

Ringling Round Devon



THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

Newsletter 110, June 2018

St George's Day in East Devon

In past years the East Devon Branch has tried to make a strong statement on St George's Day. Indeed, in 2016 Anne Bailey managed to persuade virtually every tower to ring in a rolling ring, one tower starting as another finished, for almost twelve hours of continuous ringing. This year was a little more subdued, but still a number of towers including Awliscombe, who rang Devon call changes, Combe Raleigh (asked to wear red and white), Honiton St Paul's (ringing a quarter peal), Offwell and Sidmouth took part, ringing a variety of things to mark the date. Pride of place should go to Honiton St Paul's who rang a quarter peal of four methods, (Grandsire, April Day, St Martin's and St Simon's), conducted by Lisa Clarke, which was a first quarter for Sally Church, one of her pupils. Well done Sally.



St Paul's Quarter Peal band: Richard Howe 6, Derek Ballard 5, Lisa Clarke (c) 4, David Barrance 3, Sue Barrance 2 and Sally Church 1.



Combe Raleigh and visitors: Jean Patch, Pauline McKenzie, Stan Thompson, Lisa Clarke, Trevor Hitchcock, Barbara Thorne, John Thorne, Ashleigh Ford Cosens, Alan Champion, Pam Bailey, Sally Church and Janet Reynolds.

Trevor Hitchcock

Guild Events

Central Council Report

26th to 28th May 2018

'The car has been serviced; where do we go from here?'

We ring in exciting and interesting times. Times of change. Times of open possibilities. Even the meeting arrangements were different: organised by Council officers, not a local guild, and taking place at a university (Lancaster) as a corporate package – something which is due to continue. Naturally there were teething problems with this, but the overall event went well.

Fergus Stracey and I attended as Guild reps, both being there by the start of the formal meetings on the Sunday afternoon. The Ringing World AGM reported the usual problems of income and falling subscriber numbers, but promised that if they go to fortnightly, they will give at least a year's notice. There was then a choice of two open meetings, and most of us chose the one on Constitutional Reform, the better to understand the following day's proceedings. In another departure from tradition, the main Central Council meeting opened late on the Sunday to cover some routine matters before adjourning to the following day.

Monday dawned and we took our seats for the culmination of two years' anticipation of major constitutional reform of the Council. These new rules have been drafted and re-drafted with public input over the year, and carefully checked by the Charity Commission and other independent experts, so there was little doubt they would be accepted, but there was still a couple of hours' debate, sparked and kept going by a few individuals, before the changes were voted on and accepted by a very large majority. Applause and celebration all round!

So what does this mean? The unwieldy Victorian structure has finally been replaced by a simpler, more user-friendly, flexible organisation. The fifteen committees have been replaced by five more sensible workgroups, who report to the trustees, who in turn are accountable to Council members (ie the Guild reps). This is the governance model of most UK charities.

It was a minimal, limited reform, the objects modernised yet fundamentally the same, the representative structure maintained.

What about rumours of it bringing in a smaller council, fewer reps, direct membership, change of name and branding? None of these are covered in the new rules: they are a framework for decision making, they don't dictate any future decisions. The rules are agnostic, but it is now easier to go in any direction. The analogy was given of servicing a car's engine to make it more efficient, but the engine doesn't decide where it goes from here, we do. Interesting times indeed.

Lynne Hughes

On-line Tower Handbook

As announced in *The Ringing World*, The Tower Handbook is now on line at: <http://jaharrison.me.uk/thb/>

The book went out of print in 2013. Putting 400+ pages of A5 online as PDF wouldn't be very sensible but converting it to a website was non-trivial. I put the glossary (section 15) online in 2014 but converting the rest was quite a big task - hence the delay. Inevitably it will contain some errors, so if you find any please let me know.

John Harrison

Guild AGM and Festival

16th June 2018

The AGM and festival is being held at St Paul's Church, Devon Square, Newton Abbot TQ12 2HN. Note that this church has no bells so does not appear in *Dove*.

Refreshments will be available at St Paul's Hall with drinks and biscuits from 10:00 and a light buffet lunch between 12:30 and 13:15.

10:00-11:00 Open Ringing: St Mary's, Wolborough, 8 bells 15cwt.

10:30-11:30 Open Ringing: St Bartholomew's, East Ogwell, 6 bells 5cwt

10:00-12:00 Handbell Workshop: St Paul's Hall

12:00-12:30 Safeguarding Update: St Paul's Hall

13.00 Baking Competition Judging: St Paul's Hall. Please bring bell related bakes for judging followed by auction/sale of entries.

13:45-14:15 Service: St Paul's Church, Newton Abbot

14:30-16:00 AGM: St Paul's Hall

16:30-17:15 Open Ringing: St Leonard's Clocktower, Newton Abbot, 8 bells 7cwt

Richard Bowden

Richard Bowden of Bristol (formerly of Tiverton) died on 4th April following a long fight with Alzheimer's disease. He was a vice president of the Guild and rang at Tiverton St Peter to mark VE day in 1945. His funeral was held on Friday 8th followed by a service of thanksgiving for his life at Holy Trinity, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol.

John Martin

On-line Guild Resources

A trial project to make available digital copies of key resources in the Guild Library is underway. The **Guild Annual Reports** for the First and Second World War years (1910 - 1920 & 1936 - 1950) are available from the Guild website. Select 'The Guild' and 'Library' for further information. You can browse the report for a particular year by clicking on "Browse from GDR Home" and then opening the folder 'gdr001' to see all the years available. You are recommended to use the pdf version of each report to get the clearest view of the text. Searching for personal names or places using the

ocr text and the search box is unlikely to give a reliable, definitive search as text conversion by ocr from older documents is very prone to error. This resource has been made available to assist researchers wishing to check for ringers in rolls of honour and on war memorials.

Aylesbeare Branch

Commemorating the first ladies' band at Topsham

In the ringing chamber of Topsham church, there is an aluminium plaque recording the first time that the bells were rung by an all ladies' band on Easter Sunday, 31st March 1918.



We felt it was important to commemorate this event and began researching the reasons behind it. In March 1918, the First World War continued into its fourth year, causing dwindling numbers of male ringers across the country. Not least in Topsham, where the tower entry in the 1917 report for the Guild of Devonshire Ringers records 'we have rung occasionally, with outside help, members home on leave, etc. We have started a ladies' band and hope to get enough to form a band of six'. This initiative was clearly a success as in 1918 it is then recorded 'we have rung regularly with the help of visitors and our lady members, who have got on extremely well with the handling of bells and are now getting on with the science of change ringing'.

Seven weeks prior to the Easter Sunday ring, the Representation of the Peoples Act was passed on 6th February 1918, which gave the vote to women aged over 30 and holding property (universal suffrage was not introduced for all those over the age of 21 until 1928). Whilst it seems the ladies' ring was not specifically to commemorate this event, I have no doubt that the reason for it being recorded so proudly in the tower was very much a reflection of the changing times.

