

Ringling Round Devon

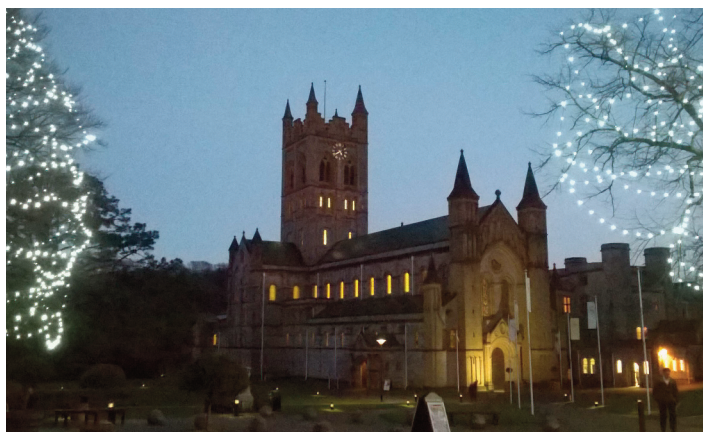


THE GUILD OF
DEVONSHIRE RINGERS
Newsletter 113, March 2019



St Mark's, Exeter – March 2018

Devon Ringers Carol service – Buckfast Abbey



Despite concerns that changing the day to a Sunday might reduce the numbers, Buckfast Abbey was filled to capacity for this annual service. The bells were put to good use before and after the service. As usual, Ian Avery had assembled a choir to lead the service and the new organ(s) helped to fill the abbey with wonderful music. The congregation were in good voice as well, obviously enjoying the traditional carols. Handbells featured twice with Exeter Cathedral ringers ringing Kent Treble Bob Royal and the Lamerton Ringers giving us the "Queens Peal" – both immaculate pieces of ringing. The service was led by Father Christopher and Lester Yeo who made us all so welcome. A fine way to end a memorable year for ringing at Buckfast Abbey.

Martin Mansley, photo by Michael Cannon

Guild Committee meeting 2019



Charlotte (treasurer), Ali (president) and John (secretary)

The Guild has maintained a healthy balance of around £9000 and members discussed how to best utilise this money in support of the Guild's aims. The committee would like to encourage new ideas for training, purchasing equipment, fundraising and outreach for new and young members. So if you have any ideas please pass them on to your Branch Secretary, who can then pass them to the Guild Treasurer for consideration by the committee. It was agreed to fund a new computer for the Denmisch Simulator at the Cathedral School, which can be available for general ringing by arrangement.

Much discussion was had around the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund. The Fund's expenditure is currently greater than its income and for 2018 the Legacy investments decreased in value by £36k. Therefore donations from Branches will become increasingly important, and it was felt across the Guild that we focus on fundraising specifically for the Fund. One suggestion was to increase the subscription rate and make a greater contribution to the Fund but Charity Commission Financial Regulations make it difficult for one charity to donate to another charity.

It was confirmed that subscriptions will remain at £6.00 per ringer per year, and individual branches are free to suggest a voluntary top up which can be donated directly to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund.

Instead the emphasis for raising additional money for the Fund will be from special ringing events, organised and hosted by Branches, with monies raised donated direct to the Fund.

Such events can be held at any time of the year but running them during the Quarter Peal Festival is encouraged, so as to make the best use of Festival interest and publicity and to broaden the scope and reach of the Festival. If our Branch decides to organise any special ringing, the Guild committee can help with merchandising/use of Guild resources and publicity.

In order to support a fundraising drive it was suggested that

the Fund share more information about the process of awarding grants; how it works, the projects it has in the pipeline and recent successful projects it has supported, so the benefits of the Fund can be more widely appreciated both in the Guild and across the wider community of Devon.

Guild Library Accommodation and Guild Archives. Les Boyce has been looking for permanent accommodation for the Guild Library, with a couple of possibilities currently under review. The Guild offered help with accommodation costs and Les will report back to the Guild when he has a firm offer. The Guild already has free standing shelving ready for use, which is currently in storage.

Les also kindly offered to assist anyone who would like to conduct research for their Branches for the forthcoming 150th Guild Anniversary and for individual Branches' Centenaries.

The Guild accepted two nominations for Vice President, David Wills, (Withycombe Raleigh) and Sue Sawyer (Exeter St Mark and Guild Treasurer for many years).

The National 12 Bell Striking Competition will be at Exeter Cathedral on 22nd June 2019. Over 500 people from across the UK are expected to attend, and the day will include a marquee in the Bishop's Garden, a mini ring, an Internet broadcast of the competition, and a beer tent!

For the day to be a success many volunteers will be needed. Each tower will be given a poster with more information and there will be a website where volunteers can sign up to help. So if you have any time to spare, your help will be very much appreciated. For further information see the poster or the Guild website: <https://12bell.devonringers.org.uk/>.

Branch Centenaries. Over the course of 2019 and 2020 most Branches will be a hundred years old! Guild reports from 1919 are available online and Les Boyce is happy to help anyone wishing to research their Branch via the Guild Library and Archives.

The 2019 Guild Festival and AGM on Saturday 15th June is shaping up to be quite an event. Taking place in the Aylesbeare branch there will be two towers for training (Withycombe Raleigh and Littleham), two towers for peal ringing (Lymptstone & Topsham) and five towers for general ringing.

This will also be a family friendly day with plenty to do for non-ringers and children, including a treasure hunt, light lunch, two mini rings, a church service and a rope splicing class. The AGM will be held in the afternoon and in the evening we will have a ticketed supper and quiz and of course a bar!

We will keep you updated as we receive more information but please put the date in your diaries!

The 2020 Guild Festival and AGM is scheduled for Saturday 27th June, hosted by East Devon Branch. Much discussion was had about this and future dates for the AGM and the chosen 2020 date is due to availability of key people and National ringing events.

It was generally agreed that for 2021 and beyond we will need to review the wider ringing calendar and school holidays etc and propose a preferred Saturday for the AGM, which we will discuss at the next AGM!



Rapt attention from the audience during the committee meeting

And finally the striking competition on the 19th October 2019 will be as follows :

Honiton for 8 bell competition

Farway for 6 bell competition

Feniton for 6 bell novice competition

Sidbury for 8 bell novice competition

The methods will be Grandsire Triples for the easier method and Double Grandsire Triples for a more challenging method.

Nicola Jones (Mid Devon)

Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund and Continued Fund Raising

I know some of us, me included, have wondered why the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund still needs to continue to raise funds each year when they received a sizeable legacy (The Smale Bequest) just a few years ago. 'Surely this will keep them going for several years to come and we are off the hook for a bit and can concentrate on other matters.' I suppose it is entirely possible to think this way and for the Trustees to have taken this approach. Had they done so, based on the expenditure from the Fund in 2018 of approximately £39,000 and with the Fund standing at £380,000 all the money bequeathed would be spent in a little under 10 years. And then where would we be?

Thankfully for all of the ringers in Devon, and beyond, in 2014 the Trustees took a much longer view of the matter. Whilst a not insignificant amount was left on deposit, and available to be spent directly on grants, the majority was invested to help provide an income for the Fund therefore securing this, probable one off, legacy for the future. With the new found wealth of the DCBRF the Trustees upped the level of grant given from 10% to 15% of the value of each project they were asked to support. This has continued for the last 4 years and can clearly be seen in the annual accounts with grants in 2014 (agreed pre Smale) of £11,000 rising to approximately £22,000 in 2015. For the last two years expenditure has outstripped income by approximately £10,500 and £16,000 respectively. One interesting statistic is that between 2000 and 2014 inclusive (pre Smale Bequest) the Fund gave out grants totalling £130,770, whereas from 2015 to 2018 the Fund has given grants of £116,070 (post Smale Bequest). 2018 saw the Fund giving its largest ever single grant of £15,000 towards the new installation at Ugborough. If you compare this to the grant given towards Crediton of £3,000 when the old 8 there were replaced by a new ring of 10 in 2004 (not a 12 until 2006) you can clearly see that not only is the Fund giving more but projects are costing so much more as well.

So here we are in 2019 and with the money left on deposit pretty much spent/committed the Trustees now find themselves, without further fundraising, with the income from the Smale Bequest of approximately £12,000 (subject to the stock market and "the dreaded B word" (Brexit)) to give for any Grant requests received during the year. As you can see this isn't going to come anywhere near the amount that the Fund has been asked to provide in Grants over the last few years. Whilst there is an expectation of donations from both the Guild and the Association we have still had to make the difficult decision to reduce our Grant level back to 10% for 2019 and at the last Trustees meeting there was a discussion about the possibility of having to set a cap on the amount given to any one project. Whilst there is an agreement that a small amount of capital can be drawn from the Smale Bequest, at a time when the value has decreased due to market volatility by over £36,000 it does not seem to be the most prudent of timings.

So I hope, if you are still reading this, you are thinking what can I do to help? Well in the short term a personal donation to the Fund, however big or small would seem to be an easy answer. You may think of setting up a standing order as one ringer has already done this year. Bank details are available on request from the treasurer Mary Mears (general@1appletharpe.co.uk, 01626 351895).

Most branches have been generous to the DCBRF over the years, perhaps your branch can afford a little bit more this year. What are your own tower funds like? Is there more money in the pot than you can see will be required in the near future. It doesn't have to be a lot. Perhaps the money charged for one of the weddings rung for during the year could be donated instead.

In the longer term perhaps consider a legacy in your Will to the DCBRF, remember all charitable giving from an estate is free from Inheritance Tax.

Just a final statistic for you, the DCBRF since inception in 1972 has given £293,755 in Grants to 210 Devon churches. It is quite likely that one of those towers is one you ring at on a regular basis. Something to remember is that the subscription you pay and any fees for quarter peals and peals are still exceptionally low, however the equipment you use is worth tens of thousands of pounds.

The next meeting of the Trustees of the DCBRF is on the Monday of Holy Week. It would be great to be able to go along to that meeting with the promise of at least some unexpected donations. The normal plea at the end of a TV advert for charitable donations is please give generously.

