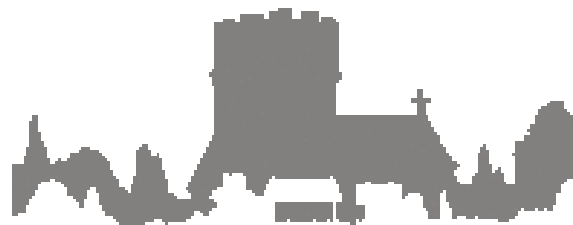


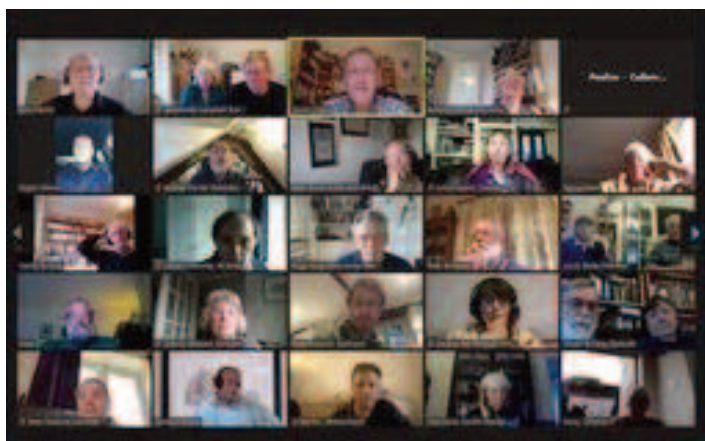
Ringings Round Devon



THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

Newsletter 118 June 2020

Lockdown Issue No.1



A Zoom meeting with the Central Council President, Simon Linford on 8th June

Message from the Editor

Most of the time since the March issue of *Ringings Round Devon* has been spent in lockdown in order to minimise the effect of the Coronavirus which has been sweeping the world. All public ringing has been suspended and church buildings have been locked shut. Nevertheless this issue contains a lot of information about what has been going on in the ringing community, mostly using technology to keep in contact.

If you have not felt able to join in, it is important that you attend (virtually!) the AGM on 27th June if at all possible so do look at the article that explains what you need to do to contribute. Nearly everyone should be able to join in the meeting in some way without leaving their home.

I do hope to see more of you at the various on-line meetings and presentations that are being made available, and perhaps at some of the virtual ringing sessions.

Ian Campbell

Central Council Guidelines for Ringers

The Church of England has issued advice that, at the moment, only one nominated person is allowed access to the church building and no others. This would normally be the local incumbent or priest. This means that no bell ringers are normally allowed into the building. There is some concern, which has not been addressed, as it seems to encourage individuals to go up the tower alone, which is a safety issue.

The Central Council has issued the attached guidance (11th May):

Ringings and chiming

Ringers should not enter the church or tower for chiming, ringing or any other purpose under any circumstances unless they are the one 'appointed person' for that church as defined by the guidance from their Diocesan Bishop.

Not more than one bell should be rung under current church guidance and only by the 'appointed person'.

Care should be taken to ensure all clock hammers and any external chiming hammers are pulled off before either chiming or ringing.

Always refer to both Church of England and local Diocesan guidance for more detail.

Hand hygiene

For those who are 'appointed persons' and wish to chime or ring a single bell:

Sanitizer should be applied to the hands and allowed to dry fully before and after ringing activities.

No other substance than hand sanitizer should be applied to the hands before ringing, including spitting on or licking the hands.

Maximum numbers of people in a ringing room

No person other than the appointed person should enter the tower at any time and especially during chiming.

CC Executive, May 11th 2020

Note from Guild Secretary:

A few days ago the Central Council published some preliminary thoughts about the things we might have to consider and plan before ringing can resume in our towers.

Please note the guidance issued on 11th May and re-stated below still stands at the current time:

'Ringers should not enter the church or tower for chiming, ringing or any other purpose under any circumstances unless they are the one 'appointed person' for that church as defined by the guidance from their Diocesan Bishop.'

But there is useful and thought provoking information in this information we could use to start planning.

The Guild bell advisors have been consulted and agree it is sensible to plan the checks to be carried out at some time after the 11th May guidance is changed but would also like to remind everyone of the strong recommendation that a second person be present when carrying out work in the bell chamber.

For details see: <https://ccabr.org.uk/2020/05/29/stewardship-management-workgroup-when-we-ring-again/> which should be consulted when the go-ahead for ringing is received.

John Martin

Central Council YouTube competition

The Central Council has launched a YouTube competition that will run until Christmas. The idea is to create a YouTube video about ringing. Each month the one voted the best will receive a cash prize. The topics for each month are:

May	Best striking on 6 bells or fewer
June	Most unusual or interesting ringing video
July	Best striking on 8 bells or more
August	Best video demonstrating change ringing not on tower bells
September	Best showcase of school or university ringing
October	Most effective instructional video (could be handling, maintenance, rope splicing, etc)
November	Film that promotes ringing in the most positive way

Full details of the competition can be found at:

<https://ccabr.org.uk/youtube-competition/>

where there is also a link to a video on how to make a YouTube ringing video. Links to previous entries are available as a Playlist. There are several entries from Devon already.

The category is a wide one for the June YouTube competition - 'most unusual or interesting ringing video'. It could showcase a particularly

interesting tower, something we rarely see, an unusual change ringing performance, maybe a webinar about something interesting.

In addition the Central Council have put together an index to as many training webinars and videos that they could find which have been recorded and posted on YouTube. This is at:

<https://cccb.org.uk/youtube-index/>

In providing this index to YouTube training webinars and videos, they recognise the special efforts of ringing organisations, guilds, associations and individuals who have gone the extra mile to keep ringers engaged and learning during lockdown. Hopefully you will find things here which are useful.

Simon Linford, CCCBR President

The Guild Annual General Meeting and Report

The Standing Committee of Guild officers has been considering what to do about the Guild AGM and Ringing Festival planned for Saturday 27th June and the officers have agreed to the following proposals.

Annual Report

John Foster has completed the 2019 Annual Report and we considered options for distributing it if it were printed; we concluded that as we do not currently hold a postal address for all members there is currently no reliable way for us to distribute a printed copy to each member.

Therefore John Foster has produced a redacted version of the report which would be suitable for publishing on the Guild website; we have taken advice from Robert Brown and the redacted version has been reviewed to ensure that personal information is removed. This version of the 2019 Guild Annual Report is now available for download from the Guild website at the following location: https://devonringers.org.uk/gdr-media/pdf/agmdocs/Annual_Report_2019_Web_Version_final.pdf All members are invited to download and read this version of the report before the AGM on 27th June. Could I please draw your attention to the introductory notes written by our Guild President Alison Waterson which explain the unusual format used on this occasion.

Annual General Meeting

It now seems clear the current social distancing measures will not have been relaxed sufficiently for us to meet as planned on 27th June but our rules require us to hold our Annual General Meeting before the end of June.

So we propose to meet via the Zoom videoconferencing service on Saturday 27th June; we are fortunate that Steve Coleman is still available to speak to us on that day and that he is happy to do so via Zoom so we will be able to offer members more than just a business meeting. We will include telephone access so that members with no internet access are able to join the meeting by dialling in via their landline or mobile.

The details for joining the virtual Annual General Meeting have been published in the online version of the Annual Report and circulated by email via branch Secretaries. They are also available from the advert in this edition of *Ringing Round Devon*.

Attending a virtual meeting is rather different to a physical attendance and so we propose trimming the agenda right down with the aim that the combined business meeting and Steve Coleman's presentation last no longer than 90 minutes.

With this restricted time available we propose the time-consuming election of officers will be carried out *en bloc* this year.

We appreciate these proposals are rather different to the way we have previously done things but hope you will understand the unusual circumstances we find ourselves in and our desire to keep the business of the Guild ticking over until the time comes when we can resume ringing and meeting again.

John Martin

So what is Zoom and how can I join in?

At the start of the lockdown on March 23rd nearly everyone was required to stay in their homes apart from essential trips to the shops and an hour long walk each day. The Guild responded very quickly and started paying a subscription for the video conferencing program, Zoom.

What does Zoom provide?

Zoom connects computers together over the Internet. It provides audio and video links between participants using a broadband link to your

home. If broadband is not available it is also possible to join in (audio only!) using a normal telephone connection (either landline or mobile).

Zoom does provide an on-line 'chat' facility where you can type a message to everyone, or to specific users. This can be useful if you don't have a camera or microphone, or if you want to ask a question without disturbing the presenter.

What do I need to run Zoom?

The most important requirement to use Zoom is a broadband link into your home. This may be used by a computer directly plugged into your router or connected via a wireless link.

What sort of Computer do I need?

Zoom is available on almost everything that you can imagine that can connect to the Internet. The first choice would probably be a desktop or laptop computer. In order to participate fully it would need to have a camera and microphone (often termed a web-cam) but even without this you can still see and hear what is going on. Most modern laptop computers have a camera and microphone built-in, so can be used directly.

The Zoom program (or 'app') is also available on tablet computers, such as an iPad or Android tablet. These generally include cameras and microphones so are easy to use. My old iPad 2 works fine.

As a last resort, a smart phone that can connect to the Internet can be used. It will inevitably have rather a small screen but that is certainly better than nothing.

I don't have a Camera or Microphone on my Computer

You can still join the meeting and will be able to see and hear the other people and any presentations. However you will not be able to contribute apart from the text 'chat' facility.

Web-cams are available cheaply although I understand that they are in short supply at the moment because of the large demand. However I did discover a program that you can run on a mobile phone and simultaneously on a PC to convert the phone into a web-cam, using the camera (front or back) and microphone on the phone to feed into the computer. DroidCam is available free of charge from the usual places and can connect using a wireless link to the computer. With a little work it can also communicate via a USB cable if that is preferred. Looking at the documentation most people seem to be able to use it with no problems, although one or two find it unsatisfactory. I have been using this for months now with no problems, and what appears to be a rather high-quality picture compared with some web-cams. The hardest problem is fixing the phone in the right orientation at the right height! You need a lot of blu-tack on the top of a monitor to hold the phone in place!

What do I need to install on my Computer?

Zoom will run in a web browser but you are recommended to install the Zoom program which is readily available free of charge from app stores and the Internet (<https://zoom.us/download>) – install 'Zoom Client for Meetings'. It should automatically install if you attempt to join a meeting from a web browser before the program is installed.

Zoom can be installed on tablets and smart phones from the usual places (Play Store or App Store).

