



Newsletter 143

September 2026



Devon Young Ringers 'on Target' in Robin Hood Country

Ringling World National Youth Contest 2026 July 4 in Nottingham

At the beginning of July, the Devon Young Ringers travelled to Nottingham to compete in the annual Ringing World National Youth Contest (RWNYC), which is a chance for young ringers to visit unfamiliar rings of bells and compete with teams of ringers their own age. For the purposes of the competition a young ringer is anybody up to the age of 18 who would be just completing their A-Levels. On the day of the event we rang at four different towers (including our competition tower), and we also had the opportunity to ring at several mini-rings set up around the open towers, as well as a session ringing handbells. We were joined by our parents and carers, who were allowed to tag along but not ring (sorry, not sorry, Dad) as the day is specifically organised for us youngsters.

Unlike most 'adult-centric' competitions, the day wasn't centred around the towers where the various sections of the contest were being held, and although St Mary's, Clifton was (in my opinion) the most important tower of the day, we had lots of fun everywhere we rang. In total, there were 43 individual teams from 33 groups from all over the country, with eight groups having two teams and one group (Essex) having three teams across the five different sections. 278 young ringers made up the teams, but when all of the non-competing ringers are included (such as my brother Nathaniel), over 325 young ringers attended.

Three hundred and twenty-five people aged 18 or under from all over the UK, all part of the future of bell ringing!

The Devon Young Ringers' team, which I captained, entered the 6 bell advanced call changes section held at St Mary, Clifton on the outskirts of the city, a short tram ride away. For our test piece we had to ring at least 120 rows of call changes that passed through certain named changes, so we rang the first half of Devon's famous sixty on thirds. When the results were announced at the end of the day, we were really pleased to find out that we had come joint fourth out of 11 teams – better than our result when we last competed in London in 2024 – and also had beaten our (friendly) rivals from the Truro Diocesan Guild, the Cornish Pasties, for the first time.

The first tower we rang at was the host tower, St Mary's in the Lace Market, whose textbook perpendicular architecture formed the shape of the medals that every ringer received (not just those competing). The bells were a magnificent 35 cwt twelve and it was really fun to ring with so many other people around my age; I don't think I've ever seen so many young ringers crammed into one ringing chamber before! There were about 50 of us from the six groups.

The next tower we visited was a short 15 minute walk away right in the centre of Nottingham's shopping district, the somewhat lighter 12 bell tower of St Peter's. As we had these bells all to ourselves and there were only seven of us, the event helpers were incredibly important to enable us to ring all twelve, especially when we were allowed to ring Plain Hunt on 11, as only three of us can ring that. Our two responsible adults who were allowed up into the ringing chamber with us (Alena and my Mum) were also allowed to ring (sorry Dad...), so we were very grateful for the opportunity to do what we did.

After ringing at St Peter's we walked up to the tram stop outside Nottingham Council House, decorated with a massive England flag for the World Cup and home to 'Little John' (the deepest toned clock bell in the country), to catch a tram and then a specially organised shuttle bus to our competition tower Clifton St Mary. We rang the back six of the eight bell tower and found they were quite light and easy-going. I personally thought we rang very well in our test piece after we'd had our short practice ring. Before going to ring, one of the helpers from the Nottingham University Society of Change Ringers gifted us a tiny resin duck with 'NUSCR' on the bottom – it now resides at Pinhoe waiting to greet anyone that enters the ringing chamber!

Our final open ringing tower was Clifton Holy Trinity, which are an absolutely tiny eight with a 3cwt tenor, definitely comparable to the mini-rings earlier in the day. Sitting outside on the grass in front of the church, you could barely hear the bells at all, but inside they rang loud and clear. Again, we were the only team in the ringing chamber at the time, but we had a fantastic time trying to avoid smacking the solid metal stays, and we even managed to get some very nice plain hunt going. The helpers at this tower were very complimentary of our ringing, saying it was possibly the best they'd heard all day, especially the plain hunt.

It was then back on the tram to St Mary's in Nottingham city centre where we had a session on handbells with the group from Worcester. Thanks to our expert tuition by Ian Campbell at our regular monthly practices at Pinhoe, we were able to ring some plain hunt minor, which none of the Worcester group had managed before.



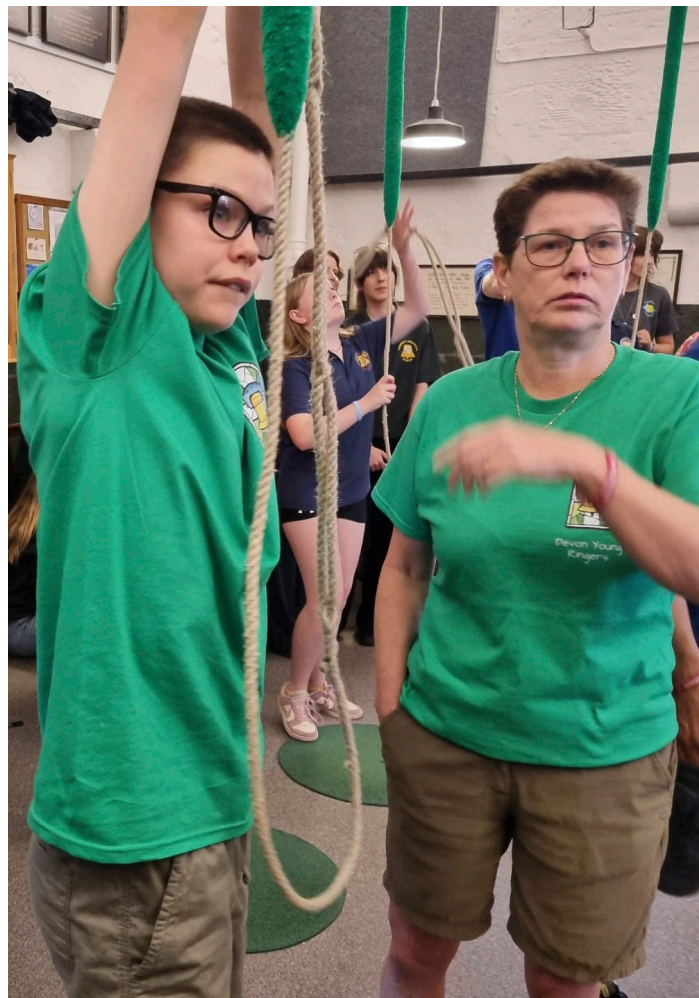
Handbell ringing

Finally it was time for the results, and all the young ringers filled the seats with standing room only for our supporters (sorry Dad...!). Whilst we didn't win our section's trophy, the day was wholly enjoyable. I found the Yorkshire Tykes' 8-bell method team's reaction to their first place particularly amusing when they got up with a huge Yorkshire flag and started to wave it around!

A big thank you has to go to Elena Brake and Alena Wardle for organising our team, entering us in the event and keeping all our adults together. Next year's RWNYC is being held at Guildford in Surrey for the first time and we'd love to have more ringers so we

can ring at the open towers without any adult help (sorry Mum!) or even maybe enter a second team.

If you'd like to join us to get some experience on different bells and make some new friends then come along to the monthly Devon Young Ringers' practices: they are held on the second Sunday of every month at the beautiful church in Pinhoe on the outskirts of Exeter. These practices are for all skill levels, from a total beginner not knowing anything, to ringing basic call changes and methods, and even occasionally stretching to complex methods such as Surprise Minor or Major! We're also learning to ring changes on handbells when we're standing out, so there really is something for everyone (including our parents). We'd love to see new ringers join us in the coming months; hopefully next year we can beat the Cornish again!



Nathaniel ringing under the watchful eye of Alena

Esme Kerslake

2026 Guild AGM: Saturday 27 June 2026

A full version of the minutes from this meeting are available at: <https://devonringers.org.uk/guild/agms>. Below are some brief notes from Sue King.

Report by Sue King, General Committee Member, East Devon Branch

- 1) Opening prayer was by *Bishop Mark Rylands and the President thanked him, plus the Aylesbeare Branch for hosting the AGM. Thanks also to Ian Rees for playing the organ during the service.
- 2) There were 35 apologies for absence.
- 3) There were 17 losses by death, and a silence was observed.
- 4) Minutes of last year's AGM were agreed unanimously.
- 5) Matters arising:
- a) **Rules change:** a draft new version will be made and circulated. Feedback requested, by the end of September. To include clarification of the overall purposes of the Guild, and

making training a priority. Also clarifying how branches operate – and could operate in future – within the Guild, setting out the benefits of membership and tower affiliation more clearly. Also slimming down the general committee, which is too big at present.

- b) Publicity banners:** these were discussed, which discussion has been ongoing, it was pointed out, since 2023. Members directed to chat directly with Publicity Officer, Nicola Jones.
- c) Book of anniversary performances:** proof readers needed. Completion to be before end October.
- 6) Election of New Members:** one new member elected, Benjamin Gray.
- 7) Presentation of Guild certificates:** three certificates presented, the criterion being to ring 120 Plain Hunt or Treble Bob on any working bell.
- 8) Guild report and reports from the officers:** accepted with no corrections.
- 9) Adoption of accounts:** 571 paid up members (the same as last year). 115 affiliated towers (was 101 last year). General Fund surplus £3,912. DCBRF Fund £4,962.
- 10) Review of subscriptions:** £13 proposed, voted on and agreed. Peel fee to remain at £1 per ringer.
- 11) Financial proposals:** members approved transfers of £279 to the Library Fund, £752 to Devon Young Ringers and £2,250 to the Bell Fund, with one vote against.
- 12) DenMisch Ring:** This is a ring of ten, 1cwt simulated bells, donated ten years ago to the Guild, and currently housed in Exeter Cathedral School. Buildings to be sold (school to close). Lengthy discussion around what to do with these, as a new home may need to be found for them. Ideas included keep where they are until we know what will happen to the building, sell as a whole unit, break up and sell individually, rehouse as a whole unit. Interest from some individual towers in both the Guild and the Association. After a vote on two ideas: (a) keep together and hold an open day or (b) break up and sell off, the first proposal (made by by Ian Campbell) was agreed upon by the majority. Ian Campbell and rest of the DenMisch committee is going to hold an open day for all to come and see the simulators and how they work. This to take place on the third Saturday of a future month, to coincide with open ringing at the Cathedral and also the Guild Library being open at St Petrock's in Exeter High Street.
- 13) Election of Officers:** New Ringing Master: Jon Rose. Master-elect: Janet Deem. New Vice Presidents: Neil Deem and John Foster. Sec/Treasurer/Membership Secretary: unchanged. Education Officer: Andrea Young. Most other posts unchanged. Kate Fulcher becomes a new Bells and Belfry Advisor. CCCBR reps unchanged. DCBRF trustees: Alena Wardle, Janet Deem and Andrew Digby. The role of the Devon Ringers Council (officers unchanged) was discussed and it was agreed to foster closer links between Guild and Association and to try to help stop closure of churches, amongst other things. Outgoing officers (Ringing Master and Education Officer) were thanked.
- 14) Appointments:** Insurance Officer/Auditor of Accounts/Webmaster: all unchanged.
- 15) Striking competitions:** arranged by the Exeter Branch on 17 October. Towers: St Davids (Exeter), Stoke Canon, Pinhoe. Results and draw for the 8 bell inter-branch competition at 2pm. More detailed information will be publicised and put on the Guild website.
- 16) Date of next meeting:** Saturday 19 June 2027, probably in Honiton, where it is hoped that Bishop Mike (Bishop of Exeter) will be able to attend.
- 17) AOB:** none.

