Autumn 2017

YPRES BELLS IN DORSET

Picture: Paul Tyson

Summer fun for Young Ringers

... a young ringer on his box!

A Striking success for Corsley

(and Wimborne too!)

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Deadline for the next issue:

1 February 2018

f2f@sdgr.org.uk
FACE TO FACE NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2017

From the President

As I look into my garden the leaves, most of which are glorious in their autumn colours, I can hardly believe another year is coming to an end. By the time you receive this edition of the Face to Face we will be into November and Quarter peal week with Christmas and a New Year hard on its heels.

I have not been able to attend as many meeting and practices this year as I had hoped to but I have managed to attend several services of rededication within the Guild. These were all such happy and uplifting occasions and all attended and led by senior members of the clergy. The bells of Stourton were rededicated by the Bishop of Salisbury, our Patron and also a ringer, who joined us for a ring before the service. Shroton (Iwerne Courtney) came next where we were graced by the presence of the Bishop of Sherborne, not herself a ringer but a keen supporter. You may remember that she preached at the Guild Festival earlier this year. Then just a few weeks ago the Guild Master, Robert and I attended the rededication of the bells at Savernake, another happy day and this one led by the Bishop of Ramsbury. Each of these events are a tribute to the locals who have worked tirelessly to get their bells improved for ringing.

But, we do need to remember that the bells we love to ring are Church property. We come to our churches to ring, often letting ourselves into the building, long before clergy or congregation arrive and then, in most cases, leave before the service begins. This all set me thinking what role we play in the work of our Churches, we call the people to worship, ring for celebrations and for remembrance but what contribution do we make to the overall work of our churches. We are quick to criticise when our local PCC decide to put in a kitchen and loo under the tower blocking the trap door put in to allow the bells to be lowered for maintenance, but, worse still, what if someone is taken ill, up the tower, requiring specialist evacuation. Narrow spiral stairways make the use of stretchers impossible so the only option is to take them through the floor. We need to engage more with the church by having representation on the PCC to put forward our concerns and get the ringers voice heard outside the ringing room. We’ve been “sitting in our Ivory towers for too long”!! Most members of the public have no knowledge of what happens in the ringing room, in fact many people still believe a recording of bells is played. I think it is time to educate the public and show we are proud of our art, if we want to secure the future of bell ringing for future generations.  

Judith Williamson

Editorial Note

It is a great sadness to us all that Jerry Holmes, our Face to Face Editor, died on 9 October. He had cancer. Jerry was a loyal Sunday service ringer at Gillingham, Mere Branch Treasurer as well as Editor of this newsletter since Summer 2016. Our thoughts and prayers go to Jerry’s family at this sad time. As Guild Publicity Officer I have stepped in as acting Editor. I was not able to access Jerry’s in-box, so some material sent to him may not appear – apologies for that. Please continue to send material for publication to f2f@sdgr.org.uk and note that the Deadline for the next issue is 1 February 2018.  

Robert Wellen

Guild News

From Robert Wellen, Guild Publicity Officer:

Great War Commemorations

The fine tower at St George’s Memorial Church in Ypres, Belgium was originally intended to house a peal of English change ringing bells, although this was never realised. This intention will now be fulfilled by the installation of a new peal of eight bells, which have now been cast.
Ypres Bells on display at Taylor’s Bell Foundry (picture: Stephen Turpin)

by Taylors and hung in the tower and will be dedicated in October. Between Friday 25 August and Monday 28 August, en route to Belgium, these bells were on display at The Great Dorset Steam Fair on the Thornycroft and Dennis Lorries that delivered them to Ypres.

Ypres Bells leaving the Foundry (picture: Alan Regin)

To mark the presence of these special bells in our Guild, the following ringing took place:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Ringing Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 Aug</td>
<td>Mere</td>
<td>240 Grandsire Doubles</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brownsea Island</td>
<td>Call changes (Kings, Queens, Backwards rounds and Titums)</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Aug</td>
<td>Bryanston</td>
<td>5058 Yorkshire Surprise Major</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kingston</td>
<td>1296 Plain Bob Caters</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>South Newton</td>
<td>5040 Cambridge</td>
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David Close has written concerning a local family connection to the new Ypres 5th bell: “Michael Fowle is the great grandson of Thomas who was responsible for the repairs to St Nicolas Chute, and the building of St Mary’s, Chute Forest together with the ring of six cast in 1871. Michael contributed towards the cost of the ring for Ypres, and the dedications on this bell includes Michael Randolph Fowle who died 24th October 1914 near Ypres, and is remembered on the Menin Gate. He was a son of William Fowle to whom the third at Chute is dedicated, and therefore would have been Michael’s uncle, but died 34 years previous. We rang a half muffled quarter on 24th Oct 2014 at Chute in memory, with many of the Fowle family attending the short prayer service”.

Gillian Richards wrote regarding the ringing on Brownsea Island: “our ringing also commemorated two young men who had connections with the island and who were killed at Ypres. Baden-Powell ran his ‘experimental camp’ in 1907 on Brownsea. The two young men killed at Ypres took part in the camp and went on to join the army as officers”.

The following ringers who died in the Great War have been commemorated:

muffled to mark 100 years since the death of William Frank Ford, a loyal Sturminster Marshall ringer who died in action in WW1 exactly 100 years ago today, aged 21.

**Private Fred Forsyth** (Bournemouth St John) Died: 24 July 1917. Maiden Bradley, Wiltshire. 24 July 2017. **Quarter Peal of 1260 Plain Bob Doubles.** Dedicated to the memory of Private Fred Forsyth, a ringer at Bournemouth (St John the Evangelist) and a member of the Salisbury DG who died on 24/07/1917 age 35. He was born and baptised in Maiden Bradley, the son of Albert Forsyth and Elizabeth Forsyth of Maiden Bradley.

**Private Harry Mitchell** (Swanage) Died: 31 July 1917. Swanage, Dorset. 31 July 2017. **A Quarter Peal of 1260 Grandsire Triples.** Rung half muffled in memory of Private Harry Mitchell, Service No 29947, Somerset Light Infantry "A" Coy, 8th Bn, who was killed on the first day of the Battle of Passchendaele, 31st July 1917, aged 27. He is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial (panel 21). Harry Mitchell was a Swanage bell ringer, the son of Clifford and Maria Mitchell of Cornwall Villa, Queen's Road East, Swanage. According to a contemporary account (also displayed in the ringing room) “a deeply impressive as well as interesting ceremony took place in the belfry ... when a large framed photograph of Harry Mitchell was dedicated.”

The picture of Private Mitchell hanging in the Swanage ringing chamber (picture: Sally Jenkins)

**Private Joseph Harper Thorne** (Amesbury) Died: 19 August 1917. Albert Spreadbury writes: “Private Joseph Harper-Thorne was born in Great Durnford in 1888. Joseph was a member of the church choir and ringer at Amesbury. Joseph initially enlisted with the 6th Battalion Duke of Cornwall Regiment in Salisbury but then transferred to the 2nd Battalion Hampshire Regiment. The Hampshire Regiment had been involved in Gallipoli but after being withdrawn was sent to France in March 1916. On 19th August 1917 Joseph suffered a severe gunshot wound to the neck from which he died quickly. He was buried in the Etaples Military Cemetery at Pas de Calais. On Sunday 20th August 2017 six Amesbury ringers rang 30 minutes of rounds and call changes to commemorate Joseph’s death.”

LtoR: Barbara Maddocks, Peter Banting, Karen Johnson, Brian Johnson, Colin Maddocks and behind the camera Albert Spreadbury.

**Private William Read** (Preston) Died: 31 August 1917. Preston. Dorset. 31 August 2017. **A Quarter Peal of 1376 Bristol Surprise Major.** Rung to mark the death, 100 years ago today in World War 1, of local soldier Private William Read, Dorsetshire Regiment 2nd Battalion. Private Read was also a bellringer at this church.

On page 30 there are details of ringers who died in the last third of 1917 and at the start of 1918 – please do all that you can to commemorate them and please let Robert Wellen know of any ringing that you do.

**Guild Striking Competitions**

These were held on Saturday 9 September at Zeals and Mere. The Novice and 6 bell competitions were judged by Mike and Lucy Hopkins Till from Basingstoke and the 8 bell competition was judged by Donald Carter from Devon. Magnificent refreshments were provided throughout the afternoon at the Zeals village hall by a team of local helpers led by Len Roberts. Thanks also to Sheila Porter for helping as a steward and to the local towers for opening up. It was particularly good to see some younger faces this year with two teams of young ringers taking part (thanks to Hilary Child and Jack Pease for their help and support) – they did well – the average age of the 6 bell team being 16.3 years (see page 10) Also a special mention and congratulations to Corsley, the second winners of the Pat Cotton Trophy, for ringing so well to win the Novice Competition (after winning the Devizes Branch Rounds Competition). (Pictured on the front cover are: LtoR: Jane Shewring, Mariella O'Brien, Liz Attenborough, Anne Russell, Robert Thackway, Marion Moldon (Manager)) - Thea Mackie (not shown).