Do I need to register with Zoom?

There is no need to register a username or password with Zoom. You only need to do this if you want to start (host) meetings yourself.

If Zoom is free, why has the Guild paid to register?

The paid version is necessary to host meetings that run for more than 40 minutes or have large numbers of participants.

How do I run Zoom?

All Zoom meetings have a unique number and a password, to stop people joining who are not entitled to. The logical way to join is to start the Zoom application, and to enter the number and password (no spaces) when prompted. You can then 'Join the meeting with video' or with just the audio if you prefer. A button on the screen lets you turn the camera on or off as you prefer during the meeting. I used this when I was following a meeting while in the bath!

A rather simpler startup procedure is possible which usually works. The calling notice will include a full web link (starting with 'https://...'). Clicking on this should open the page on the web program which will then start Zoom with the correct ID and password without you having to type it in. It will even download the Zoom program if this is the first time you have used it.

How do I get the Password and other Details for a Meeting?

The host of the meeting will distribute the identity of the meeting and the password, together with a web reference before the meeting starts. They may include the phone numbers which you can use if you want to join using a normal telephone. For the Guild AGM this information is in the Annual Report and also in the advert in this issue.

Telephone numbers are given for you to use if a computer link is not possible. These appear in a slightly odd format – the '+44' at the start is the International UK dialling code and should be replaced with a zero. The codes labelled to use from a mobile are only of use if they can be copied and pasted directly into the dialler on the phone in their entirety – they include the meeting identity and the password. The numbers to connect manually are given below this – you will need to enter the meeting ID and password on the phone number pad when requested.

My Camera and Microphone do not work

If you have more than one camera or microphone configured in your system you may need to configure Zoom to use the correct one.

I can only see one person at a time

Zoom will run in two different modes. To start with the person currently speaking will be shown large on the screen. The picture changes to follow different speakers. This mode works well on devices with small screens or during presentations by one speaker.

You can switch to and from a different view which shows all the participants at once by an icon at the top right of the screen (on a PC) or on the left on an iPad. In this case the current speaker is shown with a coloured border. This icon consists of a number of tiny squares, suggesting small pictures of all of the participants.

What is the idea of muting?

In large meetings, the smallest sound, such as a murmur of agreement or a cough, will cause the system to think that you are talking and switch to you. This can also happen if there is more than one person in the room and you think you are having a private conversation, perhaps to discuss the answer to a quiz question! To avoid this you can 'mute' the microphone (picture of a microphone with a line through it) while not talking. On some systems you can press and hold the space bar while talking, and the microphone will be automatically muted when it is released.

For presentations it is normal for the chair to mute everyone apart from the speaker to avoid any interruptions. This does make it a little difficult for the speaker as they get no feedback and can never be sure that there is anyone still listening – I know from experience!

Are there any protocols to follow?

There is nothing you really need to know. If you are using a camera the lighting can be critical to get a good image of yourself. Lighting should be from in front of you and not behind. Check your own image, make sure that you are central to it and close enough to the camera, and have a quick look at your background to make sure that there is nothing incriminating behind you!

In meetings with more than about 10 people it is probably best to mute your microphone unless you are actually speaking. And make sure that the television or radio is not running in the background.

I seem to be getting an Echo

Occasionally you find that you can hear an echo of everything that is said. This is a perennial problem with on-line audio – the sound from your loudspeakers is picked up by your microphone and retransmitted to everyone a brief moment behind. Zoom has sophisticated software that is designed to prevent this but it doesn't always work correctly. If there is an echo it could be you or anyone else. The simple test is to see if it stops if you mute your microphone. If you have two devices connected

in the same room this will always cause problems. If you listen with headphones (as many do) this completely eliminates the problem.

How can I try out Zoom without messing up a Guild session?

If you would like to try Zoom, then I am sure that there are many people around who are prepared to set up a test session and talk you through it over the phone if you wish. You could try your branch secretary, the Guild secretary, or if you prefer I am happy to try it with you at almost any time. Just drop me an email to arrange a time.

Ian Campbell

Ringling during Lockdown

In order to cope with the addiction that is ringing, there has been some rapid software development for use over the Internet.

Ringling Room has been developed by two ringers in Boston, USA, who have made it freely available to everyone. It runs in a normal web browser and once connected will display pictures of between four and twelve bell ropes. You can choose which bell to ring and each time you press a specific key (most people use the space bar) that rope will move and the bell will ring. The other ropes can be controlled by users in different locations – even all over the world. See <https://ringingroom.com> for further details.

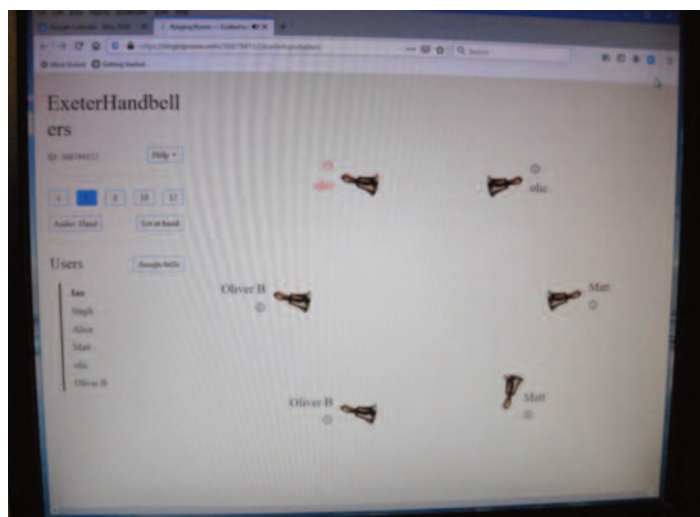


The virtual Ringing Room

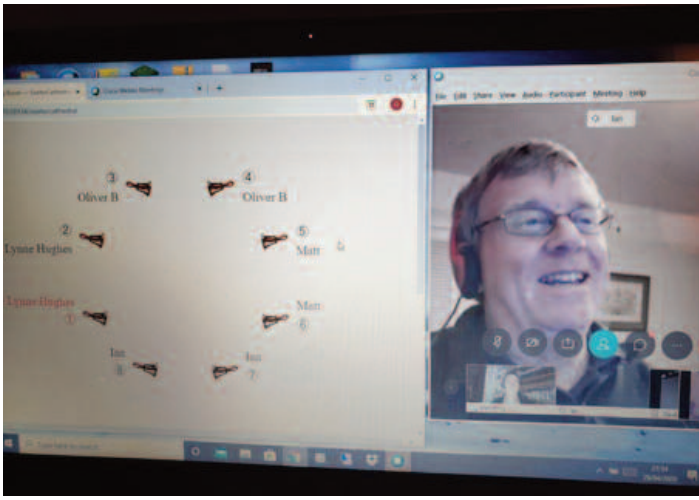
The experience is a little different (!) from ringing normal bells, but quarter peals, and even peals have been rung on Ringing Room. Some local ones are detailed later in this issue.

It is possible for one user to ring two bells ('J' and 'F' keys) and an option enables the sound and pictures to represent handbells rather than bell ropes.

Several years ago software was developed to use ActionXL motion sensors connected to the computer to control pretend handbells, using Abel or BelTower. A new version of Handbell Manager has been produced to allow these to be used with Ringing Room.



The Handbell Screen



Handbell ringing with Ringing Room with the editor on Webex

Muster provides for versions of the Abel program to communicate with each other over the Internet. An option on the new Handbell Manager also enables motion sensors to be used with Muster.

Handbell Stadium 3D works only with the ActionXL motion sensors but provides rather more control of the bell movement. It can be used locally, with realistic images of moving handbells and the computer ringing the other bells, or online, where real users ring the other bells. A lot of effort has been put into reducing the time lag produced by the network, and the software is being constantly updated. An Exeter group is using this for regular handbell sessions.

One of the options is to have images of real people ringing the bells. At the moment the only one available is the rather sinister 'men in black'! For more details see <https://handbellstadium.org/>



Ringing handbells with the Men in Black – each is actually another user

With all of these programs there is an additional complication which needs to be considered, which is that the ringers need to communicate with each other before, during, and after ringing – if only to decide what to ring, when to start, putting in Bobs, and when to stop ('That's all'). The application may provide a 'chat' facility so that you can swap text information, and Ringing Room can be made to shout out Bobs and Singles (and others) from keystrokes, but in reality you also need an audio and, perhaps, video link up.

Where possible Zoom can be used (provided that the Guild licence is not already in use at that time) but there are other possibilities. We have tried Webex and Discord (both of which are freely available) with reasonable success. A certain dexterity at moving windows around to fit everything on the screen at once is necessary, especially on a small laptop, and even more so if you include Handbell Manager and DroidCam! I cheat because my PC has two screens connected to it, so I can use one for Zoom and the other for the ringing applications. In fact this is not too difficult to set up if you have a spare monitor, two video connections on your computer, and appropriate cables.

And then, to make it even more difficult, the sound produced by the bells will be picked up by the microphone and produce an echo. So you either have to mute your microphone while ringing or use headphones. One difficulty is keeping all the wires tidy, with two for the motion sensors, and others for the microphone, camera, and everything else that a computer needs, such as keyboard and mouse. Some people run the two applications on different machines but listening to them both at once is difficult using only one pair of headphones.

Despite all the difficulties many people have got it working OK and simulated ringing sessions are being booked for various groups almost every day. John Martin runs a session open to anyone on a Thursday morning if you wanted to have a go.

Ian Campbell

Smile and give to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund

Support the DCBRF with Smile.Amazon

Like all charities big and small, we face a significant decrease in income during 2020, and potentially beyond, whilst church bell ringing isn't allowed. Last year the Fund received income of £3,500 from the Guild and its Branches, a similar amount from the Association (received in early 2020) and over £5,000 from individual towers, inspections, talks and other ringing activities. That's a total of £12,000 which is about half the income the Fund received in 2019. All of this income was dependent on us being out and about and going ringing, something we all know is unlikely to be the case for quite some time to come. With the prospect of no peals, quarter peals, visiting bands, meetings, striking competitions, the Association Draw being cancelled, even when we do go back ringing (see latest guidance from the Central Council) it is hard to see where a large percentage of our normal income will come from.

The other half of the Fund's income is from the Smale Bequest but, as with all investments, their value has fallen due to stock markets crashing worldwide. Continuing financial uncertainty will inevitably have a knock-on effect to that income too and this will almost certainly be impacted for several years.

