the ART award.

The simulators have also been visited by members of a mini-ring outing from Cheltenham and a tower outing from Bathwick, who came following ringing at the Cathedral.

Jonathan Bint booked the simulators for an evening session on 17th October to which he brought some pupils from Chagford school and some of the Chagford ringers. This included some who had had a few handling lessons and also several who had never touched a rope before. To his amazement all made enormous progress in a very short time and most were handling a bell on their own after a few minutes, including some of the very young learners.

A return visit took place on December 17th which they combined with a visit to see the cathedral bells being rung.

In addition the regular Thursday afternoon ringing with the cathedral school bellringing club continues. If you happen to be in Exeter 4-5pm you would be very welcome as we need some more capable ringers to help move the ringing forward. Do check first, though, as some sessions are moved or cancelled. And bring your ear plugs (not for the bells – for the noise from the children!).

*Ian Campbell*



*Dear Ian*

*Very many thanks for hosting us for another session at Denmisch, a really useful time for the boys (and adults, too!). I'll see if we can arrange another one sometime in the new year; the Saturday time worked well for us yesterday - and the boys got their KFC on the way home, too!*

*Jon Bint*

### Raising and Lowering in Peal

#### UP AND DOWN LIKE A FERRET IN A DRAINPIPE!

A call came from the North/Northwest branch for some training on raising and lowering in peal, particularly for four ringers from Bratton Fleming and two from Shirwell. Guild Education Officer Tim Bayton responded with a tailor-made training day on 11th February, with the help of several experienced ringers, and the organisational skills of David Willis.

The day began at Heanton Punchardon, where the bells were raised and lowered some eleven times during the morning! This kept us warmish on a very cold day, with snow flakes in the air. All the 'students' had at last two goes with an experienced band and individual tuition.



There was a drive over to Morthoe for a good lunch in the Ship Aground pub right next to the church, where we then went for the afternoon session. Again, the bells went up and down for a couple of hours and were put to good use. Hopefully all the students have plenty to take away and continue to work on in their home towers. Hats off to the many helpers who braved the cold conditions in another unheated chamber, coped with sore hands, and didn't bail out early to the open fire in the pub!

Conditions weren't conducive to photo taking, but 'here's one I made earlier' of Tim teaching on a training day...

*Lynne Hughes*

Tim Bayton, Education Officer



## Other News

### Celebration Lunch at the Abbey



Peter Bill, the Abbot and Brother Daniel

Ringers from the Guild and the Association were welcomed to a lunch by the Abbot, Father David Charlesworth and the Sacristan, Brother Daniel Smythe, at Buckfast Abbey on 8th January to acknowledge their efforts in establishing regular ringing at the Abbey after a silence of four years. Since there are now no members of the Community who currently ring, a group from the Abbey congregation are learning at Buckfastleigh under the instruction of Paul Hext and Peter Bill, ably assisted by a number of Guild and Association members. In addition Paul has been assembling bands to ring after Mass on Sundays about twice a month and Peter has been arranging quarter peals prior to Mass on special feast days as requested by the Abbot.



Some of the assembled company

The bells were rung after Mass and before lunch by about thirty ringers and it was a pleasure for some of the learners to have the opportunity to ring on the Abbey bells for the first time. We were treated to an excellent lunch at Northgate House, the new hotel/conference facility at the Abbey. The Abbot thanked the ringers for their efforts and said how pleased he was that the bells were ringing again and looked forward to it continuing during the coming year. Unfortunately our good friend and number one learner Geoff Pring, the Abbey Warden, was unable to attend, having gone on a pilgrimage to Anfield to see Plymouth Argyle take on the might of Liverpool so we were not able to thank him in person for all his help and encouragement. Hopefully he will be able to ring on his own bells in the near future, maybe to celebrate Plymouth going one better in the replay.

Peter Bill

## CRAG – the Council Review Action Group

At the meeting of the Central Council (CC) in Portsmouth in May 2016, the Council passed a motion which set up an independent working group to undertake a detailed review of its rules and activities, and to make recommendations for modernisation. The motion was proposed against a backdrop of criticism of the CC and the way in which it had handled certain issues and questions being raised about its continuing relevance.

