

# Ringling Round Devon

LOCKDOWN ISSUE number 6

## Devon Young Ringers - MONTHLY PRACTICES



Devon Young Ringers at Pinhoe

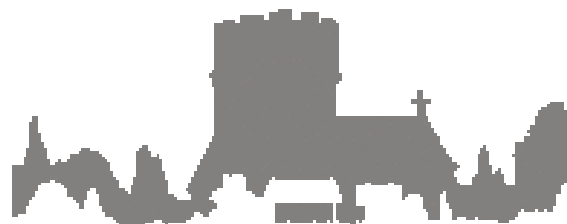


It is all pretty serious stuff...

The new Devon Young Ringers group met for their first practice at Pinhoe on 8 August. It was fantastic to see the project come into fruition after several months of careful planning.

Six young ringers from across Devon were able to ring together, from call changes to plain hunt triples, supported by able helpers from across the county. It was a fun afternoon, with some silly games and laughter afterwards too. Thank you to all the helpers for turning up to help make this first session a success. We have some really exciting things lined up for the rest of the year and we are looking forward to meeting more young ringers as the groups continue.

If you know of any young ringers who could benefit from a chance to learn and meet others, please let them know that they are welcome. Please see the poster for details of the practices.



THE GUILD OF  
DEVONSHIRE RINGERS  
Newsletter 123 September 2021



...but there is still time for some non-ringing fun!

Elena Brake

## Devon Young Ringers

- Are you a young ringer under 18?
- Would you like to meet other young ringers in Devon?
- Join us at Devon Young Ringers' monthly practices!



### Devon Young Ringers Practices 2021

The following practices will be held at  
St Michael and All Angels Church,  
Pinhoe (EX4 9JF)

Sunday, 8th August, 2 – 4:30pm  
Sunday, 12th September, 2 – 4:30pm  
Sunday, 10th October, 2 – 4:30pm  
Sunday, 13th November, 2 – 4:30pm  
Sunday, 12th December, 2 – 4:30pm

All abilities welcome!

We welcome method ringers and Devon Call Change ringers.

For more information and to book your place, email Elena Brake:

[yrcoordinator@devonringers.org.uk](mailto:yrcoordinator@devonringers.org.uk)

Scan the QR code for the parental consent form



SCAN ME



## Devon Young Ringers - Our Second Meeting



Devon Young Ringers (and not so young!) ringing handbells

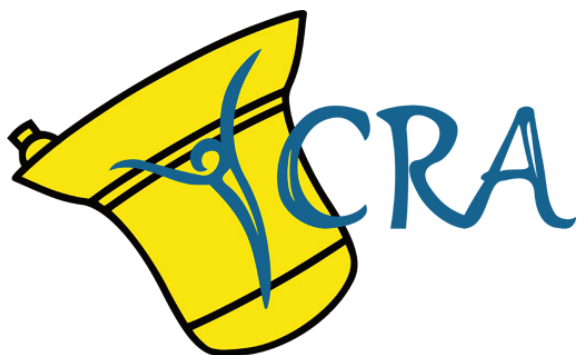
Thank you again to all the volunteers and young ringers at our second meeting of Devon Young Ringers! On this occasion, in addition to tower bells, our ringers had a go on handbells as well as the challenging Guild demonstration bell set up in the church which required a lot of precision to ring correctly. We have already seen our group gain in confidence, taking it in turns to call changes, many of them for the first time. We are looking forward to another exciting meeting in October!

*Elena Brake*



Elena at the launch of the Young Change Ringers Association

## Launching a Young Ringers Association



A few months ago I was asked whether I could design a logo for a new association for young ringers. It sounded right up my street, and of course I said yes. Fast forward to Saturday 21 September and I have just helped to launch YCRA – Young Change Ringers Association and am one of the 'Core 7' founding members. It's funny how things turn out!

YCRA is a brand new association which is especially for young ringers (under 30 years old). There is no lower age limit and anyone who can safely handle a bell is welcome. The seven young ringers behind this association are based across the UK and we have been meeting over Zoom to work on all the details, I only met them in person for the first time last week! It's been an intense and wonderful few months and I've learned so much.

I travelled to Worcester to help launch the YCRA at the RWNYS on 21 September. The event was an incredible festival of ringing which will be very welcome when it arrives in Exeter next year. It was buzzing with young ringers and I had many fascinating conversations with the leaders of young ringing groups which has given me many ideas for the newly revived Devon Young Ringers group, now meeting monthly at Pinhoe.

I hope that my ringing friends in Devon will help to support the YCRA. If you are under 30, I hope that you decide it is worth the £15/year subscription to be a part of, and if you are over the age limit it would be fantastic if you could be encouraging your younger ringers to get involved too. The association is driven by its members, so the more members we

have in the South West the more the activities and events will cater to our needs.

You can find out more about us on our website, as well as the link to sign up. It's early days but we will have more information published over the coming weeks and months. I look forward to updating you as we grow!

*Elena Brake*

## Advice on ringing with COVID

### Church of England

The latest advice from the Church of England regarding ringing is hidden in a general guidance document:

'Bellringing is no longer restricted by social distancing rules, although sensible precautions such as good ventilation and using hand sanitiser, are still recommended. The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers has more information on how to think about this.'

### Central Council

On 19 July, the ringing guidance changed to such a degree that ringing went back to as close to normal as have been since the start of the pandemic. That guidance, agreed with the House of Bishops Recovery Group, can be found at:

<https://cccbr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Guidance-at-a-glance-2.2.pdf>

Whilst the restrictions have largely been released, the Government is stressing personal responsibility, and our guidance contains some very specific considerations around the use of facemasks and the importance of ventilation in towers. There are no longer restrictions on how long you ring for, or with how many other people.

The Government now wants us to take responsibility for our own actions. If you don't think you should ring for as long as you are allowed to – don't. If you want to wear a facemask when ringing – wear one. If a member of your band wants you all to wear facemasks to protect them – discuss it as a band and come to an agreement. Bellringing is a group activity and we are responsible for each other not just ourselves. The virus has not gone away by any means – we are learning to live with it.

## Guild AGM – a report

The AGM was held remotely again and was easily quorate. The aim of keeping under the hour was not quite achieved but business was efficiently dealt with. Two officers had said that they did not want to stand for re-election: Robert Brown and Lynne Hughes. Robert (Safeguarding officer) was replaced by Wenna Mansley but sadly no-one has come forward to replace Lynne as publicity officer. Both Robert and Lynne were thanked for all they have done and it was hoped that someone will soon come forward to take over the vacant Publicity Officer post. Is it you?

It was reported that the new membership forms had worked reasonably well. The good news is that there has been a good increase in the number of members on the gift aid scheme and extra donations to the DBRF totalled over £800.

One of the advantages of an on-line meeting is that voting can easily be counted and a percentage vote shown on the screen. Thus, we could see that the vast majority supported the rise in membership subscription to £10. On first sight, this seems a large increase but when it is realised that it is well over ten years since the last rise, it does not seem so excessive. It also brings us more in line with other Guilds and Associations throughout the country.

Throughout the pandemic regular Internet Arms virtual pub meetings have been organised by John Martin and Charlotte Boyce. They have covered a wide variety of topics and been an excellent way of keeping the Guild functioning and relevant while we could not meet in person. To show our appreciation a collection was organised and at the end of the meeting a gift was delivered to their front door. This was a beautiful bowl sitting on an oak plinth carved with the Guild logo. Photos can be found in the previous edition of *Ringling Round Devon*. There was also a gift voucher for The Beer Engine in Newton St Cyres.

The meeting also saw Neil Deem finally installed as Guild Master for the next twelve months. Janet Ritterman has worked tirelessly as the first master to serve for two consecutive years. She handed over to Neil and announced the gift to John and Charlotte. Thank you Janet for all you have done - a very different time in office from the one you could have anticipated when you took on the role!

*Martin Mansley*

## Recording of Guild Annual General Meeting

Those of you who couldn't attend the Guild AGM might be interested to know that a recording is available (via YouTube). The minutes from that meeting are also available. Both can be downloaded from: <https://devonringers.org.uk/guild/agms>.

*John Martin*

## Guild Ringing Festival

The Guild Ringing Festival will take place between 23 October and 7 November.

Please take the opportunity to dedicate a ringing performance in your tower during that period.

We would welcome the publication of a wide variety of performances, including a touch for a member of your band (first on tenor behind/first on treble/first on a working inside bell to a method, first in rounds/first to call some call changes etc), quarter peals or a peal.

Performances should be recorded on BellBoard and linked to the 2021 Guild Ringing Festival event and the DCBRF donation associated with your performance forwarded to your branch Treasurer.

*John Martin, Guild Secretary*

## Guild striking competitions – Saturday 16 October

Thank you to all those who took part in the recent information gathering exercise to help plan for this event.

The Guild officers and officers from the South-West branch have reviewed the responses received and can now let you all know that a sufficient level of interest has been shown for the inter-tower six bell contest to take place.

Additionally, interest was expressed in attending a more social gathering and so we propose providing a workshop type opportunity to socialise and develop listening skills with the aim of equipping members with the skills needed to judge future striking contests.

The South-West branch officers are now making arrangements for these activities to take place at Laira (subject to confirmation) during the afternoon of Saturday 16 October.

Laira has been suggested as these are an easy-going ground floor ring of bells (tenor 11 cwt) with plenty of open space available.

Additional details will follow in the coming weeks but please do let me know if you have any questions.

