



DEVON CALLS

September 2004
Vol 1 Issue 14

Special points of interest:

- Eggbuckland in the Cotswolds
- Ringkilies in Wales
- Germansweek
- On learning bellringing
- Inwardleigh youngsters

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John Came

A splendid afternoon on 28 August, spent with the family at Mansands ended in tragedy. John, aged 69, was swimming in the sea when for some unexplained reason he got into difficulty and his son, Steven, pulled him from the sea but John could not be saved despite a doctor, who was on holiday, rushing to assist. John rang whenever he could and was also a very active licensed reader. John will certainly be missed.

Peter Price

Sad news in the Tavistock Deanery as the Captain of Meavy, Peter Price died instantly in the middle of ringing for a wedding on Saturday 14th August. The Funeral was held on Tuesday 24th. John ran the Deanery Festival held the last Saturday in October and this year will be at Milton Abbot when Peter will be fondly remembered for his unstinting work.

Bob Southwood

Bob, died after a long illness. We will all remember him for bringing the Guild and Association ringers together. He was effective. (See further article inside.)

Eggbuckland

The Major Final was won by Eggbuckland. I am sure they can tell us just how many times they have won this competition. Their talents are outstanding and they are a wonderful advertisement for Devon Call Change Ringing. The CD, "Glorious Devon Bells" featured Eggbuckland rising the bells. Almost anywhere in the country someone will remark of the "Devon Style Call Changes" and this will be

inevitably followed by, "we have heard, or know of Eggbuckland". So to Eggbuckland, congratulations on a convincing win at Langtree. Your achievements are noted throughout the country and you have become ambassadors for Devon Call Change Ringers. All ringers try hard but Eggbuckland have a secret. Is it their leader? Or is it a team effort. We wish you well for the future and your B team puts many in fear.

Angry man violent to ringer

A Company Director was an angry villager and threatened a female ringer with a rock. Mrs Todd, 54 ringing at Duffield near Derby was shocked when confronted, fortunately a visiting ringer, an off duty policeman, intervened because he was fearful for her safety. The man launched into a bitter tirade and another ringer called the police. The magistrates' court was told that ringing was every night and that there had been an agreement with the vicar which had not been kept. It seems that it had been agreed that ringing should stop at 9pm. The man was sentenced to 100 hours community service and

ordered to pay £560 costs. Just how much truth there is we may never know but the article may prompt us to consider just how reasonable are we? Do we have ringing every night of the week? Do we go beyond 9pm? There have been remarks that bellringers are selfish as they inflict their hobby on others, and endlessly, and for no apparent reason. There are guidelines issued by the Central Council for dealing with disputes and the important point is to involve the priest. Some ringers notify the local residents when there is going to be a lengthy ring such as a competition or an attempt for a 3 hour peal.

Bob Southwood

Stokeinteignhead Parish Church was packed to bursting for the funeral of Revd Bob Southwood on 8th June. Ringers from around the country attended and the address at the service, which had many Bob-like humorous touches was given by a long time ringing friend Revd Tony Ellis of the Guild of Clerical Ringers.

Bob's friendly and jovial manner has brought so much to enrich life and his sudden death, inspite of his failing health, has come as a shock to us all. Bob was indeed a priest for the people and his ministry was hallmarked by his involvement with so many individuals and organisations.

Bob's family came from the Kingsbridge area and he grew up in Plymouth. National Service in the RAF took him to St Mawgan as an instrument installer (or as we now call it – avionics.) Bob learnt to ring Church bells as a youngster and his many accomplishments (some of them very notable in bell-

ringing terms) are recorded in towers around Devon. It was while in Cornwall as a member of St Kenwyn's bellringers that he met Jill who sang in the church choir there and they were eventually married. Before being ordained Bob spent a number of years working as a washing machine engineer during which time his call to the ordained ministry came.

Ordained in 1974 Bob served two curacies in Hampshire, first at Christchurch Priory and then at Fordingbridge, he returned to Devon and to Plymouth for his first parish at Ernesettle and then for 17 years was Rector of Stokeinteignhead with Combeinteignhead and Archpriest of Hacombe.

Bob also held chaplaincies with Air Training Cadets in Teignmouth, the Royal British Legion and the Buffalos. He had the distinction of being both President and Master of the Guild of Devonshire Bellringers - the first and only time that the same person has occupied both posts si-

multaneously! Bob enjoyed his retirement which has seen him serving as Mayor's Chaplain in Newton Abbot, membership of the Torbay Police Choir, and more recently as secretary of the Teignmouth Breathe Easy Club. However it was bellringing that was Bob's great delight in life and even though he had not been able to ring for the last couple of years he still visited the tower regularly on practice nights and to chat with the ringers on Sundays.

Our thoughts and prayers are very much with Jill and their family at this time.

At the end of his funeral service as his coffin was carried from the church the bells chimed "pop goes the weasel" - a special request of Bob's that brought a smile to many faces! It is with a mixture of sadness at his parting and joy in his friendship that we celebrate Bob and commend him, a man of faith to God's care and keeping.

May the souls of the faithful rest in peace and rise in glory.

Egg Buckland Visit The Cotswolds

On Saturday 29th May, four cars set off up the M5, on a three-day ringing trip and a very full itinerary of 17 towers by Dave Trout. Pat Johnstone, an Honorary Life Vice-President; Bernard Minors and the Hon Sec were privileged to be invited. The first tower was just outside Bristol at Almondsbury. The heaviest ring of the trip, being a fine 22-½ cwt. ring of eight. Off again to Gloucestershire stopping at Compton Abdale. This church set above the village had a light ring of 6 and went very well. We then refueled in an up market public house on the A40. Despite the prices, a snack was enjoyed since breakfast had been some hours previous!

Kingham was next, a 12cwt ground floor eight. They went well and for the weight, was one of the best rings of the trip. A few miles further and to Churchill. An interesting eight that were a slight disappointment. The ringing chamber adjoined a fine balcony overlooking the church interior. Next was 7½ cwt at Ascott-Under-Wychwood, not easy, but some good striking was produced.

On to Lechlade to our base for the weekend. A wholesome meal in the New Inn Hotel was very welcome. Additional alcoholic beverage was enjoyed in a lively pub across the street. Sunday morning soon arrived! A fine full English was enjoyed and we set off to Bibury

(Harry without the G) to ring for morning service. A ground floor six which went fairly well but rather difficult to hear. This village hosts the idyllic row of miniature cottages, Arlington Row, well worth a visit.

Sherborne was the next ring, a 10 cwt ground floor six. The church, part of a very smart estate but the bells were in a poor state and posed a challenge to all. Ryan made a sturdy job of turning the tenor in!

Some fine beer was found a few miles on in the Fox Inn. The Hon Sec learnt what Houmas was, previously believed to be some sort of decaying plant material!

A short distance to Windrush, a tricky ground floor six, anti-clockwise (backsee-fores). Then on to our fourth tower, Great Barrington. A fair ground floor six, around 8cwt. Mrs T kindly shared her culinary delights with us. We were missing our catering officer (Mrs President), who also makes fine buns!

We had a 30-mile drive towards Oxford, to Cumnor crossing the Thames River at a toll bridge, breaking the bank at 5p per car. Cumnor were a fine sounding ring of 13-cwt. ground floor eight. Then on to the sixth of the day, a light 10 at Appleton. A reasonable attempt at rising 10 was executed, certainly not letting the Devon side down. The final ring of the day was a good ring of six at Alvescot.

Sadly, we were running short of time and hands were getting a little sore. A fine evening dinner in the Plough Inn. The iamb was especially good, eh Ryan? We retired after a short trip back to our base. On the Monday, we checked out and headed south. Highworth was the first ring, a good 18cwt eight. The same correspondent then let us into Hannington. An interesting six reached by climbing a magnificent wooden spiral staircase. Well done to Bernie who called some changes? A hog roast went down well for lunch. Onto Wanborough. Another fine 18cwt eight where we met up with Hil's sister, who made a very respectable job of the 2nd.

We then crossed the M4 to Chiseldon. A difficult six, especially the 5th! In need of some restoration work. We headed west back to the M4 to Olveston. This lovely-toned 19cwt eight went well. Well done to Roger, who slipped the tenor up twice in succession. These were on plain bearings but this did not affect the pleasure had in ringing them. Ringing over, some more refueling, back in Somerset, and then said our good byes and headed home.

A very enjoyable weekend. Many thanks to Dave for the entire organisation – timing was impeccable, no lock outs and some good bells. Well done to Lo and Jim, who put great effort into their ringing and despite having some war wounds must have learnt a lot.

Mid Week Ringers - "Ringklies"

April

Ringling in April took the group to Coffinswell. At the lunch we welcomed new members, John and Barbara Cole and Phil Stevens. We heard that Sylvia and Norman Mortimore were celebrating their 52nd wedding anniversary that very day. There was mention of some members who were unwell, namely Bill Blake and Ray Mugridge.

The afternoon found us in Kingsteignton with Bill Avery in attendance. The ringers were mindful that he was downstairs listening and that in the ringing chamber there were three shields, one being the County winners. The ringers did so well on eight bells, especially after the morning's tricky 6. Parking did not seem to be too problematical. The ringers left at 4pm feeling proud of their ringing and rightly so.

