

# Ringling Round Devon

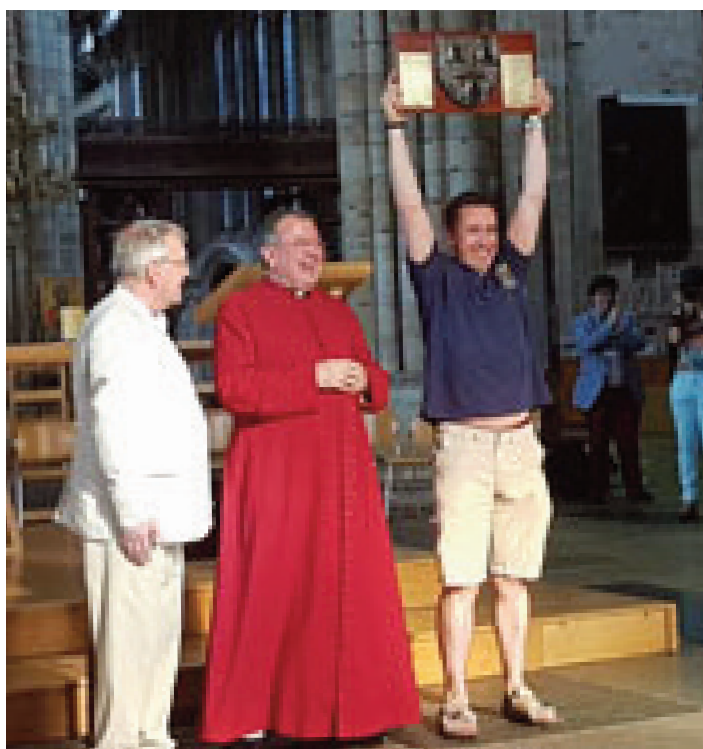


THE GUILD OF  
DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

Newsletter 115, September 2019

## EXETER CATHEDRAL TEAM TRIUMPH AT NATIONAL TWELVE BELL STRIKING COMPETITION

The Exeter Band made history on the 22nd June by becoming the first new winners of the National Twelve Bell Striking Competition (the Taylor Trophy) since 1999. Exeter have never won before.



Master of the Exeter Cathedral band, Matthew Hilling, lifts the Taylor Trophy presented by the Dean of Exeter Cathedral, the Very Reverend Jonathan Greener and Andrew Wilby from John Taylor & Co, sponsors of the Trophy. (Photo by David Hilling)

The national 12-bell competition sees the largest gathering of ringers in one place, has been running since 1975 and brings together the top ten teams from around the country. They compete by ringing a set touch for the Trophy. The set touch for 2019 was 252 changes of Stedman Cinques, to be rung on the second heaviest 12 in the world with the tenor weighing a whopping 72cwt. A challenge for even the best bands!

Exeter were hosting this year and therefore didn't have to qualify in the March eliminators at St Mary Redcliffe (Bristol), St Mary-le-Bow (London) and Leeds Minster. The top three teams from each venue then went through to the final at Exeter, who last hosted the competition exactly 25 years ago.

The ten teams competing this year were Exeter, Birmingham, Ancient Society of College Youths, St Paul's Cathedral (London), Bristol, Leeds, Melbourne, Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, Cambridge and Oxford.

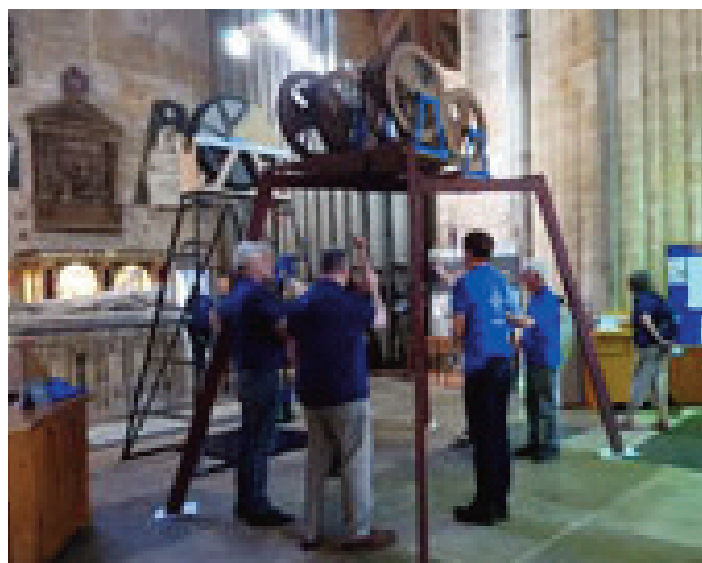
The Exeter Ringing Master (Matthew Hilling) assembled a committee several years ago, each member being tasked with a specific role for the planning of this major event. Not an easy task. Special permission had been granted by the Bishop of Exeter for the use of his private Palace gardens for the event. Early in 2019 the competing Exeter band were hard

at work, often practising weekly for the big event. As time passed, Exeter were tipped to stand a good chance of being in the top few places. A few weeks before, rumour had it that the band were on top form! Write ups in *The Ringing World* were saying that Exeter might even win! Matt Hilling woke up in the middle of the night before the competition asking himself if this was really possible!

The day of the final came around all too quickly. The forecast had been watched anxiously as the weather in the run up had been atrocious. Luckily we were to be blessed with a beautiful hot summer's day.

Having arrived early that day I was amazed at the sea of blue t-shirts. These were all the volunteers, approximately 130 of them!

In the Cathedral, displays were being set up, mini rings erected. In the Chapter House, under the excellent supervision of Sue Sparling, breakfast rolls and refreshments were all being prepared.



The Bowerdon mini ring being enjoyed in the Cathedral  
(Photo by Lynne Hughes)



Rob Franklin, Rob Neal and Amy Gill cooking the breakfast bacon  
(photo by Ian Campbell)



Breakfast and refreshments in the Chapter House  
(Photo by Lynne Hughes)

In the cloisters, Matthew Tosh had set up a live feed to broadcast the event on YouTube, enabling people from far and wide to listen to not only the bells but interviews from the band members.

Over in the Bishop's Palace Gardens the marquee for the bar had been set up along with gazebos for the barbecue, children's entertainment and first aid point. The bar was under the expert supervision of James Kirkcaldy, who made the arrangements with Hanlons Brewery to supply the ale.



The Bishop's Palace Gardens provided a stunning location to listen to the bands  
(Photo by Lynne Hughes)



Real ale at the ready supplied by Hanlons Brewery  
(Photo by James Kirkcaldy)

At 1100 prompt the draw was held. Hundreds of people gathered in the Cathedral to hear the enthusiastic welcomes from both the Bishop of Exeter and the Dean of the Cathedral, followed by the draw to decide the order of ringing. Exeter were drawn fourth which the band were delighted with as it meant we could relax a little, ring and then enjoy the ale!



Hundreds gather to hear the draw. (Photo by Matthew Hilling)

The three judges for the competition were tucked away in a room in the cloisters. They had a live sound feed from above the bells. They also had the added aid of Strikeometer to confirm their opinions and judgement of the ringing. The Chief Judge was Jennie Earis, ably assisted by Tom Hinks and Ben Carey.

The draw was completed quickly as the first team was due in the tower at 1130 prompt.

I felt sorry for Leeds as they had been drawn first to ring in their eliminator too! For me it was also a little nerve wracking as my daughter Rebecca was ringing for them in her first 12-bell final.

The day rolled along perfectly with teams ringing on the half hour and hour. Each team was allowed a total of 30 minutes with some time for last minute practice before their test piece began. The start of each test piece was signified by bells 1 and 2 ringing two whole pulls.

Soon it was Exeter's turn to assemble. We made our way up the to the 'holding' point in the vast roof space. Matt had brought along a mini speaker as he wanted to play a recording of our best ringing which we achieved at the last practice the week before. So we had Stedman Cinqes in stereo! St Paul's were live in one ear and Exeter's recorded touch in the other; an interesting combination! A couple of the team found this too much for their nerves and disappeared to collect their thoughts elsewhere! Our ringing passed without incident and we exited the tower pleased with our effort. But still to ring were strong bands



One of the many vantage points around the Palace gardens to listen to the ringing (Photo by Matthew Hilling)



including Birmingham who were always the team to beat as they had won many times before. As we made our way back down the tower it was time for Oxford to take to the stage. Suddenly during their test piece the ringing stopped. Unluckily a member of their band had pulled a muscle and wasn't able to continue.

Back down in the gardens everyone was thoroughly enjoying themselves, the perfect combination of BBQ, beer and other refreshments was well received. Then there was an eerie calm as the crowd stood to listen to Birmingham ring their test piece. I wondered if they did that when we rang. They rang well but rumours started that perhaps our ringing had topped theirs!



Enjoying the glorious sunshine in the Bishop's Palace Gardens  
(Photo by Lynne Hughes)

By the time all the teams had finished the churchyard judges started to comment. It was evident that the majority of people thought that Exeter and Birmingham were the stand out performances and it would be close between us. It would be interesting to see if the judges thought the same! Following evensong in the Cathedral the time was drawing near to gather for the results. I remember walking in with butterflies in my stomach! The Cathedral was packed, standing room only. Later we learnt there were around one thousand people gathered. Then there was hush. The judges were ready. The Dean welcomed everyone back and then it was time for the verdict from the judges.



Jennie Earis, Tom Hinks and Ben Carey deliver their verdicts  
(Photos by Tim King)

Jennie made some overall comments about the ten teams ringing, followed by Tom who gave a more detailed insight into each team's piece. Then it was over to Ben to give the positions in reverse order:

10th Oxford, 9th Cambridge, 8th SRCY – this was a shock, 7th Melbourne, 6th Leeds – they were pleased with this and I was delighted for my daughter, 5th Bristol, 4th St Paul's; the atmosphere started to intensify now, 3rd ASCY then, oh my, the Cathedral was now silent and electric, 2nd Birmingham, ROAR!!!! Wow! 1st Exeter. An even louder roar erupted. We had done it. I was stunned. The band were emotional, some in tears. The word from the judges said we were well ahead of Birmingham.