Details of Grants paid in 2018 and those already agreed for 2019 can be found on the DCBRF page on the Guild of Devonshire Ringers website.

Janet Deem

Aylesbeare Branch News

We held our AGM at the jewel in our crown, Broadclyst. These are wonderful bells and we managed some decent ringing before an excellent tea and meeting where we were joined by the Guild Secretary and Treasurer.

David Wills had informed us the previous year that he would be stepping down in 2018 so we needed to find a new chairman. After the usual stampede of candidates (not!) Neil Deem had his arm sufficiently twisted and agreed to take on the role. In 2017 we elected Keith Copestake as Assistant Ringing Master with a view to taking the main job from Janet Deem at the 2018 AGM. This was duly ratified. Janet took over as Keith's assistant thereby giving a good level of consistency. All other officers remained the same.

So with Neil Deem as Chairman and Janet Deem as Secretary we joked that the branch should be renamed the Aylesbeare Deemary Branch! I think one of us will need to find a replacement by the next AGM.

In other news the Sunday service time has changed yet again Withycombe Raleigh back to 9.30 am. This means we can no longer benefit from Trevor Bradley's support nor the Littleham ringers as our times of ringing clash again. It also

means we can't go on to Littleham in return. We are however continuing our joint practices.

Finally, if all goes according to plan the bells at Woodbury will be removed from the tower in late March for some much-needed restoration.

Janet Deem

Exeter Branch Exeter Cathedral

Please note that with immediate effect the open practices held on the third Saturday of the month at Exeter Cathedral will now start at 6pm and finish at 8pm (or 7.30pm when there is a concert). All are welcome to attend, and anyone who can handle a bell safely on their own will be invited to ring.

Please contact me if you are intending to come so that we can arrange to welcome you and meet you outside the Cathedral.

Matt Hilling

Exeter Colleges Guild Dinner

The ECG held their annual dinner weekend at the beginning of February as usual. Ringing on the Saturday included Clyst Honiton and Talaton in the morning and Ottery St Mary in the afternoon.

At a very short meeting before sitting down for dinner at the Rougemont hotel in Exeter new officers were elected: Steph Hills is now the secretary and Tom Hinks is the Chairman. Following the dinner we were entertained by a speech from Linda Garton (Bedfordshire) and two touches on handbells, including three leads of Little Bungle Delight Maximus.

Ian Campbell



The ladies keeping warm in Ottery St Mary Church

ART TRAINING SCHEME COURSES FOR TEACHERS IN DEVON

Module 1: Teaching Bell Handling
Saturday 31st August, 9:15 am – 5:15 pm
Venue to be arranged

Course covers:

Practical sessions

Basic components

Joining both strokes

Ringing up & down

Solving handling problems

Theory sessions

Becoming a good teacher

Teaching a skilled activity

Module 2: Teaching from Rounds to Plain Hunt
Saturday 2nd November, 9:15 am – 5:15 pm
Venue to be arranged

Course covers:

Practical sessions

Foundation skills

Teaching call changes

Exploring Kaleidoscope work

Covering & Plain Hunt

Theory sessions

Teaching foundation skills

Building a band

Coaching

Course places are £20 plus local costs. Guild members may apply for course fees to be paid by the Guild. Bookings are open at: <https://smartringer.org/public/daycourses/>.

Enquiries can be made to: lesboyce@ringingteachers.co.uk or 01884 256819.

St Mark's Youth Group learn about bells



The Guild demo bell at St Mark's, Exeter

The Youth Group at St Mark's in Exeter regularly meet on a Friday. To offer them something a little different on 8th February six teenagers turned up to find out more about bells and bell ringing. The session started with a look at the Guild demonstration bell which had been setup at the back of the church. The challenge of setting the bell kept them occupied for some time!

Following that they moved up to the ringing chamber, together with the rector, Tanya who took a close interest in what was done. Having played on the simulator (including making it sound like sheep rather than bells) they climbed the vertical ladder to the clock room to examine the simulator and look at the bells while one of them was rung.

Back in the ringing chamber they were introduced to the concept of changes which they demonstrated on handbells, finishing off with sequences of rounds, queens, tittums and Whittington's on twelve handbells.

By this time sufficient ringers had come along so that we could demonstrate call changes and method ringing, including 120 changes of Bob Doubles. One of their members has been learning to ring at Pinhoe and was able to show off her skills ringing some call changes virtually faultlessly. Following some questions they were left to play on the demonstration bell until it was time to go home.

Thanks go to those who came out to help ring.

Ian Campbell

Handbell Quarter Peal Day

This is becoming an annual event. Seven quarter peals were attempted on 5th January, all conducted by Tim Bayton, with seven ringers taking part. Six were scored with the only failure being Lincolnshire S Major. The others were on ten bells (Kent, Cambridge S, Little Bob) or eight (Yorkshire S, Gainsborough Little and Norwich S). They included the first of treble bob Royal in hand for Oliver Bates, first of Cambridge Royal for Sarah Chadburn and first of Gainsborough in hand for all.

Ian Campbell



Although Christmas seems a long while ago I couldn't resist putting in this picture of Lynne Hughes ringing at Exeter Cathedral in her Christmas attire!

Ian Campbell

Mid-Devon Branch Bell work planned at Kingskerswell

Exciting plans are afoot to transform the ringing experience at Kingskerswell. 30 odd years ago Kingskerswell bells were unloved and rarely rung. Then a new era was begun and throughout that time it has been the dream of the enthusiastic band to improve their bells. This has finally come to fruition and by the end of 2019 there will be a new ringing room and 8 bells – really a dream come true.

Martin Mansley

At last the full restoration of our bells is going ahead. Progress has been very prolonged as the bells form just part of a major reordering of the church. The faculty for all the work was granted last year, and all the details have now been finalised. The work being undertaken in phase one is:-

- Rehanging the bells in a new frame, tuning three of the bells and augmenting to eight with two new trebles.
- Automation of the clock winding mechanism.
- Constructing a new mezzanine ringing chamber lower in the tower, which will give us so much more space as we will not have the clock and the weights case to

contend with, and the balcony will extend through the tower arch and a further metre into the church.

- Re-open the bottom of the staircase to connect from the inside of the church to the existing exterior entrance to the tower.
- Make an entrance from the stairs to the new ringing chamber.
- Construct a new kitchen in the base of the tower.
- Construct a new toilet in the space between the south side of the tower and the west end of the south aisle.

Phase two includes removal of the pews, a new heating system, new lighting, and relocation of the vestry and font.

An order has been placed with Nicholson Engineering for rehanging and augmenting the bells, and work in the tower is scheduled to begin at the beginning of April. The bells will be out of action for about six months. A grant from the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund has been approved.

Although there are sufficient funds for phase one to go ahead, a substantial amount still needs to be raised for the bell restoration. Fund raising will be undertaken over the next few months, and any donations to our bell fund will be very gratefully received. Donations can be made to 'The Friends of Kingskerswell Church' c/o Philip Stevens, 22 Priory Avenue, Kingskerswell, Newton Abbot, TQ12 5AQ.

A scheme we have started, is to give away free tubes of Smarties with the request that they be filled with 20p coins (or £1 coins for that matter!). If anybody would like some free smarties, either for individual use or for collection in the tower, please get in touch.

Philip Stevens, Tower Captain, St Mary's Kingskerswell

Buckfast Abbey Bell Ringers Epiphany Lunch, Sunday 6th January



For the third year, ringing coordinator Peter Bill organised a lunch at Buckfast Abbey on the Feast of the Epiphany to thank all those who have supported the Abbey's ringing through 2018. This had been a particularly important year, as the monks here celebrated 1000 years since the first monastic foundation on the site in 1018. Our ringers support a number of Sundays through the year as well as many of the weekday services, celebrating various Feast Days of the Benedictine Monastic Community who live here. Last year that included the four main church services attended by various liturgical hierarchy including two Cardinals (one being the Papal Legate) and the global figurehead of all the Benedictine Monastic Communities, the Abbot Primate.

Paul Hext, the ringing coordinator for the Sunday Ringers, mustered a few different bands from 8 to 12 ringers after the morning Mass, under the watchful 'ear' of the many ringers arriving for the lunch at Northgate House Hotel. Paul always manages to raise a band of ringers for our selected Sundays, on top of all his own ringing commitments to various towers in and around Dartmoor and we are very grateful to him for his efforts.

Our hotel has quickly established itself as a popular place to stay in the local area and the menu for lunch was a good example of why. A choice of four tasty courses and three delicious deserts at least kept the ringers quiet for a while!

Ringers availed themselves of the hotel bar before convening in the dining room. A surprise quiz was organised by Peter Bill, with a 'spot the ringer' photograph, showing ringers from a Quarter Peal at the Abbey in 1983. This generated quite a bit of interest amongst ringers and had people scratching the heads and asking 'I'm sure I recognise that one!' Peter kept the ringers guessing until after the meal to reveal the answers; I think the most successful team managed to recognise 9 of the 10 ringers so he still has his prize of a bottle for anyone who can identify all 10 ringers (answers to peterbill@gmail.com)

After the quiz, Peter passed on thanks on behalf of Paul and himself for the efforts of all the ringers, who come from all over the county to support the Abbey's ringing. This event is turning into a regular feature for our ringers and is a great way for us all to get together and be thankful of the support given to ringing here.

As part of the thank you, I wanted to pay particular attention to the efforts put into the Millennium Bell Ringing festival, which took place on the Saturday 11th August last year. That event was previously covered in this publication and the success of it is still talked about today. In fact, with all great events the inevitable question is asked 'when are you doing that again?', well not this year but we'll see what the future holds!

A thank you can sometimes go on a bit and often people are missed so this time I decided to do something a bit different. I summarised my words into a poem which seemed to be well received by ringers (well, they were all there at the end and some even clapped): you can make your own mind up!

