

Ring Round Devon

Guild AGM

Note from Editor: This is included just to show you what you missed as this issue of RRD is not expected to be printed until after the AGM. I hope that a full report will be included in the next issue.

The Guild Festival is one of the Guild highlights of the year, so following on from our turn hosting it last year, it's time to attend and enjoy all the hard work of a different branch, this year Aylesbeare. Janet Deem (branch secretary) and her members have put together a very full day of activities based around the AGM itself and all the details and timings are on a poster.

If you haven't attended a 'full Guild' event before, please do try and make it. Not only is there ringing and business, there are training events, mini-rings available to try, a pasty lunch, a quiz evening with food and beer and of course a chance to meet up with ringing friends we may only get a chance to ring with once or twice a year.

As usual, the success of such events depends largely on good attendance so I would encourage you to go along if you possibly can. If you can get together a team of six people why not enter the quiz? If not, I'm sure you can 'team up' with others when you get there! There's bound to be a round on bellringing!

Nigel Birt (Mid-Devon secretary)

2019 INTER-BRANCH 8-BELL STRIKING CONTEST

I am pleased to be able to tell you the touches to be used in this year's inter-Branch 8-bell striking contest on Saturday 19th October are now available on the Guild website:

https://devonringers.org.uk/gdr-media/competitions/8_bell_touches_2019.pdf

John Martin (Guild Secretary)

Devon County Show

This seems to come round more quickly each year! Once again the Frank Mack ring was used throughout the show. The pattern seems to have become fairly well fixed now – an early start allowing parking in the yellow field and on to the show itself in good time. Uncover the bells, get out the chairs and then a bacon roll before the rest of the band arrive for the service ringing. This usually gets under way about 8.45 as the service is at 9.00. It consists of a few prayers, a short reading and address with two or three hymns. Once this is over there tends to be a lull so it is time for a brew and / or a quick trip round the rest of the showground. The rest of the day is spent meeting visitors and explaining our art along with demonstrations and teaching the basics of mini-bell ringing. Finishing time often depends on the weather – on a good day it can stay busy until 5.30 or later but late afternoon rain can mean that the cover is put on the bells early.



THE GUILD OF
DEVONSHIRE RINGERS
Newsletter 114, June 2019



A trio of Wendys at the Devon County Show:
Wendy Harvey, Wendy Campbell, Wendy Rennie



The Frank Mack mini-ring and the new display boards

Once again it is difficult to gauge our impact but in these times of struggling bands and reduced church attendance it seems more important than ever that we keep on with the vital work of public relations. The show is an ideal opportunity for furthering the cause. Very many thanks to all the willing volunteers who so readily give of their time. The photos include one of the three Wendys who rang together on the Saturday.

Lynne Hughes had produced an eye-catching display which incorporated a number of pictures and articles, many that might be recognised from previous issues of RRD!

Martin Mansley

Tony Parry



Tony Parry, a former ringer at Whitchurch and many other parts of the country, passed away on Thursday 21st March. Because of Motor Neurone Disease he had been unable to ring for several years but still kept a keen interest in bells and ringing and was sent a copy of *RRD* every quarter to keep in touch with activities in Devon.

Tony set up the first website (Campanophile) on which ringers were able to self-publish records of peals and quarter peals; this was the pre-cursor to BellBoard.

John Martin

We were very sad at Whitchurch to learn of the recent passing of Tony.

I first met Tony in a pub in Saltash, at least I thought I did, although someone else thought we first met him in St Stephens where we had had an evening ringing session. This must have been in about April 1988. Don't remember much about it but it was certainly the start to active ringing with many outings and trips, the first one being a quarter peal of Bob Major in St Magdalene's church in Launceston with a ringer called Wilf Boucher.

One of the first trips that some members went on was to the Lakes, where they camped. I have to admit that those of us who did not go could not believe that Tony actually camped! This was followed soon after by a trip to Cambridge and district when we definitely all had beds. However our most memorable trip was to the Channel Islands in 1997. We set off to catch the ferry at a time that some of us considered much too late and on arrival were told that we could not board as we were too late! We stayed on Guernsey where we had a breakfast table which every morning had another extension put on it as yet more ringers arrived. We also managed with a considerable number of inexperienced ringers to ring a quarter peal of Grandsire Caters.

I was fortunate enough to stay with Tony in Melbourne on my way to New Zealand. As was the custom he was late picking me up and once settled in the car told me we were ringing a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples before going home! This after a 23 hour flight! Can't remember the name of the church but I know we went up a spiral staircase and I rang number two overlooking the rail into the staircase. It was then another hour's journey

before we reached our destination. During the week he took me ringing to various towers, all an hour or more drive away and showed me the devastation from the Victoria fires which had been in the headlines in the previous weeks.

We rang quarter peals in many methods from Bob Doubles to our greatest achievement of St Andrew's, at St Andrew's church on St Andrew's Day. When I look back I see we rang Kent, Cambridge Minor, London Minor, St Clement's Minor, besides St Martin's and St Simon's. We also rang Stedman, Bob Minor, April Day, Reverse Canterbury and Southrepps. Seems a world away now as we struggle to ring Grandsire Doubles.

I also rang handbells with Tony but never became an expert, struggling to cope with Bob Minor, but I have vivid memories of ringing a touch outside a pub in Widecombe-in-the-Moor which seemed to get faster and faster.

Memories from others of the band include his love of custard, ice-cream and clotted cream (if he could persuade someone to let him have it) on top of his desserts. He also loved curries and finished off all the dishes when we went out for a meal in Lifford one night. Must have been at least ten of us, so plenty of dishes! He also loved wine and on moving to Switzerland became fond of their cheeses. I also understand he liked old cars.

Even after moving to Switzerland he often joined us for our annual outing in November and conducted our Remembrance Sunday quarter peal. In 2008 when he came over he rang two quarters in a week at Whitchurch. By November 2009, however, he could hardly ring and did not participate in the quarter. We managed, however, to persuade him to sit in the belfry with us. We were relieved when Pete called 'that's all.' However Tony quickly chipped in with 'keep going; there's one more!'

Tony was a born teacher. I can always remember him quietly saying 'Pete, what are you doing down the front, you're on the tenor!' For those of us at Whitchurch now, we will be eternally grateful to him for his enthusiasm and endless patience in teaching us lesser mortals and giving us a wonderful introduction to the real ringing world outside our own tower.

Rogenia Bond

I first met Tony at St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne whilst he was visiting on holiday in 1995. After I moved to the UK, Tony actively encouraged my bell ringing, with lots of opportunities to ring in Devon, Cornwall, London and Cambridgeshire. Tony was an enthusiastic presence in all the towers we visited, and from sometimes random conversations over a pint, a ringing outing or trip would be organised, the most comical trip being to the Channel Islands for a week in 1997. He also had a desire to ring as many quarter peals as possible of Doubles methods named after little-known Cornish saints. A good (or bad) quarter was usually followed by a meal in a pub, resulting in some fabulous social times. He is a loss to the world of bell ringing.

Anne McNair

New edition of Devon Bells Directory

The fourth edition of *The Bells of Devon*, the directory of contacts and details for all towers in Devon, is now available. The directory contains contact information for ALL ringable peals of three or more bells, as well as information on churches with three or more bells hung for chiming, and a list of all known single bells hung for ringing and rings that have been 'lost' in the past 150 years. This amounts to a grand total of nearly 500 different rings.

The new contacts directory is £6 per copy. If you want a copy by post, please pay an extra £1.50 (making £7.50) per copy.

All proceeds from the sale of *The Bells of Devon* will be donated to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund so please tell your friends and ensure that as many copies as possible are sold in aid of this very worthy cause.