Meeting closed at 4.30pm – followed by a short committee meeting.

(*Mark Rylands, former Bishop of Shrewsbury, now Honorary Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Exeter)



Lynsey Fearn (Feniton) getting her certificate from Wendy Gill



Wendy Smith (Lympstone) getting her certificate from Wendy Gill

Post-AGM Committee Meeting, 27 June 2026

A short, five minute meeting was held after the Guild AGM where an item that was raised during the AGM on arrangements for the striking Competitions caused some heated discussion. Little Bob Major was deemed to be too inaccessible a method by one branch in particular. The President therefore called the meeting



The incoming master, Jon Rose, taking over from Wendy Gill

at the end of the AGM to establish the feeling amongst committee members present, and come to a firm decision. He reopened the proposals which had been initially discussed and proposed at the General Committee meeting on 17 January 2026, then offered the new proposals for the 8 bell Inter-Branch competition. These were that Little Bob Major be replaced by Plain Bob Major, with Double Norwich Court Bob Major remaining unchanged as the second option. The votes were ten votes in favour of Plain Bob Major, and eight votes in favour of Little Bob Major. The striking competition will be hosted by the Exeter Branch on Saturday 17 October.

Sue King, General Committee Member, East Devon Branch

Resuscitation training at the Guild AGM



Trish Slade and Peter Bill attempt to resuscitate the dummy

With the ready availability of public defibrillator equipment, the emergency resuscitation of people (including ringers!) who suffer from potentially fatal heart problems is now a very real possibility from suitably trained members of the public. Wendy Gill has enormous experience in this field and took time off her duties as Guild Master at the AGM to train groups of ringers using a dummy. She was assisted by her daughter Amy.

Although this is a very serious business, it was treated in a light-hearted and enjoyable manner – watching two men each over 80 trying to resuscitate a young looking dummy had us in stitches.

Thank you, Wendy, for sharing your time and experience to make the place safer for all of us.

Ian Campbell

Training Session at Clyst St George



Helpers from Aylesbeare, East Devon and Mid Devon Branches. Learners from Aylesbeare, Mid Devon and North East Branches. Led by Guild Education Officer, Andrea (far right).

Sue King

Evening social and quiz

After the Guild AGM, seven teams from across the county sat down to compete in a quiz with a fish and chip supper. There were six rounds ranging from general knowledge to entertainment to food and drink. It was back-to-school time for the spelling and multiple-choice questions. The Reverend Jon Rose proved he could spell ecclesiastical. A collective groan went round at the thought of a sports round. However, it focused on which countries won the most medals at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. People proved very adept at guessing the right countries, and overall, it was the best-answered round. Participants weren't very good at current affairs and knowing what had been going on in the world during the week of the quiz.



The triumphant Exeter Dodgers

To keep people occupied during the evening, there was also a shipping forecast area challenge. All had heard the terms Fisher, Dogger and North Sea, but where exactly were they? All had to place the thirty-one shipping areas correctly on a map.

The results of the quiz were very close, with Exeter Dodgers just coming out on top and the wooden spoon award going to Uffculme Alliance.



Uffculme Alliance all gained wooden spoons

Margot Le Vesconte

Draft revisions to Guild Rules

Your opportunity to review and comment

At Saturday's Annual General Meeting our President (Tim Bayton) reported that a draft of revisions to the Guild Rules has been completed and provided this summary of what has been changed and why:

- **Modernised and clarified the rules** – The first full review since 2006 updates the language, simplifies the structure, and reflects current governance practices and the use of modern technology.
- **Strengthened the Guild's charitable purpose** – The draft makes the Guild's charitable objectives explicit, including education, religion, and arts, culture and heritage, while recognising training as a core priority.
- **Clarified governance and trustee responsibilities** – The rules clearly identify the President, Secretary and Treasurer as the Guild's Trustees, defining their legal responsibilities under charity law and distinguishing them from other officers.
- **Improved the organisation of the Guild** – The draft defines how branches operate within the Guild, simplifies committee arrangements by reducing the size of the General Committee, and introduces greater flexibility in officer appointments to improve decision-making.
- **Enhanced membership and readability** – The revised rules set out the benefits of Guild membership and tower affiliation more clearly, while reorganising sections to make the document easier to understand and navigate.

A draft updated version of the Rules is available from the President who would like you to review and send any comments, observations or suggestions for improvement to Tim (president@devonringers.org.uk) by Wednesday 30 September.

John Martin, Guild Secretary

Reflections on a year as Guild Master

I was very honoured to be asked to be Guild Master 2025-2026, taking over from Peter Bill. I asked Peter and previous Masters: What do I do? What is expected? Do I get an instruction manual? Is there a job description? The answer was always, 'Whatever you want to do!!' (although a few did say I had to run the ringing session after the AGM)!!



Wendy Gill as Guild Ringing Master

I wanted to make sure that I performed the role to the best of my ability. It helped that I retired the following day after 48 years working as a nurse. I planned that I would attend all the branch AGMs and as many branch and Guild events and training as possible plus tower practices as able, trying to make sure that it was evenly spread across the county. I would not be surprised if I come up as the most frequent user of the Guild events page online and my Guild report is looking extremely tatty.

This year has emphasised to me the hard work, dedication and freely given time that ringers give at Guild, branch and tower level, so much of it not even known about. I am greatly encouraged by the numbers of learners being taught right across the whole county. We must nurture these people and their teachers to keep them interested and progressing. I have been proud to present Guild certificates over the year and would encourage tower captains to put forward ringers who have not yet received one.

The branch AGMs are all the same but completely different! Again, I reflect on the amount of time and effort spent by officers to make all of this happen.

I would urge 'non-officers' to consider if there is anything extra that you can do at branch or Guild level to help? Don't be shy, you will be supported and maybe shadow someone doing the role that may interest you to find out what it involves. Young ringers meet at Pinhoe on the second Sunday in the month from 2 to 4pm. Have you got any youngsters learning that would enjoy this session? Elena and Alena run a fabulous session, the youngsters are taught, encouraged and lead some of the ringing themselves. They also ring hand bells if they wish and it is all rounded off with tea and biscuits. It also helps them to realise that not all ringers are old with grey hair!

It has been a very busy year that I have thoroughly enjoyed. Wherever I have been I have been made to feel so welcome and if I didn't see any of you at least once this year, I do apologise, I have run out of time!

On a non-ringing note I have to say that the ringers' teas that accompany many meetings are fantastic right across the county. Many thanks to all who make these happen. When reading previous Guild Master diaries, the running theme throughout is ringers' teas and cake!

In summary it has been an honour to serve this year and thank you to all ringers for what you do for ringing right across Devon.

I send my very best wishes to Jon Rose as he becomes Guild Master for 2026-2027.

Wendy Gill

Although I am biased, I have to say that Wendy Gill has done a superb job during her year as Guild Master. As Wendy says, the job is not well documented but she has raised the profile of the post into a liaison officer and everywhere I went she seemed to appear. I went through the four issues of *Ringings Round Devon* while she was in office and her picture appeared 23 times. That shows the dedication which she put into the role.

It appears that her successor, Jon Rose, is following her example and already has his photo in a number of RRDs!

Stop Press: I see that Wendy's photo appears seven times in this issue, so making up to 30.

Ian Campbell

Signing off as Education Officer



I just wanted to say a big 'thank you' to you all for your help and support over the past three years. Helpers – all 71 of you! – have been amazing. Tim, you kept me sane at the start of it all, and your advice, information and suggestions have been invaluable.

Especial thanks to you, Andrea, for being a wonderful partner to work with in our shared role this year. It has been fun, great to bounce off ideas and plan/execute with you, and, well, just lovely working with you.

I have gained so much being in your company. And you have all enriched my ringing life. And the ringing lives of all those learners on the courses, too, which is far more important. Their feedback has taught me that the experience of being able to ring with such top bands in the focussed practices has been hugely appreciated; and for some of them, life changing. So on behalf of all the learners, I thank you, again.

I am going to miss you.

Sue King

DenMisch Bells – an update

Update on the future of the DenMisch simulated 'bells'

As you will see from the note below, all of the ancillary equipment and wiring from the DenMisch simulated bells was removed from the Exeter Cathedral School at short notice. As a result they can no longer be rung (with any sounds!) in their current location. As discussed at the Guild AGM, I had hoped to have a tryout in their current home during August but the

security and access arrangements at the school did not allow this. Arrangements are being made to remove the bells themselves but this is being hampered by the lack of any suitable storage space which would be needed until their final fate is decided.

Ian Campbell

Ian and I received a phone call on 26 August to ask whether we could come and empty the 'ringing room' and adjacent storeroom now that the Exeter Cathedral School has closed. This was a matter of some urgency as all the school's computing equipment was being collected that very day and they were anxious to know if the DenMisch computers had been wiped clean for safeguarding purposes. It was quite eerie going into the building that once bustled with pupils and staff and seeing that it had largely been emptied of its contents. The entrance lobby was piled high with computers, screens and printers awaiting collection.

We then set to and took away all the ancillary equipment connected with the 'bells' – chairs, tea-making equipment, computers, etc – and somehow managed to get it all in our car. It is now sitting piled up in our conservatory!

The following items are available free of charge to anyone (preferably a group associated with ringers or a church) who can make use of them, so please get in touch if you are interested:

- 10 garden chairs, dark green plastic, non-folding but they do stack neatly
- 30 bone china mugs, assorted designs, in perfect condition, plus plastic storage box with lid
- 10 bell mats, carpet squares with neatly bound edges, various colours
- A 'tenor' box, 20cm x 20cm x 10cm high

The 'bells' themselves remain in situ for the time being until a decision is taken on their future, but they are quite safe for the moment as the only access to them is via the small door set into the wall on the side of the building on Bear Street.

