

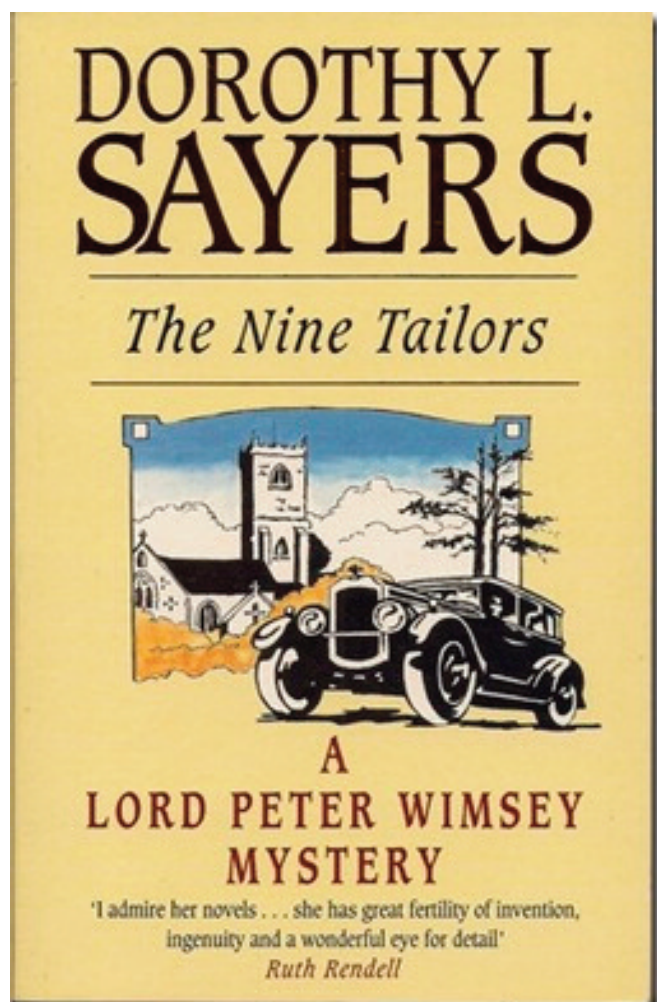
Ring Round Devon

LOCKDOWN ISSUE no.4

Guild Zoom Presentation

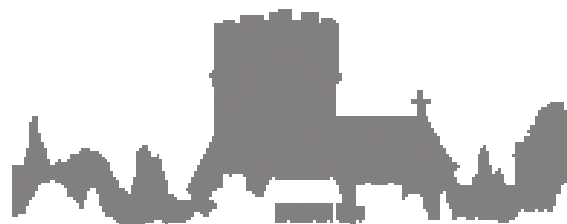
Inspired by *The Nine Tailors* –
by Dorothy L Sayers

on the 22nd February and 1st March



Our latest treat on Monday night, has been a series of presentations about and inspired by *The Nine Tailors* by Dorothy L Sayers.

The Nine Tailors by Dorothy L Sayers, published in 1934, is her ninth mystery novel featuring Lord Peter Wimsey. The mystery surrounds the discovery of a body of a man connected with the theft of an emerald necklace some twenty years earlier. The story starts with Lord Peter stranded in the Fenland village of Fenchurch St Paul on New Year's Eve after a car accident. He meets the rector who tells him that, due to an



THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

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influenza outbreak, the local band is a one ringer short for their New Year peal, so Lord Peter steps in to take part in a peal of 15,840 Kent Treble Bob Major.

'Nothing would please me more than to ring bells all day and all night. I am not tired at all...I would rather ring bells. The only thing which worries me is whether I shall be able to get through the peal without making stupid mistakes.'

Would we have the same reaction to ringing 15,840 of Kent Treble Bob Major?

The novel gives a detailed description of the fictional Fenland village, church, and bells. The Architect W J Redhead advised on the design of Fenchurch St Paul. Features of the church can be found in many churches in the Fenland area of East Anglia where Dorothy L Sayers grew up. The angel roof at St Wendreda's church, March, was inspiration for the angel roof at Fenchurch St Paul.



The angel roof at St Wendreda, March, Cambridgeshire

The author's research was extensive and took two years during which the book *Murder Must Advertise* was written 'to keep the wolf from the door' so that more time could be taken over the research for *The Nine Tailors*. She made a diligent study of Charles A W Troyte's *Change Ringing*, even writing out lead ends and transposing coursing orders. There are lots of references to bellringing, for example: likely mistakes to be made in Kent Treble Bob; the tenor ringer's preference for ringing Major over Triples; and a description of the shadows of the ropes on the ringing chamber walls. The book is written in four parts, much like a peal composition, each starting with a quotation from Troyte's *Change Ringing*.

After publication, Dorothy L Sayers continued to be a great advocate of ringing, writing letters to the national newspapers, and attending ringing society events such as the Ladies' Guild Silver Jubilee dinner in 1937.

Over two evenings, members and friends gave a series of short presentations on subjects inspired by the novel: starting with a summary of the plot and ending with an explanation on how the emeralds were discovered using Kent Treble Bob Major as the key to decipher a document giving clues to their whereabouts.

The presentations were informative and entertaining, each contributor had their own style and gave a flavour of the book. The presentations were:

Part 1

Summary of the plot
Dorothy L Sayers biography
Inspiration and research
Change Ringing by Charles AW Troyte
Lord Peter Wimsey biography and other novels
The aristocratic amateur detective
Radio and television adaptations
The Fens
Influenza in the 1930s
Lord Peter Wimsey's Daimler

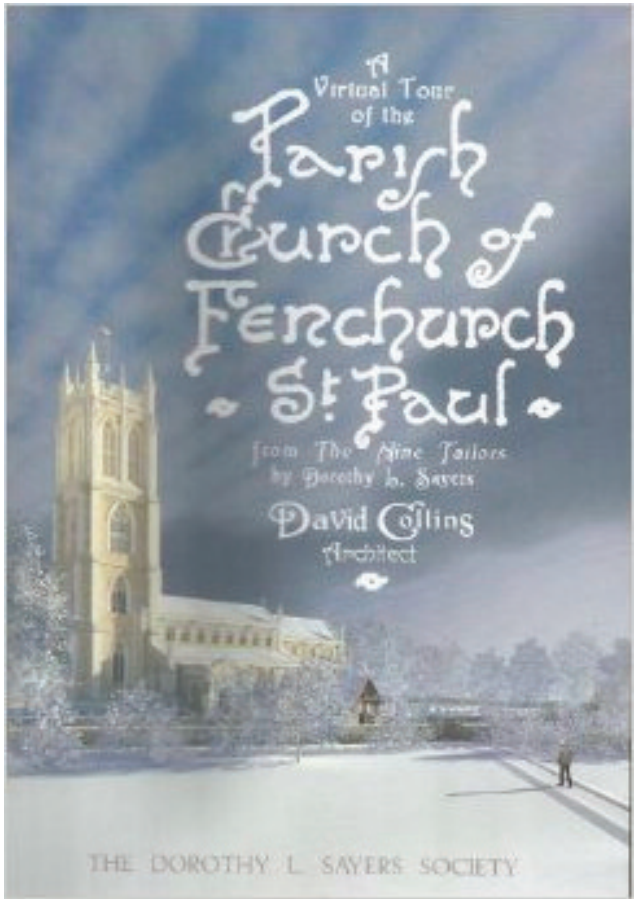
Tim Bayton
Sue King
Charlotte Boyce
Les Boyce
Pauline McKenzie
Richard Johnston
Janet Ritterman
Susan Illing
Susan Illing
Richard Johnston

Part 2

Fenchurch St Paul church
The tower and bells of Fenchurch St Paul
Ringing in rural East Anglia
Notable aristocratic ringers
Notable clerical ringers
Kent Treble Bob Major
Ringing long length peals
Emerald cypher
Legacy

Richard Johnston
James Kirkcaldy
John Martin
Janet Ritterman
Colin Turner
Charlotte Boyce
Matt Hilling
Pauline McKenzie
Charlotte Boyce

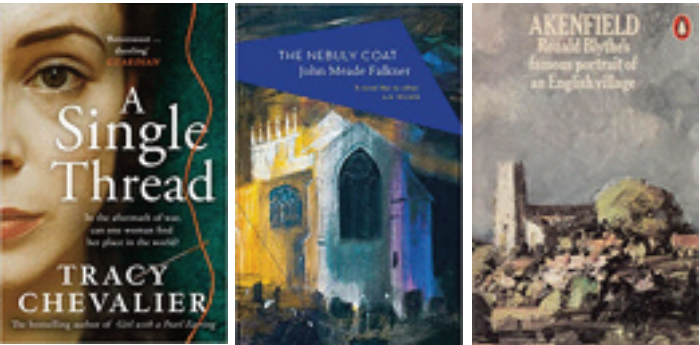
After reading the book or watching the DVD, you may perhaps like to visit the website of the Dorothy L Sayers Society at <https://www.sayers.org.uk> ; read one of the fascinating biographies in publication; or even read the three volumes of letters. There is also a full architectural tour, devised by American architect David Collins around the mythical church of Fenchurch St Paul. The church itself does not exist but Collins has taken information from the book blended with his own architectural skill and knowledge of churches in the English Fens to create this exciting, fully illustrated CD-ROM.



The cover of the CD-ROM

The novel has provided inspiration for writers and *The Ringing World* contains pages of letters and articles written over the years. Our research RW clippings ran to over 100 pages. For further reading matter, Giles Blundell's 2010 article on ringing in fiction can be found at <http://www.merseybells.org.uk/the-bellringers-bookshop/review> and recommends nearly 20 books including *The Nebuly Coat* by John Meade Falkner (read by Dorothy L Sayers as a teenager) and Ronald Blythe's *Akenfield: Portrait of an English Village*.

More recently, *A Single Thread* by Tracy Chevalier, published in 2009, tells the story of a 'surplus' single woman in 1932 moving to Winchester and finding new friends in the Cathedral volunteer 'broderers' group and bellringers.



Charlotte Boyce

Note from Editor: The Nebuly Coat is currently available for download for a Kindle free of charge

Devon Ringers' Carol Service



O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee to-night.

One of the carols



Some of the attendees

Report on the Carol Service from the Mid-Devon Branch

Many thought that this long-standing fixture would not go ahead but they reckoned without a group of ringers led by Ian Avery and John Martin. An extra subscription to Zoom had been purchased so that as many as possible could join in, and well over 100 did. The technical difficulties were fairly significant but preparation and a determination to be ready for anything made this a very slick event. The evening started with a well put together presentation of the work of the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund when participants were asked to donate to this very important cause. It had been hoped to have a live Ringing Room service touch of Yorkshire Surprise Major by some of the Exeter Cathedral band but in the end this had to be recorded. The Mid-Devon branch was very much in evidence as Nigel Birt (acting as MC)

introduced each item, starting with prayers led by Revd David Witchell. Ringers from across Devon read the lessons and each of the carols featured a recording of Kingsteignton choir. Also featured were Exeter ringers ringing spliced Kent and Bastow Royal on handbells, again recorded via Ringing Room. A recording of Lamerton ringers with a handbell version of a rise and fall and the Queens Peal was another feature. David Witchell read the final lesson and led the closing prayers before we sang one more carol.

