



Founded 1925

President—Mr Gerald Stevens

DEVON CALLS

June 2003

Volume 1, Issue 10

June 2003

Special points of interest:

- Tips on Staverton Bells
- David Trist speaks out
- Some facts about Jerome Darke and Frank Bye
- Masterclass reports
- Renovation of Kenton Bells
- Pascoe family
- Chris Clayton's record

Inside this issue:

Devon Association	2
A peal for David Ridley	3
Training Officer	3
Results	4
Background on Jf Darke	5
A few facts on Frank Bye	5
Carol Service	6
Tom Wright	7
Masterclass reports	8
Kenton Bells	9
Constitution draft	11

23 teams for Novice Competition

The president, Gerald Stevens attended the Novice competition at Christow and remarked at the Annual Dinner and Dance how pleased and surprised he was to see so many teams enter for the Novice competition that is now in its fourth year. The church service was very well attended with standing room only. The service was conducted by John Lund in the vicar's absence and John Bint played the organ. Teams rang the back 6 and the 2nd (being 4th in the tower) caused a delay with the bell jamming at back stroke on two occasions and actually

turned full circle on another. The cause was a short stay and a securing bolt that was loose and rusted so the stay could not be tightened. No one was injured and despite three delays all the ringing finished at 6.45pm. Gerald Stevens read the lesson and kindly presented the prizes. The secretary ran the event and he wishes to thank all those who helped and supported the event and especially to the Christow ringers for the use of the bells and a wonderful tea.

Wilfred Edworthy

On 25th October 2003 it is intended to hold a Novice 6 Bell Ringing

Competition at St Mary's Church, Plympton in the memory of the late Wilfred Edworthy.

This is the second year of holding this competition. Ringing will be on the front six and the first section will be round ringing and the second, call changes. No rising or lowering for either. Section one will take place at 1pm and section two at 2pm. Teas will be available, along with parking and nearby towers for further ringing.

The main aim is to encourage ringing and have fun. The fees will be £3. For details or booking please contact B Meek, 01752 406317.

Tom Wright - a countryman who loved his village

A MAN who earned the justly deserved nickname "The Mayor of Down St Mary" died peacefully at Exeter Hospice on Friday, February 21 surrounded by his wife and family. For 78 of his 85 years Tom Wright lived in the parish of Down St Mary. One of those unique Devonshire characters, Tom rarely left his be-

loved Down St Mary for any length of time. Despite this his influence and contribution to the village and community has been immense. His achievements have been impressive. In 1985 he was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for his services to the community. He also became a church bellringer renowned across the South

West. He was so well thought of that at nearby Copplestone, Wright Drive, was named after him. On hearing the news of his death, the flag on Morchard Bishop Parish Church was placed at half mast and prayers said for his family and friends at other churches in the area. Tom Wright was born at Coldridge in 1917.

(continued on page 7)

STAVERTON BELLS READY FOR FINAL

As many will know Staverton bells were killers for all but the fittest of ringers. It was well nigh impossible to tongue the tenor all the way up in the rise, even with a strapper and even less likely to strike on the correct side when up. If by ringing the treble up you thought it may be easier, then you would be well off the mark as many have found out.

After a complete re-hang and re-tune costing in the region of £35k the story is much better. The tenor will still catch the less skilled in the rise, but it is now a possibility without a strapper to get it up in place.

Since the complete overhaul in 2001 the bells have been given a good workout. The Totnes Deanery held their annual festival there in 2002 an event not previously possible. A local band of ringers successfully completed a quarter peal in July 2002. The team contained

the tower captain Brett Baldwin (his first qtr), Peter Bill who lives in the parish. Graham and Paul Pascoe from neighbouring Broadhempston together with Claire Beck and Tim King from Stoke-in-teign-head. Claire initiated some new Staverton ringers and Tim who assisted in the re-hang. The bells handled so well that an attempt was to be made for a full peal in the autumn with the same team. Autumn came and went but mutual diary dates could not be found.

In the meantime David Ridley a ringer and a stalwart in raising money to refurbish the bells became gravely ill. The timing of the peal on the 27th Dec 2002 meant it became a peal to celebrate his life, passing away just before Christmas. Unfortunately Peter Bill whose idea to ring the peal, was not able to make it and Martin Mansley from St Marychurch was

drafted in. The peal was a great success with excellent striking for the most part. Paul conducting his first peal of doubles and Claire ringing her first full peal. The Ridley family who were in attendance throughout the 2hrs 43mins were thrilled. The peal contained both Plain Bob and Grandsire doubles. It was great to have ringers from both Guild and Association enjoying the exercise of ringing together to a high standard. This was only the second full peal rung at Staverton in 250 years.

The Major final is the next event for Staverton bells. Rising will not be a stroll in the park but the general go of the bells is now excellent, so some good quality striking will be enjoyed.

Graham Pascoe.
Broadhempston
01803 812102

Devon Association Notices

Constitution

On the last two pages you will find a copy of a proposed constitution. Please do debate this within your own tower. The committee will have a special meeting just for this issue. Any questions can be directed either to your local Devon Association representative, or to the Secretary, Jerome Darke. But first some Questions and Answers.

What is a constitution?

An agreement which states who we are, how we operate and what our primary objectives are.

Do we need one?

We have managed so far without one. We have rules for competitions and a democratic organisation. Are more rules needed to clarify roles of the President, the Chairman, and any other committee member. Would a written agreement assist, say if there is disagreement. Any constitution can be amended to suit current needs. Is this the way forward?

Committee Dates

June 19th at 7.30pm.
Mortimore Rooms, North Tawton.
Discussion on Constitution.
September 11th at 7.30pm.
Mortimore Rooms, North Tawton.

Events

Saturday 14th June at 2pm:
Major Final at Staverton. 2.00pm.
Saturday 26th July:
Ringing Roadshow, Lincoln.
Saturday 8th November
North Tawton Town Hall. AGM
December 20th Carol Service at
Barnstaple Parish Church.

