

Ring Round Devon

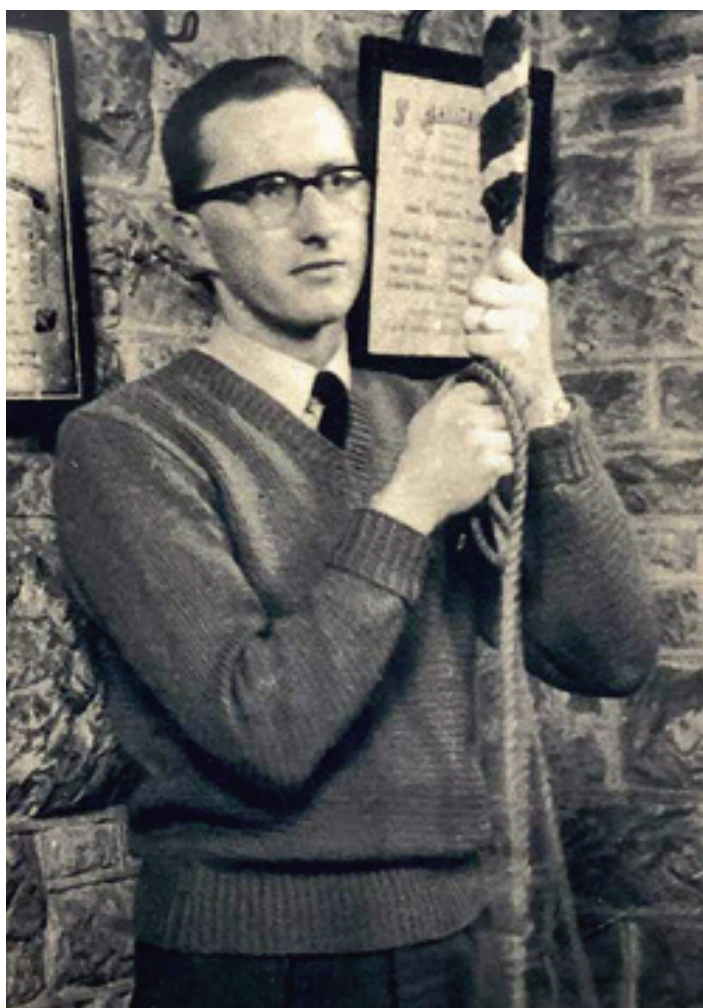


THE GUILD OF
DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

Newsletter 116, December 2019

Loss of three Guild Members

Norman Mallett 1931 – 2019



A year ago, while Norman was still able to enjoy socialising with his many ringing friends, he came to the annual Devon Bellringers' carol service. It was held that year at Buckfast Abbey, which set Norman reminiscing on his early days as a ringer. At the age of fifteen he was living in the police house in Ashburton, where his father was stationed, and where he first learnt to ring. This was in September 1945, soon after the ban on ringing church bells during the Second World War was lifted. He spoke of cycling the three miles along the old A38 to the Abbey to ring with the monks, amongst them Pascal Dowling and Paulinus Angold.

In 1949 he was living in Axminster, Devon, but a member of the Lyme Regis, Dorset, band and rang his first peal – of Grandsire Triples, one of many for the Salisbury Diocesan Guild - at Bradpole. While still based in Dorset, he became a founder member of the Society of Roving Ringers. Significant among the peals he rang with



Lester Yeo with Norman at the SW Branch AGM in 2013

them was one of Stedman Cinques at Exeter Cathedral in October 1951. In the same year he was elected to membership of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

Norman joined The Guild of Devonshire Ringers in 1947 and remained a member for the whole of his life. His first peal as conductor – of Cambridge Surprise Major – was for the Guild at Broadclyst in May 1952. When he returned to base his ringing in his home county, over time he became a resident member in five of the Guild's branches, having lived in Ashburton, Axminster, Barnstaple, Exeter and Plymouth. Another peal of Norman's worthy of mention was at Broadclyst on 26th February 1955, the footnote reading A compliment to Miss M Mundy and Norman Mallett on their engagement this day. Mariella has stood at Norman's side ever since.

He was a member of the Exeter Cathedral band from 1956 to 1964, becoming Ringing Master of the Exeter Branch of the Guild from 1960 to 1968. An achievement from this period of which Norman was justifiably proud was the, then, record length he conducted on 2nd October 1964 at Buckland-in-the-Moor, of 10,240 changes of Plain Bob Major in 5 hours 14 minutes. He was appointed Ringing Master of Heavitree in 1962, a post he held until 1968 when he took part in a peal of Double Norwich there. Its footnote reads: a farewell to Norman Mallett on his departure to Plymouth, a token of the gratitude to him for his many contributions to ringing in the Exeter Branch.

Spanning his time based in Exeter, then in Plymouth, he was one of the Guild's Central Council Representatives from 1961 to 1971. For a time he was a member of the band at St Andrew's Minster, before moving to Stoke Damerel, where he lived out his active ringing life from 1977 to 2000. Recognition of his services

to ringing across the county and further afield came with his appointment for the year 1976/77 to the honorary role of Guild Master, to be followed in 1989 by his becoming a Vice-President of the Guild.

There is a poignant note on the page in his peal book recording the peal of Rutland Surprise Major he rang at Withycombe Raleigh on 3rd June 1986. Norman has written: 'Last peal before heart attack'. From then on he became increasingly frail, but his interest in and concern for ringing and ringers never wavered. With Mariella's support, he made the effort to travel to Exeter to hear the National Twelve-Bell contest last June, and was delighted that the Exeter Cathedral band triumphed.

Unfortunately a peal arranged in Norman's memory on 30th November came to grief when a sally was missed after two hours.

The memorial service for Norman took place at St Matthew's, Elburton, in Plymouth on Friday 6th December. In accordance with Norman's strict instructions Guild members rang handbells as part of the service, including rounds on twelve with Norman's daughter Ann, and a course of Plain Bob Major, for which Mariella and her family were very grateful.

John Steere

Norman was born in Brixham, the son of a police officer, and he claimed that much of his teenage years was spent in police stations, from which he regularly escaped to go ringing. He learnt to ring while his father was stationed in Ashburton, and a transfer to East Devon meant that his ringing ability developed through ringing with the Surprise Major band in Lyme Regis.

After National Service, he returned to Devon and worked as a town planner for Devon County Council, initially in Exeter, where he rang at St Thomas (here he met his wife, Mariella), Heavitree and the Cathedral (where he was deputy ringing master). Norman helped manage the transition out of a diet of Grandsire and, if lucky, Stedman, into Surprise Major, and inevitably Exeter ringing missed him when his work demanded a move to Plymstock, on the edge of Plymouth; he was duly elected a vice-president of the Devon Guild in recognition of his achievements. In Plymouth, he rang initially at St Andrew's, and transferred to Stoke Damerel when the new light ring of eight was installed, and this became his leading peal tower.

In all, he rang 286 peals, of which six were with the Ancient Society of College Youths, although these included Stedman Cinques at Exeter, and the first CY peal by a band resident in Devon. Ill health curtailed his peal ringing career in 1986, and recently he had been unable to ring at all, but his interest never wavered. I can vouch for the fact that he liked to keep in touch by telephone, usually phoning at times when Mariella was out. I don't know if this was because she disapproved, or simply because he was lonely, and missed contact with ringers. A thanksgiving service was held at Elburton Church, which he regularly attended, with a course of Bob Major rung on handbells, and a recording of Crediton played before and after the service, a practice he had instigated on Sundays because the church has no bells.

Lester Yeo

I was sorry to read of Norman's death in the RW. He was the only other surviving ringer in my first peal (Heavitree, 24th Dec 1957) and one of my early ringing idols. I remember, in particular, admiring his ringing style on the 7th at one of the open practices at Exeter Cathedral. He made it look so easy! I even emulated his stance, with left foot half a step in front. It was only later that someone pointed out that he was left-handed (as a ringer) so I had to change my leading foot.

He was also in the band ringing Cambridge S Major, the first I had ever heard. The striking was superb, at least to my inexperienced ears, except that I couldn't fathom why there was a gap at regular intervals.

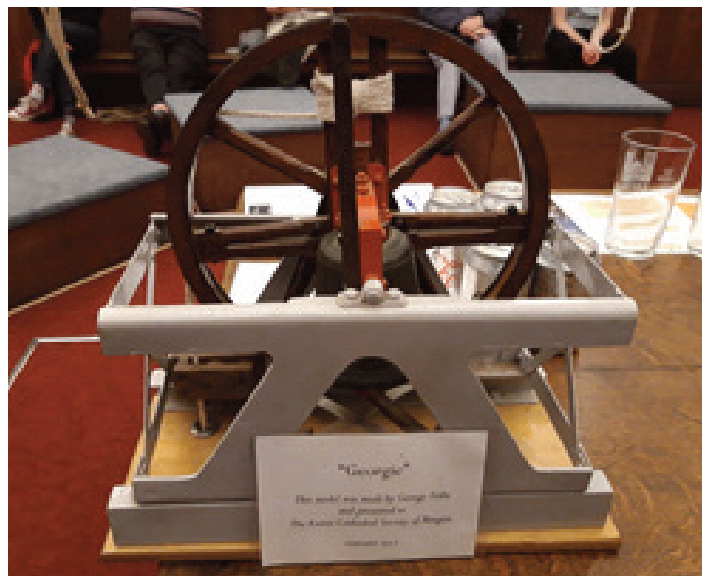
Someone explained that it was the handstroke gap - the first I had ever heard!

John Manley

George Tribe

I thought I ought to let you know the sad news that George Tribe has passed away, aged 91. For several years after ringing was restarted in Bratton Fleming, George regularly attended our ringing practices during which he always amazed us all with his ringing knowledge and memory. He had recently become rather unsteady on his legs, however, so had not been for a while. I understand he passed away in North Devon District Hospital, after being admitted following a fall.

The model bell in the Cathedral ringing chamber was George's handiwork (there is a similar bell at Bratton Fleming), and I know he was quite a figure in the ringing community in the past.



This model was made by George Tribe and presented to the Exeter Cathedral Society of Ringers, August 2013. He asked for it to be called 'Georgie'.

Jenny Sparling

David Willis



Very sad news to hear of the unexpected death of David Willis on Tuesday 10th December. David was ringing master of the N/NW Branch and I last met up with him at the Guild striking competition in October. We had a long natter and he was in good form as usual, enjoying our regular light-hearted welcome of 'Hello old boy, how are you?' A quick search on BellBoard reveals his last quarter peal was just two weeks before on November 27th at Braunton, which ironically was in memory of another N/NW Branch stalwart George Tribe.

Nigel Birt

Central Council Representatives' Report, September 2019

For the first time in its history, the Central Council annual meeting was held in September, not May, and it is expected to continue in this vein so that university conference facilities can be used, keeping it all on a single site. It was also the second year of the new, slicker 'conference weekend' format, and last year's teething troubles had been ironed out.

All three Guild reps attended: Fergus Stracey, Lynette Costello, and myself (Lynne Hughes). There had been some events on the Friday evening for anyone present, but the main meeting day was the Saturday. The CC workgroups gave morning presentations, and I attended those on 'Communications and Marketing' and 'Volunteer and Leadership'. A year after they took over from the old committees, there is better co-operation between workgroups, and much being done. The presentations from all five workgroups can be found on the CCCBR website.