Tom's comment about our ringing: 'Confident start, setting a strong rhythm from the outset. The course end was excellent. The tenor was rung particularly well'

I have since heard that 'Glint' (the tenor man) was offering autographs as result of this comment!

The win was the icing on the cake to what had been a magical day. Matt was interviewed and said, 'we have been building towards this for some time'. He emphasised the amount of effort and teamwork it had taken to make the day possible, giving thanks for the outstanding contribution of the volunteers.

For me, I'm immensely proud to have been part of the band. It's a day I shall never forget, not only for the ringing but also the amount of hard work that had been put into organising a magnificent day. Thank you to the Cathedral band as a whole, the organising committee and all the volunteers.

Richard Harrison



The delighted crowd (Photo by Tim King)



The triumphant Exeter team.

Front row right to left, back row left to right. 1 Paul J Pascoe, 2 Alison C Waterson, 3 Susan M Sawyer, 4 Jennifer R Sparling, 5 Pauline Mckenzie, 6 Susan D Sparling, 7 Ian V J Smith, 8 Oliver Coldrick, 9 Richard Harrison, 10 David Hird, 11 Matthew J Hilling, 12 Ian R Fielding.  
(Photo by Tim King)

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!**

...to everyone who volunteered, supported and helped at the 12-bell competition at Exeter Cathedral in June. The day ran like clockwork due to the commitment and time offered by all. It was very much a team effort: quite simply we couldn't have hosted the event without you. Over one thousand people attended. All the beer was drunk and all the food was eaten. Devon hospitality was displayed at its best. Very well done to all.

With thanks from the organising committee.

Matt Hilling

## ANOTHER VIEW OF THE 12-BELL COMPETITION

### A 12-BELL WIN FOR EXETER 'AT HOME'

'Surely it's only a striking competition', queried one ringer some months ago, when he heard how much was going into the organisation of the National 12-bell competition at Exeter. It was indeed a massive undertaking to organise, and was it worth it? A resounding 'yes'! Hosting an event attended by around one thousand people, and seeing everything go pretty much like clockwork, was very rewarding indeed.

This was 22nd June, and the final was being hosted in Exeter for the first time in 25 years. More strikingly, Exeter were widely acknowledged to be on their best form, and in with a chance of a win.

Arriving at 8:30am to that fresh early morning feel of what turned out to be a hot summer's day, I was treated to the sight of blue polo shirts and 'Exeter 2019' logos everywhere – some of the 130 helpers on the day. Mini rings, simulators, stalls and displays were arriving and being set up in the Cathedral, delicious bacon rolls were soon being eaten in the Chapter House, the beer tent was being unzipped and numerous other preparations were happening.

Soon the Cathedral was packed out for the draw, then the ringing was underway. Over the next few hours, the listeners relaxed in the sunshine or leafy shade of Bishop's Palace gardens, sustained by beer, barbecue, cakes and tea. Others found a spot round the front of the Palace, where the bells could be heard at their best, and small children were kept busy in a special area of the grounds.

The afternoon drew on, the teams finished, and the Cathedral was packed out again for the results brought to us by judges Jenny Earis, Tom Hinks and Ben Carey. A nail-biting time ensued for Exeter as the teams were announced in reverse order, then the Cathedral was erupting with cheers and people were seen leaping in the air – Exeter had indeed won! Matt Hilling held the Taylor Trophy high with well-deserved delight.

Many headed for home but drinking continued at the beer tent into the summer's evening until the beer ran out! Those left at the end gathered for final thanks from Matt Hilling, none more deserving than Clare Griffiths, who master-minded, and took on the lion's share of, all the organising. It was a successful day indeed.

Lynne Hughes

## GUILD AGM

### A PERSPECTIVE FROM THE MID-DEVON BRANCH

It is quite some time now since the format of the Guild AGM was changed so that each host branch could organise it in their own way. This was very much the case this year when it was hosted by the Aylesbeare Branch. They are a very small branch but left the rest of us wondering how we follow that!!

A wide range of activities was on offer, all taken up with enthusiasm. For the Mid Devon Branch the day started at Broadclyst where a well struck quarter peal of Grandsire Triples got us under way. Other members had been involved with activities such as rope splicing. Two peals and three other quarter peals were also rung by other branches.

The afternoon saw the Guild service at Withycombe Raleigh followed by the AGM. The business was swiftly and efficiently dealt with and we were delighted to see Janet Ritterman installed as Guild Ringing Master for the next 12 months. Vidas Cooling from Stokeinteignhead was presented with his Guild certificate.

The twelve bells at Withycombe were then open for general ringing and quite a number of ringers got their first taste of ringing on 12 bells. Vidas enjoyed ringing call changes on 12 and Rodney and Nicola rang Kent TB Maximus for the first time. Other members took advantage of the handbell workshop and another rope splicing session.

During the meeting non-ringers had the chance to partake in a car treasure hunt round the branch. This was so popular that others have completed the course in subsequent weeks.

The evening was taken up with a quiz and our branch entered two teams. Much work and thought had been put into it and it proved very popular. The catering all day had been superb but the evening supper was the crowning glory! Sue Sturdy was warmly congratulated on a wonderful spread. Perhaps it is better to draw a veil over the quiz results from our two teams but suffice it to say that we thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Very many thanks to the Aylesbeare Branch for an outstanding day – a real festival of all that is good in ringing!

Martin Mansley

## GUILD LIBRARY IN ITS NEW HOME



Entrance to St Petrock's church on Exeter High Street

At the Annual Meeting in June members accepted the proposal to move the Guild library to St Petrock's in Exeter. Since then an agreement has been put in place with the Central Exeter Churches' PCC and the bulk of the books moved into three lockable cupboards in the church. We plan to offer a monthly opening of the library for members to borrow and return items and for research in the collections. The St Petrock's space is attractive, light and airy and offers a good study space and the potential to research in comfort using a laptop computer if desired.

### WHAT WILL I FIND AT ST PETROCK'S?

The collection has been arranged into 15 broad categories which include general books on bells and bellringing, the history of bells, bell-founding, change ringing, ringing organisations and biographies of ringers, textbooks of ringing and method ringing, books about the technical side of bells and their maintenance, tower management and bells in fiction and poetry. In addition, there is a full set of the Guild's annual reports from its foundation in 1874 and a set of *Ringling Round Devon* from the first issue. We are also actively collecting leaflets and pamphlets about Devon towers, Devon ringers and ringing events in the county. There will also be DVD-ROM copies of *The Ringling World* and other ringing journals available to use on computer.

A summary catalogue of the collection is available on the library pages of the Guild website. This indicates where some titles are kept in the travelling library collections. These will not be stored at St Petrock's, so anyone wanting to consult one of these should notify the Librarian



Interior of the church of St Petrock, Exeter



(librarian@devonringers.org.uk) in advance of their visit so that it can be made available. Similarly, a few of the unique manuscript volumes, such as the first peal book, will continue to be kept in the Librarian's home, but arrangements can be made to bring them to St Petrock's if requested in advance.

**WHEN CAN I VISIT THE LIBRARY?**

The library will normally be open on the third Saturday of the month between 3 and 5pm. This is to coincide with the Cathedral open practice and the monthly Saturday opening of the Devon Heritage Centre at Sowton. The first three opening sessions will be on 21st September, 12th October (avoids Guild striking competitions) and 16th November.

It is also hoped to arrange an open and launch event in December to coincide with the Devon Ringers' carol service at the Cathedral. More details about this nearer the time. We hope to welcome you at St Petrock's soon.

*Les Boyce, Guild Librarian*

*Note from Editor: St Petrock's church is immediately opposite McDonald's on Exeter's High Street.*

**2019 INTER-BRANCH 8-BELL STRIKING CONTEST**

A reminder that the annual Guild striking competitions are to be held on Saturday 19th October. The touches to be used in this year's inter-Branch 8-bell striking contest are available on the Guild website:

[https://devonringers.org.uk/gdr-media/competitions/8\\_bell\\_touces\\_2019.pdf](https://devonringers.org.uk/gdr-media/competitions/8_bell_touces_2019.pdf)

*John Martin (Guild Secretary)*

**GUILD RINGING FESTIVAL 25TH OCTOBER – 3RD NOVEMBER**

**WHAT'S THE 'RINGING FESTIVAL' ABOUT?**

The Ringing Festival has been created to as a response to the amazing success of last year's 'Ringing Remembers' campaign; the December 2018 edition of *Ringing Round Devon* was filled with details of inspirational and noteworthy achievements by Guild members wanting to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War with ringing.

The observant among you will have noticed this year's calendar of events (<https://devonringers.org.uk/guild/events>) includes the Ringing Festival starting on Friday 25th October and ending on Sunday 3rd November. In recent years the quarter peal week has occupied this slot during which participating ringers have been invited to make a donation to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund (DCBRF).

In recent years the number of quarter peals rung has declined and consequently the level of donations has decreased. This is of particular concern at a time when their investment income is limited and there is a large number of restoration projects asking for funding.

Our suggestion is that a tower or band of ringers dedicate a piece of ringing during the Ringing Festival and that each participant be invited to make a donation to the DCBRF in recognition of the performance. It would be great if a write-up of many performances were to appear in a future edition of *Ringing Round Devon* and on our BellBoard Ringing Festival event. In addition to any peal or quarter peals you might find the following suggestions useful :

- A call change peal rung for Sunday service or on practice night and including a new ringer
- A first 120 of Plain Bob Doubles rung on practice night
- A first touch as conductor
- Five minutes of rounds

The aims of the Ringing Festival are twofold, to record and celebrate the achievement of our members while also raising funds to help with some of the current restoration projects under consideration by the DCBRF trustees.