The group was to consist of a mixture of current CC representatives, those former representatives who had left the CC during the recent past and some other members of guilds and associations who had never been on the CC. This diverse team – the Council Review Action Group, or CRAG for short – will report to the 2017 CC meeting with its recommendations for change.

An on-line survey was available until the start of February to establish what ringers feel about some of the things that are likely to be important in a future central body for ringing. Further information, including some definite suggestions, is available from <http://cc-crag.weebly.com/>.

In addition to this the CCCBR (Central Council of Church Bell Ringers) has a new website which is part of their response to the recent work on their service improvement. Of interest is that individuals can subscribe to the website. Subscription is free, at least at the moment, and the CCCBR hope that subscribers will one day form a base along the lines of the 'national register of ringers', which was apparently around in the 1930's. Subscriber data is kept in line with the Data Protection Act.

The website has information, including the roll of honour, and aims to keep the ringing community connected and informed about news and upcoming events that could be rung for. It also has links to Facebook and Twitter, for those who tweet and post!

If you wish to take a look search for CCCBR.org.

Ian Campbell et al

## Doddiscombsleigh bell turns up Down Under

During a recent ringing tour of Australia we rang a quarter peal on the eight bells at Menangle in New South Wales. Looking at a notice up the tower we were surprised to see that many of the bells were old bells that had been imported from the UK. Of special note was the fifth, which had apparently come from St Michael's, Doddiscombsleigh. It was presumably one of the old three that was replaced when they were augmented to six. It was originally cast in 1712, recast by John Taylor in 1961 and tuned by Whitechapel before being installed at Menangle in 2004.

Bell Number	Dedication Name	Diameter of Bell	Note	Weight	Foundry	Date	Bell History
1	St Peter	1,8 00 3/8"	A	115	Whitechapel	1897	St Peter's, Tottenham, London
2	St Luke	1,8 11 5/16"	C#	125	Whitechapel	1974	St Andrew's, Old Windsor, Oxfordshire
3	St Matthew	1,8 11"	F#	125	Whitechapel	1958	St Mary's, Stoney Stratford, Oxfordshire
4	St James	2,0 1"	G	145	John Taylor	2001	New bell
5	St Paul	2,0 3"	G	155	John Taylor	1961	1712 - St Michael's, Doddiscombsleigh, Devon 1961 - recast
6	St John	2,0 3"	C#	155	Thomas Mears	1800	St Mary's, Magdalen, Oxfordshire
7	St Andrew	2,0 3"	G	155	John Taylor	1961	Christ Church, South Hill, Somerset
8	St Anne	2,0 3"	G	155	John Taylor	1961	St Mary's, Stoney Stratford, Oxfordshire

Bells 1, 4, 6 and 8 were tuned by John Taylor's Bellfoundry (England) before coming to St James.  
Bells 2, 3, 5 and 7 were tuned by the Whitechapel Bellfoundry before coming to St James.  
Peal of six (Bells 2 to 7) constructed at St James Anglican Church Menangle in 2004 and bells 1 and 8 added in 2011.

Bell details from Menangle, New South Wales, Australia

Ian Campbell

## The John Scott Trophy competition

**SATURDAY 22ND APRIL 2017**

This ten-bell call change competition is organised by the Devon Ringers' Council and is open to all ringers in Devon. This year it is being held at Holy Cross, Crediton, with the draw to be held at 9.45am. To enter, please apply to Ian Avery, Clerk to the Devon Ringers' Council on 01626 354415 or iwavery@btinternet.com. Details of the rules and the required changes are available from the Guild web site at

<http://devonringers.org.uk/uploads/events/ten-bell-comp2017.pdf>

*Ian Avery*

## St Peter's, Stoke Fleming

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

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

*Anne Bailey*

## Demo bells goes to Budleigh – twice!



The Guild Demo Bell at the Budleigh Football Ground

Perhaps bells are seen as Christmassy, so the Budleigh Salterton Ladies Probus club had booked me to do a talk about bells and ringing on 21st December. Their meetings are held at the football club which boasts a very pleasant meeting room, complete with bar and kitchen. The only problem was that when assembling the

demo bell I quickly realised that the ceiling was too low for the bell to be supported on its legs so it had to be placed on a table. This gave extra significance to the part where I talk about tower movement as I only just managed to catch the bell before it fell onto the floor while being swung!

