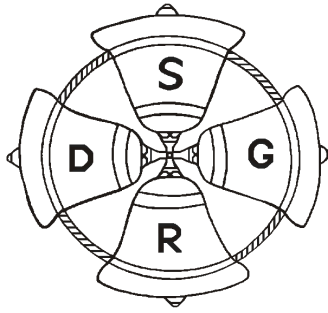


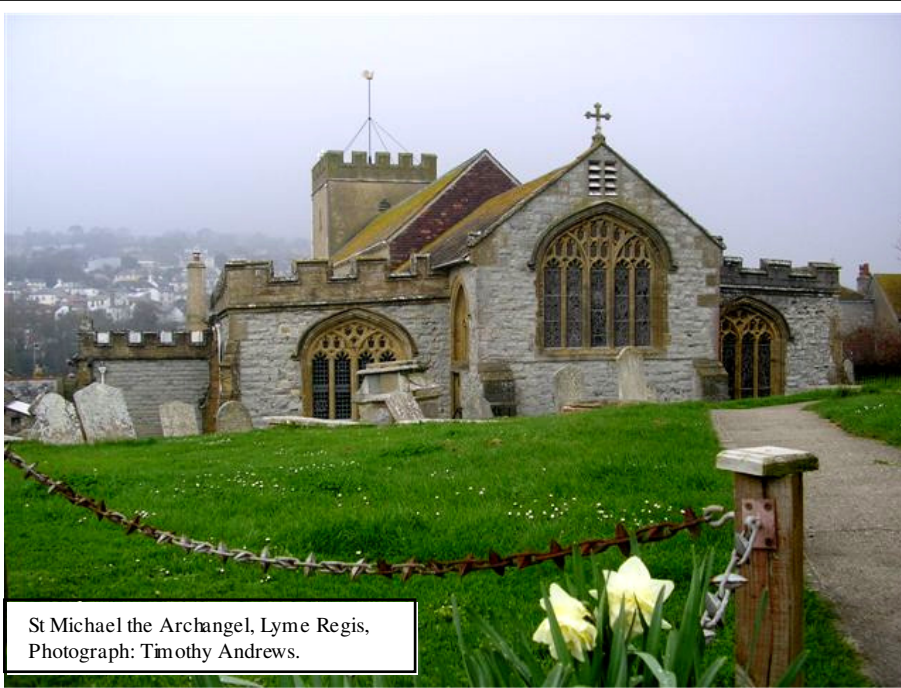
Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers



Face to Face Newsletter

SUMMER 2011

NUMBER 129



St Michael the Archangel, Lyme Regis,
Photograph: Timothy Andrews.

THE GUILD
VISITS WEST
DORSET

BELLS FOR
ROYAL
WEDDING

THE RINGING
WORLD
CENTENARY

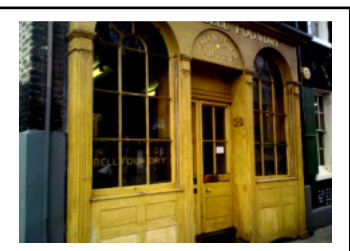
ALL IN THIS ISSUE



Left: School trip to Devizes.
Right: Royal ringing at Avebury.
Below l-r:
Ringers at Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Ready for the 24 hand bell performance. Handbells at Long Bredy. Frontage of Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Ack page 9



NEXT DEADLINE 24-8-2011



FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the last edition I mentioned the Ringing World Centenary celebrations in London. This has now passed, but I am pleased that a number of our members made the journey and all enjoyed the day. One of our HLMs, Graham Elmes, was fortunate enough to win a rope in the Ringing World draw to ring at Westminster Abbey, so that made his day memorable, and in spite of political demonstrations I managed to ring at two new towers that were unringable in my student days there over 50 years ago. My abiding memory though, will be the touch of 100 changes rung at the reception after the service on 24 handbells. This was a feat that had never been achieved before and the effect was absolutely mesmerising and beautiful. If you haven't already done so the touch can be seen and heard by going to youtube.co 24 handbells and choosing pje24 which is the recording produced by Philip Earis, one of the handbell ringers.

Not many of us can aspire to that feat; I find that even trying to ring a pair of handbells to Minor or Doubles is very difficult and can make me quite tetchy and irritable. With practice I am sure that I would get better, but it is not always possible to meet up regularly with experts to improve. The same problem can occur in trying to make progress on tower bells once we progress beyond Plain Bob and Grandsire. I would therefore, commend to your notice the various courses on offer from the Education Committee so ably overseen by our Education Officer, Robert Wellen. Robert makes sure that all those attending are given maximum support in small teaching groups as close to their home as possible in order to reduce travelling to a minimum. If you haven't applied for the July/September course you may still have time after reading this.

At the time of writing the Queen has just become the second longest reigning monarch of our country following after her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria. On Monday 6th February next year Queen Elizabeth celebrates the Diamond Anniversary of her Accession to the Throne, so apart from Quarter Peal Week in November there will be ample opportunity in February for ringing more quarter peals, and of course peals. Just the thing to brush up and fix firmly in mind the skills learned on a Guild course.

Finally, my thanks go to the West Dorset ringers for their organisation of a most enjoyable Guild Festival and AGM at Lyme Regis. Particular mention should be made of the Nicholson family for the music at Evensong: Linda for playing the organ, Andrew for assembling, and conducting, a very competent choir composed of Guild members and the Church choir, and Sarah Nicholson for her solo. I thought it was a truly inspiring occasion comparing very favourably with Westminster Abbey.

Ross.

IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Message – above

Education Report / Training Days - 2

Wootton Rivers, Stourton and Imber – 3

Most Improved Ringer Awards – 4/5

New Honorary Life Members – 6

Ringing World Centenary – 7/8

Society of Royal Cumberland Youths - 9

Successful Recruiting at Long Bredy – 9

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly / Miscellaneous – 10/11

First quarter Peal Ringers / Guild Festival Report – 12

From the Branches – 13/17

Obituaries – 18/20

Ringing for the Royal Wedding – 20/21

Guild Calendar 22

'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.

Editor: Ivan L. Andrews, 11, White Close, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3HL. ☎ 01308-425067.

✉ ivan.andrews@mypostoffice.co.uk

Guild Hon Gen Sec: Anthony C.D. Lovell-Wood, 7, Snobs Hill, Tisbury, Salisbury, Wilts SP3 6RY.

☎ Home 01747-871121, Office 01747-871110, Fax 01747-871241.

✉ woodringer@btinternet.com

Webmaster: Ian Mozey, ✉ webmaster@sdgr.org.uk Web Site: www.sdgr.org.uk

EDUCATION REPORT

Progress on courses in 2011

The tail end of last year's programme of courses, having been hit by the weather, was completed in March. A course on Introduction to Method Ringing was held at Motcombe and Silton for three students, run by Susan Smith, and a course on Advancing in Minor was held at Bradpole for two students, run by Tom Garrett. A very popular and successful Steeplekeeping course was held at Edington and surrounding towers on 19 March, for a total of 23 students (from all branches), run by Bob Purnell and Julian Ferrar.

'Teaching the Teacher' courses will be run in May and June led by Graham Sturrock, Susan Smith and Malcolm Penney, see the Guild website for details (www.sdgr.org.uk/education/training-courses).

GUILD TRAINING DAYS

The Education Committee met in April to decide the format of four training days to be offered to a limited number of students in July and September. Details below:

GUILD TRAINING DAYS

The Guild is offering twelve places for a course that will run over four separate Training Days. Your course will be tailored to your individual needs. To get the most out of your place you will need to be available to attend for all four days:

16 July	17 September
30 July	24 September

- The minimum ability for applicants is to be competent to hunt treble to a method.
- The Training Days will be based at the Ringing Centres.
- These will be six bell courses (doubles and minor).
- The Training Days will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Please complete an application form (available from the Guild Education Officer or the Guild website – details above) and return it before the closing date of **Saturday 18 June**. Applicants must be Guild members. For adults a course fee of **£10** must be enclosed with your application (cheques payable to the Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers). Applicants under 18 years of age do not need to pay a fee, however they do need to obtain the consent of a parent or guardian before attending.

All applications will be acknowledged. There are limited places available (maximum 12) for this initial series of training days, so a place is not guaranteed and confirmation of a place will be sent to students soon after the closing date at which point your course fee will be taken.

Please send completed applications forms and fees to the Guild Education Officer:

Robert Wellen, 67 The Meadows, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4SP.

Guild Most Improved Ringer Award 2010

As you will see from a separate report, the Education Committee decided that Julian Hemper from Devizes should be the recipient of this Award. The Committee will be recommending to the Guild Executive that in the future there should be a separate Award for young ringers (18 years and below), with a prize for the recipient of a 3-month introductory subscription to *The Ringing World*. The existing competition and trophy will continue for adult ringers.

The Ringing Foundation – Integrated Teacher Training Scheme (ITTS)

Those of you who take *The Ringing World* will have seen a report in the 15 April edition on the Foundation's proposal for an ITTS scheme, the aim of which "is to train a new generation of bell ringing instructors and to equip them with up to date skills". Those who pass through the scheme would have 'Accredited ITTS instructor status' and would be qualified to teach learners using a five stage progressive plan, or curriculum. This is still to be launched but Guilds are asked to discuss the possibility of signing up to run a course. I hope to raise this at the Guild Executive / Education Committee as we need to build on the work of the 'Teaching the Teacher' courses the Guild have/ are offering to establish a core of accredited instructors in our area.

Saxilby Simulator and Display material

As we move into warmer weather and the possibility of outdoor events, remember that the Saxilby simulator and the Guild's display material are both available for use by Guild members for recruitment and educational events (www.sdgr.org.uk/education/guild-simulator or www.sdgr.org.uk/education/display-material). Please contact me if you want to make a booking. *Robert Wellen, Guild Education Officer.*

SDGR CLOTHING

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

The recent record high price of cotton combined with the devastating floods in China and Pakistan earlier in the year has had a knock on effect on the industry. Our supplier has recently increased prices and cannot rule out a further increase in the very near future.

Over the years the profit made from sales for LEBRF has gradually decreased and with the increase in VAT to come in the New Year sales will just about be breaking even. Prices will remain as they are for the time being but an increase looks very likely in 2011.

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

Patricia Davidson triciadavidson@btopenworld.com

Sunday Service Ringing at St Andrew's, Wootton Rivers

On 6th March, ringers from Preshute (Richard Metters, Dave Moore, Ian Wyld and Edward Angelo) joined two ringers in Wootton Rivers, Phil and June Buffery in ringing for the 0900 service. No one in the village can remember when the bells at St Andrew's were last rung for Sunday service on a regular basis, but it has certainly been a good few years. The reception from the vicar and congregation was heart warming. Our band of ringers is steadily growing with the dedicated teaching of Pat Cotton and Richard Metters. In time, we hope the ringing from our tower will return as part of the soundscape of our village life. *Phil and June Buffery*

Another success at Stourton

The Mere Branch again hosted an afternoon ringing demonstration at Stourton on Easter Monday (25 April). Sunny weather encouraged a steady stream of visitors into the church to see ringing demonstrations, DVDs, CDs, display boards and models. The Saxilby Simulator was set up in the churchyard outside the church. Ringing Masters Hugh Walmsley White and Judith Williamson supervised members of the general public as they tried out a backstroke and youngsters had the opportunity to have a chime. We were delighted to welcome ringers from other branches of our Guild and further afield. Although not a fundraising event, we collected just under £100 (£98.21) during the afternoon for the LEBRF. *Robert Wellen, Mere Branch Secretary.*

GUILD QUIZ AND SUPPER EVENING

Saturday 27th August 2011

at Motcombe Memorial Hall

from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Coronation Chicken and Salads followed by Fruit Terrine and Tea/ Coffee

Admission by tickets only: £6 a head (£3 children) – available from Robert Wellen,

67 The Meadows, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4SP (with SAE please)

(cheques payable to the LEBRF)

All proceeds to LEBRF

Imber, St Giles

On Saturday 23 April 2011 Marlborough Branch visited Imber. It was the first time many of the ringers had been to the village and driving across Salisbury Plain to the church in wonderfully warm weather added to the excitement. There was much to see in the church, plus an exhibition by the Churches Conservation Trust.