**EXAMPLE DCBRF PROJECTS WHICH DONATIONS SUPPORT**

The last meeting of the trustees was in April when there were only three requests for grants but you will find below details of the cash situation to help understand the financial position of the bell fund. The next meeting is in November where further requests are expected.

(i) **Farway.** A grant of £280 was agreed towards the repair of the cracked headstocks of the fourth and fifth bells and re-bushing the tenor clapper.

(ii) **Pilton.** A grant of £3,000 was agreed towards cleaning down and repainting the bell-frame and support grillage; repairs to the treble, seventh and tenor clappers; removal of old crown staple stumps; servicing of bearings, sliders and runner boards, and turning the second and fourth bells.

(iii) **Brentor.** A grant of £1,000 was agreed towards partial dismantling; galvanising and painting wheel brackets and slider brackets; and rubbing down and painting the bell-frame and other metalwork. (This work had been omitted from the scheme carried out in 2011, following a trade-off with the contractors of providing new flooring.)

Since the April meeting we have agreed, via email, to offer a further £500 to **Kingskerswell** after they found a crack in one of bells that was unknown when the original grant was made.

Current liquid assets (as of 6th April) stood at £47,542. With grant commitments of £41,350, this left £6,192 available for further grants. £4,780 of which was allocated to the projects shown above.

*John Martin (Guild Secretary)*

*Janet Deem (DCBRF Trustee)*

**EXETER BRANCH  
BRANCH OUTING TO AYLESBEARE AND  
BARBECUE**

The two towers planned for the morning ringing on 20th July became one when ringing at Whimpe was cancelled because of mechanical problems. However we had a good ring at Aylesbeare before going back to Rob and Lucy's house in Broadclyst where we were joined by some additional ringers and well fed from the barbecue. It was good to catch up with everyone and see how the children are growing up.

Thanks go to Rob and Lucy for welcoming us all into their garden.



Aylesbeare church on a sunny morning



Relaxing after the barbecue

*Ian Campbell*



## NEWS FROM HATHERLEIGH

On Saturday 20th July, during the Hatherleigh Festival, the ringers gave demonstrations on how to ring a bell. The plan was to open the tower for a couple of hours in the afternoon. It soon became apparent that this wasn't going to be long enough due to the popularity of the demonstrations so the tower stayed open for as long as needed.

Two bells were tied and a video link set up so the bells could be viewed on a screen in the ringing room. Visitors were able to have a go at ringing backstrokes and swinging a bell.

We were delighted that people left full of enthusiasm and we have since gained a new recruit. We had a number of visitors from out of the area too; some said they would seek out local towers to them. A very successful PR day.

### MORE NEWS FROM HATHERLEIGH

Our new Vicar is full of enthusiasm! He has hatched a grand plan to utilise the current ground floor ringing room and install some toilets and kitchenette. That means the ringers will be moved on to a new balcony floor some 15 feet up. That is great news for us as it makes the draft that much shorter.

The ringers are also in the very early stages in obtaining quotes to perhaps rehang the bells at the same time as the other work is carried out. All of this is in its infancy so watch this space!

*Richard Harrison*

## ST MARK'S CYCLE OUTING

On a day forecast to be storms and strong winds the intrepid cyclists braved the weather and met up in the car park at Starcross. Following an emergency puncture repair (thanks, Andrew – it is still inflated!) we cycled to Powderham where we rang before a wedding and then along the river bank to the Turf Lock pub for lunch. Those who had elected to drive rather than cycle had to walk as there is no road access to the Turf so, for once, the cyclists got there first!



Lunch in a marquee at the Turf

After lunch the cyclists followed the canal towpath to the Exeter bypass and then the cycle tracks to get into Topsham, again beating the cars as the drivers had to walk back to Powderham to pick them up. Following ringing at Topsham and a number of unsuccessful attempts to repair a puncture on another bike, we progressed through the showers to Lymptone for a final ring.

The plan had been to return to Starcross by means of the ferry from Exmouth but, because of the storms, it was not running. Alternative means therefore had to be found to reunite the bikes with the cars before heading to Whimple for the traditional barbecue provided by Matt Hilling. Unfortunately it had to be held indoors because of the weather.

Thanks go to Graham for organising the tour, and Matt for hosting the barbecue.



Lesley wanted to try the Mexican Wave at Topsham (thanks to Keith Copestake for the loan of the hat!)

*Ian Campbell*

## HANDBELL QUARTER PEAL DAY



The Ringers L to R: Liz Chadwick, Nellie Croft, Sue Sawyer, Andrew Digby, Tim Bayton, Ian Campbell, Peter Bill, Lynne Hughes

The annual handbell quarter peal day was held on 2nd June when eight ringers took over Lynne Hughes's house in Dawlish for the afternoon. From an intensive program five quarter peals were scored, including Little Bob Royal and two of Kent TB Major. It was a lovely sunny afternoon and we especially enjoyed chatting in the garden. Thanks go to Lynne and Phil for their hospitality and the lovely refreshments.

*Tim Bayton*



## ECG TRIP TO LUNDY ISLAND



Thirty-nine members and friends of the Exeter Colleges Guild braved the Bristol Channel to enjoy a relaxing holiday on Lundy Island at the beginning of August. Whether attempting Stedman Triples on handbells after one too many G&Ts, or savouring the contemporary Indian cuisine at Lundy's latest pop-up curry house, the Bengal Bungle, a good time was had by all.

Three peals and five quarter peals were rung, as well as plenty of open ringing. Walking around the island, watching the Sunday airshow, and touring Lundy from the sea on a boat trip on the final day were other highlights, along with the usual favourite of a pint or two of Korev in the Marisco Tavern. The disappointing absence of Borders Dark Chocolate Gingers from the Lundy shop was partly offset by the new line of sugar-free gummy bears (please consume responsibly). Thanks to Helen for running the quiz on the Monday evening, and to Tom for arranging an excellent week.

### **Guild of Devonshire Ringers** (Exeter Colleges Guild)

Lundy Island, Bristol Channel, St Helen

Monday, 5 August 2019 in 2h 57

5003 Grandsire Caters

Composed by R I Allton (No 1329)

1 Richard S Johnson

2 Stephanie E Hills

3 Thomas J Hinks

4 P Wendy Campbell

5 Martin J Gentile

6 Helen M Maynard

7 Matthew J Hilling (C)

8 Ian L C Campbell

9 David G Maynard

10 Nathan Evans

First on ten, and tenth peal: 1.



The peal band: Martin, Helen, Matt, Wendy, Ian, Tom, David, Steph, Nathan and Grich

*David Maynard*

*Note from Editor: While on Lundy we also bumped into Red from Bampton, who has written an article which is in this issue with more pictures.*

*Perhaps I should also point out that the Bengal Bungle is a figment of David's overworked imagination!*

## FIRST QUARTER PEAL FOR JAMES

Congratulations go to James Selley-Steer on ringing his first quarter peal. James learnt to ring at Silverton and regularly comes to St Mark's to improve his method ringing.

Exeter, Devon, St Mark

Sunday, 18 August 2019 in 43m

1260 Doubles (2m: 780 Grandsire, 480 Plain Bob)

1 James Selley-Steer (1st Q)

4 Graham Tucker

2 Wendy Campbell

5 Ian Campbell (C)

3 Lesley Tucker

6 John A Foster



Graham, Lesley, Ian, Wendy, John, James

*Ian Campbell*

## MID-DEVON BRANCH

### EXTRACTS FROM MID DEVON NEWSLETTER - TOWER TALK

#### NATIONAL 12-BELL STRIKING COMPETITION EXETER

Following all the excitement of the Guild AGM ringers could have felt the need for a well-earned rest but the next week was one of the biggest events in the national ringing calendar. Over the past year or more the Exeter Cathedral ringers had been preparing to host the final of the 12-bell competition and had recruited a vast army of around 130 helpers. The day dawned bright and sunny and there was a definite air of anticipation as ringers from all over the country arrived in Exeter. From early morning, refreshments were available and enthusiastically taken up! The first event was the draw and once that was over the teams were efficiently marshalled so that clockwork timing was maintained all day. Ten teams took part and there was much discussion among the churchyard listeners about how the teams would cope with the second heaviest ring of bells in the world. Birmingham are always the team to beat but there was also a feeling that there might be a home advantage. The Cathedral band has been in the final regularly over the last few years so they were also highly fancied.

One of the main reasons that there was a good turnout was the chance to visit the Bishop's garden which is very rarely open to the public. This was an ideal place to listen to the ringing and socialise. Andrew Nicholson and his team were kept busy with the barbecue and the beer tent was very popular. Anyone not able to get to Exeter was able to connect to the live feed on YouTube which was very professionally run by Matthew Tosh and his team. The recording of the whole day is still available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hw4CCcACN64&t=4401s>

As the day wore on the anticipation grew and it was a very excited group who eventually gathered in the Cathedral nave for the results. The excitement grew intense as the results were announced in reverse order and it was clear that the home team was right up there. As the second place was given to Birmingham the place erupted in cheers as Exeter were announced the winners. The applause was unprecedented and a new name is now on the Taylor Trophy. This crowned the day for the host team and we understand that they are still walking on air! Altogether a magnificently organised final. The response from ringers across the county was fantastic and Devon ringers from both traditions were out in force. It was day that will live long in our memories.

#### SIX BELL SURPRISE PRACTICE JUNE – STOKEINTEIGNHEAD

Our chosen tower was not available so a last-minute change was made and we are very grateful to Stokeinteignhead for the warm welcome. Methods included two well struck courses of Rossendale and several of

Cambridge. London was also popular and we also rang Wells. It was a pleasure to meet Felicity who has recently moved to South Brent. She was keen to renew her acquaintance with method ringing and we hope to see her at our events during the coming months.

