Guild Festival and AGM, Fordington

A Peal of Firsts at Canford, page 7
Above, the successful band.
Below, Canford Magna in evening light.

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Deadline for the Next Issue
Final Deadline: Oct 1st
f2f@sdgr.org.uk

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Face to Face Newsletter

Summer 2015
Number 144
From the (New) Master

It is a pleasure to write to you in Face to Face for the first time as Guild Master. For those of you who do not (yet!) know me, my name is Robert Wellen and I am a ringer at Gillingham. Some of you may have come across me when I was Guild Education Officer or Peal Secretary or as the Mere Branch Secretary. I sincerely thank the Guild for electing me as Master. My congratulations also go to Tom Garrett, my predecessor, on his election as a Guild Vice President. Thank you Tom for all your hard work as Master.

Bell ringing and this Guild have been an integral part of my life, ‘man and treble ringer’, since I was first introduced to ringing by the Reverend Richard Longridge (at Spetisbury) as a teenager back in the 1970s and joined the Guild soon after. It’s a huge honour to now hold the office of Master as Mr Longridge did. Our Guild faces some tough challenges but we also see much to hearten us. For instance:

- The popularity and spread of Ringing Centres across the Guild.
- The emergence of ‘Young Ringers’ groups and activities.
- The uptake of ITTS.
- The Guild’s participation in the Tewkesbury Shield and;
- A peal of Surprise Maximus rung by a tower band at Wimborne.

We also have this journal, Face to Face, which is one of the ‘jewels in the crown’, of our Guild. I owe this Guild much. Most of what I have learnt to ring (and am still learning) has been taught to me by friends and colleagues in this Guild, as I am sure is the case for most of you. And like most of you, I do all that I can to repay this debt. I look forward to visiting you in your branches to see for myself how we as a Guild are moving forward together.

Robert Wellen

From the (Outgoing) Master

I would like to thank everyone in the Guild for their support during my six years as Master. In particular, I want to thank Anthony for all the hard work he puts in as Guild Secretary and Ross for his unwavering dedication. When visiting branch practices and meetings, I have always been made most welcome and have thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many enthusiastic ringers throughout the Guild.

I would like to share some of the more memorable moments during my travels as Master.

A few years ago I went to a Calne Branch meeting at Lyneham. We had some good ringing during the afternoon and then adjourned to the hall at the end of a cold afternoon to be given a choice of three different types of curry. Of course I sampled all three, and then when I thought we had finished, a really delicious dessert was served up. Thank you Calne for a truly memorable meal that day.

More recently, I attended a Marlborough Branch meeting at Marlborough. After tea and meeting we ascended the tower and had a good ring. Afterwards I left everybody chatting and went to the loo on my way out. Unknown to me everybody had descended the tower, gone out and the church was locked. I emerged from the loo only to find that I could not get out of the church. I banged on the door and eventually, when I thought I would be there for the night, I was heard by someone with the key and released.

One of the first meetings I attended was a Devizes Branch meeting on a very cold day. I left Preston in the sunshine with no hint of snow. As I travelled north the snow started and began to settle. The countryside had a Christmas card feel to it. By the time I

SDGR Clothing

Is your SDGR sweatshirt or polo shirt in need of replacing, or maybe you have been thinking about purchasing a new one? If so, now is the time to buy!

All the details of clothing (including an order form) can be found on the Guild website so do have a look as new colours have been introduced as well as some additional items.

NOW AVAILABLE

Royal Blue 4” square embroidered logo badge.
For sewing onto own clothing, rucksack, bag, etc.
Not yet on the website but available to order in the same way as clothing items.
Also available from Guild Bookstall. Price £6

Patricia Davidson

‘Face to Face’ is the acknowledged Newsletter of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers.
First published in 1975, the publication is now produced four times each year and circulated free to all affiliated towers throughout the Guild, as well as to various other bodies.

Compiled and Edited by Michael Bailey
Guild Hon Gen Sec: Anthony Lovell-Wood
Website Manager: Teresa Goatham
www.sdgr.org.uk
reached Bradford on Avon the road and car park were quite treacherous. After ringing we slid to the hall for the meeting, after which I turned the tenor in to a course of Bristol and said goodbye, hoping that the roads would be open all the way home. They were, but the conditions, in the dark, were even more interesting than on my journey up.

An elementary practice at Broad Chalke remains clearly in my memory as it was very well run and a great example to anyone training people in the early days of their ringing. All of the learners and their needs were known by the ringing master and each touch was designed specifically for one person. No one was favoured or left out. It was a very fair and informative practice.

A couple of years ago, I attended a Mere Branch meeting at St James Shaftesbury during the week before Christmas. It was consequently thinly attended, but skilfully run. Considering the lack of people, a good variety of methods were rung, testing the limits of everyone there. The ringing was kept going with no time wasted. An excellent practice was had by all.

Another thinly attended practice was one at Tollard Royal in East Dorset, probably because it is right on the edge of the branch. The ringing was kept going and expertly run. It is noticeable that Branch practices further away from the main centres are often less well attended than those in or near these centres. Also towers regarded as more difficult are often poorly attended. I would like to encourage members in all branches to attend as many practices as possible and branch committees to arrange practices in all parts of the area.

You never know what extra attendance might come from the parts which are regarded as being thin in numbers when the local ringers see that the Branch can help them.

Last year I went to a West Dorset meeting at Broadwindsor. I rang the tenor to a touch of Plain Bob Minor. From the outset the rope started fraying and it was like a snow storm covering me. I don’t know what I looked like at the end, but it caused plenty of hilarity!

Finally, I would like to congratulate the Dorchester Branch for preparing Fordington church and hall for this year’s Guild AGM. Everything on the day seemed to go without a hitch, with a superb tea provided after the meeting.

I may have stepped down as Master now, but I look forward to continuing to meet up with Guild members from time to time and following the progress of individuals and towers.

Tom Garrett

Public Health Awards 2014 – Wiltshire Council

On Wednesday 18 March 2015 I attended the Public Health Awards organized by Wiltshire Council in The Atrium, County Hall, Trowbridge. Nominations were received from more than 100 different individuals, projects and organisations for their contribution to improving the health and wellbeing of people who live and work in Wiltshire. Dignitaries in attendance included the Mayor of Trowbridge, senior Council leaders and officials and the Chief Constable of Wiltshire. Our Guild was one of the organizations nominated for the ‘Improvement in mental health and wellbeing’ category. Anthony Lovell-Wood is to be congratulated for putting forward the Guild for this Award, unfortunately he could not attend the award ceremony himself. Our nomination emphasized the physical and mental health benefits of bell ringing as well as its social value to so many communities. There were twenty organizations in this category and we did not win the Award, but ringing took its rightful place alongside other worthy activities. The basis of our nomination was:

Bell Ringing provides physical and mental exercise combined. Bell ringing is open to everyone - young and old. Ringing bells relies mainly on technique rather than strength. It helps many people to stay active longer and increase their physical and mental agility. It relies greatly on body – eye – mental co-ordination.

There are ‘rings of bells’ right across the Salisbury diocese ranging from 3 or 4 bells up to 12 (as here in Trowbridge) and around 1400 active members of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers in Wiltshire and Dorset.

Bell-ringing is a fantastic social activity and is a marvellous ‘door opener’ when you travel around the country (or abroad) and ring (or ‘grab’) new towers.

Most ringers ring every Sunday and for special occasions - some bell ringing performances last for around 50 minutes (a Quarter Peal) or in the region of 3 hours (a Peal). Bell ringing is a skill for life and can open up a lifetime of challenges (you are always learning) and enjoyment.

Robert Wellen, Guild Publicity Officer

Imber St Giles – Salisbury Plain

The roads through Imber will be open to the public from Saturday 8th until Sunday 23rd August inclusive. It is planned to have the church open each day from 1100 hours until 1600 hours. The bells will be available for peals, quarter peals and general ringing on each of these days. To date the only booking is for a peal on Wednesday 19th August.

Looking further ahead the Ministry of Defence has advised that public access will be available on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th November. There is to be a service of Remembrance on Saturday 7th at 1045 hours, otherwise the bells will be available for ringing – a good opportunity to ring a quarter peal during the Guild’s Quarter Peal Week.

Please note that the Ministry of Defence reserves the right to withdraw public access at short notice, however, this is a rare occurrence.