Having met Neil Skelton we started the ringing, there was a total of 29 ringers which included a few friends, 2 ringers from Bury St Edmunds, and 1 from Ealing, who asked if they could ring with us. David Close organised the ringing and others stood by to make sure we all became familiar with the rubber stays, fortunately everyone managed to ring the light bells without too much difficulty or incident. A donation of £175.00 was made to the bell fund. In the words of one of our ringers: "It was a day to remember". *Dorothy Blythe.*

GUILD MOST IMPROVED RINGER AWARD 2010

This is the third year of this Award and the choice for the Education Committee was again very difficult with an excellent field of candidates. It was good to receive nominations from all the branches and many congratulations to a very worthy winner. The seven nominees who will each receive a Certificate of Achievement are (in alphabetical order):

Ruth Earl (West Dorset)

Ruth started to ring three years ago and for the first two years made little progress beyond plain hunt doubles. Encouraged by other ringers she acquired Abel and did her homework daily and is now competent in touches of Plain Bob, Grandsire and Reverse Canterbury Doubles. She is a reliable treble ringer to doubles and plain minor and can plain hunt on any number of bells up to ten. She is a regular Sunday service ringer and attends Branch and other practices and is a reliable helper at the Bradpole Ringing Centre.

Sally Jenkins (East Dorset)

Sally learnt to ring in Swanage at the end of 2008. At the start of 2010 Sally was able to hunt the treble and ring inside to PB Triples. Sally is now able to ring Grandsire, Stedman and other Triples, PB Major, TB Major on the treble, Grandsire and PB Caters and Cambridge S Minor (plain course). During 2010 Sally rang in 23 successful quarter peals. Early in 2010 Sally took over as Tower Captain in Swanage. At this point Sally had only been ringing for just over 12 months. In 2010 Sally's personal ringing has greatly improved and she has also played a significant part in improving ringing for the tower band.

Adam Kepple (Dorchester)

In January 2010 Adam (aged 14) was learning to ring Grandsire Triples and rang a quarter peal in February. He has since learned to ring PB Major, Stedman Triples and Treble Bob. Through the year he has rung quarter peals of Grandsire and Plain Bob, ringing his first peal, Plain Bob Major inside, for the Guild Peal week in December. He calls call changes well. If he notices anyone going wrong he gives clear instructions to put them right. He has also been known to place bands. He is very supportive of tower activities as a regular Sunday service and wedding ringer.

Barbara Moodie (Mere)

Barbara started ringing at Silton in October 2006 and for the first few years she could ring called changes and struggled through Plain Hunt. In 2010 her ringing has improved considerably. Before Barbara rang occasionally at other towers, but last year she started to ring regularly at Maiden Bradley, where she is now learning to ring Grandsire. Barbara also attends practices at Stourton and Zeals and she often rings at Zeals on a Sunday morning, before moving on to Silton to ring there. In summary, over the passed year she has progressed into a confident all-rounder, ringing at several towers.

Apryl Mortlock (Marlborough)

Apryl (aged 17) began ringing at Burbage in 2010 and has made very good progress by visiting various towers in the Marlborough branch – she happily rings on any bell and is rapidly becoming a keen and enthusiastic ringer and a good team member.

Alice Nield (Salisbury)

At the beginning of the year Alice (aged 15) was able to ring the treble to Plain Bob, Reverse Canterbury and Grandsire Doubles. She was experiencing difficulty in progressing to an inside bell for Plain Bob Doubles and with her striking. Alice can now ring plain courses of Stedman Triples with greatly improved striking. She is able to ring new Doubles, Minor, and Triples methods by simply looking at the blue line. She can Treble Bob and has also rung touches of PB Major. She has recently rung her first quarter peal on an inside bell. Her next objective is to master Kent and Surprise Minor and she is being encouraged to begin calling touches of Doubles.

Stephen Pardoe (Calne Branch)

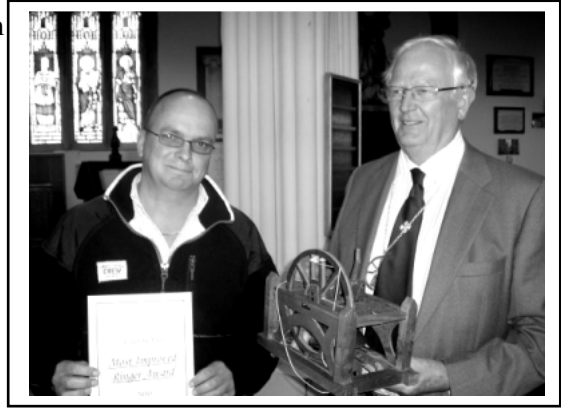
Stephen started ringing in September 2008. He rang his first quarter in April 2009, treble to PBD, followed by quarters to St Simon's and mixed doubles. He rang his first quarter inside in July 2010 to PBD. He is very committed to both practice and service ringing. In addition he has decorated the ringing chamber and assisted in steeple keeping and other maintenance tasks.

And the recipient of the Award for the Guild's Most Improved Ringer in 2010 is:.....

Julian Hemper (Devizes)

Julian learned to ring in Ryde (Isle of Wight) where he rang from 1980-86 progressing as far as Grandsire Doubles. After 1986 he did not ring for some years, taking it up again in Kent in 2003, where he progressed to ringing Grandsire and Stedman Triples before moving to Devizes in 2007 and joining the ringers at St Johns. In his own words, he made little progress for the first couple of years until becoming Branch Secretary in 2009. Since then, in the last year, he has learnt six of the standard eight Surprise Major methods, ringing quarters in five of them and peals in two. He has also taken up conducting and has called quarter peals of Plain Bob and Cambridge S Minor. He has helped with Branch training, running a course on Grandsire

Doubles and Bob Doubles/ Minor. Julian is at present learning Bristol S Major and has an ambition to ring quarters in all the Standard Eight by the end of the year. *Robert Wellen, Guild Education Officer.*



THORNFORD OPEN GARDENS

**SUNDAY JUNE 19TH
2:00pm-5:30pm**

**Entrance £4, Children under 12 free
Raising funds for the Church Bells
Restoration Fund**

**Refreshments available and plant sale
Free parking on the Recreation Ground -
accessed via Blacksmiths Lane.**

**Further information Tel 01935 872585 or
873939**

Bells available to ring 3:00pm-5:00pm

IMBER OPEN DAY

**Bank Holiday Monday 29th August, 2011.
1000 hours until 1600 hours.**

This is an opportunity to ring on Wiltshire's newest ring of six bells. The church of St Giles, in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust, is only open on a few days in each year.

Bring your tower team, ringing friends and family to ring and visit the Grade I church. An exhibition about the 'lost village', evacuated in 1943, will be staged in the church.

We hope for fine weather so that you can enjoy a picnic in the churchyard. Cream teas, tea, coffee and scones will be on sale in the church.

**For further details and how to get there please see:
www.imberchurch.org.uk Neil Skelton**

Proposal for Mr P. Jim Burry to be elected Honorary Life member of the Salisbury Diocese Guild of Ringers

I would like to say a few words before formally making a proposal.

"Jim has lived all his life in All Cannings. He was born in the house closest to the church and never moved far from there. He volunteered at age 17 for the army in 1940 and spent many months gaining experience as a fitter in the REME before being sent to India, as part of a workshop supporting a Royal Artillery battery. During 1942 they were posted all over India by road and rail, before being sent on to Burma. The war there was conducted by Jim from a series of temporary huts all over the country. We hear that the occasional arrival of alcoholic support and the resultant parties, resulted in quite a few weeks of pay deduction. There were no medals awarded for services to the drinks industry. Of course Jim wears the Burma star with pride. By 1946 they returned to England via Suez, and at the ripe age of 25 Jim was demobbed.

Jim worked initially as a driver and mechanic in and around the district, but later in his career he transferred to be a chippy. His other skills include prolific brewing of dandelion wine and other libations. By the way this year's brew is reported to be a bit fizzy!

He found time to get married and Mary and they have now passed 63 years of bliss. They had 4 children and numerous grandchildren.

His father was Tower captain in AC with a regular band of Sunday ringers, and in 1955 Jim just joined in and learnt to ring under his father's watchful eye.

It is worth noting that the first peal on the AC bells was rung in 1931 and included Burry senior: the 5 bells having been re-hung in 1930.

Jim's Father died in 1970 and Jim took over the job of captain.

Jim was led into the wider fields of ringing by Derrick Bailey. Jim rang his first ¼ in April 1964 and rang his first minor peal in June 1969 (of Plain Bob and St Clements) at St Mary's in Devizes to celebrate the wedding of Derrick and Janet Bailey.

He retired as captain in 1986 handing over to John Leary.

I am honoured to have taken on the duties in the footsteps of these 2 very notable ringers and have great pleasure in proposing Jim Burry to be elected an HLM after so many successful years ringing.

I pass over David Hacker to share with you Jim's wider ringing successes." *John Mead.*

Congratulations to our new HLMs



P. Jim Burry. I first met Jim back in the early 60s when he attended on a fairly regular basis the Calne Branch monthly meetings, and by then he was a proficient ringer of a variety of doubles and minor methods. Towards the end of the 60s and into the 70s I was able to ring with Jim on a much more regular basis as we both attended weekly practises at St. Mary's, Devizes, and it was at during this time it became apparent to me how determined Jim was to succeed not only to ring things that he was familiar with to perfection but to learn something new. Also at this time Jim took part in the Surprise Major practices that were held every third week in the Devizes Branch and became very competent at ringing the standard eight which is a tremendous achievement for someone whose home tower had only five bells.

As has already been said Jim has held office both in his tower and in the Devizes Branch and I believe he is an example to us all of how determination and commitment in ringing brings wonderful achievements. Sadly Jim's ringing is somewhat curtailed now by age and health but his support for our art is as strong as ever. Besides qualifying for Honorary Life Membership through 50 years of Guild membership, I believe that Jim is an ideal candidate for this status through his achievement, and I have great pleasure in supporting his nomination.

David W. Hacker

Joan Edney is giving up active ringing after more than 30 years because of arthritis in her hands. Chilmark as a tower was affiliated to the Guild in 1977. Joan Edney was a member of the newly formed band when they joined together and she learned to ring in 1976/7 being taught by Peter Harding. Joan has rung a number of quarter peals and has for many years been Tower Correspondent at Chilmark. She has always been a stalwart of the Chilmark band, a reliable ringer and a regular at practices, Sunday Service ringing and weddings. She has also been supportive of other local towers, the branch and the Guild. *Christopher Sykes*



John Wiltshire took over as Tower Captain at Chiseldon following the death of Fred Cook (his brother-in-law) in 1982. His father was a ringer and John learnt to ring at Rowde. I met John after moving to Wiltshire and have always known him as a friend. He has captained Chiseldon band through good times, a few difficult times and has taught many ringers. He is always enthusiastic, a familiar face at all Branch meetings and events, and a most loyal supporter of the Guild. The Marlborough has therefore nominated John for HLM of the Guild. *Dorothy Blythe.*

John Wiltshire has been a committed and much loved bell ringer and Tower Captain at Chiseldon for almost 30 years. Whatever the occasion, John has been a reassuring presence whose dedication and enthusiasm has inspired a generation of bell ringers. With his dry sense of humour and quiet easy going nature, John has taught the art of bell ringing to many people, including his sons Ian and Adrian who, themselves, are active bell ringers locally. John can always be relied upon to organise his ringers, ensuring weddings, funerals and church services are rung for. Sometimes he will choose to 'sit out' – opting instead to sit quietly, rocking gently to the rhythm of the bells – and only occasionally wincing when we go wrong. Chiseldon tower is privileged and indebted to have had John with us for so many years. A more dedicated Tower Captain we could not wish for.

Catherine Bampton, a Chiseldon ringer.