An ode to the Buckfast Abbey Millennium Bell Ringing Festival

A 1000 years of Monastic life calls for a celebration a whole year long,
Services, festivals, concerts, a play, a garden, a statue,
antiques for a song,
But what can be the highlight, so many people,
so much to choose,
Choose the bells I hear you say, the bells, surely not, I
think you'll lose,
But which event braved the weather, welcomed the
curious, was a real Spotlight?
A bell ringing festival, that will never catch on, lets show
the doubters we were right,
With no Robin Hood, we needed a different band of merry
men (and women),
With Ian, Peter & Martin, Geoff and Ali, with Anna and
Paul, Lester and tea,
We planned and we plotted, how can we make, this
strange old hobby a cause to celebrate?
August arrived, the marquee was ready, but what shall we
fill it with, the bells are too heavy?
With smaller bells brought by car, posters and banners,
leaflets and planners, don't forget the bar!
Special thanks to Taylors who ventured far, beyond the
motorway to our bell ringing bazaar,
Our interesting space, a bit like a steeple, wonderful
volunteers ensured we had plenty of people,
Down came the rain but that didn't matter, in came the
people, with a welcome clatter,
With burgers and bells, they came to see, a giant Bourden
bell for a great Bellfie!
Our clever Abbey team, created an exhibition,
which just had to be seen.
With old folk in black and white clothes, we admired the
start of these ringing rainbows.
While all around the bells did sound, 'but we can't see
them down here on the ground',
We used cameras to film those ringing moles, for we
never see these dedicated souls,
What a great success of the 'ting a ling power', seen all the
way, high up the tower,

The 'Big Ring' sounded nice, brought the BBC here, not once, but twice!
 But real not fake, we wanted to link, Holy Trinity here, for history's sake,
 Red smoke from the tower was the sign to start, for miles around both peals did depart.
 As well as the ringing, a church service brought singing, with choir and handbells, a nod to our liturgical upbringing,
 So after it all, how do we assess, the fruits of our labour, our tools and duress?
 Well we could be unkind and mention health and safety, the importance of help when the reach is too lengthy!?
 All joking aside, we must specially thank, our pivotal ringer from the sometimes kiwi flank.
 Fifteen hundred visitors they say, many on the mini ring, trying the art of this hobby/sport thing,
 Questions, of how? of when? of why? we ring bells – well, you give your reason and I'll give my,
 In the end, we can only hope that time spent with us equals time on the rope.
 So whether you're method or whether your change or maybe your both, (not ever so strange)
 All stand and raise a glass, with this ringing Daddy, to all you fine ringers of Buckfast Abbey!

Geoff Pring, Ringer, Warden & Site Administrator, Buckfast Abbey

Extracts from Tower Talk

Ringling Master's Report 2018

2018 has been a good year for the branch – in general, practices have been well attended and we hope that members have found them useful. Tower Talk is now well established as our main means of communication and we thank members for the positive feedback received. We are always pleased to hear any news so please keep it coming.

As you should have had detailed reports on all we have been up to via Tower Talk I will just pick out a few highlights. Our two outings were enjoyable even though a touch was almost interrupted by Jason's cheers when England won their match during the mini outing to the South Hams and we witnessed the sad demise of a letter box during the main outing to Gloucestershire!!! Yes, despite these incidents we had two very enjoyable outings!

Although not officially a branch event, the Buckfast Ringing Festival would not have been the success it was if we had not had the enthusiastic support of branch members. Ringing really did have a fine showcase in the wonderful setting of the Abbey and our stewards did a magnificent job of presenting many different aspects of our art to the public in a very positive way – just a shame it rained all day for the main part of the festival.

The Beast from the East put paid to one of our training events in March and it was decided to reorganise the Plain hunt/ Plain Bob day in September in place of the raising and lowering training. Although several people could not make the re-run it was still very successful, and a very useful morning was spent at Stokeinteignhead. It has been very pleasing to see ringers joining us from towers we have not seen much of in the past and during the year we have met ringers from Ideford and Bishopsteignton among others. There is much cooperation between towers and it is very rare to have a practice where there are no visitors from other towers. This is a very healthy situation for our branch. Ringers from our new tower at Brixham have been very much in evidence at Berry Pomeroy practices and we are sure they are enjoying the opportunity to join in with some method ringing.

The "Ringing Remembers" initiative has been enthusiastically supported by ringers nationally and locally and we have had many reports of ringing of a very high standard.

Sadly, Julia has decided not to continue as our secretary and

we thank her for taking over the job as first deputy and then "the real thing". She had a very steep learning curve but has managed magnificently. The Duke of Edinburgh scheme is very lucky to have her services but we hope that she will still try to get to our meetings when she can. Janet has been both Librarian and now Guild Committee rep but has decided that it is time to hand over to someone else. The great news is that she will still be very busy, something she seems to relish, as the Guild Ringing Master. We thank her for all her work for the branch and wish her a very happy year in her new role. The branch is in pretty good heart as we look forward to another year which will include the celebration of the centenary of its creation in 1919 and its first formal meeting in January 1920. All this information has come to light following negotiations with our "late" bank. We commiserate with Fiona who has had many battles with them and we do hope she can find a suitable alternative very soon.

Please continue to support the branch as it looks forward to the next century.

Martin Mansley

Christmas Tree Festival – Stokeinteignhead



This annual event was on the same weekend as the carol service but started the previous Wednesday with joyful ringing to open the festival. Again the ringers decorated a tree adding their take on trees to all the variety of ideas on display – make a note to visit next year!

Wena's Big Birthday

With four ringers in the family it was almost obligatory that Wena's celebrations should include ringing and we decided to push the limits a bit with an attempt for Double Norwich Court Bob Major. Several of the band had not rung a touch of it recently or at all, so it was not surprising that the first attempt lasted only a couple of courses. After another look at the book and a pep talk, we tried again, and a good quarter peal was brought round in 48 minutes. Thanks to Don for ringing a steady treble and the rest of the band for not falling off the line. A family meal in the evening and another family get together in Gloucestershire the following weekend completed the "Festival". Wena now really is retired!

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Torquay, Devon, St Mary the Virgin, St Marychurch
Saturday, 5 January 2019 in 48m

1264 Double Norwich Court Bob Major

1 Don J Roberts	5 Michael H Tompsett
2 Helen C Mansley	6 Tim J King
3 Rowena G Mansley	7 Matthew D Dawson
4 Neville Gibbings	8 Martin G Mansley (C)

Significant Birthday compliments to 3 (She wishes it to be understood that the length is not significant!)

First touch DNCB 4. First DNCB 6

Raising and lowering Training Morning – East Ogwell

For the third time the branch held a training morning for raising and lowering in peal. Yet again we were over-subscribed so it is very clear how popular / needed this training is within our towers. The truth is that it is one of the most difficult things both to do and to teach. Six and a half trainees (Nicola could only stay for half the session) came along to have a go. Fortunately, we had a host of willing helpers who worked hard all morning raising and lowering many times – we lost count! At the same time useful advice and tips were given. East Ogwell bells are ideal for this sort of session as they are light and easy to handle. It is true that the ringing room was a little cramped at times due to the enthusiasm of both learners and helpers, but there was a chance to escape downstairs where a spare rope was available to practice coiling and un-coiling the rope. Halfway through the morning Janet Ritterman and her helpers had prepared a real feast which was swooped on enthusiastically. This was an ideal opportunity to relax a little and there was plenty of networking, not to mention a group photo.



It was then back up the tower for a final session and it was obvious that all the trainees had benefitted from the concentrated practice. Just prior to the final lower a couple of courses of Little Bob were rung "for a change". We are extremely grateful to all the helpers for working so hard and to our trainees for being so ready to learn. Finally, a big thankyou to Janet and her helpers and to the parishioners of East Ogwell for allowing us to come yet again.

Martin Mansley

East Devon Branch

Ringling at St Nicholas

Christmas and New Year are always busy times for our bell ringers. As is becoming traditional at Combe Raleigh we gathered on New Year's Eve to ring out the old year and ring in the new. Our last ringing of 2018 faded out gradually: slow rounds on six bells became rounds on five as the tenor ceased to ring, then four and so on until just one bell, the treble, sounded a final time. Trevor expertly tolled twelve on the tenor precisely at midnight. We then rang a few call changes to welcome the New Year. This New Year's Day was special as we joined Janet in celebrating her mother's 100th birthday by ringing 100* changes of Plain Bob Doubles. Then it was time to share some Buck's Fizz and mince pies with our friends.

*(We thought a quarter peal starting at 5 minutes past midnight might not be welcomed by all the villagers.)



Left to Right: Lisa Clarke, Janet Reynolds, Trevor Hitchcock, Sally Church, Laurence Clarke and Stan Thompson.

Lisa Clarke

Ladybirds

You may have seen reports of a 'plague of ladybirds' this autumn, though I'm not sure that ladybirds can really be a plague. In case you are wondering what this is all about then take a look at the accompanying photos. For the last two autumns ladybirds have gathered in huge numbers in the tower of St Nicholas' church, Combe Raleigh. We are not sure why, perhaps they like the sound of six bell ringing as we never had them when there were only three bells.



Trevor Hitchcock

According to the BBC these Harlequin ladybirds have had their numbers boosted by the hot summer and were looking for somewhere to hibernate. They are 'mostly' harmless! Church towers seem particularly popular – Editor

East Devon Branch AGM at Sidbury

AGMs have a reputation for being poorly attended and boring. Asked how many to cater for, the ladies were told no more than about 20. By the deadline for booking teas there was a mild surprise to find it was now 30. Imagine then the astonishment when, on the day, over 40 crowded into the Parish Room at Sidbury all seeking tea. Of course had the 'domestic' staff been into the church and seen the crowded nature of the ringing chamber it might not have been such a surprise. We are all aware that Sidbury has some of the nicest bells around to ring, so perhaps we should have expected a larger than usual attendance, but this was the greatest in many years. We were graced by the presence of a number of Guild Officers, though I suspect none of them would have considered themselves to be the attraction that brought extra people through the doors.