Wendy Campbell

Guild striking competitions – Saturday 17 October

The 2026 striking competitions will be hosted by the Exeter Branch. All bookings for timeslots to be received by 5:00pm on Sunday 11 October at the latest by email to secretary@devonringers.org.uk.



Exeter St David

Morning

Exeter St David: 6 bell competition for JP Fidler Cup

Please book your time slot (in 20 min intervals from 10am)
Refreshments: Light refreshments available in the church
Judges: Revd Jon Rose and Martin Mansley

Stoke Canon: 6 bell novice competition for John Longridge Plate

Please book your time slot (in 20 min intervals from 10am)
Refreshments: Light refreshments available in the church

Pinhoe: 8 bell novice competition for David Willis Plate

Please book your time slot (in 20 min intervals from 11am)
Refreshments: Light refreshments available in the church

Afternoon

Exeter St David: 8 bell inter-branch Competition for the Andrews Trophy

Notification of intention to enter this competition to be received by 5pm on Sunday 11 October at the latest by email to secretary@devonringers.org.uk.

2pm: Results in church from the morning competitions followed by the draw for the afternoon ringing
Refreshments: Tea and refreshments available all day (light lunch from 1pm, with sandwiches, cakes, crisps and snacks)
Judges: Andrew Nicholson and Martyn Tickner

Further details regarding parking at the towers, availability of toilets, the rules of the competitions and the specified touches for the inter-branch competition can be obtained from the website: <https://devonringers.org.uk/news-events/striking-competitions-2026>.

John Martin, Guild Secretary

Obituaries

Marion Baker

A longstanding ringer and supporter of Sidmouth Tower for over 75 years.



Marion was born on 4 November 1933 in Sidmouth Hospital. Her father Percy Davis was tower captain of the parish church, a post which he held for over 60 years. So it was that Marion was taught to ring by her father and became a regular Sidmouth ringer. This was unusual as in those days towers were predominately an all-male environment.

As a Girl Guide Marion linked up with a ringing guide from Surrey: they became lifelong penfriends and later regularly visited each other, and the families are still in contact.

Marion's ambition was always to be a teacher; she trained at Newton Park in Bath. She enjoyed the social life of Bath and sought out local towers where she could ring. A friend was

prompted to ask where on earth Marion disappeared off to on her bicycle so early on Sunday mornings!

After teaching in Exeter for a while Marion returned to Sidmouth where she married Ron in 1960 and in 1963 their son Graham was born. It is thought that Graham's early visits 'up the tower' were in his carrycot!

Marion's father enjoyed ringing handbells and taught both Marion and her mother to ring. Later as Graham was growing up Marion gathered a group of young lads together and taught them to ring tunes on handbells – even encouraging them to give a performance or two.

Marion only rang in one peal attempt which sadly did not come round. However she did ring in numerous quarter peals to mark national and local events.

She has enjoyed and been supportive of ringing all her life. She was heavily involved with the East Devon Branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers, acting as Vice Chairman from 1982 to 1988 and then Chairman from 1998 to 2011. Marion had a wonderful talent for keeping branch meetings moving along swiftly whilst ensuring everyone had the chance to air their views.

At the Guild AGM held at Woodbury on 2 May 1998 Marion was elected a Vice President in recognition of her support of the Guild over many years.

Marion had many tales to tell about the difficult to handle 'old' ring of bells prior to 1972. Did she really make her father cross by looping her rope around the clock case? She was involved in the re-casting and re-hanging of the eight bells in 1972 and the addition of two extra bells in the 1990s. Marion was wonderfully supportive of the tower captains, firstly her father then Andrew Harris and then Anne Bailey. She enjoyed the camaraderie in ringing circles and made many lifelong friends. She was a regular churchgoer and of course made a major spoken contribution one year to our parish church Bell Sunday.

In the last few weeks there have been many tributes to Marion – and what shines through is her warm, friendly and welcoming personality. In the tower she always greeted visitors and new ringers with a smile and enjoyed a chat about where they were from. She also offered advice and encouragement to everyone – if any of us felt we had made a complete mess of ringing something, Marion would relate a story of when she or another ringer had made the same mistake (or worse). This was followed up with words of advice (particularly on Grandsire) and encouragement so that we felt it wasn't the end of the world and maybe we could do better next time.

Marion was forced to give up church bell ringing when sadly after Covid she could no longer manage the steep steps up to the ringing chamber. However, she delighted in joining other Sidmouth ringers in the on-line Ringing Room once a week. She continued doing this from the comfort of her home until April this year. She really enjoyed her Tuesday morning catch up with the ringers. Marion had many interests apart from bell ringing, supporting local badminton, tennis and WI groups. She supported them all with the same dedication as she supported ringing and family. One year she managed to get a group of WI members together to ring carols on handbells. The practice sessions produced much laughter, but Marion persevered, and all came together – sometimes the performance even ended with rounds and Queens!

Marion's funeral was held on 9 July at Sidmouth parish church and was well attended by family, friends and ringers. Bells were rung open (not muffled) both before and after the service as she had requested.

Marion was a wonderful mother and friend. Her support of local ringers over so many years was such that when planning ringing in her memory, two quarter peals were arranged to accommodate all those who wished to be involved. On December 19 a peal attempt is planned at Sidmouth in celebration and memory of Marion's long service to the tower and the Guild.

Marion – a life well lived, you certainly left your mark on so many lives, thank you.

Anne Bailey

Nellie Croft



Nellie Croft was tower secretary of Cruwys Morchard from 2009 to 2013 and then tower captain until she moved away to the Isle of Mull in early 2020. She played a key role in leading a project to rehang the bells in 2012 and to train a new band of ringers at Cruwys Morchard. She passed away on Sunday 21 June this year. These bare facts in no way illuminate the extent of her talents or the respect and affection in which she was held by so many.

Guy Cruwys writes:

Nellie had a very effective way of gently persuading people what a good idea it would be if they did something to help a particular cause that she was interested in. The causes that she persuaded me that I must be involved with were bell ringing and singing.

What a force she was in connection with the bells here at Cruwys Morchard. She had been a bell ringer for a long time, but the team had faded into near non-existence when she decided that it should be revived. That coincided with various reports into the condition of our bells. The bells on plain bearings had become difficult to ring and these reports suggested rehangng them on ball bearings. This was the catalyst for recruiting an appreciable number of additional ringers and trainee ringers. She did all the necessary training herself to become an excellent teacher. She was so enthusiastic that it was impossible not to become an enthusiast too.

As those who have been involved with the process of raising money to enable a major undertaking will know, it has to be a community enterprise. You've got to get the parish involved. Nellie did this extremely successfully and with the help of lots of other people made successful applications for funding to cover the substantial cost. We also did a lot of fundraising, and it was always relatively low-key but very inclusive and enjoyable for everybody involved. She involved the youth and the schools and adjacent parishes with the teaching process and promoted an understanding of the bell ringing art. She was full of ideas, all of which worked well and all of which were relatively easily and inexpensively attained.

Nellie was also the organist at Holy Cross, Cruwys Morchard and carried her enthusiasm into forming and training a choir to sing at services.

Richard Barker writes about her enthusiasm for ringing:

It is fair to say that Nellie got things done. When she wanted to expand her Plain Minor and Surprise Minor skills she found there wasn't a practice to suit her. So she organised one. Asking a few

of us to special practices she organised at Cruwys Morchard on Sunday afternoons, this soon expanded to meeting at other local towers and then into quarter peals. This enabled her to ring quarters of Cambridge Minor as well as quarters of plain Minor methods in the St Clement's group. This informal band operated within the North East Branch and just as informally became known as 'Nellie's Boys'. Pleased to say, though, Nellie was soon joined by some other ladies as momentum built up. Nellie achieved her 100th quarter peal with the group on 8 December 2019. As such the group rang its last quarter with and for Nellie on 23 February 2020 at Cruwys Morchard as a going away compliment when she was 'emigrating' to the Isle of Mull.

Nellie had the gift of inspiring people and keeping a band together when she organised a series of trips out to visit and ring at all the churches in Devon that had ceiling bosses or pew ends with three hares. Some of us were pleased to be able to help out for the eight bell towers. She was also getting the Cruwys band to work through all the five bell towers in Devon.

Richard also writes about Nellie's transport arrangements:

Most of us remember her transport as a four-wheel drive Jimmy truck which was often seen parked outside Cruwys Morchard. However, she also had a large pony, Bess, that was broken to drive. I can vouch for the fact the horse drawn vehicles were better sprung than the truck! Your writer was drawn into this as a consultant when Nellie moved from the four-wheel cart to a smart two-wheel gig to assist her with adjusting the harness to balance it. So like some of the founder members of the Guild she would have been able to say she had a coachman!

Liz Chadwick writes warmly of Nellie:

It's hard to know where to start when someone you miss so much dies. Many will talk about her contribution to bell ringing, and certainly she taught me and others at Cruwys Morchard to ring tower bells. We had fun ringing hand bells, and she was instrumental in raising the funds and organising much to do with the rehangng of the bells at Cruwys Morchard. She instigated some amazing ringing outings, perhaps the most memorable being the search for all the towers with roof bosses that figured the famous three hares.

But for me she was a friend of over twenty years, whom I first encountered on an enormous shire horse called Bess. She was the kind friend with whom I walked fields and meadows discussing wildflowers and dogs. She was the adventurous friend who introduced me to the Western isles, which I came to love as much as she did. And she was the friend who showed me that we can follow our dreams and do things, even when others say 'that's impossible'. It's been a privilege to call her my friend.



St Paul's outing in August 2012, showing Nellie in the centre of the back row

by Les Boyce with thanks to Guy, Richard and Liz

Jan Stainer – RIP



Jan passed away peacefully at Rowcroft Hospice on Saturday 27 June 2026, aged 78 years.

Loving wife of Ray. Mum to Sam and husband Mark. Grandma to Kieran and Adam. Sister to Liz and husband Rob.

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Jan Stainer of Kingskerswell. When the new band of ringers was formed at Kingskerswell almost 40 years ago Jan and her sister Liz decided to join. Jan was born with physical disability. All her life she had been told that she should not attempt to do things. This made her extremely determined to do them. This included ringing. She persevered and was able to get to the point of ringing several quarter peals. More importantly, she took over as Mid Devon Branch secretary, where her office skills made her very efficient. She kept several of the officers on their toes – particularly Bob Southwood and Martin Mansley. Eventually ringing became too much for her and she gave up but never lost her interest and was always keen to catch up with the ringers and their news.