The whole was very professionally put together and flowed well despite the uncertainty of the technology holding out.

Very many congratulations and thanks go to all involved and fortunately the well-prepared backup systems were not needed. The now quite long tradition was therefore not broken and hopefully we will be back to meeting normally by next year. A recording of the carol service is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbxIcgeoftM>

Martin Mansley

- Some committee roles become vacant at the AGM in June, and expressions of interest are welcomed. Amongst others are Guild Publicity Officer, and Safeguarding Officer, a particularly important role as it is a condition of the Guild's insurance that we have one in post.
- There is a large amount of planning within the Guild at the moment, and members are invited to become involved with a number of workgroups. These are documented in a separate article.
- The Guild striking competitions are being tentatively planned for 16 October 2021, with Plain Bob Major and Grandsire Triples agreed on as methods for the 8-bell. It was noted that the new novice 8-bell competition did not yet have an associated award, and it was agreed that the Guild purchase a trophy for this competition in memory of David Willis, a prominent member of the North/North-West Branch, up to £150 from Guild funds.

Condensed from reports to their respective branches by Catherine Saunders and Les Boyce

Guild Committee Meeting



Some of the members at the committee meeting

The Guild Committee held a virtual meeting with 38 attendees on 16 January, when many important items were discussed. On the topic of finance, the 2020 draft accounts were accepted, with the following recommendations:

- A donation of £1625 to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund;
- A donation of a maximum of £500 to support youth ringing within the Guild;
- Subscription fees to increase to £10 per year and peal fees to be £0.60 per rope from 2022.

The 2019 and 2020 annual reports are to be combined in to one document. Printed copies will be distributed to members wishing to receive it in this format, and one printed copy of the report to be sent to each Guild tower.

Guild representatives who attend Central Council meetings are to receive financial support. This year's meeting, to be held in September in Nottingham, is likely to be a hybrid real/Zoom meeting so it was agreed to reserve a maximum of £800 to support our representatives in their attendance. At a time when the Council is working through very many changes it was felt that there should be as much input from our Guild as possible.

Other points from the meeting:

- Three vice-presidents were proposed and all will now go forward for appointment at the AGM.
- In preparation for our return to ringing, the Guild is setting up a Ringing Recovery Forum with a representative from each branch. The Forum can support towers with risk assessments, training needs and promoting ringing locally.
- In 2024 the Guild will be celebrating its 150th anniversary as the oldest territorial ringing society in existence. Two work groups are being set up to plan for this: one to consider setting up a Devon School of Bellringing and the other charged with making the arrangements for the celebration itself.
- Plans were outlined for the Guild AGM on 19 June, assuming that a face-to-face meeting would be possible.

New Guild Workgroups

Volunteers needed for new Guild workgroups

At the Guild general committee meeting on 16th January 2021 it was agreed to invite expressions of interest from Guild members in assisting with the following initiatives. A workgroup is to be formed to consider each activity with the aim of bringing forward proposals for consideration at the Guild AGM in June. Expressions of interest were asked for by the end of January, and some of these groups have already met, but if anyone else is interested in joining them they are requested to contact the Guild Secretary, John Martin.

Guild Ringing Recovery Forum

We would like to set up a workgroup (ideally with a representative from each branch) to serve as a forum to share ideas across the branches concerning the issues of the return to ringing as the restrictions associated with the coronavirus pandemic are lifted. Also on this group will be Sheila Scofield who has volunteered to be our Central Council Ringing Recovery Champion. This might cover:

- Advising on tower risk assessments for towers which remained silent in the summer of 2020
- Advising towers about online resources to help prepare for a return to ringing
- Initiatives to encourage and support less experienced ringers
- A survey of tower activity once ringing resumes (such as the number of active ringers)
- Identifying training and collaborating with other branches to arrange shared training events
- Disseminating national initiatives down to branches, either through branch Ringing Recovery groups or to individual towers
- Planning Ringing Returns celebrations
- Promoting and celebrating ringing in the local community

The workgroup should provide a quarterly report to be included in *Ringing Round Devon* and report back to the General Committee at its meetings. The workgroup will consist of up to ten people including a chairman.

Devon School of Bellringing

Several ringers have recently attended presentations on the Birmingham Ringing School and the Mancroft Ringing Discovery Centre in Norwich. We are investigating how a Devon ringing school could be set up. We are inviting interested ringers to form a workgroup to come up with a workable plan for a ringing school in our rural county.

The workgroup should report back to the General Committee at its meetings. The workgroup will consist of up to six people including a chairman.

Ringing World National Youth Contest 2022

The activities for this workgroup are associated both with preparing for and assisting with the arrangements on the day of the RW National Youth Contest in July 2022 and also the promotion of a programme of young ringer activities to ensure at least one Guild team competes on the day.

Ringling World National Youth Contest – Exeter Saturday 2 July 2022

In conjunction with the Exeter Cathedral Society, we have invited the National Youth Ringing Contest to Exeter. Several towers around Exeter will host the competition ringing, but the day will centre around the Cathedral. The brief includes open ringing from approximately 11:30-16:30, results in the Nave at 19:00 and displays/mini-rings/handbell workshops in the Cathedral throughout the day.

A small committee will be formed to coordinate the event with the Exeter Cathedral Society and national organisers.

Young Ringer Activities – including identification of a Guild Youth Officer

We would like to promote a young ringers' group to meet regularly both online and in person and to enter a team for the National Youth Ringing Contest next year.

Once we emerge from lockdown into the tier system, young ringers' practices are likely to be one of the first things we can organise. 'Ringing for children's groups, Tiers 1-3' can be found on the CCCBR website. Meanwhile, we could be setting up online activities for young ringers such as Ringing Rooms.

We are looking for a Guild Youth Officer to coordinate these young ringing activities and a small support team to assist that person.

Guild 150th Anniversary Celebrations (2024)

To celebrate our 150th Anniversary, it is sensible to start planning early, particularly if we identify a lasting capital project to support (perhaps linked with the setting up of the ringing school).

Ideas received so far include:

- A black-tie dinner
- Publications on the Guild history
- Merchandise
- Ringing World calendar featuring Devon towers
- Publicity equipment such as printed display boards and banners
- A portable mini-ring
- Supporting towers with sound control
- Matthew Higby dumb bells

We are looking for a group of ringers to collate ideas, evaluate, and put forward proposals to the Guild Committee.

The group should report back to the General Committee at its meetings. A workgroup of five including a chairman.

John Martin

Central Council Guidelines for returning to ringing

On Monday 22 February, the UK Government published a roadmap for exiting lockdown over the coming months, detailing how and when restrictions will be eased if everything goes to plan. It is a welcome and cautious framework for a return to normality. The roadmap provides us with an opportunity for ringing to return over the coming months.

While there is still detail to be studied, and every chance of change, all indications are that ringing in **England** at least will come out of lockdown as follows:

Stage 1 – starts 29 March

Rule of six outdoors will benefit handbell ringing (up to 15 for young people).

Stage 2 – no earlier than 12 April

Young ringers' groups possibly following the 'out of school settings' guidance (expect social distancing restrictions).

Stage 3 – no earlier than 17 May

Rule of six indoors enables ringing subject to social distancing rules to be confirmed (could still be 2m).

Stage 4 – no earlier than 21 June

All legal limits removed. It remains to be seen whether facemasks will still be suggested or mandated – that is not absolutely clear yet.

During any of these stages, ringers may still be cautious as not everyone will be vaccinated, particularly young people. There is still risk of transmission and infection for us to be aware of; vaccination is not a passport. An article will be published in next week's *Ringing World* with updated analysis of transmission in ringing chambers and the benefits of ventilation. This will just be for guidance though, to be interpreted in accordance with local circumstances – the law will be the primary driver for what ringing is possible.

This is the clearest we can be at the moment based on the information available, and after discussion with the Church of England Recovery Group this afternoon. It is a roadmap, with more detail to be considered as we move forward. We appreciate ringers are all now starting to plan ringing events from late June onwards, and being asked whether bells will be available for weddings, etc. The main word of caution is that the Government is at pains to stress that these dates are the earliest possible, so commitments made for shortly after those deadlines should be made with that in mind. It does now feel like the end of an incredibly difficult year for ringing is in sight.

Thank you for your ongoing trust and support.

Central Council of Church Bell Ringers advice

Details of 2021 Guild AGM

Following the publication of the timetable for lifting coronavirus pandemic restrictions on social contact the Guild Officers have discussed the viability of meeting in person for our Guild Annual General Meeting on Saturday 19 June with representatives of the North East Branch, our hosts for this year.

As this date falls before the earliest date on which restrictions would be lifted allowing us to hold a 'normal' meeting it is with regret that we have concluded we must this year hold another virtual AGM.

Details for the virtual business meeting will be circulated in the coming weeks and we are already looking at how we may be able to use the day of the Guild striking competitions on Saturday 16 October to gather together once again.

John Martin, Guild Secretary

Ringing Recovery Survey

The Guild's Ringing Recovery Workgroup has got underway with members volunteering from across the county. One of the first pieces of work is to find out what has happened to bands and what tower and members see as the likely situation in their own areas going forward. Individual ringers will be invited to complete a short online survey asking whether they will be returning to ringing and might like help to get ready for resuming service ringing.

A survey of Guild towers is also planned and will go to tower captains or correspondents shortly. It seeks to identify which towers might like help to return to ringing and what the support needs are. The survey will be short and can be completed online with the results made available to our Recovery Champion, Sheila Scofield and the workgroup. Where respondents give consent, the information will also be shared with the relevant branch officers.

The initial focus of the workgroup will be on helping existing ringers return to the tower by rebuilding their skills and confidence and supporting towers to rebuild their bands. Later the group will look at how it can help towers recruit and train new ringers once it is thought bellhandling tuition can safely resume.

*Les Boyce
for the Recovery Workgroup*

Update from the Guild Treasurer

Firstly, a grateful thank you to everyone who has paid their 2021 subscriptions and submitted their completed subscription form and special thanks to the branch officers who have collected and collated the information from the forms. The forms help us to comply with the GDPR rules, enable us to collect more gift aid and enable you to donate to the DCBRF and branch along with your subscription payment.

Below is an update on financial matters discussed by the Guild Committee at their January meeting.