Late morning was *The Ringing World* AGM, of which all CC reps are members (unless they don't sign in!). Robert Lewis is soon retiring as Editor after nearly 20 years. The finances are holding up well since donations for printing quarters via BellBoard became the norm. A motion was passed to change the charitable objectives of *The Ringing World* from 'religious' to 'educational', bringing it in line with what it actually does. An app to read the paper better on smartphones is being worked on.

Saturday afternoon was the CC AGM itself, and after recent years of change there were no major decisions to be taken, except the election of Simon Linford as the new President. There was a greater emphasis on forward planning such as building partnerships, becoming efficient and effective, data gathering and analysis, and delivering focussed services.

Sunday started with service ringing at local towers, pre-booked to ensure visiting ringers were evenly spread. I rang at Greenwich. The rest of the day was put to use as a 'Mini Roadshow' – a programme of speakers, seminars and exhibitions. I had a look round and a go on the mini rings, but aware that I was there to represent the Guild and learn as much as possible, I also attended seminars on 'Where now for the ART?' and 'Creating an inclusive University Ringing Society': we have two universities in Devon, with students to support before, during and after their time there.

Hopefully the three of us bring back greater knowledge of what's happening in ringing, and how our Guild can move forward in step. But of equal importance is all the networking and informal conversations as ringers who are keen and active get together once a year and inspire each other.

The new CC weekends are now open to, indeed aimed at, all and any ringers, so perhaps several of you may like to join us in Nottingham in 2020 for a very interesting and informative time.

Lynne Hughes

Update on the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund

As we come to the end of 2019, there is some good news from the DCBRF having received, or is due to receive, more income this year than expected expenditure. There is a bit of a caveat to this, however, as it has been a relatively quiet year for grant requests with just six received totalling a little under £12,000. This is in sharp contrast to the £33,450 offered during 2018.

Following my articles in both *Ringing Round Devon* and *Devon Calls* I had hoped to see a steady stream of donations being received but alas this was not the case. However, there were one or two donations which probably wouldn't have happened without it including a regular payment from one ringer and a large donation from Withycombe Raleigh of £1,500. I could hardly ask everyone else to give without asking my own tower to do the same! We also received £1,000 from the Exeter Cathedral ringers, being some of the profits made at the excellent National 12 Bell final held there in June. In all we have received just over £19,500

so far with a further £6,000 due by year end. What I must point out is that more than 50% of the Fund's income comes from the Smale Bequest so as the ringers in Devon we have only raised approximately £12,000 this year. As you can see this only just pays for the grants offered this year during a quiet year. We should remember that the Fund gave £15,000 to Ugborough alone, an unthinkable amount based on current income levels.

Whilst we have only paid out just under £6,000 in grants so far this year, we expect to pay out a further £17,000 in the immediate future as some larger projects come to fruition. We therefore expect total giving for the year to be around the £23,000 mark. Remember there is always a time lag between money being allocated to it being paid out. However, we cannot commit funds that we do not have to new grant requests, hence the need to try to raise our liquid fund levels.

The full accounts are printed in the annual report of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers which is circulated during May/June each year. The message from the Trustees is that we are not out of the woods yet. A quiet year has allowed us to get 'back into the black', but the dreaded 'B' word still hangs over all of us, including our investments. We have no idea what will happen and how our stock market and those around the world will react if and when something does. We have no desire to dip into the Fund's investments at this time as they do provide a very good level of income and now is simply not the right time. Therefore, we must rely on the good nature, and very kind giving, of all our ringers to ensure the Trustees can continue to give grants of a meaningful level to help all projects to be a success.

Further details of the grants offered can be found on the Guild of Devonshire Ringers' website.

Janet Deem

Due to the absence of both the Secretary and Treasurer in New Zealand for the whole of February 2020, all enquiries during the period 29th January to 29th February 2020 should be directed to Janet Deem? email: janetmdeem@gmail.com; tel: 01395 272444.

Guild Striking Competitions

The Guild striking competitions were held on Saturday 19th October in the East Devon Branch. The results, giving faults, were as follows:

Farway: 6 bell competition for JP Fidler Cup



Judges Richard Johnston (L) and Oliver Bates (R) with Alison Waterson present the cup to Andrew Digby for Exeter Cathedral

1st	Exeter Cathedral	15
2nd	Withycombe/Littleham	27
3rd	Tiverton, St Peter	53
4th	Withycombe/Littleham	78
5th	Plymouth, St Andrew	106

Feniton: 6 bell novice competition for John Longridge Plate



Judges Owen (L) and Kevan Borlase (R) with Alison Waterson (President) presenting the plate to Mike Burrow

1st	Withycombe/Littleham	17
2nd	Plymouth, St Andrew	45.5
3rd	Topsham	73



The winning Exmouth band

Sidbury: 8 bell novice competition



Sheila Scofield (NE Branch), Alison Waterson (President) with judges Tim Bayton and Amy Gill

1st	North East branch 'B'	48
2nd	North East branch 'A'	58
3rd	Withycombe/Littleham	73



The winning NE Branch team

Honiton: 8 bell inter-branch Competition for the Andrews Trophy

Judges: Jo Wenborne and Norman Mattingley

1st	Exeter	38
2nd	East	43
3rd(joint)	North-North West	58
3rd(joint)	Aylesbeare	58
5th	South West	66
6th	Mid-Devon	75
7th	North East	84



The victorious Exeter team

Martin Mansley reports on behalf of the Mid-Devon team:
As a branch we have struggled to enter a team for the Guild 8-bell striking competition. This year, thanks to hard work from Don Roberts and Nigel Birt a team was entered for the Grandsire Triples section.

Les Boyce reports on behalf of the North East Branch:
Our two novice teams both did well, taking first and second places, and it was especially pleasing that our young ringers Fergus, James, Red and Flo took part and were included in that success. Our 8-bell inter-branch team suffered a mishap in their ringing, but started very well and managed to recover to produce a creditable piece overall. I would like to thank all who took part for representing the Branch and for giving up time to practice beforehand. We were also grateful to several others who made up the numbers to practice at various times.



Guild Ringing Festival

18 performances were rung and linked to the event which has taken the place of the quarter peal week. A total of just under £250 was raised and passed to the DCBRF.

3 Nov 2019	Axminster	1296 Grandsire Caters
3 Nov 2019	Hemyock	720 Grandsire Doubles
3 Nov 2019	Hemyock	120 Plain Bob Doubles
3 Nov 2019	Tiverton	60 Call Changes
1 Nov 2019	Bickleigh	120 Plain Bob Doubles
1 Nov 2019	Clyst St George	1272 Spliced Se Minor (3m)
31 Oct 2019	Pinhoe	1280 Halloween Surprise Major
31 Oct 2019	Torquay St Marychurch	1260 Plain Bob Major
30 Oct 2019	Huntsham	1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major
29 Oct 2019	Holcombe Rogus	960 Grandsire Doubles
28 Oct 2019	Calverleigh	720 Plain Bob Minor
28 Oct 2019	Cruwys Morchard	26 Devon Call Changes - The Boston Tea Party Peal
27 Oct 2019	Exeter Cathedral	1440 Zanussi Surprise Maximus
27 Oct 2019	Tiverton (St Peter)	1320 Kent Treble Bob Minor
26 Oct 2019	Combe Raleigh	1260 Doubles (2m)
26 Oct 2019	Washfield	1260 Plain Bob Doubles
25 Oct 2019	Bampton	720 Plain Bob Minor
21 Oct 2019	Bere Ferrers	1260 Grandsire Doubles

Once again the event has seen a drop in the number of performances and the money raised.

James Kirkcaldy

Les Boyce comments on behalf of the North East Branch:

You will see that a wide range of performances are recorded there and that all were done to celebrate the centenary of the Branch. Again, I would like to thank all who took part – there were 25 of you. As well as marking the centenary you raised over £150 for the Bell Restoration Fund and gave to local towers. Thank you.

Guild Library Open Day – Sat 7th December

After many years of searching for a home for the Library we have secured fine accommodation at St Petrock's in Exeter and are now in a position to offer a good service to members.

The Open Day takes place at lunchtime (12:30 to 14:30) before the Devon Ringers' carol service at the Cathedral. We have a noteworthy Guest of Honour in John Eisel, who has written quite extensively about Devon ringing in recent years, and there will be lunch on offer for those who book in advance. As Guild Librarian I do hope you will join us, see what the Library has to offer and celebrate it in its new home.

Les Boyce, Guild Librarian

Guild Education Meeting

Rodney Horder attended this meeting on behalf of the Mid-Devon Branch and below are a few of the points coming out of that meeting. The main thrust was a review of training in 2019 and planning for the future.

- Without being complacent, our branch compares quite well with other branches in the way we provide training
- Suggested methods for Guild 8 bell competition – St Clement's Bob Major and Spliced Cambridge and Yorkshire

Plans for 2020

- Introduction to ringing on higher numbers (x2)
- Theory workshops: how to learn a method, conducting and coursing orders, judging a striking competition
- Young Ringers' practices (x4) at towers around the county
- Introduction to change ringing on handbells
- Raising and lowering in peal, and leading up/down in peal
- ART courses (x2) and Yellow Pathway Guild practices

Please note that these are Guild-wide courses, not the training planned for our branch.

Rodney Horder

Aylesbeare Branch

Broadclyst bells ring out in celebration of the Centenary of the Victory Hall

Several Aylesbeare and Exeter Branch Guild members got together on the afternoon of Saturday 14th September to ring at Broadclyst in celebration of the centenary of the Victory Hall, which is located close to the church. We rang two sets of call changes, which were both called by Rob Franklin. Many of the ringers then proceeded to the Red Lion for a pint before heading to the village hall to enjoy a cream team provided by the local community. Several locals commented on how nice it was to hear the bells as they were out and about on what was a very sunny Saturday afternoon.

Practice nights at Broadclyst are usually on the third Friday of the month (7.30 to 9pm), with Sunday ringing being on the fourth Sunday of the month (9.20 to 10am). Visiting ringers are always welcome.



L to R: Margot Le Vesconte, Simon Featherstone, Sue Sturdy, Rob Neal, Mike Burrow, Liz Slade, Glenis Petrilli, Rob Franklin, Gill Keites

Rob Neal



Broadclyst records 200th peal

The 200th peal was rung in Broadclyst tower on Tuesday 3rd December. The total number of changes for those peals is 1,010,822 and occupied an elapsed time of 26 days 6 hours and 47 minutes - an average peal speed of 3 hours and 10 minutes. 695 ringers have rung a peal in the tower.

The first five peals, all of Triples, were rung on the old eight that were replaced by the current Taylor ring in 1937. The first 100 peals took 95 years albeit with gaps for the first and second world wars as well as a five-year gap between the 99th and 100th (there's a story behind that!) The second 100 has taken just under 21 years.

The band for the 200th comprised some of those ringers who have rung the most peals in the tower (Pauline McKenzie - 47 peals, Mike Mears - 41 peals, Ian Smith - 32 peals, Lester Yeo and James Kirkcaldy - 19 peals each) and was of the most popular method (Bristol Surprise Major - 39 peals) conducted by the leading conductor (Mike Mears - 19 peals).

James Kirkcaldy

Exeter Branch Annual General Meeting

Thorverton – 16th November

We were sorry to report that the ringing master David Maynard had moved away (together with his wife Helen) as had Nathan Evans who was his deputy. Ian Campbell was dropped in to organise the ringing on the ten bells before the meeting, and new officers were elected: Oliver Bates as ringing master and Peter Richards as his deputy. All officers are listed on the guild web site.

