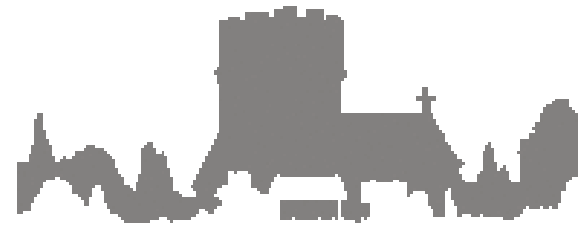


# Ringling Round Devon



## THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS Newsletter 120 December 2020

### LOCKDOWN ISSUE no.3



### Guild Logo Redesigned

At the last Guild AGM members were asked about the colour of the Guild Logo. The overwhelming response was that people preferred it to be green, the accepted colour for Devon, and Elena Brake took on the job of recolouring it. However, following that, one or two people commented that the bell on the logo looked more like a flowerpot than a bell and wondered if anything could be done about it. Eventually a picture of Cobthorne, the 9th bell at the Cathedral, was chosen to be a good generic likeness of a 'real' bell and following this as a model Elena tweaked the logo to produce the one illustrated below. We are very grateful to Elena for putting her expertise to this.



The Old Guild Logo



The New Guild Logo

*Ian Campbell*

### Central Council Ringing Guidance

As I write, we have just come out of the second lockdown period and Devon has been placed in Tier 2. The government's guidance is that 'No mixing of households is permitted indoors, apart from support bubbles.' That restricts ringing in Tier 2 to families that live together and other households, or the ringing of single bells and Ellacombe chimes.

In Tier 2 a maximum of six people can meet in any outdoor setting only, including a domestic garden, so provided you are warm enough, socially distanced handbell ringing is viable. When (if?) we move to Tier 1 the initial guidance is that, depending on the circumstances, ringing at a distance of 1m+ would be possible. Initially ringing will still be limited to

15 minutes at a time, but work has started investigating the air circulation while ringing using CO2 meters to see how the levels change over time, hopefully leading to allowing ringing for longer periods of time.

Further details of the guidance are available from: <https://cccbr.org.uk/2020/11/30/covid-winter-plan-updated-guidance-for-england-wales-and-scotland/> from where this information has been obtained.

*Ian Campbell (from article by Simon Linford)*

### Central Council Video competition

The October video competition was for instructional videos of any type. They include how to do a bell inspection, lessons on simulators of various types including Ringing Room, and how to ring big bells and can be seen at:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmJrg8hOwm\\_p8RN6oh7OMZzLwFgym0zOl](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmJrg8hOwm_p8RN6oh7OMZzLwFgym0zOl).  
*Ian Campbell*

### STOP PRESS – Ringing Over Christmas

#### Advice dated 8th December

We have agreed with the House of Bishops Covid recovery team that an exception should be made to the current ringing guidance across all tiers in England for those bands that wish to ring for services over Christmas, in the period where the household restrictions are also being lifted. This will allow bells to be rung for key services including those on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and also for the 6pm Christmas Eve ringing which has been widely suggested.

This is on the assumption that the announcement on 16th December does not introduce some catastrophic restriction on the opening of churches (which seems unlikely).

The current guidance for ringing in Tier 1 will be adopted for towers in all three tiers just for Christmas, that being to ring up to six bells, with 1m+ separation and using facemasks. The recommendation is to ring for 15 minutes but to assess your tower's characteristics. Ventilation is key to reducing the risk of aerosol transmission.

There is guidance here <https://cccbr.org.uk/coronavirus/> for you to assess the risk of your own ringing chamber and for members of your band to assess their own personal risk (see towards the bottom of the page for guidance notes). No doubt many ringers (especially those at special risk personally or in their family) will decide not to ring, just as many towers will lack sufficient ventilation to sufficiently mitigate risk even for this one-off occasion.

*Simon Linford, President, Central Council of Church Bell Ringers*

### Zoom Variety Show

#### Behind the scenes of the Zoom Variety Show

It all began in August: 'Peter, could you please stay on at the end of the Zoom meeting?' John Martin and Charlotte Boyce had been thinking of ideas for the Guild Zoom meeting taking place in Guild Festival week in October. With no ringing likely, a special Zoom meeting was the order of the day. 19th October was the Monday of Guild Festival week.

The idea was a variety show, with performances from the Guild's members. I had been selected to organise it due to my involvement with

my local Scout and Guide Gang Show. With only a little apprehension, I agreed. I would need to find enough performers, put together a programme and look after proceedings during the evening.

An initial plea went out on Facebook, in *Ringin' Round Devon* and during some of the Monday Zoom meetings. I initially asked for performers to make contact with me by the end of September to allow a couple of weeks to put the programme together.

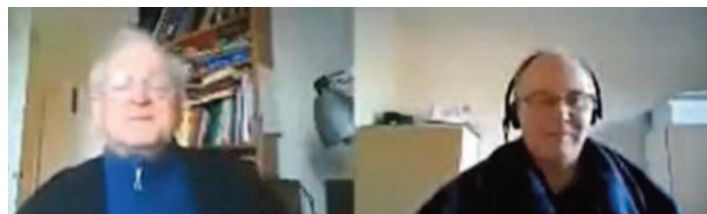
By then, a small handful of people had told me that they would be happy to perform or would make a recording to be played. Further pleas went out by email. My own tower, St David's, Exeter, was an easy target as we already have a weekly Zoom meeting. The members agreed to record a sketch provided that I wrote it. I quickly whipped up an adaptation of the Four Yorkshiremen sketch, as imagined between six ringers. Some attempted a Yorkshire (or any other) accent and everyone found a flatcap, or nearest equivalent - in one case a Captain Jack Sparrow hat complete with dreadlocks. The sketch was recorded in one shot and all agreed that it was adequate and did not need a second take.

Other performances trickled in, mostly in the week leading up to the show. A flurry occurred over the weekend when Tim Bayton put together harmonies and accompaniment to the Ringers' Hymn (lockdown version) which he and Charlotte had reworded, and put together brass trios and quartets, for which he had recorded each part separately.

A quick tally suggested that there were now enough performances for the evening to last almost an hour. I finally prepared a running order the evening before the show.

John, Charlotte and I joined the Zoom call early to check that the technology would work. It quickly became apparent that the Dartmoor internet at my end was going to result in choppy videos and sound. This had been foreseen and all of the recorded performances had been shared with John so that he could play them instead. The evening therefore ran with Boris Johnson style 'next video please, John' comments. This was a pity as I had hoped to give John a more relaxed evening: as the attendees of the Monday evening Zooms will know, John is often slaving away to keep the videos and slides playing. Disaster struck when, when adjusting my lighting, I unplugged my router and lost the call for 10 minutes while it rebooted, just before the 21:00 start.

Around 50 people attended the evening and in total 15 people performed, some appearing more than once (12 times for Tim, if each separately recorded part is included!) The evening was punctuated with snippets of a sketch based on the Complaining Monk sketch and concluded with two ringing folk songs performed live by Sue King, with everyone encouraged to join in for the chorus, and unmute for the final



Richard Johnston and John Martin performing 'The Complaining Monk'

chorus to create a real cacophony! A highlights clip can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/66CR2BOyetQ> which includes a full performance of the premiere of the revised Ringers' Hymn which should not be missed.

One of the aims of the evening was to raise money for the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund which, we had been told at the Guild AGM, was struggling with a lack of income with the cancellation of events and peals through 2020, and potential increased demand for its funds, or at the very least extant commitments made before the COVID-19 pandemic.

I don't regret agreeing to organise the evening and it seems that it was enjoyed by both performers and audience. There were some anxious moments when weeks before the evening it seemed that there would only be performance material for about 20 minutes but it was alright on the night!

Suggestions were made for a Christmas variety show and the helm has been enthusiastically taken by Lynne Hughes, who is organising this on 21st December. Wear your Christmas jumper!

## Programme:

- The Men of Northlew (pre-lockdown recording) - Lynne Hughes, Wendy Gill, Tim Bayton, Charlotte Boyce
- The Complaining Monk (Part 1) - Richard Johnston and John Martin
- Reading (live) - Richard Coley
- Pleasant Moments - Tim Bayton

- The Complaining Monk (Part 2) - Richard Johnston and John Martin
- The Four(ish) Yorkshire(ish) Men(ish) - St David's Exeter Ringers
- Blanche - Charlotte Boyce (cello)
- The Complaining Monk (Part 3) - Richard Johnston and John Martin
- Violin - Elena Brake
- Poem - Les Boyce
- The Complaining Monk (Part 4) - Richard Johnston and John Martin
- Wiener Sonatina Adagio - Tim Bayton
- Hula Hoop (live) - Lynne Hughes
- The Complaining Monk (Part 5) - Richard Johnston and John Martin
- Bellringers' Hymn (revised words by Charlotte Boyce and Tim Bayton below)
- Songs (live) - Sue King

*Peter Richards*

## Ring Out Ye Bells Locked Down:

Ring out ye bells again.  
For services we ring.  
Now wearing masks, observing social distancing.  
The bells resound,  
for fifteen minutes time allowed with every round.

For months we stayed away.  
The rules we must obey  
say, stay at home, save lives, protect the NHS.  
The lock down chore,  
may keep us safe, we need good health to ring once more.

We meet most weeks in Zoom.  
Thanks to the Internet,  
small pictures of our friends appear across the screen.  
We still enthuse,  
and fill each page of Ring'ng Round Devon, with our news.

We have a new resource  
It's Ringing Room, of course!  
Press L, look to, space bar, to ring your virtual bell.  
Across the pond.  
They wrote the code, helped maintain true, our special bond.

May all our bells be heard.  
For now, Bob Minimus!  
No Triples, Major, Royal, Cinques or Maximus  
'Til we're immune.  
For now, spaced out, with bells missed out, a different tune.

Ring out ye bells above  
Full peal awaits one day  
And then we'll wonder how we ever stayed away.  
Each part rung true.  
Come, come! We call, we'll rise them all and ring anew.

*Words by Charlotte Boyce and Tim Bayton*



## Songs by Sue King



As mentioned before, Sue King, who has entertained us before, sang two songs at the variety show (accompanying herself on the guitar) which she had composed especially for us. She has very kindly agreed to having them published here. She has also recorded them and put them onto YouTube for us as indicated at the end of each piece. They are even better seen!