Financial Review of 2020

The Guild Accounts for 2020 reflect the change in activities from the end of March: peal fee income has fallen; there have been no printing costs for *Ringling Round Devon* since March; and the Central Council meeting was held virtually so no expenses were incurred by our representatives. There were no costs for opening the Guild library after March, but instead we have donated £50 to St Petrock's where the collection continues to be held.

The Guild has subscribed to a Zoom account which has been used for numerous meetings by Guild officers, towers, and branches. Weekly Monday night meetings have become a feature of the calendar and Zoom has enabled us to hold fund raising activities for the DCBRF and co-host the Devon Ringers' Carol Service with the Devon Association. Meeting online offers opportunities for short meetings where participants do not incur time and expense travelling, and there are numerous training possibilities, so it is likely the Guild will continue to subscribe to Zoom or a similar service once we are out of COVID-19 lockdown and restrictions.

The AGM was held online in June 2020, and a redacted version of the 2019 annual report was made available to view electronically. Prior to the meeting we asked branch secretaries to provide a list of those who would be unable to access the 2019 annual report on a computer. Five members were identified, and the redacted report was printed and posted to those members.

Via the new subscription form, we have been asking members about their desire to receive the full printed 2019 and 2020 Annual Reports. This has provided valuable information to help us consider a variety of printing options without printing excessive quantities of unwanted reports. Based on responses that had been received by the January meeting the Committee favour the following option: to print one joint report for 2019 and 2020, the print run being reduced to 1 copy per tower and 1 copy to each member requesting one via their subscription form.

Future plans

In 2022 we will be hosting the Ringing World National Youth Contest in Exeter. We will be setting up young ringers' activities later in 2021. We would like to provide opportunities for young ringers to meet to ring together, socialise and enjoy their ringing with their peer group.

We would like to provide financial support for young ringing activities and to support a team of youngsters to enter both the national contest and local competitions in 2022 and thereafter.

We are considering how we can use some of our reserves to improve the health of ringing as we emerge from the COVID-19 crisis. The rainy day for which we have built up reserves has arrived.

Workgroups are being set up to consider ringing recovery, setting up a Devon ringing school, hosting the National Youth Ringing Contest and celebration of our 150th anniversary in 2024. The use of funds for these projects needs to be properly costed and will be proposed at future meetings.

Review of Subscriptions

The Committee reviewed my forecast of accounts for 2021 and are recommending that subscription and affiliation fees should be raised to ten pounds per annum.

There has been no subscription increase for over ten years. In addition to increased costs, we have new costs: the cost of housing the Guild library; the Zoom subscription; and supporting young ringing activities. We also want to be able to continue to support the DCBRF, and with the likely decrease in peal activities the Guild expects to lose a significant chunk of income which has previously helped to fund the annual donation to the DCBRF.

We now have voting facilities in place for virtual meetings so the proposal for an increase in subscription and affiliation fees will be put to the vote at the AGM in June this year. An annual subscription of ten pounds is not a large sum of money compared to the costs of other hobbies. The subscription covers so many things which support our ringing community, the future of our bell installations, training, and events which encourage members to expand their ringing horizons, so I hope you see the proposed ten pound subscription rate as good value.

*Charlotte Boyce,
Guild Treasurer*

Guild Library and Guild 150 Celebrations

The Guild library is continuing to answer enquiries despite being unable to open the collections at St Petrock's in Exeter. There is a wealth of information available online and links to this can be found on the library pages of the Guild website. If the Government's roadmap out of lockdown holds good, we plan to resume monthly opening of the library at St Petrock's from late May – dates will be advertised nearer the time.

A new webpage has been set up for the Devon Ringing History Group to showcase and share members' research findings and presentations (<https://devonringers.org.uk/guild/ringing-history-group>). The Group is an offshoot of the Friends of the Guild Library, but anyone is welcome to join. The Group exists to promote communication between members doing research and provide support for projects investigating aspects of Devon's ringing heritage. If you enjoy delving into the past and would like to share your ideas and discoveries, please consider joining – contact the Librarian for details.

In 2024 the Guild celebrates its 150th anniversary and it is not too soon to start work on uncovering some more of the Guild's history. John Scott wrote a very readable history of the first 100 years of the Guild, but there is much still to add about its earlier years as well as continuing the story from 1974. First thoughts are that a further publication might look in greater detail at the founders of the Guild (Ellacombe, Troyte and Kelly), at early women ringers, later leading lights such as E V Cox and Everard Powell, the social impact of ringing in the county and the Exeter Ringers' Cycling Club. But other ideas and offers of help would be most welcome – again contact the Librarian – librarian@devonringers.org.uk. More detailed plans will be published later this year.

Les Boyce

Guild Zoom Presentations

Christmas Extravaganza

ENDING 2020 WITH A SUPERB FLOURISH!

Monday 21 December was the date for the first ever Guild 'Christmas Extravaganza'. John Martin and Charlotte Boyce have been orchestrating weekly Zoom meetings to keep ringers in Devon together, ever since the first lockdown started, and they asked for someone to co-ordinate a Christmas variety evening, which I had great pleasure in doing.



Amy and Simon's Christmas tree – and kitten!

The pictures, recorded acts and offers of live performances came in, and were curated into a truly eclectic twenty items on the night. My job was then to keep it flowing and pacey, so that we finished before bedtime.

Here is the resulting programme, with a few notes about each item:

- 1 'The Night Before Christmas', read by Cath Chappell. A beautiful opening to the evening.
- 2 Christmas tree pictures – and decorated pianos (a new category for next year perhaps?). Would the Gill/Hurlock tree survive the kitten? Yes, it did.
- 3 'The Carol of the Bells' with new words to, and performed by, the three Coldrick children and three of their friends, to raise money for people affected by COVID-19. This was one of the few pre-recorded items, and the voices, bells and instruments layered up beautifully. I listened to it over and over again, and have put a link on the Guild Facebook group. Spellbinding.
- 4 Juggling, performed by Lynne Hughes. Were the weeks of practice worth it as I fumbled with juggling balls, oranges and lemons, and even eggs, while dressed as a snowman? Only others could tell you!
- 5 Christmas tunes on handbells, performed by Peter Richards, Gill Wigney and Mike Wigney. This four-in-hand performance (four handbells each) was mesmerising. What skill!
- 6 U A Fanthorpe poems, introduced by Charlotte Boyce, and read by her, Richard Johnston, Janet Ritterman and James Kirkcaldy. Heart-warming and thoughtful.
- 7 Secret Santa. John Langabeer (the real Father Christmas, I'm sure) appeared on screen, and elsewhere one lucky recipient opened a box with a stocking full of lovely little gifts. Who will be on Santa's Nice List next year?
- 8 Pebble Nativity. Cath Chappell's painted stones, which tell the Christmas story in a unique way, and which she has displayed outside her house.



Cath's pebble nativity – the angels and shepherds

- 9 A card trick, performed by Ian Campbell. It was really rather clever. I like the feeling of not immediately being able to work out how it was done. Magic of course!
- 10 'Zion hears the Watchmen's Voices', a piece sung beautifully, in German, by Tim Bayton, who was also playing both euphonium parts. Even Tim couldn't do all three things at the same time live, of course!
- 11 Christmas baking pictures – Fiona Rock-Evans's chocolate reindeer stealing the show.
- 12 How to make 3D bell decorations, a detailed step-by-step from Charlotte Boyce, and impressive results.
- 13 Handbell Christmas Medley. Tunes arranged for his 13 handbells by Tim Bayton, and performed by him and five church members, recorded socially distanced before the second lockdown. Amazing what can be done with 12 diatonic bells and one sharp, without a full tune ringing set.
- 14 John Betjeman's 'Christmas' read by James Kirkcaldy. A classic, with a profoundly though-provoking ending.
- 15 Name that Christmas Tune. A short quiz by Charlotte Boyce, with virtual handbells 'played' on Ringing Room to a medley of 19 tunes. We only got a few notes of each, so it wasn't as easy as you might think! An eye-opener to the possibility of anyone going onto Ringing Room.com and playing about with it on the handbell setting.

- 16 An alternative '12 Days of Christmas' read by Michael Cannon. The amusing one where the lady becomes increasingly annoyed with the birds and people arriving in her garden each day!
- 17 Christmas in Art: three traditional paintings representing between them the annunciation, nativity and magi, expounded for us by Les Boyce. (Not Christmas in ART, Les?)
- 18 'The Day After Christmas' read by Trevor Hitchcock. An amusing nod to the 'Night Before', but now there's wrapping paper everywhere, and hangovers!
- 19 'Fairytale of New York' played on the violin by Elena Brake. Hauntingly beautiful, which perhaps summed up the year for many of us, with both joy in living and melancholy. Particularly poignant playing from Elena who is fighting back from such a tough year herself.
- 20 A last minute bonus item: a short clip sent in by Susan Illing, who was passing the West Front of Exeter Cathedral the previous day, and came across four intrepid handbell ringers in wind and rain, ringing a quarter peal for the Nativity service. The only method ringing of the evening!

So there we have it, from the deeply beautiful and thoughtful to the just-for-fun. Everything we needed to round up 2020 together. It's surely worth doing again next Christmas.

Lynne Hughes

Book Review Evening

11 January

Hi everyone. I hope you enjoyed the book review evening last night. Here's a list of books reviewed:

Janet Ritterman	Kate Grenville	The Secret River
Janet Ritterman	Ambrose Biesee	The Devil's Dictionary
Richard Hogben	Alexandre Dumas	The Count of Monte Cristo
Les Boyce	Tom Sharpe	Wilt
Daniel Calvert	Cornelia Funke	Dragon Rider
Sue King	Stanley Holloway	More Monologues and Songs
Sue King	HDF Kitto	The Greeks
Richard Johnston	Aldous Huxley	Brave New World
Sheila Scofield	Keith Warren	Doing it Philippine Style
Peter Bill	John le Carre	Tinker Tailer Soldier Spy
Peter Bill	Josephine Tey	The Daughter of Time
Peter Bill	Thomas Hardy	Tess
Peter Bill	Thomas Hardy	Jude
Peter Bill	Thomas Hardy	Under the Greenwood Tree
Peter Bill	Thomas Hardy	Far from the Madding Crowd
Peter Bill	Thomas Hardy	The Time-Torn Man
Peter Bill	Tracy Chevalier	A Single Thread
Charlotte Boyce	Peter Robinson	Before the Poison
Charlotte Boyce	Si King and Dave Myers	The Hairy Dieters

Hope you enjoyed the evening.

Charlotte Boyce



Fiona's chocolate reindeer

Lockdown Wanderings and Discoveries – 25 January

Hosted by Susan Illing, she invited contributors as follows: 'If you're anything like me, you've probably been exploring more on foot in your local area. Maybe you've discovered places you didn't know existed. Have you found out something new? Share your stories about what your tower's been doing during lockdown.'