*John Martin, Guild Secretary*

## Guild Sesquicentenary

The Guild will celebrate its 150th anniversary in March 2024. The actual term is sesquicentenary - try saying that after a few pints! A Guild committee has been set up to oversee the celebrations and has started by identifying a number of potential ideas to mark the occasion with a view to gaining an indication of likely support.

- *Ringling World* calendar

We have already arranged with the editor that the 2024 calendar will feature Devon. This will be designed in collaboration with the Association as they celebrate their centenary in 2025. We have identified two professional photographers within the Guild and are looking forward to their input. It is anticipated that the photos will not be limited to the standard view of a church and tower. The calendar has to be produced ready for sale in September 2023.

- Devon edition of *The Ringling World*

We are approaching the Editor with a view to hosting an edition of *The Ringling World* in the same way as the Truro Diocesan Guild hosted the edition of 2 July 2021 to mark their upcoming 125th anniversary. We are hoping that this will be after the celebration events such that we can include reports of those.

- Celebration Weekend

The date of this is Friday 22 March 2024 to Sunday 24 March 2024 (the Sunday being Palm Sunday that year). The plan is to start with a formal Dinner on the evening of Friday 22 March at a location central to the county. This will require sufficient interest from the membership to go ahead. The venues under consideration can provide accommodation. The Saturday would commence with some ringing, details to be arranged nearer the time, and finish with a celebratory service at an appropriate venue.

- Agricultural Shows

The Guild has been represented at the Devon County Show for a number of years. The suggestion, for the 150th anniversary year, is that we try do something similar at some of the local shows throughout Devon. This will require support from every branch as we cannot expect one group to arrange and manage these.

- A Guild History

It is proposed to write a new Guild history. The last version was published for the centenary in 1974.

- A commemorative beer

This is under investigation. This will probably be bottled, although it may be possible to arrange a cask for the dinner.

At this stage we would like to gain some idea of support for the dinner and the agricultural show proposals. This will be raised at the various branch AGMs starting shortly. The committee currently comprises James Kirkcaldy, Janet Deem, Janet Ritterman, Les Boyce, and Neil Deem. Please talk to us and let us know whether you would support the events. Also let us know if you have other ideas to celebrate the occasion via email to [GDR150@devonringers.org.uk](mailto:GDR150@devonringers.org.uk).

*James Kirkcaldy*

## Central Council meeting

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers held its annual meeting on Saturday 4 September at which the Guild was represented by our elected representatives. You will find contact details for our representatives at <https://devonringers.org.uk/guild/officers>.

## Feedback from Central Council Representatives to Guild members

Guild members have previously received reports from our CC representatives a considerable time after the meeting, either via a written report in *Ringling Round Devon* or our annual report or a verbal report at one of the Guild meetings.

This year Guild members were provided with an opportunity to receive those reports from our CC representatives the day after the Council meeting took place via the Zoom teleconferencing service. The following notes were produced by Alena Wardle for discussion at the meeting:



## CCCBR AGM notes

- 17 vacancies of CCCBR members
- [Calling It Round | Calling It Round \(cccbr.org.uk\)](#)
- Public Relations Workgroup ([pro@cccbr.org.uk](mailto:pro@cccbr.org.uk))
  - Guidance being prepared for what to do on death of HM The Queen
  - Supporting Heritage Open Days – 9-11 September
  - Bell Sunday – working with church to get this in their calendar
  - More materials & guidance
  - HM The Queen Platinum Jubilee – making plans
  - COP 26 – Ringing for the Environment (Nov-21) [Cop26 United Nations Climate Change Conference – CCCBR](#)
- Senior Stakeholder Liaison ([ssl@cccbr.org.uk](mailto:ssl@cccbr.org.uk))
  - Working with Bishops Covid Advisory Group
  - CCCBR have a slot at the DAC conference in September
  - Save the parish – consultation [Save the Parish – CCCBR](#)
  - Recommend starting a risk register of churches in each area, CCCBR can then put these on the table with the church in order to get bells removed early
- Stewardship & Management Workgroup ([SMlead@cccbr.org.uk](mailto:SMlead@cccbr.org.uk))
  - Manual of Belfry Maintenance update underway in html format
  - Guidance on how to run a tower being prepared
- Technical & Taxonomy Workgroup ([tlead@cccbr.org.uk](mailto:tlead@cccbr.org.uk))
  - Version 2 framework consultation completed [Framework for Method Ringing \(cccbr.org.uk\)](#)
  - Launching Ringing Forums [Ringing Forums](#)
- Volunteer & Leadership Workgroup ([vllead@cccbr.org.uk](mailto:vllead@cccbr.org.uk))
  - Recruitment & retention workshops – working with ART
- Young Ringers – Schools & Youth Groups Workgroup ([syglead@cccbr.org.uk](mailto:syglead@cccbr.org.uk))
  - Guide & scout badges
  - DofE – guidelines
  - Working with schools – lesson plans as part of national curriculum, year 5-6 and year 8-9
- Young Ringers – Universities & Colleges Workgroup ([uclead@cccbr.org.uk](mailto:uclead@cccbr.org.uk))
  - [www.UniversityRinging.org](http://www.UniversityRinging.org) has been updated
- History & Archive Workgroup ([halead@cccbr.org.uk](mailto:halead@cccbr.org.uk))
  - Need more members of the workgroup for all areas
- Forward Plan 2021
  - Covid & ringing recovery
  - Strategic priorities due to be reviewed & republished
  - Lottery fund bid for bells in schools (£250k – £300k), 5 year program, will need pilot societies
  - Mobile Belfry 2.0 – set up in 30 mins, <800kg tow weight, still need £40-50k funding
  - Cast of 1000 – worked well in RR, now need to roll out to towers in 2022
  - Call change competition in 2022
  - National ringing centre – Old Black Lion in Northants, completion Spring 2023
  - Need help for events management & tech/web expertise
  - Reducing the size of the Council is still being discussed
  - Need Secretary, V&L lead & trustee replacements
- Financial Update 2021 & 2022
  - Nothing additional to the notes on CCCBR website
- Governance Review
  - CRAG recommended a triennial review of governance, now time to do second review
  - Need to find someone to do this, with experience in charity governance, ringing, finance etc
  - To be completed before next year's AGM
- Motions
  - Modify wording to allow **up to two** independent examiners, changed to **one or two** and approved
  - That the Executive be encouraged to publish and maintain a list of its decisions that are currently in force – approved

- Future meetings
    - 2022 – Meeting in Nottingham, using Clifton Campus 2/3/4 September 2022
    - Discussion on what could be arranged for this
  - AOB
    - Attendance number to be reported later
    - Membership numbers & fees due in 6 weeks before the meeting
- Meeting closed at 13.50

## Ringling World AGM

- Deficit of £28,748 – income £18k down
  - Cost saving initiatives of £14k for 2021
  - Working group to look at how to support BellBoard financially
  - RW Board needs 2 or 3 more members, IT skills need boost
- John Martin, Guild Secretary*

## Obituaries Heather Appleby



It is with great sadness that we have to report the recent death of Heather Appleby from Sidmouth. Heather's health had been worsening for some time despite excellent care from the NHS and from Ray.

Heather and Ray learnt to ring after their retirement to Sidmouth. They were both enthusiastic and supportive members of the Sidmouth band and were often seen at branch events. In the 1990s Heather had been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis but was determined that it, and the later identified leukaemia, would make no difference to her joining in the activities she enjoyed. Her determination to ascend the 45 tower steps and to continue to ring despite the discomfort was inspirational. She had such a positive outlook and put on such a brave face when her life was never as easy as it should have been.



Heather with Ray

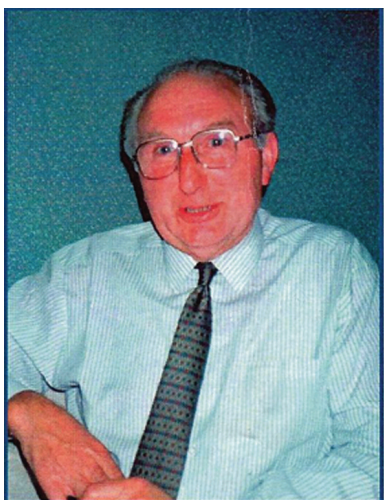


We shall miss Heather's smiling face and her natural ability to make visiting ringers feel really welcome. We shall miss too her presence in The Anchor after practice nights when she always had an amusing tale to tell.

Our thoughts and prayers are for Ray at this time: may Heather rest in peace.

*Anne Bailey*

## George Boucher



George Boucher died on 22 July, aged 91. He had been a loyal member of the Tavistock band for nearly 50 years.

We rang our bells half muffled before the funeral.

I first met George at ringing competitions in the 1960s, ringing for Lamerton at a time when he was church warden there.

After moving to Tavistock he started ringing at St Eustachius and in 1972 he was made captain, where he remained in post for approximately ten years. As you would expect he was very welcoming to any new or visiting ringers. During that time the band rang in competitions all around the county and took part in ringing outings all over the country. When George retired from the RAC he worked part time for us repairing shearing machines and doing anything we needed help with; he was very versatile and could turn his hand to anything. He came with me to a number of shows including the Royal Show at Stoneleigh. I also remember George and one of my boys selling equipment at a sheep event somewhere north of Scots Gap, Yorkshire. As the years went by, he came out less often, but I knew I could always ask him to do little jobs like taking parts to Plymouth or picking up bearings or delivering something that someone needed in a hurry. It was a bit extreme one day when I rang George and said, 'I have got a little job for you. Can you deliver two shearing trailers to Spain for us please?' We loaded one on top of the other, George and Jill (George's daughter-in-law) came out and off they went to Spain. On return some days later George said, 'It is quite a long way you know, car got a bit hot going up through the Pyrenees', but as with everything George achieved his objective.