Then on 1st February I had to repeat the talk to another Budleigh Ladies Probus club (actually the Leighton Ladies Probus of Budleigh Salterton - amazing how the area can support two independent clubs) at the same location. At least this time I didn't bother even taking the legs for the demo bell.

And now the men's Probus club is getting into the act – I will be doing the talk yet again at the same location in October this year. Clearly they all talk to each other about finding speakers. I have already entertained a fair number of Probus clubs but just looked online – there are hundreds – so I have a long way to go (in more than one sense!).

*Ian Campbell*

## Training

### Young Ringers' Practices

Young ringers' events have been very valuable over the years in bringing young people together, as well as developing their skills a little. These events are taking off again in 2017 with a series of four Sunday afternoon practices at the Denmisch Simulated Campanile which is housed in Exeter Cathedral School. They will be run by Oliver Coldrick, one of the Young Ringers' co-ordinators. These are open to all young ringers, even if they've just started to handle, and they should be accompanied by a parent or other chaperone from their tower. Helpers will have been hand-picked, and at least one DBS checked adult in attendance. Please make sure these practices become widely known, and that young ringers are encouraged to come. A poster is attached with more details. Contact Oliver Coldrick if one of your young ringers is coming: [yrcordinator@devonringers.org.uk](mailto:yrcordinator@devonringers.org.uk)

*Lynne Hughes*

### 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 Denmisch simulated campanile uses a computer to make the sounds as you ring!

**Where?** Exeter Cathedral School, Palace Gate, Exeter EX1 1HX  
**Day?** 19<sup>th</sup> March, 18<sup>th</sup> June, 17<sup>th</sup> September, 17<sup>th</sup> December  
**Time?** 12.30 – 2.30pm



## Notable Ringing Events

### Peal at Oakford

On the 4th of February 2017 a peal was rung on the challenging and hard going eight at Oakford. Two previous attempts had been lost due to members of the band having to give up. Instrumental to the arrangements for the attempts had been Mike Boynton the churchwarden, who unfortunately passed away shortly before we were eventually successful. In February when we went there a decision was made to ring a new method named Boynton Surprise Major, the attempt was successful and Jeff Knipe kindly had a peal board made up to mark the occasion.

On 2nd March the Huntsham Thursday band went back, shared tea and cake with members of the parish before a short presentation. Mike's wife can be seen with Jeff accepting the peal board on behalf of the church.



Jeff Knipe presents the Peal Board to Mike Boynton's Widow

#### Devonshire Society

#### Oakford, Devon, St Peter

Saturday, 4 February 2017 in 3hrs 6m

5088 Boynton Surprise Major

Composed by Robert D S Brown

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 William P Carew    | 5 Jeffrey Knipe        |
| 2 Richard H Johnston | 6 R Nicholas Lawrence  |
| 3 Lesley A Knipe     | 7 Robert D S Brown (C) |
| 4 Barrie Hendry      | 8 Timothy F Collins    |

Rung to celebrate the life of Mike Boynton, Churchwarden at St Peters Oakford 2001 - 2017

First Peal in the Method

*Robert Brown*

### Thomas rings his first quarter peal – on 72cwt bell



#### Exeter, Devon

#### Cathedral Church of St Peter

Sunday, 18 December 2016 in 62m

1313 Stedman Cinques

- 1 Paul Pascoe
- 2 Susan Sparling
- 3 Clare Griffiths
- 4 Peter Bill
- 5 Hilary Beresford
- 6 Alison Waterson
- 7 Nick Waterson
- 8 John Foster
- 9 Andrew Digby
- 10 James Kirkcaldy
- 11 Matthew Hilling (C)
- 12 Oliver Coldrick & Thomas Coldrick

For Eucharist.

Birthday compliments to Oliver.

First quarter peal and probably the youngest person (aged 9) to ring a quarter peal at Exeter Cathedral: Thomas Coldrick.