Should you wish to book the bells please contact Neil Skelton.

For further information please visit www.imberchurch.co.uk

Neil Skelton
The 2015 Guild Festival and AGM was held on Saturday 9th May at Fordington in the Dorset county town of Dorchester, ably hosted by the Dorchester Branch. There was ringing on three routes into Dorchester, converging on St George’s church Fordington for ringing before the service.

The Festival Service was led by the Venerable Paul Taylor, the Archdeacon of Sherborne, who also preached the sermon. In the congregation was the Mayor of Dorchester, Councillor Peter Mann and the Reverend Canon Thomas Woodhouse, the Team Rector of Dorchester. The Organist was Evelyn Kingman and the singing was led by the St George’s church choir. The reading was given by Christopher White, the recently retired Ringing Master of the branch. The names of Guild members who had died in the last twelve months was read out by Janet Ranger, the Chairman of the branch and the Crossways Village Handbell Ringers gave a highly enjoyable demonstration of their skills as part of the service. In his address, the Archdeacon related three themes to church bell ringing: ‘the three C’s’: communication, call and community.

The Annual General Meeting followed the service and was also held in the church. The Master, Thomas Garrett, welcomed Guild members and guests and the Mayor of Dorchester (aka, in his own words, ‘the Mayor of Casterbridge’) spoke a few words on the links between Thomas Hardy and local churches (and bells). The main items of business were: a report on the reconstruction of the Guild website; a report on forthcoming anniversaries – including Magna Carta; the re-election of all existing Guild Officers (except for Thomas Garrett, who stood down as the Guild Master and was elected a Guild Vice President) – and the election of Robert Wellen as the new Guild Master; 50 year membership certificates to Bob and Christine Purnell of Melksham (bottom right) and Guild Honorary Life Memberships to Michael Peet and Patrick Chapman of West Lavington and Elizabeth Champion of Salisbury (St Thomas). The Guild also agreed to sponsor a page in The Ringing World and heard an update from Nigel Orchard, the Chairman of The Ringing World Limited, on the current debate on the future of this publication. Finally, the Most Improved Ringers were announced. See next page.

Following the meeting, around seventy Guild members, joined by the Mayor, sat down to a delicious tea of cold meats, salads, followed by cakes and cream teas in the adjoining hall (showing their appreciation below). The Festival Day was rounded off with ringing at St Peter’s, Dorchester, which ranged from call changes through Grandsire and Stedman Triples up to Cambridge and Bristol.

Robert Wellen, Guild Publicity Officer
Training continues to be mainly carried out locally by the branches, there are a wide variety of subjects taught, a good uptake by people wanting to progress their ringing ability further and a large number of members willing to give up their valuable time as tutors and helpers on these courses. The tuition offered on these courses is to a high standard and the feedback from students is very positive with many of them applying to attend further courses to progress even further.

In addition to what is contained in the Officers Report which covers last year we have held a successful ITTS Module 2 where we had students from five of our eight branches attending and there has been a Module 1 in the East Dorset Branch. The long awaited Steeple Keeping course is being held at the end of May and again has proved very popular with a large number signing up for day. We are at the moment in the process of putting together an ITTS Module 1 to be held in the Salisbury Branch on Saturday 19th September.

It is very pleasing to see the Saxilby Simulator and the Display Boards being used at various locations around the Guild, this is a really good way to raise the profile of ringing with the general public and to let anyone showing an interest the opportunity to have a go. If you have a local event and would like the use of all or part of the equipment contact me and we can arrange for it to be available for you.

This year saw a good number of nominations for the Most Improved Ringer Award in the adult category with five branches submitting a name however it was disappointing to see the nominations in the junior category drop to two. As always coming to a decision on a winner in both categories was extremely difficult as all the candidates had special attributes and had started out the year from different abilities in their ringing careers, this was particularly evident in the junior category where both candidates had made significant progress during the year.

In the Junior section the committee found it impossible to choose between the achievement of the two candidates, one is ringing with a very competent band achieving the treble to a quarter peal of Grandsire Cinques and inside to touches of various methods including Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques whereas the other candidate comes from a tower that at the beginning of the year could just about ring touches of Doubles on a Sunday to now ringing Grandsire Triples regularly. This candidate has rung several quarter peals of doubles, and rings Grandsire Triples with the Sunday band, he has completed his Level 5 of the ITTS Learning The Ropes Scheme. Therefore the joint winners this year of the junior section of The Most Improved Ringer Award are Katie Child from Wimborne Minster and Paul Brown from St. John’s, Devizes (above left).

In the Adult section Certificates of Achievement for outstanding progress during the year go to Sally Griggs of Kington Magna, Richard Picker of Hampreston, Carol Higgins of St. Martin’s, Salisbury and Elizabeth Skinner of Bridport.

This year’s winner joined the Melksham band in 2012, moving from Leigh on Mendip in the Bath and Wells Association. She had been used to ringing rounds and call changes, Plain Hunt on five and Plain Bob Doubles as long as the rest of the band kept right. In the last three years she has progressed from ringing Plain Bob Doubles and Grandsire Doubles to Plain Bob Triples, Plain Bob Major and Grandsire Triples. During 2014 her repertoire extended to Stedman Triples, Cambridge, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Surprise Major. She has successfully rung three quarter peals at Melksham, several others around the Devizes Branch and has recently rung her first peal. Besides her ringing achievements, this year, she has taken on the role of Training Officer for the Devizes Branch. This person can be relied on to attend nearly every practise night and Sunday morning ringing and has become a very valued member of the Melksham tower. In addition she regularly attends most of the Branch events, she rings regularly at some towers in the Calne Branch and has rung several quarter peals at Bromham, she is also a member of The Ladies Guild.

The winner of The Most Improved Ringer Award in the adult section for 2014 is Lara Amor of Melksham (above right).

David Hacker
The decision was made by the Executive in November that a sub-committee consisting of Michael Bailey (website knowledge), Ben Duke (software knowledge), Anthony, David Hacker, Ian Mozley (technological knowledge) and myself would take on the management of the Guild website (for at least a year). This was in response to increased complaints from inside and outside the Guild about the website.

This sub-committee has approved a design specification. We are authorised to seek advice from a professional website designer if required and the Executive has authorised funding to meet the costs of professional assistance. However, so far this has not been needed. Here I would like put on record our thanks to Michael Bailey, assisted by Ian Mozley, for taking the lead on the technical side. The decision has been taken that for the immediate term we will continue to re build the current site, rather than start again.

Our immediate focus and priority has been twofold:

1. The Guild Calendar: Michael had taken the lead in contacting each branch to ascertain who is the current or newly designated person responsible for uploading branch events. He is gauging what help they need (if any) and dealing with passwords. A briefing session was held this morning to assist a number of branches.

2. Tower Contacts: the e-mail addresses of tower correspondents (as contained in the new Guild Report) have been collated by Julian Newman and double checked by Branch Secretaries before being passed on to Michael. This information is being used to ensure that the contacts on the website are accurate.

The sub-committee is meeting again in June to assess progress in these two essentials before moving its attention to other improvements to the site (for instance on tower practice nights). Finally, please be reassured that if you send material to be placed on the site – via the link to the Web Master - this is being monitored.

VE Day 70th anniversary

Ringers have been asked to ring today for this anniversary.

Magna Carta 800

I have continued to be in contact with Robert Key about events in the City of Salisbury. With the good offices of the Salisbury Branch, ringing will take place at Stratford sub Castle on the afternoon of Sunday 14 June at the start of a pilgrimage into the City from Old Sarum. Ringing will take place later that afternoon at St Thomas’s at the start of the Libertea. On Monday 15 June (the actual anniversary) a peal will be attempted at St Thomas’s starting at midday. Ringers everywhere have been asked by the Central Council to ring for this anniversary and particularly on Sunday 14th June 2015.

First Peal 300

This campaign, led by the Central Council, has been inspired by the 300th anniversary earlier this month of the first ever recorded peal.

The aim of the project is to get 300 people to ring their first peal in 2015. Please do contact David Warwick, our Guild Peal Secretary, if you have someone who could ring their first peal this year and you need help.

Great War centenaries

The anniversaries of ringers that died in 1915 are listed in my report on the Great War commemorations.

I hope that local ringers will be able to commemorate these.

