

I would like to tell you about the lovely day I spent at the Association Novice competition at St Paul's Church in Tiverton on Saturday 11th March. Despite it raining just about all day the weather couldn't spoil the day as luckily St Paul's is a lovely big and well equipped church where everyone could congregate inside as the ringing chamber is separate. Tim Jones and his willing team of helpers hosted the day excellently and made everyone feel very welcome.

There were a good number of teams who attended but I feel maybe more would come if they thought someone could be in the tower with them to keep an eye on the time or to call the changes for them if they didn't feel confident themselves, so if next year you would be interested and would like our help then please ask as we want to encourage you and help you.

I also feel, after talking to some of you, whether you would be interested in an intermediate competition with perhaps less changes so you are not trying to rush through to get them finished and be down in 15 minutes. Please let me have your thoughts whether this may work. president@devonbells.co.uk

Congratulations to all the teams who participated and to Kingsteignton with their talented crop of young ringers who took the honours on the day.

On Saturday 25th March I was a participant on the ART (Association of Ringer Teachers) course held at Chagford for those interested in becoming a ringing teacher or, for those already teaching, an opportunity to improve their teaching skills and share their experience and ideas with other delegates. It was a most informative and interesting day, led by Les Boyce from Tiverton ably supported by Sheila Schofield, who many of you will know is now a Devon Association committee member.

Les has been tutoring for over ten years with ART and delivered the course with a relaxed and at times humorous ease. St Mary's church in Chagford was a superb venue for the course and the Globe Inn opposite an equally hospitable venue for lunch! I would thoroughly recommend anyone who trains or is thinking about training ringers to attend, and the follow up online information and support really does make this a worthwhile exercise. The Central Council and ART have recognised the need to update the way we train and retain new ringers and clearly a lot of thought, time and effort has gone into making their teaching and training modules worthwhile and user friendly. More information and details of future courses can be found at www.ringingteachers.org