Further details are available from: <https://devonringers.org.uk/education/bells-of-devon-directory>

Tim Bayton

Aylesbeare Branch News

News from Topsham

Bell handling and striking morning



At the beginning of February, the Topsham ringers got together for a training morning on bell handling and striking. We tied the bells and began the morning with handling, working our way through each stage of ringing a bell, starting with holding the sally all the way through to catching. Each stage was demonstrated and discussed and then practised with feedback both from each other and via video. It was a very useful hour with everyone benefitting from the time to focus solely on their handling and each finding things to work on, particularly right-hand transfer to the tail end. We plan to include an extended set of rounds on practice nights to continue to improve handling.

After an all-important break for tea and cake, and allowing time for the silencers to be removed, we returned to the tower to focus on striking. Again, we began with basics, discussing when the bell strikes in relation to handling. We then moved on to strategies for picking out our bells in rounds, and then in changes, and finished with clapping exercises and a discussion on leading. The morning was very well received by both experienced and less experienced members of the band alike, with everyone keen to improve.

Topsham tower spring clean



At the beginning of March, several of the Topsham ringers again gave up their Saturday morning, this time to give the tower a very long overdue spring clean. Whilst some of the band got to work on the cleaning, Tony and I gave the bells a once over,

tightening the clappers and adjusting a troublesome flagpole bracket. By the time we returned to the ringing chamber, the air was so thick with dust it was difficult to see across the room. Fortunately, facemasks were provided. With the aid of a ladder and some long dusters, the upper parts of the chamber had been cleared of cobwebs. Meanwhile the glass doors were scrubbed to reveal the glass was not as frosted as we thought.

Following the now traditional break for tea and cake to allow the dust to settle (quite literally) the tower was then cleared, hoovered, sorted and refurnished. Meanwhile Tony and I went back up and laid carpet squares in the pit under the tenor in an experiment to lessen its volume below. We think this has made a small improvement as there is definitely less tenor hum when ringing now. We also experimented with some sound control for the louvres facing the churchyard, again to diminish the overpowering tenor. We made some improvement by boarding the lower half of the louvre and this will be fitted permanently in due course. It was a very productive morning, and the tower looks (and sounds) much nicer as a result of everyone's hard work.

Unique Bell Silencers?



I've included a picture of our bell silencers and wondered if these were particularly rare? I'm sure you would know. Roy seems to think they date from when the bells were given by Taylors when the current ring was installed in 1911. They are all sized for the individual bells and are very useful for training.

Note from Editor – we have some similar silencers with wooden screw fixings at Heavitree. The bells are also Taylors dating from 1898, so these types of silencer might have been regularly supplied by the company at that time. Anyone else have this type?

Special Ringing Attire



Finally, here is a picture of Keith wearing his sombrero which he was presented with by the ringers at our annual dinner for wearing when he is conducting the exercise 'Mexican Wave'. I wondered if there is any other specialist ringing attire out there?

Matt Pym

Exeter Branch

Musical Extravaganza in Dawlish



Tim on euphonium, Charlotte on cello and Tom (on screen) at the organ

On Saturday 25th May a musical extravaganza was held at Dawlish parish church as part of the Dawlish Arts Festival, featuring Tim Bayton on the euphonium, Charlotte Boyce on the cello and Tom Salmon on the organ alongside five keen handbell ringers from the GDR. These were Alice Holden (1-2), Andrew Digby (3-4), Tim Bayton (5-6), Lynne Hughes (7-8) and Ian Campbell (9-10).

Two touches were rung, Grandsire Caters in the first half of the concert followed by three leads of Kent Treble Bob Royal in the second. The audience were most appreciative and an enjoyable evening was had by all, not least thanks to the wine and jammie dodgers served in the interval!

Alice Holden

Exeter Branch train outing to Barnstaple

6th May 2019

Around 25 Guild members joined the annual Exeter Branch early May Bank Holiday train outing, which this year took place along the scenic Tarka line from Exeter to Barnstaple.

The day started early in Exeter with many members catching the 08.31 train to Barnstaple, and others joining at Cridton. We arrived around an hour later and made our way by foot over the bridge across the river Taw towards the first tower. This was St Peter's parish church with its ring of eight bells that were rehung



Ringling at Barnstaple



Pilton

in 1980 at a cost of £16,000 – a sizable sum for nearly 40 years ago!

We then moved on to the second tower of the day which was St Mary, Pilton, also an eight-bell tower. At both towers we were able to ring everything from rounds and call changes up to Surprise major.

We then made our way to the Water Gate Wetherspoons pub in the town centre for lunch before catching the 13.43 train back towards Exeter. We took the opportunity to stop off at Cridton to ring on the twelve bells there before arriving back into Exeter at 4.45pm.

Like last year's train outing to Taunton, we were greeted by perfect spring weather with plenty of sunshine. Thank you to everyone for coming and please get in touch with one of the officers if you have any suggestions for where to go next year!



Ringling at Cridton



Some of the company after ringing at Cridton

Robert Neal (Exeter branch secretary)

Another Embarrassing Picture of David Hird



David doing his spring cleaning, trying valiantly to clean the cobwebs from the ceiling at Exeter Cathedral

Mid-Devon Branch

Kingskerswell News

The final ringing before restoration and augmentation took place on Sunday 7th April, when a peal of Surprise Minor in twelve methods was rung in 2 hours 35 minutes (see photo taken by Tim King). During the peal the Parish Centre was open for refreshments. All this was advertised around the village and on Facebook and a very good article appeared in the *Mid Devon Advertiser*. A lot of interest was shown and, together with a donation from the peal ringers, more than £190 was raised.



The peal band in order, left to right

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Kingskerswell, Devon, St Mary
Sunday, 7 April 2019 in 2h 35
5040 Surprise Minor (12m)
(1) Westminster, Allendale, Fryerning (2) Norwich (3) York, Durham (4) Caithness (5) Beverley, Surfleet (6) Bourne (7) Cambridge, Ipswich
1 Philip Stevens
2 Ian W Avery
3 Michael H Tompsett
4 Martin G Mansley
5 Peter J Sawyer
6 Michael E C Mears (C)
Last ringing on the bells before rehanging and augmentation.

Also a quarter peal of Bob Doubles was rung on Thursday 5th April:
Kingskerswell, Devon, St Mary
Thursday, 4 April 2019 in 43m
1260 Plain Bob Doubles
1 Nigel Birt
2 John Rees
3 Tim King
4 Don Roberts
5 Philip Stevens (C)
6 Richard Wills
Last quarter on 6 bells before restoration and augmentation to 8

The first stage in the project started on Monday May 13th with the removal of the bells by two bellhangers from Nicholsons and several volunteers. Some difficulties were had getting the tenor through a trap door which was too small! The old wooden frame was then dismantled and removed, after which the floor below and the supporting beams had to be taken out.

Despite working until 9.30pm on Wednesday, work had to extend until about 4pm on the Thursday while the large oak support beams were moved to the storage area across the road. Following a good clear up the bell chamber is now ready for the builders to create pockets in the wall to take the new steel beams that will be installed in September prior to the rehanging and augmentation to eight bells with all new fittings and a steel frame.

The builders have been very busy within the church including the installation of a new under-floor heating system together with work on the tower. A doorway has been re-opened from the tower steps which will allow entry into the new ringing room / gallery which will be at the back of the church. This room will be considerably larger than the old one and will easily accommodate the eight ropes of the "new" octave.

During the summer the bells will be prepared for their new frame which will be assembled in the works at Bridport. Once complete it will be taken to pieces and the complex job of re-assembling it in the tower will begin. It is hoped that the bells will return in September. To get to this stage has required a massive amount of dedicated work by the team at Kingskerswell and we look forward to seeing the culmination of this in the Autumn.



Squeezing the fourth out of the tower



Work starts removing the floor under the bells – just look at the size of those supporting beams!

FOR SALE

The old bell wheels from Kingskerswell are for sale as they are being replaced when the bells are refurbished. Any donations for a wheel will be given to the bell fund with a suggested amount of £200 each.

For further information please contact the tower captain, Philip Stevens, philipandmo.stevens@gmail.com.