**Novice Rounds Competition:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pos</th>
<th>Team</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Corsley</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>East Dorset Branch Young Ringers</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**6 Bell Competition:**

David Warwick receiving the trophy from Guild President, Judith Williamson (both pictures: Jack Pease)

L-R: Rob Child, Trish Hitchins, David Warwick, Hilary Child, Flick Warwick and John Riley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pos</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Rang</th>
<th>Faults</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wimborne Grandsire Doubles</td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Melksham Grandsire Doubles</td>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Dorchester Branch Plain Bob Doubles</td>
<td></td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Shaftesbury St Peter Reverse Canterbury Doubles</td>
<td></td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Wool Grandsire Doubles</td>
<td></td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>SDGR Young Ringers Call Changes</td>
<td></td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**8 Bell Competition:**

(All teams rang the set piece touch of Grandsire Triples)

David Warwick receiving the trophy from Guild President, Judith Williamson (both pictures: Jack Pease)

L-R: Gill Richards, Flick Warwick, John Riley, Katie Child, David Warwick, Trish Hitchins, Rob Child and Hilary Child
LEBRF – Guild Open Day

On a showery August Day (19 August) the towers of the Devizes Branch were open for visitors on our annual Guild Open Day to raise funds for the LEBRF. In all 28 rings of bells were available from one ring of five (in the Bath and Wells Association), through sixes and eights up to a ring of ten (Edington) and a ring of 12 (Trowbridge). There were around thirty people at the first tower (Longbridge Deverill) for the start at 9 a.m. and during the course of the day just over £700 was taken with the last tower (Westbury) closing at 7.20 p.m. (19 people signed the Westbury visitors book including Enid Roberts from Sydney Cathedral, thought to be the only lady to turn in the Westbury tenor to a Peal of Surprise Major). Many thanks to all who took part whether from outside the Guild (Yorkshire, Leicestershire, Worcestershire, Sussex, Essex, Bedfordshire, Hampshire and Kent amongst others) or from within our Guild, such as the group that came together from the West Dorset branch. Particular thanks are due to Peter Baker, the Chair of the LEBRF trustees, who organised the day so well and to all the ringers who turned out to open towers and otherwise assist.

Ringing for the departure of June Osborne as Dean of Salisbury

The Dean of Salisbury Cathedral (the Very Reverend June Osborne) – who is one of the Vice Patrons of our Guild – has left the cathedral to become the next Bishop of Llandaff. On behalf of the whole Guild our President has written to the Dean offering our congratulations and thanking her for her support of ringing in the diocese during her ministry at the cathedral:

“On behalf of the Guild may I pass on our congratulations on your appointment as Bishop of Llandaff. You have done an outstanding job at Salisbury and we will miss you. You have always been very supportive of the Guild when we have asked to use the Cathedral for special services, for which we have been very grateful as the Cathedral is the perfect place to hold a service for a special event. Llandaff Cathedral has 12 bells which were installed by Whitechapel in 1992 as an all new peal”.

Before her departure, at a service at the cathedral, one of our Vice Presidents, Ross Robertson, met the Dean and said to her that it might be possible to have as many Diocesan towers ringing on the day of her consecration as possible and she rather liked that idea! Her final service in the Cathedral was on Sunday 9th July and she was consecrated in Brecon Cathedral on Saturday 15th July.

On the afternoon of Sunday 9 July (a swelteringly hot afternoon) a brave band of eight tried for Peal at St Thomas’s Salisbury. Unfortunately the Peal attempt was not a success. Before the attempt Nigel Orchard as tower captain wrote the following to the Chapter Office:

“As bell ringers in the Diocese, we have been very pleased with the support given us by June Osborne in matters such as services for bell ringers at the cathedral. To congratulate her, to thank her and to wish her well in her new and demanding role, a band of ringers from the Salisbury Diocesan Guild will attempt to ring a peal on the bells of St. Thomas’s, Salisbury this Sunday, the day of her last service at the cathedral. The ringing will start at about 2.15 and last, if successful (peals can be tricky things and much can go wrong!) for about three and a quarter hours.”

Three Quarter Peals were rung to mark the Dean’s departure: on 11 July
Grandsire Doubles at Heddington, on 14 July Superlative Surprise Major at Gillingham and on 15 July Cambridge Surprise Minor at Shaftesbury (St Peter). A quarter peal was also attempted on 9 July at Bishops Cannings but unfortunately was not successful.

There was also the following ringing:
“The ringers at St Mary’s Lytchett Matravers will be ringing on Sunday 9th.”

“Please be advised that at Edington we will certainly be ringing at morning service on Sunday 9th July and June will be mentioned in our prayers”.

“Just to let you know on Sunday we rang at both St Margaret of Antioch, Corsley and Church of St Denys, Warminster to celebrate June Osborne’s appointment as the Bishop of Llandaff.”

Engagement with the Public

Recently the Central Council launched a consultation on “How does your association/ guild/ society involve the general public?” A number of Guild members responded to me with their ideas/ experiences. I have collated these and sent a response but I thought that other Guild members might also like to hear what others do. Below is a summary of the responses received. If you would like more information I am sure that the Guild members concerned would be more than willing to help – please contact them directly or I can put you in touch.

Viv Endecott (Lytchett Matravers)
- A bell slot on Songs of Praise.
- The BBC hobbyists that are shown before the News, e.g. Rainham Marshes birdwatchers, wheelchair rugby, Asian dancers etc to include bell ringers.
- NHS are trying out different leisure activities to help patients so how about ringing? It’s a gentle activity, engages the brain and a team sport! Maybe a special course could be put on for people with mental health problems.
- Ringing during Christmas Markets.
- Ringing during folk festivals.
- Taking a mini-ring to the Great Dorset Steam Fair.

Penelope Samuel (Bournemouth St John)
- Annual visit of Beavers when they can chime a bell and attempt to chime the tenor.
- Open Day for the Church & belfry which originated as just for the belfry but the idea grew to include all the church & all the groups who meet there.
- The bell ringers activities are written up for the parish magazine every issue.

Margaret Romano (Salisbury St Thomas)
St George’s Day Open day: Promotion: Local Radio/ Local paper/ website/ Posters displayed prominently on the day outside the church. In the Ringing Chamber:
- Short comment on our bells, their number, weights and age.
- Short explanation of full circle ringing using table top model of a suitable bell.
- Demo on ringing 6 bells, rounds, then call-changes into queens and back.
- One to one “have a go” tuition, just handling backstroke, up to 2 persons at a time, experienced ringer on the handstroke.
- Whilst individuals “having a go”, other ringers answering questions, explaining methods.

Laurie Turner
For several years Wimborne Minster hosted “Lifepath”, a week where 9 year old children from local schools came to the Minster for a day to learn about its function and how it works, as part of their RE syllabus. I was responsible for the organising of the belfry sessions for this event.

Janet Ranger (Dorchester Branch)
The Dorchester Branch is represented at the annual Dorset County Show. We are
lucky to have space at no charge in the Dorchester Benefice/Churches Together marquee. We have the Saxilby Simulator and a table top model with several guild members helping. Plus professional hand bell ringers. The sound of the bells does attract visitors to ‘have a go’.

Christopher Sykes (Mere Branch)
For some years, the Mere Branch held an annual Open Day at the ground floor ring of Stourton Church, which is within the NT Stourhead Estate. Inside the church, we have volunteers who ring and/or speak to members of the public and explain what is happening, CCTV showing the bells moving in the belfry, model bells, the CCCBR video running on a laptop and other ringing aids, posters and booklets. A couple of years ago, the Branch began to work closely with the National Trust at Stourhead. The advantage to the ringers has been that we have been included in the Stourhead Events Calendar, in NT advertising both on leaflets and the internet, all of which has attracted a greater number of visitors. We are very conscious that we have to provide a quality attraction for visitors. We have seen a large increase in visitors attending, partly due to a better choice of date and largely due to heavy promotion from the National Trust, including on the day.

Sally Jenkins (Swanage)
- As a way with engaging with the public at Swanage I used to write an article each month for the Church Magazine and also I put up the month’s ringing programme in the porch.
- Swanage has its own Facebook page and 24hrs before any extra QP or special ringing I would put a post up about it. This always elicited many ‘likes’ and positive comments even to the extent of some coming to sit in the churchyard to listen.
- We also used to open the tower every year for the Parish Fete for people to ‘have a go’.