The business meeting followed its usual pattern with few volunteering to take over any of the posts on offer and all the existing occupants found themselves re-elected with the exception of the Branch Ringing Master who has moved out of the area, (our loss, their gain). Even then his replacement turned out to be his predecessor who accepted with good grace, 'I suppose if no one else wants to do it, I can.'

There was an extensive debate as to whether or not we needed a Branch Bells Adviser. John Martin made an impassioned plea for such a post, citing examples where such a person might well have saved the day. Our Chairman Laurie Palmer agreed to take on the position. Four new members were elected, a happily healthy situation to be in. Two Guild Certificates were awarded, to Anne Robinson and to Kathryn Lambert. Kathryn was also congratulated on ringing her first quarter peal.

Finally, it was confirmed that the Branch Striking Competition would be held at Dunkeswell on 13th July and it was hoped that as many towers as possible would enter. It should be noted that there is also an open competition running at the same time.

If AGM attendance is a reliable measure, it would seem that ringing in the branch is in a good state.

Trevor Hitchcock

North East Branch Regular ringing at Cullompton

Rachel and Chris Cozens have asked me to remind you all that the new 2nd Sunday ten-bell service ringing at Cullompton starts 10th February from 5pm to 6pm prior to the service.

The minimum requirement is that you should be able to handle a bell independently and ring rounds, and ideally call changes.

Parking is available in the Community Centre car park behind the church but please consider car sharing where possible.

Jenny Jones, NE Branch Secretary

Certificates in the NE Branch

Flo achieves level 3 'Learning the Ropes'

Flo began ringing in September 2015 with the After School Bell Club at Bampton. She is a busy teenager with many activities going on as well as starting her GCSE work in school. Scouting is another part of Flo's life and this year she has won a place on the Scouting Jamboree in America. This has meant raising extra funds and more weekends away in preparation. Despite this she has managed to complete Level 3 in the Ltr Scheme through ART.

To achieve this award she has rung at least one quarter peal on the treble to Doubles and on 19th February she completed the level by ringing the cover bell to a QP of Doubles. On this occasion her brother rang the treble. Well done Flo.

Huntsham, 19.02.2109, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1 Red Jones | 4 Mandy Burnett |
| 2 Les Boyce | 5 Mike Hatchett |
| 3 Sheila Scofield (C) | 6 Florence Jones |



Flo receiving her certificate from Sheila

Sheila Scofield

NE Branch Young Ringers

NE Branch Young Ringers held their half-term practice at Hemyock. Joining Lucy in her home tower were James and Thomas from Silverton, Nano, Eddie and Jess from Tiverton. Thanks go to Brian and Lin for hosting and for parents and helpers who rang with them. Rounds, call changes (called by the young ringers) and Kaleidoscope were all practised successfully despite heavier bells than most are used to.



The Young (and not so young!) Ringers at Hemyock

Sheila Scofield

Ringling Remembers Recruits gain certificates

As a result of the Guild Recruitment day in February 2018 the NE Branch had 21 new recruits ringing bells on 11.11.2019. At the time of writing all those new recruits are still ringing in their local towers and making a contribution to the service ringing and joining in some of the Branch activities.

In the Tiverton/Bampton area we have had two recent ART Certificates awarded to two of those recruits. At Tiverton St Paul, Tim Harral received level 1 certificate from Les Boyce and at Bampton Nano gained level 1 in November.



Tim Harral receiving his certificate from Les Boyce



Nano with his certificate

All Change at Burlescombe

After well over 30 years at the helm, Peter Walter has stepped down as Tower Captain at Burlescombe. Heart problems and a house move have persuaded Peter to tie up his bell rope for the last time. Peter first joined North East Branch in 1984 and was responsible for bringing Burlescombe tower into the Branch. He also held the posts of Assistant Secretary and Branch Secretary for over ten years in the 80s and 90s. He remained Captain at Burlescombe until autumn last year. We thank Peter for all his work in the tower and his support for the Branch. We offer him our best wishes in his new home and in retirement from ringing.

The new Captain and contact at Burlescombe is Tim Webber: 01884 841078 or tim.webber1@btopenworld.com.

Les Boyce

North/North West Branch The long and winding road to a first quarter peal



Colin Sargent

Like most bright ideas, this one started in a pub! I have always believed in giving people targets that are achievable, and so it was that 3 or 4 years ago I suggested to Colin and Carol from Brentor that it would be wonderful if they could ring in a quarter peal to mark a notable anniversary of my first peal. That gave them a year or more to prepare. With work commitments and the lack of regular method practice, it became clear that more time was needed. In the meantime it transpired that our three birthdays were within a few weeks of each other, and that Colin had a 'big' birthday this year.

With more practices with the Taw, Torridge & Tamar group, and a ringing half day dedicated to their progress, it looked promising. Unfortunately Colin developed problems with his hands and grip, and it seemed highly unlikely that he would be able to ring. This made ringing for his special day even more important. The day finally arrived. The band was made up of the group members who had been so supportive over the years, and a really good quarter peal was scored.



L to R: Geoff Rix , Sonia Rix , Louise James , Kevin Lane , Carol Sargent , Geoffrey Sparling.

Broadwoodkelly Monday 4th Feb 1300 Plain Bob Doubles. Carol Sargent 1. Louise James (c) 2. Sonia Rix 3. Geoff Rix 4. Geoffrey Sparling 5. Kevin Lane 6.

First attempt 1. By members of the Taw, Torridge & Tamar Midweek Group as a 60th birthday compliment to Colin Sargent (husband of 1)

Louise James, photo by Colin Sargent

St Peter’s Church, Fremington



I don't think we have ever submitted an article for the Devon Newsletter so here is a short update on what we are doing at Fremington.

The tower is affiliated to the Guild. We have a regular band of 12 ringers plus a recent newcomer who is learning.

In addition we regularly have a further three or four who join us when they can. I am pleased to say that it is very seldom that we do not ring six for Sunday Services. Four of our members are paid up to the guild and regularly attend the weekly practice nights at Shirwell Church where bell handling is improving and two of our members are not starting on some method training. Two of us can ring method but naturally additional practice is always useful and new methods can be attempted.

Our practices and Sunday ringing are predominantly call changes but we are hoping to edge towards some more method which is possible on practice nights if we have sufficient ringers able to ring method to support those trying to learn method.

The group is active and vibrant. We frequently ring at Westleigh Church and during the better weather we ring at other churches in the area on a monthly basis. In addition we embark on the occasional ringing tour having spread our wings as far as Bath to the East, and down to Sidmouth and area to the south. We try to make our ringing as sociable as possible which makes for a close-knit group who enjoy each other's company as well as having a lot of fun ringing. They are all very loyal to the church and will gladly ring for additional services at both Fremington and Westleigh whenever requested.

So bellringing is alive and kicking in Fremington and steadily improving.

John McKee (Tower Captain)

South West Branch

South West Guild AGM, Laira

The South West Guild's AGM was held at Laira, Plymouth and there was a great turnout. The members enjoyed ringing, from rounds and call changes to touches of Stedman triples on the lovely eight bells. With plates full of buffet offerings, we were invited to a presentation by the branch Ringing Master and Deputy Ringing Master (Phil Dunn and Matthew Thewsey) on the subject of 'Learning to Learn', which talked through some of the many different ways of learning a method, from learning bell numbers, course bells, place notation and using new technologies to practise at home.



Ringling at Laira



Roxanne, Sally and Steve receiving their Guild certificates



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The meeting was particularly exciting because this year we celebrate the centenary of the formation of the Branch. Members were introduced to the plan for peals and quarter peals to be rung to commemorate this event on Bellboard, with other significant ringing achievements also being linked to the event, similar to the kinds of performances listed for Armistice Day 2018.

Congratulations to Roxanne, Sally, Steve and Elena who each received their Guild Certificates, which were presented by Sheila Scofield on behalf of the Guild.

Elena Brake

South Hams Method Ringing Practices

We have now completed two years of method ringing at West Charleton, meeting usually on the first Tuesday of each month. There are fourteen on our e-mail list with an attendance of up to nine all with different abilities. At our last practice we rang Plain Hunt, Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob and Cambridge!

We welcome all method ringers whatever their ability. Do consider dropping in on us if you are visiting the South Hams.

West Charleton church is in a beautiful spot just outside Kingsbridge, there is parking in the lane beside the church and a pub nearby, we are just waiting for a new landlord! The tower is in the process of joining the Guild.

West Charleton, 6 bells, tenor 9.25 cwt, ground floor ring "The Ashburton Arms" pub is walkable from the church.

Contact:- margaret.berndt@btinternet.com

Maggie Berndt

How many Scouts can you fit in a Belfry?

Well... 13 so far! On January 18th we welcomed 13 Scouts to Emmanuel Church, Plymouth to have a go at bell ringing. This included a trip up to the belfry to see the bells for themselves, a demonstration of ringing on an untied bell, followed by trying out some backstrokes with support from members of the band.

This was a great experience for the Scouts and one of the group has decided to come along to regular practice nights and is doing very well. In addition, this was an opportunity for Plymouth ringers Matthew and Elena to practise some teaching skills, having recently taken the ART day course in teaching bell handling.



Scouts in the Belfry

Elena Brake

Birthday Celebrations in Tavistock

What a great way to celebrate a big birthday! Tavistock ringers rang a quarter peal of Lincolnshire Surprise Major on the 10th February to celebrate the birthday of Rosemary Ruddick - a Lincolnshire Lass. The photo is of Rosemary surrounded by her fellow ringers. Well done Tavistock!