Special thanks go to Jane Flaxington for making all the delicious cakes and her helpers in serving the teas, Amy Gill for playing the organ and Reverend Katie Cross for taking the service. Three leads of Kent Treble Bob Major were rung on handbells during the service. No one had remembered to bring any handbells so we were privileged to be allowed to use the ones from the Thorverton ringing chamber. I wonder when they were last used!



Enjoying tea before the meeting



Handbells at the service, Alice, Lynne, Tim, Ian



Steph (treasurer), Grich (chair), Rob (secretary)

Rob Neal

Skittles and supper evening 2019

The skittles and supper evening is an Exeter Branch tradition going back several years and for the second year running we held it at the New Inn on the edge of Broadclyst. This was attended by over twenty Guild members and friends, allowing for a competitive game of skittles which was paused halfway through the evening for supper. We had five rounds of skittles in total which was won by Team Rounds with a score of 341, although Team Call Changes were only eleven points behind. Well done to Dick Petrilli who achieved the highest overall score of 42 and also to Susan Illing who won the round of killer at the end – a complete reversal of results from 2018. The supper comprised of a cold meat platter or cheese quiche, served with a tasty side salad and ample roast potatoes, chips and jackets. Our thanks go to the staff at the pub for making us very welcome again.



Enjoying supper between rounds

Rob Neal, Exeter Branch Secretary

Exeter Triumph in South West 12-Bell Competition



Matthew Hilling receiving the trophy from Ben Carey,
Tom Hinks seated

The second annual South West 12-Bell Competition for the Higby Trophy took place at South Petherton on Saturday 12th October. The objective of this competition is to encourage ringing on twelve bells in the south-west of England, providing an opportunity for bands to take part in a competition in a less stressful environment than the National 12-bell. Judging by the eight bands competing (especially with four who hadn't entered in 2018) it would appear that this objective is being met.

Following the draw at 11am and team photos each band ascended the tower at 30-minute intervals for their practice and test piece of two courses of Grandsire Cinques. Some members of the Exeter team hadn't previously rung at South Petherton so this was a tower grab for them. Despite this, and a last-minute band re-shuffle, we performed very well and exited the tower feeling pleased with our ringing. A plethora of excellent striking and ringing took place throughout the day so even the best of the churchyard judges were unable to give a definitive answer as to who would leave with the trophy.

The day was helped along by real ale from Exmoor Ales Brewery, chilli and jacket potatoes. In the church a never-ending amount of food and cups of tea were available whilst competitors and supporters chatted and renewed old acquaintances.

The judges, Tom Hinks and Ben Carey (who were in Exeter in June so are well-practised at judging 12-bell competitions), were situated in a house over the road and listened via a sound feed. There was no computer 'Hawkear' in use so the judging was done the old-fashioned way counting faults. At 4.45pm precisely they entered the church ready to deliver their verdict. In the spirit of the competition, their comments were constructive and encouraging, congratulating all bands for what they had achieved. Well done to the Exeter team, some of whom hadn't taken part in a 12-bell competition before. It has been a good year for us – let's hope 2020 can be equally as successful!

Results (in order of ringing):

Team	Band	Peal Speed	Score	Place
A	Wimborne	3h 27	72%	4
B	Llandaff & Monmouth	3h 21	66%	5
C	Truro	3h 26	62%	6
D	Cirencester	3h 27	50%	8
E	Bristol, St Stephen	3h 17	82%	2
F	Exeter	3h 25	90%	1
G	Chilcompton	3h 27	55%	7
H	Bristol, Redcliffe	3h 35	80%	3



The winning team: Back: Oliver Bates, Steve Taylor, Richard Harrison, Oliver Coldrick, Matt Hilling, Paul Pascoe. Front: Lynne Hughes, Steph Hills, Andrew Digby, Sue Sparling, Pauline McKenzie, Alison Waterson

Matt Hilling - with help from Hayley Young, Andrew Smith and Carolyn Howell



Follow-up to National 12-bell Competition



The cathedral ringers being entertained by the Dean
Note the 12-bell trophy on the table

As reported in the last issue, Exeter Cathedral hosted, and subsequently won the National 12-bell competition back in June. The Dean was so pleased that he invited the ringers to the Deanery for a celebration where the ringers were pleased to be able to present the Dean and Chapter with a cheque from the profits of the function for £1000. The same amount was also given to the Friends of the Cathedral (who have often helped with funding relating to the bells) and also to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund (which contributed to the recent work on the bells). There was still a significant amount left for the local bell fund. Most of this profit is due to the enormous generosity of those involved, with gifts of produce (especially cakes!) and time. Letters of thanks were received from all those who benefitted; the Dean wrote:

*18th September
Dear Pauline
We were surprised and thrilled to receive the hugely generous cheque from the ringers following the enormously successful 12-bell competition. Please pass on our thanks to the whole team. We are deeply grateful.
Very best wishes
Jonathan – Dean of Exeter*

At a subsequent meeting with the Dean he admitted that the 12-bell competition had been the best day of his time in Exeter so far!

Ian Campbell

Amy Graduates



At one time it was rare to find an issue of *Ringling Round Devon* which didn't contain a picture of Amy Gill. Now we know where she has been for the last few years! Congratulations go to her for achieving a first-class honours degree in cardiac physiology from Plymouth University. She is now working as a Cardiac Physiologist at the Royal Devon and Exeter hospital. We hope that she will still be available to play the organ at local ringing meetings!

Ian Campbell

Peal by three Golden Wedding Couples

Three couples, all members of the Exeter Cathedral Society, celebrated their golden weddings this year. To mark this rare occasion a peal was rung by all six:



Afterwards in the Whitchurch Inn - (l-r) the Smiths, the Campbells, the Browns

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Sampford Spiney, Devon, St Mary
Thursday, 10 October 2019 in 2h 41
5040 Minor

7m: 1 extent each Golden Wedding TP, Ipswich S, Surfleet S, Norwich S, Beverley S, York S, Cambridge S

1 Josephine A Brown	4 Peter G Brown
2 P Wendy Campbell	5 Ian L C Campbell
3 Ann Smith	6 Ian V J Smith (C)

Rung by three couples, all members of the Exeter Cathedral Society, who have recently celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversaries - Smiths (9/8/19), Campbells (20/9/19), Browns (4/10/19)

Ian Campbell

Lewis Cobb

Lewis Cobb MBE died on 11 September; he was a member of the Exeter Branch for a few years in the 1970s so those with long memories may remember him. More recently he lived at Bishops Cannings in Wiltshire. BellBoard shows seven quarter peals rung in his memory in several southern counties.

John Martin

Exeter Colleges Guild

ECG Quarter Peal Day 2019

7th September 2019

A quarter peal day has now become a firm annual event for the Exeter Colleges Guild. Given the love for curries we share, we decided this year to have two curries in a day by ringing at Curry Rivel and North Curry, and then potentially rounding off the day with a curry. By adding Huish Episcopi and Drayton into the mix, the plan for the day was formed.

Starting off at Huish Episcopi with Double Norwich, after a slightly uneven first lead, the ringing settled down into a regular rhythm and we scored a first in method for one of our number. At our next tower (Drayton) we scored a quarter peal of Cornwall S Major, a possible first for the Guild, and a first in method for three of us; we felt we did ourselves proud.

We then stopped for lunch at the Firehouse in Curry Rivel and had some very good pizza. Conveniently, this was also a two-minute walk from the next tower, where we scored our third



The band at North Curry. L to R: Rob Neal, David Maynard, Nathan Evans, Steph Hills, Richard Johnson, Tom Hinks, Helena Mattingley and Martin Gentile.

quarter peal of the day ringing six-spliced S Major. Our last tower of the day was North Curry. These bells were the loudest of the day, in stark contrast to Drayton, whose sound was almost ethereal as we stood in the ringing chamber. After ringing the bells up, we scored a good quarter of Stedman Triples to round off the day's ringing.

In all, we scored four out of four attempts - bring on next year!

Martin Gentile

Mid-Devon Branch

Buckfast Abbey Bells on the Internet

The bell ringing at Buckfast Abbey is now regularly broadcast live on the Internet, with cameras showing both the ringers in the ringing chamber and also the bells swinging. There is a room behind the Abbey where the broadcasts can be watched live and the sessions are also recorded on Youtube and available after the event. If you are interested in seeing these search on Youtube for 'Buckfast Abbey Live Stream'. You may have to skip over some of the beginning to find anything interesting unless you like watching an empty ringing chamber!

Several of the sessions include the ringing of Hosanna (the seven-ton bourdon bell) after the main ringing is completed. The most recent one from 28th October shows a photographer from the *Totnes Times* taking photos which were to appear in an article the next week. Geoff Pring, the Abbey Warden, was interviewed for the same service on Radio Devon.

Having watched one or two of these in which I was ringing I find it a little scary to see that every action, such as changing your clothing to ring, is being broadcast all over the world! But at least some of the ringing sounds better than, perhaps, it did when we were ringing!

Ian Campbell

The CCCBR Mini Roadshow

It seems that the Central Council has really taken on board the need to respond to a very different world than the one that existed when it was set up at the end of the 19th century. This year the meeting date was altered and the old committees have been replaced by work groups. The meetings have been streamlined and non-council members have been included in the workgroups. Together with the business meetings there was a roadshow that was open to all ringers. Janet Ritterman went along and we are very grateful for her report:

This year the Sunday of the Central Council's annual meeting included, as an experiment, a Mini Roadshow, an initiative prompted by the success of the Ringing Roadshow at Newbury in 2014, as a way of bringing together organisations which support ringing and ringers, trade suppliers and ringers regularly in



A mini-ring at the Roadshow

between major Roadshows. Since I had to be in London that weekend, I took advantage of the opportunity to go along. I was glad that I did. Although for those who have attended many such events before this may have offered all too familiar experiences, I found it a very stimulating and enjoyable day.

Goldsmiths (part of the University of London) was the venue for the weekend. On Sunday, everything took place in one building, with stalls and displays on the lower ground floor and talks on a wide range of topics taking place throughout the day in lecture halls and seminar rooms elsewhere in the building. Luckily the weather was fine and sunny, so some of the mini rings (and there were quite a few being demonstrated) spread out onto College Green, the grassy area in front of the building. Many of those attending took advantage to try them; for much of the day the building and its immediate surroundings echoed to the sound of rounds and familiar methods.

Although the display area was relatively small, there was a great variety of material on display, so the 24 stands attracted considerable attention. I particularly enjoyed watching sallies being made (for mini-rings), receiving a demonstration of David Bagley's new Oddstruckness Meter (described in detail in a recent issue of *The Ringing World*), perusing some unusual items from the Central Council Library which are part of the Library 'on tour', and being shown the beautiful volumes containing the Rolls of Honour, listing for both World Wars the names of ringers who lost their lives.

Talks were grouped under five headings – Volunteer and Leadership; Science and Technology; Bells and Engineering; History and Heritage; Recruitment and Promotion – and were given throughout the day. The full programme can be found on the CCCBR website, and it appeared that there are plans to make available there as many of the presentations as possible. I tried to sample something from most of these, so managed to attend sessions on building a bell sound, on safeguarding, on Project Pickled Egg, on ringing history, and on creating a welcoming tower environment. Choosing was hard: for most of the day, there were three or four talks taking place concurrently, and there was much more that I would really have liked to have heard. Those talks that I attended were uniformly good, and extremely interesting.