Dragging one of the beams across the road



All was finally stored safely away – the bells had already been taken back to Bridport



The location of the new ringing room floor

Philip Stevens and Ian Campbell

EXTRACTS FROM MID DEVON NEWSLETTER - TOWER TALK

KEITH AND ELAINE FURSDON



Keith Fursdon

Many congratulations to Keith and Elaine Fursdon who celebrated their Golden Wedding recently. Keith was tower captain at Torre for many years before it became Greek Orthodox. He now rings regularly at St Marychurch where he is also in the choir. He is a clock maker by trade and has looked after many prominent clocks in the Torbay area for very many years. This includes keeping them wound and changing them twice a year from/to British Summer Time. A quarter peal was rung on handbells to mark the occasion.



L to R: Nigel, Martin and Mike

Kingsteignton, Devon, Long Barton
Monday, 1 April 2019 in 33m
1260 Plain Bob Minor
1-2 Nigel Birt
3-4 Martin Mansley
5-6 Mike Tompsett (C)
Rung by a Mid-Devon Branch band as a Golden Wedding
compliment to Keith and Elaine Fursdon of Torquay.

SHEILA HORDER

We hear that Sheila (wife of our chairman, Rodney) fell recently and sustained a fractured wrist. This will keep her out of ringing for some weeks. We send our very best wishes for a speedy recovery.

TEIGNMOUTH 'JANE AUSTIN' OUTING

Julia Brett was the mastermind behind this year's spring outing which focussed on her love of Jane Austin and her novels. All the towers had some connection to her heroine and Julia had produced a page of background notes with historical reasoning for each of her choices. First tower was Chawton which are a light-ish six. This was the church where her mother and sister are buried. Cambridge Minor was probably the highlight here. We had time to look round this attractive village which also houses a Jane Austin museum. The bells at Alton (St Lawrence) were our next stop and there was some doubt if we were going to be able to ring but eventually a key was found and we were delighted that we did not miss these fine bells. The eight at Deane were rather more difficult and problems with the tower / frame limited the length of any ringing to 10 minutes. Next was a rare tower – a chime of three but with very many Jane Austin associations – Steventon.

The rather 'interesting' ring at Overton were next with several people wondering if the bells were wooden! We finally rang the touch of Grandsire Triples that had proved elusive elsewhere.

By far the highlight of the day was a visit to Winchester Cathedral. Once we had recovered from the 217 steps to the ringing room we were treated to the only ring of fourteen bells and what a treat they were! With a tenor weighing 35cwt the back bells were for experienced ringers only but Philip Stevens was able to place bands to the best advantage following the attendance of a few re-enforcements. Eventually, with the local tower captain on the treble, we managed some very creditable rounds on all fourteen – a first for most of us. The captain allowed us to leave the bells up ready for ringing the following day and invited anyone interested to visit the bells whilst he padlocked them in a safe position to be left – another unexpected treat!

Perhaps the excitement of ringing at Winchester had finished everyone off as the ringing at our last tower, the 23cwt 8 at Mere was definitely a little tired and when an early finish was

suggested there was no dissention. A meal at the Walnut Tree in Mere brought the proceedings to an end and all that was required was the long journey home with several of us not getting home until the early hours. Many thanks go to Julia for all the organisation and to her husband, John for all the driving. Altogether this was a day to remember.

FIRST QUARTER PEAL FOR NICOLA JONES

Congratulations go to Nicola Jones who scored her first quarter peal in her home tower of Stokeinteignhead. Nicola is becoming well known across the branch so it is very pleasing to congratulate her on gaining her first quarter peal in fine style on Saturday 1st June. It had been planned as an all local attempt but unfortunately the accident sustained by Sheila Horder prevented her taking part and Martin Mansley was roped in as a regular visitor. Reverse Canterbury, Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles were the chosen methods and a very good quarter was completed in 45 minutes. It is hoped that other Stokeinteignhead ringers will be following her example very soon – watch this space!

Stokeinteignhead, Devon, St Andrew
Saturday, 1 June 2019 in 45m
1260 Doubles (3m)
1 Nicola Jones
2 Geraint Thomas
3 Rodney Horder
4 Martin Mansley
5 Simon Glanfield (C)
6 Vidas Cooling
First quarter peal - 1

JUNE BRANCH PRACTICE – MORETONHAMPSTEAD

All the best laid plans ... You will probably recall that we decided to change the venue for this practice as we had heard reports that the ropes at our chosen tower made the bells difficult to handle. Moretonhampstead are a good eight that we have not visited for some time so they should be a good substitute!

Once we had gained access we started to raise the bells and both the 2nd and 3rd gave trouble and eventually refused to move. The tower captain had been a member of the band trying to raise the bells so led a party up to see what the problem was. A clock hammer was preventing the third moving and was cleared – try again. This time the second refused to move but it was now found to be a more serious problem with the clock hammer jammed through the wheel and trapped under the bell. It would appear that the bell hangers had been working on the clock recently and the clock pull-off did not work correctly. This problem was going to need more involved work so only the back six could be rung.

We proceeded to get them up and were able to ring Minor and Doubles but were very concerned about the condition of the sixth rope which was shedding parts of the tail end alarmingly. Eventually the inevitable happened and the tail came apart. It was still possible to ring the bell, but it was decided that enough was enough and we got the bells down and beat a hasty retreat to the pub. As Rodney Horder remarked – it gave us something a little different to report in Tower Talk!

BRANCH MINI-OUTING SATURDAY 6TH JULY

Plans are well advanced for this and a notice has gone round – Rodney Horder has organised an ambitious afternoon of activity followed by a pub meal. Please try and support this if you can.

Martin Mansley

East Devon Branch

THE DAY THE DEVON ASSOCIATION CAME TO COMBE RALEIGH



The hall is ready



Preparing for the 'off'



View from the 'beer garden' behind the hall

The South Devon Qualifier on Saturday 11th May turned out to be quite a day. We believe it's been many years since a tower in East Devon hosted one of the 'Devons'. The preparation behind the scenes was intense and it felt as though we were back in the days of our restoration and augmentation project, hosting a fund-raising event on a large scale. We thought those days were over!

However, a Combe Raleigh-and-friends team worked together very well to ensure that the day was a success for the Association. Blessed with glorious weather, more than 60 people came to our village to take part in the competition. We provided a sumptuous meal in true CR-style and, after the competition results had been announced in the church, some stayed on to relax in the 'beer garden' behind the village hall. Congratulations go to the winning team, Shaugh Prior: the top five teams go through to the Major Final in June.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone who helped in any way. The setting-up team made the hall look most inviting and the clearing-up team was a force to be reckoned with! We made a modest profit and, in addition to that, the collection from the church service amounted to £58 which was donated to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund.

Several Association ringers on the day commented on how good it was and Will Carew, the Competitions Secretary, sent this message the following day:

'I wanted to say a big thank you to you and your team for all your efforts yesterday. The day was a great success and everything went smoothly. The tea was also fantastic. Thanks again.'

A clip from the competition can be found on YouTube at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8q8Q1llzHwY>

Lisa Clarke

FRIDAY BRANCH PRACTICES

About three years ago, East Devon decided to stop having monthly practices at various towers in the branch. Though fairly well supported in the past by members generally, the policy had gradually become less popular. This was partly because attendance by the local band was not always very good, even though one of the main reasons for the policy was to support the local ringers, and partly for other reasons, such as clashes with the potential visitors' own practice nights.

So it was decided to institute a series of targeted practices consisting of one morning or afternoon a week for six weeks. These were organised by Derek Ballard and concentrated on one method for which there was a local need. Initially Bob Doubles was chosen, and generally enough helpers and learners were recruited to make it worthwhile. Several such sessions were held and were generally agreed to be very useful. Eventually Derek gave up running the practices due to other commitments, and the policy lapsed for a while.