**ROGER AVERY'S 80TH BIRTHDAY**

A few months ago we mentioned that Roger had rung his first quarter peal. We are now delighted to say that he was able to ring another one. This time it was to mark his 80th birthday and his daughter Rachel was able to join him as they rang treble and tenor to Grandsire Doubles. Rachel rings at Inverness Cathedral and has also gained valuable experience on the training rings at Tulloch. Very many congratulations to them – we look forward to reporting more from them in the future.

Bishopsteignton, Devon, St John the Baptist  
Wednesday, 19 June 2019 in 47m  
1260 Grandsire Doubles

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 Rachel Milner | 4 Peter Brown     |
| 2 Jo Brown      | 5 James Grant (C) |
| 3 Ian Avery     | 6 Roger Avery     |

First quarter in England for 1.  
Rung to mark Roger Avery's 80th Birthday today with his daughter Rachel on the treble



The band – Ian, James, Roger, Rachel, Jo and Peter

**BRANCH MINI-OUTING TO THE CULM VALLEY**

The tradition of well organised mini-outings by our Chairman continued again this year. Rodney had organised five towers for us. A warm and sunny afternoon saw us converging on Burlescombe. This fairly heavy six was soon going to a variety of methods but plenty of rounds and call changes as well – very much the pattern for the afternoon as we were delighted to see quite a few less experienced ringers. In the end we had 25 of us – unprecedented!!



Next was Holcome Rogus where the beautiful church and village were much admired. Our only ring of 8 was next and Mike Hatchett gave us a very warm welcome to the Troyte ringing centre at Huntsham. These are a fairly light eight which took a little time to get used to but we eventually managed to add Stedman Triples and 3-Spliced Surprise Major to our repertoire. Uplozman ringers had left us to let ourselves in but we were delighted to find the makings of tea and coffee (and biscuits!) waiting for us to enjoy – a very thoughtful gesture which was very popular after a hard afternoon's ringing! Our final tower was Harberton and here we were let in by the churchwarden but the fifth rope was obviously not in the right place. A phone call revealed that there had been a communication break-down and we were not expected and the bells were out of action. A disappointment but all was not lost as we were then able to get to the Hickory Inn earlier than expected. This is an American themed pub and a long table was soon filled with very tasty food, temporarily silencing the animated conversation!!

Thank you to Rodney for his organisation but also to the rest of the branch for such a great response – again we saw several faces we don't see too often – It is clear that our publicity machine is working, be it Tower Talk, Facebook, Twitter or the website. We look forward to welcoming you to more events.

**SHEILA HORDER**

You will remember that Sheila (of Stokeinteignhead and wife of our Chairman) broke her wrist recently and has been out of ringing. When Cathy French, a close friend, died Sheila was determined that she would ring for the funeral. A few practice tries and she felt that it was definitely possible. In the event she managed some excellent ringing which included ten minutes of superbly struck Plain Bob Doubles as the family left the grave. Welcome back, Sheila!

**SOUTH HAMS PRACTICES – 2ND TUESDAY IN THE MONTH, WEST CHARLETON 7.30PM**

The South Hams has been a bit of a desert for method ringing but recently there have been efforts to provide something for the rather scattered group of method ringers in this area. There is now a method practice each month at West Charleton, near Kingsbridge – if you live in this area or happen to be visiting please try and get there – Bob and his group assure you a very warm welcome.

**MICHAEL BARNICOTT-WHITE**

We see from last week's *Ringing World* that Michael has had a difference of opinion with a bell rope resulting in a couple of broken fingers. We send him very best wishes for a speedy recovery and swift return to ringing.

*... well thank you very much. I have to say that, 3 ½ weeks after the event I am still frustrated at my slow road to recovery... my fingers still hurt a lot !! It is true what I said about my experience being a warning... if I had the rope coiled around my hand it would have been viscerally dramatic. Thanks for the kind thoughts  
Michael*

**AUGUST JOINT 10-BELL PRACTICE – TAVISTOCK**

A bit like buses, ten bell practices seem to come in twos! It has become a tradition over the last few years for the Mid Devon branch to join the South-West branch for a 10-bell practice in August. This year it was the turn of the South-West Branch to be hosts. The chosen tower was Tavistock and a number of our members made the long journey across the moor. It was a lovely evening and several had taken the opportunity to spend some time walking on Dartmoor during the day.

There was a very good turnout and a wide variety of methods was rung. There were plenty of call changes and Plain Hunt for those new to ten





bells but the more experienced ringers rang Stedman and Grandsire Caters and even reached the dizzy heights of Cambridge S Royal! Tavistock are glorious bells and it was a real pleasure to ring there, even if at times it seemed difficult to fit us all in the ringing room. With numbers reaching the mid-20s there were always quite a few ringers sitting out but that gave the chance to renew old, and make new, friendships. Thank you South West Branch for a memorable evening.

**KINGSKERSWELL**

You will remember that Kingskerswell bells are out of the tower at present. The bells are at Nicholson's in Bridport ready for the next stage. There has been a hold-up due to problems with the old third (new 5th). A crack was discovered in the crown and was welded by Soundweld in Norfolk. However, after returning the bell to the bell hanger, the tuning process uncovered enormous areas of porosity and voids in the soundbow and the bell was deemed to be untuneable, so a new bell is being cast in Holland. All the other bells have been retuned and will come back slightly lighter than before. It is hoped that work in the tower will recommence in October.

In the meantime fund raising has continued with several events such as a cruise on the River Dart and a village fete which included the Frank Mack ring. The ringers are very grateful to all those who have supported them in any way and excitement is growing with the prospect of a new ring of eight very soon.

Donations can still be made to our bell restoration fund via the Friends of Kingskerswell Church at:-  
<https://platform.nationalfundingscheme.org/friends-of-kingskerswell-parish-church#.XW0yv5SKjIU>

*Phil Stevens*

**ASSOCIATION OF RINGING TEACHERS: MODULE 1 TRAINING DAY  
ST MARYCHURCH**

How do you describe the action of moving the hands up the rope when lowering a bell? What about 'nibbling' or 'caterpillar-ing'? This and very many other topics were discussed when Les Boyce (ably assisted by Sheila Scofield) led a training day at St Marychurch.

Module 1 of the ART accreditation course concentrates on the early stages of teaching ringing with the aim of the new teacher being able to train a ringer to the point of competent bell handling. The task is broken down into very small 'bites' and all these were demonstrated and explained. The students were then encouraged to role-play each one in groups of three. Useful tips and exercises were used throughout to complement the training.

Halfway through the day lunch was taken at the Driftwood Café in St Marychurch precinct. Still the work continued and even the trainers joined in when filling in a 'Learning Styles' questionnaire. The afternoon session completed the task of putting both strokes together and then how to teach raising and lowering. Finally, we got to discuss and observe ways of correcting common errors. Altogether it was a very concentrated day's training.

The Mid Devon Branch was represented by Nicola Jones and Wenna Mansley (as learner-teachers) and Martin Mansley (as mentor). Nicola and Wenna both agreed that their biggest concern was how to share a rope with the new learner. They both felt that the course had really helped them see how they should go about this aspect of training although they also felt they will need to practise this part before starting to teach a real novice. Martin said that although he had been teaching ringing for many years he had learned a lot of useful ideas on the day. As always, it was a real pleasure to meet the other participants and share experiences.

Very many thanks go to Les and Sheila for a really stimulating day – now the hard work starts!!

*Martin Mansley*

**FOR SALE**

The old bell wheels from Kingkerswell 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  
Any sensible offer accepted - buyer collect.  
For further information please contact the tower captain,  
Philip Stevens, philipandmo.stevens@gmail.com

**EAST DEVON BRANCH  
SOPHIE'S CHOICE QUARTER**

When Sophie started to learn to ring, as one of the Ringing Remembers recruits, she was told by Tim Bayton, 'I want to ring in your first quarter peal'. On Saturday 24th August Tim had his wish as Sophie rang the treble for her first quarter peal, 1260 changes of Doubles (Grandsire, St Martin/St Simon, and Plain Bob). What was remarkable was that she had trebled to St Martin's and St Simon's only once before this and she rang impeccably.

Combe Raleigh, Devon, St Nicholas  
Saturday, 24 August 2019 in 35m  
1260 Doubles (4m)

Grandsire, St Martin/St Simon, Plain Bob.

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1 Sophie Ramsamy | 4 Anne Bailey    |
| 2 Lisa Clarke    | 5 Tim Bayton (C) |
| 3 Andrew Digby   | 6 Delie Perry    |

First quarter at first attempt: 1 (aged 11), a Ringing Remembers recruit.



Sophie with Lisa, Andrew, Anne, Tim and Delie

The Ringing Remembers training at Combe Raleigh by Tim, Andrew Digby and Lisa Clarke clearly gave her a good grounding. Her training continued under Lisa as she (Sophie, not Lisa) rushed from school each Monday to join the Combe Raleigh afternoon practice. Very soon, still only 10, she was ringing for Sunday services and even calling called changes. When Lisa gathered a young ringers' band for the branch striking competition Sophie was an obvious choice to be among them. As we now know they went on to win the open competition by a comfortable margin.

At a recent practice she was ringing an inside bell to a touch of Bob Doubles. Some of us are already wondering how far she can go, as potentially there is no limit.

*Trevor Hitchcock*



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WHERE ARE ALL THE MEN  
AND BOYS?

I may move in strange circles and in any case my statistics may not be the most reliable, but where are all the men and boys? I ask the question because increasingly I seem to ring with more ladies than I do men.

Out of the last 23 occasions when I have rung, only twice were there more men than ladies and three occasions when the numbers were equal. In total there have been 2.3 times as many ladies as men; yet in the Branch as a whole, of Guild Members, the ladies make up much less than half the total.

