



Founded 1925

President—Mr George Boucher

DEVON CALLS

Jun 06

Vol I Issue 18

Special points of interest:

- Devon Ringers' Interchange
- Devon Ringers go East
- Dartmoor Changes
- Handbook updates
- Bells for Princess Royal

Inside this issue:

Tom Huxham	2
Zeal Monachorum	3
Trafalgar celebrations	4
Central Council Report	5
Results	6
Ringling holiday	6
Eggbuckland & Friends	7
Dartmoor changes	8
Notes from 2005 AGM	9
Harry and Ellen	10
Roy's Golden	11
Recruitment leaflets	12

New book

A new book to be published soon will describe the towers of the parish churches of Devon, their bells (over 3,000) and clocks, and give a history of the towers, bells and clocks, the bell founders and bell hangers and Devon bell ringing. It will be in two volumes in a slip case, about 600 pages and over 300 illustrations. The authors are the late Frank Mack, James Clarke and Preb. John Scott. It's to be published by the Mint Press, Exeter. When the final details and the price have been decided, there will be invitations to subscribers and their names will be listed in the book.

Her Majesty's 80th

Bells thorough Devon rang on Friday, April 21st to celebrate Her Majesty's 80th birthday. The next date will be 17th June, the Queen's official birthday and the day of the Trooping of the Colour. Please ensure that notices appear locally of the date and time the peals will be rung to celebrate the Queen's birthday. Many towers will be displaying commemorative plaques to record the event and the ringers taking part.

Devon Association's 80th

The 71st Annual General Meeting of the Devon Association took place at North Tawton in November 2005 and the Association celebrated its 80th anniversary. The new president is George Boucher, Tavistock and he succeeds Gerald Arscott who stated that he had enjoyed his year of office.

Mr Boucher gave a short speech and gave a vote of thanks to the Chairman's wife, Mrs Drake and her helpers in the Mortimer Room. The bells of St Peter were available after the meeting. Mr Alan Quick recorded the 80th anniversary by taking a photograph of the membership.

RING FOR YOUR CHARITY—£2,500

Holy Trinity Gidleigh are holding a 5-Bell Festival on Sunday 2nd of July 2006. There will be a total prize-money of £2,500 or thereabouts available and teams may ring for any listed charity or for a tower or church currently fund raising for a specific project.

The Competition will start at 2pm for up to 6 teams of novice ringers ringing rounds from the top. Total prize money £600. At 3pm. there will be a short service conducted by the Rector Preb. Anthony Geering and this will be followed by the presentation of cheques and certificates to the Novice section. This will be followed by the draw for the 12 teams ring a rise, lower and a half peal of 'Sixty on Thirds' ringing in the tenor! Total prize money £2,000.

At the end of the Competition there will be a presentation of cheques and certificates by Alan Hughes of the White-chapel Bell Foundry. During the afternoon the neighbouring Towers of Chagford, Drewsteignton and Throwleigh will be available for ringing. Refreshments will be available in the Village Hall. In the event that either section is over scribed the teams will be selected on their reasons for choosing their particular charity and the decision made by the Churchwardens will be final. Application forms are available from Chris Smallwood, Chapple Farm, Gidleigh, Chagford Devon TQ13 8HP. A S.A.E. would be appreciated and the applications must be received by **Friday 23rd June 2006.**

Obituary William (Tom) Huxham

The bells of Alphington were rung half-muffled in tribute for a lifetime in service to Church and Family at the funeral of Tom Huxham on Friday 13th January. Many representative ringers and two ex Secretaries of the Association were in the congregation.

Tom aged 81, died on 31st December 2005, and was born in Chulmleigh of farming stock. It was here he began his service to the church, learning to ring and singing in the choir.

After wartime RAF service in India, on returning to civvy street Tom decided not to return to farming. He took up a job with Pikes garage as a motorbike mechanic, and amongst other duties, servicing invalid carriages.

Living in lodgings in St Thomas, Exeter it was the sound of bells one Sunday morning, fifty four years ago, that led Tom to start a new chapter in his life. Tom followed the sound and walked to Alphington where, as an experienced ringer he was welcomed to the village's two ringing teams and also into the choir.

That first trip also introduced him to a local girl Molly, who was to be his wife of more than 50 years. Family has also been an important part of Tom's life. He was very

proud of his children Robert and Gillian, and grandchildren James, Lydia, David and Katherine. He was also very proud that his brother Hector, who read from scripture during the service, was the chaplain at St James Hospital Leeds.

After leaving Pikes Garage, Tom went on to work for Medlands and then with his mechanical knowledge and skills of using a chain saw, Exeter City Parks department and Exeter Health Authority.

Following retirement, Tom took on a new role as Sexton and Verger at Alphington Parish church. Tom carried out this role with diligence, taking part in the smooth organisation of weddings and funerals. Some Saturdays in the summer saw up to four weddings booked at the church. Tom was also responsible the plans of the cemetery. In his address the Rev. Bessent stated how valuable Tom's meticulous records have been and will be an asset in the future.

Interviewed in 2000 by the Express & Echo, Tom said that he had gained a great deal of pleasure in bell-ringing. It has taken him all over the country over the years, ringing in competitions and bell festivals. He expressed the wish that a new generation of ringers would come forward, saying "its our inheritance and we should hang on to it".

Sad Loss for Germansweek

The members of the Bell ringers club are now coming to terms with the sudden death of one of their members Philip Sutherland who died unexpectedly on 12th December. Philip was an active member of the Club and when at home from his excursions to Spain would always be ready to help out at Germansweek Tower and at Bratton Clovelly.

Philip was a member of the team who rang at the Trafalgar weekend helping the two towers to gain the Trafalgar certificates.

At his funeral service his ringing friends came to pay their last respects and our thoughts are with his wife Janet. The ringers for the service were Nigel Fullbrook who represented his wife Heather (who was unable to attend), Gerald Box, Christine Hawkins-Cole, David Corthine, Gordon Jennings, Tim Donkin and Trevor Lake who kindly stood as reserve. Philip will be sadly missed but not forgotten.

Brian Singleton (Captain and Tower Keeper)

Don Goff

Don Goff of Chardstock has died. He had rung for over 70 years and lived in village all his life. His funeral was on January, 10th. Derrick his son had said he was very proud of his Association badge and would probably wear it to his grave.

Stan Turns

We were sorry to hear that Stan Turns of Salcombe sadly passed away earlier this year whilst in the ringing chamber for Sunday ringing. Stan was captain of Sakombe and had put a lot of time and energy into bellringing.

John Longridge

John Longridge died on 18 December 2005. He was tower captain at St Mark's for many years. He was renowned for his double-handed ringing and rang the 2nd and 3rd at St Mark's to a peal of Grandsire which he also conducted. Although he did not ring later in his life, we was always supportive.

Working alone

A YOUNG bellringer has died after falling inside the tower of a Coventry church. Jonathan Hughes, aged 22, was found dead inside the bell tower at Stoke St Michael Church in Walsgrave Road just days before Christmas 2005.

