

Ringling Round Devon

Guild Events

RINGING REMEMBERS



The badge issued to all new ringers who registered in time

Photo by Lesley Oates

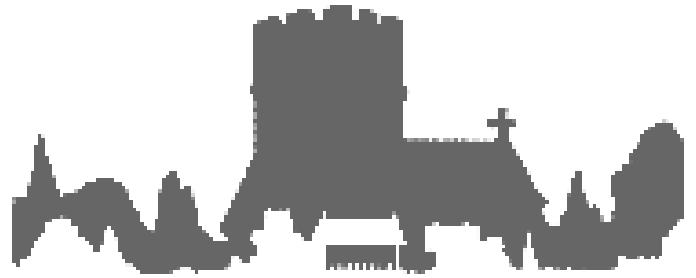
'WE REMEMBERED' – A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS.

Last Sunday – Remembrance Sunday – we were called to 'look to' and take part in a most momentous commemoration. Being so intimately linked in to our local communities, it was no surprise that bellringers everywhere stepped forward to participate, collectively and individually, in such a solemn centenary.

And it is entirely right and fitting that bells gave voice to the deep and lasting emotions felt so widely at this time. So many today owe so much to our forebears for the freedoms and liberties that we enjoy one hundred years on. As bellringers, we are the 'external choir' that calls out across time and space, giving tribute on this day for those who have gone before. This is what we do, this is our calling, this is our service.

On behalf of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, I wish to thank all who participated in this historic event. The Ringing Remembers campaign, promoted by the Central Council, has claimed some inspiring headlines – towers silent for many years have rung out once more; hundreds of bands have been augmented with new learners; tens of thousands of ringers mobilised to ring in thousands of towers – not just in the UK, but across the world; ringing featured strongly in local, national and international media; and the BellBoard website went into meltdown!

Our campaign sought to recruit 1400 new ringers, to symbolically replace those ringers who fell in the First World War. At the most recent count, new ringer registrations for the recruitment campaign totalled 2792 – close to 200% of the original target. The Council's newly-stated mission is, among other things,



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'to promote an environment in which ringing can flourish'. Last Sunday we witnessed what 'flourish' looks like – more of that, please.

Whilst it is impossible to thank all key individuals by name, I would like to pay a special tribute to Vicki Chapman – Ringing Remembers Project Coordinator, Colin Chapman – Coordinator's 'roadie', Alan Regin – Steward of the CCCBR Rolls of Honour, Andrew Hall – developer and administrator of the Ringing Remembers web platform, and Bruce and Eileen Butler – who linked thousands of enquirers to guilds, districts and towers. And there are so many others...

My thanks go also to all those who have come to ringing through this route; may you continue to develop in skill and gain many happy years of fulfilment in your ringing. And to that widespread army of ringing teachers who have risen to the challenge of training so many enthusiastic learners – well done!

Last Sunday was a day of reflection, a day of commemoration, a day of participation. Bellringers everywhere were able to say: 'I was there – I remembered'.

Christopher O'Mahony

Note from our Guild President

I think all of our members deserve to be congratulated on the fantastic number of towers in Devon which were heard ringing for the Armistice on Sunday. Much has been shared on social media indicating a great response from Devon towers, both Guild and Association, and there are certain to be towers which don't use this means of sharing. We should also make special note of those who were involved in recruiting and teaching new or returning ringers ready for this special day. A tremendous amount of effort has obviously been put into this and our ringing members should be proud of the results they have produced.

Alison Waterson



EXPERIENCES AROUND THE COUNTY

Around the Clyst mission parishes

On a bright sunny morning eight of us met at Clyst Honiton church where we rang for the 10am service. After this we moved on to Pinhoe where we were joined by four more ringers and rang with the bells half muffled. While the muffles were being removed six of the band moved on to Clyst St George and then all of us met up again at Poltimore where we rang for half an hour before returning to Pinhoe to ring until about 1pm. By now we had about fifteen folk driving around.

Following a break for lunch (and a well-deserved rest) some of us met to ring at Aylesbeare at 5pm, Sowton at 6pm and Broadclyst at 7pm. Then we were able to go back home into the warm.

Rob Franklin

Mid Devon Ringing to Mark the centenary of the First World war

We have heard many reports of ringing to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. There have also been many reports of new ringers taking part in their first ringing for a special occasion, particularly poignant with the muffles on. Somehow, ringers always pull out the stops for these special occasions and the ringing is of a really high standard. Almost all branch towers reported extra ringing for the occasion with much of it appearing on Bellboard. We understand the national response to this event caused the website to crash on the evening of the 11th November as everyone rushed to record their ringing: a truly magnificent response by ringers.

Martin Mansley

Remembrance Sunday at Thorverton



Remembrance Sunday ringing at Thorverton

From being very lucky with our stays for the past four or five years we have now had two broken stays in six days, on the SAME bell! Is that a new Guild record?

Last week I assisted (or more accurately stood next to) Rob Franklin as he removed the first broken one and again watched as he fixed the new one in place.

After Remembrance Sunday's rather over-enthusiastic ringing on the 4th, I removed and helped replace a second newly chiselled stay from a fellow ringer who wants to remain anonymous but wanted to attempt his first measuring and drilling of a stay. We drilled the bolt holes in situ which was fun.

The brand new replacement stay is now successfully installed and, if I may say so, looks perfect; this is not to take away from Mr Franklin's heroic speedy work just a week ago.

Along with an adjustable spanner this Christmas I shall also ask for one of those cool flashlights which can attach to a metal frame with a handy magnet; that really came in useful. Dare I say I have enjoyed the latest maintenance in the tower?

Apologies go to Sue for any inconvenience and thanks for being so understanding and ringing your quarter peal sans stay. Mike, we are all ready for your next visit.

Jane Flaxington

Call Changes at Lymptone

We wanted to do something for the Armistice celebrations but as call change ringers our options were a bit limited, so we rang a touch of call changes worked out to start in rounds and come back to rounds in 100 changes. This proved to be quite musical and starting at 2pm took 28 minutes. It left us with the feeling that we had done our bit towards the celebrations.



L to R: Pat Squire, Ian Scott, Denise Lloyd, Gary Winter, Matt Hood, Trevor Bradley

Trevor Bradley

A new Band at Brampford Speke

The bells at Brampford Speke have not been rung regularly for some time. Colin and Fern have returned to ringing as part of Ringing Remembers while Phil, Paul and Ed have learnt from scratch since May. The band rang call changes for the Armistice and are now ringing more regularly. Congratulations go to them all, and also to Mary Quicke who organised the ringing.



Colin, Eric, Owen, Lesley, Graham, Phil, Paul, Ed, Fern

Ringling Schedule at Exeter Cathedral

Despite nearly all members of the Exeter Cathedral band also being members at other towers a detailed plan for the ringing at the Cathedral was made and achieved! These were our instructions:

Half-muffled peal of Stedman Cinques on Saturday

This will follow the Field of Remembrance Service, with the peal beginning after the two-minute silence and reveille, at 11:10am

Ringling for Remembrance Service on Sunday

Meet at 10:50. Start ringing immediately after the war memorial service finishes at approx 11:10. Stop ringing at 11:40.

Three courses of Stedman Cinques padded with rounds/calls as necessary.

Half muffled Quarter Peal

Meet at 12:20. Start when service finishes. Stedman Cinques. At the end please lower, remove muffles and raise bells again. (Comment from Editor – lower and then raise all 12 bells after ringing a quarter peal – a major effort!)

Ringling for Battle's Over

18:55pm – A bugler will play the Last Post

19:00pm – A beacon will be lit outside the Cathedral

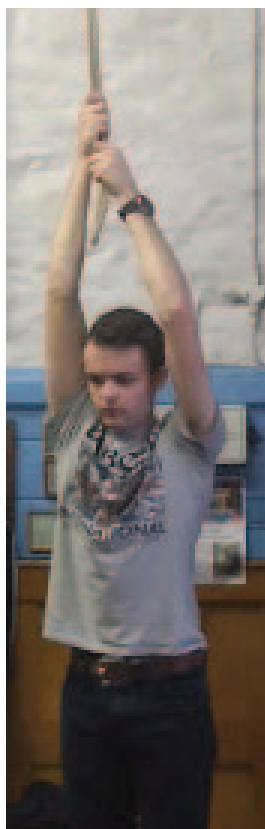
Meet at 18:50 for prompt 19:05 start. Finish at 19:40.

6 courses of Erin Cinques.

I hope the locals enjoyed all the ringing!

Ian Campbell/Matt Hilling

Remembrance Sunday in South West Devon



The efforts of the bellringing community across the country was phenomenal this Remembrance Sunday, which marked 100 years since the end of the First World War. The efforts of the South West Branch were no exception. Churches across the branch rang their bells half muffled for Sunday Service and Services of Remembrance at 11am. In Plymouth, five quarter peal attempts were arranged across five different towers, with a grand total of thirty-three ringers taking part in the ringing efforts in Plymouth alone. Congratulations to the band in Tavistock who rang a successful peal of 5039 Grandsire Caters in the afternoon, and towers across the area joined in with the 'Battle's Over' ringing at 7.05pm where beacons were lit and the bells rung open.

It was incredible to be a part of such a huge event, and for some of the band who had never rung half muffled before, it was a great new experience.

Matthew marking the 11th hour on the tenor at St Andrews, Plymouth



Welcome to Harry, one of our new recruits!

Elena Brake

East Devon Branch Armistice Ringing

Ringling was widespread amongst the East Devon towers, many ringling three times during the day. Perhaps one of the most satisfying things was the number of new ringers who took part on this historic occasion.