So what of the future? If I look at the numbers of young ringers in our immediate area, it gets worse, (or better); there is a hugely disproportionate ratio in favour of the gentle sex. I am not complaining, the ladies I ring with must be among the nicest people on earth, but I do wonder, where are all the men and boys?

Trevor Hitchcock

EAST DEVON BRANCH STRIKING  
COMPETITION

The East Devon Branch striking competition was held on 13th July at Dunkeswell, with ten teams taking part. As well as the tower band competition for the Edward Summers memorial trophy, an open class competition for the Alan Tucker memorial bell allows bands of any composition to take part. On a gloriously sunny day we had seven teams in Class 1 and three teams in Class 2.

The competition was judged by James Clarke and after complimenting all the bands who took part declared Honiton St Paul to be the winners of the tower band competition. They received the Edward Summers memorial trophy, with Axminster the runners-up. In the open competition for the Alan Tucker memorial bell, the winners were the Young Ringers with the East Devon Ladies team the runners-up.

Refreshments were laid on all afternoon with a splendid selection of cakes and coffee and tea or soft drinks available.

We would like to thank all those involved in the organisation of the event, the Dunkeswell contingent who made us all so welcome, our judge



and, of course, all the teams that entered.

The victorious Honiton team (Rob Goodwin, Derek Ballard, Lisa Clarke, Anne Burn, Chris Marsden and Peter Simpson) with the Edward Summers Memorial Trophy

- Class 1:
- 1st Honiton
  - 2nd Axminster
  - 3rd Ottery St Mary

- Class 2:
- 1st Young Ringers
  - 2nd East Devon Ladies
  - 3rd Blackdowns

Trevor Hitchcock,  
Photo by Brian Eastell

NORTH EAST BRANCH  
OAKFORD BELLS TO BE RESTORED



An unexpected email to the Guild Secretary earlier in the summer brought the news that a restoration appeal has been launched at Oakford, near Tiverton. With it came a request from them to join the Guild. Accordingly, North East Branch Chairman, Mark Heritage, and Ringing Master, Les Boyce joined the local band at one of their practices in June to find out more about the appeal and to explain what the Guild has to offer. They were also pleased to meet the PCC Secretary and one of the churchwardens. The tower was then formally affiliated to the North East Branch at a meeting in July.

Oakford bells are an original ring of eight cast by Mears in 1825 and given to the church by the Rector, Revd James Parkin. Originally rung from a gallery, this was removed in 1905 and the bells became a ground-floor ring. Notoriously difficult to ring because of their long draft, lack of rope guides and plain bearings, they are nevertheless a fine peal of bells in an interesting gallows-end frame. The restoration plan includes rehanging in a new frame, the installation of a new ringing gallery and the creation of a toilet and kitchen area on the current ringing floor.

The local band are keen to ring, but struggle with the bells in their present condition. We welcome the Oakford ringers to the Guild. If you would like to support them with a donation to the appeal, cheques (payable to 'Oakford PCC re Tower Fund') can be sent to the PCC Treasurer, Mrs Wendy Boynton, Combe Water, Oakford, TIVERTON EX16 9HF. For online donations by BACS the sort code is 60-21-27 and the account number is 06510795 using the payment reference 'Tower Fund'. We look forward to a successful appeal and restoration project and a chance to sample these good bells when restored.

Les Boyce

CADBURY RESTORATION PROJECT MOVES  
AHEAD

Gordon Leigh, tower captain at Cadbury tells me that they have now received Diocesan approval for their rehanging project. If you would like to support their fundraising, cheques (payable to 'Cadbury PCC Bell Fund') should be sent to him at Cadbury House, Cadbury, EXETER EX5 5JZ.

Les Boyce

ROBERT BALMAN

Robert Balman's funeral service was held on Monday 9th September at 3pm in the Memorial Chapel at St Peter's, Tiverton.

Robert was a long time, loyal member of the St Peter's band and it was only when he was unable to cope with the tower steps that he joined the St Paul's ringers where he didn't have to climb up the tower. Robert hadn't any close family so I hope we may be able to give him a good send off.

Jenny Jones

ALAN SPEAR

I would like to update you all that Alan Spear, a former Cullompton ringer for 50 years, sadly passed away recently. Although Alan had not rung for the last 15 years, it is likely that a number of Guild Members may remember ringing with him. It is believed that he was a Guild member. The funeral took place on Wednesday 7th August at Cullompton.

Rachel Cousins



## KEN WANNELL

I received the news from Albert Campbell that Ken Wannell passed away at the end of July. Ken was a long-time ringer at Silverton.

Albert Campbell and Martin Clough have provided this information to any members who remember Ken and have rung with him in the past.

Ken was Branch Secretary for a number of years; records show that he retired from this position in 2009. Before coming to Silverton he rang for many years at Topsham.

A service of Thanksgiving was held at St Mary's, Silverton on Friday 16th August, preceded by a private family service at the crematorium. The bells were rung after the memorial service by tower members, with open ringing after that.

*Jenny Jones*

## A FORTUNATE MEETING ON LUNDY



Look to, treble's going...

From the 1st to the 3rd of August I was lucky enough to go on holiday with my parents to Lundy Island. It was an amazing experience, with unique wildlife and clear blue sea and skies. On the last day, a few hours before our boat home departed, we overheard some people talking about bell ringing in the local pub, the Marisco Tavern.

We introduced ourselves and chatted about the bell tower at Lundy and that it has ten bells, more than I am used to ringing in Bampton and Huntsham. The Exeter Colleges Guild ringers then offered me the privilege of ringing with them that afternoon at 2 pm. As I climbed the steps to the tower, I became very nervous as the group rang up and completed a couple of methods - they rang with great professionalism, focus and confidence.

But they welcomed and encouraged me with warmth and humour. We rang call changes on ten and my confidence grew. The new ropes weren't a hindrance and the bells were lovely to ring, smooth and not as heavy as I had first feared.

As the clock was ticking and my boat was due to depart, I said my farewells and expressed my gratitude for being allowed a truly unique opportunity.

I left the tower and the island feeling extremely privileged, proud and grateful. It was an unbelievable end to a fantastic holiday.



Red with some of the Exeter Colleges Guild ringers

*Red Jones - age 14*

## CRUWYS MORCHARD AND RACKENFORD AND THE 5 BELL TOWERS



These two photos should have accompanied the report in the last issue of RRD about our aim to visit all Devon's 5 bell towers. They show the ancient little church at Brent Tor perched on its crag and the children chiming bells there

Since then we have checked six more towers off the list.

**Gittisham** - very pleasant

**Widworthy** - a pretty little place but bells hard work and in need of restoration. Full of admiration for those who rang a quarter there recently.

**Beer** - where we enjoyed a sumptuous bring-and-share feast on the beach while the folks at home were having torrential rain, and then enjoyed the quite grand sounding bells.

Our Minimus method for this outing was Reverse Bob.

On our third outing we tried out:

**Sourton** - Nice bells but the ropes were yards too long for us.

**Mary Tavy** - a bit tricky but with Ian S stepping in to help out we managed a somewhat syncopated version of Double Bob Minimus (not Ian's fault of course!)

Then another excellent picnic, this time by the river and clapper bridge at Postbridge in glorious sunshine, followed by ringing at:

**Gidleigh** - the strangest sounding bells you ever heard due to the treble, a very old bell, having no pitch relationship with the back four, which are in a minor key. Double Bob Minimus here sounded very curious indeed! Ten more towers to go.

*Nellie Croft*

## NEW RINGER AT CRUWYS MORCHARD

Our latest young recruit at Cruwys Morchard is Stan who is nearly 12. He recently chimed the five-minute bell before the Sunday service, which enabled him to colour in his tenth bell in his Sherborne teaching aids record card. This earned him his first badge which he received the next day at practice. Stan has only been learning for two months.

He says, 'I have loved ringing and I can't wait to learn more.'

*Guy Cruwys*

## SOUTH WEST BRANCH PEAL APPEAL



There can't be anyone reading this who has travelled along the main Tavistock to Launceston road that hasn't rung at Milton Abbot at one time or another. The beautiful church of St Constantine is mainly 15th century, although the tower has traces of being older and is some 70 feet in height. Five bells are listed in the inventory of church goods of 1553 and it is suggested that some of these could have been cast by Robert Norton, the Exeter bell founder. In 1769 the existing bells were recast into a ring of six by John, Christopher and William Pennington of Stoke Climsland, and are listed for preservation as a complete and unaltered ring of one date by them. In 1902 Harry Stokes of Woodbury completely rehung the bells in a new oak frame and although the bells have been regularly maintained, after 117 years a major restoration is necessary.

The tower has a long tradition of ringing history. The Vicar of Milton Abbot for a staggering 52 years from 1836 was the Revd Sir St Vincent Love Hammick, Bart, who succeeded his father to the Baronetcy in 1867. He was a ringer and a member of The Ancient Society of College Youths. The Revd Ian Watson was also a ringer and rector of Milton during the 1960s. The present vicar, The Revd Andy Atkins is also a keen ringer and is enthusiastic to get the bells rehung. The tower is also affiliated to the Devon Association, and the South Devon Association qualifier was held here in 1982. The Tavistock Deanery ringing festival has also been held there in the past and the bells have always been available to visiting teams. Sunday service ringing was very much the order of the day but this has declined in recent years due to the condition of the bells.

After inspection of the bells estimates have been sought and fund raising is underway. The oak frame is to be replaced by a metal one and new headstocks, wheels and ground pulleys are to be fitted. Whilst the bells are out the cast-in crown staples will be drilled out and new independent ones fitted. New clappers will also be cast for the bells. It has also been decided to sympathetically retune the bells as this will not only improve their clarity of sound but at the same time will also maintain their 250 years of history. The outcome will be a superb ring of bells that will be easy to handle and a joy to listen to.