It is believed he was carrying out maintenance work when he fell. The Rev Julian Francis, team vicar at the church, said: "He would do regular maintenance work in the tower and he appears to have had some sort of fall. My understanding is that he was on his own. Normally there would be more than one person working together". Mr Hughes, who was bell tower captain at St Michael's, started bell ringing at the church at the age of eight or nine and became a popular figure. His voluntary role included teaching bell ringing, maintaining the bell tower at regular intervals, and organising visits to other churches with his team. A spokesman for West Midlands Police said his death was not being treated as suspicious. Mr Francis said Mr Hughes was a "very eager" bell ringer whose commitment was widely appreciated by all age groups. "As bell tower captain he worked tirelessly with adults and young people to develop bell ringing at St Michael's.

Births

On January 20th 2006, Aaron Jesse Seymour-Biscoe was born weighing in at 7lb 4oz to parents Adam and Clare. Clare is a ringer at Yarcombe.

John & Margaret Enderson are pleased to announce the safe arrival of their son Philip, born on April 19th weighing in at 6lb 12.5oz

Atherington Zeal Monachorum

James Clarke believes that the new frame and much of the gear is in the bellhanger's yard awaiting installation. Unfortunately the tower is still not ready and nobody knows when it may be. He gets the impression that it could be several years but the way fund raising goes, one never knows when there may be a sudden influx of funds.

Alan Sinden has family connections with the village and says that earlier in the year he had some long chats and correspondence with Mr Carvesso (the vicar), who sent him pictures of the bells being taken out of the tower. However, it looks extremely unlikely that they'll be back soon as they were a long way short of the required sum. Fund raising continues and all donations are gratefully accepted. If anyone wants more up to date details they could contact the vicar, who is very approachable and very, very keen to get the bells ringing.

Information

Mark and Fiona Lovell from Callington have recently moved to Gittisham to manage a country hotel. Wishing them well in their new venture and hoping to see Mark ringing.

Offwell

Offwell Church (including tower) will be closed for 3 months from Easter 2006. For information ring John Seymour (tower captain) on 01404 831690.

St Marychurch

See the ringers' own page on the church website: <http://www.saint-marychurch.co.uk/bells.htm>. It can also be found on Ringers resources should you lose the link.

<http://www.ringing.info/>

Wolborough

A Young Ringers' Event being organised by Tim King involving simulator ringing, handbells, a short act of worship, and a BBQ. Aimed at all young ringers (say up to 20) for Guild and Association members. Saturday 22nd July from 2.30 until 7.30, starting at Wolborough church and moving to St Paul's Newton Abbot for a BBQ. Names to Tim King by Friday 14th July. 01803 324815 or tim@gaspipe58.freemove.co.uk

There is an appeal to restore and re-tune the peal of six bells at St Peter's Church. So far the appeal has raised more than £7,000 towards the £30,000. Captain of the bellringers Ken Down said "We had experts in to check them. They said the bearings were worn out and needed replacing." The bells will be sent to Nicholson Engineering in Bridport for a complete overhaul, then to Whitechapel, to be tuned. Ken said: "Everything which needs doing will be done. Afterwards the bells should be easier to ring and should go on for 75 years before they need restoring again." A deposit of £10,000 needed to be raised so the cost of the work stayed fixed, said Ken. "Once we can pay the deposit we'll know the price won't keep increasing with inflation. We should reach the deposit target at the auction."

Six experienced ringers and six learners, aged nine to 40, practise every Tuesday and ring Sundays. Ken, 61, learned the art of bellringing at St Peter's at the age of 14. He said he would like to see the skill kept alive. "By restoring the bells now we will be able to pass them on to the next generation without them having to spend any money on them. "There are a lot of other attractions available to young people, and at the moment the bells are a bit difficult to ring, which means they try it then move on. Once the bells have been restored they should be more inclined to stay."

To help or for more information, contact Ken and Margaret Down on 01363 82204.

Mid Week Ringers - "Ringklies"

The Ringklies started the new year with a good turn out and ringing at Holcombe Burnell and Tetburn St Mary in March. The next meeting we were blessed with a warm sunny day and performed for the Spotlight TV programme whilst at Newton Ferrers and Noss Mayo during April.

The weather stayed perfect for the May meeting at Otterton and Colyton Raleigh. There was a good turn out of members with nearly 50 staying for lunch. Many found the nearby Otterton Mill, with the water mill and shops very interesting. The group has an annual holiday for the ringers and guests and this year we shall be staying in Birmingham from Monday 5 June until Friday 9 June. There are some very notably, interesting and unusual bells to be rung. One being a steel set, another a set of 16, another with two different sets with different alignments and of course two cathedrals!

Evenings are also catered for by arranging more ringing along with entertainment provided at the hotel. The non ringing supporters have also been cared for with a planned trip to Cadbury World.

Could you be a Ringkly?

This group meets on the second Wednesday of the month and is open to Ringers and non ringers. The only criteria is that you have time to join us. The morning venue is a 10.30 start, with tea, then a pub lunch at 1pm and a further venue at 2pm or 2.30pm.

Proposed towers for 2006

June	Ringing around Birmingham—Mon—Fri	
July	Bradford	Langtree
August	Burrington	Ashreigney
September	To be confirmed	
October	Moretonhampstead	North Bovey
November	Holbeton	Yealmpton
December	To be confirmed	

Any queries please contact: Ken Rowe on 01803 521489

Devon ringers go east: March/April 2006.

On Friday 31st March 2006, 13 Devon Call Change ringers set off up the M5/M4 towards Swindon. All ringers were members of towers affiliated to the Devon Association of Ringers and meet regularly on Wednesday evenings throughout the year. The Hon Secretary, Vice Chair and a Past President of the Association were included in the party. The destination was Oxford.

Following a wholesome fry up to set us up for the day and to keep Mr Clayton quiet, we arrived at our first tower – Longcot. We were joined by a ringing friend from Wantage who had associations with many ringers in Devon and mixed in well with the ringing and the social side – alas Mr John Pearse. This was a ground floor ring of 8. These bells were light and tricky, but went well. Two members managed to knock up the landlady of the local pub and nearly got left behind!

We then arrived at Faringdon – an excellent 17cwt peal of eight. We had three full call change peals to include a rise and fall. There was a muffling of the sound when the sallies went through the chamber roof, which made listening difficult. We had a liquid lunch in a hostelry in the town.

Following refueling, we headed for Stanford in the Vale. Some good 8 and 6 bell striking was realised. This light set was again tricky.

We then headed for Childrey, since there was a funeral at Buckland. This was a new ring of eight – ground floor, around twelve hundredweight, and went well.

John Pearse then guided the convoy from Devon back to our hotel base for the weekend – at East Hanney. We freshened up and were met at

quarter to six by John Pearse and his mini-bus. We then set off to Whites Workshop at Appleton. We had a very interesting tour and then had opportunity to ring the 12-Bell Campanile known as the Balscote Ring. This was entertaining – there were some missed sallies but no broken stays! Some reasonable striking was achieved on the 12, 10 and back 8. We rang a peal of 'Sixty on thirds' on the back six without calling! We thanked our hosts for their hospitality and then headed down the road to join Appleton St Laurence for their practice night. This is a light ring of ten. Following an enjoyable ring, we headed to round the day off at the Plough across the road. We were grateful for the wholesome buffet that was laid on. A nightcap was had back at the hotel and we retired quietly for the night!

