



Founded 1925

President—Mr Gerald Arcscott

DEVON CALLS

July 2005

Vol 1 Issue 16

Special points of interest:

- Interchange insert
- Time running out
- Judges' results
- Handbook update
- Ringers' Roadshow

Aged 468yrs

A team with an average age of 78 years, a combined age of 468 years, won the competition at Littleham on 4 June 2005. Is this a record? Called the 468ers they were overjoyed to win and now issue a challenge to younger ringers. This might be taken up locally as at the same competition Inwardleigh won the Novice Section with 4 ringers under the age of 14 years. See the full article inside.

Eggbuckland, the best?

Two people have been quietly working in the background and probably unaware of what the other was doing. James Kerslake has submitted an article that shows, from 2004 statistics, the rating for teams. Jereme has also gathered some historical information. James' article will be found inside. Eggbuckland, firm favourites to win the Devon Association South Qualifier held at Diptford were beaten by Dunsford and

Exeter, St Petrock. At the final, held at Meavy, Eggbuckland had a convincing win. The competing teams and others who came to witness the event certainly were entertained with some remarkable ringing. I was informed that the pub emptied just before the ring and that whilst ringing took place hardly a word was spoken as people were so intent on listening. Will Eggbuckland win the Devon National challenge?

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Good Innings

A number of dedicated ringers have passed away since the last edition, namely George Whiddon, Reg Bray (102), David Jewell, Jack Thomas and Arthur Courtier. There are a number of obituaries inside. We also lost Tom Wright's wife, Margery, whose funeral was held on 21 February 2005.

Dartmoor CD

Widcombe on Saturday 6th August at 10am is the launch day for the 3-CD Dartmoor Changes. There will be a video and displays. In the afternoon the usual Competition. See Interchange inside for more details.

Time is running out

Jereme Darke, our Secretary is searching out old documents and photographs to help compile a living history of the association before it is too late. Jereme said that time is running out and that unless we record events soon, it may disappear for ever.

At the Association Dinner and Dance there was an impressive array of cups, shields, certificates and countless and priceless newspaper articles. To a lesser extent, there was a further display at Meavy at the Major Final.

Jereme is hoping, as part of the Association's 80th Anniversary to put to-

gether a history and memorabilia booklet. There are a number of long standing members who will still have a full memory of past Association activities and he wants to include as many memories and stories as he can. There is now an urgent plea to spread the word as far as possible. Some suggested topics are memorable Association competitions, AGMs, Dinners or other events. Memorable achievements and officers. Some examples are services, vicars, singing, unfortunate accidents such as ropes breaking, disqualifications and ring offs

Derek Jewell

Derek Jewell, who died in January was taught to handle a rope at Combe Martin by the then tower captain Miss Boyle who was an 'old fashioned' school mistress and a strong disciplinarian.

In 1967 he joined Swimbridge who were a successful Association band and Derek rang the 2nd. It was at Newton St Cyres, following a competition, that he was formally initiated to the Swimbridge band by having the Captain pour beer into his trousers. In 1973 Swimbridge won the Devon Major Final at Plymtree. After this Derek rang the treble and led the team for 20 years in many competition peals during which they took home many a trophy. He also took part in a record peal attempt at Buckland in the Moor. Derek also had a fine singing voice, singing with the local operatic society. He joined the Freemasons in 1977 and became Master of Concord Lodge, Ilfracombe in 1988. He enjoyed the very best in ringing and had been a member of the College Youths for over 50 years.

Reg Bray

Reg passed away at 102 on 2 July. To ring when you are over 100 is no small feat however Reg last rang on his 102nd birthday, having learnt to ring during the Great War. He was in the Guinness Book of Records as the oldest active bell ringer, as well as being the longest serving ringer at any tower having been a member of the band at Newton St Cyres for ninety-odd years. Reg put his long life down to gardening and bell ringing. Who can ignore that advice? The funeral took place at Newton St Cyres on Tuesday 12 July at 1pm.

Arthur Courtier

Arthur, 79, of Tedburn St Mary, died recently and his funeral was held at the Exeter Crematorium on 18 February 2005. Arthur, a regular ringer at Tedburn St Mary, also rang in competitions up to 1999. Despite Farmer's Lung he did ring when able. He learnt to ring before World War II but did not continue until 1950 when he was persuaded up the tower, and he rung from there on.

GEORGE WHIDDON 1925-2004

George Whiddon started life and his bellringing career in the village of Newton St Cyres near Crediton Devon. He later moved to the village of Landscope where he worked at Parkfield Farm for a number of years and his ringing exploits tailed off. Following a disastrous period in his life, he was forced to leave his matrimonial home without a job and only a suitcase full of belongings. Mr and Mrs Bob West of Ashburton took him in and restarted his life. He became a member of the Ashburton tower band a member of which was his host.

He latter found a tower up the road at Buckland in the moor which was starting to rebuild a young side under the guidance of Herbert 'Pickles' Pascoe. His sole mate then and for many years was Stuart Applin with whom he worked with at a nearby quarry and they travel the three miles up onto Dartmoor for regular practices and Sunday ringing. Stuart on a BSA Bantam and George on a 50 cc moped in all winds and weather.

George's ringing blossomed in step with Buckland's standing in the County. After 13 years of hard work and dedication George was a member of the team to pick up the top 8 Bell call change ringing award in Devon. This relationship continued further and he was again a member of the first team world wide to ring a full peal of 5040 unrepeatable 'call changes' at Buckland in 1990. The feat lasting 6hrs 36mins quite an achievement for man well into his 60s. Buckland was not the only tower with which he was associated. He later became a regular with South Brent's 6 bell award winning side and finally tower captain at Dean Prior until his death. He would help out anywhere when asked and was a well respected judge.

George was a quiet inoffensive man who had innumerable friends in the ringing fraternity. He also for many years kept a very productive garden and chickens. His jobs included a spell as herdsman at King Edward the VI Community College at Totnes and the Rare Breeds Centre at Bovey Tracey. A quiet gentle man with country life in his heart. He died peacefully early on Christmas morning retaining his dignity

to the end. His funeral service was held at Dean Prior on Tuesday 4th January followed by internment at Newton St Cyres. Dean Prior church was packed with bellringers from across the County with plenty of ringing to give him a good send off.

Since George's death a number of peals have been rung in his memory. The first was 120 unrepeatable call changes rung at one of his regular towers Broadhempston by the local band for a Sunday morning service in January.

1. Graham Pascoe (C)
2. Christine Pascoe.
3. Bill Campion.
4. Chris Parker.
5. Chis Pascoe
6. John Adams.

The second on 29th January also at Broadhempston was 5040 Cambridge Surprise Minor

1. Robert Brown..
2. Jill Hansford..
3. Mervyn Way.
4. Michael Brady.
5. Paul Pascoe.
6. Michael Mears (C) .

The third at Dean Prior 5040 Surprise Minor

1. Ian Avery
2. Mervyn Way.
3. Jill Hansford
4. Ian Smith
5. Paul Pascoe
6. Michael Mears (C).

The fourth at Newton St Cyres where George started ringing and rang in the first peal on the bells in December 1953. This time it was a peal of 5056 Yorkshire surprise Major.

1. Jill Hansford.
2. Mervyn Way.
3. Peter Bill (neighbour of George).

4. Ian Avery.
5. Paul Pascoe.
6. Robert Brown.
7. Ian Smith.
8. Michael Mears (C).

Peals have also been rung elsewhere and at South Brent. George will be remembered because many people have fond memories of George. He was Mr Dean Prior to many in his later years and kept things going there. He was very supportive to the Totnes Deanery and encouraged ringers and made a point of speaking to people.

Mid Week Ringers - "Ringklies" and their outings

March stated a new season for the Ringklies, having taken the Winter off, or rather, no sessions were planned for January and February. Lydford was the first tower along with media coverage. Some reporters were in the village and they found the village alive with people and the sound of the bells. Next to the church is the Castle and next to that was the pub where lunch was held for the 40 or so ringers. The afternoon ring was at Marystowe.

The April meeting found us at Crediton with the new 10 and they were a delight. We had a few more ringers this time and had a magnificent rise on the complete set and some well struck ringing bearing in mind that many ringers are from 6 bell towers. Again, a splendid lunch and an afternoon ring at Rewe.

The May meeting was at the picturesque village of Whimble with many of the locals remarking on the high quality of the striking. Lunch was at the Talaton Inn. If you are out that way, it is highly recommended. The meal two course meal was £5.95 only to find that if we had been out on a Monday the meal, for pensioners would have been even cheaper. The afternoon ring was at Peniton.

Ringklies holiday

The Ringklies holiday, the second week in June, was enjoyed in wonderful countryside, the Garden of England, in Kent. The weather was absolutely brilliant and what could be better than a hotel on the coast at Folkestone. The journey up the A30 and A35 did not prove to be too lengthy and the first peal was at Havant. Lunch for many was at the nearby Weatherspoons. We then travelled to Hastings for a short break, some found the Museum, others found ice creams. The journey then was along the coast, through Romney Marsh to Folkestone to the Salisbury Hotel.