Awliscombe had seven ringers and rang Devon call changes. At **Axminster** a major recruiting drive earlier in the year resulted in eight new ringers being able to ring on Armistice Day. All of them remarked on how much fun it was, more than they had imagined. **Buckerell** had six ringers including one new learner ringling Devon call changes. **Combe Raleigh** had seventeen ringers over three sessions, six of whom had learnt specifically for Ringling Remembers; a seventh was unfortunately away on business. **Cotleigh** were unable to get a band, but tolled one bell. **Dunkeswell** rang three times with eleven ringers, two of whom were new and lent two to nearby towers. **Farway** rang call changes on five bells. **Feniton** currently do not have a regular band, but Lesley, another Ringling Remembers learner, managed to drag a band out of retirement for the occasion. **Gittisham** rang their five bells to mark the occasion. **Honiton** attempted a quarter peal. **Kilminster** had nine ringers including a new recruit who also rang at Axminster. **Luppitt** rang call changes and included in their band one new recruit to ringling. **Northleigh** rang their four medieval bells. **Offwell** rang call changes with their seven ringers. **Ottery St Mary** rang half-muffled before their morning service and open later in the day with eleven ringers taking part. **Payhembury** worked hard to get new recruits, without success, but managed to ring call changes on five bells. **Shute** had seven ringers who took part. **Sidbury** were unable to ring, with half their members being away in New Zealand. **Sidmouth** had fifteen ringers, with two beginners, ringling for the People's Procession on the 9th and also on Armistice Day. There were thirteen ringers to ring three times, two of them new recruits, all were pleased to have taken part. New recruit Lorraine felt privileged to have taken part and was profoundly moved by the half-muffled ringling to honour the dead.



The band for service ringling at Emmanuel, Plymouth

Ringling Remember's Recruits in Plymouth

Congratulations and welcome to both Harry and Jack who have joined the band at St Andrew's and have been learning to ring. Jack has been ringling for several months and has taken great strides in his ringling already, Harry is a more recent recruit and is doing extremely well, ringling rounds confidently with just a little support. For us in Plymouth this is particularly fitting, as two of the 1,400 ringers who lost their lives in the War were known to be from Plymouth. Both Harry and Jack took part in the ringling activities of November 11th and continue to ring with us. On behalf of all the Plymouth ringers, welcome to bell ringling!

Cheryl, also a learner, thought it a beautiful experience and felt proud to have taken part. **Talaton**, with the aid of another lapsed ringer called out of retirement, rang call changes. **Upottery** rang call changes and had one new learner take part.

In total twenty-two new ringers across the Branch took part in celebratory ringing on the day; all look likely to continue their ringing careers, which bodes well for the future.



Axminster recruits for Ringing Remembers:
Izzy, Matt, Freya, Ann, Zoe, John, Gill, Heather

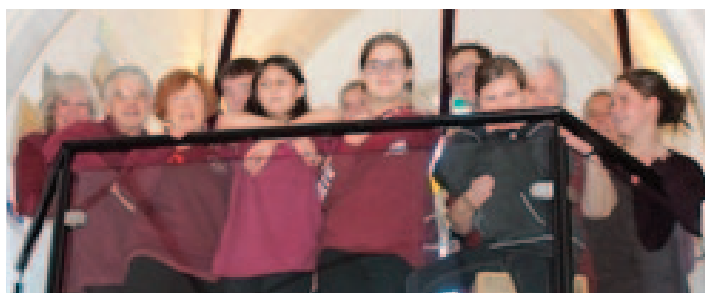
Trevor Hitchcock – East Devon Branch Publicity Officer

Ringling Remembers at Combe Raleigh

Combe Raleigh has had a busy few months training new ringers for the Armistice 100 commemorations. After a recruiting drive at St Paul's Honiton, when ringers, including the East Devon Branch Chairman, were accosting innocent passers-by in the High Street, a number of potential new ringers were signed up. It was decided that initial training would be at Combe Raleigh on Thursday nights, under the guidance of Tim Bayton, Andrew Digby and Lisa Clarke. In all twelve, mainly young ringers, tried their hand at church bell ringing; not all stayed the course. After the initial training and the addition of two slightly older beginners, Lisa was left with eight keen learners – Alex, Anna, Erin, Kitty, Lesley, Milly, Pat and Sophie. Interestingly, all but one are female; why so few boys, I wonder?

Thursday nights came to an end but Friday practices soon took their place and became a riot; have you ever tried to keep order when a group of young girls get together? It was also a lot of fun and all made good progress; pass the chocolates, please. Isobel and Zoe joined us from Axminster, Anna was keen to match her older brother Theo's progress, Erin was trying to outdo Anna, Kitty was acting as the older sister trying to set an example, Pat was ringing in Luppitt and Lesley was working hard to resurrect a Feniton band. Sophie was ringing with the Combe Raleigh band on Sunday mornings while still only ten years old and continues to amaze us with her progress. Alex and Milly were making stately progress, as befits their (comparatively) greater age. All were ready for Armistice Day.

At Combe Raleigh the bells were rung half-muffled before the morning service, a new experience for both Sophie and Kitty. At 12.30pm the bells were rung open, most of the congregation having stayed behind to witness the occasion. The highlight of the



Combe Raleigh ringers L to R:
Lisa, Trevor, Janet, Joel, Sophie, Mark, Erin, Alex, Anna, Pam, Stan, Kitty.

performance was when Alex, Anna, Erin, Kitty and Sophie joined Lisa in ringing some call changes. For Alex it was especially demanding as he had never rung on open bells, nor had he ever rung call changes before. Anna and Erin had also only ever rung on the simulator before, never with live bells. They were all rewarded with a well-deserved round of applause at the finish.

At 7.05pm Lesley joined us having rung at Feniton earlier, where she had managed to get a band for the day, no easy task. Joel, previously taught by Lisa, but now rarely seen as he has moved from the area also joined us, having only rung once in the last year. He rang as though he'd never been away! Our one disappointment was that Milly was unavailable to ring on the day. By mixing up the learners with the regular band, all the remainder took part in the celebration of peace. To see so many young learners ringing so well on a momentous occasion was a truly moving experience. Well done to all of them.

Trevor Hitchcock – Combe Raleigh

Quarter Peal at Heavitree

Michael Cannon was pleased to call the very appropriate composition of Grandsire Triples known as The Remembrance Peal. It was composed in the trenches during the First World War by Sgt Albert P Wakely, a ringer from Burton on Trent, who was badly wounded at the battle of Loos. Although he survived the war, he died in the influenza pandemic three months later.

Exeter, Devon, St Michael, Heavitree

Sunday, 11 November 2018 in 51m

1260 Grandsire Triples

1 Graham Tucker

2 Helen Maynard

3 Lesley Tucker

4 Maff Glover

5 Michael Cannon (C)

6 Oliver Bates

7 Ian Campbell

8 Susan Illing



L to R: Maff, Michael, Lesley, Oliver, Helen, Ian, Graham, Susan

Ian Campbell

Letter from an appreciative listener

Dear Mark (Bertram) - it was so good to hear the bells at Stoke Canon rung this morning. It must have been difficult, on this very busy Sunday, to find a team and I am sure the villagers here really appreciated the work involved. I really enjoy hearing the bells on Monday evenings. Thanks again, with all good wishes

Maureen Owen-Jones, local resident



LEST WE FORGET

Some new ringers' comments:

A Chance Encounter



Learning to ring came about by chance one evening when friends who were with us for supper gave us a brochure about the Ringing for Remembrance campaign.

Ringing was something I'd thought about doing on and off over a period of years. The Ringing for Remembrance campaign really touched a chord, particularly as we'd been researching into the WW1 naval service of our grandfather and various great uncles, the former of whom served at and survived the Battle of Jutland. There was also the aspect of the campaign recruiting additional church bell ringers, thus helping to regenerate interest in an art which is centuries old.

Both my husband and I began to learn under the expert and encouraging tuition of Guild tutors, Les and Sheila. For me, the process of learning to handle the rope, sally and bell safely and competently was challenging, exciting and rather complicated in equal measure.

We are still fine-tuning our ability and getting used to ringing with various tower bands. We've made new friends, and we're enjoying the exercise bell ringing offers.

We're also part of a new band that has been formed at our parish church in Burlescombe where the bells had been mostly silent for some time.

Ringing on Remembrance Sunday filled us both with huge pride and a good sense of achievement. We look forward to continuing.

Hope you can see the Ringing Remembers badge in the photo! Very proud of that badge!

Julie Hill

Learning the ropes



'Long pull, straight down, aim for the fly on the floor by your feet!' I concentrate and try to follow the instructions. I am with a group of other novices at St Michael and All Angels Church in Pinhoe and we are learning how to ring the bells.

It all started in February when I read an article about the Ringing Remembers campaign to recruit new ringers to mark the centenary of the Armistice.

I was intrigued. I've often heard

the sound of the bells in Exeter and wanted to try for myself. It'll just be pulling a rope I thought, and how difficult can that be? Now, I know the answer. Learning to juggle whilst riding a unicycle would probably be easier, but I have persevered and reached the stage where on a good day I can ring rounds. I updated my status on the 'Ringing Remembers' website to show this and they sent me a badge which I proudly wore on Remembrance Sunday. On this day I participated in ringing at Heavitree in the morning, Poltimore and Pinhoe around midday and Broadclyst in the evening. This gave me a great sense of achievement.

I'm grateful to everyone who has helped me and I intend to continue practising. An experienced ringer said to me, 'We are not teaching you just for Armistice Day. You have to continue for the rest of your life!'

Richard Hogben

View from an 11-year old at Combe Raleigh

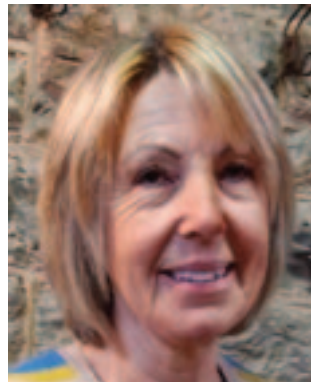
On Armistice day, I rang in the morning at 10.30. The bells were half-muffled. It was a really good experience and had a different feeling. The sound was strange but relaxing, what with the echo at backstroke. Even with the echo, it was still clear to hear the rhythm of the sequence.

At 12.30, I rang again but with the ringers who started at the same time as me. We all rang in turns, going to 'Queens' and back, (135246 - 123456). I led most of the time. I really enjoyed ringing with them, as I don't get the opportunity often. It was different but fun. I became familiar with the treble pretty quickly and soon felt calm and concentrated.

Armistice Day was a great day of ringing. I had several opportunities to ring and really liked doing call changes. It made me concentrate but in a good way; I really enjoyed ringing on Armistice Day!

Sophie Ramsamy (aged 11)

New ringers always welcome



Our parish magazine has had the same notice in it for years – 'New ringers always welcome'. I love the sound of the church bells and happen to be a church goer so I thought perhaps I should give it a try. It would be very sad if there weren't enough ringers to keep the bells going, it's only for a couple of hours a week and all the ringers seem to do is pull at ropes – easy!