Topsham ringers were very enthusiastic and wanted to commemorate the occasion by ringing with an all-female band on Easter Sunday this year, one hundred years and one day on from the original ring, particularly as three of the members had relatives who were suffragettes. With a range of abilities and many other commitments that meant practice as a group was difficult, the ladies nevertheless were determined to do their predecessors proud. Easter Sunday was a celebratory occasion at St Margaret's. With



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the doors to the tower open to allow the congregation to watch, they rang both call changes and some well struck courses of plain hunt in the lead up to Sunday service. This was interspersed by ringing from the rest of the band to let them catch their breath! It was a fitting way to commemorate such an important event in the tower's history and we intend to place a new plaque in the tower to record the occasion.



L-R: Back: Gay Harris, Le Gardner and Lily Neal
Front: Ros Kinloch, Vicky Brady and Freya Richold

Matt Pym, Tower Captain

Work on Aylesbeare Bells



On 14th April 1918 Lieutenant Eric Brutton MC was killed in action in Belgium. The treble at Aylesbeare was given in his memory by his father who was then the vicar. It was installed above the original five bells in a separate steel frame.



A commemoration plaque in the church

In order to commemorate his death it was planned to ring the bells on the same date in 2018. However following a check by the Guild bell inspectors it was found that the fittings on this bell were in rather poor condition – several parts of the wheel shrouding were missing and part of the remainder was rubbing against the frame, the Hastings stay was the wrong size and inadequately fitted, the metalwork holding the slider was very badly rusted and the bearings were not functioning as well as would be expected.

A working party was rapidly convened (Neil Deem, Ian Avery, Rob Franklin and Ian Campbell) with only a couple of days to go. The worst of the problems were sorted out together with some general maintenance on the other five bells including loosening a number of pulleys and tightening the frame.

The bells were then rung by Ian Avery and his band on the appointed day.

The work is not yet complete – some of the steelwork on the treble bell has been replaced by Neil Deem and Rob Franklin but an investigation into the poor performance of the bearings still needs to be done.

Ian Campbell

Clear-up at Clyst St George



A little of the nesting material found under the frame

Having experienced problems with the ropes at Clyst St George, we were delighted with the offer from an anonymous donor to pay for a set of new ropes and ordered these from Mendip Ropes. However, before fitting them, we



Probably a part of the old wooden frame and the bellhanger's name?

found that birds had accessed the bell chamber and tried to build nests there, having managed to get in via a faulty roof door.

Now, Clyst St George has a metal H-frame which I have difficulty getting around, so with a lot of help from Sue (tower captain at Sowton), who is slim and flexible, we removed sixteen sacks of twigs and other nasty stuff. During the course of our work we found a piece of wood with carvings on it, which you can see in the photo. We assume it to be part of a wooden frame. We know the church was hit by an incendiary bomb towards the end of WW2 and that the bells had to be recast, but we have not been able as yet to learn more about the piece of wood.

We have now fitted the new polyester-topped ropes and adjusted the bolt on the door to the roof, so we should not suffer the embarrassment of a broken rope during a peal attempt, which occurred recently.

John Langabeer

East Devon Branch

First Peal at Combe Raleigh

Three Plus Three, last in the series

'Thank goodness they've taken the gags off us for a while,' said Poole. 'I find it most uncomfortable.'

'Yes,' said Philippa, 'and I find it most odd just swinging here and not being able to sing out,'

'Worse than that,' said Little Me, 'they do insist on tightening the clamp around my tongue so hard.'

'For the last few weeks we seem to have been tongue-tied far more than any reasonable person can stand.' Tenor was feeling especially grumpy: 'it's not as if I've been asked to do anything, they just put the tie on then take it off again.'

'Well good for you,' said Treble, 'Poole and I seem to have been working our socks off.'

'I think,' said Philippa and before she had a chance to continue, Buoy burst in, 'you think, I wondered why you looked so strained,'

'Now, now,' interjected Little Me, 'we all promised not to make nasty comments about each other.'

Philippa continued, 'I think they are planning some big piece of ringing. I heard the older man say something about ringing a peal and you know they often practise on a single bell.'

'A peal,' cried Little Me, 'that's three hours of non-stop ringing.'

'Three hours! I don't know if I can last that long,' protested Treble.

'Child's stuff,' said Buoy 'why, I remember being in a fierce

Atlantic storm when I didn't stop ringing for nearly a week. The sea always sorts out the men from the boys. Three hours is nothing.'

'Well, it may be nothing to you, but it's quite long enough for most of us,' said Little Me. 'And I'm quite concerned if the old man has to ring it. I'm sure I heard someone say he should be careful after having had a heart attack a little while ago.'

Treble had been pondering the practicalities. 'Well, there is little we can do bar answering the pull of the ropes. I just hope they don't make too many mistakes or people listening might think it's our fault. It would be dreadful if they had to abandon it and start again.'

'Shush,' whispered Philippa, 'There's someone down below and we don't want them to hear us talking.'

'No,' said Buoy in a deep rumble, 'and it might help us to hear what they are saying.'

'Here we go!' Philippa felt the first firm pull on the rope and soon they were all mouths open to the sky. After a short time ringing and some confusion they heard the call 'stand!'

More muttered conversation was heard from below and they were off again. This time there was no confusion and the rhythm rolled sweetly on, tune succeeding tune, seven in all, until they heard 'that's all' and they were all stood.

As the senior member, at least by age, Little Me was first to speak. 'Well done everybody, that's something I've never done before in all my six hundred years, a full peal. I bet the ringers below are feeling quite pleased with themselves, elated even, and so they should be. Both bells and ringers have earned their keep today.'

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

St Nicholas, Combe Raleigh, Devon

Saturday, 28 April 2018 in 2h 50m (5-2-19 in B)

5040 Doubles (5m/1v)

720 each Grandsire, April Day, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure

Place, St Martin's Bob, St Simon's Bob and 1440 Plain Bob

1 Trevor Hitchcock (Philippa) 4 Lisa Clarke (C) (Treble)

2 P Wendy Campbell (Buoy) 5 Ian L C Campbell (Little Me)

3 David Hird (Poole) 6 Stanley Thompson (Tenor)

First peal: 1 (aged 79 years & 180 days) & 6.

First peal as Conductor: 4.

First peal on the restored and augmented bells. Rung by a band involved in the project from the start. The third was donated by the ringer of 3.



The peal band in order left to right

The three Combe Raleigh ringers, 1, 4 and 6 wish to thank everyone who helped to make this possible and especially to Wendy, David and Ian for their support on the day of the peal.

Trevor Hitchcock

Note from Trevor Hitchcock to the Other Ringers:

Dear All, please accept my heartfelt thanks for enabling me to achieve one of my wilder dreams. I never truly believed that I would ever ring a peal and without you I would not. I shall be eternally grateful. My one regret, (other than wasting the first 70 years of my life by not ringing), was in not being able to ring Stedman. I really want you to know that I appreciate all your support and encouragement. Thank you.

Trevor Hitchcock

Reply:

Dear Trevor, this was an amazing achievement, with first peals for two of you and Lisa's first as conductor, not to mention all the work that went into getting six bells at Combe. Those of us drafted in to help were very proud to be a part of your celebration.