Our first peal in Kent was at Appledore and then to Tenterden for a delightful and lofty 8 with a 28 cwt tenor. After this was a set of 12 in a small village, Benenden, and then to Rolvenden where the Editor of this Newsletter was brought up and then to Biddenden for a 22 cwt eight.

Wednesday was a day in Canterbury and started with St Dunstan. We left the coach and walked through the city gates to the Cathedral. This was a memory that will last a life time. We were warned to be on time and yes, everyone was there, well before time for this beautiful building. In contrast after lunch we rang at St Alphage nearby. The church had been converted and below the ringing chamber was an office that we had to walk through, up a vertical ladder and after moving storage items (the ringing chamber was treated as a loft) we were able to ring amongst the boxes. We were treated to a delight in the evening with a ring at Folkestone. Michael Webster had relatives on the peal boards and also there were some Moodys which has set John Moody becoming a private detective. John also originated from nearby.

Thursday, a rather hot and sunny day was started with a walk to a church up a lane to ring at Ringwould. Onto Deal a strange but rewarding 8, with lunch spent at Walmer and a stop by the pier for more ice creams. Later in the afternoon we rang at Great Mongeham, where many were sun bathing by the coach. The final Kent tower was at Northbourne. The excitement was that the dark ringing chamber was accessed by a circular steel ladder with no obvious light switch. Thank goodness for candles. The light switch was eventually found but only after returning to the key keeper for more keys!

Speeches and presentations were made and thanks were expressed to John and Linda Staddon for the

the compilation of the booklet with the pictures and short history that made interesting reading. Ringing teams were timed to the minute and this worked very well. John and Linda had made an excellent choice with the hotel. How better than to be literally beside the seaside. Thanks were also expressed to all who helped and to Michael Webster who had arranged the Kent towers.

Friday returned us to Hastings for our first stop. This allowed a short ride on the cliff railway and cockles and whelks for several. A further stop was at Arundel where we were able to ring the 8 after all, rather than 7! Back to Exeter, Ashburton and Meeth. Very enjoyable for all. Congratulations to all concerned for a well organised and enjoyable holiday. Should you be interested in next year's venue, please give your name to John Staddon. Deposits will probably be required later in the year!

What is a Ringkly?

Contrary to popular belief you do not have to be retired—just time available to join us on the second Wednesday of each month, other than January and February.

We normally have one tower in the morning, with a 10.30 start, along with tea and biscuits and another tower in the afternoon with each individual probably ringing two to three times at each tower. Lunch is usually in a nearby pub—and we have had some splendid lunches. We normally have between 30 and 50 ringers turn up each month. If you like company, do join us, if you can.

Proposed towers for 2005

July	Dolton/Dowland	Iddesleigh
August	Weare Gifford	Bideford
September	Chagford	Gidleigh
October	W. Alvington/Churchstow	Dodbrooke
November	St Marychurch	Babbacombe
December	Newton Abbot area but to be confirmed	

Any queries please contact: Ken Rowe on 01803 521489

Geoff Hill has heart attack

Geoff Hill of Lamerton and Tavistock suffered a heart attack the same evening that he was elected as Chairman of the S.W. branch in January. Geoff is making good progress and able to undertake light work on the farm. Geoff did make an appearance at the Interdeanery Festival at Marystowe but he did restrain from ringing. We thank him for his hard work in encouraging ringing and wish him a speedy recovery.

South Devon Eight Bell Ringers' Association

AGM held 26 Feb 2005 at Torquay.

Election of Officers

President - Pat Johnstone

President Elect - Guy Holding

Life Vice President - William Avery

Chairman - Harry Bardens

Vice Chairman - Robin Burnham

Secretary/Treasurer - Barry Osborne

Festival to be held Sat 1 Oct 2005. Venue, first suggestion, Plympton St Maurice, others included Ugborough and Moretonhampstead. Secretary to make arrangements. Judges, Brian Drake, Chris Clayton and Pat Johnstone. Please phone the Secretary if you wish to enter. Open invitation to towers with 8 bells or more and South of A30. Participating teams to bring along draw prizes. Date and venue of next AGM. Upton Torquay on Saturday 25 February 2006.

Births

Congratulations to Christine and Christopher Pascoe. Jacob George was born on Monday 7 March 2005 and weighed in at 7lb 2oz. Jacob's first competition was at Marystow followed by Sunday morning service ringing at Broadhempston, despite his epic journey the day before.

Tracey Kelly, married to Matthew Claxton, and daughter of John Kelly, Paignton Tower Captain, gave birth to a girl, Libby Anne who weighed 8lb 15oz, on Monday, 11 July 2005. Congratulations.

Devon Projects The Keltek Trust

East Oggwell. The millennium project to augment the ring from five to six bells was completed during 2000. The additional bell was located by the Trust and came from Lenton, Nottinghamshire.

St Andrew's, Plymouth have replaced the two trebles with new bells and had the back-eight of the ring of ten re-tuned. The old bells have been found "new" homes, one is the 2nd of six at Tealby and the other is the treble of five at Badsworth, West Yorkshire.

Huntsham. The heavy ring of five at Bredon, Worcestershire are to be augmented to six by the addition of a surplus bell from Huntsham.

Brent Tor

The little church of St Michael de Rupe, dedicated in 1319, is perched on the top of the crags of an extraordinary hill on West Dartmoor. It is said to be closer to heaven than almost any other church in the south of England. The panoramas from the top of this old volcanic cone situated close to the Devon Cornwall border are stunning. This church is the fourth smallest complete church in the country. The walls are low and the tower is only forty feet high, while the nave is thirty seven feet long. The church is believed to have been built by the monks of Tavistock Abbey.

The name Brent means "Burnt" and this probably refers to the beacon fire which was once lit at this curious situation.

All sorts of legends and traditions surround the building of the church itself, but it is now generally reckoned to have been the work of Robert Giffard way back in 1130, partly because of a note written by his son Walter to the Earl of Devon. "My father gave the Rock of Brentor to God... and the church of St Michael which he built on that same Rock at his own expense."

The church has five bells with the tenor at 5 1/2 cwt. The ropes are taken off during the winter because of the trouble with the damp weather and because of the squirrels who seem to enjoy eating them.

Association Annual Dinner and Dance

The Association's Annual Dinner and Dance was held at the Waie Inn, Zeal Monachorum. This event was to celebrate the 80th Anniversary Year of the Association. Thanks to our Chairman, Brian Drake who organised the venue, meal and entertainment from Mr D Hutchings. All who attended had some wonderful memories. The dining room had space set aside for the diners to view the memorabilia on display. There were numerous interesting articles and these may well be captured in a book that, Jerome, Association Secretary, is planning.

Thoughtfully, the display was in a large square of tables so that guests could move round at their own speed. On display were the cups and shields that a lot of ringers ring for.

It is hoped that the history of the Association cups and shields will become known along with any interesting stories on the day of the competitions.

The annual dinner was a three course meal with a choice of roast meats and a wonderful selection of sweets, so tempting that many decided to have a second sweet at no extra cost. This was followed by coffee and mints and the speeches. By tradition the newly elected president makes his speech and Gerald Arscott relished the opportunity. The money raised by the raffle will go towards the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund. Thanks to Chris and Mervyn for selling the tickets and giving up their opportunity to dance.

Berry Pomeroy

The future of the 15th Century Church at Berry Pomeroy is uncertain as it may need the bells and tower restoring at a cost of £140,000. The church, featured in the film *Sense and Sensibility*, is facing financial problems and last year was only able to pay half of the £8,500 parochial share it was expected to give to the diocese.

The church sits on the Duke of Somerset's estate and there has been very little development in or around the church. Although lately there have been 17 new barn conversions. The Duke has made a number of donations to the property in the past. Tony Roberts, a parish council member, said the church is a fundamental part of the aesthetic appeal of the village, it's gorgeous.

Time running out

As part of the Association's 80th anniversary, Jereme Darke, Secretary, is hoping to put together a history and memorabilia booklet. There must be a number of long standing members who will still have a full memory of past Association activities and he wants to include as many memories and stories as he can. As a start Jereme has tabulated the Association's minutes from 1929 to 2004. He states that members of the Association are best qualified to provide the information and he wants to capture the knowledge of the more senior members before it is too late.

Jereme asks that members search out old documents, rules, newspaper articles and photographs to compile a history of the Association's first 80 years while memories are still there. Jereme says that there is a wealth of information with towers and members that has not been properly recorded. Time is running out and that unless we record it soon, it may disappear for ever.

There has already been a good response with cups, shields, minute books and newspaper articles on display at the Annual Dinner and Dance and the Major Final at Meavy. This is a special appeal and former members now living elsewhere may be able to provide valuable information.

Many of us have heard from others and this has provided us with fascinating information.