"I wholeheartedly agree with the proposal that John Wiltshire be made an HLM! 'Tis well deserved as he is a fine example of what a true and honest ringer should be!" *David Franklin.*

P. Jim Burry and Joan Edney were presented with their certificates by Guild President, Ross Robertson, at the Guild Annual General Meeting held at Lyme Regis on Saturday 14th May. John Wiltshire was unable to attend and his certificate will be presented to him at some suitable occasion. Photographs: Editor. (Jim is rightly proud of his Burma Star Association, as can be seen in the above photograph

Thank you to everyone who in any way has contributed towards the completion and distribution of this Newsletter

Ringling World Centenary, London, 26th April 2011

I set out with Karen Dobie early on 26th April 2011 to join the Swindon Branch Coach heading towards London. David Miles was our driver, due to a demonstration in London his task was made more difficult than usual, we even had to cross Tower Bridge to reach the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Karen joined the queue for the foundry, I had been before so I went to the Whitechapel Gallery for coffee, then on to St Botolph Without, Aldgate, where I joined the queue to ring. Everyone was in good humour and patiently waited their turn while chatting and I finally rang a course of Grandsire Triples. I then walked to the nearby St Katherine Cree where I just got there in time to ring a course of Stedman Doubles. By now I had lost touch with all my travelling companions, it was too far to walk to Westminster so I took the tube, but due to diversions I arrived just too late to ring at St Margaret's. I headed towards Dean's Yard where I was fortunate to meet and talk to Kim and Patrick Matthews. Finally I found familiar faces in the beer tent. Not wanting to join yet another queue we decided to enter Westminster Abbey later and sit in the nave for the service. Karen somehow managed to get an order of service sheet which we shared. The Dean of Westminster gave the address, he seemed surprised to see so many ringers in the Abbey and apologised for the shortage of service sheets saying he hoped they would get the numbers right for the next big event. It was inspiring to attend a service in the Abbey. Afterwards we enjoyed the mini-rings in Dean's Yard until it was time to find the coach for home, but not before I almost managed to get locked in nearby toilets.

I attended the 75th Anniversary of The Ringing World and it was interesting to note how so much has changed over 25 years. In 1986 I rang at six towers from Wimbledon heading to St Vedast, travel was easy, and there were less people around. I am happy I made the effort to attend the Centenary and thank everyone who worked so hard to organise such a special day. *Dorothy Blythe.*

West Dorset was very well represented with contingents from many of our local towers. Those who visited the Foundry had the fascinating experience of seeing an industry little changed since the seventeenth century, almost alongside the highest of hi-tech money-markets. Few of us managed to 'grab' more than one of the churches on offer - we might have done better if we'd used the 'Boris Bikes'. It was dream-like to be travelling through a strange city peopled with familiar faces. This feeling grew as we approached and entered the Abbey. The service was impressive, the music glorious. If the preacher was unable to resist mentioning that a lot of ringers usually leave *before* the service, the thousand-strong congregation responded by showing how well they knew the hymns! The Abbey bells rang out as we crossed Victoria Street to the reception. We had tea, cake, speeches and a **world-first performance** of a composition for 24 handbells that held its audience spellbound. The results of the junior striking competition were announced with comments relevant to all of us. In all the day was a fitting celebration both of The Ringing World itself and of bellringing as a ministry and hobby. *Peter Carnell.*

We were all invited to the Ringing World's 100th birthday celebrations March 26th. Many from our Devizes branch were there, with Jean Buxton-Dean winning a prized visit up Westminster Abbey tower in the ballot (*a report follows*) One of the many highlights has to be the 24 in hand after tea. I can recommend the following links to hear it and read about it.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-fCRBNTNp0> and

<http://www.ringingworld.co.uk/news-articles/rw-centenary/616.html> and <http://www.ringingworld.co.uk/news-articles/rw-centenary/488.html>

Many towers were open, and it was good fun meeting up with ringers from across the land whilst waiting to ring on some superb bells.

Christine Sworder, Devizes Publicity Officer.

Ringling World Centenary Celebrations – Westminster Tower Tour.

My husband and I did not dream of putting our names down for ringing at Westminster Abbey or St Paul's Cathedral, but tried instead for the Tower Tour; well, we were told that we could make it look as if we had rung there!

That did not quite happen, (and only I was picked from the proverbial hat) but at 1.00pm arrived rather breathlessly via the 6.20am train from Salisbury to Waterloo, the Whitechapel Bell foundry, the ROA Gallery, St. Saviour's, Pimlico (lunch and the National Youth Contest) several tube trains, fast walking and a climb of 128 steps, in the ringing chamber of the North-West Tower of Westminster Abbey. I was the last to enter the room and saw twelve pairs of eyes staring around with awe! The walls were filled with peal boards commemorating peals rung for royal occasions and other significant events. But where, someone asked, would the board go for the peal in commemoration of the forthcoming royal wedding? That would need some reorganisation of the boards, we were told.

Ringling World Centenary Celebrations – Westminster Tower Tour. (cont)

A short history of the bells was given; about one hundred years ago, they were rung very rarely, in fact only four times from the start of the twentieth century to 1918, due to the alarming movement of the old timber frame. After the First World War they were augmented by Whitechapel (with money from two anonymous benefactors) to eight within a new steel frame and were dedicated on 3rd June 1919. These bells were rung for many occasions until Accession Day (6th February) 1971. Two Elizabethan bells, the fifth of 1583 and the seventh of 1598 were retained in the old frame and are now chimed before normal services. The present ring of ten, in a frame below the ring of eight was dedicated on 9th November 1971. It is said that the late Queen Mother could not hear the bells clearly outside the Abbey and an inverted pyramid was placed high in the tower to reflect the sound outwards. More climbing and we were able to view the bells, from the treble weighing 5 cwt to the tenor 30 cwt. through a protective wire mesh. Looking up, high above us, the two service bells were visible and the inverted pyramid (photo). A staircase to the side went on up the roof, from which the Royal Standard would be raised when the Queen attended the service. The bells are traditionally rung after the service, but if the Queen is attending, they are also rung beforehand.

From here, we could hear the bells of the adjacent St Margaret’s Church and the rally! However, the ringing chamber has no visual means of knowing what is taking place in the Abbey and an intricate system of bell signals was devised (photo), but there is now the addition of a monitor and CCTV to aid their ringing. I was indeed privileged to visit the bell chamber and view the bells, a visit to be remembered, as was the rest of the day. A tour around Westminster Abbey was followed by a celebratory Evensong; the Grand Reception at the Central Hall, Westminster, attended by over 1000 ringers, all of whom were totally silent to listen to change-ringing on 24 handbells. Not forgetting the tea; whilst everyone else was queuing and trying to find seats, thanks to the forethought of our ‘guide for the day’ we had a room to ourselves for a while with three waiters to serve the three of us! The day ended with an enjoyable hand bell concert in St Margaret’s Church.

The organisers of the Ringing World Centenary Day are to be congratulated for arranging such an excellent celebratory event.

To all those who planned such a memorable day, to the person who picked out my name and, you may think rather strangely, to the TUC Rally which ensured a traffic free visit to central London, many thanks.

Judith Buxton Dean, Steeple Ashton.



Far left: A packed hall waiting for the 24 handbell ringing to start. Left: David Sworder tries his hand at 2-hand on the Ambergate Campanile. Bottom left: Ringing Chamber, Westminster Abbey. Bottom centre: Peal Boards. Below right: Bell Signals.
Acknowledgements: Photos 1 & 2 Christine Sworder, balance Judith Buxton Dean.

Next deadline: Material to arrive please by Wednesday 24th August

The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths - Country Meeting 2011

The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths held their Country Meeting at Devizes this year on March 12th. Planning had been going on for nearly a year so for those involved the warm, sunny spring day made all the hard work worthwhile. General ringing took place throughout the day at Bishops Cannings and the three Devizes towers and peals were rung on the day at Edington, Holy Trinity, Bradford on Avon, North Bradley and Westbury.

The Cumberland Youths were formed on 6th September 1747, named for the Duke of Cumberland, who presented the group with an enamelled badge which still forms part of the Masters Badge of Office. In the early days the Society rang at towers predominantly on the Eastern edge of the City of London, Shoreditch and Spitalfields particularly, and was a small group of men who were keen to push forward the boundaries of ringing.

The Cumberland's moved headquarters to the Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields during the mid 1800's which remains the Societies headquarters to this day! Being in those days the "Royal" Parish Church, The Cumberland's adopted a Royal title and became known as "The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths". The Society is still very active with more than 1,300 members across the British Isles and beyond.

The Society has had a long-standing relationship with Bishops Cannings, the late Sydney G. Grant being a very enthusiastic member. One of the reasons for choosing Wiltshire this year for the Country Day was to mark the 40th Year of Society membership of Derrick P. Bailey of Great Cheverell and David W. Hacker of Melksham who were both encouraged to join by Sydney (Sid) G. Grant. Derrick and David were regular supporters of the Tuesday practices at Bishops Cannings when Sid revived the band and was instrumental in having the bells rehung in the late 60's and early 70's, both were inspired by Sid's commitment and devotion to ringing even though he had been so handicapped by his work related accident.

The meeting was held at the Wyvern Club in Devizes and was preceded by tea and cakes during which we were joined by our Guild President, Ross and his wife Sheila; Ross kindly gave the Society a very warm welcome to Wiltshire on behalf of our Guild. During the formalities of the business meeting we were pleased to welcome Jennifer Hancock of Melksham as a new member. The meeting was followed by a buffet supper with some 70 members from across the whole country sitting down. The barrel of draught "Bellringer" brought in for the occasion soon ran dry but with the brewing history in Devizes there were plenty of alternatives, supper was followed by skittles for those who had some energy left after a very busy day.

A further peal was rung at Bishops Cannings the following day as a compliment to Derrick and David with both of them in the band, together with Jennifer ringing her first peal for the Society. The band are extremely grateful to Douglas Beaumont for stepping in and conducting this peal at short notice as the original conductor, David Orledge of Corsham had to drop out due to a serious leg injury, we all wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

Several of the Society members that attended came to Wiltshire and stayed for two or three days attending local practises and joining in Sunday ringing and all spoke very highly of the welcome that they had received from local tower members wherever they had been, our thanks go to all SDGR members who were involved in making this weekend the success that it was.

Philip Bailey and David Hacker

SUCCESSFUL RECRUITMENT AT LONG BREDY



Acknowledgement of photographs appearing on the front cover: Devizes School Trip – Christine Sworder, Avebury Ringers – Jane Ridgwell, Bottomrow l-r – Bradpole Ringers, Christine Sworder, the Editor and Bradpole Ringers. With thanks, Editor.

The ringers at Long Bredy ran an Open Evening at St Peter's Church on Thursday the 5th May with a hope that the event might produce public interest in ringing and perhaps the odd new recruit. As it turned out the evening was most productive and enjoyed by those who attended. A welcome to the church with handbells was given by local ringers, whilst inside the church a book stall and recruitment leaflets were on offer and, in prominent position, a quiz on the church and surrounds.

At the base of the tower a splendid selection of refreshments and drinks prepared and served by members were well received and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. It was then time for visitors to climb to the first floor ringing chamber to watch various ringing where much interest was shown and interesting questions answered. Such was the interest that a few visitors tried their hand at tolling a bell. The evening was interspersed with touches of simple method and call changes. With photographs taken, Rachel Talbot, winner of the quiz was presented with chocolates and the evening ended with two interested recruits; one, we understand has now started to learn. (And there may be others!)

Photo l-r: back row: Jackie Cain, Sue Talbot, Ruth Cullingford, Front row: Chris Talbot, Liz Hemsley, Win Reed, Rebecca Talbot, Rachel Talbot, Gwen Kinghom. (Photo: Ed)

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

The recent celebrations of the Centenary of the Ringing World was a justifiable cause for celebration. What a wonderful occasion was the Westminster Abbey Service! Part of the success of this publication is surely no small measure due to the variety of material that it offers. Being one of those people who love looking at 'back numbers' I was recently going through last year's copies. Two events in particular were brought to mind. Both were reported during the same month and both happened within our own Guild. The joyous news of the Installation of the bells at Imber has been well reported and is a great credit to all involved. I have yet to add this tower to my list, but was very interested to read that the two largest bells were formerly part of a clock chime in the Stables at Grove House in Harrogate, about 300 yards from where I now live!

By complete contrast was the sad tale of the theft of a number of bells from Andrew Nicholson's workshop in Bridport. This was a reminder of the potential vulnerability of many of our bells, even when in apparently safe locations. During my perambulations around many North Yorkshire churches, I have seen several examples of bells that are 'at risk'. In one case a single bell has been replaced and the old one dumped in the churchyard behind a tree adjoining the main church path!