Saturday morning soon arrived. Mr Pearse returned with his mini-bus to take us into Oxford. Our first tower was St Thomas the Martyr. What a great 10. Some excellent 10-bell striking was had, including a soundly struck titums! Thankfully, we avoided a parking ticket!

Onwards to the Cathedral Church of Christ. David Lane met us and let us into the tower. The bells were lowered. The stage was set. Mr Trout got his wish and caught hold the 11th. Mr Clayton trebled up the back eight in peal. Messrs Adams and Darke on the tenor. He took some shifting! A pleasing achievement – never seen before by the tower captain! Some respectable ten and twelve bell ringing was realised. David then took us across to St Aldate – a good ring of six. A liquid lunch was found in Oxford.

After lunch we travelled out to Cum-

nor. Ground floor pleasant eight. Interesting spiral staircase in corner of belfry. We finished the afternoon at West Hanney. Our organiser suggested a competition – north Devon versus south Devon – Mr Clayton ably judged. South went first (to give the north a chance). Despite a poor rise, some respectable top ringing was produced. North Devon had a better rise, but Mrs White struggled to keep her team steady. The result was close – the North just pipped the South! We then returned to the hotel for evening meal.

Sunday arrived. Our final day. Back to our cars and in convoy headed for Wantage for Sunday service. Met by Peter Davies and John Pearse. A tricky heavy set. A good effort realised some reasonable striking. Back to the Pearse's for coffee. Very hospitable and wonderful couple. The convoy broke up for dinner (mal communication!?) Then onto Batheaston whilst heading South. Tower swaying made striking difficult. Not the easiest ring of eight. Then onto a fine eight – Chewton Mendip. What a fine ring, beautiful tone. For me, the icing on the cake. The final ring was West Lydford back in Somerset. Tricky tenor to rise despite being recently done by Nicholson's of Bridport. The trip rounded off with a fine meal near Taunton.

Grateful thanks must be extended to Scott Adams for his excellent organisation. Also to John Pearse of Wantage for his company and expert guidance.

We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. A final thought of good wishes to Helen Bowden of Kenton who had to miss the trip due to illness – you were missed Helen and Gerald.

Ryan Trout

Trafalgar celebrations at Germansweek, Bratton Clovelly and Beaworthy

The Trafalgar weekend was a busy weekend for the local bell ringers. Germansweek kicked off on Friday 21 October at 7.30pm and rung a peal for half an hour and then off to Bratton Clovelly to join their ringers until 9pm. We were then invited to Gerald Box's home for a buffet supper. Thanks to Gerald and the friends who helped provide the food and drink. An enjoyable evening was had by all. Sunday saw four ringers go over the

Deanery Boundary to Beaworthy for the final of their Trafalgar weekend. During the service the Rural Dean, Mrs Debbie May dedicated the new ropes. After the service there was a lot of interest shown in the bells and it now looks like Beaworthy could have some recruits to train for a team. The three churches above qualify for a framed certificate to commemorate the ringing of the bells on the 200th anniversary of

Trafalgar. The certificate for Beaworthy was presented at the Evening Service. The certificates for Bratton Clovelly and Germansweek were presented at their Carol Services. Thanks to all who helped, especially to Stuart Wilson (Vicar) for his input, and to the other ringers, Gerald Box, Captain, David Corthine, Gordon Jennings, Philip Sutherland, Matthew Hortop, Tim Donkin and Brian Singleton.

Topsham

Roy Berry still enjoys ringing the bells at the ripe old age of 80. The veteran has been in charge of bell-ringing at St Margaret's Church, Topsham, for the last 52 years and his enthusiasm shows no signs of waning. Roy insisted time hadn't dampened his energy for his hobby. He said: "I still enjoy it very much. Sometimes people will come up to us and say they really enjoyed the bells. I just like the companionship and the exercise." The bell-ringers practise once a week and then meet to ring on Sunday mornings before the regular church service. Roy, a retired baker who celebrated his birthday this month, added: "I'm very pleased to have reached 80 years of age and still be in a position to ring the bells. I have heart trouble and bell-ringing keeps me fit." He took up the hobby aged 11 and said he had never looked back. He recalled: "As a boy, I sang in a choir and when my voice broke, I took up bell-ringing. It's been great to be a part of it." Roy, who lost his wife Lilian four years ago, said he took on the responsibility of caring for the bells and organising the ringing team as a 28 year-old in 1953. Today he captains a team of six. David Row, of Elm Grove Road, Topsham, and who also rings the church bells, paid tribute to Roy. He said: "He's an excellent chap who is a great captain of our bell-ringing team." The bells were rung for a service in St Margaret's churchyard last week in memory of a Topsham seafarer who fought at Trafalgar. Thomas Randle was quartermaster on Nelson's Victory. Flowers were laid and a message read: "Thomas Randle, we feel that on this day you should be remembered. You and your shipmates did your duty".

Bill Blake remembers

Memories have been ringing a bell for 85 year old Bill Blake. Prior to his RAF days of 1938 he worked on constructing the Totnes by-pass. Bill and his dad, Albert, did all the carpentry work and one example was the shuttering for the concrete tunnel at the bottom of Castle Hill. Bill, was captain at Diptford for 30 years and has now lives in Stoke Canon, to be near his daughter, still rings in the many churches in that area.

CENTRAL COUNCIL REPORT 2005

This report was omitted, in error, from the AGM and therefore reproduced in full.

This year's Central Council meeting in May was hosted by the 'Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers' and took place at the Cairn Hotel in Harrogate. I was again the sole representative for the Association as Mervyn had tendered his apologies to the meeting.

The annual meetings of the Central Council are split into 3-year sessions and most Guilds/Associations elect members on that basis - serving for the full 3 years before then being re-elected by their own Guild/Association.

This was in fact the start of the 39th such session (3-year block) and the meeting started by welcoming all the new members from various parts of the UK as well as those from America, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa!! At the start of the meeting we also agreed that the 'Birmingham University Society' would now be able to join the council - having satisfied the affiliation and membership requirements. We then elected the 'top-table' for the forthcoming 3 years.

Without going into too much detail, we were given reports from all the various committees of the Council and also elected members to serve on these committees for the following 3-year term... The committees themselves look after the various functions of the council including 'Public Relations', 'Redundant Bells', 'Ringing Centres', 'Bell Restoration', 'Ringing Trends' and 'The Library' as well as the *method* ringing type committees of 'Peal Compositions' and 'Methods' etc...

All the committees work very hard over the course of the year in promoting bell-ringing as a whole and if

we as an Association ever have any questions about ANYTHING in respect of ringing then there is always someone to ask - who has probably been in a similar situation before!!

In addition the Ringing World (the weekly paper for Ringers) present their annual accounts and statements to the meeting and this was done during the afternoon.