Notices

Glorious Devon Bells

A full length compact disc of recordings of Devon bellringing is being produced by the Devon Ringers' Council (comprises members from the Association and the Guild) to be launched at the Ringing Road Show in Lincoln. There will be recordings of call changes and method and will feature such towers as Egguckland,

Tavistock and Exeter Cathedral. For your slice of history, you may reserve a copy at £8.00, after June it will be £9.99. Please contact Lester Yeo, Chapel House, Sandford, Crediton EX17 4LZ or Michael Webster (01803 782591).

Teignmouth Bells Project

St Michael's Teignmouth has strong support from the local community and from fellow ringers throughout Devon. If you wish to give a helping hand with a donation, or any other assistance, please contact Alan Furse, 20 Charlemont Road, Teignmouth TQ14 8RP. Any cheques payable to Teignmouth Bells Project.

Crediton Church Bells

Provide a memorial for hundreds of years, endow a bell, be placed on a memorial plaque, for further information on this unique occasion, please contact the captain, Bill Parr on 01363 773118. Work is soon to start at Crediton and any donations will be welcomed.

RINGERS CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF DAVID RIDLEY

On Friday 27th of December a band of ringers gathered at Staverton church to ring a peal of 5040 changes to celebrate the life of David Ridley recently departed. This is only part of the activities made by bellringers to mark the life of David, who had many talents and touched the lives of many people in his short time in the locality. Together with Angela they have supported bellringing at Littlehempston, Middlehempston, Staverton and Broadhempston.

They would turn up for practices and rang regularly on Sundays. This was only curtailed in the latter months of David's illness. We will remember the warmth and comradeship they have given us over recent years and I am sure they have been gained great pleasure from the ancient exercise of campanology along the way. The raising of funds to re-hang the bells at Staverton were eagerly pursued by David and Angela, writing to hundreds of other

churches for their support and rewarded in turn by the generosity of other ringers around Devon to restore the bells at Staverton. The bells are now a fine peal to be enjoyed by parishioners and ringers alike.

Thank you Angela and family for the hospitality afforded to us afterwards, and your support throughout our peal.

Graham Pascoe.
Broadhempston.
01803 812102.

Training Officer, David Trist

At the AGM back in November I was appointed Training Officer for the Devon Association. Within two minutes of the end of the meeting I had my first request to visit a tower!

Given the size of Devon, and how few Ringers there are, I had to come up with a plan that would benefit towers without stretching our resources too far and try to avoid a situation where we created a demand we were unable to fill.

What I have decided to do is have a formal procedure where towers put in a request to the Secretary. This will prompt an assessment visit, usually by myself, to see what the most appropriate form of help might be. During this, everyone gets the chance to have a personal assessment if they want it and might be given direct training

or guidance on techniques. If it is assessed that a follow up visit is beneficial then two or three months later, after any exercises or training given on the first visit have been practised, then a training group would return.

We have carried out four assessment visits and, at the time of writing, are planning two follow up visits with a training team. So far we have visited Yarcombe in January, South Pool in February, Holcombe Rogus and Sherford in March. Jeremy accompanied me on three of the visits and Stephanie on one and I greatly appreciated their help.

It is very encouraging to see such enthusiasm and everyone has made us very welcome and seem to have enjoyed themselves; we certainly had some good laughs! If

you want to find out what goes on you could contact Jereme or myself or you might want to ring up one of the Captains of the towers we have been to or maybe one of the towers would like to write in to this magazine to tell us what the experience was like for them.

We do not claim to have all the answers, every tower is different, and we do not claim that there is only one style. What we try to do is to remove obstacles of technique or ideas that get in the way of improvement and we try to "short-circuit" the process of training that might otherwise take months or even years of experimentation to overcome.

Thank-you to everyone who asked us along, I have really enjoyed the visits and trust that the learning was both ways.

In memory

Margaret Folland

On the second of May at North Tawton the funeral took place of Margaret Folland, the wife of "Bill" the well known North Tawton Ringer. Over a hundred people filled the Church on a very wet May day to pay their respects. Bill and Margaret had lived all their forty-four years of married life at Tawton Wood Farm

and Margaret had been a well known figure at ringing teas for many years. After the service a muffled peal was rung by, Mervyn Way, Keith Simpson, Andrew Ware, Dennis Elstone, Brian Drake, Chris Clayton, Joe Stoneman and Frank Pidgeon.

We all wish Bill our heartfelt condolences. Chris Clayton.

Jenny Kelly

On 18th May 2003 Jenny passed away and leaves her husband, John, who rings for Paignton and Stoke Gabriel and three children, John, also a ringer for Paignton and Tracey and Louise. Jenny, a keen ringer, was very enthusiastic, supportive and helpful to any events and packed much into her life. Our condolences to the family.

Results

Tavistock Deanery

16th November 2002

Section one—60 on thirds

1. Meavy
2. Lamerton
3. Lydford
4. Lamerton B
5. Lydford B
6. Whitchurch

Section two—Round Ringing

1. Walkhampton
2. Whitchurch
3. Lamerton
4. Kelly

Devon Association

Novice Competition—Christow

8th March 2003

Section one—Round Ringing

1. Alphington A 21.5
2. Alphington B 37
3. Dartmouth 48.75
4. St Giles in the Wood 50.25
5. Holbeton 58.5
6. Doddyscombesleigh 63
7. Yarcombe 69.25
8. Tedburn St Mary 77.75

Section two—Change ringing

1. Dartmouth 18
2. Upton, Torquay 21
3. Broadhempston 27.25
4. Pyworthy 27.5
5. Plymouth St Mary B 29.75
6. Colebrooke 30.75
7. Gidleigh 38.5
8. Salcombe 40.5
9. Chagford 43.25
9. Egguckland 43.75
11. St Giles in the Wood 44.25
12. Berrynarbour 54
13. Plympton St Mary A 58.5
14. Dolton 62.5
15. South Pool 63.75

Les Stone 6 Bell

Diptford—8th March 2003

1. Broadhempston A 25.5
2. South Brent 27.0
3. Halwell A 29.0
4. Stoke Gabriel 29.5
- 4= Collaton St Mary 29.5
6. Diptford 36.5
7. Dartmouth Townstal 51.5