Locally everyone is enthusiastic in raising funds to restore this historic ring. However, Milton Abbot is in need of your help! A leaflet will be out sometime soon to highlight the appeal and any donations toward the restoration would be so welcomed. Please support us in any way that you can.

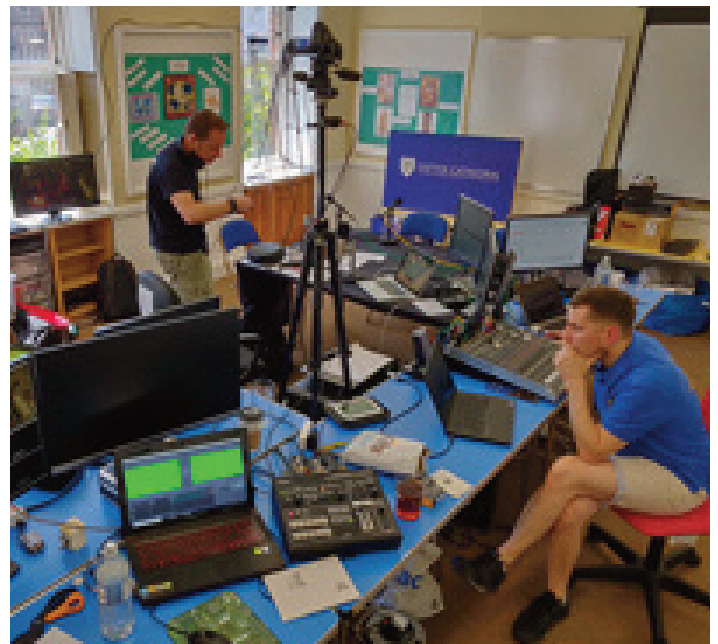
The next fundraiser is a concert by the Lamerton Handbell Ringers in Milton Abbot church on Friday 11th October at 7pm. Tickets cost £5 to include a buffet supper and are available from

*Pat Lovell 01822 618452  
Valerie Hill 01822 614319*

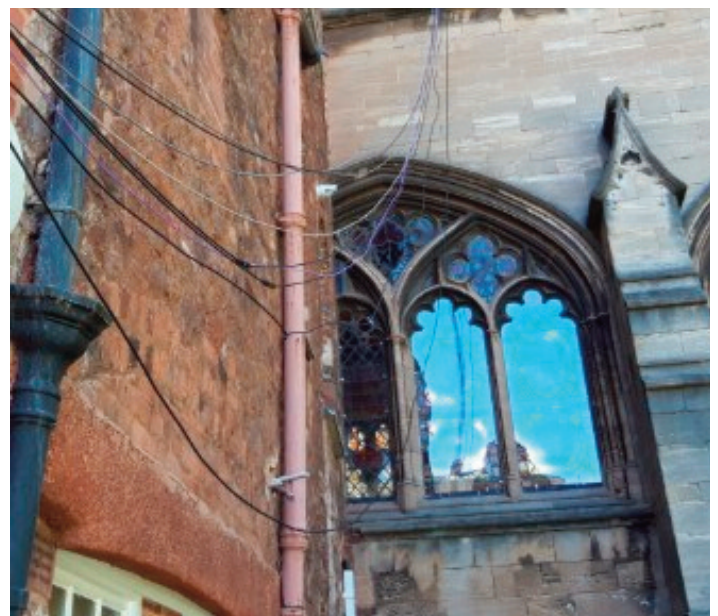
## NATIONAL 12-BELL LIVE BROADCAST - BEHIND THE SCENES!

Having been roped into my first 12-bell live broadcast, last year in Cambridge, I was asked to help again with this year's broadcast in Exeter. My role was to add more extensive visual coverage of the competition to enhance the radio show aspect of the broadcast. This involved placing multiple cameras around the studio, belfry and Cathedral and using vision mixing equipment to select which camera was being broadcast live. Exeter Cathedral provided us with a new problem to solve; scale. The size of the Cathedral and distance between the studio and camera locations required us to lay over 1500 metres of cable the day before the broadcast, and couldn't have been achieved without the help of many volunteers. This involved running cables out of windows, across roofs, through courtyards and out of louvres. Running the cables and building the studio takes a huge amount of effort and time.

Gareth Lawson (producer) and I arrived on the Thursday before the competition to begin the setup process. Friday was dedicated to running cables and final tuning of the studio. Saturday was the broadcast itself and Sunday was load out. Despite the long hours, these broadcasts are very enjoyable to undertake. Solving the problem of fitting a radio/visual studio into a building that wasn't designed for it is only one of the many challenges that make the broadcast an exciting event for us all. Bring on Sheffield 2020!



The Live Broadcast Studio. Left to Right: Matthew Tosh and Gareth Lawson



Some of the wiring between the Chapter House and the recording studio  
*Matthew Thewsey*



## TOWER BELLS, HANDBELLS AND A BARBECUE AT WALKHAMPTON

On 1st June, Emmanuel ringers joined the Walkhampton ringers for a barbecue and ringing at Walkhampton St Mary the Virgin. The tower has recently been repointed, meaning the bells could not be rung for a year, so the ringers had been joining in with the practice at Emmanuel while they waited.

The event was a celebration that the bells can be rung again as well as a thank you to the Emmanuel ringers. We rang a combination of methods and Devon call changes on the bells. It was a glorious day made better by the sound of the bells and smell of a brilliant barbecue, accompanied by handbell ringing on the green!



Handbells at Walkhampton (Photo by James Wray)



Devon call changes at Walkhampton

Elena Brake

## THE MODERN SOCIETY OF PLYMOUTH YOUTHS' 9TH ANNUAL OUTING: OSWESTRY

The 9th annual weekend away kicked off near the town of Oswestry this year. We settled into the scout hut on Friday night, played some games, had some drinks and generally had a catch up with everyone before settling down ahead of our day of ringing. Our first tower of the day was Whittington, a nice ring of six to start the day off easily. We were joined here by some other PYs, James and Phill, who had just travelled up for the day. A method was attempted here called Dixon where no calls are used: instead it's based on rules and everyone knowing what they're meant to be doing and when. It didn't go well at first but we decided it would be the project for the day and would try again later. Oswestry was next on the list: the bells here were excellent and it's one of the biggest ringing chambers I've ever seen! We rang all eight here and managed Grandsire and Plain Bob Triples amongst other things.

Afterwards, we popped into town for some lunch. There was no time for the usual pub lunch because of having to ring for a wedding at the next tower, Selattyn. We had a little bit of a wait for the service to finish before we could ring, and some of us made good use of the time with a quick pint at the ringer-friendly pub next door! We first had some simple ringing on the five bells for the bride and groom before carrying on with other methods once the wedding party had dispersed. We got paid for the wedding, so that was a bonus and we decided to put the money toward our barbecue planned for the evening.

It was then time to cross the border into Wales to visit Chirk, where the bells were really nice and went so well that we couldn't believe they were only on plain bearings. The last tower of the day was in the village where we were staying in: St Martin's were another nice, easy six to end the day on. Dixon was again attempted here and went much better. We then picked up barbecue supplies and set up outside the scout hut. The food was soon ready and everyone dug in.

Afterwards, we had the music on and played some games. One particularly exciting game was something we called Parachute Ringing, a game we invented as we went along. It involved throwing a big parachute with handles up in the air, then moving to different coloured sections when bobs and singles were called and catching it again. It was great fun and we got it down to a pretty fine art in the end.

On Sunday we packed up our camp and went to Oswestry for service ringing. By then we were just four, so we went to spend the afternoon at Chirk castle, which was really nice. We all had lunch and ice cream before departing on our separate ways. All in all it was another fantastic weekend away and thanks go to Sam for sorting the accommodation and to Matt for the towers. Here's to the big 10 next year!



Ringing at St Oswald's, Oswestry



Plymouth Youths' 9th Annual Weekend Away

Sarah Lippett



**QUARTER PEAL IN MEMORY OF SCOUT LEADER, ROGER WALTERS**

On the afternoon of 28th July a Quarter Peal was rung at Emmanuel church by a band of current and former 19th Plymouth Emmanuel Scouts to celebrate the life of Scout leader Roger Walters on what would have been his 60th birthday. Congratulations to the band who rang 1260 Plain Bob Doubles in 45 minutes.

Plymouth, Devon, Emmanuel, Compton Gifford  
 Sunday, 28 July 2019 in 45m  
 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Sarah J Peck     | 4 Harry J Andrews    |
| 2 Matthew MJ Smith | 5 Alena J Wardle (C) |
| 3 Chris H Wardle   | 6 Sam D Peck         |

Rung to celebrate the life of Roger Walters, on what would have been his 60th birthday, by current and former members of the 19th Plymouth Scout Group



The Quarter Peal Band. Clockwise from Top Left: Sam, Sarah, Matthew, Chris, Harry, Alena

Elena Brake

**JOINT 10-BELL PRACTICE WITH THE MID DEVON BRANCH AT TAVISTOCK**

On 11th August the South West Branch were joined by ringers from Mid Devon for a 10-bell practice at Tavistock. The practice was very well attended by 25 ringers, with standing room only! We rang everything from rounds and call changes for those new to 10-bell ringing, to Cambridge Royal and Stedman Caters for the more experienced. August is a notoriously hard time to run practices as so many people are away on summer holidays, but by joining forces with the Mid Devon branch we were able to enjoy a very beneficial practice. Thanks must go to Phil Dunn for running the practice and to all the ringers who made their way to Tavistock.