Any memorabilia and photographs will be copied and returned quickly. Your information will provide a living history that hopefully will be captured for future generations to read. Please contact the Secretary.

Website

Any www surfers will have noticed the transformation of the website. When you log onto www.devonbells.co.uk you are met with the sound of some very pleasant striking. It does not stop there, going through the pages, registered members can make entries onto the diary to record their tower events. There is a news page where you can be updated by the latest competition results. This newsletter is also available online in its printed format. The advancements are thanks to our hard working webmaster, John Enderson.

Axminster still to ring 10

Axminster bells can not still be rung as the tower is unsafe. It is hoped that the bells can be rung in as early as November.

A booklet has been produced on the History of the Bells by Ian Gladstone and the £2 charge includes a donation to the bell fund. The 16 page booklet is full of historical facts that most ringers will find useful.

Tim Whitehead, Captain, introduces the booklet by justifying the addition of two extra bells in the Minster Tower of St Mary's, Axminster. He says that through the addition of two new lighter bells we will be more easily able to train new younger enthusiasts from around Axminster to continue the ancient art of campanology and enable them to practise their ringing on a new lighter six while the more experienced ringers continue to ring the existing heavier six, or eight, or the full ten bells.

Through augmenting the peal we commemorate two notable people of Axminster with the "Thomas Whitty Bell" and the "Harry Dufield Bell" and also to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee. Harry Dufield was the founder of the present Axminster carpet factory.

The comprehensive history has detailed notes of events in the 17th century. The Civil War in 1644 saw the town burnt to the ground but the church and tower was strongly defended resulting in 32 dying and 56 being taken as prisoners.

In 1662 there was a tragic event in church

One account actually stated that "they have burned Axminster to the ground...so that nothing but the name of the place is left unto posterity...perhaps as many as a thousand people were made homeless...this incident was one of the most destructive of its kind during the Civil War. Farringdon in Berkshire was the only other town in England and Wales where such destruction was anywhere near as complete as it was at Axminster". Yet in 1647 the churchwardens managed to find the money for the recasting of one of the medieval bells which indicates how important the bells were to the town.

In 1662 there was a tragic event in church when one of the ringers was killed when ringing the 3rd bell. El-lacombe's report of church bells in Devon, 1860 states that "John Brocas of Axminster who was buried on 22nd February 1662 was ringing the bells in the tower and a bell rope got around his neck and strangled him."

This is the famous Brocas Bell which still hangs in the tower today but is no longer rung in peal. It was the third bell until 1885 when it became the fifth. On recasting to a new peal of eight in 1897 it was taken out of the peal and is now rung by an automatic hammer for the early Sunday Service.

Count Lorenzo Magalotti of Tuscany was accompanying the Grand Duke on his travels from Italy to London in 1669 and wrote about Axminster.

"Axminster is a collection of two hundred houses, many of which are made of mud and thatched with straw. It contains nothing considerable, except the parish church which has a tower, in which are bells so well tuned, that their sound is exceedingly harmonious and agreeable."

The bells were taken down in 1950 and rehung by Gillet & Johnston. Further repairs took place in 1983. In 1989 the bells were taken down and a new frame fitted above the oak frame installed 1898 to carry the treble, the Brocas Bell and two new bells. The oak frame was saved from destruction and John Scott in 1987 wrote "The existing frame, built by Harry Stokes in 1898 is one of the finest timber bell frames that I have ever seen, and one of the most massive. Unless it is grossly neglected, it should have at least 200 more years of useful life, which is probably more than can be said for any iron and steel bell frame."

In 1998 Axminster Carpets donated a carpet for the ringing chamber. For the Millennium the ringers painted the chamber and panels were prepared for the walls, with illuminating lettering repeating the inscriptions on each bell in the tower.

There are photographs hanging on the walls of bellringers in 1907, 1934 and 1974 and also four peal boards.

Axminster has a dedicated band and wishes to ensure that ringing continues. Records show that the number of ringers 100 years ago was the same as today.

Results

Devon Ass Novice Comp: Saturday
12th March 2005 at Tedburn St Mary.

ROUND RINGING—Priddle Shield

1. Little Torrington B	23 1/3
2. South Pool B	37 1/2
3. Alphington B	51
4. Dartmouth St Sav B	52
5. Inwardleigh	65
6. Babbacombe	107

CHANGE SECTION—Rice Shield

1. Little Torrington A	29
2. Chagford	30
3. Broadhempston	34
4. South Pool A	36
5. Dartmouth St Sav A	38
6. Ide	40
7. Alphington A	41
8. Salcombe	50
9. Exeter St Davids B	63
10. Exeter St Davids A	70
11. High Bickington	73

A good turnout and some fair striking. Judged by Messrs J Bint, C Clayton, S Herniman and M Langdon. Scrutineer — Stephanie Brown. Notably a full church at the Ringers Service, an abundance of youngsters and an excellent atmosphere. Thanks to Rev Holland for accommodating us and to John Coulthirst and his helpers for their hospitality. J.J. Darke.

Newton Abbot, Ipplepen and Torbay Deanery competition held on 12 March 2005. Ringing at Kingsteignton, Abbotkerwell and Stoke in Teignhead for Gilbert Shield

1 Kingsteignton A	23.5
2 Kingsteignton B	48.5
3 Coffinswell	73
4 Ipplepen	82.75
5 Paignton	116.25
6 Kingskerswell	121.75

Ide on 2 April 2005

A Section

1 Egg Buckland	4 1/2
2 Exeter St. Petrocks	16
3 Dunsford	20
4 South Brent	22
5 Morthoe	22 1/2
6 Collaton St. Mary	27
7 Stoke Gabriel	38
8 North Bovey	38 1/2
9 Holbeton	42 1/2
10 Down St. Mary	48

B Section

1 Alphington A	50
2 South Tawton	50 1/2
3 St. Thomas	59 1/2
4 Colebrooke	64
5 Spreyton	81
6 Widecombe	86
7 Ide A	88
8 Alphington B	111
9 Broadhempston	120 1/2
10 Ide B	124 1/2

Devon Association eight bell held at Widecombe in the Moor on 23 April 2005

1. Kingsteignton	26
2. Buckland in the Moor	27 1/2
3. Exeter Cathedral	36 1/2
4. High Bickington	42 3/4
5. Chittlehampton	47 1/2
6. Kingsbridge	54
7. Tavistock	54 1/2
8. Paignton	56 1/4
9. Chagford	69 3/4
10. Alphington	108 3/4
11. Exeter St Davids	109 1/4

Not positioned

Widecombe in the Moor 82 1/2

Totnes Deanery Festival held at Broadhempston on 7 May 2005

1. Broadhempston	35
2. South Brent	45
3. Stoke Gabriel	58 1/2
4. Collaton St Mary	67 1/2
5. Broadhempston B	68
6. Diptford	74
7. South Brent B	156

At Bovey Tracey on 7 May 2005
Stan Blackmore Shield

1. Alphington	23 2/3
2. Widecombe	47 1/3
3. Bovey Tracey	48
4. Paignton	48 2/3
5. Ipplepen	62 2/3
6. Ashburton	91 2/3
7. Bovey Tracey B	92 1/3
8. Ilington	102 2/3

Devon Association North Devon Qualifier held at West Worlington on 14 May 2005

1. Burrington	19 1/2
2. Littleham	20 3/4
3. West Down	26
4. Morthoe	26 1/2
5. Iddesleigh	30 3/4
6. East Anstey	32
7. Down St. Mary	35 1/2
8. Drewsteignton	39 1/2
9. Warkleigh	46 3/4
10. Pyeworthy	68 1/4
11. Colebrooke	82

Devon Association South Devon Qualifier held at Diptford on 14 May 2005

1. Dunsford	19.5
2. Exeter St Petrock	24.5
3. Eggbuckland	25.25
4. South Brent	30.25
5. West Alvington	36.5
6. Stoke Gabriel	44.25
7. Collaton St Mary	47.25
8. Holbeton	58.5
9. Lamerton	61.25

Judges for the day were P Pester, W Avery, I Avery and P Pascoe.

Invitation Competition held at Down St Mary on 21 May 2005

1. Eggbuckland	14 1/3
2. Morthoe	29 1/3
3. West Down	34 2/3
4. South Tawton	55
5. Stoke Gabriel	57 2/3
6. Zeal Monachorum	58 1/3
7. Mariansleigh	64
8. Clawton	70 2/3
9. Exminster	72 2/3
10. St Petrock	94 2/3
11. Ide	101 2/3
12. Colebrook	105 2/3

Devon Association Call Change Results of Minor Final at Monkleigh on 28 May 2005

Collaton St Mary	16 1/4
2 Drewsteignton	29
3 Pyeworthy	38 1/4
4 Lamerton	39 1/4
5 Holbeton	42 1/4
6 Down St Mary	52 1/4
7 Colebrooke	55 1/2
8 East Anstey	59
9 Warkleigh	66

The first and second placed teams qualify for the Major Final at Meavy.