That was back in May this year and since then I have been terrified, humbled, embarrassed

and (slightly and increasingly) delighted by the whole experience. The spur to keep going was hearing about the Ringing Remembers campaign - how could I give up when those 1400 ringers who gave their lives for us had no choice? Being able to ring in rounds on Remembrance Sunday was the goal.

My home tower is Whitestone and for several months I was kindly given 30 minutes tuition before each practice night by Herb Piper. I quickly discovered that it was actually very hard and that my mature years had rendered my brain rather slow on the uptake. If Herb had a pound for every time he'd said 'you're stopping the bell, let it go up', he'd be a rich man. I was scared of the rope (still am - just think what it could do to you!) and panicked when I lost control. Herb and all the other ringers were so kind, patient and encouraging but I felt foolish and didn't seem to be able to do it. My progress was too slow and I knew I needed to practice more than once a week. I contacted Ian Campbell and his kind response led to me having sessions with him on the simulator at St Mark's, Pinhoe and on a tied bell linked to a computer at Heavitree. It was exactly what I needed. I overcame (most of) my fears and had the time with Ian's expertise and patience to do it again and again. Slowly the muscle memory formed, and things started to feel better. Ian suggested attending beginners' sessions at other towers which really helped and Herb has taken me to other local practice nights too.

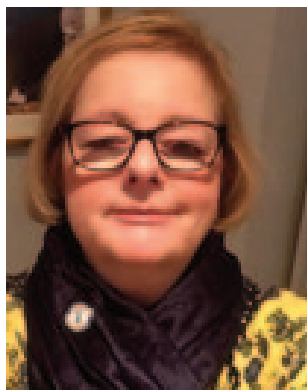
On the 11th November, proudly wearing my Ringing Remembers badge alongside my poppy, I rang in rounds before and after the service half muffled and also at the 12.30pm nationwide celebration open ring with call changes! After all those months of fear and failure it felt wonderful to be able to ring well enough to show my respect to the fallen.

It's been an interesting six months. I've learned that bell ringing

is very hard, bell ringers are extremely kind and generous with their time and that there's a large community of dedicated people who love to ring! It's obviously possible for bell ringing to take over one's life - will that happen to me? I'm not sure yet because I have a very long way to go before I'm fully competent and capable of decent ringing but...it's possible!

Mary Colson

Armistice 100 Ringing



I am one of the Ringing Remembers recruits and started ringing at Combe Raleigh, in March this year after a taster session in Honiton.

I am in awe of the support and tuition I've had. Special thanks must go to Tim Bayton, Lisa Clarke and Andrew Digby, who selflessly gave up every Thursday evening in order to give us, the new recruits, sufficient tuition, to get us to a place where we could safely join a tower. I opted to join Combe

Raleigh and Lisa has continued my ringing education, supported by her fabulous, encouraging band. I wouldn't say it's been easy but am now in a position where I can say I'm relatively comfortable ringing up and down; ringing in rounds; leading and starting to get my head around call changes.

I started to learn for a variety of reasons. I was new to the area and thought what fabulous way to get to know others locally. More so, I have always had an interest in learning but never had the time. Now semi-retired, I seized my opportunity.

My family has had many affiliations with the military and I have seen the ramifications it can cause. With special regard to World War 1, I find it hard to even imagine the horrors those people and animals endured. I feel impassioned that we never forget their sacrifice, for our freedom. What better way to show homage than to learn to ring church bells that stood silent during the war but rang out over the country to mark the signing of the Armistice and the end of the war.

For the main part, the six bells at St Andrew's Church, in my lovely village of Feniton have been silent in recent years, as there was no-one to ring them. I wanted to ring in my own village for Armistice so, with the aid of Jo Chown, current tower captain, we managed to enlist a band of five Fenitonians, borrowed a ringer from Honiton (thank you Derek Ballard) and were very proud to ring at St Andrew's on 11th November in remembrance of all those affected by war, especially the First World War.

It was an utterly momentous and emotional occasion.

Considering we'd had very little practice as a band, I believe we did the bells justice, ringing half muffled before the service and open with the international 12.30 hours ringing. I am delighted to say that, as a band, even though we came together for the Armistice ringing we would like to continue but are looking to bolster our numbers. I would also like to thank Tim Bayton, Andrew Digby and Derek Ballard for their support and tuition.

As I still wanted to show my support for Lisa and the Combe Raleigh ringers, I joined them for the 19.05 hours ringing. Again, an amazing occasion and experience.

Lesley Oats – a very grateful Ringing Remembers Recruit

The Magic has Begun...

A year ago I joined the towers of Buckerell, Awliscombe, Gittisham and Offwell to learn how to bell ring for Armistice. Initially I had a couple of lessons on the simulator at Honiton which gave me a good start and an overall sense of the process of bell ringing. The magic began once I started visiting the village churches, climbing the tower steps that so many people had climbed over the ages and meeting my fellow ringers. We met most weeks, no matter how cold or hot it got, and bit by bit, I was eventually able to raise

and ring a bell on my own. It was wonderful the first time I was able to participate in ringing rounds, as I felt part of a team making music, although not so sweet with my input!

At the church of St Mary and St Giles in Buckerell on Armistice Day we rang the bells at 7pm in remembrance and celebration of the ending of the First World War, one hundred years ago. We started with simple call changes for my benefit and then the 'real' ringers rang out the Devon call change peal. It was lovely and moving to listen to.

I still get nervous on practice nights and my weeks are a mixed bag, but with the guidance of my teacher Mary, tower captains and kind support of many others, I am improving and hope to become a competent member of the band.



The band at Buckerell

Clare Slater

First Quarter Peal for Armistice Recruit

Congratulations go to Greg on ringing his first quarter peal on Armistice Sunday after taking up the challenge to learn to ring in March.

Exeter, Devon, St Mark

Sunday, 11 November 2018 in 40m

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Wendy Gill

4 Robert Franklin

2 Amy Gill

5 David Hird (C)

3 Wendy Campbell

6 Gregory Colyer

1st quarter peal – 6

Rung on the front six



The band in order L to R

I saw the call for new ringers for the Armistice Day 100th anniversary, in a local Exeter magazine, and was put in touch with David Hird at St Mark's at the end of February.

Since then he and others have been willing and diligent teachers, and I was fortunate to be able to ring my first quarter-peal covering Plain Bob Doubles on the 11th of November itself. 1,260 changes seemed a dauntingly long prospect (we had only practised 120s), but in the end it wasn't too tiring. Just once, I momentarily 'forgot how to ring' and nearly didn't catch the rope!

I'm now learning plain hunting at the tower, and Plain Bob Doubles/Minor on handbells at the University. I know I have a long way to go yet!

Greg Colyer

Guild Striking Competitions



Enjoying the Autumn Sun at Stoke Damerel church

The Guild striking competitions were held on 20th October in the South West Branch.



The three trophies ready to be awarded

The results of the 6-bell Novice competition at St Budeaux for the John Longridge plate were:

1st Emmanuel, Plymouth	24 faults
2nd Topsham (A)	41 faults
3rd Topsham (B)	51 faults

See later article for photo and more details.

The Novice 8-bell competition was held at Emmanuel, Plymouth with the following result:

1st North East Branch	28 faults
2nd Aylesbeare Branch	32 faults
3rd Emmanuel Tower	42 faults

The results of the 6-bell inter-tower competition at Stoke Damerel for the J P Fidler cup were:

1st Exeter Cathedral	6¼ faults
2nd Tavistock	9½ faults
3rd Exeter St Mark	16 faults
4th Tiverton St Peter	20¼ faults
5th Sampford Spiney	23¼ faults
6th Withycombe Raleigh(A)	26½ faults
7th Emmanuel Plymouth	48½ faults
8th Withycombe Raleigh (B)	Did not complete

The results of the 8-bell inter-branch competition held at Emmanuel, Plymouth were:

1st Exeter	55 faults
2nd Aylesbeare	72 faults
3rd South West	75 faults
4th North/North West	96 faults
5th North East	105 faults



The Fidler cup being presented to Paul Pascoe by the judges Martin Mansley and Sheila Scofield



The Andrews Trophy was presented to David Maynard for the Exeter Branch by the judges Patricia & Robert Newton

I think that special praise needs to go to the Aylesbeare branch which, being the smallest in the Guild, managed to field a band able to ring Lincolnshire Major and beat three other teams.

Ian Campbell

Guild Library Update

New to the Library

A few, but significant items have been acquired for the Library in 2018: The latest DVD-ROM of *The Ringing World* covers the years 2001-2017. We now have access to the complete file of the journal from the first issue published in 1911. This is searchable by keyword such as place or personal name and is a first stop for most historical enquiries. The files for the years up to 1970 are also available on the Central Council website – see below.

The final printed volume in the series *Order and Disorder: Newspaper extracts* has been published covering the period 1840-1845. John Eisel and his colleagues have scoured the files of local newspapers for articles and snippets of news about bell ringing across the country and the latest volume contains plenty of Devon references. The indexes to all the volumes in the series are available on the Central Council website. I am compiling a consolidated index of Devon place names to assist research for information about towers in the county.

Two useful resources produced by the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain were picked up at the Buckfast Festival. John Willis has compiled an illustrated history celebrating *The First 50 Years of the HRGB*. A DVD programme *Ring out! Making music with handbells* explains the different techniques used by handbell ringers and has examples of some fine handbell music performances.

On-line resources

A growing number of electronic texts are becoming available. A useful function for the Guild Library webpages is to provide links to these. A number of older, out-of-print Central Council publications are available to download from the Council's 'Shop' facility. A good starting point is to check the bibliography of ringing books on the Council's website; this indicates where downloads are available. The Whiting Society website offers nearly one hundred old ringing books for download together with pictures of some of their authors. The files of *Bell News*, *The Ringing World* and other early ringing journals can be accessed from the Central Council Library pages.

For information about people the Central Council file of biographies is available on-line, giving details mostly of past members of Council. A consolidated index of ringers' obituaries from *Bell News* and *The Ringing World* is available covering the years 1881 to 2000 and includes over nine thousand names.

Links to all these resources are now available on the Guild Library webpages.

Guild web pages updated

As well providing the new links to on-line resources mentioned above, there is now a replacement link to the Guild Reports covering the world war years. The PDF files of scanned reports are now hosted on Dropbox. A substantially updated list of the Library's stock has been added and a link to this is now provided from the Library homepage. Happy researching!