Marion Molden (Corsley)

Our Church Fayre is held every year and gets good attendance. We have had an appeal going for refurbishing the bells and have had amazing support both from the village and the church. We decided to run a bric-a-brac stall and throughout the afternoon rang the bells for 15 minutes every hour. Several ringers from other towers came during the afternoon to ring which gave us the opportunity to ring a variety of things. From the feedback I have had it was an enjoyable experience both from those visiting and those who manned the various stands.

Gillian Richards (ringer at Wimborne and Canford)
Our local museum, the Priest's House Museum in Wimborne had an evening of consultation with its ‘Friends’ concerning a further lottery funding bid. One of the areas they were addressing was contacting a wider audience, making people realise that the museum is not just focused on the town of Wimborne and making the museum more accessible. We were asked to think of any displays etc. which might help with this. I suggested a feature on bell ringing as a way of involving the local villages as they could be approached for artefacts, stories, etc. The museum responded positively.

Ross Robertson celebrates reaching ‘a certain age’
From Ross Robertson: you may remember me as the Guild’s most recent Past President! I celebrated my 80th birthday on 25th July, which is also St James’ Day. When my family decided to join me on the 23rd for a premature celebration it seemed a good idea to mark both the start of the 150th
anniversary celebrations of the rebuilding of St James, Shaftesbury and my birthday. So on the morning of the 23rd me and five members of my family (pictured in ringing order top left) arranged to ring a Quarter Peal on the bells of St James to mark the occasion: 1260 Plain Bob Doubles in 45 minutes:

*1 Lucy Robertson (granddaughter)
2 Simon Robertson (son)
3 Ross Robertson (C)
4 Barnaby Larter (grandson)
5 Clare Larter (daughter)
6 Philip Larter (son-in-law)

*First quarter peal. Incidentally, Bishop Nicholas, our Guild Patron, was keen to ring the following morning on his visit to the church and joined in with the St James band wearing his purple cassock, adding an unusual touch of colour and dignity to the ringing chamber.

On 26th July a peal of Surprise Minor was rung to celebrate my birthday at Tollard Royal, one of the ten churches in the Chase Benefice where I used to minister as a Lay Reader and took services regularly. Afterwards the band joined me, my wife Sheila and Chris Purnell to enjoy lunch together at Compton Abbas Airfield (picture right above: me, Judith Williamson, Chris Jenkins, Robert Wellen, David Hacker, Tim Collins, Chris and Bob Purnell.)

On 12 August a Peal of 5090 Lincolnshire Surprise Major was rung at North Bradley in honour of local ringer and distinguished Peal ringer himself, Fred Slatford, a Vice President of the Salisbury DG. Fred and his wife and son joined the band before the peal for his 90th birthday on 26 August. Pictured above: LtoR: Robert Perry, Mrs Slatford, Nicki Lang, David Hacker, Fred Slatford, Robert Wellen, Judith Williamson, Julian Ferrar, Julian Hemper and Christopher Jenkins.

Later Fred wrote: “Will you please express my thanks to all the ringers who rang the peal at North Bradley to mark my 90th birthday. I hope they enjoyed the bells, as I enjoyed listening. It brought back a lot of thoughts. My only wish I am not fit enough to take part. My family have been members of the church for some 400 years, ringers for at least 100 years (father, great grandfather and back), sadly I was the last. I did ring 49 peals here over the years many with the Hitchin brothers. Thank you again for your efforts.”

Young Ringers

**Guild Young Ringers ‘Get Steamed up’ a report by Lewis Hurry**

Guild Young Ringers Day (23 August): It was a bit grey and chilly when the minibus picked us up at Bere Regis, but by the time we reached our first tower at Worth Matravers, the sun had come out. There were nine of us, from 10 to 17 years old, and several older helpers on the outing. It was quite a long walk down the hill to the church, and the wind was a bit cold. We started with rounds and call changes, and although the bells are quite light, some of the young ringers found them to be a bit of a handful. The ringing chamber was quite small, but there was a balcony overlooking the church where those not ringing could sit and play games on their phones! We all had several good rings there, including Plain Hunt, Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles.

Having rung down, we climbed back up the hill to the bus for the short journey to Corfe Castle. We all got off there, but Christopher Sykes, our driver had to take the bus to a different car park some
way away. We had some good ringing, the heavier bells seeming to go better than Worth Matravers. While we were there, we had to have someone standing in the doorway in case any visitors tried to go on up and into the belfry amongst the bells which apparently sometimes happens. Christopher arrived back from parking the bus just in time to call some call changes before we had to lower the bells.

The sun was really hot, though there was still a bit of a wind. Most of us went to the picnic area at the station for our lunch. While we were there, a diesel train stopped. The engine was very loud, and made conversation very difficult. Then a steam train came in from the other direction, and we all went onto the platform to watch it and photograph it. It gave us a toot as it left.

... the young ringers now standing (and lying) at platform two are for Swanage..

A little later our own steam train came and we got on board for our journey to Swanage. Although we had reserved seats, most of us spent the time leaning out of the windows and waving at the campers in the fields. The train was quite slow, and we were quite near the back so we didn’t get much smoke in our eyes.

We had an hour and a half free time in Swanage, and although I believe someone was brave enough to go into the sea, everyone else spent their time doing other things. I had planned to go to the putting course, but saw the funfair on the way and spent my time and lots of Grandad’s money there instead. Thanks Grandad!

We had been told that the church was opposite the station, and right at the top of a steep hill we could see a steeple. So up the hill we went. When we got there, we found it wasn’t the right tower, so we had to go back down to near the bottom again. The eight bells at Swanage were the heaviest of the day, but were very nice to ring. Rounds and call changes on the eight was followed by plain hunt on seven. Then some of us more experienced young ringers let the adults join us to ring Plain Bob Triples and Grandsire Triples.

Back at the station, we saw the steam train arrive and watched as the engine was uncoupled and taken to the other end of the train for the return journey. Then it was all aboard for the run back past Corfe Castle to Norden where the mini-bus was parked.

Our last tower was at Wool. We had a short tour of Wool while trying to find the church, and then found that there was nowhere to park the mini-bus. So we all got off and left Christopher to try and turn the bus in the narrow lane and go off to find somewhere to park it. The ringing chamber is quite small and tucked away behind the organ with a little narrow gap to get in and out. Everyone had a good ring, though the tenor was a bit of a handful. Rounds, call changes, plain hunt and plain bob were successfully rung before we let the adults have a go at Stedman and Cambridge. A nice smooth lower (to make up for the untidy raise) ended the day.

Our thanks to all the adults for their help and patience, and to Robert for organising a very enjoyable and unusual day out, with lots of varied ringing and activities. Thanks to all the towers for letting us borrow their bells, and finally, a special thanks to Christopher who drove us around, but spent more time
It has been a busy summer! On Saturday 19th August we enjoyed a mini outing to the Dorchester area (picture above), ringing at Martinstown (6), Bradford Peverell (8) and Charminster (10). We rang Call Changes, Plain Hunt and several Doubles methods. Some of the young ringers rang on 10 bells for the very first time and at Bradford Peverell Call Changes were rung by a band in which everyone was in their teens (or younger!). We would like to thank Robert Wellen for joining us and those who allowed us to ring their bells.

The final activity of the summer was taking part in the Guild 6–bell Striking Competitions (see page 4 above). The novice (Rounds) band was made up entirely of East Dorset Branch young ringers – including one who had never rung away from his home tower before (and who hadn’t even met the others before the day!). The Call Changes band (pictured opposite) (ringing in the main competition) comprised three East Dorset ringers, one from Dorchester, one from West Dorset and one from Devizes. As they hadn’t had a chance to practise together beforehand, we met at Motcombe en-route for a run-through. Everyone gained a lot from the experience of taking part and, as one of them remarked, “we were able to hold our own amongst the oldies!” (thanks for that…) Many thanks also to the parents and grandparents who provided transport on the day (it’s quite a long way from Swanage to Zeals!) It now looks like the Salisbury Guild has a good chance of being able to put together a team to ring in the National Youth Competition in London next summer.

Young Ringers go Ten Pin Bowling in West Dorset

From Sue Carter (WD Branch Training Officer):

The Young Ringers as well as chauffeurs and helpers met at Martinstown on Saturday 15th July and rang on these lovely bells for 45 minutes. Annabel rang a tenor for the first time and we also rang call changes and Plain Bob Minor. Then we moved west to Abbotsbury which were a little more challenging partly due to ‘stiff clappers’! Here we rang Plain Bob Doubles and more call changes.

Further west still and to Freshwater Holiday Park near Bridport where two teams competed against each other with two games of Ten Pin Bowling. Lewis’s
team won, just! After a meal a Freshwater some of us continued on to the WD Branch practice at Shipton Gorge. Thank you to Roger for arranging a successful outing and to Jill, Andy and Robin who augmented the band.