Two years ago my son Andrew and I qualified to represent England at the world championships sheep shearing to be held in France. I drove to the south of France to get some practice in March and to help teach a shearer on the French team. I then decided to go down to Spain, where I met the man who George had delivered the trailers to approximately 25 years previously and he is still using the trailers.

George was a lesson to us all and would do anything for anybody if humanly possible. They always say 'if you want something done, ask a busy person'.

In 1997 I had the idea of augmenting our bells to 10 to celebrate the Millennium. My late wife Doreen designed sweatshirts, T shirts, Christmas cards, notelets, prints of the church and all manner of things to raise money. George and Doreen were the ones that did most of the work selling the merchandise to raise our share of the money.

We arranged an outing in 1999 to Loughborough to see the new bells cast. It was a great trip with all our ringers and families, choir members, John Rawlings (our Vicar) and some members of the congregation. We saw the bells cast, then rang at the foundry, Loughborough Parish Church and four other towers on the way home: a very memorable outing.

Also in 1999 George was proud to have been a member of our band of Sunday service ringers that won the Devon eight-bell competition for the first time, when it was held at Barnstaple parish church. At that time Tavistock was probably the only team to have competed every year since it started in 1927, and it was the first time we had won. George was a life-

long call change ringer but more than happy to ring the tenor behind for method and he also learnt to hunt the treble.

George was a lifetime member of the Devon Association and in later years also joined the Guild. He had the honour of being made President of the Association in 2005/2006.

George rang up to a few years ago, when he said he would like to continue but could not leave Rita too long.

He will be sadly missed by Rita, Brian and Roger and all of us who knew him. We are all better off for having known George and I call it a great honour to have been one of his many friends.

Life is for living and George lived it to the full. I have never heard him moan or complain and he was an inspiration to us all. Do what you can when you can, you may not get the opportunity again. We can truly say 'well done, thou good and faithful servant.' He was a true Christian gentle man. May he rest in peace.

*George Mudge, Tavistock Tower Captain*

## John Adams

John Adams died at the beginning of July. He was a Guild member from St Marychurch. He and his wife, Alison, were joint branch secretary of the Mid Devon Branch in the early 1980s and were involved in the fund raising when St Marychurch bells were re-hung. Neither of them has rung tower bells for many years but Alison is the leader of the Berry Pomeroy Handbell Ringers where they now live. We send her and his family our condolences.

St Marychurch ringers rang Whole Pull and Stand in his memory prior to the Sunday morning service on 18 July

## Alan Cooke

Some of the older members at this end of the North-East Branch will have known Alan Cooke, who was tower captain at Rockwell Green in Wellington. Alan sadly recently passed away and a Memorial Service was held for him on 22 July.

*Brian Samuels*

## Geoff Williamson

We regret to inform you that Geoff died peacefully at 5am on Friday morning, 10 September. A Rowcroft nurse had been there all night.

Geoff learned to ring at Upton (Torquay) but rang regularly at Kingskerswell/Coffinswell and Berry Pomeroy. He was a real gentleman and we will all miss his cheerful smile. We send our sincere condolences to his family. May he rest in peace.

*Martin Mansley, Philip Stevens*

## Memorial ringing for Martin Dodd 25 Sept 2021



St James, Teignmouth

St Michael, Teignmouth

Saturday 25 September the Teignmouth band of ringers and Mid Devon Branch are holding a celebratory ringing day to remember Martin Dodd. Martin died earlier this year after over 50 years of leading ringing in Teignmouth. To remember him, a number of towers will be open for ringing on this day. Groups or individuals can visit each church, and the day is planned to be like a ringing outing but with a special event at its heart.

This special event is a plaque dedication ceremony. At 2pm at St Michael's, Teignmouth, a plaque will be dedicated to Martin and attached to the ringers' wheel by the west door. After this there will be ringing at St Michael's to celebrate, plus a tea for a social chat. Ringers, friends, congregation as well as Martin's family are all invited to the dedication ceremony and tea. We hope to see as many people as possible at this special occasion.

### Celebratory ringing

Proposed itinerary

- 1 Kingskerswell, open for ringing 10 to 11am
- 2 Kenn, open for ringing 11am to 12 noon
- 3 St James, Teignmouth, open for ringing 12 noon to 1.30pm
- 4 St Michael's, Teignmouth

At 2pm the plaque dedication ceremony in honour of Martin's long service to ringing will take place, followed by ringing at St Michael's until about 5pm.

Teas available by donation will commence after the plaque dedication, from about 3pm until 5pm depending on demand.

- 5 Bishopsteignton, to be open 4 to 6pm
- 6 Ideford, to be open 4.30 to 6pm
- 7 Dawlish, to open 4.30 to 6.30pm
- 8 Alphington, open for ringing 6.30 to 7.30pm

*Julia Brett, Tower Secretary, Teignmouth*

## Bill Ford (1927-2021)



*Bill died very shortly before the publication of the June edition of RRD and it was only possible to compose a short obituary for him in the time available. His daughter Anne has now supplied us with the eulogy given at his funeral so that the fuller story of his interesting life can be shared.*

*Wendy Campbell*

Edward William Ford was born in Thorverton on 14 February 1927, the youngest of three children. His family home was Castle Orchard in Dark Lane. He attended Thorverton church school and, as a young boy, he was interested in churches and church clocks. He would go with his father to the church on ringing practice nights; however, this was when ringing was considered to be for adult men only. Definitely no children or women! When WW2 broke out the younger members of the village were expected to do something for the war effort during the school holidays, so Bill and his friend, Sam May, took part in air raid precaution practices.

After leaving the village school, Bill attended Tiverton Middle School which later became Tiverton Grammar School. He then took up a student apprenticeship at Bristol Aeroplane Company in the engines division. During this period he frequently travelled between Bristol and Thorverton by motorbike and never lost touch with his local roots. He eventually returned home and joined Stenners, manufacturers of woodworking and milling machinery. In his spare time, he enjoyed motor cycle scrambling

and grass track racing with John Ugrow. He spent a lot of his time at Ron Edworthy's garage tinkering with motorbikes and was known to be a bit of a genius when fixing them, apart from the braking system. This landed him in trouble on several occasions when negotiating the village lanes. After the war Bill helped his uncle to wind the church clock. On one such occasion it was ringing practice night so he was able to join in as he was now considered old enough to be part of the local band. This was the start of his love for campanology.

Bill married Ena at the church in 1954. They lived at Castle Orchard with Bill's parents, and their daughter Anne was born in 1958. In order to progress his career, Bill and his wife and young daughter moved to Swindon for him to take up a position at Plessey Semi-Conductors. In 1962 he had a house built in Blunsdon, where he remained until his retirement in 1987. His move to Swindon enabled him to further his interest in ringing by regularly attending meetings and practices at churches nearby. He became tower captain and churchwarden at Blunsdon in 1965 and taught many local school children to ring, including his daughter when she was seven years old.

Bill enjoyed village life at Blunsdon. He sailed his small boat on the gravel pits nearby and tried his hand at gliding. Throughout his time living there, he and the family would regularly make the trip to Thorverton to visit his parents.

Bill's next career move was to join a Swiss company based in London. This involved commuting there on a weekly basis. He soon found his way to the local towers on practice evenings and so widened his ringing experience and circle of friends.

When Bill retired to Thorverton he took on the responsibility of churchwarden, as his father and grandfather had done before him, and also became tower captain, encouraging the local ringers to expand their knowledge of method ringing. In the 1990s he was instrumental in raising funds to augment the bells to ten, the two additional bells being dedicated to his parents. Following the augmentation, the Whitechapel Friendly Society was formed with its head office at The Bell Inn. Bill was the founder member and the only requirement of any prospective member was that they had to be 'friendly' enough to join. That was how Bill was: always friendly, always happy with life.

Using his self-taught calligraphy skills Bill was happy to undertake the task of recording all peals rung at Exeter Cathedral between 1902 and 1999. This took him two years to complete, resulting in 117 pages of beautifully scripted peal records. The book is on permanent display in the ringing room there.

Bill worked quietly in the background to get things done and was part of the organising team for the annual arts festival in Thorverton. He spent a happy retirement in the village until 2015 when he moved back to Blunsdon to be near Anne and her family, following an accident in which he broke his arm. Ironically, he was returning from an evening practice at a local tower when he lost his footing and fell. He then rang at St Leonard's, Blunsdon until he felt he was no longer able to do so safely – a hard decision to take but, as always, he put others before himself and considered it unfair to the other ringers to be responsible for his wellbeing in the tower.

Bill was a good, kind, unassuming and gentle man who lived a full and happy life and he will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.

*Anne Theobald*

## Aylesbeare Branch Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Aylesbeare Branch is being held in the evening of Thursday 14 October at Clyst St George.

7.00 – 8.00pm General ringing

An opportunity to ring with different people for the first time in a long time!

8.00 – 9.00 pm Business meeting

The agenda and the minutes from the last meeting have been circulated by email.

This is our chance to discuss the way forward for the Aylesbeare Branch following the changes to the various church missions as well as getting back up and running post Covid.