Top Ringing only

1. Halwell B 27.5
2. Broadhempston B 38.5

Totnes Deanery—Winter League

1. Collaton St Mary 38.0 pts
2. South Brent 35.0
3. Stoke Gabriel 30.5
4. Broadhempston A 29.0
5. Halwell 28.0
6. Diptford 18.0
7. Dartmouth T'stal 7.0

Top Ringing Section

1. Broadhempston B 13.0

2. Halwell B 8.0
3. Dartmouth T'n'stal B 7.0

Deaneries of Newton Abbot,

Ipplepen with Torbay

Gilbert Shield-15th March 2003

1. Kingsteigton 57.75
2. Paignton A 91.25
3. Ipplepen A 91.5
4. Upton 122.75
5. Paignton B 135
6. Babbacombe 165.75
7. Ipplepen 171.75

Invitation Competition

Kenn—22nd March 2003

1. South Brent 10
2. Egg Buckland 10.25
3. Stoke Gabriel 23
4. Exminster A 27.5
5. West Alvington 34.5
6. Kenton 50
7. St Petrocks 54
8. Exminster B 55.5
9. Kilhampton 64
10. Alphington 74.5
11. Ide 104.5
12. Pyeworthy 117.5

Stan Blackmore Mem. Trophy

Bovey Tracey—5th April 2003

1. Paignton 33.33
2. Widecombe 59
3. Ipplepen 63.33
4. Ilsington 82.66
5. North Bovey 85.33
6. Ide 87.33
7. Babbacombe 110.33
8. Kenn 119.66
9. Bovey Tracey 170
10. Sherford 300

Best rise

1. Paignton 12.33
2. Ipplepen 13.66

South Devon Interdeanery

Bellringers Association

Holbeton-12th April 2003

1. Egguckland A 26.66
2. Egguckland B 44.33
3. South Brent 44.66
4. Dunsford 51
5. Modbury 52
6. Stoke Gabriel 57.33
7. Lamerton 59.66
8. West Alvington 70.66
9. North Bovey 71
10. Meavy 84.33
11. Buckland in the Moor 103.66
12. Paignton 110

Devon Association—Eight Bell

Buckland Monachorum

26th April 2003

1. Kingsteigton 21
2. Chittlehampton 42
3. Exeter Cathedral 51.5
4. Tavistock 59.75

5. High Bickington 61.75
6. Kingsbridge 63.75
7. Chagford 81.75
8. Paignton 116.75
9. Ipplepen 132.25
10. Alphington 150.75
11. Ashburton 172.25

Buckland in Moor (disq-time)

Devon Association

Six Bell Qualifier (South)

Dodbrooke-10th May 2003

1. Egguckland A 14
2. South Brent 18.5
3. Egguckland B 18.75
4. West Alvington 26
5. Lamerton 28.5
6. Collaton St Mary 38.25
7. Dunsford 40.5
8. Bickington 45
9. Stoke Gabriel 50.5
10. Drewsteignton 52
11. Halwell 60
12. Holbeton 67

Ide (disqualified-under time)

Devon Association

Six Bell Qualifier (North)

10th May 2003

1. Littleham 15.75
2. Molland 26.75
3. Morthoe 30.00
4. West Down 35.25
5. Black Torrington 36.75
6. Burrington 39.75
7. Iddesleigh 44.50
8. Shebbear 75.25
9. Colebrooke 89.25
10. Woolery 113.25

Results are usually available within 24 hours on the website www.devonbells.co.uk. If you wish your results to appear, please contact the publicity officer, Michael Webster, 5 Kings Rydon Close, Stoke Gabriel, Totnes, TQ9 6QG, tel: 01803 782591 or through the website.

Thanks from the Editor

Thank you to all who contributed to this edition of Devon Calls. I am heartened with the support and wish to ensure that all towers receive a copy of the newsletter, in response I hope that readers write to me with news in their area. Regrettably, the newsletter does cost money in printing, collating, stapling and trimming. Then there are labels, envelopes and postage. This all adds to the expense. If newsletters are to be quarterly this will increase our expenditure. For any with internet connections, the newsletter is available on our website.

Some background information about JJ Darke - our new secretary

Jereme was born in South Devon and lived on a large mixed farm in the Stokenham Parish and educated at Kingsbridge Comprehensive. He attained A levels in 1985 and gained a place at the Royal Vet College, London and qualified with a Vet Degree in June 1990.

Work began at Crewkerne, Somerset and he became a partner in the 12 man practice in 1998. Further attainments were a post grad qualification in 1998 - Certificate in Cattle Health and Production. Jereme's main interest is farm medicine, especially Dairy Farming.

The inspiration to learn to ring was by his Grandfather, Jim Darke, who used to ring at Galmp-ton. His father, Alfred, was captain of the tower for many years. Jereme was taught to ring at Stokenham in March 1982, by the late Bill Sanders and the currently 92 year old Bill Elliott - now living at Malborough.

Once Jereme was 16 he had a scooter and branched out - attending practices at Slapton, Sherford, Chivelstone, Malborough, Kingsbridge and Churchstow. He states he learned a great deal from Messrs J Cole, R Jeffery, D Reeves and J Rhymes; without forgetting the great Terry Priddle of Churchstow, who sadly passed away in 1993.

His first competition was with the Woodleigh Deanery at Blackawton

in 1984, ringing for Stokenham. Whilst at College Jereme took up method ringing. Between 1988 and 1990, he taught a team of 6 vet students to ring at Northaw, in Herts. The usual problem was to get them to ring on Sundays!

Jereme rang in many a competition for Churchstow in the late 80's and into the 90's. He joined Kenn in the mid 90's, with many good Saturday afternoons. The Kenn team won numerous competitions, with the best achievement in the Devon in 1997, when they were narrowly pushed into 2nd place at Swimbridge by Egg Buckland in the major final.

More recently Jereme was elected onto the Devon Association Committee in the mid 90's. He enjoys judging bell ringing and always had the view it would be tedious and a bore - but he confesses that it is far from that, it is hard work and interesting.

Jereme proposed and ran the first Novice Competition at Throwleigh in 1999.