Public Health Awards

On Wednesday 18 March 2015 I attended the Public Health Awards organized by Wiltshire Council at County Hall, Trowbridge. Nominations were received from more than 100 different individuals, projects and organisations for their contribution to improving the health and wellbeing of people who live and work in Wiltshire. Our Guild was one of the organizations nominated for the ‘Improvement in mental health and wellbeing’ category.

Other notable dates to mark this year:

15 August 70th anniversary VJ Day
9 September 63 years, 217 days Queen Elizabeth will become the longest reigning British Monarch

Robert Wellen, Guild Publicity Officer

Vice Presidents’ Peal

Salisbury Diocesan Guild
Maiden Newton, Dorset
St Mary

Thursday, 4 June 2015
in 2h 44m (10% in G)
5040 Cambridge Surprise Minor
7 extents
1 Neil O Skelton
2 David W Hacker
3 Susan E Smith
4 Robert J Purnell
5 Robert J Wellen
6 Thomas R Garrett (C)

A Guild Vice Presidents’ Peal.
Rung to mark Robert Wellen’s recent election as Guild Master. The band consisted of four former Masters (1,3,4 and 6) and a former President (2). £6.00
Welcome New Members 2014

At the beginning of each year we publish in Face to Face a list of new members elected during the previous 12 months, verified by respective Branch Secretaries. A record is therefore held ensuring that such members receive early recognition of their involvement in the Guild: P – Probationer, J – Junior.

Calne:
Avebury: Sheila Staines
Bremhill: Mervyn Wells (former member in Dorset, moved to Wiltshire)
Bromham: Michol Barker (P), Gareth Bennett (former member returned to the area)
Heddington: Jane Syckelmore, Janet Tyler
Lyneham: John Mitchinson
Royal Wootton Bassett: Anne Di Salvo

Devizes:
Edington: John Richardson
Rowde: Joe Ayris, Jamie Dunsmore, Matilda Gilbert, Lynsey Ollington
Seend: Stephen Johnstone
Warminster: Charles Wheatley
Probationary members:
Bradford on Avon HT: Graham Findley
Corsley: Ann Russell, Jane Shewing
Devizes: Diane Biggs, Martin Houghton
Edington: Anna Durham, Nicola Poulter
Edington/Edinger: Alex Mountfield, Anona Weatherhead, Joccoa Weatherhead
Hilperton: Elaine Baldwin, Roger Beckett, Lianne Green, Adam Jarvis, Jack Jarvis, Mark Newbery, Della Sheppard, Jessica Sheppard
North Bradley/Edinger: Hannah Simpson, Matthew Simpson
Rowde: Sandra Church, Maddi Hodges, Annie Robinson
Southbroom: Alison Batchelor, Tony Batchelor, Alex Booth, Amanda Hopgood
Westwood: Kiloran Howard, Noah Mondal

Dorchester:
Bere Regis: Jill Marsden
Fordington: Theresa Lovell
Preston: Trish Hitchins
Upwey: Elwyn Walker
Wyke Regis: Gilbert Harris, Yvonne Stanley, Cheryl Wise

East Dorset:
Bournemouth St John: Philip Clarke
Corfe Castle: John Beauchamp, Geraldine Broadley, Martin Rowell
Corfe Mullen: Vivien Woodward
Hampton: Harry Roberts
Lythchett Minster: Chrissie Hibbitt, David Farley
Okeford Fitzpaine: Brian Fry

Wareham: Mary Spiller
Wimborne Minster: Marisa Bartlett, Katie Child
Probationary members:
Morden: Lynne Amey, Chris Best, Alex Brenton, Rob Brenton, Martin Legg, Katherine Machin
Winterborne Kingston: Gina Dobbins, Nick Light

Marlborough:
Marlborough: Kate De Lacy, Robert Mann (returned to ringing at Marlborough)
Milton Lilbourne: Richard Nethercliff
Great Bedwyn: Roland Bristow, Philip Gray
Presbute: Jennifer Lane, Robert Robertson
Ramsbury: Judith Hine

Mere:
Marnhull: Emma Kassab, Elaine Spencer-White
Sturminster Newton: John West, Ross West
Tisbury: Graham Peck, Lucy Peck (J)
Zeals: Eddie Cox, Katharine Johnson
Probationary members:
East Knoyle: Michael Humphry-Davis, Paul Naish
Kington Magna: Michelle Elkins, Michael Newton, Anthony Patterson

Salisbury:
Amesbury: Peter Stenning
Broadchalke: Nicki Tinkler
Ebbesbourne Wake: George Jeffersen, Stephen Jefferson
Fordingbridge: Revd Gary Philbrick
Sarum St Martin: Carol Higgins
Sarum St Thomas: Tom Burslem, Brian Tunncliffe
Steeple Langford/Wylye: Katie Hannon, Stephen Jefferson
Fordingbridge: Revd Gary Philbrick
Sarum St Martin: Carol Higgins
Sarum St Thomas: Tom Burslem, Brian Tunncliffe
Steeple Langford/Wylie: Katie Hannon

West Dorset:
Beaminster: Will Murley (J), Lewis Hurry (J), Jill Parr
Lyme Regis: Elizabeth Hardy
Melbury Ringers: Deborah Batten, Barbara Southcott, David Southcott
Powerstock: Edward Marsh, Malcolm Seal, Adrian Semmence, Ben Short, Alan Trenchard

My grateful thanks to all Branch Secretaries and other contributors for their assistance in producing the above list.
Compiled by Ivan Andrews
I just wanted to send my congratulations to all the ringers in the peal at Canford last Saturday – what a wonderful achievement to have five ‘first peelers’ and a first as conductor – you must have all been very pleased. It’s also great that it is the featured performance on the front page of Bellboard this week.

Thanks,

Ben Duke  District Chairman.
Magna Carta Celebration

**Magna Carta Ringing in the diocese of Salisbury**

Two peals were rung on 15th June, the anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta in 1215:

**Salisbury Diocesan Guild**

**Salisbury, Wiltshire**

**St Thomas Becket**

- **Monday, 15 June 2015**
  - 3h 14m (25-0-18)
  - 5152 Yorkshire Surprise Major
  - Composed by R.W. Lee
  - 1 Robert J Wellen
  - 2 Margaret A Romano
  - 3 Patricia M Davidson
  - 4 Anthony G Tyers
  - 5 Thomas J C E Burslem
  - 6 Nigel R D Orchard
  - 7 Pauline Champion (C)
  - 8 Richard C Harvey

Rung for the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, Salisbury Cathedral being home to the best preserved of the four surviving original copies. Salisbury's document left Wiltshire this year for the first time in its 800-year history, when all four copies were brought together for an exhibition at the British Library.

Richard’s first peal for yonks.

**£5.00**

Quarter Peals were rung at on 14th June at Bishops Cannings (Grandsire Triples), Donhead St Mary (Plain Bob Doubles), Stratford sub Castle (Mixed Doubles), Swanage (St Simon’s Bob Triples) and Wimborne Minster (Newgate Surprise Maximus).

The following ‘800 touches’ were also rung:

- 13th June: Westbury (Plain Bob Major), Wareham (Plain Bob Triples), Shaftesbury (St Peter) (Plain Bob Doubles).
- 14th June: Wool (Grandsire Doubles).

**Robert Wellen**, Guild Publicity Officer

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**Salisbury Diocesan Guild**

**Wilton, Wiltshire**

**SS Mary and Nicholas**

- **Monday, 15 June 2015**
  - 2h 35mins (8-0-7)
  - 5040 Surprise Minor (7 Methods)
  - 1 Robert D S Brown
  - 2 Jeffrey Knipe
  - 3 Lesley A Knife
  - 4 Barrie Hendry
  - 5 Graham W Elmes
  - 6 Timothy F Collins (C)

2700th peal as conductor.

Rung on the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta.

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It was wonderful to hear the bells ring out in Salisbury. Thank you and all your colleagues for joining in the celebrations so enthusiastically! Please keep up the good work...

Best wishes,

**Robert Key**

Chair of the City of Salisbury Programme Board for the Magna Carta commemorations

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I came out of a meeting in the Old George Mall a few minutes after midday on Monday to hear the bells of St Thomas ringing – and keep ringing for several hours. A lovely sound.

At first I thought they were ringing just for me!