Les Boyce

Exeter Branch

News from Exeter Cathedral

Exeter Cathedral Bell Installation Refurbishment



The cleaned and repainted bell frame

We had all known that Exeter Cathedral bells required work. Each year as the AGM came around our steeplekeepers drew our attention to the many refurbishment works needed, but it seemed the works were destined to remain on the agenda forever.

However, thanks to the overwhelming generosity of one of our Cathedral band members, we were able to set up a comprehensive programme of fund raising, combining monthly or annual contributions from members to be matched by our donor. The project promised to raise around £40,000 over three years, an achievement of which we all remain enormously proud.

Having gathered quotes, with Taylors of Loughborough's long-standing history at the Cathedral, they were the natural choice as bellhangers to carry out the comprehensive programme of work.



The new strengthening on the base of the frame

This included replacing the clappers and crown staples of the six largest bells with those of a composite design and overhauling the clappers on the eight smaller bells. The button tops were to be removed from the treble and 2nd bells; the 2nd and 11th would be re-roped; two new heavy section beams would be installed to strengthen the bell frame beneath the 9th and tenor pits and the huge frame would be cleaned and painted. In addition, a welded mesh lockable safety cage was planned to be fixed along the south side of the frame, thereby preventing access to the bells and enabling us to achieve the cherished ambition of leaving our heaviest bells up between ringing sessions, with the addition of a lockable rope spider in the ringing chamber below.

As summer 2017 progressed, discussions and meetings intensified. Whilst the Cathedral underwent a period of transition, Acting Dean Mike Williams was instrumental in helping us guide the works towards the Buildings Committee and Fabrics Advisory Committee meetings where final approval would be granted. Cathedral architect Camilla Finlay and Clerk of Works Chris Sampson ensured that finally, in September 2017, the deposit was paid to Taylors and the project was officially adopted by the Dean and Chapter.

Finance, however, remained a constant worry. Although the ringers had raised £41,000, and a grant of £8,500 had been presented by the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund, there was still a shortfall of around £25,000. With Cathedral funds heavily restricted, we applied through the complex Viridor Credits system for a grant but this was unsuccessful. An initial approach to the Cathedral 'Friends' in early 2018 was also unsuccessful, but following personal intervention from our new Dean, Jonathan Greener, we at last received the immensely good news that the 'Friends' would donate £12,000 with the Cathedral covering the shortfall.

Clerk of Works, Chris Sampson, took over as project manager and with constant liaison work from Matt Hilling and David Hird the work was soon underway. We rang the bells for the last time on Sunday 17th June, and the following day, Andrew Ogden from Taylors arrived at Exeter; within the space of a week the clappers and pulley blocks had been lowered via the scaffolding lift and transported to Loughborough and the first stage of the works was complete. None of this could have happened without the incredible help of a daily team of volunteer helpers, both local band and friends, for which we are immeasurably grateful.



The Cathedral Tenor (Grandisson) with Toby to show its size

The next stage was the most exciting, when early on Saturday 7th July a large crane arrived in the West Wing car park at the Cathedral; the new steel beams were raised and the two trebles were lowered from the tower before being taken to the foundry. The following week the new steel beams were installed. Only then could the frame cleaning begin, a job that was to take many, many weeks...

The two trebles returned home in early August via another crane lift along with the new clappers and the metalwork for the safety cage. The frame cleaning continued until late August when, finally, we were ready to embark upon the frame painting. Slowly the paint tins began to empty. The last week of September was a busy one when all the fittings were put back, and the bells rung singly for the first time – and not too soon, for we had an important quarter peal booked in for Saturday 29th September, marking the Ordination of Priests. Somehow, amazingly, the bells were ready to ring for this service, and Stedman Cinques rang out over the city once again, to the delight of clergy and congregation alike.

Some twelve weeks after the frame cleaning had begun, the painting was finally finished during the second week in October.

However, there was work still to be done. Early in November, Andrew Mills returned to Exeter, and a scaffolding tower appeared in the ringing chamber. One issue was the sound tube system which had been dismantled at the start of the works and had proved difficult to reinstate around the new steel beams; however, this tricky issue was resolved, and the rope paths were also altered on the 2nd and 11th. As we write, the works are tantalisingly close to completion, we just await the new rope spider, and the fitting of the mesh safety cage, delayed due to one or two technical problems...

This last stage will bring to fruition a fundraising project which seemed daunting at least at the outset, and a year of challenges that have seen us spend the summer ringing around Devon and Somerset, a collaboration with Stephanie Brown and Ryan Brodie

at Exeter St Petrock's to maintain Sunday morning ringing in the city, and long months when many of our band and friends toiled and assisted a team of Taylors workmen who soon became part of the family. The end result is a glorious ring of twelve that, thanks to a long overdue and comprehensive programme of refurbishment and maintenance work, can now be assured to ring out over the city for generations to come. The support of the Cathedral proved vital, alongside the generosity of our ringers and the invaluable time of so many, in making this project such a huge success. Next June when we host the National 12-Bell Striking Competition, we can feel proud to welcome ringers from across the country to Exeter.

Before then though, we will need to clean the ringing chamber – any more volunteers please?

Clare Griffiths, Exeter Cathedral Bellringers Secretary

Exeter Cathedral Annual Dinner Friday 5th October

With a change of venue the Cathedral members and friends sat down to a splendid meal at The Keeper's Cottage Inn at Kentisbeare. We had the pleasure of the company of Mike Williams, formerly acting Dean and now Canon Treasurer, and also James Mustard, the new Canon Precentor, who entertained us with stories about hearing the cathedral bells when he was a student living in the rooms on the cathedral cloister. We also had an interesting speech from Peter Brown, one of our ringers, who told us about his ringing times in his youth. Thanks go to Pauline McKenzie for finding the venue, and for all the arrangements on the night.

Ian Campbell

Save the date... Saturday 22nd June next year!



Ringers from across the country will be coming to Exeter Cathedral for the National 12-bell Striking Competition final. It is an occasion you'll not want to miss out on. The stunning location of the Bishop's Palace Gardens will be open to us all day for the beer tent, food, and much more. It promises to be a great day out for any ringers and their families, with lots to see and do.

Finally, both the Guild and the Association will soon be asking for volunteers to assist us to put on Devon hospitality at its best, and your help would be greatly appreciated.

Lynne Hughes



Skittles and Supper evening at the New Inn, Broadclyst

The Exeter Branch held a non-ringing social on Friday 12th October which involved a skittles and supper evening at the New Inn on the outskirts of Broadclyst. This was rescheduled from March when we had to cancel at short notice owing to the heavy snow!

There was an even number of girls and boys leading to a natural split for the two teams. After six rounds the girls' team scored a total of 352 points and the boys' team scored a total of 382 points – a win of 31 points to the boys!



Lucy, Susan and David all managed to knock nine pins down with at least one spare, leading Susan to get the highest single score of 11 for the girls' team and David get the highest single score of 17 for the boys' team – looking forward to seeing a score of 27 next year! After six rounds of skittles we had a single game of 'Killer', with Dick being the last person standing after several very skilful bowls. Halfway through the evening we paused for supper, which included a very tasty Stilton and Walnut tart or cold meat platter with ample side dishes to ensure a filling meal. Our thanks go to the staff at the New Inn for allowing us to use the skittles alley and for making us all feel very welcome.

Robert Neal - Exeter Branch Secretary



What does David do when not ringing peals or grabbing towers?

Photos by Wendy Gill

Mid-Devon Branch

Frank Shepperd

It is with great sadness that I have to announce the death of Frank Shepperd, a ringer at St Mary's, Brixham for many years and of course a former Mid-Devon Branch Secretary - twice!

Frank's funeral was held on Thursday 29th November with half muffled ringing before and after the service. Following the tradition at Brixham for a ringer, the bells were also fired (rung simultaneously).

Guy Thompson, Tower Captain, St. Mary's, Brixham

Embarrassing Pictures Of David Hird Nos. 3 And 4



So when it is not far enough to get out the Jag and the Citroen is broken how does David get to ringing?

Extracts from Tower Talk

September 8 bell practice – Kingsteignton

Kingsteignton bells are always a delight so it was a real pleasure to go there for our September 8th bell practice. Numbers were down a little but boosted by two visitors from Lincolnshire. This was thanks to contacts made via the Branch facebook page run by Anne Bailey who looks after our on-line activity. A fairly wide spectrum of methods was rung and our visitors were particularly pleased to ring a half-course of Cambridge Major. We also initiated them into the joys of Cloister Triples – fast becoming a branch staple.

St Marychurch ringers say goodbye to Paul and Janet Latham

It is always sad when members leave a team and St Marychurch ringers were sorry when they heard that Paul and Janet Latham were moving to live in Exeter. Paul was a millennium ringer and has rung with us now for twenty years. He has been a loyal tower and handbell ringer throughout that time and Janet has been a valuable member of the handbell team as well.

To mark their departure the handbell and tower bell ringers got together at Martin and Wena's house for a farewell party. It was almost inevitable that the handbells would be out and a couple of tunes were part of the entertainment. During the evening a presentation was made to mark their departure and they were thanked most sincerely for their hard work for, and loyalty to, St Marychurch. We wish them all the very best and look forward to seeing them from time to time.

Branch Outing to Gloucestershire



Anyone who has organised an outing will know that it can be fraught with problems, from towers that don't reply to clashes with other events that mean complete re-thinking. Mercifully, this year there were none of these problems and five phone calls produced five towers to visit.

An early start was made from Newton Abbot and we were soon on our way up the motorway. Our spirits were high despite the wet weather and we were in good time arriving at our first tower. Stone are a light six in a very small ringing room. They are a joy to ring and we found them an excellent start to the day, even if it meant climbing the tower in shifts. We had all booked our food at the Berkeley Arms and the staff there were very welcoming and soon had us settled and drinks on the way. Our food swiftly followed, and all agreed that we had an excellent meal. One of the main reasons for choosing this area was to sample the rehung ten at Berkeley. Our time was slightly curtailed because of a wedding but we were all impressed by the transformation of a ring that many people considered to be the worst ring of ten in the country. They now go really well and sound superb.

