



Founded 1925



www.devonbells.co.uk

Devon Calls

EARLY 2024

OFFICERS

President: John Warne
President-Elect: Vacant
Chairman: James Steer
Vice-Chairman: Vacant
Hon. Secretary: Deborah Jones
Hon. Treasurer: Nigel Bateman
Web Master: Tim Jones
Training Officer: Graham Sharland
Publicity Officer: John Staddon
Competition Secretaries:
Julia Jarvis (South)
Andrew Vincent (North)
Fundraising Officer: Julia Jarvis
Safeguarding Officer: Charles Conibear
Guild Liaison Officer: Ian Avery

DEVON CALLS

Editor: Colin Adams
Technical Ed: Robin Canniford
Proof Readers: Elinor D'Albiac, Colin Barnes, Deborah Jones and Peter Buckland

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

New President John Warne
Devon Bell Restoration Fund
Clyst Hydon's Tom and Ben Retire
Obituaries
Devon Ringers in Tasmania
Loddiswell Competition
Outings and more...

Ding Dong Merrily On High. Devon's Bells Ring Out Over Christmas and the New Year (Page 3)



Wembury Bell Restoration (see Page 8) L-R Brian Deacon, Sue Stoker, Andy Stoker, Keren Ward, Andrew Overton and David Vasey.



Introducing Our Newly Elected President Mr. John Warne

First to introduce myself to anyone who may not know me. I am 67 years old. Apart from being a long standing bellringer I am a free range egg farmer and contractor, and I represent egg producers within industry and associations.

In 1971 I remember going to Withypool to attend Midnight Mass. I not only heard the bells but saw bell ringing taking place as I entered the Church and thought I would like to have a go. I spoke to Fred Bawden, the captain of Hawkridge Tower, and in 1972 I started to learn to ring on the 3rd bell at Hawkridge, where there is an 8 cwt tenor. In 1973 I was asked by the Tower Captain of Molland, John Pugsley, my neighbour, if I would like to have a go at ringing in competitions.

My first competition success was in 1974 ringing with the Molland team at Bratton Fleming, where the team came second. The Molland team achieved a lot of success in the late 70s and early 80s, eventually winning the Ross Shield in the 6-



President John Warne at work


Bell Major Final at Burrington in 1985. That same year the team were invited to a competition in London held on the six bells at St Olave's Church, but regrettably did not perform to their usual standard.

However back in Devon the team's success continued and in 2000 they won the Devon 6-Bell Major Final again, this time at Churchstow. As time went on, some of the older Molland team members retired, and I started to ring with East Anstey, and also with the Chittlehampton 8 bell team.

In 2022/3 I was involved with the re-hanging of East Anstey's Church Bells. I now teach learners at East Anstey. I also act as a mentor for bell ringers at other local churches.

- John Warne

NICHOLSON ENGINEERING LTD



NEW PEAL OF EIGHT IN RADIAL FRAME TOGETHER WITH ELECTRICALLY SWUNG BOURDON AND STATIONARY SERVICE BELL, SOUTH OCKENDON.

CHURCH BELLHANGERS of DISTINCTION

We offer quality without compromise, using only the finest materials, age-old craftsmanship and impeccable standards of service. If *your* church is seeking the very best, we are ready to help.

WORKS
Church Bell Works
St.Swithin's Road
Bridport
DT6 5DW
Tel.01308 422264
Fax. 01308 427172

CORRESPONDENCE
Walton
Woodmead Road
Lyme Regis
DT7 3AB
Tel. 01297 445865
Fax.01297 444798

bell@nicholsonbellhangers.com
www.nicholsonbellhangers.com

DING DONG MERRILY ON HIGH DEVON'S BELLS RING OUT OVER CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

All Saints **Bradford**, Holsworthy held a carol service on Friday 15th December 2023 which we rang for. We also rang at 12 noon on January 1st and cracked open a bottle which the PCC gave us in recognition of our efforts during the year. We toasted the tower and all ringers. We have been told many times that the bells are lovely and we get quite a few visiting teams.



All Saints Bradford. Photo - Devon Churchland

Taylor's work coincided with the covid restrictions, which made things rather awkward. The company had to cast a replacement H-section to part of the frame which was cracked and fit it, together with 2 replacement anchorage points. At the same time, the bearings were re-greased and replaced as required. - Cathy Pitt

St. George and All Saints, Church, **Beaford**
The bells were rung on 17th December 2023 at 4:30pm prior to the Carols by Candlelight service and on 25th December 2023 at 08:45 prior to the Christmas Day service. - Martin Church

On the 25th December, ringing took place at 9.30am at St. Michael & All Angels' church, **Great Torrington**, followed by ringing at St. George's **Monkleigh**. Ringers included: Clive Ward, Kathy Wyke, Heather Middleton, Jonathan Eveleigh, Peter Crawley, Katherine Crawley, Jonathan Richards, Lewis Dart, Martin Church, Dave Price and James Ward. - Clive R Ward

At St Phillip & St James **Ilfracombe** better known as Pip & Jim's we rang for the Ilfracombe Community Carol Service on Sunday 26th of November 2023 from 4:15-5pm, and again on Sunday 10th of December 2023 when we rang for our own Carol Service at 6pm. On both occasions the church was full, and people commented on

how they appreciated the bells being rung. The ringing took place thanks to the bell ringing team from **Berrynarbor** who always come in to make the numbers up. - Dave Gammon

Kenton rang prior to the 10.00 am service on Christmas morning. Ringing took place at St Clements **Powderham** on Sunday 31st December prior to the 10.00 am service. At All Saints **Kenton**, in keeping with a long standing tradition - apart from the lockdowns which took place due to Covid - half-muffled peals were rung on the run-up to midnight on 31st December. The tenor bell was tolled 12 times and open ringing took place afterwards up until 12.20 am. - Mike Adams

At St Michael's **Musbury** our small band managed to ring for our carol service on 17th December. The service in the church was well attended which was nice to see. It is also nice to ring for a large congregation. Christmas morning was also well attended and again we had a full team of ringers. Fortunately we all live close enough to avoid the flooded roads. - Dee Hearne

All Saints **Merton** bell ringers rang between 10:30 and 11:00, before the Family Carol Service on Sunday 17th December 2023 - Steve Papworth



For the first time in many years the Bells of St Mary's **Morchard Bishop** rung-in the New Year. L-R: Les Partridge, Jeanette Richardson, Wendy Vere, Michaela Rodd, John Crotty & Bob Robinson. Also present but not ringing were Ceri Jones and John Charman.



St. Peters **North Tawton** Ringers on Christmas Day - L-R: Tower Captain Graham Pridham, Archie Edworthy, Chris Blood, Andrew Steer, Mervyn Way, Tom Squire, Jim & Linda Steer, Ewan Kaczanow.

At **Stoke Gabriel** we were fortunate to ring all six bells, three times on Christmas Eve: once for the usual morning Eucharist; then for the children's Crib Service at 4pm; and then for the midnight Eucharist. Ringing followed again on Christmas Day with all six bells ringing for the 10am service. As is traditional we also rang the

six bells to ring the Old Year out and the New Year in. We all felt very privileged that we had the time and talents to ring as often as we did. I would like to thank all the ringers who made Christmas and the New Year so memorable with joyful ringing over the festive season.

- Mike Webster



St. Pancras, Widecombe-in-the-Moor Ringers

Widecombe-In-The-Moor. The 2023 Christmas period started with The Christingle service on the 3rd December, followed by one normal Sunday service, and a 6.00 pm Carol Service the following Sunday. We rang 8 bells on most occasions.

On Friday 22nd we held our Annual Christmas dinner at The Rugglestone Inn before which most ringers went to the tower to ring a short peal. Twenty-one ringers and partners enjoyed a lovely seasonal dinner taking over the entire dining space of the pub for the evening. Ness, the new landlady made us very welcome as she always does.

Every week after practice on Wednesday evenings we always head down for a few pints and free chips. This has been going on for over 20 years!

Christmas Day started with ringing from 7.00 am until 8.00 am. We have been doing this in Widecombe for decades. In the past this was because there used to be an 8.00 am Communion Service. There is no longer an early Service but we ring anyway to wake up the village! I remember my Father, Ern Pascoe going off on Christmas morning when I was very young and coming back slightly tipsy - tell you why in a minute!

When we enter the ringing chamber on Christmas morning we always find that Father Christmas has already made a visit and left at the foot of each rope a large collection of Christmas wrapped chocolates. After ringing we all go down to – yes, you’ve guessed, the Rugglestone Inn for breakfast. In my Father’s time it was a bottle of whisky on the table, but now it is whisky, coffee and bacon

baps courtesy of our lovely Landlady. Jenny and I used to host the Christmas breakfast which we did for over 40 years. All the old boys, Uncle “Pickles” Pascoe, Bernard Miners, Pat and of course Ern - to name but a few - would come back for bacon sandwiches, mince pies and, yes, lots of Whisky. We had trouble getting them to go but ringing called them away eventually!

A little later it’s back home to do morning jobs quickly, or have a short nap if you are lucky, and then back down just before 10.00 am to ring for the Christmas morning service. Only seven ringers this time, but we had a good peal of six.

So that was Christmas ringing, but not to forget the New Year. It is also tradition to ring in the New Year and Widecombe ringers have been doing that for decades – 60 years that we know of but probably much longer than that. We start at 11.15 pm with two or three peals, bringing in our two novices so that they can say they have done so. For the final peal, (only six this year) treble to five stand and the tenor strikes the hour, the treble starts off the round again – job done! One local lady used to hang her telephone out the front door so that her daughter could hear it in Nova Scotia.

It is great that our Bellringers are so dedicated in their service to the Church and of course the social aspect of being in a team. A small village but ringing the bells is part of the social life here, we just need to encourage a few more youngsters.

- Mike and Jenny Pascoe



RINGING AT EXETER CATHEDRAL

All members of the Devon Association have the opportunity to ring the bells at Exeter Cathedral on the second Sunday of each month. Paul Pascoe hosts this and his encouragement and enthusiasm is greatly appreciated by all those who are able to attend. All have to arrive at the Cathedral by 8.30 a.m. and are taken up to the south tower. It is quite a climb and then a walk along the roof of the nave. Before entering the ringing chamber everyone has to sign the

register and also when leaving after ringing. Generally only 6 or 8 bells are rung and of course with Call Change peals. It's a very rewarding experience and well worth the effort to go along. It also gives the chance to see the bells in their huge metal frame as they are being rung from below. Ear muffs are supplied!

On the 10th December 23 ringers who together ring regularly at 15 towers around Devon enjoyed over an hour of short peals ringing on 6, 8 and 10 bells. Paul was joined by two of the regular Cathedral ringers who were very helpful to everyone.

The ringing was of a good standard despite the mix of experience and ability. As always, after ringing those who wish can visit Georges Meeting House, a nearby pub, to enjoy various breakfast choices!

- John Staddon.

Big Wilf's Bell Muffles



We are the biggest supplier of church bell muffles with muffles at over 1400 churches

All muffles made bespoke to fit their clappers, with our own complimentary embroidered muffle bag. Muffles are easy to fit and remove.

sales@bigwilfsbellmuffles.co.uk 07946 605 963

www.bigwilfsbellmuffles.co.uk



20 YEARS ON ... THE LODDISWELL "Tapp Memorial" RETURNS!

The Village of Loddiswell in South Devon is planning to hold its annual bellringing competition on 22 June 2024, after a break of 20 years, but now with a little extra! Last held on 27 June 2004, The Tapp Memorial competition had been an annual fixture in the village calendar since the 1960s, when invited teams of bellringers competed for the *Tapp Memorial Trophy*. Last won by Eggbuckland in 2004, the trophy has been kept safely locked away since then, awaiting the chance to be polished up and presented again.

There is no regular Loddiswell band of ringers, but a new-found enthusiasm to raise funds to carry out maintenance to the existing metal bell frame and train a new band of ringers has been the inspiration to reinstate the event, which was traditionally held on the fourth Saturday in June.

The event coincides with THE enthusiastic efforts to raise funds to buy the Loddiswell Inn on behalf of the community, as the pub is currently closed. The "Save The Loddiswell Inn" Pub Group will be providing a bar in the village hall in support of the event.

Steven Came, who recently moved back to the village, is keen to make the event more of a ringing festival and include ringers who may not necessarily have a "Competition team" to ring with, but want to be part of the day, celebrating bellringing for all.

"We plan to run a morning event at Loddiswell and at a neighbouring tower, for ringers who want to improve their skills. A Ringers' service will take place at St Michael and All Angels, Loddiswell at 2pm, after which those improvers who would like to ring on Loddiswell bells in a competition environment, will have the chance to do so. Tea will take place from 4pm, after which the competition for the Tapp Memorial will be rung until the early evening. The Judges' results and presentation will take place at the conclusion of the ringing, and we hope to round off the day in the convivial environment of the Village Hall,

where the bar will remain very much "open for business".

For further details of the morning training, and the afternoon ringing, please contact Steven Came: smjcame@gmail.com



SWAN'S NEST

Exminster, EX6 8DZ

**A Carvery Every Day of the
Week**

Tel: 01392 832371

enquiries@swans-nest.com

MUSICAL HANDBELL RESTORATION

Free written quotations
Specialised repairs by:
Geoffrey C. Hill

New Court Farm, Lamerton

Tavistock, PL19 8RR

01822 614319



The bells having been removed from the tower by Steve and James are loaded and ready for transportation to John Taylor & Co. of Loughborough.

ST. WERBURGH CHURCH, WEMBURY

Some of you reading this article may recognise this tower (see front page) or have even rung the bells here. Not many know that these bells have been silent for almost a year apart from ringing for the King's Coronation on May 6th. Back in February 2023 a thorough inspection by Owen Borlase informed us that a lot of the fittings were wearing out and needed replacing.

So the decision was made to replace the headstocks, bearings, pulleys, clappers, resole the wheels and fit new stays, and while the bells are away being retuned, to clean and repaint the framework. All this work does not come cheap as many of you know and a figure of £60,000+ has been quoted. Added to this we were recommended to add two new girders at 90degrees to help strengthen the existing floor.

The bells have not been rung since May 2023 but a strong response to our fundraising has helped us get two thirds towards the target.

Following faculty approval, work began on lowering the bells in January 2024. We hope to have the bells back and ringing again for the start of the wedding season. If you can help with a donation it will be appreciated.

- Brian Deacon
Tower Captain

Please send cheques made payable to:

WEMBURY PCC - please write 'Bell Appeal'
WEMBURY BELLS APPEAL,
C/O DAVID VASEY, 5, KNIGHTON ROAD,
WEMBURY, PLYMOUTH, PL9 OEA

Alternatively make a BACS payment to:

NAT WEST BANK, SORT CODE 56-00-63
Acc No 36612804 Wembury Parochial Church
Council ref Bell Appeal.

UPDATE FROM THE DEVON CHURCH BELL RESTORATION FUND

So far in 2023 four projects have been completed seeing us pay out a total of £4,980. This isn't to say that we aren't busy, with inspections at 14 different churches across the county having been carried out and several applications received and forms sent. We also held our usual two meetings during the year on 17th March and 18th November.

Income for the year up to 31 October 2023 – £18,753 - Some notable amounts are as follows:

£7,585 - the Smale Bequest Investment Portfolio (one further payment is due meaning income should be around £10,000 from this source in 2023) .
£1,338 - Bank Interest.
£2,121 - Devon Association towers and events.
£3,903 - Guild of Devonshire Ringers and its Branches.
£1,187 - personal and miscellaneous donations.
£1,200 - tower inspections by DCBRF Trustees.
£920 – Donations via the CAF button on both Guild and Association websites.
£80.80 - Amazon.Smile (last payment as this has now stopped).

Grants Paid in 2023 - £4,980

£3,700 to Huntshaw to have their three bells rehung, one for swing chiming and the others for electronic chiming (for now!).
£300 to Tiverton, St Paul for new clappers.
£380 to Sampford Peverell for the replacement of the Tenor gudgeon.
£600 to Stoodleigh for welding the cracked Treble.

Grants Offered in 2023 - £18,950

We have offered Grants to 9 projects in 2023 totalling £18,950. You must bear in mind this is only 10% of the overall cost of these projects. Meaning the actual cost is an eye watering £189,500 including VAT. Something as seemingly straightforward and simple as repainting a frame currently costs anything from £12,000 - £16,000. I suspect this a job that needs doing in many a tower in Devon particularly those near to the coast or moors.

£800 - Tedburn St Mary for repair to the bell pads on 2nd & Tenor, rebushing of the clappers and a refurb of the bearings.
£1,500 - Holcombe Burnell for work on the sub frame.
£1,250 - Colaton Raleigh where work is needed to stabilise the frame, repair cracked headstocks on the 5 & 6, plus an overhaul of the bearings and clappers.

£2,400 - Tiverton, St Peter who are having a general overhaul for the 100th anniversary of the bells including replacing mesh, refurbishing (or replacing where necessary) the clappers, wheels and bearings, repainting the steel foundation beams and cast-iron A frames.
£1,600 - Tawstock where the bell frame has been repainted plus general maintenance of all woodwork.
£6,800 - Kingswear who are augmenting the ring of 3 to a ring of 6, repainting the frame and refurbishing of the tenor wheel.
£1,450 - Malborough to repaint the frame.
£1,900 – Sidmouth to repaint the bell frame and replace the mesh walkways.
£1,250 - Talaton to repaint the frame.

Grants Offered pre-2023 but not Paid - £17,300

Bigbury - £6,250 agreed – Complete rehang using refurbished original frame.
Ilfracombe St Philip & St James - £2,000 - General refurbishment.
Hatherleigh - £8,100 - Complete rehang.
Uplyme - £950 - Repainting the frame.

This means the total committed funds comes to £36,250 which is more than we have in our current account as it stands today. Therefore, if all the projects listed above were to complete in the very near future, we would have to delve into the savings account which is something we have little desire to do, bearing in mind they have earned us over £1,200 already this year. Thankfully, we have small amounts of almost guaranteed income from our investments due by year end which will cover the shortfall.

There are a further 7 application forms that have been sent out but not returned yet. Of those seven, four are complete rehanges, either using the existing frame or having a new frame. So, if we were to offer our usual 10% this could see us committing a further £24,000.

As you can see, we still need everyone to continue to raise funds and give generously whenever possible. Please don't forget to have your bucket collections at events and provide us with the postcode of where it took place, we can then claim the gift aid. As ever, all donations are very gratefully received and are put to immediate and very good use.

- Janet Deem

ALPHINGTON, KENN & IDE OUTING



Twenty two of our ringers joined together for their sixth Ringing Outing since Covid on Saturday November 11th 2023. The Tour started at Colebrooke, which for many of the ringers was their first visit. All had at least two peals, each time with a different team. This was good, as always on our tours more experienced ringers, some with over 50 years of experience, ring enthusiastically with those who have only been ringing for 2 or 3 years.

The next tower was at Bow [also listed in Dove's Guide as Nymet Tracey] where we were met by James Steer. Our previous visit had been for the Bow competition when the clapper of the 5th bell fell out during the first peal of the afternoon. Luckily we were not ringing then. However during our visit on the 11th November the stay on the 5th bell broke. We rang 5 bells instead. James was able to check later in the week and assured us that the stay had a vertical spilt so was not all attributed to our ringing.

We then went to Spreyton where there was enthusiasm for an expected well-earned drink at the Tom Copley. There were however, a lot of long faces entering the church as it was still closed. We did ring and as before had 5 or 6 peals so that all were able to ring mixed with all levels of experience.

Our last tower of the day was at Moretonhampstead. This was for the third attempt to visit as the phone mast erection on the tower and ceiling problems had prevented the two previous times.

Unbeknown to all the ringers, except me, was that the muffles had been put on in preparation for the muffled peal on the next day, Remembrance Sunday. This did not cause any problems but did in fact lead to some very good peals with all the ringers being mixed together again. The sound of the bells muffled was an extremely moving experience. Many had not previously rung bells muffled.

The tour then retired to the Union Inn in Moretonhampstead, where Dave & Sian Colridge and their staff produced yet another excellent meal. This was the favourite finishing hostelry for all the ringers, and the third time we had ended there.

John Staddon - Alphington, Kenn & Ide.

We rely on you to submit letters, obituaries, and articles. The deadline for the next edition of Devon Calls will be **9th June 2024**. All copy should be sent to the Editor: Colin ADAMS - devoncalls@devonbells.co.uk

No reproduction, either in whole or part, without prior permission from the editor



The 'EGM' in the belfry where Tom announced his retirement as tower captain after only 49 years.

RINGING THE CHANGES AT CLYST HYDON

Bellringing at St Andrew's Clyst Hydon arose from the ashes in 1965 after a long period of silence as the bells were considered too difficult to ring. Tom Coleman was the first learner, and was elevated to the position of Tower Captain in 1974.

Much to the surprise of all the ringers, Tom gathered us together in the tower one evening last November after ringing and announced his retirement as Tower Captain. He of course had a succession plan, and appointed four ringers to do his job!

For nearly sixty years, Ben Wadsworth has been ringing the tenor at St Andrew's Clyst Hydon. Ben also announced his retirement, but still remains a faithful ringer on Sundays. Jean Coleman started ringing in 1959 (that is 64 years ago, by my calculations) in nearby Dunkerswell and has been ringing at St Andrew's since 1965.

The 'EGM' in the belfry at St Andrew's Clyst Hydon, where Tom announced his retirement as tower captain after only 49 years. As often happens after a good ringing session on a Wednesday evening, the occasion was celebrated with cake and wine.

Several weeks later we all gathered for a meal to celebrate Tom and Ben's retirement and to thank them both for all their efforts over the years.

Over the last year the band has grown, with four learners graduating to ringing call changes at practice nights and for church services. Thanks to Tom and Jean for their encouragement, hard work and delicious cakes!

We ring at 7.00pm on Wednesday evenings. Visitors are always welcomed with open arms. Check first with Phil Street (07971110625) or Sue Williams (07811978729) to ensure we have a practice and that there is cake afterwards.

- Sue Williams



The St Andrew's bellringers. Tom and Jean Coleman and Ben and Annette Wadsworth seated on the sofa.

DEPARTED



DAVID ROBERT KINDRED died suddenly on Thursday 28th December 2023 aged 72. He was formerly a Senior Scientist and EU Aircraft Liaison Officer at The Met Office. His funeral service took place at St. Catherine's Church, Whitestone on Thursday 18th January at 2.00 pm. Dave learnt to ring at Kenton after having moved to Exeter following the re-location of the Met Office. He rang regularly at Kenton and also at Exminster.

It was a cold, clear and bright winter's day as the mourners, many having travelled from far afield, gathered in the little church to pay their final respects to a popular and well-respected man. The six bells were rung half-muffled both before and after the service by ringers from Kenton, Exminster and Whitestone. The service was conducted by Revd. Martin Wood. During the service three hymns were sung. The Eulogy, written by Louise his wife, was read by Mary - a neighbour. Psalms 121 and 23 were read by two other neighbours Ron and Philip. A fitting poem was read by Anna, Director of the Exeter Branch of Samaritans; Dave had been a member of the branch for 18 years. Tributes were given by his two sons Robbie and Andrew. John, a neighbour friend and former colleague spoke on behalf of the Met Office. Cliff, who was part of a group of

old sixth-form friends, spoke affectionately about the friendship they formed whilst at school.

In his tribute he closed with the following phrase which was apparently written in his autograph book by an aunt when he was a young boy: "Make new friends but keep the old, for one is silver and the other gold." His final words were - "Dave was our gold." There were over 150 mourners present at the funeral, including thirty five from Samaritans and over twenty six colleagues and friends from the Met Office. Many gathered afterwards at The Travellers Rest, Tedburn Road to celebrate Dave's life and partake in light refreshments.

Donations in memory of Dave were for World Vision or World Villages For Children.

- Colin Adams

JOHN CONIBEAR was born in Shirwell just a few fields away from the church on 1st January 1928 the 6th of 9 children. John remained in the village for 86 years. He had a tough childhood and quickly learned to turn his hand to a variety of work skills to help support the family who remained very closely knit. With his 3 brothers Henry, Bill and Bert, John toured North Devon in the Sheep shearing season.

He won many ploughing matches and a fine ancient silver trophy cup which he won is now at the Barnstaple Athenaeum along with his story. He dug and tilled the garden at Hilltop every year for 65 years. He won many cups and prizes for the flowers and vegetables which he grew and regularly displayed at Shirwell Garden Show. He always made sure he had plenty of strawberries and garden peas for children to pick and enjoy. Another of his skills was Wedding Cake Icing which started with Phyllis his first Wife. In all his activities, John was a perfectionist, and a good teacher. Apart from playing skittles regularly for a number of years he loved his bellringing and the friendship of ringers.

He regularly rang and maintained the bells at Shirwell Church for a very long time and he competed in countless ringing competitions across the county. He became President of the Devon Association of Ringers in 2008.

With his second wife Hilary he regularly went on organised ringing trips which they both thoroughly enjoyed. John always said that he was the luckiest man to have had two wives who were both one in a million. He was very much loved by all his children, grand children and great grand children for his humour and sense of fun. He loved to be out and about and to travel – whether it was short trips to Exmoor to see the deer, or further afield.

Holidays included trips to Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Austria, Madeira, and the Canadian Rockies as well as to New York City to visit his son Grahame and daughter-in-law Sandra.

The bells were rung before the service by his chosen team which consisted of: *Andrew Philips, John Warne, John Orchard, Keith Bavin, Paul Wright and Steven Facey*. After the service the bells were immediately rung by a team consisting entirely of past Presidents: *Gerald Arscott, Harry Bardens, Suzanne Driscoll, Keith Bavin, Christine Ley, and John Barnes*. Followed by open ringing.

This is an edited version of the Eulogy which was given by son Grahame at the funeral service which was held at St. Peter's Church, Shirwell on Monday 8th January 2024.

- Colin Adams



The Shearer - John Conibear

- LETTER TO THE EDITOR -

Many thanks for the article which you wrote about Chittlehampton Church, my service there as Tower Captain and my ringing career. The article I am referring to featured in the Mid 2023 edition of Devon Calls.

We met face-to-face at a convenient midpoint location for at least 2 hours over a cup of coffee whilst you made notes. We also spoke on the telephone several times after. Your hours of research and detail is top class.

I have read Devon Calls for years but I had not really thought about how much time and effort you put into producing the magazine. You are to be congratulated by us all.

- Gerald Arscott

I regard myself as a modest kind of bloke but Gerald insisted that his letter is published. Thank you Gerald for your kind words.

- Colin (Ed.)

HANDBELL RINGING AT ST. ANDREWS, KENN



Left to Right: Jane, Lydia, Kelly, Neil, Clare & Ewan of St. Andrews Kenn.

The Ringers at Kenn Church were encouraged in the summer of 2023, by some of our new recruits to look at the set of handbells which lay dormant in the ringing chamber. The last time they were given an airing and used was probably well over 40 years ago when the Team of Ringers would travel around Kenn and Kennford at Christmas time and play Carols.

After a brief discussion it was decided that the present ringers would resurrect the handbell playing and see if we could achieve enough expertise to do something similar. The ringers were joined by three other friends from the

village and practice took place fortnightly before practice on the Church bells. After several weeks we concluded that ringing around the villages was not achievable in 2023 but we would aim to do it in 2024.

However having accepted this six of the ringers performed in the church on November 19th playing Silent Night and Jingle Bells to an appreciative congregation. Other talented performers also took part.

- John Staddon

DEVON RINGERS IN TASMANIA!

Mid August 2023, 7.30pm – it's dark, and a chill winter wind blows in from the harbour. We're lurking outside a city centre landmark like three initiates waiting to be given admission to a secret society.

Yes, you heard me right – August, and winter. We're in Hobart, Tasmania – my wife Lorraine, my daughter Katie and me – on a trip to visit relatives, and on a whim I have set up this meeting to pursue a passion on the other side of the world!

Several years ago, our bell-tower captain in King's Nympton told us how she had found herself in Hobart on the night of the new millennium and had contacted the tower there to ask about ringing in the year 2000. They welcomed her with open arms, and as well as ringing out 1999 she was able to watch the city's fireworks display from the top of the bell tower.

So when we worked out that our one night in Hobart would just happen to be practice night, we got in touch with them as well, and we too were welcomed with open arms.

The tower has a peal of ten bells – most dating from 1935, and cast by John Taylor & Co. Imagine transporting them all the way down under! The heaviest is 21cwt. (a bit lighter than the tenor bell I regularly ring in South Molton). On the night we were there they were only ringing six of them.

So far so good – but we had been told back home that Hobart ringers practice Devon Call Changes, whereas in fact they ring method! Luckily for us they were happy to do a few peals that we could take part in – I like to think that we didn't disgrace ourselves.

My daughter Katie can now add Hobart Cathedral to the list of towers she has rung in – the other two being King's Nympton, and Exeter Cathedral.



Martin (Left) and Hobart Captain Doug Nichols

Our thanks to the bell-ringers of Hobart, and if you ever find yourself in that part of the world – tell them we sent you! To see a video of us ringing in Hobart, go to <http://tinyurl.com/5azry34b>

- Martin Pailthorpe - South Molton



In the Tower at Hobart - Martin far right, Lorraine and Katie 3 & 4 from left



**Make friends
with an Otter**



OTTER BREWERY

01404 891 285 otterbrewery.com   



JOHN TAYLOR & CO., BELLFOUNDERS

The Bellfoundry, Freehold Street, Loughborough,
Leicestershire, LE11 1AR, England
Tel: 01509 212241 Fax: 01509 263305
Email: office@taylorbells.co.uk

'THE FINEST SOUNDING BELLS IN THE WORLD'



See our website: www.taylorbells.co.uk for comprehensive details of all the services we are able to offer to customers

**FREE INSPECTIONS & REPORTS ON UK MAINLAND
TAYLOR BELLS & TAYLOR ENGINEERING
'THE DISCERNING RINGER'S CHOICE'**



Manufacturer of British Wool church bell ropes including,

- 2 week bell rope repairs
- Machine spliced tail ends
- Pre-stretched polyester
- Light pull bell ropes
- Mini ring ropes
- Dyneema® tops ends
-and more

sales@avonropes.co.uk

07946 605 963

www.avonropes.co.uk

Made in Bristol, UK