Okehampton Deanery Competition at Inwardleigh on 4 June 2005

Novice Section. 5 mins of rounds.

1 Chagford	24
2 Spreyton	26
3 Exbourne	30

Intermediate Section. 1/2 peal.

1 Chagford	22
2 South Tawton	27
3 Sampford Courtenay	28
4 Inwardleigh	29
5 Spreyton	45

Exbourne no result

Main section. Full peal.

1 Chagford A	27
2 Chagford B	38
3 North Tawton	44
4 Sampford Courtenay A	48
5 Bridestowe	98
6 Sampford Courtenay B	109
7 South Tawton	148

Devon Association Major Final held at Meavy on 11 June 2005

1. Eggbuckland	7 1/4
2. West Alvington	18
3. Dunsford	19 1/4
4. South Brent	20 3/4
5. St Petrock	23 1/4
6. Littleham	28 1/4
7. West Down	28 1/2
8. Drewsteignton	29
9. Collaton St Mary	30
10. Morthoe	32
11. Burrington	35 1/4
12. Iddesleigh	39 1/4

Best top ringing Eggbuckland 4 faults

Results (Contd)

De Cerjat Cup and Six Certificates held at Eggbuckland on 18th June 2005.

1. Dunsford	16
2. West Alvington	16 1/2
3. Plymstock	20 1/4
4. Stoke Gabriel	22 1/2
5. St Petrocks	23
6. Iddesleigh	27 1/4
7. South Brent	28
8. Collaton St Mary	29 1/4
9. Eggbuckland	31 1/2
10. Bickleigh	35
11. Lamerton	41 1/2

Spreyton 18th June 2005

1. South Tawton	40
2. Exminster	41
3. Chagford	44.5
4. Down St. Mary	52
5. Lapford	53.5
6. Mariansleigh	63.5
7. Colebrooke	68
8. Ide	83.5
9. Sampford Courtney A	83.5
10. Sampford Courtney B	100

Ringling for the George Middleton Shield, Blackawton Brewery Cup and Arthur Tapper Shield by the South Devon Ringers' Association at South Brent on the 2nd July 2005

1. Eggbuckland	25
2. Stoke Gabriel	46 1/3
3. West Alvington	51 1/3
4. Exeter St Petrock	75
5. North Bovey	76 1/3
6. Lamerton	80 2/3
7. Holbeton	93
8. Widecombe in the Moor	103 1/3
9. South Brent B	130 2/3

Unplaced Torbay Ringers 65 (Team organised by N Mortimore at request of organiser). Judges Percy Pester, Jereme Darke and Neil Holloway.

Competition run by Colin Adams for the South Devon Ringers' Association in aid of Devon Historic Churches Trust.

Just under £190 raised for charity. Colin wishes to thank all the participating teams and all the helpers who made this competition so successful.

Judges results

Results from the South Devon Qualifier at Diptford on 14th May 2005

The individual judges marks are also shown below and they were:
A - P Pester, B - W Avery, C - I Avery, D - P Pascoe.

TEAM	A	B	C	D	AVE
DUNSFORD	19.5	17	22	21	17.5
EXETER ST PETROCK	24.5	22	22	28	26
EGGBUCKLAND	25.25	25	26	28	22
SOUTH BRENT	30.25	24	36	32.5	28
WEST ALVINGTON	36.5	38	32	37	39
STOKE GABRIEL	44.25	31	58	44	44
COLLATON ST MARY	47.25	51	45	45.5	47
HOLBERTON	58.5	57	53	64	59.5
LAMERTON	61.25	70	45	66	64

DEVON ASSOCIATION MAJOR FINAL

Held at Meavy on Saturday 11th June 2005

Judges results

John Cole was the scrutineer for the competition and the judges were as follows:
(A) Ian Avery, (B) Paul Pascoe, (C) Brian Drake, (D) Ivor Hookway.

The first table shows the overall result and the second table shows the analysis of the top ringing. Each judges individual marks can then be read from their respective column.

Pos	Rang	Team	Ave	A.	B.	C.	D.
1	6th	Eggbuckland	7.25	8.5	9	6	6
2	5th	West Alvington	18	15	27	15	15
3	11th	Dunsford	19.25	12	18	23	24
4	2nd	South Brent	20.75	20	21.5	22	20
5	4th	Exeter, St Petrock	23.25	22	27.5	23	21
6	7th	Littleham	28.25	25	24	33	31
7	12th	West Down	28.5	18	27.5	36	32
8	1st	Drewsteignton	29	25	37	28	26
9	3rd	Collaton St Mary	30	23	40.5	29	27
10	10th	Mortehoe	32	18	27	45	38
11	8th	Burrington	35.25	22.5	39.5	43	36
12	9th	Iddesleigh	39.25	25	46	46	40

TOP RINGING

1	Eggbuckland	4	5.5	4.5	3	3
2	West Alvington	11.25	10.5	15	10	10
4	South Brent	11.75	11	12	12	12
5=	Exeter St Petrock	13.75	14.5	13	15	13
5=	Drewsteignton	13.75	14.5	14	14	13
7	Littleham	18.25	18	15	20	20
8	West Down	18.5	12	14.5	24	23
9	Collaton St Mary	18.75	16	21	19	19
10	Mortehoe	19.5	10.5	13.5	27	27
11	Burrington	22.25	17.5	22	25	24
12	Iddesleigh	23.5	17	27.5	25	24

RINGING THE CHANGES

There are more than 40,000 bell ringers in UK and more than 5,000 church towers where bells are rung.

Bell ringing originated in England in early 17th century.

Ringling in Britain is called change ringing as it is based on numbers rather than notes. The bells are rung rhythmically in sequence

Bells are made from alloy of copper and tin and weigh between 50kg (1 cwt) and 4,000kg (80 cwt).

Jack Thomas -- Whitestone Tower Captain

Sunday the 30th January was a sad day for the Tedburn St. Mary Ringers as Jack Thomas collapsed and died whilst ringing for morning service.

Jack came from a family of West Country seafarers and boat builders based in Teignmouth but he himself was born in Stoke Newington in London in 1921.

When the Second World War seemed inevitable he joined the Territorials and was called up at the outbreak of war into the Royal Artillery Regiment and served with them as a "Desert Rat" in North Africa.

Towards the end of the war he was stationed at Monks Kirby in Warwickshire and helped on near by farms until 1946. During this time he started to learn bell ringing at the local church, as they were just starting up, before returning to London to live.

In 1947 he and Jeanne moved down to Devon at Bishopsteignton and there were invited to ring with the local team. Very shortly after, they moved again, to Whitestone.

In the 1950's Jack became the secretary of the Whitestone team and then took over as Captain in mid 1970's.

In Jack's eyes bell ringing was first and foremost allied to the Church and ringing for services was the pri-

mary reason. Jack always did his utmost to have a team available for the regular Sunday and other special services. Having said this Jack, being a happy person, also very much enjoyed the social side of ringing, meeting with fellow enthusiasts like the Ringly Ringers which he always looked forward to each month, taking part in competitions, organising outings and the occasional skittle and quiz evening.

Jack is one of the very few persons to have a bell dedicated to him in the latter part of the 20th century. In 1989 in recognition of his help at Holcorne Burnell, one of the two new bells being installed was dedicated to him with the inscription cast onto the second bell.

The church at Whitestone was full to overflowing on the 9th February to celebrate Jack's Life before a family only service at the Crematorium. Refreshments were provided by the WI at the Village Hall where all the family met some of the people who attended the church service.

If you had to describe a gentleman, you would not have to look any further than Jack, he was one of life's real gentlemen and he will be sadly missed by all that had the pleasure of knowing him. A memorial service was held on Wednesday 1st June at Tedburn St. Mary Church at 7pm.

John Butler MBE

The bells of St James' Teignmouth rang out for a former bellringer to help celebrate his 100th birthday. John took up bellringing in Berkshire in 1919 and was tower captain from 1927 to 2000. He was awarded the MBE in 2001 for his services to bell ringing and has lived in a residential home in Teignmouth since 2004. Bell ringers from Chudleigh including his daughter, Rosemary and Bradfield, Berkshire rang in honour of his birthday.

The ringers supplied tapes of the peals for John to listen to along with a flowering cherry tree that has been planted outside John's window.

Arthur Ridler

The bells rang out for Torquay centenarian Arthur Rider as he celebrated with family and friends.

Mr Rider and his wife Eileen, who earlier this year marked 60 happy years of married life, now reside at the Itham Valley Nursing Home, where in the afternoon they received a civic visit from Torbay's mayor Cllr Mrs Jenny Faulkner, adding to a memorable day which earlier included the receipt of a Royal congratulatory message from Buckingham Palace.

Torquay Old Grammarian Arthur - he is the school's oldest ex-pupil - had earlier in the day returned to his Ash Hill Road home to listen to a special birthday peal ringing out across Torquay from the Upton Parish Church tower.