Not too far away were Stinchcombe, where, back in the 1960s there was a court case due to the church authorities wanting to install a recording system to replace the bells. The Gloucester and Bristol Association and the Central Council fought this plan and won. The bells were rehung and now are a fine six. Our coach driver was less impressed with the village as she had a difference of opinion with the village post-box which was left looking decidedly drunk!!

On to Cromhall, another good ring of six where Philip found his name on a peal board and Wena reminded us that it was the venue of her first peal. Last ring of the day was the eight at Thornbury. The highlight here was a touch of Grandsire Triples containing well-struck Queens and Tittums.

It was a great pleasure that we had some visitors. Catherine Saunders joined us for the whole of the day and Russell and Caroline Chamberlain joined us for a couple of the towers – Russell had to prepare for Harvest Festival the next day. They were all looking well and send their love to those they did not see.

A stop was made for refreshment in Wellington and we were home in Newton Abbot by 9.30 after a very enjoyable outing. Our grateful thanks to the organisers and all who gave permission for us to ring and made us so welcome in their towers.

October Six bell Practice – Ideford

What a joy it is to visit a tower with an active band but also one which is obviously closely allied to the aim of its congregation. On our visit to Ideford we were told that there is a threat to long term use of the church as a place of worship. One of their schemes is

to have the bells rung as often as possible and our visit contributed to that. A good turnout kept the bells ringing despite the ringers being regularly plied with tea, coffee and other refreshments! The ringing included the methods of the month (Surfleet and Little Bob Minor) and plenty of call changes. It was very pleasing that some members of the local band either renewed their acquaintance with method ringing or tried it for the first time.

Very many thanks to the Ideford ringers – We'll be back!!

Highweek Scouts Ringing evening Wednesday 26th September



The 1st Highweek Scouts marched on the village parish Church for an evening of tower bell and handbell ringing. Twenty-six enthusiastic boys and girls were eager to have a go at the tower bell ringing, especially as their leader, Mildred, had circulated a video the night before of the infamous Mars advert with monks ringing bells!

Highweek residents Peter Harris and Geoff Pring took charge of the tower bells while Peter Richards from Bovey Tracey and Anne Cotton from Lustleigh ran two sessions on handbells. The scouts enjoyed the slightly haphazard initial fun of chiming the bells in the down position and the chance to take control of the tail end and some the sally too, once a couple of bells were raised. Scout leader Mildred was ridiculed by his group for not having grasped the coordination and timing required but perhaps this served to encourage the youngsters to better him! The handbell sessions were both successful, even having a group at either end of the church simultaneously.

It would be remiss not to mention The Revd Gareth Regan who gave a lovely introduction to the group on Highweek Parish Church but also the importance of bell ringing in the life of the Church. Revd Gareth stayed on at the end of the evening when all but one of the Scouts accepted the chance to climb the tower and view the bells themselves. It is hoped to run another session inviting interested Scouts to come along with their parents so watch this space. There is now talk that Newton Abbot Scouts are interested in repeating the experience.

Geoff Pring



Roger rings his first Quarter Peal

Many of you will remember our enjoyable visit to Bishopsteignton earlier this year. It was, therefore, very pleasing to hear that Roger Avery rang his first quarter peal on 21st October. This was to mark the centenary of the death of his grandfather.

Bishopsteignton, Devon, St John The Baptist

Sunday, 21 October 2018 in 42m

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Jo Brown

4 Will Carew

2 Robert Brown

5 James Grant (C)

3 Ian Avery

6 Roger Avery

First quarter - 6.

Rung in memory of private Frederick Avery, Devonshire Regiment who died 19th October 1918 from injuries received at the Somme. Frederick's son, Fred, grandson Roger (today's tenor ringer) and great grand-daughter Rachel are, or were, all ringers. Rachel also rang the tenor behind for a quarter peal in memory of Frederick, at Inverness on 18th October.

Roger gave us a little more information about his ringing family: My Dad started bellringing in Plymouth in about 1927 when, as a choirboy, his voice broke. He rang at St George's, Wilton in Taunton for a tad under 50 years. I took up bellringing in Bishopsteignton soon after I retired here in 2001. My daughter Rachel took up the hobby about two years ago, she rings at Inverness Cathedral. Towers with bells are few and far between in Scotland, she gets to the Bellringing Centre at Tulloch from time to time and occasionally to Inverary. She's coming here in early December and we hope to ring together at Bishop, Marldon and Wilton. We have previously rung together at Inverness.

Next project is to ring a quarter peal together but I think that's way in the future.

We all wish Roger and Rachel the very best of luck with this project!

Guild Quarter Peal Festival

Branch members took part in several quarter peals during the festival and we particularly draw attention to those at Buckfast Abbey and Berry Pomeroy.

In the first of these David Wittchell rang inside to Grandsire Triples for the first time in over 30 years:

Buckfast, Devon, Abbey Church of St Mary

Saturday, 27 October 2018

1260 Grandsire Triples

1 Rowena Mansley

5 Neil Deem

2 Janet Deem

6 Andrew D Evans

3 Nathan Evans

7 Martin Mansley (C)

4 David Wittchell

8 Neville H Gibbings

and in the second David Williams rang his first quarter peal for over 40 years:

Berry Pomeroy, Devon, St Mary

Tuesday, 30 October 2018 in 48m

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1 Martin Mansley

4 Nicholas R I White

2 David Williams

5 Philip Stevens

3 Wena Mansley

6 Mike Tompsett (C)

1st Q for 47 years - 2

Many congratulations go to both of these ringers. We should also mention that Wena Mansley rang her first quarter peal on twelve bells for over thirty years with a fine performance of Grandsire Cinques at Buckfast Abbey.

And after much practice and several near misses the 'Boys' finally scored a quarter peal on handbells:

Kingsteignton, Devon, Long Barton

Wednesday, 31 October 2018 in 32m

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1-2 Nigel Birt

3-4 Martin Mansley

5-6 Mike Tompsett (C)

Branch AGM Teignmouth

The usual proviso – not the official minutes but a potted impression of the day!!

There are few better things to do on a wet November afternoon than visit the tower of St Michael, Teignmouth and it was good to have so many for the afternoon session. Methods ranged from call changes to Bristol Surprise Major and included Double Norwich CB Major. We had several visitors but the winner of the furthest travel award goes to John who joined us from Cannock in Staffordshire (just down for the day as he was visiting relatives in the area). A well-struck course of Stedman Triples brought the ringing to a close prior to the service. This was the Service of Prayer and Praise which has become very popular for use at Guild meetings and included the ringers' hymn 'Ring out ye Bells Below'.

Julia and her helpers had assembled a magnificent tea and there was a good opportunity to catch up with all the news from around the branch. Janet Ritterman has been doing some research using the Guild ledger detailing all Guild certificates issued. She had produced a fascinating wall chart with a map and lists of certificate holders at each tower. This was inspected with great interest. Many thanks to Janet, who is looking for a permanent home for it within the branch. If you can suggest a suitable place please contact a branch officer.

Once tea was over Chairman Rodney Horder called the meeting to order and soon got the business under way. Just a few main points: a certificate was awarded to Nicola Jones of Stokeinteignhead and the Eddon Clapper trophy was awarded to the Kingskerswell/Coffinswell band.



Nicola Jones receiving her certificate from Martin Mansley

Julia Brett and Janet Ritterman did not seek re-election and both were warmly thanked for their hard work for the branch. Nigel Birt was elected as Secretary and Nicola Jones took on the job of Guild Committee rep. All other posts remain in the same hands.

Fiona Rock-Evans reported continuing problems with the bank and will be opening an account with a different bank. The Ringing Master apologised for forgetting to bring his prepared report but had remembered the Banoffee Pie so, apparently, was forgiven!

The Librarian discussed ways of publicising the books on offer and suggested a challenge of all members having a try at calling something, even if only a few call changes or a plain course, during the next twelve months. The list of forthcoming events was discussed and a few suggestions made. The Guild striking competitions were considered and Don Roberts offered to see if he could organise a team for next year. Finally, our Ringing Master was asked to model the new Guild shirt which is available from Guild Secretary, John Martin.



Philip Stevens accepting the Eddon Clapper

We have heard many comments that this was a most enjoyable meeting – very many thanks to the Teignmouth ringers for their warm welcome.

Martin Mansley

Highweek School Harvest Festival Service Tuesday 26th October

It must surely be a good sign when the Vicar asked whether ringing can take place for a school service. That was the case this year and followed the first ever ringing for a Highweek School service at the parish church in 2017 following a suggestion from Geoff Pring, a Highweek resident and novice ringer, and also a parent at the school. Robert Brown organised a team of six to ring before this 10am service; thanks are due to the band which was largely made up of ringers from Bovey Tracey. Ringers were surprised to learn that the children walked from the school (which is arguably closer to the centre of Newton Abbot than it is the village itself), a good twenty minutes, all uphill! The children were excited to hear the bells all the way, which really set them up for their special occasion and another chance for a community school to build links with their local parish church.

Geoff Pring was delighted to learn that his son, Peter, had told all his friends that he could see his Dad ringing as they approached the church. 'How can you tell?' one of his friends asked. 'He's the bald one', replied Peter. All joking aside, having a bell ringer in the school playground then becomes a talking point for parents, some of whom were queuing outside the church before the service. These new opportunities to raise the profile of ringing must always be taken; I am sure they will be worth the effort in the long run.

Geoff Pring

Teignmouth Ringers search for 'missing' ringer

The Teignmouth band of ringers would like to share their experience of searching for lost ringers for the CCCBR Roll of Honour. The band were urged by a retired vicar to check that we had not missed a ringer who was killed in The Great War. This resulted in Martin Dodd and myself ferreting through the dusty photos in a cupboard of the ringing chamber. Bingo! We were lucky enough to find an old photo of the East Teignmouth band in 1906. Someone had thoughtfully pencilled underneath who was who. This and an old peal board furnished us with names which we could cross reference with casualties in the Chapel of

Remembrance, and on the cenotaph in town. One name stood out. We did some research ourselves, which we submitted to the CCCBR. However, this was not necessary. If a tower goes on the CCCBR website they can email to flag up a possible lost ringer. A researcher will then get back to you, and guide you through the process. It was not difficult. We were asked to send photos of our evidence, which for us consisted of a photo of the 1906 band, and our ringers' name in the Chapel of Remembrance and on the cenotaph. The CCCBR do their own research and make decisions based on that. On this occasion, we are pleased to report that our ringer has been accepted. It is not a difficult process but what shocked us was that the researcher informed us that Devon has the most towers of all counties but only eleven ringers on the Roll of Honour. There must be many more to be found. Therefore, I would urge you to have a rummage in old cupboards, list names from old peal boards, and check them against names on War Memorials, just in case.