Judith, our President, with Young Ringers at Tollard Royal

Education

From David Hacker, Guild Education Officer:

It is most unusual for us to be concerned over not spending enough money but that is exactly where we find ourselves with the training grants which are available to assist members with expenses towards training. As you will be aware the Guild sets aside an amount of money each year at the AGM for Branch Committees to request either on behalf of individual members or as a Branch and this currently amounts to £0.50 per member of each branch. Unfortunately in recent years this money has not been taken up, last year we paid out nothing at all and this year we have only paid out £35 to date when there were totals of £725 last year and £748 this year available. In view of this situation we are suggesting a change to the way we administer these grants and to make the amount available the same for each member irrespective of whether they are from a large or small branch. We are proposing the amount put into the pot each year should remain about the same as it currently is and this should be agreed as now by the Guild AGM. The claim for assistance would be made as at present through your Branch Committee (either by an individual member, a tower band or even by the committee itself) would be passed to a small Guild subcommittee which would decide on the award. We hope by going down this route we will be able to make more meaningful grants to members. Please talk this over with your band, make sure it is discussed at a Branch meeting and ask your representative on the Guild Executive Committee to bring your views back to the Executive Committee in February when we will decide if we are going to take this further and propose a change to the present system at the next Guild AGM.

It is very encouraging to see so many towers holding open days as well as talks being given by experienced members to various groups where the aim is to make the public more aware of bells and ringing and hopefully gain a few recruits. It might be helpful for anyone considering undertaking this type of event to look at the new online recruitment area recently set up by The Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) at http://ringingteachers.org/resource-centre/recruitment-and-retention. There are numerous ideas to help with the organising of recruitment drives and several items which can be downloaded and personalised to suit your local event, there is a link to this website on our Guild website in the recruitment section of the training area.

We are all being encouraged to recruit as many new learners as possible but in many cases we struggle to teach our new novices to a good standard and to retain them long term. Learning to ring as you well know is not a short term activity, it takes many lessons to pass on the basics to a new recruit and then a lot more practice sessions generally with more competent ringers for the new ringer to become confident. Then there is a new language to learn. Is it any wonder the retention rate of new learners is relatively poor. Besides this we struggle to find enough ringers who feel competent to teach new recruits. I
spent a couple of hours on a Sunday in August with the ringers from Southbroom, Devizes, at their recruitment event and they had a terrific amount of interest with many people partaking of a short one to one taster session, all those who showed an interest were asked to complete a short personal details form in order that they could be contacted and teaching sessions arranged.

One way we can make sure we have sufficient teachers is to encourage more members to become involved with ART and to attend a day course for tips on teaching the basics to new recruits. By attending an ART day course they are given access to the ART resources and enable them to register their learners who will then also be able to access the website and have access to various resources and ringing related items. I would ask you to consider the ART syllabus, of which more information is given in the flyer, as a means of successfully training new recruits. More information can be obtained from me at guild.education@sdgr.org.uk or from Alan Bentley on 01202 824197.

We are holding a listening course at Edington Ringing Centre on Saturday 18th November which is open to all members, if you find it difficult to hear your bell, you wish to improve your striking, you struggle to know if your bell is odd struck then this course is for you. Details and the application form are on the Guild website or see the notice opposite. Furthermore another date for your diaries is the Guild Training Day on Saturday 7th April 2018, further details and how to apply in the next issue of Face to Face.

Finally may I remind you all we are approaching the end of the year and will be seeking nominations for the Ringer of the Year Awards. More details and nomination forms can be found on the Guild website under the Guild heading in the Awards section. The closing date for nominations will be 28th February 2018.

Listening Skills Course

Saturday 18th November 2017
10-00 am to 4-30 pm
Edington Ringing Centre

Course tutor: Christopher Jenkins, Devizes Branch Ringing Master

Tips and advice on:
- Listening to your bell
- Improving your striking
- What is an odd struck bell?
- and more

Tea, coffee and biscuits provided, bring your own lunch

Further information is available from the Guild Education Officer at guild.education@sdgr.org.uk 01225 791821

Application forms are available from the Guild website: www.sdgr.org.uk or above
From Chris Mew, Safeguarding Adviser to CCCBR Tower Stewardship:

The last article regarding Safeguarding dwelt upon some of the processes being followed by the Church of England including responses to allegations. There were new issues arising from requirements for training and these have, to some extent, become clearer.

Regarding the York Minster situation, ringers will be aware of the appointment of a new Head of Tower, Angela Mitchell, reported in the RW issue of 16th June, p598. Subsequently the Minster has sought applications for a new band of ringers and has held interviews and made appointments, a definitive list being awaited. There remain issues over exclusions from the new team and the reasons for these decisions. The question of fair representation has been raised with the Church and it is ironic that earlier this year a new protocol for dealing with allegations against Clergy has given them greater rights of hearing. It is hoped that such machinery will be extended to lay persons who appear at present to be at a disadvantage.

There have been concerns raised about the extent and level of Safeguarding Training which is being demanded, not only amongst ringers but also involving other volunteers within the Church. The intention of the training guidance issued in January 2017 was to cover clergy, church officers and those having close contact with children or vulnerable adults where DBS checks were already required. However, under the guise of parishes having “due regard”, training is being extended to most volunteers whether flower arrangers or coffee servers. There is evidence that parishes are questioning this level of requirement but as far as both leaders and “rank and file” ringers (the church description), the current expectation by Church centre is as shown in the following table [on page 14].

I have made no reference so far to “vulnerable adults” since this category is a contentious matter. There appears to be a difference between legal requirements as defined under the 2012 Protection of Freedoms Act and the latest definition issued by the Church which is as follows:

“a person aged 18 or over whose ability to protect himself or herself from violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation is significantly impaired through physical or mental disability or illness, old age, emotional fragility or distress, or otherwise; and for that purpose, the reference to being impaired is being temporarily or indefinitely impaired”

Following the 2012 Act, the definition of vulnerable adult was restricted to those in institutional or social care situations and I have not come across any instances of bell ringing being involved with training or supervising adults on behalf of such agencies.

In some Dioceses training modules are available on-line and whilst this does remove time attending lectures it does remove the opportunity for exchange of experience and views. There have been moves for training to be given on a delegated basis from the Diocese and possibly available to be given by fellow bell -ringers. This concession does mean that the circumstances peculiar to ringers can be accommodated within presentations thus improving the relevance of the information provided.

Another ongoing concern is that of treatment of visiting ringers and demands, whether by Parish or encouraged by Diocese, to seek “vetting” of visitors. Visitors may come to a tower as individuals or as a group as part of an outing or for a peal / quarter peal attempt. In the normal course of events none of these visitors...
are engaged in a regulated activity and there is no need for any confirmation of “DBS check” credit-worthiness. If a group includes juniors then the requirement for a DBS checked driver and permission from parent or guardian should have already been met as per CCCBR guidelines.

In the instance of a meeting or training session organised by the local ringing society, whilst it might be a one-off situation it is recommended that a DBS checked person be in charge or present. Training sessions might of course be of a regular nature and frequency triggering regulated activity needs. An individual “visitor” attending specifically to assist with teaching of young people should be DBS certified.

Finally, there is the question of treatment of persons who are either ex-offenders or have restriction orders placed upon them. Unless such persons have a specific barring from being in the presence of young people, then there is no reason why they should not join in ringing in an adult or mixed age activity provided they are not undertaking face to face training. The ability for tower leaders, let alone church authorities, to check the status of every ringer who visits a tower would imply either identity cards held by every one of 40,000 ringers or a doorstep interrogation which is totally unacceptable. There have been instances of ringers being refused visits even where restrictions are being complied with. The whole issue is very difficult to resolve since it relies upon the knowledge and discretion tower leaders being accepted and supported by local Parish authority.

I have had meetings with Church House, the lead Bishop for Safeguarding and my local Diocese and concerns and uncertainties relating to bell ringers and others have been raised. The Guidance documents issued by the Church are all subject to review and I will keep in mind the need to achieve good understanding with ringers and will update through the Ringing World as appropriate.

In the mean-time, I would reiterate my message given in March that as church workers we need to maintain good relationships and recognise our role in the field of Safeguarding.

(Further letters and responses have been published in subsequent editions of The Ringing World)
Safeguarding (and Health and Safety) Seminars

From Alan Bentley, Robert Wellen and Anthony Lovell-Wood:

Two seminars have been held on Safeguarding and Health and Safety. The first at Market Lavington (pictured above) on 22 July. The second was held at Fordington on 30 September. Over the two approximately eighty members have attended. Anthony Lovell-Wood (Safeguarding) and David Close (Health & Safety) made the presentations. The safeguarding session comprised the Church of England (Salisbury Diocese) C1, Foundation Module: in a ringing context this is provided for volunteers working with children, young people or adults who may be at risk (all attendees had been asked to complete the on-line C0 course beforehand). At the conclusion of the course all attendees were presented with a certificate of C1 course completion.

