

DEVOR CALLS

Newsletter of the Devon Association of Ringers Vol 1. No. 9

December 2002

Special points of interest:

- · Edgar Cole as Life President
- · A sad day for Ashreigney
- · Reports from Deaneries
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- · Competition results
- Devon Retired Ringers holiday

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Widecombe-in-the-Moor now eight bells

thedral of the Moor, is to have two further bells added. It all started in September 2002 when Mary Mousley, a Churchwarden's wife donated a good sum of money towards installing 8 bells in Widecombe tower. The new frame was already adapted. Mike Pascoe, captain of Widecombe organised his family to finance the purchase of one of the bells. In a very short time the project took off, the faculty was obtained and the PCC agreed to fund the remainder of the work.

Installation is planned for the week beginning 9th December 2002. The bells were cast at Whitechapel Foundry on 19th November and are to be installed by Andrew Nicholson. The dedication will take place as soon as possible after Christmas. Ringers from all over will

Widecombe, known as the Cathedral of the Moor, is to have quiries to Mike Pascoe, 1 two further bells added. It all Manor Cottage, Widecombeinstarted in September 2002 the-Moor, TQ13 7TB. Phone: when Mary Mousley, a Church- 01364 621220.

Widecombe ringing was in its heyday in the mid to late 50s with Bill Miners captain (Bernard's Father). Other ringers included Ernest, Henry and Herbert (Pickles) Pascoe, Reg Norrish, Frank Dowrick, Les Edworthy and Geoff Hannaford. Most older ringers will remember captain Bill who was a real character. He suffered a number of heart attacks, amputation of a leg but still managed to climb the steps at Widecombe and ring. Frank Dowrick was the first member to pass away suddenly at only a modest age. Bill continued as captain until 1969 with Ernest and Herbert ever present joined occasionally by Bernard and

Freddie Miners, Henry moving to Ashburton. The Pascoe family was essentially from Buckland where seven brothers and a sister five of which with their Father were ringers in the area. So you can see ringing is very much in the Pascoe blood. When Bill Miners died in 1969 the captaincy was taken over for just one year by Herbert's son Graham before leaving the area. At this point Ernest became a very reluctant captain until his death in 1994. The Pascoe dynasty did not end there, Michael (Ernest's son) took the helm from then until the present day.

Ernest rang at Widecombe for more than 50 years and almost invariably rang the 2nd bell in the original six. It is therefore very apt that the new 2nd in the peal of 8 will be the Pascoe

A Certain Resonance from within by Colin Adams

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Edgar Cole as Honorary Life President

The 68th AGM on 9th November 2002 was an historic occasion when Edgar Cole was elected as Honorary Life President. Edgar is certainly well-known for all his work for the Association over the years and well respected as a judge. This honour was certainly a surprise for Edgar and at the AGM he was

presented with a framed tapestry picture. Taken by surprise, Edgar, in his own words said that he was flabbergasted. Edgar, who will be 83 on 29th December started ringing in 1938r. Edgar was bitten by the bug and recalls that when the team had their first win, they were so enthusiastic

that on returning to Highbickington at midnight they celebrated by having a ring only to be confronted by the vicar who was not amused. After a while the team did break up and Edgar then spent 30 years of competition ringing for the highly successful teams of Molland and North Tawton.

Edgar Cole as Honorary Life President

"I hope that the Deven Association will stay united and work together."

Edgar and Shelia were married at Bow in October 1963 and moved to Ashreigney where he was Captain for 1.5 years and the team had many successes especially on lighter peals.

Mr Cole was secretary of the Devon Association for 28 years and then president elect and then elected as President. As Secretary Edgar recalls that he was thrown in at the deep end and things did get out of hand. At his first Devon 6 bell competition at Dittisham he had to recommend that a number of teams had to be disqualified for not being present on time.

This continued at Lydford when a further team had to be disqualified. Edgar recalls that this was quite eventful.

Ringing has always been his chief interest and still has great interest in the welfare of the Association. He said "I hope that the Devon Association will stay united and work together. There were marked differences between North and South but now they are all of the same mind and enjoy each others company". Edgar said "We need more youngsters to come along, they think they can learn in a few weeks but it takes years and they appear

not to be prepared to stay that long. The few who keep the interest going will be the ones who count."