You may think, well the bells aren't being rung so why do they need restoration, which is a good question. However, for those who have been around ringing for any length of time know that bells need to be rung regularly. Leaving them idle for some time could find us with all sorts of issues when that great day arrives and we are allowed back in the tower.

So, what's the solution? One very simple and quick way to 'give' to the DCBRF without it costing you anything is to sign up to Smile.Amazon. In their own words, AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on amazon.co.uk. The difference is that when customers shop through the website smile.amazon.co.uk Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) to the charity of your choice, in this case the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund.

I have to be honest that it's very difficult to sit here and ask for your money at this time. However, if internet shopping isn't your thing and you have no desire to start now, then maybe think about the money you have saved by not being able to go ringing. Perhaps your fuel costs, the price of your weekly pint, the ringing fees for peals, quarters and competition entries. The Trustees all appreciate that everyone has been affected by this pandemic in some way but if you feel you can give even a very small amount then we will be extremely grateful. At present, using internet banking is the best way to make donations and Mary Mears, the Fund's Treasurer, will be very happy to provide the DCBRF account details needed to donate online. Depositing cheques will hopefully become easier in the months ahead. Mary's email address is dcbrftreasurer@devonringers.org.uk.

Grants paid in 2019 - £21,000 (6 projects)
 Income received in 2019 - £22,800
 Grants paid to date in 2020 - £6,900 (2 projects)
 Income received in 2020 to 1st April - £6,800
 Grants agreed but not paid at 06/04/20 - £32,000 (9 projects)

Sign up to help the Bell Fund

All you need to do to sign up is to click on this link and select the charity. <http://smile.amazon.co.uk>
 I typed in 'Devon Church Bell' and it's the only one that comes up. Select it and then click the box to say you understand that you must always start at smile.amazon.co.uk and the next screen you can start shopping. It took me about a minute to do.

You will find all the usual Amazon choices and your account details will still be there. You will notice at the top it says you are supporting The Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund.

Like every other charity in the country we know our income will be much lower than normal this year so every penny counts. Please take a minute or two of your time, then use Smile.Amazon for each purchase and the DCBRF will benefit. Thank you.

Janet Deem

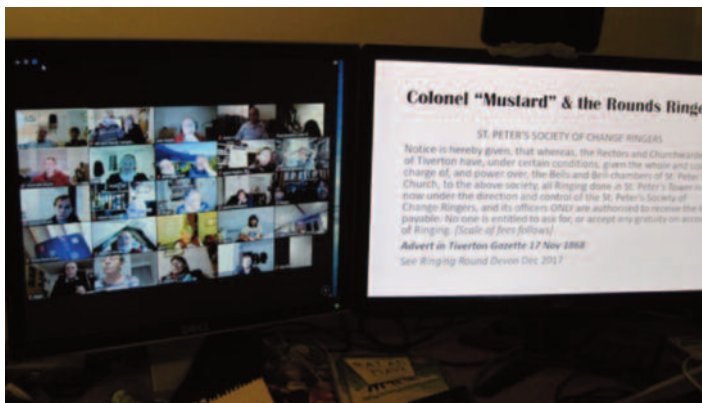
Zooming with the Guild

How quickly the connotations for the word 'Zoom' have changed during these extraordinary times! A word that used to be defined as 'move or travel very quickly', or 'camera shot changing smoothly from distance to close-up, or vice versa' has been transformed in our consciousness to mean a media platform for keeping in touch, meeting our friends, and running a business.

In the early days of Covid-19 lockdown, our energetic general secretary, John Martin, realised that we were all in it for the long haul and set about finding ways to hold the Guild membership together until happier times when ringing could recommence. He very quickly took out a subscription to Zoom and set up the Internet Pub sessions where ringers could 'meet' for a pint and a post-practice chat.

These have really gathered in momentum and popularity over the weeks, not only at Guild level but also within the various branches and even at individual tower level. The scope of the Guild sessions has increased to include some very varied and ingenious subjects; even the general chit-chat has, on the occasions I've attended, widened to include lots of 'off piste' topics – gardening, baking, wine appreciation, empty supermarket shelves, bee keeping, to name but a few. Here are some of the structured evening sessions we have been treated to:

- Presentation on the setting up of Ringing Room, and live interaction with ringers from Boston, USA
- Personal experience of climbing Everest (Peter Ellis)
- Talk on bell ringing, Italian-style (Ian Campbell)
- Talk on ringing tours past and present of New Zealand (Peter Bill), attended by several friends and family members from New Zealand
- General knowledge quiz nights (quizmasters: Rosie Hilling, Charlotte Boyce, Lynne Hughes)
- Where's that tower? Photographic quiz (Wendy and Ian Campbell)
- 'Magic lantern' slide show on the history of ringing in Tiverton (Les Boyce)
- When the Ladies Joined In (Janet Ritterman, Mid Devon Branch)
- Talk on the history of ringing (Richard Johnston)



A good attendance at the talk from Les Boyce

Our intrepid secretary continues to host the Internet Pub sessions and provide a bit of 'something for everyone', but it's hard work to come up with new ideas . . . and then to find a speaker! If anyone has a brainwave for entertaining the membership, then please do get in touch – secretary@devonringers.org.uk

In the meantime, our abundant and grateful thanks go to John and Charlotte for ensuring that we all have an opportunity to interact with our ringing colleagues across the ether during the period while unable to meet in the flesh.

Wendy Campbell

Library in Lockdown – but still open all hours!

We may be unable to get access to much of the library collection at St Petrock's in Exeter at present, but the Librarian has been busy answering queries and signposting resources, one enquiry coming from as far away as Florida! All the manuscript material, such as minute books and the first Peal Book, resides in Tiverton along with a duplicate set of Guild Annual Reports from 1877. The Annual Reports are frequently the first port of call for an enquiry and an invaluable source for the history of the Guild and of individual towers.

But not every enquiry needs to come to the Guild Librarian. There is much material you can access for yourself using a home computer and the internet. The Library's 'On-line Publications' page gives links to much of the material available locally and nationally. For Devon there are:

- The **Guild Reports** for the First and Second World War periods (1910 – 1920 and 1936 – 1950)
- The Guild's **First Peal Book** covering the period 1875 – 1909. There is also an index of the peals available.
- Issues of **Ringing Round Devon** from 1997 available on the Guild Website.

Nationally, you might consider looking at:

- Copies of **old ringing books** which can be downloaded from the Whiting Society's website. Titles include the early texts *Tintinnalogia* and Hubbard's *Elements of Campanologia*, many of the 19th and early 20th century county bell histories and the books of Ernest Morris on the history of ringing.
- **Ringing Journals** covering the period from 1870 to 1970 can be read in annual volumes on the Central Council Library pages. Titles include *Church Bells*, *Bell News* and *The Ringing World*.
- **Biographies** of past ringers can be found on the Central Council pages. Most of the entries are for ringers who were also members of the Council, but a much wider group of people is covered by the obituaries in the journals. An index to the obituaries in *The Ringing World* is available.

Links to all of these sources are on the 'On-line Publications' page at: <https://devonringers.org.uk/guild/library/on-line-publications>.

Local newspapers are a valuable source of information about ringing particularly in the 19th and the first half of the 20th centuries. While many titles are still only available in local libraries in printed or microfilm files, it is worth exploring the **British Newspaper Archive** online at:

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>

You can search for references free of charge, but will need a subscription to download the full text of articles. There are various subscription options including a one-off package of 40 pages for £20. For the 18th and early 19th centuries the series of newspaper extracts compiled by Cyril Wratten and John Eisel, *Order and Disorder*, may help and there is a consolidated index for Devon references on the On-line Publications page. Anyone wanting to follow up a reference from any of the five volumes should contact the Librarian (librarian@devonringers.org.uk).

Why not use this time in lockdown to research the history of your tower, well-known ringers of the past or the history of ringing generally? Normally your tower's records and memorabilia (minute books, certificates, photos on the walls, peal boards) would be the starting point, but much can be discovered from your desktop at home. For an example of the project that may be possible go to the 'Devon Ringing History Group' page (<https://devonringers.org.uk/home/ringing-history>) to view the presentation about St Peter's, Tiverton. There is also a guide to researching the biographies of ringers there.

Happy hunting!

Les Boyce, Guild Librarian

Things to do during lockdown

A ropeful of resources for ringers during COVID19 and beyond

ART (Association of Ringing Teachers) has put together a webpage listing useful resources aimed at ringers while they are excluded from their towers. The list is freely available on the ART website at:

<http://ringingteachers.org/resource-centre/COVID19-ringing-support>

There is a wide range of resources for people to get stuck into:

- Virtual platforms to allow you to ring with others (such as Ringing Room and the like)
- A guide to video conferencing and using social media to communicate with your band
- A guide to the software for practising at home (Abel, Beltower, Virtual Belfry)
- A list of the growing number of resources on guild and district websites
- Links to YouTube tutorials, podcasts and blogs
- Quizzes

ART hopes to launch a new online learning portal shortly and you can register for more information. More locally the Troyte Ringing Centre has produced three learning packages which are available at:

http://www.troyteringingcentre.org.uk/TRC_packages.htm.

They cover Plain Hunting, Plain Bob Doubles and Moving on from Plain Bob.

A return to our towers may be a little way off still, but there is plenty material out there to enable us to keep 'match fit' in the meantime quite apart from what's already on your book shelves.

Les Boyce

Norman Mallett: a footnote



L to R: David Parsons, Cyril Deem, Jill Brittain, Michael Chilcott, George Evenden, Tom Southam, Roger Fry, Jim Diserens, John Hill, Norman Mallett, Mark White, John Chilcott, Mrs Kingcott (not in the peal attempt), William Kingcott

Norman achieved much in ringing in Devon, but one achievement I claimed on his behalf in his obituary, which appeared in the December 2019 edition of *Ringing Round Devon*, was in error. In his peal book, given to me by Mariella to pass on to the Guild Library, is a page with the handwritten caption 'Society of Roving Ringers, Stedman Cinques, Exeter Cathedral, Oct 1951.' Below that are the names C Deem, M Chilcott, G Evenden, R Fry, J Hill, T M White, D Parsons, Jill Brittain, T Southam, J Diserens, N Mallett, J Chilcott, Mrs & Mr J Kingcott – more names than ropes for a peal of Cinques. Perhaps there was a strapper, and another ringer gatecrashed the photo.