Wales Trip—June 2004

The Ringklies "holiday" in Wales consisted of ringing at 16 towers over 5 days. On the journey up we rang at Barnwood and Churchdown where we had some energetic ringers, walking up and down the hill, but were they expecting to find a pub? A taxi was available in case the climb and descend was too long and hot.

The hotel accommodation was very comfortable and full marks to John Staddon on finding such a suitable venue. On Tuesday we visited Northop and Bodelwyddan, the "Marble Church" Built in 1860 and it has a 202 ft. high tower. The first team rang in memory of Bob Southwood. (See below). On the way back we rang at Halkyn, some found the pub, but it had exceptional views across the water to Birkenhead. The evening's entertainment consisted of a quiz night and one of our teams won although they did not guess that the majority of people scream when they see squirrels! Wednesday was a spectacular day. We started at Eccleston, a remarkable picturesque village. On to Chester for lunch and several groups walked around the City walls, others found real ale pubs and others found an impressive array of shops. We rang at the Cathedral after lunch and then onto Handbridge and in the evening ringing at Mold where a rope broke and

Robin Burnham spliced it in just a few minutes. Was he in a hurry to go to the pub? On Thursday we started at Llangollen and stayed there for lunch. Then we went to Ruabon and onto Wrexham. The church is known as one of the "seven wonders of Wales". The local ringer was certainly impressed with our rise and ringing and applauded us on several occasions. The tenor did cause one ringer to become breathless but he was not beaten. The late afternoon found us in Hope and in the evening we were entertained by the Welsh Choir. The evening finished with the President, Harry Bardens, thanking all who helped making the holiday a success and particularly John Staddon who planned the events so well. Thanks were expressed to Alison for providing the live entertainment for which we all benefited by the hotel providing wine free of charge for the evening.

For the journey home our first stop was at Droitwich where the tower captain was known to many and after lunch we rang at Wychbold, or did we? The church leans and the subsidence is due to brine extraction in the area. The interior with the modern works certainly makes the church look odd. The bells proved difficult with the Littleham representatives having clearly the best peal.

The whole holiday was very enjoyable. We saw some splendid scenery and had sufficient time to explore. Some even had time to go on a steam railway between the ringing. Next year's holiday was debated and the suggestion was to visit Kent.

Bob Southwood

A tribute from the Ringklies

All ringers in Devon were sorry to hear of the death of the Rev, Bob Southwood, a well known and colourful personality and I am sure many were able to attend his funeral. However a coach load of ringers and friends were visiting and ringing in North Wales with the trip centred on the Beuford Park Hotel at Mold, Clwyd. Yes, it was the annual Ringkly Ringers Tour.

On the day and time of the funeral we were at St Margaret's Bodelwyddan, a finely ornate church built as a memorial, the exterior is of magnesium limestone and fourteen different kinds of marble were used for the interior with a steeple of 202 feet and a lovely peal of eight bells. It seemed fitting to dedicate the first peal to his memory. In contrast to the strict and meticulous timing at all other towers, this team was not restrict in time. Before starting, the eight ringers stood in a circle by their ropes and told short stories and recalled anecdotes about Bob and his life. Bob had influenced so many of the ringers, it would be impossible to count just how many people he knew. There followed a short period of silence. An exceptionally and appropriately well struck call change peal of Queens was then rung, one which I am sure Bob would have enjoyed. The ringers being, Harry Bardens, President, Alison Waterson, John Orchard, Henry Trewin, Hilary Grayling, Chris Clayton, Mike Webster and Robin Burnham. We and all the tour party send our regards to his widow and family.

Proposed towers for 2004

September	South Pool	Chivelstone
October	Talaton	Payhembury
November	Bradford	Sheepwash
December	To be confirmed but likely to be Drewsteignton and Christmas Dinner at the Post Inn, Whiddon Down	

Any queries please contact: Ken Rowe on 01803 521489

Eggbuckland B

Commiserations to Eggbuckland B who had a terrific ring at Dunsford but regrettably were 17 seconds short of the 15 minutes. The ringing for the day was to a high standard and moved along really quickly catching out one team. The tea was superb and thanks were expressed to the helpers and to Graham Sharland who organised the event.

Ryan aged 13

Ryan Trout from Eggbuckland brought to our attention the achievements of his cousin Steven Trout who rings for the B Team. Ryan says that he just feels he has done so well in the couple of months that have past and since the disappointment of The Major Final where they came last. It wasn't just a disappointment for Steven but for the whole team especially coming 2nd to the A team in 2003. Since the Major Final Steven has rung at a number of other competitions and has come 1st at the Lapford Revel and also rang in the A team at Shebbear and came 1st there where Eggbuckland won on 7 faults. We all feel that this is a major achievement for someone so young and someone who also carries the added pressure of ringing for Eggbuckland. Steven is 13 and this shows young people can make it as Ringers if they want to. Steven is an example for other young ringers in Devon and throughout the country. Thanks also to Eggbuckland for producing such good ringers.

Frank Bye

Firstly, maybe, through the pages of Devon Calls I wish to inform your members that Brenda and I are doing Bed and Breakfast and we would be delighted to see any of our ringing friends if they ever venture this far.

There are no ringing towers near here but we are in the middle of the Whisky Trail and therefore we have access to all the local distilleries.

Our address is:

'Maywood'
Tomnavoulin
Ballindalloch
AB37 9JA
01807 590429
thebyes@tesco.net

We have one double and one twin letting rooms and the charge at present for B+B is £15.00 per person per night.

What is available? Fishing (River Spey), Walking (Speyside Way), plus many more walks. Golfing (Dozens of courses close by). The Malt Whisky Trail, but of course Ringers don't drink alcohol!!!

Website

John Enderson is continually improving the website and entries can be made via the website if you wish to do so.

If you wish to have details of your group available to a wider audience, please use the website or alternatively notify the Publicity Officer, Michael Webster, 5 Kings Rydon Close, Stoke Gabriel, Totnes, TQ9 6QG. Phone: 01803 782591 or email on: mtwebster@btinternet.com

The ring of bells

John Baker and the Highampton Bells featured in the Ring of Bells produced by Marcus Vergette and Jonnie Williams. The video last about 15 minutes and looked at different ringers and their relationship to the tower. The video also featured the casting of a bell and the bells of Buckfast Abbey with Hosanna also being rung.

Maurice Sharland has reported that

Found: Brass Army Badge

a day or so after the inter-deanery ringing festival at Dunsford a brass army badge, possibly a cap badge was found in the road opposite the church. Although probably not worth a lot it could be of sentimental value and may have been dropped by a ringer.

Tom's family presented a trophy to

Tom Wright

Egg Buckland, the winning team on 15 May 2004. The impressive glass trophy was made by David Thorn of Lapford, Courtney Thorn's grandson. The trophy can be competed for again next year at Down St Mary. A letter from Tom's daughter, Carol, was written to each competing team stating that they were indebted to the Down St Mary ringers for making the arrangements and that on this occasion a splendid meal was to be provided by Mrs Wright and her two daughters for all the teams throughout the afternoon.

Novice Competition-Holbeton

Once again the year goes by only too quickly. It is time in October for our annual NOVICE ringing competition. The competition will take place (clock change day) Saturday 23rd October 04 at Holbeton Church and start at 13:00 hrs. It is hoped to encourage enough teams to enter this section to at least make a fight of it. This year the ringing will be off stays only and ring one half of the peal known as 60 on thirds (either half) call change ringing will start as near to 14:00hrs as

is practicable. There will be three open towers on the day and details from secretary on the day. There is a car park close to the church unfortunately parking is limited in front of the church. Tea will be provided at a small cost. The cost of entering the competition will be £2 per section per team it is hoped to encourage NOVICE ringers to ring (much the same as the Devon Association Novice event). If you need any more information please contact 01752 406317.

John Kelly Down Under

In March, John Kelly, BEM, of Paignto, flew for the first time, and went to Australia to see one of his daughters. He travelled with a steam railway enthusiast. It was not only railways that he saw. One of the highlights was to ring in the 82.5-metre high glass spire, the Swan Bells Tower. The 16 bells housed in the purpose built landmark tower are the largest set of "change bells" in the world and the only bell tower in the world in which the public can view the bells and bell ringers from a gallery, as well as Perth's skyline from a 360 degree viewing platform.

Obituary—Peter VERNEY

Born Kennford 21 October 1920. Died Exeter 21 December 2003.

Peter, or Pete as he was best known, passed away on 21 December 2003. He was 83. Pete was born and brought up in Kennford. It was not until he was called up for National Service that he left the village. Joining the Royal Artillery he eventually found himself posted to the Faro Islands. Whilst there he met Jonna, who later became his wife. Pete and Jonna began their married life at Kennford, and with their two children Peter and Anne, remained in the village for 46 years. Pete was employed by the Forestry Commission based at Haldon, a job he held continuously for 42 years.