**Gerry Lynch**

Director of Communications, Diocese of Salisbury
Ringing for VE Day in 1945 and 2015

Eric J Hitchins – 70th Anniversary of First Peal on VE Day 1945

In 1942, Eric Hitchins, along with his brother Laurie and two other youngsters, Fred Slatford and Donald Lee, were taught to ring at St Nicholas North Bradley by Percy Harding, a very experienced ringer. This was at a time when bell ringing was only allowed on ‘special days’ and practices were few. When the ban on ringing was lifted in 1943, the four young ringers became members of the Salisbury Dioceses Guild of Ringers.

To celebrate VE Day on 8 May 1945, Eric rang his first Peal - treble to Grandsire Doubles – aged only 14. He can recall attending Church in the morning and ringing for over three hours after lunch.

To commemorate the anniversary of his first peal, on 8 May 2015 Eric (now aged 84) rang a Quarter Peal of Grandsire Triples on the bells of St Nicholas, North Bradley, with members of the Melksham band with whom he used to ring. Eric rang the same bell as he did in 1945 which is now the third as the bells were augmented to eight with the addition of two new trebles in 1949.

Eric and his wife Trish, who now live in Wimborne, were featured on BBC Radio Wiltshire during the VE Day 70th Anniversary celebrations and much of his Quarter Peal ringing was recorded and replayed during the feature.

Many congratulations to Eric for such a wonderful achievement.

Members of the Quarter Peal band pictured (left to right): Peter Thorn, Patsy Thorn, Julian Ferrar, Eric Hitchins, Jim Twiney, Christine Purnell, Trish Hitchins and Bob Purnell.

Julia Russell

Second Wednesday Quarter Peal Group reaches 100th Quarter

In September 2012 I formed a Group of ringing friends from the Dorchester, West Dorset, Mere, East Dorset and Salisbury branches of the Guild who like to ring Quarter Peals. So was born the ‘Second Wednesday Group’.

We travel around Dorset, south Wiltshire and Somerset on the second Wednesday of each month, attempting four quarters in a day with a pub lunch to recharge the batteries. The Group has had thirty-five outings so far and on 8 July this year notched up its 100th Quarter at Sturminster Newton.

Salisbury Diocesan Guild, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, St Mary
Wednesday, 8 July 2015 (16–0–18 in E♭)

1272 Ipswich Surprise Minor
Delie Perry 1, Judith Williamson 2, Simon Tremewan 3,
Christopher Sykes, Nigel Orchard, Tom Garrett (C).
100th Second Wednesday Group Quarter. First in method: 3. £6.00

Robert Wellen

Pictured (left to right) the band that rang the 100th Quarter:
Tom Garrett (6), Nigel Orchard (5), Christopher Sykes (4),
Simon Tremewan (3), Judith Williamson (2), Delie Perry (1).

University Ringing

The Central Council is working with University Ringing Societies to make sure that as many students as possible get the chance to stay involved with ringing. This year, we have launched a new website at http://www.universityringing.org/ so that it’s straightforward for students to find details of ringing opportunities wherever they go to university.

Joining a Ringing Society can be hugely enjoyable, it’s a great way to meet new people at university, and it is an opportunity to really improve your ringing. It’s not just that students have a lot of fun when they ring at university: we all know of highly competent ringers who have abandoned ringing when they go to university, and never restarted. It is in all our interests for ringers to remain involved as they move on to a new and different stage of their lives.

Kate Flavell, Giles Blundell, Central Council PR committee
The Great War Commemorations

Fourth Update May 2015

**Bromham**

I am grateful to Dennis Powney (HLM) for providing background information on the two Guild members from Bromham who died in the war. Private Gee was on the original 1919 Guild Roll of Honour; whilst Private Barter was added last year.

Private William Oliver Gee (died 12 October 1917) - Wiltshire Regiment, the second son of John and Jane (Macey) Gee of Chittoe Heath. He died of his wounds on 12 October 1917 in a hospital in Salonica, Greece, aged 25. His parents were married in Bishostrow near Warminster, on 24 July 1884. William was born at Chittoe Heath and was baptised on 28 February 1892. In 1911 William was a ‘Shepherd’. William was a member of the band of Bell ringers at Bromham church. William volunteered for service and arrived in France on 21 September 1915. In November 1915 the 7th Wiltshire’s were sent to Salonika, Greece and it was whilst serving here that William was wounded, most likely by Bulgarian artillery. His widowed mother was to lose another soldier son in the following year. In October 1918 Mrs. Gee inserted the following memoriam in a local paper:

> Out on yonder battlefield there is a silent grave,
> Is one we loved so dearly but yet we could not save,
> His King and country called him he bravely did his best,
> But God thought fit to call him to his eternal rest.

William is buried in grave 133, Mikra British cemetery, Kalamaria, Greece.

Private Harry Barter (died 8 October 1918) - Royal Marine Light Infantry, the son of Joseph and Ellen (nee Young) Barter of Sutton Veney and the husband of Winifred, nee Akerman, of New Road, Bromham, was ‘killed in action’. He was aged 38. Harry’s parents were married at St John’s Church, Sutton Veney on 9 April 1860 and he was born at Sutton Veney in 1880. He married Winifred Anne Akerman, aged 23, at St. Nicholas Church, Bromham on 18th June 1913. Harry was very involved in several Bromham organizations including the football club and the parish church where he was, for some time, a member of the bell-ringing team. Harry was posted missing in action during the great attack near Cambrai, France on Tuesday 4 October 1918. In mid December 1918 Winifred Barter received official information that Harry had been killed in action. The wooden cross made from ammunition boxes, which was originally upon Harry’s grave on the battlefield, now hangs on the nave wall in Bromham Parish Church. Harry is buried Privoville British Cemetery, France.

**Hilton**

I was recently contacted by Cynthia Hart, who is researching her uncle, Private Frederick William Samways (8 January 1919), one of the two ringers from Hilton to have died in the war (Private Samways actually died a couple of months after the Armistice). I was able to tell her from the Guild reports that “it would appear that your uncle joined the band of ringers at Hilton sometime in 1914-15 (when he would have been in his early teens) (he is not recorded in the 1914 report or earlier and appears in 1915)”. She says “Frederick started his military service in the Duke of Cornwall’s Light Infantry and then transferred to the Wiltshire Regiment. He was taken prisoner in the field at Messines on 11th or 12th April 1918. He was sent to a Prisoner of War Camp at Dulmen and repatriated in January 1919. He was entitled to The British War Medal and The Victory Medal.” She adds “He didn’t die in the flu epidemic. He was a prisoner of war and very emaciated when he returned to England. He was in hospital in Hammersmith and died - just being too weak to recover.”

She has also sent me a copy of his death certificate which lists the cause of death as “(1) acute pulmonary tuberculosis” and “(2) privation when prisoner in Germany”. He was just short of his 20th birthday when he died. He is buried in a quiet and secluded spot in Hilton churchyard.

**Loders**

The two ringers who died from Loders, and who were added to the Guild Roll of Honour last year are recorded on the war memorial inside Loders church: “W Russell” – the centenary of whose death is this month and “L Clark” who died in 1919. (picture next page)
Barges and Bells

Devizes brewed beer is spirited away to the Midlands for Marston’s to bottle. In like manner a few ‘celebrities’, in recent times, have been well travelled on British canals in the name of ‘informative TV’. The idea is to make programs illustrating industry, art, craft and landscape. Guy Martin showed industry and skill by getting his hands dirty and getting stuck in to the tasks in hand. John Sargeant and his team took a different approach. Making a series through a private company for ITV John Sargeant was due along the Kennet and Avon canal. The series covered many canals including the Caledonian. Preparation and production for the program took many months. The Devizes St John tower captain, Liz Merritt, was asked to prepare a team of ringers who could instruct John to become a ringer. Part of his ‘explaining’ experience for the series.

Duly a team of eight met a Producer, Noise Boy (sound engineer); Camera man cum Lampy (lighting engineer) and John arrived ready to start. The series transmitted was to show the process to which John and we were to be subjected. Slowly, very slowly, the group arrived and arranged the session. John, having been introduced and having a little chat left the ringing chamber and got ready for a ‘surprise’ introduction to Liz and the band. A format readily recognised in other locations once the programs were seen.

Over the next few minutes the band duly rang as a band to show what was expected! We then rang call changes with John, assisted by Julian Ferrar on the hand stroke of the 4th, doing a tolerable job. The Noise Boy was heard to quip ‘he is better at ringing than steering a barge!’.