### Education Program for 2017

Date	Course	Tutor/Organiser
19th March 12.30-2.30	Young Ringers' Practice – Denmisch simulated campanile	Oliver Coldrick
25th March	ART Module 2F: Teaching from Rounds to Plain Hunt - Hillfarrance	
22nd April	Moving from six to eight – Location TBC	TBC
13th May	ART Module 2C: Teaching Elementary Change Ringing	
4th June 12.30-5.30	Handbells: Plain Bob and Beyond – Dawlish	Tim Bayton
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>

## Calendar

The information given below is copied from the Guild web site calendar. It is important for all Guild secretaries to keep this up to date to ensure that every event is included.

### March

Sat 18	10:00	Surprise Major Practice, Ottery St. Mary	East
Sun 19	12.30	Young Ringers' Practice, Denmisch Simulated Campanile	Young Ringers
Mon 20	19:00	Targeted practice for local band, Stoke Canon	Exeter
Mon 20	19:30	Stedman and Doubles Methods, Offwell	East
Sat 25		ART Module 2F: Teaching from Rounds to Plain Hunt, Hillfarrance	Guild

### April

Mon 3	19:30	Triples - Stedman and Grandsire, Ottery St. Mary	East
Tue 4	19:30	South Hams Method Ringing practice, St Mary's Church, West Charleton	South West
Wed 5	19:30	10 bell advanced practice, Exeter St Mark	Exeter
Fri 7	19:00	Skittles evening, The Royal Oak, Exminster	Exeter
Thu 13	19:30	Plain Hunt Practice, Sidbury	East
Sat 15	10:00	Surprise Major Practice, Ottery St. Mary	East
Mon 17	19:30	Stedman and Doubles Methods, Offwell	East
Fri 21	19:30	Branch Practice, Withycombe Raleigh	Aylesbeare
Sat 22		Training Day: Moving from six to eight	Guild
Sat 22	09:45	Ten Bell Call-Change Competition, Crediton	Guild
Sat 29	10:00	Kaleidoscope training day, Thorverton	Exeter

### May

Mon 1	19:30	Triples - Stedman and Grandsire, Ottery St. Mary	East
Wed 3	19:30	10 bell advanced practice, Exeter St Mark	Exeter
Sat 6	08:30	Branch train outing, 'Along the Waterloo line'	Exeter
Wed 10	19:30	Branch Practice, Lymptone	Aylesbeare
Thu 11	19:30	Plain Hunt Practice, Sidbury	East
Fri 12	19:30	Surprise Minor Practice, Buckerell	East
Sat 13		ART Module 2C: Teaching Elementary Change Ringing	Guild
Sat 13	15:00	Spring Meeting, Offwell	East
Mon 15	19:30	Stedman and Doubles Methods, Offwell	East
Sat 20	10:00	Surprise Major Practice, Ottery St. Mary	East

### June

Sun 4	12.30	Handbells: Plain Bob and Beyond, Dawlish	Guild
Mon 5	19:30	Triples - Stedman and Grandsire, Ottery St. Mary	East
Wed 7	19:30	10 bell advanced practice, Exeter St Mark	Exeter
Thu 8	19:30	Plain Hunt Practice, Sidbury	East
Fri 9	19:30	Surprise Minor Practice, Buckerell	East
Mon 12	19:30	Branch Practice, Woodbury	Aylesbeare

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.

## Editorial

There never seem to be enough hours in the day. The last issue was produced in a bit of a rush because I had only just got back from a month in Australia (ringing of course!) so I apologise that I forgot the Christmas holly or picture of John Langabeer (aka Father Christmas) that seem to be traditional in the December issue!

Several items had to be held over to this month – and there seems to be a lot to fit in this time. Still, we managed to please Richard Shere by getting his photograph three times in the previous issue, even though the caption was wrong on one photo (he was third from the right, not left) – apologies for that.

The calendar was also missing from the last issue – because there was no appropriate data on the Guild website. The calendar above appears to be missing entries from several branches. Please can all secretaries ensure that their fixtures are up to date on the web as this is the information that is copied into RRD?