### Ghost Ringers in the Sky

*Composed Saturday 14th November 2020  
Dedicated to Christine, Dan, Elena, Jo and Fergus, our conductor  
(Sung to the tune of Ghost Riders in the Sky)*

On a wild and wet November we set out from Laramie  
On horses sleek and shiny; I left Sidmouth by the sea.  
I mounted on my mighty steed, and galloped off pell mell  
To join that band of ringers, in that tower - straight from hell!

Our eyes were bright and shiny and excited as could be,  
We set off at a cracking pace for Reverse Canterbury,  
With faces set and rugged we stared at the screens and bells,  
Our fingers hovered lightly, and we listened hard as well.

**Chorus:- Ringing them low, Ringing them high!  
Ghost Ringers in the sky.**

'Watch out missy,' Fergus cries to someone on a bell,  
(Or was he talking to his horse? Who knew, and who could tell?)  
'Number 3, go before me', 'Long 4ths', 'Long 5ths' as well,  
It's going well, we're running free, we're riding on the swell.

Then suddenly disaster strikes, we hear his plaintive cry  
'Ring Treble! Treble, ring your bell! 'I did!' Oh no! We hear him sigh.  
His screen is down, it's stuck, it's blank, He cannot hear or see!  
Just two extents to finish... What a sad catastrophe!

**Chorus:- Ringing Room band, quarter peal try!  
Ghost Ringers in the sky**

Our horses bucked and reared, and all our trigger fingers fell,  
Our hearts felt cold as ice, the tenor rang its deathly knell,  
So ringers, you must all take heed, or with us you will ride,  
To that Place called Reverse Canterbury, across the wild Divide.

Well never mind, we rang a lot I think you'll all agree,  
Set jawed, keen eyed, with trigger fingers poised over our keys,  
We bobbed, we doubled, galloped with great Pleasure, just to see  
If we could ring a quarter peal of Reverse Canterbury.

**Chorus:- Ringing them low... Ringing them high...  
Ghost Ringers in the Sky...**

**Maybe next year, we'll again try!  
Ghost Ringers in the sky...  
Ghost Ringers in... the sky...**

Watch on YouTube:- <http://youtube.com/watch?v=T3QryBhUQn4>

**You picked a fine time, you Internet Glitch**

*Composed 15/11/2020 by Sue King  
(Sung to the tune of 'You picked a fine time to leave me, Lucille)*

It's four in the morning, the dawn ain't yet dawning,  
I sit with my phone in my hand,  
Can't sleep - I've been dreaming of methods, and scheming  
To form my own quarter peal band.  
On Mobil I'm ringing, whist old songs I'm singing,  
Wild thoughts whirling round in my head.  
Tried Stedman, and Triples, some Grandsire and Doubles,  
Here come the Saints - think I'll try them instead.

To sleep, how I wonder, how to drift into slumber  
With bells crashing round in my brain?  
Think I'll play country songs, then the dings and the donges  
Will stop looping their ear worm refrains?  
At last comes the morning, the daylight is dawning  
So it's time to get up from my bed.  
Make coffee and ponder, staring into the yonder,  
Dreaming Mixed Doubles methods instead.

**Chorus 1:- Yes it's a fine time to ring a quarter peal!  
Maybe at last this damn headache will heal.  
I've rung some bad chimes, struck raggedly sometimes,  
And near pulled my bell off its wheel.  
But now it's my time for my first quarter peal.**

And then, came the morning, whilst wild clouds were forming  
And storm rains lashed onto my pane.  
At last, after trying, rehearsing, and crying,  
The day of my Ringing Room quarter peal came.  
I grabbed hold of the tenor, the best place for beginners,  
Held my breath as the leader said go!  
It went well for a while, And I started to smile,  
Maybe, finally, my dream would come true.

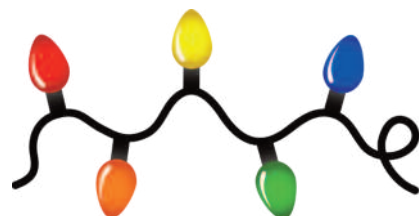
**Chorus 2:- You picked a fine time, you Ringing Room glitch!  
To freeze up the screen, like a seven year itch!  
We'd rang through bad times, but mostly through good times,  
Though our eyes stung, and our fingers did twitch.  
But then crashed out - all because of your glitch.**

I am so grateful to you, my buddies in Ringing Room  
and to Mobil for practice as well.  
To have this opportunity to ring Reverse Canterbury,  
Fulfil my dreams - maybe ring inside bell?  
You clever boys in IT, who wrote these programmes for me,  
so I could ring in this lockdown from hell.  
Thank you with all of my heart... But I just wish to impart,  
How I feel when the internet fails.

**Chorus 2:-**

Watch on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/3kHhwgn5dVE>

*Composed by Sue King*



## Christmas Extravaganza



Only two weeks to go until the CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA at the 'Internet Arms', Monday 21st December at 9pm. If you are reading this, it'd be great to see you on Zoom, and even better if everyone could contribute something (see below). Look out for the Zoom link on the branch lists a few days before.

- Log on in a Christmas jumper/hat/complete outfit if you can, with a glass of your favourite tippie in your hand.
- Send me (anytime now please) pictures of your Christmas tree/crafts/baking etc and say a few words about it on the night if you like.
- Pictures of ringers' Christmas parties or Christmas day ringing etc from recent years.

Book a live slot (best!) or pre-record and send me:

- Performing a carol/xmas song on an instrument or handbells.
- Showing us your party piece eg. magic trick, juggling, fire eating.
- Reading a Christmas themed poem or other short reading (ask if you need an idea).
- Anything else seasonal you can think of!

Please, please start sending things in now, and encourage your ringing friends to do so. Many thanks. [Lynnephughes@hotmail.com](mailto:Lynnephughes@hotmail.com)

Lynne Hughes

## Guild Subscriptions for 2021 Every member must complete a form

The Guild at its AGM in June agreed to keep tower affiliation fees and individual subscriptions at £6 for the coming year. However, there is an important innovation for 2021. That is the introduction of a Guild Subscription Form. There are several reasons for this:

- It has been difficult in the past to maintain an accurate central register of Guild membership with contact details.
- The Guild needs to show that it is complying with the requirements of the new Data Protection Act (2018) which incorporated the GDPR.
- Some aspects of Guild work require your specific consent and the annual membership form is the way of collecting this.
- An annual membership form gives us one reliable way to collect and update contact information, members' communication preferences and their agreement to Gift Aid. It also allows members to request a printed copy of the Annual Report, allowing a more accurate print run to be ordered and waste to be reduced.
- Members are being offered the chance to add extra payments for their Branch funds and/or to donate to the Bell Restoration Fund.

## Filling in the Form

An online version of the form for electronic completion is available on the Guild website at: <https://devonringers.org.uk/guild/guild-membership-subscription-form>. It should be completed and emailed to the Guild Secretary who will share it with Branch Officers.

Your subscription should be passed to your branch treasurer, preferably by online banking. Please include your name as the reference. A short YouTube video walking you through the completion of the form is at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBGXlphTlbg&feature=youtu.be>.

Please remember to tick boxes on both sides of the form to tell us your communication preferences, whether you are content for your photograph to be published, whether you would like printed copies (the

full version) of the Guild Annual Report and if you want to Gift Aid your sub and donations. Please send in your completed forms by 31st December.

If preferred a paper copy of the form is available which can be filled in a posted to the Guild Secretary, and the usual methods of payment to the branch can still be made.

Les Boyce

## Guild Library

### The 'Jerram Survey' – an interesting curio?

Back in August we received an email from Neil Skelton, former Librarian of the Salisbury Guild offering to supply copies of a survey of Devon bells compiled by James R Jerram. The Devon 'survey' was part of a larger collection of his manuscripts which included a survey of Wiltshire bells and drawings of bell frames. The Devon manuscript runs to 260 pages and includes a few photographs and some pen and ink drawings of founders' markers and inscription details. The hand-written entries are carefully executed and easy to read. We are grateful to Neil for providing both a good quality print copy of the manuscript and two pdf files containing the entire work.

But a few questions arise. How and when was the 'survey' compiled and what was its purpose? We think it was put together in the 1870s and 1880s although there are a few later revisions for augmentations. To what extent it is based on original research through tower visits or correspondence with churches is unclear. James Clarke has seen a copy and concurs with my conclusion that much, if not most of the information has been transcribed from Ellacombe's *The Church Bells of Devon* published in 1867. Entries which have since been identified as errors in Ellacombe's survey are repeated by Jerram. But what was the purpose of such a labour of love? We don't at present know what Jerram's intentions were – a revision of Ellacombe possibly?

Who was James Jerram? Neil Skelton has provided us with an outline of his biographical details (*The Ringing World*, No. 4483, March 28, 1997; p 309). Jerram was born in Fleet, Lincolnshire, son to the Revd Richard Jerram. He started out as a marine engineer, but took up bellhanging. While in East Anglia he taught a young Thomas Blackbourn to ring. Jerram was later to go into business with Blackbourn as a bell founder and bell hanger in Salisbury. In Salisbury he was librarian of the clerical library and a founder member of the Salisbury Guild.

Throughout his life Jerram had an interest in bell archaeology and was a frequent correspondent to *Bell News* and *The Ringing World* on bells across the country. He had a large collection of rubbings of inscriptions and decorations and drawings of bell frames. He was an instructor and bell inspector for the Salisbury Guild and its General Secretary and Central Council representative. He died in Salisbury in 1932 aged 80.

So what are we to make of his 'Devon survey'? It may not add much to our knowledge of Devon's bell history, but it is an interesting curio reflecting the state of Devon's bells before the significant rehanging, recastings and augmentations of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. You can explore his work for yourself by visiting the Guild Library's new 'Surveys of Devon Bells' webpage at: <https://devonringers.org.uk/guild/library/surveys-of-devon-bells>.