It was performed by a team of eight assembled by Don Roberts, another Old Grammarian and a leading West Country ringer and former TBGS teacher.

Arthur came to Torquay from Plymouth as a boy, when his Western Daily Mercury (forerunner of the Western Morning News) newspaper executive father was sent to the town to boost sales of the Evening Herald newspaper.

Arthur pursued a career in the legal profession, spending most of his working life as a legal executive, eventually retiring to Torquay more than 40 years ago from a post in Weymouth.

Earlier this year Arthur was a guest of honour at the centenary dinner of Torquay Grammar School old boys at the Imperial Hotel.

Thanks for our future

Bellringers were pleased to ring for the commemoration event on 10 July. Wing Commander Pickthall rights suggested that bells have a poignant association with the events of World War II, and it is equally true that the sound of bells brings a special significance to national events. Though we all understand the importance of such a commemoration, there are also many who remembered the events of sixty years ago and for whom this commemorative ringing held much deeper significance. The Central Council encouraged bands throughout the Country to ring at 5pm on Sunday 10 July as requested by the WWII 60th Anniversary Commemoration Team Chief of Staff. Given that the ringing took place on a Sunday, many ringers made sure that the general public understood the significance of the ring through posters

Trafalgar Day

South Milton, Kingsbridge.

Dear Jeremy

What do you know about the Trafalgar Day Celebrations. I have a note about a World-Wide Bell-ringing session, starting in Nelson, New Zealand at about 10.00am local time on 21st October 2005. It seems to be arranged by the New Trafalgar Trust as part of the celebrations under the label "Sea Britain 2005." 14 Devonshire Gardens, London, W4 3TN. It would be nice if the Association was involved on the day in some way. Best Wishes, Jan Turner.

Editor: The Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 was one of the most important events in British history and has been an inspiration to the Royal Navy right up to the present day. There has been a request to ring on the Friday, 21st or over the following weekend. Enquiries to Richard Offen (Telford): richard@s4h.biz

468ers beat all

Back in the winter an idea came to my father, Gerald Stevens, a past president of the Association. He thought it would be a bit of fun to pick up a team of eighty year olds, plus! and to enter into a competition. When he told me of his idea, I said it was a shame, I would not be able to ring, as although I am getting "along" a bit, I am not that old!! Fred was at one stage on the reserve list though!

Next there was the tower to think about. After much thought, he approached Claude of Littleham and sounded out the possibility of entering his team at that competition held on 4 June. Claude readily encouraged this. All that remained was to find ringers that were old enough. This was not as easy as he thought as some of the ringers that he had in mind, although "old enough" were no longer ringing! Before too long five other ringers were approached. They were:

1. Mervyn Phillips (81) West Down
2. Joyce Nicholls (73) Littleham
3. Cedric Hockin (78) Braunston
4. Gerald Stevens (83) West Down
5. John Conibear (77) Shirwell
6. Claude Nicholls (75) Littleham

I did not believe that Joyce was that age! But at least they had a lady in the team! The combined ages of the team totalled 468—hence the name "468ers", this gave the team an average age of 78 years. Is this a record? "You ought to have a practise", I said to him. So a week or so before the competition he gathered his team and went to Weare Gifford for a practise. The day of the competition came. There were nine teams in the open section. The 468ers went in to ring their peal and it was certainly no disgrace. I think they were all quite happy with it, and more to the point they enjoyed it. At the end of the competition all filed into church for the results. Claude thanked all the participating teams and all connected with the competition.

The results of the first five teams in the open section were:

- | | | |
|----|------------|--------|
| 1. | 468ers | 14 |
| 2. | West Down | 15 |
| 3. | Burrington | 15 3/4 |
| 4= | Morthoe | 17 |
| 4= | Winford | 17 |

Inwardleigh with four ringers under age of 14 won the novice section and Abbotsham won the local section.



When my father went up to receive the Nicholls Cup and 1st Certificate he said he was very proud to have captained the winning team. Well done to the "old timers". Have we slightly younger ringers got something to learn from the old veterans? So what about another challenger sometime.

Margaret White.

Les West reaches 90

On Saturday 28th May at 10.45 the bells of Plymstock rang out to celebrate the 90th birthday of Mr Les West. A peal was rung with 3 fathers and 3 sons including 90 year old Mr Les West.

Treble	Eric Bellan
2nd	Les West
3rd	Frank Crowe
4th	Peter West
5th	Steve Crowe
6th	Tony Banbury
7th	Ray Treeby
Tenor	Paul Treeby

Other ringers present on the day were John Ellis and Alan Glanville. Les is still a regular ringer for Sunday services, weddings and Monday night practices.

Les learnt to ring at Yealmpton in 1946 in the days of Arthur Tapper and George Philips. Yealmpton then had two competition teams.

Les came to Plymstock in 1955 and he celebrates his 50th year at Plymstock where he has rung in many a winning peal over those years.

I cannot fail to mention that at Plymstock this year, Ray Treeby and Frank Crowe celebrate ringing 60 years each at Plymstock.

A sincere thank you to Les for all his support at such a young age.

Paul Treeby.

Devon Towers—Open Day

In aid of St Mark's, Exeter augmentation project

Advance notice of an open towers day to be held in aid of the St Mark's, Exeter augmentation project on Saturday 1st October. Book the date now! Day tickets: £13 (under 16s: £8) or £1 per person per tower. Family rates negotiable. All welcome. Refreshments, including sandwiches and drinks will be available throughout the day.

There will be about 30 towers open, each for one hour, commencing with Buckfastleigh at 9.00am and continuing in a circular route around the Torbay area. The provisional list is on our website but not all the towers are yet confirmed, so please do check from time to time for the latest updates: <http://www.dcs.ex.ac.uk/stmarks/openday2005.html>. All other enquiries can be made to Matthew Hilling (01392 677998), Derek Hawkins (01626 864238) or Wendy Campbell (01392 469695).

An itinerary with full details will be published in *The Ringing World* mid September. Why not make up a band and come and ring at some of those towers you've never visited before?

Lundy Island

John Kelly of Paignton is planning a trip to Lundy Island on Monday 22nd August. The main group of ringers will be traveling up to Minehead and onto the MV Balmoral cruising the Somerset and Devon Coastline calling at Ilfracombe.

Minehead Dep 09.30 Arr 19.45
Lundy Is Arr 13.00 Dep 16.30

If you are interested, please let John know. The return price just for the boat trip is likely to be just under £30. We can make a party booking although you will be expected to find your own way to the boat.

No meals will be arranged but these will be available on the boat. The trip is open to the public and we will have enough ringers to organise ringing at Lundy on the new 10.

The boat journey is lengthy and can be unpleasant if the weather is rough. There is adequate shelter on the boat. On Lundy Island there is a long climb to the church, although there is a Land Rover that acts as a taxi service.

Devon Association of Ringers motif

The Devon Association of Ringers motif (not the badge) which is rightly placed at the top of our newsletter is quite interesting.

For years it has featured on our ringing certificates, both those in the modern style and those going back before the last world war.

We have to acknowledge the artistic skill of the person who created the design, and we have to thank Edgar for retrieving the printers block containing the motif after the company that did printing work for the association closed.

I have always thought it to be attractive. The distinctive font style with the lettering forming a crest and the banner scrolled at each end. The dark blue background with the central curve breaking the rectangle and the ten bells. At the top are six in the centre, with two placed at each side of the lettering creating a sense of balance.

I can only assume ten were chosen with the future in mind! Well, who was the person that created such an attractive and appropriate design?

It is possible that whoever designed the very first ringing certificates was responsible. Remember these

were all hand drawn and painted. It is, incidentally, to the credit of whoever created these that they can still be seen today in certain towers, having survived for around seventy five years in the often damp and cold conditions that exists in ringing chambers.

Discussing the motif recently with Edgar it seems that a member of staff at the printers, W. V. Cole of Exeter, whom the association used for the printing of certificates, created the design and cut the printing block.

Edgar seems to recall that this person came from either Exmouth or Exminster. Whether they were also responsible for the art work on the old certificates is not clear.

If you care to look behind any Devon Association certificate printed after the last world war you will probably see the printer's label still attached - W. V. Cole, South Street, Exeter. No relation of course to Edgar.

This old established company unfortunately closed, I think, during the early 1960's. Now, had it not been for Edgar and his commitment to the association the motif that we take for granted today would have

been lost for ever. Following closure of the company's departments Edgar, somehow, managed (legally) to gain access. A joint search with an ex-employee uncovered the printer's block, together with other Devon Association materials in one of the printer's wooden drawers.

Being the person he is, Edgar, only told me this in response to my curiosity.

We have a lot to thank him for. Without his restless enquiry the creative skills of the original designer would have been lost. As a result our ringing certificates and newsletter are appropriately adorned with a symbol which clearly states who we are.