In actual fact there wasn't really anything significant to report to the AGM from this year's meeting with just the one exception...

There is a 'Roll of Honour' for ringers who lost their lives during the past conflicts of this country and they are held in suitable volumes within the belfry at St Paul's Cathedral. These volumes have been in existence for a number of years now and unfortunately their conception pre-dates my membership of the Central Council... Have we as an Association, supplied our own information to be included in these volumes?? If we do not have memory of such inclusion, then I think that I should ask on behalf of the Association as to what has been included for the Association - I think that this is a fitting tribute to those ringers who lost their lives in such conflicts...

I would hope that our own regional representatives would be able to help and find out such information for me so that I could forward it for inclusion??

Next year's meeting will be hosted by the Leicester Diocesan Guild and will be held in Leicester itself over the late Bank Holiday weekend in May 2006. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend this time but would like to think our other representative will be... Kind regards, Paul J Pascoe. 10th November 2005

(Apologies to Paul for omitting this report from the AGM.)

Association accounts for the year ended Sept 2005

Receipts	
Balance b/f	6867.80
Interest	33.70
Presidents sub	10.00
Vice Pres. Subs	36.00
Donations	81.00
Devon calls	20.00
Affiliation fees	715.00
Entry fees	433.00
Guides, badges	264.00
Dinner and dance	1033.75
Draw Surplus	2668.90
Sale of mugs	531.00

Total: 12694.15

Payments	
Devon Bell Restoration fund	2500.00
Hon Sec expenses (inc printing)	132.00
Hon Treasurer's expenses	9.25
Affiliation to CCCBR	30.00
Certificates, judges teas	180.00
Devon Calls—Publicity Officer	623.67
Insurances and repairs	380.00
Dinner and dance	858.75
80th anniversary mugs	397.50
Website expenses, cards, gifts	49.48
Balance C/F NatWest	3657.51
National Savings	3875.99

Total 12694.15

Results

Shebbear 13 August 2005

A Section

1. Egguckland	4
2. East Anstey	16.5
3. Iddesleigh	21
4. Exeter St Petrock	23.5

B Section

1. Littleham	19
2. Petersmarland	29
3. Mariansleigh	30.5
4. Kilkhampton	35
5. Drewsteignton	38.5
6. Monkleigh	45
7. Sampford Courtenay	50
8. Pyworthy	57.5
9. Poughill—overtime	55.5

Novice

1. Inwardleigh	57
2. Petersmarland	76
3. Little Torrington	82.5

Junior Section

1. Little Torrington	18.5
2. Langtree	22.5

Tamar Valley Competition held at Ashwater on 24 September

A Section

1. Littleham	35
2. Bridgerule	57.5
3. Poughill	70
4. Kilkhampton	94
5. Lamerton	97.5

B Section

1. Pyworthy	89
2. Shebbear	89.5
3. Lydford	124
4. Morwenstowe	147
Novice-Petersmarland	124

Junior Section

1. Langtree	25
2. Bradford	36

The Annual Tavistock 6 Bell at Marystowe on 8 October 2005

William Barribal Shield

1. Tavistock	15
2. Lamerton	30
3. Meavy	44
4. Lydford	70

Geoff & Valerie Hill Presentation Bell. Novice—Rounds

1. Lamerton	15
2. Meavy	20

Tedburn St Mary on 15 Oct 2005

A Section ringing for the late Tom Coulthirst Shield and Cup

1. Egguckland	18 1/2
2. Zeal Monachorum	31
3. St Petrock	36
4. Exminster	38 1/2
5. East Anstey	40 1/2
6. South Tawton	41 1/2
7. Burrington	42
8. Down St Mary	46 1/2
9. Stoke Gabriel	48

B Section ringing for the late Jack Wroth Shield and Cup

1. Ide	72 1/2
2. Spreyton	73 1/2
3. Alphington	75 1/2

Novice competition held at Yealmpton on 28th October 05

Section one round ringing

1. Plympton St Mary	14 1/2
2. South pool	28
3. Yealmpton—time inf	15 3/4

Section two call change ringing

1. Modbury	21 1/4
2. Holbeton	23 1/4
3. Ashburton	30 3/4
4. Plympton	34 1/2
5. Southpool B	39 1/2
6. Yealmpton A	40 1/4
7. Yealmpton B	51 1/2
8. Southpool A	52 3/4

Kilkhampton 2005—6 Bell

1. Morthoe	17.75
2. South Brent	22
3. Exeter, St Petrock	24.25
4. Alphington	25.75
5. Chittlehampton	28
6. Buckland in the Moor	34.5
7. Lamerton	37

8 Bell

1. Chittlehampton	42.5
2. South Brent	45.5
3. Exeter, St Petrock	53.5
4. Buckland in the Moor	66.5
5. High Bickington	79
6. Okehampton	93
7. Alphington	101

Totnes Deanery Competition at Diptford on 18th March 2006

1. Broadhempston A	10 1/2
2. South Brent A	15
3. Stoke Gabriel B	37 1/2
4. Diptford	47 1/2
5. South Brent B	55 1/2
6. Broadhempston B	59 1/2
7. Halwell	68 1/2

Totnes Deanery Winter League results for 2005/2006

Ringling at 6 towers between Oct 05 and Mar 06. Higher points, better.

1. South Brent	37 points
2. Broadhempston	30
3. Stoke Gabriel B	28
4. Stoke Gabriel A	19
5. South Brent B	12
6. Diptford	10
7. Broadhempston B	9
8. Halwell	4

Ide Festival on 1st April 2006

A Section

1. Stoke Gabriel	19
2. South Brent	25 1/3
3. North Bovey A	30 2/3

4. Dunsford	39 2/3
5. West Alvington	49 1/3
6. Alphington A	54 1/3
7. Down St. Mary	56

B Section

1. Widecombe	82
2. Ide B	93 2/3
3. Spreyton	95
4. Alphington B	95 2/3
5. North Bovey B	97 2/3
6. South Tawton	103 1/3
7. Broadhempston	128

Inter Deanery Competition at Malborough on 8 April 2006

1. Egguckland	18
2. Dunsford	32
3. West Alvington	41 1/2
4. Kingsteignton	45 1/4
5. South Brent	51 3/4
6. Paignton	56
7. Broadhempston	60 1/2
8. North Bovey	81 1/2
9. Tavistock	90 1/2
10. Modbury	108
11. Widecombe	118 1/2
12. Lamerton	124 1/2

Woodleigh Deanery at South Pool on Saturday May 6th.

Junior Section.

1. Modbury B	68 faults
2. Malborough	96 ¼
3. South Pool B	98 ¾
4. South Milton	107 ¼
5. Salcombe	117
6. South Pool A	120
7. Sherford	145 ½

Senior Section

1. West Alvington	42 ½
2. Churchstow	67 ¾
3. Modbury A	71 ½
4. Loddiswell	85 ½
5. Stoke Fleming	109
6. Chivelstone	183 ½

Totnes Deanery Festival held at Cornworthy on 6th May 2006

1. South Brent A	37
2. Stoke Gabriel A	71
3. Stoke Gabriel B	91 1/2
4. Broadhempston	92
5. Collaton St Mary	97
6. Diptford	115 1/2
7. Townstal	146 1/2
8. South Brent B	147 1/2
9. Halwell	165

Down St Mary on 20 May 2006.