Les Boyce



# Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund and the Guild Branches

We are well into Branch AGM season and as my husband is the current Master Elect we are attending the Zoom meetings of all the branches as well as our own. One of the items discussed is whether they are able to give a donation to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund (DCBRF) this year. So far so good, each branch has made a donation, thank you. I did spot a 'chat' asking for more information on what we do so I thought it might be an idea to pin down what has been paid out to Guild and, therefore, Branch towers. Interestingly since 2010, every branch has benefited from at least one grant from the bell fund as follows:

Aylesbeare	Woodbury £5,500
East Devon	Talaton £1,000, Awliscombe £300, Combe Raleigh £10,000, Farway £280, Payhembury £2,500
Exeter	Thorverton £400 and £250, Stoke Canon £7,500, Shobrooke £240, Hatherleigh £250, Pinhoe £750, Exeter Cathedral £8,500
Mid Devon	Kingskerswell £7,500, Coffinswell £500
North East	Uffculme £440, Cullompton £300, Stoodleigh £5,000, Cruwys Morchard £4,250
North/ North West	Fremington £2,600, Shirwell £1,800
South West	St Budeaux £5,000, Brentor £2,000 and £1,000

With 100 towers in the Guild (as at the end of 2019) 22 have received grants in the last 10 years, some 22%, totalling £67,860. I think it's fair to say that no branch could have donated the amounts shown above without the collective power of the DCBRF, its donations and investment income. Bearing in mind the Smale Bequest has provided over £78,000 of income to the fund since 2014 in itself.

To put it in a different context, at the end of 2019 the Guild had 661 members. If every ringer gave £10 on top of their subscription every year for 10 years the Guild would have raised £66,100.

Between 2010 and today we have paid out £208,250 to projects throughout Devon. The Guild has therefore benefitted over and above its percentage of towers affiliated (25%) with 32.6% of all donations paid.

What also needs to be put in context is that according to on-line Dove there are 406 rings of bells in the Exeter Diocese (which covers all of Devon). We have 100 in the Guild, the most up to date figure I have for the Association is they have 140 affiliated towers, leaving 166 towers belonging to neither. Thankfully when the DCBRF was set up it was to provide grants to ALL Devon towers, meaning money raised by both the Guild and the Association goes towards all the towers with bells in Devon. It must be doing some good as I counted only 24 showing as unringable or ringing suspended on on-line Dove, most of which are 3s and 4s (just 6% of all towers with bells). Of those 24 there are three who are currently in the process of completing work with grant requests having been received by the DCBRF.

This is in stark contrast to Suffolk where there are 258 rings of bells showing on Dove with 54 showing as unringable (nearly 20%). A different comparison is that the Bath & Wells Association only provide grants to towers that are affiliated to the Association.

I therefore think we can be very proud of the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund and all the help it has given Devon towers over the years and also all those who give in any way to the Fund. Whilst we may only have a handful of towers that are currently unringable, the continuing maintenance and unglamorous work of scraping tower frames and repainting, repairing frame foundations, etc continues, ensuring that most of the bells in Devon can be rung today. It helps to show that by not having an insular view on maintenance and restoration we can achieve far, far more.

We have always been able to provide a grant to all projects that fall within our remit and in order to continue to be able to do this we still need to maintain and, if possible, increase our income. Projects are getting more and more expensive. Full re-hangs are likely to be anything from £60,000 to £120,000+ and more general maintenance projects can be £1,000 to £10,000+. Meaning in order to give 10% as we currently do we can be looking at £6,000 to £12,000 for a rehang or £100 to £1,000 for a much smaller project. Again, not the sort of money a branch can afford to give easily at the drop of a hat.

Also, between April 2019 and April 2020 our bell advisors and the Diocesan Bell Advisor (two of whom are DCBRF trustees) carried out 21 inspections to advise on work that would be needed to improve the 'go' of the bells. There were also five quinquennial inspections carried out, some of which have already been acted upon and requests for grants received.

As very little ringing occurred in 2020, we have an expected income shortfall of approximately £3,000. The vast majority of the donations received this year from the Guild and Association are based on ringing during 2019. We expect the next couple of years to be far worse. Without ongoing help, support and giving from the ringers of Devon we may, for the first time, be unable to help every project. Please help the trustees to continue the very excellent work of the DCBRF in the coming years by giving even a small amount.

We have all saved money by not being able to ring this year,

- No peal or quarter peal fees
- No fuel costs of getting to the tower on Sundays and practice nights
- No drinks in the local after ringing

If we all tot up what we spent in 2019 doing all the above we will all be surprised just how much we spend, without thinking, on enjoying our hobby. So why not give even part of your savings to the DCBRF to ensure the bells are there and in good order throughout the County when we are able to get back to our beloved hobby.

Ways to give:

- Tick the appropriate box when filling in the new membership form and include a donation with your Guild subscription.
- Switch to Smile.Amazon for your on-line shopping and choose the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund as your Charity. 0.5% of all eligible shopping will be donated to the Fund
- Make a donation via Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) – using any card, PayPal or CAF login via [www.caf.org.uk](http://www.caf.org.uk) or directly to <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/15245> or via the DCBRF page on the Guild website.
- Contact our treasurer Mary Mears – [dcbf@1appleparth.co.uk](mailto:dcbf@1appleparth.co.uk)

Janet Deem

## Devon Ringers' Carol Service

The ringers' carol service has been a long running and popular event. Despite the lockdown restrictions it was decided to carry on with the service this year, but to hold it virtually using Zoom on Saturday 12th December, starting at 6pm. Parts of it were pre-recorded but other parts were live, including the readings, and much of the music was specially recorded in advance. The pre-service ringing was performed on Ringing Room by eight members of the Exeter Cathedral band, and the Exeter handbell ringers performed using Ringing Room.

## Technical difficulties of ringing at the carol service

Initially the intention was to include live performances from Ringing Room into the carol service. This turned out not to be as simple as hoped for. If a member simply shared their Ringing Room screen with the Zoom meeting those taking part would receive the ringing from both Ringing Room and Zoom at – nearly – the same time, causing horrible echoes and real difficulties ringing.

During a trial run a system was worked out where eight of the ringers joined a breakout Zoom group, but then they were not able to see or hear what is going on in the main session so don't even know when to start! In addition, mainly because of the poor Internet performance in parts of rural (and not so rural) Devon, random delays appear the ringing of each bell, so that what sounds OK to one person may sound much worse to others. To our horror, rerunning the recording of the test session showed the striking to be appalling, and certainly not good enough to risk using this technique on the day.

Eventually it was agreed that the only way forward was, unfortunately, to use a recording for the ringing sessions. But even this was far from trouble free. We thought that it would be nice for the audience to see the ringers but found that the recording software that we had only recorded one window at a time. For the handbell performance an evening was spent trying to use and record Handbell Stadium as this can show real figures ringing (the 'men in black') but this was fraught with difficulties where some bells would hold-up or fail to strike.

By the second session software which would record multiple windows had been found but this was not easy to use. Everyone had to get all their programs setup correctly: in my case the program on the phone to use it as a camera, the equivalent program on the PC, Handbell Manager for the games paddles, Google Meet to see the others, and Ringing Room, all in different windows. Some ringers had to use two devices at the same time – one for Ringing Room and one for the video link so that we could keep in contact. Matt had to align everything so that they could all be recorded in the correct place. Then we realised that unless we muted

everyone (apart from Matt) you could hear external noises such as children and cars going past. Needless to say we had several takes and even then there were one or two method mistakes as well as odd bells not striking for some reason. Anyway, we did our best. See what you think at the service.

The handbell test sessions are available you want to see them. Please bear in mind, especially if you have not tried ringing over the Internet, that the variability of the network does make good ringing several times harder than usual!

Handbell Stadium: <https://youtu.be/WMD5keTYqRQ>

Ringing Room: <https://youtu.be/dW93HNeVsqg>

Ian Campbell

## Regular Zoom meetings

The Guild officers (notably John Martin and Charlotte Boyce) have continued to organise regular Monday evening Zoom sessions at the Internet Arms for all Guild members. Recent presentations have included:

7th September: Is gender balance being achieved in ringing across Devon?

13th September: Report back from the 2020 Central Council meeting

5th October: History of ringing simulators

19th October: Entertainment by Guild members

26th October: Ringers' Produce Show

2nd November: Ringing clusters in Somerset to help ringers to progress

9th November: History of Buckfast Abbey and its bells

16th November: Engaging with the public

23rd November: Rosie and Richie – the handbell ringing robots

30th November: Puzzle evening (see above)

Some of these sessions have been recorded. Please contact the secretary if you would like to see one of these that you have missed.

Ian Campbell

## Puzzle Evening

The Zoom entertainment on Monday 30th October took the form of a light hearted puzzle evening with a ringing theme. Some of the puzzles are included here for your amusement; the answers are at the back of this issue.

Janet Ritterman started the proceedings with a set of anagrams in five different categories:

### Methods we Ring

- Bipolar job man
- Smartest dance

### Guild Towers

- Adverts existed
- To my big wheelchair

### Important for the Guild of Devonshire Ringers

- Cover is clear
- Tip? To omit snickering!

### Looking Wider

- Wild Northern gig
- Grannies choose gratifications

### Tower Captains Say

- Danger low!
- Extend Mattins



Charlotte Boyce presented a series of Dingbats, each of which identifies a location in Devon with bells:



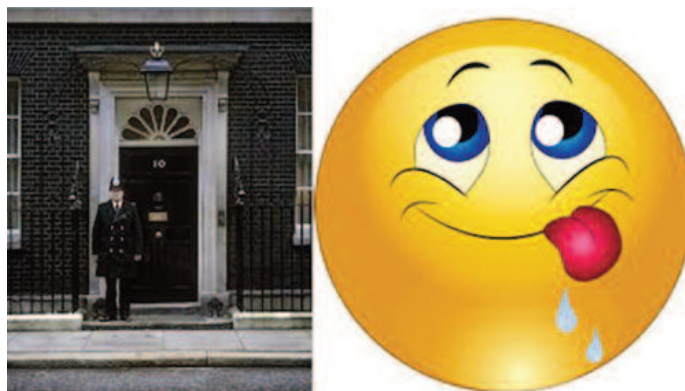
Dingbat 1



Dingbat 2



Dingbat 3



Dingbat 4

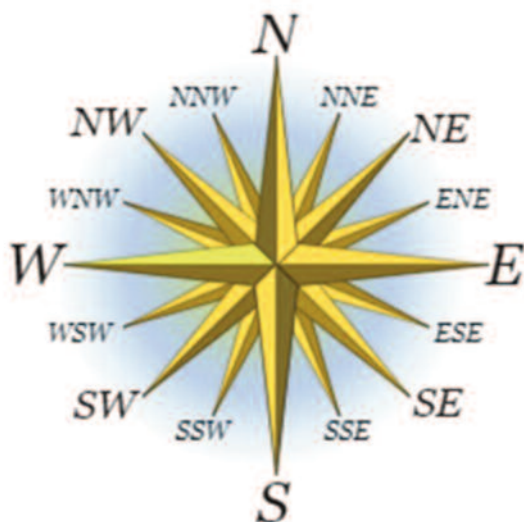


Dingbat 5



Dingbat 6

She also asked a question on towers in Devon:



Which Devon towers with bells listed in 'Dove' lies furthest North, East, South and West?