In the final session, Steve Coleman, supported by a team of six readers, provided an extremely entertaining and well-researched account of what happened up and down the country during the second World War, entitled 'When Ringing had to Stop'. The demonstration of what it must have been like to try to respond to calls from a ringer wearing a gas mask, was just one of numerous moments in this lively presentation that provoked much hilarity



An unusual mini-ring with the bells at knee level

from the packed lecture theatre. The day certainly ended on an upbeat note. Responses that I overheard from those attending the Mini Roadshow seemed to confirm that Mini Roadshows can offer maxi enjoyment. There is reason to hope that Mini Roadshows will become a regular part of the programme for the CCCBR annual meeting.

Janet Ritterman

Towards better Striking - Stokeinteignhead

September 2019

Mike Tompsett was in charge of this course held at Stokeinteignhead. Mike discussed the difficulties of achieving good striking and how important it is. He mentioned that many extremely experienced ringers still worry that they are not always able to produce the quality of ringing that they aspire to. One of the difficulties in Devon is that there are two types of leading: closed and open. Mike discussed what an open lead was and used clapping the rhythm as a way of describing it. This made it immediately clear that several people had not understood what was required. The practical ringing then concentrated on call changes with open leads and everyone had a go at leading. Getting the handstroke wider often causes the back stroke to be open as well so work was needed to make the back stroke quicker. A coffee morning was taking place in the church so we joined that for refreshments. The discussions on how best to achieve good striking continued during coffee and then it was time to return to the tower for more practice. Some continued with call changes whilst others tried plain hunting and Plain Bob. At the end of the morning it was obvious that the striking had improved, particularly with the open leading. Mike and his helpers were thanked for an interesting and useful morning and there has been much positive feedback since.

Martin Mansley



Branch AGM – Dawlish

A rather disappointing turn-out for this one but a warm welcome none the less. Ringing took place before the service and covered a variety of methods. The service was conducted by the Rev Dallas Ayling who thanked ringers for all the work done to remind the public that the church is 'in business'. The hymns were sung lustily and a course of Bob Minor on handbells was rung by Nigel Birt, Lynne Hughes and Martin Mansley.

The Dawlish ringers had laid on a sumptuous tea which was much enjoyed. The meeting was in the hands of Our Chairman, Dr Rodney Horder. In his opening remarks he thanked all at Dawlish for the excellent arrangements and everyone for attending making special mention of Charlotte Boyce and John Martin (Guild Treasurer and Secretary, respectively). He also mentioned Janet Ritterman from our own branch who was attending also as Guild Ringing Master for this year. He remarked that it was disappointing that for the second time this year a branch tower had fixed its outing for the same day as a branch event. He asked tower captains to avoid dates when there is a branch event in the future.

These are not the official minutes but a few points from the meeting were:

- The Eddon Clapper Trophy for progress in a branch tower was awarded to St Marychurch
- A new tower had asked to become a branch tower and Bovey Tracey was unanimously admitted to the branch along with four new members.
- The branch officers were re-elected but our Treasurer, Fiona Rock Evans, had stated that she would like to stand down. As no-one had come forward for the post it was agreed that the committee would continue to look for a candidate who could then be co-opted until an election could be held.
- The Secretary and Ringing Master both reported on a successful year for the branch
- It was agreed that a number of celebrations would be held in the next twelve months as the branch marks 100 years of existence. A ringing day with a lunch was proposed for January and a branch peal will be attempted. It was also suggested that a quarter peal should be attempted in all the branch towers.
- The suggested programme for the year was circulated and it was proposed that three training events should be held. These to be a workshop on listening skills and basic theory, one on basic methods (Plain Hunt and Plain Bob) and the ever popular raising and lowering. The programme has been circulated



Presentation of the Eden Clapper Trophy
Martin Mansley

Outing to Cornwall

It was a rather grey day for weather but that never bothers ringers! The first tower turned out to be what one was described as a bell ringer's play room. As we entered Bradoc church we were greeted by an eight-bell mini ring which was soon being enjoyed. This had a 16lb tenor. Once we had all had a go on those bells it was time to try the real bells – a ring of five, which was slightly confusing as there were 6 ropes! The sixth rope was attached to a dumb-bell. Being a ground floor ring everyone not ringing was able to look round the church and soon, Rob, the local ringer was providing coffee and letting us loose on all the other 'toys' available! These included hand chimes and 'boom wackers' - coloured plastic tubes which produced a 'note' when hit. Call changes on these produced much hilarity but the hymn tunes on the chimes were just about recognisable. What a way to start the day. Our next tower might have been a problem as we faced a lock-out but a phone call soon produced an apologetic tower captain who had become engrossed in the Rugby – England won!

These bells (Lostwithiel) proved to be a fine Gillett six although one or two of us found the sallies had a tendency to stray – a course of Cambridge here was watched by an interested group from Holland (or possibly Germany?). Several places in Lostwithiel were available for lunch but the majority chose the Duchy tea rooms. Fortunately, the staff were not daunted by a noisy group of ringers and coped manfully with our orders. Wendy had been disappointed that her St Marychurch colleagues had forgotten to bring 'Dipsy' the mascot. She was, therefore, delighted when Nicola and Neville presented her with a toucan at lunchtime as a very worthy substitute!

The next tower gave our driver some quite narrow lanes to negotiate but we all thought it was worth it as St Winnow church has an exquisite setting by the river. Our host at Bradoc was back to greet us once more and these bells definitely proved 'interesting'. They are a fairly new complete ring of 10 with a tenor weight of just over 3cwt. It took us some time to get used to them, particularly the front bells. Rob told us about the training that goes on here and at Bradoc with two different bell clubs at local schools. With such light bells and all the training aids it was very pleasing to hear of the success with recruiting much needed young ringers.

The narrow lanes caused us to be a little late at our next tower but we were told it was not a problem as the wedding planned for earlier in the day had started an hour late and had only just finished! Lanivet proved to be the trickiest bells of the day with long ropes and no knots allowed. It was then only a short drive to Bodmin and what were generally agreed to be the best bells of the day. They are a Taylor eight with a tenor of 17 cwt and despite obvious tiredness we produced the best ringing of the day. Cambridge Major was finally achieved here along with Plain Bob Major and several sets of call changes when we were delighted to be joined by the local ringer who let us in. She had only been ringing a couple of years and told us she was hoping to start method ringing very soon.



Mini-bell ringing at Bradoc



The group outside the church at Lanivet

So, with the ringing complete, our thoughts turned to food and we were pleased that the journey to our pub stop was only about 30 minutes. The Halfway House at Polbathic was all ready for us and we were soon ensconced in an upstairs room where our food was not long in arriving. It was great to be able to relax after a busy day with the knowledge that it was a fairly short run home. Verity Brett gave a vote of thanks on behalf of all the ringers to everyone involved with the organisation. So, tired but happy we arrived back in Newton Abbot just after 8.30pm. Very many thanks to all the ringers and tower captains for such a warm welcome to Cornwall.



The new mascot with Wendy – or is it the other way around?

Martin Mansley

Branch Six bell practice Collaton St Mary

We should know by now that ringers are a hardy bunch and not easily put off! Everything should have conspired to make this practice a washout (literally!). The weather was bad and Collaton St Mary is not an easy place to find. If you add to this a major event taking place in the school opposite with cars parked almost everywhere possible, then you start to get the picture. Despite all these problems this was one of the best attended practices this year. The small tower was packed with branch members and we are only aware of one member who decided that they would give up and go home!

The two methods chosen as special methods, Double Oxford Bob and Wells Surprise Minor, were well aired along with everything from call changes to Surprise Minor in a very lively evening. We are very grateful to the ringers of Collaton St Mary for allowing us to ring and to all who braved all the difficulties to make it such an enjoyable evening.



The Naughty Corner at Collaton

Martin Mansley

How I rang a Quarter Peal – without knowing it!

We had a band of visiting ringers at Bishopsteignton on 22nd November. I went to the church to let them in, but when they arrived, there were only five. Sadly, some of the band had been involved in a car accident near Ideford – luckily, no-one was hurt. So I said 'would you like me to join you? I'm a call change ringer, so I would have to follow on the tenor'. They accepted this offer, and we began ringing. Stedman. Then Plain Bob. Then Grandsire. After about a quarter of an hour, I began thinking 'these guys practise long and hard'. By the time we got to St Simon's, the thought came 'surely we're not ringing a quarter peal?' As the minutes ticked by, I became increasingly convinced that this was indeed what we were doing.

At the end, I asked diffidently if that had been a quarter peal. 'Yep, sure was' came the reply. So I join what must surely be a small band of people who have embarked on – and successful completed – a quarter peal without knowing what they were doing. Incidentally, it was my third QP.

Bishopsteignton, Devon, St John the Baptist

Friday, 22 November 2019

1260 Doubles (6m)

60 Stedman, 240 each Plain Bob, Grandsire, St Simon's, Reverse Canterbury, St Martin's.

1 Rev Christopher Renyard

2 Mike Wigney

3 David A C Matthews

4 James Kirkcaldy

5 Peter M C Richards (C)

6 Roger Avery

Roger Avery

Future Events

Centenary Celebration Day Saturday 11th January 2020

As part of our centenary celebrations we are holding a ringing day in the Torquay area. The very first meeting of the branch was held at Upton in Torquay so we are starting there with ringing from 11am until 12.

The afternoon ringing will be from 2.30 until 3.30 at Cockington which was one of the two founding towers of the branch.

Martin Mansley

Lowrey Bell

Guy Thompson has sent the sad news that Lowrey Bell died on Saturday 16th November. Lowrey was captain of Brixham bellringers for many years and came from a family of ringers.

The funeral service was on 29th November at St Mary's, Brixham with ringing following the service.

Martin Mansley

East Devon Branch

East Devon Bell Ringers Centenary Meeting



In October 1919, just after the end of the First World War, church bell ringers met at Ottery St Mary and decided to form an East Devon branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers. On Saturday 12th October 2019 the centenary meeting of the branch took place, again at Ottery St Mary. Ringers gathered from across the branch and from further afield to celebrate the occasion. The celebrations began with open ringing at the church when ringers of all ages from the youngest (11) to the oldest (85+) took the opportunity to ring the splendid sounding bells. Adding to the sense of occasion was a BBC TV cameraman recording the ringing. This was followed by a service of thanksgiving and celebration conducted by John White, an Ottery Reader.

After the service all present enjoyed a delicious tea, including a magnificent cake shaped to show 100 and decorated with a bell rope and bells. Marion Baker from Sidmouth, who first became a member of the branch over 70 years ago, was invited to cut the cake, assisted by our youngest member, eleven years old Sophie who rings at Combe Raleigh. During the business meeting that followed the tea Sophie and fourteen years old Isobel, from Axminster, received their first quarter peal certificates awarded by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

A quiz relating to the 21 East Devon towers now affiliated to the Guild was won by the narrowest of margins, after the fourth

tiebreak question, by Lisa Clarke from Combe Raleigh with Awliscombe's Roger Sprigg the runner-up.

It was good to see the younger members showing such enthusiasm, the future of the branch and indeed of church bell ringing generally lies in their hands. The occasion was much enjoyed, and we look forward to our art being continued for another 100 years. We would like to thank all the people of Ottery for their welcome.

Trevor Hitchcock – Publicity Officer East Devon Branch

Izzy's first quarter peal on an inside bell

On Monday 7th October Izzy scored her first quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles on an inside bell. Izzy was coerced into learning to ring in September 2018, on the premise that I wanted a complete band of novices for our Ringing Remembers performance on 11th November and we were one ringer short.