Ian Campbell

On Ringing a First Peal

Readers who remember an earlier article 'On ringing a Quarter Peal' will be aware that I came to ringing rather late in life, my 70th birthday being long gone. A peal was far beyond any expectations I might have had, after all, weren't they only rung by the elite of the Exercise? The 2015 challenge of getting 300 new first pealers was a target that wasn't going to include me. Recovering from a heart attack wasn't good preparation and in any case I wasn't, (many would say, I'm still not), much of a ringer and the number of people I knew who rang peals I could count on one finger.

Imagine my surprise then, when earlier this year I had a telephone call from our lovely lady tower captain to say 'how do you fancy ringing a peal?' It didn't take much thought to say 'I'd love to, but I'm not sure that I could.' 'Well,' said the LLTC, 'I have a plan, now we have six bells at Combe Raleigh, we really should ring a peal and I would like you to be in it.' You could have knocked me down with a feather, but the more I thought about it the more I liked the idea. 'When were you thinking of ringing it and what would we ring?' Being assured that it was not imminent and the method to be rung would be within my capabilities, I was happy to agree. There followed many, many hours on the simulator to get into my head all that I would need to know for it to have any chance of success.

Seven different methods was a challenge and one in particular was proving difficult to master. Just a week before we were due to ring, I began to gain a little confidence, that with luck it might be possible. I now know that relying on luck to see you through a peal is not a good strategy. 'Don't worry, I have a back-up plan, if needed', was not entirely reassuring.

Five days before and I took a chunk of flesh out of a finger with some nutcrackers, not a good omen, and when the night before the peal I scalded a thumb, it seemed doomed. The domestic difficulties were partly due to the distaff side having a heart attack a few days earlier; my mind was not entirely on the ringing, or much else.

The morning dawned and we gathered in the tower, three from Combe Raleigh and three from Exeter Cathedral, for a peal to be conducted by Lisa, our LLTC. Regretfully, it was necessary to put the back-up plan into operation. Two hours and fifty minutes later the most beautiful sound of 'that's all' signalled that the age of miracles is not past and thanks to support from some very special people one of my wilder dreams had been realised at the advanced age of 79 years and 180 days. To say I was pleased is an understatement: ecstatic, euphoric even, might better describe my feelings at that time.

To my fellow ringers, Wendy, David, Lisa, Ian and Stan a big thank you: without your help and encouragement it wouldn't have happened. To everyone who supported the Combe Raleigh bell project thank you for making it possible for us to ring the first ever peal on six bells at St Nicholas.

Trevor Hitchcock

Ringling for The Stag



Coronations, Royal weddings, even the birth of Princes and Princesses, are all occasions that we ringers enjoy celebrations by 'catching hold'. So it came as no surprise when four novice ringers from Rackenford contacted Nellie Croft, tower captain at Cruwys Morchard, to suggest an equally important event that would benefit from the sound of bells to welcome it.

For far too long, the Stag Inn at Rackenford, possibly the oldest inn in Devon, had been closed, making the village centre dark and quiet in the evenings. It was with joy that the villagers were looking forward to it opening under new ownership. The building had been restored to a very high conservation standard, in keeping with its important listing, so it was with much excitement that the band, augmented with a couple of Cruwys Morchard ringers, raised the bells to welcome the opening of the doors. Two ringers, Dennis and Sharon, who had only just started to learn to ring, had spent the day polishing glasses and cleaning floors. We rang some good rounds and a little plain hunt and were pleased with the sound. Later, in the pub, the sense of community was evident in everyone's face. What a joyous way to open an inn!

Liz Chadwick

Axminster: 'Welcome Back to Ringing' Quarter Peal

On a lovely warm Saturday afternoon in May, a group of ringers met at the Minster Church of St Mary's in Axminster to ring a quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles. The aim was to welcome Anne Burn after a 37 year break from ringing, the band being augmented with experienced ringers from neighbouring towers.

Anne joined the Axminster band in 2017 and with the help of regular practice in Honiton she was soon back up to speed with change ringing. At her previous tower of St Mary, Brecon, Anne particularly enjoyed ringing Grandsire, and as I wanted to ring my first quarter peal in the method this seemed like the obvious choice. It had been 49 years since Anne's last quarter peal and so it took a little gentle

coercion for her to agree, but she took up the challenge with determination and after a few sessions our ringing simulator was soon confident to give it a go.

David Barrance from Lyme Regis agreed to conduct. He started us off gently with a quick 60 before unleashing Morris's 240. All went well until the third part when we became irretrievably confused and despite David's valiant attempts to unpick the mess we had to call an end to it. However, unwilling to accept defeat we restarted the attempt and this time completed in a spritely 41 minutes.

Axminster, The Minster Church of St Mary

Saturday, 12 May 2018 in 41 minutes

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Trevor Hitchcock

4 Anne Burn

2 Lisa Clarke

5 David Barrance (C)

3 Peter Simpson

6 Paddy Priscott

The first quarter peal after a 49 year break for Anne Burn.



The band in order, left to right

Peter Simpson

Fred at Combe Raleigh

As mid-summer approaches and you enjoy the balmy English summer weather you probably never give a thought to winter. That's the time when we tend to get drab, dreary wet days, in case you've forgotten. The time when the ropes take up any moisture in the air and act more like wire cables. At such a time everyone should have a Fred, (Friendly Rope End Drier). At Combe Raleigh we are fortunate in that we have a nice dry tower, but we still can't control the moisture in the air. Over the years several innovative solutions to the problem have been aired in Ringing Round Devon. We had a small antique table in the centre of our ringing chamber and more in jest than as a serious suggestion it was proposed that a hole be cut in the centre to hold the pipe forming the main body of Fred. The owner of the table, (it was on loan), wasn't too keen on that idea; however, it did give him the germ of an idea. A month or so later a new table appeared, made from part of a wardrobe (we don't know where he hangs his clothes now). In the centre was a large hole with a circular inset, in which was set a matching disc, and a very fine table it made. Then along came Fred, basically a length of drainpipe with a light bulb at the bottom which gives just enough heat to gently warm and dry the rope ends. With Fred removed we have a splendid table that anyone would be happy to own. When Laurence was asked if he shouldn't perhaps be in the furniture trade we got the answer 'I retired from it once and I'm not going back into it'. So, sorry, it seems that you will have to make your own, but if you want to see how it's done take a look at the accompanying photographs. Thanks Laurence.



Table with rope drier installed



With drier removed – note how the hole is neatly filled

Trevor Hitchcock – Combe Raleigh

Exeter Branch

Train outing, 7th May 2018

Around two dozen ringers participated in the Exeter Branch May Bank Holiday train outing, which this year took place to Taunton with a walking ringing tour around four towers.

The day started early for many by arriving at Exeter St David's train station soon after 8am. Following a late cancellation of the original train several people were delayed into Taunton, but thankfully everyone was still able to arrive in time for a good ring at the first tower, St James.

We then set off on foot with a very pleasant 20 minute walk across Vivary Park to St George's, Wilton. We were greeted by glorious sunny weather on the walk, which later turned out to be the warmest day of the year so far. After ringing we had an excellent lunch at the Vivary Arms pub next to the church.