All this brought my mind back to an incident when I was a student in Manchester during the mid-sixties. Manchester was a city 'in transition'. The once great industry that had earned the city the nickname of 'Cottonopolis' was in terminal decline. Nevertheless that whole area of South Lancashire was still dominated by mill chimneys, giving the landscape a bizarre 'Lowryesque' appearance. All public buildings were caked in grime.

In late 1965 I spent a term living at St. Stephen's Rectory in the Hulme district. Most of the area around the city centre was a desolate wasteland of slum clearance. Hulme was probably the largest and most desolate of all, at that time. Indeed, it was reckoned to have some of the worst slums of anywhere in the U.K. There were formerly two rings of eight in the district; Holy Trinity was demolished after War damage, the other, St. Philip was demolished about 1973. All but one of the sixteen bells involved were scrapped.

Despite the fact that most of the housing had gone, such was the loyalty of its (fairly elderly) congregation of St. Stephen's they returned Sunday by Sunday to worship. Indeed, the church managed to maintain 2 services each Sunday. I was often called upon to play the organ for some of these services. There was one small bell in a bell cote of which, perhaps rather foolishly, I failed to get details.

The Rector and his wife both hailed from Dublin. Robert was an outstanding organist having been appointed Assistant Organist at Christ Church Cathedral, in the Fair city, at the age of 16, while Joan was currently learning to ring at Manchester Cathedral.

Robert was also in charge of the neighbouring parish of St. Michael. Although its population had gone the (Closed) church building remained. Both this and St. Stephen's were the work of a major Lancashire architect and dated respectively 1862 and 1868. St. Michael's was a forlorn sight, standing as it did alone in a sea of desolation. The building had a south-west tower with one bell, which I arranged to investigate one Saturday afternoon. Although the church was nominally locked, there was clearly little difficulty in gaining access if one was so inclined. To this day I recall my shock when Robert and I went in. The chancel roof had all but gone due to an arson attack. The organ chamber was empty. I learned that when Robert went there one day he found that all the metal pipes had been removed from the 3-manual instrument and had been 'sacked-up' ready to sell for scrap. He told me that he had promptly removed the pipes and stored them in the Rectory cellar. This action was much to the chagrin of the Manchester Diocese who took issue that no faculty had been granted!

Within the church the floor was strewn with rotting hymn and prayer books whilst the hassocks had been laid out at the base of the tower. I originally thought that this was the purpose of providing a mattress for local vagrants who were known to regularly use the building as a 'doss-house'. However, As I was to discover they had a more sinister purpose. It was a 3-ladder ascent to the bell chamber. In the chamber was a frame for a single bell that apart from a wheel and headstock was empty. Its former occupant had been removed and was suspended by ropes from the roof beams.

It was a Taylor bell of 1864, and I subsequently discovered weighed 13-2-8. A bell of that substance could hardly have been hauled up by ropes alone. Robert's verbal reaction on this will not be quoted here!

We immediately reported our discovery to a nearby police station. They were unsurprised by these events, and they had a pretty good idea as to the identity of those involved. We left the matter in their hands, and sure enough, late on the Sunday night the miscreants were caught red handed.

Removal of the bell was now a matter of urgency and 2 days later it was literally cut loose and allowed to drop to the ground floor. Given the fact that it had a soft landing it survived intact. It was sold to a dealer in Stretford and was sadly scrapped – again without a faculty!

My final memory of St. Michael's took the building even further down the road of sadness. The church was used as a set for a film based on one of the plays of the Salford playwright Sheila Delaney. It involved the building being 'set alight' using smoke canisters and finally being extinguished as part of an exercise for the Auxiliary Fire Service – an ignominious end for a building which once had surely been an important place in the lives of its population.

The following term I moved to a different area in the city and shortly afterwards Robert was sent to another parish. St. Stephen's was closed and demolished in 1969. The remains of St. Michael's met a similar fate the following year.

Of Hulme's original 10 Anglican churches only 2 remain today and both have been converted into flats. In one case the 3 bells were stolen and in the other the single bell was scrapped. The present area is served by just one Anglican church – The Ascension. Built 40 years ago it served a new housing development that brought the most unimaginable social and crime problems. In less than 20 years the houses were demolished and the whole area was developed once again.

The twentieth century saw the loss of about a dozen churches in Greater Manchester with rings of bells. Whilst several were relocated there were in a generation, perhaps less conservation-minded than our own, all too many bells were either scrapped or stolen.

Allan Keen, May 2011.

GUILD OPEN DAY

Saturday 20th August 2011

The day starts at ZEALS at 9.30am, continuing to the restored ring at KINGTON MAGNA at 9.50 before going into the East Dorset Branch at TOLLARD ROYAL following an S-shaped route finishing at HAMPRESTON at about 6.00pm

In aid of the L.E.B.R.F.

Ross.

LEBRF Trustees' Report: The Chairman regrets that there are two typing errors –

1. The Dorchester Branch Trustee is Neville Wood, and not as printed.
2. The total given in grants was £19,200 as correctly recorded in the accounts.

GUILD REPORT – AMENDMENT: Please note the e-mail address for the correspondent at Salisbury St Martin is Martisanb55@hotmail.com and not as printed.

GUILD QUARTER PEAL WEEK
29th October to 6th November

NEW BISHOP OF SALISBURY NAMED: The Revd Nicholas Roderick Holtam, 56, Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields is to be the new Bishop of Salisbury. The Bishop-designate, having been elected by the Cathedral of Canons in May, will have his election confirmed by the Archbishop of Canterbury in London on the 20th July. He will then be ordained and consecrated as a bishop two days later at St Paul's Cathedral. An official welcome of the Bishop to our diocese is expected in October.

GUILD STRIKING COMPETITIONS

will be held at Bryanston (8-bell) and Durweston (6-bell)

on Saturday 10th Sept

It is hoped that all Branches will want to participate

Trowbridge, St James. Unfortunately practice night (Wednesday evening) is cancelled until September. For further details please call Veronica Newman on 01225 351217. The 10/12 bell practices will continue to take place on the 3rd Saturday evening of the month, except in August.

LIBRARY UPDATE:

We have received into the Library parts 1 & 3 of 'Church Bells of Wiltshire' by H.B. Walters FSA. These were presented to the Library by Richard Inglis, a former ringer at Marlborough (c Dec 1965).

A letter of thanks has been sent. Two researches have recently been made into our records by enquirers into ringers of earlier days; one lady spending the whole day at Bradpole in her efforts to trace her ringing forbear. Both researches proved successful. *Timothy Andrews.*

First quarter peals: We congratulate

The following ringers who, over the past weeks, have rung their first quarter peal:

Will Burnett, 1260 PB Dbles, Buckland Newton, 31-1-2011; **Chris Burnett**, 1260 PB Dbles, Buckland Newton, 31-1-2011; **Kathryn E. Tyson**, 1260 PB Dbles, Canford Magna, 4-2-2011; **Paul J. Tyson**, 1260 PB Dbles, Canford Magna, 4-2-2011 (Rung for the Golden Wedding Anniversary to Canford ringers, Bill and Jenny Campion, Janet Fawcett would like to be associated with this quarter peal); **Oliver Parsons**, 1260 PB Dbles, Corfe Castle, 30-1-2011; **Sally Wyatt**, 1260 Grandsire Dbles, Lyme Regis, 20-3-2011; **Connie Wyatt**, 1260 Grandsire Dbles, Lyme Regis, 20-3-2011; **Megan Boffy**, 1260 (2-Dbles), Upwey, 22-4-2011 (Rung in celebration of the 65th wedding anniversary of John & Gwen Hampton, grand parents of Andrea Jacob (4) and great grand parents of Megan (treble)); **Chris Ware**, 1260 Pl Bob Dbles, Stratford sub Castle, 29.4.2011; **Brian Grace**, 1320 Pl Bob Dbles, Lyneham, 29-4-2011.

Miscellaneous quarter peals – Marlborough Branch

Collingbourne Ducis, St Andrew. 16-1-2011, 1320 Grandsire and Pl Bob Doubles. 1 Michael Holt, 2 Karen Dobie, 3 Ursula Osmond, 4 Gemma Holt, 5 David Close (C), Mick Goldsmith. Rung for Evensong and as a birthday compliment to Olwen Muriel Holt, mother of 1 and grandmother of 4.

Aldbourne, St Michael. 22-2-2011. 1260 Grandsire Triples. 1 Terry Gilligan, 2 Sheila Evans, 3 Colin Wilkins, 4 Mike Clark, 5 Darran Ricks, 6 Colin Mynett, 7 Marc Hart (C), 8 Chris Barnes. Rung to celebrate the 70th birthdays of 4 and 8.

Collingbourne Kingston, St Mary. 27-2-2011. 1260 Pl Bob and All Saints Doubles Dbles. 1 Jenny Schwarz, 2 Jenny Jones, 3 David Close, 4 Mick Goldsmith, 5 Gemma Holt (C), 6 Michael Holt. 1st inside to two methods 4. Rung for Evensong.

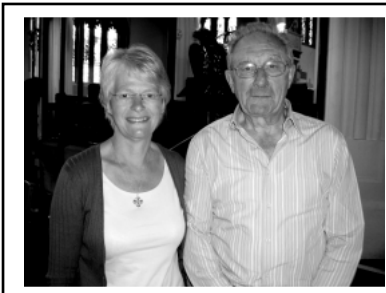
Bishops Cannings, St Mary the Virgin. 16-4-2011. 1260 Grandsire Triples. 1 Ursula Osmond, 2 Lewis F Cobb, 3 Dorothy Blythe, 4 Jenny H Jones, 5 Gillean MacDonald, 6 Neil Skelton, 7 Julian Ferrar (C), 8 Christopher W Barnes. Rung following the wedding of Adam Hicks and Charlotte Parker.

Aldbourne, St Michael. 22-4-2011. 1260 Grandsire Doubles. 1 Michael Holt, 2 Sheila Evans, 3 Mike Clark, 4 Colin Mynett, 5 Darran Ricks (C), 6 Christopher Barnes. Rung half-muffled for the Good Friday Service of Devotion.

Preshute, St George. 24-4-2011. 1260 Pl Bob Dbles. 1 Karen Dobie, 2 Hamish Brown, 3 Dorothy Blythe, 4 Revd Ian C Cooper, 5 Lewis F Cobb (C), 6 Ian Wyld. First inside – 2. Rung for Easter and St George. *Submitted by Mike Holt.*

THE GUILD FESTIVAL

With Lyme Regis lying so far to the west of the Guild, there were members living in other parts of the diocese who, because of the distance involved, could not attend. Again, there were others who sent apologies because they were required for ringing at weddings, fetes and similar functions at this time of the year. With this space remaining at the deadline, a brief outline of the events of the 14th May might prove of interest to all who could not attend the AGM.



Senior Vice President Eric Hitchens and wife Tricia travelled from their Norfolk home to attend the meeting.

Choral Evensong was led by the Revd Jane Skinner, team vicar, Golden Cap Benefice, lessons were read by Philip Clarke (Bridport) and Sue Philp (Beaminster) and the singing was led by a combined choir of 26 conducted by Andrew Nicholson. The newly installed organ was played by Linda Nicholson and as well as leading the hymn singing, accompanied the choir in Psalm 150 (Standford), specially arranged canticles and a short anthem 'Lead me Lord' with the solo sung by young Sarah Nicholson. The address was given by the team vicar. It was pleasing to see such a large congregation despite various apologies.

The AGM, held in the church, followed after the service. The President, Ross Robertson, extended a warm welcome to everyone, and the Master, Tom Garrett took the chair. Minutes of the last AGM, the financial review and various reports, all appearing in the latest Guild Report, were accepted without particular comment.

The annual subscriptions for 2012 are Adult £6.50, Youth (12-18) £5.00, Associate £5.00, Probationary £2.50 (The Branch retaining 25%).

There were no changes in office holders and the names of newly elected HLMs appear elsewhere in this Newsletter. A report was given by Robert Wellen (Education/Training) and other topics discussed were Ringing Centres, Child Protection, Guild Striking Competitions and one minor change to Guild rules 5.4: to add "and members under 12 years". Forthcoming dates were confirmed and details appear elsewhere in this production.