Our thanks are due to Edgar for his astuteness and timely action. We should also pay tribute to the person who created the design because their work remains today an appropriate and distinctive feature of our organisation. I wonder who they were!

Next time you look at our motif do so with the knowledge that it takes time and talent to create but only seconds to destroy. Something which equally applies of course to both the animate and inanimate.

Colin Adams, Kenton.

Michael Macey follows father

Michael Macy, now 23, the son of the Prebendary Tony Macey, Michael was ordained a Deacon in Exeter Cathedral. Michael is to become the curate at Dartmouth.

Born in Plymouth, Michael grew up in Wembury and moved with his family to Torquay when he was six years old. He attended St Cuthbert Mayne where he was head boy and the sixth form at the Torquay Boys' Grammar School where he became joint head of Gilbert House.

'Today it is rare for a father and son to be ordained, but when Michael was growing up it was quite common, he said. "I told myself I would never be ordained because I was always being asked if that is what I was going to be in. Several people said that was what I should do as I was going through the process of looking at a career."

His interests include singing, bell-ringing and cricket.

Handbell group's £50,000 for adopted charity

In 1955 the Paignton Hand Bell ringers were formed principally by Jack Lippiett when he gathered other ringers, Joe Finch, Jeff Pascoe and Ron Smith, they performed nightly in Paignton over Christmas every year raising money for Dame Hannah Rogers School. John Kelly, learnt to ring church bells at Moretonhampstead in 1948, moved to Paignton in 1952 and was demobbed in Dec 1956 and he also joined the hand bell ringers and has been ringing ever since. After Christmas 1958 the youngsters with John as the Captain. Robert Finch, Derek Webber, who still rings, Jill Kemp and George Coles were allowed to take on the handbell ringing. John's wife Jenny, started hand bell ringing in 1961 and their three children also helped. John's wife sadly passed away but despite fighting cancer she rang up to her very last Christmas, ringing for 41 years. These youngsters continued well

into the 1980s. One notable family were the Stones. Regular ringers still include Ray Squires who joined in the late 60s and Roger and Jean Morley in 1978. This year, 2004/5, was special as the group celebrated the 50th year of continually supporting Dame Hannah Rogers School. NatWest Bank have been able to make this even more special by donating £500.

Nowadays the group has a vast age range. John Pincombe is the eldest who has been ringing with the group for over 10 years. His jokes and quick wit has provided extra entertainment. John's wife, Audrey also helps. The present band has been helped immensely by the tireless efforts of Elizabeth Minskip and Karen Collings. Other members are Michael and Leanne Webster and John and Mary Knott. John Kelly was awarded the British Empire Medal on 31 December 1990 due to his dedicated and loyal services and was nominated for the Beacon Award in 2003.

Ryan's Birthday Bash!

On the morning of the 15th January 2005 the "TROUTS" of Eggbuckland along with friends Suzanne & Kerry (South Brent) Sue Ashton (Eggbuckland) Martin & Liz Crew & of course Rachael & Abigail (Eggbuckland) Bob Hackworthy (Eggbuckland) Chris & Christine Pascoe (Broadhempston) Harry and Ellen (Bigbury) Jereme Darke (Who Knows!) well I suppose he covers Somerset! Oh and I can't forget Michelle as she was the only Welsh girl in our party, she would kill me if I forgot to mention her! All set off for a 2 Counties ringing 'Tour of Dorset and Somerset.

We set off from Plymouth at 8am to reach our 1st destination at 10am which was to be Bridport, on the way Roger picked up Harry and Ellen and as most of the ringing fraternity knows Ellen is the best bun and cake maker in the West Country, well apart from my mum Carol, of course! Had to get that one in! And yes Ellen did have cakes and buns on her! Brilliant I thought! Any way we arrived promptly at Bridport where unfortunately it was raining, these bells are 8 and the tenor is just over 21cwt, we had some reasonable ringing on Bells that were slightly hard work but they did sound nice, after Bridport we had a lovely journey down the Dorset coast road which took us past Chesil Beach and through some lovely villages most notably Corfe Castle! Our next stop was Wyke Regis a peal of 8, 16cwt, these bells were lovely but the Tenor was "Hellish Wide Mouthed" and took a bit of "Cuffing". Again we had some lovely ringing and good striking and the lady who met us congratulated us, which is always nice. After ringing at Wyke we had lunch at The Ship Inn Langton Matravers that is just outside of Swanage, after re-fuelling with some wholesome food and some tasty Ale! we set off for Swanage! These Bells were "beautiful" as a number of our party said they were 8 and 22cwt and went like clock work, the only thing about them was that you couldn't really hear them from outside which was a shame! After ringing at some fairly heavy bells we arrived at our next destination which was Worth Matravers which is a fantastic village over looking Swanage bay, the bells

were lovely too, peal of 6 and they were only 6cwt! The lady that met us there was so enthusiastic about our style of ringing and especially the way we rise and lower the bells and she was amazed and said they were trying to learn the art too, some of the crowd had time to enjoy the village and even sample the beer in the famous "Square and Compass" which when you walk in seemed as if you stepped back in time to like the 50's! Unbelievable place! We said our goodbyes and after myself and Jerry took the wrong way out of the village and a few wrong turns to find our next tower we soon arrived at Wool, which were a plain bearings Gillett & Johnson 6 about 11cwt, after a long day some of us thought "Oh no!" but they were actually quite nice just had to work them a little to keep them in their place, the Saturday had soon come to an end and we were off to the Kings Arms hotel in Dorchester which was our accommodation for the evening. We had some fun as Jerry and myself had to share the same bed! Ha ha! Pity for Jerry!!!! Sue and Suzanne were up to their old tricks again, being loud and drunk! GIRLS how could you!? We had a meal and were then pointed in the direction of "Tom Browns" where they brew their own beer! LOVELY JUBILEE! and I think after a few it turned into LURVLY BUBBLY! during the time we were there I found that we were missing two, Dan and Michelle! when they walked in about an hour later they explained that they forgot the name but were pointed towards the other end of Dorchester! ha ha nice one Dan! After a good night and Full English in the morning that Mr Clayton would've been proud of if he was here! we set off for West Coker, these were a peal of 8, 12cwt, they were on plain bearings but once you got used to their ways! we had some lovely ringing and some said they would've loved to take them back to Devon with us! The local ringers were astonished as to how well the bells could be rung, and I have to say I really enjoyed seeing people enjoying our ringing. After ringing at West Coker we did her sister tower East Coker, this is a fantastic village and the Church is situated next to Coker Court! another peal of 8 at

about 13cwt they sounded lovely but were hard to hear inside and the 7th rope slipped the wheel a number of a times taking away the enjoyment! Leaving East Coker we soon found ourselves savouring the Ale at The Royal Oak at Hardington Mandeville and a few of us tucked into a steak sandwich which was lovely! After this we rang at Hardington that are a lovely peal of 8 at just over 8cwt, some cracking ringing was had here and we stayed for about an hour and half! After ringing here we had a short journey to make to Crewkerne, we had been told that these bells were hard work. These bells for me, and I know for Harry, made my trip! they were fantastic, yes hard to rise because of the weight, as they were nearly 23cwt but the 7th was 18cwt! so they were particularly heavy all the way round! but the sound of the bells or as Jereme would say "Proper Tone" was what you would expect from bells of this weight and we had some of the best ringing on the trip on these bells Jereme said he has never heard the bells rung like it before! You need to ring here and see for yourselves what I mean! After ringing here we then went to the newly recast and relung peal at Chard, they were 23cwt but are now about 20cwt and go really well! by this time we were glad that there was a fine pub across the road that was open and served some cracking beer! yes more beer! Soon enough it was time to leave and we made our way back to the Heathfield Inn at Honiton where we yes had more beer and had some lovely food to round of our weekend. We all said our good byes and made our way back to the different parts of Devon where we had come from.

I just want to say a few thanks to the people that came and I hope you all enjoyed the weekend. I have to say that it wasn't just done for my birthday but it was done in appreciation of Dave and Hils that do so much for Eggbuckland and to Dave who organises all our trips. I now know what it's like to organise one but I couldn't have done it without the help of Jereme Darke. If any one wants the details of the Towers in Dorset that I've been, please contact me as I have all the numbers.

Ryan Trout.

2004 League table for DAR competitions

After Eggbuckland won at Stratton and tied for first place at Kilkhampton, Ryan Trout pronounced the team "The Arsenal of bell ringing", as they had achieved an unbeaten season. This inevitably leads to the question 'how many competitions have they entered?', and then 'how good are they and how far behind are everyone else?' To answer these questions the notion of compiling a league table to see how good Eggbuckland were and how close their nearest rivals are seems the most logical conclusion to reach. After I'd seen a copy of the September '04 issue of Devon Calls on the Association website (www.devonbells.co.uk) with the listing of results from the year, I decided to undertake the task.