Edgar was hopeful that things will progress and he mentioned Dave Trist and the training and novice competitions. He said that you cannot have too many ideas.

Edgar was also noted for his driving skills. He had to face many a ribbing from his passengers, the time he drove into the hedge-and on another occasion into beer crates causing his passengers to run all over the car park picking up the rolling bottles.

A Sad Day for St James', Ashreigney

Mr John Dummett writes:

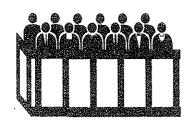
"The have left us
a marvellous legacy
of which we will
all do our best to
continue to keep
going..."

Saturday October 5th was a very said day for the tower ringers when Edgar and Sheila Cole left their home In the parish of Ashreigney and moved to Dulverton. We all wish them good health and happiness in their new home. Edgar as Captain, and Sheila, rang in St James' for nearly 40 years and will be greatly missed especially for all the work they undertook for the church. Both were well known figures in the

ringing world and their dedication was recognised as second to none. Over the years they had both taught many the art of church bell ringing. They have left us a marvellous legacy of which we will all do our best to continue with the indispensable help from our own ringing colleagues of Burrington and Highbickington. The tower ringers with the help of the PCC gave Edgar and Sheila a marvellous leaving party

when family and friends were present. The PCC presented Edgar and Sheila with a painting of St James' church and the ringers gift was a large Dartington Ruby bowl engraved with a picture of the church and the Ringers grateful thanks. The new captain of Ashreigney is John Dummett and he can be contacted at: 3 The Terrace, Ashreigney, Chumleigh, EX18 7LX, 01769 520407.

Officers of the Devon Association



Elected representatives appointed

The election of officers at the AGM were: President-Gerald Stevens, President Elect-Harry Bardens, Chairman-Brian Drake, Secretary-Jeremy Darke, Assistant Secretary-Clive Ward, Treasurer-Ivor Hookway, Publicity-Michael Webster, Training-David Trist, Guild Liaison-Ian Avery. Central Council representatives were Mervyn Way and Paul Pascoe.

North Committee were Messrs M Phillips (Chair), G Arscott, C Nicholls, S Cooper, J Enderson, L Quance, D Conway and J Conibear. South Committee were Messrs J Rhymes (chair), J Bint, B Osborne, G Boucher, M Sharland, J Kelly, R Trout and A Brown. Congratulations to those elected and thanks to all officers who had served the Association for the past year.

Horace Clements as outgoing President stated he had thoroughly enjoyed the honour and that the friendship had been beyond his expectations. Horace thanked the Officers and also Brian for his 25 years of unbroken service as Chairman. Horace wished Gerald Stephens every success as President and also congratulated Harry Bardens.

Cadbury Deanery

The AGM was held at Zeal Monachorum on 10 July and the officers were:

Mr R Wright (President)

Mr K Down (Chairman)

Mr J Kings (Vice Chairman)

Mr B Robinson (Treasurer) Mrs Down (Secretary).

The Annual Deanery Festival was held at Poltimore on 7 September 2002 and Mervyn Way judged the two competitions. The results were close with 1. Sandford. 2. Down St

Mary. 3. Lapford. 4. Zeal Monachorum. 5. Colebrooke. The top ringing was of a good standard and 1. Zeal Monachorum. 2. Down St Mary. 3. Sandford, 4. Poughill.

The winter league will take place on the third Tuesday of each month starting in October.

The Deanery Open Day with be 7 June 2003. This will be an opportunity for all the ringers of the deanery to get together

and ring with their colleagues away from the competition arena. There were a number of towers who were not able to have a competition team or enough ringers on a Sunday and would like an opportunity to have a day ringing in other towers. Further details will be available nearer the date.

The Chairman and secretary can be contacted on 01363 82204.

Deanery Open Day 7 June 2003

Torridge Valley Guild of Ringers

With the Foot and Mouth behind us, our AGM took place in June. The annual ringing festival at the end of July was held at Woolsery. The results were: Open Section.

- 1. South Tawton.
- 2. Exeter St Petrock.
- 3. Taw & Torridge. 4. Kenn. Torridge Section.
- 1. South Tawton.
- 2. Littleham. 3. Torrington.
- 4. Petersmarland.
- 5. Appledore. 6. Shebbear,

7. Littleham B. 8. Appledore B. Novice Section.

- 1. Monkleigh.
- 2. Buckland Filleigh.