Attempts to revive it got off to a rocky start. For a time it proved difficult to find a day when enough helpers could attend regularly, though a couple of shorter sessions were held. Then about 18 months ago everything seemed to gel, and we have had enough helpers to run almost continually since then. We currently meet at Combe Raleigh where we can ring as much as we like on the silenced bells. 9.30 to 12.30 with a coffee break works well, though we have had one series of afternoons instead to suit one learner who could not come in the mornings. The learners, who are very keen and appreciative, come and go according to their own availability, but we have always had enough to make the session worthwhile. Similarly, not all the helpers are able to come to each session, but they all come whenever they can. The learners are at various levels, so that at present we find ourselves ringing call changes, Bastow, Kaleidoscope, Plain Hunt, Plain Bob, Grandsire, Bob Minor, St Simon, St Martin and Kent according to need, and it has been particularly pleasing to see the progress a lot of people have made. Quarter peals are attempted occasionally as people become competent enough.

These Friday mornings have developed into very pleasant social occasions with quite a lot of laughter and good humour, so much so that the mid-session coffee break can easily overrun if not curtailed. An unforeseen problem which is appearing on the horizon is that if all the learners were to come on the same occasion there would be too many to give them all a reasonable amount of practice in their chosen method. We have begun to have discussions about how to deal with this in as fair and equitable manner as possible. But it is a good problem to have, and we intend to go onward and upward (or perhaps upward and onward would be more appropriate).

Richard Coley

North East Branch

CERTIFICATES FOR OUR RINGING REMEMBERS RECRUITS



Here is Nano receiving his Level 2 Learning the Ropes Certificate. Nano has been ringing for one year and is making great strides. He is a helper at the Bampton after school Bell Club and comes to practice nights at both Huntsham and Bampton. Now he has his Level 2 he says he will come to more Sunday Service ringing and will soon be ringing at his first wedding. I am extra proud as he is my first learner. Well done, Nano!



Our Troyte Ringing Centre adult learners have achieved Level 1 Learning the Ropes. Bridget and Steve have been having lessons on the Bampton practice bell with Mike and Pat Hatchett and they regularly come to Thursday practice nights at Bampton. Last week we all enjoyed some call changes at backstroke. Well done, Steve and Bridget!

Mandy Burnett

Young Ringers' Outing



Outside Newton Abbot clock tower

On 9th April the young ringers' outing was held in Newton Abbot. The first tower visited was St Leonard's Tower, where we rang rounds and call changes on eight bells.

Lunch followed at the nearby Union Inn where some of us had a debate on why the standard fish and chips was more expensive than the special fish and chips. I enquired with the bar and found out the special was a smaller portion: not sure what is special about that!

After lunch we rang at Wolborough, where there are eight bells but because two clappers were missing we only rang on six bells.

Sheila had us practising bell control and how to ring by listening to our bells instead of by sight.

The day ended with some lovely cherry cake which everyone enjoyed.



The Young Ringers at Wolborough

Thomas Selley-Steer

Bampton pupils receive ART certificates



Ella and Eddie with their certificates

We were pleased to attend the Bampton School assembly on Friday 22nd March and present Eddie and Ella with Level 1 certificates for Learning the Ropes. Both are now able to ring a bell in rounds and are beginning to place the bell well in call changes and place making in Kaleidoscope work. Ella started attending the after school Bell Club when she was in Year 4. Eddie started to ring as part of Ringing Remembers and was able to gain his badge for ringing on 11th November 2018. They have both rung for Christmas and Easter school services.

Sheila Scofield

New Project at Cruwys Morchard and Rackenford

On March 16th Cruwys Morchard and Rackenford ringers began a new project. The plan is to visit all Devon's 5-bell towers. There are 18 ringable ones. We shall be going off to ring at two or three towers once every couple of months on Wednesdays, but decided to kick off on a Saturday, so that the youngsters could join in, with an outing to the rather special church at Brent Tor. We invited non-ringing family members too, which proved popular, and ended up with a party of 26 (fourteen of whom were ringers) and two dogs.

It was a fun day out, made even more exciting by the weather. This was one of those windiest of windy March days which made you laugh and shriek with the wildness of it! We climbed to the top of the hill where the ancient little church is perched securely on its crag, but humans were truly in danger of being blown away. The grey clouds were racing across above us, but the rain held off. Inside the tiny ringing chamber, with its warm-coloured sallies, the stone walls were running with water and there was water on the floor. But how we loved those pretty little bells! The children could ring them, our novices could ring them, and we spent a thoroughly enjoyable hour there.

Afterwards, we went and had lunch at the Castle Inn, Lydford, and in the afternoon we tried out our second ring of five bells at Coryton. These we found challenging, because although light, they are still on plain bearings and the ropes resembled iron rods. However, we rang call changes that had been composed by the children while they waited for their lunch and manged Plain Bob Minimus.

By the time we came out the rain had set in and the clouds were low all around us, so we piled into our cars and drove home, all feeling that it had been a great day.

Nellie Croft (North East Branch)

Regular ringing at Cullompton

I have had confirmation from Rachel Cozens that the 10-bell service ringing is to continue on the second Sunday of each month from 5pm until 6pm. Rounds and call changes will be rung and anyone who has reasonable bell control will be welcome.

Jenny Jones (branch secretary)

Teddy Bear Parachuting back by Popular Demand

*If you go down to the Church today
You're sure of a big surprise.
If you go down to the Church today
You'd better go in disguise!*

*For every bear that ever there was
Will gather there for certain
Because today's the day the
Teddy Bears have their big jump!*

It seemed like the whole of Bampton turned out in force to make sure the Teddy Bear parachuting was a great success this year. In time honoured tradition Garfield was the first bear to have a go followed by all the other brave bears of Bampton, including a crocodile, an Elsa doll, Paddington bear, a fluffy bat and a vintage bear (don't think it was a Steiff!). Each bear was awarded a Certificate of Bravery and went home triumphant. Cream teas were available in the church and despite busy bakers having made eight dozen scones the cream teas sold out. There was also a quiz with questions about the church. The weather was kind to us and we enjoyed the sunshine. The event raised £298.53. This will form part of the Troyte Ringing Centre donation to the Bampton church fabric fund. But perhaps more importantly, a lot of fun was had by all.



Teddy safely down



One brave Teddy in flight



The view from above

Mandy Burnett

South West Branch

Branch Ringing Practice at Tavistock

On Saturday 9th March the South West Branch benefited from a training day at Tavistock in two parts, focusing on call changes and the next steps, and then moving on from plain hunt.

The practice was well attended, with several ringers recruited during the Ringing Remembers campaign given the chance to ring with a steady band with focused teaching aimed at their level. It was also a great opportunity to meet and socialise with ringers from other towers across the branch.

During the session we used the simulator so as not to disturb the residents of Tavistock and this was another first experience for some of the ringers! Many thanks go to Phil Dunn and Matthew Thewsey for organising the session.



Branch practice at Tavistock



The simulator

Elena Brake

South West Centenary Branch BellBoard Update

This year marks the 100 Year Anniversary of the formation of the South West Branch. An event has been created on BellBoard to capture peals, quarter peals and all notable performances that are rung during our 100th year. At the time of writing this update, seven such performances have been linked to the event on BellBoard: five quarter peals and two peals. Significant achievements for ringers include:

First peal – Elena Brake

First quarter – Roxanne Jeyes
First quarter inside – Elena Brake
First quarter on 10 – Jess Metcalfe, Elena Brake
First quarter on 10 as conductor – Matthew Thewsey
First quarter for 40 years – Kathy Hayes
First quarter of Minor inside – Sally Jackson
First quarter of Lincolnshire – Rosemary Ruddick, David Pike
We hope that many performances will continue to be linked to this event on BellBoard, with significant ringing achievements (not necessarily peals and quarters) also being linked to the event.

Quarter Peal at Sampford Spiney, Kathy's first QP since she was a teenager



L to R: Kathy, Sheila, Ted, Alena, Ian, Bill

Sampford Spiney, Devon, St Mary
Wednesday, 13 March 2019 in 43m
1260 Plain Bob Doubles
1 Sheila Williams
2 Kathy Hayes
3 Ted Cowd
4 Alena Wardle
5 Ian Smith (C)
6 Bill Blowey
First quarter for 40 years: 2.