Two other rounds were provided by James Kirkcaldy.

*Ian Campbell*

to ringing at Topsham by his friend, William Wills, and he found he enjoyed both the ringing and the company there. Not long after that, the previous captain, Walter Gibbons, passed away and Roy took on responsibility for the tower. He captained the band for 62 years. During that time, he served four vicars and taught scores of ringers, many of whom still ring across the country and will often drop in when visiting Topsham, sharing stories and speaking very fondly of Roy. He also oversaw a major overhaul of the bells in 1994. Perhaps Roy's greatest achievement was the fact that he maintained a band of at least six ringers to ring the bells for all of those years; Roy was always particularly proud of this.

Roy was not only a member of the Guild but also of the Devon Association of Ringers with whom he rang for many years. He also enjoyed travelling around the country with the Police Guild of Ringers, having volunteered as a special constable for nineteen years. In his later years, Roy and his friend, David Row, also enjoyed ringing with the Ringly Ringers. Roy hung up his rope at Topsham in 2015 but always enjoyed hearing how the tower and ringers were doing. He also continued to attend the branch practices around the area whenever he was able, ringing a little and chatting a lot, often to the frustration of the ringing master!

Roy's dedication in the many hours of teaching, practising and ringing as well as maintaining the bells and the clock have fostered a strong ringing tradition that continues here. He leaves behind a huge legacy in the town, where he became one of the oldest residents, as well as in the church and particularly in the bell tower. His years as captain have not only kept ringing alive and thriving but secured the bells as a central part of Topsham life. He will be remembered fondly by all those who knew him, ringers and residents alike.

*Matt Pym*

## Obituaries

### Roy Berry

4th October 1925 – 3rd September 2020



Roy Berry passed away at the beginning of September at the age of 94 after a short period of ill health. Roy was the captain of St Margaret's church, Topsham, for over 60 years before his retirement only a few years ago.

Roy learnt to ring as a boy of 12 in Clyst St George. He had been a member of the choir, but once his voice broke, it was suggested that he should give ringing a try instead! However, the war intervened. Firstly, the church was largely destroyed by enemy action, an event Roy himself was lucky to survive as he was asleep in his bed just yards from the church (incendiary bombs were found in the garden!) Secondly, he soon became old enough to serve in the RAF, which he did for a number of years. Upon returning in 1947, he married Lilian, and they moved to Topsham. Despite working long hours in his career as a baker, Roy was persuaded to return

## Gordon Ruming

It is with great sadness that we have to announce the death of our dear friend and fellow-ringer Gordon Ruming at the grand age of 93. After increasingly frequent hospital visits to correct his chronic digestive problem, it was decided to admit him for surgery. He died peacefully at Derriford Hospital a week after the operation. His health had been deteriorating in recent months, so that he was too frail to recover from the surgery. He was able to continue to enjoy ringing short touches on our little bells until we were all obliged by the coronavirus to stop, and was looking forward to the day when he could resume ringing the call to worship with us. When we had to rely on him to make up a band, and give him time to catch his breath before ringing the next touch, there was never an embarrassing silence in the tower. As a faithful member of the Stoke Damerel band, held in great affection, he will be sorely missed. May he rest in peace, and rise in glory.

*John Steere*

## Jean Parkinson

We are sorry to report the death of Jean Parkinson, member at Tiverton St Peter. Jean was a ringer at St Peter's from 1984 to 2014 and was the tower secretary for several years. We will post some memories of Jean on the Branch Facebook page.

*Les Boyce*

## Aylesbeare Branch Topsham update

At Topsham, we have been anything but idle during lockdown with two recent additions to the tower. The first, our new ringing simulator, was actually installed the week before lockdown and we now have Simbell sensors on all of the bells. Since lockdown lifted, we have been wiring each one in to a central socket so that they can be turned on with one switch. This was paid for in part by kind donations from both the church and the Aylesbeare Branch, to whom we are very grateful. The next stage, as money is raised, is to install a more permanent set up in the ringing chamber, with a screen, computer and speakers. The final stage will be to install a webcam in the tower above the bells; this has been progressed by the church's rather fortuitous decision to allow Cloud Wireless to install wireless equipment on the tower roof, meaning the tower now has its own Wi-Fi! When the project is complete, it will be a great asset to the tower and the branch/guild as a whole and the webcam will be very instructive to visitors and ringers alike.

## The bell status board



Our second addition to the tower is a rather fine 'bell status' board which was created and installed by Freddie Bush, one of our ringers. It means that we are able to tell at a glance which bells are up and which are down which will be especially useful at the start of practice when we often have a few learners practising raising and lowering. It is of course no substitute for testing your rope though!

## Ellacombe Chimes reply



Topsham Ellacombe chimes

In reply to your editorial and to Mike Gates' letter, I can report that Topsham's Ellacombe chimes have been in good working order for a few years now after being refurbished by one of our ringers Tony Bradford. (I mentioned in RRD119 that Tony had had a serious bike crash and can report that he is making a steady recovery.) I have a PDF of the parish magazine dated 1911 (just before the bells were rehung for ringing) which reports on the general history and state of the tower and says, 'The hand chiming apparatus was fitted in 1875, under the supervision of Reverend

HT Ellacombe of Clyst St George, and in accordance with his patent'. The chimes now serve as a very safe and useful teaching aid for children (and adults!) visiting the tower and they are also used to chime the tenor by the (non-ringing) church team for the 08:00 service on a Sunday. Topsham will certainly look to take part in the celebrations next year.

*Note from Editor: While in Topsham recently I came across the 'Angel of the South'. This is a stunning sculpture 12ft high mounted on the side of the church for Christmas. It was created by local artist Brendan Rawlings from driftwood found on Exmouth beach.*



The Angel of the South outside Topsham Church

Matt Pym

## East Devon Branch News from Axminster

We are facing some maintenance work on the Minster bells and I am trying to raise funds. The work involves rebuilding our 20-year-old bearings and a few other minor tasks, but could include reworking one of our headstocks which seems to have a loose gudgeon. The bells were inspected by Nicholson's Engineering who diagnosed the headstock issue and Taylor's also visited earlier in 2020 and agreed with the diagnosis. The estimate is between £10,000 and £16,000 depending on the work required.

Nicholson's are hoping to get the work underway in January and I have managed to get the Friends of the Minster to stump up some of the cash. It is hoped that the Devon Bell Restoration Fund will be able to contribute towards the work but individual donations will be very welcome.

Before Lockdown 2 we were managing to ring three bells for Sunday services every week. I am delighted that one of our regular ringers is a lady who was recruited for Ringing Remembers, who has gone on to become a very valuable member of our ringing team. Our relatively large ringing chamber and our ten bells enable us to ring up to five of them whilst maintaining the required distances. This has been a blessing for us as the members of the Minster are very supportive of our ringing activities and feel that bell ringing is an important part of the work that they carry out. It is nice to ring and keep our activities in mind. Our remembrance service was held on the eve of Lockdown 2 on the afternoon of Wednesday 4th November and we were able to ring five bells half-muffled.

In addition to this the tower is being regularly used for simulator ringing mid-week. We have a sensor on a single bell and use this to practise methods using Derek Ballard's Belltower software. At the beginning of the year my eldest daughter Izzy was joking around having just run her first touch of Cambridge Minor. She asked me to agree on a deal whereby if she learnt to ring Cambridge Major by Christmas, I would ensure that Santa brings her the latest iPhone for Christmas. Knowing that she had hardly rung any 8-bell methods let alone Surprise Major, I agreed, However I underestimated the motivation of such a device to a teenage girl and was constantly pestered with requests to practise. By early October Izzy rang her first 8-bell quarter peal of Plain Bob Major and went



on to achieve her goal with 1344 changes of Cambridge Surprise Major by mid-November. I ensured that it was challenging enough, using a six-part calling with Bobs and Singles, to give myself a fighting chance, but she managed it without any assistance. Izzy is hoping that she gets to ring it with real people at some time in the not-too-distant future and as we end Lockdown 2 I owe her a trip to the Apple Store and will be wiser about the deals that I make in future!

*Peter Simpson*

## Astronomical Clock at Ottery St Mary



The face of the clock shows the earth in the centre. The white disc is actually a ball which rotates to show the phase of the moon, almost full in the picture, and the gold ball is the sun, showing the time on the outside ring. At the opposite side to the moon you can see a star which shows the age of the moon, 13 days old on the inner ring. The sun and the moon are attached to the opposite ends of the same bar, and the part enclosed by the ordinary numerals rotates anti-clockwise so the age of the moon can be shown.

As many people who have visited the church will know, Ottery St Mary has an astronomical clock dating back to the time the church was built in 1345. It is a relatively simple one, showing the time of day and the age and phase of the moon. How much of the current mechanism is original is difficult to say; John Scott said it had been substantially modified at least three times. The frame is held together with nuts on screw threads, and these were not in general use until the 15th century, while the clock would not have had a pendulum, as these were not invented until 1656. Originally the clock would have had a verge and foliot escapement, perfectly adequate for a clock which had no face, merely striking the hours on a bell, but not really accurate enough when it was required to show the minutes as well.

The present mechanism was reconstructed from parts found lying around by J R Hall, who re-assembled it in 1906, making new parts as necessary. Unfortunately, he did not make the suspension point of the pendulum high enough allow the bob to be lowered sufficiently for the clock to keep good time, and it must have been gaining well over an hour a week for 70 years or so. Round about that time the Revd Bill Wright, a retired clergyman who came to live in Ottery, cut a hole in the floor so he could lower the bob by about an inch, but it was still not long enough, and when I took on about five years ago the clock was still gaining an hour or so a week. The bob by this time was as low as possible, and all I could do was to stop the clock every Monday evening at the weekly practice. For various reasons I was not always able to do this, so the clock would sometimes be far too fast. Often it was easier to correct it by winding the hands on by the required amount, which needed someone downstairs to look at the hands to tell me when they were in the right place while I disconnected the escapement from the clock itself and let it run on. This did not put the moon right, which was often some weeks out.