Rosemary and her fellow ringers

Sally Jackson

Guild Festival & AGM Saturday 15th June Aylesbeare Branch

- 1030 – 1200 Ringing by Invitation in seven branch towers
Training sessions at Littleham and Withycombe Raleigh open to all.
Rope Splicing Masterclass held at Withycombe Raleigh Church Hall
Car Treasure Hunt around the branch churches for all the family
- 1200 – 1345 Lunch at Withycombe Raleigh Church Hall
Frank Mack mini rings reunited and available to ring.
Video of Withycombe Raleigh augmentation showing in the Church Hall
- 1345 – 1430 Guild Service
- 1430 Guild AGM
Activities available for all the family not wishing to attend the meeting.
Tea and Biscuits will be available in the hall after the meeting
- 1700 - 1900 Open Ringing at Withycombe Raleigh (all abilities catered for)
- 1900 - 1200 Supper and Quiz evening (tickets to go on sale nearer the date)
Real Ale, wine and soft drinks available

Emmanuel Tower Tidy and Annual Dinner

On the 16th February the local band at Emmanuel, Plymouth took part in the annual 'Tower Tidy': a deep clean of the ringing chamber and a thorough inspection of the bells. The ringing chamber and staircase was swept clear, polished and vacuumed. Afterwards, in slightly nicer outfits, our efforts were rewarded with an evening meal at The Hunting Lodge, who provided us with an excellent carvery and extremely generous portions of dessert. A great day was had by all.



Cleaning in progress at Emmanuel



A bird's eye view



A well deserved carvery at The Hunting Lodge

Elena Brake

Ten Year Anniversary at Sampford Spiney

A lovely evening was had by the ringers of Sampford Spiney at the Whitchurch Inn, where the ringers thanked Bill Blowey for his captaincy over the ten years following the restoration of the bells. Thank you Bill!



Sally Jackson

Alan Edwards: Guild Vice-President – 1928-2018



Alan was born in Shropshire in 1928 and learnt to ring while a pupil at Wellington Grammar School. National service in the R.A.F. interrupted his ringing career, but on returning to England to study Geography and Geology at Exeter University Alan resumed ringing and was elected to the Guild in 1953. After university he came to Tiverton to take up a teaching post at the Grammar School and, apart from a short period in South Molton, he remained a teacher in Tiverton until his retirement in 1991. His remarkable memory for the family details of former pupils, their parents who he had also taught and even, in a few cases, their grandparents never ceased to amaze.

It was through ringing at Sampford Peverell that Alan met his wife, Dulcie. He also became a regular at St Peter's in Tiverton after the family set up home in the town. In 1984 he was elected Secretary and Treasurer for the North East Branch and continued to hold the treasurer's post in the branch for over 30 years. His detailed explanations of branch finances at quarterly meetings and his eschewing of computer-based systems were legendary among members!

Alan's retirement years were partly devoted to quarter peal ringing with Wilf Dunn, Mike Hatchett, Terry Hargreaves and friends from Somerset. In 2008 he achieved his 1000th quarter and went on to ring many more. He continued ringing in Tiverton until his health got in the way of climbing the stairs at St Peter's. However, he was always quick to assure us that he still listened out for us on Tuesday practice nights. In April last year we marked Alan's 90th birthday with a quarter of Grandsire Triples at St Peter's.

We offer our sincerest condolences to Dulcie and the family and thank them for involving many of us in their family celebrations over the years. May Alan rest in peace.

Peals and Quarter Peals in memory of Alan:

Tiverton, Devon, St Peter

Sunday, 23 September 2018 in 51m

1260 Plain Bob Triples

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Mark Heritage | 5 Leslie Boyce |
| 2 Jenny Jones | 6 Steve James |
| 3 Richard Barker | 7 Matthew Weighell (C) |
| 4 Sheila Scofield | 8 Catherine Thorpe |

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

Wanstrow, Somerset. Blessed Virgin Mary

Monday, 24 September 2018 in 43m

1260 Dolgoch Bob Minor

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Valerie Stone | 4 W John Parsons |
| 2 Raymond P Jones | 5 John S Boorman |
| 3 Kay Smith | 6 Giles R Morley (C) |

Rung in memory of Alan V Edwards of Tiverton. May he rest in peace.

Sandford Orcas, Dorset. St Nicholas

Wednesday, 26 September 2018 in 46m

1260 Peal At Any Price Bob Minor

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Valerie Stone | 4 W John Parsons |
| 2 John West | 5 Raymond P Jones |
| 3 Giles R Morley | 6 John S Boorman (C) |

Rung in memory of Alan V Edwards of Tiverton. R.I.P.

Huntsham, Devon. All Saints

Wednesday, 26 September 2018 in 44m

1280 Lincolnshire Surprise Major

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Richard Barker | 5 Michael Hatchett |
| 2 Sheila Scofield | 6 Matthew Weighell |
| 3 Leslie Boyce | 7 Pauline McKenzie (C) |
| 4 Richard Shere | 8 John A Foster |

Rung by members of North East Branch in memory of Alan Edwards, formerly Branch Treasurer for over 30 years, and a Vice-President of the Devon Guild.

Huntsham, Devon. All Saints

Thursday, 11 October 2018 in 2h 49

5184 Tittybong Surprise Major

Composed by Robert D S Brown

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Michael Hatchett | 5 Rev Christopher Renyard |
| 2 Jane C Spencer | 6 R Nicholas Lawrence |
| 3 Jeffrey Knipe | 7 Michael R Spencer |
| 4 Lesley A Knipe | 8 Robert D S Brown (C) |

Tittybong is a locality in the northwest of Victoria, Australia. Remembering Alan Edwards, local ringer, whose funeral was at Sampford Peverell church yesterday.

Les Boyce

Brexit Reaches Little Odford

The Reverend Ken, Vicar of Little Odford, was a moderate man. He managed to consume his five a day, he didn't over-indulge in red meat, he always had fish on Fridays, but if he had a weakness it was alcohol. Communion wine was not quite enough, and he was a pretty regular client of The Ring of Bells especially after the Friday night ringing practice when he knew that Tower Captain George Broadworthy would be good for a pint or two.

He happened, not quite by chance, to be in the pub on the night that the ringers from St Swarfega's were celebrating their victory in the Guild Branch Striking Competition. George was particularly elated by this victory and was in consequence particularly generous treating everyone to whatever they asked for. In Ken's case his usual pints of beer were upgraded to double scotches so that by the time he landed in his bed he wasn't quite sure whether it was Thursday or raining.

Imagine his confusion when he found in his post the following morning a letter in a brown envelope marked OHMS addressed to the Reverend Incumbent of St Swarfega's, Little Odford. What could it be, he wondered?

When he opened it he found a letter from the Dept for BREXIT.

"BREXIT" he thought. "What's BREXIT?"

He soon found out. BREXIT was government shorthand for Bell Ringers Excluded from Information Technology.

Further reading of the letter informed him that the latest government regulations forbade bell ringers to record new methods on CDs, to retain recordings on discs of outstanding

performances, to advertise ringing events by email and to publish teaching aids on the internet. The penalties for any infractions were severe. Tower Captains would be subject to a jail sentence, ringers would be heavily fined and ordained ministers would be unfrocked.

Ken was distraught. Before he could get to the phone it rang. "George Broadworthy here, Vicar. What we goin't do about this yer letter?"

"Oh, glory. You've had one too.", replied Ken. "I really don't know, George. I think I ought to consult the Archdeacon before I do anything else. I'll phone him and let you know what he says."

The Archdeacon's office was sympathetic but unable to offer any practical advice apart from referring the problem to the Bishop.

The Bishop's help was limited to an undertaking to raise the matter in the House of Lords.

This did not help either Ken or George especially as the weekly practice was due to be held that very evening.

Mary Prosser, Postmistress and secretary to the Parochial Church Council was on the vicarage doorstep at 9am. The Post Office remained closed in the light of this crisis.

"What can we do, Vicar?", bleated Mary. "We've got to obey the law, haven't we?"

"Of course we have, Mary. I've spoken to George and he's as bothered as I am. I suppose we'll have to tell the ringers tonight, but they won't like it. Several of them are really keen and use teaching aids on line. I'm waiting to hear from the Archdeacon and the Bishop, so I hope they call before tonight's practice."

The ringers gathered in the tower as usual that evening, surprised to see the Vicar there, (he was a non-ringer) and wondered what was going on. George was looking really worried, Fred, George's brother and vice-Captain was pale-faced and Sharon and Darren were so anxious that they managed not to be amorously entangled as they usually were.

"Well folks", began Ken. "I guess you've heard already about this ridiculous regulation. It doesn't mean you can't ring but it's going to make your lives a bit difficult. I suppose if all the country's ringers decided to stop all ringing in protest something might be done, but there's plenty of people who'd be delighted not to be woken up by bells so a protest like that might be counter-productive."

It was a moment after the words "Woken up" that the Reverend Ken came to with the worst hangover he'd suffered for years.

Peter Walter

Email lists are moving!

The Guild is moving to a new system for branch email distribution lists. The current system is managed through the University of Exeter (UoE) email system. This is an old system which can only be configured (including updating the membership) by someone with a UoE login.

To enable members to manage their own subscription(s), new lists using the well-known Mailman software are being set up using the Guild web hosting system. Members will be provided with an email explaining how to use the new list and how to login to the list management system to configure your personal list settings.

The existing lists and members will be migrated to the new system over the next few weeks. You will be informed when your list is changing and when to start using the new list. I will liaise with branch secretaries as the migration progresses to keep everyone informed.

New lists for all members of a tower, or (eg) all tower captains within a branch or some other group can also be created if required. All you need is a nominated person to be responsible for this list. For this and any other questions please contact webmaster@devonringers.org.uk.

Matthew Hilling

Unknown Bell discovered in Devon



The Coach House, showing the Cupola (now removed)

The late John Scott and Frank Mack, together with James Clarke did an enormous amount of work collecting together information about all of the bells in Devon which was published as *Towers and Bells of Devon* in 2007. However, following a recent email, it appears that one was missed!

Marley House is approached up a gated drive from the A385 Dartington road near its junction with the A38. It is thought to have been built in the late 18th century and was the home of three generations of the Palk and Carew families. In 1925 it was acquired by a Bridgettine order of nuns and became known as Syon Abbey. In the 1990s a new coach house was built on the site and the bell from the main house was relocated to a cupola on the clock tower. This cupola had been getting in a poor state so was recently brought down before it collapsed. The bell was recovered and is now looking for a suitable home.