Pete will be remembered by many of the older "Devon" ringers, as he was for many years Kenn's popular and well-respected tenor man. He learnt to ring at Kenn, around 1948 having been initially approached by the late Jim Rice who was at the time Tower Captain. According to Pete "I was down by the Wobbly Wheel one day when Jim stopped on his bike and said what about coming down to Kenn one night and learning to ring?". From this casual beginning he went on to become one of the 'key' members of the old Kenn team which consisted of: Treble - Jim Rice, second - Reg Staddon, third - Ken Raddenbury, fourth - Frank Ebdon, fifth - Fred Toghill and tenor - Pete Verney. This band, taught and led by Jim, competed regularly throughout the 1950's and 60's in Six Bell competitions across the county. Right up until ill health forced Jim to retire. During the 1970's, and until his eventual move into Exeter Pete remained an active ringer. He supported and encouraged the junior team enabling them to aspire to standards once set by the late Jim Rice. Pete was a well-built man, fit and strong. Yet he was placid and unassuming. He was a person who enjoyed the company of others, who was popular amongst ringers, and respected for his skill at ringing the tenor. His funeral took place at Saint Andrew's Kenn on Friday 2nd January 2004 followed by committal in the churchyard. A bright sun shone low in the January sky, the morning air was cold. A New Year had just been born. As he was lowered to his final resting-place the sound of Saint Andrew's bells pealed half muffled in the background. A truly fitting tribute to a loyal and faithful man. A "Devon" ringer. C.E.A.

The Bells of Devon handbook

Exploring Devon - with 3 bell towers.

Whilst on our travels gaining information for 'The Bells of Devon', it has been amazing to see what can happen in villages where bells are not rung on a regular basis. 3 Bell towers, for many, are a waste of time and many would look down on towers where less than 5 or 6 bells are available. But in reality they are just as important as every other church tower - they call people to worship.

It's not as easy as you may think to get good striking on these lower numbers either - try it you might be pleasantly surprised!

It's not as easy as you may think

On one occasion the Churchwarden of a 3 bell tower told us that the ropes were not in a good state and asked where the parish might purchase a set of second hand ones. Generously, the ringers of Upton, Torquay donated three ropes for us to take along and, after checking the fittings and putting on the new ropes the bells were heard again. Churchwardens and other parishioners, who were all interested in the prospect of hearing their bells being rung, turned out on a cold and weather beaten morning and the smiles and pleasure on their faces was certainly worth the trek.

Since our initial visit, a working party has been organised to try and prevent the weather from doing any further damage to their tower and its bells. We have also been lucky enough to return to the tower and ring a quarter peal - believed to be the first to be rung on the bells. Again, enthusiastic friends of the church met us and we hope this tower continues to go from strength to strength.

who were all interested in the prospect of hearing their bells being rung

On another occasion, after planning to ring at another 3 bell tower a notice had been put on the church notice board to say that we were coming, we were met with a kettle ready for tea or coffee and, after some rope adjustment, we were able to score a wonderful quarter on this unique anticlockwise three. After we had finished another local arrived and thanked us profusely. She informed us that she had phoned a former parishioner who had recently moved to Lincolnshire. They had been so pleased to be able to hear the bells ringing over the phone that they had wished that they could have been there!!

another local arrived and thanked us

One personal highlight though, was to ring what we believe to be, the first quarter on the bells at Honeychurch. We were met by the Churchwarden who had lit what seemed like 100 candles (as the Church has no electricity) and we were able to score a quarter that evening by candlelight. If ringing at 3 and 4 bell towers produces such a wonderful response from the locals as we have seen in the past 18 months then we certainly look forward to ringing at many more.

ringing at 3 and 4 bell towers produces such a wonderful response from the locals

For more information on all the towers in this county, why not purchase your own copy of the new publication, 'The Bells of Devon', which is being sold in aid of the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund. It includes contacts for all the ringable towers with 3 or more bells, information on chimes of three or more bells and all the lost rings in the county of the last 150 years. It also contains a list of all the known single bells hung for full-circle ringing - but that's another story.

To purchase your own copy please send a cheque payable to 'The Bells of Devon' for £5.50 (postage included) to: **Braddons Mews, 27 Braddons Street, Torquay. TQ1 1QH.** PJP

Annual Draw

The Devon Association of Ringers Annual Draw, which raises money for the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund has once again proved a success. We would like to congratulate everyone who fulfilled a role, distributors, sellers and especially the ringers of Monkleigh, St.Giles and Little Torrington who for a couple of months spent their spare time during practice evenings and weddings folding returned tickets. Half the books sold were returned on the day of the draw; this was not an issue as most of them had already been folded, major relief to Janice, Andrew and myself, these small points make a huge difference to the workload of the organising teams.

2004 Winners

1 st	: Peter Pryce - Yelverton
2 nd	: Esme Gibbons - Pinhoe
3 rd	: S. Applin - Ashburton
4 th	: Colin Squire - Sheepwash
5 th	: S. Easton - Barnstaple
6 th	: Gwen Knox - Torrington
7 th	: Rona Baker - Lydford
8 th	: Jack Keaney - Bristol
9 th	: M. Lee - Dodbrooke
10 th	: Luke Hext - Lapford
11 th	: R.G. Ley -
12 th	: J. Elston - Silvertown
13 th	: Sue Smith - Chagford
14 th	: T. B. Larkwarthy - Sheepwash

Financial Summary

£ 3,498.02 : Sold Books
 £ 15.00 : Donations
 £ 17.50 : Licence
 £ 210.33 : Printing
 £ 500.00 : Draw Prizes
£ 2,785.19 : Profit
 Many thanks from Julia Endicott & Clive Ward

How others see us

An interesting snippet in the London Metro (a free paper for commuters). "A team of bell ringers has smashed a world record by playing non-stop for 12 hours. The ten campanologists created 201,600 bongs and 20,160 "changes" - the moment all the bells are struck together in a tune - without repetition. The ringers at St Michael the Archangel church, in Lyme Regis, Dorset, could not eat, drink or go to the toilet during the feat. Organiser Andrew Nicholson said: "I think they're barmy. It is quite a feat of physical and mental endurance." The church is sound-proofed so its neighbours were not disturbed."

Central Council AGM

The Central Council meeting for this year took place on Monday 31 May by invitation of the Essex Association to celebrate their 125th anniversary. The venue was the Lion Walk United Reformed Church in Colchester and both of the Devon Association representatives were able to attend. Over 200 members were present representing over 60 different societies. The meeting started at 10am with an opening prayer. The Revd John Scott was congratulated, by the President, for attending his 50th meeting. We went straight on to the business. Various items were discussed in a brisk manner. Members were elected to various committees and a new committee was the Trends Committee to reverse the decline in ringing due to a lack of ringers. Devon Towers are no exception as many ringers ring for three or four towers. There are still many towers that are silent. Child Protection guidelines were issued for the ringers and the PCC. Leaflets were handed out for onward distribution with the aim of encouraging the teaching to young ringers.

Next year's meeting will be hosted by the Yorkshire Association at Harrogate and I look forward to attending on your behalf.

Mervyn C Way.

Ringers Road Show 2005

The Road Show for 2005 will be at Newbury Racecourse. The facilities look excellent, and the access looks good - and improving with the new M4/A34 junction due for completion this year. More even than that, Peter Davies of Wantage has agreed to lead the Roadshow team this time. The actual date has been fixed as **Saturday 10 September 2005.**

JANE WILKINSON

Chairman, CCCBR PR Committee

**Congratulations
 The Association
 Annual Dinner raised over
 £200 profit.**

**This is an important fund
 raising and social event,
 please support it next year**

Open day

Nicholson engineering of Bridport is to hold an open day on 18 September and all ringers are invited. The centre piece of the exhibition will be the new ring of ten bells for Crediton, hanging with all new fittings in their new 13 bell frame. A barbecue will also be held and all donations will go towards the work of Cancer Research UK

Tenor's elbow

I suffered from Tenor's elbow earlier this year and went to see my GP who had also been a bellringer. I was pleased that he did not recommend any anti inflammatory pills or cortisone injections. Some ringers recommend acupuncture but I was asked to try an epicondylar clasp (aka tennis elbow support). This should be worn about an inch and a half below the elbow joint. It alters the way the long extensor muscles pull on their origin above the elbow, giving it a rest and a chance for the irritation to settle down. I had to avoid ringing heavier bells for a while and now I am ringing tenors but only with the occasional twinges

My doctor was able to dispel some medical myths about ringing and this coincided with an article in the Ringing World by a ringing from Somerset. In general heart problems should not stop a return to ringing, provided that it is done sensibly. The heart is a muscle and needs exercise like any other.

Several ringers have given up because of chronic back problems. Correct ringing is usually beneficial and can help to ease back pain. It is the stretching up that help, when the correct ringing posture is adopted.

When you look at the number of the older bellringers, you know that you are doing the right thing.

Beauty Tip

There are few exercises more effective in firming and toning the upper arms than bell ringing. Other advantages are increasing the powers of co-ordination and concentration. Once learnt, this ancient skill offers so much companionship and pleasurable activity. Are we promoting ringing enough and letting everyone know of the advantages?