He feels privileged to be elected as Secretary this year and asks if he is the youngest (at 35) ever to fill the post?

His aims whilst in office are to follow the high standards set by Messrs E Cole, C Adams and F Bye. To capture the enthusiasm of all ringers, whatever standard; to ensure the continuance of our unique style of change ringing. To see the Association strengthen and

grow and move ahead into this new Millennium.

Jereme has been married to Katy, since 1992, who he met whilst ringing at Thurlestone in 1988. Katy's father, Arthur Frood, and brother Nick Frood also ring.

We all know how busy Jereme likes to be and his other hobbies include dog walking (2 retrievers), running and playing in the Crewkerne Farmers Skittle League and hunting.

Currently he rings for Sunday services at Hardington Mandeville and West Coker. He leads a team from Shepton Beauchamp and in August 2002 they entered the National Call Changing striking competition and attained the shield for highest placed team outside of Devon.

I am sure that with Jereme's enthusiasm and breadth of experience the Devon Association will go from strength to strength. We face challenging times ahead and should not be afraid to discuss our own views. The energy that Jereme brings will hopefully inspire us all.

Any ringer who has met Jereme can see clearly that he has a genuine interest and commitment to promoting bellringing. It is without doubt that his loyalties lie in Devon. We know that he has had some splendid masters and he now wishes to contribute so much more to the Association. We thank him for choosing us!

A few facts and thank you to Frank Bye

Frank, a well known and respected figure has helped the association in so many ways and lately as Secretary. Frank, originally based in Barnstaple worked in the fire service. He moved to Exeter in the 1970's, and rang at Topsham. In the 80's he rang for Exminster and joined the Kenn ringers shortly after this, ringing in many compe-

titions. In the early 90's he moved to Hatherleigh and finally settled in North Tawton, ringing for North Tawton and Iddesleigh.

Frank was elected as secretary in 1993, taking over from Colin Adams. He served until February 2002, when he resigned and Janice Gist, who had already been appointed to assist helped to con-

tinue Frank's good work.

It is people such as Frank who certainly brought the Association forward. He was a busy man but still found time to assist and help, such is his character. His resignation was a sad loss but I suspect that his work commitments took more of his time than he wanted. A truly devoted servant. Thank you, Frank.

DEVON RINGERS' CAROL SERVICE

by Martin Mansley

The annual Devon Bellringers' Carol Service was held at Exeter Cathedral Christmas 2002. At 1.30pm the Cathedral bells were open for ringing. It was particularly pleasing to see so many Devon Association members taking the opportunity (many for the first time) to ring these unique bells.

The service started at 3.00 pm with the Bidding prayer given by Rev. Michael Hart vicar of Heavitree. The service took the fairly traditional form of six lessons and carols. The Choir's contribution included The Shepherd's

Farewell by Berlioz, Torches by Joubert and Sir David Willcocks arrangement of the Sussex Carol. Harmony 400 were present with their impressive array of handbells. They, as always, gave a highly polished performance which included The Fantasia on English Carols, Joy to the World and their ever popular arrangement of Silent Night.

The Collection was for the Children's Hospice and was made during a spirited rendition of the Ringers' Hymn to the tune Tavistock with the whole assembled

congregation, choir and handbells all giving of their best. At the end of the service the Cathedral ringers rang a closing touch but there was still energy left for open ringing on the 6 at St. Petrocks and the 8 at Alphington.

This was once again an inspiring service and a worthy prelude to the festivities of Christmas. Many thanks to all who worked so hard to make it happen. Make a note of the date for next year (Sat. 20th December 3.00pm) when we will be the guests of Barnstaple parish church.

Children's Hospital South West

Jill Farwell-Executive Director

21 January 2003

Dear Wendy,

Thank you so much for sending the wonderful donation of £517.64 for the Children's Hospice, raised from the Carol Service. Would you please pass on our most grateful thanks to everyone who contributed towards this gift. Your very kind and thoughtful support for our Appeal is truly appreciated. Everyone associated with Chil-

dren's Hospice South West is looking forward to this New Year and finishing the building work at Little Bridge House, continuing with preparations for the new Children's Hospice near Bristol, and generally meeting the needs of very sick children and their families throughout the South West. It is thanks to you, and others like you, that we can look forward with confidence. As always, therefore,

many, many thanks for your thoughtful support.

Finally, please forgive the delay in acknowledging your kind gift. We pride ourselves on thanking supporters very promptly but owing to staff sickness, a backlog of letters accumulated over the Christmas period. Once again, therefore, many, many apologies for the delay in replying.

Jill Farwell, Executive Director

Reports

South Devon 8 Bell Association

On Saturday 22 Feb 2003 the South Devon Eight Bell Association met at Upton Parish Hall, Torquay and elected Jack Rhymes as the new President who replaces Bill Avery. The president elect is Ray Mugridge and the Life President is "Pickles" Herbert Pascoe. Other officers re-elected were Colin Adams, Chair, Harry Bardens, Vice Chair, Barry Osborne, Secretary and Treasurer. The meeting decided to hold the

"South Devon Eight Bell Competition" on 4 October 2003 at 2.15pm. Venue, TBA. The next AGM, Upton on 28 Feb 2004 at 2.15pm.

Beric Bartlett

Colin Adams stated that the Beric Bartlett will take place this year on 13 September 2003 and a venue to be decided. The profit from the draw and fees will be paid over to the Devon Historic Churches Trust who also use this day to publicise their fund raising by organising a cycling event between churches.

Advertisement

MUSICAL HANDBELL RESTORATION

Free written quotations
Specialised repairs by
Geoffrey C. Hill
New Court Farm,
Lamerton,
Tavistock,
Devon PL19 8RR
01822 614319

Please mention this newsletter when calling—discounts may be available.