She took to bell handling so well that another challenge was set, to be Plain Hunting by Christmas. This was too much to ask but sowed the seed of success. In early 2019 Izzy joined Lisa Clarke's young ringers' team who were working hard for the East Devon Branch striking competition on 13th July at Dunkeswell. The young team put in a spectacular performance to win their class with only 17 faults.

Izzy rang her first quarter ringing the treble at Dalwood on 27th July with little difficulty and immediately began to learn the intricacies of Plain Bob Doubles place bells. Izzy chose the bells of Uplyme, being a nice friendly ring on which to score her first quarter inside. A willing and supportive team assembled and the quarter kicked off to a great start. 400 changes in there was a minor kerfuffle, which soon resolved itself and things settled down, but not all was well. The coursing order was wrong; a lucky extra bob brought things back into place and everyone settled down. With less than 200 changes to go, we had a heart stopping moment. Izzy completely missed the sally sending the rope off into the middle of the circle. She miraculously brought the rope under control without losing her place and continued as if nothing had happened. We were all relieved when the quarter peal came round after 1260 changes. Thank you to all her support ringers and huge congratulations to Izzy.

Izzy is now looking forward to me leaving her alone to concentrate on her GCSEs... no chance!

Uplyme, Devon, St Peter and St Paul

Monday, 7 October 2019 in 41m

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Trevor Hitchcock

4 Lisa Clarke

2 Izzy Simpson

5 Peter Simpson (C)

3 Maureen Davey

6 Anne Burn

First inside quarter for 2. Achieved at the first attempt.

Izzy, 14 began ringing in September 2018 for Ringing Remembers.



Marion Baker and Sophie cutting the celebration cake



Trevor, Izzy, Maureen, Lisa, Peter, Anne

Peter Simpson

Young Ringers in East Devon



Over recent years and especially since the Ringing Remembers campaign, the number of young ringers has increased noticeably in East Devon. After the striking competition in 2018 Lisa came up with a plan for a team of young ringers to enter the competition this year. She chose six young ringers from six different towers across the Branch to form a competition team.

Monthly practices on a Saturday afternoon at Combe Raleigh began in February and by using the simulator as a 'strikometer' for feedback their Plain Hunt striking improved steadily. The two Ringing Remembers recruits had started plain hunting only a short while before. Sadly one of the team dropped out just before the big day but, rather than withdraw from the competition, Lisa stepped in to ring the tenor. We had been hearing good things about the progress of the band of young ringers. Their commitment was never in doubt and they approached it with enthusiasm. On the day, they rose to the challenge superbly. So much so, they were clear winners of the open class, carrying away the Alan Tucker Memorial Bell. After ringing their test piece each received an enormous round of applause as they emerged from the tower. Lisa was in tears! *'This must be one of the highlights of my ringing career. I could not have asked for more, they were utterly professional and just got on with the job. I am immensely proud of them.'* So, who were these keen young ringers whose ages ran from eleven to seventeen with an average of barely fifteen? Here they are collecting the trophy from Richard Coley (Branch Education Officer) and James Clarke (Judge): Ashleigh, Sophie, Lisa, Isobel, Arthur and Kirsten.

Trevor Hitchcock, photo by Brian Eastell

Apology from editor: This article seemed to have got missed from the September issue so has been included now.



Granny's Kitchen

This may seem to be a strange heading to describe a ringing tour, but it is where it all started almost 81 years ago. This summer I was invited by Lisa to organise this year's Combe Raleigh ringers' outing and given a free hand. Firstly I decided the date had to be during the school half term break and discovered that it would coincide with both Sophie's birthday and Sally's the day after Sophie's. That pretty well established the date. Sally has connections with North Devon, as do I, so with these thoughts I set about finding towers in the Alwington and Buckland Brewer area. James Clarke swiftly agreed to make the Alwington tower available and gave useful advice on other towers in the vicinity. Once I had explained my connections with Buckland Brewer, that tower too became available. When I was a boy, with the wind in the right direction, we could hear the bells at Littleham and this was also added to the list. The fourth tower was decided when Lisa got in touch with Rod, who previously rang at Honiton and now rings in Bideford, to invite him to join us. At his suggestion, with which I quickly agreed, he made all the arrangements for us to ring at Bideford. I was told that Bideford are very selective in who rings there – it needs to be good ringing!

On any ringing tour one of the most crucial decisions to be made is 'where do we go for lunch?' A selective vote, only Sally and I took part, resulted in a unanimous decision to go to the Coach and Horses at Buckland Brewer. This had at one time been Sally's local and I have been going there for over 80 years. I first visited when a little under eight weeks old. I didn't just toddle in on my own, you understand, but I was being taken to meet my grandparents for the first time and they ran the Inn. Despite this, Ruth and I still made two preliminary visits to check it all out. Actually, the second visit was because we had enjoyed the first lunch so much we decided to treat ourselves to another.

Transport could have been a problem, but Charles quickly offered to drive the mini-bus and so we could all travel together. Hence seventeen of us crammed into it and there was a constant buzz of excitement and chat throughout the journey. Anyone travelling to Littleham should be aware that many roads in that area are very narrow, but Charles was up to the task and we arrived nicely on time.

The ringing started with Stedman Doubles, not the easiest method, which was rung well, setting the standard for the day. Other methods followed, as well as some Devon call changes called by James and our young ringers excelled. These were the lightest bells of the day and as it happened each succeeding tower had increasingly heavier bells.

Alwington is a fairly remote location and sadly the church is almost always kept locked due to past vandalism. Inside it is quite splendid with both medieval and modern carvings which are a delight to see. Here we also met the oldest bell that any of us had rung, cast in 1390, even older than our own oldest bell which dates from 1430. James Clarke, once of Sidbury, again met us and joined in with our ringing. On the way we passed Sally's old house and at the church she had a reunion with some she had known from long ago. I also discovered that I was at school with one of the churchwardens. It's a small world.

Lunch, taken in what was once my grandmother's kitchen, was a bit special; did I detect the glimmer of a tear in Sally's eye? Sophie's mum had made a very special birthday cake for her, decorated with references to Sally's interests, bones for her dogs, plus paw prints and horseshoes from her riding days, frills and flowers, but wisely no age! The staff and owners were very helpful and we all shared in the cake instead of ordering a dessert. Whisper it softly, but rumour says that Sally and the landlord were seen to kiss.

I remember very little of the ringing at Buckland Brewer as after raising the bells and ringing Stedman Doubles, I became too engrossed in comparing notes of our childhood in the village with the Buckland tower captain, a conversation that came to an abrupt halt when I was asked to lead down. It surprised many people to find that there is a plaque in the church recording the fact that the

original John Taylor, bell founder of Loughborough, was born in the village. Finally it was on to Bideford and the first eight of the day. It was a long climb up the tower to the ringing chamber, but worth it for the bells. The Bideford tower captain was there and was invited to call Devon call changes followed by Plain Bob Doubles with 7, 6, 8 behind before ringing Plain Hunt Triples. Joined by two men from Taylor's, who were working on the nearby Northam Tower, we enjoyed some more high class call change ringing and a touch of Grandsire Triples. I think it fair to say we did not disgrace ourselves and enjoyed some of the best ringing yet.

Tired out, but very happy and already thinking about our next tour, we arrived back in Honiton at 7pm.



At Buckland Brewer, L to R: Maureen, Kirsten, Anne, Sophie, Delie, Lisa, Charles, Ruth, Nellie, Sally, Stan, Janet, Pam, Laurence and Trevor

Trevor Hitchcock, photo by Heather Trim

North East Branch

Tiverton St Peter's Shield

Friday 6th September saw the revival of the St Peter's Shield Competition. After a couple of years of having little interest in this event, which invites towers from Tiverton and Cullompton Deaneries to partake, we were pleased to have five teams enter.

This year the competition was held at Bickleigh. Richard Johnston accepted the task of judging the event and all teams rang call changes. The competition was open to bands to ring either call changes or method but as Richard commented in his review, 'the bells are a little challenging for novice ringers'. Most bands that rang had members that were new to competition ringing. Well done to Silverton for entering two teams.

The results were as follows:

Tiverton St Peter	31 faults
Silverton (1)	32 faults
Kentisbeare	37 faults
Silverton (2)	50 faults
Tiverton St Paul	55 faults



Participants watching the draw



Winning team presented with certificate
Richard Johnston (judge), Matthew Weighell and Mark Heritage,
Tiverton, St Peter.
Sheila Scofield

Jess receives level four certificate

Jess completed level four of Learning the Ropes on 3rd October by calling plain courses of Plain Bob Doubles at Bampton practice. She had previously rung a quarter peal inside and completed all the theory targets necessary to achieve the standard. Jess began ringing in January 2014 as part of the Bampton after school bell club and has continued ringing at Bampton, Huntsham and Tiverton St Peter as well as attending branch events. She is planning to use bellringing as part of her next Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.



Jess gets her level 4 certificate from Sheila Scofield
Sheila Scofield

New Branch Secretary

The outgoing secretary writes:

As I hope you have read in the AGM minutes you have a new secretary. I have had seven very happy years as secretary and hope that I haven't caused too many problems in that time, especially as I had never been a secretary of any organisation before. I am sure Bev Welch will fill the position very well.

The email address: northeastsec@devonringers.org.uk will remain the same.

Many thanks for your help and support over the years.

Jenny Jones

New Ringer at Cruwys Morchard

An article was published in the previous issue about Stan, who at the age of 12 has been ringing for five months and is busy completing the tasks to earn the rewards of the Sherborne teaching aids. Unfortunately there was insufficient space to print his photograph so here it is now!



Ian Campbell / Guy Cruwys

South West Branch

100th Anniversary Celebrations



Ringing at Peter Tavy

2019 celebrates the 100th anniversary of the formation of the South West Branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers. Although events and quarter peals have taken place during the year, festivities came to a head on the weekend of the 8th and 9th of November.

Friday 8th saw a peal of Cambridge Minor at Peter Tavy where the first branch meeting was held exactly 100 years ago. It was a privilege to organise this peal with such an illustrious gathering. The team, with past and present members of the branch, represented no less than two past Presidents, five Vice Presidents, four past Masters of the Guild and four past and the present chairman of the Branch. With such a pedigree the peal had to be a good one, and it was! Saturday 9th saw the bells available again with a well struck quarter of Grandsire by four of us who actually rang at the same venue 50 years ago to celebrate the Branch's Golden Anniversary which at that time was televised on Spotlight South West. What an honour to have Donna Baker ringing in this. If it had not been for her efforts there would not have been method ringing in this part of the Branch today. The rest of the band owe her so much!

The bells were then available for open ringing before the service at 6pm. We were privileged to have the Bishop of Plymouth, the Right Revd Nick McKinnell with us to take the service. The organist was Valerie Hill, my wife, who ironically played the organ at Peter Tavy at the same service 50 years ago. This was certainly a day of significant milestones. The church was full and thanks were expressed to Steve and Alison Carreck, the local band's captain and secretary for the use of the bells and to many of the local band members at the service.