Devon Association Results

Kenn Invitation on 20 March 04

First Section

1	Eggbuckland	12
2	South Brent	14 ½
3	Dunsford	19
4	West Alvington	21 ½
	Exminster	36

Second Section

1=	Morewenstow	46
1=	Stoke Gabriel	46
3	Alphington	63 ½
4	Exeter St Petrox	65
5	Ide	98 ½
6	Colebrooke	102
7	Pyeworthy	116

Invitation 6 Bell held at Ide

3rd April 2004

1	South Brent	13
2	Stoke Gabriel	15 ½
3	Morthoe	32
4	Broadhempston	45
5	Down St Mary	46 ½
6	Exeter St Petrox	47

Junior Section

1	Spreyton	53
2	Exminster	65
3	Mariansleigh	78
4	Alphington	97
5	Ide A	105
6	South Tawton	115
7	Alphington B	143
8	Ide B	220

Inter Deanery 6 Bell at

Dunsford 17th April 2004

1	Egg Buckland A	17
2	Buckland in the Moor	29 ½
3	Dunsford	40
4	Lamerton	52 ½
5	Stoke Gabriel	53
6	Exminster	54
7	Collaton St Mary	56
8	West Alvington	59
9	Modbury	86
10	Bickington	95 ½

Egg Buckland B

(Disqualified rang under time) 32

Tamar Valley Competition held at Kilkhampston on 17 April 2004

A Section

1	Lamerton	23 ½
2	Briderule	37
3	Shebbear	62 ½

B Section

1	Littleham	40 ½
2	Monkleigh	68 ½
3	Morwenstow	88

Open 6's

1	Molland	18 ½
2	Iddesleigh	24
3	Morthoe	25 ½
4	Poughill	45
5	Littleham	48 ½
6	Black Torrington	49
7	Colebrooke	77 ½

Open 8's

1	Okehampton	49
2	Kilkhampston	53
3	High Bickington	58 ½

Devon 8 Bell Final at Winkleigh

On 24 April 2004

1	Kingsteignton	20 ½
2=	Buckland in the Moor	36 ½
2=	Chittlehampton	36 ½
4	Paignton	40
5	Tavistock	40 ½
6	Okehampton	45 ½
7	High Bickington	53 ½
8	Exeter Cathedral	70
9	Chagford	72 ½
10	Kingsbridge	75
11	Alphington	116

Woodleigh Deanery held at

Stoke Fleming 1 May 2004

Senior Section

1	Stoke Fleming	50
2	West Alvington	60
3	Churchstow	60 ½
4	Modbury A	64 ½
5	Loddiswell	113
6	Chivelstone	144

Woodleigh Deanery Junior

Section (60 on Thirds no rise or lower)

1	Modbury B	53
2	Malborough	60 ½
3	Salcombe	68 ½
4	South Pool	72 ½
5	East Portlemouth	111 ½
6	Sherford	148 ½
	Ladies Team	64 ½

Totnes Deanery held at

South Brent 1 May 2004

1	South Brent	12 ½
2	Broadhempston A	28
3	Collaton St Mary	31 ½
4	Diptford	36
5	Halwell A	37
6	Stoke Gabriel	39 ½
7	Halwell B	51
8	Townstal Dartmouth	62
9	Broadhempston B	83 ½
10	South Brent B	85 ½
11	Totnes	150

Devon 6 Bell South Qualifier

Loddiswell 8th May

1	Egg Buckland A	29 ½
2	Dunsford	48 ½
3	Egg Buckland B	49 ½
4	South Brent	55 ½
5	Lamerton	57 ½
6	West Alvington	62 ½
7	Collaton St Mary	71 ½
8	Holbeton	88 ½
9	Drewsteignton	95
10	Stoke Gabriel	97 ½
11	Kenn	101 ½
12	Lydford	118 ½
13	Ide	146 ½

Devon 6 Bell North Qualifier St

Giles in the Wood 8th May 2004

1	Morthoe	22 ½
2	Molland	34 ½
3	West Down	34 ½
4	Littleham	38 ½
5	Burrington	55
6	Black Torrington	55 ½
7	Iddesleigh	55 ½
8	Exeter St Petrox	63 ½
9	Mariansleigh	81
10	Warkleigh	82 ½
11	Colebrooke	102 ½
12	Pyeworthy	134

Down St Mary Invitation Bell

15th May 2004

1	Egg Buckland	10 ½
2	Molland	17
3	Morthoe	19
4	West Down	21
5	Exminster	36 ½
6	Colebrooke	51
7	Mariansleigh	55
8	Stoke Gabriel	57
9	Littleham	72
10	Kenn	74 ½
11	Ide	76 ½
12	Spreyton	95

Devon 6 Bell Minor Final

Offwell 22nd May 2004

1	Black Torrington	29 ½
2	Stoke Gabriel	33 ½
3	Drewsteignton	39 ½
4	Iddesleigh	41
5	Exeter St Petrox	45 ½
6	Collaton St Mary	46 ½
7	Mariansleigh	87 ½

Moreton Deanery Competition

at Manaton on 5th June 2004

1	North Bovey (B)	54 ½
2	Widcombe (B)	58
3	Widcombe (A)	63
4	North Bovey (A)	69 ½
5	Manaton	70 ½
6	Bickington	77 ½
7	Ilstington	91 ½
8	Ashburton	141

Okehampton Deanery Festival

5th. June 2004 at Exbourne.

Novice Section:-

1	Inwardleigh	16 ½
2	Exbourne	30 ½
3	Sampford Courtenay	39.

Intermediate Section:-

1	Sampford Courtenay	31 ½
2	Chagford	35 ½
3	Bridestowe	38 ½
4	South Tawton	39 ½
5	Exbourne	56.

Main Section:-

1	Okehampton	28 ½
2	Chagford "A"	30 ½
3	North Tawton "A"	35 ½

(Continued over)

(From previous page)

4	North Tawton "B"	51.
5	South Tawton	51 ½
6	Chagford "B"	60.
7	Sampford Courtenay	62.
8	Gidleigh	72 ½
9	Bridestowe	81.

Devon 6 Bell Major Final**Langtree 12th June**

1	Egg Buckland A	15 ½
2	South Brent	20
3	Dunsford	20 ¼
4	Stoke Gabriel	23 ¼
5	Molland	24 ½
6	Morthoe	28 ½
7	Burrington	34 ½
8	West Down	38 ½
9	Black Torrington	39
10	Lamerton	44 ½
11	Littleham	46 ¾
12	Egg Buckland B	50
	Top Ringing	
	Egg Buckland A	10 ¼

Widcombe Invitation on**7 August 2004**

1	Eggbuckland	5 ¼
2	South Brent	10
3	Exminster	17
4	Buckland in the Moor	19
5	Lamerton	21
6	Littleham	23 ½
7	Holbeton	25 ½
8	Chagford	30
9	Moorland	32 ½
10	Colebrook	36
11	Stoke Gabriel	41 ½
	Collaton St Mary	15 ½

Disqualified rang under time

Lydford —21 August 2004

1st	Eggbuckland "A"	9
2nd	Eggbuckland "B"	9 ½
3rd	Exminster	13 ½
4th	South Brent	18 ½
5th	Morthoe	19
6th	Littleham	20
7th	Lamerton	21 ½
8th	Black Torrington	23 ½
9th	Molland	24 ½
10th	Holbeton	27 ½

Bridestowe—21 August 2004

1st	Eggbuckland "B"	8
2nd	Morthoe	14
3rd	Littleham	14 ½
4th	Lamerton	15
5th	Exminster	21 ½
6th	Egg Buckland "A"	23 ½
7th	South Brent	31 ½
8th	East Anstey	34 ½
9th	Molland	41 ½
10th	Holbeton	43 ½

Shebbear—14 August 2004**Novice Section**

1	Inwardleigh	13 ½
2	Peters Marland	19
3	Buckland Brewer	36

B Section

1	Iddesleigh	27
2	Exeter St Petrocks	37
3	Mariansleigh	37 ½
4	Colebrooke	45 ½
5	Poughill	47 ½
6	Kilkhampton	49 ½
7	Appledore	73 ½

A Section

1	Egg Buckland	7
2	Devon Belles	15
3	Morthoe	19
4	West Down	21 ½
5	Molland	26 ½
6	Burrington	29 ½
7	Black Torrington	30
8	Littleham	35 ½

South Tawton on 4 Sep 2004**A Section**

1	Eggbuckland	11
2	Morthoe	19 ½
3	Lamerton	28
4	South Tawton	32 ½
5	Stoke Gabriel	38 ½
6	Molland	39
7	Exeter St Petrocks	44 ½
8	Tedburn/South Tawton	65 ½

B Section

1	Tedburn St Mary	31 ½
2	Mariansleigh	77
3	Ide	86 ½
4	Colebrooke	87
5	Torrington	126

National 6 bell competition held**at Poughill on 28 August 2004**

1st	Egg Buckland A	7
2nd	Morthoe	13 ½
3rd	Dunsford	14 ½
4th	Egg Buckland B	15 ½
5th	Plymtree	24 ½
6th	Exeter St. Petrocks	25 ½
7th	Exeter Cathedral	26 ½
8th	Hampshire	43 ½
9th	East Anstey	45 ½
10th	Dorset	63 ½

Devon Historic Churches Trust.**Cornwood on 11 September 2004**

1	Exminster A	41
2	Stoke Gabriel	47
3	Lamerton	47 2/3
4	West Alvington	51
5	Dunsford	52
6	South Brent	60 2/3
7	Collaton St Mary	69
8	Exminster B	88 2/3
9	St Petrocks, Exeter	94
10	Colebrooke	100 1/3
11	Widcombe	113

Germansweek

Nothing ventured, nothing gained. The year 2005 marks the centenary year of the recasting of the 5 bells of Germansweek Parish Church. We, the present day ringers would like to add to the history of the bells. We feel that this would be best done by installing a sixth bell. "The Centenary Bell". It is an ambitious undertaking and Germansweek is only a small parish and community, the people of the parish are already contributing much to the cost of maintaining its lovely church of St Germanus.