Tom Wright a countryman

(continued from page 1)

Tom moved to Morchard Road at the age of seven years and attended Down St Mary School until he was 10. He had been offered a place at the Cathedral School in Exeter because of his exceptional singing voice but, unfortunately, his parents could not afford to send him. However, they sent him to Hayward School at Crediton where he was given the responsibility of keeping the register for two consecutive years because of his arithmetical ability. At the age of 10 he became a member of the parish bellringers. He left school at 14, and worked full-time at his Uncle Henry's farm, Wolfen, with his father, Bert Wright. From 1931 to 1939 on the farm he drove a team of horses pulling a plough or other farm machinery. One picture in the recently published book of Down St Mary, *A Parish and Its People*, depicts a very young Tom Wright leading a horse and cart. In 1939 when war started he was selected to stay at home and work on the land. He was the first man in the area to receive and drive a Fordson tractor, provided by the government to aid production of food and support the war need. Tom previously said he had recalled the morning well because about 40 people turned up to witness the occasion. He said the arrival of the tractor had been the dawning of a new age in the farming community of Down St Mary. Tom would work 18 hours a day on his tractor and also did his share of keeping watch in the church tower as a member of the Home Guard. In 1937 he met Margery at a dance in Lapford's Victory Hall and courted her throughout the war years, often cycling miles to meet her. They were married in 1945 and had two children, Carol and Heather. He continued to work in agriculture until 1968 when he started a milk round in the parish at the same time that Margery opened a small village shop, which was just one example of the many ways in which he and his wife served the community. The milk round continued until his retirement in 1995. In 1936 he started a dance band with Joe Gunn (one of his best friends), and Eddie Ridd. The dance band, to be known later as the Skylarks, continued to play at

least once a week (sometimes three times a week because of their popularity) until it disbanded in 1980. Tom recalled on one occasion that that band were surprised when they played for a barn dance in front of 1,500 people. They reformed the band on a number of occasions since 1980, most notably in 1995 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of VE day, when they played at the Fox and Hounds, Eggesford. Tom had a wonderful voice and it was at the age of just six years of age that he joined the church choir and continued for 75 years, enjoying every minute of it. There was always music in his life in one form or another. His faith and the church were an important part of his life and he served the church in many capacities. He was a member of the Parochial Church Council and a representative of Down St Mary church at Deanery Synod meetings. Ringing the church bells was an important part of his life. He captained the Down St Mary team for more than 20 years. It was this team that became famous throughout the South West and beyond after they won competition after competition. Tom rang for many of these ringing the lightest bell, the treble. He was dedicated to teaching others to ring the church bells. At the time of his death he was President of the Cadbury Deanery Bellringers and was a former President of the Devon Association of Bell Ringers. Tom also spent countless hours raising funds for the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund and organised and judged numerous competitions. In 1955 he became a parish councillor, following in his father's footsteps. In 1970 he became a Mid Devon District Councillor and for 20 years he conscientiously served the people in his ward and further afield, always putting peoples interests and their well being first. Tom said it was the gift of the gab that made it all possible. He said: "What made me was the 'yap'. Talking. I'd get up in front of 40 councillors and I could have talked all day to them, and it would be common sense at the time...The point was this, that in the seven parishes that I'd got when I was on the district council, I know nearly everybody in every parish." Tom was a man with a quick mind and an encyclopaedic memory. For working so tirelessly for his community he awarded the British

Empire Medal was in 1985. He attended two garden parties at Buckingham Palace. His response after one occasion was: "I don't know why the likes of me should be there, but it was a proper day".

Within the parish Tom always gave his time to help others. He delivered the meals on-wheels twice a week, was Chairman of Down St Mary Youth Club, represented local farm workers in union negotiations with the NFU, planted bulbs, cut the grass and organised social events. He was a natural leader, and was also determined, resourceful, easy-going, full of fun with boundless energy, loyalty, and was caring and compassionate. Late in 1990 Tom had both his knees replaced and latterly had a major operation, which curtailed his mobility and therefore his ability to interact within the community. Above all this, Tom was a family man. His daughter, Heather Cope, paid tribute to her father and said he was: "Loving, supportive, the patriarch - in every sense of the word. He was never happier than when he was with his whole family, Margery, Heather and Carol, his grand daughters and great-grandsons. Although secretly I think he would have liked a son, he was extremely proud of his girls and, of course, he taught us to ring the church bells. He was a wonderful grandfather and great-grandfather. The family home was always full of laughter and love. Tom was something special to all of us. We shall miss him dearly but we are thankful that he was part of our lives and I know he will always hold a place in our memories and hearts." Hundreds of people attended a funeral service at Down St Mary Church on Saturday, March 1. Donations in Tom's memory were accepted at the service for Hospiscare, who Margery explained: "Were so kind to Tom and myself, recently". Donations may still be sent to: C Burrows and Son, Funeral Directors, Coldridge, Crediton, Devon. Numerous lives, families and businesses would be the lesser today had they not had the support and encouragement of Tom Wright. His nickname, the Mayor of Down St Mary, was justly deserved because he was someone who cared for his village and the people in it.

*Submitted on behalf of the family
by Alan Quick, Coldridge Captain.
01363 774263.*

Master class by Liffy and Helen Pyworthy.

MASTERCLASS REPORT

In his wisdom, David Trist asked us to write a short report on the Masterclasses held over the winter. We have enjoyed four of the events, and would recommend them to any considering joining next year. To begin with we started in trepidation, as we weren't too sure what to expect and didn't know anyone else, but the same people tended to crop up; by the end of the classes we were quite relaxed and even prepared to admit our own faults.

The first class we attended concentrated mainly on rising and falling (and did we!) Classes were very helpful, emphasising hearing and listening to your own bell against the others and watching the hands and bell ahead of you. We had tips on coiling the rope correctly, going up and down — Liffy still hasn't quite mastered the 'down' bit! (So she says).

The judging and listening day was in two halves: the morning was given over to an explanation of judging

technique, listening to taped top ringing and then doing your own marking (an interesting experience) with much discussion over the nature of faults; the afternoon gave us an opportunity to listen to live bell ringing at Dunsford Church, including the rise and fall, and then marking same. After each taped or live peal, the 'novice judges' were asked to explain their own markings; the range of faults given was wide! An excellent day.