However, all will soon be right. I had to call out Kenneth Woodley who maintains the clocks as the chimes of the main clock had ceased to function. This was due to the electric motor which raises the weight that operates the quarter chimes failing. As a result both the hour chime and the carillon, which are actuated by the quarter chime mechanism, ceased

to work as well. The problem was solved by a process of trial and error, requiring several visits by Kenneth, during which I was able to remind him of his long-standing promise to solve the problem of the astronomical clock. This he has now done, by raising the suspension point of the pendulum, and lengthening it as well, so that now anyone looking at the clock will be able to tell the time and the age of the moon. Should they be able to understand how to, of course.

As we were attending to the astronomical clock, the main clock, which we had already put right, suddenly sounded the quarter chimes, hour chime and carillon all at the same time for about a minute, then all was silence again. When we looked at the mechanism we could find no reason for this: everything was all in order. As Kenneth said: 'funny things, clocks'.



The back of the clock, with the back of the moon on the part of the clock face which rotates. The moon is showing mainly black with a touch of white. The section of the bar is the part with the sun attached.



The works of the clock

*Richard Coley*

## Ringling Matters in East Devon

A second lockdown was certainly not what we were hoping for. Even with all the restrictions that were in place, most towers had been able to ring for services, albeit ringing alternate bells only.

In Combe Raleigh we were also able to ring for a wedding and another was due at Gittisham the day after the second lockdown came into effect. With some frantic rearranging, the wedding was brought forward a day. Sadly, two days before THE day one of the wedding party tested positive for the virus and the wedding had to be postponed until sometime next year. This will be the fifth time of asking as it also fell foul of the first lockdown and had to be postponed twice then. We hope that the marriage will be less troublesome than the wedding.

At Offwell, having decided that ringing three bells didn't sound too good, they were in the process of restoring the Ellacombe chimes when the second lockdown was announced. We wait to see how successful using the chimes will be and whether the villagers notice the difference.

Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day were both like we've never known before. However at Honiton they were permitted to toll one half muffled bell at 11am, which was surprisingly moving to hear.

The Friday Group meetings held in more normal times at Combe Raleigh have become virtual coffee mornings by courtesy of Zoom. We seem to have been doing this for ever and yet just nine months ago none of us knew anything about Zoom. I don't think these coffee mornings improve our ringing skills at all, but it has been a fun way for us all to keep in touch. Some of the more competent among us have been enjoying Ringing Room visits with at least one ringing a socially distanced (about a hundred miles apart) quarter peal.

At the time of writing there is a lot of talk about what we may or may not be able to do at Christmas. I sincerely hope we will be able to ring then.

Following discussion it was thought that the AGM next year should remain on the third Saturday of November even though the preferred location of Crediton was not available. Lapford is being looked at as an alternative venue but this will depend on the progress of their rehanging project. Other functions will probably follow the plan arranged for 2020 once the future becomes clearer. Many can be arranged at short notice.

Officers were thanked for their work, with a special thanks to John Martin and Charlotte Boyce for their unceasing efforts in arranging the regular Zoom meetings for the Guild.

*Ian Campbell*

## Canadian film shows Cathedral Ringers from 1972



Colin Barr (8th), Frank Mack (9th), Fred Wreford (10th), Charlie Yates (11th), Bill Harvey (tenor), Peter Colton (strapper).



John Hill on the 4th?



Charlie Yates



'We're not to blame for the lack of bells, it's Covid not corvid!'

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

*Trevor Hitchcock*

## Exeter Branch Branch AGM

**Thursday 19th November**

The AGM was conducted over Zoom with Richard Johnson in the chair. Most of the ringing and social events had to be cancelled to keep within the government guidelines but many ringers have taken part in the on-line virtual events.

News has been received that Andy Stevens has stepped down from all ringing due to poor health. He has been the tower captain at St Thomas, Exeter since 1980 and also rang at Kenn, Alphington, Ide and Powderham. We wish Andy all best wishes for the future and will remember him especially for the wonderful spreads of food that he prepared whenever the branch visited St Thomas! The position of captain has been taken over by Eric Henley

Most of the officers were re-elected. Oliver Bates had to stand down as Ringing Master as he is away at University in Birmingham. Peter Richards has taken on the post.

Members were urged to use the new Guild membership/subscription forms by the end of the year, and to pay their subscriptions (and any donations) directly to the branch by bank transfer if possible.



Fred Wreford

A recent item in *Cathedral Life*, the weekly newsletter from Exeter Cathedral, mentioned a link to a film from the National Film Board of Canada which looks at the Cathedral. It includes a couple of clips of the ringers at the start, and another at the end. I recognised many of the people in it and others have also identified a number of ringers. The film is available at <https://www.nfb.ca/film/exeter/>.

The Dean of Exeter Cathedral in the newsletter remarked:

*'If you didn't catch the film last week, you can still watch it – certainly I found its 28 minutes very well spent. And if you manage to look at it, do you, like me, think it's Bamber Gascoigne (or his twin brother) ringing our bells at the start? Though there's no mention of an interest in campanology in his Wikipedia entry, or of a twin brother for that matter.'*

I believe the person in question was Colin Barr, who many of you know. He no longer rings but was the Guild secretary for a time.

Mike Mears commented:

*'This is brilliant. As well as the ringers at the Cathedral (Bill Harvey and Peter Colton on the tenor? I think Peter Pavey and David Wills were in it, I will watch again sometime and see if I can identify anyone else), the bit at the cattle market was interesting: the chap bidding for cattle was our neighbour John Berry with his son Michael, I think that the thatcher on the roof was Jack Cann from Copplestone who did a lot of work at Newton St Cyres and I think he did Rose Cottage for Peter Sawyer. Also my father used to cut spars for him: I used to go out with him and Father would cut them down and I would bundle them up. The dark haired chap with glasses in the Morris dancing (which I think was in Newton village hall) was called John Bailey. He was Quicke's shed cowman in the late 1960s and 1970s, a great bloke who didn't take life too seriously, so when I worked in Quicke's cheese factory he was a regular visitor and as you can imagine there was much clowning around. Recognised Bishop Mortimer and the verger, whose name escapes me.'*

John Hill forwarded the link to Colin Yates (the son of Charlie Yates) who also enjoyed the film:

*'Dad was always behind a camera and I have so few photos of him. Here he is ringing the 11th, with Fred, Frank and my best man Pete Colton strapping the tenor, which made me very emotional. Thank you so much for finding this, so many names and faces sitting, it has brought back many, many memories; they were part of my ringing community before I left and moved to London in 1970.'*

*'That period was a different time not just with the level of ringing at the Cathedral. I was always struck by the diversity of the ringing community: students and teachers from the University, Deputy Chief Constable, postmen, farmers, brick layers, business professionals and more.'*

*'Ringing in the Yates Family missed a generation but my grandson has (sorry, had) started at Hillingdon and hopefully will return when we get over Covid-19.'*

*'Thanks again and pass on my best wishes to the dwindling number who may remember me. Thanks for forwarding it, very interesting.'*

Ian Campbell

## Exeter Cathedral Ellacombe Chimes Electrified

The Ellacombe chime cupboard in the ringing chamber at Exeter Cathedral was always a place of mystery for me, and a source of anxiety when letting in visiting bands as I was faced with hooking and unhooking a complex system of taut wires and clips. Downstairs in the South Transept there was yet a further cupboard where the Virgers would manually pull the chimes before Choral Evensong – entertaining in itself to watch as they would begin with stately order before descending into frenetic desperation as the service drew closer. To my knowledge though, we have never 'played' Happy Birthday on our chimes as Jon Bint at Chagford would do on any ringer's birthday!

However this all changed when the cupboard in the South Transept was found to be obscuring an important tomb, and with funding available to reveal and restore the tomb, replacing the Ellacombe chimes suddenly featured on the budget of our Clerk of Works. It was an exciting opportunity for the Cathedral to commission the electrification of the chimes, and with Andrew Nicholson the chosen contractor, work was due to begin earlier this year.

Eight months later and the new chimes were finally signed off just as the second lockdown began on Thursday 5th November. All 14 bells and the Peter Bell have electromagnetic hammers which are now wired down through the old Ellacombe case in the ringing room (where there are two isolation switches for when we want to ring) to a small computer on the ground floor of the North Tower, with the unit itself operated from a portable handset. The old Ellacombe hammers, operating wires and the old chime box downstairs have been removed, but the old hammers have been kept on the bell chamber floor and could be reinstalled at any time in the future.

Programmes are built into the system and under normal times when we are ringing regularly only the middle six will be set up to chime prior to Choral Evensong. However, at present, the most advanced programme of eight minutes of Stedman Cinques, followed by five minutes tolling of a calling bell, is being used before the two principal Sunday services.

In addition, the Peter Bell is being tolled every evening at 6pm throughout lockdown; this is part of the 'Prayer For The Nation' where churches and Cathedrals are ringing a bell as the Archbishops of Canterbury and York encourage daily prayer in lockdown.

It seems strangely ironic that as towers are empty across Devon, at Exeter Cathedral the bells are now ringing more than they ever would. However, the joy which this new sound of the bells has brought to many and the continuity of the call to prayer, gives us all hope for the meaning and value of church bellringing to our communities.

Clare Griffiths

## Mid-Devon Branch Dawlish ringers keep in touch



Dawlish ringers have been keeping in touch with WhatsApp and Zoom, and have lately added in Ringing Room, albeit with a few weeks sorting out the technology. Novice ringers Anne and Kevin jumped into their first 'inside' method ringing with Bastow Minimus, followed swiftly by Bastow Minor. They enjoyed all the dodging practice you get in it!

Lynne Hughes

Merry  
Christmas

# Excerpts from Mid-Devon Tower Talk

## Zoom Quiz

Our Chairman was the question master for the latest quiz, ably assisted by Sheila.

As usual our brains were thoroughly tested with rounds on Geography, Science and Nature, Food and Drink, Art, Literature and Culture and finally History. The questions ranged far and wide from 'The Amish in the US speak Pennsylvania Dutch, a dialect of which language?' to 'Which Liberal MP said 'If the fence is strong enough, I'll sit on it'? and including one for CAMRA members 'Where is Jail Ale brewed?'. Answers at the end of this article. Altogether a challenging but interesting evening. Many thanks to Rodney and Sheila for all their hard work.

## The History of Ringing Simulators

The presentations laid on by our Guild Secretary, John Martin on Monday evenings have been very well received and have kept ringers in touch, entertained and educated.