Ringers arriving at St Georges in the sunshine, after a walk through Vivary Park.

Following lunch we set off on foot again, retracing our steps across Vivary Park with several ringers taking the opportunity to have an ice cream in the exceptional spring warmth. We then rang on the new twelve at St Mary Magdalene, which is the tall tower near to the Somerset County Cricket ground.



Ringing at the new ring of 12 at St Mary Magdalene.

The final tower of the day was the very light ring of six at St Andrew's, before catching an early evening train back to Exeter. A very enjoyable day was had by all and thanks go to David Maynard (Branch Ringing Master) for arranging the towers.



Many of the ringers outside the last tower of the day.

Rob Neal, Exeter Branch Secretary

The Garage Ring in a Lounge!



A new location for the 'garage' ring!

I moved into my property last year and was wanting to ring a quarter peal and / or peal. The normal means of achieving this is to ring handbells, but a check with Ian Avery indicated that the Frank Mack Garage ring would fit. The ring was delivered and installed in February. The first problem was assembling a band for a quarter peal. This proved trickier than expected but eventually five other ringers were booked for Sunday 4th March. The first attempt lasted a few minutes when it became apparent that second was so odd struck that intervention was required. Additional weight was added to the clapper and a second attempt was made. That lasted all but two courses of a quarter peal when the weight dropped off and the clapper again gave issues. Undaunted, we set off a third time and successfully rang a quarter peal.

Exeter, Devon

Frank Mack Ring (at 1 The Villa, Cowick Lane)

Sunday, 4 March 2018 in 25 min (1lb 9 5oz)

1272 Cambridge Surprise Minor

1 Graham Tucker

2 Tim Bayton

3 James Kirkcaldy (C)

First quarter at the location.

4 Lesley Tucker

5 Oliver Bates

6 David Hird

Having scored that, my thoughts turned to a peal attempt. It again proved tricky to find a date and band. Eventually five ringers were booked for Saturday 7th April. Three attempts were again required. The first lasted a few minutes before the aforementioned clapper again caused problems, this time the ball parting company with rest of the assembly. A second attempt lasted just over two extents. At this point we decided to adjourn for tea and light refreshments! With two hours remaining, before our Indian restaurant meal was booked, it was agreed to make one last attempt. This time the peal was successfully rung with some changes to the methods originally selected.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Exeter (The Villa), Devon

The Frank Mack Garage Ring

Saturday, 7 April 2018 in 1:48 (1lb 9½oz in F)

5040 Surprise Minor (7 Methods)

Durham, York, Bourne, Ipswich, Beverley, Surfleet, Cambridge

1 Lester J Yeo

4 Charlotte A Boyce

2 Oliver C Bates

5 David Hird

3 John R Martin

6 James Kirkcaldy (C)

Remembering Richard Bowden who rang in the first peal on these bells.

Circled the ring - 1.

First peal at this location



The Peal Band (photo by John Martin)

James Kirkcaldy

Exeter Colleges Guild

Celebration at the Wednesday Handbell Group

If you have ever tried ringing handbells you will know that it is not as easy as you might hope and the only way to progress is to have regular practice sessions under a competent and dedicated conductor. The Exeter Colleges Guild have been ringing handbells ever since its inauguration with the first peal being rung in 1968. To keep up the expertise a handbell group was set up at the University of Exeter in the autumn of 2001, ringing on Wednesday lunchtimes. The group is led by Matthew Hilling and continues to this day. A large number of people, mostly students of the University have passed through and many are still ringing handbells, as was seen in the previous issue of RRD where the 50th anniversary of the first peal was remembered during a day of handbell ringing.

Matthew is now leaving the employ of the University and the practice on 6th June was disrupted by a bottle of bubbly and cakes provided by the ringers to thank him for his patient guidance and leadership. Two of the ringers (Ian

Campbell and David Maynard) were part of the original group from 2001.

It is hoped that the group can continue to run. Matt is likely to be enjoying a work-free summer and will still come into the University on Wednesdays. Alice, Sarah and Oliver work on the campus so can still come (hopefully one of them is able to book rooms!) and others are happy to travel in each time.



L to R: Ian Campbell, Oliver Coldrick, Sarah Chadburn, Nathan Evans, Matt Hilling, Alice Holden and David Maynard

Ian Campbell

John Keates (ECG 1973-74)

ECG members were sorry to hear that John Keates (1973-74) passed away on 24th March. He had been ill for some time and moved into a care home last year. There was a service of remembrance/thanksgiving for the life of John on Monday 16th April at Haddenham in Buckinghamshire where he was formerly tower captain and ringing master.

Matt Hilling / Ian Campbell

Mid-Devon Branch

Carol Bill

Carol Bill, wife of Peter, died on Friday 16th March in Rowcroft Hospice, Torquay, following a long, brave fight against cancer. The congregation of around 200 at the funeral at Lanscove on 23rd March included many ringers, some of whom manned the chime of eight hemispherical bells before the service and rang handbells during it.

Carol learnt to ring at Denbury and rang at Staverton, while Peter has been a member of the Exeter Cathedral band and the mid-Devon branch for many years. We send our sincere condolences to him and his family.

Martin Mansley/Ian Campbell

Extracts from Tower Talk

Branch Centenary

Recent research has revealed that the idea of splitting the Guild into branches was passed at the Guild AGM in 1919 and the six original branches were formed over the next few months. The first meeting of the mid-Devon branch was held in January 1920, which means that we are fast approaching our centenary. Research is ongoing into the early history and over the next few months we hope to publish some of our findings. At the same time, we would be delighted to hear from some of our more senior members with any memories they may have of early activities and personalities. We realise that it is unlikely that anyone will go back quite as far as its formation but any reminiscences will be gratefully received.

At the same time the committee would love to hear any ideas for celebrations to mark the centenary.

Teignmouth Spring outing



Only a week after heavy snow had again brought the South West to a halt, the weather was slightly better for the Teignmouth ringers and friends on their visit to North Cornwall. First stop was the town of Launceston where the eight bells at St Mary's were much enjoyed. The next stop was the pretty church of St Thomas where the ringing room was 'cosy' even if the temperature wasn't! Several ringers had problems at first with the very small circle, but eventually mastered these 'interesting' bells. St Clether were another 'interesting' ring where it was felt best to raise the bells individually after some odd sounds from above. Once up, however, no problems were found but the bells certainly needed pulling so it was a good job that lunch was next. The pub at Altarnun was ideal and a superb lunch was served and much enjoyed.

The afternoon started at the 'honeypot' village of Tintagel where the church is some distance away so the poor weather proved an advantage as the walkers' car park was almost deserted. The bells are good and were much enjoyed. Lesnewth is an isolated community where we were shown the damage caused by the Boscastle floods – the stream running through the church yard had been eroded by several feet. Final tower was Otterham which were augmented from three to six in 2007 and were overwhelmingly voted best ring of the day – a course of Cambridge being one of the highlights. So, it was home to Teignmouth and an enjoyable evening meal at Censis. Very many thanks for the warm welcome and the superb organisation from Julia Brett.