There will be tea, coffee and biscuits available in the church

Please think Covid-safe, use the hand sanitiser provided, think social distancing and take a face mask (just in case). If you have any Covid symptoms, please DO NOT come along, we will see you on another occasion instead.

*Janet Deem*



# East Devon Branch St. Nicholas, Dunkeswell

## Tower Open Event, 4 September

After a few years of inspections, reports, plans and permissions, we were finally able to go ahead and enjoy a celebration of our new resources at Dunkeswell. We had an enjoyable and fun day - much laughter and eating of cake! More importantly, local visitors expressing great interest in ringing and mechanics of bellringing. At this point, I must say that the demonstration bell provided by the GDR and set up on the day by Ian and Wendy Campbell proved to be a vital resource and attraction. Adults and children (especially!) learned and enjoyed the challenge of ringing and trying to set the bell!

We tracked down the Guild publicity display boards which had been carefully stowed away for 18 months or so, which provoked a lot of interest from visitors and ringers alike.

As some ringers may remember, access to the ringing chamber was formerly via a ladder through a hatchway in the floor with one handle to grab whilst stepping up and through the 'hole' with one foot on said ladder!! Not too satisfactory by today's H & S standards.

Access now is via a bespoke staircase via two hatchways! In the ringing chamber there is a balustrade which can be wheeled back against a wall while we ring the bells. We have to thank Woodleys Joinery, based in Newton Poppleford, who created this wonderful design for us.

The bell frame has been refurbished and treated to prevent further corrosion, and we have lowered the ceiling of the ringing room to provide more room under the bells. In addition substantial sound insulation has been installed between the bells and the ringing room.

Funding these refurbishments has been quite challenging. We would like to thank the DCBRF, CCCBR, Dunkeswell PCC and many anonymous donations which arrived in our tower fund account.

We have attracted a lot of support from residents of the village. We have four new young ringers and three adult recruits all progressing very well.

Below is a response from a Guild ringer:

*What a fantastic time I had this afternoon, 'grabbing a rope' at the tower's open day. Very pleased to have been part of the day and met lots of people who were grabbing a rope for the first time. It was my first time there, though I am certain that it will not be my last. The welcome was warm, and the tea and lemon drizzle cake absolutely splendid. A beautiful church, in a pretty, traditional, East Devon village. As well as a thoroughly enjoyable ring, I enjoyed watching the new ringers having their first experience at chiming a bell. And the displays and computer demonstrations downstairs were absolutely fantastic, too.*

Brenda Eastell

## Pictures from Dunkeswell Open Day



The Guild demo bell was well used



Guild display boards in the church



Video display while enjoying the cakes



Guild demo bell was enjoyed by all





Bell handling lessons



Plenty of time to socialise in the sun



The new ringing room floor and ceiling

## The benefits of Ellacombe Chimes

Since becoming tower captain at Offwell some years ago I had been intrigued by the Ellacombe chime apparatus lying disused in the ringing chamber. I read up something about the system and worked on freeing up the pulleys and hammers so that it was possible to chime after a fashion, but when the information concerning the 200th anniversary celebrations of the chimes invention was shared on the internet I realised that a little more work was needed to enable reliable chiming. Fortunately my friend Clive Whithear was happy to assist in replacing the complete set of ropes operating the hammers. After 30 or 40 years out of use the existing ropes were in very poor condition, some with breaks knotted together, others frayed and nearly parted. We fitted all new ropes and I was able to celebrate the International Ellacombe Chimes Day by running through a sequence of changes. Soon after this I was asked to take an interest in the bells of the neighbouring parish of Widworthy, which were ringable, but they had no band.

On my first visit I met Professor Gwyn Prins, the husband of one of the churchwardens. He explained that he had started to chime a bell to mark the funeral of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, but the rope had broken. We decided that we would restore the Ellacombe mechanism and Prof Prins was keen to chime regularly for services. He also wished to learn full circle ringing so that in time the bells, which had not been regularly rung since about 1950, but had been assessed as ringable by Guild advisors, could once more be rung to their potential. Clive and I once more checked the hammers and fitted new ropes. I am pleased to say that Prof Prins is now chiming for 20 minutes before Sunday services and has received very favourable comments from members of the congregation. He was also surprised by how far the sound of the bells carries.

Some serious ringers may rather scoff at use of the Ellacombe system, but our experience is that chiming can not only provide the sound of bells when a band is not available but also act as a recruiting agent in introducing more people to 'proper' ringing.

*John Tristram*

## What did you do in Lockdown, Daddy?

*'What did you do in Lockdown, Daddy?'*

*'Well, not very much it seems, except perhaps forget how to ring'*

Is that really true? No, I don't think it is. All of us found other interesting things to do, not always ringing related. The world is a far different place to what it was 18 months ago. Who then had even heard of Zoom? Now we all use it and it has proved to be a boon. Speaking for myself, my garden had never looked as good, as many of the hours put into ringing went into the garden instead. Then we discovered Zoom and a couple of bright sparks invented Ringing Room. Sadly the latter was not for me, though I am aware that for others it was the invention of the century.

Here in East Devon we have a Friday Group that meets weekly. It was originally intended to bring on those (mainly older) learners who wanted extra practice. Several first quarters were achieved because of it. These Friday mornings became so popular that shortly before lockdown there were mutterings that we might need to restrict the numbers. It was not all serious stuff though and the social side developed alongside the ringing. When lockdown came we were determined not to lose that, accordingly via Zoom we instituted the virtual coffee morning. It usually started with a bit of general chat while we waited for everyone to log in and then the fun began. We had a whole series of different quizzes, a limerick competition, a poetry morning and 'would I lie to you?' where we learned some amazing things about our fellow ringers, from drinking coffee in the Princess Royal's kitchen to throwing a plate of stew into a teacher's face. Better not upset the latter, though I guess (hope) he's matured a bit since primary school.

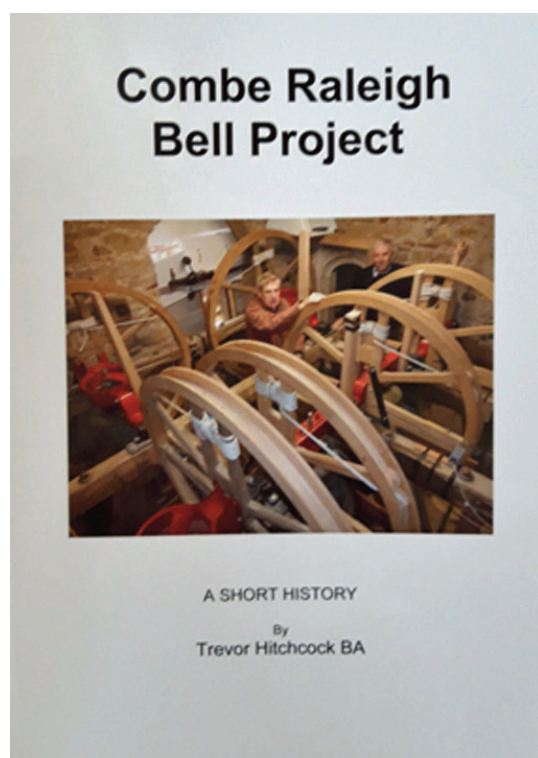
Some of us became, for the first time, aware of just how much ringing had taken over our lives and now there was time for other things. Some have taken to regular sea swimming, even kayaking (or is that the same thing?), others to running, others (not so energetic) decided to try their hand at writing. One even was persuaded to try public speaking, by talking at the Internet Arms about a bell restoration project. It's strange how we all manage to fill time.

What was the effect of lockdown? Well, we may not have completely forgotten how to ring, but our first efforts were, we must admit, a bit shaky and sometimes our memory of a method was a little hazy. Some sadly have fallen by the wayside, due to age or infirmity. One tower discovered that half its members were unavailable due to a variety of medical reasons, none covid related. We hope to see them back in the tower soon though inevitably a couple of them will not be. Now we need a recruiting campaign like never before.

*Trevor Hitchcock*



## History of Combe Raleigh Bell Project Book



Trevor Hitchcock is a ringer at Combe Raleigh and regular contributor to *RRD*. Following the augmentation of the bells from three to six his new book gives details of the trials and tribulations of the project, and includes details of the fund-raising that the team undertook to raise an ever-increasing amount which finished up over £100,000. In parallel it shows the dedication and enthusiasm with which several non-ringing members of the village learnt to ring, initially on the three old bells, with the thrill of ringing for their first wedding, and eventually getting to the stage of winning a six-bell striking competition.



An example of the inside pages

The book is illustrated with a large number of photos taken at various stages in the work and includes some articles which you may have seen in earlier issues of *RRD*.

Trevor has very generously distributed copies of the book to many of those involved in the work, including a copy which is destined for the Guild library. He is keen to point out that the cost of producing this book has been borne by a generous member of the congregation, and not the bell fund or the church.

Trevor informs me that the book was produced on a limited run. However he has a number of copies which he can make available for £10 if anyone is interested. They can be reserved via email to Trevor at [t.hitchcock@btinternet.com](mailto:t.hitchcock@btinternet.com).

Ian Campbell

## Exeter Branch Wedding of Amy Gill and Simon Hurlock



At last! Like so many other couples, Amy and Simon's wedding in August 2020 was cancelled, but they finally tied the knot on Saturday 21 August 2021, marrying in front of a large gathering of family and friends at St Mark's, Exeter. In time-honoured tradition, all ten bells rang out to a high standard before and after the service, manned by the local band and other ringers from the area.