We are therefore looking further afield in the hope of raising the money we would require to purchase and install the bell. If we were able to find a redundant bell the cost would be around £450 for the bell, a new one would cost £2,500. The total cost of bell and installation would be in the order of £6,500.

It is hoped that sufficient people from the surrounding area and beyond will be interested in making history by donating to the "Centenary Bell" fund. It is proposed that each donator's name will be recorded in a book and kept along with the other articles of church history.

At the moment we are not asking for money but are looking for pledges large or small. When sufficient pledges have been made to the "Centenary Bell" fund we will then call them in. If you would like to be a part of this historic venture, please write to, Mr Brian Singleton, Church Warden, Germansweek Parish Church, Langdales, Broadbury, Okehampton, Devon EX20 4LL, or telephone him on 01837 871338.

'QUASIMODO' IN THE BELFRY

Bob Joinson, the official photographer at Marldon's Apple Pie Fair, got locked in the church belfry while trying to take an aerial shot of the event. After the bells had been rung, the red-faced snapper, who has been nicknamed Quasi after the event, was locked in the tower by bellringers, and had to shout from the roof of the parish church tower to get some help. Event organiser Neil Pollard said: "He could hear voices and was banging on the locked door like mad. But in the pitch blackness he was unable to find a light switch and his mobile phone had no signal. "In desperation he went up the spiral staircase to the roof, where he was able to summon help."

Cycling Tour 2005

The 32nd Annual Young Bell Ringer's Cycling Tour 2005 - Bedfordshire Sunday 24 July - Sat 30 July

The YBRCT is a moderately paced cycling/ringing tour. In 2005 the tour will be based at Buckden Towers near Huntingdon. The accommodation is either "youth hostel" style 20-bed dormitories or more luxurious twin-bedded or family rooms in the adjacent Retreat House.

The ringing normally consists of about 6 towers each day spaced out over a route of about 25 miles. The terrain is fairly gentle, rolling and mostly rural. Whilst a semi-invalid couch-potato would not enjoy the tour, any reasonably active person should find it no problem.

Our ringing includes everything from rounds/call-changes to eight-spliced and as long as you can ring a bell safely and strike it in rounds you will get on alright. Our party normally number around 35 and includes people in the early stages of their ringing career. I believe we are a sociable crowd and enjoy the social side of the event as well as the ringing and cycling. We have been delighted to witness an increase in young families in recent years but on the other hand, quite a few young people turn up on their own and quickly fit in to the company. We have quite a few "older people" too!

I arrange everything for you, from supper on the Sunday night to breakfast on the Saturday morning, including booking towers and insurance. Bed, breakfast & evening meal are included in my charge to you. You just pay me your money and turn up - as simple as that.

Cost inclusive of B & B and evening meal, all administrative costs and insurance

Over 12 - £130 in the dormitory accommodation.

(For costs in Retreat Centre e-mail) For more information send an SAE to: Rev. G. Stickland, Quedgeley Rectory, Gloucester GL2 4PN or look on the church website at quedgeleychurch.org.uk and see "cycle tour".

On learning to become a bell ringer

A few years ago the vicar announced that bell ringers were needed and anyone interested please report at the back of the church. I was interested, had been for some time, but only as a supporter at the annual competition, when we also enjoyed a picnic in a delightful rural setting while listening to the teams compete. I thought this was something I would really like to do, something I had time for. It was obviously easy. I had often watched the ringers on Sundays, men effortlessly, I just needed someone to tell me what to do. For the next 6 months I reported to the Tower Captain every Friday night, with three other beginners and four or five experienced ringers. 6 months of despair or elation, depending on how the practise session had gone, a few times I came near to giving up, no doubt about it, I could not do it. I have never tackled anything so difficult or anything I enjoyed more. Then suddenly it all began to fall into place and I decided to stay with it. I could recite the exact pattern on our Captain's sweater, row by row as he stood by us each week, holding the rope, patiently instructing us, one by one. The time came when he suddenly was not holding it anymore, and I was on my own. When he gave me my badge as a member of the Devon Association of Ringers I felt just like I did when I won my hockey colours at school. I was now invited to ring on Sundays. He was never far away, ready to move in and grab the rope if I got in a muddle. Gradually my confidence increased. My bell changed from being a huge, heavy menacing thing, ready to take the skin off my fingers if given the chance to being a huge, heaving thing all right, but ready to co-operate if treated kindly. I have grown rather fond of it. One Sunday six of us turned up. For the first time I rang with no one standing by ready to rush up and rescue me. All went well and I went home on Cloud Nine! If we ring well there is a smile on the face of our Captain. If we ring badly we are in Big Trouble. One evening he threw down his rope in a rage saying, "You sound like a lot of b...y grasshoppers" and stamped out into the night. Even the most experienced ringers stood in silence, hanging their heads in shame. When he returned from kicking the grave-

stones we tried really hard, and must have done better because it was "all smiles" again. There is nowhere like our tower for friendliness, encouragement and humour, I know where I would go if I needed cheering up, after all, where else am I likely to be called "Flower" in this day and age. I dare say they call me other things too, but I prefer not to hear it!

Crediton

The largest church bell restoration project in the South West for more than a century was in April when eight 200-year-old bells weighing five tons were removed from the Church of the Holy Cross in Crediton and transported to Whitechapel, where they were smelted down and recast before being returned. The work follows a five-year campaign to raise the £120,000 needed to fund the restoration, and Crediton remained silent over the summer months as the bells will not be returned until November. The tenor bell is 54 inches in width and weighs just under a ton. Tower captain Bill Parr, who has been bell ringing at the church for 30 years, said: "I shall miss it. It's sad that there will be no bells ringing over the summer. I have been going up and down that tower for 30 years now. We are very grateful to the local people who have helped with this project."

Much of the money to fund the restoration has been raised in Crediton with many families, businesses and community groups raising enough money to sponsor a bell.

The second largest bell, the ninth, will be dedicated to St Boniface, who was born in Crediton.

Police Checks

At the Central Council of Church Bellringers' guidance has been issued for dealing with children. A leaflet has been published with a letter addressed to the PCC. Two leaflets and the letter should be enclosed with this edition. If not received, please contact the Secretary, Editor, or collect them at the AGM in November. (see also back page)

Tower news

Lundy: Devon's newest 10

The two new trebles for St Helens, Lundy are likely to travel out on Tuesday 28 September 10am from Ilfracombe. The hanging should be completed and ready for a tryout when the main Festival Week party arrives on Saturday 2 October.

The annual Lundy Open Day is on Saturday 9 October and there will be open ringing on the new 10 from 13.00 until boat time and all are very welcome.

Teignmouth are back

The rehung bells of St Michael's, Teignmouth are to be rededicated by the Lord Bishop of Exeter on Wednesday 29 September (St Michael's Day). This represents a great deal of hard work by a small but committed team faced with the task of raising a large sum of money for these unique Llewellyn and James Bells.

Atherington

The bells and frame have been removed and the proposals for the rehanging in a new frame, lower in the tower, are currently being developed. The small population may take time to raise the necessary funds. At least the removal of the frame means that its corrosion is no longer causing greater damage to the tower.

A plea for help

John Staddon would like to establish a list of tower contacts around the country, for use by other Devon Groups who organise ringing trips. It would be an advantage to hold a list of suitable hotels etc., which have been used with an idea of their capacity.

The list would be available to any Devon Association affiliated tower. Please send any details to John by email to john.staddon@nasuwt.net or by post to "Little Anchor" 96 Rivermead Road, Exeter EX2 4RL.

Please help
John with
the above
request for
help. A lot of
ringers
stand to
benefit
if the help is
forthcoming

Fremington

On an outing organised by Broadhempston I had the privilege to ring at Fremington. One of the joys of ringing on outings for me, is that I ring at new towers. Fremington was a new tower for most of the ringers, certainly for most under 40 years old. So how did this happen?

Prior to 2002 the bells had been silent for over 30 years. In 2002 they were removed from the tower for renovation. On return from the foundry, where this work was carried out, they were rehung on a new frame and mounted in a lower position in the tower. Additionally the turret clock was also removed and repaired and fitted with an automatic winding system. The bells were re-dedicated by the Bishop of Crediton on Sunday 16 June 2002. There are over 250 pre-Reformation bells in Devon and two of these are to be found in Fremington, namely the 3rd and 4th. The two new trebles were added in 1889 when the bells were rehung at a cost of £180. The trebles bear the inscription "To the Glory of God: To commemorate the Jubilee of Queen Victoria".

The 3rd bears VOCE MEA VIVA DEPELLO CUNCTA NOCIVA ("With my lively voice I drive all hurtful things away"). The date is 1400 AD and it weighs 5 cwt. The 4th bears AVE MARIA and is about 7 cwt. The 5th was cast by Pennington in 1702 and the tenor is 10 cwt in G and cast in 1664.