Martin Mansley

North East Branch

A Devonshire tale of two callings and a job well rung

It was just an ordinary Tuesday practice night at Cadbury. A little cool, but gone were those thoughts of frozen fingers and overcoats, plain bearings with high resistance grease, and ropes hard like steel stock fence to pull, with the meagre electric heater unit giving salvation to the tower's upper bat contingent but little relief from the drafts entering past that 15th century rear door.

Just as we were finishing our second attempt at 60 on thirds cries of help were heard within the Nave - two young ladies there shouting 'Fire, fire'. Quick as we could stand, we left our roost and found two daughters of an absent ringer had a chimney on fire and was afraid the house would catch too!

Off we paced at top speed, tower captain Gordon having the presence of mind to bring the church fire extinguisher, down and through the lower gate into the next door farm house, on the way espying sparks erupting from one of its chimneys.

In we rushed and took full control. Gordon with the kit banged the button and squirted water around the room, and in a trice towards an ever-dimming fire as it spluttered in complaint with eruptions of black dust and filth till it was out. At least that wouldn't cause any further grief! Off to the lawn we went to spy the beast. 'It's lessened' so, extinguisher in hand, squirted it up the chimney - to what effect, I remain in puzzlement. The net result of all this attention was a swathe of dirty black scum ever encroaching over the parquet lounge floor whilst our 'Mannerings-esque' group strove to decide what to do next.

The Fire Brigade had already been summoned and were on their way. But what about the chimney? The eldest daughter, who'd been revising in her upstairs bedroom, related that cracking and roaring noises had alarmed and driven her from her desk, and trotting outside again we spied a chimney yet to give in and now sparking nicely again.

Gordon, a TC with knowledge as if from an ancient cat cartoon, related that a further strategy in these cases was (where water seemingly fails but to create a mess in merely cooling the room) to attempt suffocation of the beast. Old towels (I do hope they were) were ordered and thence stuck up the void to stem the flame's oxygen supply, and at last control seemed accomplished. With spare towels, black floor tiles were returned to their oak hue and at that point a breathless mum appeared from her truncated Exeter hairdo eve to join the merrily chatting band.

Blue lights ahoy and boys in serge trotted in, took over and finished our rudimentary efforts by making sure the flue was safe aloft, whilst apologising for lateness. Apparently, in a further effort to aid this seemingly Dad's Army affair, they

National 12-Bell Striking Competition Eliminators

Congratulations are due to the Exeter Cathedral band who came second in their heat at the National 12-bell striking competition in Ossett and so will be taking part in the final in Cambridge on Saturday 23rd June 2018. The full results from the eliminators are as follows. The top three teams from each eliminator will join Cambridge in the final.

	Ossett	Selby	Southwell
1st	ASCY (3h39, 77%)	Birmingham (3h24, 90%)	Bristol (3h33, 83%)
2nd	Exeter (3h33, 75%)	St Paul's (3h38, 81%)	Melbourne (3h39, 78%)
3rd	Leeds (3h31, 68%)	SRCY (3h34, 80%)	Guildford (3h36, 73%)
4th	High Wycombe (3h39, 60%)	Southwark (3h44, 70%)	Oxford (3h35, 71%)
5th	Chilcompton (3h40, 58%)	Stockton (3h51, 65%)	Wimborne Minster (3h28, 65%)
6th	Towcester (3h29, 50%)	Chester (3h27, 59%)	Norwich (3h37, 55%)

Ian Campbell

confessed to a racing start gained as they had been at a practice night at base in Crediton when called and were off like a shot. So fast were they travelling on the A3072 that they were well ahead of their trusty old sat nav and embarrassingly missed the turning to the village. With blue light flashing and siren blaring, they had to turn around and race at full lorry pace, low geared, back up the hill to the village. And thus they were disappointingly late, giving empowerment and furthering the Dad's Army group's smiles, having secured an outing of which the Guild will no doubt be proud!

Mum home and girls placated, off we trotted back to the tower, leaving the professionals to their tea and crumpets.

And midst that warm glow now of a job well done, this group of novice fire fighters turned their accomplished arms back to those baggy chords and give a rather ropy further rendition of that previous tune, before quickly down to retire at another Ring o' Bells for vital sustenance.

John Skinner

Change of Practice Night

The ringers of Tiverton St Paul wish to let you know that their practice night has changed back to a Friday evening starting from Friday 20th April and they look forward to welcoming you back.

Jenny Jones, North East Branch Secretary

South West Branch

Ed Davis, Tavistock

I am very sorry to report the death of Ed Davis from Tavistock aged 51. Ed moved to Tavistock in 2000 and became a regular ringer since that time. He was vice captain, secretary and treasurer for several years. He was very good at teaching new ringers and communicating with the Church on things we took part in. Ed rang in the Guild six and eight bell competitions on many occasions and also the Devon eight bell competition. He rang in the first peal with all Tavistock ringers at our tower and took part in many quarter peals including Cambridge Royal in February this year (first quarter in the method with all our own ringers).

Ed was a good communicator and I always valued his take on different situations. We will all miss his support and cheerful disposition. I will miss a good friend and someone I could always rely on to help in any way he could.

His funeral at the parish church was attended by approximately 450 people. We rang half muffled and were joined by Ed's three brothers and two sisters who all rang before the funeral service. Ed's mum, Mavis, who is over 90 joined us in the tower and we took a photo of her and her five children ringing. It was quite a moving occasion.



The quarter peal band

He will be sadly missed by his wife Harriet, his daughters Jess and Charlotte, his two step sons, his wider family and all that knew him. May he rest in peace.

On Monday we rang a quarter peal of Grandsire Caters, to celebrate Ed's life, the Royal Wedding and the 700th anniversary of St Eustachius Church, Tavistock.

Tavistock, St Eustachius

Monday, 21 May 2018 in 51 minutes

1259 Grandsire Caters

1 Donna Baker

2 Geoffrey Hill

3 Kate Jennings

4 Sheila Williams

5 Jane Dunn

6 John Cook

7 George Mudge (C)

8 Phil Dunn

9 Ian V J Smith

10 William Thirtle

For the Royal Wedding for Prince Harry and Megan Markle.

For the 700th Anniversary of St Eustachius Church, Tavistock.

In Remembrance of Edwin Davis, bell ringer and great friend of all the band.

George Mudge

Plymouth on the Front Cover!

Plymouth on the front cover of *The Ringing World*



A local ringer at Emmanuel, Plymouth had a photograph selected for the front cover of *The Ringing World* in April. James is a photography student at Plymouth College of Art. He writes about his experience:

'I really enjoy both photography and bell ringing, and I always take a camera or two on ringing outings as it's a great opportunity to capture the beautiful places we get to visit. I saw the competition in *The Ringing World* but wasn't sure about sending in my photos as I didn't know if they were any good for the front cover. But after my ringing friends encouraged me, I decided I'd give it a go and send off a few.

'I was over the moon when I got an email from the editor saying they'd like to use one of my photos! They asked if I could supply some extra information about the photo and what it was shot on.