After posing for photographs in lovely sunshine outside the church, the newly weds were borne away by tower captain David Hird in his gleaming Jaguar, which had been specially polished and bedecked with ribbons for the occasion.



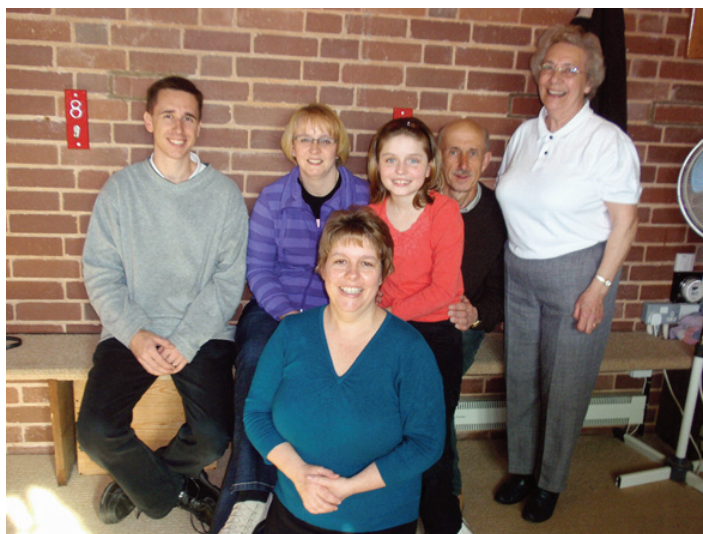
The ringers – and David Hird with his Jag

The cameras continued to snap away in the gardens of the Lord Haldon Hotel, Dunchideock, where just as the final group photograph had been taken, the first drops of rain were felt and the weather deteriorated into quite a deluge for the remainder of the day. Fortunately it didn't dampen any spirits and a delicious wedding breakfast followed by speeches and a disco were enjoyed at the hotel.

Amy has been a valued member of the St Mark's band since learning to ring there in 2007. Having set up home with Simon in Exminster, we hope we'll still hear her regularly when work and organ playing duties permit. Simon is a committed non-ringer – we've tried very hard to convert him – but he can be counted on to join in with branch social events and he is also a seasoned hand at helping with ringers' teas and other odd jobs behind the scenes.

I'm sure everyone will join in congratulating Amy and Simon on their marriage and wish them every happiness in their new life together.





Amy's (in pink) first quarter peal in 2009

## New method named after the groom



L to R: Peter, Ian C, Graham, John, Ian S (hiding), Wendy, Amy (bride), Mike, Lesley, David, Robert

### Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Exeter, Devon, St Mark  
Friday, 20 August 2021 in 2h 52

#### 5040 Hurlock Surprise Royal

R D S Brown

1	Robert D S Brown	6	Ian L C Campbell
2	Lesley A Tucker	7	John R Martin
3	P Wendy Campbell	8	Ian V J Smith
4	Graham P Tucker	9	Michael E C Mears
5	Peter L Bill	10	David Hird (C)

Rung to celebrate the wedding of Amy Gill and Simon Hurlock at this church on Saturday 21 August.

3,500th peal: 8.

1st peal in the method.

Hurlock S Royal:

x30x14x50x16x70x1238x14x50x16.3478.90 le2

Also:

Exeter, Devon

64 Mount Pleasant Road

Saturday, 21 August 2021 in 38m

#### 1260 Grandsire Triples

1-2	Jill Wigney
3-4	Mike Wigney
5-6	Tim Bayton (C)
7-8	Sue Sawyer

1st Grandsire in hand: 1-2, 3-4. With the best wishes of the band to Amy and Simon Hurlock on their wedding day.

Wendy Campbell

## Cycling outing – with no cycling!



The now traditional cycle/ringing outing arranged by St Mark's ringers did not go ahead because of difficulties getting towers, but the barbecue at Matt's house in Whimble still took place on 31 July.

Ian Campbell

## Exeter Cathedral open practices restart

The monthly open practices at Exeter Cathedral have now resumed. These take place on the third Saturday of each month, starting at 6pm. The next such practice is on Saturday 18 September. There is no practice in October due to a special service taking place.

The Cathedral Society encourages visitors to attend to watch and to ring if they have a minimum ringing experience of one year and can handle a bell safely. The ringing is tailored to those present: from rounds through to advanced methods on twelve bells. All are welcome so do consider coming along to experience the magnificent bells and space.

If you wish to visit on a Saturday you must notify us in advance. We are currently limiting the number of people in the tower - we would hate to have to turn you away and for you to have a wasted trip. Our contact details are on the Guild website ([devonringers.org.uk/towers/tower?DoveID=EXETER](http://devonringers.org.uk/towers/tower?DoveID=EXETER)). We look forward to welcoming you to Exeter Cathedral.

Matt Hilling

## Mid-Devon Branch

### Book review – The Little Purple Ringing Book

Quite some time ago Simon Linford (now president of the Central Council) proposed a sort of classification of ringers into zones. These were Green, Blue, Red and Black.

- Green – Rounds, call changes, plain Hunt
- Blue – Plain Bob Grandsire and similar
- Red – Cambridge Minor and Surprise Major
- Black – Bristol Maximus and beyond

The idea of calling this book 'Purple' is that it is intended for ringers who are looking to progress from Blue to Red. It has been produced by *The Ringing World* and is available from their on-line shop.

It starts with a refresher about Plain Bob Doubles and then suggests methods that can be tried once that has been mastered. It contains 173 methods and 82 variations. It makes it very clear that you are not expected to learn all of them in order to progress! On the other hand, there are quite a few methods included (with explanations why) that have not been widely rung. This means that there are many choices which aid progress for learners but will be fresh to more experienced ringers. The methods which are commonly rung are highlighted in Blue with harder progressions in Purple.

The methods start with the Plain Minimus methods which have been about for some years but then includes treble dodging Minimus which are not commonly rung. This has changed somewhat during lock-down



as many two-member handbell bands have explored this vast range of methods.

A wide range of Doubles methods are included along with an explanation of 'Variations' and some suggestions of how to call them.

The vast majority of the book concentrates on minor methods. This section starts with plain methods with St Clement's, Single Oxford and Double Oxford being the Blue methods along with a selection of similar ones for variety. One of the differences with this book is that it extensively suggests using irregular methods. Way back in time the Central Council tried to prevent ringers from ringing methods that they felt were inferior. They termed these illegitimate or irregular. Most ringers will not be able to tell the difference, the main one being that they have 'lead heads' which are not the same as plain bob. As I say, not really important, except to the conductor – don't worry about it – you will no longer be shot for ringing them! They were recognised by the CC years ago although still not rung as extensively as they might be. In this book their use for progression is fully explained.

Treble Bob and Delight methods come next, leading on to Surprise Minor. Kent is show in Blue and Oxford is Purple but several other methods are included such as Woodbine which is a combination of Kent TB and Norwich Surprise but is irregular.

The suggestion that Rhyl Surprise is the easiest method in the class might be up for argument, but this is the sort of thing that makes the book stand out – it is a fresh approach. The diagrams are all quite small but to get so many into a book that is A6 format, this is inevitable. Once it ventures above Minor the choices are mainly limited to Plain Triples and Major with Stedman, Erin and Double Norwich being the most difficult methods.

The whole idea of the book is that it is pocket sized and it certainly packs a vast amount of information into its small size. Apart from the diagrams there is plenty of explanation and suggestions for ways to progress – including basic conducting. One small criticism – for a book that is intended for the pocket the cover is a little flimsy. I have covered mine with the old *Blue Peter* staple – sticky back plastic!!

Overall verdict – a fantastic new resource – well worth the money.

The cost is £6.50 and is available from *The Ringing World* on-line shop. There is a copy in the branch library for anyone who would like to try before you buy.

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/rw-shop.php>

Martin Mansley

## Extracts from Tower Talk – the Mid-Devon newsletter Library

Our two librarians, Jeanette Thompson and Wenna Mansley, have carried out a full stock take of the Mid-Devon Branch library.

This includes several new acquisitions.

*Bellringing* by Ron Johnston – a hardback book which looks at bellringing in all its aspects to introduce the subject to non-ringers or new recruits. Now out of print

*Conducting and Coursing Order* by John Longridge – To many people conducting is considered a bit of a mystery but this classic book tries to de-mystify the subject and includes several very useful compositions for the novice conductor. Still available from Tom Longridge

*Bell founding* by Trevor Jennings – One of the Shire publications which gives a basic introduction to the subject – probably out of print(?)

All the above were kindly donated by Lynne Hughes

*The Little Purple Ringing Book* – This has been the subject of a review recently – in the library so that you can try before you buy.

The up-to-date list will appear on the branch page of the Guild website very soon – once proof reading is complete

## Return to ringing celebration Saturday 4 September

When planning this event much thought was given to which tower would be most suitable. In the event the choice of Stokeinteignhead could not have been better. By late morning preparations were well under way so that all was in readiness by the time everyone started to arrive at 2.30. The whole idea was a relaxed return to ringing with lots of socialising, some ringing and a couple of novelties. We do hope everyone felt that we really had achieved this in full measure. The refreshment stall was heaving with cakes donated by Stokeinteignhead ringers and friends – probably the most popular feature of the day!