Julia Brett, Tower Secretary, Teignmouth

We think the number for Devon has actually increased considerably due to the work of David Willis of Braunton who is a member of the CC workgroup responsible for the Rolls of Honour. Ringers owe a real debt of gratitude to the Steward of the Rolls of Honour, Alan Regin, who has worked tirelessly to research and add detail to the Rolls – now online at <https://ccbr.org.uk/rolls-of-honour/>

The Abbots' Way Walk 2018

This year marks 1000 years since the original foundation of Buckfast Abbey. Events have been held throughout the year to mark this historic milestone.

For the last 56 years teams of walkers have taken part in an October walk from Buckfast to Tavistock along the ancient route over the moor that joined the two abbeys. This year it was decided to reverse the route so that the walk started at Tavistock and ended at Buckfast. Abbey Warden Geoff Pring felt that it would be fitting to welcome the walkers to Buckfast with the Abbey bells ringing. As there were around 50 walkers covering 23 miles it was inevitable that their arrival at Buckfast would be staggered (pardon the pun!!). The obvious solution would be a full peal, so Peter Bill set about inviting a band, mostly from those ringers who regularly support the festival ringing at the Abbey. In the event, Peter was still out of action following his fall, so unable to take part himself.



Geoff and Oliver Pring after completing the walk

Yorkshire Surprise Royal was the chosen method and David Maynard from Exeter agreed to take on the mammoth task of steering the tenor which weighs 41cwt. Dutifully the ringers all arrived in good time to get the bells up and were delighted that Peter was able to drive himself over to meet the band prior to the

start. Once the bells were up and ropes adjusted we were off with Ian Smith in charge of the conducting. These bells are not easy to ring and during the first course (360 changes) it was obvious that we were getting used to them. After that the ringing speeded up somewhat and settled down to some good striking. David, on the tenor, was obviously up for the job and ready for a long haul. The halfway point had some of the best ringing. Inevitably, signs of tiredness were creeping in towards the end but words of encouragement from Ian kept us all to the task and 'that's all' was called after three hours and 41 minutes. The bells were soon lowered and we joined the last few teams of walkers as they enjoyed welcome refreshment at the end of their marathon walk.



Some of the weary walkers enjoying the ringing

Elaine from Teignmouth and Geoff and Oliver from Highweek/Buckfast told us how pleased they were to hear the bells and how they had explained to non-ringers what was going on up aloft. We understand that the Abbot of Buckfast was among those listening to the bells as they greeted the walkers.

Martin Mansley

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Buckfast, Devon, Abbey Church of St Mary

Sunday, 7 October 2018 in 3h 41

5040 Yorkshire Surprise Royal

Composed by B D Constant

1 Martin G Mansley

2 Alison C Waterson

3 Michael H Tompsett

4 Ian L C Campbell

5 James Kirkcaldy

6 Roger King

7 Ian V J Smith (C)

8 Peter J Sawyer

9 David Hird

10 David G Maynard

Rung to welcome the participants in the Abbots' Way Walk, undertaken this year (the Millennium year of the Abbey) in reverse direction, from Tavistock to Buckfast



The Peal Band in order L to R, Front to Back

Ian Campbell

North East Branch

Alan Edwards

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you that our colleague and Guild Vice-President, Alan Edwards, died on 22nd September in hospital in Exeter after a short illness.

Alan was a ringer in Tiverton for many years until ill-health meant that he had to give up ringing. He was also our Branch Treasurer for over thirty years. He may be known to some of you as a former Geology and Geography teacher at Tiverton Grammar School and Tiverton High as well.

A funeral service was held at Sampford Peverell church and a quarter peal rung at St Peter's, Tiverton was dedicated to his memory. Quarters were also rung at Wanstrow (Somerset), Sandford Orcas (Dorset) and Huntsham, with a peal also being rung at Huntsham.

We offer our condolences to Dulcie and the family. May Alan rest in peace.

Tiverton, Devon, St Peter

Sunday, 23 September 2018 in 51m

1260 Plain Bob Triples

1 Mark Heritage

2 Jenny Jones

3 Richard Barker

4 Sheila Scofield

5 Leslie Boyce

6 Steve James

7 Matthew Weighell (C)

8 Catherine Thorpe

Rung in memory of Alan Edwards. Alan was a faithful ringer at this tower for many years, and also a vice president of The Guild of Devonshire Ringers.

Les Boyce, Branch Ringing Master

New Chairman for the Branch

At the quarterly meeting on 6th October Mark Heritage was elected Chairman of the NE Branch to succeed Mike Hatchett who stood down under a branch rule which only allows Chairmen to serve a maximum of three years. During his tenure Mike has done much for the Branch and I know that he will continue to support ringing and ringers both in the Branch and at the Troyte Ringing Centre. I am sure that everyone will join me in a vote of thanks to Mike for his work and in offering congratulations to Mark.

Jack Ward

Half Term Young Ringers' Outing

On Tuesday 23rd October the NE Young Ringers group along with parents and helpers met at Stoke Canon. We rang rounds for the latest recruits, with call changes, Plain Hunt and Plain Bob Doubles for the more experienced in the band. We then walked from Stoke Canon along the path of the old railway line to Brampford Speke where, unfortunately we were faced with a lockout. We were grateful to Liz and Nellie for bringing along the handbells which kept everyone busy. Afterwards we were all refreshed with lunch at The Beer Engine at Newton St Cyres. Wonderful service and excellent food; we were accommodated well.



Young Ringers about to cross the River Exe
(footpath between Stoke Canon & Brampford Speke)

Red was presented with his level three Learning the Ropes certificate which he gained by ringing a quarter peal earlier that week.



Red is presented with his certificate by Sheila

Sheila Scofield

Stretching My Wings



Attendees at Stawley in the morning



Afternoon attendees at Langford Budville

The NE Branch held their autumn mid-week outing on 19th September. I am, as one member of our tower called me, a 'young' ringer, which brought a smile to my face as I came to bell ringing rather late in life. The tower outing was a chance to step out of my comfort zone and ring in more than my usual couple of well-known towers.

Blessed with a sunny if blustery day we set off in convoy towards our first tower in the village of Ashbrittle, an interesting

journey to say the least. Having spent my adult life in Milton Keynes, the town of straight grid roads and roundabouts, I find Devon country lanes somewhat claustrophobic and was grateful not to be driving or navigating!

On our arrival at the beautiful church of St John the Baptist we were warmly welcomed by the local tower captain. The six bells were lovely and rung from the ground floor ringing chamber. Although nervous of trying new bells with new ringers we were all well looked after by our wonderful experienced ringers who kept the ringing to the appropriate level and ensured everybody was included and supported. It was nice to meet and ring with other ringers who were at a similar stage. One of the advantages of the level open ringing chamber was I was able to go outside when not ringing and really listen to the ringing and striking which is something impossible in my home tower. Also, of course, I could admire the famous 4,000-year-old yew tree.

Before long it was time to say goodbye and move on to our next tower at Stawley. St Michael's dates back to the 13th century and still has an original medieval bell as part of its six-bell ring. Again, it was a ground level ringing chamber and the bells were lovely to ring. When sitting out, listening to the bells and admiring the beautiful countryside it was humbling to think of the centuries of past people who have both rang and listened to the bells from these old towers and to really feel part of this wonderful tradition and heritage. This year, in particular with the Ringing Remembers campaign, I know that all ringers will be remembering and honouring past ringers.

By now we were all ready for our pub lunch before our last tower in the village of Langford Budville. This time we had a well-hidden outside entrance to a short spiral staircase in order to reach the six-bell ring. I found these bells less easy to handle after the last two towers, which was a little disconcerting at first but in hindsight a good learning experience. However, with the advice of our more expert ringers, the band soon realised that this was a set of bells that liked to be rung at a good pace and we managed some very good call changes before we left.

All in all a great day out was had with some good ringing, an excellent lunch and some lovely company. I was surprised how tired I felt by the end of the day and felt three new towers in one day were enough to cope with for a less experienced ringer. At last I have flown the nest so to speak and feel very lucky to have found a hobby that enables me to ring with so many different people in amazing buildings that I would never otherwise experience

Moira Bell

Too old at 80?

Surrounded by mad-keen young ringers enthusiastically practising for Armistice Day, our lovely lady tower captain approached and whispered, 'I hear you have a significant birthday coming up. Let me know if you want to reserve the tower for a quarter peal to celebrate.' It set me thinking, maybe I should ring a quarter peal, it's not every day you become 80. On the other hand I've rung a few quarters, not many, on six bells so why not try something I confided my ambition to Anne Bailey at Sidmouth and when she agreed that I should go for it the decision was made. I would be 80 during the Devon Quarter Peal Festival and my ambition was to ring my first quarter on 8 bells. The LLTC was equally supportive and agreed to join the band. Getting volunteers to make up the number seemed to be straightforward, but it wasn't. It was now when I realised that good conductors are hard to come by. The obvious candidates had other commitments and I began to get cheeky, even emailing the editor of RRD, but he too had a prior engagement. Several calls and emails to other prospective conductors had similar responses. Eventually I went over the border into West Dorset and received a qualified response. 'Yes, I'd be happy to conduct, but I am already ringing a quarter that morning, leave it with me and I'll see if something can be sorted'. My thanks are due to the Axminster band who agreed to re-arrange their quarter to the afternoon.

I had a tower, a band and a conductor, all I needed now was the knowledge and skill to ring it. 'It' being a quarter peal of Grandsire

Triples with me ringing treble. For the next few weeks the Sidmouth ringers gave me every help ringing Grandsire Triples until they must have been heartily sick of it. Three days before my 80th birthday we gathered in Sidmouth tower and I felt fine, fine that is until I stood there with the rope in my hand. Once the ringing started my nerves gradually calmed and I became aware that it really was fine with some excellent ringing.