1. Egguckland	20 1/2
2. Zeal Monachorum	51
3. Stoke Gabriel	58
4. Exeter St Petrock's	64 1/2
5. Exminster	74
6. Mariansleigh	74 1/2

Eggbuckland and Friends Head to The Far East!

The title of this story may suggest we decided to head to India, but we didn't and we weren't having any curry either! We were heading to Berkshire also incorporating Wiltshire, as that is East! As it is, it's a long way to go, well any where north east of Exeter is a long way for some! On Friday 9th September the Eggbuckland Ringers plus Harry and Ellen Bardens, Bernard and Pat, Suzanne Driscoll, Scott Adams, Dave Trist, Graham Sharland and Jerome Darke all set off to help put Devon Call Change Ringing on the map at the Ringing Road Show at Newbury in Berkshire! I had arranged, with the help of Roger, 14 Towers to ring at over the course of the weekend to incorporate the Road Show and to help on the Stand! On picking Harry and Ellen up from South Brent we saw Ellen holding a box of her famous buns and fruit cake! And I wasn't disappointed. Our first destination was to be at a lovely village called Chilmark just off the A303 in Wiltshire. The bells here are rung from the chancel crossing and the ropes fall through a vaulted ceiling, the 6 bells 13cwt and were good in both tone and go and comments were made that they were like South Brent! Every one enjoyed them apart from Dave and Hilary who decided not to turn up! Prior engagements! I ask you! We then headed towards Salisbury Plain for Durrington a 11cwt 6. We were met by a very enthusiastic captain of the Tower, as at most of the Towers we nearly always had to bring the bells down before putting them up in peal, the bells here were up stairs and the floor was close to the ceiling so you lost some of the sound as the sal-lies went through! The bells were very clonky inside the tower but outside sounded lovely, Scott and myself had the 1st peal and as I organised the trip I felt I could delegate so I disappeared with Scott to the pub! The captain was amazed at how we put the bells up and brought them down and commented at how lovely his bells sounded and how good the ringing was! We then headed to Enford and lunch in a wonderful pub called the Swan Inn! After lunch we then walked to the Church and were met by the Captain, again extremely enthusiastic about the way we ring down in Devon! He told me a story that they were the striking champions at one stage in their diocese but last year they entered a competition at Salisbury and got disqualified for ringing closed hand leads! Each to their own! He advised that they were a 14cwt 6 which had been re-hung in 1929 by Taylors but were still on plain bearings!!!! Oh no! But these bells were to prove to be one of the best of all of the trip! They

went well and sounded excellent and everyone enjoyed them! Good place to hold the Devon National Challenge! What do you think Tristy!? We headed the 45mins to Hungerford. The Church stands on the bank of the Kennet and Avon Canal and is a beautiful building and the bells are the same "Beautiful". They were cast at the same Foundry at the same time as Dunsford but are a 12 cwt 8. Graham was truly looking forward to ringing them, they were upstairs and went extremely well and sounded good although not as good as Dunsford! We then headed to Kintbury where the Tenor clapper had just been fixed that morning as it had dropped out at their practice night on the Thursday!!!! what luck! the bells here are an 8 weighing 11cwt. In the upstairs ringing room, which was massive, the walls still had the old medieval wooden struts against it, the bells here were ok but not my favourites but the pub was good!!!!!! We all then headed to our accommodation in the centre of Newbury! the evening proved to be good as usual with the same old faces making us laugh! we found some really nice pubs. My dad and myself had already checked out the real ale pubs and decided to head to the Lock Stock and Barrel which was situated on the Kennet and Avon Canal and served the best Fullers ESB! lovely!!!! funnily enough most of the others decided to follow soon after!

Saturday morning soon arrived and the bleary eyed amongst us struggled out of bed for an 08.30 breakfast. This was the day of the Road Show at Newbury race course and as I had overslept, Jerome, Graham and with help from Maurice and Daphne, Graham's parents set off for the race course with out me! how rude! Our itinerary was due to commence at 14.30hrs at Chieveley, ah but some of our party decided they would try to ring at a few other towers that were open for the road show in the Newbury area, so it was decided and of course as I'm not a tower grabber, I decided to go along too! We arrived at Midgham, a ground floor ring of 6 and only 5cwt! We had to wait and got in line and when it was our time it felt like there were a hundred faces looking on, there were lots of decent comments passed at our striking and also comments about the worthless rising and lowering of bells! the bells were a delight! Next was Beenham, a ground floor 6 at 10cwt, after my dad, Harry and Ellen and myself got lost on the way, yet again down to my navigating! The helpers of the tower were amazed at the ringing and yet again found the way we rose the bells and lowered them in peal fascinating! these bells were

lovely although slightly odd struck but a lovely tone. We then set off for the road show, it has to be said that the race course was the perfect place to hold the road show and this showed in the numbers that attended, it was estimated that 4,000 people attended which was around 1,000 more than 2 years ago! The Associations stand stood out and was quite an attraction and it had to be said that we had a lot of good remarks made about the standard of ringing and how our way of rising and lowering the bells was fascinating! I think we certainly put our tradition of ringing well and truly on the map! After lunch we headed for the church at Chieveley. We were greeted by a couple that offered us tea and biscuits that was greatly needed to reduce the Alcohol content! This 11 cwt 8 were quite tricky and there was a lot of rope noise from the 2nd and 3rd due to the ropes falling through wooden boxes. We handled them reasonably well but as they were only re-hung about 10 years ago they should've been better! We then went to Yattendon, a 6cwt 6 but actually rang more like a 9cwt! the fifth and tenor were very strange, especially the 5th! just ask Mr Darke! it wouldn't strike nearly all the way up and then went back stroke! they need some work and attention I think! They certainly were a challenge and we had some decent ringing in the end! we were soon off again and this time travelling to Theale and we arrived early so we could tuck into Ellen's fruit cake and have some coffee! The Church at Theale looks very much like a cathedral but the Tower looks as though it was an after thought as its stuck on the side and the bells are hung right at the top so there is some tower movement! I was told that the bells weren't that good! but it's worth sometimes not listening to people. They are a 6 at 14cwt and were slightly lumpy at the bottom but once up they went like clock work and they sounded very sonorous! we had some cracking ringing and even had a few local on lookers! Next was Englefield, the Church here is situated in the estate and surrounded by it's own wall with manor house in the background. There were deer one side of the church and estate lodgings together! Recently augmented to 8 this 8cwt set were to prove one of the best of the weekend, although the two new trebles apparently were a little flighty, the acoustics in the tower were fantastic and the bells went excellently and sounded good, there was some really good ringing here and everyone commented at how good they were! We then headed for Aldermaston
(Continued on page 8)

Tavistock at Cathedral

Sunday January 15th was a very special occasion for the Tavistock Bell ringers. We had the honour of ringing at Exeter Cathedral for the installation of the Venerable John Rawlings as Archdeacon of Totnes. Rev. Rawlings had been the vicar of Tavistock for the past fourteen years. We were pleased that John was able to join us for a ring before the service. We wish him a long and fulfilling future in his new position and wish him and Janett a happy life in their new home and surroundings. It was the time that some of our ringers had rung on the Cathedral bells. Our ringers made a very respectable job of ringing the very demanding bells. The ringing ranged

from rounds and call changes on the twelve to Grandsire Cinques and Stedman Caters. This year George Boucher become President of the Devon Association, and George Mudge has been President of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers. It is the first time in the history of Devonshire ringing that both Presidents have belonged to the same tower. We would like to thank Ian and Wendy Campbell who welcomed us and stood in for the two members of our band who were unable to be with us on the day. Many photographs were taken to record the event that many of our ringers will remember for a long time.