The theme of our next class was call-changing with Clive and his bits of numbered paper (representing the bells). This was a great way of understanding the pattern and sequence we could visually see how the bells changed their order. Six volunteers then rang while two called the changes, using the paper numbers, which showed that you could, within reason, call any sequence, not a particular set pattern as is usual (we hope that makes sense!)

How The Other Half Rings was the

one we really couldn't miss because we were so keen to see what this 'method' ringing was all about. During the morning we listened to good ringers making deliberate mistakes (on call-changing); we were then asked to name the mistake, its cause and rectification (not always as obvious as it sounded). The afternoon was an introduction to method ringing — none of the learners had tried this before and we certainly found it different. Eventually we all tried the treble in a plain hunt; the first half of the hunt we just about coped with, but the second half was done at a real gallop (hence the name 'hunt')? However, we all enjoyed the day — the time just flew by.

The classes were fun, there was loads of patience, plenty of tea, coffee and biscuits and great company.

Thanks are really due to David Trist and his band of volunteers who gave up their Saturdays to coach us, and they even seemed to enjoy it! When do next year's classes begin?

Judging Masterclass by Maurice Sharland

The judging and listening skills workshop was held at Dunsford on Saturday 22nd February. The attendance was a little disappointing (ten) but this was more than compensated for by the enthusiasm and apparent enjoyment of those who were brave enough to come. The whole purpose of the day was to get everyone talking about the how's and why's and wherefores of judging and listening to bell ringing. To this end it was very successful - whatever inhibition

there was at the start of the day was quickly dissipated and all seemed to feel free to ask questions and share their concerns with the remainder of the participants. It was disappointing that this year we did not have the benefit of an experienced judge to provide words of wisdom.

We listened to several short extracts of round and call change ringing and compared notes at the end of each. Where necessary we replayed the extract and gave it a further 'airing'

to try to clarify any queries. After lunch at the Royal Oak, they tried their hand at a bit of judging of 'live' ringing, whilst basking in the sun (and chilly wind) in Dunsford Churchyard. The afternoon was devoted to the thorny problem of the judging of rising and lowering - not easy for some, impossible for others! A big thank-you to Dave Trist for rounding-up the troops, I hope they all felt that it was a worthwhile exercise.

Affiliation Fees—is it value for money? Do you know what you are getting in return?

Affiliation to the Devon Association does not mean that you have to ring competitions or that this is expected. To join means that you will benefit from the expertise of all the members of the affiliated towers. Events are arranged throughout the year, dinner and dance, competitions.

There are fund raising events, such as the county raffle and Christmas Carol Concert. We are a major contributor to The Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund. The training officer organises training events and also assists newer ringers. There is a publicity officer and a website at

(www.devonbells.co.uk) which has up to date information and results and there is a regular newsletter. Clothing, badges and jewellery are available. From now all Affiliated towers will be covered by insurance. The fees will increase slightly this year, but what value for money.

Mid-Devon Winter League 2002 - 2003

Again, during the winter months, the six-bell Mid-Devon Winter League competition was held. As traditional the competition started in October and continued monthly until the final in March. Teams were divided into A: expert, B: middle and C: novice/new ringers grades. There were four competing towers (alphabetically!) - Chagford (*Tower Captain; Julia Endacott*), Iddesleigh (*Tower Captain; Janice Gist*) and Sampford Courtenay (*Tower Captain; Chris Clayton*) which have met in previous years and each entered three teams. For the first time Gidleigh (*Tower Captain; Chris Smallwood*) was welcomed to the league. Gidleigh's ringers also ring with the Chagford team in that their tower is five-bell so that they were fully prepared to participate in a six-bell competition. However, Gidleigh being a fairly new group, their bells having been made ringable again in 1998, entered the C-group part of the competition only.

Apart from ringing at the three "home" six-bell towers the competition was also held at three "neutral" towers at Dolton, Drewsteignton and North Tawton, and we are most grateful for their hospitality. On each evening each participating team rang a half peal. The final was at Iddesleigh this year.

In the A group Chagford settled into a clear lead after the first four evenings, while Iddesleigh and Sampford Courtenay remained neck and neck until the end. However, in the B and C groups the outcome was close and undecided until the final. Nevertheless, Chagford again took home the trophies for first place in all three groups. Interestingly, although the competition was conducted as a league, the average of the number of faults incurred by each team each evening gave an identical final result. Average faults shown in brackets.

FINAL RESULT - A group

1st Chagford (8.5)

2nd Sampford Courtenay (9.25)

3rd Iddesleigh (11.25)

B Group

1st Chagford (15.63)

2nd Iddesleigh (19.5)

3rd Sampford Courtenay (27.40)

C Group

1st Chagford (27.62)

2nd Iddesleigh (29.2)

3rd Gidleigh (30.0)

4th Sampford Courtenay (51.4)

Altogether about 40 ringers participated and we were again most grateful to Brian Drake and Ivor Hookway for judging the competition. The usual mingling of ringers from the various towers, with novices attending for fun (and invaluable to help with the catering!) and having a party on the evening of the final, led to old friendships being renewed and new ones made. We look forward to next winter's league, which will be organised by Jo Stoneman of Sampford Courtenay.

Colin BARNES (Chagford)

Renovation of Kenton Bells

About four years ago with the millennium coming up the ringers at Kenton decided to launch a renovation scheme. Kenton never had the reputation of being good to ring, partly because of the low ceiling and more importantly because of the fittings that were increasingly difficult to maintain and coupled with the fact that the headstocks were old fashioned and did not lend much to the "going" of the bells themselves. There had not been any significant work since 1895 when a Mr Hooper of Woodbury renewed the frame. We assume that the elm headstocks were made at that time but may have been reused from 1747. In 1933 Taylor's replaced the plain bearings with roller bearings. Maintenance has been good over the years. The bell chamber has always been kept clean and tidy, but as with all things there comes a time when even with care, major work is needed. It became increasingly obvious that the bells needed to be put in good order

for future generations of ringers. We approached the P.C.C. who approved the scheme but said they were unable to offer any help with funding. We set about the task of raising the necessary money. This has taken a little over four years and involved raising over £24,000 from a relatively small community. We held the usual events that raised small sums of money. A letter sent to every house in the parish collected £2,000. The Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund (DCBRF) awarded us £1,000, a charity associated with our church allocated £2,000 and the final £7,000 was from Entrust the landfill tax organisation. The work was undertaken by Andrew Nicholson and the bells were removed on 24th July 2000. Whitechapel re-tuned the bells and they were returned with new fittings on 6th November. The bells were raised into the tower and with the help of our own ringers they were gradually brought back to life. We were able to ring half muffled for