Inwardleigh

I was asked by Jereme Darke to write a few words to introduce the youngsters who represented Inwardleigh in the Association Novice Competition on 13th March 2004 at Holcombe Burnell. The majority of them started to learn in June 2003. We were very grateful to the people of Inwardleigh for letting us teach on their bells – an ideal peal for such small people. James Lock aged 12 rang the treble (stood on a 2 foot stack of boxes). The ringers of the 2nd and 3rd, Leticia Kent and Matthew Waterson are both aged 11. Kate Lock aged 14 rang the 4th with Thomas Waterson aged 12 on the 5th and Nicholas Waterson aged 7 (stood on 18 inches of boxes

and with a helping hand) rang the tenor.

The idea of them all ringing together came as a bit of a nightmare suggestion from Matthew during one of their weekly practises! It was with great trepidation that we stood an adult by each one and pulled out on the beginning of what has turned out to be a very rewarding journey for us all.

The youngsters are really enjoying being able to start to ring as a team. Their first ring together outside their own tower was not until 20th February when they were invited to ring at another church. Since then they have tried out Black Torrington (Kate and

James's home village), Littleham (thanks to a very brave Claude Nicholls), Alwington and Bradford. They rang for their first Sunday service as a team at Inwardleigh for Mothering Sunday.

Their thanks go to all those who turn out every week to help them along, and to all those who bravely allowed them to practise in their towers before the competition. They are now hoping to be able to enter the half peal section of the competition next year.

Many thanks to the organisers of the competition for the opportunity to take part at such an early stage of their ringing lives.

Richard Merson reflects on 60 years of ringing

Richard Merson who now resides in New Zealand had a very interesting trip whilst back in the UK and he sent a tape to Maurice Sharland which has been transcribed. Richard gives his reflection of over 60 years of bellringing although he was away from ringing for 50 years but he started as a young lad in Somerset. He recalls at the aged 3 being at Ashbrittle church watching the 6 ropes go up and down, and he was fascinated by this. His father lived in Appley, on the boundary of Devon and Somerset. He recalls seeing his father kneeling outside the pub on the grass crying. His father said, "listen boy, I hear the bells of Holcombe Rogus". His father just loved the sound of Holcombe Rogus bells. Richard recalls that in Somerset there was not any call change ringing although he preferred call change ringing as he was a Devonshire man.

After 1942 Richard went to a four bell tower at Kittisford where he was allowed to ring. Walter Stephens offered him to have a pull, and he taught Richard to ring. They rang call changes and he generally rang the 2nd or 4th. Stan Bristow encouraged him into method at Ashbrittle. Richard found that there was friction between method and call change ringers. The method ringers looked down on call change ringers and some call change ringers resented this. At that time never the twain met, there was a vast difference in their understanding.

Richard rang method at Ashbrittle, Exeter Cathedral and went around on tours of 8 bells in Somerset when he was still a young boy. He remembers ringing at many 8 bell towers and met many Guild ringers. Method ringing was usually on 8 bells and call changes on 6 bell towers. Richard recalls that at one tower he said he was a method ringer and was told to get out and not to come back. He was careful after that and when he went to call change towers he said he was a call change ringer and when asked what bell he rang he said the 3rd, as that was what he was taught in Somerset. He is still puzzled as to why it was usual for the Captain to call from the treble and that ringers kept only to one bell. He would not let on that he had rung method in case he was told to leave. He rang both calls and method successfully. He later went back to Somerset and the captain suggested ringing some call changes and there was an uproar from the band.

Richard then went on for National Service. After that he recalls ringing 8 bell towers with the Guild on a Saturday afternoon, ringing at Paignton, Totnes, Bovey Tracey and Chudleigh. He says that it was the same old ringers and same old methods, mainly Grandsire

and Steadman. He usually rang the treble and if Steadman the tenor although he did ring inside in Somerset. His memory is that people tended to stick to the same bell and that the tenor was behind whether it was method or call changes.

Later he went overseas. He became a committed Christian whilst in East Africa and became a missionary. He ran a Bible school and a mission field. His bellringing finished in the early 1950s. His parents went to New Zealand and presumably Richard followed them as he then recalls that in 1996 he was visiting friends on the West Coast of New Zealand and he was reading the local newspaper that Hamilton Cathedral was short of ringers so he decided to go. He had not rung for 50 years and said that he rang call changes and method although he had probably forgotten how to ring never mind following changes or methods. He was asked to ring the 3rd and that was okay and Richard felt so pleased. His mother lived in Hamilton and he would visit her monthly, calling in the afternoon and staying for the Wednesday night practise. He was surprised as they did things differently to what he recalls happened in England. If there were only 7 ringers they would ring 7 bells. That would not happen in England. If there were 5 they would ring 5. They seemed to call any pattern of changes, this was not his recollection of how ringing was in England. Richard does say that he started a bit on method.

Richard was paralysed; getting old and well passed his youth. He was never a good ringer and to use a Devonshire saying, he would never make a competition ringer, and he could not now but he thoroughly enjoyed having a go. He came back to England recently and visited North Petherthorpe. He was surprised, 6 bell tower and they only had 4 or 5 ringers and still rang and called changes.

On one trip to visit friends in Little Torrington he rang the 3rd as he used to there. He went through some familiar places such as Winkleigh and Black Dog. He even saw a person he had not seen since he was 14 years old. Richard went to Teignmouth, where he lived for a while and was visiting Dunsford. He went to the church and saw the wonderful display of flowers. He asked if they rang the bells and he was told that practise night was that night. He stayed at a local Bed and Breakfast, Tom Tripp's and met Maurice Sharland who he describes as a gracious man. Richard was pleased that they rang call changes and was surprised and delighted that he was allowed to ring the

treble. Tom Tripp then invited him to ring the tenor, Richard never did get to ring the 3rd. The following day Maurice arranged for Richard to ring at Cheriton Bishop. Richard later travelled to North Petherwin to see some cousins. He visited the church and rang there. He later returned to Dunsford and was told that Bob Southwood was trying to change the relationship between change and method ringers. Richard then went to East Teignmouth, Upton and Stoke in Teignhead. He then returned to New Zealand with a remark from his wife stating that he was a ringing fanatic.

Richard says he was happy to receive Devon Calls. From up country in England and also in New Zealand call change ringing is not appreciated. When he got people to listen to the Glorious Devon Bells CD they remarked that that was perfect striking. Richard says he is a real Devonian at heart. He was brought up on a farm along with the hedging and ditching and ringing.

There is something special about Devon he says with its little villages, churches and bellringing. He says his whole existence has always been one of a country life, working on farms and running off to ring bells.

He says it was such a joy to come back to England although his ringing is still not very good. He loves to listen to Dunsford on the CD as he is able to appreciate just how difficult it is.

Richards asked that the Devon ringers never ever let the Devon style of ringing die. It is as symbolic as the little white cottages that Devon is known for. It is marvellous. There are so many churches in Devon and so much information now on the internet where he learnt about the three bell church of Honeychurch. He heard that they are rung regularly. He is at a loss to know why the doors are left open, as in so many churches in Devon and people just go in and ring. He asks for someone to explain this to Maurice so that it can be relayed to him. The Devon experience made him so happy.

He states that at his house he has plenty of information on bells, everything that he wants. He made this tape and asked that it be transcribed as he is not very good at writing.

The tower captain in Auckland is a West Country man and any ringer is very welcome to ring there and any ringers can be accommodated.

Richard adds, "God bless and keep you and may his face shine upon you and may the bells of Devon always ring."

Richard is staying with Maurice until the end of September 2004.

Auntie's Weekend in London

I felt privileged to be invited to another tower's outing. The venue, was London. Auntie's outings have been going for 13 years and she had arranged an earlier outing to London four years ago. To keep interest going some towers chosen had been recently restored and others newly available. This made sure there would be interest for everyone. The trip was planned for late August and would incorporate Friday and Saturday away from home. For the ringers in Devon we were up at 5am in time to catch the coach to London. The driver also was part of the Army, although a non-ringer, he certainly joined in with the fun.

On the Friday we travelled along the A30 to Exeter picking up passengers on the way. Little was I to know that we would also be picking up passengers further along the route as some were to meet us at our first ring.

"and picked up more of the Army"

We were running late but still decided to continue along the M4 going through London, although the Embankment and on to our first stop in East London at St Mary atte Bow, 13 cwt 8, also known at Bow in the Road as the church is literally an island in the centre of the road. It is also known as Little Bow to distinguish it from its larger, heavier and prestigious namesake in Cheapside. We were about 30 minutes behind schedule and picked up more of the Army, from London, Hertfordshire and the Isle of Wight.