Many of these have been recorded and a recent one is of significance to our branch. David Bagley, who some will remember from his time in Plymouth in the 1980s, gave a well-researched history of ringing simulators. You can watch it here

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJ2x1WoXjHg&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2vlg44ASGD76j2-j4R7D6HO4QLKw0FxNO\\_VEJC3OGNtHLWogA6n6w00](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJ2x1WoXjHg&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2vlg44ASGD76j2-j4R7D6HO4QLKw0FxNO_VEJC3OGNtHLWogA6n6w00)

The reason that it is of interest to our branch is that one of the first people to design the modern simulator was Peter Cummins. By this we mean the type where a ringer rings a bell connected to an electronic device (now usually a computer) and the device 'rings' the other bells. Peter lived in Cornwall and found it very difficult to find method ringers to help him progress. The simulator was his solution to this problem.

In the late 1970s and early 80s Bill Simmonds ran a very popular practice at Torre (Tor Mohun) in Torquay. Bill realised very early that a simulator could be a great tool for teaching and asked Peter to supply one for Torre. This was a very early version and the sound was somewhat primitive – basically a bleep!

Peter had never rung a longer length on one of his inventions so it was arranged that he should attempt a quarter peal at Torre. This was successful and we now wonder if this was the first quarter using a simulator as silent apparatus.

Torre - 8 January 1983 1260 Plain Bob Minor  
1 William Simmonds, 2 Nicholas Glanfield, 3 Rowena G Pierce (now Mansley), 4 Peter Cummins, 5 Tim King, 6 Martin Mansley (C)

Bill Simmonds was a very experienced ringer, having learned to ring with his father in the progressive band at Caversham in Oxfordshire where Surprise Major was regular fare. In his younger days he was well known for ringing two tower bells to Stedman Triples. Although he was a good teacher of bell handling his best friends would agree that he lacked skills in diplomacy! There were no funds available at Torre to pay for the simulator and Bill applied to the Guild for a donation. This was not agreed and it led to Bill storming out of more than one meeting. He had been seriously injured in a road accident and found walking very difficult, so it took him quite some time to 'storm out'!

The upshot was that Peter claimed back his simulator and thus ended this brave experiment. The practice carried on for a short time but the retirement of the caretaker and the job of opening up falling to members of the Greek Orthodox church who often turned up late or not at all, caused it to cease. Although it may appear that Bill was a bit curmudgeonly, he was a real character and much of his work goes on. He was a good teacher of ringing and worked hard to see St Marychurch ringing again after the long break due to the war damage. His dream was to see ten bells in the tower and it is pleasing that he lived long enough to see his dream come true. He would be thrilled to see the modern development of simulators with all their 'bells and whistles' which has been made possible by those early pioneers such as Peter Cummins.

## Ringling resumes

A tentative return to ringing has taken place in some towers. The conditions for a return are quite strict but with all the work of risk assessment done and safety measures strictly adhered to, some ringing is going on in the area. Towers that we are aware are ringing include Dawlish, Teignmouth St Michael, Brixham, Kingskerswell/ Coffinswell and St Marychurch. The bells we are allowed to ring with a maximum of six ringers sound 'different' but it is good to hear that there has been very

positive feedback from our listeners who, in general, are pleased to have the bells back. The Central Council are constantly reviewing the situation and regularly updates their website. Their recent advice first suggested that we could slightly reduce the distance between ringers but then said that any tower in the higher two tiers should cease ringing immediately.

## Teignmouth St James

We were very sorry to hear that an inspection of the bells prior to re-starting ringing was not possible. It appears that someone left a trap door to the roof open and this led to pigeons doing their worst. It would seem that a four-figure price will have to be paid to get the bells etc cleaned up. Very sad to hear that an active tower is out of action. We wish the ringers well in their efforts to get things back to normal.

## Handbell ringing

Since lockdown there has been a growth in handbell ringing as it is still possible as long as social distancing is observed. Several branch members have been trying this, either for the first time or after quite a long gap. It is quite humbling how hard it feels to add another bell to look after in method and most of the ringing has been on simpler methods. Speaking personally, I am in awe of branch members who manage to ring surprise methods on handbells (see peals section later) However, tentative steps away from Plain Bob have been made and recently Single Oxford Minor has entered the repertoire. Some of the ringing has been on-line via Ringing Room and some live. The online version is very susceptible to technical issues along with the more common 'brain malfunction'!! Recently a quarter peal (live) was achieved which included a 720 of Single Oxford. Is this the breakthrough we have been hoping for?

Paignton, Devon, 65 Winsu Avenue  
Thursday, 15 October 2020 in 35m (11 in G)  
1260 Plain Minor (2m)  
720 Single Oxford; 540 Plain Bob  
1–2 Peter L Bill                      5–6 Michael H Tompsett (C)  
3–4 Martin G Mansley

## Branch AGM

These are not the minutes of the meeting but hopefully you will be able to get a flavour of the meeting if you were not present.

The meeting was on Zoom, of course, so was very different from the normal meeting. Unfortunately, an attempt to have some ringing via Ringing Room failed as the 'listen' facility does not yet work on all platforms. However, the meeting was soon got under way with a prayer from David Witchell. Many of the reports had already been circulated and these were agreed. The Ringing Master and the Librarian read their reports and they were also passed by the meeting. Our Chairman Dr Rodney Horder thanked all the officers for their work during the year.

The Treasurer's report took a bit more time. You will remember that for various reasons we have had three treasurers during the year so that it is relatively recently that our current treasurer, Nicola Jones, took over the role. She needed to tidy up a few loose ends and discovered that £500 which had been proposed as a donation to the Devon Bell Restoration Fund (DCBRF) had not been paid. She had wondered if the money could be better used within the branch and she proposed that the meeting rescind the motion passed last year and instead start a scheme to use the money to assist branch towers. After a long discussion it was felt that the £500 should still go to the DCBRF but that the proposal to seek ideas from towers for spending some of the branch funds should be investigated by the committee. All the officers were re-elected except our rep on the Guild Committee (Nicola Jones) She was replaced by Catherine Saunders.

Charlotte Boyce (Guild Treasurer) reported on the very successful Zoom meetings that the Guild has been holding on Monday evenings. A variety of topics has been featured and she had an idea that an evening featuring each branch would be of interest. She asked that we consider the idea and ask for each tower to contribute photos and other items for the presentation. Rodney said that the committee would consider the idea and report back via Tower Talk.

A member who rings at Bishopsteignton asked if it were possible for that tower to be considered for branch membership. Several of their ringers have joined practices in the past and it was stated that they would be warmly welcomed if they chose to apply!

No programme for 2021 was considered possible at present but once gatherings were allowed again the committee would look at ways of recovering the programme proposed for 2020.

Martin Mansley (Ringing Master) mentioned that an important part of the Thursday tied bell practices held at St Marychurch had been the chance to discuss theory and learning questions. He suggested that one to one sessions could be held on Zoom to address anything members would like help with. Contact him if you are interested.

Having no further business our Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

## Ringing Room practices

### STOKEINTEIGNHEAD

Regular Monday practices have continued throughout the summer and autumn. A core of ringers has really got to grips with this new technology as a means of progress but also, importantly, as a focus for regular catch-ups. Most of the ringing has been on six bells with occasional eight bell ringing including successful courses of Plain Bob and Grandsire Triples. Recently the complete set of eight St Simon/St Nicholas Doubles methods has been rung. An attempt for St Andrew's Doubles on St Andrew's Day was sadly thwarted by the technology. Yes! Of course, we look forward to the time we will ring again for real but while this is not possible we have really enjoyed a different challenge.

### ST MARYCHURCH

Regular Tuesday practices have been kept up and we mainly ring on eight bells. It is true that it has taken an inordinate length of time to achieve a plain course of Bob Major on the platform but we have persevered and it has often been internet or other technological problems that have thwarted us. There was a terrific cheer when we finally got to the end of that final lead! Bastow on eight bells has been much more successful and recently we had enough to try it on ten. The shorter course does help to raise the chances of success and it is a method we will definitely add to our repertoire once we get back in the tower. Plain Hunt Royal has also featured.

During the brief period when ringing was allowed we rang each Sunday and most Wednesdays for services. Using couples, we were able to ring six bells which was a vast improvement on the alternate bells (5) that we started with. The short length of time (15 minutes) that we were allowed was ideal for those who were coming back to the tower after a long break and it was great to have Jeanette and Catherine ringing again. The Wednesday ringing was followed by a return to the Driftwood Café where we were warmly welcomed – it was a regular venue after Thursday tied bell practices in the past.

## BRANCH PRESENTATION TO THE GUILD

You will have read in the AGM report that we have been asked to put together a presentation about ourselves for use at the Monday evening 'pub' sessions run by the Guild. Our new committee rep, Catherine Saunders has agreed to coordinate this for us. She is looking for a contribution from each tower to give a flavour of themselves. We need a photo of the tower and possibly one of the ringers and some of the things got up to during this period when unable to meet in the usual way. It is very much up to you what form this takes. We know that some towers have already started to put things together so now Cath is opening it up to everyone to contribute. She will be delighted to hear from you. [catherinesaunders0@gmail.com](mailto:catherinesaunders0@gmail.com)

## BRANCH ZOOM MEETING

For much of the summer we held fortnightly meetings with a variety of presentations but we have not held one for some time. The Guild held a very successful meeting where members explained some of the things they had been getting up to during lockdown. The range was extensive but we know that several of our own branch members did not take part. There is a wealth of material out there so we would like to set up our own exhibition. Have you been doing more in the garden or some craft or art work? We are open to anything you think would interest our members, so please send your ideas in the first place to me: [plainbobminor.mm@gmail.com](mailto:plainbobminor.mm@gmail.com) We don't have a date yet but it will probably be in the New Year.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and (surely!) a much better 2021

## Quiz answers

- Pennsylvania Dutch is a form of German
- The Liberal Politician was Cyril Smith
- Jail Ale is brewed in Princetown

*Martin Mansley*

# North East Branch

## Rule of Six



September 25th was MacMillan Coffee Morning day, so the Tiverton Ringing Ladies, not ringing at present due to Covid but nonetheless meeting regularly, used this as an opportunity to take their coffee and refreshments to Knightshayes. With rugs, flasks and MacMillan bunting hung in the tree we raised £65 and had a jolly good natter.

*Sheila Scofield*

## Branch AGM

Well, we held our branch AGM despite all the difficulties! Thank you to those who turned out for the meeting on the wettest day on record since 1891, to all those who gave their apologies and, most especially, to the Cullompton ringers and the Revd Ed Hobbs for making the arrangements for us to use St Andrew's in a very safe manner. Ed made us most welcome and led us in a short service of prayer and praise.