Jan next to the new fifth bell at Kingskerswell which replaced the old third – 'her bell'

Jan Stainer – funeral

Jan's funeral was held in the village church at Kingskerswell which really was very dear to her. Jan had grown up and lived in the village all her life. As the vicar said, 'If you lived in Kingskerswell and were not friends with Jan, it was your fault!' The bells were rung before and after the service by a mainly local band but with a few branch members who remember Jan as a ringer and one time branch secretary. The church was completely packed with many standing at the back of the church and most of the ringers up on the gallery. Jan had planned the whole service meticulously and the theme of trees was a constant throughout. Her sister Liz spoke movingly of her big sister and the way she had always tackled her many challenges head on and with a big smile on her face. Husband Ray also spoke and there was much laughter. After the service the bells rang out once more to honour a lady who will be very much missed in Kingskerswell.

We can find no better way of ending but with her own words.

'When you think of me (and I hope you do often), always think of me with a smile, as I think a smile is worth its weight in gold! And a smile is for ever and a smile goes miles, it will reach me in heaven.'
Jan Stainer.

Martin Mansley

Colin Kneebone: 18 April 1939 – 4 August 2026



It is with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of Colin, tower captain at St Mary's, Lifton.

He learnt to ring there more than 70 years ago and one of his greatest joys was ringing for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 and ringing to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee 70 years later, both at Lifton. He held the post as tower captain for many years. Just a few years ago he was presented with a suitably inscribed bell to mark such a milestone. He was always referred to as the 'Gaffer'.

The 150th Guild of Devonshire Ringers AGM was held at Tavistock in 2024. At that event Colin was elected as a Vice President and received a standing ovation. It was a position he held with such pride. Colin would have been the first to admit that he was not a great method ringer but he was a superb tenor man. The highlight of this was at Heavitree when the Guild held their annual striking competition there and the South West Branch band from Tavistock won that prestigious trophy with Colin on the tenor. His favourite method was Stedman.

We both shared a passion for handbell ringing and would regularly practise change ringing on Tuesday nights on returning to my home after the Tavistock practice. We eventually managed to conquer Grandsire Doubles!

The church was full for the service at St Mary's on Monday 24 August with the team at Lifton ringing beforehand. The muffles were

removed and open ringing continued after the service when others were able to pay tribute to a remarkable man.

The tribute given by his eldest son, Graham, covered the wide spectrum of Colin's life. He was a farmer all his life, farming cattle, sheep and cereals at Gatherley, Lifton. He was a champion ploughman with his classic tractors, which took him to ploughing on a national basis.

Other people will come and prove to be just as popular as he was, but there was only one Colin Kneebone and we are much the poorer for his loss.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Geoff Hill

East Devon Branch Whimblefest with Bells

Whimblefest, the annual fete here in Whimble, East Devon, has usually been opened by the band ringing the church bells to add to the festive atmosphere. This year we decided to raise the profile of bells in the village and beyond by also running a stand using the Guild demonstration bell and our handbells. The demonstration bell was easy to set up but is often sited on a level floor or surface. On the sloping parish field it was secured with straps to spikes driven into the ground and was solid enough for even a little 18-month old to pull away at the tail end – and it became his favourite attraction of the afternoon. Definitely a young ringer in the making.



New Guild member James Rowe tries the Demo Bell

Our ringers supported the stand by chatting with visitors, handing out bell ringing leaflets and encouraging people to try their hands on the bells available. We found that ringers could quickly master the demonstration bell and that most visitors were able to ring backstrokes successfully after a little practice. It was a great opportunity to get out of the tower and show some friendly faces behind the sound of the bells. We also found some potential recruits, though one will need to wait a few years before joining us.



Members of the Hilling family try out the handbells

Andrea Young

Ringing Out a Thank You



St Andrew's bell ringers extend heartfelt thanks to the Friends of St Andrew's, Feniton, for organising the 'Morning Coffee and Cake and Afternoon Cream Teas' fundraising event on Saturday 11 July 2026. The day was held to support repairs to our cracked number three bell, currently out of action.

Hosted by David and Sheila Lanning in their beautiful Church Lane garden, the event was a shining example of community spirit. We are deeply grateful to them – and all the helpers – for the hard work, preparation, organisation and attention to detail that made the day such a success.

Guests enjoyed a wonderful selection of cakes, cookies and scones, accompanied by plentiful tea, coffee, and cordial. Sunshine, fine china, embroidered linen, and parasols set the scene perfectly. Adding to the charm, Martyn Smyth played piano throughout the day, creating a calm, relaxed atmosphere. Our sincere thanks to Martyn for generously giving his time.

The fundraising didn't stop at refreshments. Thanks to the green-fingered efforts of Val Stringer, a lovely range of plants was available for purchase, alongside the very popular raffle. A special thank you must go out to the two young and budding entrepreneurs, Poppy and Emily, whose persuasive prowess helped sell many tickets. We are grateful to everyone who donated items, who purchased tickets, or took home a plant: you truly provided the bells and whistles.

In total, an impressive £783.45 was raised, in addition to an anonymous donation of £500, totalling an incredible £1283.45. These funds will help to restore our ringing capability to six bells.

and ensure we can continue the age-old tradition of bell ringing in Feniton. We can't begin to thank everyone enough.

This thoughtful, community-spirited gathering brought people together and we are deeply appreciative of the care and enthusiasm shown by all involved. What a wonderful community we live in!

Lesley Oates

Note from Editor: The repair to the cracked bell at Feniton is believed to be awaiting only the faculty approval before the work can commence.

Exeter Branch

Association banned AGAIN from the Cathedral

The last issue of *RRD* reported on ringing on a fifth Sunday at Exeter Cathedral by a call change band from the Devon Association. Two clappers were broken in one session and the Association was banned from the tower.

For the fifth Sunday in August we relented a little and allowed them to ring. However on the first pull of the rise they broke a strand in the rope of the seventh immediately above the sally and the rope all started to unravel. It was quickly changed for a new one, mainly because there was a peal booked the following day and the bells had to be ready for the peal band. Clearly the Association ringing will need to be more closely supervised in future! Only joking!



The sorry state of the 7th rope

Ian Campbell

Retirement of the Dean of Exeter Cathedral

We presented the framed photos and card to the Dean at his leaving do on Sunday 5 July when some of us attended the hog roast lunch in the Bishop's Palace garden. The Dean made time to chat with us and expressed his gratitude for the gift and all that we do. He sent the following email to me afterwards.

Hello Matt,

Very many thanks to you and the ringers for pitching up on Sunday, and for my lovely present. It has brought back many happy memories, both of the 2019 victory, but also of other happy engagements with our wonderfully dedicated team of ringers.

Please do pass on my thanks to them all, and I look forward to hearing of further successes in the not too distant future.

With very best wishes

Jonathan

The Very Revd Jonathan Greener, Dean of Exeter



The framed photos

Matt Hilling

Swifts nesting in the Cathedral tower!

As part of the 2024 Development Project Activity Plan to support wildlife, Exeter Cathedral staff worked with Devon Birds and Orbis Ecology to install 130 swift boxes in the Cathedral south tower. The project was managed for the Cathedral by Chris



Sampson and Gary Morley, who both did a fantastic job co-ordinating a tricky installation. Swift populations have declined by 60% in recent years and it can take years for swifts to colonise new boxes, so we're delighted that at least three pairs of swifts have already found a nesting home here at Exeter Cathedral. A video is available showing the swifts going into the south tower through the louvres.

From Milestones, a Cathedral newsletter

Note from Editor: Many towers now have swift boxes so it is good to find some that are actually being used. However having them in the belfry is likely to be breeding a generation of deaf swifts!

Mid Devon Branch Bovey Bells on Spotlight

Very many thanks to Mike Wigney for links to the excellent news item about ringing at Bovey Tracey. Very well done to all at Bovey and the very best of luck with fundraising for your restoration.

The link to YouTube is <https://youtu.be/TsONoUmByME> and the BBC website article at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c07yldmz487o>. Whilst on the subject of ringing in the Bovey Tracey area we found this video put together by Sarah McIntyre. You may have met Sarah or seen some of her amazing illustrations, including *Ring World* Christmas cards. Her enthusiasm for ringing shines through on her video, and you will probably recognise many of the ringers taking part. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wder5Ql4_4w

Martin Mansley

Extracts from Mid Devon Branch Tower Talk

Branch 8 bell practice Kingskerswell – June 2026

Another of our very successful Friday morning advanced practices took place at Kingskerswell on Friday 26 June, with 13 members present making good use of these easy going bells. Although these practices are billed as 'advanced', these are general practices where members are encouraged to begin or continue their journey into more advanced ringing, through the learning and ringing of Surprise Major. If you are an experienced ringer and feel able to join us, you would be made very welcome....and enjoy free coffee and biscuits. We were delighted to be joined by Wendy Gill – she has been a regular attendee at recent practices and it was lovely to have her with us again, as her year as Guild Master drew to a close the following day.

As ever, we were made very welcome by Philip Stevens and enjoyed a variety of methods, including Grandsire Triples, Stedman Triples and Cambridge S Major, with ringing overseen by ringing master Mike Wigney. Not everything came round, but some steady progress was made. We also enjoyed coffee and biscuits as usual, which has become an enjoyable aspect of the morning, giving plenty of time to chat and socialise.

Branch Mini Outing – North of Dartmoor



The attractive moorland village of Belstone was the first stop on our mini outing, arranged by Rodney Horder, our chairman. These pleasant bells did present something of a challenge due to very long ropes where we were not allowed knots. Despite that we enjoyed our visit even though one car only just made it in time, having visited several other villages on the way due to satnav issues!

Inwardleigh was next and it was interesting to find a list of methods that the local ringers were working on. And... nice short ropes. This ground floor ring really were a pleasure to ring. We were all looking forward to the newly rehung eight at Hatherleigh. They are now rung from an upstairs ringing room and your scribe was not the only one who found the wood covered spiral steps a bit of a challenge. The eight bells sounded delightful and we really enjoyed our visit – a few more experienced ringers would have helped with the only eight of the day.

The final tower was Sampford Courtney where a rather grumpy villager left a slightly bad taste for some with his complaints about the bells. At the same time, it was obvious that tiredness was starting to creep in. All this was forgotten at the New Inn just down the road from the church. Everyone had ordered beforehand and we were promptly and efficiently served a superb meal that was universally agreed as the best tower of the day. As always, Rodney and Sheila had made superb arrangements and we thank them and all the local ringers for a very enjoyable afternoon.

Moving on in method ringing – 6 and 8 bell course

Earlier on in the year the Branch tried a new approach to training with a two-day format – Friday evening followed by Saturday morning. This had proved very useful, so a second one was organised. This time two eight bell towers were used so trainees could choose either 5/6 bell or 7/8 bell methods. Kingskerswell was the venue on Friday.

Although the start was slightly delayed due to a service in church, we were soon working hard under the leadership of branch education officer, Geraint Thomas. Each trainee had



5 11:21
Ringing at Wolborough

decided what they wanted to work on and this was almost a half and half split between Doubles and Triples. A welcome break was had for coffee and a chance to network – it was great to see the less experienced ringers sharing with each other.

The Saturday morning session was at Wolborough and despite a slight problem with locating keys (thank you, Wendy!) we soon had the bells up and were underway once more. Several of the trainees were keen to improve their rope-sight and a variety of touches were rung to mix up the coursing orders as much as possible. Others were working on Bob Triples both on the treble and inside – one ringer was able to achieve their first touch of Triples inside by the end of the morning and we also had a brief session of Plain Hunt Major. All agreed that the formula of a two-day course was very helpful. Several votes of thanks were given to the helpers, without whom these courses would not happen. The traditional group photos were taken in the sunshine outside the church.



The assembled company

Advanced practice July – Bishopsteignton

The holiday season definitely affected attendance at this practice. Having said that, we had some ringers who are not normally available for these weekday sessions. We were also delighted to welcome our new Guild Master, Jon Rose. Methods included Berwick, Norwich and Primrose with plenty of Cambridge. Once our more experienced ringers worked out what to do, we also rang treble bob hunting – to quote our leader for the day (Mike Wigney), 'it is a little bit false!' Each row is repeated! It was a very helpful way of introducing the treble work for Surprise and Treble Bob methods. Our attempts to ring spliced Berwick and Hexham eventually led to an agreement that it was one step too far this time and definitely a work in progress.

Martin Mansley and Nigel Birt

Planned branch outing

Plans are now taking shape for the Mid Devon Branch outing which takes place on Saturday 3 October. The committee has made the decision to change the venue previously advertised, and instead visit the Dartmouth area, which we had hoped to visit in June.

Martin Mansley is arranging the outing and ringing will take place at St Saviour, Dartmouth (8 bells), St Petrox, Dartmouth Castle (6 bells) and St Thomas, Kingswear (6 bells). There are many ways to travel to and around the area, and we will use the foot ferry to get to and from Dartmouth Castle. We will then travel back to ring at St John, Marldon (6 bells) before ending with a meal at The Old Smokey in Marldon.

In order to finalise arrangements, Martin would appreciate an indication of numbers, so we would be grateful if you would let him know at plainbobminor.mm@gmail.com if you are intending to go.

Nigel Birt, Branch Secretary

North-East Branch

Extracts from *Branch Lines* – the NE Branch Newsletter

Cream Tea Success!



Despite horrible weather on Saturday 6 June, Bampton residents (and a few branch members) turned out to support the Troyte Ringing Centre – and the cakes were amazing! We raised a magnificent £500 overall.

Les Boyce

Mollie Achieves Learning The Ropes Level 1



Mollie receiving her certificate

Mollie has been having bell handling lessons on the practice bell at Bampton. With younger brother Daniel, they started in January and have made good progress. On Tuesday 21 July Mollie stood the bell at backstroke ten times and that completed her Learning the Ropes Level 1. Daniel isn't far behind. We gave Mollie her certificate at Bampton practice night on Thursday 23 July. We think great grandfather Ron Trickey (who was a Guild Vice President) would be very proud.

Congratulations to Jonah



Jonah has achieved Level 3 on the Learning the Ropes scheme. He has rung treble and tenor to quarter peals of Doubles to gain this level.

We presented him with a certificate and badge at the final Bell Club practice this term at Bampton, on Tuesday 30 June.

Both Jonah and Tommy now ring for weddings at Huntsham.

Sheila Scofield

The St Peter's Shield Competition

This year's competition will be held on the evening of Friday 25 September. Invitations to towers will be sent shortly. This 6 bell competition is open to both call change and method bands.

What a transformed ring of bells, now rung from a fantastic gallery!



A very convivial meal at the Red Lion after ringing

We had a really enjoyable practice at Oakford on Saturday 1 August, with ringing to suit all present. Lots of rounds and called changes, interspersed with method ringing. This included Plain Bob Triples, Grandsire Triples and Cambridge Surprise Major.

John Martin

Troyte Ringing Centre – Short Course: Plain Hunting on 5 bells

For those who ring call changes well and want to move into method ringing, this course will introduce the theory and the practice of plain hunting – the basis of all method ringing.

- Theory session: Wednesday 23 September 19:00 – 21:00pm
- Practical: Saturday 26 September 10:00 – 13:00 at Huntsham

There are still places available – book with Les Boyce (lesboyce@gmail.com).

The Troyte Ringing Centre programme is available at: https://troyteringingcentre.org.uk/TRC_events.htm

Notification of Annual General Meeting: Saturday 3 October

- Silverton, St Mary, Church Rd, Silverton, EX5 4HS
- Open ringing: 3:00pm, followed by service at 4:00pm
- Refreshments and Members' Forum 4:40pm, then Business Meeting: 5:15pm – 6:00pm

Learning the Ropes certificates awarded



John Helliwell achieves LTR Level 1

John has been having handling lessons on the practice bell at Bampton and has recently been coming to practice nights. Soon he will be joining the Sunday service ringing. At last Thursday's practice (20 August) we gave John his Level 1 certificate.



Janet Gabb achieves LTR Level 2

Congratulations to Janet Gabb! Janet has completed her Level 2 of Learning the Ropes and is seen here receiving her certificate from Les Boyce, her teacher.

Our Guild master visits Tiverton St Peter



It was good to welcome Guild Master, Jon Rose, to our Triples and Major practice at St Peter's in Tiverton on 4 August.

Mike Shipton, NE Branch secretary

South-West Branch Trevor's Day Out

On Thursday 8 August, a number of ringers from Emmanuel, Plymouth, gathered for a special outing in memory of our dear friend Trevor Vercoe.

Trevor was the first bell ringer I met in Plymouth. One evening in 2017, I was standing outside St Andrew's church on the day of my first ever ringing lesson and wasn't too sure where I should be. Trevor spotted me looking a little uncertain, came straight over to introduce himself, and welcomed me warmly to bell ringing. He then encouraged me to join in many of the branch outings and Guild events that he was helping to organise in his role of Secretary of the South West Branch and continued to encourage me over the years. Many other ringers in Plymouth



Eggbuckland church

have similar stories of Trevor's warm welcome, his hard work for the South West Branch, and of course his particular love for ringing outings! It was therefore very fitting to hold a special outing in his memory: Trevor's Day Out.

We had the pleasure of ringing at three towers around Plymouth: Plymstock, Tamerton Foliot and Eggbuckland. For most of us, this was our first time ringing at at least one of these towers, and for some of us, all three were firsts! Ringing ranged from rounds and call changes to touches of Bob Minor.

There was a brilliant turn-out. As well as the regular Thursday band, we were joined by other ringers from Emmanuel. Partners and people who knew and remembered Trevor had also come out to listen to the bells being rung for him.

The day finished (as our Thursday evenings so often do after Emmanuel practice) with a visit to The Rising Sun. We were treated to a buffet tea and joined by special guest Daphne (Trevor's sister). Together, after a day of successful ringing, we raised a glass to Trevor and shared stories and memories around the very same tables we had spent so many Thursday evenings with him over the years.

I know that Trevor would have been very pleased to know we had all enjoyed an outing in his memory, and would certainly have appreciated the wonderful turnout and fantastic effort from



The Rising Sun

Elena Brake/Caroline Croker

The Southwest Bell Ringing Course 2026

Will take place from

**Saturday 24 to Tuesday 27 October
Millfield School, Street, Somerset,
BA16 0YD**

**Application for Students has now
closed, but Helper applications will
remain open for a while**

Training and Education

Bradfield Bell Ringing Course 2026



My ringing group 'Sparklers' outside Midgham church, Berkshire. A VERY light ground floor six with a 5cwt tenor. Challenging for helpers and learners alike.

I have just got home from the 2026 Bradfield ringing course.

I went on my first ringing course nine years ago on 17 August. It was the Bradfield course, held (like our new SW ringing course) in the grounds of a public school. Our then East Devon Branch education officer, Richard, introduced me to the course, and for that I am most grateful. I had only just had my first hip replacement, so, now walking very well and no longer in pain, off I went.

I was a 'course junkie' back then – Bradfield in August 2017, then Tulloch (Scottish Highlands) in the September, followed by Essex and Bradfield again (Easter and August) in 2018. I was keen to attend so many courses, as I needed more rope time and more experience whilst on my journey through the ART Learning the Ropes scheme. And attending these (residential, and non residential) ringing courses certainly helped to prepare me for my various LTR quarter peal attempts. Especially the Bradfield course. Hereford, too. I rang and studied the theory of Plain Bob Minor there in 2022, before my quarter peal attempt (inside) the following month. Helped me no end, and gave me confidence.

My group at my first ever Bradfield back in 2017 was Plain Hunt. It was where the magical 'rope sight' first became apparent. I was plain hunting on the second to Grandsire Doubles, a method I had not really heard of back then, and somehow I managed to see that there were only three bells that I had to ring over, apart from the treble. And I only ever met the treble at the front, or the back. That was a good 'marker' for me. I managed to easily see which ones of the three remaining bells that I had to ring over, and in what order. There they all were, right in front of me, after I had taken the treble off lead. And they just changed their order three times after each of my leads. Same order going out, and coming back, too! My first ever light bulb moment! Fantastic feeling.

Since 2017 I have attended Bradfield eight times. Once virtually, during Covid. Of the f2f courses, I've been a student four times (Plain Hunt, Bob Doubles, Stedman Triples and Cambridge) and a helper three times (Bob Doubles each time). Whether learner or helper, it has helped my ringing come on in very many ways. I enjoy Bradfield so much that I want to go every year, either as a helper or as a learner, and do not mind which. Like all the ringing courses, (Essex, Hereford, North West, South West, etc) it is heavily over-subscribed for both learners and helpers so I have been very lucky to be able to attend the actual course on the occasions when my application has been successful. It is the highlight of my summer holidays!

I have been both learner and helper on the Essex course, too, which I enjoy because I am back home ringing at places I remember from my childhood and young adult life. Essex is different because it is non-residential, making it cheaper to attend in terms of course fees. Also it now only has one tower, per group, per day to help learners get used to the ropes, and therefore logistically far easier for the tower organisers, too. I did prefer having two towers per day as it's more interesting and more towers to grab. On my course at Bradfield last week I went

to six different towers, in both Berkshire and Oxfordshire, and enjoyed the challenge of the different bells, the very different ringing chambers, and the drive to and from each tower. Lovely countryside, although naturally the same applies to all the other courses.