The numbers were slightly down this year, perhaps due to the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations. Many thanks to our hosts at Woolsery for their organisation and tea.

At the AGM, the Guild decided to try a new venture to encourage social ringing and hold a social evening at a Guild tower. The first took place at Little Torrington on 18 October where 30 people gathered to ring and partake of tea and biscuits. Thanks to the hosts for making local arrangements and providing the refreshments. Based on the success of this venture another one will be held in the Spring at Bradford.

Brian Broadhurst. Honorary Secretary. "Based on the success of this venture another one will be held in the Spring.."

Letters

9th November 2002

Dear Sir.

It was with some incredulity that I attended my first AGM of the Association although I have been an affiliated member for the last 7 years. I was expecting a lively debate after the arguments that have gone on in the recent past with some innovative new ideas and progress made in grasping the mettle and jumping into the 21st century. However it seemed to take the form of a Requiem Mass with the agenda delivered in the form of a mantra that had not changed for centuries. When some young "whipper snapper" spoke up he received harsh looks from the "Elders" and was told to be quiet just as a troublesome

child in church would be admonished. One "Elder" even had the temerity, in his admonishment, to state that the association had bumbled along for the last 75 years without any formality and did not need it now. Hardly forward looking.

It certainly lived up to a subscribers previous description concerning graveyards but I would go one further and say that It has died and the officials are dug up, dusted down, dressed in their Sunday best and exhibited on odd occasions and then returned to whence they came. It seemed to me, to use campanology parlance, that the association had been rung up, set on its "stay" and there it has remained. Is it not time that it was pulled out and some changes are rung? Which after all this is the aim of the association, (to foster the art of Devonshire callchange ringing), and just like a heavy tenor bell, if the present committee officials are not strong enough or have the will to pull it off its "stay" and ring the changes then maybe it should be handed over to the younger element. Speaking as one of the older members, the youngsters, just as in ringing, may make a few mistakes to start with but as they get to grips with the skills they soon outstrip their elders, although their elders would never admit

Yours sincerely, "Off-Struck" (Name and address supplied) "Speaking as one of the older members, the youngsters, just as in ringing, may make a few mistakes.."

A certain resonance from within by Colin Adams

"the iremendous amount of work that Edgar did for the Devon Association"

"Together we can preserve and enhance the work of the Devon Association of Ringers".

As I left North Tawton and journeved home following the Association AGM I felt a deep sense of pride coupled with a certain amount of sadness. Pride, as I witnessed the way in which so many people gave up their Saturday afternoon to travel to the heart of Devon in order to reaffirm their membership to our organisation. To experience, first hand, the business of the afternoon and to be given the opportunity to shape the Association's future. Pride, in the way that our organisation took the opportunity to recognise, and reward, the tremendous amount of work that Edgar did for the Devon Association whilst acting as secretary. A post he held for almost twenty-five vears! Pride, in the way that our outgoing President carried out his duties and the way in which our new President so warmly embraced his new role. Pride, when I saw the result of the Annual Draw and the amount to be passed across to the DCBRF. (In excess of £2,500.) The sadness I shall touch on later.

The resonance of the meeting lingered with me for several days. Brought about of course through recently introduced changes that now give our members a better opportunity to have their say. A healthy move in my view. Far better to create an atmosphere in which people feel space is available. Space and time in which to articulate their views and digest the reactions from fellow members. The challenge under these circumstances is of

course to do so without creating misunderstanding and ill feeling. Not easy given our diverse membership and the fact that not everyone is comfortable speaking in front of a large group.

How fortunate we are though to have in our group those who are senior, experienced and blessed with wisdom. These know who they are. stalwarts of our fraternity were ringing, competing and attending association meetings long before I was. And probably you as well. Equally, we are fortunate to have a sizeable group of young ringers scattered across the county. young people demonstrate enthusiasm for ringing and a strong commitment towards the Devon Association and its future. In between there are those who attended the AGM because they feel a sense of duty. Such people turn up on Sundays, and practice nights in the depth of winter. These folk belong to an affiliated tower and their contribution ensures both directly and indirectly that bellringing, and the Devon Association of Ringers continues. They are the salt of the earth. Leaving aside their obvious loyalty, how lucky we are to have such a broad range of talent and potential amongst us. Together we can preserve and enhance the work of the Devon Association of Ringers.