First peal for Elena Brake

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Plymouth, Devon, St Budeaux
Saturday, 2 March 2019 in 2h 52
5040 Minor
4 methods: 1440 Cambridge S, 720 each Kent TB, St Clement's Bob, 2160 Plain Bob
1 Elena L Brake
2 Ian V J Smith
3 John C Mitchelmore
4 Alena J Wardle
5 Matthew W Thewsey
6 Fergus M S Stracey (C)
1st Peal at 1st attempt - 1

Quarter Peal by Plymouth Youths

Plymouth, Devon, St Budeaux
Sunday, 10 March 2019 in 44m
1260 Plain Bob Doubles
1 Alena J Wardle
2 Elena L Brake
3 Jessica L Metcalfe
4 Harry J Andrews
5 Matthew W Thewsey (C)
6 Roxanne J Jeyes
1st QP for Roxanne
1st QP inside for Elena



Modern Society of Plymouth Youths Quarter Peal Band

Elena Brake

The Modern Society of Plymouth Youths Mini Outing 2019

As you may know, The Modern Society of Plymouth Youths has an annual weekend away. To complement this, during term time we have occasionally organised mini outings.

This year we decided to run an outing, so called 'Campanology, Climbing & CAMRA'. The outing took us to Newton Ferrers and Noss Mayo. For some of the PYs, this was the first time they had rung outside of the city! Both towers were a great experience for all, particularly Noss Mayo after their recent rehang. After the ringing, seven of us, to satisfy the 'climbing' requirement of our outing, went to Clip 'N Climb, near Derriford. Clip 'N Climb consists of multiple novelty climbing walls, where you 'Clip' in and 'Climb' up the wall. Some walls have timers, providing a competitive aspect to the session. There was also a 'Leap of Faith' that some of us dared to try. This involved jumping off a tall tower and punching a bag some three metres away!

Following all this daredevil activity, we descended on The Pub on the Hoe (with our CAMRA card) for our evening meal, where we were joined by some more ringers. The food and drink went down fantastically, and the service was excellent. Finally, the last remaining five rolled into Kitty O'Hanlons to enjoy an evening of Guinness and live music.

Plans for The Modern Society of Plymouth Youths annual outing are firmly underway. We are looking forward to visiting Oswestry in early July: watch this space!



Clip 'n Climb Derriford



Newton Ferrers



Noss Mayo

Matthew Thewsey

South West Branch meeting in Tulloch!

After a practice night at St Budeaux I made my apologies for the next week as I was going away on holiday to Scotland so wouldn't be around. Roxanne then also announced that she wouldn't be around as she too was in Scotland, and after a brief discussion we worked out that it would be possible for us both to meet at Tulloch for their practice night. Arrangements were made and a week later we met at the ringing centre in Tulloch which houses a ring of eight and a ring of twelve which is the most northerly in the world. There were four locals who greeted us warmly, so our arrival made six. We had a good practice of various doubles methods on the back six of the twelve and then rang the front six of the eight. Roxanne trebled to some Bob Doubles which is the lightest bell she has ever rung, so far. Throughout the practice there was a great deal of time checking

and internet checking so we could be sure to catch the tower's main event for the evening. At 8.45 we rang the bells down and headed to the railway bridge that serves as the entrance to the farm, and spot on time the two steam trains that were heading to be the Harry Potter Express for the summer season steamed down the line towards Fort William. Every ringing practice that you go to is different, this was definitely one to go on the memorable list.



Tulloch ringing chamber



The Hogwarts Express



Alena and Roxanne at Tulloch

Alena Wardle

Disney Princesses in the ‘Belle’ Tower

Perhaps one of the most unusual events to have been witnessed at Emmanuel church was the welcoming of five girls from Plymouth High School for Girls who were dressed as Disney princesses! Princesses Cinderella, Belle, Jasmine, Sleeping Beauty and Snow White came to Emmanuel Church, along with a few of their curious teachers, as a celebration for reaching the end of Year eleven.

Thanks to the support of local ringers we were able to take them on a tour of the bell tower and belfry, demonstrate some ringing and give them all a go at ringing the backstrokes. All the ringers and visitors were in fits of giggles over the hilarity of the event, particularly when we gave them a go at chiming the tenor, lifting a few of the princesses off their feet while their dresses helped them float back to the ground a little more gracefully than usual. Everyone had a fantastic time, the girls commented how special it had been to celebrate their final day in such an unusual way. We wish them all the best of luck in their end of year exams and hope that one day they might like to join a team of bell ringers.



Disney princesses in the belfry

Elena Brake

Five Towers in One Day

It might be the norm for some ringers, however five is my personal record so far. It feels a bit like gluttony, but good. We are talking about the Spring Outing of the South West Branch which took place on Saturday 18th of May. I didn't attend with writing about it in mind, however I'll gladly do my best.

Let's take a quick look at the stats: St John the Baptist, Bishopsteignton, six bells; St Michael, Kingsteignton, eight bells; St Mary, Wolborough (Newton Abbot), eight bells; St Bartholomew, Coffinswell, six bells; St Andrew, Stokeinteighhead, six bells. A very nice lunch at The Two Mile Oak. Don't ask me where all these places are, I was kindly driven, the GPS did all the rest – at least it tried to. We got stuck in the maze of Kingsteignton at one point and allegedly – I do stress the allegedly - another car did an extra lap in a car park due to strange instructions from the voice on the dashboard. Bell ringing in comparison is nicely analogue.

Most of the bells were easy to ring, which always helps with new towers for new bands. We rang everything from rounds to very advanced methods – for those who are able to (and there were plenty).

As all the towers were new to me (having moved down from Cheshire just weeks ago) and it was a lot to take in. Bells, buildings, ringers ... A couple of things stuck out: One ringing chamber, the one at Kingsteignton: not only does it look like a gentlemen's (or ladies') club venue, the number of competitions they have won is genuinely amazing. Even the odds and ends



bowl on the table turned out to be a former prize. One church, Coffinswell (named after a person, not the graveyard furniture) is a 13th century building, whitewashed inside, with frescos (remains of) peeking out from deeper layers. There is a simplicity seldom found in even slightly younger buildings drawing the visitor in.

We had a good turn-out and plenty of ringers from Plymouth, my new patch. I learned about a thing for my fellow city dwellers: they love a country lane with grass in the middle. Without it they do not feel to have been into the countryside proper. We were not disappointed, the occasional 'mohawk'-style greenery on narrow tracks was spotted and welcomed. Highly amusing.

Another thing is the ever surprising and wonderful English pronunciation. Not even the Devonians knew why you say 'teign' differently, depending if you talk about the river, if it is in the middle of the word or at the beginning. Exciting stuff for a German like me!

After the fifth tower most of us wouldn't have said no to a sixth church, however the day had come to a close.

Thanks for the warm welcomes in all the towers and to Matthew Thewsey for organising the outing despite being in the last throes of his degree.