Cameraman introduced his lens to peoples’ faces, round the tower, round the ring, round the band and any other elements to mix with his previous visit to the bell chamber. The Producer was a man of few words and left it to the Cameraman to sort out what he wanted. Just as well as it was not too easy to guess what was of interest to him.

Barse and Bells

All over? Well not quite. We had a photo shoot, chatted and asked about transmission. Some of the chat discussed the amount of input

Roll of Honour

Below are details of ringers who died in the period May to December 1915. Amongst them is "George Henry Hoare" as recorded on a brass tablet in the small Dorset church of Rampisham (one of three ringers to die from this small community).

Private Wilfred Gordon Russell, Loders, 08 May 1915
Lance Corporal Arthur Frank Carter, Broughton, 14 June 1915
Lance Corporal Arthur James Berrett, Steeple Ashton, 22 June 1915
Lance Corporal Edwin Henry Foot, Buckland Newton, 09 August 1915
Private Arthur James Merritt, Bishops Cannings, 10 August 1915

Corporal George Samuel Batten, Leigh, 17 August 1915

Lance Corporal Victor George Merrifield, Fontmell Magna, 21 August 1915
Private Stephen John Samways, Chideock, 21 August 1915
Private William Benjamin Drake, Hilton, 21 August 1915
Sergeant Harry Wilson, Milton Abbey, 21 August 1915
Lance Corporal Alec George Ruddle, Bishops Cannings, 19 October 1915
Private George Henry John Hoare, Rampisham, 28 November 1915

Research is still continuing into the two remaining ‘unknown’ ringers on the Roll of Honour: David Hacker is leading on ‘A Little’ from Devizes and Alan Regin is following up a lead from me in London on ‘S Cooke’ from Rampisham. Please do continue to let me know of any information or pictures that you may uncover and/ or commemorative ringing that you do.

Robert Wellen, Guild Publicity Officer
needed to ring as laid out in detail in the ITTS LtR Personal Progress Logbook booklets. John duly signed a Logbook and we all signed a form to give over copyright and to ensure we would stay quiet. ‘We will let you know when in January it will be transmitted’. Polite good-byes ensued and we left to see John and a passer-by, who had spotted John in the churchyard, doing a ‘selfie’.

Expectations grew as the New Year TV listings were expected. January came and went; as did February. No news of the transmission date from the Production Company for the good people of Devizes. Eagerly we waited. The series duly arrived. Each program, in itself interesting for 10 mins, was spread over thirty. ‘Mind blowing thin viewing’ is a description. The formulaic approach was clearly visible. The Kennet and Avon trip was advertised once the others were transmitted. Locks, brewery company and cooperage and off toward Hungerford on the Barge. No bells! We were on the cutting room floor. No notice. No apology for time wasting. No nothing! A next time? May be. Missed opportunity? Definitely. Disappointment? You bet. So much for privatised TV production.

Richard Heath

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**LEBRF Open Day - 15 August 2015**

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<td>14.33</td>
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<td>8.00</td>
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**LUNCH**

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All towers are open for one hour and times will be strictly adhered to. Day tickets providing access to all open towers £1 (to cover costs). Suggested Voluntary Donation of £14 (to enable Gift Aid where possible). Otherwise £1 per tower. Day Tickets are available from Stewards at the first five towers. All proceeds will go to the LEBRF (The Salisbury Guild Bell Restoration Fund) (Charity No. 270529) Any changes to the programme will be listed on the Guild Website at the first five towers of the day and if needed the first tower after lunch. R = Refreshments, T = Toilets.
Outings and Trips

Calne Branch Trip to Lundy Island - 7th–11th April 2015

It was a crisp bright April morning on the quayside at Ilfracombe. The MS Oldenburg was being loaded with supplies as cars began to arrive and a small crowd assembled in eager anticipation of a few days on Lundy Island. Some of us had been up since 4am and had travelled down that morning. Others had driven down the day before and stayed in local hotels. For many of us it was our second or third visit organized by Andrew Woolley of Calne Branch SDGR and probably the best supported. Some of us were staying four nights, others for just two. Most of us were looking forward to ringing the bells of St Helena’s church. The non-ringers were looking forward to the peace and beauty of the island itself.

At last we were sailing on a calm sea out into the Bristol Channel. After a while Lundy Island appeared on the horizon. St Helena’s was clearly visible and before long we were disembarking and making our way along the jetty. Some of us had decided to walk up the steep road to the top with the warden who had been waiting to lead a guided tour of the south part of the island. She pointed out a variety of interesting features, among them a clump of Lundy Cabbage, unique to the island and the Lundyite cliff (yes, Lundy has a type of rock found nowhere else) at the top of which stands the Castle originally constructed by Henry III. She pointed out various seabirds and handed round her binoculars so we could get a good look at them. The road leads to Milcombe House, originally the home of the Heaven family, one-time owners of the island and the rest of the climb is via rough stone steps.

Our walk took us past the Marisco Tavern to the church, then on to the castle keep, down to Benson’s Cave and across to the Old Light where some of us were staying. On the way the warden told us some of the history of the island. Before we had finished our walk a message came through on her radio and she suddenly took off running, leaving us in the capable hands of her deputy. It was only later that we learned that one of the day trippers had fallen down at the jetty and the rescue helicopter had been sent for to airlift her back to the mainland. This was not the only time we were to see the rescue helicopter – but more of that later!

Andrew had put together a very comprehensive programme. This started with open ringing after lunch on the first day followed by two quarter peals: Grandsire Triples and Yorkshire Surprise Major – both successful. On subsequent days up to 4 quarter peals were attempted including Plain Bob Royal, Stedman (Triples and Caters), Cambridge Surprise (Minor and Major), Variable Hunt Cambridge, Grandsire Caters and St Clements Minor. There was also a Cambridge Surprise Royal practice and several more sessions of open ringing.

When we were not engaged in ringing we found plenty of other distractions including exploring the island, enjoying the scenery and the wildlife: Sika deer, Soay sheep, seals and numerous birds. Although the warden assured us she had counted fifty puffins they were very elusive, but if you were lucky you might spot one of the many peregrine falcons. There were two kinds of ringers on the island while we were there: us, and members of the RSPB who were catching small birds in mist nets and putting rings on their legs.

Another popular activity was searching for ‘letter boxes’. A letter box kit can be purchased from the island shop which gives instructions for finding hidden plastic containers, some of which are quite difficult to locate. Inside is a notebook for recording your success and a rubber stamp to mark your own sheet. Bob Mustow and Andrew Newton managed to collect all thirty-one and qualified for a certificate!

Some of us just preferred to find a pleasant spot and read, or maybe enjoy a glass or two of ale in the Tavern. My favourite place is the top of the Old Light where you can relax in a deck chair perched on the turntable which once supported the light. The long climb to the top is rewarded with a magnificent 360 degree view of the island. A group of us trooped up there one evening in response to an invitation posted in the Marisco to join in some singing in harmony. It was led by a lady from Bath who runs two natural voice choirs. The acoustic was amazing and it wasn’t long before she had us all making a wonderful sound. Some of the gents who thought they couldn’t sing surprised themselves.

Our accommodation ranged from the aforementioned Milcombe
Outings and Trips

House to the Castle Keep and the lighthouse keepers’ cottage at the Old Light; on the Wednesday evening everyone gathered at Milcombe for drinks. While we were enjoying our beer and wine we saw the helicopter fly in again. After a while it flew off, none of us realizing that it was one of our companions being flown to hospital on the mainland. She had sustained a head injury earlier that day so the paramedics were sent for and they deemed it serious enough to be checked out. We heard the following day that she had been given the ‘all clear’ but it was a shame she had a slightly earlier departure than planned. Maybe the helicopter ride was worth it!

The electricity on Lundy is supplied by a generator which is switched off around midnight. This has caused some hilarity in the past at our Milcombe drinks parties but this time we were well prepared with emergency lighting. This is a good moment to start telling ghost stories. Yes, Milcombe is haunted (allegedly)!

I was on my way back across the fields to the Old Light when I looked over towards the mainland and saw an orange glow which gradually rose in the shape of the moon. It was almost red in colour. Back at Milcombe, the ghost stories in full flow, the appearance of the blood moon gave everyone a fright!