Everyone then moved on to the Moorland Garden Hotel for the centenary dinner including 100th anniversary serviettes and



Dinner at the Moorland Garden Hotel





balloons – somebody thought of everything! After a short speech by Alena Wardle, our Chair, we all enjoyed a superb three course meal served to nearly 70 of us. Thanks go to the Moorland Garden Hotel but particularly to Trevor Vercoe, the SW Branch Secretary, for making the arrangements a truly memorable weekend.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Peter Tavy, Devon, St Peter
Friday, 8 November 2019 in 2h 47
5040 Cambridge Surprise Minor
Composed by Roger Bailey

1 George E Mudge	4 John F Steere
2 John F Steere	5 George E Mudge (C)
3 Alena J Wardle	6 Tony Pullan

to celebrate the centenary of the South West Branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers, formed at Peter Tavy in November 1919. Represented by two Past Presidents, six Vice Presidents and five Past Masters of the Guild. The band included the present Chairman and four past Chairmen of the branch.

Geoff Hill, a Past Branch Chairman, Past Master and a Vice President organised the peal but was unable to ring due to ill health. The band thank him for the arrangements and wish him a speedy recovery.

Peter Tavy, Devon, St Peter
Saturday, 9 November 2019
1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Geoffrey C Hill	4 Lester J Yeo
2 Donna Baker	5 Ian V J Smith
3 John C Mitchelmore	6 Fergus M S Stracey (C)

For the Centenary of the South West Branch of the Guild.
Four of the band attended the 50th anniversary celebrations in November 1969 and the other two were members of the Branch at that time.

Geoff Hill

Autumn Outing 2019

On Saturday 7th September 2019 we held our Autumn outing to the Bovey Tracey area. It was a beautiful day for a ringing outing - clear and bright, calm. A few of us left from Plymouth in convoy. This was interesting due to the number of interesting obstacles we encountered at different points and had great fun discussing later. These interruptions included (and were not limited to): cows on the road, a couple on a tandem bicycle, a confused looking delivery driver (who we think was probably lost) and a hedge-trimming tractor.

The first tower was the gorgeous St Pancras, Widecombe-in-the-Moor. It was not surprising to find out that it is also known as the Cathedral of the Moor due to its size and capacity. Descending the valley towards the tower was quite a spectacular moment. The eight bells were nice to ring and we rang rounds and call changes, Plain Bob and Grandsire.

The next tower was St Winifred, Manaton. These were very interesting bells, the oldest dated back to 1441 and we have since found out that these older bells were cast by Joanna Hille, who took over her husband's bell foundry after his death. On arrival at Manaton we discovered that the 2nd bell had no stay... but not to worry, a few of our more experienced (and braver) ringers rang it and held it in between touches.

Lunch was at the aptly named Ring of Bells in North Bovey which gave us the much-needed fuel for the afternoon's three towers. Luckily, the church of St John the Baptist was just across the road! Here we rang rounds and call changes, Plain Bob and Grandsire.

Lustleigh's St John the Baptist was a lovely ground floor ring which went very smoothly despite the longer draft. Here we rang some nice touches of Bob Minor and Grandsire Doubles, and managed a course of Cambridge Minor before moving onto the final tower, Bovey Tracey's SS Peter, Paul & Thomas. I don't think I only speak for myself when I say that we were quite drained by this point but we managed some rounds and call changes, Grandsire Triples and Bob Triples.

All in all, it was a brilliant day out. Many thanks to Phil Dunn for organising the successful day.

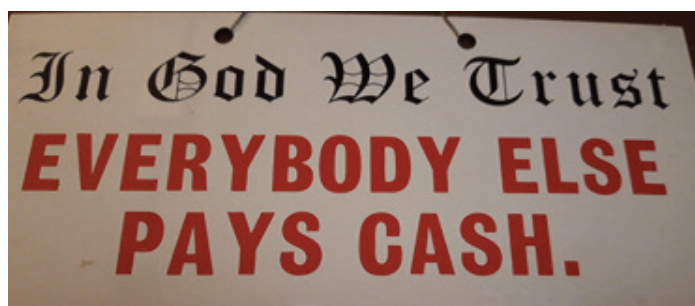


The hedge-trimming tractor



Ringing at Lustleigh

Elena Brake



Suitable for the local pub?

Tavistock Outing

I was fortunate to be invited to join the Tavistock ringers on their annual ringing outing this year. We visited St Michael and All Angels, Alphington; St Andrew, Cullompton; St Mary, Silverton; St Mary, Stoke Cannon and St Michael and All Angels, Pinhoe. We stopped for a light lunch in Thorverton. Throughout the day the ringing ranged from rounds and call changes to Cambridge Surprise, so really there was something for everyone. I'd like to thank the ringers who invited me along for their warm welcome and company.



Tavistock Group Photo at Cullompton

Elena Brake

Learning the Ropes at Emmanuel, Plymouth

Congratulations to Liza for completing Level one of Learning the Ropes! Liza has been learning to ring at Emmanuel and her keen enthusiasm has meant she has quickly progressed, confidently handling the bell by herself and ringing in rounds. We are really pleased to be able to teach Liza using ART's Learning the Ropes scheme, as a few of us are now accredited ART teachers.

I have been teaching Liza with support from Alena as my ART Mentor, so we have all been learning together. In fact, Liza actually passed her Level one during the observed teaching session that I needed to complete in order to receive my accreditation! Liza is a great addition to the band at Emmanuel and I was really pleased to see how much she enjoyed and benefited from joining us on our Autumn outing. Congratulations Liza, I hope you continue to find joy in your new hobby.



Liza receiving her Learning the Ropes, Level 1 certificate



Elena receiving her ART Module 1 certificate, teaching bell handling.

Elena Brake

Rounds for Nancy Astor

The Nancy Astor statue was unveiled on Thursday 28th November, on the centenary of her election as the first female MP. At Emmanuel practice night on the same day, we found ourselves with six lady ringers. The gentlemen stood aside for us to ring '100 Rounds Minor', and we submitted our performance to Bellboard to commemorate the occasion. Congratulations in particular go to Liza for this is her first submission to BellBoard and she rang very well!

Plymouth, Devon, Emmanuel, Compton Gifford
Thursday, 28 November 2019 in 5m

100 Rounds Minor

1 Barbara M Hocke

4 Josephine AK Maddick

2 Liza K Crewe

5 Elena L Brake

3 Sheila J Reynolds

6 Alena J Wardle (C)

Rung to celebrate the centenary of the election of Lady Astor to parliament, the first female MP

Elena Brake

Notable Ringing Events In Memory

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Thorverton, Devon, St Thomas of Canterbury

Thursday, 28 November 2019 in 2h 57

5056 Bristol Surprise Major

Composed by A J Cox

1 Ian W Avery

5 Michael C Hansford

2 Pauline McKenzie

6 Ian V J Smith

3 Jill M Hansford

7 Peter J Sawyer

4 Alison C Waterson

8 Michael E C Mears (C)

In memory of Norman Mallett and George Tribe.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Highweek, Devon, All Saints

Monday, 2 December 2019 in 2h 43

5024 Teignwick Delight Major

Composed by Robert D S Brown

1 Ian W Avery

5 David Hird

2 Peter L Bill

6 Peter J Sawyer

3 James Kirkcaldy

7 Robert D S Brown (C)

4 Michael H Tompsett

8 Michael E C Mears

100th Peal on the bells

First Peal in the method

In memory of Charlie Taylor of Marhamchurch, a vice president of the Guild

Golden Weddings

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Exeter, Devon, St Mark
Friday, 20 September 2019 in 2h 53
5024 Spliced Surprise Major (8m)
640 Bristol, Pudsey, Rutland, Superlative, Yorkshire; 608
Cambridge, Lincolnshire, London. 120 changes of method; atw
Composed by N J Diserens

1 Ian W Avery	5 Ian V J Smith
2 P Wendy Campbell	6 Pauline McKenzie
3 Michael H Tompsett	7 Peter J Sawyer
4 Peter L Bill	8 Michael E C Mears (C)

With best wishes to Ian and Wendy Campbell, celebrating their golden wedding anniversary today.

200th peal of eight-spliced as conductor on the 40th anniversary of the first: same tower, same composition and which Wendy took part in.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Exeter, Devon, St Mark
Friday, 4 October 2019 in 2h 50
5040 Golden Wedding Delight Royal
Composed by J A Ainsworth

1 Ian W Avery	6 David Hird
2 Peter L Bill	7 John R Martin (C)
3 Michael H Tompsett	8 Ian V J Smith
4 Pauline McKenzie	9 Peter J Sawyer
5 James Kirkcaldy	10 Michael E C Mears

Rung as a Golden Wedding anniversary compliment to Peter and Jo Brown.

Birthdays

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Churchstanton, Somerset. St Peter and St Paul
Tuesday, 26 November 2019 in 2h 44 (11–2–27 in F)
5040 Treble Dodging Minor (7m)

(1) Primrose S (2) Warkworth S (3) Edinburgh D (4) Norwich S (5) Durham S (6) York S (7) Cambridge S.

1 James Kirkcaldy	4 Michael C Hansford
2 Jill M Hansford	5 Peter J Sawyer
3 David Hird	6 Michael E C Mears (C)

With best wishes to Wendy Campbell, celebrating her 70th birthday today.

Note from Editor – see what you get from the first character of each method

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Kingsteignton, Devon, Kings-Ting-Tong
Tuesday, 26 November 2019 in 2h 12
5760 Spliced Surprise Minor (41m)
240 each Allendale, Beverley, Hull, Kelso, Northumberland, Warkworth, Wearmouth; 120 each Alnwick, Annable's London, Bacup, Bamfborough, Berwick, Bourne, Cambridge, Canterbury, Carlisle, Chester, Coldstream, Cunecastre, Durham, Hexham, Ipswich, Lightfoot, Lincoln, London, Morpeth, Munden, Netherseale, Newcastle, Norfolk, Norwich, Primrose, Rossendale, Sandiacre, Stamford, Surfleet, Wells, Westminster, Whitley, Wooler, York; atw
Composed by A E Holroyd

1 Ian W Avery	4 Lynne P Hughes
2 Pauline McKenzie	5 Timothy M Bayton
3 William P Carew	6 Michael E C Mears (C)

With best wishes to Wendy Campbell on her 70th birthday.

First Peals

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Tiverton, Devon, St Peter
Saturday, 5 October 2019 in 3h 19
5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major
Composed by R I Allton

1 Alison C Waterson	5 Steve James
2 Timothy M Bayton	6 Matthew H Weighell
3 James Kirkcaldy	7 John R Martin (C)
4 Charlotte A Boyce	8 Michael E C Mears

First attempt: 5.

Rung for the Centenary of the founding of the North East Branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Axminster, Devon, St Mary
Saturday, 30 November 2019 in 2h 54
5003 Grandsire Caters
Composed by B V Mountjoy (No 30)

1 Timothy M Bayton	6 Peter G Simpson
2 Stephanie E Hills	7 James Kirkcaldy
3 Michael H Tompsett	8 John R Martin
4 Charlotte A Boyce	9 Michael E C Mears (C)
5 Oliver C Bates	10 Peter J Sawyer

1st peal: 6. 750th peal: 7.