Ringling at Kingsteignton

Barbara Hock

Notable Ringing Events

First peal on 12 for Oliver Bates

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Withycombe Raleigh, Devon, St John the Evangelist
Thursday, 27 December 2018 in 3h 15
5042 Yorkshire Surprise Maximus
Composed by R W Pipe

1 Ian V J Smith	7 Roger King
2 Alison C Waterson	8 Ian L C Campbell
3 Susan D Sparling	9 David Hird (C)
4 Charlotte A Boyce	10 Peter J Sawyer
5 Oliver C Bates	11 Michael E C Mears
6 James Kirkcaldy	12 John R Martin
1st on 12 – 5	

Peal on Denmisch Simulators



Some of the ringers in the peal.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Exeter Cathedral School, Devon, Denmisch Ring
Friday, 19 April 2019 in 2h 56
5040 Yorkshire Surprise Royal
Composed by Robert D S Brown

1 Jane C Spencer	6 Michael R Spencer
2 Jeffrey Knipe	7 Richard H Johnston
3 Lesley A Knipe	8 Michael J Wigney
4 Peter M C Richards	9 Robert D S Brown (C)
5 Ian L C Campbell	10 James Kirkcaldy

Simulated Ring using 10 Saxilby simulated bells and Abel software

50th Anniversary of First Peal

I really don't feel that old, but my records clearly show that this year marks 50 years since I rang my first peal. I lived then in Lancashire and the Lancashire Association had a proficiency certificate. This required a variety of accomplishments including ringing inside to the standard methods of Plain Bob, Grandsire, Stedman and Treble Bob (presumably Kent). Calling a touch and (the big one!) ringing a full peal. Looking back it seems impossible that I took so long to get to the point of ringing a peal as I had been ringing six or seven years by then. I had only rung my first quarter peal a few months earlier and was still only happy to ring the treble. Our tower was in the middle of a fairly built up area in a Lancashire mill village where the mill chimney (Tyre Fabric Co) was taller than the church spire. For this reason a Sunday afternoon was chosen for the attempt. Plain Bob

Minor was the method and my ringing style changed part way through! In those days I held the tail with two fingers whilst the other two held the sally. By the end all my fingers were going round the sally but it was many years before I finally managed to hold the tail / sally correctly. I would never allow pupils to do that now!

Mike Mears kindly agreed to arrange the anniversary peal and suggested Lancastria Alliance Major as a method having connections to my birth county. If you look at this method you will find that it is quite unusual, having the treble dodging 1-2, 3-4, 5-6 but plain hunting in 7-8. There are quite a few "wrong" places as well. However, Mike assembled a strong band and a very creditable peal was scored. Many thanks to him and all the rest of the band for their efforts. Don't somehow think I will be ringing another in fifty years time!



L to R: Peter B, Ian, John, Mike T, Martin, Peter S, Mike M, Charlotte

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Pinhoe, Devon, St Michael and All Angels
Saturday, 11 May 2019 in 2h 46
5096 Lancastria Alliance Major
Composed by G H Campling
1 Charlotte A Boyce
2 Michael H Tompssett
3 Peter L Bill
4 Ian V J Smith
To mark the 50th anniversary of Martin Mansley's first peal.

5 John R Martin
6 Martin G Mansley
7 Peter J Sawyer
8 Michael E C Mears (C)

Martin Mansley

ART TRAINING SCHEME

Forthcoming Courses in Devon

Sat 31st Aug: St. Marychurch, Torquay – 9 15-5 15.
Module 1: Teaching Bell Handling. Practical sessions on teaching a learner from scratch including raising and lowering. Theory of teaching and sorting common handling problems. Only a few places remaining.

Sat 2nd Nov: Location tbc – 9 15-5 15.
Module 2F Teaching from Rounds to Plain Hunt. Practical sessions on Foundation skills, Kaleidoscope, teaching call changes and Plain Hunt. Theory of building a band and coaching individual ringers.

Course fees £20 – you can apply for Guild support. Enquiries to lesboyce@ringingteachers.co.uk or 01884 256819. Bookings via the ART website at: <https://smartringer.org/public/daycourses/>

Ringling for Notre Dame

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York encouraged all cathedrals and churches across England to toll a bell for seven minutes at 7pm on Thursday 18th April, as a mark of solidarity following the devastating fire at Notre Dame Cathedral. This initiative was suggested by the British Ambassador to France, Edward Llewellyn, and it was hoped that many would take part. BellBoard records 1328 performances nationally while Devon ringers responded magnificently, especially considering the short notice and the fact that it was during Holy Week. 48 performances were recorded on BellBoard in Devon, ranging from tolling single bells (including Hosanna, the 7.5 ton Bourdon at Buckfast Abbey, and the four ton Peter bell in the north tower of Exeter Cathedral), through rounds and call changes to peals and quarter peals.

Ian Campbell

Training

Westley Award for Belfry Maintenance



Stewardship & Management Workgroup
of The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers



Westley Award for Church Bell Maintenance 2019

The Stewardship and Management Workgroup of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers has recently announced the launching of an award to be made to a person who has become involved in the maintenance of tower bell installations (used for English style change ringing) for the first time in the last five years.

Full information including a nomination form is available at: <https://cccb.org.uk/workgroups/stewardship-management/westley-award/>

Alison Hodge (the Workgroup lead) writes:

'All ringers, including new ringers such as those recruited through the Ringing Remembers campaign, depend on the bells and towers that they ring being in usable condition. Good bells usually mean that it is easier to develop ringers' skills and, in particular, help retain new recruits.

So are you or one of your band getting involved in belfry maintenance? If so, then a new award for people involved in maintenance of tower bells is for you!

The closing date for nominations is 28th June and the first award will be made at the September 2019 CCCBR annual conference to be held in London. The winner will receive £100 and a certificate.'

John Martin (Guild Secretary)

Guild Demo Bell gets out and about

The Guild demonstration bell has been out several times lately. On 16th March it was borrowed by Mark Bertram to use at the Community Fair in the village hall at Newton St Cyres.

On 10th April it was used as part of the talk about bells and ringing for the Budleigh Salterton Raleigh Probus Club held at the Budleigh Salterton Football Club. This is the fifth time that it has appeared at this location and I now know that the ceiling is too low for it to be assembled completely. However the main function can be achieved with it on a table provided that one or two volunteers can stop it moving around too much – which demonstrates one of the points I usually make about tower stresses! The morning meeting was followed by lunch – despite the menu (seen below) it was actually very tasty home-made food.



On 21st May the demo bell went to Clyst St George church where Martin Spencer-Thomas had arranged a ringing evening for the local Rotary club. Having demonstrated how and why bells are run 'up' this was then demonstrated on the six bells of the ground floor ring.

The talk then covered call changes and method ringing which were firstly simulated on a computer and then demonstrated on the real bells. Finally the group was divided in to three, with each being given the opportunity to try ringing the demo bell, ringing plain hunt by 'lapping' handbells, and having a go at handling a real bell. Finally we all retired to the George and Dragon for, I think, a well-deserved drink and a very welcome meal.

If you have never seen it, the demonstration bell it is hung for ringing in a portable frame and can just about be rung full circle by a competent ringer. If you want to borrow it for a function please let me know and we can arrange for transport. It will fit in most cars, although the long legs can cause problems!