The business meeting was concluded briskly. We elected Jenny Jones to return to the Branch Secretary's shoes to replace Bev Welch who was standing down. With characteristic efficiency Bev got the minutes of the meeting out within a week and we thank her for all her work as secretary. The other officers, in the light of the current situation, agreed to remain in post for another year. We welcome three new members, all from Cullompton: Margaret Shackleton, Lorraine Coram and David Haslet. We are grateful to Margaret for taking on the role of Publicity Officer.

*Les Boyce*

## Keep in touch through Facebook

Just to remind you that you can keep in touch with North East Branch through the branch Facebook group. We welcome your ringing and tower news – if you haven't signed up yet, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/317436675922745> and click 'Join Group'.

*Les Boyce*

## Raising money for DCBRF

Lockdown and the months in between have allowed some of us craft hoarders to keep occupied by using up our stocks of wool and fabric. We usually make items for the Syrian Refugees which are shipped out via RAFT in Taunton. However all that stopped when lockdown happened and has not yet restarted. This did not stop my Knit & Natter group in Bampton from continuing to make for the refugees. Fortunately I emptied the K&N cupboard of our donated stock of wool two days before lockdown so the mice didn't get it. I brought back three black sacks of odds and ends of yarn and started to work my way through this to make blankets. Added to this Jenny and I had hours with no ringing to fill our time and my mum became housebound as she had to isolate. The result has been a room full of items for refugees and a wonderful assortment of crafted goods that would normally be sold at our local church sales for Christmas gifts.

So why not make donations to the DCBRF and acquire some of these individually made items for gifts for Christmas, birthdays or for yourselves. We generally charge twice the cost of the materials used and in almost all cases the whole amount can be then donated to the DCBRF, after postage costs.

We have teddies, gloves (men's, ladies', children's & fingerless), peg bags, ladies' socks, crocheted blankets (1m sq), beanies, knitting roll and

bag, decorative fabric boxes, non-plastic shopping bags, ladies' cardigans and facemasks. Just to give you an idea we have a few photos attached but there are more on the NE Branch of the Guild Facebook page and I am happy to send photos by email or messenger (email [sheilascofield@hotmail.com](mailto:sheilascofield@hotmail.com)).

*Sheila Scofield*



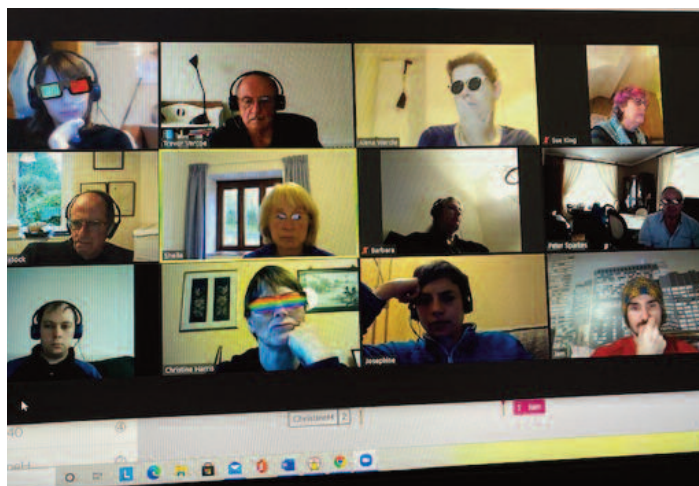
## South West Branch

### South West Virtual Branch Practice

We had another well attended branch practice on Saturday 28th November using Ringing Room, with 16 people taking part. There were the usual issues with the technology but a good time was had by all. We were especially pleased to welcome the ringers from St Mary's, Plympton who have been working on their method ringing and happily coped with plain courses of Bob Doubles, some Grandsire and Plain Hunt Triples. In the other breakout room they focused on six and seven bell methods and rang some plain courses of Grandsire, St Clement's Bob Minor and Plain Bob Minor. We ended the session with 'almost' a plain course of Cambridge Minor, just to demonstrate to the learners that even the more experienced ringers can go wrong!

*Alena Wardle*

### NOT The Annual Dinner Celebrations



The Open Practice: (left to right, top to bottom,)

Elena, Trevor, Alena, Sue, Phil, Sheila, Barbara, Peter, Daniel, Christine, Josephine and James

This time of year we would usually be gathering together for our annual ringers' service and branch dinner. Of course, this year we had to do things a bit differently, so on Saturday 11th November we had a day of 'NOT the Annual Dinner' celebrations. This began with a well-attended open practice on Ringing Room in the morning, with enough of us there to enable us to split into breakout rooms before reconvening for an ambitious attempt at plain hunt on twelve.

We had a quarter peal attempt later. It went very well but, alas, it was just an attempt. Around ten minutes from the end of a steady performance of Reverse Canterbury the internet failed us... just like a rope breaking in the tower! Ah well. It seems to be a tradition that we lose at least one quarter peal on dinner day!

In the evening we gathered on Zoom for a short but lovely ringers' service hosted by Preb Robert Harris, followed by a quiz. We broke out into our teams to answer questions on multiple rounds ranging from the 'Animal Kingdom' to 'Bell Ringing'. Interestingly... the bell ringing round had the lowest average score across the teams! Should we be worried?

Special thanks must go to Trevor and Alena for organising the activities for the day. Also to Robert Harris for leading the ringers' service, and to all the branch members who attended and made these activities worth organising. It's been a long and difficult year, missing our towers and ringing friends. We are very thankful that technology has allowed us to meet and have fun in some way, despite everything!

*Elena Brake*



# Transatlantic Quarter Peal Mayflower 400

2020 was supposed to be a very big year for Plymouth. The city was getting ready to host events and celebrations around the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower. We had plenty of performances lined up throughout the year to mark the occasion, which sadly had to be postponed.

However we did not anticipate that a global pandemic and strict lockdown rules could actually open doors for us. On 21st November, we rang a quarter peal on Ringing Room to mark the occasion of the arrival of the Mayflower in America 66 days after setting sail from Plymouth. The band included three ringers in Devon and three in Massachusetts – including Bryn and Leland, the creators of Ringing Room!

We talked afterwards about how much of an achievement that was, and how without the restrictions we would not have imagined anything like this was possible.

Thanks to Phil for organising this performance.



**Ringing Room, Devon and Massachusetts**

Saturday, 21 November 2020

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Elena Brake	4 Sarah A Moriarty
2 Bryn Marie Reinstadler	5 Phil Dunn (C)
3 Leland Paul Kusmer	6 Alena Wardle

To celebrate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the Mayflower in America 66 days after setting sail from Plymouth. Rung by three ringers from Devon and three ringers from Massachusetts

*Elena Brake*

## Trevor's Virtual Birthday Quarter Peal In Memory of Canon Gordon W Ruming

Another notable Ringing Room performance was achieved on Saturday 26th September – a birthday compliment to Trevor and in memory of Canon Gordon W Ruming. This quarter peal was achieved on the third attempt of the third attempt! That is, three separate dates had been arranged... and we had two false starts on the day! 'That's All!' Had never sounded so sweet.

Special congratulations go to Sheila who rang the tenor behind for us, making this her first ever quarter peal!

Ringing Room (Plymouth), UK  
Saturday, 26 September 2020 in 53m  
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Elena L Brake	4 Trevor C F Vercoe
2 Daniel T Calvert	5 Fergus M S Stracey (C)
3 Alena J Wardle	6 Sheila J Reynolds

1st quarter - 6

Belated 70th birthday compliment to Trevor Vercoe

In memory of Canon Gordon W Ruming

*Elena Brake*

# Other News

## Mystery Tower from June Edition

Readers may remember an appeal in the June issue of RRD to identify a church with a distinctive central tower and white gates at the entrance to the porch. Well, Ian posted RRD on the Guild website at 23:44, and by 00:06 Nick Bowden of Bristol had come back to let us know that the mystery church was Withington in Gloucestershire! Once I had that information and looked back at my records, everything fell into place. I think the date must have been wrongly set on the camera, or rather the year. The tag on the photo says 04/05/01 when in fact it should have been 04/05/02.

A result, and the errant photograph has now been correctly labelled. Thanks, Nick.

*Wendy Campbell*

## Devon Ringing Email List

This email list is hosted on the Yahoo Groups system but this service is being withdrawn. In its current form this list will cease to work from 15th December. If we want to continue to have and use a Devon-wide email list we need to move it somewhere else:

- Google is offering a similar service to Yahoo. I'm happy to setup the new list on Google servers and provide a subscription link. Everyone will have to follow the link to subscribe to the new list. We would have control over this list and I would suggest myself and another person become the email list administrators.
- *The Ringing World* is happy to host email lists on behalf of ringing societies; as above you would have to subscribe again following some provided instructions. We would not have control over this list or be able to add/remove people on your behalf. Attachments might be blocked - we would need to check this.
- Set up the list on the [lists.devonringers.org.uk](http://lists.devonringers.org.uk) (ie The Guild) email server and provide a link through which you can subscribe. I would have full control over the list on this server.

Of course the final option is to let this email list die out and instead push email announcements using traditional channels via secretaries and tower captains.

I would like any thoughts about this as soon as possible. It is worth pointing out that this list is used by ringers who are not necessarily Guild members, including Devon Association members.

*Matt Hilling*

## The Ringer Unmasked

Now just remember to maintain social distancing, wear a mask and use the hand sanitiser. All done. Up to the ringing chamber, hand sanitiser again and adjust the mask, take the rope and we're all ready. Off we go then, the bells are raised and into a sequence of call changes. It's going well, we've only got 15 minutes, what could go wrong? Hang on, the mask is slipping down. A quick snatch to lift it up, but what the heck, it's slipping down again. Trying once more to pull it back in place I almost miss the sally, a frantic grab and that bit is saved. Well, I've now got the rope under control, but the mask is flapping down around my chin. What can I do? Nothing, or at least, nothing until we stop ringing. One of the elastic ear loops has broken. We finish ringing and I hasten down the stairs anxious to get a fresh mask, almost forgetting the hand sanitiser in the rush to get away. Next time, I'm taking a spare mask with me when I go ringing. It might be safer if I wear two, I don't want to be unmasked, yet again.