Why is it that clocks are always positioned so that the treble ringer can see them? At the halfway point I began to believe we would do it and then at 40 minutes the nerves came back. How dreadful it would be to fail at this late stage? Concentrate! The last few minutes lasted an age, but what a relief when 'that's all' was called. So 80 is not too old. It was then I recalled my old school chaplain saying 'it is never too late to be what you might have been'. So to all my fellow 'oldies' I say 'give it a go, why should the young have all the fun?'

With grateful thanks to all my fellow ringers.

Sidmouth, Devon, St Nicholas
Saturday, 27 October 2018 in 52m
1260 Grandsire Triples

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Trevor Hitchcock | 5 Delie Perry |
| 2 Sue Barrance | 6 Anne Bailey |
| 3 Lisa Clarke | 7 David Barrance (C) |
| 4 Brenda Coley | 8 Tom Clarke |

First of Triples and on 8 (1). Rung in celebration of Trevor's 80th birthday on 30th October.



Band: David Barrance (c) 7, Sue Barrance 2, Lisa Clarke 3, Trevor Hitchcock 1, Anne Bailey 6, Tom Clarke 8, Delie Perry 5, Brenda Coley 4

Trevor Hitchcock

St Peter's Ringers 150 - still not out!

In the December 2017 edition of RRD we described the events around the formation of the St Peter's Society in Tiverton in 1867-68. You may recall that by the mid-19th century the existing ring of eight at St Peter's had fallen into disrepair and the seventh bell was badly cracked. So under the leadership of Col Charles Troyte of Huntsham Court a new group of ringers, the St Peter's Society of Change Ringers, was formed in November 1867 to put the bells into good order and to ring regularly for services.

After a year of restoration work an 'Inauguration Festival' of ringing was held in November 1868. This culminated in a peal rung by the St Stephen's Ringers from Bristol consisting of 5040 changes of Grandsire Triples, taking 2 hours 55 minutes. A rather splendid peal board hangs in the ringing room commemorating this first ever peal in the tower.

To mark the 150th anniversary of that first 'scientific' peal at St Peter's and the end of our 150th year of the Society, a band consisting of four resident members and four invited ringers met at St Peter's on Saturday 24th November to ring a similar peal of Grandsire Triples. Several members of the band are not regular peal ringers, so this was a significant achievement. We are grateful to our friends from Exeter for joining us to help:



Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Tiverton, Devon, St Peter
Saturday, 24 November 2018 in 3h 22
5040 Grandsire Triples
Composed by J Bruerton

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Timothy M Bayton | 5 John R Martin (C) |
| 2 Sheila J Scofield | 6 Mark Heritage |
| 3 Leslie E Boyce | 7 Matthew H Weighell |
| 4 Charlotte A Boyce | 8 Catherine G Thorpe |

First peal inside and on 8 bells - 6.

First peal on 8 - 8.

First Grandsire Triples - 4.

Rung to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the formation of the St Peter's Society and of the first peal in the tower.



The peal band (l-r): Tim, Catherine, Sheila, Matthew, Les, Mark, Charlotte. (John was taking the photo.)

Les Boyce



NE Branch End of Summer Holiday Ring



What a towerful! Trying to catch the last day of the school summer holiday we had a final young ringers' practice in the NE Branch. We had planned to ring at St Paul's, Tiverton where the bells are lighter and there is access to the church for handbells, theory, refreshments and space for fun. However the clock mechanism was having a wobbly so we had to decamp to St Peter's. I was not expecting it to be so popular, until we ended up with 22 people in the ringing room! We had nine young ringers, parents, siblings, friends and, as always, our wonderful adult helpers. Unperturbed by the weight of the bells Red and Fergus rang the 5th to call changes. The Cruwys Morchard gang took turns to ring or call the changes. The Bampton group rang Plain Hunt Doubles and Fergus managed a plain course of Plain Bob Doubles.

Fergus was awarded his Level 3 Certificate from the Learning the Ropes scheme. The photo is evidence of everyone's enjoyment.

Sheila Scofield

North/North West Branch

New Publicity Officer

You may have noticed that it is rare for the North/North West Branch to be represented in *Ringing Round Devon*. However that is about to change. I have had a phone call from Don Lawson (known to many of the well-established ringers) who lives in Ilfracombe and has been appointed as the N/NW Publicity Officer. Although he doesn't do much ringing now, he has promised to send information about the branch that can be published in RRD. So look out for the next issue!

Ian Campbell (Editor)

South-West Branch

Autumn Outing 2018 to Axminster



The South West Branch outside Axminster's Minster Church

The South West Branch autumn outing on September 8th was a personal request of mine, to visit Axminster and the surrounding Axe Valley which is where I grew up and so held a particular significance to me. We began our day at St Giles, Kilmington, a

lovely ring of six where we rang rounds and call changes, Plain Bob Doubles and Cambridge. The belfry at Kilmington is quite small, so we found ourselves standing at some unusual angles while ringing!

Next up was Axminster's Minster church. There are ten bells here, augmented from eight in 2006. Axminster is famous for its carpet factory, founded in 1755. In the past, each time a carpet was finished the bells are said to have been rung in celebration. In tribute to this connection, the ringing chamber is carpeted in a striking green and red Axminster design. We were joined by a member of the local band and rang rounds and call changes, Grandsire and Plain Bob Triples to name a few.

Lunch was next at the Hunters Lodge Inn. The carpet theme continued as, uncannily, the exact same design as we had seen in the ringing room was at the bar. Lunch was great, the portions were generous and the prices fair. We also had a chance to have a little play in the playground.

We burned off our pub lunches in Musbury, which were possibly the most challenging of the bells we came across on the outing. The six bells date back to 1785 and were rehung in an oak frame in 1896. This was a good chance for the less experienced ringers to have a go at bells that could be a little less predictable.



Playtime at the Hunters Lodge Inn

We travelled a short distance to Colyton, which was preparing for its annual carnival that evening, so was full of brightly lit floats and people in costume. The bells here are a rather heavy ring of eight. The most memorable moment for me was ringing Grandsire Doubles on the back six, which felt like ringing in slow motion!

Lastly, we arrived at Shute, a light ground floor ring of six bells. The light bells were a challenge to our newer ringers, but we managed from rounds and call changes to Bob Minor and Stedman.

It was a fantastic day out in the lovely Axe Valley, and for me, to ring the bells I used to hear while growing up was quite special. Thank you, Matthew, for organising the outing, and to everyone who came along to join us!

Elena Brake

Annual Dinner - Moorland Gardens Hotel

The South West annual dinner at Moorland Gardens Hotel took place on the 10th November. This year the meal was preceded by ringing and a service at Bere Ferrers where we rang a range of methods from rounds to Grandsire and Stedman. The service was attended by members from across the Branch, and others joined us later at the hotel. Dinner at the hotel was fantastic and well enjoyed by everyone, so much so that all 49 of us were distracted from taking any photos. So you'll have to take our word for it, everyone looked amazing!

Elena Brake

My First Ringing Competition



Roxanne receiving the Novice trophy from the judges, Steph Hills and Lynne Hughes

Hi, my name is Roxanne and I've recently rung in my first striking competition! I vaguely remember being asked to take part and was somewhat nervous and apprehensive as that would require having judges as an audience. I therefore said I would think about it, hoping that they would forget.

Some weeks passed and I saw the request appear for the competition team, at which point my name ended up on the list! Now I'm not an overly regular ringer as I only ring once a week on a Monday. This in mind, I didn't have much time for extra practice so the pressure was on. I found out that the three competition host towers were Emmanuel, Stoke Damerel and St Budeaux. I had rung at Emmanuel once before and St Budeaux is my regular tower so I did feel I had a little advantage there. However, I had never rung at Stoke and I had heard the bells were very light. This concerned me as my bell control isn't the greatest, especially under pressure. Fortunately, my fellow ringers and teachers supported me and told me that I would be fine.

When it came to the day I was tense and didn't know what to expect; most competitions I've been to before have been nothing like this. The fact that the first tower was not one I knew probably didn't help. As I walked towards the entrance I saw one of my fellow ringing team, which put me at ease. I was going to ring the tenor which is one of the lightest I have rung. During the five minute practice I had to learn to control the bell. Then the competition began. As a beginner I had not rung for any length of time before and didn't quite understand how long we had to ring. I managed to surprise myself in my ability to stay in place under pressure; maybe it was beginner's luck!

There was not much time to spare before ringing at St Budeaux so we left Stoke swiftly. I was bearing gifts of homemade chocolate brownies for any visitors and ringers at St Budeaux and maybe a bit of bribery for the judges! I was much more comfortable here in my home tower with its ground floor ringing room. I rang quite comfortably and my brownies were a big hit with the people that tried them. On completing this ringing, there were a couple of hours to spare before my final competition entry. I strolled over to Emmanuel to get a cup of tea while we were waiting our turn. I was glad of the rest because my arms were aching a little at this point.

During the lunch break I took advantage of the food that was available which was being sold to raise money for the local scouts. Our team had the pleasure of ringing with the judges before the competition recommenced; we thought this might give us bonus points but it appeared not! My lack of confidence and the pressure of being amongst the judges obviously got to me as my striking was off. When they finally left we got a bit more practice time while they positioned themselves. I feel I didn't ring as well as I might have here but I was probably tiring by this point as it was the most ringing I had done in one day and probably a month!

I was asked if I would collect the trophy on behalf of St Budeaux if we won, as this was my local tower and my first competition. I

didn't worry too much as I didn't feel I was nearly good enough to win anything yet. Unpredictably, when the scores were read out for the six-bell novice competition, we were given first prize, which meant I had to get up to collect the trophy and a certificate. Our team didn't come last in any of the events which was pleasing and the criticism from the judges was constructive. I was amazed at the near perfection of some of the ringing and the low number of faults given. I did also wonder how good I need to be not to be called a novice anymore. Overall, it was a good day, nice weather and a positive experience which I will be a bit more willing to participate in next year. Maybe even try to get another certificate.

Roxanne Jeyes

Quarter Peal Festival

The Quarter Peal Festival took place between Friday 19th October and Sunday 4th November. There were 27 successful attempts in 22 separate locations. Donations raised almost £400, which has been forwarded to the bell restoration fund (DCBRF). Well over half of this total was raised by the North East Branch, who organised a series of targeted quarters (of which 11 were scored).