A fascinating evening ensued with a number describing their favourite walks in their local areas. Here is a number of pictures taken from that.



Exeter Cathedral taken from Ludwell Valley (Susan Illing)



Sheep at sunset from Duryard (Susan Illing)



Pinhoe church from the bridle path (Ian Campbell)



Wildlife on the Grand Western Canal (Sheila Scofield)

Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who gave so generously to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund over the last 12 months. We received more personal donations than usual which is fantastic at a time when actual church bell ringing was very much a novelty event for a few of us, for just a few weeks last summer.

New sources of income such as the Internet Arms, the virtual Carol Service and Smile.Amazon, together with personal and miscellaneous tower donations accounted for some £2,084.00. Our balance sheet shows a very healthy overall donation from the Guild of £5,153.10, however, the breakdown below shows the reality. As you can see very little was from 2020 activities and donations, just 13% of the total.

During 2020 the Treasurer changed how the Guild pays over the money from the Guild bell fund; rather than paying once a year in arrears, Charlotte has ensured the money in the account was paid by year end (December). Whilst we are incredibly grateful to receive the money in a more timely manner, this will mean 2021 will look very different.

Breakdown of Guild Donation 2020

Actual Year of Giving	Amount	Percentage
2019	£4461.00	87%
2020	£692.10	13%
Total	£5153.10	100%

At the 2021 AGM the Guild is proposing to give £1,625 as its main donation for the year as opposed to £2,235.00 given in 2020 (£2,000 in 2018 and 2017), an immediate shortfall of £610. One new source of income will be from the Guild membership forms where the ability to give just a pound or two is very much an option. Looking at the Aylesbeare Branch's forms received so far (which I am collating) a third of them show donations totalling £149. The provisional Guild accounts as at 31 December 2020 showed that £98 had already been received from this process from other branches. I had hoped for an up-to-date figure from the Guild to put in this article, but we will have to wait until the next RRD for a full report.

So, at this time, assuming the Guild members agree, so far we are only expecting £1,774 this year, a massive shortfall of £3,379.10 on 2020.

One of the bell fund's major sources of income since 2014 has been from the Smale bequest investment portfolio. With a worldwide recession caused by the pandemic the income from this source in 2020 fell to £10,262.80, £3,293.62 less than 2019. Whilst the overall value of the portfolio held up fairly well, it has taken a bit of a hit with a fall in value of approximately £16,500 during 2020 (as at 31 December 2020) but remains higher than the original investment.

At our meeting in November 2020 we agreed the following:

- 1 East Anstey:** A grant of £5,700 towards a total rehang of the six bells with mainly new fittings.
- 2 Butterleigh:** A grant of £2,400 towards rehangng the derelict ring of three bells with all new fittings as a fixed, electronically-operated, chime.
- 3 Dunkeswell:** A grant of £1,900 towards descaling, treating and painting the beam ends of the frame foundation, inserting new padstones; also building a new staircase access to the ringing chamber, improving access to the bell chamber and inserting additional sound insulation between the ringing chamber and bell chamber.

This is a total of £10,000 taking the amount of outstanding grants awarded but not paid to £39,800. This leaves us with approximately £20,000 cash assets to provide any future grants. There are currently grant applications awaiting discussion at our meeting in April of £6,700 (at 10% of project cost). Additional schemes currently in the planning stage will, we anticipate, attract grants of a further £38,000 (at 10% of project cost). A total of £42,700.

This clearly leaves us with a hole of nearly £23,000 between possible grant requests and actual cash assets. As it is entirely possible that income could halve in 2021 compared to previous years, we will still need the ringers of Devon to continue to give generously. We have made it easier to give to the DCBRF in the last 12 months, details are shown:

- 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 (link available on the Guild website)
- Make a donation via Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) – using any card, PayPal or if you have a CAF log-in (link available on the Guild website) or contact our treasurer Mary Mears dcbftrerasurer@devonringers.org.uk

Janet Deem

Obituaries

Marjorie Hill (12 September 1931 to 30 January 2021)



Marjorie met John while she was studying English at University College, Leicester (in the days before it became a university). They met in the belfry of St Andrew's, Aylestone while Marjorie was learning to ring. They married in 1957 at Accrington with the reception at Clitheroe, and set up their first home in Ickenham, Middlesex, where they both rang at Hillingdon. Ian and Nicholas were born in 1961 and 1964 and Ian still rings in the Bristol area.

After a short stay in Bengeo (Hertford) they moved to South Africa in 1973 where Marjorie was part of a group that raised funds and installed the first ring of bells in Johannesburg.

In 1993 John retired and they 'came home' and moved to Holywell Lake near Wellington. John joined the Exeter Cathedral band and Marjorie enjoyed attending the Cathedral dinners and the Grandisson carol service on Christmas Eve where she became very experienced at keeping a set of seats reserved for the ringers! She was also a regular attendee on the Exeter Branch train outings which she enjoyed enormously.

Marjorie remained a keen bell ringer and she and John rang for services for many years, most recently at St John's, Wellington and Langford Budville near where they lived.

Her funeral was held at Taunton Crematorium on February 19 and was attended by a number of ringers, mostly from Devon. Donations were collected for the RNLI of which she was always a staunch supporter.

While we mourn Marjorie's passing we know that we can safely leave her to God's love and care.

Ian Campbell, from the eulogy given at her funeral

David Vince (1933 to 2020)

David learnt to ring at Peasemore, Berkshire in his early teens and became a very keen tower grabber, often travelling round on his coveted LE Velocette. He rang at over 500 different towers including the cathedrals of St Paul's, Liverpool and Exeter; however his most cherished tower was the peal of four bells at St Andrew's, Chaddleworth where he was married and was a long-serving churchwarden. David demonstrated an excellent style of bell handling and always placed his bell accurately. It took a great deal of friendly persuasion to get him to stand in his one and only peal attempt, but it resulted in a fine peal of Stedman Triples rung at East Ilsley in 1968. He was particularly proud to be a member of the ASCY and completed over 50 years of membership.

David and his wife Diana retired to the West Country around 2006 and he did ring occasionally at Tiverton St Peter and also supported events in

the NE Branch, but he was not particularly active. For some years he spent the summer months on the family farm in Berkshire to help with the harvest, so there were periods when he was not seen in Devon for weeks on end. He suffered from Parkinson's Disease in later years and was cared for at home until his death on 17 November 2020.

David Vince: a gentleman, countryman and bellringer, always smiling and ready to help other people. His friendship will be missed.

John Hibbert (abridged from the RW) and Les Boyce

Allan Paton (1930 to 2021)



Allan was born in Clydebank, the eldest of three brothers. He described living in a tenement block, sharing a room with his brothers and mother and a single tap and toilet with everyone else on their floor. His father was away in the Merchant Navy for much of his childhood. A bright lad, at the age of 18 years he realized that he needed to leave Glasgow and lose his strong accent if he was to have a career and moved south to Cheltenham to start an apprenticeship as a precision engineer at Smiths clock and watch factory.

While singing in choirs and performing Gilbert and Sullivan he met his wife Beryl, a local girl and they had two daughters, Susan and Nicola.

While in Cheltenham he was taught to ring by Cyril Wratten at the Minster Church and spent much of his time ringing with Cyril and Marjorie, Valerie Willard and Geoff and Shirley Drew. He rang in the peal of Minimus at Randwick in May 1961 which led to CCCBR revising their rules about the acceptance of Minimus peals, as described by Chris Pickford in *The Ringing World* of 20 November 2020, p 1138.

In 1963 the family moved to Mitcheldean where Allan took up a post at the Rank Xerox factory. On the first evening there they received a visit from the rector, Rev E W P Ainsworth. The eight bells were being rehung and he had heard Allan was a ringer and asked him to teach a band. With characteristic pragmatism Allan decided that if he taught his own family he would then have half a band. He then 'roped' in Sue and Niki's school friends and so a very young band was born. He was a stickler for good handling and striking and every Saturday saw us all pile into the family motor home to visit practices and meetings across a wide area. An innovative teacher, he was using ideas and methods that ART seemed to have pinched fifty years later!

He and Beryl brewed beer from scratch to the tune of five gallons a week. After Wednesday evening practices all were invited back to their small house to have a pint or two or three.... before the days of breathalysers. This was a shrewd move as it soon attracted ringers who came to practice nights to help and then enjoy a free drink afterwards. George Cousins, Austin Wingate, Tom Locke, Roman Sadowski and many others were regular visitors and the band progressed quickly, ringing quarter peals and winning striking competitions. At one time he led a young band who came second only to Bristol Cathedral in the Gloucester and Bristol Association competition. A school band rang for their local carol service.

He was elected to SRCY in 1972. Although much happier ringing quarter peals and helping others, he rang 13 peals, all but one for the Gloucester and Bristol Association. Regularly, he was a helper on the Hereford Course.

On moving to Bovey Tracey in the 1980s he would travel to Exeter to

ring and became a member of the band at Heavitree. He loved the high standard of ringing and was most proud when a band he was in won both the method and call change district striking competitions one year.

Away from ringing Allan was always keen to learn new things and was a perfectionist. He taught himself to play the guitar, he learned German, he potholed in the Forest of Dean, learned to read music and sang in an A-cappella choir. He took up sailing, something he was still doing until a few months before his death and a passion both his daughters have continued. He was a strong supporter of the Jubilee Sailing Trust, taking part in several long trips on the Lord Nelson. He also flew gliders and fixed wing aircraft.

On moving to Builth Wells in 2005 he found accessing towers was becoming physically difficult and gave up ringing. This was a great regret to him but he loved keeping up to date with ringing news and gossip.

Allan's second wife, Christel, sadly passed away in December and he followed her two months later. He died peacefully at home sitting in his favourite armchair with a pint beside him, the way he would have wished to go.

Sue Carter (daughter)

We have been very sorry to learn of Allan's death. He moved to Bovey Tracey around the turn of the millennium and spent four or five years there before retiring to Builth Wells. He became a faithful supporter not only of the Mid Devon Branch but also towers in Exeter where he would attend regularly in order to get a dose of more advanced methods. His solid experience and impish good humour were much appreciated.

At the time Exeter St Mark was an 8-bell tower and an advanced practice was held there once a month. In order to keep brains sharp, there was a 'fines jar' so that if you were considered competent in the method and should not be making mistakes, you had to put a donation in the pot if you fell off your line in any touch. Allan was having a bad evening, uncharacteristically making a lot of trips which resulted in several fines, so when Superlative was called for towards the end of the night, he sat quietly in the corner and declined to take a rope. 'Come on, Allan,' roared the RM, 'you know the method.' 'Certainly not,' came the swift reply, 'I can't afford to ring any more this evening!'