A constitution should help us (most reputable organisations have one). A constitution that is clear and uncluttered will provide us with a framework, acting as a platform enabling us to work with purpose and harmony. Far more enjoyable than spending some of our time on personal side issues.

All these points taken with a healthy Balance Sheet and the fact that the association is probably in a better position financially now than at any time in its history, reaffirms the commitment from both affiliated towers and our officers.

Just before I close I cannot help but feel that there are times when we do not cherish all that we have. I have highlighted how rich our resources of a human kind are. Similarly, as you know, we are richly served with ringable peals here in Devon. It is surely incumbent on all of us to do all we can to use our talent and skills to preserve bellringing in this lovely county of ours.

The Annual Dinner dance), the competitions (and now a novice competition), and the Annual Draw. All are important events. However, one that I always enjoy has just taken place. It is our Annual Combined Carol Service. Held this year at Exeter Cathedral on Saturday 14th. December at 3.00pm. I did look forward to being there. How uplifting to hear so many ringers voices given full reign. With ringing taking place also It was quite a moving event. I hoped to see so many of you there.

The sad point. I think I shall leave this for another time.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Report from the AGM - Important dates and Information

North-Clovelly

Dinner and dance to be held at the Waie Inn, Zeal Monachorum on 22 March at 7.30pm

8 March Novice Comp at Christow 22 March - Annual Dinner at Zeal Monochorum 26 April 8 Bell Buckland Monochorum 10 May - 6 Bell Qualifier South-Dodbrooke

24 May Minor Final at Littleham 14 June Major Final at Staverton Judges 8 bell - Messrs. Hookway, Phillips, Trout, Osborne and Cole. Dodbrooke - Messrs Pascoe, Cole, W Avery, I Avery and Mrs Mortimore. Clovelly -Messrs. Drake, Hookway, Hockin, Way and Arscott. Minor - Messrs. Facey, Hockin, Rhymes, Bardens and Mrs Stevens

AGM Report - Constitution and Public Liability Insurance

A New Constitution?

At the AGM in November a motion was passed that a Constitution be considered. Jonathan Bint and several others have independently come up with some proposals and these will be considered by the Committee when they meet at the Mortimore Rooms in North Tawton church at 7.30pm on 13 February 2003. Proposals will be circulated prior to that date so that the Committee has time to talk to other ringers and consider the proposals. A constitution for the Devon Association is nothing new. When formed in 1925 there were some objectives stated. It has been proposed by a number of members that the Committee should look at our aims and consider a number of rules. Aims and objectives are important so that everyone is aware of the common purpose. Briefly, we all promote and encourage the art of call change ringing, but how should we be formed and how should we go about this task? Do we need rules or do we all know what to do? To have a worthwhile constitution will need the support of all. We are a democratic organisation and it is hoped that what the Committee proposes will be supported by all, this should not however, prevent questions from being asked.

Terms of reference have been sort for guidance for example by Devon Calls, not to tell the editor what to do, but to give guidance and suggestions, the same with out Web Site. There should be some common stated aims so that there is no misunderstanding. Is the newsletter value for money, how often should it be published, let your committee member know. At the AGM there was concern that certain

Deaneries were not represented. Some may say that they have a choice of attending the AGM or not, but, do we want to encourage a wider selection at the AGM so that more take part in the decisions that are made.

Public Liability Insurance

The meeting empowered the Treasurer to seek a suitable Public Liability Insurance. To meet the cost the Affiliation Fees will rise from £3 a tower to £5 a tower and the competition entry fees will rise from £1 to £1.50 a rope as from the next AGM. The Treasurer did report that the number of Affiliated Towers was slightly down from last year and it is hoped that all ringers will encourage every tower to affiliate. Precise terms of the insurance policy will be circulated in due course so that all affiliated towers are aware of what is covered and when

Next Committee Meeting at North Tawton on 13 February 2003 at 7.30pm

Bell Restoration Fund Update

Here are some facts and figures for 2002 and some news from the DCBRF committee meeting held on 25 October.