We went further east to St John of Jerusalem, South Hackney for a 19 cwt 8. As with all ringing bands, membership ebbs and flows and residents were pleased to hear the sound of the bells. There was an interesting journey back to Victoria Park where some had a picnic in the park. Others found an organic pub! With sandwiches at £7. After lunch we rang at the 2003 16 cwt 10 at St John at Hackney. You may have read about this in the Ringing World and spotted Margaret Pierce who was instrumental in arranging this London trip. Special thanks to Margaret especially as her husband, John was unwell and unable to join in. The last peal of the day was at

Upper Street, Islington, a 16 cwt 8. In 2002 four of the bells were re-welded and the ring retuned and rehung lower in the tower with new fittings and a new frame. Much of the work, including the new ringing room, had been undertaken by volunteers. We were then off to our accommodation for two nights. What a shock! A hostel for students. How well students are cared for these days. We had single accommodation for all those wanting that along with showers. The hostel was Bankside House and a few steps away from the Tate Modern Gallery. The position was ideal for our ringing venues. The evening proved too tiring for some as they discovered the "Founders", a Youngers Pub, before dinner and after dinner. Some had become so confused they had to be shown to their room. At the hostel we had breakfast the following

"It was interesting how quiet this part of London was"

morning. Saturday started with a walk across the Thames via the Millennium Bridge. What a sight, directly lined up with St Pauls. The first tower was St Sepulchre without Newgate a 28 cwt 12. Then onto St Vedast, 16 cwt 6, in the shadow of St Pauls. The following tower was at St Giles, Cripplegate a 34 cwt 12. The bells were rehung in 1998 and the church is in the area of the Barbican Arts Centre. It was interesting how quiet this part of London was on a Saturday. Despite this, there were plenty of venues for lunch. The hardened core finding a pub near the entrance to the Barbican. The afternoon found us south of the river at St Giles, Camberwell, a 23 cwt 10. The bells and tower had recently been restored and there was still evidence of building work in the ringing chamber. Some ringers became absent, had the journey proved too much or was it over indulgence at the Founders? To much surprise our coach party found themselves being entertained in a fellow ringers home where he provided a much awaited cup of tea and cakes for all of us. Suitably refreshed we went back to central London to ring at St Martin the Fields, 20 cwt 12. The

old bells went to Perth as part of the Swan Tower whilst Australian bell metal and a generous grant went towards the cost of installing the present ring by Whitechapel. Lists were prepared, so all knew where and when they were ringing and what a beautiful rise on 12. I was not the only one impressed. The local tower captain remarked how well struck the rise was and that they normally only rise the front 10 in peal. Every ringer should feel proud, it was remarkable. The bells were certainly the high point of the tour. The evening found us walking passed Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, the Clink prison, the Golden Hind replica and Southwark Cathedral to find our dinner venue in a new shopping and eating centre developed from Hays Wharf. The walk back to our accommodation was so memorable. Walking along the Thames with the Tower of London, Tower Bridge, St Pauls and many other sights floodlit. The Founders was also on the way back, sitting on the banks of the Thames, again taking in the scenery.

"we could not refuse the many photo shoots"

Sunday, our last day, started with a ring at St Botolph without Bishopsgate a 17 cwt 8 then a walk to St Olave an 11 cwt 8, and a further walk to St Botolph without Aldgate a 25 cwt 8. A heavy set with a glorious tone, we were warned that the bells could not be hurried. Lunch was at Wetherspoons overlooking the Tower of London. Afterwards we could not refuse the many photo shoots to capture the Tower in the background.

We said our goodbyes to our new friends who departed before our journey back to Devon.

Auntie is Julia Endacott and the trip was organised by her for the benefit of the Chagford ringers. This is an annual event and is a resounding success for Julia and for Chagford. A number of new ringers in the area have learnt and they showed their expertise constantly on the varied peals. This was certainly a well organised and pleasant trip. The accommodation was comfortable and the towers all seem to have some excitement about them. Well done!

FESTIVAL RESULTS 2004

MAJOR FINAL at LANGTREE

POSITION	TEAM	I AVERY	M WAY	W AVERY	B DRAKE	RESULT
1	Egg Buckland A	19	14	17	12	15.5
2	South Brent	27	17	21	15	20
3	Dunsford	20	21	22	18	20.25
4	Stoke Gabriel	25	22	26	22	23.75
5	Molland	30	21	26	21	24.5
6	Morthoe	33	28	26	27	28.5
7	Burrington	40	29	34	35	34.5
8	West Down	38	49	29	38	38.5
9	Black Torrington	39	39	40	38	39
10	Lamerton	63	42	37	36	44.5
11	Littleham	53	49	44	41	46.75
12	Egg Buckland B	59	47	49	45	50

Scrutineer – Mr G Arscott.

MINOR FINAL at OFFWELL

POSITION	TEAM	I HOOKWAY	C HOCKIN	J COULT'ST	P PESTER	RESULT
1	Black Torrington	31	27	32	29	29.75
2	Stoke Gabriel	25	25	42	42	33.5
3	Drewsteignton	32	28	51	47	39.5
4	Iddesleigh	34	32	48	50	41
5	Exeter St Petrock	43	41	47	51	45.5
6	Collaton St Mary	45	46	67	69	56.75
7	Mariansleigh	88	92	77	94	87.75
	President's Six	22	23	24	23	23

Scrutineer – Mr C Adams.

NORTH DEVON QUALIFIER at ST GILES IN THE WOOD.

POSITION	TEAM	C HOCKIN	R CHAPMAN	I HOOKWAY	M WAY	RESULT
1	Morthoe	18	21	20	30	22.25
2	Molland	32	33	34	39	34.5
3	West Down	33	39	31	36	34.75
4	Littleham	31	51	32	39	38.25
5	Burrington	61	80	38	41	55
6	Black Torrington	58	61	54	48	55.25
7	Iddesleigh	57	56	60	50	55.75
8	Exeter St Petrox	58	64	62	69	63.25
9	Mariansleigh	79	97	75	73	81
10	Warkleigh	102	99	65	64	82.5
11	Colebrooke	98	109	100	102	102.25
12	Pyworthy	140	139	135	122	134

Scrutineer – Mr G Arscott

SOUTH DEVON QUALIFIER at LODDISWELL

POSITION	TEAM	P PESTER	W AVERY	J DIETZ	I AVERY	RESULT
1	Egg Buckland A	33	20	37	29	29.75
2	Dunsford	48	36	59.5	49	48.25
3	Egg Buckland B	53	27	56	61	49.25
4	South Brent	68	40	59	54	55.25
5	Lamerton	61	29	67	73	57.5
6	West Alvington	71	31	77.5	70	62.25
7	Collaton St Mary	79	57	79	70	71.25
8	Holbeton	97	58	92	108	88.75
9	Drewsteignton	97	77	85	121	95
10	Stoke Gabriel	101	82	94	114	97.75
11	Kenn	102	66	118	120	101.5
12	Lydford	122	97	116	140	118.75
13	Ide	143	106	149	188	146.5

Scrutineer – Sue Husband

(Eight bell on next page)

EIGHT BELL at WINKLEIGH

POSITION	TEAM	B OSBORNE	B DRAKE	R TROUT	M PHILLIPS	RESULT
1	Kingsteignton	18	15	30	19	20.5
2	Chittlehampton	39	34	42	31	36.5
2	Buckland 'Moor	38	25	47	36	36.5
4	Paignton	40	35	50	35	40
5	Tavistock	39	30	54	38	40.25
6	Okehampton	46	38	48	31	40.75
7	High Bickington	57	55	59	43	53.5
8	Exeter Cathedral	62	53	107	58	70
9	Chagford	67	66	85	73	72.75
10	Kingsbridge	69	65	92	66	73
11	Alphington	158	150	190	169	166.75

Scrutineer – Eileen Stevens.

Two instances nationally of ringers being “sacked”

Bells feud church rings changes
Gripping headlines from the media. A team of bell ringers has been sacked from a 1,000-year-old church after refusing to ring at modern services featuring “silly songs”. The vicar at the Church of St Nicholas in Leeds, Kent, admitted there was a feud between rival bell-ringing groups. He said he had been left “no option” than to replace his bell master and his team with a new group. Ousted bell master Chris Cooper, 25, also a member of the church council, complained after his equipment was left dumped on his doorstep.

Reverend Robert Gill said Mr Cooper annoyed churchgoers by refusing to ring for modern services and demanding the reintroduction of traditional services based on the Book of Common Prayer. Rev Gill said: “He knows why this problem began. He wrote some extremely strong letters to the church council.

“What we’re saying at the church level is that we want someone to ring the bells for all services. “We have not used the Book of Common Prayer at St Nicholas for 20 years, so Mr Cooper must have known that when he joined.”

Mr Cooper, who works for the Inland Revenue, had rung bells there for five years. He said he wrote a letter in July complaining that traditions had been eroded. He said: “I put that the Church of England was going downhill because it’s all being modernised - they obviously didn’t like what I had to say. “We were dismissed for being too traditional. “You would expect more of a Christian church.”

Mr Cooper said: “I had all of my equipment, including a peal board of great sentimental value dumped, outside my house in the middle of the night. I returned to the church with my band to find locks had been changed and I had already been replaced. All of us in the ringers are furious but I am the one who wanted to go public with this because the church want to keep it hushed up. In the end we were dismissed for being too traditional. All of this was done behind our backs. It’s like living in Soviet Russia. During our last council meeting, Chris Saunders and I had a row about the way everything had happened but his actions were defended by the church council because he supports the modern services, where I have spoken out against them. There seems to be a big conspiracy against people like me who want to protect the Book of Common Prayer. The whole thing has been nasty and sneaky. Chris has even modernised the name bell master and called himself tower captain. It’s a joke.” Mr. Cooper said when a pile of his equipment had been left on the doorstep of his home in Deal in August, he realised he was no longer welcome especially when he and his team found the locks had also been changed.