The photograph that had accompanied the caption had mysteriously disappeared, but we had a clue: C Deem, and his home tower, Exmouth. Neil and Janet Deem were able to follow that lead. They contacted Chris Caryer, Archivist for The Society of Roving Ringers, who made it clear that a peal was attempted but lost. Cyril Deem's diaries reveal that 'it came to grief after 75 minutes when the ringer of the 11th gave up'. Chris Caryer could do better than give details of the failed attempt; he was able to scan and send a copy of the missing photograph, a clipping from a press report. Norman's peal book is now complete in that respect. He was very proud to have been a founder member of The Society of Roving Ringers, hence his inclusion of this photograph and my confusion. When a peal of Stedman Cinques was later scored at Exeter Cathedral by the Roving Ringers, Norman was unfortunately not in the band.

Having corrected that error, there is a series of omissions from the December 2019 obituary. Mike Mears was able to add from his encyclopaedic knowledge of Devon peal ringing that Norman called the first peal of Yorkshire by a resident Guild band – that was at Heavitree on 25th January 1964. He called the first peal of Superlative which was at East Budleigh on 14th March 1964. He was also in the first peal of Surprise major by a resident Guild band – Cambridge at Wolborough on 20th January 1956. A peal of Cambridge was rung at Wolborough on the 50th anniversary and at that time Norman and John Scott were the only surviving members of the band. He also took part in the first peal of Surprise Royal by a resident Guild band – Cambridge on the front ten at Exeter Cathedral on 22nd September 1984. He had long since given up peal ringing when we rang the first Surprise Maximus by a resident Guild band (13th November 1993 at All Saints, Worcester).

Many thanks to Mike, Neil, Janet, Chris and – posthumously – Cyril for shedding light on these details of Norman's significant contributions to ringing in Devon and further afield.

John Steere

Concerning the Society of Roving Ringers peal at Exeter, in the peal the Tenor was rung by William Kingcott and Cyril Deem, so I assume that they were also ringing it for the failed attempt. There had only been one single handed peal at Exeter at that time; Bill Pye rang it to a peal of Caters, having rung the tenor at Exeter St Sidwell to a peal in the morning. There had been seven single handed peals before the new headstock was fitted in 1990 although there have been a lot more since.

There is a peal board at the Cathedral for the 1952 peal, provided by John Hill. At the time it was the youngest band to ring a peal at Exeter, with an average age of under 21. He is the J Hill in the photograph and although he and Norman knew each other very well, they only rang one peal together - Stedman Caters at Wells Cathedral on 14th February 1952, before I was born!! John told me that Norman was originally down to strap the tenor for Bill Kingcott, but they met short so they drafted in David Parsons' brother to strap the tenor and Norman rang inside. Surprisingly it was the only peal of Stedman Caters that Norman rang.

John rang in the peal we rang at Pinhoe in memory of Norman in December; very impressive for an 87 year old.

Mike Mears

Exeter Branch

Exeter to retain 12 Bell Trophy for another year



The Taylor Trophy for the winner of the 12-bell competition
Currently in Exeter Cathedral

Last year Exeter Cathedral hosted the National 12-Bell Final. The Exeter team won the competition, giving long term winners Birmingham something to think about! The win was not forecast or expected but the roars of appreciation for both the volunteers and the local band were something very special for those that were there in a packed Cathedral (or watching online) and will not be forgotten in a long time.

But what happens in 2020?

The competition venues are usually planned three or four years in advance with the eliminators this year being held at Aston, Walsall and Chester. Due to their win in 2019 the Exeter team was seeded in the top three (for the first time) so couldn't be drawn against any of the top bands. Unfortunately, as seems to often be the case, the Exeter team was drawn to ring at the furthest possible venue: Chester!

This year the Exeter team had a squad of thirteen which included a few changes to the line up from 2019 and brought in some of the younger members of the Cathedral band. January and February saw several practices at local venues ahead of a long day trip to Chester at the beginning of March for a practice visit on the bells in the detached Addleshaw tower. The method for 2019, Cambridge S Maximus, went well and confidence grew - progression to the June final at Sheffield was looking likely.

However, within less than a week the shutdown happened. All teams had practised and were looking forward to the eliminators but of course the COVID-19 pandemic took over. The 12-Bell Committee had to take



The Addleshaw tower in
Chester which houses the
ring of twelve bells

the very difficult decision to cancel the competition for 2020: at the time many options were thought to be possible but after long discussions the cancellation happened. There was a rather fun simulated eliminator on Facebook on the day of the eliminator in which Exeter were declared the winners but we will never know how things would have panned out for any of the teams!

As the 2020 competition has been cancelled, Exeter will hold the trophy at the Cathedral until the 2021 competition. It is planned that the final next year will be held at Guildford Cathedral. We'll wait to see which eliminator Exeter will be drawn at - Bury St Edmunds, Cornhill or Portsmouth - probably Bury if history has taught them anything!

But for those that will miss the competition, the 12-Bell committee and Matthew Tosh (the host of the excellent online YouTube broadcast) are arranging something special online instead for the 20th June, the day the Sheffield final would have taken place. It is hoped that this will include interviews from the broadcast archive, snippets of test pieces from different venues from the contest history and try to offer a comparison of how things have changed over the 45 years of the competition. Interviews with people who have been involved with the contest at different points in time are hoped to be included as well as people who rang in the first contest in 1975. It will also take interviews from those who have organised past contests who could give tips applicable to organising local striking contests, a discussion of current online ringing platforms and much, much more.

This will be a 'feel good' broadcast that can engage listeners around the UK, and indeed the world, and keep a positive momentum ahead of 2021. Check out the YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/National12Bell> where all details will be posted.

Paul Pascoe

New Peal Board for Exeter Cathedral



John Hill has created a new peal board for Exeter Cathedral to commemorate the half-muffled peal rung last year in memory of John Grandisson (after whom the tenor bell is named) who was Bishop of Exeter from 1327 until 1369. This will be installed in the tower as soon as access is possible.

Ian Campbell

Exeter Cathedral closed during Lockdown

After over two months of lockdown when our lives changed beyond our imagination, we are now seeing restrictions eased and the prospect of life beginning to return to near normal. Our churches will gradually re-open, for private prayer, for ceremonies, and in time for worship, and we all hope that our bells will be able to call people to that worship. The phrase 'new normal' has been much used, but for Exeter Cathedral this will mean a very altered reality – hugely reduced numbers of visitors, no concerts or events, smaller congregations, and likely even no choir for many months to come. All this will lead to a devastating impact upon the Cathedral's finances, with a potential predicted income loss of over £800,000 this year.

Earlier this month, the Dean of Exeter, the Very Reverend Jonathan Greener, launched an urgent appeal for financial contributions; Exeter Cathedral is the mother church of the Diocese, an unsurpassed jewel in our county, the heart of choral music, and a place where people come to worship, to engage and to learn. It is also a community of staff and volunteers who all work tirelessly to support the Cathedral's present and future existence.

As one of those volunteer teams, the Exeter Cathedral Society of Ringers have recently voted to make a generous donation to the Dean and Chapter's appeal; this proposal, made by our treasurer Pauline McKenzie, was supported wholeheartedly by our members.

We look forward to the Cathedral re-opening, it may be a long journey ahead but we hope for better times, and if any tower or individual wishes to find out more information or to donate towards this emergency appeal, please just follow the link below.

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/support-us/how-to-donate/>

Clare Griffiths

Large Bell found in Montenegro?

Here are some photos of our Adriatic cruise this time last year. We flew to Dubrovnik where we joined the ship. We sailed through the night and docked the next morning in the small town of Bar in Montenegro. A small boat then took us to the town itself where we discovered this rather impressive bell. However it is not quite what it seems as it is made of fibreglass but I couldn't find out much about it other than it was made for a film some years ago but is now permanently displayed on the harbour side. The photo with Lesley gives an idea of its size.



Michael Cannon

Bells and Steam come together



I came across this the other day. It is something I found in a junk shop in Bristol about 50 years ago and I was instantly attracted by my passion for ringing and steam engines and here they are all in one!

The sign on the rear of the living wagon states 'Weight of bell 16 tons 14 cwt 2 qtrs. Bell and wagon 22 tons'. This, according to Dove, is the exact weight for Great Paul which hangs in St Paul's Cathedral and is the largest bell in the country. The engraving is reasonably accurate with one traction engine hauling the bell and the second traction engine hauling the living wagon and water cart. There would have been a crew of four plus a 'boy' whose job would have been to cook for the men and light the fires in the engines every morning. As you may know Great Paul was cast by Taylors so the journey from Loughborough to London would have taken several days.

The details on the two traction engines is a little lost but they look very similar to the products of John Fowler & Co. of Leeds. The details on the wagon are quite good even down to the handbrake handle which can just be seen left of centre of the rear axle and which would have been wound on by hand by someone sitting on the central drag pole. The rear axle could have been moved forwards or backwards on this pole to accommodate the load. The engraving even depicts a man with a red flag walking ahead of the lead engine. The date of 1882 seems right too, a couple of years after the bells were cast.

Michael Cannon

David Hird celebrates his Birthday

Congratulations go to David on reaching 68. We had a small get together outdoors, observing social distancing, eating cake and drinking Prosecco. It was good to get together again, even if at a distance of two metres!



David doing his Tommy Cooper impression

Ian Campbell

Mid-Devon Branch Lockdown Handbell Project

When lockdown was introduced in mid-March, few of could have foreseen (and still can't) how long it's going to be in place. As some of you will know, my grand-daughter Sarah had her first birthday on March 21st and because of lockdown we were sadly unable to go and visit to wish her a Happy Birthday and share cake!

However, those of you who know me well will know I like to ring a quarter-peal to celebrate family birthdays, but this year it was not going to be possible. I needed a plan! Enter Debbie, my non-ringing wife who has supported my ringing for nearly 35 years, yet has always declined to become actively involved. Could we manage a couple of courses of Plain Hunt Minimus on handbells I wondered? Under the unique circumstances she agreed to give it a go.

'How do I hold them?' was her first question, so it was back to basics. Teaching anybody to ring tower bells or handbells takes a long time and we only had one day, so it was going to be hard work! It's amazing how much 'ringing jargon' and terminology we use and she knew none of it.

We managed some reasonable rounds after a while - good progress, and fortunately she has a good ear and a musical background, so maintaining a good rhythm came quite naturally. Next it was on to Plain Hunt - 'What's that?' she asked! 'Well' I said, 'you ring your 2 bells in rounds, then you cross them over and course to the back, then you cross them over and course back again'. Easier said than done - we took it very slowly...some time later we were ringing reasonable, if not slow Plain Hunt! Success, but it was getting late and her wrists were aching so that was it for Day One.