George Mudge.

Dartmoor Changes

Most bell ringing recordings aim to reproduce the sound of the bells from a musical point of view. Fine bells are chosen, the best ringers gathered and only the best ringing makes it on to the soundtrack. The end result is a top quality performance, such as the famous Redcliffe LP. Aune Head Arts have taken a different approach. By choosing a geographical area, the Dartmoor National Park, in which to record comprehensively, Andy Stevens has included a mixture of bells, good and bad, in this triple CD set, and a mixture of ringing. To this he has added some clock chimes, some interviews, and even a ringing song, to produce something so far unique: an accurate portrait of the art of bell ringing on Dartmoor. Rather than a musical artefact, this is an historical one, especially as it includes some bells that might not otherwise be heard, such as the chiming on the soon-to-be-restored unringable and unmusical five at Sampford Spiney. Most of the ringing is by the local team of ringers, although where there was no team, others have been brought in. This means that the ringing is mostly call-changes, and there is some of the expected high standard: the complete peal of Sixty on thirds at South Brent is quite memorable. Inevitably, not all the ringing is of such a high standard, and the CD set disposes of the myth

that all Devon call-change ringers strike perfectly! The three tracks with method ringing come as a pleasant change, although it is unfortunate that as the towers are included in alphabetical order, they are found together in the first CD. Some of the recording is very imaginative. Extraneous noise has not been excluded, and the ringing at Buckfast Abbey, with the bourdon bell being raised, is very atmospheric. The track from Ilsington captures perfectly the different sound of the bells as one approaches a tower, with neighbouring buildings affecting the acoustics; finally the microphone enters the church, the sound of the bells changes again, and is replaced by the organ playing before a service. Other tracks are recorded outside the church, and inside with the caller's voice clearly audible.

There is a well-produced booklet to accompany the set, which is cased in a DVD-type case. All three CDs are stored on the same spigot, rather than in book format, but this is apparently to keep costs down. An editor's error has meant St Petrock's, Lydford, was not included instead Lydford ringers are ringing at, I believe, Sourton. The CD set is available from Aune Head Arts at a cost of £15 plus p&p. Phone 01822 890539 or email info@auneheadarts.org.uk for details.

Lester Yeo

Eggbuckland and Friends Head to The Far East! (continued from page 7)

where we were having our evening meal, at the Hinds Head, a very attractive building, the beer was excellent and the food good! Harry stood up and said a few words about his and Ellen's anniversary (CONGRATULATIONS!) it was quite emotional and nice to see the 2 of them very much in love!!!! Back to the Lock Stock and Barrel! and the ESB was certainly flowing!

Sunday morning soon followed and yet again I was bleary eyed! How unusual! This morning proved to be painful, we were meant to be at our first tower by 0930 and breakfast didn't come out until 0915! We got to Lambourn about 20 mins late but had enough time to ring this beautiful 20 cwt 8, although slightly on the quiet side in the tower they went like a dream and the captain and his friend commented on how we put them up in peal and that it doesn't happen very often! They sounded a lot like Winkleigh and that has to be good! We said our goodbyes to Dave and Hil who were off on their hols to Italy and we travelled back to Wiltshire for All Cannings in the Vale Of Pewsey. The village was lovely and the bells good too, a 14 cwt 6 and a fine tone, the Church was lovely and had a large central tower, the locals at the church were extremely impressed with our style of ringing and said that they were learning how to rise and fall the bells like we do, which I thought was quite a compliment. We had sufficient time at lunch and we decided to use the village pub where we watched Flintoff and Co wipe the floor with the Aussies! Next was Market Lavington these bells were lovely but gave you a false idea of exactly how good you were ringing! I thought these bells were the best sounding of the trip but a little distant inside due to the very long draft! The bells went well having been re-hung and re-tuned in 1927 by Taylors! They are certainly worth a visit. On to Great Cheverell a ground floor 11 cwt 6. You had no complaints about hearing these, probably one of the more difficult sets of the trip made worse by the height of the sallies! but once you got the bells going they were what you would call "marching bells" and once in the right pitch went quite well. Off to Somerset and to Pitminster which are an 8 at 11cwt and probably should be better than they are! the bells are hung in an octagonal top tower and sound nice but being the last of the day we probably didn't do them justice or ourselves. We said our goodbyes headed back to Devon. Finally I would just like to thank all of you for making my life easier and I hope you all enjoyed the trip.

Devon Association—Results

NOVICE COMPETITION: 2006
Saturday 11th March LUSTLEIGH.
ROUND RINGING RESULTS

1. Moretonhampstead 28
2. Inwardleigh 30.5
3. Roborough Terriers 37.75
4. Bovey Tracey 38.25
5. Plympton St Mary 52.75
6. Roborough Originals 67.5
7. Dartmouth St Sav 76.25

CALL CHANGE RESULTS

1. Inwardleigh 19.75
2. South Brent 26.5
3. Dartmouth Townstal 28
4. South Pool B 30.25
5. Morebath 31
6. Chagford 49.5
7. Dartmouth St S B 51.5
8. Holbeton 51.75
9. Plympton St Mary 51.75
10. Ide 54.25
11. Exeter St David's A 57
12. Dartmouth St S A 59.75
13. Alphington A 67.75
14. Exeter St David's B 71.75
15. Alphington B 74.75
16. South Pool A 79

8 Bell at Luppitt - 22 April 2006

1. Kingsteignton 27
2. High Bickington 34
3. Buckland in the Moor 45 3/4
4. Chittlehampton 52
5. Tavistock 60 1/4
6. Paignton 66 1/2
7. Exeter Cathedral 74 3/4
8. Kingsbridge 97 1/2
9. Widecombe 126 3/4

6 Bell North Qualifier held at Goodleigh on 13 May 2006

1. Morthoe 20 1/2
2. East Anstey 21 3/4
3. Littleham 24 1/2
4. Burrington 25 3/4
5. West Down 30
6. Iddesliegh 36
7. Drewsteignton 40 3/4
8. Down St Mary 55
9. Pyworthy 70