The Guild has an H&S policy available to see in the latest Guild Report and on the website. The purpose of this session was to explain the application of this policy and how to prepare and apply a risk assessment.

Further seminars will be held in 2018, perhaps with a different format and probably with some changes in personnel, so if you have not yet attended please do so.

Diocesan website for Safeguarding is:
www.salisbury.anglican.org/parishes/safeguarding

The C0 course:
https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/

Recruitment and Retention Ideas ...

If you have anything to share with fellow ringers on recruitment and retention – what has worked in your tower – and what had not – please send these ideas to f2f@sdgr.org.uk for inclusion in Face to Face. To start the ball rolling here are some ideas from Jillian Wilson, a ringer at Winterborne Kingston and surrounding churches. In similar vein – put out old read copies of Face to Face in the body of the church for non-ringers to read.

How about putting a slip of paper into the order of service at weddings inviting people to become ringers giving details on how to contact someone who could put them in touch with ringing in their location, the same could be done at christenings. Also how about a notice in the church advertising the ringers to be placed somewhere near the book that visitors sign, again with contact information. Before becoming a ringer when out walking if my husband and I ever went into look at a church we would always sign the visitor’s book and we would then have seen the notice. Vicars could also be asked to give information out to the congregation although they may already do this.

Calne Branch News

From Jane Ridgwell:

July, August and September seem to have passed in a flash in the Calne Branch. Unfortunately, we cancelled our Branch Striking competition due to lack of entries, however we did have an enjoyable visit to Lyneham instead. We have also visited Yatesbury, Broad Hinton and Compton Bassett, all towers without Guild members. Yatesbury and Compton Bassett do not have any local ringers at all and are dependent on the Calne Branch helping out on occasions when ringing is required for weddings or special service. We are only allowed to ring for one hour at Compton Bassett when we visit, so we combined our visit there with a Games Evening in the village hall. We played a variety of games – including cards and scrabble as well as working on a jigsaw puzzle – all accompanied by copious refreshments.

During the summer we have had some new trainees in the Branch – 3 of them (well) under 15. It is satisfying to report
that Heddington, where the band was down to 3 ringers a few years ago, now have 9 members, with the 3 most recent trainees just about ready to progress to Sunday service ringing. The new recruits have reduced the average age of the band considerably. It is also good to report that two of the junior members, who are learning at Avebury, have brought a lapsed ringing father with them! A continuation of a ringing dynasty as their Grandfather is also a ringer. Congratulations to Linda Drummond-Harris who has completed her assessment to become a full member of the Association of Ringing Teachers.

Our training mornings have started again at Avebury for the autumn with the September session being focused on Single Oxford and Little Bob Minor and the October sessions covering Kent and Oxford Treble Bob.

Our Calne Branch Bell Restoration 200 Club has now sold 59 shares and in the first 5 draws it has paid out £310 in prize money. Anyone over the age of 16 can join and it only costs £2.50/month per share. For more information email: calnearchbr200club@gmx.com

We are looking forward to our turn to host the Guild Festival and AGM in May, when the Guild will be visiting Bromham. We have plans to make it a great day so come along to beautiful North Wiltshire.

**Devizes Branch News**

*From Julia Russell:*

**Branch Coach Outing – 3 June 2017**

On Saturday 3 June, members of the Devizes Branch plus guests from our neighbouring Branches, travelled via executive coach down the M5 towards Taunton. The weather was bright and sunny when we made our first stop at the Minster Church of St Mary the Virgin, North Petherton, 6 bells 19cwt in Eb. We arrived early which meant we had lots of time to enjoy morning coffee and cake which was being served in the church. It also built up our stamina to ring these rather challenging bells which were all cast by Mears & Stainbank in 1895 and overhauled by Nicholsons in 2006. The Minster Church has a highly decorated tower which was built around 1508 and, at 120ft (37m) high, has been described as one of the finest towers in the county of Somerset.

We then drove into Taunton to ring at our second tower, St Mary Magdalene, 12 bells 27-2-18 cwt in D. This is a completely new ring of 12 cast by Taylors of Loughborough in 2016, installed late 2016/early 2017 and dedicated on 19 March 2017. They are the result of a Taunton Community Project which raised over £300,000 for the installation of new carillon equipment, the recasting of the 15 bells (three for the carillon), the installation work as well as new fittings and building work inside the tower. We all enjoyed ringing these lovely bells.

Following a break for lunch, we took a short walk via Vivary Park to our third tower, St George’s Wilton, 10 bells 8-1-18 in G, which are rung from a balcony. This was originally an 8 bell tower which was augmented to 10 in 1981 with the addition of two new trebles cast by the Whitechapel Foundry. The ropes fall very close together so it is a rather cosy experience!

As we left the tower, black clouds were gathering and rain appeared imminent, however we managed to drive out of Taunton and leave them behind. Our fourth tower was St Peter & St Paul, Bishop’s Hull, 6 bells 10-0-21 in F#. We
all agreed these ground floor bells were lovely to ring and sounded good too! Unfortunately the rain caught up with us and we had to take shelter in the Church, however it had cleared by the time we got back on the coach and the sun shone again when we reached our fifth and final tower, St Mary & St Andrew Pitminster, 8 bells 11-0-26 in E. These ground floor bells were overhauled in 1978 by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry and were an enjoyable ring.

Feeling very tired and hungry we set off for Whitstone’s Fish & Chip Restaurant in Shepton Mallet where the majority of us enjoyed a very welcome supper, and the minority enjoyed a very welcome pint or two at the nearby hostelry. We all agreed we’d had a very enjoyable day ringing some wonderful bells with good friends. Many thanks to Bob Purnell for organising the towers and the ringing schedule and to Julia Russell for organising the coach, the finances and the supper! We’re already looking forward to next year’s Outing to Exeter.

Branch Rounds Competition – 8 July 2017

On the morning of Saturday 8 July, seven teams took part in the Branch Rounds Competition which was held on the front six bells at Edington. Each team had the opportunity for a practice prior to their test piece of ringing rounds for four minutes. Whilst waiting their turn, teams were able to socialise and partake of refreshments and delicious cakes in the Church or sit outside in the sunshine listening to the ringing.

After quite a competitive ‘battle of the rounds’, our two Judges, Chris Jenkins and Julian Ferrar, made a number of general comments about the overall performance before announcing the results. Comments included the following:-
  • Generally the best ringing was during the middle of the four minute test piece (when nerves had settled down) and was not as good towards the end of the piece as ringers either became tired or started to lose concentration;
  • All teams had very good treble and tenor ringers;
  • Some teams did not make the most of their practice time.

We were delighted that the Corsley band, which included three ringers with under 2 years experience, were announced as winners with only 12.75 ringing faults, which was an excellent performance. The winning team is pictured above LtoR: Liz Attenborough, Mariella O’Brien, Mike Attenborough, Maz Moldon, Ed Henderson and Peter Baker.

Many thanks to Bob and Christine Purnell for organising the competition and to all those who took part on the day. We look forward to seeing some new teams coming forward to battle it out in 2018!

Additional New Member in 2016

The last edition of F2F listed the new members for 2016, unfortunately José Chesher, new member at Market Lavington in 2016, was omitted from the list, although her husband, Barrie, was included. They are both experienced ringers who moved to Market Lavington from Ashford in Kent.

Bob Hill – 80th Birthday Celebrations

Bob Hill, a member of the Rowde Team, celebrated his 80th Birthday on 25 July 2017. The ‘celebratory’ picture was taken at the practice at St John’s Devizes where Bob is a regular attendee.
We were all delighted to celebrate his special Birthday and very much enjoyed his wonderful Birthday cake!

And moving swiftly on ....

Swifts at Holy Trinity in Bradford on Avon have been causing a lot of interest lately after the installation of swift boxes in the tower by Roger Becket and Peter Grayshon of the Bradford on Avon Swift Group. From one of the people on the Swift Group:

When I was walking past Holy Trinity at 8am this morning there was a large party of screaming Swifts (presumably youngsters) flying round the tower. They were repeatedly flying up to the window where the nest boxes are and the calls were playing and then shearing off but then I saw several land briefly and peer in and finally one actually entered and didn’t re-emerge while I was watching.

Later in the morning after the calls had stopped I walked past again and the birds were still flying around but this time showing interest in all the windows and landing briefly on the one facing Church Road. This seems very good news so soon after the boxes have been installed and seems to show they feel the Church is a good place to nest. Now what we need is a camera...”

After the installation of the swift boxes the Swift Group and Nick Upton the wildlife photographer visited Bradford on Avon, Holy Trinity again, this time with a reporter from BBC Wilts Radio.