The bell is uninscribed, has a diameter of 15½ inches, and sounds the note C sharp. Its height, excluding the cannons, is approximately 12 inches. It is difficult to date the bell with any accuracy, though it would appear to be from the mid-nineteenth century. Unfortunately the ends of the headstock have been broken off such that the original gudgeons and bearings have been lost. Whilst the design of a bell has changed little over the last six hundred years, the design of the fittings can often give a clue to its age. The ironwork remaining on the headstock is not dissimilar to that on a bell we recently examined at St Paul's Church, Stonehouse, Plymouth, this bell having been provided by William and Charles Pannell of Cullompton in 1832. This company supplied a significant number of bells in the area between 1820 and 1855, and it is quite possible that they supplied the Marley House bell.

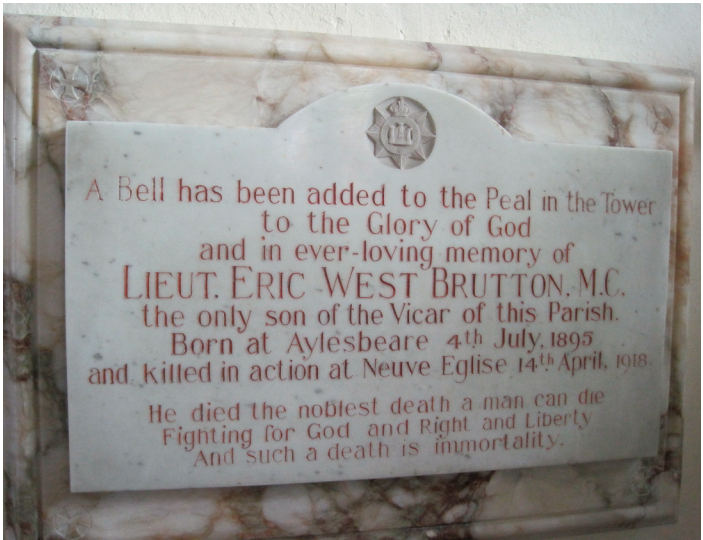


The bell with broken headstock

Ian Smith, photos by Carleen Kelemen

Bells cast in Memory of those who died in the Great Wars

I was chatting recently to David Willis about his work with Alan Regin, on the Rolls of Honour. I thought that there would be a number of bells cast in memoriam of the dead of both wars, in general and in particular.
I therefore spent a little time going through “the book” and checking inscriptions for this information. I was surprised how few there were and so compiled a list, to which David Willis has been able to add some information.



Marble plaque at Aylesbeare



Treble at Aylesbeare given in memory of E.W. Brutton

Bells in the Diocese of Exeter with inscriptions of memorials for WW 1 and WW 2, some personal and some general:

Aylesbeare	Treble	In Mem. Lt. E. W. Brutton MC died 14-4-1918
Chudleigh	2nd.	In Mem. John Oldham, died 1915
Chulmleigh	Treble	In Mem. Old Comrades in ND Hussars. 1914-18
Chulmleigh	2nd.	In Mem. Men of Chulmleigh who fell, 1914-18
Collaton St. Mary	2nd.	In Mem. Stoker P.O. W.J.Trevener died 22-9-1914
Collaton St. Mary	3rd.	In Mem. Capt. C. Whitley died 11-4-17
Collaton St. Mary	4th.	In Mem. Capt. P.N.Whithead died 21-3-1918
Collaton St. Mary	5th.	In Mem. Lt. H.M.Whithead died 21-3-1918
Cullompton	Treble	Thanks be to God for victory and peace. 1918
Cullompton	2nd.	In Mem. Men of Cullompton who died. 1914-18
Dittisham	3rd.	In Mem. Dittisham men who gave their lives 1939-45
Dittisham	4th.	Ditto
Dittisham	5th.	Ditto
Moretonhampstead	Treble	In Mem. Mem of this parish who fell 1914-18
Moretonhampstead	2nd.	Ditto
Seaton	Treble	Ditto 1939-45
Sidbury	2nd.	In Mem. brothers killed in battle 1939-45
Sutcombe	Treble	In Mem. H.H.Ravenhill died 10-3-17

I think that this last entry relates to a son of the parish priest. The bell was cast in 1932 along with the rest of the peal.

James Clarke and David Willis

Guild Demo bell gets out



All ready for the talk

The trouble with giving a talk to any type of club is that there is likely to be a spy from another group who is also looking for speakers. On 29th November I was asked to give a talk about bells and ringing to yet another Probus club – this time the Otter Vale club in Ottery St Mary. We met at the Tumbling Weir Hotel after negotiating the building site on the way in. I tried to set up the demo bell but found the ceiling too low so it had to be placed on the table (see photo). The group were very attentive as I explained the musical, engineering and mathematical basis of ringing and enjoyed the demonstrations on handbells and the demo bell.

Ian Campbell

Why do Clappers come Loose?

I have done some research relevant to why nuts self-loosen, and there is much that is not fully understood, especially for larger diameter bolts with loose coarse threads which are much more inclined to self-loose than the opposite types. However, it seems likely that the following is the best option for a low-cost solution to improve an existing situation, if the existing solution uses a pair of nuts without a split pin.

Note it uses two nuts - a thin one (about half the normal length) and a normal one. The secret concerns how they are torqued, so the nuts lock to *each other* optimally.

Not covered here, but also important is that the nuts should be a tight fit on the bolt (there are different grades) - not loose like the ones were on the bolt that failed - and the pre-clamping force should be maximal but not to the yield point (i.e sufficiently tight).

The following text is taken from

<http://www.melfast.com/blog/2011/02/how-to-use-a-jam-nut-to-stop-self-loosening-on-heavy-hex-bolts/>

but I have seen a number of descriptions that are essentially the same.

What Is A Jam Nut?

A heavy hex jam nut is basically a thinner than normal heavy hex nut that, when attached in a certain way, will result in a bolt that is locked tight and resistant to even the heaviest vibrations.

How Does A Jam Nut Work?

Here's where it can get complicated. Using two nuts to achieve a locking effect is something that has been done for over a century. But simply putting two nuts onto the bolt is not the key - it's the specific process used that creates the locking mechanism.

Order is important. You always want to put the thin (or jam) nut on first against the joist. Tighten it to between 25 and 50 percent of the total tightening torque and only that amount, otherwise you will negate the locking.

While holding the jam nut still so that it will not rotate, tighten the standard heavy hex bolt to its full torque. What will happen is this - when the thick nut comes in contact with the

jam nut and begins to tighten, the pressure on the jam nut will be relieved. The bolt threads that were touching the bottom flanks of the jam nut will slowly move until they are touching the top of the flanks.

So you have a fully tightened nut on the outside (thick) with the threads engaged against the bottom flanks of that nut. Then, between the joint and the thick nut is the jam, where the bolt threads are touching the top flanks. As the bolt vibrates and the threads turn slightly, those two will jam against each other and the bolt will not be able to move.

It is important to follow the process exactly in order to achieve the lock. Just placing two nuts on is not enough to hold heavy hex bolts in tightly. But with a heavy hex jam nut tightened just so and a standard heavy hex nut tightened on top, the locking mechanism will work and your fastener will be held tightly no matter what.

Richard Johnston

Notable Ringing Events

Mike Hatchett celebrates his 2000th Peal



Mike Hatchett has achieved another significant milestone in his ringing career. In January this year he became the 140th person to ring 2000 peals. It was very appropriate that this event took place at Huntsham, the tower where he led the restoration project back in 2004 and where over 400 of his 2000 peals have been rung.

Mike learnt to ring as a teenager in Buckinghamshire and has maintained his links with the Oxford Diocesan Guild ever since. He rang his first peal at Horton, Bucks in August 1952, a peal of

8 Minor methods with Bill Butler conducting. Bill has been a life-long friend and colleague, so it was fitting that he should also conduct Mike's 1000th peal at Lytchett Minster in June 2008. There had been a significant gap in Mike's ringing career during the 1970s, 80s and 90s and this meant that the first 1000 peals took 56 years to reach. However, a retirement move to Devon at the start of the new millennium allowed him to restart regular ringing in a serious way. Consequently, his second thousand was achieved in little more than ten and a half years. Overall, Mike has rung in 748 different towers and over half the peals have been of Major.

As well as his achievements in peal ringing, Mike has made a significant contribution to ringing in Devon. He had the vision to see the potential of Huntsham not only as an easy-going ring of eight, but also as a ringing centre offering extensive practice opportunities for ringers across a wide area. He brought his professional expertise from the construction industry to bear in a sizeable project involving rehangng and remodelling the bells, rebuilding the ringing floor and re-roofing the tower. Mike has also made a significant contribution to the North East Branch, serving as Education Officer and Chairman and leading the development of the Troyte Ringing Centre. In 2016 the Guild recognised this contribution by making him a Vice President.

On Friday 8th February peal ringing friends from across the country gathered in the Bridge Hotel in Bampton for a celebration afternoon tea and tucked into a specially-made cake recording his achievement. Mike, acknowledging that he may not have many more years of peal ringing left, remarked "I don't have targets, I just enjoy the journey."



Bath & Wells Diocesan Association
Huntsham, Devon (All Saints)
Thursday, 17 January 2019 in 2h 51
5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major
Composed by R D S Brown

1 Jane C Spencer
2 Lesley A Knipe
3 Rev Christopher Renyard
4 Richard H Johnston
2000th peal for Michael Hatchett

5 Michael Hatchett
6 R Nicholas Lawrence
7 Michael R Spencer
8 Jeffrey Knipe (C)

Sheila Scofield and Les Boyce

First Quarter Peal on the bells

The tower at Widworthy (just outside Honiton) has a peal of five bells which were made 'just about' ringable a few years ago. In an attempt to drum up support to restore them properly and to remember Lady Alison (who lived in the manor house on the estate) a quarter peal of Doubles was rung on them by those who worked to bring them back into ringing condition. This was thought to be the first ever quarter on the bells.