But Mr Gill said that incident was nothing to do with the church and blamed it on the row between the two factions.

Mr Cooper said the vicar had invited him to continue ringing the bells under the new bell master Chris Saunders, but he said there was too much bad feeling to do so.

Earlier in the year we also heard, “Discord as vicar sacks ‘clique’ of bellringers”, when a battle broke out in a village after bellringers were sacked by the vicar. The six-strong group, who rang on an occasional basis, were told by the Rev William Whittaker that it was time for a change. Mr Whittaker, who took over the Mary the Virgin parish church in Stanwell, Middlesex, two years ago, described the team led by Roger Lewiston as a clique of non-parishioners. He wanted local people to ring the bells each week.

The battle began two months ago when Mr Whittaker wrote to Mr Lewiston, saying: “The time has come for a complete change of leadership and personnel in Stanwell tower.” Mr Lewiston, 33, said he had stepped in six years ago because the former captain was leaving and no one wanted to take over. “We always managed to get enough ringers for the important dates such as Remembrance Day, Christmas and Easter,” he said. “Our intention was to get a team together that would ring every Sunday but we received a letter from the vicar telling us we were sacked and we had a week to clear our things out. We were stunned, to say the least. Two of the ladies in the team had rung there for 30 years and were members of the congregation as well.” Mr Whittaker said: “The problem was that they rang once every couple of months. None of the people lived in Stanwell. They were very like a private club.” Now a 15-strong team, aged between 10 and 74, are learning the ropes. Mr Lewiston’s team now rings at St Andrew’s church in nearby Wraybury.

Appeals-Emmanuel and Bridgerule

EMMANUEL'S APPEAL FOR BELL DONOR'S RELATIVES

Descendants of a South Devon man who donated an octave of church bells in memory of his wife were sought to take part in an anniversary service. Alfred Richard Tilby pledged money for the bells to Plymouth's Emmanuel Church, on Mannamead Road, after the death of his wife, Pauline Eugenie Tilby, who died in 1903. Mr Tilby died five years later. They were both buried at Moretonhampstead.

The church held a service to celebrate the centenary anniversary of the bells' consecration, and was keen to trace relatives of the donor so that they could take part.

Jill Larbalestier, captain of the church bellringers, said the bells played an important role in parish life. She said: "They call people to worship and they are heard through the parish. We ring them for weddings and occasions of joy."

The peal is also heard twice during morning and evening services. Mrs Larbalestier said the bells, cast in 1904, were a particularly fine example of craftsmanship. It is thought they were originally designed for St Matthias Church in North Hill, but it is believed objections raised by the nearby hospital led to their transfer to Emmanuel Church. She said the service, held on April 3, was as close as organisers could get to the exact consecration centenary. The bells first rang out across Compton on April 3 1904.

Mrs Larbalestier, who heads a team of up to 14 bell ringers aged between 13 and 70, said she was very keen to trace descendants of the Tilbys so that they could attend the service.

At present the 5th bell is out of action and some work on the gudgeon pin is necessary before the set is ringable again. Anyone who has any information on the Tilbys can contact the parish office on 01752 260317.

BRIDGERULE FACES £30,000 IF BELLS ARE TO RING AGAIN

With hours of dedicated practice, a loyal team of bellringers has ensured that newlyweds and worshippers have arrived at the pews uplifted by the sound of resonant bronze.

But since Christmas, church business has been conducted in an eerie silence after officials discovered that the cast iron frame which holds the bells was in urgent need of repair and that bellringing had become too dangerous.

Hopes that the problem would be solved quickly were dashed after estimates for the necessary work topped £30,000. The bellringers say the sum has left them astonished, and that unless the money can be raised the village of Bridgerule, near Holsworthy in North Devon, will never hear the bells ring out again.

Lester Marland, one of the 16-strong bellringing team at the church, said: "We had to buy new bell ropes at Christmas and that cost £500, which in itself was a struggle. But nothing prepared us for this - we were utterly gobsmacked."

"We've had the bell frame examined by independent inspectors and they have said the cast iron frame is corroding. It is an unbelievable amount of money. Our heads are whizzing." Mr Marland says initial estimates of the cost of the work "ran out of control" once the extent of the problem became clear.

Each bell has to be moved to a foundry for the new frame to be built. He said: "The problem is that the bells have to be taken away so that the new frame can be built around them. They have to fit snugly inside - so it is impossible to do the job separately. "Unfortunately this has added a phenomenal amount to transportation costs and the bill has just spiralled. It jumped from £24,000 to £30,000 in a couple of days."

The bells in the tower were installed in 1926, and were set by Gillet Johnston of Croydon. Bellringer Clarice Harris said: "We have been lucky up to now because it is unusual for a village church with a small congregation to have eight bells. I guess everybody just hoped they would go on forever."

Taking care of the business side is Canon Ryder Lisle, who presides over St Bridget's congregation. He says the situation is "very frustrating" and although he believes certain grants may be available, obtaining them is proving difficult.

He said: "We had a wedding this week but couldn't ring the bells. It is very frustrating. The bells are still in the tower but we just can't use them. There may be funds available but presenting the case for them is proving to be a right palaver."

Church officials have come up with a number of fundraising projects, including a "sponsored bell ring" in 20 local churches over a 12-hour period. The twelve-hour marathon involved rising and ringing 120 bells in 20 towers across North Cornwall and West Devon.

"twelve-hour marathon"

Captain of Bridgerule ringers, Trevor Bowden, said: "We hope to raise the funds needed quickly, so that our bells won't be silent for long. This is our first major fundraising event and we expect there will be a lot of sore hands by the end of the day, but for a very worthwhile cause." The bells have a long and distinguished history. Reverend F H Kingdon, of Bridgerule, founded the Tamar Valley Guild of ringers in 1880 and the first meeting of the guild was held at Bridgerule. Anyone who may be able to help with donations or sponsorship should telephone Mr Marland on 01288 341574.

Devon Historic Churches Trust

Colin Adams ran a successful competition on Saturday 11 September at Cornwood when the proceeds went to the very worthy cause of Devon Historic Churches Trust who are dedi-

cated to funding repairs to places of worship, throughout the county ensuring that our buildings will be there for future generations. This is an annual event and linked to the

county wide event of the sponsored bike, ride or stride when churches throughout the county are open. You don't have to ride a bike—the important thing is to **DO SOMETHING**.

Competitions

25th September—Iddesleigh

Open section, senior section and novice section. Entry fee £3, ringing from 2pm. Teas from 3.30pm. Awards in the hall at 9pm. Phone Janice Gist 01805 624690

2nd October—Dolton

Classes A and B and novice section. Entry fee £3. Tea at 4pm and service at 9pm. All enquiries to R J Partridge 01805 804403

2nd October—Christow

South Devon Eight Bell competition

16th October—Tedburn St Mary
Starts from 2pm. Proceeds to BBC Radio Devon Chestnut Appeal. All welcome to come and listen or take part. Have a cup of tea and a chat, buy a draw ticket.

Please support this event

30 October—St Giles in the Wood
Held in conjunction with the village Autumn Show. Open, senior and novice sections. Entry fee £3. Ringing from 2pm. Teas 3.30pm to 6pm. Presentations and service at 9pm.

20 November—Colebrooke

Reinstated competition with two sections. Ringing from 2pm.

Handbook updates

Page 17—Holbeton.

Substitute Jim's number for 07748994585.

Page 27—Plymouth (Plympton St Mary). Substitute Mrs Carter's number for 01752 208261

Page 30—Shute

Substitute Brian's email address for malmoday@tiscali.co.uk

Page 31—Staverton

Delete Brett's phone numbers

Page 32—Stokeinteignhead

Substitute Simon's phone number of 01803 for 01626

Please keep handbooks up to date. It will save you time and will not inconvenience others who may have been given the new phone numbers

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Child Protection

There are many and varied thoughts and opinions amongst members regarding this complex issue. The Devon Ringer's Council has chosen 6 members (3 representing the Association and 3 representing the Guild) to form a working party. The group will request a meeting with the appropriate representative of the Diocese to discuss the matter further.

Editor

The editor apologises for being unable to produce a newsletter for June and hopes that this bumper edition is some consolation.

The views expressed here do not necessarily represent the view of the Association. Any articles, comments to: The Editor, Michael Webster, 5 Kings Rydon Close, Stoke Gabriel, Totnes, TQ9 6QG. 01803 782591
Email: mtwebster@btinternet.com

Notices

The AGM will be held on Saturday 13 November at North Tawton starting 2.15pm

The Carol Service is to be held at St Andrew's, Plymouth on 18 December 2004.

The annual affiliation fees due on or before the AGM will be £5. In addition the competition fees will be £1.50 a rope, being £9 for 6 bell towers and £12 for 8 bell towers.

Any bellringing clothing or badges can be obtained from Janice Gist 01805 624690.

Badges are available from the Secretary at a cost of £3

Congratulation to Alan Brown and his wife on their new addition.

-Advertisement-

The Bells of Devon

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- Ⓐ All towers with three or more bells hung dead for chiming, together with those rings that are no longer in existence are listed.

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