The next day was Sarah's birthday and the online virtual birthday party was booked for 2.30pm, so we spent part of the morning practising and getting faster. Come party time we were ready! We had managed a couple of courses during practice but I wanted to ring a 120 to make it a recognised length, and though I say so myself it went pretty well and was enjoyed by all the family listening online.

So, that was it - plan devised and executed and Sarah's birthday celebrated in true ringing fashion. But wait...could we possibly move on? Ideas were beginning to rush through my head. Could we possibly make this a longer lockdown project and build on what we had started? I tentatively suggested we could try Plain Bob - it was bit longer and not so repetitive. To my surprise Debbie agreed.

This definitely took a bit more work and lots of slow practice to get the dodges right, but eventually we were getting through courses with fewer and fewer mistakes and me doing less and less conducting. We eventually managed a 120 (5 courses) and then it began to dawn on me that we might even be able to ring a quarter-peal. Debbie seemed up for it until I told her 5 courses was less than 10% of the length, we needed to ring 53! A build-up of stamina, both physical (my bells are not small - tenor size 14) and mental was needed, so a few days further practice followed before we went for it. At the speed we rang it took 48 minutes but it didn't matter, we got there and Debbie had rung her first quarter, just nine days after picking up a pair of handbells for the first time.

The bells went back in their box...but then I had another idea. Easter was fast approaching and with lockdown continuing there was no chance of any normal ringing, so Part 2 of the project began to take shape. I told Debbie that if you ring a dodge on the front at the half lead instead of the back at the lead-end you get a new method called Reverse Bob...and if you do both you get another different method called Double Bob. Let's give them a try. By Good Friday things were progressing well and Reverse Bob was flowing nicely so we decided to go for a quarter on Easter Day. However, the Saturday practice went so well we just carried on - it seemed a shame to stop! Second quarter completed. A few days later we rang Double Bob, and we were getting faster, down now to a much more respectable 34 minutes. What should we do next? Consolidate! So a quarter in all three Plain Bob methods followed.

Like all good projects, they develop as you go along and I suggested we tried Reverse Canterbury next. 'What's that?' she said. I told her it's just like Plain Bob, except you make places instead of dodges, oh... and you ring 3 blows at the back. Again, easier said than done but after a couple of practices it was going OK. I suggested we rang the 3-method quarter again, but this time include some Reverse Canterbury. We had the excuse of The Queen's 94th birthday coming up, so we rang it for that. To cut a long story short, we then rang Reverse Canterbury, followed by Canterbury and Double Canterbury as single method quarters and all seemed to be going well. The final part of the plan was now apparent - we should try to ring all eleven standard Minimus methods to quarters.

So we started the Court methods...not so easy! It took a few days of practice to get to grips with these, the internal places causing a bit of a

problem, especially the 2nds from the back in Reverse and Double, which became known as hand brake turns! The six blows in these methods seems like a very long time in the same place and we felt they didn't flow as well as the others. However once we got used to things we rang the three Court methods over the next four days in early May. We were glad to have rung them and didn't expect we would need to ring them again, so just two methods to go now, St Nicholas and Reverse St Nicholas. These turned out to be our favourite methods of all and produce the music in a very pleasant way. They proved fairly straightforward to ring after the Court methods and were rung on consecutive days.

So we had done it! In less than 6 weeks Debbie had gone from non-ringer to completing the Standard eleven Minimus methods in hand. Huge congratulations to her... and I had completed them in hand as conductor.

Since then we have rung further quarters, in five methods to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day and eight methods, just for fun...except that led us to us wondering if we could, as some sort of grand finale, manage an eleven-method quarter. Better revise the Court methods, I thought. Just as well - we had completely forgotten them! Several attempts at the eleven followed, all without success - we were continually getting muddled with which work went with which method and one slip of position and you instantly have the wrong pair of bells on the front. We thought that would be it - eight methods appeared to be our limit - we couldn't see a way forward and resigned ourselves to falling just one hurdle short of our goal.

However, a chance phone call from Tim Bayton a few days later sparked us back to life - we couldn't stop now he said, 'Try ringing a quarter of the Court methods, then go for the eleven again.' We rang the three Court methods for Ascension Day with no problem - our problem was still changing into the Canterbury methods. More practice...and then we decided the only thing for it was to go for it. So, on Saturday 23rd May, after two lengthy false starts, we got the quarter in eleven methods. Not perfect, but wonderful to score it. That really was the end. The pinnacle of our Minimus handbell journey. Debbie said 'Never again!' After the stress and hard work together with hours of practice I agreed with her. We had done it - and she really can, after all these years as a 'ringing wife' now call herself a ringer.



Ringling for VE Day

Kingsteignton, Devon, Long Barton
Saturday, 23 May 2020 in 38m (14 in D)
1272 Minimus (11m)

72 Canterbury, 120 Double Canterbury, Reverse Canterbury, Single Court, Reverse Court, Double Court, St Nicholas, Reverse St Nicholas, Reverse Bob, Double Bob, Plain Bob

1-2 Debbie Birt

3-4 Nigel Birt (C)

Most methods : 1-2

1st 11 Minimus in hand and as conductor: 3-4

Completes our extended lockdown handbell challenge, proving perseverance pays off!

Nigel (and Debbie) Birt

East Devon Branch Stephen Coley



It is with great sadness we have to record the death due to a brain tumour of Stephen Coley, 55, the elder son of Richard Coley, a ringer at Ottery St Mary.

Stephen was taught at the age of 16 by Brian Pidgeon, and, surrounded by a good band at Ottery he made rapid progress. After leaving school, he gained a degree in History which was followed by a period of unemployment. Eventually he was given a post with Alan Baxter Associates, a large firm of consultant engineers in London. Initially his main role was to photograph and research historic sites where the firm were working, but later on he was promoted to other work.

Naturally he took the opportunity to ring at quite a number of towers, including St John at Hackney where he not only met Tracey his wife, but also rang his second and last peal. Tower captain for a time at Holloway, he played a major part in the restoration of the bells there, but then moved to Standon in Hertfordshire, where he also eventually became tower captain. He was always ready to get involved in the work of the local Associations and was particularly interested training new ringers and helping struggling towers. As a result, he became Chairman of his branch of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocese Association for a few years, and later on President of the Hertfordshire Association.

There is no doubt that Ottery's loss was London and Hertfordshire's gain, and he will be sorely missed by Tracey, Richard, and his two siblings, Jill and Andrew.

Richard Coley

'Despised by the ignorant'

I had told various people that my motivation for learning to ring was that one day I would like to ring the bells of Belbroughton, Worcestershire, where my family had lived for over 200 years, providing several Rectors, and building impressive houses which still stand, unfortunately no longer in family ownership.

My eldest daughter Victoria and my wife organised a surprise birthday weekend to celebrate my 80th. We went to Belbroughton to meet members of the History Society who shared with us various documents relating to my family history going back to 1610 when the earliest Tristram rector came to the village. I was also able to talk about some elements of my family history which were new to them. We then adjourned to the church where I was able to go into the bell chamber to see the bells, and then a band comprising Dave Bird, Rob Carlyle, myself, (John Tristram), Stephen Bedford, Rosie Marshall (Belbroughton tower captain) and Andrew Gray rang call changes and some courses of Plain Hunt on the various bells associated with my family.

The bells are now hung with the treble above the rest. Originally there were 2 bells higher into the spire and a first floor ringing chamber, but the tower swayed so much in full circle ringing that in 1852 a large piece

of masonry fell, narrowly missing people in the churchyard, and the tower had to be rebuilt. There was further work in 1895, a new timber frame with two bells above, but the swaying continued until ringing had to stop in 1969 for more repairs, when Taylors advised that the 13.5cwt tenor was too heavy for the tower structure and so the ring was modified to the current configuration.

The six bells installed in 1781 were rehung and the tenor was scrapped to make a new treble. The 'family' bells are consequently the 2: Rev Thos Tristram gave £5.5.0 (my great great great grandfather). The 3: John Tristram Jnr Esq gave £10.10.0 (attorney at law, his 1st cousin), and the tenor: 9.25cwt: John Tristram Senior Esq gave £50.0.0 (High Sheriff of Worcestershire, his great-uncle).

Ringling was always serious in this tower. A peal board of 1862 refers to: 'This noble art and science despised by the ignorant'

Next we went to the village hall, which is a Grade 2 listed tithe barn. It happened that the annual quiz of the northern branch of the Worcestershire ringers was being hosted by Belbroughton ringers, the previous year's winners. The three Tristrams formed a team. Sadly we failed to shine, though not being entirely disgraced, coming 11th of 22 teams. We were pleased to hear from the tower captain that our ringing was commended by entries on the village Facebook page.

The long weekend proved sunny and entirely pleasurable and I was able to visit other children and grandchildren on the way back to Devon. So that is one item off my bucket list.

John Tristram – Offwell Tower Captain

Ringling Matters

A recent article from the Association of Ringling Teachers included the following verse from a John Masefield poem, which seems very apt at this time:

What do they do, when all the ropes are still,
When silence creeps again into her bower,
When the stunned air is quiet from its thrill,
And he, who bears the lantern, locks the tower?

Well, what do they do? Despite all that is said about social media and the plague of the internet, it does have some advantages, especially now. There has been, (and will be again), a group who meet each Friday morning at Combe Raleigh. Naturally during this period of lockdown the meetings have had to be cancelled, as all churches are closed and ringling has stopped. The usual pattern was for the first hour and a quarter to be dedicated to those just beginning their bell ringling careers, then, after a coffee break, the more experienced ringers took the stage. Well we can't ring, but we can have our coffee break, even if it is in isolation in the safety of our own homes.