Ian S, David, Wendy, Rob F, Ian C

Widworthy, Devon, St Cuthbert

Thursday, 20 December 2018

1260 Doubles

3 methods - 420 Grandsire, 480 Plain Bob, 360 Reverse
Canterbury

1 Robert Franklin

4 Ian Smith

2 Wendy Campbell

5 David Hird

3 Ian Campbell (C)

Rung in memory of Lady Alison Kremer. Believed to be the 1st quarter peal on the bells.

Ian Campbell

First Eight-bell peal for Lisa

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Pinhoe, Devon, St Michael and All Angels

Saturday, 19 January 2019 in 2h 47

5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Composed by M J Pomeroy (arr)

1 Alison C Waterson

5 Ian L C Campbell

2 Charlotte A Boyce

6 Ian V J Smith

3 Lisa Clarke

7 Michael E C Mears (C)

4 Susan D Sparling

8 John R Martin

First on 8: 3.

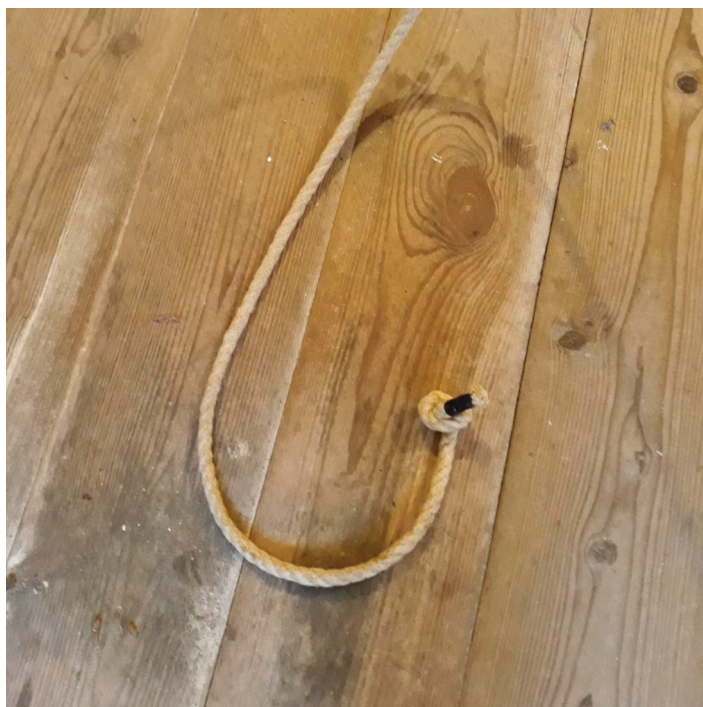
Mike Mears

Training

ART ventures into the South Hams

An Association of Ringing Teachers' training course was arranged at a few weeks' notice following a request for help from Blackawton ringers. They are keen to get regular ringing going in their tower and see the need to recruit new blood to the band. They also saw the need to get help and advice about how to teach and, having new recruits poised to start learning, were keen for ART to give a fairly quick response in terms of organising a teachers' course. They got support from other nearby towers in the South Hams who sent both experienced and potential teachers to the course. In the event eleven students and an observer from seven different towers gathered at Blackawton on the 12th January for a Module One (Teaching Bell Handling) day course.

In many respects St. Michael's at Blackawton makes an ideal course venue – ringing room a short flight of steps off a gallery at the back of the church, a warm and cosy meeting room below the gallery, access to kitchen and toilet and a very accommodating pub across the road which open the kitchen specially for the group at lunchtime. However, I arrived the afternoon before the course to help tie the bells and was a little disconcerted to find single strand ropes in the ringing room (see picture). Past experience in Devon also suggested that these might be very long and only ringable with one or more coils. Lying in bed in the pub the night before I started to think about how we might best cope with this. In the event the ropes were not at all a problem and, if anything, a bit short. Nearly all the students attending were Devon call change ringers, but it is evident that, whichever tradition ringers come from, good teachers agree about the fundamentals of good handling – vertical travel of the rope, pulling right through both strokes, tidy handling, etc.



The untucked and knotted ropes at Blackawton

The students enjoyed the day and went away enthused if the comments on the feedback forms are anything to go by:

"A really useful day which has made me rethink my own ringing – how/why/when I catch/release the sally, etc. So, I feel better enabled to explain better to a learner. A boost to confidence for teaching!"

"Really enjoyed the day, learnt so many tips, thank you."

It was good for ART to venture into new territory and I am hopeful that a new cluster of ART-trained teachers will be able to work together in the South Hams. Details of the next ART events in Devon are given below, but if your tower or a group of towers would like a bespoke course, please get in touch.

Les Boyce, ART Tutor, lesboyce@ringingteachers.co.uk

Recruiting: Ideas for Individual Towers

There is quite a focus on recruiting ringers this year, with the national campaign 'Ringing Remembers', also known as Ringing for Peace, or Armistice 100, and the Guild has already had a recruitment drive for this which is being followed up. But I have been asked to share the longer term recruiting approaches of a single tower: Dawlish.

Most of our ringers over the years have started because they already knew a ringer – a family member or friend. Therefore keeping your band happy is the most important step. People like to know they are being taught well, making progress, and that they are valued for their contribution. There needs to be a relaxed, enjoyable atmosphere in the tower, and social events help too. Your band will then be enthusing to people they know about their enjoyable and rewarding hobby, and others will want to try it. And the drop-out rate should be fairly low!

But what about those who don't know ringers? I split this into two areas: Firstly, keeping the community generally aware of ringing without directly pushing recruitment. Secondly, open days and tower visits, which are still about educating the public, but with a direct invitation to come back for more.

General Community Awareness

Let's look at the general community awareness. The church updated their website and I took the opportunity to get them to add a prominent link to ringing. This covered: who rings the bells and why, ringing for special occasions, challenging performances, learning to ring, ringers getting out and about,

the bells themselves, and contacts. Each section has a relevant photo.

The point here is that I know nothing about creating pages on websites, I just sent the material to someone who did. Google 'St Gregory Dawlish bell ringing' to see, and feel free to use any of it. From time to time I also put advance notice or write-ups of special ringing – quarters, peals, general ringing for a national event – in the church magazine. We have a ringers' tree in the church's Christmas Tree Festival, complemented by pictures and information about ringing. People come to look at this over several days.

I did a series of weekly posts on the 'Eyes of Dawlish' community Facebook page, though whether they featured prominently was at the mercy of whoever controls the page (as it's not a group). My audience here was the non-ringer who was interested in what's happening in town. It had to be short, and engage them in the first line. It had to tell them something that might be of interest, but avoid jargon. It had to show ringing as open to all and enjoyable. Examples can be seen in the appendix to this article.

Still on community awareness, I've saved the best till last: the local newspaper. Free circulation to thousands of people. I have sent information before events, and write-ups after, always with photos, and once they sent a photographer to do their own too! One event was our ringing for the Queen's 90th birthday, and it's good to show ringers of all ages.

Open Days and Tower Visits

We have had an open tower as part of 'ride and stride' in September for several years, more recently signing up to the 'Heritage Open Days' which are on at the same time, thus coming up online if anyone searches for places to visit that weekend, as well as getting free balloons, banners, bunting and a display board. Open for two or three hours, we have ringers manning the bottom of the tower, the roof for views at the top, the bell chamber and ringing chamber. With the bells down the public can explore everywhere including the bell chamber, and chime a bell. At quiet times some bells are raised, full circle ringing is demonstrated, and backstrokes may be offered. Questions are answered as they occur, Central Council leaflets are handed out, and the invitation to come back on a practice night is extended.

Most of the PR for such a day has been covered: newspaper, social media, websites, church magazine, balloons and banner put outside the church. But I also emailed local primary and secondary schools asking them to put something in their newsletters, end emphasising the family-friendly nature of the day. I don't know if they actually did this!

There are also closed visits by arrangement for groups, usually of young people, and these are more structured for having a go at ringing. Every two or three years we have the scouts on their meeting night, with selected ringers giving up their time, including three who can teach handling. Half the troop (about 14) come one night, and the other half a week later. A short safety briefing is given before going up. Everyone sees the bells, has a go at chiming, then the bells are raised and call changes/method ringing briefly demonstrated. The 14 or so are then split in half again, 7 or so having proper tuition of backstrokes, and maybe even separate handstrokes. Meanwhile the others go downstairs to write out plain hunt on 6, have a go at walking and ringing plain hunt with one handbell each, and some tunes on handbells. They then swap over. Leaflets are given out over juice and biscuits!

Finally

Two final messages to get across: generally the public thinks you have to attend a church to ring there, so the message is "This is a community activity!" And no-one is attracted to something that's dying or desperate, so the message is "we're having fun, come and join us!"

Appendix:

Examples of posts to a public town Facebook page
“I thought I might try to post regularly about one of the little known community groups in Dawlish (though heard by so many!!) – the Bell Ringers. Church bell ringers at St Gregory’s that is, though it’s very much a community group and anyone can join. Here’s a first snippet of interest... we were joined last Sunday by a ringer from Gloucestershire staying in the town for a few nights. He was still an accomplished ringer, despite having lost most of his sight in recent years. What a privilege to ring with him.”

“Update on bell ringing at St Gregory’s. There are some visiting expert bell ringers coming on Monday evening to ring a peal, that’s over 5,000 different combinations of the 8 bells. A mental and physical challenge! Should sound good too. Starting at 6pm, if successful this will take nearly three hours so will definitely be finished by 9pm.”

“Standing on boxes! Another regular snippet from St Gregory’s bell ringers... The ropes are set at the right length for average height ringers, so short adults and children regularly stand on wooden boxes to ring! Tall ringers have the opposite problem and have to tie a knot in the rope so there isn’t too much flapping in their face. And the ropes change length with the weather, longer when it’s dry, and shorter when it’s wet!”

“Marathon in Dawlish? It seemed like it this evening – a bellringing marathon for our youngest ringer, who at 11 years old rang his first ‘quarter peal’.