So far this year, grants totalling £8500 have been paid on completion of restoration work at:

• Staverton - £3000

St Andrew's,

Plymouth - £2000 Lamerton - £500

• Fremington - £3000

On 25 October, the amount in the Fund's current account had therefore fallen to £3766 from the sum of £10861 held in that account at the beginning of 2002. During November, I have, however, received donations totalling £3208, and these have brought the amount in the current account to a much healthier £6974, in addition to the £2500 held in

reserve in a deposit account with the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England. Many thanks for all these donations, particularly the contributions from a tower that's recently benefited from a grant (you know who you arel), from the Guild Quarter Peal Day and the large sum from the proceeds of the Association Draw. At the October meeting, the Committee agreed to award grants as follows, in addition to those already promised:

Berry Pomeroy - £2000 Crediton - £3000

Shebbear - £150Slapton - £100

Slapton - £100Westward Hol - £450

The Fund was set up to support restoration of bells hung for chiming, as well as those rung full circle, hence the award to Westward Ho! We also expect to be able to award small grants to Kenner-leigh and Milton Combe in the near future on confirmation of the cost of restoring bells there for chiming.

The work planned at Crediton is a huge project with the cost of restoring the eight estimated at £100,000 (excluding the cost of the planned augmentation to ten bells). The Committee felt that a larger grant could not be awarded at present in view of the financial resources currently available, existing commitments and the costly restorations planned at, for example, Huntsham and St Michael's, Teignmouth. We shall review the situation at our next meeting, in March 2003.

Mary Mears.

30 November 2002.

"So far this year, grants totalling £8500 have been paid on completion of restoration work"

Spot light on Lamerton - Handbell competition

"Geoffrey Hill joined the team in 1963 and is a founder member of the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain". The handbell festival at Lamerton is the first Saturday in October. This started in 1973 with 4 teams, Lamerton, Lifton, Whitchurch and Stoke Damerell. Lamerton church needed funds and a festival was held. In 1994 the festival was so large that it moved to the Parish Hall and has been there ever since.

There are now 6 trophies to win and the judges certainly have their work cut out for them. Callington won the overall tune ringing with St Dominic winning the best peal. Torbell from Okehampton won the best 4 in hand and the Firkins

Shield for best junior performance went to the Wearing Brothers from Gullworthy they also won the Roy Bould Cup for the most improved performance.

The competition is certainly a sight. One team had two ladies who rang a choice of up to 15 bells between them. All teams are catered for, from accomplished ringers to beginners as the competition is to encourage ringers of all abilities. The proceeds this year went to the St Lukes Hospice at Plymouth. Geoffrey Hill joined the team in 1963 and is a founder member of the Handbell Ringers of

Great Britain. Lamerton is the oldest registered team. The team attends numerous rallies, and even some international events. The team has to work hard from September to January. The South West group have there own carol service, this year it was held at St. Leonards, Exeter on 7 December followed by a concert. Donations are to a local charity.

You are never too old or too young to ring handbells. Geoff's daughter, Shirley, started when she was 5 and now helps to train young teams and this assisted with her teacher training.

Other news

"The draw
account showed
the best ever
profit.."

Lamerton

The bell frame has been repaired along with a new floor and joists. The work amounted to £8,000. Fortunately the late Miss Olive Luce bequeathed a sum of money and the PCC made up the difference. This parishioner learnt to ring later in life and has now repaid Lamerton beyond belief. It was pleasing to hear that Lamerton also helped ringing at Walkhampton.

Draw Account

You may not have see the Treasurer's accounts presented at the AGM but the amount to carry forward was £5,625. The Draw Account profit was £2,713 and the sum of £2,700 was donated to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund. The draw account showed the best ever profit and Julia Endacott wishes to thank everyone who supported and helped the raffle.

Totnes Clock Chimes

It must not have escaped your attention the publicity when the chimes of Totnes were silenced because of complaints. This has now been resolved with decibel readings taking place and the chimes sounding once again at night time.

Bill Sanders

Bill, Captain of Stokenham and a worthy judge, who taught our Secretary to ring, passed away on 8 December 2002.

Deanery News

Newton Abbot, Ipplepen and Torbay (NAIT)

The annual Carol Service will be held at Coffinswell on Wednesday 18th December at 7.30 p.m. Open ringing before and following the service.

Totnes

At the AGM the following officers were elected: Mike Hallett (Chairman), Horace Clements (Vice Chairman) Elizabeth Hallett (Secretary) and M Webster (Treasurer). The Deanery Festival will be held at Collaton St Mary on 3 May at 4pm.