Dorchester Branch News

From Len Roberts (Mere Branch):

Abbotsbury Ringers Away Day

Pictured at Bourton: the Abbotsbury ringers together with Guild President Judith Williamson and other local ringers

Four probationary members of Abbotsbury tower, together with their tutor Mr Frank Attrill, travelled to Bourton in North Dorset on Saturday 14th October at the invitation of the Tower Captain Mrs Jenny Lucas to
practise with other local members of the Mere Branch. Frank was Tower Captain at Bourton prior to his move to Abbotsbury.

The Abbotsbury ringers, after a well deserved pub lunch at Zeals, then travelled to Buckland Newton for the Dorchester Branch AGM where they were elected as Full Members of the Guild.

Branch AGM 2017 at Buckland Newton

From Andrea Jacob:

The Annual General Meeting of the Dorchester Branch was held on 14th October at Buckland Newton and it was lovely to see so many ringers in attendance. Following the service led by Reverend Jonathan Gill a delicious tea was provided in the village hall.

During the meeting which followed many new members were elected including Frank Atrill of Abbotsbury together with four new learners from that tower, all of whom attended the meeting. Two ringers from St Peters, one from Long Bredy and three from Litton Cheney were also accepted as members.

Wayne Hughes no longer wished to stand as Ringing Master and Robin Mears of Puddletown has now taken over this role. Many thanks to Wayne for his hard work in this role over the last few years. Additionally Claire Dillistone stepped down after many years of dedicated commitment from the role of Branch Secretary. Tony Fisher of Wyke Regis has now taken on this position. Claire has however taken over the role of Publicity Offer from myself (I think I have held this role for over twenty years so a change is well overdue). Save for these changes, the Committee remains as last year.

Hampreston and friends conquer Winchester Cathedral

After the successful date touch I conducted on the back 8 bells of the Cathedral in November 2016, we were invited back to ring for Evensong sometime during Summer 2017. I thought it would be better to open it up as a sort of "Branch Practice" rather than to attempt another quarter peal; to open it up to some of the less experienced members of the branch to experience ringing at a Cathedral, whilst assisted by more experienced ringers.

Winchester Cathedral, one of the largest Cathedrals in Europe, has the only true ring of 14 bells in the world hung for change ringing. Cast as a glorious heavy 12 in 1937 with the tenor weighing a hefty 36 hundredweight (1.8 tonnes), they were augmented to 14 in 1992. They are a very fine ring of bells that are easy to ring and sound excellent. As is typical with the larger churches and Cathedrals, the access to the ringing room is not simple - at Winchester, it involves three staircases totalling about 130 steps, and a walk along the longest Nave in Europe.

The bells at Winchester Cathedral (picture: Jack Pease)

Learners from the two Lytchett towers and Sacred Heart were supported by ringers from Wimborne, Hampreston and Brockenhurst; despite a number of late dropouts, we managed some respectable ringing on the 12 and 14, as well as
some method ringing on the back ten and back eight.

**Peal success at Sturminster Marshall**

Back in January 2017, I formed a plan to ring a half muffled peal on the bells to mark 20 years since the death of Diana, Princess of Wales to be rung by the local quarter peal group and friends which Ed Warren and I helped start up back in December 2014. I decided to go for 20 methods and variations to mark 20 years since her death. The plan was accepted by the group and was received well by both the ringers and local residents. I was to conduct it, having also conducted the only other peal rung by the local group, rung here in October 2015, as well as the vast majority of the 40 quarter peals the group has rung together. We set about practicing for it, ringing one quarter peal a month (and quite often more!) with increasing numbers of methods and variations, culminating in a quarter peal rung ten days before on Hampreston Quarter Peal Day, comprising all ten variations we were going to ring in the peal. It went beautifully and so there was nothing more left to do, other than on the night before, go down and half muffle the bells.

On the morning of August 31st, all six of us, made up of five East Dorset members and a new member to our Hampreston Quarter Peal Days, Mick Howes from Somerset, arrived just before 9.15am ready to start. With the bells already up from the previous day's preparation, we started off promptly just after 9.30am. We were all a bit nervous, but the beautiful sounds of this sonorous heavy six soon relaxed us. The striking was good, with very few mistakes, and after exactly 3 hours, I said "that's all" much to the relief of everyone.

After lowering the bells, we all went to the pub to celebrate our achievement. We had numerous firsts in the band; the main one being first peal at first attempt for Stella Warren, who rang the treble and made an absolutely fantastic job of it. Mick Howes, who rang the tenor, achieved only his second peal. Ed Warren and I achieved our "most Doubles" to a peal, additionally it was my most Doubles as conductor.

It was well received by both local ringers and residents of the village, several of whom commented on how beautiful it sounded. A superb achievement all round, and one that I am very proud to have been able to organise and conduct, and I'd therefore like to thank the band for persevering and ringing it with me.

*From Robert Wellen:*

**Shroton bells re-dedicated**

At a wonderfully joyful service on Friday 25 August the restored ring of six bells in the Dorset village of Shroton were rededicated to God by the Bishop of Sherborne, the Right Reverend Karen Gorham. The local community came together to celebrate the culmination of a project to have the bells rehung and the tenor recast. The inscription on the recast tenor bell refers to two former tower captains, John Houghton and George Dennis. Before the service and after the bells were rung by the local benefice ringers and visitors, including the Guild President, Master and Secretary. The culmination of the service was when the Bishop entered the ringing chamber and rededicated the bells (all six ropes tied together with a red ribbon), after which the bells were rung by the local band as the congregation sang Unchanging God.
project. Due praise was also given to Taylors who had undertaken the work with Simon Adams, a Director, being present. Afterwards everyone enjoyed refreshments and watching the bells in action on the CCTV. A first quarter peal by a local band has been rung as has a first peal.

**Marlborough Branch News**

*From Robert Wellen:*

**Savernake bells re-dedicated**

At a parish service of Morning Prayer on Sunday 17 September, the restored ring of five bells at Savernake were re-dedicated to the service of God by the Right Reverend Dr Edward Condry, the Bishop of Ramsbury. The bells were rung before the service by local ringers who were joined by the Guild President and Master. The bells had been rehung by Whites of Appleton. Sound control has not yet been installed so calling is still quite a challenge but the bells go beautifully. As the bells are rung from an upstairs ringing chamber, the Bishop rededicated the bells from the chancel steps and before the congregation whilst the bells were rung and could be heard throughout the church. The Bishop and his wife joined the ringers in the ringing chamber after the service and during open ringing and refreshments. Well done to all involved in the restoration project and especially Diana Mortlock, the tower captain.

*From Dorothy Blythe:*

**Meeting at Great Bedwyn and HLM presentation to Chris Barnes**

On 15 July at a Branch Business Meeting at Great Bedwyn, Chris Barnes received his HLM Certificate from the Guild Master (pictured below).

(Chris learned to ring in 1964 at Aldbourne and has been a member of the Guild since 1966, he also rang regularly at Chiseldon. He was Branch Secretary and Treasurer, when it was a combined post, from 1971 to 1976 and from 1982 to 1987. He has been a ringer at Aldbourne for 52 years, was the Tower Correspondent for 10 years and has been the steeple keeper, probably for at least 40 years. He is very well known and greatly valued in the Branch, always ready to help out at any tower. He now mostly rings the tenor at Aldbourne.) Further good news at that
meeting as a large number of new members were elected and we welcomed Little Bedwyn as an affiliated tower.

**Best wishes to Allan Keen**

Allan Keen has had a fall in the house and fractured two cervical vertebrae, he has been very fortunate not to have permanent nerve damage, is still in hospital but making good progress. We send him good wishes for his recovery.

**Mere Branch News**

*From Robert Wellen:*

**Buckhorn Weston bell restoration fund launched**

On Sunday 10 September the village church of St John the Baptist, Buckhorn Weston was packed with villagers for the official launch of the restoration appeal for the bells. The bells stopped being rung sometime in the mid 1970s and became classified as unringable. In 2009 a renovation appeal was launched for the church fabric (roof, windows, internal painting etc.) after which, as stage 4, came the restoration of the bells. It is this final stage of fundraising that was launched on Sunday. Some preliminary restoration work (Matthew Higby and Julian Ferrar) had made the bells ringable (but not easy!) and there was a session of open ringing to precede a quarter peal. The campaign is being spearheaded by church Treasurer Pat Read who wrote afterwards: “Thank you so much for your support with this event. With donations received beforehand and today’s monies we have a total of £2753.33 which is a brilliant result. I can’t thank you enough for turning out today on what was not the nicest of days. This will boost the bells restoration fund and get us off to a flying start.”

Ringing on the bells will be restricted until after the full restoration. Plans have already been made to recruit villagers to ring the bells and expressions of interest were received on Sunday.