Mid Devon and South West Branch Joint Practice

Elena Brake

**NOTABLE RINGING EVENTS**

CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF JOHN HILL'S FIRST PEAL

**Guild of Devonshire Ringers**

Pinhoe, Devon, St Michael and All Angels

Monday, 3 June 2019 in 2h 43

5152 Cambridge Surprise Major

Composed by S Jenner

- |                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Ian W Avery      | 5 Ian P Hill            |
| 2 David Hird       | 6 Peter L Bill          |
| 3 Pauline McKenzie | 7 Peter J Sawyer        |
| 4 John Hill        | 8 Michael E C Mears (C) |

To celebrate the 70th anniversary of John Hill's first peal (28th May 1949)



The peal band clockwise from front right

**DEREK AND MAUREEN HAWKINS**

We send our very best wishes to Derek and Maureen on their Diamond Wedding. A peal was rung in a new method at Dawlish to celebrate. Derek and Maureen have been great supporters of the Guild for very many years and are both Guild vice-presidents. We send them hearty congratulations!

**Guild of Devonshire Ringers**

Dawlish, Devon, St Gregory

Saturday, 20 July 2019 in 2h 41

5024 Hawkins Delight Major

Composed by R D S Brown

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Alison C Waterson  | 5 Charlotte A Boyce |
| 2 David Hird         | 6 Donald B Carter   |
| 3 Lynne P Hughes     | 7 John R Martin (C) |
| 4 Hilary A Beresford | 8 Michael E C Mears |

First peal in the method

Hawkins Delight Major

x38x14.56x56.18x12x18x12x78 (12)

Specially arranged and rung as a Diamond wedding anniversary compliment to Derek and Mo Hawkins, long time ringers at Dawlish and Exeter.



Martin Mansley



**IAN AND ANN SMITH CELEBRATE THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING**



Ian and Ann Smith

**Guild of Devonshire Ringers**

Kingsteignton, Devon, Kings-Ting-Tong

Friday, 9 August 2019 in 1h 44

5040 Surprise Minor (8m)

(1) Alnwick (2) Norfolk (3) Netherseale (4) Ipswich (5) Allendale (6) Norwich (7) Surfleet, Hexham

1 Ian W Avery	4 Peter L Bill
2 Robert D S Brown	5 Peter J Sawyer
3 Pauline McKenzie	6 Michael E C Mears (C)

With best wishes to Ann and Ian Smith, celebrating their golden wedding anniversary today.



The peal band attempting an impersonation

*Ian and Ann Smith would very much like to thank whoever it was that sent the lovely flowers (yellow roses and freesias) which they found on their doorstep on return from their Golden Wedding celebrations on August 9th. Unfortunately the accompanying card had no name on it!*

**THREE GOLDEN WEDDINGS THIS YEAR!**

It turns out that there are at least three couples in Devon who celebrate their Golden Weddings this year. A date has been set for a six-bell peal attempt but for a practice run a quarter peal was rung on the newly restored bells at Bishopsteignton, ringing a suitably named method:

Bishopsteignton, Devon, St John the Baptist

Friday, 14 June 2019 in 47m

1320 Golden Wedding Treble Place Minor

1 Josephine Brown	4 Wendy Campbell
2 Ann Smith	5 Ian Campbell
3 Peter Brown	6 Ian Smith (C)

Rung by three couples, all of whom are celebrating their Golden Wedding anniversaries this year.



L to R: Wendy, Ann, Ian C, Jo, Peter, Ian S

*Ian Campbell*

**PAULINE'S BIRTHDAY**

**Guild of Devonshire Ringers**

Broadclyst, Devon, St John the Baptist

Monday, 15 July 2019 in 3h 11

5024 Spliced Surprise Major (8m)

672 London, Rutland; 640 Lincolnshire, Pudsey, Superlative; 608 Bristol; 576 Cambridge, Yorkshire; 129 changes of method; all the work.

Composed by N R Aspland

1 John A Foster	5 Ian V J Smith
2 Pauline McKenzie	6 James Kirkcaldy
3 Susan D Sparling	7 David Hird
4 Alison C Waterson	8 Michael E C Mears (C)

With best wishes to Pauline, celebrating her 60th birthday tomorrow.

**FIRST PEAL CONDUCTED BY NATHAN EVANS**

**Guild of Devonshire Ringers**

Exeter, Devon

St David

Saturday, 8 June 2019 in 2h 50

5184 Turramurra Surprise Major

Composed by D F Morrison (no 229)

1 Richard S Johnson	5 Stephanie E Hills
2 Helen M Maynard	6 Oliver Coldrick
3 Andrew P Digby	7 David G Maynard
4 Thomas J Hinks	8 Nathan Evans (C)

First as conductor

Wishing Christopher Durrant all the best as he starts his ministry in the Upper Itchen benefice,.



TRAINING

ART Training Scheme in Devon  
Module 2F: Teaching from Rounds to Plain Hunt  
Saturday 2nd November – Tiverton

Foundation skills in bell control, listening, ropesight and basic ringing theory are vital for the progress of new ringers. This course will give teachers ideas for helping their learners with:

- Foundation skills
- Call Changes
- Kaleidoscope exercises
- Leading, Covering and Plain Hunt

Other sessions cover how to build a band and coaching skills.

To register, find out more and book a place (£20) go to: <https://events.bellringing.org/>.

Enquiries to: Les Boyce, 01884 256819 or [lesboyce@ringingteachers.co.uk](mailto:lesboyce@ringingteachers.co.uk).

Troyte Ringing Centre  
Bampton & Huntsham  
Autumn Events

Sat 16 Nov: Treble Bob Hunting on 8  
For those who can already treble bob hunt on 6 or ring the treble to Plain Major and would like to ring the treble to T.B. or Surprise Major.

Sat 23 Nov: ‘Improve your striking – call changes & Kaleidoscope works’  
For those wanting to improve their performance through better bell control and rhythm, making ‘clean’ changes and developing listening skills.

Both events: 10am – 1pm at Huntsham. Fee: £8 inc lunch afterwards. Places must be booked in advance with Les Boyce on 01884 256819 or [les@troyteringingcentre.org.uk](mailto:les@troyteringingcentre.org.uk).

ANOTHER SILLY PICTURE OF DAVID HIRD



Wendy Gill

CALENDAR

September		
Mon 16	19:00	Branch 6-bell practice, Shirwell N/North West
Mon 16	19:30	Branch practice: 6-bell methods, Offwell East
Tue 17	19:00	St Brannock's Society 8-bell practice, Braunton N/North West
Tue 17	19:30	8-bell practice, Teignmouth Mid Devon
Tue 17	19:30	Branch practice, Brampford Speke Exeter
Wed 18	19:30	Advanced 6-bell practice, Huntsham North East
Wed 18	TBC	Branch Mid Week Outing, TBC North East
Fri 20	19:30	Branch practice, Broadclyst Aylesbeare
Sun 22	12:30	Young Ringers' practice, DenMisch Simulated Young Ringers
Mon 23	19:00	Branch 6-bell practice, Shirwell, N/North West
Tue 24	19:30	Advanced 6-bell practice, Contact Branch N/North West
Wed 25	19:30	Surprise Major practice, Huntsham North East
Sat 28	14:00	Introduction to 10-bell ringing Guild
Sun 29		Branch striking competition practice, TBA South West
Mon 30	19:00	Branch 6-bell practice, Shirwell N/North West

October		
Tue 1	19:00	St Brannock's Society 8-bell practice, Braunton N/North West
Wed 2	19:30	Quarter Peal, Huntsham North East
Sat 5		Branch Outing, Cornwall Mid Devon
Sat 5	15:00	Branch AGM: Ringing from: 15:00-16:30hrs North East
Sun 6		Branch striking competition practice, TBA South West
Mon 7	19:00	Branch 6-bell practice, Shirwell N/North West
Tue 8	19:30	St Brannock's 8-bell practice, Contact Branch N/North West
Wed 9	19:30	Triples and Plain Major practice, Huntsham North East
Thu 10	19:30	Branch practice: Plain Hunt, Sidbury East
Fri 11	18:45	Skittles and Supper evening, New Inn Pub, Exeter
Fri 11	19:30	Branch practice: Surprise Minor, Buckerell East
Sat 12	10:00	6-bell open practice, Cruwys Morchard North East
Sat 12	14:00	Branch AGM, Sowton Aylesbeare
Sat 12	14:30	Autumn Meeting, Kilmington East
Sun 13	17:00	10-bell service ringing, Cullompton North East
Mon 14	19:00	Branch 6-bell practice, Shirwell N/North West
Tue 15	19:00	St Brannock's Society 8-bell practice, Braunton N/North West
Wed 16	19:30	Advanced 6-bell practice, Huntsham North East
Thu 17	19:30	6-bell practice, Collaton St Mary Mid Devon
Sat 19		Striking Competitions, East Branch Guild
Mon 21	19:00	Branch 6-bell practice, Shirwell N/North West
Mon 21	19:30	Branch practice: 6-bell methods, Offwell East
Tue 22	19:00	Advanced 6-bell practice, Contact Branch N/North West
Wed 23	19:30	Surprise Major practice, Huntsham North East
Fri 25		Ringing Festival starts (formerly Quarter peals Guild)
Sat 26	10:00	Raising and Lowering in Peal Guild
Sat 26	19:00	Branch Centenary Dinner (ticketed function), North East
Mon 28	19:00	Branch 6-bell practice, Shirwell N/North West
Tue 29	19:00	St Brannock's Society 8-bell practice, Braunton N/North West