Okehampton

The Deanery meeting is held on the 1st Friday in March and the deanery competition on 1st Saturday in June. Officers elected were B. Drake, Chairman, J. Bint, Secretary and Julia Endacott as Treasurer.

Chagford

At a coffee morning held at Chagford in October the bell-ringers raised a staggering £688 thanks to the efforts of many ringers, truly a team effort. This was a fund raising jesture and various donations were made to charities with the Devon Church Bell Resotration Fund benefiting by £100.

Association Notices

Dinner and Dance

The Dinner and Dance this year will be at the Waie Inn at Zeal Monachorum on 22 March 2003 at 7.30pm. The cost will be £15 and will include a three course meal (choice of two sweets) coffee and music by Derek Hutchings. Please support this event. Next Committee Meeting

13 February 2003 at 7.30 in the Mortimore Rooms at South Tawton.

Next AGM

At North Tawton 8 November at 2.15pm.

Novice Competition 2003

To be held on Saturday 8 March 2003 at Christow. One section for round ringing and the other for call change ringing. There will be no rising or lowering, all ringing will be off the stay.

Round ringing will begin at 1pm with change ringing to follow. Christow has 8 bells and we will be using the back 6, the tenor weighs 11.5 cwt. A ringers service and light refreshments is planned. This will be the FOURTH time that this competition is staged. En-

thusiasm and interest at previous competitions has been tremendous. Towers must be affiliated. There are two trophies and certificates will be awarded to all competing teams. If a tower enters more than one team, it may only borrow one ringer per team and no person shall ring more than once. Please contact the secretary to enter or obtain more information. Early entry is advised, since numbers may be restricted.

JJ Darke (Honorary Secretary) Tel: 01395 863293 "Enthusiasm and interest at previous competitions has been tremendous".

Competitions

The third annual St Andrew's, Kenn, ringing festival will take place on Saturday 22 March 2003.

To encourage new ringers it is intended to hold a Novices Competition before for the Kenn Raddenbury Shield and Reg Staddon Memorial Shield. Novices will be judged on five minutes of round ringing, off the stays. The novices section will be for TEN teams ringing between 13.45 and 15.00 with the draw being made at

13.30. Entry Fee £1.50.

The "60 on Thirds" competition will start at 15.00 with timed requested rings by teams at the hour, 20 past and 20 to the hour. The last ring will be at 19.20. Entry Fee £4.50. Teas will be available throughout the afternoon from 15.00. Any tower interested in the Novices Section, please contact either Marcus Tape, Captain, on 01392 6796670 or John Staddon, Secretary/Treasr. on (01392 203772).

Editorial

Do you wish to advertise your competitions in this newsletter? What would you prefer to see in the newsletter? Please send details, any newsworthy items and even results, or any comments, to:

Michael Webster
(Publicity Officer)

5 Kings Rydon Close, Stoke Gabriel, Totnes, TQ9 6QG, tel: 01803 782591, e-mail mtwebster@btinternet.com Do you wish to advertise your competitions in this newsletter?

Other results

South Devon Eight Bell
The AGM is held at Upton
Church Hall, Torquay on the
last Saturday in February. The
competition is held on the first
Saturday in October. This
year's host tower was St
Mary's Brixham. The results:

- 1. Kingsteignton.
- 2. Exeter Cathedral.
- 3. Buckland in the Moor.
- 4. South Brent.
- 5. Chagford. 6. Lamerton.

- 7. Kingsbridge.
- 8. Stoke Gabriel.

The Top Ringing Trophy has been found after missing for 4 years. Brixham organised a wonderful spread and local towers were available.

Stratton and Kilkhampton Stratton 8 bell featured 9 teams and the results of the first seven places were:

- 1. Lamerton. 2. Eggbuckland
- 3. Chittlehampton. 4. Paignton

- 5. Buckland in the Moor
- 6. St Columb A. 7. South Brent

Kilkhampton 8 Bell

- 1. Eggbuckland. 2. South Brent
- 3. Buckland in the Moor.
- 4. Lamerton. 5. Paignton
- 6. Chittlehampton
- 7. St Columb A. 8. St Columb B The Stratton 6 Bell competition was won by Eggbuckland and the Kilkhampton 6 bell by Chittlehampton.