As I mentioned above, an insatiable desire for knowledge was the basic reason for compiling such a league table, but also I had a feeling that there would be a few other people in Devon that would be interested in the final standing. This feeling was led mainly by discussions with David Trist as we thought a kind of 'Wisden Cricketers Almanac' of ringing might be an attractive reference for the ringers of Devon, both present and future. Since I think the most fascinating part of Wisden is the statistics section, I thought a league table to see how a team progresses year to year would also be interesting. Anyway, with modern technology as it is, a league table would be easy to sort out and compile, wouldn't it...?

It turns out that a computer did make things easier, but only slightly as I still had to type all the results into Excel and then devise systems to a) rank the teams, and b) get the computer to do it all for me automatically. It wasn't a trivial job, but it wasn't huge as there were twenty 6 bell competitions in Devon Calls, one competition I had the results of (Iddesleigh) and an extra competition on the website that weren't anywhere else (Tedburn St Mary). In total that's 22 (6 bell) competitions, and for each one I had to enter into the computer the name of the team (if they weren't already in the list), the position and the absolute position (explained later) in which they finished, and the number of faults scored.

As there were a lot of teams that hadn't entered many competitions last year, I came up with the following

rules for including them in the final tables:

- *Any tower that entered two or more teams into any competition are entered in the leagues as the number of teams entered, but if the tower entered a single team into any previous or subsequent the score goes into the tower's A team score, e.g. Alphington entered 2 teams into the Ide competition but only one at Kenn, hence Alphington A have two competition scores and Alphington B only one.*
- *Any competition with a B-section where a rise and lower is not part of the ring is not included in the table.*
- *Teams ringing in a B-section that could be included, subject to the previous rule, were deemed to have finished below the A-section irrespective of the actual faults scored. This is known as the Absolute Position of the team. For example, Idlesleigh won the B-section at Shebbear on 27 faults and Littleham finished 8th and last in the A-section with 35½ faults. Littleham get the absolute position 8 and Idlesleigh get the absolute position 9.*
- *To get into the final table a minimum of 5 competitions would have to be rung by any team to remove as much statistical bias as possible.*
- *Disqualifications are not considered as competition entries for the purposes of the table.*
- *Average faults are calculated by taking the sum of faults scored and dividing by the number of competitions entered and then rounding to two decimal places*
- *Average positions are calculated by taking the sum of absolute positions and dividing by the number of competitions entered and then rounding to two decimal places.*
- *In the event of a tie in either average score, the team that has entered most competitions will be better placed.*

A note with regards the Tamar Valley competition; I took the open section to be a different competition from the invitation section with the A-and B-sections. Littleham entered both sections so I chose to put Littleham A in the open section and Littleham B into the invitation section.

Table 1 charts the positions of the 19 qualifying teams in ascending order of average faults, and also shows the

teams position in the full list of 84 teams in the 22 competitions taken into account. From this we can see that Eggbuckland A are around 9 faults better than Morthoe, the second place team, who are themselves 4½ faults clear of third. The teams tend to group in the mid table positions; a fault covers 3rd to 5th and just over a fault covers 8th to 11th. As this table is dictated by the judges marking of the peals, rather than any objective measure, the absolute-ness of this table could be questioned, although it is my preferred table of the two I've come up with.

Table 2 has the same 19 teams but this time ordered on their average absolute finishing position. This league table shows the big winners from this approach are Dunsford, West Alvington and Collaton St Mary, and the losers are Eggbuckland B, Idlesleigh and Littleham. Teams in the lower part of the table that have slipped down have mainly done so because they entered a number of competitions where the judge's marks were fairly low, and so they were placed maybe 7th or 8th. West Alvington and West Down have the same average finishing position but have been ordered with average faults taken into account, as they entered the same number of competitions.

One fact that table 2 uncovers is that Eggbuckland A did not win every competition they entered this year; if they had their average would be 1. A look through the results for the year show that the only competition Eggbuckland A didn't win (Bridestowe) was won by Eggbuckland B, and hence an Eggbuckland team did win every competition.

The major contentious point with this table concerns how I ordered teams in the A-and-B-section competitions. Whilst it's true that in most cases the winner of the B-section has more faults than the last team in the A-section, the absolute position idea may penalise a B-section team that finishes with less faults than the lower teams in an A-section. I take the view that this is a small penalty to pay if a team is more interested in acquiring silverware than seeing how they compare to better teams.

A final league table is another one that Eggbuckland A top, the most competitions entered this year, shown in table 3.

2004 League tables (contd) HOW DO YOU GET RECRUITS INTO YOUR TOWER?

**TABLE 1: Average Faults
(Qualification >5 Competitions)**

Pos	Team	Average	Full Table Pos
1	Eggbuckland A	12.46	1
2	Morthoe	21.34	3
3	Molland	25.95	6
4	South Brent A	26.21	7
5	Eggbuckland B	26.88	9
6	West Down	28.55	11
7	Dunsford	32.33	14
8	Exminster A	35.56	16
9	Iddesleigh	35.75	17
10	Black Torrington	36.36	20
11	Littleham A	36.61	21
12	Lamerton	38.77	25
13	Stoke Gabriel	43.50	29
14	West Alvington	50.75	37
15	St Petrocks	53.58	41
16	Collaton St Mary	54.90	43
17	Mariansleigh	69.75	56
18	Colebrooke	72.29	58
19	Ide A	98.42	75

**TABLE 2: Average Position
(Qualification > 5 Competitions)**

Pos	Team	Average Faults	Pos	Change
1	Eggbuckland A	1.38	1	0
2	Morthoe	3.09	2	0
3	Dunsford	3.17	7	+4
4	South Brent A	3.22	4	0
5	Molland	4.30	3	-2
6	Exminster A	4.50	8	+3
7	West Alvington	4.80	14	+7
7	West Down	4.80	6	-1
9	Eggbuckland B	4.83	5	-4
10	Stoke Gabriel	5.33	13	+3
11	Lamerton	5.70	12	+1
12	Collaton St Mary	6.00	16	+4
13	Black Torrington	6.14	10	-3
14	Iddesleigh	6.20	9	-5
15	Littleham A	6.67	11	-4
16	St Petrocks	8.10	15	-1
17	Colebrooke	9.56	18	+1
18	Mariansleigh	9.57	17	-1
19	Ide A	11.17	19	0

TABLE 3: Competitions Entered

Team	Competitions
Eggbuckland A	13
Stoke Gabriel	12
Morthoe	11
St Petrocks	10
Lamerton	10
Molland	10
Colebrooke	9
Littleham A	9
South Brent A	9
Exminster A	8
Black Torrington	7
Mariansleigh	7
Dunsford	6
Eggbuckland B	6
Ide A	6
Collaton St Mary	5
Iddesleigh	5
West Alvington	5
West Down	5

References

Devon Calls, Volume 1 Issue 14, September 2004. Devon Association of Ringers website, www.devonbells.co.uk (Article contributed)

One tower said that they hold an 'Open Night' in place of a regular ringing practice. This gets a crowd of the curious into the tower, some of whom we hope will join our art. They said we have had as few as 3 or 4 and as many as 40!

We hold the Open Night on the regular practice night and at the regular time. This sifts out any wannabe ringers who are not available on our practice night.

PREPARATION

I launch a publicity campaign and can usually get a picture story in at least one of our local newspapers. This is backed up with notices in the church newsletter and a reminder from the pulpit in 'church announcements'. It needs a little planning to get all the notices to the right people in time for their different 'press' deadlines.

We ensure that there is a competent band on hand to demonstrate and it includes at least a couple who are skilled at teaching basic rope-handling. Some of our ringers, often the most recent recruits, will act as demonstrators and work with the rope-handling tutors to show how we teach new ringers.

ON THE NIGHT

The evening follows a fairly settled pattern that, over the years, we have found works for us.

1. Words of welcome and safety warning - 'don't touch the ropes etc.'

2. Explanation & demo : Ringing rounds. Just half a dozen or so whole pulls, not long enough to bore the audience.

3. Explanation & demo : called changes on 6 bells - into Queens & back to rounds. Keep it short and simple and place a band for good striking.

VISIT THE BELLS & TRIAL PULLS

At this point, visitors are offered the opportunity to climb up to the bell chamber to see the bells. In our tower visitors can safely observe the front six. We will have two ringers upstairs with the bells and a

third monitoring/assisting the traffic up & down the steps. The ringers upstairs will first fix a silencing bar to the 5th & 6th.

These eliminates the possibility of complaints from neighbours. Thereafter they are responsible for the safety of the visitors and for answering questions / providing explanations.

Once we have confirmation that everyone is safe, the rope-handling tutors offer each of the visitors a few attempts at pulling the back-stroke only on the two silent bells. The 'go' feels different without the clapper striking but non-ringers are not aware of that! We ensure that everyone who wishes to try their hand at ringing gets a few pulls.