Wendy Campbell

Derek Norrish

We are sad to announce the death of Derek at his home in Cullompton on Friday 5 March. Derek, who was in his mid-eighties, had been a keen ringer (preferring call changes) for many years. Before joining the Silverton band, he had been tower captain at Bickleigh for many years and frequently rang at other towers including Pinhoe and Thorverton.

Derek enjoyed his ringing and would be the first to volunteer if needed for extra duties, weddings and special occasions. It was not uncommon, before coronavirus restrictions, for Derek to ring at three towers on a Sunday morning, having listened to the ringing on the radio at 06:00!

Derek was a likeable 'one of a kind' character who will be greatly missed in the tower and branch activities. He would often regale anyone willing to listen to anecdotes relating his previous working life as an agricultural contractor (as a result he knew the Mid Devon farming community well) and his views on keeping fit and healthy. He was also an enthusiastic bowls player.

Derek leaves behind his partner Brenda to whom we extend our sincere condolences.

Martin Clough, tower secretary, Silverton

East Devon Branch No ringing...AGAIN!!

We feared it was coming of course but the third lockdown was a blow to us all – after all we'd just been allowed to ring six of our ten bells for Christmas Day. But Sidmouth ringers, enterprising as ever, returned to allowable activities to pass the time until legally being able to ring together again.

So what do we do when not ringing – the list is quite extensive. For some, books are left on doorsteps to be read and passed on; knitting for charities comes into its own; one ringer has several thousand 'buzzy' bees to watch over; and for exercise there's 'wild' swimming; Ride and Stride; running several times per week; exploring the beautiful countryside where we live – with a choice of sea, river, cliff and hill walks – as well as investigating footpaths in and around the town and, if you should hear loud music coming from a garden - well that'll probably be one of our

number doing online Zumba; another composes and records amusing topical songs; and did you know we have a champion marmalade maker in our midst?

Others are continuing to sort out drawers, cupboards and lofts – what interesting stuff we do keep! Some have been exchanging old newspaper cuttings and photos of Old Sidmouth – oh, what reminiscences!

The phone lines between some ringers have been 'hot' as we catch up with each other's news and the tales we've heard about the difficulties of installing new kitchens and bathrooms during lockdown!

We have ringers in far flung places such as Scotland (where there have been temperatures of minus 23 degrees and oodles of snow!) and France where house renovation and looking after a multitude of pets is the order of the day.

For many of us Zoom and Ringing Room have been invaluable for keeping in touch and actually 'seeing' each other whilst catching up on the gossip!

And did I mention there are some among us who are still working?

So as you can see within our Sidmouth team we have not been wasting our time, even with no proper ringing permitted. We have learnt, I guess, to adjust and to realise that every moment matters whatever we happen to be doing. In fact, in the absence of tower ringing, we have found quite profitably fresh opportunities to come to know each other better as individuals in new, unexpected, and mutually supportive ways. And all this can only be good for when eventually we gather again in the tower to rekindle with renewed enthusiasm the ringing we love and share. So, put simply, we look forward considerably to that day – hopefully now not too far off.



Watching over the bees



Lesley biking

Anne Bailey

Work Underway at Dunkeswell



I am pleased to report that work is underway in Dunkeswell tower. Skinners Builders are doing the work. They have drilled out mortar next to the RSJ ends and reset them. The floor of the bell chamber/ceiling of the ringing chamber has been removed. Woodworm has been found in some of the joists and a leak has been found in the tower roof, thus creating rot in some of the joists. However this is localised to one corner. This is where things are at the moment. The end date of the project is expected to be in April as there will be a delay in receiving the new staircase from the floor to the ringing chamber.



Brenda Eastell

Corona Virus Regulations Survey

I don't know about you, but all these restrictions are getting me down and since we can't go out to meet a lot of people I thought I'd ask around the house what everyone thought.

The computer said it would need a nanosecond or so to think about it and then closed down. Wandering into the kitchen the heating system said it was warming to it while the fridge was decidedly cool and the freezer response was definitely icy.

The extractor fan said it was a lot of hot air while the oven didn't answer, but I suspect it's cooking something up. The washing machine said if I wasn't careful I'd be in hot water and the drier got in a bit of a spin about it all.

In the bathroom the window couldn't shed much light on it, the sink suggested that I washed my hands of it and the bath said that the whole world was going down the plughole. The toilet said I shouldn't worry because it was all a load of **** anyway.

The iron claimed that everything would soon be smoothed out and the vacuum cleaner told me to just suck it up while the broom suggested sweeping everything under the carpet. The floor was no help, claiming that 'everything is well above me'. The boiler said it had a burning desire to see it all behind us.

The door didn't want to open saying the government wants everyone to stay at home and the doorbell didn't work claiming the vicar had banned all ringing.

Outside, I looked up and the roof told me it was time they put a lid on it, while the greenhouse claimed you could see right through it. Some steps led me right up the garden path and when I asked the snowdrops they were white then just went green around the edges and hung their heads.

So really I'm no further on, though it has filled up a half hour writing this, I think I'll go back to bed and bury my head under the pillow until it's all over!

Trevor Hitchcock

Sidmouth Tower Report 2020

The year started well with plenty to tell
Keen ringers to hand and quarters were planned
We all had hopes for so much more but all of this
went out of the door
When Covid 19 came on the scene

But Sidmouth ringers are made of strong stuff
In fact they are remarkably tough
Keeping in touch by email and phone, and Ringing Room came
into its own
When Covid-19 came on the scene

So Sidmouth bells will be ringing again
We'll be up in the tower with our usual refrain
Enjoying a chat with a chocolate or two
Do come and listen – we'll be ringing for you.
When Covid-19 is no part of the scene

Anon - Sidmouth

Exeter Branch Wedding of Tom and Helena



Friday 18 December 2020 saw the wedding of Tom Hinks and Helena Mattingley, two former Exeter ringers. Tom and Helena met in 2013 while Helena was working at Exeter University and ringing at St Mark's. Tom rang at St David's and the Cathedral while studying at the University and living in Exeter from 2007-2011. They moved to Bromley in 2014, and ring at Bromley parish church. Having postponed their original April wedding plans, the wedding in December was a joyous celebration with close family and friends. Handbells were rung after the ceremony by a band including former Exeter ringers David Macey and Nathan Evans. Tom and Helena really appreciated all the kind words and well-wishes from their friends in the South-West for their marriage.



The Groom (in the red trousers of course) keeping the rest in order

A quarter peal was rung by Devon friends.

Ringing Room, Devon

Friday, 18 December 2020 in 47m

1280 Kent Treble Bob Royal

Composed by D L Thomas

1-2 Oliver Bates

7-8 Lynne Hughes

3-4 Oliver Coldrick

9-10 Ian Campbell

5-6 Matthew Hilling (C)

Rung as a wedding compliment to Tom Hinks and Helena Mattingley, married this day at Bromley Palace.



Clockwise from top left: Matt, Oliver B, Oliver C, Ian, Lynne (no picture)

Tom Hinks

Exeter Colleges Guild The 54th Annual Dinner – 6 February 2021

The 2021 dinner was held virtually, via Zoom, on Saturday 6 February. The session opened with a slideshow of photos spanning 50 years of the ECG before Tom welcomed everybody and gave a short speech about some things that the ECG has been up to over the last year – not much, admittedly! We had received some post from north Wales about a book entitled 'My First Long Length' which is a Jilly Cooper-style novel based on bell ringing. That is a story for another day!

Steph continued with a few words about the Exeter-based ECG members activities during 2020 and how communication had been maintained through online social events.

Without the ability to ring handbells live a montage video was played with extracts of performances from the last ten years. The video is available from the report of the dinner on the ECG website at: <https://ecg.devonringers.org.uk>.

David Maynard introduced our guest speaker, Philip Earis, who spoke about his visits to Exeter and how our website looks like something out of the dark ages. Mike Esbester wishes to let Phil know that he is very proud of this website that was built in the late 90s! Phil also talked about how the ECG develops robotic ringing machines - Tom Hinks!

After the traditional daffodil toast (they still taste awful!) the bake-off competition entries were displayed and a vote took place. Entries covered ECG themes from trains and curries through to rugby shirts and daffodils. All entries were amazing but the daffodils from Mr and Mrs Hinks were declared the winners.



Thomas the Tank Engine cake



Daffodil Cake

Moving to breakout rooms we were able to chat with friends in smaller groups. We also were able to complete the quiz provided by Alice. Remember: it's just for fun! The answers were given and then chatting in breakout rooms continued until late into the evening.

Thanks must go to Tom and Steph for organising the evening and to Alice for hosting the meeting. Well done all!

The Quiz

I am very grateful to Alice Holden for giving permission to publish this quiz, which was produced for the ECG dinner and used to provoke conversation amongst the breakout groups. The answers are at the end of this issue.

ECG Annual Dinner Quiz 2021

ROUND 1: GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

- 1) According to the ONS, what was the most popular boy's name in the UK in 2019?
- 2) What is the most sold flavour of Walker's crisps?
- 3) How many teams have won the Premier League since it began in 1992?
- 4) A screwdriver cocktail contains orange juice, ice and which spirit?
- 5) How many hearts does an octopus have?
- 6) EastEnders began broadcasting on BBC1 in which year?
- 7) Queen Elizabeth II is the longest reigning monarch of the UK, followed by Queen Victoria – but who is the third?
- 8) In what modern day country was Nikola Tesla born?
- 9) How many keys are there on a piano?
- 10) In which country would you find the original Legoland?

ROUND TWO: PICTURE ROUND

Can you name the celebrities behind the masks?



ROUND THREE: CONNECTION ROUND

- 1) What connects a comic actor known for his alter ego 'The Tramp'; a French satirical weekly newspaper and a line of fragrances produced by the American cosmetic brand Revlon?
- 2) Which Shakespeare play features the characters Friar Laurence and Benvolio?
- 3) In which sport might you hear the terms condor, albatross and eagle?
- 4) Which dance, originating in the working class districts of Buenos Aires, is also the name of a soft drink?
- 5) In Greek mythology, who was cursed to only be able to speak the last words spoken to her?
- 6) Which country is home to the majority of the world's wild tigers?
- 7) The last of the four patron saints' days in the United Kingdom is celebrated in which month?
- 8) What word can precede California, Rwanda and Transylvania in the world of entertainment?
- 9) What does the O stand for in the acronym EGOT?
- 10) What connects all the answers of this round?