There is always something new and exciting that happens on a bell ringing course. At Bradfield this year I tried a bit of conducting for the first time as a helper in my group, and was encouraged to step out of my comfort zone in doing so. I also managed to totter through a touch of Kent Treble Bob Major in hand (back two bells, easiest pair!) as well as Plain Bob Major on 5-6. Handbells is always an optional extra, on all the courses. I first tried ringing handbells at Tulloch in 2017 and was immediately hooked.

Huge fun, and the Kent was not as difficult as I thought it would be. But then I was nearly always just a coursing pair of back bells, with parallel dodges up and down, and with just one different little dodge at the front. It is a joy to be with so many top handbell ringers when at Bradfield (as it is on our own Guild handbells day), as it always brings my ringing on.

I always join the scratch choir to sing the anthem in the church service every year at Bradfield – and that adds another layer of enjoyment for me. This year we sang Arcadelt's *Ave Maria*. Simple and beautiful. There were handbells too, of course, plus some fantastic organ music. Bradfield is blessed in having its own chapel in the school grounds with a large and rather loud church organ. The only downside to the Bradfield course this year was the food! Too many yummy biscuits at morning and afternoon coffee and tea breaks, and the meals were far too delicious at breakfast and evening meal. My diet has flown out of the window. Oh, and the quiz! I didn't know enough of the answers. Not even to the music questions as too many were on modern pop songs. There were lots of other (to me) obscure questions, including ones about snooker, and Iceland, where the quiz master had just been on holiday. I now DO know that a baby puffin is a puffling, and that the island has an interactive 'Skyr' museum – Skyrland! Proud that I (a non-scientist) knew the chemical symbol for tungsten, though. And that Britain's oldest recorded city – formerly a town – is Colchester. Well, those of us (including at least two of us in the Devon Guild) who were born there, would know that, wouldn't we?

What next? Well, I have the SW ringing course at Millfield to look forward to. Just a few weeks to go, and then lots more fun to be had, more experiences and opportunities to learn something new, and to make new friends. And, hopefully, I'll be back helping at Bradfield again next year.

Sue King

An interview with Andrea Young



At the recent Guild AGM Andrea took over from Sue King as Education Officer and has now had a couple of months to ease herself into the job. Your scribe caught up with her and asked how she was getting on.

Q: Hello Andrea. Can you introduce yourself and tell us a little about your life and ringing career before moving to Devon?

A: I learned to ring in Herefordshire when I was 15, having seen a short article asking for new recruits in our parish newsletter. My mum had to take me there as the nearest church with bells, Cradley, was down a main road with no path. Mum was soon persuaded to have a go too and finally stopped ringing 43 years later, while I am still going.

Before a rehang in the 1990s, Cradley bells were a lumpy 13cwt six with a long draft and a death-defying leap from a ladder over a 40ft drop to go to see the bells bouncing about in their ancient wooden frame. I loved them and threw myself into bell ringing, soon joining up with school friends who rang at nearby Malvern Link. Young Ringers didn't exist, but we were all helped and supported, including having two holidays when we exchanged with young Italian ringers, rang their bells 'alla Veronese' and even learnt some Italian. I also had fun with Sheffield University Guild on madcap tours and the annual Northern Universities striking competition.

Outside ringing, I met and married Simon, who though not a ringer has always supported my ringing. In 1993 we moved to Surrey for Simon's job and I joined the ringers in Cranleigh where I rang and worshipped for 30 years, along with bringing up our four children and working as a school matron. When Simon retired in 2023, we moved to Devon to be closer to family and many friends. With the house move, I knew I would keep ringing, but I could never have imagined the warmth of the welcome and the extent of the ringing I am now enjoying here. After many years of being a diligent but relatively unchallenged band member, I now hope to help others with their ringing and perhaps to improve my own along the way.

Q: Many people will know that you've been sharing the Education Officer's job with Sue King for the past year. Was it a good grounding for you, and are you looking forward to going solo now?

A: I had such fun learning from Sue, who seems to know everyone and organised a huge number of courses. She bought me a calendar and showed me what to do, sharing her precious list of helpers. I can't promise that I will manage to organise everything so far in advance, or that my emails will be as long or frequent, but I hope to continue the friendly and supportive atmosphere (together with good coffee and cake) that made Sue's courses such a success.

Q: Big question: where do you see the greatest need in the Guild with making learning opportunities for the membership? What methods are you being asked to run courses on?

A: The Education Officers (EOs) from all the branches meet in the Autumn to discuss training needs. This does vary widely as some branches run very comprehensive programmes for all levels of ringing, while others find it difficult to have enough helpers to assist learners moving forward. I hope that the Guild EO can help to plug some gaps, either by putting on courses, or arranging targeted practices or by going along to help myself. However, there is always a demand for Grandsire Triples at Guild courses, so we will probably keep doing those. I have also wondered if there might be a demand for a handling and foundation workshop for help with the basics. In addition, with Alena Wardle, we have run two M1 ART modules for teaching the teachers, and which I really hope will contribute to greater numbers of ringers in the future.

Thank you, Andrea, for your responses. We look forward to seeing how it all pans out in the coming year!

Wendy Campbell

Other Items

Ringers and Steam Engines

Steam engines large and small, vintage lorries, vintage and classic cars, in fact all forms of historic transport descended on Powderham Castle in Devon on the weekend of July 11 and 12 for the annual Historic Vehicle Rally. I exhibited my Fowler ploughing engine based on an engine built in 1878.

I thought it would be a good idea if steam engine owners and crew ran at Powderham church for the morning service – it is surprising how many ringers also own steam engines. There were eight of us in all and still two ringers on the showground that couldn't join us as they were working on their respective engines. We rang for an hour, ringing some nicely struck call changes mainly, although we did manage Bob Doubles and we finished with a particularly nice fall. In the photo I have listed the names of the ringers below from left to right, followed by their home tower and their steam engine.



- David Goodwin, St Columb Major, Cornwall. Burrell Showman's Road Locomotive, The Gladiator.
- Emma Goodwin, St Columb Major, Cornwall. Burrell Showman's Road Locomotive, The Gladiator.
- Michael Cannon, Heavitree, Exeter. Fowler ploughing engine, Elizabeth.
- Rusty (Bex) Hartley, Highworth, Wiltshire. Burrell Road Locomotive, Grace.
- Steven Syms, St Columb Major, Cornwall. Burrell agricultural traction engine, Cornish Maid.
- Carolyn Syms, St Columb Major, Cornwall. Burrell agricultural traction engine, Cornish Maid.
- Maria Casely, Sherborne, Dorset. Mann steam tractor.
- Kevin Edwards, Pillaton, Cornwall. Burrell agricultural traction engine.

Michael Cannon

A note from a Guild Bell Advisor

If your tower has a wooden bell frame and wooden headstocks you may have found the bells running rather badly during all this hot and dry weather as the wood dries out and things become loose. Now, before any substantial rain, is the time to tighten everything up.

- The tie-bolts go vertically through the frame, holding it down to the foundation beams which make up the base of the frame. These often look very rusty but will usually tighten once soaked in WD-40 for a while. Care should be taken that the whole rod is not turning.
- The gudgeon retaining bolts on the headstock hold the shaft which rotates in the bearing (the gudgeon). They are usually U-bolts so each side of the 'U' should be tightened a little at a time. Start with the pair nearest the centre and do the outside ones last.
- It is worth checking the bolts holding down the bearing housing but these should not be over-tightened; in many cases they are held down with coach screws which simply bite into the wooden frame and do not have nuts. When the

frame gets soaked with oil it can get rather soft and over stressing these bolts can cause the wood to give way.

- The bell retaining bolts on the headstock can be tightened in sequence, doing opposite bolts a little at a time to ensure that the bell remains level.
- The clapper assembly may need tightening if it is an independent crown staple. This has a single bolt through the centre of the bell and headstock which should be kept tight – on metal headstocks as well as wooden ones. When tightening it is essential that a second person is available to hold the clapper against the bell at the point of maximum wear, and to check that the clapper swings in the centre of the bell after tightening.
- The wheel can work loose from the headstock. This is tightened by the bolt that runs horizontally through the centre of the wheel and the headstock.

I checked the Guild Demonstration Bell this week as it is going out later and even on that I had to tighten up the wheel, gudgeons and bell bolts, all of which had worked loose.

Further information on bell maintenance is available from <https://belfryupkeep.cccbr.org.uk/> which includes pictures and diagrams of all sorts of ways that bells can be hung.

Ian Campbell

Exonian Society Tour 2026

The Exonian Society was founded by people who had ringing connections with Exeter, but over the years this has expanded to include ringers from a disparate background, including Norfolk and Nottinghamshire. The main activity of the society is an annual quarter peal tour. Peals are rung at the rate of one per century. The first was at Rotherham in 1986, the other being at Clitheroe in 2019.

The very first quarter peal tour by the Society was in October 1979 in the Sheffield area. This year we returned to the same region, including the more rural parts of South Yorkshire, which has four principal towns and cities – Sheffield, Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster. Each of the four days was based around one of these in turn. South Yorkshire includes many fine rings of bells, especially, and we were successful with enjoyable quarters at quite a few of them. Only one was lost, while we were locked out of one other.

Many thanks to the tower contacts who arranged for us to ring at their towers and all of whom gave us a warm welcome.



The tour party at the one tower we couldn't ring at. Clockwise from front right: Chris Enzor, Anthea Enzor, Simon Reading, Judith Reading, Mandy Freeman, Ian Campbell, Wendy Campbell, Nick Parkes, Johnathon White, Anna White, Graham Tucker, Lesley Tucker, Sue Sawyer

Simon Reading

Notable Ringing Performances

Peals

First peal for Shane Yuen

Shane has learnt most of his method ringing while on trips from Singapore to Exeter and took advantage of his latest trip to ring his first peal.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Pinhoe, Devon, St Michael and All Angels

Monday, 15 June 2026 in 2h 45

5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Composed by M C Bennett

1 Shane Yuen	5 Ian L C Campbell
2 Peter L Bill	6 John R Martin (C)
3 Ian V J Smith	7 Michael E C Mears
4 Fergus Kettleborough	8 David Hird

First peal: 1

Shane is the first ringer from Singapore Cathedral to ring a peal.