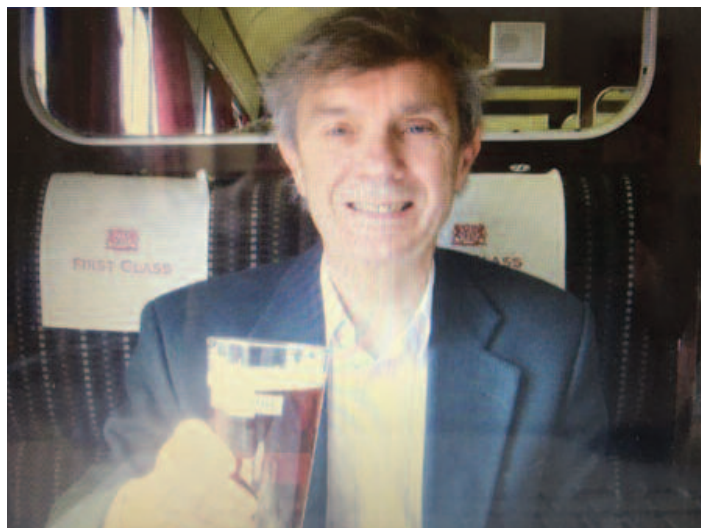
At the same time each Friday morning we have a virtual coffee break by courtesy of Zoom. All can see and hear each other, and it has been a lot of fun, with a quiz each week, jokes, odes and even songs, many composed and written by our fellow ringers. We are fortunate to have a music teacher in our midst who has taken the odd ode and put it to music. While she plays guitar and sings the verses, the rest of us bellow out the chorus. In this way we all keep in touch.



St Nicholas' Church, Combe Raleigh in Spring.

Trevor Hitchcock

North East Branch Terry Hargreaves, 1940 - 2020



Terry Hargreaves was born at Botley in Hampshire in 1940. He attended secondary school at Winchester Grammar and it was while he was travelling daily by train from Botley that he developed his love of railways. The journey involved a change of trains at Eastleigh, a key railway hub with plenty of interest; there was an engine shed and the Eastleigh railway works as well as plenty of mainline trains from Waterloo to Bournemouth and Weymouth. He went on to study Geography at Sheffield University.

Terry made his career in town planning, gaining his professional qualifications in his first post with Test Valley District Council in Hampshire. His career continued at Leek with Staffs Moorlands District and finally at Tiverton, where he moved in 1989 to take up a post with Mid Devon District as a planning officer.

Terry learnt to ring at Curdridge, near Botley in his teens and he rang at university in Sheffield, where he was a founder member of the University Guild of Ringers. On returning to Hampshire he became tower captain at the ring of 8 at Curdridge. In Tiverton he initially joined the St Peter's band, but later made St Paul's his home tower where he rang for over 20 years. For ten years he was the tower captain there and a ringling master for the North East Branch for three years. Between 2000 and 2014 he rang over 300 quarter peals, mostly with a group of Somerset ringers, and was an enthusiastic visitor to other practice nights around the area. Although he did not ring many peals, he was especially proud to have rung one in February 2010 for Sheffield Universities Guild which marked the 50th anniversary of first peal for the Guild in which Terry also rang.

Terry also had an interest in bell maintenance work and he assisted with the Huntsham bell restoration project in 2004. In addition, he liked organising outings and longer ringling holidays. A weekend visit to his old Hampshire haunts which he arranged for Tiverton ringers in May 1994 was particularly memorable and the photographs of this remain in St Peter's and St Paul's towers to this day. He was particularly active in arranging ringling in towers without regular bands for the Millennium on 1st January 2000.

Sadly, health issues eventually put a stop to his ringling as he began to be affected by Parkinson's and dementia from about 2015. Glen supported him in Tiverton as a partner and carer during his later years as his health deteriorated. In the last year of his life Glen and Terry's family felt he needed the constant care which only a care home could provide and he entered Chelston Nursing Home near Wellington where he finally died on 27th April. Terry was married three times and leaves two daughters and two sons and eight grandchildren.

Other interests

We have already alluded to Terry's great interest in, and love of, railways which started as a schoolboy. In later years he visited many preserved lines and followed the steam excursions on West of England main line at Burllescombe. A great enthusiast for real ale, he was a member of CAMRA, held shares in Marston's Brewery and made sure that all outings and practice night visits ended in a pub somewhere. He enjoyed the 'pub culture' and played skittles with the District Council team in and around Tiverton most weeks for over 25 years, often rushing from ringling a quarter peal on a Wednesday evening to take his turn in the skittle alley. He also enjoyed choral singing, belonging to the Sampford Peverell

singers where he met John Kape and persuaded him to return to ringing and join the St Paul's band.

As others saw Terry

'My main memory is of him being a super tower captain, who was always there and willing to listen and help when needed'. Many people have commented on Terry's quiet and unassuming manner, but also his willingness to help and professional and knowledgeable approach to both his work as a planning officer and as a ringer.

His slight eccentricities are also legendary. He liked to navigate on outings, from the back seat of the car, with an old out of date OS map (he had a vast collection of maps covering the whole country), but he could be easily distracted by the route of a now disused railway. Sometimes the route he had planned would come to grief as the car encountered a motorway or other new road which wasn't on his 1930s vintage map. Meanwhile, Wilf Dunn might be sitting with his arms folded in the front seat, muttering 'Well, I wouldn't have come this way'!

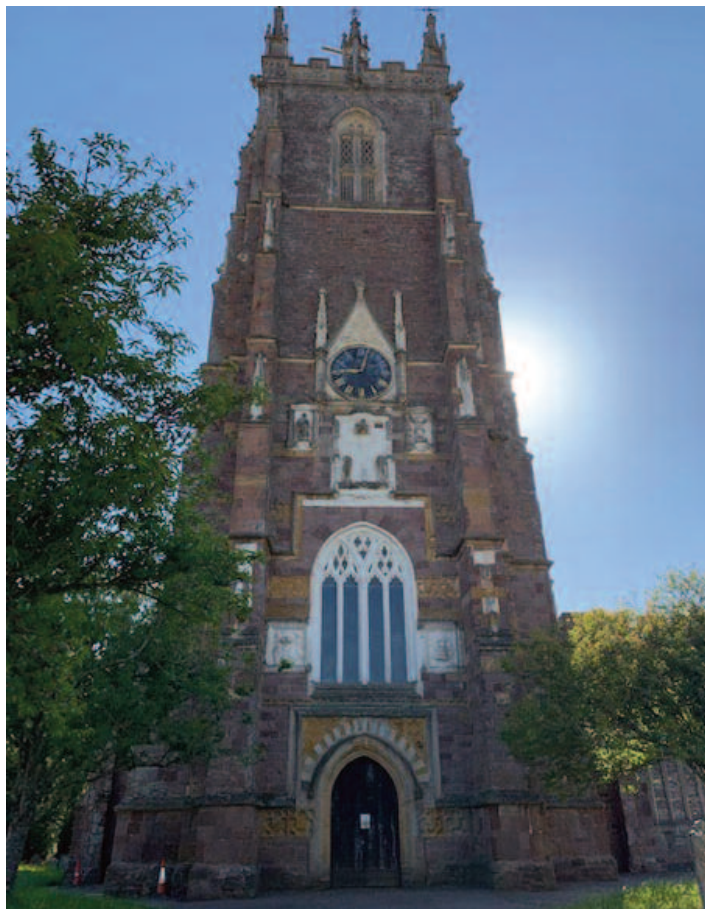
On Christmas Days he avoided family gatherings and preferred to walk with a lone companion on Dartmoor or Exmoor with a packed lunch (unless he could find a pub which was open). Then after Christmas he would organise an outing on New Year's Day, saying we all needed the exercise after eating too much over Christmas, but then promptly ate a large pub lunch. If he could indulge his passion for pork pies or pickled eggs on these occasions, so much the better.

Terry was undoubtedly one of the very few people who possessed their own funeral bier!

I am indebted to Glen Morgan, Lynda Smith, Paul Mainwaring, John Kape and Mike Hatchett for their contributions to these memories.

Les Boyce

100 Year Anniversary of the Dedication Ceremony of 8 to 10 Bells at Cullompton



St Andrew's Church Cullompton

Friday 5th June 2020 marked 100 years since the Dedication Ceremony for the augmentation of 8 to 10 bells at St Andrew's Church, Cullompton. The ring of 8 bells dates from 1746 and for a considerable time it had been evident that some of the bells would need to be re-cast and the oak cage replaced by a more substantial structure.

Fundraising achieved a sum of £1,100 from 700 subscribers. The oak

cage was replaced by an iron cage with steel girders, three bells were re-cast (bells 3,4 and 8) and all bells re-hung. Of the 2 new bells, the treble, given by the Vicar, the Reverend R.N.F Phillips, MA, is known as the Peace Bell and bears the inscription 'Thanks be to God for Victory and Peace, 1918'. Bell 2 (given by Mr A Burrow) is known as the Memorial Bell and is inscribed with the words 'To the glory of God and in memory of the men of Cullompton who died for their country in the Great War 1914-1918'. At this point Cullompton was the only parish in Devon, outside Exeter and Plymouth, to have a peal of 10 bells.

An engraved tablet was placed in the ringing chamber and inscribed as follows 'To the glory of God these bells were augmented from eight to a ring of ten and entirely re-hung by John Taylor and Co of Loughborough, dedicated by the Ven. Archdeacon Sanders, 5th June 1920 R.N Phillips, MA, Vicar E. Lawrence, F.G Sellwood and W.A Lawrence, churchwardens.' In the top corners are engraved designs of the two new bells with their names and donors' names.

The dedication service took the form of shortened evensong and a short peal was rung by the Cullompton ringers. Nearly 600 sat down to tea served on the vicarage lawn with continued ringing until 9pm!

The first peal (Grandsire Caters 5039 changes in 3 hours 23 minutes) on the new bells was rung on 3rd July 1920.

Once current restrictions have eased, we will find a way to celebrate!



Treble - Peace Bell



Bell 2 - Memorial Bell



The ring of 10 bells



Plaque in ringing chamber to celebrate 5th June 1920



Peal Grandsire Caters 3rd July 1920

Rachel and Chris Cozens

NE Branch Facebook Page - keeping in touch

We have set up a North East Branch Facebook page for you to keep in touch with other towers and ringers in the Branch as well as branch officers. The aim is for it to belong to you, the members, as much as to the branch officials. You are invited to contribute news of anything ringing-related you are doing or have discovered – bits of ringing history, useful programmes for learning methods, helpful YouTube videos or just news of how you or your ringing colleagues are coping in lockdown.

Please go to: https://www.facebook.com/Guild-of-Devonshire-Ringers-North-East-Branch-424106194319313/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel&eid=ARA1QVesajBQ9tBdlzPnOTzD8u2N-77T9ViuFNaxhP7XJuGa4ivgwJLsFjvoFgcchmFYP3p8ckNYmX

We look forward to reading your news!

Keeping 'Ringing Alert'

If you are at home in lockdown and have time to spare why not use it to learn a new method? As well as the ringing textbooks you might have to hand, you can of course use Google or your favourite search engine to find bluelines of most commonly rung methods. But how to get the best from the 'blueline'?