An excellent informal tea in the adjoining hall was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone – prepared and served by a host of willing people, and a raffle raised over £90.00 for the LEBRF.

Ringing on the peal of ten at Lyme Regis took place before the service and again well into the evening, while other towers open during various times of the day were Askerswell, Bradpole, Broadwindsor, Hawkchurch, Loders and Uplyme (Devon).

Grateful thanks are extended to the West Dorset Branch in general for hosting the event, and particularly those hard working members who planned and ran a most successful and enjoyable day. *Ed.*



Something worth laughing about! The Guild President poses with our two senior Vice Presidents after tea at Lyme Regis. Neil Skelton (l) and Eric Hitchens. *Photos: Editor*

AROUND THE BRANCHES

Ringling around the Devizes Branch

This quarter we held meetings as normal, and the usual suspects attended. It was great to see new faces at All Cannings on 5th March, albeit they were visitors David and Joy Carmuals from Hughendon who had seen my advert on Campanophile. We were delighted to welcome them and had a great time with a splendid tea in the parish rooms prepared by the All Cannings team. This was followed with evening ringing at Urchfont. On 2nd April we had an evening meeting on the 6 bells at Rode followed by a visit to the pub. And lastly our meeting on 7th May at Bradford on Avon and Westwood played host to both the 6 and 8 bell striking competitions for which there is a report elsewhere.

The Trowbridge 10 & 12 Bell Practice takes place on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 7:30pm with the door locked at 7:45pm due to an attempt to steal the lead roof. After that please attract attention when we look out during breaks in the ringing. The method of the moment has moved onto Yorkshire Surprise Royal and this has been rung at all the meetings held this quarter on 19th Feb, 19th March and 16th April. Attendance has been sufficient, but it would be good if more branch members came along. Anything on 6 or 8 seems much easier having tackled 10 and 12.

The Branch Surprise Major Practices took place at St Johns, Devizes on 22nd February, 29th March at Bishops Cannings, with April's delayed to 2nd May at Christ Church BOA due to the Royal Wedding. This is a friendly practice that welcomes everyone from treble bob on 8 upwards. Some regular attendees have progressed over the last year from plain courses in 3 single methods to quarters of 4, 5 and 6 spliced. If you want to progress you do need to put some time in and this practice will take those prepared to make the effort from treble bob on 8 to 'the sky's the limit (of the band..!)'. Will this year be your year to make 'stellar' progress?

Training this quarter included a belfry maintenance course in March held by the Guild and at their request the Bratton ringers had a training morning too. Edington was used again for training courses on 9th April for Bob Doubles course which was repeated in May due to over subscription. Thanks as always to the helpers. The training centre at Edington continues to home 'The Edingers' who have now completed their first year of ringing. Almost all of them are now regular Sunday Service band members and Christine Purnell is to be congratulated for her sterling work with these youngsters. She is there, almost without exception, every week, or every two weeks in three, and their progress reflects her dedication to them. Christine is assisted by a team of supportive helpers who come when they can, or when asked, and are really too many to mention here, save for perhaps Patsy Thorn and Roger Carter.

Patsy not only goes and helps most weeks but masterminded with Christine the running of a car boot stall on 2nd May to raise some money to take The Edingers ringing in London for the opening of the Olympics. Roger sharpened his pencil and completed the forms to successfully obtain a grant of £250 from The Ringing Foundation in order that the branch can get some video equipment to assist with the teaching. (Report elsewhere)

On 14th February Liz Merrit at St Johns Devizes along with Bob Purnell and others hosted a trip up the tower by children from St Peters' school, with their head Catherine Davis. The children were taken up to see the bells, shown a single bell ringing – universally agreed it was very loud – and rang hand bells in the ringing room, and were then taken all the way to the top of the tower to enjoy the view. (*Photograph ack Christine Sworder appears on the front cover of this issue Ed*) I heard from Catherine the following day that the children shared their experiences with the rest of the school and rang her handbells in assembly!

Christine Sworder, Devizes Publicity Officer, Contact at: - devizes.web@gmail.com

An update from the Edington Ringing Centre.

At the beginning of 2010 the training centre was set up at Edington Priory, within the Devizes Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers. This project was funded using money from the branch alongside a grant from the Guild, coupled with many members' time and effort. There was much to purchase and prepare - the computer equipment, fittings, programmes, sensors etc – but it has been well worth it.

Easter 2010 saw the teaching of The Edingers, a group of mainly youngsters taught from scratch to ringing rounds in a fortnight as reported in Face to Face last year. They have continued to go from strength to strength and now ring regularly within their Sunday Service bands across the branch. The Edingers have been joined over the past year by more absolute beginners in July when another new group was taught to handle over a single week, and also other ringers coming along to gain confidence or improve their handling skills and style. The Wednesday Practices are busy, but are enjoyed by all. At present out of 18 new recruits, only 4 have fallen away.

The one item that funds hadn't been able to stretch to was some form of video equipment in order to show a learner what they looked like when they were ringing. Nothing quite like a video clip showing the learner their floating hand when they 'know' they are snapping it straight to the rope!!

An update from the Edington Ringing Centre. (cont)

Sometimes a camera could be borrowed for the evening, but this was not ideal and very hit and miss, and it was felt that if the Edington Ringing Centre had a video camera it would be very useful. Roger Carter took this to heart, and obtained and completed the forms from The Ringing Foundation to see if the Ringing Centre qualified for a grant towards a video camera.

It was therefore with great delight when The Ringing Foundation responded in April with a cheque which has enabled a video camera to be purchased. The camcorder was handed over to Christine Purnell, Devizes Training Officer at the Devizes monthly meeting on 7th May and the photograph shows her trying it out in the meeting.

After all the work, and effort that has gone into establishing the Edington Ringing Centre, and the ongoing time and commitment to teaching up there with courses held most months, and the regular Wednesday evening sessions it is wonderful to have received such a generous grant to enable the Ringing Centre to buy the camcorder which will now help our learners progress.

As the camcorder is so neat (and small) there is no room on it to record the grant made by The Ringing Foundation so Roger is also arranging for a plaque to go up at Edington to recognise their assistance. So on behalf of the Devizes Branch of Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers I say a very big Thank You to The Ringing Foundation and also Roger Carter for both completing the forms and doing much research into camcorders. Thank you.



Christine Purnell testing the new camcorder.
Photographack: Christine Sworder.

The Devizes Branch training diary for the rest of the year looks very busy and courses are detailed herewith:

21st May: Bob Doubles Course Group 2 (Edington)
4th June: Bob Minor. (Possibly at Great Cheverell)
30th July: London/Bristol S Major Course (Marston Bigot)
13th Aug: Rise & Fall Course (Edington)
10th Sept: Cambridge Minor Course (Edington)
8th Oct: Plain Bob Triples Course (Edington) Nov/Dec tbc.

Melksham, Wiltshire. (St. Michael and All Angels) 30 April 2011.
1260 Stedman Triples:

**Christine Purnell 1, Jennifer Hancock 2, David Orledge 3,
Gillean MacDonald 4, David Hacker 5, Julian Ferrar 6,
Robert Purnell (C) 7, Patsy Thorn 8.**

To celebrate the engagement of Naomi Hacker, daughter of 5, to Richard Dickens. Also to celebrate the birth of Chloe Godman on 25th April, granddaughter of 3.

There is a nominal charge of £2.50 per learner to help defray the costs. Should you wish to go on any of these courses or want to discuss your training requirements please contact Chris Purnell on 01225 704934 or grandison@talktalk.net

The Ringing Centre at Edington obviously places quite a burden on the local ringers and the fixtures and fittings up in the tower. The Devizes Branch committee have spliced several ropes; I'm almost expecting to see one done during a committee meeting. Therefore it was decided that we would fund the purchase of two new ropes and I understand that the order has now been placed, but as those of you that have placed an order for ropes recently will know, these may take a while to arrive.

It is nice therefore that the Guild is also able to say thank you to The Priory in the only way ringers can, by attempting a peal on 9th July for their celebrations marking the 650th anniversary of the completion of the Priory building. Good luck to the band.

The Devizes Branch 6 and 8 bell striking competitions.

Our meeting on 7th May played host to both these competitions which were held concurrently. Unfortunately only 2 teams entered the 8-bell competition which was held at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon, and the judges were John & Debbie Stott. The results were given after tea at Westwood by John and they placed the teams as follows:- 1st Melksham (18 faults), 2nd Bradford on Avon (34 faults).

Fortunately the 6-bell competition on the light 6 at Westwood was more popular and Gillean MacDonald had quite a task organising all the people, but did an excellent job and the competition finished just about on time before the service was held at Westwood.

After an excellent tea in the church hall prepared by the Westwood ringers, the 6-bell judge Andrew Woolley gave his thoughtful remarks and the results were as follows:- 1st Melksham (13½ faults), 2nd Scratch Band (20½ faults), 3rd Bradford on Avon (22½ faults), 4th Steeple Ashton (35½ faults), 5th Westwood (41½ faults), 6th Bratton (51½ faults), 7th Keevil (54 faults). Congratulations to all the bands and well done for taking part.

The business meeting followed and certificates were handed out, and the only member there to receive his certificate in person was Mike Marshall from Westwood (*see photo next page*). Evening ringing concluded back at Holy Trinity in Bradford on Avon, where we were delighted to be joined by Mike Spencer and Jane Webster from Backwell, North Somerset who had seen our advert on Campanophile. *Christine Sworder.*



Mike Marshall from Westwood receives his certificate from Gillean MacDonald. Ack CS.

**WE CONGRATULATE THE
MARLBOROUGH BRANCH
ON ITS CENTENARY – 1911 to 2011**

***CELEBRATION DAY – SATURDAY 23RD JULY
Ringing 14:30, Service 16:00 – Marlborough
Other towers for ringing to be advised
Everyone is welcome to join the celebrations !!***

SALISBURY BRANCH

As has become the custom the May SAGOR meeting took the form of an all day outing. This year Mary Melbourne had organised a trip to Bath with ringing at four towers and the option of staying on for the Bath Abbey practice in the evening. The trip was well supported with 19 members attending.

Members made their own way there and beside those who drove and took a chance on parking in Bath or using the Park and Ride, seven of the party 'let the train take the strain' and one used the bus!

The first tower was St Matthew's Widcombe where we disturbed a pigeon sitting on two eggs close by the treble and second ropes. The eggs were undamaged at the end of ringing and presumably the mother returned after we had left. Plain Bob, Grandsire and Stedman Doubles were rung here together with Plain Bob Minor.

We then walked to Blessed Virgin Mary at Bathwick to ring on the ten. Unfortunately Salisbury Branch has no ten bell towers so it was felt rounds and call changes were the order of the day although plain hunt on nine was successfully rung. We were greatly encouraged by the warm welcome we received from the local ringer, Paul, and his comment that we had managed the bells better than most visiting bands.

A long lunch-break gave us plenty of time to eat and tackle the long steep climb up Lansdown Road to St Stephen's to sample the relatively new light six. With a tenor of $2\frac{3}{4}$ cwt it was in complete contrast to the previous tower and some took time to master the bells but all in all some respectable touches of doubles were rung.

Then it was back down the hill to St Michaels in the centre of Bath. Here call changes, plain hunt and Grandsire Triples were rung before most of the group bid their farewells leaving the rest to seek sustenance before climbing the 100 plus steps to join the Abbey practice. The tower captain wisely suggested we rang rounds and call changes, a few in at a time, although one of the group did ring the second to a plain course of Grandsire Caters. We did not have a great deal of time at the Abbey, having to leave early to catch the train home.

Thank you Mary for arranging a very enjoyable day which fortunately was dry though somewhat windy. We look forward to next May and what you have up your sleeve for us then.

Six members of the Branch had a thoroughly enjoyable day in London for the Ringing World Centenary celebration.

Congratulations to Chris Ware (first quarter) and Alice Nield (who rang at least half of the quarter with a loose tail end), two of our young ringers who rang in the Royal Wedding quarter at Stratford sub Castle on 29th April. (*Quarter peal details included with other Royal Wedding ringing at the back of this Newsletter*)

We are looking forward to our next Branch event which will be ringing, a meeting and a barbeque at Wylde on June 17th.