L to R: Fergus, Ian C, Ian S, John, Peter, Mike, Shane, David

50th Peal for Harry Andrews

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Lymptone, Devon, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin

Saturday, 27 June 2026 in 3h 1

5040 Surprise Minor (7m)

(1) London (2) Norwich (3) Bourne (4) Beverley, Surfleet (5) Ipswich (6, 7) Cambridge

1 John R Martin (C)	4 Harry J Andrews
2 Simon J Davies	5 Fergus M S Stracey
3 Charlotte A Boyce	6 David Hird

50th peal: 4

Rung on the day of the Guild AGM



(L to R) Charlotte, Harry, Simon, Fergus, John, David

Quarter Peals

Six Kings ring for the King

In March 2023 three Kings 'came from lands afar' to ring at Bradpole as a birthday celebration for former Bradpole ringer, 90 year old Pam King. They were Pam's sons, Michael and Roger C King and Roger's son, Martin. Roger is tower captain at Fordingbridge in Hampshire, whilst Michael rings at Yateley in North East Hampshire. Martin rings at towers in Oxfordshire.

Hawk-eyed Roger King – our own Roger, also known as Roger No 1 – spotted this sometime later, on BellBoard, and said to me, 'hey kid, how about a Kings' quarter peal? In a tower with King in the name? As a birthday compliment to King Charles?'

Good idea, I agreed! And so it came to pass, a year or so after that suggestion, that Roger, Tim and myself got together with the three 'up country Kings' to ring a quarter of Bob Doubles on the back six at Kingskerwell, on the date of King Charles' official birthday. The boys made a weekend of it, meeting up at Bradpole to visit Pam, who, being a ringer herself, took a keen interest in how the quarter went.

It was a really enjoyable time spent all together. I joined the brothers and son/nephew for lunch at the Hare and Hounds (an excellent roast!) in Kingskerswell, and then we met up with Tim and Roger down at St Mary's. Roger No 1 conducted the quarter which we completed in 44 minutes. We enjoyed tea and cake afterwards in the church.

A return match was mooted with perhaps the Devon Kings travelling up to a tower chosen by the up country Kings? We shall see!

Look closely at the surnames!

Kingskerswell, Devon, St Mary
Saturday, 13 June 2026 in 44m

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1 Roger C King | 4 Michael D King |
| 2 Martin G King | 5 Roger King (C) |
| 3 Timothy J King | 6 Susan A King |

Rung for His Majesty King Charles III on the occasion of his official birthday



The six Kings – Roger C, Martin, Tim, Michael, Roger, Sue

Sue King

First quarter peal in hand

Exeter, Devon, 64 Mount Pleasant Road
Monday, 15 June 2026 in 34m

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1–2 Sue Sawyer | 5–6 Tim Bayton (C) |
|----------------|--------------------|

3–4 Fergus Kettleborough

First quarter peal in hand: 3-4

Remembering Charlie

Bishopsteignton, Devon, Bishops-Ting-Tong

Tuesday, 16 June 2026 in 33m

1320 Newark Castle Surprise Minor

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 1 Ian Avery | 4 Sue Sawyer |
| 2 James Grant | 5 Ian Campbell |
| 3 Nigel Birt | 6 Donald Carter (C) |

Remembering Charlie, much loved companion of James and Elaine Grant, who sadly died last week aged 16. He listened to countless peals and quarters on these bells.



Charlie

25th Wedding Anniversary

Lustleigh, Devon, St John the Baptist

Monday, 22 June 2026 in 42m

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Patrick M Wills | 4 Harry J Andrews |
| 2 Kathie Matthews | 5 Kate J Wills |
| 3 Susan A King | 6 Ian J Rees (C) |

25th wedding anniversary compliments to Susan and George King



Kate, Sue, Patrick, Ian, Kathie, Harry

In memory of Jan Stainer

Exeter, Devon, 62 Well Oak Park

Tuesday, 30 June 2026

1260 College Bob Minor

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1–2 Martin G Mansley | 5–6 Peter L Bill (C) |
| 3–4 Michael H Tompsett | |

First in method for all.

Rung in affectionate memory of Jan Stainer of Kingskerswell.

First quarter on restored bells

Oakford, Devon, St Peter

Tuesday, 14 July 2026 in 44m

1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Jenny Sparling | 5 Julian N Ferrar |
| 2 Sophie Sikorsky | 6 Charlotte E Higby |
| 3 Benjamin D Kipling | 7 Ian R Fielding |
| 4 Jenny Hancock | 8 Matthew R T Higby (C) |

First quarter peal on the retuned and rehung bells.

Remembering Shirley Hutter, much loved local ringer.

First quarter peal on an inside bell

Congratulations to Mark who rang exceedingly well and is now making real progress in his method ringing.

Exeter, Devon, St Michael and All Angels, Heavitree
Sunday, 26 July 2026 in 52m

1260 Plain Bob Triples

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Wendy Campbell | 5 Michael Cannon |
| 2 Mark Eatough | 6 Andrew Digby |
| 3 Peter Bill | 7 Ian Campbell (C) |
| 4 Sue Sparling | 8 Kate Fulcher |

First inside: 2

Rung for Britain in Bloom competition

We were requested to ring a quarter peal while the judges for the final of the Britain in Bloom competition were walking around Poltimore, which had come in the top ten in the village category. The judges entered the church and watched the ringing with great interest. The results have yet to be announced.

Lesley rang the second with part of the wheel shrouding missing after it broke off while the bells were being oiled before the attempt. However a good ringing style and keeping a tight rope prevented the rope from coming off the wheel! It has since been repaired.



The second wheel with a section of shrouding missing

Poltimore, Devon, St Mary the Virgin
Monday, 27 July 2026 in 44m

1272 Norwich Surprise Minor

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1 Wendy Gill | 4 Ian Campbell |
| 2 Lesley Tucker | 5 Graham Tucker |
| 3 Wendy Campbell | 6 David Hird (C) |

Rung during the judging of the Final of Britain in Bloom held at Poltimore.



First quarter peal on an inside bell

Shobrooke, Devon, St Swithin
Saturday, 1 August 2026 in 45m

1260 Doubles (2m)

780 Grandsire, 480 Plain

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Wendy Campbell | 4 Matthew Weighell |
| 2 Sue Sparling | 5 Ian Campbell (C) |
| 3 Neil Eatough | 6 Mark Eatough |

First inside: 3

Three quarter peals for Derek Williams

Derek is a regular visitor to the UK from Wellington Cathedral (New Zealand) and had planned to visit Devon this summer but his trip was called off at the last minute when his wife became ill, and subsequently died. Three quarter peals had been planned for him on 4 August so a substitute was quickly found (thank you, Martin) and the quarters were rung in the heat that we were experiencing at the time.

Derek quickly replied from New Zealand:

If only it were a bit hot here! Snow and hail showers yesterday and zero degrees with the wind chill. Not expected to get better until Saturday.

Thank you so much for remembering Mary with the three quarters. It means a lot that she was remembered by ringers in the UK as well as in New Zealand. I am also grateful for the kind sentiments expressed towards me. It's too early to say what might transpire next year, but I certainly hope I'll be able to make it back. Please express my thanks and best wishes to all the ringers who took part. You all look happy and well in the photo.

We hope that he will feel able to make the trip next year.

Newton Abbot, Devon, St Leonard's Tower

Tuesday, 4 August 2026 in 45m

1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1 Wendy Campbell | 5 Martin Mansley |
| 2 Wendy Gill | 6 Graham Tucker |
| 3 Ian Campbell | 7 Peter Bill (C) |
| 4 Lesley Tucker | 8 David Hird |

Rung in memory of Mary Williams (1946-2026) of Wellington, New Zealand. Mary's husband and our good friend Derek should have been ringing with us today.



The band in order anti-clockwise from front left following the quarter

Quarter peals were also rung at Berry Pomeroy and Kingswear on the same day.

Ian Campbell

Conducted by Don Roberts, aged 96

Although some of the band struggled to hear instructions during this quarter peal, no one had any difficulty hearing the clear and accurate calls from the conductor. Very many congratulations to Don for calling 1296 Plain Bob Caters in a masterful fashion. It seemed like a gathering of ringers from way back in the Mid Devon Branch and all were quick to congratulate Don. Is Don the oldest ringer to call a quarter peal? If you are able please press the 'like' button on the BellBoard entry. Let's see how high we can get it!

Torquay, Devon, St Mary the Virgin

Saturday, 8 August 2026 in 57m

1296 Plain Bob Caters

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Ian W Avery | 6 Tim J King |
| 2 Peter L Bill | 7 Simon K Glanfield |
| 3 Rowena G Mansley | 8 Donald J Roberts (C) |
| 4 James Grant | 9 Martin G Mansley |
| 5 Philip Stevens | 10 Geraint Thomas |

Specially arranged to congratulate the conductor on his 96th Birthday (5 August). The length was specially chosen. Nigel Birt is associated with this quarter peal.



Don Roberts being congratulated by the tower captain, Martin Mansley



Band in ringing order clockwise from front right

Lots of firsts!

Compton Gifford, Devon, Emmanuel

Sunday, 2 August 2026 in 50m

1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Jess Brind | 5 Harry J Andrews |
| 2 Esther Lupton | 6 Peter D Hinton |
| 3 David J Crocker | 7 Owen J Borlase |
| 4 Alena J Wardle | 8 Fergus M S Stracey (C) |

Rung for evensong and congratulations to Esther on graduating university.

First of Yorkshire: 2

First on 8 bells: 1

In Memory of Marion Baker

Sidmouth, Devon, St Giles and St Nicholas

Sunday, 9 August 2026 in 46m

1320 Grandsire Doubles

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Annie Ashton | 4 Anne E Bailey |
| 2 Elizabeth Robertson | 5 Revd Jonathan G Rose (C) |
| 3 Susan A King | 6 Lesley Houghton |

In memory of Marion Baker, a ringer at Sidmouth for over 75 years. Marion touched the lives of ringers both locally and further afield with her words of advice and encouragement. The end of an era: we will miss her.



Jon, Anne, Annie, Lesley, Sue, Liz

In memory of Pippa Barter

Teignmouth, Devon, St Michael

Sunday, 16 August 2026 in 44m

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Trevor Pearce-Jones | 4 Roger Treweek |
| 2 Liz Barter | 5 Richard Barter (C) |
| 3 Fiona Rock-Evans | 6 John Stern |

In memory of Philippa (Pippa) Barter, long time ringer at St Michael's and mother of 2 and 5 whose plaque at St Michael's was blessed this afternoon.