"Results from South Devon 8 Bell and of Stratton and Kilkhampton."

St Cyr & St Julitta, Newton St Cyres

"Ringing commenced and it proved to be an enjoyable peal".

Wrinklies Rounds by Off-Struck

For those that have never heard of the "Wrinklies" we are a group of ringers mainly retired, see the article below, but really includes anybody who has the second Wednesday of the month free with nothing better to do than meet at a couple of obscure country village churches in order to ring the bells. We usually number about 40, including ringers and wives, and it tends to be more of a social group rather than an elitist ringing group. We take great pleasure in enjoying lunch at a local hostelry just as much as we do the ringing. The ringers tend to come from all over but mainly an area of south Devon. Churches are usually selected from the Cornish borders to Topsham along the coast and as far inland as Okehampton. In the summer a trip farther a field is organised last summers trip being a trip to Cumberland.

In November 2002 we all made are way to the wild and woolly remote regions of east Devon and Shobrooke, ringers arriving from the waste of the South Hams, the depths of darkest Dartmoor and beyond and all points west of Somerset and also stretching into Cornwall. In the morning the weather, for November, was perfect for travelling with the sun bursting through the clouds. The return journey was

to turn out to be the exact opposite. No one got lost although a few had a near miss. The church is situated about half a mile outside the village of Shobrooke on the side of a small hill with the only habitation nearby being a large beef farm. Jack and Jeanne Thomas and John Moody the organisers of the day greeted us on arrival with coffee and biscuits laid on for the price of a donation to the Crediton Bell Restoration Fund. It was also to this fund that the "rope" money was donated.

Ringing commenced and it proved to be an enjoyable peal to ring. Anyway the local inhabitants (a heard of bullocks) did not complain. The dulcet tones of Chris Clayton calling the changes was missed, as he was absent, and we all celebrated in keeping Bernard Miners (our other soft spoken caller) from calling the changes. (It's a joke Bernard). At about 12.30p.m. we retired to the "Red Lion" in Shobrooke and enjoyed a very well presented and tasty meal. The choice was traditional roast beef or turkey followed by a choice of excellent sweets and then coffee all for £6.50. You cannot say that at today's prices that is not value for money. It being a licensed premises there was a full selection of ales and the like so

out of necessity a few of our members were forced to try them. We all agreed that the hostelry was to be highly recommended. After we had eaten, short speeches were made thanking the organisers and also one discussing our trip to Exeter at Christmas. After finishing lunch we made our way to nearby Newton St Cyres to "ring off" lunch. This peal of eight proved a little more difficult for some with each bell having a characteristic of its own. The bells had a pleasing mellow tone considering they tended to ere on the side of a light eight.

Thank you, on behalf of all of us who enjoyed the day, the church and tower officials who permitted us to use their bells. If you would like to join us in our antics of annoying, sorry, introducing mainly South Devon to the joys of call change ringing and partaking of a social lunch. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month between March and December.

We tend to be mainly from the retired age group but that is only because they tend to be the people that are free at those dates but we do have members of younger age groups so no one is precluded. Any enquiries to:

Bernard Miners, telephone 01803 843 748.

Devon Retired Campanologists Lake District Holiday

Since 1997, regularly, on the second Wednesday of each month an ever growing group of Retired and Semi -retired ringers meet somewhere in Devon or NE Cornwall to enjoy a day of ringing. In 2001 it was suggested by the co-founders of the group, Pat Johnstone & Bernard Miners to hold a week long trip to the Lake District to ring during June. This was enthusiastically welcomed and the trip was set for the week of

June 10th to 14th. Husbands, wives and individuals totally 48 people, of whom 34 were ringers, were transported to the Lakes by the excellent services of Hookways Pleasureways Coaches to the Queens Hotel in Ambleside where the party occupied the entire Hotel. Indulgent ringing occupied most waking hours of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in Towers around the Lake District with ringing taking place

on the journey up and back. All ringers, no matter what ability and experience rang together in peals of bells from 6 to 12. Every peal throughout the week being made up of a different team resulted an every increasing sense of camaraderie. The great success resulting in another week organised for 2003 in South Wales. John Staddon 01392 203772. (Trip co-organiser with Bernard Miners).



Ringers and friends on the Lake District Holiday