Alice Holden

Another Ringer Named in the 1972 Film of Exeter Cathedral Ringers

It was with great fascination that I watched the film that came to light recently showing ringing at Exeter Cathedral in 1972. I felt as though I was watching the ghosts of my past as my father was a member of the band during the 60s, 70s and early 80s and I would go with him for practice and Sunday service ringing when I was little. For a better view I decided to watch it again on a larger and clearer screen. On doing this I noticed the man sitting behind the 11th in a white shirt. I instantly recognised the stance (if you can call it that when someone is sat down!) and on closer inspection my instinct was confirmed, it was my dad, Bryan Coles. I have to say that seeing him in the film some 18 years after he passed away was just amazing and something to treasure. Ringing was the 'thing' we did together and I often think of him when I am ringing, never more so than when I ring at Sidbury, his home tower of many, many years.

It was also great seeing the cattle market. One of my grandfathers attended every week without fail despite having retired from farming by 1972. I didn't spot him though!

Janet Deem

Note from Editor: You will find another picture of Bryan in this edition.

News from Exeter Cathedral Annual General Meeting

The society AGM was held over Zoom on 18 January, presided over by the Dean, Jonathan Greener. He highlighted two advantages of lockdown: firstly, Exeter got to keep the 12-bell Taylor Trophy for another year, and secondly, the AGM was a lot shorter than usual.

The recent conversion of the chiming hammers to an electrical system has paid dividends in that the bells can now be chimed automatically for every service (when there are any!) but the Dean rapidly agreed that the chimes were 'a pale imitation of the real thing'.

Clare Griffiths resigned as society secretary and has been replaced by Peter Bill.

Ian Campbell

Cathedral Town Hall Meeting – 16 February

The regular meetings held by the Cathedral for its volunteers are now being chaired by the Dean over Zoom. At the most recent one he explained the guidelines which required the choir to be restricted to three singers if there were any congregation present. At the moment services are being conducted remotely with a choir where possible, partly to prevent the congregation from socialising during or after the service! He talked about the planned services after 1 March and over Easter. The BBC are planning to broadcast the Sung Eucharist on Easter Sunday live from the cathedral at 8:10am on Radio 4 and Choral Evensong at 3pm on Radio 3.

The Dean explained how a lot of work was going on at the Cathedral during lockdown as the lack of services and events made it a good opportunity to make progress without interruptions. They have received

a significant number of financial grants, many of which need to be spent soon.

Work on the North porch is just about completed while major work on the Chapter House and the Holy Spirit Chapel next door is continuing. This includes under floor heating and improved catering facilities, including local toilets. The refectory is currently closed as the work interferes with public access. An electrically powered catering van has been purchased to set up on the West front. An old building on Cathedral Close (9A) has been purchased to house those currently in Church House (off the cloisters) which is being refurbished as offices and a new refectory. The old refectory space is to be converted into the shop. New fittings have already been purchased (using a grant) although they can't be installed yet.

Over 500 new chairs have been purchased for the nave. These are sturdier than the current chairs so should be better being moved around and have non-fabric seats which can be wiped down to protect against COVID.

There is a very high demand for bookings of the Cathedral at Christmas as everything was cancelled last year. It is hoped that these can be fulfilled. Plans for the Christmas Fair are also being made in the hope that it can proceed this year.

Some discussions were held as to how to recover the congregation after lockdown, and how to share a chalice during a communion service.

Ian Campbell

Mid-Devon Branch

Excerpts from mid Devon Branch Tower Talk

Guild Zoom presentations

Recently we saw a list of around 70 presentations on Zoom by the Guild so far. This is the result of hours of hard work on our behalf. If you have not attended one yet please consider doing so. You should be receiving regular invitations. The subjects are far ranging and very well presented. Well worth a look!

A Story from the Ringing World 100 years ago

We recently found this letter in the Ringing World of 1921. Unfortunately, we do not have any further information at this time.

Dear Sir

There is a peal board at Debenham on the east wall of the tower, well made, excellently written, but faded. It commemorates a peal of Bob Major rung in 1767 10,600 changes in 6 hours and 1 minute. The tenor man called the peal.

The old blind ringer, John Brady of Debenham told me that in his young days this peal was commonly regarded as a unique performance, as the tenor man was supposed to have committed a murder on the road to Debenham to call the peal. It could not, however be brought home to him at the time, for being arrested on his return to Norwich, he proved an alibi to the satisfaction of the court. His having been ringing at Debenham for 6 hours cleared him, but on his death bed years after, so the story goes, he confessed to the murder on his way, and managed to get to Debenham quickly enough to prove his alibi. A cool customer I imagine.

PETER LAFLIN, Canada

The truth, or a good story, perhaps we will never know. We do know that the name Laflin was very well respected in ringing circles. Our ringing periodicals from *The Bell News* in the mid 1800s to the present day are now available on DVD and provide a vast archive of ringing history and information – well worth the relatively small outlay, they can be obtained from the Central Council Library.

Ringing Room practices

We know that several towers are holding regular Ringing Room and Zoom practices, St Marychurch, Stokeinteignhead and Dawlish being among these, and at least one handbell band has been active as well. If your tower has been doing something similar, please let us know. Stokeinteignhead have been working on Triples methods including Plain Bob and Grandsire and St Marychurch have recently added Little Bob Minor and Kent Little Bob to their repertoire. Despite all this progress there is a definite longing to be back on real bells ASAP!

Guild Zoom presentations

These are still producing some fascinating evenings. Most recently we heard about the North East Branch followed a week later by the first of two sessions on *The Nine Tailors*. This book by Dorothy L Sayers has a very strong bell-ringing theme throughout, and even 87 years after it was written there is still much to interest ringers in the way the plot is constructed and the interest that it was written by a non-ringer.

Ringing Returns working group

The Central Council has been looking ahead and feels that now is the time to plan for our eventual return to ringing. The Guild has set up a work group to consider how it needs to plan in Devon. The first meeting has been held recently with another meeting to follow very soon. Many experienced ringers feel that they will fairly soon be back to ringing again but concern was expressed that those who were at an early stage will feel nervous about getting on the end of a rope again. They suggested a survey was a good way forward and it was pleasing to be able to report that our branch had already started the process (see below). At present it is hard to see ringing returning before mid-summer as indoor meeting is unlikely to be allowed before then. The Central Council has produced a Ringing Returns toolbox with lots of ideas from exercises to get your arms back to strength to a few ideas for tower captains on ways to help ease the return. We will keep you updated on progress.

Ringing Surveys

As you will be aware, we are running a couple of surveys at present to make sure the Branch is doing its best to address the needs of members. Our Treasurer, Nicola Jones, has put in a tremendous amount of work on this and is very grateful to those who have replied so far. The survey is in two parts – one for tower captains and one for members. She is delighted with the superb response from tower captains, especially as the questionnaire is quite lengthy. Very many thanks.

The members' survey came out a little later and she would be very grateful for a few more responses. If you would prefer a paper copy, please let us know. The committee is keen to make the branch be what its members need. This is best done if we know what you would like. This seems particularly important as we look forward to a return to our towers some time this year.

It is likely to be at least 18 months since 'normal' ringing (not the very limited sort allowed last year). We would really like to know how you feel about returning and any concerns that you feel the branch could help with. The whole point of having the Guild and its branches is to help members in any way that can help promote ringing in Devon.
<https://freeonlinesurveys.com/s/7Fw3CwAI>

Guild Membership subscriptions and membership form

You will remember that there has been a change this year and each member has to fill in a membership form giving contact details and permissions for the way(s) you would like to be contacted. These have been coming in well but there are still a few outstanding. Please let us know if you need any help with this or would prefer to fill in a paper copy. It is now relatively easy to pay your sub via BACS – Nicola or Nigel will be pleased to help in any way (other than paying your sub for you).

Alternative Hobbyist

For some time, *The Ringing World* has been running an occasional feature about the other hobbies that ringers also get involved with. Such topics as collecting brickwork styles (yes, really!!) and bird ringing have been included. Last week it was my turn and I was given a two page spread to describe wood turning and its connection with ringing. Very many thanks to all those who have contacted me following publication. I am so glad you found it interesting.

Teignmouth peal board

You will remember that a peal was rung at Teignmouth to mark the centenary of the branch. The Teignmouth band felt that it deserved a peal board and we are delighted to hear that this has now arrived. We got a sneak preview of the design so we are now really looking forward to seeing it in situ. The donation agreed by the branch has also been paid.

Ringling room/Zoom practices

Several towers have been running regular practices using a combination of Ringing Room and Zoom. If anyone has used Abel or Beltower the interface is very similar, and the bells are sounded by pressing one of the computer keys. It is not as good as the real thing but far better than nothing. Stokeinteignhead (Monday) have been working on a number of Doubles methods and St Marychurch (Tuesday) have been working on Plain Bob and some similar methods such as Single Canterbury and Canterbury Little Bob.

Branch Ringing room practices

If there are any members who have not tried Ringing Room yet and are not sure how to start, please get in touch – we would happily set up a practice to help you get started. It is a very good way to work on listening and striking skills without the pressure of handling a bell as well. You don't need to be an experienced ringer to take part – in fact, many less experienced ringers get on better with it than us old hands!

Martin Mansley

South West Branch News of Geoff Hill

Geoff's wife, Valerie, writes on 16 January:

Geoff is making good progress and looking forward to seeing everyone again sometime during the year and is looking forward to a time when we can all ring together. He enjoyed seeing and hearing his friends over Zoom during the Guild Committee Meeting. He thanks everyone for their support and good wishes.

Valerie Hill

Geoff is continuing to make progress and gets round the farm on his tractor, though others have to carry out the physical work. He joined us on one of our weekly tower Zoom sessions a couple of weeks ago though, like me, I don't think he's that comfortable with the technology. Phil Dunn tells me he also signed up for one of his Ringing Room sessions.

Ian Smith

Virtual Guild Certificates



A sample certificate

Congratulations to those ringers from South West Branch who were awarded the first ever virtual Guild certificates (please see an example attached) at their recent branch AGM in recognition of their achieving the required standard on a virtual ringing platform.

We look forward to following these up with traditional certificates in due course when we can return to ringing in the tower.

John Martin, Guild Secretary

Other News

National 12-bell competition cancelled for 2021

Owing to the pandemic, the National 12-bell committee has decided to cancel the contest final which would have been held on 26 June 2021. Our ringing colleagues at Guildford Cathedral have been working hard to plan a first-class event, and we are pleased to report that they have been confirmed as the hosts for the 2022 final; this will be held on a date to be confirmed in June 2022. Thank you, Guildford.

At this time, there is still the possibility that a 12-bell ringing event may take place on 2 October at a venue TBC. A further update will come later in the year.

Hailey Barnett, Contest Secretary

Ellacombe Chimes – a Celebration

In the September issue of *RRD* we reported on a celebration to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the invention of the Ellacombe chimes which is happening on 26 June 2021.