Ian Davidson

MARLBOROUGH BRANCH

Sunday Service ringing at St Andrew's, Wootton Rivers: On 6th March, ringers from Preshute (Richard Metters, Dave Moore, Ian Wyld and Edward Angelo) joined two ringers in Wootton Rivers, Phil and June Buffery in ringing for the 0900 service. No one in the village can remember when the bells at St Andrew's were last rung for Sunday service on a regular basis, but it has certainly been a good few years. The reception from the vicar and congregation was heart warming. Our band of ringers is steadily growing with the dedicated teaching of Pat Cotton and Richard Metters. In time, we hope the ringing from our tower will return as part of the soundscape of our village life.

Phil and June Buffery

Collingbourne Kingston – Clappers refurbished.

The clappers were removed and transported to Nicholson's Engineering Works at Bridport on Monday 28th March and returned, refurbished on Thursday 7th April. My thanks to Mick Goldsmith for assistance with the removal and to Amanda Burch for her assistance, refitting the clappers. The work was financed with a Community Grant from the Tidworth Area Board of Wiltshire Council. The Parochial Church Council submitted the grant application.

Mike Holt

DORCHESTER BRANCH NEWSLETTER – MAY 2011

There are very few things in life more beautiful than a church yard in the Spring sunshine and this was particularly true of one of Dorset's most picturesque churches, Piddlehinton, as it hosted this year's striking competition. The participating teams were blessed with warm sunshine and spring flowers as they waited their turn on the afternoon of the 9th April. Four teams entered this year's competition which was followed by open ringing and then the service conducted by vicar Revd Tony Mons who was accompanied on the organ by Alan Neaves.

A splendid tea was provided by the "ladies of the branch" who fed us well with a wide variety of foods including scones, jam and cream all of which disappeared in short order.

The competition was judged by Nick Baker who placed the teams in the following order:

1 Preston – 20 ½ faults, 2 Wool – 27 faults, 3 Charminster – 27 ½ faults, Upwey – 29 ½ faults.

A number of the members had made the journey to London for the Ringing World Centenary Celebrations and had experienced a very enjoyable and well organised day.

Congratulations to **Megan Boffy** of Upwey who rang her first quarter peal on Friday 22nd April which was particularly important as it was rung in celebration of the 65th wedding anniversary of her great-grandparents John and Gwendoline Hampton who were married at Upwey in 1946. The ringers were treated to boxes of chocolates by Mr & Mrs Hampton following the successful completion of the quarter peal. *Andrea Jacob.*

EAST DORSET BRANCH

East Dorset held its Spring Quarterly meeting at Poole. We changed the format slightly, so that we rang earlier in the day at Oakdale, and later at Poole, but after, rather than before, the service, tea and meeting. This seemed a better way to make use of the lighter evenings.

37 members and one visitor attended the meeting, which started with a minute's silence in memory of Patrick Matthews. We elected 8 new members: 2 were experienced ringers moving into the area; the remainder were 'home grown'. We elected Carolina Koronen, from Sweden but currently on a year's visit as a youth leader at Wimborne Minster, a non-resident life member - Carolina has used her time profitably and learned to ring; and we also elected Dorothy Farrance, a stalwart of Hampreston for many years but now unable to ring due to ill health, an ALM.

The meeting heard that Branch practices had been well supported with 47 members from 17 towers attending the first 3 practices of the year. (Unfortunately the April practice, at Worth Matravers, was not well supported, but the few members who attended did very well for themselves, having no time to sit out and ample opportunity to increase their experience!)

The Branch striking competition will be in two parts, with a 'standard' competition and a 'striking for fun' competition, where ringers with less experience will be formed into teams with more experienced ringers whose names will be drawn out of a hat. We hope that will encourage more members to come forward and benefit from ringing with a better band around them than they would usually enjoy.

Sturminster Marshall reported on the problems they had undergone after the PCC installed a new boiler in the ringing chamber. Towers were reminded that if they met a problem where they were in disagreement with the PCC they should get help from the Diocesan Advisory Committee consultant Bob Purnell or the Guild Secretary.

Dilbert Quotes: A magazine recently ran a 'Dilbert Quotes' contest. They were looking for people to submit quotes from their real-life Dilbert-type managers. These were voted the top ten quotes in corporate America:

'As of tomorrow, employees will only be able to access the building using individual security cards. Pictures will be taken next Wednesday, and employees will receive their cards in two weeks.' (This was the winning quote from Fred Dales, Microsoft Corp in Redmond WA)

'What I need is an exact list of specific unknown problems we might encounter.' (Lykes Lines Shipping)

'E-mail is not to be used to pass on information or data. It should be used only for company business.' (Accounting manager, Electric Boat Company)

'This project is so important we can't let things that are more important interfere with it.' (Advertising/ Marketing manager, United Parcel Service)

'Doing it right is no excuse for not meeting the schedule.' (Plant Manager, Delco Corporation)

'No one will believe you solved this problem in one day! We've been working on it for months. Now go act busy for a few weeks and I'll let you know when it's time to tell them.' (R&D supervisor, Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing/ 3M Corp)

Quote from the Boss: 'Teamwork is a lot of people doing what I say.' (Marketing executive, Citrix Corporation)

My sister passed away and her funeral was scheduled for Monday. When I told my Boss, he said she died on purpose so that I would have to miss work on the busiest day of the year. He then asked if we could change her burial to Friday. He said, 'That would be better for me.' (Shipping executive, FTD Florists) 'We know that communication is a problem, but the company is not going to discuss it with the employees.' (Switching supervisor, AT&T Long Lines Division) *John Riley, East Dorset Branch Sec.*

WEST DORSET BRANCH



Ringers at St Mary's Church, Bridport pose for the photographer after ringing for the Royal Wedding on the 29th April. Ack: With thanks.

Members from various parts of the Branch attended The Ringing World's Centenary celebrations held in London on the 26th March; some taking full advantage of the whole day's activities by travelling to the City the previous day and finding accommodation for the evening. Without doubt the highlights of the day were the ringing on 24 handbells and the memorable service in Westminster Abbey. Some took the opportunity to visit the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, others went along to the ROA Gallery Exhibition, rang at selected towers and met with the many attending tea. The Abbey bells were a joy to listen to and one or two ringers from this area were fortunate enough to win a place for a tour of the building before the service. Atkinson's Carillon in Old Bond Street drew crowds as did the mini rings in Dean's Yard and a musical hand bell concert. (See Peter's Report on page 7).

According to reports received, many of our towers in West Dorset rang for the Royal Wedding on the 29th April. Those who submitted details are listed at the back of this Newsletter.

Members are reminded of the forthcoming **Branch Striking Competition** and Tea being held at Leigh on the 18th June. It is hoped as many towers/teams as possible will participate in this informal competition. Please give your names/towers to Delie our secretary. Also in September there is to be a **"Walk in the Park"** and picnic at Melbury Osmond on the 17th September. Why not bring along your friends and enjoy the afternoon in lovely Melbury Park?



Where are we? We're outside The Whitechapel Bell Foundry on The Ringing World Centenary Day. But where do we go from here? Let's look at the map! Bradpole ringers Robin Carter (l) and Peter Carnell were just two Bradpole members who attended. *Photo Wendy Carnell.*

A reminder that the next Branch practices will be at Lillington on the 16th July, Thorncombe 20th August and Melbury Osmond on the 17th September.

News in Brief: "Regular Askerswell ringer Jill Evans has retired and re-elected tower captain Rob Bryan has warned the village will need more ringers in the future as he is planning to leave the village next year" Ack: The Bridport News.

Recently thefts of lead have taken place in West Dorset. Whitchurch Canonorum discovered loss of lead after rain penetrated the roof, and a small amount has been extracted from the porch roof at Bradpole. Be wamed – keep an eye out !!

Villagers are raising money in earnest to enable the bells at St Giles' Chideock to be restored. An estimated £70,000 is envisaged. A new metal frame is to be installed, the five bells returned and fitted with modern hangings, and a (new) sixth bell from an old church in Shropshire has been purchased, to increase the peal to 6

Beaminster, St Mary. Saturday 30th April 2011
1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Steve Longridge, 2 Marie Hutchinson, 3 Delie Perry,
4 Sue Philp, 5 Harry Murley (C), 6 Chris Vye.

First quarter as conductor. Rung for the conductor's 21st birthday.

At 6:20 this morning (Wed 30th March) somebody walking their dog spotted flames coming from the chancel roof at Maiden Newton Church. The fire brigade arrived shortly afterwards and the fire was soon extinguished. A large hole was burnt through the chancel ceiling adjacent to the tower wall, and there was considerable smoke damage throughout the building. The fire brigade say they suspect an electrical fault to be the cause. We are hopeful that the damage does not extend up the tower, but in the meantime there will be no ringing until further notice. *Gareth Evans*

Trowbridge, St James. Unfortunately practice night (Wednesday evening) is cancelled until September.

For further details please call Veronica Newman on 01225 351217.

The 10/12 bell practices will continue to take place on the 3rd Saturday evening of the month, except in August.

OBITUARIES

Patrick L.J. Matthews, 1952-2011, Vice-president SDGR



Patrick was born on the 2nd July 1952 in Poole, Dorset into an ancestry of Poole fishermen, lifeboat men and sailors; however those who have met Patrick can guess that he followed the views of his mother by actively rebelling against seaward activities. Patrick was educated at the Oratory prep school in Canford Cliffs and later Downside School in Somerset. After his plans to study Geography at University were scuppered he attended Bournemouth College studying an external degree from the University of London and graduated with a Bsc in economics. Patrick started training as a solicitor and officially qualified in 1977. Patrick joined the Crown Prosecution Service in 1980 and worked successfully as a prosecutor in and around the Bournemouth area until poor health forced him into retirement in 2010.

Patrick's first encounter with bells was at Downside, mainly through his alarm clock (Great Bede, 5 ½ tonnes of alarm clock) and when finishing school he decided to try his hand at change ringing. He was taught to ring in 1971 at Canford Magna by Tony Hiscock and 'caught the bug'. He soon became a regular ringer not just at Canford but in and around the Poole and Bournemouth area, in particular Lychett Minster and later St John's, Bournemouth.

By the end of 1971 he had rung his first quarter peal at Morden, Dorset and by the end of 1972 had conducted his first at Netheravon, Wilts. In the following years he rang 707 additional quarter peals of which he conducted 346. He rang his first of 34 peals in 1974 at Lodors, Dorset and his last with past and present Salisbury Guild masters at North Bradley, Wiltshire in celebration of the 125th anniversary of the Salisbury Guild. (2007)

Patrick's proudest ringing accomplishments came in his efforts to promote the change ringing of Catholic Bells. Whilst participating in an open day at Wimborne Minster, Patrick was approached by two teenage Sacred Heart parishioners (James Barton and John McCarthy) who were interested in putting ringable bells in the tower. Backed by the two enthusiastic priests including Fr. David Buckley, who has since been influential in other Catholic installations, the six bells were installed into Sacred Heart in November 1983 with Patrick becoming tower captain, he continued in this role for the next 27 years as well as becoming a pivotal member of the congregation. Coinciding with this was the formation of the Guild of St Agatha, a Guild dedicated to the Catholic towers of England and Wales. The Guild was established on St Agatha's day (5th February) 1983 in the Sacred Heart presbytery with Patrick and Fr. David as two of the founding members. Patrick began as ringing master for three years before becoming President of the Guild in 1986 and remaining in this post for 25 years. During his tenure the Guild has grown from strength to strength with over 550 ringers being members over the years.

Patrick was by no means a one tower ringer and was a member of the band at St John's, Surrey Road for 35 years before taking on his second tower captaincy in 2003 and serving as captain until his ill health restricted him from accessing the notoriously cold tower. During his time as Sacred Heart and St. John's captain both bands grew in strength and numbers. You would always find ringers of St. John's at a Sacred Heart practice night and vice versa. With Sacred Heart being in the Winchester and Portsmouth diocese and St John's being in the Salisbury diocese, Patrick was influential with both associations. For the Winchester and Portsmouth diocese Patrick served as district chairman of the Christchurch and Southampton district from 1992 – 1995. With the Salisbury diocese he acted as assistant secretary from 1978 – 1987, was a Central Council representative from 1978 – 1986 and served on the general committee from 1974 – 1997. Patrick became Master of the Salisbury Diocese in 2005 before having to step down due to ill health in 2009.