This useful YouTube video from Tom Hinks, 'How to learn a method', is worth investing half an hour to watch to gain some insights into learning methods effectively: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vppQJpt05Yo>. Tom, whom some will remember from his time at Exeter University, starts with Plain Bob Doubles and explains what the line is showing you, how to use place bells, understanding place notation and getting to grips with method structure. Although he uses a few more advanced methods to illustrate points, he doesn't stray too far from the basics and most people will find his explanations quite easy to understand.

Focus on striking – keeping 'match fit'

Something for call change ringers here. Try your hand (or should it be ear) at spotting the striking errors: <http://tadhill.com/ringing/#> - the listening tab exercises. I eventually sorted out four bells with striking errors in Reverse Canterbury Doubles after several attempts!

And here's a really good podcast on '15 tips to improve your striking': <https://funwithbells.com/15-tips-to-improve-your-striking/>.

Mark, Bev, Les and Sheila

South West Branch Kaleidoscope Session at Laira

In challenging times it helps to have something good to look back on, so I'd like to say a big THANK YOU to Alena Wardle for arranging the Kaleidoscope session at St Mary the Virgin, Laira on 7th March. As a learner, the prospect of ringing in an unfamiliar tower felt a bit daunting, so I must also thank the Tavistock ringers for encouraging me to attend. Having been well advertised, the session attracted twenty-six ringers; a lively mix of learners and experienced practitioners. The welcome was warm, the help was generous, and the running of the session was excellent.

Under Alena's direction, we familiarised ourselves with the ropes and bells before taking on new challenges, always secure in the knowledge that help was available. Exercises were tailored to the needs of each learner and we were all able to progress either to rounds, dodging, place changing, or a combination of all three. Thanks must go to all the experienced ringers who gave up their time to support the event, and without whom the progress made would not have been possible.



The session wasn't all work and thanks must also go to the St Mary's team who not only hosted the event but also kept the refreshments flowing, helping us all to keep warm in an interesting but very chilly church. As tea and coffee flowed, so did the conversation with invitations exchanged and visits to new towers planned. At the end of the session I left St Mary's full of optimism and the following week I made my first attempt at ringing plain hunt.



Much has changed in the world since then and as said, I am grateful to have the kaleidoscope session as something to look back on. Like all ringers, I am looking forward to the day when bells can be rung again, but I fear I will be severely 'de-skilled' by then and another kaleidoscope session will be needed!



Ringing at Laira

Elizabeth Field

Geoff Hill selected to meet HM The Queen

I am sorry to have to let everyone know that Geoff has had some extremely difficult weeks healthwise. He had a brain tumour successfully removed on 17th March, but he has been in and out of Derriford Hospital since 21st April with a rare lung infection, plus other issues. Valerie writes on 7th June as follows: 'Geoff came home from Derriford on 2nd June following 19 days in hospital. He is so pleased to be home and, although we are looking at a very long recovery period, he has such a positive attitude and hopefully my health will continue to stand up to be able to nurse him back to good health.'

Valerie also wants to let everyone know that Geoff was selected this year to receive the Maundy Money from HM The Queen at Windsor Castle, along with 93 other men and 94 women. Sadly, the presentation did not go ahead on Maunday Thursday because of the coronavirus lockdown, and in any case Geoff would not have been well enough to attend, but he was so proud to have been selected to receive such a great honour. In the event the actual Maundy Money arrived on the day in the post, accompanied by a lovely letter personally signed by the Queen, which Geoff was thrilled with.

We send Geoff and Valerie our very best wishes for a speedy return to health.

Wendy Campbell

A Lockdown Project

After bell ringing was stopped I thought I had it (the addiction) under control but then I started to see bells and method references everywhere. I re-caned the seat of a chair, the pattern of which is very much like learning a method, I planted some 'bell' peppers, a friend from Pudsey sent me a message, working from home listening to Radio 2 and hearing Ken Bruce play 'Ring my Bell', all of which must have been trying to tell me something.

I lasted until the 10th April when an old bicycle wheel and front forks that were just lying around caught my attention and an idea started to develop. What a great project for Easter weekend: why not make a dumb bell? How difficult can it be!

The fixing and mounting of the front forks in an upright position was straight forward enough, as was adding a couple of diving weights to represent the bell. The next challenge was to form the handstroke, for which a pulley is required; a pulley block from an old sash window seemed more than adequate to do the job and after a bit of adjustment the 'bell' was up and running.

The 'bell' was definitely missing a voice, so phase two of the project was started to make the bell talk. The starting point was Abel and the information on their website was really helpful to start to work out what was needed: a sensor with a 5V feed and output, a 9-pin serial connector and then the conversion to USB to fit a laptop, all three items available mail order from RS Components who were still open and delivering during lockdown (627-8388, 615-6143, 144-5699).

The parcel arrived and with, much excitement, the electronics were assembled and the sensor was tested using Abel. Amazingly it didn't blow the laptop up, it worked! The wheel rim was painted matt black and tin foil reflectors were positioned to create the bell strike with the correct timing. After a few practice rings a plain course of Bob Minor was rattled off remarkably successfully.

What next? A quarter peal, peal, learning some new methods, ringing on higher numbers or all of these? Only time, and an extended lockdown will tell.



The components of a dumb bell



Ready installed



Details of the sensor

Alena Wardle

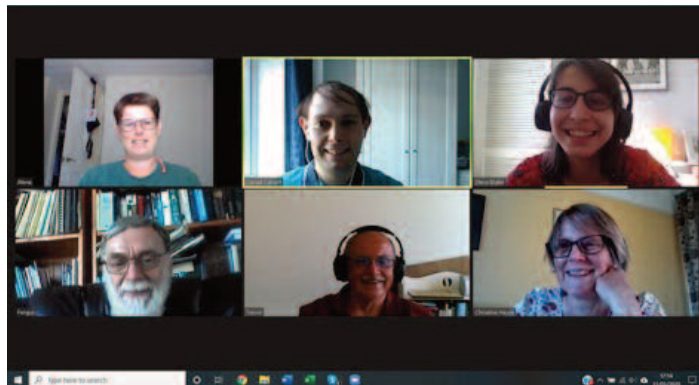
The South West Branch 'Stay Inn'

Lockdown hit us hard. The news that practice nights were abruptly halted was difficult to believe and I certainly struggled with the idea. However, the South West Branch has managed to stay in touch and we have been exceptionally productive with our time during lockdown and quickly built ourselves up to a full programme of weekly practices and socials.

'The Stay Inn' was our first invention. A Thursday night Zoom meeting (bring your own drinks/pets/make a fancy cocktail live on screen)... The Stay Inn is open to all, come for one drink or stay til nearly midnight... it'll certainly be strange going back to normal conversations which aren't interrupted by people's pets and which don't involve the phrases 'You're muted' or 'there's an echo somewhere!'

Ringling Room practices were next. We built it up slowly, growing as the website also grew. For anyone who has not yet tried Ringling Room,

it's become an excellent resource for us. We have several practices across the South West Branch and between them we have had many successes. Some of our newer learners who have never plain hunted before are now confidently hunting the treble and tenoring behind. It has opened up the opportunity to try some exciting new methods and continues to test us all (and our internet connections). To top it all off, a band of six of us were thrilled to score our first Virtual Quarter Peal!



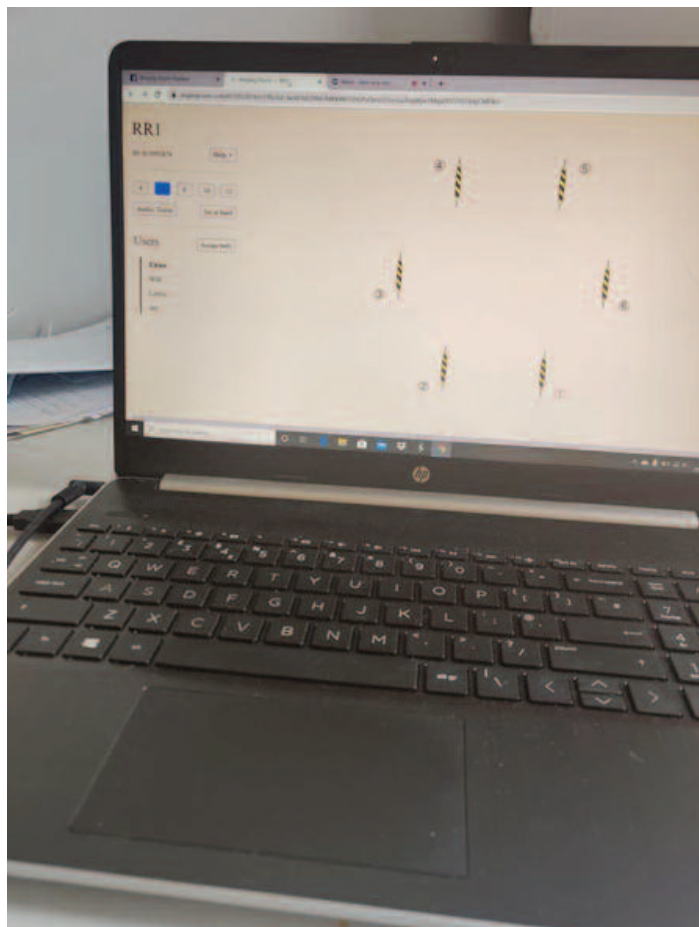
Clockwise from top left: Alena, Daniel, Elena, Christine, Trevor, Fergus

Ringling Room, Devon, Plymouth
Sunday, 31 May 2020 in 55m
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Christine Harris
- 2 Elena L Brake
- 3 Alena J Wardle

- 4 Daniel T Calvert (C)
- 5 Fergus M S Stracey
- 6 Trevor C F Vercoe

First virtual quarter peal for all



Ringling Room on a laptop

We have also enjoyed the activities organised by the Guild of Devonshire Ringers. Personally I feel that these events have helped me to get to know more people in the Guild. We have come together for socials, pub quizzes, presentations and Ringling Room practices and truly supported one another while the bells have been silent. I'd like to thank John Martin for organising the Guild events, and everyone for their contributions towards keeping us all connected.

Elena Brake

Guild Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 27th June 2020

Due to the Corona Virus this year's AGM is to be held online, members participating by either using the internet, a mobile phone or a landline (see details below). A redacted version of the Annual Report is available on the Guild website so that the officers' reports and the Guild accounts can be viewed and ratified.