Ian Campbell

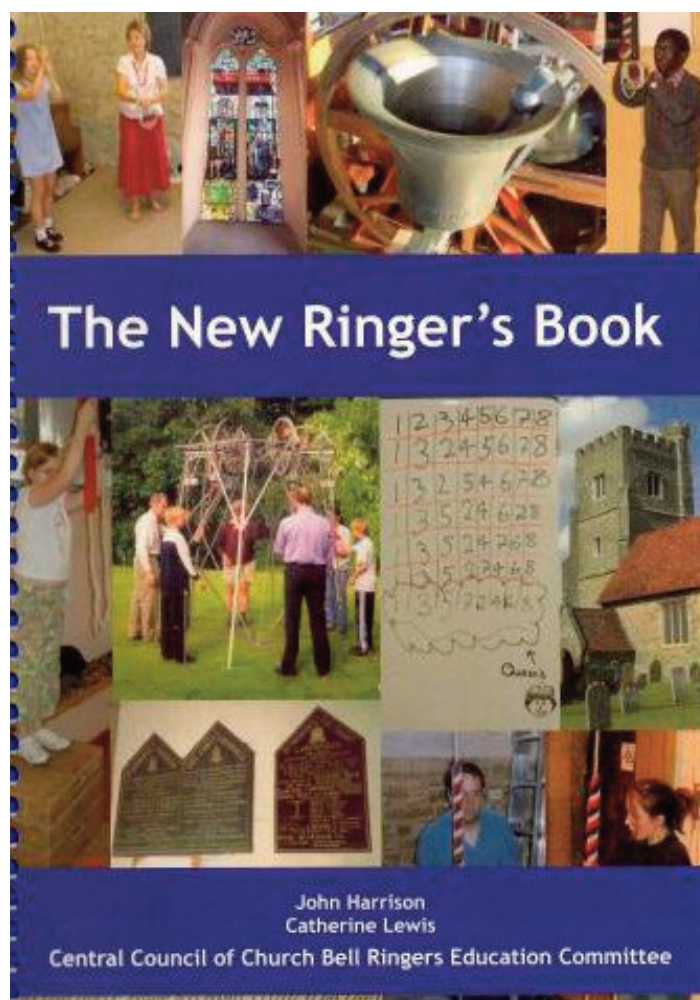
Availability of Beginner's Workbook

You may have seen the Beginner's Workbook which is in every Guild tower as a part of the Tower Handbook (blue folder). This contains a number of exercises that start at a very basic level ('what is rounds?') and explains a lot of the terminology used in ringing (for example leading, ringing over a bell, lying behind) and goes on to include call changes, plain hunting and up to methods and how they are constructed. In addition to being available in paper form it is also available for download from the Guild website (50 pages): https://devonringers.org.uk/gdr-media/usefuldocs/Beginners_Workbook.pdf

Please note the suggestion on the header page that if you download a copy you may wish to consider making a donation to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund.

John Martin

The New Ringers' Book



Many of the standard texts for learners are either aimed at youngsters or now seem rather old-fashioned. *The New Ringers' Book* is a produced by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers and comprises twelve chapters and a glossary, including a large number of illustrations in full colour, to meet the needs of new ringers in the 21st century.

It is available for £10 from: <https://ccbr.org.uk/product/the-new-ringers-book/> or search for 'The New Ringers Book' on Google.

Ian Campbell

Guild Library Update

NEW TO THE LIBRARY

Inevitably many of the books and pamphlets in the Library are about the technical aspects of ringing – how to learn to ring, how to teach ringing, information about our hardware (the bells themselves). Two recent purchases are squarely in this category: The new (11th) edition of *Dove's Guide* and the new (4th) edition of *The Bells of Devon* directory. The new Dove follows the pattern established in the 10th edition with many different lists in its 330 pages. Tim Bayton's Devon directory is the essential guide for contacting towers in the county.

Another large category of books we hold is that of ringing history. Guild Vice-President, Michael Hatchett has written a booklet for the Huntsham Society, *Change Ringing at Huntsham and the Attendance & Fine Book*. The booklet sets into context the Huntsham Attendance Book, a unique record of the ringers who rang and the touches they rang week by week in the period 1874 to 1881. It describes the work of Charles Troyte in augmenting the bells to 8 at Huntsham and establishing method ringing. There are also notes on the backgrounds of some of the ringers listed and on the Huntsham restoration in 2002.

However, ringers love ringing gossip too. Four recent additions, three of them bequests from the late Wilf Dunn, are interesting examples of the social history of ringing. *My Life among the Bells* and *Tales from the London County Crypt* are highly personal accounts by two nationally known ringers, Bob Smith and Michael Uphill. *Let all the Bells Ring* by James Dowland is based on his experiences of ringing in Somerset. Finally, Michael Milsom was formerly the "Bellmaster" at John Taylor's in Loughborough. His book *Bells and Bellfounding* is a fascinating mixture of history, technical detail and personal reminiscence.

A NEW HOME FOR THE LIBRARY

By the time you read this a proposal to house the bulk of the Library in St. Petrock's in Exeter will have been published and, possibly, deliberated on at the Guild A.G.M.. Details are on the Guild website. The Rector and PCC of St Petrock's are very supportive of the move and the accommodation available offers a very attractive space to store and use the collection. It is hoped all members will welcome this development and I look forward to being able to offer a much-improved library service. More information to follow!

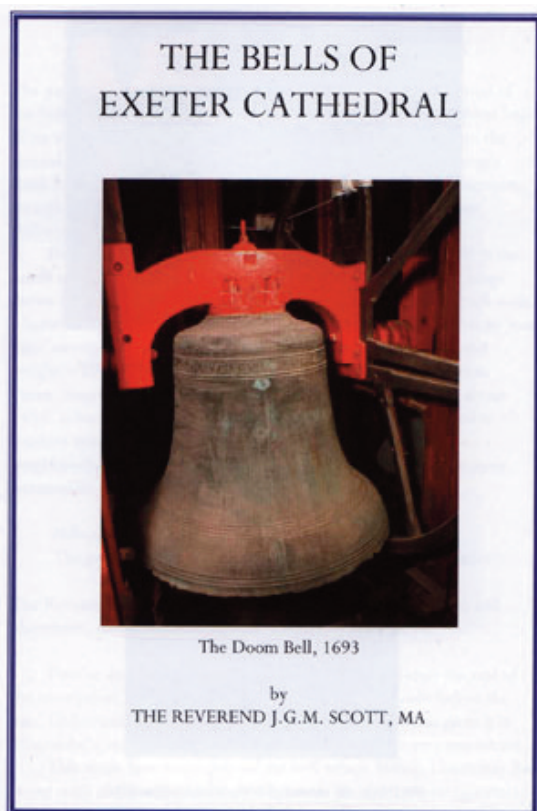
Les Boyce

NEW Publication

The Bells of Exeter Cathedral

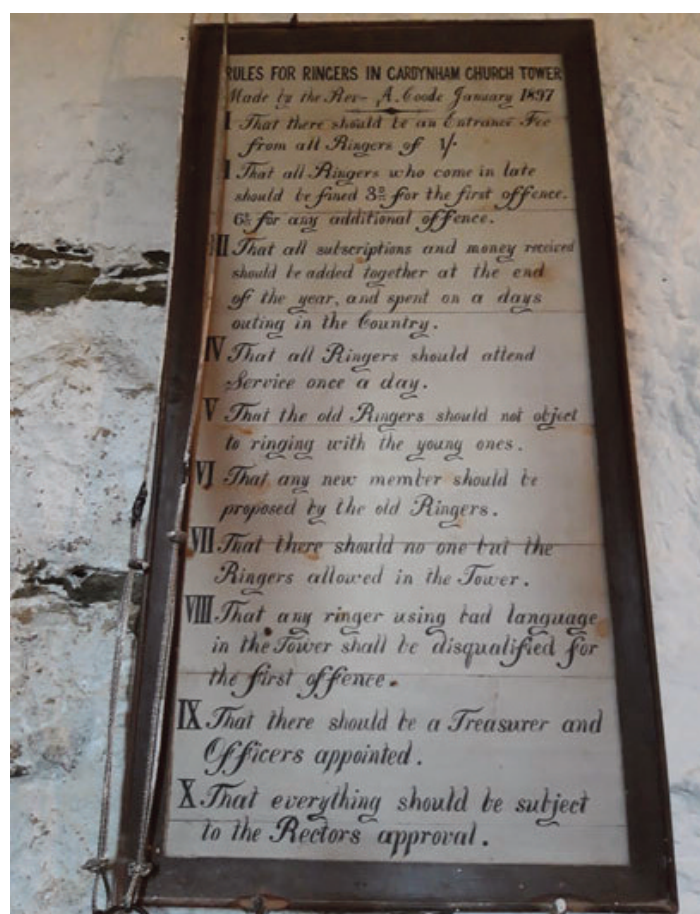
By the Revd John G M Scott

John's historic and authoritative work has now been completely revised and updated to include new colour photographs and details of the work carried out on the frame and bells in 2018/2019. Booklet consists of 24 pages of A5.



Price: £3.00 – all profit will go to local bell funds.
Copies available from Ian Campbell, or Exeter Cathedral ringing room (or shop). Post and packing £1.00 if necessary.