Good publicity for the event had been given by several local news sources including MPs' news blogs. We know of at least four people who came because they had seen one of these items. Good ventilation was provided to improve safety and the whole church was available for social distancing. Ringing was carried out for most of the afternoon but it was very clear that to many it was the chance to meet and catch up again that was the main attraction. Good use was also made of six handbells and Martin's portable simulator so that several courses of Surprise Major could be heard – possibly a first for Stokeinteignhead!

Several ringers were new to Stoke bells and seemed suitably impressed. These included Jill and Mike Wigney, now resident in Bovey Tracey and Harry Grange who now lives in Stoke Fleming. With Lynne Hughes as well it meant that we heard some very high quality handbell ringing from real experts. Several others took the opportunity of ringing with these experienced handbell ringers. Even so it was often difficult to hear any of the bells over the excited buzz of conversation and we all enjoyed the chance of catching up after so long without face-to-face contact.

Our Chairman (Rodney Horder) called for a brief lull in the chatter to welcome everyone (well over 30!) and conduct a very short business meeting, the main item being the election of new members – Trevor Heal (Kingskerswell) and John Stern (Teignmouth). He also explained, with one of his many hats on (he must be a milliner's dream!!) as parish treasurer, that donations from the day would be going towards church expenses. In the event members were extremely generous and £120 was raised. Many of us went home laden with cakes!

To say that the organisers were pleased is a definite understatement. The day was even better than our wildest hopes. Thank you all for such wonderful support – more to come!

Here are a few pictures from the event:





## Philip does it again

It could hardly have been done sooner! Within hours of the restrictions being eased Philip Stevens was attempting a peal. We are delighted to say that it was successful and the peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major means that his record is still intact and he has rung at least one peal in 62 consecutive years. He was, of course, very young when he rang his first peal!! Very many congratulations to Philip – a rare record and one that is likely to get much rarer!

### Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Highweek, Devon, All Saints  
Monday, 19 July 2021 in 2h 48

### 5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Robert D S Brown

- |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Phillip Stevens         | 5 James Kirkcaldy      |
| 2 Jeffrey Knipe           | 6 Martin G Mansley     |
| 3 Lesley A Knipe          | 7 Robert D S Brown (C) |
| 4 Rev Christopher Renyard | 8 Michael E C Mears    |

This is the 62nd year in which the ringer of the treble has rung a peal 100th together 2 and 4

Sadly, the peal attempt on the exact 60th anniversary of his first had to be cancelled at the last minute - one of the first victims of the pandemic.

## Quote from Marie Cross – well known teacher of ringing

As many of you know, I am an avid reader of old copies of *The Ringing World*. I found this quote from about 20 years ago in the obituary of Marie Cross, a very skilled teacher of ringing:

*I have been running a remedial group for ringers who wish to improve their ringing. This has proved most instructive and drives home the importance of not rushing the early stages of teaching handling and listening – particularly in the older learner, further there is a great need to ensure that the beginner understands what you really mean and not what he or she thinks you mean. There is a need for constant watch on a beginner's handling during the early months of ringing for it is then, when a beginner is starting to ring changes etc, that many handling faults develop which are a handicap to future progress.*

Great words of wisdom!!!

### Future events:

At last! It is a great pleasure to announce that the committee has planned events to take us up to the Branch AGM in November.

## BRANCH PRACTICE – WOLBOROUGH – FRIDAY 15 OCTOBER 7.30PM

The Wolborough ringers have kindly invited the branch to join their usual Friday night practice. No method of the month yet but if you are burning to have a go at a method please send in your suggestions (within reason!!!). There will, of course be a wide range of other methods to suite all levels of experience.

### TIED BELL PRACTICES

Again, not strictly a branch event. Tied bell practices at St Marychurch on Thursday mornings were very popular before lockdown. These can easily be restarted but we need to know numbers before we can get them organised. They usually consisted of about an hour on tied bells followed by coffee in a café in the St Marychurch precinct.

A wide range of experience was covered from virtual novices to more experienced ringers who felt they would like to hone their bell handling skills to make method ringing easier and more rewarding. Some even used the time to study theory and get advice on method learning.

If the idea appeals to you but Thursdays are not convenient, please let us know anyway and we will see what we can do.

## Heritage Open Days: Saturday 11 September

### KINGSKERSWELL

The church and tower will be open from 10.00 until 17.00 with a quarter peal attempt at about 5pm to welcome back walkers on a sponsored walk. Philip will be delighted to see any ringers who would like to help out during the day.

## TEIGNMOUTH ST JAMES

The tower will be open to publicise ringing from 11.00 until 12.00 noon.

## DAWLISH

The tower will be open during the afternoon.

Martin Mansley

## North-East Branch Notice of Annual General Meeting Saturday 2 October, St Paul's, Tiverton

### Programme:

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 10:00-10:30 | Ringers' service (collection for church & DCBRF)   |
| 10:30-11:15 | Open ringing at St Paul's, Tiverton, EX16 5HU<br>(6 Bells: 8-3-5 (447Kg) in 'A') - GF              |
| 11:15       | Meeting, followed by a 'bring your own' sandwich lunch.<br>Tea, coffee and cakes will be provided. |

Please advise the secretary if you are coming using the link below:

[northeastbranchsec@devonringers.org.uk](mailto:northeastbranchsec@devonringers.org.uk)

Jenny Jones

## Parachuting Teddies



Helpers Carla Dawes, Ann Barrow, Jenny Jones, Jess, Fergus and Les Boyce



Photographers Sheila Scofield and Mike Ward (from top of tower)





Top of the tower Mike Hatchett and Mike Ward



After a two year break the Troyte Ringing Centre were back in action on August Bank Holiday raising money for Christian Aid. Bellringers from Bampton and Tiverton entertained their audience of young, and not so young, bear owners by launching their well-loved teddies from Bampton tower. Queues of teddies lined up on the tables waiting to have their parachutes attached. Taken two by two up to the top of the tower in a basket, to be launched from the top one at a time. The weather was kind, with a breeze from the NE which meant only one casualty falling into a nearby tree. Using previous experience the ringers retrieved him by means of a line from the top of the tower and he was sent off for a second attempt. More than 50 certificates for bravery were issued and all went away happy.

Sheila Scofield

## South-West Branch

### Milton Abbot bell restoration project - update

Below is an update from Geoff regarding the progress of the Milton Abbot bell project. We have been amazed at the response from towers and individuals. When we suggested the idea of sending out leaflets we thought it would completely flop but thankfully it has been very successful. Geoff and I sent out 120 leaflets to working towers in Devon and a few in Cornwall plus a few more of our contacts and money is still trickling in as ringers get back to meeting up and ringing again.

Valerie Hill



The bells in the church with the Vicar (Revd Andy Atkins), church wardens (Liz Padmore and David Denton), tower captain (Michael Blatchford) and Pat Lovell (treasurer)

The bells were lowered and put on display at the back of the church during the first week in July. An open day was held on Sunday 12 July and everyone interested was able to examine all six bells, together with all the fittings on show. There was a good turnout and all money donated that day went to the project. The following Tuesday the six bells together with the bell wheels were taken up to Taylors of Loughborough. Although the bells are listed (Pennington 1769), permission has been granted to allow slight tuning and this will enhance their tone. The crown staples are going to be drilled out and all new fittings assembled. A new metal frame is going to be made and the bells will first be installed at Taylors to make sure that everything lines up and is in place.

Fundraising still continues in earnest and must highlight the wonderful response the project has received from funders, towers and individuals connected with bellringing alike. Around £20,000 is still to be raised but the project team are optimistic that others will come on board to see this project to its successful conclusion.

The old clappers together with headstocks and bearings are for sale individually - one clapper has already been sold as a doorstep!!

Anyone interested in purchasing or donating to the project please contact Pat Lovell, Treasurer of Milton Abbot PCC on 01822 618452.



Geoff Hill with all six bells

Geoff Hill



## Hybrid Learning - A Post-Corona Dual Tutorial



Brent Tor church



Two hours of ringing up and down!

Funny title aside the 'Leading Up and Down in Peal' practice took place on two consecutive Saturdays in August. It was organised by Phil Dunn of Tavistock, the branch ringing master.

On the first Saturday we met on Zoom and talked about the issues of raising and lowering, listened to successful and less successful examples on Ringing Room and got the little grey cells working. What are the difficulties? Why is it difficult? What is actually going on with the bells?

The next Saturday saw us in the stunning setting of Brent Tor church. We were made very welcome and could practise for two hours without disturbing any neighbours, as there are none. The five-bell ring is easy to handle and not too heavy. The only downside: due to the dampish location the tail ends are made of synthetic fibres, so beware of blisters!

I took care to ring inside as well as the tenor and the treble. Ringing different bells back to back emphasizes the different roles they play to achieve a pleasant sounding peal. As every ringer knows, it is not just about pulling the rope harder or less hard. No bell is 'the boss' and sets the pace, it is crucial to listen, to look, to team up. A lot to take in.

As in tower practices the ringing up and down is more of a means to an end (to practise 'properly'), so this opportunity to play around was special and appreciated by everyone. We hope it will be repeated.

Highly recommended!

*Barbara Hocke*

## Returning to Ringing in the South-West Branch



Return to ringing at Emmanuel, Plymouth where all eight bells could be rung



Return to ringing at St Budeaux, Plymouth with a branch practice

The South-West Branch has enjoyed its return to ringing. We are pleased to report that most of our towers have resumed normal ringing for practices and Sunday services, with a few highlights to note. We were particularly pleased at Emmanuel to have the chance to hear all eight bells ring again, so pleased in fact that we posed for a photo - beaming!