*Embarrassed Ringer*



# Notable Ringing Events

## Peals

### Forty-one Spliced Minor in hand

#### Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Bovey Tracey, Devon, Sorrento  
Saturday, 24 October 2020 in 2h 9 (8 in C)  
5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (41m)

41m: Coldstream, Lincoln, London, Kelso, Cunecastre, Wells, Morpeth, Canterbury, Carlisle, Northumberland, Sandiacre, Newcastle, Alnwick, Chester, Munden, Whitley, Wooler, Cambridge, Durham, York, Ipswich, Hull, Primrose, Bourne, Norfolk, Beverley, Berwick, Hexham, Surfleet, Norwich, Bacup, Stamford, Rossendale, Bamborough, Netherseale, Lightfoot, Wearmouth, Westminster, Allendale, Warkworth, Annable's London

J Warboys & P A B Saddleton

1-2 Jill M Wigney                      5-6 Michael J Wigney (C)

3-4 Peter M C Richards

First peal of Spliced on handbells: 3-4

Well done, Peter – a magnificent achievement.

## Quarter Peals

### Firsts on Handbell Stadium

Handbell Stadium, Devon

Wednesday, 25 November 2020 in 51m

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1-2 James Kirkcaldy

5-6 Lynne Hughes (C)

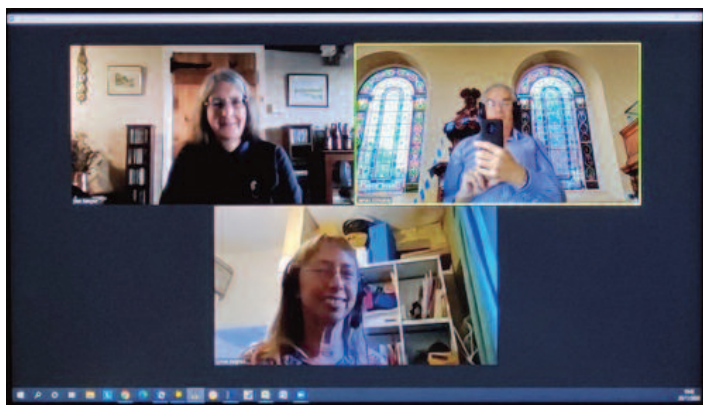
3-4 Sue Sawyer

First in Handbell Stadium - 1-2, 3-4

First as conductor in Handbell Stadium



The view by the participants



The band – clockwise: Sue, James, Lynne

Lynne Hughes

# Editorial

If you look back in your memory to September, it was warm and sunny, and not conducive to sitting at a computer screen sorting out the contributions for *Ringling Round Devon*. So by the time I had it ready for John Foster to do the page layout he had gone on holiday for three weeks. So please accept my apologies for the late arrival of the September issue. When October arrived it barely stopped raining and I could happily have worked on *RRD* all day!

And in next to no time I find that it is time for the December issue. Is it just me or does the time seem to be passing at an ever-increasing speed?

Just as we thought we were getting over Covid-19, with Sunday morning ringing (of sorts – just a few widely spaced bells) becoming regular, and handbell ringing under the 'rule of six' (ie six people allowed together inside or outside) we were hit again with a full(ish) second lockdown on November 5th so all ringing stopped again. We can't even ring 'proper' handbells any more except, possibly, while sitting in a park, so ringing is once again limited to being done virtually. Since December 3rd, we have been released from lockdown but placed in Tier 2 so it looks unlikely that any form of ringing can restart just yet.

In the longer term, the vaccine to combat the virus has just started being administered. This could allow ringing to return to normality by next summer. We can but hope that there are enough ringers still interested in restarting.

There still seems to be enough going on to justify an issue of *RRD* even if it is not printed. Many thanks go to those who continue to send in items for publication. A few people have asked about their *Ringling Round Devon* subscriptions. While no printed copies are being produced the subscriptions will be extended to cover that period.

If you missed the Variety Evening you missed an entertaining time; Elena Brake wowed the audience with her violin playing, Tim Bayton had managed to provide some recordings with him playing all the parts, and Sue King had some songs especially written which she bravely performed live. If you know the ringers' hymn you will be amused by the new words produced for it and performed in full harmony (see main article). We are grateful to everyone who help to produce it and courageously took part.

It is good to see that the DCBRF has moved into the current century – it is now possible to make donations (one-off or regular) online through the CAF website, although a small percentage is taken by CAF. When giving to charities it is always worth looking at how much of your money goes towards running the charity and rewarding the trustees. When I was a trustee the expenses of the DCBRF were basically zero so all of the money donated goes to deserving towers.

Finally let me wish you all a happy if rather unusual Christmas. Hopefully by this time next year this will all be behind us and we will be back to some kind of 'normal'.

Ian Campbell

## Results from the September Competition

The first correct reply from James Kirkcaldy which arrived on 6th October except that he didn't add up the numbers of bells. The next complete response was from Les Boyce and Sheila Scofield with a later entry from Mike Mears.

Oliver Coldrick's epic bicycle journey visited 16 towers with a total of 87 bells. The towers photographed were (in order):

- 1 Woodbury, St Swithun's, 8 bells
- 2 Woodbury Salterton, Holy Trinity, 1 bell
- 3 Farringdon, St Petrock and St Barnabas, 1 bell
- 4 Aylesbeare, The Blessed Virgin Mary, 6 bells
- 5 Rockbeare, St Mary with St Andrew, 6 bells
- 6 Whimble, St Mary, 6 bells
- 7 Talaton, St James the Apostle, 6 bells
- 8 Clyst St Lawrence, St Lawrence, 5 bells
- 9 Clyst Hydon, St Andrew, 6 bells
- 10 Plymtree, St John the Baptist, 6 bells
- 11 Kentisbeare, St Mary, 6 bells
- 12 Bradfield, All Saints, 2 bells
- 13 Uffculme, St Mary the Virgin, 8 bells
- 14 Sampford Arundel, Holy Cross, 6 bells
- 15 Rockwell Green, All Saints, 6 bells
- 16 Wellington, St John the Baptist, 8 bells

Which makes a total of 87 bells.

Oliver Coldrick

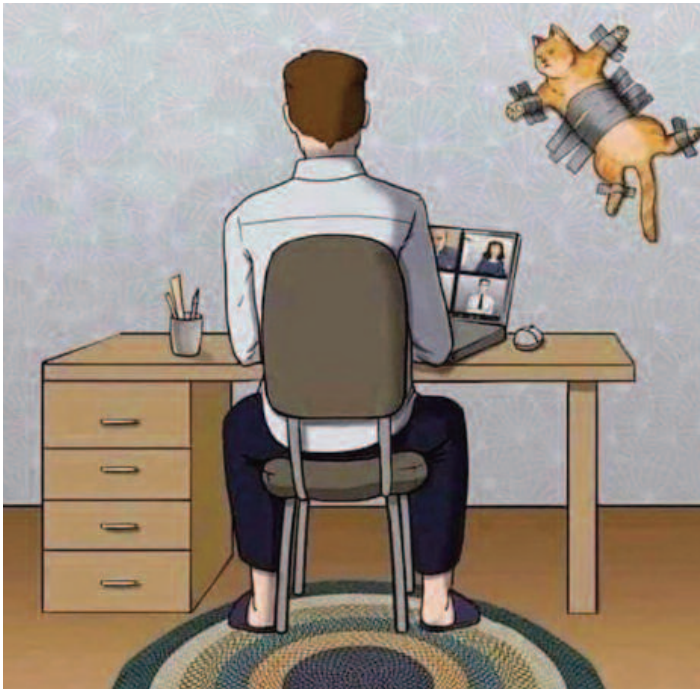


# A Note from the President of the Central Council

The June issue of *Ringling Around Devon*, the quarterly newsletter of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers, was circulated and had an astonishing 18 pages of tightly packed material. And that's in a period of no ringing! Maybe we should circulate more lockdown newsletters and share more experiences. I remember a long time ago there was a competition for the best newsletter. Tony Kench submitted the College Youths' Newsletter, which was produced by him with great pride, only for it to be discounted on the grounds of being 'too professional'. A great injustice at the time!

*Simon Linford, President CCCBR*

## Ringling Room Difficulties



It is essential to properly prepare before starting Ringling Room

## David Hird



David Hird – with hair!

# Puzzle Answers

## Anagrams:

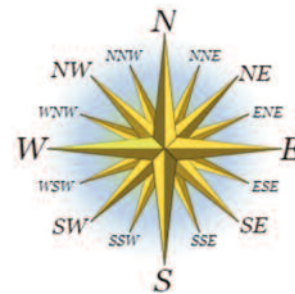
- Methods we Ring:** Plain Bob Major, Stedman Caters
- Guild Towers:** Exeter St David, Withycombe Raleigh
- Important for the GDR:** Carol Service, Striking Competition
- Looking Wider:** The Ringling World, Association of Ringling Teachers
- Tower Captains Say:** Lead Wrong, Stand Next Time

## Dingbats:

- 1 Cheriton Fitzpaine
- 2 Kentisbeare
- 3 Stoke Damerel
- 4 Dawlish
- 5 Whimble
- 6 Doddiscombsleigh

## Compass Points:

Lat 51.22971, Long -3.83396  
Lynton St Mary V



Lat, 51.16449,  
Long -4.66464  
Lundy Island,  
S. Helen

Lat 50.79952  
Long -2.93357  
Hawkchurch

Lat 50.23197, Long -3.75582  
East Portlemouth

## Seen at Ipplepen

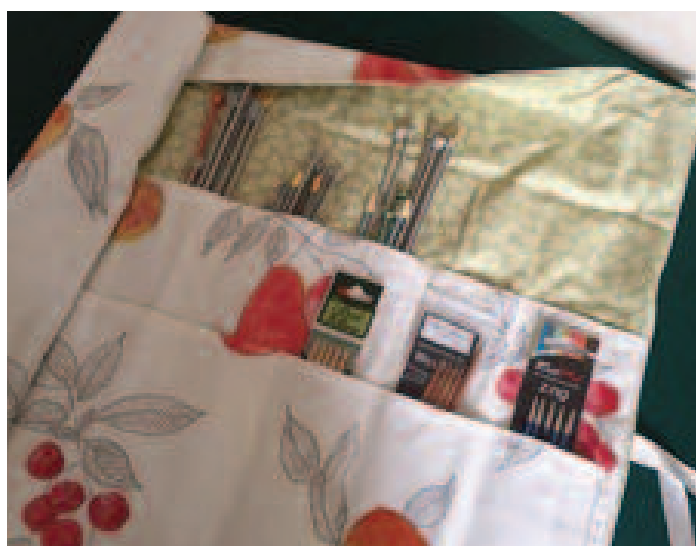
### Ringers Rules



Believed to have originated in St Endellion, Cornwall

*Janet Ritterman*

## More handywork from the NE Branch



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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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