

Payhembury Bellringers Report 2014/15

Ringling at Payhembury

We managed to raise a team to ring for most of the 11.00am Sunday services during the year as well as a number of special services. Although not a service, the bells were also rung on New Year's Eve, 2014.

We rang for an unusually high number of weddings in the year – 8 in total.

Practices took place on many Thursday evenings although we tend to have a break in Winter when some of our ringers are unavailable.

We have recently taken the decision to move the practice night to Tuesdays to suit the availability of some of the ringers. The first Tuesday practice will be on March 31st.

Special functions

The annual outing comprised evening ringing at Stockland, a pleasant ring of 6 bells, followed by dinner at the Tuckers Arms, Dalwood.

The ringers also enjoyed a Christmas lunch together at the Ashill Inn, Ashill.

Tower Management

After around 30 years in charge Roger Leach has decided to retire from the position of tower captain and has handed over the reins to John Horrocks. The ringers wish to record their thanks to Roger for his many years of hard work and commitment.

Lyn Blake remains in the position of Tower secretary and Treasurer.

The tower contacts and key holders will now be John Horrocks and Lyn Blake.

The Guild of Devonshire Ringers

It has been agreed that Payhembury tower will join the Guild of Devonshire Ringers at the next meeting of the East Devon branch in May 2015. A modest annual fee (£6) gives access to a range of useful services including free inspection of the bells and frame and access to the Guild bell restoration fund should it be needed in the future.

Two of our ringers are also members of the Guild and it is hoped that others will join.

Bell Maintenance

The wire mesh covering two sets of louvers had to be replaced this year and several sacks of pigeon debris were cleared from the belfry. Thanks are due to Colin Blake for carrying out the majority of this work.

The remaining wire mesh louver guards are not in a good state and will probably need replacing within the next couple of years.

The frame, bells and fittings appear to be generally satisfactory, although the main bearings and clapper bushes will need inspecting professionally within the next few years.

The ropes are all currently in good condition.

Recruitment

Our numbers are becoming a little on the low side due to age and infirmity and we're currently looking to recruit anyone interested in learning to ring.

Ringling is a very sociable activity and a painless way to keep fit!

Please contact John or Lin Horrocks or Lyn Blake if you'd like to have a go.

John Horrocks

March 2015