Mike Gates, the organiser, writes:

Dear UK participants in the Ellacombe Chimes Celebration on 26 June: We are all looking forward to the Ellacombe Chimes celebration on 26 June. I think we can all be confident that there will be some way in which we can celebrate on the day. In the worst-case scenario, should we have a continuation of Lockdown, we should be able to chime at those towers/churches where Ellacombe Chimes are installed. Hopefully we will be able to have more extensive celebrations and also include as many towers/churches as possible whether they have full-circle-ringing, baton-claviers, carillons or Ellacombe Chimes.

I am pleased to advise that we are planning to launch details of the event to the media on 25 March. This will be a Press Release supported by the Ellacombe Chimes leaflet and videos. The article in the *The Ringing World* (5 March, No. 5732) is an excellent pre-cursor to the launch.

A Facebook page for our activity has been kindly set up by Dr Victoria Gibson from St. George's Church in Chorley: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/135681541720946/>

Mike Gates,

Secretary Bitton Parish History Group

Some details about Ellacombe gleaned from Wikipedia

HENRY THOMAS ELLACOMBE (1790-1885)

Ellacombe was the son of the Rev William Ellacombe, rector of Alphington, Devon, he was born in 1790.

He was ordained as a priest, at Bitton, Gloucestershire, in 1817. He held the curacy till 1835, when he became the vicar. Ellacombe restored the church of Bitton in 1822 and built three other churches in the wide district under his care, including Christ Church, Hanham, which was constructed under his immediate supervision. In 1843 his parishioners presented him with a testimonial, and in doing so the churchwardens stated that he had been the means of providing church accommodation in the district for 2,285 worshippers, and schoolrooms for 820 children. In 1850 he was presented to the rectory of Clyst St George, Devonshire where he rebuilt the nave of the church, and in 1860 erected a school-house and master's residence.

Ellacombe was the great authority on bells, and wrote many books and papers, including *Practical Remarks on Belfries and Ringers*, *The Church Bells of Devon* and *The Church Bells of Somerset*. Together with C A W Troyte and William Banister, he was a leading figure in the formation of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers in 1874.

He invented the device, now known as an Ellacombe apparatus, with chiming hammers, to enable one person to chime all the bells in a tower. However, in reality, it required very advanced and rare expertise for one person to ring changes on multiple bells, and the apparatus fell out of fashion. Consequently, the Ellacombe apparatus has been removed from many towers in the UK, but there are still visible holes in the ceiling which the ropes would come through into the ringing chamber, and often the frames are still in the ringing chamber, without ropes.

Ellacombe Chimes are still present and working in Kenn, Alphington, Clyst St George, Clyst Honiton, South Tawton, Ide and Pinhoe. Where are others in Devon?

They have been rung for services every Sunday at Alphington since 24 May both with call changes and hymns, and also at Kenn on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month since 16 August, and at Pinhoe since 11 October.

John Staddon, Alphington, Exeter

Note from Editor: The chimes at Heavitree are in working order.

The Forté Handbell Quartet



An article in *The Ringing World* of 15 January describes a quartet (that's four performers) from America that plays tunes on handbells. I expect that many of us have tried ringing tunes with two (or even four) bells each but watching their YouTube video blew me away. The Hallelujah chorus in full harmony on at least three octaves with only four ringers has to be seen to be believed. It includes some of the ringers running behind the others to grab bells from the top octave. The performance is at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_Q-YkwJ8TM More about the quartet is available from <http://fortehandbells.org/>

Ian Campbell

Training

The Survival and Recovery Toolbox

For anyone who hasn't seen this resource which was launched on 5 February 2021, I highly recommend it to all ringers.

What is the Toolbox?

The website was developed by CCCBR and ART to help deliver a successful return to ringing. It is designed for ringers (to help themselves), tower leaders (to help the band) and ringing societies (to help their areas).

The website contains information (such as tips, ideas and video clips), case studies and opinion pieces and can be accessed at: <http://ringingteachers.org/survival-and-recovery-toolbox>

Examples of what you will find within the toolkit are:-

Keeping going during lockdown:

- Keeping in touch with other ringers
- Online ringing
- Handbell ringing
- Ringing for services

Getting fit for ringing:

- Sets of exercises to do at home, including shoulder stretches, designed by two physiotherapists
- Ideas for individuals and for tower captains for a successful return to towers, including confidence building
- Opportunities to practise before ringing on a tower bell – such as using a simulator

For tower captains:

- Helping others to feel confident
- Maintaining contact - lots of social and online ideas
- Getting bells and the tower ready to ring again - maintenance checks before ringing can resume
- Lockdown learners

For Branches:

- Identifying bands or areas that are going to struggle once lockdown is over
- Using the idea of 'clusters of towers' to support individual towers or a group of towers
- Developing a plan for recovery
- Ideas for recruitment

In addition to this the Guild Ringing Recovery workgroup are discussing the use of a survey throughout the Guild and/or Devon to establish areas of need. Captains and/or individuals may be contacted in the near future for their responses.

Sheila Scofield

Abel, Mobel and Mabel – what are they?

Report of a training course run by the Guild of Devonshire Ringers

31 JANUARY

During Lockdown, Lisa Clarke has welcomed a group of ringers from various towers in East Devon to 'meet' via Zoom and virtually continue the Combe Raleigh practices using Ringing Room software (comprehensive details on how it works can be found in the June issue of RRD). From very basic beginnings, we progressed through standard Doubles to plain Major methods and early this year were ringing April Day Doubles well in Ringing Room. Mobel was very useful as an extra tool for individually practising standard methods but we wanted to attempt other Doubles methods or variations such as May Day, Eynsham and St Leonard that weren't available in Mobel. A phone call to Chris Hughes (originator of Mobel) confirmed that we could indeed edit Mobel to add methods and make the changes we wanted but it would be a good idea to get someone to show us how. Sue King contacted Tim Bayton as GDR Education Officer, explained the dilemma, and the outcome was his proposal to run a course with the help of Jill Wigney. This was advertised on the GDR website and on the afternoon of Sunday 31 January a group of 15 GDR members gathered in Zoom to learn about Abel, Mabel and Mobel.

The aims of the course were to show how to enter methods, variations and compositions into the Abel, Mabel and Mobel simulation software. Abel is probably the most popular bellringing simulation software for Windows desktops; Mabel is the Apple Mac version. Mobel is a portable version of Abel for Apple iPhones etc and most recently for Android mobile phones.

The course was structured to give explanations of place notation, calls and compositions and how to store and retrieve items. Tim introduced and explained each topic in turn; Jill demonstrated using Abel with a shared PC screen, to show the necessary moves which we followed and replicated using Mobel. Mabel was referred to but not described in detail.

The Mobel screen of commands and settings (Fig 1) replicates those in Abel. The ringer selects a bell and makes it sound using a single tap on the screen; Mobel rings the other bells. Mobel lets the ringer practise any method on 4 to 16 bells, ringing a single bell or, for handbell ringers, a pair of bells. Mobel can call plain courses, touches with bobs and/or singles or spliced. The ringer can also call touches of single methods, with bobs and/or singles. Touches can be stored in the Mobel memory. These touches and those already stored can be shown, recorded and exported as images using the screen-shot function.

In use, the Mobel screen (Fig 2) clearly shows sallies and tail ends, handstroke and backstroke, together with the blue line diagram of what was rung. The number in the centre of the circle shows how many changes have been rung. With the hand bells option, Mobel displays the lines for both bells rung. Just as in Abel, Mobel has a huge number of installed methods, using notation consistent with Central Council Framework for Method Ringing. Tim talked us through the basic concept of place notation and we were given helpful links to online tables and variations information (we learned that May Day uses a Pink's Single).

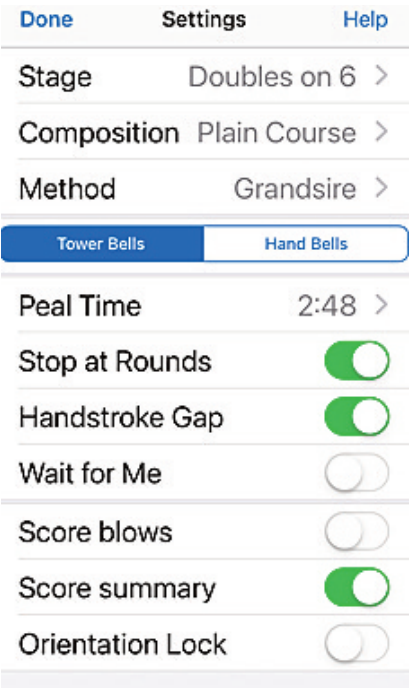


Figure1: Mobel settings and commands

The course was also hands-on; our tasks were to input Kennington (Plain Bob with Reverse Canterbury bobs) and Clifford’s Pleasure (Reverse Canterbury with Grandsire singles). Fig 3 shows the Edit Method screen. The illustration is for Plain Bob doubles, as confirmed by the shorthand Place Notation. The Edit Method screen specifies the rather more complicated places made at the Reverse Canterbury Bob, and shows the call has to be earlier than for Plain Bob. The Single is left blank as it is not needed for this variation.

Explanations of how to input touches of Bob Minor and Major were demonstrated step-by-step on Abel by Jill, followed by descriptions of Wrongs and Homes etc. All very interesting information, especially for those less familiar with how touches work. Fig 4 is the Edit Composition screen to enable the user to enter compositions. A composition with blocks of calls can be written in a shorthand way, as shown. The 240 for Grandsire doubles has a block repeated twice, hence the 3 outside the brackets. Mobel is usually set to end a touch when rounds are detected, but in this particular case an additional @2 is written after the brackets to instruct Mobel to end on the second set of rounds. Pressing Save sends the composition to the store from where it can be easily recovered.

As a convert to on-line learning, I believe the goals of ensuring we attendees gained good general understanding of the Abel, Mobel (and by implication Mabel) simulation tools were met. We all learned how to

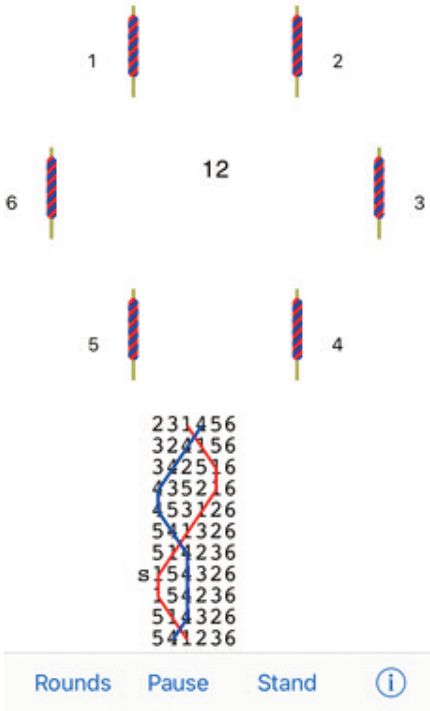


Figure 2: Mobel in use

select and ‘ring’ a method, understand place notation, change callings and enter and retrieve a composition. A surprise benefit is that Mobel Help facilities now make so much more sense; a good way to revise!