To mark the centenary of the East Devon Branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Dawlish, Devon
17 East Cliff Road
Tuesday, 19 November 2019 in 2h 20 (15 in C)
5088 Kent Treble Bob Major
Composed by J Reeves
1–2 Jill M Wigney
3–4 Lynne P Hughes
5–6 Timothy M Bayton (C)
7–8 Elizabeth M Chadwick
1st peal: 7-8

Devonshire Society
Huntsham, Devon, All Saints
Thursday, 19 September 2019 in 2h 48
5024 Yorkshire Surprise Major
Composed by Robert D S Brown

1 Richard M Barker	5 Michael Hatchett
2 Jeffrey Knipe	6 R Nicholas Lawrence
3 Lesley A Knipe	7 Robert D S Brown (C)
4 Richard H Johnston	8 Rev Christopher Renyard

1st peal: treble

To mark the 50th anniversary of the first peal by the tenor, a ringer at Bampton/Huntsham

First Quarter Peal

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Combe Raleigh, Devon
St Nicholas
Saturday, 23 November 2019 in 46m (5–2–19 in B)
1320 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Trevor Hitchcock	4 Theo Millard
2 Lisa Clarke (C)	5 Anne E Bailey
3 Sophie Ramsamy	6 Kirsten Hawkins

First quarter inside at first attempt (3) completing LtR Level 4, aged 12. First as cover bell (6)

Wedding

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Bristol, St Stephen the Martyr
Saturday, 21 September 2019 in 3h 21
5040 Bristol Surprise Maximus
Composed by Ian R Fielding

1 Hilary A Beresford	7 Pauline Champion
2 Jennifer R Sparling	8 Donald B Carter
3 Jonathan H Potter	9 Richard Harrison
4 Martin J Cansdale	10 Michael E C Mears
5 Alison C Waterson	11 Peter W Hill
6 Ian R Fielding (C)	12 Thomas J Waterson

Rung to celebrate the wedding of Katie Hill and Tom Waterson later this day at Long Ashton.



Tom and Katie

Training

Raising and Lowering Training Day - October 26th

Nervously, I opened the church door a few minutes before 10.00 on a Saturday morning in October. I was greeted by smiling faces looking down from the ringing chamber and quickly encouraged to: 'Come on up!' Guild Education Officer Tim Bayton introduced us to our fellow learners and the band of five experienced ringers whose mission was to teach us how to raise and lower in peal.

'In on the third: one, two...,' the treble ringer calls and the rich, melodious tone of the bells fills the air as they are expertly rung up in peal. Then, after a few rounds, a perfect lower commences, everyone in place, controlled and brilliantly executed. What an act to follow! After this expert demonstration, the course began: one learner at a time with an expert band and an individual helper each time. Ropes were tied around pillars in the church for us to practise crawling up the rope and taking coils, so that we were each ready for our individual turn.

Never did I feel so exposed. Would I be able to follow the bell in front of me smoothly and efficiently, letting out the correct amount of rope and pulling with just the right amount of effort, not too much and not too little? Concentrating hard and listening carefully to the advice from my mentor, I did my best to follow the bell in front of me all the way up, in a few rounds and then as we rang down. Making coils? Scary! Would I tangle the rope or, worse still, miss the sally? My mentor calmly talked me through the whole process. Very soon the bells were all down and the next learner was getting ready.

After two goes for each learner in the morning and then a pleasant pub lunch, there were two more turns for each of us in the afternoon. At the end of the day, we were privileged to watch the tutors raise the bells, ring a few call changes and lower again: a target for us to aim at and a pleasure to listen to at the end of a very satisfying day. As a learner, I really appreciated the time and effort of all the helpers who had given up their whole day for us (and forgone watching England beat New Zealand in the semi-final of the Rugby World Cup). Now comes the hard part: putting it all into practice in our home towers.

Sharn Kent and Lesley Houghton

The Guild of Devonshire Ringers is in the exceptionally privileged position of sharing its territory with the Devon Association of Ringers. I am very grateful to members of the Association for sharing their expertise and helping with this training organised by the Guild. We have much in common and pooling our strengths, especially when it comes to recruitment and training new ringers, is beneficial both to the Exercise as a whole and to the individual towers where we ring.

Tim Bayton, Guild Education Officer

Poster from French Church



Ian Campbell

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Practising taking coils with the rope wrapped around a pillar

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Sharn Kent and Lesley Houghton



Lunch Break

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Tim Bayton, Guild Education Officer

What is this ART?

The Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) seems to be one of those 'Marmite' things. It definitely divides opinion, which has always seemed a bit strange to me because in its simplest form ART boils down to a couple of day courses. Last year ART ran over 60 such courses for almost 600 ringers and there were over 190 accreditations. The numbers speak for themselves – ringers come on the courses and accredit because they want to, not because they have to – and they wouldn't do it if they didn't think it was a good thing to do.

However, I'm being a bit disingenuous, as ART is much more than its courses. Take for example the first few months of the year which are always busy with both the national ART Awards and the ART Conference (both open to all ringing teachers.) A great picture of some of the pupils from Colerne School, Wiltshire with their certificate and soon they will be deciding which ringing project they will fund with their £400 prize money.

The ART Conference provides an opportunity for ringers from all over the country to listen to speakers talking about a wide range of topics. Some speakers are well-known (we couldn't go to Worcester without hearing from Mark Regan) whilst others are new to ringing and gave some thought-provoking and sometimes uncomfortable insights. In the words of one delegate: 'The ART Conference was a breath of fresh air. A room full of ringers, but enthusiastic ringers, motivated ringers, ringers who want to make ringing better. People who believe it's not just about bell ringing, it's actually about bell ringers. Can't wait for next year!'

So, if you're undecided about ART why not have a look at our website. There's a couple of videos of teachers who've been on our courses explaining why they found them so useful. And have a look at our other schemes, workshops and products. Hopefully you'll find something that interests you.

Lesley Belcher, ART Chair

The Augmentation

A Cautionary Tale (Kingskerswell please note!)

'Had you realised, George, that next year is the 1100th anniversary of the death of St Swarfega?'

'No, Vicar. Can't say I 'ad', replied George Broadworthy, Tower Captain of St Swarfega's.

'We really should mark the occasion with something special don't you think?' went on the rev. Ken.

'Whatever you thinks, Vicar.'

'Well, George, what I think is that we should augment our ring from six bells to eight. There's plenty of room in the tower and I'm sure we could raise the money with a bit of effort.'

'All very well, Vicar, I s'pose', said George. 'But I got enough trouble gettin' a band to ring six on Sundays so I can't see why we needs any more bells.'

That's how it all began, but despite this initial rebuff, Ken's enthusiasm was undiminished. He floated the idea in his next sermon, aired it at the Mothers' Union meeting, sweet-talked the Churchwardens, persuaded the PCC and then called a meeting of the ringers.

George's views had not changed and he was supported (as always) by vice-captain and younger brother Fred, but the Vicar found support among the other ringers. Martin Cleaver, a newish member of the band but a keen and experienced ringer immediately agreed to co-ordinate the fund-raising campaign.

'I've had some experience of this in my old tower,' he said. 'It's really not too difficult if you work hard.'

When a vote was taken it was clear that the Vicar's plan had almost total support with only George and Fred opposing.

Martin immediately began persuading people to organise money-raising events in the village. Little Odford had seen nothing like it. The Biggest Radish Competition was an enormous success but the sponsored Frog Racing proved a disaster when the course was invaded by a flock of hungry seagulls blown inland by recent storms. Quarter peals were rung to mark silver weddings and golden weddings and one for 'a significant family event' which was subsequently revealed as the granting of the couple's decree absolute.

Applications for grant aid were made to all the relevant charities and money started to arrive in quite large amounts.

Mary Prosser, postmistress and ringer, arranged a sponsored knit-in which produced 50 Easter chicks and £50.

Fred Broadworthy's daughter Sharon and her boyfriend Darren, normally interested in nothing but each other, were miraculously inspired by the campaign and undertook to arrange an open-air pop concert on the village green. Such was their enthusiasm and energy that they threw caution to the winds and expanded the project into a two-day summer festival with top billing for the boy band Guidance for Voters, one of whose members was Darren's mum's sister-in-law's brother.

To the genuine surprise of all, and especially the Rev Ken, Darren and Sharon went about their work with great efficiency getting all the necessary permissions and approvals from the authorities.

What they overlooked, however, was that the Little Odford Festival was planned for the same week as the Glastonbury festival; an oversight, as it turned out, of major significance.

The great weekend and the mobile toilets arrived. The arena was set up and ticket-holding fans were beginning to assemble on the green. All was sweetness and light, or rather dusk, when the invasion erupted.

A convoy of battered camper vans and motorcycles poured into the village loaded with disappointed, ticketless fans who had been successfully repelled by Glastonbury's highly professional security machine. In the ensuing mayhem verges were trampled, garden fences demolished, the green transformed into a ploughed field, windows were broken, cats terrified and little music heard. Guidance for Voters beat a hasty retreat and by morning nothing remained but the mangled remains of the once picturesque village centre.

Poor Ken had many ruffled feathers to smooth down and many promises of compensation to make.

At the end of the day the fundraisers met to decide what to do next.

'I'm afraid that with so many more people attending than we had anticipated our insurance cover is invalidated', announced the crestfallen Vicar. 'But we really must make sure that the damage is paid for. The only way I think we can do that is to abandon the augmentation plans for the present and use the funds to pay for the repairs.'

Nobody disagreed with this sad proposal.

In the bar of the Ring of Bells later that evening George downed his second pint.

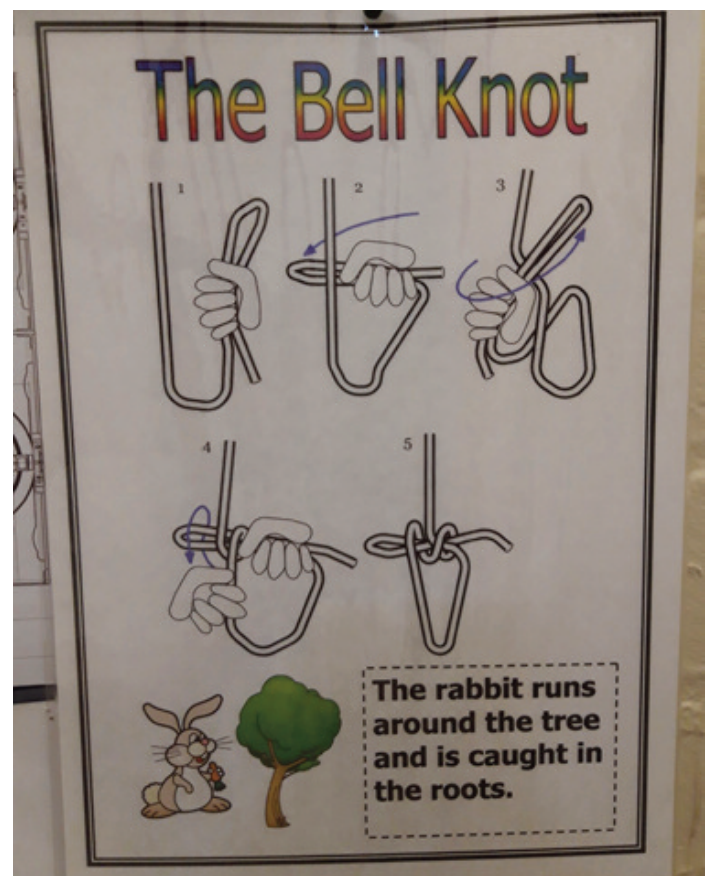
'I said 'twas a daft idea right from the start. Looks like I was right. Fancy another pint Fred?'