We also enjoyed a lovely branch practice at St Budeaux on 7 August where there was more 'catching up' than 'catching hold'!

*Elena Brake*

## Remembering the lives lost in Keyham



Ringing at St Andrew's Minster in Plymouth



On the evening of 12 August, tragedy unfolded in Plymouth. Five people were killed and two injured by a gunman in Keyham, who then took his own life. We were all shocked by the incident - you just don't expect things like that to happen, especially so close to home. In the days that followed, the community of Keyham and wider Plymouth stood strong together and there has been an outpouring of support for those affected. We played our part in the bell tower, ringing the bells half-muffled for the Sunday service.

There was also a special civic service held at St Andrew's Minster on the following Wednesday. For the first time since restrictions had eased, we were able to ring all ten bells for the service. We rang half-muffled, followed by diminishing rounds, and five strikes of the tenor to remember the five lives lost in the tragedy. It was a beautiful piece of ringing and we hope that it helped in calling people together to remember and heal.

Elena Brake

## Return to Ringing - The Tavistock Experience

From May to July 18, practice and service ringing at Tavistock took place on a slightly odd selection of six bells in accordance with CCCBR Guidance. Bands were arranged for each ringing session, which enables separation of unvaccinated ringers from the more vulnerable members of the band. Ringing ranged from rounds and call changes to Cambridge Minor.

From July 19, we resumed 'normal' practice and service ringing (hurray, no more rotas to draw up). As we have a mixture of vaccinated and unvaccinated ringers, face coverings are still worn, and we all undertake twice weekly lateral flow tests. Preliminary measurements have shown that provided there is some breeze blowing outside, with the windows of the ringing chamber open there is no significant rise in CO2 levels, which is quite reassuring.

Nevertheless, some members are still reluctant to return to regular ringing. Despite this, we have been able to ring Grandsire and Stedman Caters on some practice nights.

Nearby, the joint Brentor and Bridestowe band undertook some 'refresher training' sessions in July, and has now resumed regular Friday night practices, and Sunday service ringing.

Phil Dunn

## Other News

### Lester moves to Chew Magna



Enjoying the sun after lunch

For those who did not know I thought it worth including a quick picture of Lester Yeo, previous president of the Guild, who has moved with Pat from Devon to Chew Magna in Somerset to be nearer to their daughter and grandchildren. We met up with them both at Lytes Cary, a National Trust property, in August.

Ian Campbell

## Ellacombe Chimes Celebration



A map showing the parts of the world that took part in the celebration

Thank you to everyone who provided a video of their part in the celebration. These are truly wonderful. David Newman has kindly built an indexed listing of the videos: <http://www.churchside1.plus.com/EllacombeWorldwideVideos.htm>

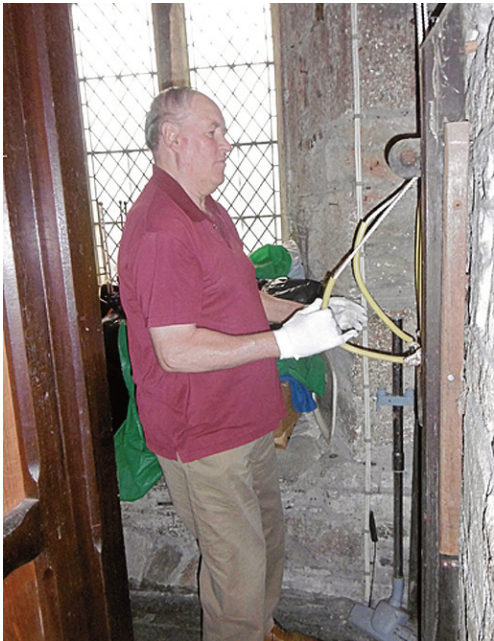
The listing will provide an excellent resource of videos. Links are given for 118 performances. This leaves about 50 performances for which we don't have a video recording.

A reminder that the book *Ellacombe Chimes: Two Hundred Years*, published by Bitton Parish History Group is available from Lulu, priced £13.72 or local currency equivalent (ISBN 978-1-304-70761-1). Any profits will go to St Mary's church, Bitton.

Mike Gates, Secretary Bitton Parish History Group

There are five functioning Ellacombe chiming systems remaining in the Guild's South-West Branch. On Saturday 26 June Guild Vice-President Geoff Hill went round them all, starting at Buckland Monachorum at 9.00 am. He then went on to Mary Tavy, where he played various changes and hymn tunes, much to the delight of the ladies doing the cleaning and arranging the flowers for service the following day. (It's amazing how many tunes you can get out of just five bells!) He then went on to Lamerton where he performed at midday, going on to Stowford and Lifton in the afternoon.

As you may know, Geoff is not in the best of health and is not able to drive at present, so Valerie acted as his chauffeur. Nevertheless he was on excellent form that day and was clearly thoroughly enjoying himself.

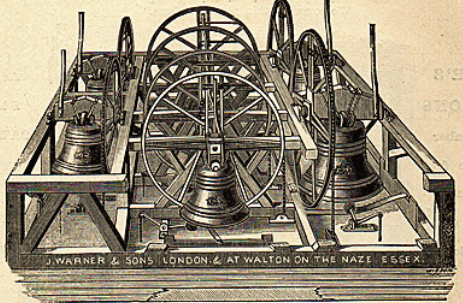


I took a few photos of Geoff performing at Mary Tavy; not the best I'm afraid - access in the organ loft, where the chiming frame is situated, is a bit limited.



JOHN WARNER & SONS, BELL AND BRASS FOUNDERS TO HER MAJESTY,

"Hark! how the Bells go Ding, Ding, Dong."



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**No. 1.—CHIMING APPARATUS.**

This Apparatus has been placed in many Church Towers, of which the following are a few names and references. (See next page)

The above plan is somewhat similar to the "Bilton Chimes," erected by the Rev. H. T. Ellacombe in 1832.

The Ellacombe Hammers fixed if required. Prices on application.

Sept. 27th, 1875.  
ARCHD. HOLBECK encloses cheque for Messrs. Warner's two accounts. The Chiming Apparatus gives much satisfaction.

57, Nelson Square, S.E., March 27th, 1876.  
Messrs. WARNER & SONS,—I have been absent from home, and have just returned, and consequently have not been able to say anything about the Bell Apparatus. I now beg to say that it works most satisfactorily, and that we are very much pleased. I hope you will receive the money to-morrow or the next day.

Yours faithfully, H. H. MONTGOMERY.

CHIME AND RINGING ROPES KEPT IN STOCK.

I also include the page in Warner's catalogue of 1884 advertising their version of the system. The following page in the catalogue indicates that, amongst others, they had supplied chiming systems to Babbacombe, Ide, Kingsbridge, Lifton, Revelstoke, Tavistock and Torquay.

Ian Smith



Not everyone is completely enamoured with Ellacombe chimes!  
These were spotted in a local tower!

## Crown Bob and Ringing Room

### What could possibly go wrong?

During lockdown the Combe Raleigh virtual practices explored and rang some of the Forbidden Minor Methods (see June's edition of RRD). We chose methods that had been very popular in Yorkshire (and beyond) in the mid-19th century, working our way through extended touches of Woodbine, Violet, Tulip and Old Primrose. Old Primrose is a method shown in *Campanologia* in 1702 and rung as such for over two centuries. It was declared Forbidden in 1907 when its name was confiscated and given to the 6th place Cambridge method which bears its name today although it was already listed as Ringers' Surprise, a name of some antiquity. Perversely, Old Primrose was readmitted much later and is now called Queen Mary Surprise. For us, these old methods were real finds, containing bits of Cambridge, Kent, Oxford, Norwich and others. Musically they were pleasantly different too. Some were quite tricky to ring and we realised just how accomplished the ringers of the day must have been.

We found frequent references to Crown Bob, and Crown Bob on Three Flowers, practised at Bingley in the 1850s, but no details of compositions. It seems that Crown Bob was a generic term for a spliced touch. Michael Foulds of Bingley sent us a 360 of spliced Tulip, Violet and Old Primrose, for the Crown Bob on Three Flowers telling us it is not possible to get a true 720. Lisa arranged for the composition to be programmed into Wheatley, so the touch is publicly available for all to try. It is 15 leads in length, with a change of method each lead and ten bobs. Apart from admiring the sheer cleverness of it, we enjoyed the music as the composition seemed to bring out the best in each of the methods. When we reverted to ringing Cambridge we agreed that the Three Flowers methods (Tulip Delight, Violet Treble Bob and Old Primrose (Queen Mary Surprise)) were ideal preparations for learners wishing to progress to established Surprise Minor methods because they introduce so many features used in these more advanced methods.

On 4 August we rang Crown Bob on Three Flowers as recorded on Bell Board (below). This simple announcement hides a wealth of detail, a bit like an Obituary, distilling someone's life into a couple of paragraphs. It took us several attempts before we scored. Until trying distributed virtual ringing I wouldn't have believed just how many reasons there were for firing up - someone's phone is ringing, visitors knocking on the door, dogs barking, delivery people wanting a signature, computer systems going down, screens going blank or black patches appearing asking you to click anywhere to continue ringing, cats sitting on the computer keyboard, partners suddenly wanting to ask urgent questions, Wheatley sulking and refusing to join in, together with that well known problem, human error..... I realised why many of the Ringing Room footnotes said the equivalent of 'At last!'