Around midday on Thursday the MS Oldenburg arrived with another boatload of day trippers and six new ringers. Word went round that a round island boat trip had been arranged for anyone who was interested before sailing back to Bideford. After the trip we said goodbye to two of our number who were among those returning home along with the day trippers.

The main social event of the week was dinner in the Wheel Room at the Marisco Tavern on the Friday evening. Both the food and the atmosphere were excellent and the portions enormous!

Our sailing on the Saturday was not until 4 pm so still plenty of time for a couple of quarter peals and some open ringing or finding the last letter boxes or just enjoying the peace and beauty of the island. After the last ringing session Julian Hemper presented Andrew with some thank you gifts on our behalf and expressed our gratitude for organizing yet another superb Lundy trip. We had once again been really lucky with the weather and, though the crossing back to Ilfracombe was not quite as smooth as when we had left, it was still very pleasant to sit on deck and enjoy the sea breeze on our faces.

Linda Drummond-Harris

Branch News

Devizes Branch - Skittles Evening - 7 February 2015

February’s Devizes Branch Meeting took the form of a skittles match preceded by ringing at All Saints Church, Westbury on Saturday 7th. This lovely church stands amid a beautiful churchyard where it has ministered to the good people of the town for over 600 years. Those of us who wanted a taste of the bells, six recast and two more added by Taylor’s in 1921 (including the well-known and revered 35 cwt tenor), ascended the generous spiral staircase and gathered at around 6.00pm in the ringing chamber. Our host, Chris Jenkins, encouraged those of us less experienced to ring rounds and call changes whilst the more experienced ringers treated the rest of us to some delightful method ringing including Stedman Triples and Bristol Surprise. It is worth mentioning that it matters little what level of skill you possess as you always get the chance to ring something at our Branch Meetings!

Thence to the Crown Inn nearby, where a welcoming fire in the bar warmed us from the winter chill and so through to the alley where the skittles awaited our tournament. Although not so warm as the bar as the central heating had packed up, the landlord had put in some temporary heating which helped and with 32 of us there it soon warmed up a bit! Beef stew, of which there was a good and ample supply, filled us up; cheesy chips and eggs for those who enjoy a meat free diet. As for the skittling, well there were a variety of styles, including the tried and tested Barnes Wallis bouncing bomb, which bombed more than bounced! Good fun was had by all during the three legs which were played. There was a ‘sudden death’ play off between the highest scorers – Chris Jenkins and Alan Newman – which Alan won. The wooden spoon for least skittles knocked down in the evening was awarded to David Newell. It was a Westbury white-wash as all were from the host tower. Many thanks to Westbury for another good evening!

Len Murray

The Edingers visited Erlestoke on St George’s Day and rang the bells for about 30 minutes. It was rather special as one of our recent newcomers lives there and this was the first time that Anna had rung in her home tower. Many congratulations to her as these bells are quite a challenge!

Christine Purnell
Branch News

Devizes Branch - 6 and 8 Bell Striking Competitions - 7 March 2015

The Devizes Branch six and eight bell striking competitions were this year held on Saturday 7th March at Hilperton and North Bradley, respectively. The weather was kind, which made for an enjoyable afternoon sitting in the spring sunshine and listening to the ringing. The event was well attended with nine bands entering the six bell competition and three entering the eight bell competition. It was also pleasing to see many friends and family, who came to cheer on those taking part.

A splendid selection of cakes and plenty of tea and coffee was provided throughout the afternoon by the Hilperton ringers, where the results were announced at the end of the day.

Judging was by Julian Hemper (eight bell) and Sam Shead from the Bath and Wells Guild (six bell). Both were very positive about the overall standard of ringing throughout the competition and each gave plenty of feedback in their reports.

The results of the eight bell competition were: 1st Melksham, 2nd Westbury, 3rd Steeple Ashton
The results of the six bell competition were: 1st Westbury, 2nd Melksham, 3rd Bradford on Avon, 4th Westwood, 5th Hilperton, 6th Keevil, 7th Steeple Ashton, 8th Edingers, 9th Seend.

Many thanks to all those who had a part in making a very enjoyable afternoon, and congratulations to the Melksham and Westbury bands.

Sarah Quintin

Devizes Branch - Ringing to Commemorate Private Harold Mead

On the evening of 11 March 2015, ringers from Bratton and Edington rang at St James the Great, Bratton, to commemorate the death of Bratton ringer Private Harold Mead of the First Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, who died on 12 March 1915 at the age of 24. Memorials to his death can be seen at Ypres (Menin Gate) and in the Churchyard of St James the Great, Bratton.

The ringers: Diana Siggers, Katherine Whiffen, Mark Noble, William Norgate, Dusty Millier, John Richardson, Adam Hiscock and Chris Jenkins, rang 20 minutes of Devon peal call changes followed by Plain Bob Doubles.

Julia Russell

East Dorset Branch - ITTS Module 1 Day Course Report - 28 March 2015

ITTS Module 1 Day Course for SDGR East Dorset at Swanage

On Saturday 28th March an Integrated Teaching Training Scheme (ITTS) Module 1 Day Course was held at St Mary's Swanage, which was run by Andy and Sallie Ingram (with Pip Penney observing). The full day session was attended by 13 delegates, 12 members of the East Dorset branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers and a ringer from Guernsey who travelled over to take part. This was the first ITTS Day Course to be run in the East Dorset branch.

The course started at 9:00 a.m. and finished at 5:45 p.m. and was packed with information on how to teach a new ringer bell handling, and how to make this a pleasant experience for a new learner.

Led by ITTS Tutors Andy & Sallie Ingram of the Association of Ringing Teachers, the attendees from East Dorset comprised both new ringing teachers (6) and experienced mentors (6) in equal numbers. Each trainee teacher chooses or is assigned a mentor (normally an established and well-regarded ringing teacher in the area) who will work with the teacher throughout their subsequent training of a new ringer in the art of bell handling in order to demonstrate their ability and achieve Module 1 accreditation.

The day’s programme was divided into three theory and four practical sessions, in the first of which teachers and mentors learned how to teach a skilled activity and then put this into practice in the ringing chamber by going through the basic components of bell handling together. The following practical session used joining both strokes together to practice the application of the most appropriate teaching techniques.

After a hearty pub lunch at The Purbeck House Hotel, the afternoon started with a theory session on becoming a good teacher, including recognising the different types of learner (visual, auditory or kinesthetic) and learning what teaching style and techniques work most effectively in each case. Followed by a practical session on teaching
Branch News

how to ring up and down, returning to the Church Hall for a theory session on solving handling problems.

This was followed by the last practical session of the day when solving common handling problems was put to the test in the St Mary's ringing chamber.

Returning to the Church Hall for the closing session, Delegates heard from Andy Ingram what was then expected of them in order to progress to completion of Module 1. The first task is to recruit a suitable new learner for subsequent training to handle a bell correctly, ring handstrokes and backstrokes together, and ring a bell up and down. The teacher’s mentor judges when this training has been delivered effectively and then arranges for an independent assessment by another mentor to confirm before submitting recommendation for accreditation.

Feedback at the end of the day was very positive with everyone commenting on how valuable the training had been and the importance of good bell control to enable change ringing. The organised and progressive approach to teaching bell handling promoted by the ITTS was positively received by the course attendees. Ross Bradley of Hampreston said, “I thought Saturday’s course was excellent, I wasn’t expecting to learn too much but was amazed at the different ways of overcoming teaching problems”.

The content of the course was very good and Andy and Sallie Ingram presented it professionally. The ITTS approach is to break the stages of learning to ring into small steps that can be learnt progressively and practised until the learner can complete the correct actions automatically. To do this, ITTS offers a number of techniques and activities from existing best practice in order to provide sufficient variety for the ringer. Most concepts are not revolutionary and experienced teachers are likely to have seen many of them before. However when applied together with an understanding of skills development they provide a clear and structured process for new or less experienced teachers. The ITTS gives an excellent framework for a new teacher to follow which should lead to an improved learning experience for a new learner ringer.

Matthew Pike

East Dorset Branch - Striking Competition - 16 May 2015

I would like to say a BIG BIG THANKYOU to everyone who supported the 2015 Branch Bellringing Bonanza this weekend at Spetisbury. We had a really good turnout with 13 teams taking part in the striking competitions.