*From Michael Williams:*

**Branch Striking Competition**

This year’s branch competition was held on 23 September following our Quarterly Meeting at Silton, at St Nicholas’s. This is a charming country church with lovely views and we luckily had very good weather that day to appreciate them. Of the two teams who competed, the Gillingham & Kington Magna team came first and won the shield with Sturminster Newton (assisted by Keith from Marnhull) coming second. We are very grateful for Tim Rose and Sas Watson for coming up to Silton to judge the contest for us.

![The winning team of five ringers from Gillingham who were joined by Tim Cox of Kington Magna: LtoR - Wendy Horne, Tim Cox, Robert Wellen, David Lewis, Esme Dunn and Alan Jeffs.](image)

*From Mary Melbourne:*

**Presentation of Honorary Life Membership to Robert Plaskett at Downton - 8th October 2017**

Sometimes, it is possible to find an individual who has moved back to the village where they were born to enjoy their retirement. However, Bob Plaskett can lay claim to the fact that not only is he enjoying retirement in the village where he was born – Downton – but has lived there and worshipped at St. Laurence’s Church all his life as well.
On Sunday 8th October, some 20 ringers from Downton and the local towers joined Bob in the tower for ringing prior to the Service of Holy Communion.

Bob, with the Guild President and Master and ringing friends from Downton and other towers in the Salisbury Branch.

The service began with a welcome by the Rev Frank Gimson to all those present including the Guild Master Robert Wellen, the Guild President Judith Williamson, the ringers and to Bob’s family with him. The Rev Gimson also acknowledged the role and dedication of the bell ringers who turn out Sunday by Sunday and their role in the life of the church. During the service Robert, having given a brief resume of Bob’s ringing history presented him with his Honorary Life Membership certificate. Bob’s wife, Marlene, was also presented with a bouquet of flowers in thanks for her support of Bob’s ringing exploits over many years.

Bob first learnt to ring at the age of 14 in 1956. From the time he learnt to ring, Bob has regularly supported ringing at Downton. Since becoming Tower Captain in 2005 he has faithfully encouraged ringing for weddings, festivals and other occasions as well as ensuring the ringing of the bells Sunday by Sunday. He has not only faithfully served Downton but has always been ready and willing to help out at other Towers both locally and further afield. As well as teaching ringers at Downton, he has helped teach and develop a band of ringers at Breamore, often helping with ringing for weddings and supporting the recent bell restoration there.

Without Bob’s dedication and commitment, the bells at Downton could have fallen silent since 2000 when a number of ringers left the Tower. He took over the reins and has slowly built up a local band of ringers. It is a tribute to him that last year a local band was able to ring a Quarter Peal to celebrate his 60 years of ringing and devotion to Downton Church and the service of ringing.

West Dorset Branch News

From Sylvia Fowler:

One for the Ladies

West Dorset Branch held their Striking Competition at Leigh this year. Seven teams entered, including Young Ringers. Following the ringing we had a BBQ at the village hall ending a most successful afternoon.
Will Haydock, who judged the event, presenting the winner’s certificate to Sue Carter captain of the Ladies Team who won the event.

Odd bells out..

From Roger Read:

Old West Dorset Ringing Terms

They are a funny lot in West Dorset .. and here’s the proof, (a fuller dictionary of terms is available!) Roger writes:

“Following extensive research, I have come across a number of historical ringing terms exclusive to West Dorset. It seems a shame that such terms should die out through lack of usage, and so I have compiled a list of some of the more useful ones in the hope that they might be brought back into regular use.”

Bridport: A rope guide set slightly offset and too high to be of any value, except to rattle alarmingly at infrequent intervals while causing the rope to jump erratically.

Cattistock: The chaos ensuing from an unexpected call of “Single” during a touch of Plain Bob Doubles. (See also Lillington).

Charmouth: A ringer who counts their places out loud and very loudly, whilst glaring at the bell they are following.

Chetnole: The highest, most difficult to reach corners of the ringing room, usually filled with Grade Two listed cobwebs.

Chilcombe: The atmosphere in the ringing room when the tower captain announces that they will continue ringing Plain Hunt until the striking improves, (although he is the worst offender and doesn’t seem to realise it).

Dottery: One who regularly tries to ring a Grandsire start to Plain Bob, and vice versa.

Drimpton: The little bits of dust, fluff and dead flies which drift down from the ceiling during ringing and collect in piles under the furniture.

Lillington: When ringing call changes with learners, this is the relatively steady period of rounds immediately before the first call of “2 to 3”, which frequently leads to a Cattistock (q.v.).

Litton Cheney: A complicated knot used to temporarily shorten an over-long rope.

Loders: Visiting ringers who claim to be able to ring anything, but get lost ringing the second during a plain course of Grandsire Doubles.

Mapperton: Someone who always turns the blue line on its side so it looks like a range of mountains.

Punknowle: A patent foul-smelling substance used to lubricate plain bearings.

Rampisham: The effect of calling “Stand” when learners are ringing rounds.

Toller Porcorum: A young man who immediately grabs the tenor to ring behind for every touch at a branch meeting.

Toller Whelme: An 80 year-old who has only ever rung the tenor since 1949, and still can’t quite manage it, but is determined that no one else is going to ring his bell.

Uploders: The pile of boxes in the corner used to increase the reach of the shorter ringer. These vary from the Evershot: A tatty, splintered apple box with a nest of spiders in one corner underneath, to the custom made Higher Frome Vauchurch, lovingly painted or varnished and covered with carpet.

From Kate Brice:

A Grim Dorset Tale

From ‘A Grim Almanac of Dorset’ by Nicola Sly 1 September 1884

"Bell ringer Edward Hart, aged thirty-four, was assisting in the ringing of a wedding peal at the church of Winterbourne Kingston when the bell rope suddenly became tangled round his neck. To the horror of the other bell ringers, he was jerked 20ft into the air, striking his head on a beam and falling heavily to the floor. A surgeon was
urgently summoned but Hart was beyond medical aid and died soon afterwards. With so many witnesses to Hart’s untimely death, the local coroner did not feel the need to hold an inquest.”

The Guild Health and Safety Officer has been informed ... somewhat belatedly!

**Obituaries**

From our Guild Forms of Service:

“For the faithful departed, especially members of our Guild, that we with them may share in your eternal kingdom. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.”

From Mary Melbourne:

Ronald Graham Jackson ALM 22.06.1925 – 22.06.2017

Ron was born in Meriden, Warwickshire (the centre of England) on 22nd June 1925. Unfortunately he had a very sad childhood, as at the age of 2 he went to the Meriden Workhouse, moving into the Barnados home in Meriden when he was 5. He remained there until starting work at the age of 14 and then lodged with an elderly lady in the Parish. However, despite this difficult start in life, he met his future wife Joan at St. Lawrence’s Church, Meriden, where she was a Sunday School Teacher and he sang in the Church Choir and then learnt to ring. They married on 8th May 1948, and eventually settled at Berkescwell, a short distance from Meridan, with their two children David and Angela.

Ron worked most of his life as a telephone engineer for the GPO. Even in retirement he took a great interest in telegraph wires and maintained that it was time that they were all buried underground! He also never tired of reminding people that a telegraph pole is buried at least five feet deep in the ground. On retirement in 1987 Ron and Joan moved to Fordingbridge, Hampshire, and he went to practice there on the day he moved in. He very quickly became a committed member of an enthusiastic band, well respected and much loved especially by the many teenagers he taught to ring in the 1990’s.

Ron firmly believed that the main reason for ringing was for Sunday services and for many years rang twice on most Sundays. However, this did not deter him from enjoying visits to other towers and the social side that usually followed. He took part in many tower outings and went on three ringing holidays to Guernsey. Ron was particularly keen to involve the young ringers in the Tower and in the 1990s frequently drove a minibus to transport the ringers for outings around Hampshire, Wiltshire and Dorset during the school holidays.

He also rang in many quarter peals mainly as tenor cover often keeping the rhythm going to enable those ringing inside to ‘get back in order’ when the ringing went awry. Ron regularly rang once a month with The Salisbury Area Group of Ringers, (SAGOR) who ring at two Towers followed by a pub lunch. Members of this group will remember Ron as a connoisseur of meat pies – always his favourite item on the menu as long as it had pastry top and bottom,
'a proper pie'! He also greatly enjoyed the ringing and friendship of the Towers of Steeple Langford and Wylye. Here he is affectionately remembered - not perhaps as much for his ringing but more for his love of red wine or whisky and ginger ale and chips in the pub after practice.

Apart from ringing, Ron’s other great interest was in countryside pursuits. He trained his own gundogs and regularly helped at shoots. When he moved to Fordingbridge he helped at several shoots locally, once picking up for a member of the Royal Family. Ron did not recognise the person concerned, despite developing a good rapport with him. When he was told who he had been with all day, his response was ‘really, well he wasn’t a very good shot!’