6 Bell South Qualifier held at Churston Ferrers on 13 May 2006

1. Egguckland 26 3/4
2. Dunsford 27
3. Exeter St Petrocks 30
4. South Brent 38 1/2
5. Stoke Gabriel 50 1/4
6. West Alvington 55 1/4
7. Collaton St Mary 59
8. Lamerton 65 1/2
9. Ide 111

The individual marks from the South Qualifier are listed below, the judges were
(A) Ian Avery, (B) Percy Pester, (C) John Cole, (D) Paul Pascoe

	Team Ave	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
Egguckland	26.75	33.5	19.5	19	35
Dunsford	27	35	21	18	34
Exeter St Petrock	30	45	14.5	18.5	42
South Brent	38.5	47	30	33	44
Stoke Gabriel	50.25	53	53	43	52
West Alvington	55.25	57	55.5	52	56.5
Collaton St Mary	59	62	58.5	46	69
Lamerton	65.5	73	61	62	66
Ide	111	116	114	99	115

Notes from 2005 AGM

The Committee at the September meeting had proposed that Mr C Nicholls of Littleham be elected as President Elect for the forth coming year. This was endorsed by the meeting and Mr Nicholls replied saying he was highly honoured and expected the next 12 months to fly by.

Election of officers – the Association were now starting the 2nd year of the current Triennium. The only current business was to ratify three new Committee members – Messrs Dietz and Pratt for the South and Mr Pidgeon for the North. The meeting endorsed the election of these members. There were no other proposed changes to the Officers and Committee.

Mrs J Endicott gave her report. 4000 draw books were printed in 2005 and 3432 were sold. Total income from the draw was 50 pence less than 2004 – a tremendous effort. Her helpers were thanked along with the sterling efforts of distributors. Mrs Endicott

commented on the varying levels of enthusiasm towards the draw. The meeting wished the Association to hold a draw in 2006. The chairman thanked Mrs Endicott for all her efforts.

Mr Ian Smith, the new Secretary for the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund (DCBRF) gave his report and thanked the Association for its generous donation for £2500 this year. In summary, the DCBRF had a surplus balance of £8400 after the current allocations had been paid. Mr Smith suggested that members considered using the Gift Aid Scheme and also leaving a small legacy in their Will to the DCBRF. The chairman thanked Ian for his report.

The Secretary wished the meeting to thank Mrs Pat Johnstone for donating more Past President badges.

Mrs Gist reminded members about Association Clothing and showed members a new type of dual fleece/coat that was available.

Handbook updates

Babbacombe

Mr C Wills, 9 Perinville Road, Torquay TQ1 3NZ. 01803 329216.

Exeter Cathedral

Mr H Egglestone, 22 Prince of Wales Road, Crediton EX17 2AG 01363 772566.

Theegglestones@hotmail.com

Holbeton

Jim Pengelly, 1 Hob Cottage, Fore Street, Holbeton PL8 1NE. 01752 830201

Honiton, St Pauls

Derek Ballard, 23 Laurel Road, Honiton, Devon, EX14 2XN. 01404 42732
Email: derekballard@beltower.co.uk
Web: www.beltower.co.uk

Ide

Simon Tucker 5 Galmpton Rise, Exeter EX4 5BY. 01392 215237

North Bovey

Jim Crout, 2 Mellowmead Manaton Newton Abbot. 01647 221 386

Whitstone

P J Field, Merrymeet, Whitstone, Exeter EX4. 01392 811600

Crediton

The recasting and augmentation of Crediton bells has been one of the high points for Devon ringers during 2005, with an old, heavy-going and unmusical eight being replaced with a delightful Whitechapel ten. Indeed the back eight can lay claim to be the best eight in Devon, rivalling Heavitree, Broadclyst and Tiverton. The project was an enormous undertaking of which Bill Parr, Howard Egglestone and the other Crediton ringers can rightly be proud.

A record of the bell restoration scheme is now complete and available. It is a double CD-ROM set consisting mainly of a PowerPoint presentation of some 83 minutes being photo diary of the whole project, produced by Ed Rossmiller and Bill Jerman. The presentation is in three parts, recording the old bells and their removal, the recasting, and the installation and dedication of the new bells. The accompanying CD-ROM in the set contains some 2000 photographs taken by various photographers during the project.

As a record of the work done, the presentation is very comprehensive indeed, and all those involved with the project will want to own a copy. In the same way, anybody contemplating a similar project may want to watch it in order to understand the size of the undertaking and the complexities involved! The use of a dust tunnel, for example, to allow the old bells to be removed from a central tower without causing damage to the fittings of the church, is quite amazing. Some of the photographs, especially the overhead shots, are superb, with some interesting light effects, and the photographer has managed to capture the likeness of some well-known Devon ringers involved in the volunteer work of installing the bells, with character and

imagination.

There are some criticisms to make too. The music is often intrusive and inappropriate, reminiscent of the fairground (why Sousa's Washington Post, for example?) or Charlie Chaplin films. More commentary would have been more interesting and informative. The editing too, both of sound and image is at times disjointed, with sudden breaks in sound, and distracting use of the gimmicks of PowerPoint.

But as an historical record, the Presentation is excellent, concluding with some well-struck Stedman Caters being brought round on the new bells. In fact, the listener has expected to hear the ten at the try-out, but is only granted the lovely front six (and some verbal asides when one bell isn't set at the end of the rounds!). So the ten bell ringing at the end, especially when contrasted to the sound of the old eight is a marvellous finish to the show. What a shame we weren't also treated to the two peals of Call Changes rung by Egg Buckland and Kingsteignton at the dedication.

The accompanying CD holds a vast number of photographs in three folders, mostly taken by Frances Sandiford Rossmiller and Ed Rossmiller, with others taken by Mike Clarke and Ian Campbell. The notes state that the photos are suitable for making prints up to postcard size for personal use. The CD ROM set is now available from W. Jerman, 12 Blagdon Close, Crediton, Devon, EX17 1EL. The price is £10.00 (add £1.00 for posting and packing in U.K. and £2.50 for overseas). Cheques to be made out to W. Jerman. It is only suitable for use in a PC computer, and for those without PowerPoint, contains a PowerPoint viewer utility for installation.

Velcro Muffles

How are your muffles? Our tower needed to make sure that we had a good serviceable set of muffles and we embarked on Big Wilf's Velcro muffles. These came with complete instructions for fitting, that had to be read, to get the maximum benefit out of the quick fitting, made to measure muffles with industrial Velcro fasteners. The thickness of the muffles is graduated to suite the weight of the bells. Instructions were also given for painting any steel clappers to prevent any slippage. The leather is impregnated and comes with a dressing solution to prevent them from drying out, or becoming damp.

Wilf, a bell ringer, always has a large number of orders every year, prior to Remembrance Sunday! Last year he was having to supply over 50 sets in the months leading up to November, some as far away as Australia and others closer to home such as Canterbury Cathedral. Wilf is mixing old and new technologies together to produce a stable product that is quick to apply and gives a nice resonate. The muffles come with their own embroidered bag for storage. Big Wilf attends the Ringers Road Show held every two years and his details are on the web site: <http://www.bigwilf.plus.com/>

Wilf is very knowledgeable on leather and one tower found dry mould on the leather handles of their handbells that were on display. Big Wilf suggested KO-CAO-LINE and gave http://www.equestrian.co.uk/tackshop/store/tack_cleaning_stuff/ryq147.asp.