Peter Walter

Seen on Notice Boards around the Country



At least with call-changes you have more time to do this



At last – a simple way to tie 'the knot' – not how I do it, though

Ian Campbell

Calendar

January			
Wed 1	19:30	Quarter Peal, Huntsham	North East
Sat 4	10:00	6 Bell Open Practice and Quarterly Event, Halberton	North East
Tue 7	19:30	Triples/Major Practice, Tiverton, St Peter	North East
Wed 8	19:30	Focused 6 Bell Practice (Blue Pathway - RW Refers), Huntsham	North East
Sat 11	11:00	Branch Centenary Event, Upton	Mid Devon
Sat 11	14:15	Branch Centenary Event, Cockington	Mid Devon
Sun 12	17:00	10 Bell Service Ringing, Cullompton	North East
Sat 18		Guild General Committee Meeting	Guild
Wed 22	19:30	Surprise Major Practice, Pinhoe	North East
Sat 25		Branch AGM and Activities, TBA	South West
February			
Sat 1	10:00	6 Bell Open Practice, Bampton	North East
Sat 1	19:00	Branch Practice, Newton Abbott Clock Tower	Mid Devon
Tue 4	19:30	Triples/Major Practice, Tiverton, St Peter	North East
Wed 5	19:30	Quarter Peal, Huntsham	North East
Sat 8	14:30	Branch AGM, Sidmouth	East
Sun 9	17:00	10 Bell Service Ringing, Cullompton	North East
Wed 12	19:30	Focused 6 Bell Practice (Blue Pathway - RW Refers), Huntsham	North East
Mon 17	19:30	6 bell Practice, Stokeinteignhead	Mid Devon
Wed 26	19:30	Surprise Major Practice, Broadclyst	North East
March			
Tue 3	19:30	Triples/Major Practice, Tiverton, St Peter	North East
Wed 4	19:30	Quarter Peal, Huntsham	North East
Sat 7	09:30	Branch Training - Striking and Basic Theory St Marychurch, Torquay	Mid Devon
Sat 7	10:00	6 Bell Open Practice, Hemyock	North East
Sun 8	17:00	10 Bell Service Ringing, Cullompton	North East
Wed 11	19:30	Focused 6 Bell Practice (Blue Pathway - RW Refers), Huntsham	North East
Fri 13	19:30	8-bell Practice, Wolborough	Mid Devon
Wed 18	TBC	Mid-week Outing: organised by Sheila Scofield (Details to follow)	North East
Fri 20	19:00	Branch Committee Meeting, Heathcoat Centre, Tiverton	North East
Wed 25	19:30	Surprise Major Practice, Pinhoe	North East

Editorial

My apologies for the rather late issue in September. This was a result of an unfortunate combination of my holidays and those of John Foster (who does the page makeup) which butted up against each other in the worst possible way. Here is the December issue, but the March one next year may also be a little delayed – a number of ringers (myself included) are going on a trip to New Zealand for the whole of February. Unless, of course, someone would like to volunteer as a guest editor?

The peal rung by three couples who all held their golden wedding this year is certainly unusual and created a little press interest – despite a radio interview a promise to visit the ringers at Sampford Spiney never materialised: perhaps they didn't know where it was when they agreed to come!

It is good that we can record four first peals and at least one first quarter peal in this issue. After the push for new pealers a few years ago things slowed down a little so it is nice to see a recovery.

I was astounded that the national 12-bell final at Exeter Cathedral made such a good profit – I suspect that this was largely helped by the extensive donations of both food and time. It was wonderful to be able to give back to the organisations which had helped us, notably the Dean and Chapter (who had made no charge for the use of any of their usually expensive facilities), and the DCBRF and Friends of the Cathedral who had supported us financially for the work that was done on the bells.

There seem to be more losses of members by death this time than I can remember. I will especially miss Normal Mallet and I was privileged to be able to ring handbells for his memorial

service. I will also remember George Tribe – ever the perfect gentleman – who made such wonderful bell models. I understand that a number of these are being collected together to show off at his funeral.

The new bell installation at Kingskerswell is apparently a great success although I haven't had a chance to ring there yet. It shows what can be achieved in a small community if the will is there. I love the multi-coloured sallys!

Most of the branches have email lists of members and friends which are handled by the University of Exeter servers. These are now rather outdated and can only be updated by one person (me!). Matt Hilling is gradually transferring the branch emails lists to the devonringers Guild server. The North-East Branch has moved, as have a number of other smaller lists and more are in progress. The new system allows you to change your own entries which can also be controlled by the branch secretary. A full list is available at <http://lists.devonringers.org.uk/mailman/listinfo/> but not all of those listed are active yet.

As this goes to print the Devon Ringers' carol service at Exeter Cathedral is past, as is the Library open day at St Petrock's. I hope that we can report on both of these next time. All that remains is to wish you all a very happy Christmas with lots of ringing (or not, if you prefer!) and to return in the new year ready for another year of ringing activities.

Ian Campbell





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Kingskerswell bells

A New Ring of Eight for Devon

We had a very interesting tour of the Nicholson Engineering workshop in Bridport in October to see our new and restored bells. We saw our new frame with just two bells hanging in it, including the newly recast fifth. The other six bells were lined up on the floor for our inspection. The new grillage was installed at the end of October and the installation of the frame and bells commenced on 18th November, and the bells were blessed when they arrived on 20th.

They were first rung on 28th November when we had twenty ringers, including twelve of our own ringers. Nineteen ringers attended the official try-out on 29th November, and we were very pleased to welcome Andrew Nicholson. We were so grateful for the attendance of the visiting ringers, who helped to make it such a very memorable occasion for us. We had our first practice the next morning and this gave us an opportunity to really start to get used to our new bells; we found them so easy to ring. We are thrilled with our restored and augmented ring, and our new balcony ringing chamber.

The following day, 1st December, the Bishop of Plymouth officiated at our Advent Sunday Eucharist and during the service he dedicated the bells and all the work completed in phase one of our church re-ordering; this comprised the new mezzanine ringing balcony, the kitchen at the base of the tower and the new toilet extension. Altogether we had an exciting and memorable few days.

Details of the restored and augmented ring:

Bell	Weight	Note	Date	Founder
1	2-3-5		2019	Eijsbouts, Netherlands
2	3-0-3		2019	Eijsbouts, Netherlands
3	2-3-18		1887	Mears and Stainbank, London
4	3-3-17		1815	John IV Pennington, Stoke Climsland
5	4-0-1		2019	Eijsbouts, Netherlands
6	4-3-7		1815	John IV Pennington, Stoke Climsland
7	6-1-19		1937	Mears and Stainbank, London
8	7-0-3	G#	1887	Mears and Stainbank, London

Visitors are always welcome to join us or to come as a visiting band, and quarters and peals should be available in due course.

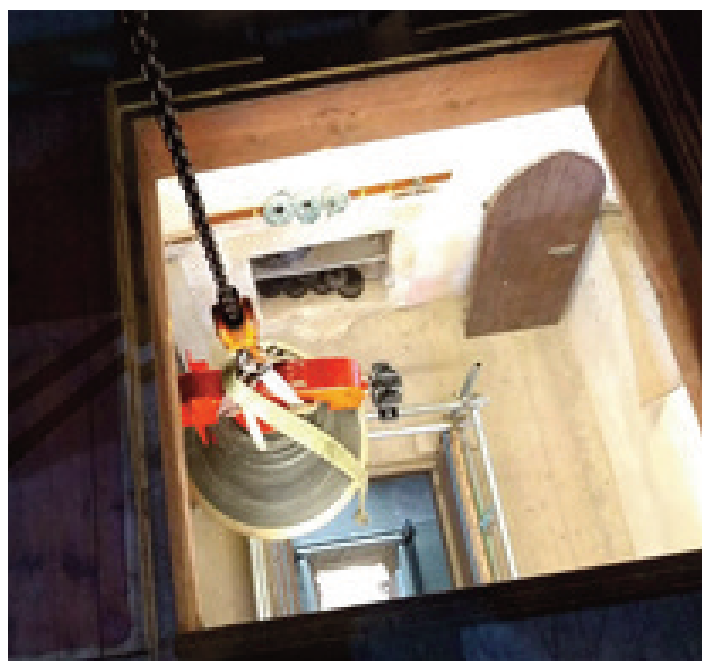
Philip Stevens, Tower Captain

Wow!! That seems to be the recurring reaction from anyone who has sampled the eight bells at Kingskerswell. Over the last few weeks there has been a flurry of activity as the dedication had been planned before the bells arrived in the village – no pressure, then!

Whilst the bells were out the builders had worked hard to complete the new ringing balcony. This has massively increased the area to give a very pleasant room. The stonework of the reinstated doorway is a superb piece of craftsmanship and really fits beautifully into the existing fabric of the church. The room created below this is now a wonderfully fitted out kitchen that any home would be proud of.



Some of the bells waiting to go up the tower



One of the new bells being hoisted into the tower"

An enthusiastic team of volunteers was on hand, led by Nicholson's bellhangers, Ian, Tim and Chris who were there at various times to lead the work and make sure that a first-class job was done. Once the grillage (substantial girders) was in place and built into the tower it was time to fit the frame and a magnificent day's work saw the whole thing in place and ready for the bells. An eight o'clock start had been booked and the driver delivering the bells was so keen to be on time that he arrived at 6.30am! The bells were then set out at the back of the church ready for a blessing and some of the ringers and volunteers were persuaded to have their photos taken for the *Mid Devon Advertiser* which then produced an excellent article.

The bells were taken up into the tower straight away so that they were safe from damage or theft. Early in the project extra lifting beams had been put in place at the top of the tower. This allowed the bell hangers to place extra hoists at strategic positions so that the heavy bells could be swung into place with the minimum of brute force. The wheels were all made in two halves so that the bottom half could be put in place as the bell was swung into its pit.



An old bell being put in the new frame - note how tuning has included the outside edge



The bells nearly ready for the tryout

The running gear (sliders, stays and pulleys) were then fitted followed by the rest of the wheels. Once all the wheels had been fitted it was time to get the clappers in place and make sure they were clapping correctly (i.e. not odd struck). This involved careful measurement and adjustment of 'twiddle' pins. Then a final check was made by swinging the bell without the rope and listening to the clapper strike as the bell slowly lowered itself.

The position for the rope coming through the wheels was then carefully measured and drilled and 'thimbles' placed on the wheels to minimise rope wear. Finally the holes for the ropes were carefully measured and cut in the floors. At last, the ropes were fitted and each bell tested. The new ropes are different, to say the least, and really show that this enthusiastic team is just a little special – and all the better for that.

Throughout the project the workers were kept well fed and watered by the ringers who were always there at lunchtime to make sure there was plenty to eat and keep the tea pot circulating.

Two try-outs were booked and on each occasion there were plenty of ringers keen to experience the newest ring of eight in Devon. The job has involved the tuning of the old bells and the casting of three new ones. The old third – fifth of the new ring, was unfit to be tuned. All agree that the result is a triumph of the bell tuner's art. Even the most enthusiastic member of the team had to agree that the old bells were at best mediocre. They are now a delight to ring and to listen to.

The dedication occurred during Advent Eucharist and was led by the Bishop of Plymouth who has long been a good friend to ringers. The bells were rung before and after the service by the local band and friends.

The team at Kingskerswell, led by Philip Stevens, has to be congratulated on the concentrated effort over six years to get the bells to this position. The whole team has worked tirelessly but special mention should be made of John Rees who had a vision and has been the project manager throughout – his vision and that of the whole team is now a reality. A few finishing touches are needed such as the clock hammers and a new carpet, but these will be in place in the next few days. This will be followed by gradual tweaking of the sound both internally and externally, but these are small items in a massive project. Our branch now has another fine ring of eight right in the centre of our 'patch'. Thank you, Kingskerswell!



View from the new balcony



View of the new balcony ringling chamber from the church



The new ringling chamber showing the multi-coloured sallys

Martin Mansley

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