BRIDESTOWE - 1260 Grandsire Doubles
TIVERTON ST PETER - 1260 Grandsire Triples
HUNTSHAM - 1260 Doubles (2m)
HUNTSHAM - 1260 Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place Doubles
HONITON ST PAUL - 1260 Plain Bob Minor
EXETER Handbells - 1296 Little Bob Major
RACKENFORD - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles
BUCKFAST ABBEY - 1260 Grandsire Triples
SIDMOUTH - 1260 Grandsire Triples
CRUWYS MORCHARD - 1260 Plain Bob Minor
EXETER CATHEDRAL - 1277 Stedman Cinques
HUNTSHAM - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles
EXETER Handbells - 1260 St Clement's College Bob Triples
BERRY POMEROY - 1260 Plain Bob Minor
COMBE RALEIGH Handbells - 1272 Plain Bob Minimus
LITTLEHAM (EXMOUTH) - 1250 Lincolnshire Surprise Major
HUNTSHAM - 1260 Plain Bob Minor
KINGSTEIGNTON Handbells - 1260 Plain Bob Minor
BUCKFAST ABBEY - 1259 Grandsire Caters
HEMYOCK - 1260 Stedman Doubles
PINHOE - 1280 Spliced Surprise Major (6m)
STOKE CANON - 1300 Plain Bob Doubles
BUCKFAST ABBEY - 1320 Grandsire Cinques
KENTISBEARE - 1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor
UPTON PYNE - 1272 Spliced Surprise Minor (3m)
BERE FERRERS - 1260 Plain Bob Minor
TOPSHAM - 1272 Norwich Surprise Minor.

The following ringing milestones were achieved. **First inside:** Jess Sully, Les Tosdevin. **First of Minor:** Peter Simpson, Sally Jackson, Steve Jackson, Theo Millard, Vickie Ward. **First on eight:** Trevor Hitchcock. **First in hand:** Delie Perry. **500th quarter peal:** Sue Sturdy. There were also a number of firsts in various methods

What is the future of the event? The number of attempts, and monies raised, is gradually decreasing whilst the length of the event has increased from a week to sixteen days. Perhaps it is time to rethink the concept - please forward any suggestion(s) you might have to quarterpealsec@devonringers.org.uk.

James Kirkcaldy



Notable Ringing Events

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Shepton Beauchamp, Somerset, St Michael

Monday, 17 September 2018 in 3h 15

5040 Bristol Surprise Maximus

Composed by J N Hughes D'Aeth

1 Ian W Avery

7 Timothy M Payne

2 Alison C Waterson

8 Ian V J Smith

3 Pauline McKenzie

9 Richard Harrison

4 Matthew J Hilling

10 Joseph St J Beaumont

5 Rebecca J Harrison

11 Oliver Coldrick

6 Jennifer R Sparling

12 Michael E C Mears (C)

First Bristol S Maximus: 5

Rung to send Rebecca Harrison off to University with a peal of

Bristol Max under her belt!

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Exeter, Devon, Flat 5, 155 Magdalen Road

Wednesday, 31 October 2018 in 2h 40

5040 London (No 3) Surprise Royal

Composed by GAC John

1-2 Andrew P Digby

3-4 Susan D Sparling

5-6 David G Maynard (C)

7-8 Matthew J Hilling

9-10 Oliver Coldrick

First peal of London Royal on handbells: 1-2, 3-4, 9-10 and as conductor

First peal of London Royal on handbells for the Guild

London on any number of handbells is an achievement. Well done.

Mike Mears

Training

Guild Kaleidoscope Training Day

Our Kaleidoscope training day on 3rd November at Thorverton was a very enjoyable day indeed. All the ringers have been ringing for a year or more. A strong amity developed between group members of all ages, along with helpers providing much needed support. We had travelled from Sidmouth and my role as a new recruit was to try and understand the theory behind Kaleidoscope, including some more advanced patterns. This attempt started very well as I focused on the bell that Cheryl was ringing along with following the printed theory sheet. YES! I had thought to myself I can see the patterns, and most importantly, hear the changes in rhythm. As the patterns became more complex I started to drift into a peaceful state of blissful confusion, awakened by Tim saying 'Lorraine, you look totally lost'. So true!

However, a month has now passed, and we all progress in our ringing, enjoying simulator lessons and ringing with our tower bands. The training day was priceless as we learn from each other.

Perhaps, the most important lesson for all us new bell ringers from the Ringing Remembers project is trying to study and understand the theory and aural training needed for bell ringing. This was achieved at the training day for the more advanced ringers.

For those of us reading this article, in particularly the new recruits who, like myself, find bell ringing a challenge, I find that being sandwiched between two experienced ringers who have a quiet relaxed disposition can only enhance our improvement as we tune into this natural energy flow. We cannot all be like the new celebrity ringer, Harrison, who rang at the parish church in Ambridge on Sunday 11th November: perfection in rounds and call changes. Some would argue that the radio soap opera, *The Archers* on BBC Radio 4 is not real. Now, that's a whole new debate!

Lorraine Niblett

The Three Hares

A Cruwys Morchard and Rackenford Ringers' Adventure

On Wednesday 18th April 2018 we reached the end of an adventure, a project combining a pleasant mixture of bell ringing, socialising and history on nine separate expeditions. The idea came from a leaflet entitled *The Three Hares Trail* found in a church.

For those in the dark about the three Hares – what are they?

Well, some of them were indeed in the dark, high up in the roofs of little country churches. Photos were difficult to get but here are one or two you might be able to make head or tail of, or if not head or tail, at least ears!

The Three Hares, running in a circle, form a fascinating and ancient mythological symbol that has been found all over the world. The earliest examples date from 581AD and were found in Buddhist caves in China. They are thought to have been brought on the silk route to Britain where they are found mainly in medieval churches as carved roof bosses. Devon has by far the most, with seventeen churches containing a total of twenty-nine bosses. They are all different, but in the centre of each one, the ears of the hares form a triangle, which gives the illusion that they each have two ears, when in fact they only have one!



So, on Wednesday 16th July 2016 we set out on our first ringing and hare-hunting expedition. And over the following twenty-one months we visited all seventeen of the churches listed in the leaflet. We made one trip every two or three months. The usual pattern was to visit two churches each time, ring the bells, find the hares (staring upwards into lofty roofs, looking for that triangle of ears to help us spot the bosses we were searching for), and have a pub lunch in between.

Here are the churches we visited:-

16th July 2016: *South Tawton* and *Kelly*. Lunch was at the Castle Inn, Lydford, where there is a stained glass window depicting the Three Hares.



South Tawton



21st September 2016: *Sampford Courtenay* and *Spreyton*, plus the tiny church at *Honeychurch*. No hares here but three mediaeval bells instead.

30th November 2016: *Ashreigney* and *Iddesleigh*.

22nd February 2017: *Cheriton Bishop* and *Throwleigh*.

24th May 2017: *North Bovey* and *Ilington*. Not a pub lunch this time but a picnic on Hay Tor.

30th August 2017: *Newton St Cyres* and *Broadclyst*.

18th October 2017: *Paignton*. Only one Three Hares church this time, but a wonderful trip on the steam train down to *Kingswear* and a ring on the three bells there.

28th February 2018: *Chagford* and *Bridford*.

18th April 2018: *Tavistock* and *Widcombe-in-the-Moor*. The grand finale at the end of a fantastic and fascinating adventure.



Tavistock

Widcombe-in-the-Moor

To summarise: over the nine outings we had

- 1 visited a lot of beautiful places we would probably never had gone to otherwise;
- 2 improved our ringing and our ability to tackle bells new to us;
- 3 come to love that ancient and mysterious symbol the Three Hares, forever chasing each other round in a circle, their shared ears forming the now familiar triangle in the middle.

Our grateful thanks go to the extra North East Branch ringers who we roped in to ring with us at the eight-bell towers, and also to James Kirkcaldy who helped us at Broadclyst and Ian Smith and Donna Baker at Tavistock.

Nellie Croft

Editorial

Rather than the usual Christmas holly I have asked John Foster to decorate this edition of RRD with poppies. It seems to me that the Ringing Remembers and Battle's Over initiatives combine to be one of the most inspiring ringing occasions that I can remember. From the Education Officer Tim Bayton's initial brainwave, to intensive training sessions all over the county, the rather

unexpected result (to me) was that dozens of new recruits appeared and were able to ring for Remembrance Sunday. Some rang in their own towers (often more than once) and at least one rang his first quarter peal, while others were treated to what became a grand local ringing outing, enabling the bells at many rather out of the way villages to be heard at some time on that day. Some detailed comments are in this issue and further details are available on BellBoard which has over 3000 recorded performances associated with the event. Let's hope that the benefits are continued; already there are several towers around Exeter that were previously silent where the bells are now rung regularly while the enthusiasm of the new ringers is amazing. All of this has only been possible by the extremely hard and continued effort by a large number of tutors all over the county: thank you all.

By the time you read this Christmas will be well underway, starting for many with the ringers' carol service at Buckfast Abbey. So it remains for me to wish you all a very happy Christmas and lots of rewarding bell ringing.

Ian Campbell

Calendar

January

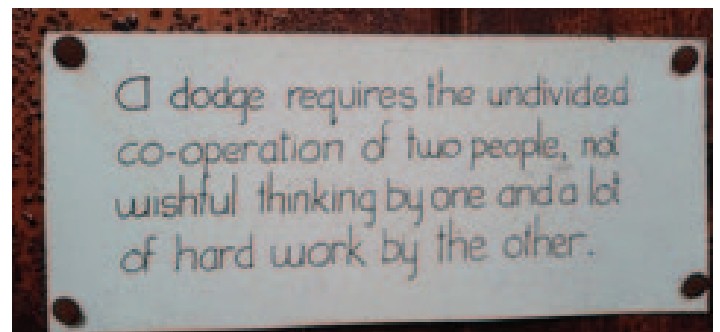
Sat 12		ART Module 1 (Teaching Bell Handling), South Hams	Guild
Sat 12	14:00	Introduction to 10-Bell Ringing	Guild
Sat 26		Branch Activities & AGM 2019, TBC	South West

February

Sat 9	15:00	Branch AGM & ringing, Sidbury	East
Sat 23	10:00	Learning to call touches	Guild

March

Sun 17	12:30	Young Ringers' Practice DenMisch Simulated Campanile	Young Ringers
Sat 23		ART Module 2F (Teaching from Rounds to Plain Hunt)	Guild



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