1.45pm Waiting room opens

2pm Annual General Meeting begins;

to be followed by Steve Coleman presenting a discussion on 'Acquiring Ropesight and Managing Without it.'

Please note that to avoid interrupting the flow of the meeting and presentation there will be no admittance from the waiting room to the meeting after the start of the business meeting.

To join using the internet:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84240590994?pwd=bFpnZVFhSEkvYk9W](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84240590994?pwd=bFpnZVFhSEkvYk9Wdm1wRjhETmY0QT09)

dm1wRjhETmY0QT09

Meeting ID: 842 4059 0994

Password: 179904

To join using your mobile:

+442034815237,,84240590994#,,1#,179904# United Kingdom

+442034815240,,84240590994#,,1#,179904# United Kingdom

To join using your landline:

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom 4 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

+44 203 051 2874 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 842 4059 0994

Password: 179904 To find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kIOZ>

Other News

Updating Email Lists

Email received (name changed to protect the guilty):

Dear Sir

I am changing my email over to gmail.

Please could you arrange for my entries on the various Guild mailing lists to be updated?

Many thanks

Emily

Reply:

Dear Emily

You can update your email address yourself in the new system. There is no need to unsubscribe and re-subscribe. Login using the details in the monthly email and follow the instructions.

Matt Hilling

Note from Editor: All of the branch email lists have now been moved over to the new system. You should have received information as to how to amend your information yourself if required. It is repeated every month in case you lose it.

Notable Ringing Events

First Peal on Twelve (before lockdown!)

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Withycombe Raleigh, Devon, St John the Evangelist

Thursday, 12 March 2020 in 3h 18

5042 Cambridge Surprise Maximus

Composed by B D Constant

1 Alison C Waterson

2 Pauline McKenzie

3 Timothy M Bayton

4 John R Martin

5 James Kirkcaldy

6 Ian W Avery

First Maximus: 7.

7 William P Carew

8 Ian V J Smith

9 Richard Harrison

10 John A Foster

11 David Hird

12 Michael E C Mears (C)

Virtual Quarter Peal

Ringling Room, Devon

Friday, 29 May 2020 in 40m

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1-2 Sue Sawyer (West Raddon)

3-4 Lynne Hughes (Dawlish)

5-6 James Kirkcaldy (Exeter) (C)

Rung in compliance with CCCBR rulings using Action XL controllers and Zoom.

First in Ringling Room with handbells for all.



Clockwise: Sue, James, Lynne

Editorial

When I was a teenager I never found it easy to get up in the morning. This has remained with me all my life, as can be confirmed by my long-suffering wife Wendy. So when I learnt to ring in my mid-teens one of the downsides was having to get up early to ring for morning service on Sundays – although at that time the service was 11:00am! Since then I have rarely had a break from this discomfort Sunday after Sunday until now; with the lockdown to slow the spread of the Covid-19 virus tower bell ringing has been completely stopped – by law – a situation we could never have imagined in our wildest dreams. At last I can lie-in on a Sunday morning like most of the population.

So I didn't expect there to be much to report in this issue of *RRD* but I was inundated with articles as you can see. Many thanks to all those who contributed.

The Guild Secretary, John Martin, has done a wonderful job trying to keep ringers in touch with each other. The regular Zoom sessions seem to be attended by a number of regulars, but many seem to be afraid to use the technology. I hope that the article here will enable some more to join in, especially with the coming of the virtual AGM later this month. The regular talks are also worth attending, if only to watch and listen.

Thanks go to Janet Ritterman and John Foster who worked hard to get the March issue out on time. Unfortunately it was just too late to miss the lockdown so some copies are still waiting for distribution. It is unlikely that this issue will be printed, so if you want a copy for your tower perhaps you could print a copy yourself. Those who have paid for their own copies can rest assured that their subscriptions will be amended to cover only those issues that are printed.

Ian Campbell

Ringling Epitaphs

This is an epitaph in Batheaston churchyard but sadly neither the name of the ringer nor the date is recorded. This was at the time of the old six before they were rehung and augmented in 1967. The old fourth of the six was cast in 1390 by William Revel of London and is now hung above the bells and used as the clock bell but still retains its wheel.

Here lies an old ringer beneath this cold clay,

She died pulling the fifth off its stay.

If only the Master had heard her complaint,

She'd still have been living but now she ain't.

In remorse for the funeral he muffled the bell,

If he'd seen to the stay she'd still have been well.

If you know of any other interesting epitaphs for ringers I would be pleased to see them.

Michael Cannon

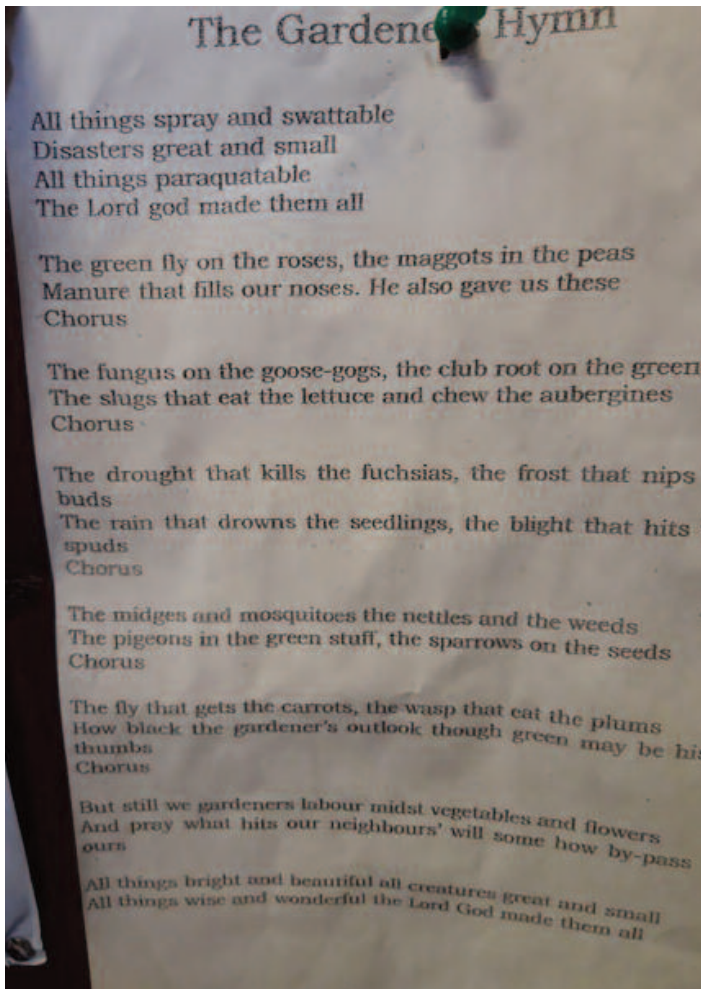
Where's that Tower?

While preparing the on-line quiz identifying Devon towers, I came upon this photograph which I was unable to identify, even though it is rather distinctive, especially with its white gates. No one doing the quiz knew either. Possibly in Somerset? If you know where it is please let the editor know!



Wendy Campbell

The Gardeners' Hymn



Found up a tower

Many ringers have been working hard in their gardens during lockdown. Singing the following hymn while working may help? To the tune of 'All Things Bright and Beautiful':

The Gardeners' Hymn

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.*

But what we never mention, though gardeners know it's true,
Is when he made the goodies, he made the baddies too.

*All things spray and swattable, disasters great and small,
All things paraquatable, the Lord God made them all.*

The greenfly on the roses, the maggots in the peas,
Manure that fills our noses, he also gave us these.

Chorus

The fungus on the goose-gogs, the club root on the greens,
The slugs that eat the lettuces and chew the aubergines.

Chorus

The drought that kills the fuchsias, the frost that nips the buds,
The rain that drowns the seedlings, the blight that hits the spuds.

Chorus

The midges and mosquitoes, the nettles and the weeds,
The pigeons in the green stuff, the sparrows on the seeds.

Chorus

The fly that gets the carrots, the wasp that eats the plums,
How black the gardener's outlook, though green may be their thumbs.

Chorus

But still we gardeners labour, midst vegetables and flowers,
And pray what hits the neighbours, will somehow by-pass ours.

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.*

Anon

A Ringing Quiz

Stolen from Facebook, with permission, so you may have seen it before.
Answers in next issue of RRD.

- 1) 40320 E on 8
- 2) J J P 12 P
- 3) L 2, T G, S G
- 4) 1668 T by R D
- 5) 2 and a P, 1 and T
- 6) 84 C in a P C of S T
- 7) C 3, M 1 and C in R
- 8) 82, W of E in H
- 9) 1295, L of the D B
- 10) H 4
- 11) RC is a 10 B C
- 12) 27 C B, R
- 13) 1001 C C P
- 14) 1677 C by F S
- 15) 2 S in H O
- 16) 10 and a H E in a Q P of D
- 17) The T S is a 10 B C
- 18) N 12 B S C
- 19) 705 C in C W B O S
- 20) D 4, M 2, D 4, P - the R for C M
- 21) 5600 M P of C
- 22) 8 S in 1 H
- 23) N S 23 S
- 24) 4 S G
- 25) 60 on T
- 26) 1717 F P of G C
- 27) 270 W of B B in H
- 28) Y O M 5 F S the B of S M
- 29) 14 C in a P of S R
- 30) 1993 F P on 16 T B
- 31) A 6 S the E of D
- 32) R I 2000
- 33) The 9 T by D L S

Provided by Matt Hilling

Liven up your Ringing



Latest ringing instructions at St Mark's, Exeter



The chime of six at Cambridge



Lesley Tucker, Graham Tucker and Peter Brown attempt to chime the bells at Cambridge

Pictures from New Zealand



Everything is larger than life!



A moving ad-hoc art installation in Christchurch – the 185 empty chairs reflect the 185 people who lost their lives in the 2011 earthquake



Road Kill – the owner was apparently unaware of it!



Room to relax between touches at Wellington Cathedral



Peter Bill (front) and Ian Hill (back) paddling their own canoe (actually it is a Kayak)

A simple guide to Do-It-Yourself Based on recent experiences during lockdown



The editor getting some exercise at Dunedin



The complete DIY toolkit

- If it moves and it shouldn't – use Gaffer tape
- If it doesn't move and it should – use WD-40
- If it leaks and it shouldn't – use PTFE tape
- If it falls apart when it shouldn't – use a cable tie
- And finally (thanks to Michael Cannon)
- If you can't fix it with a hammer it must be electrical

Ian Campbell



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