Patrick was diagnosed with cancer in 2009, although his health was deteriorating he managed to continue ringing through the most part even managing a few quarter peals. Ringing remained an essential part of his life even to the last proven four days prior to his death when he managed to convince Kim and I to wheel him in a wheelchair to Westminster Abbey to the Ringing World centenary celebrations which he enjoyed as much as he could before making us wheel him to Westminster Cathedral which aptly was the last of many churches he visited in his lifetime. Many may be surprised that he has even managed to tower grab here when he rang the single bell for the visit of the Queen. Patrick passed away on the 31st March 2011 after his courageous battle with cancer. Patrick served as an inspiration and a role model to many friends and ringers, he will be missed by all.

Anthony P. Matthews

A Requiem Mass for Patrick was held at The Church of The Sacred Heart, Richmond Hill, Bournemouth on Wednesday 13th April, conducted by Father Bruce Barnes; the large church being filled to near capacity by ringers from a wide area, representatives of various organisations, and friends from many walks of life. The Homily was given by Father Ron Hishon who in outlining Patrick's life, made particular mention of his tremendous involvement in Sacred Heart over many years. Patrick had suffered greatly over the past months but despite this he had been determined to attend The Ringing World Centenary held in London a few days before his passing, and had fought his illness to the very end – even responding to his Last Rites on the day of his passing. Patrick's son, Anthony, gave a moving tribute, and added his family's grateful thanks to the NHS, doctors, nurses, carers and staff at Forest Holme Hospice, Poole. He also expressed his family's sincere thanks to all who were in attendance and to all who had sent messages of comfort. A moving solo sung by Horatio Carr-Jones of Faure's 'In Paradisum' ended the service as the family left the church for a private burial service at Poole Cemetery. The congregation were invited to the Norfolk Royale Hotel for light refreshments – joined later by Kim and her family. The bells of both St Peter's and The Sacred Heart were rung half-muffled prior to the service by all who wished to, and the day ended with further ringing at St. John's, Surrey Road. *Editor.*

Salisbury Diocesan Guild
Swanage, Dorset. St Mary the Virgin
Sunday, 3 April 2011 in 46 mins (22-0-24)
1260 Grandsire Triples
1 Mike Pitman
2 Sally Jenkins
3 Tricia Stephens
4 Eddie Dicken
5 Paul R Smith
6 Matthew Pike
7 Phil Stephens (c)
8 Martin Wickham
For Evensong and Mothering Sunday.
Rung in fond memory of Patrick
Matthews; friend and Past Master of the
SDGR

Salisbury Diocesan Guild
Bournemouth, Dorset.
St John the Evangelist
Monday, 25 April 2011 in 45min
(16-1-18)
1260 Grandsire Triples
1 Julian Newman
2 Harry Blamire
3 Ian R Newbery
4 Susan P E Bateman
5 Matthew Pike
6 Anthony P Matthews
7 Stephen J Bateman (C)
8 Colin S Cherrett
Rung in Celebration of the life of Patrick
Matthews.

Salisbury Diocesan Guild
Bournemouth, Dorset.
St John the Evangelist
Sunday, 17 April 2011 in 50m (16-1-18)
1288 Grandsire Triples.
Composed: R William Williams
1 Kim Matthews
2 Joan Pike
3 Peter Jasper
4 Penelope Samuel
5 Anthony P Matthews
6 Angie Jasper (C)
7 Mike Jasper
8 Richard Fenton
Dedicated to Patrick L.J. Matthews, former
Tower Captain and Master of the SDGR

Canon A.J. Butler
Salisbury Diocesan Guild
Bournemouth, Dorset.
St John the Evangelist
Thursday, 24 February 2011 in 2h55
(16-1-18)
5120 Spliced Surprise Major (4 Methods)
1440 Yorkshire, 1280 each Cambridge and
Lincolnshire. 1120 Rutland. 69 com, atw.
Composed: Philip G K Davies
1 Keith H Fleming
2 Felicity S Warwick
3 John Riley
4 Angie M E Jasper
5 David A Warwick (C)
6 Graham W Elmes
7 Philip A L Rioch
8 Nigel R Woodruff
In fond memory of The Rev Alan J Butler
who was taught to ring in this tower in
1943 and rang his first peal here in
February 1947

Celebration Ringing
Salisbury Diocesan Guild
Swanage, Dorset. St Mary the Virgin
Thursday, 21 April 2011 in 50 mins (10-0-26)
1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor
1 Eddie Dicken
2 Sally Jenkins
3 Hayley Newman
4 Linda Hough
5 Matthew Pike
6 Phil Miles (C)
For the "Churches together in Swanage"
Maundy Thursday Eucharist Service
To celebrate the birth of Ava Lewis,
granddaughter for Linda Hough (4).
First Quarter Peal of Surprise: 2

Patrick L.J. Matthews
Listed as a Guild member
from 1972 (Canford Magna)
Tower Captain, St John's,
Bournemouth 1982-2010
General Committee Member:
1974-1976 and 1987-1997
Belfry Inspector: 1978
Central Council
Representative: 1978-1986
Assistant Guild Secretary:
1978-1987
Guild Master: 2006-2009
Vice President: 2010
(Also President for 25 years
of The Guild of St Agatha)

Philip Roper OBE, a West Dorset Coroner for over 20 years who died in April was, for many years, a regular ringer at St Mary's Church, Bridport. He was 92. *(Editor)*

Jill Butler 1938-2011

Jill and her husband Peter moved to Compton Abbas in 1990 when Peter retired. They both became involved in village activities almost as soon as they arrived; and it was not long before Jill asked to be taught to ring. She became a valuable member of our Tower and could be relied on to join the rest of us to ring before Service.

Compton Abbas is not known for its ringers to embark on ambitious Quarter Peals and new Methods (!) but it can be said that thanks to people like Jill, the bells have been rung regularly on Sunday mornings to bear witness to the fact that our church is still alive in this village.

Jill, a Roman Catholic and staunch supporter of both St. Mary's and her church in Shaftesbury, was buried in our churchyard after a Requiem Mass. The bells (open, at her families' request) were rung for the Service by several of us who were admirers of a faithful and very special friend. We miss her more than we can say, and our prayers are with Peter, her daughters and their families.

Henry Moule, Tower Correspondent

Doug Hirst, Upper Chute

I am personally very sad to report the death of Doug Hirst. Doug had been one of our keenest ringers for ten plus years. He had been the type of ringer who never let us down, always available for Sundays and any weddings. Doug was very versatile (his words) and he could ring any bell and did. He also helped with belfry maintenance, helping change a clapper as late as November. Doug was well known and liked in the village always helping behind the scenes he will be sadly missed. *John Wood, Chute Forest.*

(Doug was a member of the Guild from 1993 Br.Ed)

Ringling for The Wedding of Prince William of Wales and Catherine Middleton, April 29th 2011

Swanage, Dorset.

St Mary the Virgin
Friday, 29 April 2011
in 45mins (22-0-24)
1260 Grandsire Triples
1 Sally Jenkins
2 Jill Harris
3 Linda Hough
4 Eddie Dicken
5 Peter Harris
6 Matthew Pike
7 Julian Newman (c)
8 David Hayson
Rung to celebrate the marriage of HRH Prince William with Miss Catherine Middleton

Avebury, Wilts.

Fri 29 April 2011, 2h 49m,
5120 Spliced S Major (4m)
(1440 Yorkshire, 1280 each Cambridge and Lincolnshire and 1120 Rutland, with 69 c.o.m and a.t.w. for every bell):
1 Christine Purnell
2 Julian N Ferrar
3 Thomas R Garrett
4 Roy D Mills
5 Robert J Purnell
6 Andrew J Howes
7 David W Hacker
8 Timothy F Collins(C)
To celebrate the marriage of Prince William and Catherine Middleton. The ringer of the 6th has now completed 50 years of peal-ringing.

North Tidworth, Wilts.

Fri 29 April 2011, 2h 48m,
5040 Doubles (3m/4v) (1200 Grandsire, 1440 Reverse Canterbury, 240 Cliffords Pleasure, 240 Southrepps, 1440 Plain Bob, 240 April Day and 240 Kennington):
1 Julie Miles (C)
2 Gemma L Holt
3 Colin Woodley
4 David N Close
5 Daniel P Knight
6 Michael J Holt 6.
First peal attempt: 3. Rung to celebrate the marriage of HRH Prince William with Catherine Middleton. First peal on augmented bells and believed to be only the second recorded peal in the tower.

This small space was reserved for ringing that sadly did not materialise, but it allows me the opportunity to say thank you to everyone across the Guild who rang for the Royal Wedding and especially to all those of you who kindly forwarded ringing details for inclusion in this newsletter.

Editor.

Marlborough Branch:

Burbage tower rang call changes for around 20 minutes (14.40 to 15.00) on the 29th April to call the village to a Celebration Party for the Royal Wedding. The event, on the Church green, was then formally opened by the vicar (Rev Nicolas Leigh-Hunt) at 15.00. Celebrations for both young and old went on into the evening, culminating in a fireworks finale'

Chiseldon, Wiltshire. (Holy Cross) 29 Apr, 1260 Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles: Catherine Bampton 1, Alison Kearsy 2, Colin Woodley 3, Colin Wilkins 4, Ian Kearsy (C) 5, Alex Bampton 6. Rung to celebrate the Wedding of the HRH the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge

As we walked to the tower at 12.15 pm the streets of **Marlborough** were deserted and there were no cars, I think everyone in the town was watching the wedding. We rang the bells from 12.30pm to Rounds, Queens, finally finishing with Whole Pull Standing and Rounds. It was a team effort with **Mildenhall** and **Preshute** ringers joining the band. We then all left to celebrate in our own villages.

We rang a medley of plain courses at **Minal** for the wedding, 09.30 to 10.00. The extent of the repertoire was as usual limited, unlike our enthusiasm!

Milton Lilbourne rang all 6 bells for half an hour at 10am on Friday 29th April in honour of the Royal Wedding and we even had villagers thanking us afterwards for such lovely ringing - so we must be improving.

I rang in the peal at **North Tidworth** and just general ringing at **Castle Eaton** and **Highworth**. (Cheers, Julie)

On Friday 29th April, 2011 the bells of St. George's Church, **Preshute**, were rung to celebrate the marriage of His Royal Highness Prince William of Wales KG FRS to Miss Catherine Elizabeth Middleton. Following the ringing of Plain Bob Doubles, Julian Cosby, Karen Dobie, Sheila Staines, Ian Wyld, Dorothy Blythe, Don and Bernice Lee raised a toast to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge wishing them good luck, good health and much happiness. *Dorothy Blythe.*

West Dorset Branch:

Beaminster bells rang out at 9 am on the morning of the 29th April for about 45 minutes. We didn't ring a quarter but did our bit! All ten bells were rung. Steve Longridge.

Bradford Abbas: We rang call changes from 9.30 – 10.00. Ian Holdsworth.

Bradpole: Eleven members of the tower rang on the evening of Friday 29th April, and were joined by the Revd Janis Moore.

Bridport: Thirteen of us rang (call changes and plain hunt) for the Royal Wedding at 0900 in the morning and I managed to get a little piece in The Bridport News on 4th May including a photo. (Can't resist trying to get a plug for ringing.) I have attached the relevant photo and the text put in the newspaper was as follows, quote: St Mary's Church bell ringers turned out in force to celebrate the wedding. They thought that hearing the bells early in the morning would remind residents of the important event. Tower Captain, Dinah Wilson, said: "Bridport is very lucky to have such lovely sounding bells and it was a pleasure to ring all eight" Dinah Wilson.

Broadwindsor rang 6 bells on the Royal Wedding Day from 0930 – 0955, called changes on 5, tenor behind. Ringers: Celia Carmichael, Dennis Chandler; Harold Jenkins; Norman Marsden(c); Peter Slimon; Val Swan; Jill Tremelling. Yes I know that is 7 ringers but they rang in turns. Norman Marsden. **Broadwindsor:** Rang all six bells from 9.30-10.00 – and subsequently heard that the ringing was much appreciated by the villagers. Harold Jenkins.