#### Ringing Room, Devon

Wednesday, 4 August 2021 in 16m

#### 360 Spliced Treble Dodging Minor (3m)

Crown Bob on the Three Flowers; Violet, Tulip, Old Primrose (now known as Queen Mary). CompLib id 81536

- |     |                 |
|-----|-----------------|
| 1   | Anne Burn       |
| 2-3 | Wheatley        |
| 4   | Lisa Clarke     |
| 5   | Roger King      |
| 6   | Janet Ritterman |

Exploring Forbidden Methods became our lockdown project, culminating in Crown Bob on the Three Flowers. Such touches of spliced were practised at Bingley in the mid-nineteenth century. In fact, the qualification test to join the Bingley band of the 1890s was to ring a 720 of Violet.

This performance contained non-human ringers on bells 2 and 3 (Wheatley).

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

Exploring the Forbidden Methods was an absorbing project and one from which we feel we learned so much. Ringing Crown Bob marked its completion, but we have no plans to disband as we return to our towers. Virtual ringing has proved to be a really versatile way to practise for 'real' bell ringing and to sample methods and ideas we wouldn't come across anywhere else. And we'll be ready for the next lockdown!

*Note from editor: Wheatley is an add-on to Ringing Room which enables a computer to 'ring' any of the bells which don't have humans ringing them.*

Roger King



# Notable Ringing Events

## Peals

### First tower bell peal for the Guild for over 15 months

#### Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Exeter, Devon, St Mark

Friday, 25 June 2021 in 2h 33

#### 5040 Surprise Minor (7m)

1 Extent each London, Norwich, York, Durham, Beverley, Surfleet, Cambridge

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Lesley A Knipe  | 4 Michael H Tompsett |
| 2 Jeffrey Knipe   | 5 John A Foster      |
| 3 James Kirkcaldy | 6 David Hird (C)     |

Rung on the front 6 in memory of Bill Ford of Thorverton on the morning of his funeral.

## Congratulations

#### Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Kingsteignton, Devon, Kings-Ting-Tong

Thursday, 15 July 2021 in 1h 45

#### 5040 Surprise Minor (14m)

(1) London, Wells (2) Carlisle (3) York, Durham (4) Westminster (5) Surfleet, Beverley, Berwick, Hexham (6) Norwich (7) Ipswich, Bourne, Cambridge

- |                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Ian W Avery       | 4 Robert D S Brown      |
| 2 Charlotte A Boyce | 5 David Hird            |
| 3 John R Martin     | 6 Michael E C Mears (C) |

Rung to mark the birth of a daughter to Tom and Katie Waterson and the birth of a son to Will and Kate Carew. Also a birthday compliment to Pauline McKenzie.

## Celebration

Wendy Wayne, tower administrator at Buckerell, contacted me to ask whether it would be possible to arrange some ringing at Buckerell as part of the village celebration festival week and we were delighted to be able to complete a peal on Tuesday 31 August, the eve of St Giles' Day.

The peal had been well advertised around the village and we were enthusiastically greeted outside by about twenty villagers and a very welcome ploughman's lunch which was prepared for us by the Revd Sue Tucker. We were able to take the opportunity to talk about the bells and raise the profile of arranging ringing for special occasions.

#### Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Buckerell, Devon, St Mary and St Giles

Tuesday, 31 August 2021 in 2h 47

#### 5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (14m)

(1) Carlisle, Northumberland (2) London, Wells (3) Lightfoot, Wearmouth (4) Westminster, Allendale (5) York, Durham (6) Beverley, Surfleet (7) Cambridge, Ipswich

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Ian V J Smith   | 4 John A Foster     |
| 2 James Kirkcaldy | 5 David Hird        |
| 3 Oliver C Bates  | 6 John R Martin (C) |

Rung on the eve of St Giles' Day as part of the village Festival.



The peal band in order of ringing – treble on the left

John Martin

## Maximus in hand

#### Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Whimble, Devon, 17 Bramley Gardens

Tuesday, 15 June 2021 in 3h 5

#### 5072 Spliced Maximus (2m)

4896 Kent Treble Bob; 176 Bastow Little Bob; 20 com

Composed by Donald F Morrison

Arranged by Matthew J Hilling

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1-2 Oliver C Bates        | 7-8 Jill M Wigney    |
| 3-4 Oliver Coldrick       | 9-10 Lynne P Hughes  |
| 5-6 Matthew J Hilling (C) | 11-12 Susan M Sawyer |

## First on 10 in hand

#### Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Whimble, Devon, 17 Bramley Gardens

Tuesday, 6 July 2021 in 2h 42

#### 5120 Kent Treble Bob Royal

Composed by T J Hinks

- |                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1-2 Jill M Wigney         | 7-8 Ian L C Campbell  |
| 3-4 Lynne P Hughes        | 9-10 Michael J Wigney |
| 5-6 Matthew J Hilling (C) |                       |

First on 10 in hand: 9-10.

## First in hand



Front: Ian, Peter. Back: Charlotte, John

#### Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Exeter, Devon, 84 Whipton Village Road

Saturday, 7 August 2021 in 2h 40

#### 5056 Plain Bob Major

R Baldwin

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1-2 Ian L C Campbell | 5-6 Charlotte A Boyce |
| 3-4 Peter L Bill     | 7-8 John R Martin (C) |

First in hand - 5-6.

First on an inside pair - 3-4.

## Quarter Peals

### First quarter peal

Kingskerswell, Devon, St Mary

Saturday, 14 August 2021 in 42m

#### 1260 Plain Bob Triples

Robert D S Brown

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Lesley A Knipe   | 5 Phillip Stevens      |
| 2 Jeffrey Knipe    | 6 Martin G Mansley     |
| 3 Michael Hatchett | 7 Robert D S Brown (C) |
| 4 Michael J Wigney | 8 Geoff Pring          |

1st quarter peal 8



## Failed quarter peal but shorter touch worked OK

Torquay, Devon  
St Mary the Virgin, St Marychurch  
Friday, 6 August 2021

### 350 Grandsire Triples

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Ian W Avery      | 5 Tim King          |
| 2 Peter L Bill     | 6 Martin Mansley    |
| 3 Rowena G Mansley | 7 Don J Roberts (C) |
| 4 Philip Stevens   | 8 Ernie Pryce       |

91st Birthday compliments to the conductor for yesterday. The attempted quarter peal lives to fight another day!!

little – mainly to request articles when a new issue is being produced, and to publicise the availability of each new issue. See <https://lists.devonringers.org.uk/mailman/listinfo> for details of how to join this, or any of the other Guild email lists.

As seems to be becoming normal (sorry), this edition is a little late coming online. Part of this has been caused by a rush of articles arriving at the start of September, but this does have the advantage that we can report on some recent events, such as the open day at Dunkeswell and the Mid-Devon Return to Ringing event. And one of the most important developments that I can remember – the launch of the Young Change Ringers Association. I hope that we will be hearing a lot more from the young ringers who are essential to the exercise if it is to continue.

Ian Campbell, Editor

## Here comes the bride – or is it David Hird?



David Hird trying to get in on the act at Amy Gill's wedding

## Being Appreciated

It is always nice when your work is appreciated, especially from outside Devon (Kent in this case):

Hi Ian

*I've just read your latest edition right through. (Because it seemed easier than taking the trouble to get to bed!).*

*Congratulations! It's an amazing publication - and a lot of work I'm sure. All that content in a lockdown just shows what can be done. Clearly you have plenty of support from contributors, but I expect it's quite a job keeping it all flowing. Really good read, with a good scattering of people I know or have known. From Matt Hilling (rang in his first peal) to Mary Mack (even had her tea and cake and rung the bedroom ring). Martin Mansley was always good to have around on CC Education Committee, though if I remember he didn't stay long enough!*

All the best

Catherine Lewis

Ian Campbell

## Memories of Mary Mack

I was particularly interested to read about Mary Mack tolerating bells in her garage and bedroom so I thought you might like these photos and a brief explanation of them, for the next edition, to follow that up.

They are from April 2007. You can see the cramped ringing conditions in the inspection pit of the garage; ten people squeezed into a bedroom with Phil Stevens and others sitting on the bed (another was sitting in the wardrobe); Mary ringing herself next to Sue Sawyer; and finally tea and cake in Mary's kitchen. We met short for ten-bell ringing that day as Tim Bayton forgot and was on Hay Tor; perhaps the only time he's ever forgotten about some ringing! So Mary Mack stepped in and trebled to Grandsire Caters. Cambridge Minor was attempted in the garage but not scored. Happy memories!

Lynne Hughes

## Editorial

Is it possible to think that we may gradually be getting back to 'normal'? With the relaxation of Covid rules on 19 July all legal restrictions related to the pandemic were removed. Many people are rightly still concerned about meeting with groups of people but more towers are now ringing on Sundays (and not on just six bells!). Quarter peals and peals are starting to appear in the records and even some branch events and ringing outings are going ahead. Wendy and I were privileged to attend Amy Gill's wedding, postponed from last year, which was as 'normal' as you could imagine with no limitations on the numbers attending.

*Ringings Round Devon* is looking forward to the time when printed copies can be produced and easily circulated by the branches to the individual towers.

On a different topic, I have finally got around to creating an email list for notifications specifically about *Ringings Round Devon*. All Guild and branch officers are automatically subscribed to it and regular contributors to *RRD* have been added. The list is used very



Huddled together in the garage





The bedroom ring



Tea and cake in the kitchen



The bedroom ring – with Sue Sawyer

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