Seen in a tower in Cornwall



RULES FOR RINGERS IN CARDYNHAM CHURCH TOWER Made by the Rev A. Goode January 1897

- I That there should be an Entrance Fee from all Ringers of 1/-
- II That all Ringers who come in late should be fined 3^d for the first offence. 6^d for any additional offence.
- III That all subscriptions and money received should be added together at the end of the year, and spent on a days outing in the Country.
- IV That all Ringers should attend Service once a day.
- V That the old Ringers should not object to ringing with the young ones.
- VI That any new member should be proposed by the old Ringers.
- VII That there should be no one but the Ringers allowed in the Tower.
- VIII That any ringer using bad language in the Tower shall be disqualified for the first offence.
- IX That there should be a Treasurer and Officers appointed.
- X That everything should be subject to the Rector's approval.

Ian Campbell



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Message from the Guild Secretary



The news of my death was rather premature...

‘Here lyeth the Body of Mr John Martin who Departed this life in June 1714 Aged 77’

John Martin, Guild Secretary
(still very much alive!)

Editorial

I have recently had an email from a company that makes programmes for the British Broadcasting Corporation asking if they could use *Ringling Round Devon* as their guest publication for a ‘missing word’ round in some kind of long running celebrity news quiz (you have probably heard of it!). I will try to let you know when a date is fixed for transmission.

Apologies go to Louise James, who writes about an article in the previous RRD: *Thanks for printing the quarter peal tale. I was surprised to see it under NNW branch though as It was a Taw Torridge Tamar quarter, the band made up of ringers from Crediton , Broadwoodwidge, Brentor and ‘SW unattached’.* I assumed it would be in the general news.

The next issue of RRD is due in September. Please let me have any articles by the end of August if you want them included in that issue.

Ian Campbell

Seen in a country church



This pew, broken by the combined weight of the Ryland Family, repaired 1995 in memory of John and Rachel Ryland

Ian Campbell

Calendar

June		
Sat 15	Guild Annual General Meeting and Festival, Aylesbeare branch	Guild
Sun 16 12:30	Young Ringers’ Practice, DenMisch Simulated Campanile	Young Ringers
Mon 17 19:30	Branch Practice 6-bell methods, Offwell Offwell	East
Mon 17 19:30	Branch Practice (Focus: Surprise Minor), St Petrocks, Exeter	Exeter
Wed 19 19:30	Advanced 6 Bell Practice, Huntsham	North East
Thu 20 19:30	Surprise Minor Practice, Bickington	Mid Devon
Sat 22 10:00	National 12-bell striking contest Exeter Cathedral	Guild
Wed 26 19:30	Surprise Major Practice, Huntsham	North East
Sun 30 16:30	10 bell method ringing practice (advanced), Tavistock	South West
July		
Wed 3 19:30	Quarter Peal, Huntsham	North East
Sat 6	Branch Mini-Outing, Culm Valley	Mid Devon
Sat 6 15:00	Branch Quarterly Event (Ring & Canal Walk), Burlescombe & Sampford Peverell	North East
Wed 10 19:30	Triples and Plain Major Practice, Huntsham	North East
Thu 11 19:30	Branch Practice, Topsham	Aylesbeare
Thu 11 19:30	Branch Practice Plain Hunt, Sidbury	East
Fri 12 19:30	Branch Practice Surprise Minor, Buckerell	East
Sat 13 10:00	6 Bell Open Practice, Cruwys Morchard	North East
Sat 13 14:00	Branch Striking Competition, Dunkeswell	East
Sun 14 17:00	10 Bell Service Ringing, Cullompton	North East
Mon 15 19:30	Branch Practice 6-bell methods, Offwell	East
Wed 17 19:30	Advanced 6 Bell Practice, Huntsham	North East
Thu 18 19:30	10-bell Practice, Brixham	Mid Devon
Sat 20 12:00	Local ringing outing and summer BBQ, Towers TBC; BBQ in Broadclyst after	Exeter
Wed 24 19:30	Surprise Major Practice, Huntsham	North East
August		
Sat 3 10:00	6 Bell Open Practice, Halberton	North East
Sat 3 17:00	Joint Practice with Bath & Wells, Dulverton	North East
Wed 7 19:30	Quarter Peal, Huntsham	North East
Thu 8 19:30	Branch Practice: Plain Hunt, Sidbury	East
Fri 9 19:30	Branch Practice: Surprise Minor, uckerell	East
Sat 10	Joint Branch Practice with Mid Devon Branch, TBA	South West
Sat 10	10-bell Practice (with SW Branch), Tavistock	Mid-Devon
Sun 11 17:00	10 Bell Service Ringing, Cullompton	North East
Wed 14 19:30	Triples and Plain Major Practice, Huntsham	North East
Mon 19 19:30	Branch Practice, Withycombe Raleigh	Aylesbeare
Mon 19 19:30	Branch Practice: 6-bell methods, Offwell	East
Wed 21 19:30	Advanced 6 Bell Practice, Huntsham	North East
Thu 22 19:00	6-Bell Practice, Marldon	Mid Devon
Wed 28 19:30	Surprise Major Practice, Huntsham	North East
Sat 31	ART Module 1 (Teaching Bell Handling)	Guild
September		
Wed 4 19:30	Quarter Peal, Huntsham	North East
Sat 7	Autumn Outing, TBA	South West
Sat 7 09:30	Training - Towards Good Striking, Stokeinteignhead	Mid Devon
Sat 7 10:00	6 Bell Open Practice, Bickleigh	North East
Sun 8 17:00	10 Bell Service Ringing, Cullompton	North East
Wed 11 19:30	Triples and Plain Major Practice, Huntsham	North East
Thu 12 19:30	Branch Practice: Plain Hunt, Sidbury	East
Fri 13	Branch Striking Competition Practice TBA	South West
Fri 13 19:00	Branch Committee Meeting, Heathcoat Centre, Tiverton	North East
Fri 13 19:30	Branch Practice Surprise Minor, Buckerell	East

Ringling Trip to Belgium

The new bells at Ypres, in Belgium, have been mentioned previously in *RRD* (September 2017 and June 2018, both on the back covers). One of our number was getting rather twitchy as he hadn't rung on the bells so a trip was arranged between 21st and 25th March, to include ringing with the local ringers, and a peal and a quarter peal. The modern installation makes the bells a joy to ring on and with the electric sound control system being so efficient it seems that you can ring almost whenever you like despite the tower being in the centre of the town. But when we opened the shutters when ringing for the Sunday evening service the bells were deafening outside!

The local ringers are making good progress, which must be very difficult when there is only one ringer in the country with any level of experience. We helped them with practising Kaleidoscope and ringing up and down in peal.

We also did the usual touristy bits, including a four-hour tour of the Flanders battlefields and the war graves (very sobering) and the museum, including a trip up the tower of the town hall to see (and hear) the carillon. Attending 'The Last Post' ceremony at the Menin Gate was also a moving time; despite the crowds and a large number of school children (including several groups from England) you could have heard a pin drop when the buglers were about to start.

The weather was very kind and the travel easy. Thanks go to David for organising the trip and to Graham and Pauline who did the driving.



Part of the campanile in the town hall



St George's chapel, Ypres



L to R: David, Sue, Pauline, Lesley, Ian, Wendy, Graham, Peter.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers
Ypres, Belgium, St George
Saturday, 23 March 2019 in 2h 33
5024 Yorkshire Surprise Major
Composed by P J Flavell
1 Graham P Tucker
2 Susan M Sawyer
3 P Wendy Campbell
4 Ian L C Campbell

5 Lesley A Tucker
6 Peter J Williamson
7 Pauline McKenzie
8 David Hird (C)

Ypres, Belgium. St George
Friday, 22 March 2019 in 39m
1250 Lincolnshire Surprise Major
1 Peter Williamson
2 Lesley Tucker
3 Pauline McKenzie
4 Sue Sawyer

5 Graham Tucker
6 Wendy Campbell
7 Ian Campbell
8 David Hird (C)



Interior of the chapel – every pew and wall plaque is in memory of a soldier who died in the war.

Ian Campbell

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