'The photo they chose had been taken on film called Lomochrome, made by The Lomography Company which mimics colour infrared film. It was captured on a Flexaret IV while I was walking around Plymouth.

'A week after I sent them the information, I received my own copy of the magazine together with a £25 prize. If they run another competition I'll be sure to enter!'

James Wray

South West Branch Spring Outing

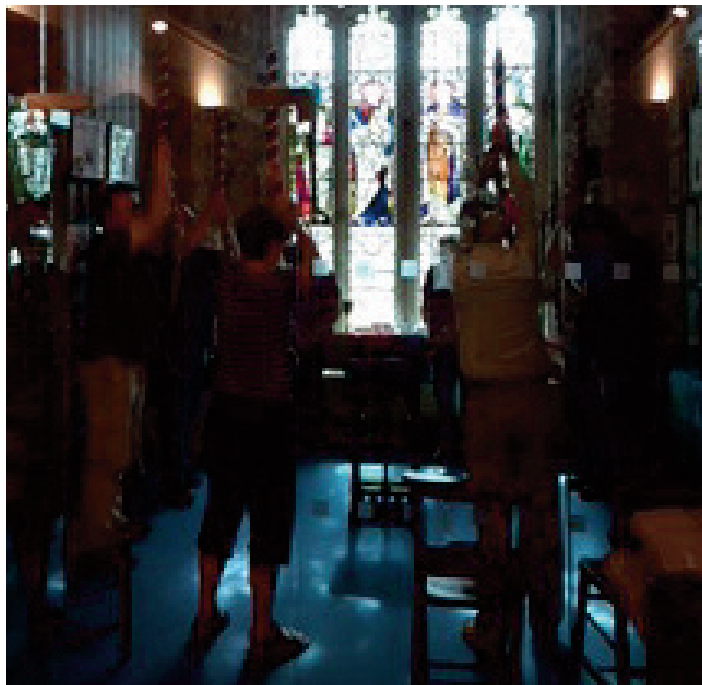
Saturday 19th May 2018

The sun was shining as we arrived at our first tower, Doddiscombeleigh where we rang a few touches of Plain Bob as well as rounds and call changes.

After a snack break we headed to Christow where we rang a touch of Spliced Surprise Major during the rise - or at least that was dad's description of it!

Bridford bells were a challenging set of six, so it was a good job lunch was fast approaching. After a rather long lunch at the Bridford Inn, we headed for our next stop.

We rang some Cambridge at Ide then, drove to the next tower. During the journey we managed to lose half of the band but eventually we all arrived at Alphington and had a very interesting time with the long ropes. We rang a touch of Stedman Triples before driving to the final tower of the day (Kenn) where we rounded off our trip with some Spliced Plain and Little Bob Minor. All in all, it was a lovely outing!



Ringling at Alphington



Matthew's after lunch snooze

Jess Crocker

Tower Visit from Local School

Local teacher learning the ropes



The bell tower at Emmanuel Church, Plymouth recently hosted two visits from students and staff at Plymouth High School for Girls.

The visit was supported by several regular ringers who helped to give a full introduction to bell ringing. The visitors watched a demonstration of method ringing, had an introduction to bell handling and were supported to ring in rounds with the rest of the band. There was also a chance to see the bells for themselves, watching one being raised and lowered. The students and teachers who visited really enjoyed the session and there are hopes to create more opportunities like this in the near future.

Elena Brake

Other News

Norman Betts invited to the Royal Maundy Service 2018

Norman Betts, vergor of Stoke Gabriel received Maundy Money from Her Majesty The Queen at a Royal ceremony at St George's Chapel Windsor on 29th March 2018

Norman, a PCC and Deanery Synod representative of Stoke Gabriel church, joined the choir when he was 10 years old,



became a bell ringer at 15 and is also a keen organist and pianist. He had been assistant Verger prior to George's death.

Congratulations to Norman and it is pleasing that he receives this honour as an acknowledgement of his extraordinary lifelong service to the Church and the Community.

Michael Webster, Devon Association

Buckfast Abbey Millennium Festival

Ringers' Day Saturday 11th August

Plans for this are moving forward and we are at the point of needing volunteers. Prior to the main event on Saturday 11th August the Abbey is running an exhibition daily from 11am until 4pm. This will feature a range of material including photographs and displays with an emphasis on education and recruitment. We need volunteers to man this exhibition both to keep an eye on the exhibits and try to answer any questions. The rota is being co-ordinated by Martin Mansley who would be grateful for offers of one or two hour slots at the exhibition. It will run daily from Monday 6th August to Friday 10th August. Please contact him to offer your services and give your preferences. The Abbey tell us they will keep stewards plied with tea and coffee etc!!!

There will be a full programme of events during the main festival day on the Saturday. We will keep you informed about these as plans develop.

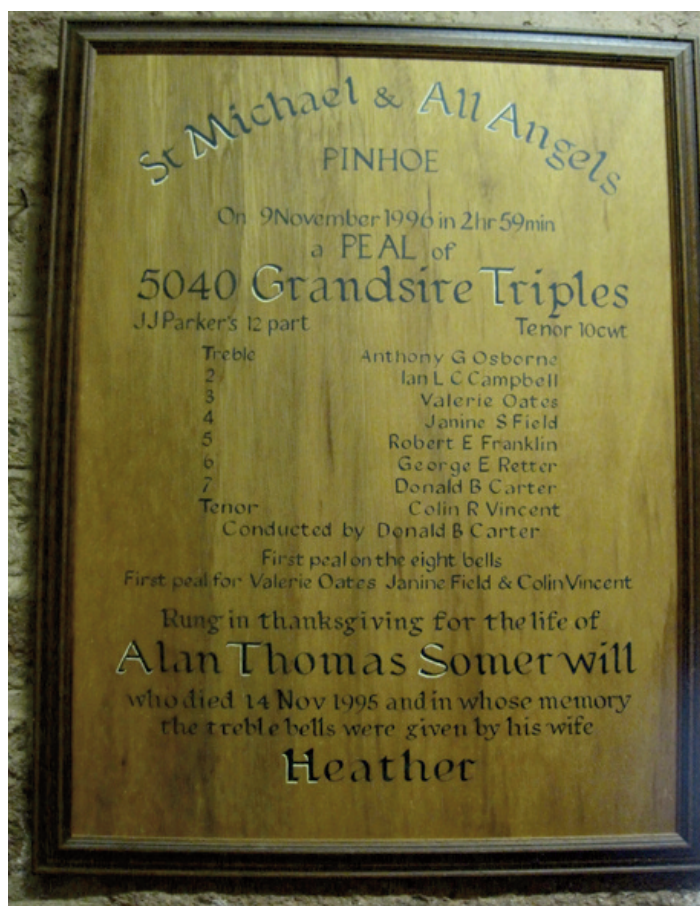
Martin Mansley

Heather Somerwill

As reported in the previous issue of *RRD* Heather Somerwill from Pinhoe died unexpectedly on 28th February. A memorial service was held for her at Pinhoe church on 22nd March.