Some of you may be aware of the campaign by Julie McDonnell to raise money for research into curing a rare form of leukaemia. Businesses and wealthy individuals are sponsoring every peal and quarter peal (and also specific call changes) in a method named after her – which has already raised over seven million pounds. Within Devon it is good to see nine such performances, including country churches, handbells, and even Exeter Cathedral and a peal at Wolborough. More details are available on the web.

I have been asked to include the following letter regarding the Devon Ringers' Carol service. On reflection it is unfortunate that the situation with regards to children having access to the tower was not more clearly made in the publicity information; This was largely because the Abbey authorities decided to take over the production of the advertising leaflet and this critical information was omitted from the publicity material. We are enormously privileged to be able to hold our service in a Roman Catholic monastery and it is only by their direct permission that we are allowed to ring their bells. As such, they are entitled to make any rules they wish and it is not up to us to question or disobey them. In this case I believe that the conditions of access to the tower are controlled by the insurance company so cannot be overridden by either ringers or the warden who was on the door even if they wanted to. It is nevertheless a pity that Kathryn was disappointed – I don't know if anyone else was affected by this. This year's carol service will be at Exeter Cathedral. Access to the tower has never been an issue in the past and I hope will not be this time. Rest assured that any access restrictions will be well publicised before the event.

*Ian Campbell*

### A DISAPPOINTMENT

*Dear Editor*

*I am writing regarding the Devon Ringers Carol Service, held at Buckfast Abbey on December 10th 2016. The service was great, with just the right mix of carols, readings, choir pieces and handbells. Father Christopher also provided a light hearted introduction to the event.*

*However, the reason for writing this letter is not the service itself, but the ringing. It was widely advertised that the bells would be available before and after the service. My husband and I and*



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planned to ring after; a challenge that I was looking forward to as we don't get the opportunity to ring on 12 bells very often.

When we got to the door to go up to the ringing chamber, the person manning the door asked if our children could ring. Although both are very tall for their age, neither our daughter, aged 5 or our son, 8 months, are old enough to ring. When my husband replied that they weren't, we were told that children who couldn't ring were not allowed in the ringing chamber. This came as quite a shock to us, as our daughter accompanied us the last time we rang there around two years ago. Due to the practicalities of the day, this meant that neither my husband or I were able to ring.

To say that I am disappointed with this situation is a huge understatement, but what I found most frustrating was that even though I asked why this was the case, I do not feel that I was not given a satisfactory answer. We take both our children to Sunday service ringing every week, as well as on trips and to call change competitions, and our daughter understands that she must sit quietly whilst we ring. This is the first time that we have ever encountered a problem taking our children to a ringing event, and I hope it will be the last.

*Kathryn Kerslake: Exminster, Kenton and Exeter St David*

## Bill Ford's 90th Birthday

Until recently Bill Ford was well known as the tower captain of Thorverton. He was responsible for the augmentation to ten bells and to the establishment of the tower as being readily available for peals.



Bill about to cut his birthday cake

Following a fall he is now living in Wiltshire to be near to his daughter. But to celebrate his 90th birthday he came back to Thorverton on Saturday 11th February to meet up with his friends and to celebrate his birthday with a party tea in the village hall arranged by his friends and family. Unfortunately a peal attempt that afternoon was not successful although this did give him a chance to ring again at Thorverton.



Bill ringing at Thorverton

On the actual date of his birthday a number of ringers travelled from Devon to Broad Blunsdon where he now rings for a peal of 5090 Bill Surprise Major. Following the peal we were entertained to lunch by his daughter Anne.

All our best wishes go to Bill.

### **Guild of Devonshire Ringers Broad Blunsdon, Wiltshire, St Leonard**

Tuesday, 14 February 2017 in 2hrs 39m

5090 Bill Surprise Major

Composed by R D S Brown

1 Ian W Avery

2 Lester J Yeo

3 Ian L C Campbell

4 P Wendy Campbell

5 Nicola J Turner

6 Pauline McKenzie

7 Ian V J Smith

8 Michael E C Mears (C)

With best wishes to Bill Ford, celebrating his 90th birthday today.



Bill enjoying his lunch with Nicola Turner and Ian Avery following the peal

*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.

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