Armistice Day on 11th November. Undoubtedly the bells have improved enormously. They now "go" with the ease that you would expect from a newly refurbished ring. We haven't been able to do anything about the low ceiling but this doesn't seem to matter. The bells are well balanced and there is general agreement that they are now a pleasure to ring. Visitors as always are welcome. Quarter peals will be allowed, but not a full peal, we wish to keep our existing good relationship with the village. If you want to give them a try phone me on 01626 890578. My thanks to DCBRF, The Lumley Trust, Ugbrooke Environmental, and the local people. Special thanks to Gerald Bowden, an able Treasurer, to Lewis Withecombe, Alan Beer, my brother Colin and the other ringers who gave their time, and lastly to Andrew Nicholson and his team whose expertise has meant that we now have bells to be proud of and which should last for many years to come. Mike Adams. Tower Captain.

Mid Week Retired Ringers Wrinklies Rounds by Oddstruck

Once again the "Wrinklies" started their year off in March by visiting the two towers of Stoke-in-Teignhead and Coombe-in-Teignhead. It was a glorious day and we were greeted by the most fabulous display of daffodils filling the churchyard and made floral memorials placed on graves superfluous. I can honestly say it was the best display of daffodils I have ever seen so thanks must go to the parishioners who maintain the churchyard and also to mother nature who provided such a display. Inside the church Peter Heale, from Woolborough, together with his wife provided refreshments and old friends greeted one another some not having met since we broke up at Christmas. We all admired the excellent woodwork that we had to ascend

in order to ring the bells, which with practice rang quite well.

We retired to the Chasers Inn for lunch and partook of an appetising carvery and discussed the proposed June trip to Wales when we will try to educate the people of the principality in the art of "Dembshur Call Change Ringing". I hope to be able to report on that later in the year. In the afternoon suitable filled with food and drink we departed for Coombe-in-Teignhead and met the perennial problem of finding somewhere to park, so ringers beware if you are intending to take a party there. The bells were, shall we say, challenging but everybody managed to get a peal out of them.

In April the "Wrinklies Road Show" found itself in Eastern parts of

Devon at Sandford, near Crediton, a pleasant and interesting church. This time we were greeted by Michael Poole. The ladies provided refreshments for the weary travellers from all over the south of Devon. Lunch was taken at the London Inn Morchard Bishop, an inn run by a real "Dembshur" landlady, and the meal proved to be excellent. I can honestly say that in the four years I have been travelling with the group we have always had a splendid meal and certainly value for money. After lunch we strolled down the road to try our hand at the local peal. In May the venues were Sampford Courtenay and North Tawton. If you would like to join us on any of our jaunts ring 01803 843 748 and ask Bernard Miners for details.

PASCOE FAMILY GATHER AT WIDECOMBE

The addition of two new trebles at Widecombe and one donated by the Pascoe family, it seemed appropriate to gather them together to ring the new set. It took 3 months to find a suitable date and March 27th was the date with only one ringing family member, Terry unavailable. There were 14 ringers and 4 non ringers.

Of course the old masters were there, Henry (89) and Herbert [Pickles] (86), making three generations including partners. Phyllis,

Ernie's widow with sons, Richard, Mike and his wife, Jenny. Henry brought along daughter Pearl and husband John (film crew). Pickles brought wife Vida together with son Graham and daughter Maggie. Graham's wife, Jean and sons, Paul, Philip and Chris and their partners Ann and Christine completed the Pickles contingent. Finally Anna daughter of Bob (brother of Henry and Pickles) who has recently moved to Widecombe joined in the family

gathering. Anna had not rung before was encouraged, a natural of course! Pearl had not rung for over 40 years and Ann for 3 years also joined in the fun. Numerous line-ups and call changes were rung to a very good standard. The additional bells blend in well with the original 6 and should be enjoyed by all those that visit. The whole contingent then adjourned to the Old Inn for refreshments.

Graham Pascoe

After 44 years—Chris Clayton

Since 1977 a group of ringers from N, S, E and W Devon have met on the first Saturday after Christmas. The aim is to ring at all the towers in Devon, not in one day of course, but to go to all the obscure places that seem to somehow stay blank in Dove's. The ringers number usually been 10-14 and this time there was no exception with 10 ringers starting at Lewtrenchard and four more joining as the

morning wore on. The ringing was to its usual post Christmas standard and in the morning besides the starting tower we enjoyed, or not so enjoyed, Coryton, Marystowe, Kelly, Bradstone and Sydenham Damarel. We were very pleased to retire to the Blacksmiths Arms at Lamerton with its very good choice of beers and food. We were very well looked after, as were the children. The or-

ganiser was particularly pleased as Bradstone was his last tower in Devon with six or more bells. It has after all taken him 44 years to accomplish. After a leisurely lunch the bells of Lamerton were enjoyed and the day finished with a very pleasing ring on the ten bells of Tavistock. My thanks to all who make the day so enjoyable, you are excellent company. C.C.

Devon Association of Ringers: Constitution Draft 1: February 2003

1 *Name and Object*

- i. The Society shall be called the "Devon Association of Ringers" (DAR).
- ii. The object of the DAR shall be to cultivate and encourage the vernacular tradition of Devon Call Change Ringing.
- iii. The DAR shall aim to achieve this object by
 - a. assisting with the recruitment and providing appropriate training for ringers;
 - b. encouraging ringing for Divine Service;
 - c. holding Annual Festivals, which shall include the following competitions in the following chronological order. Six Bell Novice; Six Bell Area North & South qualifying rounds where parishes are divided according to the deanery list of the Diocese of Exeter; Six Bell Minor Final; Six Bell Major Final; Eight Bell, the Rules and the condition for the competitions are to be included in the Schedule for the various Competitions;
 - d. forming positive working relationships with other ringing organisations, especially locally; (e.g. Devon Ringers' Council formed in 2000 with representatives from the DAR, Guild of Devonshire Ringers and St Petrox Ringing Centre);
 - e. actively supporting the work of the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund (Registered Charity No. 276490).