Wimborne 'Y Not' were the winners of the Branch Striking Competition, with very close runners-up being Wimborne 'Y'. These two bands will now go through to represent our Branch in the Guild striking competition on Sat 5th September at Broadchalke and Fovant.

Winterborne Harlequins were the winners of the Novice Shield.

Morden were also the winners, in the bellringing poem/limerick competition with Lytchett Minster a very close runner-up with a great limerick. The poems are wonderfully creative.

It was great to see people having a go at the different events:

- tune handbellringing with Clapper Chaos.
- tune handbellringing with Bells Aloud from Lytchett Minster using the Guild's Saxilby ringing simulator.
- change ringing on the branch handbells.

Also a BIG, BIG THANKS to everyone at Spetisbury for making us all so very welcome.

Matthew Pike

Marlborough Branch - News from Little Bedwyn

On Saturday, March 14th St Michael's Church was a hive of activity as more than seventy friends, villagers, would-be bell-ringers and ringing trainers congregated in the church and the tower to enjoy the Lent soup lunch and take the opportunity to ring the church bells.

In the church the variety of homemade soups was definitely haute cuisine. In the tower we were fortunate to have a number of patient, experienced ringers on hand to explain and teach some of the intricacies of bell handling. Inside the church people were fascinated by the pictures coming from the tower onto the TV screen which could be switched back and forth from the ringing chamber to the bell chamber. It was nice to see the rhythmical movement of the ropes as the brightly coloured sallies moved up and down, but more fascinating still was watching the bells, (and the heaviest weighs nearly half a ton) as they were swung right through 360 degrees on both the hand stroke and the tail stroke.

We can’t name all those who helped but Lucy and Mike Hopkins-Till, who came all the way from Basingstoke were superb (he is Ringing Master at Winchester Cathedral and Lucy learned to ring in the sixties when she was eight years old). It was also good to have the support of ringers from Great Bedwyn, Marlborough, St Katharine’s and Shalbourne.

This event has created the opportunity to establish our new Little Bedwyn band of novice ringers. We are also determined to join in with our neighboring towers to expand the wider pool of ringers in the area. This will help to ensure that bell ringing again becomes a standard feature of local events and ceremonies.

Also gratifying was the fact that the soup lunch raised £319.00 for new Prospect Hospice which is being developed at Savernake Hospital.

Moira Yates
Branch News

Marlborough Branch - St George’s Day Ringing

As has been the practice for some years, well before the ‘Ringing for England Campaign’, the Marlborough Branch held an annual practice night on 23rd April visiting St George’s at Ogbourne St George, and then St George’s at Preshute.

Well attended, with most ringers attending both towers, this year was no exception with capable ringing at both. There was a rumour that the BBC might be filming the ringing at Preshute, however nothing materialised. Ringing took place in both towers simultaneously early in the evening, before the ringers from Ogbourne joined in.

Dorothy Blythe

Marlborough Branch - Ringing for VE Day

Bells were rung at many churches in the Branch on 8 May 2015: Aldbourne rang but were unlucky to lose a Quarter Peal near the end when a rope slipped the wheel.

Chiseldon rang a Quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles, the ringers were: Catherine Bampton, Alison and Ian Kearsey, Colin Woodley, John Wiltshire and Colin Wilkins.

Other towers that rang were Burbage, Marlborough, Mildenhall, Milton Lilbourne, Preshute, and Ramsbury.

Dorothy Blythe

Marlborough Branch - May Day Ringers Team up with the National Trust

For many years the Mere Branch of the Salisbury DG has held a ringing demonstration at Stourton on Easter Monday. This ground floor ring in a picturesque church surrounded by Stourhead Gardens has usually attracted much interest. It has been a recruitment opportunity as well as a source of funds for the Guild bell restoration fund.

This year the event was moved to the May Day Bank Holiday (4 May) and took on an extra dimension as it was organised in conjunction with The National Trust (which own and run Stourhead Gardens). This initiative was spearheaded by Christopher Sykes, the Chairman of the Mere Branch, and a volunteer at Stourhead House. It was the Trust, with access to visitor numbers, that advised a move to May Day. The Trust also helped with publicity (both on its website and in a leaflet to be given out at the Visitor Centre: Local ringers will demonstrate the traditional English art of bell ringing. See the bells in the tower in action via a video link at the same time as the ringers below are pulling on the ropes!). We in turn helped the Trust by hopefully drawing in a few more visitors.

There were demonstrations of ringing (by ringers from a number of branches of the Guild) and a steady flow of visitors watched. The public (young and old) were given the chance to have a chime and to ‘have a go’ on the Saxilby Simulator.

Robert Wellen, Guild Publicity Officer

Mere Branch - May Day Ringers Team up with the National Trust

The team at St Mary’s Church, Motcombe rang to mark St George’s Day on the 23rd April. There was a good turn out of ringers attending at St George’s Church, Bourton, Dorset on Thursday 23rd April to ring in celebration of England’s patron Saint.

The ringing was witnessed by children from St George’s school in the village who were fascinated to watch along with their Headmaster. Hopefully there this will sow the seed for the future for some new recruits!

Jenny Lucas

Mere Branch - Ringing for St George’s Day

The team at St Mary’s Church, Motcombe rang to mark St George’s Day on the 23rd April.

Hugh Walmesley White

Jenny Lucas
Salisbury Branch News

Our Branch meeting in April was held at All Saints Martin and attended by 24 members. To try and attract more members we have decided to have a social event after meetings and this time we went to Martin Club for a quiz and supper. The quiz master was our Chairman Andrew Howes, ably assisted by his wife, June, who checked answers and kept a tally of the scores.

At half time supper was served consisting of sausages, salads, pickles and chunks of fresh bread, before the raffle was drawn which raised £64 for the LEBRF. The winning quiz team was a mix of members from Fovant, Amesbury and Salisbury, who went off happily with some wine as their prize.

It was a fun evening enjoyed by all and we would welcome more members at our next meeting on 8th August which will be followed by supper. More details to follow!

The first Branch training event for 2015 was a plain hunt course held on Saturday 25th April. We were delighted to have lots of interest and 14 students attended in 3 towers, with 3 tutors and a team of 21 helpers. The feedback has been that everyone had a great day, felt well supported by the tutors and helpers, and achieved what they wanted to. They have also given us some pointers for future training, so watch this space! A big thank to you everyone who took part, especially the tutors and helpers for making it such a successful day.

Vicki Rowse

Salisbury Branch News

On Saturday 20th June, the West Dorset Branch held its annual Striking Competition in Broadwindsor. It was a lovely afternoon and six teams entered. Sherborne B, the only team to ring a method, took to the stage first, followed by Sherborne A, Whitchurch Canoniciorum, the West Dorset Young Ringers, Bradpole and finally "Broadwindsor" - a team made up on the day of individuals.

The overall winners and holders of the Nicholson Engineering Shield with 19 faults was Whitchurch, closely followed by Bradpole on 21, and then Sherborne B, Sherborne A, The Young Ringers and in a gallant sixth place was "Broadwindsor".

Very special thanks must go to Harold and Margaret Jenkins who very kindly opened their garden and served tea and cakes. The committee also thanks Andrea Jacob for being our judge and Nigel John (and Gareth!) for printing the certificates to award in the garden.

Harry Murley

West Dorset Branch - First Peal

On 6th March Roger King of Fordingbridge rang his first peal. He was the first member of the Guild to ring their first peal in this special anniversary year of the first recorded peal, when the First Peal 2015 initiative aims to get as many ringers as possible, at least 300, through their first peal.

Roger is one of three generations of ringers in the family as his mother is a member at Bradpole and his son, Martin, is also a member at Fordingbridge.

Thanks to Nicholas Lawrence for standing in at very short notice.

Fordingbridge, Hampshire. St Mary.
Friday 6th March 2015 in 3h 7m (13-2-1)
5040 Grandsire Triples. Composed by S. Biddleston
Vicki L Rowse 1, Patricia M Davidson 2, R Nicholas Lawrence 3, Margaret A Romano 4, Neil O Skelton 5, Pauline Champion (C) 6, Malcolm J Penney 7, Roger C King 8.
First peal: 8. Specially arranged and rung in memory of Brian Jordan, Tower Captain of Fordingbridge for many years.