A peal board in the tower commemorates the life of her husband, Alan, who died in 1995 and in whose memory the two treble bells were given by Heather.



Ian Campbell

Notable Ringing Events

First Peal at St Winnow



The church at St Winnow in Cornwall is situated in a picturesque location on the River Fowey; hanging in the deceptively small tower is the lightest ring of ten bells anywhere in the world, with a tenor weighing only 3 cwt.

Despite the fact the bells are rung from the ground floor they are easy to handle and very easy to hear; we were privileged to be able to ring the first peal on the bells over the May Bank Holiday weekend.

St Winnow tower captain Robert Pearce met us and stayed in the church while we were ringing to explain what was going on to the many visitors who dropped by during the course of the morning. He explained how St Winnow had for many years been an 'outlier' church associated with Exeter Diocese rather than the Archdeaconry of Cornwall and so it was perhaps appropriate the first peal was rung by a Guild band rather than a band from further afield.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
St Winnow, Cornwall, St Winnow
Monday, 7 May 2018 in 2h43 (3–3–5 in D)
5040 Yorkshire Surprise Royal
Composed by D F Morrison (No 6413)
1 Nicola J Turner
2 Colin M Turner
3 Ian V J Smith
4 Charlotte A Boyce
5 Lynne P Hughes
First peal on the bells



L to R : Charlotte Boyce, John Martin, Robert Crocker, Robert Brown, Nicola Turner, David Hird, Lynne Hughes, Colin Turner, Mike Mears, Ian Smith

John Martin

Birthday Peals

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
North Tawton, Devon, St Peter
Saturday, 7 April 2018 in 3hrs 27m (18 in E)
5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major
Composed by Robert D S Brown

1 Mervyn C Way	5 Richard A M Newman
2 Michael Hatchett	6 Richard H Johnston
3 David G Wilford	7 Jeffrey Knipe
4 Lesley A Knipe	8 Robert D S Brown (C)

80th Birthday treat for Mervyn Way, Birthday boy tomorrow

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Buckfastleigh, Devon, Ruined Church of the Holy Trinity
Thursday, 12 April 2018 in 2hrs 50m (15–2–21 in F)
5088 70th Birthday Delight Major
Composed by D F Morrison (No 6436)
1 Ian W Avery
2 Peter L Bill
3 P Wendy Campbell
4 Lester J Yeo
5 Ian L C Campbell
6 Ian V J Smith
7 Peter J Sawyer
8 Michael E C Mears (C)

Peter Bill's belated 70th birthday treat

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Exeter, Devon, St Mark
Sunday, 20 May 2018 in 3h05 (12–1–19 in F)
5120 Spliced Surprise Royal (4 Methods)
1600 Yorkshire, 1520 London No3, 1280 Cambridge, 720 Bristol;
39 com; atw.

Composed by D F Morrison (no 3564c)
1 Peter L Bill
2 Susan D Sparling
3 Hilary A Beresford
4 Charlotte A Boyce
5 Graham P Tucker
6 Richard H Johnston
7 John R Martin (C)
8 James Kirkcaldy
9 David Hird
10 Michael E C Mears

Specially arranged as a 70th birthday compliment to Richard Johnston for today

1000th Peal Congratulations

Special congratulations are due to John Foster on ringing his 1000th peal. While this may seem more commonplace than it used to be it is, nevertheless, an outstanding achievement.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Thorverton, Devon, St Thomas of Canterbury
Saturday, 28 April 2018 in 3hrs 3m (15–0–4 in F)
5040 Yorkshire Surprise Royal
Composed by B D Constant
1 Robert D S Brown
2 Alison C Waterson
3 Peter L Bill
4 Lester J Yeo
5 Pauline McKenzie
6 Ian V J Smith
7 Roger King
8 Reginald T McKenzie
9 Michael E C Mears (C)
10 John A Foster

1000th peal: 10

Mike Mears

Education Programme: 2018

Date	Course	Tutor/Organiser
17 June 12.30–2.30	Young Ringers' Practice – Denmisch simulated campanile	Oliver Coldrick
8 September	ART Module 2C	Les Boyce
15 September 10.00–4.00	Learning to Conduct	
16 September 12.30–2.30	Young Ringers' Practice – Denmisch simulated campanile	Oliver Coldrick
27 October	ART Module 1	Les Boyce
3 November 10.00–4.00	Kaleidoscope Ringing	
16 December 12.30–2.30	Young Ringers' Practice – Denmisch simulated campanile	Oliver Coldrick

*For the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) please contact Les Boyce
lesboyce@ringingteachers.co.uk*

*For all other education/training matters please contact Tim Bayton
Educationofficer@devonringers.org.uk*

Calendar

June

Sat 16		Guild AGM, St Paul's Newton Abbot	Mid Devon
Sun 17	12:30	Young Ringers' Practice, DenMisch Simulated Campanile	Young Ringers
Mon 18	19:30	6 Bell Practice entry level St Simons & Reverse Canterbury, Huntsham	North East
Mon 18	19:30	Branch Practice - Stedman and other doubles, Offwell	East
Wed 20	19:30	Quarter Peal on request (arranged by TRC), Huntsham	North East
Wed 27	19:30	Surprise Major Quarter Peal	North East

July

Wed 4	19:30	Quarter Peal, Huntsham	North East
Sat 7		Branch Mini-Outing, South Hams	Mid Devon
Sat 7	11:30	Local ringing outing and Summer BBQ Ringing at Sowton and Clyst Honiton, then BBQ in Broadclyst	Exeter
Sat 7	15:00	N-E Branch Quarterly Meeting	North East
Wed 11	19:30	Triples and Plain Major Practice, Huntsham	North East
Thu 12	19:30	Branch Practice - Plain Hunt, Sidbury	East
Fri 13	19:30	Branch Practice - Surprise Minor, Buckerell	East
Sat 14	10:00	6 Bell Open Practice, Cruwys Morchard	North East
Sat 14	14:00	Branch Striking Competition, Feniton	East
Mon 16	19:30	Branch Practice - Stedman and other doubles, Offwell	East
Mon 16	19:30	Branch Practice, Withycombe Raleigh	Aylesbeare
Wed 18	19:30	Quarter Peal on request (arranged by TRC), Huntsham	North East
Thu 19	19:00	8 bell practice, St Leonard's Clock Tower, Newton Abbot	Mid Devon
Sat 21	10:00	Extended Practice - Plain Bob Doubles (TRC Event), Huntsham	North East
Wed 25	19:30	Surprise Major Practice or Quarter Peal, Huntsham	North East

August

Wed 1	19:30	Quarter Peal, Huntsham	North East
Sat 4	10:00	6 Bell Open Practice, Bickleigh	North East
Wed 8	19:30	Triples and Plain Major Practice, Huntsham	North East
Thu 9	19:30	Branch Practice - Plain Hunt, Sidbury	East
Fri 10	19:30	Branch Practice - Surprise Minor, Buckerell	East
Sat 11		10 bell branch practice. Buckfast Abbey Millennium event, Buckfast Abbey	Mid Devon
Sat 11		Joint Branch Practice with Mid Devon Branch, Buckfast Abbey	Mid
Mon 13	19:00	Branch Practice, Clyst St George	South West
Wed 15	19:30	Quarter Peal on request (arranged by TRC), Huntsham	Aylesbeare
Thu 16	19:30	6 bell practice, Ilsington	North East
Mon 20	19:30	Branch Practice - Stedman and other doubles, Offwell	North
Wed 22	19:30	Surprise Major practice or Quarter Peal	Mid Devon
			East
			North East