This is simply a grease which renovates and revives tired leather and protects leather from evils such as mould and mildew when in storage. It will not rot stitching and can be used on metal to prevent rusting.

Harry and Ellen's Golden Wedding Anniversary

On 10th November last Harry and Ellen Bardens celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Harry was Chairman of our Woodleigh Deanery from 1958—1998, he then stood down and took on the role as Treasurer which we are pleased that he still holds. To show our appreciation for all the years of work, and as a surprise item, the Deanery clubbed

together and at the AGM Harry and Ellen were presented with a twin garden seat and table, with parasol along with a bottle of fizz and a bouquet of flowers. The Presentation was made by the President, Mrs Janet Turner, M.B.E. This for us all was a very memorable evening.

T J Rhymes, Honorary Secretary.

Harry & Ellen Bardens were presented with a cake by the Ringkly Ringers at the Ringkly lunch on Wednesday November 9th at the Drum Inn, Cockington, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary which took place on Thursday 10th November. Harry and Ellen cut the cake and then shared it amongst the group of over 50.

Ray's Golden

Ray and Jean Treeby celebrated their golden wedding anniversary earlier this year. Mr Treeby, aged 72, has been ringing bells at churches in and around Plymouth for 60 years. Thousands of couples have tied the knot to the peals of Ray and his colleagues at St Mary's Church in Plymstock and St Mary's in Brixton. Ray didn't ring the bells for his own wedding in Plymstock - but it was only fitting that he marked his golden wedding by ringing the bells at the Brixton church. His late father Mac and brother Ivor were bell-ringers, his son Paul is the captain of the team in Plymstock, son-in-law Paul Rowe rings bells in Paignton and Mr Treeby's nephew John does the same. Mr Treeby said: "I guess you could say it runs in the family. I got a day off when I was married myself, but I was roped in for the golden wedding. I came back from my honeymoon to go bell-ringing." Mr Treeby travels between the two churches every Sunday to ring the bells at both and is still working as a driver and a beaver for the Co-op funeral service.

Bells for Princess

Molland

A classic April day, chilly but bright, on the 12th, as the people of Molland welcomed the Princess Royal to their tiny Exmoor village. The bells of St Mary Magdalene rang out as Her Royal Highness arrived for a visit programmed to last for an hour, but that in the end was closer to two hours. She came as the guest of the Exmoor Society and Clare and Andrew McLaren Throckmorton, the owners of the Molland Estate, to see for herself the challenges facing those who live and work in the area.

Totnes

The town has been celebrating the 800th anniversary of being granted the Charter, which included a special visit by the Princess Royal who visited the town on May 10 to mark the anniversary by unveiling a plaque. The sound of St Mary's bells greeted the Princess Royal during her brief visit to the town. The princess also opened two newly refurbished galleries at the Totnes Elizabethan Museum and viewed a display of floral arrangements at St Mary's Church.

South Brent strike!

Newspapers headlined it as the "Real Life Comedy at South Brent", but for the town's hand bell-ringers their strike of 1927 was no laughing matter. So incensed were they about just who should hold the key to a glass-fronted wooden case containing new instruments bought by public subscription that they "downed tools" and vowed to ring no more. This strange tale of direct action, which led to the ringers all resigning, is told in a fascinating new book about the Dartmoor community by local historian and author Greg Wall, who, in the 1980s, penned two previous volumes about the area. Around 3,000 people live in Brent and, it is the residents who make the town what it is today.

The author adds: "As time and technology move on there will be more and more to write and record of those who live and work where the Avon leaves the bleak and dangerous southern Dartmoor heights and begins its journey through the tranquil South Hams, where a fortunate community lives and works in a fortunate place."

St Mark's, Exeter

The bells, which cost £25,000 to create and install, were tried out for the first time in February by the church's team, including tower captain Matthew Hilling. "The new bells sounded great and matched the sound of the old ones really well," said Mr Hilling. "It was important to try them out to see that they worked and it all went fine." St Mark's, in Pinhoe Road, now has more bells than any other church in the city, except the cathedral. Ringers planned a series of events to raise the £25,000 target. The high-noted additions mean they can now proudly ring a full peal of 10 bells.

A professional hanger levered the new bells into place last week, ready for the weekend's practice session. Each bell cost £3,000, but the cost of building and fitting a new frame in the bell tower to house them meant the ringers had to work hard to raise enough cash.

They held wine-tasting evenings and organised ringing open days across Exeter.

Cathedral Appeal

A multi-million-pound appeal was launched to help save parts of Exeter Cathedral. A major repair project was launched in the 1960s and 70s, but the building has suffered a continuing problem of decay. They hope to raise £8 million to restore windows, repair cracks in the walls and replace metal joists supporting the vast bells in the belfry. Structurally, a lot of work needs to be done to the cathedral. Canon Neil Collings, cathedral treasurer, said: "There is a problem with old cracks reopening over the past few years. We believe this is due to the recent hot summers." Exeter Cathedral has the second heaviest peal of bells in the country, if not the world. The whole set, which includes the Grandisson bell, which rings in the note of B flat, and weighs three-and-a-half tonnes, is suspended in the tower by a network of metal girders. The problem is that as the metal has started to rust, that has caused the ancient stonework to move and even crumble.

Paignton hand bells

A new record to celebrate 50 years of fund raising was made by John Kelly BEM for Dame Hannah Rogers School, Ivybridge. The sum raised by the Paignton Hand Bell Ringers over the 2005 Christmas period was in excess of £2,300. A new record and it shows that John is still totally committed to raising much needed funds for Dame Hannah Rogers School at Ivybridge. Paignton and Dartmouth Steam Railway, Dart Valley Railway plc, donated £250 and a total of £2,220 was presented to Dame Hannah Rogers School and £100.00 to the Paignton Hospital League of Friends.

John Kelly has been visiting the School since January 1957 and has seen some remarkable improvements, not only in the buildings but also in the staff. The quality of care now given is beyond belief, the changes have been vast. The school is much more involved with community. The appeals officer for Dame Hannah Rogers School is appeals@damehannah.com

Recruitment leaflets

New leaflets are available from the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. Details are on their website. The leaflet asks, Why learn to ring? The answers given are:

- A global group of friends
- Lifelong learning experience
- Maintain a traditional skill
- A service to the church
- Team activity
- A great mental workout

Opportunity to visit amazing places. I feel sure that many of us can equate with the answers. How do we put this across to people who may be interested?

We might want to be reminded of the answers above in the event that when asked, we can say, well seven things spring to mind.

The Association still has a number of old leaflets left and it is hoped that members will use these and distribute them at places such as schools and libraries.

Treasurer

The 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. These are all payable by 1 October each year. All cheques payable to Devon Association of Ringers.

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 Please remember that this is your newsletter and that your contributions are sought. Please make use of this newsletter.

Notices

The AGM will be held on Saturday 11 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

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- Ⓐ 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.

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