Sadly, after Ron suffered a stroke he was no longer able to ring but for a while still enjoyed coming to practice at Breamore and a visit to the Bat and Ball pub afterwards. Even when this was no longer possible he remained very interested in ringing and always wanted to know how many ringers had been ringing at Fordingbridge on a Sunday morning and what had been rung. He also always wanted to know what ringing had taken place during the week and who had been ringing. He enjoyed reading ‘Face to Face’ and always checked that his name was still in the Guild report each year when he received his copy.

Ron was immensely proud to be made an Associate Life Member of the Salisbury Guild in 2015. His last involvement with ringing was when he attended the Salisbury Branch AGM in January this year with his daughter Angela, who is also a ringer. He was delighted to meet many old friends there and will be remembered by very many ringers as such fun to be with and a true gentleman. His wife Joan, once remarked that she felt the pleasure and friendship he found in ringing circles during his retirement in some way helped to make up for the childhood that he missed out on.

Ron died on his 92nd birthday. To Joan and all the family, we extend our deepest sympathy, especially to his grand-children and great-grand-children. He was immensely fond and proud of his family, and at his funeral one of his grandsons paid tribute to him saying simply ‘he was my hero’. May he rest in peace, and rise in glory.

From Jack Pease:

Brian Mullins
1936 – 2017
Poole Tower Captain, Churchwarden and a great friend

Brian Mullins passed away on 9th July 2017. He was, until his death, Poole Tower Captain and a dedicated Churchwarden, positions he had held for quite some time. He was also a great friend to many ringers in the Poole area, and his death came as quite a shock to many, myself included as I’d only seen Brian the previous day. I was ringing for a wedding at Poole, and as usual, he met me at the door and he was, as always, supportive of my ringing. Little did I know, that would be the last time I was to see him.

Upon the announcement of his passing, I immediately contacted the Rector to see if a quarter peal could be rung following his funeral; permission was duly granted, and with many stressful days trying to get ten ringers, we managed to score a quarter peal of Grandsire Caters, which was straight after the end of the service. Many comments were made by both his family, members of the congregation that knew him and local ringers about how lovely it was to hear them, and what a fitting tribute it was to him. As organiser, I’d like to thank Lucy Holt, rector of St James for allowing the bells to be rung, and Charlie Martin, Ringing Master for assisting me in organising a band, and to all those that rang with Charlie and I to give thanks for his life.
From Shirley Brown:

Jim Press

Jim was born in 1925 in Brixton London, where he was educated and trained in the printing trade. Jim served with the Royal Engineers in World War II seeing action in France, Belgium and Germany.

After the war he returned to his printing apprenticeship when demobbed. He and Denise met and married in 1949. They lived in Surrey before moving to Dorset in the early 1970s. Here they joined All Saints Church, Hampreston. Later, the bells there became silent as the band broke up. Denise was persuaded to rescue them and with Jim’s help and support restored them through fund raising. Local experienced ringers helped teach a band, including Jim who joined Denise on a bell handling course at Keele University.

Jim remained as a loyal tenor ringer until poor health and failing eyesight forced him to retire from ringing in the mid 1990s. Jim died peacefully on 23rd August 2017. A half muffled quarter peal was rung for him at Hampreston by the local band, listened to by Denise and her family on September 17th.

From Neil Skelton:

John C Sawtell

Bob Purnell advised me of the death of John Sawtell on 3rd October. John was listed under Holt from 1958/9 until 1964. He was part of an active young band of ringers which included Richard Humphries, Kingsley Jones and the Stillman brothers. During the early sixties I rang with him and Kingsley and others when, as Bob himself put it, we rang at some dubious 3 and 4 bell towers.

We had a lot of fun in those far off days. As far as I am aware John did not ring a peal though Holt was an active peal tower during the early 1960s. John fell out of ringing during the mid 1960s and became involved with Wiltshire Industrial Archaeology Society which he ran for almost 50 years. With his partner of 47 years, Angela Harrington, he was a regular visitor to Imber on open days.

From Neil Skelton:

Roger Lewis

Roger Lewis was elected a member of St Thomas’s, Salisbury on 26th January 1974. His name appears in the Annual Reports up to and including that for 1977. He had to give up ringing on account of a serious injury sustained when his post van collided with another vehicle.

From Julie Baker:

Neil Ransford

Neil passed away on the 29th July 2017. A quarter peal was rung on 11 October by a visiting band dedicated to: Neil H Ransford, Ringer, Steeplekeeper and Treasurer of Hawkchurch bellringers for many years.

Others – obituaries may follow

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Jones</td>
<td>Longbridge Deverill</td>
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<td>Mike Wilmot (HLM)</td>
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<td>Jerry Holmes</td>
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Face to Face is the acknowledged Newsletter of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers

First published in 1975, the publication is now produced three times a year and circulated free to all affiliated towers throughout the Guild, as well as going to various other bodies. It is also posted on the Guild website.

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Joint Webmasters: Ian Mozley and Robert Wellen E-mail: webmaster@sdgr.org.uk

Guild website: www.sdgr.org.uk

Printed by Imprint Graphics, Shaftesbury

Telephone: 01747 850707
Guild Quarter Peal Week runs from Saturday 4th to Sunday 12th November. In 2016 we managed a total of 38 successful quarters, with the East Dorset Branch leading the way with 10. This is an ideal opportunity to organise some special quarters to help members of your band and branch achieve a first, either in a new method, or as conductor. Let’s see if we can beat last year’s total and push back further the boundaries of achievement within the SDGR!

Quarter Peals should be submitted on Bellboard immediately (please do not leave them all until the end of the week) and linked to ‘SDGR Quarter Peal Week’. Do not send to the RW however, as I will do this en bloc once the week is over with a short report.

To add a performance: Log into Bellboard, click on Diary and then click on SDGR Quarter Peal Week. Then click ‘Link Performance’, and on the following screen select ‘Tower’. You should then be able to submit your Quarter Peal as normal. Alternatively, you can also submit your performance as you would normally do and then link it afterwards. To do that, once you have created the performance, click on the pen icon in the top bar of the page and select ‘Link to an event’ and use the search option to select the event from the diary.

David Warwick (Peal Secretary)

And then there’s Guild Peal Week from 24 to 31 December 2017

Peal for Pudsey – sponsorship forms now available!


Don’t miss this opportunity to join ringers around the UK between now and Children in Need night (Nov 17th), raising funds for a good cause. Pick anything you like, whether the method Pudsey or rounds and call changes, as long as has a bit of challenge in it, and get friends, colleagues and family to sponsor you to raise funds for Children in Need. No doubt this initiative will further raise (positive) awareness of ringing in our communities.

GUILD EVENTS 2018
FURTHER DETAILS TO COME!

SATURDAY 7 APRIL
GUILD TRAINING DAY

SATURDAY 13 MAY
GUILD FESTIVAL AND EIGHT BELL STRIKING COMPETITION (CALNE BRANCH)

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST SEPTEMBER (tbc)
LEBRF
GUILD OPEN DAY FOR
NOVICE STRIKING COMPETITIONS

And turn out smartly at these events with SDGR Clothing

Is your SDGR sweatshirt or polo shirt in need of replacing or maybe you have been thinking about purchasing a new one? All details of clothing (including an order form) can be found on the Guild website, so do have a look as in the fairly recent past new colours have been introduced as well as some additional items.

Polo Shirts cost £15 and Sweatshirts cost £17.50

Patricia Davidson: guild.clothing@sdgr.org.uk

Ring for the Platinum Wedding Anniversary of the Queen and Prince Philip on Monday 20 November 2017
**Guild and Branch Events November 2017**

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**Guild and Branch Events December 2017**

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### Anniversaries of Ringers who died in The Great War

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<td>Private Reginald Godfrey Harris</td>
<td>Salisbury (St Martin)</td>
<td>26 October 1917</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gunner Reginald Sidney Hart</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lance Corporal William Henry Marchant</td>
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<td>Gunner William Henry Hardiman</td>
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<td>Whitchurch Canonicorum</td>
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<td>Rifleman Alfred Pocock</td>
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<td>Private Joseph Henry Cowdrey</td>
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<td>Staff Sergeant Thomas George Wareham</td>
<td>Corscombe</td>
<td>30 November 1917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Reginald Cecil Wordley</td>
<td>Edington</td>
<td>01 December 1917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunner Reginald Charles Rogers</td>
<td>Edington</td>
<td>28 December 1917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporal John Henry Shave</td>
<td>Sturminster Marshall</td>
<td>17 February 1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Leonard Drewett</td>
<td>Edington</td>
<td>12 March 1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Arthur John Marsh</td>
<td>Preston</td>
<td>21 March 1918</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lance Corporal William John Wheeler</td>
<td>Edington</td>
<td>23 March 1918</td>
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