September

Sat 1		Branch Training - Plain hunt and towards plain bob, Stokeinteignhead	Mid Devon
Sat 1		Branch Autumn Outing, TBC	South West
Sat 1	10:00	6 Bell Open Practice, Cruwys Morchard	North East
Wed 5	19:30	Quarter Peal, Huntsham	North East
Sat 8		ART Module 2C	North East
Mon 10	19:30	Branch Practice, Littleham, Exmouth	Guild
Wed 12	19:30	Triples and Plain Major Practice, Huntsham	Aylesbeare
Thu 13	19:30	Branch Practice - Plain Hunt, Sidbury	North East
Thu 13	19:30	8 bell practice, Kingsteignton	East
Fri 14	19:00	Branch Committee Meeting, Heathcoat Centre, Tiverton	Mid Devon
Fri 14	19:30	Branch Practice - Surprise Minor, Buckerell	North East
Sat 15	10:00	Learning to Conduct	North
Sun 16	12:30	Young Ringers' Practice, DenMisch Simulated Campanile	East
Mon 17	19:30	Branch Practice - Stedman and other doubles, Offwell	Young Ringers
Wed 19		Mid-Week Outing	East
Wed 19	19:30	Quarter Peal on request (arranged by TRC), Huntsham	North East
Wed 26	19:30	Surprise Major Practice or Quarter Peal	North East

Editorial

The snow has melted and the summer appears to be here as we approach the longest day. Several of us in Exeter seem to be spending a lot of our time teaching new ringers. Five or six who signed up following the open days planned by Tim Bayton have been learning at Pinhoe on Tuesday evenings and are nearly ready to move to their own local towers. This group has been expanded by an initiative to restart regular ringing at Brampford Speke and some of their ringers also come along.

Tim has been helping to teach a group at Combe Raleigh and the weekly sessions with the pupils from Exeter School at Denmisch continue. Other towers have their own learners – I know of two at St Mark's in Exeter and I have at least one at Heavitree. It all seems rather hard work but I hope the outcome will make ringing in the area more healthy and sustainable for some time to come.

There seem to have been rather a large number of deaths the last couple of months. We reported on Heather Somerwill last time, and this issue includes details from Richard Bowden and John Keats who many of you may know.

Ringing quietens down in August so we are in for a bit of a break, but recent experience shows that it will restart with a vengeance in September! I hope that you all have a good summer and return after any holidays with renewed enthusiasm.

Ian Campbell

Seen in a tower



No further comment needed!

Ian Campbell

A sequel to Ypres bells



You may remember my article on the Great Dorset Steam Fair in RRD 107 last September. This featured a new peal of eight bells (tenor 6cwt 1 qtr 11 lbs) cast by Taylors that were being transported on the back of two WW1 lorries to Ypres in Belgium to be installed in St George's Memorial Church. The church was built between 1927-1929 to serve the British community that settled in Ypres following WW1 and as well as a place of worship it is also a place of remembrance for the fallen. It is fitting therefore that these bells, with a row of red poppies cast into the crown, should be installed here.

Whilst at the Great Dorset Steam Fair last year, a few of us thought it would be something special to ring there during 2018, 100 years since the end of what was once called the war to end all wars. I was honoured to be invited to join the band to ring a peal and a quarter and to give some teaching time to the local band. Arrangements were made, and the dates were set for Friday 13th April to Sunday 15th April.

My wife Lesley joined us for the trip and we travelled with Richard and Marion Newman. Ironically it took us longer to drive from Richard and Marion's home in East Huntspill to Dover than it did to drive from Calais to Ypres!

We arrived in Ypres, in the middle of Flanders Fields country, on Friday afternoon and were immediately delighted and impressed by a most beautiful and charming Medieval design town. We were even more impressed when we learnt that the whole town was completely destroyed



during WW1 and what we saw was a rebuilt town incorporating what salvageable materials they could. It was rebuilt over 50 years using plans and old photographs that survived the devastation. During the war the entire population fled to nearby France or to the UK. Many returned after the war but the population has never reached pre-1914 levels. This year of course marks the centenary of the end of hostilities and there were many displays marking the occasion which reminded us that we were there not just to ring a brand new peal of bells but also to remember and honour the memory of the millions that died.

Richard, Marion and myself spent some time on the Friday evening helping to teach the new and enthusiastic band. Considering this is an all new band that have only been ringing since the beginning of the year, we were pleased to hear some half decent rounds. The ringers are led by Liz Millward who was the only resident ringer when the bells were installed and who had not rung for almost 20 years! Prior to our visit she rang her very first quarter (tenor to Doubles) only two months before and she bravely agreed to ring the tenor to a quarter of Triples on the Sunday morning. On Saturday morning we helped with some teaching for another couple of hours and after meeting up with the other members of our visiting band rang a nicely struck peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major in 2hrs 38 mins conducted by Richard. On the Sunday morning I called a quarter of Grandsire Triples with Liz ringing the tenor for her first quarter on eight. She was delighted when I told her who composed the quarter as it was so very fitting.



The newly installed bells at Ypres – note the red poppies on the bells



The St George's Memorial Church at Ypres, Belgium



The Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing, in Ypres, Belgium, dedicated to the British and Commonwealth soldiers who were killed in the Ypres Salient of World War I and whose graves are unknown.

Even though the tenor is only just over 6 cwt., the bells are a delight to ring and any visiting ringers would be made most welcome. The only down side was the fact that the instigator of this trip, Michael Goakes of Ely, had to pull out a few weeks before due to ill health and the peal and quarter peal bands hope that he is well on the way to full recovery.

Ely Diocesan Association

Ypres, Belgium, St George

Saturday, 14 April 2018 in 2h 38 (6–1–11 in B)

5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Composed by Robert D S Brown

1 Michael Hatchett

5 Nicholas A Elks

2 Jeffrey Knipe

6 Michael J C Cannon

3 Lesley A Knipe

7 Michael G Purday

4 Susan E Marsden

8 Richard A M Newman (C)



The Peal Band

Ypres, Belgium, St George

Sunday, 15 April 2018 in 42m (6–1–11 in B)

1260 Grandsire Triples

Composed by Sgt. Albert Wakeley

1 Susan E Marsden

5 Michael J C Cannon (C)

2 Lesley A Knipe

6 Jeffrey Knipe

3 Michael Hatchett

7 Nicholas A Elks

4 Marion Newman

8 Elizabeth Millward

Rung for morning Eucharist

First quarter of Triples: 8

Composed by Sgt Albert Wakeley while serving in the trenches during WW1



The Quarter Peal Band

Michael Cannon