Pat Davidson

Salisbury Branch - Ringing for 55th Wedding Anniversary

On 16 April a group of Ivan and Wendy's friends joined them on a gloriously sunny day in West Dorset to help them celebrate 55 years together. We rang at Bradpole (unfortunately the Quarter did not succeed but the ringing was good) before we all enjoyed a drink and a meal at the Loders Arms. Afterwards we did score a Quarter Peal on the lovely sounding bells at Loders to round off the day.


Loders, Dorset. 16 Apr, 1260 PB Minor in 49 mins:
Valerie Stone 1, Pat Davidson 2, Judith Williamson 3, Ivan Andrews 4, Robert Wellen 5, Malcolm Penney (C) 6.
A 55th wedding anniversary compliment (18 April) to Ivan and Wendy Andrews of Bradpole.

Robert Wellen

West Dorset Branch - Striking Competition - 20 June 2015

On Saturday 20th June, the West Dorset Branch held its annual Striking Competition in Broadwindsor. It was a lovely afternoon and six teams entered. Sherborne B, the only team to ring a method, took to the stage first, followed by Sherborne A, Whitchurch Canoniciorum, the West Dorset Young Ringers, Bradpole and finally "Broadwindsor" - a team made up on the day of individuals.

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Harry Murley
Obituaries

Ian David Wilson, 1928 – 2015

The quarter peal rung at St Lawrence, Stratford sub Castle on Sunday February 8th was a tribute to the late Ian Wilson who died on January 21st. Ian’s funeral service was held at St Lawrence, Hungerford on January 28th.

Ian and his wife, Daphne, had lived in Stratford sub Castle for a number of years until they moved away in 2006, and took a lively interest in village activities. In preparation for ‘Ringing in the Millennium’ Ian was encouraged to learn to ring and so along with Daphne and a friend did so at St Thomas’s Church, Salisbury.

With only 2 bells at Stratford Ian then had the idea that the Church should have its own ring of bells and so began the huge task of getting the project off the ground. Although, when approached, the PCC gave their backing they made it clear that no financial support would be available. Undaunted by this Ian, almost singlehandedly, obtained financial support from a number of sources including a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. With the bulk of the money raised he also gained the support of many local residents who not only gave financial support but also their time and labour once the project got under way. The 6 bells at Stratford were dedicated in October 1998 with a band of local ringers ready to ring them.

Ian and Daphne were both regular Sunday service ringers until ill health forced the move away from Stratford to be nearer their daughter at Hungerford, by which time Daphne had rung her first quarter peal on the bells.
They continued to keep a close link with Stratford and it was with mixed feelings that Daphne returned on Sunday February 8th to attend worship, to meet the ringers, all friends of theirs when they lived in Stratford, and to listen to the quarter peal.

Ian Davidson

**Obituaries**

Michael David (‘Mike’) Marshall, 17th February 1934 – 5th February 2015

Mike died a few days short of his 81st birthday. He had been undergoing treatment for cancer for sometime but his condition deteriorated seriously over Christmas and New Year and he died in Dorchester Hospital. His funeral service took place at St Nicholas parish church, Child Okeford on 26th February. The large congregation of family and friends was led by Mike’s brother, the Prebendary Christopher Marshall. Half-muffled ringing preceded the service with village ringers and family both taking part. He was laid to rest in the churchyard.

One of six children, Mike was a clergyman’s son. His father was a steam enthusiasts. A highlight was the splendid ‘roll out’ and ‘steam day after. Also, a peal rung at Sampford Spiney in Devon on 7th February was rung in memory of Mike. Also, a peal rung at Sampford Spiney in Devon on 7th February was rung in memory of Mike.

One of six children, Mike was a clergyman’s son. His father was a steam engineer and build himself a seven and a half inch gauge track in his last Rectory. The engineering gene passed on! Mike also learned to ring in his youth. Mike went to school at St John’s Leatherhead and his brother Christopher tells that Mike “tolerated” his time there. Later he did his National Service in the army and with his battalion of the Somerset Light Infantry served in the Malayan campaign. On demobilisation he learned both wood and metal work. He became a teacher and imparted his skills to pupils at various schools.

Having raised his own children, he and Val first met by ‘assignation’ in Salisbury Cathedral. This first meeting flowered into a happy marriage and in 1996 he and Val moved to Millbrook Cottage in the Dorset village of Child Okeford. Mike was a loving family man to his large and ever expanding family. He and Val also shared a Christian faith that was a continuing theme in their married life. Val’s singing in the choir and Mike’s ringing were just part of their contribution to worship there.

On moving to Millbrook Cottage Mike build himself a workshop adjacent to the house and this rapidly became a gathering place for steam enthusiasts. A highlight was the splendid ‘roll out’ and ‘steam up’ of his leaf green articulated Garrett engine, an exact copy of a 1903 original. Villager Ewan Pinsent was one of his ‘novice’ engineering pupils. Ewan recalls that Mike took him on “under his tutelage” to make “a one and a quarter inch steam engine for my grandchildren”. “So began a relationship of conversation and laughter was well as the nitty gritty of metal engineering. At the conclusion of some piece of precise work Mike would straighten up and hold the item up. In his pleasure he would draw in his breath against his teeth. I think we both realised that here was a moment of ‘gift’”

It was also about this time that Mike ‘returned’ to ringing. He was always modest about his ringing achievements but for someone who only started ‘serious’ method ringing late in life he achieved a lot. He rang a number of peals, including inside to fourteen doubles methods and his quarter peal total was in the hundreds (I rang 149 with him), including Plain Bob Major and Grandsire Triples inside. Before his illness he was ringing and learning Stedman Triples and Surprise Minor. As well as being a loyal and valued member of the Child Okeford band, he helped out at other local towers, offering assistance in teaching and bell maintenance and was a member of the Salisbury DG. He was a regular attendee at Blandford practice nights and at ‘Tuesday mornings’ at the Bryanston Ringing Centre. He and Val were also famously hospitable to ringers – ‘come and ring a Quarter’ he would ring up and say and then you would wait for the magic words ‘and come back for a meal afterwards’. Val is a marvellous cook – and Mike’s contribution – freshly ground coffee (warm the mugs!) and superb custard!

There has been much ringing for Mike since his death: three quarters in Cumbria, four in Bournemouth (by the Second Wednesday Group, of which Mike was a member), three in Somerset and four others in Dorset, including a quarter of Grandsire Triples at Blandford on the evening of his funeral and a half muffled quarter of Plain Bob Minor at Child Okeford the day after. Also, a peal rung at Sampford Spiney in Devon on 7th February was rung in memory of Mike.

We remember Mike as skilled engineer and as a keen bell ringer. However most of all we remember Mike’s friendship, sense of humour, patience and generosity. As his brother said at his funeral, he was not perfect, none of us are, but he was as close as anyone is likely to get.

Robert Wellen

(Thanks to the Reverend Ewan Pinsent for the use his appreciation and address and to the family for the photograph of Mike).
Obituaries

Henry Crabbe, January 1944 - April 2015

Henry first appears in the Guild Report at Maiden Bradley in 1977. In 1982, the same year his wife Christine became a member, he took over as correspondent from Mr Penny, which he continued to be up until his death. He was Tower Captain for approximately 30 years and taught and encouraged many new bell ringers the art of campanology.

Henry rang the bells as often as his busy life allowed, managing family, his business and many community interests at the same time. He rang many Quarter Peals at a number of different towers and will be missed by all who knew him.

Pat Kennedy, Anthony Lovell-Wood

Forthcoming Events

Saturday August 15th - LEBRF Open Day - Mere Branch

Saturday August 15th - 70th Anniversary of VJ Day

Saturday 5th September - Guild 6-bell & 8-bell Striking Competition
4.00pm, Fovant (6) & Broadchalke (8) - Salisbury Branch

September 9th - Queen Elizabeth II becomes Longest Reigning Monarch

October 31st - November 8th - Guild Quarter Peal Week

December 24th - 31st - Guild Peal Week

From the Editor [Next Deadline October 1st 2015]

Thanks
My thanks to all who have contributed to this edition of Face to Face.
Face to Face will now be produced three times each year: Spring, Summer, and Autumn/Winter

Contributions
I now also deal with content for the Guild website. I will be pleased to receive contributions about any news and events at any time. No need to wait until the Newsletter deadline. Items can then go on the website as well as in Face to Face.

Contact Me

Michael Bailey
Email: f2f@sdgr.org.uk
(for all Face to Face contributions and enquiries)
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