Overall, the course provided interesting, informative and enjoyable training. The tutors were patient and knowledgeable and made full use of visual aids. Although the pace was quite fast there was ample opportunity for questions and explanations. What we learned from the course has been put into practice and we have successfully rung touches

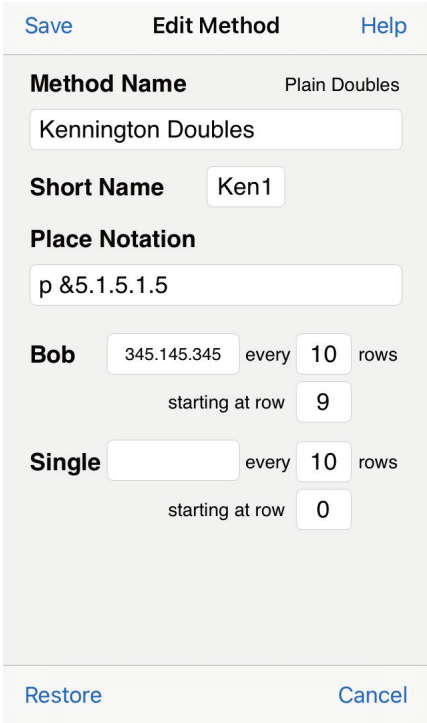


Figure 3: Editing and Saving

of April Day Triples at Combe Raleigh and are now equipped to move on

On Sunday 28 February, Tim and Jill ran a Mobel refresher course with the emphasis on entering methods, compositions and Doubles variations. This was a focussed opportunity to test or correct our understanding and to successfully solve any difficulties we’d experienced when using Mobel

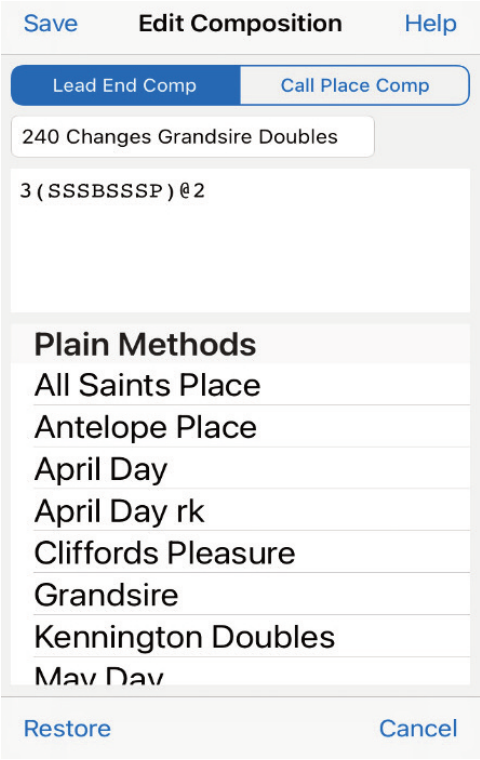


Figure 4: Composing and Saving

ourselves. We are very grateful to the GDR for laying on the original course and would like to thank Tim and Jill for giving up two Sunday afternoons for us members.

Roger King

Electronic Handbells – Ebells



As reported in the Christmas issue of *The Ringing World*, a small group of ringers/engineers has prototyped and is now manufacturing electronic handbells for use both online and for private practice with computer ringing simulator applications, such as Ringing Room, Handbell Stadium, Muster, Ding, Abel and Beltower. These are known as eBells, and since launch for general sale in November 2020, over 400 have been sold.

I am pleased to report that we have now cleared the backlog of eBells orders and we are now working through orders for 2021, and are currently able to dispatch within two weeks.

If anyone would like to know more about eBells, what they look like, or information on how to order them, please see our website at:

<https://ebells.co.uk/>

Graham John

Notable Ringing Events Peals

41 Surprise Minor in Hand and first as conductor

As a culmination of a series of quarter peals, we must congratulate the three ringers of this handbell peal in 41 Minor methods – quite an achievement – and especially Peter Richards on conducting his first peal.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Bovey Tracey, Devon, Sorrento

Saturday, 27 February 2021 in 1h 58 (8 in C)

5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (41m)

Warkworth, Annable's London, 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. Comp J Warboys and P A B Saddleton

1–2 Jill M Wigney 5–6 Peter M C Richards (C)

3–4 Michael J Wigney

First peal as Conductor.

Rung by members of the Society of Roving Ringers on Reunion day.

Quarter Peals

In memory of Alison Regan

Exeter, Devon, 3 Hoopern Avenue

Thursday, 24 December 2020 in 35m (12 in F)

1280 Kent Treble Bob Major

1–2 Ian Campbell 5–6 Matthew Hilling (C)

3–4 Oliver Bates 7–8 William Regan

Rung in memory of Alison Regan, on what would have been her 62nd birthday.

First of Kent in hand - 7-8.

21 Delight Minor in Hand

Bovey Tracey, Devon, Sorrento

Thursday, 31 December 2020 in 35m (8 in C)

1440 Spliced Delight Minor (21m)

Southwark, Abbeyville, Canterbury D, Combermere, Vale Royal, Crowland, St Werburgh, Bedford, Merton, Marple, Taxal, Old Oxford, College Bob IV, Newdigate, Willesden, Braintree, Humber, Neasden, St Alban's, Charlwood, Wragby. Comp J Warboys 4D0201

1–2 Jill Wigney

5–6 Mike Wigney (C)

3–4 Peter Richards

Most delight methods: 3-4. Most delight in hand: 1-2 and 5-6.

To mark the end of 2020.

Virtual Surprise Major

Ringing Room, Devon

Sunday, 7 February 2021 in 41m

1250 Lincolnshire Surprise Major

1–2 Lynne Hughes (Dawlish)

5–6 Matthew Hilling (Whimble) (C)

3–4 Oliver Bates (Exeter)

7–8 Sue Sawyer (West Raddon)

Rung with motion controllers.

This performance was rung using simulated sound. Performed on a virtual ringing platform.

Tim's Handbell quarter peal day

On 30 December, just before the complete lockdown, Tim Bayton arranged a handbell day, taking over the small hall at St James', Exeter. Four quarter peals were rung (and two lost), comprising Kent Treble Bob Major, and one each of Yorkshire, Lessness and Cambridge Surprise Major. Both attempts on ten bells were, unfortunately, lost.

Ian Campbell

Ringing in the Rain



Oliver, Lynne, Matt, Ian

If you look carefully you can see the dry patches on the ground where we were standing ringing. And yes, it was cold as well as wet! You can also see the bicycle which was mindlessly pushed through the circle during the ringing to be parked there.

Exeter, Devon, Cathedral west front

Sunday, 20 December 2020 in 37m (15 in C)

1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major

1–2 Oliver Coldrick

5–6 Matthew Hilling (C)

3–4 Lynne Hughes

7–8 Ian Campbell

Rung socially distanced outside the west front (in wind, rain and sunshine!) prior to 'Not the Exeter Nativity'.

Ian Campbell

Editorial Here we go again!

With Devon in 'tier 2' at the start of December it was possible for up to six people to meet up outside. This enabled some (rather cold) handbell ringing to take place before the details of Christmas regulations were produced, which dashed many people's hope of getting away during the Christmas week although a number of towers managed a short ring on Christmas day. By January 1 Devon was in 'tier 3' with no visits permitted, with the third full lockdown starting on January 6. Without being able to

meet with anyone all types of ringing had to stop, with the exception of online ringing with Ringing Room, Handbell Manager, and others.

The glimmer of light at the end of tunnel is that many of the older ringers have now had at least one vaccination against COVID-19, with the program including ever younger people as time goes on. But it is still not clear how long it will be before we can ever get back to ringing ‘properly’ – if there are any ringers left by then, although 21 June looks like the government’s latest prediction.

But amongst the gloom and doom the Guild is beaver away, keeping spirits up. Regular Zoom sessions cover all sorts of interesting topics. Officers are looking into how to restart ringing as soon as it is allowed, and even annual dinners carry on, albeit over the Internet. All of this can be seen from articles in this issue. I am grateful as always to those of you who have sent articles in for publishing.

Update

The previous issue of *RRD* showed some clips from an old film taken at Exeter Cathedral. On one of them I had tentatively identified the ringer on the 4th as being John Hill. However he has contacted me to say that it wasn’t him – he had more hair in those days and wasn’t living in the area at that time. I think that the fact that he was ringing in a white shirt and tie made me think of John but, looking at the film, that was much more common in those days. If anyone can identify any of the other people in the film that would be of interest to others.

In the meantime I offer you a picture of the ringers taken at Exeter Cathedral a few years later than this (thought to be 1978 or 9). It is sad that so many of them are no longer with us. Wendy and I are the only ones that are still ringing at the cathedral.

Ian Campbell

AS YOU WERE . . .

Snapped in 1978 or 1979 by an unknown hand, this photo of the Exeter Cathedral band had become quite faded and tired, thanks to the loss of cyan as often happens to pictures of this vintage. However, thanks to some whizzy computer technology that Ian came across recently, the image has been sharpened and recoloured, and thus looks almost as good as new!

How many faces do you recognise? The ringing chamber has been transformed over the years since the 1970s: the flooring has been renewed at least three times to my certain knowledge, while the chiming wires were removed last year when a computerised system for chiming the bells was installed.



Back row (l to r): Tony Crabtree, *Bryan Coles, Wendy Campbell, *George Retter, Sharon Campbell, Ian Campbell, *Fred Wreford, Mary Mack, Colin Barr, Bill Harvey, Maggie Whiteley, Martin Whiteley, *Arthur Truman
Front row (l to r): *Frank Mack, Jenny Campbell, *Bill Ware, *Charlie Yates
*deceased

Wendy Campbell

Answers to ECG quiz in this issue:

- Round 1:** 1: Oliver. 2: Cheese and onion. 3: Seven. 4: Vodka. 5: Three. 6: 1985. 7: George III. 8: Croatia. 9: 88. 10: Denmark
Round 2: 1: The Queen. 2: Freddie Mercury. 3: Meryl Streep. 4: Winston Churchill. 5: Virginia Woolf. 6: Lewis Hamilton. 7: Ainsley Harriott. 8: Frida Kahlo. 9: Jeremy Paxman. 10: Miranda Hart.
Round 3: 1: Charlie. 2: Romeo and Juliet. 3: Golf. 4: Tango. 5: Echo. 6: India. 7: November. 8: Hotel. 9: Oscar. 10: NATO phonetic alphabet.

David Hird in 1977



David ringing the tenor at Derby in 1977

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