Non-stop ringing for 45 minutes, each of us pulling and catching our ropes to swing our bells through 360 degrees, over 1000 times. Well done young ‘J’! A traditional celebration for St George’s day.”

“Bellringing to listen out for! A group of about 30 visitors are coming to ring the bells at St Gregory’s on Wednesday afternoon from 2pm. They’ll have to take it in turns ringing the eight bells. They are mostly retired people, who have regular outings for the pleasure of ringing on different bells. They will also ring at Bishopsteignton in the morning.”

“Bell ringing at the County Show. Did you see the miniature bells being rung if you went to the show? Maybe you had a go! At least one Dawlish ringer was there giving people a go every day, and it was even shown briefly on BBC Spotlight. Look out for it next year too and join in!”

“Update from the bell ringers at St Gregory’s. The summer is always a bit of a difficult time with people going on holidays, but we’re managing to keep ringing. Starting to plan for the autumn now, and the TOWER OPEN MORNING on 9th September. More details next week, but watch out for this if you’d like to have a look round, go up the tower for the view and chime one of the bells!”

Lynne Hughes. 2018

Editorial

This time last year we were in thick snow – hence the picture on the front cover. This year we have had warm and sunny weather in February but now March is here is it cold and wet again. Isn’t the British weather wonderful!

Thanks go as always to all contributors. I would draw your attention to the article on the DCBRF (bell fund) which needs contributions more than ever if it is to continue to help at its current funding level when giving grants.

The Aylesbeare Branch officers have clearly been working hard to decide what to offer at the Guild AGM and festival on 15th June. It will be based on Withycombe Raleigh in Exmouth and some details are available in this issue. Please reserve the day and come along – there is sure to be something for every ringer at every level. The annual report should be available for distribution to all members before the Guild AGM. In order for this to happen it is essential that all individual and tower subscriptions are up to date and towers and branches have provided information for their reports.

Ian Campbell

Calendar

March			
Mon 18	19:00	Branch 6-bell practice, Shirwell	N/North West
Mon 18	9:30	Branch Practice: 6-bell methods, Offwell	East
Wed 20	19:30	Advanced 6-Bell Practice, Huntsham	North East
Fri 22	19:00	Branch Committee Meeting, Heathcoat Centre	North East
Sun 24	12:30	Branch Family Lunch (Adv Booking Please) Waterloo Cross Pub, Uffculme	North East
Mon 25	19:00	Branch 6-bell practice, Shirwell	N/North West
Wed 27	19:30	Surprise Major Practice, Pinhoe	North East
Sat 30	10:00	TRC Extended Practice: Plain Hunting Huntsham	North East
April			
Mon 1	19:00	Branch 6-bell practice, Shirwell	N/North West
Wed 3	19:30	Quarter Peal, Huntsham	North East
Sat 6	15:00	Branch Quarterly Meeting (Ringing/Service/Meeting), Tiverton, St Peter	North East
Sat 6	19:00	Branch Practice, Berry Pomeroy	Mid Devon
Mon 8	19:00	Branch Practice, Clyst St George	Aylesbeare
Mon 8	19:00	Branch 6-bell practice, Shirwell	N/North West
Mon 8	19:00	Branch Practice (Focus: Plain Hunt and Plain Bob), Stoke Canon	Exeter
Wed 10	19:30	Triples and Plain Major Practice, Huntsham	North East
Thu 11	19:30	Branch Practice: Plain Hunt, Sidbury	East
Fri 12	19:30	Branch Practice: Surprise Minor, Buckerell	East
Sat 13		8-Bell Practice, Emmanuel, Plymouth	South West
Sat 13	10:00	6-Bell Open Practice, Rackenford	North East
Sat 13	14:00	Introduction to Ringing on Higher Numbers Withycombe Raleigh	Guild
Sun 14	17:00	10 Bell Service Ringing, Cullompton	North East
Mon 15		No practice, Shirwell	N/North West
Mon 15	19:30	Branch Practice: 6-bell methods, Offwell	East
Wed 17	19:30	Advanced 6 Bell Practice, Huntsham	North East
Mon 22		No practice, Shirwell	N/North West
Wed 24	19:30	Surprise Major Practice, Huntsham	North East
Thu 25	19:30	Surprise Minor Practice, Ideford	Mid Devon
Sat 27	10:00	TRC Extended Practice: Plain Bob Doubles - Theory, Huntsham	North East
Sat 27	10:00	DRC Competition Day, Plymouth	Guild
Mon 29	19:00	Branch 6-bell practice, Shirwell	N/North West
May			
Wed 1	19:30	Quarter Peal, Huntsham	North East
Sat 4	10:00	6 Bell Open Practice, Tiverton, St Paul’s Exeter Branch early May Bank Holiday train outing, Location TBC	North East
Mon 6			Exeter
Wed 8	19:30	Triples and Plain Major Practice, Huntsham	North East
Thu 9	19:30	Branch Practice: Plain Hunt, Sidbury	East
Fri 10	19:30	Branch Practice: Surprise Minor, Buckerell	East
Sat 11	10:00	TRC Extended Practice: Plain Bob Doubles - Practical, Huntsham	North East
Sat 11	19:00	Branch Practice, Bishopsteignton	Mid Devon
Mon 13	19:30	Branch Practice, Littleham, Exmouth	Aylesbeare
Wed 15	19:30	Branch Practice (Focus: Basic 10 bell ringing), St Marks, Exeter	Exeter
Sat 18		Branch Spring Outing, TBA	South West
Mon 20	19:30	Branch Practice: 6-bell methods, Offwell	East
Wed 22	19:30	Surprise Major Practice, Huntsham	North East
Thu 23	19:00	8-bell practice, Newton Abbot Clock Tower	Mid Devon
June			
Sat 1	10:00	6 Bell Open Practice, Cadeleigh	North East
Sat 1	19:00	Branch Practice, Ugborough	Mid Devon
Sun 2		10 bell method ringing practice (all comers), St Andrews, Plymouth	South West
Sun 2	12:30	Handbells: Plain Bob and Beyond	Guild
Wed 5	19:30	Quarter Peal, Huntsham	North East
Sat 8	TBC	Branch Annual Outing, TBC	North East
Tue 11	19:30	Branch Practice (Focus: Surprise Minor) St Petrocks, Exeter (TBC)	Exeter
Wed 12	19:30	Triples and Plain Major Practice, Huntsham	North East
Thu 13	19:30	Branch Practice: Plain Hunt, Sidbury	East
Fri 14	19:30	Branch Practice: Surprise Minor, Buckerell	East
Sat 15		Guild AGM, Withycombe Raleigh	South West
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	East
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

Snow gets everywhere



Snow amongst the bells at Combe Raleigh

No sooner had I written that we have a nice dry tower when along comes the snow to prove me horribly wrong. We had had a few light flurries of snow during the night, but we had a baptism due and had promised to ring for the occasion. So far there was no problem, but as we started to ring, down came the snow in earnest. After the service the godparents commented on how nice it was that we had rung the bells and could they go up to see them. As is usual we try to comply with any such request, so I took them up. Imagine my amazement when entering the belfry and finding a virtual blizzard, with all the bells and most of the frame covered in snow. Our visitors didn't stay for long as there was no pleasure in being snowed upon while indoors and not suitably dressed to face the snowstorm. Now I've been in the belfry when it has been tipping down with rain and been touched by not a drop, so what was different? After just a moment's thought I concluded that a raindrop is much heavier than a snowflake and it would take an exceptionally strong wind to blow the raindrop through the louvres and into the belfry. Snow is an entirely different proposition being blown on the wind with consummate ease, straight through the louvres and onto the bells and frame. Normally we are happy to have the wind blow through as it helps to keep the tower dry. Now I must climb back up the tower to mop up all the water left by the melted snow.

Trevor Hitchcock

Ten Bell training afternoon



Another wonderful training afternoon was held at Withycombe Raleigh, in Exmouth on 12th January. About 18 ringers participated, including a few beginners who have been ringing less than a year. I was the newest ringer, once again but

this will change. Excellent support from established ringers, giving much needed help and advice, was much appreciated. A relaxed educational and social gathering of all ages and abilities gathered around the twelve bells, not forgetting the 'cute' mini bells in the middle of the bell tower, that were once housed in someone's garage, or so I heard. Bravo to Tim, our leader who encouraged everyone to ring irrespective of ability. One can only imagine how difficult a task this was, particularly with a large group of people with various levels of experience. It seemed like we were ringing constantly with just a few much needed breaks in between. Perhaps the main difficulty in ringing twelve bells, especially for the beginners, is that we have to have the ability to really control the bell, holding it up on the balance at hand stroke and, more complicated, at back stroke. This is a real challenge for those of us who have been ringing for less than a year, and needs constant practice and patience. Thus, our training days are invaluable, especially ringing in different towers, trying to ring different bells, feeling the balance with a variety of bells with differing weights, and of course those bells with their little idiosyncrasies. The bells at Withycombe Raleigh gave us that opportunity. Mistakenly, we had the understanding that ringing on higher bells, had meant that the bells were high in the tower, so, a longer rope from the bell to the sally, and that these bells were harder to control! It is so important to be able to laugh at oneself, when everything seems to be going wrong, (as long as we learn from it). Learning has to be fun, and we certainly enjoyed good banter, especially towards the end of the course, whilst magically all the bells were ringing, but not necessarily ringing in the right order! Lorraine 'you are supposed to be following me, bell two'. Whoops, 'sorry'.

Lorraine

Note from editor: All ringing on the bells was done using the simulator with the clappers tied, so there was no danger of annoying the neighbours by ringing all afternoon. I suspect that some of the ringers didn't even notice this!



Theo ringing on the Myzantha ring following the training day

RINGING ROUND DEVON is the newsletter of The Guild of Devonshire Ringers and is circulated free to all affiliated towers. Any individual members who wish to subscribe should contact Ian Campbell (01392 469695). The cost is £10.00 for four issues (cheques made payable to *Guild of Devonshire Ringers*). RRD is also available on line on the Guild's website, which holds back-issues.

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