November		
Sat 2		ART Module 2F (Teaching from Rounds to Plain Hunt) Guild
Sat 2	10:00	6-bell open practice, Burlescombe North East
Sun 3		Ringing Festival ends Guild
Mon 4	19:00	Branch 6-bell practice, Shirwell N/North West
Tue 5	19:00	St Brannock's Society 8-bell practice, Braunton N/North West
Wed 6	19:30	Quarter Peal, Huntsham North East
Fri 8	19:30	Branch practice: Surprise Minor, Buckerell East
Sat 9		Branch 100th Anniversary Service and South West
Sat 9	15:00	Branch AGM, Dawlish Mid Devon
Sun 10	17:00	10-bell service ringing, Cullompton North East
Mon 11	19:00	Branch 6-bell practice, Shirwell N/North West
Mon 11	19:30	Branch practice, Clyst Honiton Aylesbeare
Tue 12	19:30	St Brannock's Society 8-bell practice, Contact N/North West
Wed 13	19:30	Triples and Plain Major practice, Huntsham North East
Thu 14	19:00	8-bell practice, Newton Abbot Clock Tower Mid Devon
Thu 14	19:30	Branch practice: Plain Hunt, Sidbury East
Sat 16	14:00	Exeter Branch AGM (2pm ringing; 3pm AGM + Exeter
Mon 18	19:00	Branch 6-bell practice, Shirwell N/North West
Mon 18	19:00	Branch practice, Stoke Canon Exeter
Mon 18	19:30	Branch practice: 6-bell methods, Offwell East
Tue 19	19:00	St Brannock's Society 8-bell practice, Braunton N/North West
Wed 20	19:30	Advanced 6-bell practice, Huntsham North East
Fri 22	19:00	Branch Committee Meeting, Heathcoat Centre North East
Sun 24		10-bell method ringing practice (advanced) South West
St Andrew's Plymouth		



Mon 25	19:00	Branch 6-bell practice, Shirwell	N/North West
Tue 26	19:30	Advanced 6-bell practice, Contact Branch	N/North West
		Ringing Master	
Wed 27	19:30	Surprise Major practice, Huntsham	North East

**December**

Wed 4	19:30	Quarter Peal, Huntsham	North East
Sat 7	10:00	6-bell open practice, Hemyock	North East
Sat 7	15:00	Devon Ringers' Carol Service, Exeter Cathedral	Guild
Sun 8	17:00	10-bell service ringing, Cullompton	North East
Mon 9	19:30	Branch practice, Littleham, Exmouth	Aylesbeare
Wed 11	19:30	Triples and Plain Major practice, Huntsham	North East
Thu 12	19:30	Branch practice: Plain Hunt, Sidbury	East
Fri 13	19:30	Branch practice: Surprise Minor, Buckerell	East
Mon 16	19:30	Branch practice: 6-bell methods, Offwell	East
Wed 18	19:30	Advanced 6-bell practice, Huntsham	North East
Sun 22	12:30	Young Ringers' practice, DenMisch Simulated Campanile	Young Ringers

## RINGING WITH THE ROTARY CLUB

The previous issue of *RRD* mentions an evening demonstrating ringing to members of the Exeter Rotary Club at Clyst St George: this took place on 21st May at the church.

Ian Campbell gave a very informative talk on all aspects of change ringing and demonstrated the mechanics of bell ringing with the help of the portable demonstration bell. Five other ringers - John Langabeer, Rob Franklin, Wendy Campbell, Sue Sturdy and Martin Spencer-Thomas - were on hand to demonstrate some change ringing, help with Ian's handbells and give any Rotarians who wanted to a short ringing experience.

Afterwards the Rotarians treated the six of us to an evening meal at the George and Dragon as a thank you. We all thoroughly enjoyed that and the feedback we've had is that the Rotarians also enjoyed the ringing talk and demonstration. A successful evening all round, I think. Here are a few pictures:



Ian Campbell explaining the science of ringing



Lapping on handbells



John Langabeer showing off the Guild demo bell



They found the bell harder to ring than expected!





Ringling a real bell isn't easy!



A demonstration on 'proper' bells

L to R: Sue Sturdy, John Langabeer, Rob Franklin, Martin Spencer-Thomas, Ian Campbell, Wendy Campbell

*Martin Spencer-Thomas*

## TOP TIPS FOR TOWER LEARNERS

- Mind the gap. This is the gap between your top and bottom item of clothing. It tends to widen as your arms go up. Be aware and dress accordingly. Ladies, your sally catcher will be staring hard at the space between your neck and waist for some time. Again, dress accordingly.
- It is not 'your bell'. Someday, someone less experienced will follow in your footsteps and they will need the familiar reliability of the number 4 more than you. What will you do then? Learn to love all the bells, even the pit bull in the corner.
- Understand that sometimes your teacher will be even more terrified than you are. They just hide it better. Be kind to them.
- If commanded to 'stand back – I'll take it' this is not an optional request. Do it. Now.

## RINGING REMEMBERS from Mary Jones (September 2018)

The following tips are for those of you having a bad bell-ringing day. I originally wrote them for our new Ringing Remembers band when we were going through a frustrating patch, and we needed something to smile about together.

### Top tips for tower learners

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- It is not "your bell". Someday, someone less experienced will follow in your footsteps and they will need the familiar reliability of the number 4 more than you. What will you do then? Learn to love all the bells, even the pit bull in the corner.
- Understand that sometimes your teacher will be even more terrified than you are. They just hide it better. Be kind to them.
- If commanded to "stand back – I'll take it", this is not an optional request. Do it. Now.
- No time is wasted – watch and learn. Watch hands/eyes/mouths. If really lost, watch the gap between top and bottom items of clothing.
- When making tea, do not refill the church water bottles with the contents of an energy drink bottle. The resulting exuberance of the congregation might dislodge plaster from the walls and require a temporary church closure.
- Always confess if you have done something stupid. Everyone knows it was you anyway.
- Learning to tie a bell ringer's knot is probably one of the hardest challenges you will ever face. If someone scowls when they take the bell after you, you will have done it wrong. Try again.
- If you do not understand an instruction, ask – do not make a stab at comprehension. You will probably get it wrong and bad things might happen.
- Never forget the great benefits that you have received in being welcomed in to the family of bell ringers. In time, do all you can to enable others to enjoy the same advantage. Give something back.

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*Mary Jones, Bardwell, Suffolk*

*Note from Editor: If you liked this article you can follow Mary's musings as she maintains a blog of The Accidental Ringer at: <https://dingdong887180022.wordpress.com>.*

*Thank you, Mary, for allowing me to reprint this article.*

## EDITORIAL

As the school children start trudging back to school we can look back on a very busy but enjoyable summer. How can you make a meeting interesting enough that you get a quorum of members to attend? The Aylesbeare Branch certainly seemed to have found the answer to that question when organising the Guild festival and AGM. The morning was filled with ringing events (for those who like ringing), an amazing car treasure hunt (for those who would rather not be ringing) and other things, like a rope-splicing course for those interested in the periphery of ringing. Lunch was served with a film-show running showing the work done on the bells at Withycombe Raleigh, and, following the meeting a wonderful home cooked meal was served to accompany the light-hearted quiz. Against all my expectations I had a really enjoyable day.



Congratulations go to all those who worked so hard. Some photos are included in this issue.

And then the next weekend was the national 12-bell contest at Exeter Cathedral. To me the most noticeable thing was how everyone got so involved, including the Devon Association call-change ringers (who you would think would have little interest in a method competition but instead displayed all their trophies and mobile rings in the Cathedral), the Cathedral staff, from the Bishop (who loaned his mitre to hold the tickets for the draw) to the flower arrangers (who put bells on the magnificent flower arrangements) and the technical and floor staff for whom nothing was too much trouble. It took me a while to work out that the helpers in the blue sweatshirts who also had Exeter Cathedral tags were not all ringers but many were actually volunteers who had no connection with the ringing but gave up their Saturday to help. Everything ran so smoothly that the organisers are to be heartily congratulated; even the weather cooperated. The number of attendees exceeded all expectations (the printed armband identifications ran out before lunch time and all the food and drink was consumed) but it was wonderful to see everyone in the Bishop's Palace gardens enjoying themselves in the sunshine listening to the bells. We have to thank the Bishop for making his private garden available to us.

The Central Council Librarian keeps a copy of every RRD that is produced. With the last issue I also included a copy of the updated booklet about Exeter Cathedral Bells (see advert). I was pleased to receive this reply:

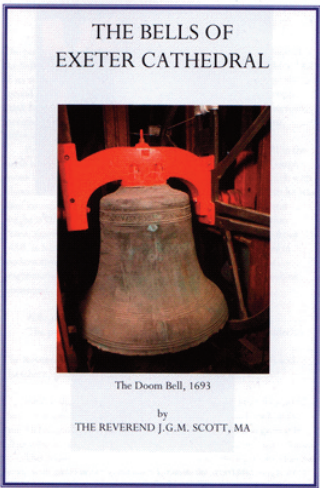
*Thank you very much for the latest Ringing Round Devon and the revamped Bells of Exeter Cathedral. The attractive presentation of the both is a tribute to your efforts and an indication of how much expectations for ringing publications have risen since 1964.*

*Best wishes,  
Alan Glover (CCCB Library Steward)*

And as the year flashes by I see that the Devon Ringers' Carol Service is to be held at Exeter Cathedral on Saturday 7th December. I hope to see you there – if you come up the tower you can see the new red carpet!  
*Ian Campbell*

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 A4.



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 packaging £1.00 if necessary.

PHOTOS FROM GUILD AGM



Settling down for the meeting



The Guild Officers – Sheila Scofield (outgoing Master), Charlotte Boyce (Treasurer), Alison Waterson (President), John Martin (Secretary)



Janet Ritterman is welcomed as the new Master by Sheila Scofield



Vidas Colling collecting his Certificate



More pictures from the AGM



Keith Copestake collecting a certificate on behalf of his son, Daniel



Look at my neat rope splice! (Les Boyce)



Trevor Hitchcock gets his certificate



Intense discussion by Mid Devon members at the quiz



The Guild mini-ring was available in the hall



Guild display boards – available to borrow

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. Any comments and inaccuracies in articles contained in this newsletter are the responsibility of individual contributors, and the opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the Guild. All photos and text © Guild of Devonshire Ringers or author. No reproduction without permission of the editor. Items for inclusion may be sent by post to Ringing Round Devon, 84 Whipton Village Road, Exeter EX4 8AL or by e-mail to [newsletter@devonringers.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@devonringers.org.uk)