Burton Bradstock Yes we did ring for the Royal Wedding between 9 and 9.30am. All the ringers available on the day had a ring, except Basil, who is still being good by not ringing following his recent operation. Peter Broomhead. Basically, anyone who wished turned up at 9.00 a.m. and took a turn. After that, we were asked to augment the team at **Abbotsbury** and four of us drove there to ring with Margaret Whiting and two new learners being taught by Harry Ford. We got back at 10.50 a.m. - just in time to see the royal bride leave for the Abbey! Linda Bongers.

Hawkchurch: We rang at 5.00pm for half an hour: Queens and call changes. Neil Ransford. (We had a fund raising event and concluded a good day by some demonstration ringing. John Lee, Hawkchurch)

Leigh rang for the Royal Wedding From 9-30am to 10-15am, and it was all Leigh ringers ! Dennis Fudge. We rang before the wedding. Unfortunately we were unable to ring at Sherborne. Jan Keohane

Lyme Regis rang a quarter of Bob Doubles which was the first quarter for Charles Barbour. Delie Perry.

Sandford Orcas: Yes we did ring for the Royal Wedding at from 09.30 to 10.00. Just assorted methods and call changes that our band can ring well, John Ferdinando.

Shipton Gorge We rang 30 minutes of call changes at Shipton from 2.30 p.m. on the 29th. Christine Green.

Thorncombe: The bells here were rung for the occasion. Pauline Holt.

Thornford: Rang call changes from 2.30 – 3.00. Nina Herbert.

Whitchurch Canonorum: We rang for the Royal Wedding from 12.30 to 13.00 hrs. Bob Andrews.

Mere Branch:

Donhead St Mary rang call changes on the Friday afternoon to start off the Village Hall Tea Party and a quarter peal was attempted on the Saturday morning, which sadly came to grief in the last 10 minutes. However, 11 different ringers in our band took part in these ringing celebrations and we had several people comment on how they had enjoyed listening to the bells, Christopher Sykes.

Hindon. Rang at 2.00pm on the actual day. Mrs A. Kirk.

Dorchester Branch:

Abbotsbury bells were rung, and the band included two new learners being taught by Mr. Harry Ford.

Long Bredy We rang on Friday morning for the Royal Wedding. The ringers were: 1. Gwen Kinghorn, 2. Ann Peppiat, 3. Rebecca Talbot, 4. Chris Talbot. Gwen Kinghorn.

Wool: A quarter peal of mixed doubles (Stedman, Grandsire, Reverse Canterbury, Plain Bob, April Day) was rung at Wool on Friday 29th April in celebration of the Royal Wedding of HRH Prince William to Miss Catherine Middleton, the ringers being: 1. Mrs. B. Miles, 2. J. Edwards, 3. A. Burt, 4. J. Holmes, 5. P. Miles (C), 6. A. Brown.

Devizes Branch:

Keevil rang on Thursday 28th April for the village street party, and on Friday 29th.

Keevil and **Steeple Ashton** both rang as if the wedding was in their own church by synchronising ringing (by radio) to that at Westminster Abbey upon the departure from the Abbey by the couple. Michael Moore.

Salisbury Branch: St Lawrence, Stratford sub Castle. April 29th 2011. 1260 Plain Bob Doubles (39 minutes).

Treble Chris Ware, 2 Alice C. Nield, 3 Patricia M Davidson, 4 Mary Melbourne, 5 Malcolm J Penney (C), Tenor Ian G Davidson. Rung to celebrate the marriage of HRH Prince William with Miss Katherine Middleton. 1st quarter Chris Ware.

The **Calne Branch** always enjoys a celebration and what better occasion than a Royal wedding! Both **Bremhill & Hilmarton** rang on the day: Bremhill 10.00-10.30 am and Hilmarton 3.30 to 4.00pm. Call changes at both with some plain hunt at Hilmarton. The **Calne** band rang rounds and call changes as the Royal couple left Westminster Abbey. **Avebury** had a visiting band ringing a peal during the morning, but that didn't stop the local ringers from ringing in the evening and having a party up the tower.

At **Lyneham** there was a quarter peal – a first at first attempt for Brian Grace – well done! There was also a quarter peal at **Compton Bassett**. At **Yatesbury** rounds and call changes were rung from 4.00pm to 4.30pm by a group of Calne ringers and **Bromham** rang a quarter peal on the following Sunday (see below).

Lyneham, Plain Bob Doubles, 1300 changes, 42 minutes. 1 Ruth Plumridge, 2 Hester Wall, 3 Michael Moore, 4 Brian Grace*, 5 David G Seymour (C), 6 Adrian Evans. *First quarter at first attempt.

Bromham, Sunday May 1, 1296 Cambridge. 1 Helen Button, 2 Lin Drummond-Harris, 3 Jenny Hancock, 4 Gareth Bennett, 5 Roger Button, 6 Julian Ferrar (C).

Compton Bassett. 1260 Grandsire Doubles. 1 P. Hamblin, 2 Elaine Leighton, 3 B. Mustow, 4 K. Webb, 5 Hugh Pilcher-Clayton (C), 6 Andrew Woolley.

Guild calendar over/.....

Calendar of Guild and Branch Events 2011/ 2012

June					
Thur	9	Mere	Branch Practice	19.30	Maiden Bradley
Sat	11	Calne	Branch Meeting	15.00	Bremhill
Sat	11	Devizes	Branch Outing		tbc
Sat	11	Dorchester	Branch Practice- 6 Bell	19.00 to 21.00	Mappowder
Tues	14	Mere	Branch Practice	19.30	Maiden Bradley
Fri	17	Calne	Branch Practice	19.30	Heddington
Fri	17	Salisbury	BBQ		Wylye
Sat	18	Devizes	10-12 Bell Practice	19.00	Trowbridge
Sat	18	Marlborough	Tea Party	14.00	Everleigh
Sat	18	West Dorset	Branch Striking Competition	14.30	Leigh
Mon	20	Marlborough	Branch Practice	20.00	Marden
Mon	20	Salisbury	SAGOR Meeting		
Tues	21	Mere	Branch Practice	19.30	Mere
Thur	23	Salisbury	Branch Practice	19.30	Downbn
Sat	25	Dorchester	Branch Training Day	09.15 to 17.00	Bradpole RC
Sat	25	Mere	Summer BBQ	16.00	Zeals
Tues	28	Mere	Branch Practice	19.30	Mere
July					
Sat	9	Calne	Branch Business Meeting	15.00	Yatesbury
Sat	9	Dorchester	Branch Practice- 6 Bell	19.00 to 21.00	Bere Regis
Tues	12	Mere	Branch Practice	19.30	Chilmark
Sat	16	Devizes	10-12 Bell Practice	19.00	
Sat	16	West Dorset	Branch Practice	19.00 to 21.00	Lillington
Mon	18	Salisbury	SAGOR Meeting		
Sat	23	Dorchester	Branch Practice- 8 Bell	19.00 to 21.00	Wyke Regis
Sat	23	Marlborough Branch Centenary. Ringling 14.30, Service 16.00, Marlborough. Other Towers tba			
August					
Sat	6	Devizes	Branch Meeting	15.00	Chilton / West Lavington tbc
Tues	9	Mere	Branch Practice	19.30	East Knoyle
Thur	11	Marlborough	Branch Practice	19.00 / 19.45	Og St Andrew & Og St George
Sat	13	Calne	Branch Meeting	15.00	Broad Hinton
Sat	13	Dorchester	Branch Practice – 5 Bell	19.00 to 21.00	Long Bredy
Mon	15	Salisbury	SAGOR Meeting		
Sat	20	LEBRF Open Day			
Sat	20	Devizes	10-12 Bell Practice	19.00	
Sat	20	West Dorset	Branch Practice	19.00 to 21.00	Thornecombe
September					
Sat	3	Devizes	Evening Outing tbc		
Sat	3	Marlborough	Training Morning	10.00 to 12.00	Venue tbc
Sat	3	Mere	Branch Business Meeting+SC	15.00	Sturminster Newton
Sat	10	Guild Striking Competition. Bryanston & Durweston.			
Sat	10	Calne	Branch Meeting	15.00	Hilmarton
Tues	13	Mere	Branch Practice	19.30	Donhead St Mary
Sat	17	Devizes	10-12 Bell Practice	19.00	
Sat	17	West Dorset	Walk & Picnic	15.30	Melbury Osmond 18.00 to 20.00
Mon	19	Salisbury	SAGOR Meeting		
Sat	24	Calne	Training Morning		Venue tba

Sat	24	Dorchester	Branch Practice – 6 Bell	19.00 to 21.00	Glanville Wootton
Tues	27	Mere	Branch Practice – 8 Bell	19.30	Mere
October					
Sat		Devizes	Branch Meeting Business	15.00	Keevil / North Bradley
Sat	1	Marlborough	Branch Outing		tbc
Sat	8	Calne	Branch Business Meeting	15.00	Calne
Sat	8	Dorchester	Branch AGM	15.00 to 20.00	Fordington
Tues	11	Mere	Branch Practice	19.00	Tisbury
Mon	17	Salisbury	SAGOR Meeting		
Fri	21	Mere	Skittles + Fish and Chips		Venue tbc
Sat	22	Calne	Training Morning		Venue tba
Sat	22	Dorchester	Branch Practice – 6 Bell	14.30 to 16.30	Wool
Sat	22	Marlborough	Branch AGM	15.00	Mildenhall
November					
Guild Quarter Peal Week. 29 October to 6 November					
Sat	5	Devizes	Branch Meeting	15.00	Seend / Melksham
Sat	5	Marlborough	Branch Dinner		tba
Tues	8	Mere	Branch Practice – 8 Bell	19.30	Motcombe
Sat	12	Calne	Branch Meeting	15.00	Wootton Bassett
Sat	12	Dorchester	Branch Practice – 6 Bell	14.30 to 16.30	Puddletown
Sat	12	Salisbury	Skittles Evening	19.00	Martin Club
Sat	19	West Dorset	Branch AGM	15.00	Beaminster
Sat	26	Calne	Training Morning		Venue tba
Sat	26	Dorchester	Branch Practice – 10 Bell	14.30 to 16.30	Charminster
Mon	21	Salisbury	SAGOR Meeting		
December					
Sat	3	Devizes	Branch Carol Service	15.00	tbc
Sat	3	Mere	Branch AGM	15.00	Marnhull
Sat	10	Calne	Branch Carol Service	15.00	Bromham
Sat	10	Dorchester	Branch Carol Service	14.30	Dorchester St Peters
Mon	12	Salisbury	SAGOR Meeting	2nd Monday	
Mon	12	Marlborough	Christmas Branch Practice	19.30	Preshute
Tues	13	Mere	Branch Practice – 8 Bell	19.30	Mere
Sat	17	West Dorset	Branch Practice	17.00 to 19.00	Bridport
Guild Peal Week. 24 December to 1 January					
2012 January					
Sat	7	Devizes	Branch AGM		tba
Sat	14	Calne	Branch AGM	15.00	Lyneham
Sat	21	West Dorset	Branch Practice	14.00 to 16.00	Halstock

SAGOR = Salisbury Area Group of Ringers - Monthly Monday morning meetings, ringing at 2 towers, followed by a pub lunch. Transport can be arranged for those in Salisbury area. Contact Brian Wright on 01722 500978 for more information.

3rd Sat Trowbridge 10 to 12 bell practices: Check with Julian Ferrar on 01225 709061

4th Week each month, Surprise Practice, Devizes Branch. Check with Julian Ferrar on 01225 709061

2nd Thursday each month, Surprise Practice, Salisbury St Thomas. Check with nigel_orchard@btinternet.com

MBDR Practices, Friday Mornings, 10.30 to 12.00, by arrangement, details will be posted on the Web.

Note: For more details or if planning to travel any distance it is advisable to check with a Branch Officer beforehand.

Dates, corrections etc. for the calendar to Dorothy Blythe at: dorothy.blythe@gmail.com

THIS IS INCOMPLETE DUE TO INFORMATION NOT BEING SENT to Dorothy Blythe