L to R: ringers 1-6

First quarter for two

Crediton, Devon, Holy Cross
Sunday, 23 August 2026 in 46m
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1 Rodney Ford | 4 Joshua Lobb |
| 2 Sue Sparling | 5 Ian Campbell (C) |
| 3 Neil Eatough | 6 David Owen |

First quarter: 1 and 6



L to R: in order of ringing

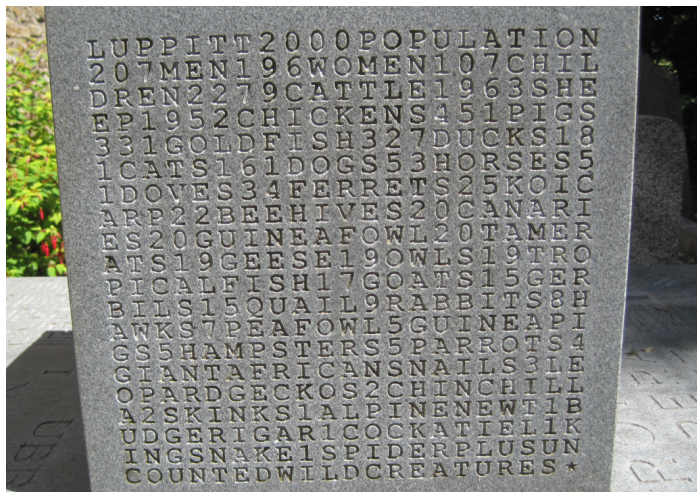
When you have got to go...



A bit too public for me – even before a peal!

Sue King

Have you seen...



Commemorative stone outside Luppitt church

If you ever ring at Luppitt do take a look at this stone by the main entrance. It details the entire population of the village in 2000 starting with 207 men, 96 women, 107 children, 2,279 cattle, down to one cockatiel, one King snake, one spider plus uncounted wild creatures.

Ian Campbell

Seen on a ringing outing



I did that long ago!

Ian Campbell

Parking at Exeter Cathedral

Here are two post cards from the 1950s or 1960s of the West Front at Exeter Cathedral. The first shows a time when parking was permitted immediately outside the front. The second purports to be at a later time when parking was not permitted. But look closely and you can see that these are the same photo with the second one doctored with the cars removed. So the photograph could lie even in the days before digital photos and Artificial Intelligence!

Incidentally you might like to notice the presence of the church of St Mary Major close to the cathedral. It has since been demolished.



Exeter Cathedral with cars parked outside



The cars have all been removed!

Ian Campbell

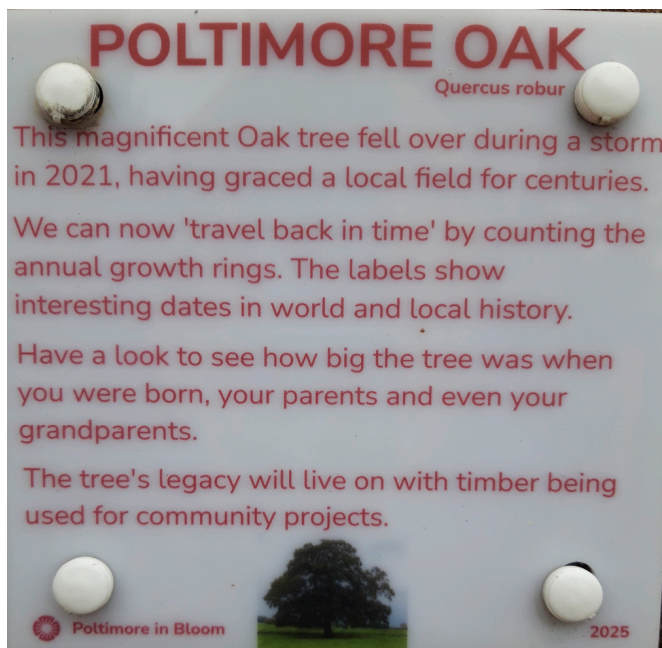
The Poltimore Oak



The slice from the Poltimore Oak outside the church

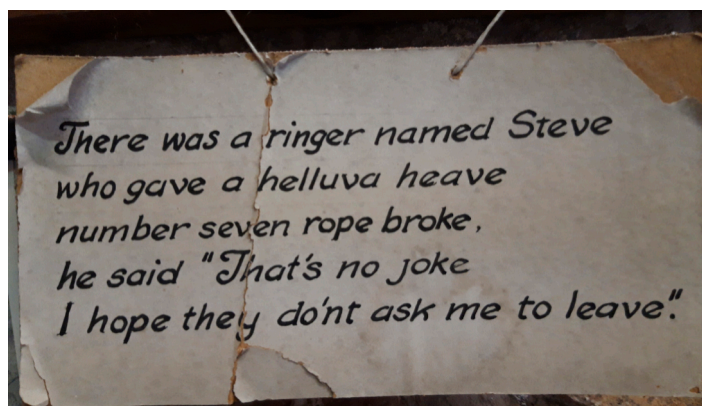
If you come to ring at Poltimore I suggest that you take a few minutes to look at the slice of oak tree outside the church next to the road. The rings of the tree have been labelled with the dates at which they would have been laid down and some events that happened at that time.

It appears that the tree was planted around 1750 and has seen such events as the first postage stamps (in 1840), the first flight in 1903 and the invention of the World Wide Web in 1989. It finishes shortly after the Covid lockdown in 2021 when the tree came down in a storm.



Ian Campbell

Ringling Limerick



Seen in a local tower

Have you seen this limerick which is on the wall in a local tower? Do you remember which tower it was?

There was a ringer named Steve
who gave a helluva heave.
Number seven rope broke,
he said 'That's no joke
I hope they don't ask me to leave.'

I would be happy to publish any more ringing related limericks. See what you can do for the Christmas issue!

Ian Campbell

Feeling the cold, David?

Breaking news – Horse with cold ears looking for its ear muffs!!



Wendy Gill

Calendar

September

Sun 13	14:00	Devon Young Ringers' practice	Pinhoe	Young Ringers
Fri 18	19:30	Surprise Major quarter peal	tbc	North East
Sat 19	15:00	Guild Library opens	St Petrock, Exeter	Guild
Thu 24	19:30	10-bell practice	Crediton	Exeter
Fri 25	09:30	Improvers' practice	Tiverton St Peter	North East
Fri 25	10:00	Surprise Minor practice	Bishopsteignton	Mid Devon
Sat 26	tbc	Branch practice	tbc	N/North West
Sun 27	15:00	Branch Minor practice	Clayhidon	North East
Mon 28	19:30	Branch Surprise Minor practice	Dalwood	East
October				
Fri 2	19:15	Surprise Minor practice	Clyst St George	Aylesbeare
Sat 3	15:00	Branch AGM	Silverton (tbc)	North East
Sat 3	tbc	Branch outing	Dartmouth area	Mid Devon

Mon 5	19:30	Branch 10-bell practice	Axminster	East
Tue 6	19:30	Branch Triples and Plain Major practice	Tiverton St Peter	North East
Sat 10	14:30	Autumn branch meeting	Ottery St Mary	East
Sat 10	15:00	Guild Library opens	St Petrock, Exeter	Guild
Sun 11	14:00	Devon Young Ringers' practice	Pinhoe	Young Ringers
Fri 16	10:00	Advanced 8 bell practice	Kingskerswell	Mid Devon
Sat 17		Striking competitions	Exeter Branch	Guild
Mon 26	19:30	Branch Surprise Minor practice	Dalwood	East
Sat 31	tbc	Branch practice	tbc	N/North West

November

Mon 2	19:30	Branch 10-bell practice	Axminster	East
Tue 3	19:30	Branch Triples and Plain Major practice	Tiverton St Peter	North East
Fri 6	19:15	Surprise Minor practice	Clyst St George	Aylesbeare
Sat 7		Quarter peal day		Mid Devon
Sun 8	14:00	Devon Young Ringers' practice	Pinhoe	Young Ringers
Sat 14		Branch 107th Anniversary service and dinner	tbc	South West
Sat 14	10:00	Branch practice	Topsham	Aylesbeare
Sat 21	14:00	Branch AGM	Heavitree	Exeter
Sat 21	15:00	Guild Library opens	St Petrock, Exeter	Guild
Mon 23	19:30	Branch Surprise Minor practice	Dalwood	East
Fri 27	10:00	Surprise Minor practice	Bishopsteignton	Mid Devon
Sat 28	10:00	General branch practice	Laira	South West
Sat 28	tbc	Branch AGM	tbc	N/North West

December

Tue 1	19:30	Branch Triples and Plain Major practice	Tiverton St Peter	North East
Fri 4	19:15	Surprise Minor practice	Clyst St George	Aylesbeare
Sun 6	14:00	Branch outing, tbc, probably Berry Pomeroy	Totnes area	Aylesbeare
Sun 6	18:00	Devon Ringers' Carol Service	Buckfast Abbey	Guild
Mon 7	19:30	Branch 10 bell practice	Axminster	East
Sun 13	14:00	Devon Young Ringers' practice	Pinhoe	Young Ringers

Editorial

Firstly, thanks go to everyone who has helped with this edition, including those who have provided articles and pictures and those involved in the proofreading, layout and distribution.

Congratulations go to the Aylesbeare Branch team who organised a full day out for the AGM, with copious food and entertainment right through to the evening quiz session. It made for a most enjoyable day out.

Please put a note in your diary for the Devon Ringers' carol service which we are privileged to be able to hold again in the wonderful setting of Buckfast Abbey. Offers from anyone who would like to sing in the choir will be requested in due course. I hope that as many of you as possible can come as it makes a wonderful start to the Christmas season. The service starts at 6:00pm on 6 December.

P.S. The limerick earlier in this issue is at the Clock Tower, Newton Abbot.

Ian Campbell



MUSICAL HANDBELL RESTORATION

Specialist repairs and restoration by

Geoffrey C. Hill

Free written quotations

New Court Farm, Lamerton, Tavistock, Devon PL19 8RR

Telephone 01822 614319 or

newcourtfarm1@btinternet.com

STOP PRESS Guild Handbell Day



Attendees at the Handbell Day

Three quarter peals on handbells were recorded on the Guild Handbell Day on 12 September including a first for John Buckley:

Bovey Tracey, Devon, Sorrento

Saturday, 12 September 2026 in 36m (15 in C)

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1-2 John Buckley

3-4 Mike Wigney

5-6 Mike Tompsett (C)

First quarter peal in hand: 1-2. On Guild handbell day

Photo by Sue King

Ringling World National Youth Contest

(continued from the front page)



St Peter's, Nottingham

RINGING ROUND DEVON is the newsletter of The Guild of Devonshire Ringers and is circulated free to all affiliated towers. Any individual members who wish to subscribe should contact Ian Campbell (01392 469695). The cost is £10.00 for four issues (cheques made payable to Guild of Devonshire Ringers). RRD is also available on-line on the Guild's website, which holds back-issues.

Any comments and inaccuracies in articles contained in this newsletter are the responsibility of individual contributors, and the opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the Guild. All photos and text © Guild of Devonshire Ringers or author. No reproduction without permission of the editor.

Items for inclusion may be sent by post to Ringing Round Devon, 84 Whipton Village Road, Exeter EX4 8AL or by e-mail to newsletter@devonringers.org.uk