CONCLUSION

When all those who wish to, have seen the bells and pulled a few backstrokes, we draw the 'public' part of the evening to a close with a few words of thanks, especially to the visitors for their interest. We announce the next 'silent practices' will commence on the following Sunday evening; all are welcome. All this usually takes about an hour, depending on the numbers. We then invite those who wish to, to remain and observe a 'normal' practice. The silencers are removed and we get on with a bit of 'real ringing' to round off the evening.

NEXT STAGE - SILENT PRACTICES

Each Sunday evening, we provide a one hour basic rope-handling course on silent bells. Health & Safety and Child Protection rules come into play here. I will always be accompanied by my wife, or a female adult so that there can never be any malicious accusations and, in the unlikely event of an accident, at least one of us can deal with the situation.

The first 3 or 4 weeks are regarded as a 'trial period' to give the would-be ringers a chance to evaluate their new. If they drop out in those first few weeks, there is no harm done; if they stick with us, we make them aware that we look forward to having them join the Sunday Service band.

Teaching rope handling is a subject in its own right so, I invite comments on how you recruit to your tower and how we can do things better.

Is your handbook up to date?

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Please ensure that you keep your handbook up to date. Wrong information can delay you if you are making arrangements and may annoy the person you have telephoned, especially if they getting numerous phone calls because the handbook you have has not been kept updated.

Any updates/amendments to the Secretary and/or publicity officer please, preferably in writing.

RINGING ROADSHOW 2005 - YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

What is the Ringing Roadshow and what's it for?

There's been a lot of soul searching over the name and the next best name is generally agreed to be "festival". The dictionary definition is "an occasion for feasting or celebration; a series of related performances, exhibitions, competitions or the like, especially recurring at regular intervals." - and it's all of those! It's a celebration of ringing in all its forms, mainly for ringers but with plenty for non-ringers to enjoy.

When is it and how long is it on for?

It's a one-day show from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. on Saturday, September 10th, 2005.

Where's it being held?

In both the Grandstand and the Berkshire Stand at Newbury Racecourse.

I thought grandstands were large buildings with hundreds of seats - will they be suitable?

These are racecourse grandstands, not football grandstands! Although they do have viewing areas to look over the racecourse, they are designed to accommodate thousands of people at race meetings indoors with all the necessary facilities. As racing days are relatively few and far between they are also designed to double as exhibition halls and event locations. Have a look at the pictures on the "Racecourse" page of this web site, but better still, put the event in your diary and come and see for yourself!

Where's Newbury Racecourse?

Newbury, of course (excuse the pun!), in Berkshire. Newbury is on the A34 Oxford to Winchester trunk road, 5 miles south of its junction with the M4 and 17 miles from Junction 6 on the M3. It's also on the main railway line from London to the West Country and it has its own station (Newbury Racecourse) with frequent services from Newbury and Reading.

WARNING! It's important that you don't confuse the Racecourse with the Newbury Showground which is signposted from the M4. The Racecourse is on the South side of Newbury, signposted by brown signs as "Racecourse and Conference Centre". To get to the Racecourse from the M4 you need to go around the centre of Newbury. If you come by train you'll have no difficulty finding it!

Who's going to be there?

All the main players in the bell founding and bell hanging fields (with an international flavour), representatives of all the Central Council committees, simulator demonstrators, mini-rings you can ring on, handbell orchestras for you to listen to and join in with, software vendors, ringing associations, bell funds and, of course a few thousand ringers. In addition there'll be a programme of seminars on a variety of ringing topics. There'll be something for everybody!

What will be the entry charge?

£5 adults, £3 children up to 16 and £12 for a family ticket, two adults and up to three children. There will be a 20% discount for orders of 25 or more tickets, if booked in advance.

Isn't £5 cheap for "a day at the races"?

Dead right it is. You're getting an incredible bargain for this very modest sum. Where else could you be entertained all day for this amount?

The date chosen will conflict with the annual Historic Churches sponsored cycle ride. Isn't that unfortunate?

Whichever date we had chosen would have conflicted with something. However, the good news is that you will be able to combine a visit to the Roadshow with a sponsored ride (if you put your bike in the car) because we expect to be able to provide interested visitors with details of the churches around Newbury which will be taking part in the ride and we will publish it. There are actually 30 churches within 10 miles of Newbury and, for the more adventurous, 60 within 10 to 20 miles - and that's only the churches with ringable bells.

It's an all-day event, will there be refreshments available?

The racecourse has a comprehensive catering organisation, used to dealing with thousands of punters on race days. The inner man will be well catered for! We will also have real ale available in the "Taylor Tavern" adjacent to The Grandstand.

What about parking?

There is free parking for thousands of cars and coaches.

I am a caravan/camping enthusiast. Will there be facilities on the racecourse where we can stay overnight?

Yes, you will be able to park caravans or tents on the main car park. That's the good news, the bad news is there will be no facilities such as electricity or water. We will publish the details of these arrangements a little nearer the time.

How much space is available?

The Grandstand has three floors, with a total area of over 2,500 square metres (nearly 28,000 square feet). This will accommodate around 120 exhibitors' stands. The Berkshire Stand, which is next door to the Grandstand, will be used for seminars and handbell tune ringing. There is also a lot of hard standing around the Grandstand for outside exhibits, such as mini-rings, and there is a large picnic area.

Will I be able to try my hand at ringing handbells?

Yes. The Handbell Ringers of Great Britain have generously sponsored a handbell room where throughout the day you will be able to join in the ringing of tunes under HRGB's expert tuition. There will also be opportunities for change ringing on handbells elsewhere in the exhibition areas.

How about handbell concerts?

Lunchtime and Matinee Handbell concerts will be held in the Long Room of the Berkshire Stand which can accommodate an audience of hundreds, all seated.

Will there be seminars?

Yes, there will be an exciting programme of seminars and demonstrations throughout the day, interspersed with handbell concerts. The Whitechapel Bellfoundry has generously sponsored a room which will be devoted entirely to seminars. The programme is published on this web site (click on "Seminars").

In 2003 we were able to ring at towers on our way to and from the Roadshow. Will we be able to do this time?

Yes, at least 60 towers will be open along the main routes to Newbury for ringing before and after the Roadshow. The routes will be announced nearer the time.

Will I be able to get hold of a Roadshow shirt?

Yes. The Organising Team has negotiated a deal with a clothing supplier from whom you can order a range of clothing, including shirts, embroidered with the RR2005 logo.

Competitions	Treasurer	Notices
<p>6 August, 2005. Widecombe in the Moor. 13 August 2005 Lydford and Bridestow 28 August 2005 Devon National Challenge at East Budleigh 1 October 2005 South Devon 8 Bell competition Venue to be announced 19 November 2005 Colebrook</p>	<p>The new treasurer is Mrs Janice Gist, Barries Corner, 5 St Giles in the Wood, Torrington EX38 7JQ. Please ensure that all subscriptions and competition entry fees are up to date. All cheques payable to Devon Association of Ringers.</p>	<p>The AGM will be held on Saturday 12 November at North Tawton Town Hall starting 2.15pm The annual affiliation fees are due on 1 October or at the AGM and 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 £3.00</p>
<p>Deadline for venues for 2006 Association competitions is 1 August</p>	<p>Editor 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 or via Email: mtwebster@btinternet.com</p>	
<p>Ringers Roadshow Saturday 10th September Newbury Racecourse.</p>		
<p>Offensive material on website If any instances happen with information appearing on peoples' computers with regards to the nature of "Porn material pop ups" after or during their visitation to the Devon Bells website, I can categorically say that it would not have been possible now to have obtained it by viewing our website. I would however suggest that they get their computers checked out to remove Spyware & any other addware invasive software that appears increasingly to be floating around on the World-Wide-Web that has been known to in bed itself on peoples' computers while surfing on the Internet or while visiting other websites over a period of time without them noticing it. <i>Webmaster.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">-Advertisement-</p> <h2 style="text-align: center;"><i>The Bells of Devon</i></h2> <p style="text-align: center;">A UNIQUE AND COMPREHENSIVE DIRECTORY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The first comprehensive contacts directory for all Devon towers.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Essential for any ringer exploring Devon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓐ Contact details for all towers with three or more bells currently suitable for ringing. Ⓐ If a peal is unsuitable for ringing at the present time, the reason for this is shown. Ⓐ All towers with three or more bells hung dead for chiming, together with those rings that are no longer in existence are listed. <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"In the area with the world's greatest concentration of tower bells, we are certain that there is something for everyone"</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">All proceeds to Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund</p> <p style="text-align: center;">£5.50 each (inc 50p UK postage and packing) from: Tim Bayton and Paul Pascoe "Braddons Mews" 27 Braddons Street, Torquay, Devon TQ1 1QH.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please make cheques payable to "The Bells of Devon". E-mail: baytonm@lycos.co.uk</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Advertisement</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MUSICAL HANDBELL RESTORATION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Free written quotations Specialised repairs by Geoffrey C Hill New Court Farm Lamerton Tavistock PL19 8RR 01822 614319</p>		