2 *Structure & Government*

- i. The DAR shall consist of ringers of towers affiliated to the DAR, the aforementioned ringers being regarded as de facto members of the DAR.
- ii. The management of the DAR shall be vested in a Committee elected by and from among ringers of towers affiliated to the DAR.
- iii. The Committee shall meet at least twice a year and the quorum shall be one third of the Committee membership.
- iv. The Committee, including all Officers, excepting the President (see vi, below), shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) to serve for a triennium.
- v. The Committee shall comprise:
 - a. the following Officers, who shall be ex officio members of the Committee: President; Hon Secretary; Hon Treasurer. Assistant Secretary; Publicity Officer; Training Officer and Fund Raising Officer;
 - b. 18 Exeter Diocese Deanery representatives, with an even distribution between North and South Devon;
 - c. A Chairman and Vice-Chairman, both of whom shall be elected from among the Deanery Representatives of the Committee, one from the Northern group of Deaneries, the other from the Southern group, both offices being held alternately by members from the Northern & Southern areas of the DAR. It shall be considered desirable that the Vice-Chairman shall succeed the Chairman at the end of a triennium, commencing at an AGM.
 - d. the following, who may or may not also be serving as Deanery Representatives on the Committee: Five Members of the Devon Ringers' Council; Two Representatives on the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers; the Guild (of Devonshire Ringers') Liaison Officer; and a WebMaster.
- vi. The President shall be elected annually (as President elect) at the AGM a year before serving as President.
- vii. The DAR may confer the title of Honorary Life Vice President upon suitably deserving servants of the Devon Call Change tradition & the DAR. Honorary Life Vice Presidents shall also receive a certificate recording the honour. The Committee shall consider proposals for Honorary Life Vice Presidents.
- viii. During the course of a triennium the Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members specifically to fill any vacant posts on the Committee. Co-opted members to remain in office until the next AGM when any such posts shall be filled by election.
- ix. The following members of the Committee, no two of which may be members of the same tower, shall form the Executive Committee of the DAR, with powers to make decisions in times of exceptional circumstances: President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Chairman & Vice Chairman.

3 *Annual General Meeting*

- i. The Annual General Meeting of the DAR shall be held in November, usually the second Saturday.
- ii. An attendance book shall be circulated and signed by all present.
- iii. The location of the AGM shall be the responsibility of the serving Chairman.
- iv. The Quorum of the AGM shall be representatives of one third of the number of affiliated towers.
- v. All members of affiliated towers, as de facto members, shall be entitled to speak at an AGM.
- vi. The team of ringers of each affiliated tower shall be entitled to vote via a single representative at the AGM on a one vote per tower basis.
- vii. Affiliation fees are due annually and must be paid by the subsequent AGM.
- viii. At the AGM:
 - a. the Minutes of the previous AGM and subsequent Committee Meetings shall be presented, having been circulated amongst the membership at least fourteen days prior to that AGM;
 - b. the Independently Examined Accounts of the DAR for the preceding year shall be presented by the Hon Treasurer, having been circulated amongst the membership at least fourteen days prior to that AGM;
 - c. elections shall be held, as required, for Officers & Committee;
 - d. dates, venues, judges and scrutineers of the Festivals shall be confirmed
 - e. a report from the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund shall be given;
 - f. any other business shall be transacted of which a minimum of fourteen days notice shall have been given to the Honorary Secretary.

4 *Duties*

- i. It shall be the duty of all members of the DAR to cultivate and encourage the art of Devon Call Change Ringing, in accordance with the stated object of the DAR
- ii. The Committee members are to raise awareness and to further the aims of the DAR in promoting the tradition of Devon Call Change Ringing and upholding the good name of the DAR. Specifically, each of the elected Deanery Representatives, within his/her allocated Deanery (-ies), shall achieve this by:
 - a. encouraging the affiliation of towers to the DAR;
 - b. assisting the Hon Treasurer in the collection of the annual affiliation fees, working with the DAR's Training Officer in identifying and addressing the needs of those wishing to learn/improve the art of Devon Call Change Ringing;
 - c. submitting at least annually a local report to the DAR's Publicity Officer for inclusion in the DAR's Newsletter, Devon Calls;
 - d. assisting the Promoter of the DAR's Annual Draw and other events with the distribution of tickets/collection of counterfoils & money;
 - e. undertaking other such duties as required and agreed by the DAR.
- iii. It shall be the duty of the Publicity Officer to edit and produce a Quarterly Newsletter for the DAR and to assist the WebMaster with maintaining DAR's Website www.devonbells.co.uk
- iv. It shall be the duty of the Training Officer to co-ordinate and promote training events and enlist the assistance of Deanery Representatives and other suitably experienced members of the DAR in the provision of such events.
- v. It shall be the duty of the Fund Raising Officer to promote the DAR's Annual Draw.
- vi. The WebMaster shall be responsible for maintaining the DAR's Official World Wide Web site on the Internet.

5 *General*

- i. Upon receipt of a written request supported and signed by representatives of a minimum of five affiliated towers, the DAR's Hon Secretary shall call an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) within 28 days of such a request.
- ii. Any proposed alteration to these Rules or dissolution of the DAR shall require:
 - a. that written notification of the same be given to the DAR's Hon Secretary at least 28 clear days prior to the AGM or EGM at which the said proposed alteration or dissolution is to be made;
 - b. that written notification of the same be given to all affiliated towers by the DAR's Hon Secretary at least 21 clear days prior to the AGM or EGM at which said proposed alteration or dissolution is to be considered;
 - c. the assent of a majority comprising no less than two thirds of the towers affiliated to the DAR at that time in order for said proposal to be effected;
- iii. In the event of Dissolution of the DAR, all assets of the DAR remaining after the satisfaction of proper debts and liabilities shall be given to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund.