



Founded 1925



President - Brian Drake

www.devonbells.co.uk

Devon Calls

February 2015

DEVON ASSOCIATION OF RINGERS 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

OFFICERS

President:

Brian Drake

President-Elect:

Michael Adams

Chairman:

Graham SHARLAND

Vice Chairman:

James STEER

Hon. Secretary:

Margaret WHITE

Hon. Treasurer:

John BARNES

Web Master:

Dr James KERSLAKE

Devon Calls:

Editor: Colin ADAMS

Technical Eds.:

Dr Colin BARNES

Elinor D'ALBIAC

Inside this issue

90 th anniversary celebrations	1-2
Devon Calls Editorial	2
Carol Service	3
Chris Clayton: <i>in memorium</i>	4-6
All Saints, E. Budleigh	6
Memories - Robin Burnham	7-9
Paignton's New Year's Outing	9
Obituary—Bill Blake	9
Pascoe Memorial Trophy	10
Ringing for England	11
Dame Hannah Rogers' Trust	11
East Ogwell	11
Stokeinteignhead	11
Harry Barden	12
High Bickington	12
Slapton	12
Topsham—Roy Berry	12
Devon Association	
Accounts	13
Competitions	14
DCBRF	15



Having been formed in 1925, the Devon Association in celebrating its 90th year will be holding an event in Exeter Cathedral by kind permission of the Dean and Chapter. This will take place on Saturday 25th April and it is hoped there will be something for everyone.

The day will provide an opportunity to ring on 6, 8, 10 and 12 bells, a service of Evensong and the traditional ringers' tea. An 8 bell competition will be rung on the "Thomas" 8 with a tenor weight of 28cwt. The 10 bell competition will use the same 8 with added trebles. Both competitions will be judged and unique certificates presented at the end of the day. There will be a video link placed under the South Tower in the Cathedral so that ringers and visitors will be able to see what is going on up the tower.

(continued on page 2)

Do we have your correct address and contact details?

Please send to Margaret WHITE (Secretary) bittadon@googlemail.com; Colin ADAMS (Acting Editor) kentonian@eclipse.co.uk or John BARNES (Treasurer) jcbarnes482@btinternet.com

(continued from front page)

In addition to the above, a 6 bell competition will be held at a tower close to the Cathedral from 12 noon – 3pm and open towers will be organised *en route* into Exeter. Various Association artefacts, our present array of Cups and Shields, and other material of historic interest will be on display in the Cathedral in the hope of making this a memorable day for both ringers and non-ringers alike.

We are extremely grateful to the Cathedral Authorities for allowing us to use the Cathedral for our celebration day which includes the use of the Chapter House.

The provisional timetable for the day will be as follows:-

- 10.00 - Welcome and draw for the 10 bell competition - Chapter House.
- 10.30 - 1st 10 bell team to commence ringing.
- 12.00 - Draw for the 6 bell competition at a venue to be confirmed.
- 13.30 - Draw for the 8 bell competition - Chapter House.
- 14.00 - 1st 8 bell team to commence ringing.
- 16.00 - Evensong.
- 17.00 - Ringers' Tea - Chapter House.
- 18.00 - Open ringing.
- 19.30 - Presentation of Certificates - Chapter House.

We hope to see many people at this notable event to be held in such magnificent surroundings. Your next opportunity to celebrate a similar event will be in 2025!

Ian Avery

on behalf of the Committee of the Devon Association of Ringers

DEVON CALLS

Welcome to our fourth edition. 2015 promises to be an important year in the history of the **Devon Association of Ringers** being its 90th anniversary.

First, belated congratulations to members of the **Guild of Devonshire Ringers**. On Saturday 21st June 2014 the Guild celebrated their 140th Anniversary. Their NE Branch hosted the Guild Festival and AGM at Tiverton. The theme was 140 bells for 140 years. This involved a combination of organisations and committed ringers across the county. During the morning, quarter peals were scored (with it seems some lost!), handbells were rung, and tower bells pealed out across Tiverton as members gathered for a service held at St. Peter's church. The Annual General Meeting took place in the afternoon. Topics ranged from the newly developed website to the Guild Education Fund and the DenMisch ring of ten simulated bells being moved to Exeter Cathedral School. The day closed with a barbecue which was organised by Cruwys Morchard ringers.

The programme of celebrations to mark the 90th anniversary of the **Devon Association of Ringers** begins with 8 & 10 bell ringing at the Cathedral on Saturday 25th April. This replaces the customary annual competition for the Ross shield which has been moved to take place at North Tawton in September. To be invited to ring on the middle eight at Exeter Cathedral is both an honour and a privilege. Call-changes are not often rung on the bells and a high standard of striking can be expected from the top 8-bell teams who will be taking part. This will get the 90th Anniversary celebrations off to a good start. The annual 8-bell festival later in the year at North Tawton is also rather special. Not only does it take us back to the roots of the

organisation as both the 8 and 6 bell festivals were held there in June 1925 (with a 6 and 5 bell festival that year in October at Zeal Monachorum) but it is also the home of the President Mr. Brian Drake. On 13th June the 6 - bell festival will be held at Kenton the home of the President elect Michael Adams where he learnt to ring, being taught by the then Tower Captain the late Frederick Gardener, Michael and Colin's grandfather. With the annual dinner later in the year and the carol service taking place in December there is a great deal to look forward to and enjoy.

In 1925 the Rev. Florence Augustine McCarthy gathered a group of ringers around him at Zeal Monachorum and formed the Devon Association of Ringers. Much has been achieved since then. Many peals are now hung on roller bearings making the bells easier to handle. Peals have been retuned and re-hung and some augmented. Ringing chambers are more comfortable and are lit by electric light (which was not the case when Ivor Hookway learnt to ring - see the last edition). Above all the Guild and the Association have been united in raising funds to enable improvements to be made and we even have our own directory entitled 'The Bells of Devon' thoughtfully put together by Tim Bayton.

Looking ahead to 2024 and 2025 these will again be 'special' for both organisations. In the meantime let us work jointly towards recruiting more ringers to match the funds which are available for bells. We have much to be proud of and the sound of church bells and the message they send out is too important to be lost, particularly in this lovely county of ours.

Colin Adams Editor

THE DEVON BELLRINGERS' CAROL SERVICE

SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2014

Held at Buckfast Abbey by kind permission of the Abbot



The Devon Bellringers' Carol Service was held at Buckfast Abbey on Saturday 13th December 2014. Prior to the service the Abbey bells were rung and the cold, clear conditions of the day allowed them to be heard to their best advantage for several miles around.

The service was very well attended and extra seats were being put out even as the service started to accommodate the swelling congregation.

The service began at 3pm with a stately entrance from the Bellringers' Choir singing 'Gloria' by Vivaldi. Lester Yeo, President of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers, gave the welcome after the first carol which was *Once in Royal David's City*, accompanied by the magnificent rich sound of the Abbey organ, that guided the congregation through all the carols and supported the Choir.

The Bidding Prayer was read by The Reverend Prebendary Philip Darby, before the Choir sang 'Torches' by Joubert.



Exeter Cathedral Handbell Ringers rang a superb touch of Kent Treble Bob Royal before the congregation enjoyed performing *O Little Town of Bethlehem*. The first reading was given by John Barnes, Georgeham Tower Captain and Treasurer of the Devon Association of Ringers. The Choir then sang 'A Child is Born in Bethlehem' by Archer before everyone sang *Unto Us is Born a Son*. The second reading was given by Janet Ritterman, the Mid-Devon Branch Librarian of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers. The choir then gave a spellbinding performance of 'O Holy Night' by Adam which resonated magnificently around the Abbey. Lamerton Handbell Ringers followed this by ringing the Queens peal on handbells, passing the bells between them to make the changes and simulating a perfect rise and lower. The third reading was given by Stephen Bryant from Ipplepen, before everyone sang *Good King Wenceslas*. Anne Bailey, the Master of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers, presented the fourth reading before the choir sang 'The Shepherd's Farewell' by Berloiz. The ladies and gentlemen of the Choir and congregation then took it in turns to sing the verses of *Of The Father's Heart Begotten* before singing together for the resounding finish. The Reverend Prebendary Philip Darby gave the fifth reading and everyone joined together again for *The Bellringers' Hymn*, during which the Collection was taken.

Finally, the Reverend Prebendary Philip Darby gave the Advent Collect and Blessing, the Choir sang the Lord's Prayer as arranged by Lees and the service ended with all enjoying the most uplifting carol, *O Come All Ye Faithful*.

The Abbey bells were rung again by members of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers to close the service and the bells were still ringing as people departed.

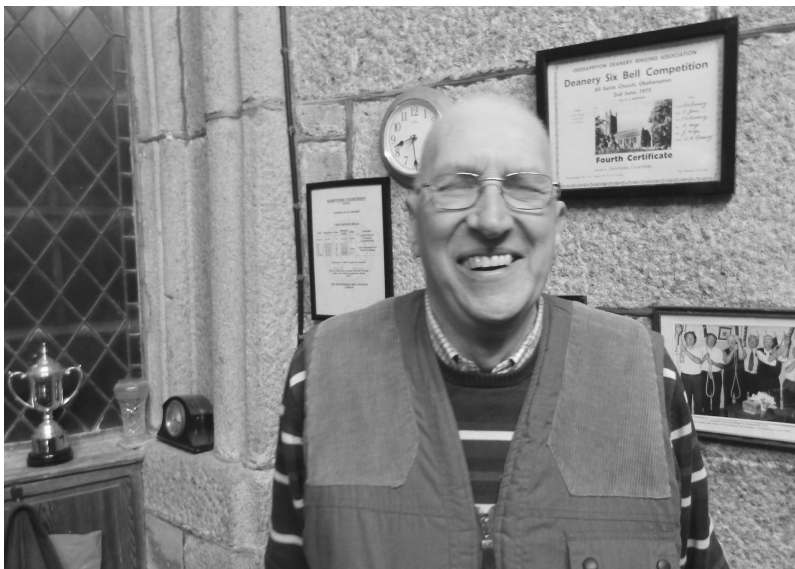
Special thanks go to the Abbot of Buckfast Abbey for permission to use the Abbey Church and Ian Avery for organising such a beautiful service in those wonderful surroundings. Thanks also must go to the members of the Bellringers' Choir, Exeter Cathedral Handbell Ringers, Lamerton Handbell Ringers, the very talented Organist Wyn Turner, and all those who presented the readings and assisted with the Collection. We have been advised that the Collection raised a considerable sum, allowing two significant charitable donations. £400 will be donated to Children's Hospice South West and £400 will be donated to Fostering Families.

The Carol Service for this year will be held on Saturday 19th December 2015, with the venue to be confirmed later.

Victoria Tucker
Press & Public Relations Officer

CHRIS CLAYTON 1938 – 2014: THE RINGER AND THE MAN

Throughout life, you might meet one or two people who will have had really a significant impact upon you. They may have become friends, maybe close friends - folk with whom you would have had a bigger affinity than most. For many people, including myself, Chris Clayton had been one such person. Chris was a man of monumental social stature who possessed attributes that entitled



him to be described as a character: assertive, opinionated, demanding, erudite, encouraging, generous; the list could go on. He had an air of indestructibility, that he would be a permanent presence regardless of what life threw at him so, when he was struck down by an insidious disease that would finally claim his life, it was no surprise that he fought it, courageously, to the end.

Of course, one of the greatest passions in Chris's life was bell ringing. Over the years, some fifty or more in pursuit of his pastime, he had rung with, taught and socialised with numerous ringers throughout Devon and much wider afield, and was acclaimed for his knowledge and ability. He loved every minute of it. The stories of his ringing exploits are legion and too numerous to mention here. There had been many special moments for him and amongst them were his Presidency of the Devon Association of Ringers in 2013 and the Six Bell Finals being held at his home tower in June 2014 an event that, on reflection, was probably his swansong. He had also presided over the refurbishment of his beloved bells at Sampford Courtenay in 2010 and, for some 25 years, been tower captain until poor health forced him to give up shortly before he passed away.

Outside ringing, Chris had been a pillar of the local community where he had served as a churchwarden for many years and been a driving force for many social and fund raising events. He was very adept at getting people involved in things – especially if they were new to the village or showed the slightest interest in bell ringing. Of course, there was his family; he and his unswervingly supportive wife, Pam, had been blessed to have had not only children and grandchildren but also great grandchildren. So, when the sad moment of his funeral, on 18th December 2014, was imminent we knew that, because he was such a widely known and loved person, we could expect an extraordinarily high attendance of mourners at St Andrew's, Sampford Courtenay.

The funeral directors were R. Gist and Son and the Service

was led jointly by the Rector, Nick Weldon, and the Assistant Minister, Rita Bullworthy. Andrew Gist had been a fellow ringer and knew Chris well, and Nick and Rita had also been very much part of Chris's life. The plot for his burial reflected his wish to be placed within the churchyard in a location where he would be in the sun and the bells could be heard at their best.

The Churchwardens knew they had an enormous task on their hands in preparing for the funeral. As much seating as could be squeezed into the church had to be acquired and, in anticipation of more people arriving than could be accommodated within the building, a PA system would be located in the porch so that the service could be heard by any forced to stand outside. Special provision had to be made to ensure there was sufficient parking close by and arrangements put in hand to cater for those amongst the mourners wishing to ring after the service.

On the day of the funeral the weather looked set to be dry. This led one or two of us to light-heartedly comment that maybe Chris had already started to take charge of things in heaven! By the time of the service, the church was packed to capacity with some, as expected, in the porch and churchyard – over 300 people in total. The coffin arrived and was borne into the church by Scott Adams, Graham Sharland, Stuart Bennie, Steve Herniman, Paul Wright and Evan Endacott. Eulogies were given by Roger Salter, Chris's cousin and, a particularly apposite one, by long-standing friend and ringing colleague, Scott Adams (*see next page—Ed.*). Following the service and committal, 32 ringers requested the opportunity to ring in a final act of respect to Chris. One comment overheard was that, in addition to those who rang, it was the largest gathering of ringers anyone could remember seeing in one place at the same time.

Such was Chris's impact, that people can still 'feel' his presence amongst them. Those who were close to him during his final days were filled with admiration for the way he conducted himself. Although he suffered debilitating lows throughout his illness, he did it stoically trying always to lead a normal life without ever moaning about his misfortune. The world of ringing and his many friends and family will continue to miss him but all will have been the richer for knowing him.

Terry Bullworthy

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, SAMPFORD COURTENAY
Tuesday 18th November, 2014 at 2pm



A service celebrating the life of

CHRISTOPHER JOHN CLAYTON

7th August, 1938 – 5th November, 2014



EULOGY by Scott Adams

In the words of Chris himself..... Well, Well, Well!

These were the familiar opening words that Chris would always say to me every time I saw him. Those words were immediately followed by a firm handshake and a warm smile. As is testimony by the large number of people here today to celebrate the life of Chris; Chris was many things to many people. Yet to me, Chris was a life-long bellringing friend and a person whom I much admired, greatly respected and always looked up to.

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Scott Adams and it is a huge honour to stand here in front of you all and share with you some special bellringing moments that I have of Chris. For a man who has achieved so much in his ringing career and been such a huge inspiration to so many ringers, trying to condense over 50 years of ringing bells into a couple of minutes is a bit of a challenge. This is illustrated by the numerous bellringing organisations Chris was involved with throughout his life. Chris was captain of the ringers here at Sampford Courtenay for over 20 years, he was past president of The Devon Association of Ringers, past chairman of the Okehampton Deanery of Ringers and belonged to the SERS, Friday Night Ringers, Retired Ringers and Wednesday Evening Ringers Association.

Chris learnt to ring at the small village of Warkleigh in North Devon in the early 1960s. Following a short move to Norfolk, Chris then returned to Devon and began ringing in earnest. Chris was part of the successful Black Torrington team of the 1970s where he rang the 5th bell.

In 1982 Chris and Pam moved to Sampford Courtenay

and he soon joined the local ringers there. Not long after this Chris became part of the highly famed North Tawton team of bellringers. It is at this point that I have my first real memory of Chris. Let me take you back to Saturday 4th April 1987, to the town of Holsworthy and their annual open 8-bell striking contest. I can vividly recall watching Chris, alongside the rest of North Tawton ringers, entering the tower ready to compete. I was listening in the car park opposite the church with my father who was quite keen to stay and hear North Tawton ring. The treble bell tolled 3-times to warn the judges to get ready. There was then a silence of approximately 30-40 seconds. What followed was a demonstration in the art of bellringing. The sound of 8-bells running right down the scale for a near faultless rise followed by outstanding top ringing and a perfect lower was, and still is, the most amazing piece of bellringing that I have ever heard. A few weeks later in that same month of April 1987, Chris again ringing with North Tawton, won his first Devon Association of Ringers 8-bell title at Thorverton. To win the 8-bell title once in your lifetime is a tremendous achievement, however, Chris went on to win it on two further occasions with North Tawton at Chulmleigh in 1989 and Georgeham in 1995. These achievements I know he was extremely proud of.

Yet, Chris' contribution to ringing extended far, far deeper than just competing in bellringing competitions.

One of Chris' great skills was his ability to teach, encourage and train new bellringers. Indeed, many people here today have been taught to ring by Chris. He had a boundless enthusiasm for passing on his skills and knowledge about ringing to a wide variety of people. I am told that Chris created a wonderful atmosphere in the tower here at Sampford Courtenay under his captaincy. It was most touching to be at his house only a few Sundays ago and witness all his ringers give recognition and appreciation of all the hard work Chris had done by presenting him with a lovely painting of this church.

Now I am sure I speak on behalf of all bellringers when I say that the biggest void that Chris will leave behind will be his absence on future ringing tours. Back in the early 1990's, going away for a long weekend bellringing was still quite a new and novel experience. Julia Endacott and the rest of her Chagford team were probably one of the first groups of ringers to start touring the country bellringing and I know Chris always looked forward to these Chagford tours. Chris, alongside his good friend Mervyn Langdon, became a kind of double act on these trips and were much loved by all who went along for their humour and great company. In 1997 I was fortunate to be invited on the Chagford ringers tour of Kent. What transpired on this trip would turn out to be replicated on all future tours that I would go on with Chris. Chris always threw himself into the first day which was inevitably on a Friday. Chris was always extremely generous and would be first at the bar. He would order his pint of beer, always in a handle glass, and then do something quite extraor-

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5)

-inary which I have never seen anyone else do. He would position himself somewhere in the bar and place his pint glass between his arm and body, kind of like, this and then carry on talking. How he did this unique balancing act always fascinated me. Anyway, as the first day continued, Chris would get more and more merry until by the time last orders were called he probably had one too many pints more than he should have done. Those were happy days and some of my fondest memories of Chris have been whilst on ringing tours enjoying his company.

In 2001 I founded the Wednesday Evening Ringers Association and Chris was soon a member. Not long after he joined he went on holiday to South Africa. Whilst in South Africa Chris developed a huge liking for the tropical, brightly patterned shirts often worn by Nelson Mandela. He must have purchased an entire wardrobe of these shirts whilst there since, when he got back to Devon and the weather was good, he often wore one of these amazing shirts. I recall one extremely hot summer and a Wednesday Evening Ringers meeting at Chittlehampton. The evening temperature was still around 30 degrees and, true to form, Chris arrived sporting one of these brightly coloured tropical shirts and a pair of shorts. After the first peal Chris declared it was far too hot to ring. He then promptly stripped off his shirt and continued ringing for the rest of the night bare-chested. I don't know which was more amusing the sight of Chris ringing in this brightly patterned shirt or of him ringing bare chested. We all had a chuckle at this

afterwards in the pub and as always Chris took it in great spirit.

I was at Totnes with Chris in August 2012 when he first told me that unfortunately he had been diagnosed with cancer. From that point onwards Chris was full of fortitude and always maintained his good spirit. To his enormous credit, Chris was adamant that he would still go on last year's Wednesday Evening Ringers Christmas tour of the East Midlands. It was whilst on this trip that Chris proved just how great a ringer he really was. The last tower of the weekend was the magnificent 35cwt peal of 12 bells at Evesham in Worcestershire. Chris, caught hold of the treble and led up the back 8-bells in peal to perfection. And that was Chris, a fantastic treble ringer.

One of Chris' last wishes was to hold the 2014 Devon Association of Ringers 6-Bell Final, here, at his home tower of Sampford Courtenay. I am so pleased he was able to witness such a highly successful and most enjoyable day back in June.

It is incredibly sad that Chris' life has ended so soon and I cannot put into words how much I will miss him. Chris was a positive person and would not want us to be sad today. If he were here he would tell us to cheer up, smile and remember all of the great memories we all shared. Even though Chris may be gone, his memory will live on in all of us forever. Chris, I appreciate your friendship and will never forget you. Thank you.

Scott Adams

REPORT ON THE ALL SAINTS, EAST BUDLEIGH, BELL RESTORATION

First, I would like to explain why the bells at East Budleigh have had some restoration work done. Nothing had been done to the bells of All Saints since 1926.

When our vicar said she was closing the church at Bickton I thought that the one bell that was in that tower would make a heavier tenor to go behind the peal at All Saints. When the bell was measured we found that it was 10 inches too wide to fit our frame, and when checking the bells at All Saints we found the first and second bells were very tricky to ring. When these two were installed in 1961 nothing was done other than to hang them in the frame.

On inspecting the other bells we found that the tenor was out of tune. so we decided to have a new tenor at same time.

The vicar came to the ringing chamber one evening and said if the ringers wanted to proceed with this work they would have to do it themselves as the church could not do anything about it. On talking about the project it was decided we would like to proceed and said hopefully they could raise the money in four to five years. Next we had estimates from Nicholson's of Bridport, Whitechapel Bellfoundry. and Taylors of Loughbrough

When we had the estimates there was only about four thousand pounds between them so the ringers decided to go with Taylors. We decided that when the bells were

out it would be a good time to paint the frame so we got a price from Taylors to do that job as well.



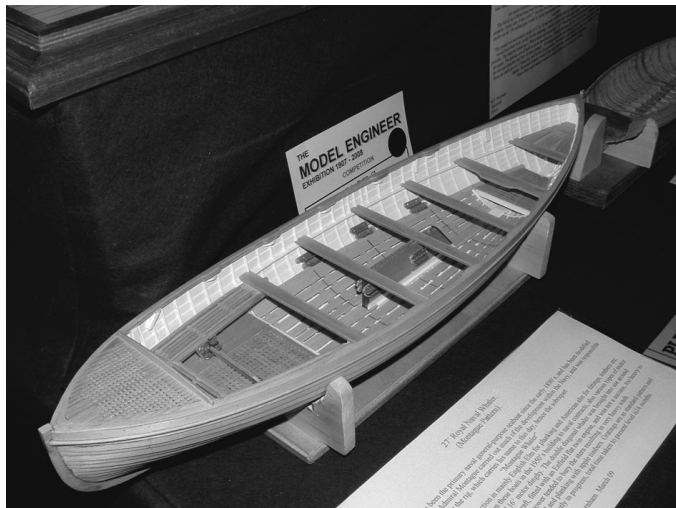
Next we called a public meeting to let everyone know what was going to be done and why, so that evening we set the fund raising in motion. We held coffee mornings, Jumble sales, Cake stalls, a Gardeners question and answer evening and the local Lions Club at Budleigh Salterton helped with fund raising. The public were very supportive about the restoration work as was the local school, and in exactly one year we raised the amount required. The work has now been completed and we are back ringing for services and on practice nights. We have 14 or so regular ringers, and also we welcome visiting bands

With many thanks

David Pratt

[Captain of All Saints East Budleigh]

MY RINGING MEMORIES by Robin Burnham.



In 1955 at the age of 15, I went to Dartmouth from Bristol as a boat building apprentice. Prior to this I had worked on the Cardiff Queen for one season. I also attended the naval review at Spithead, Portsmouth in 1954. At Dartmouth I went into lodgings, which was not easy for a young lad on minimal wages. My mother used to send me £2.50 each week to make up the difference in my wages. This left me with just a shilling (5p) for any extras. I had to walk up and down Old Mill Lane to get to the boat yard which I did for five years. It was during one of these walks that I heard the bells of St. Saviour's Church ringing and, intrigued by the pleasant sound, I decided to investigate.

I made several visits to the church to see the ringers in action. I did this over a period of about six months without anyone taking the slightest notice of me. The then Captain, Bob Middleton, did not teach anyone or run a practice night.

In Dartmouth I soon made friends with the Pearson family, who still remain friends today, although their numbers have been reduced. It was George Pearson who took pity on me and introduced me to bellringing. During the time he was teaching me he also started teaching members of his family; Linda, Mavis, Fernley, Clive and Francis all started to learn. Another son, Kerry, who was in the Metropolitan police force, also learnt. We eventually became known as the 'Monday Nighters'.

With George's advice I made up a set of silencing stays which helped cut down on the noise produced whilst we were practicing. We learnt with the bells down, and by the simple expedient of 'pull and see'. We gradually learnt how to raise and set a bell safely. From here we learnt to ring rounds and eventually progressed to call-changes. We never saw the Captain, or any of the other ringers apart from George, although there were many experienced change ringers within the team.

Gradually we began to achieve some respectable striking but it was a long time before I was invited to ring on a Sunday. I will always remember one ringer, Tom Densham, who mostly rang the sixth. I rang the fifth and when lowering behind me Tom would frequently call out 'gid-on'. Which, when translated from the vernacular means 'get on'!

The late Ern Tucker was an excellent treble man. He was the Tower Captain out at St. Petrox, Dartmouth Castle. It was Ern who taught me competition ringing. I learnt under his guidance on the smashing little six at St. Petrox. I remember when we used to lower the bells in peal and at the finish having a really good laugh over the sheer delight of getting it right and getting the music out of the peal.

Ern always wore a bright expression on his face. He was a brilliant teacher. Sadly he was under-rated and never invited to ring the treble very often at St. Saviour's, Dartmouth.

As captain Bob Middleton regarded this as his prerogative. He was competent but not as good as Ern who was always spot-on.

As I improved I began to get invited to ring during the annual Regatta Days at Dartmouth, which always involved eight-bell ringing. Ringing for such an occasion also attracted many visiting ringers. Frequent nearby visitors were Chris and Emily Dietz and their son John. I came to know the Dietz family quite well and later learnt that the family regularly went off on ringing tours organised by Arthur Fiddler enthusiastically supported by the late Frank 'Stormy' Adams. I was completely unaware that such trips ever existed. Dartmouth, under Captain Bob Middleton, never supported anything like this let alone entering a ringing competition. The most Dartmouth ever did was to enter the South Devon 8 – bell Festival, usually when it was held at nearby Upton, Torquay.

It was Ern Tucker who started taking us learners out to competitions. We went under the St. Petrox banner. I remember one competition which we went to. It was near to Stokeinteignhead and we actually won! Ern was over the moon. His state of euphoria was however sadly short lived. One of the judges, I think it was the late George Daw, entered a protest saying we were not a proper band. This caused a lot of ill feeling. We always rang on Sundays, both out at the Castle and in the town. Besides our own practice nights we also went ringing at Brixham and Churston Ferrers. The late Stan Martin, who was Stoke Gabriel's talented treble man, would often join us and we visited towers all over the South Hams.

Through these experiences I gradually became more confident and started to teach others to ring. I taught a band to ring at Blackawton. Amongst the learners were two farming brothers who actually became very good. I was always in some doubt, and still am, about whether it is better to start teaching with the bell down or up. Basically it seems to depend on the learner's aptitude. Some people seem to be quicker than others in learning how to handle a bell and particularly when it comes to the task of taking in or letting out coils.

(continued on page 8)

(continued from page 7)

The tenor bell at Dartmouth St. Saviour's weighs 19 ¾ cwt. It always amuses me to see a ringer on a heavy bell letting their feet come off the floor, not realising when this is done that they are losing the strength in their arms to hold the bell down. It is that strength that enables a ringer to get the clapper of a bell striking on the correct side right at the start of a rise. Once this has been achieved the clapper will strike correctly through-out and up until it is set. Tavistock tenor bell is 24 ¾ cwt; not a bell to be trifled with.



St. Eustachius, TAVISTOCK
(10 📷 - 24-0-5 D)

When I first went to ring at Tavi (Tavistock) I could not understand why the tenor man at the time used to ring the bell whilst standing on a box. He used to skip on and off this box as required. Most unfortunately one day he fell through the box and landed on the floor. When I was appointed captain I removed the remains of this box. I got Arthur Fidler to provide a new counter balanced clapper made from ductile iron. I was the first to ring the bell with its new clapper and managed to get the bell up without it going false clapper. The original clapper had lost its spherical profile and regularly went up false clapper.

This meant that someone regularly had to go up into the bell chamber to drop the clapper over to the correct side. Having been put right the tenor could now be rung from the floor which made life much easier. Alright, the ringer had more rope to contend with but this is not a problem for a good rope handler. There used to be a fault with the clock box at Tavi, something which was later corrected by George Boucher. Prior to this Norman Lewis was the only one prepared to ring the seventh bell because it required a straight pull of the rope and follow through.

Having spent five years in a boat yard at Dartmouth I taught myself to splice wire rope. There were times when I often wondered how much the work had been charged out under. Had the work gone to Phillips rigging loft in the town it would have cost 'an arm and a leg'. When splicing a bell rope I always made it a practice

to use a long splice. This way the life of the rope could be extended indefinitely. Usually there is always plenty of spare rope wrapped around the spokes of the wheel that can be utilised. With plenty of rope grease or tallow to lubricate the sheaves, and the long splice, the rope passes easily through the eye in the wheel. This cannot be achieved with a short splice.

Whilst working at Dartmouth I purchased my first motorcycle, a 197cc Excelsior. The bike spared me the walk up and down Old Mill Street. Later, with the help of a loan from my landlady, I traded in the Excelsior for 200cc Triumph Tiger Cub. This bike took me to Bristol to visit my parents. It also enabled me to extend my ringing experiences by ringing in and around the Bristol area. I remember being amongst the first band to ring Bristol Cathedral bells after they were re-hung. During the first attempt the tenor rope jammed in the wheel which caused a certain amount of consternation, but was soon resolved. I also remember ringing at St. Mary Redcliffe reported to be the finest Parish church in all England. At St. Mary Redcliffe there is, or was, in the ringing chamber a massive stump of oak for the tenor man to stand on. Heaven knows how it ever managed to be hauled up and placed in such a position. What a beautiful peal the Redcliffe bells are.

My love of motorcycles was mainly due to my father's influence. Dad was an electrical engineer. He came to work in Bristol at the Douglas motorcycle works. At the time Douglas were becoming competitive and had started to get involved in competing in the Isle of Man TT races. Dad built his own bike from spares gained from the factory. He toured the Isle of Wight and ventured down to Devon and Cornwall whilst on honeymoon. Apart from motorcycles I have also been a keen sailor which stems from my early years as a Sea-Scout in Bristol.

Looking back over my ringing career I must say I was delighted to become a member of the Tavistock band. A special delight for us all came when we won the Devon Association 8-bell Ross shield. The event was held at Barnstaple Parish Church in 1999. I rang the tenor and Paul Pascoe strapped for me. He was such good strapper. I hardly had anything to do and we went up like a dose of salts. Tavi had entered this annual event for well over seventy five years and had always been well up the field but had never won. It was a great achievement made more so because, with the exception of Paul Pascoe, it was accomplished by the regular Sunday service band of ringers.

Sadly in 2011 I suffered a stroke which has upset many things. However, I keep busy building scale boats, and my dear wife Sue has helped to get me going again. I read, play draughts and chess; games which my father taught me as a boy when we were in Bristol. I exhibit my model boats whenever possible and have been fortunate in winning several gold and bronze awards at model engineering exhibitions. I am currently building a 32' naval cutter as my movements are somewhat restricted progress is rather slow. *(continued on page 9)*

(continued from page 8)

I keep as active as I can. When I came to Tavistock first in 1973 as foreman with the old Ministry of Public Buildings and Works at Plasterdown Camp my manager, Joe Maisey, gave me a beautiful Hohnher harmonica. I am teaching myself to play and I am also learning to read music. I have been singing with local church choirs as well as with the operatic society. I attend Harewood House in Tavistock once a week, which also helps to give my wife, Sue, a break. I have become involved in playing hand chimes which is great fun but quite different to church bells.

The illustration of the whaler is the same type which I learnt to build as an apprentice. I always build to the same scale $\frac{3}{4}$ " to a foot which is a nice to handle. I have also built a 14' dinghy, a 30' Naval Gig and a 32' Cornish Gig.

I really miss my ringing and all my friends within the ringing world. I hope to be able to gradually restart!



Tavistock
20th December 2014.

Robin Burnham

PAIGNTON'S NEW YEAR'S OUTING

The New Year's Outing for Paignton had been organised for 10 January. Although the morning had started off windy and raining, by the time we started the wind had dropped and the rain had gone. Whether the date had been organised to coincide with John Knott's birthday on 12 January, I am not sure however the first tower of the day was at Buckfast Abbey. John Knott had spent a lot of his working life at the Abbey and he was delighted to go there to ring with the Paignton ringers and guests.

We assembled at the Abbey for 10:30 to meet at the bottom of the stairs to the ringing chamber for 10:45. We started ringing for 11am after raising the back 3 singularly and the next 8 in peal. We were then able to ring the back 10 and the "heavy" 8. We were a party of 15 ringers and some partners had come along and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the Abbey the well kept grounds and of course listening to the ringing. Our ringing coincided to end at the start of a service at the Abbey for midday.

Some stayed behind to appreciate the café, which was well stocked although quieter at this time of year, and others went on to Tavistock to start the afternoon ring. The journey was across the moor. It was a wonderfully clear day in stark contrast to the wind and rain during the previous night. The rivers were full and the grass on the moor so green. Sunshine was even witnessed on the journey. This is a delightful time of year to travel across the moor as there is so little traffic.

It is always a pleasure to ring at Tavistock and the

bells there sound so beautiful. The 45 minutes allocated to this tower soon passed and the saving grace was that we were going on to ring at Emmanuel, Plymouth. The ladies of our group had organised tea, coffee and delicious cakes and we had a well-earned rest and refreshment before ringing yet another magnificent set of 8 bells at Emmanuel.

The bells are so enjoyable to ring and to listen to. We found the sallies slightly damp and the ropes a little stiff despite the rope warmer. The previous night had had strong wind and rain. This did not detract from the excitement and enjoyment of ringing at that tower. Emmanuel is another favourite, just how many favourites can a ringer have?

Our last tower for the outing was at Plympton St Maurice. What a majestic sound and the bells so easy going. Every tower today was a favourite. The bells all seem well cared for and sounded so lovely. John Kelly BEM thanked those who had planned and organised this day and for the ringers and guests who joined us and made it possible. John had reminded us that he had rung at Plympton St. Maurice on his first outing with Paignton in 1951 when they travelled there in a canvas topped coach.

How better to spend a day in early January. We were fortunate with the weather and the outing finished with a number having a meal at the Hunters' Lodge, Ivybridge and some others, still with plenty of energy, ringing at a striking competition in the evening, followed by a meal.

Michael Webster.

BILL BLAKE - remembered by Horace Clements

Bill Blake's funeral was held in Stoke Canon on 21 January 2015. Born in Diptford on 2 February 1921, Bill moved to Stoke Canon later in life and died on 6 January 2015. His carpentry and handicraft skills assisted him in the local community where he made a wonderful and life long impression. He had been tower captain at both places.

Bill succeeded his wife Heather, they married at Modbury in 1954.

Bill and his father, Albert, were well known for the

40 foot bench with a 5 foot circular saw. Albert built a model of the Diptford church spire to raise funds and Bill assisted. The model is still on display.

The screen to the ringing chamber in Diptford was installed by Bill and adapted from materials from nearby Crabadon Manor.

Bill will be fondly remembered for his enthusiasm and dedication.

Michael Webster

INAUGURAL PASCOE MEMORIAL COMPETITION GETS UNDERWAY

After a couple of false starts a brand new call change competition got underway on Saturday 22nd March 2014. The 8-bell competition was jointly hosted by Buckland-in-the-Moor and Widecombe-in-the-Moor. The team with the lowest aggregate faults from both towers was awarded the brand new Pascoe trophy. The trophy was fashioned from some old oak timbers, removed from the Widecombe belfry during its 2000 restoration, by local postman Mike Leaman.

The concept of this new event was the brain child of Mike Pascoe tower captain at Widecombe. In view of the contribution made by the Pascoe family to Bellringing locally and across Devon, it was felt entirely appropriate to run the event in memory of Henry, Herbert (Pickles) and Ernest (Ern). The second bell at Widecombe was hung in their memory. All three had started their ringing at Buckland prior to the outbreak of the Second World War. All three had rung regularly at Widecombe under the captaincy of Bill Miners through the 1950s and 60s. Henry later moved onto Ashburton. Herbert became captain at Buckland but was still a very active member of the Widecombe band along with his son Graham. Following the death of Bill Miners in 1970 Graham became caretaker captain for one year before moving from the area, Ern then took over and was captain from 1971 through to 1994 when Mike succeeded his father and is still the captain today.

This is but one small part of the story. The elder statesman for all of this was Francis Pascoe who rang at Buckland on either side of the First World War. Unfortunately he was gassed in the trenches and suffered ill health until his death in 1946. He had 8 children; all bar two learnt to ring at Buckland. Archie was killed over Germany in the Second World War. Francis rang and lived locally throughout his life. Sammy moved to Netherton where he rang with Wolborough and Coombeinteighhead.

We now come to the next generation. Francis's grandson Andrew and his wife Kate ring at Manaton. Henry tried to teach his daughter Pearl at Buckland. This foundered early due to personality clashes. Ern taught Michael, Richard and later Michael's wife Jenny at Widecombe. Herbert taught his son Graham and daughter Margaret. Graham is captain at Broadhempston, Margaret now retired lives in Cornwall. In turn Graham has taught his three sons

Paul, Philip and his wife Ann, plus Christopher. Chris is married to Christine also a ringer whose father is Colin Heath from Stoke Gabriel, another ringer. Hopefully the Pascoe ringing dynasty will continue. But who knows with all the pastimes available to the young people of today. We can only hope.

The family would like to thank both towers for the hospitality on the day, a typical bellringers tea at Buckland, the incumbents of both towers for allowing the event, the judges Nick and Ruth Tuckett at Widecombe and Graham Pascoe at Buckland, plus all who helped the event run smoothly.

The trophy and 6 certificates were awarded by Vida Pascoe, Herbert's wife, now in her 90th year, who, you've guessed it, is also a ringer!





Sarah Law of Eggbuckland receiving the trophy from Vida Pascoe

The full result can be found on the website www.devonbells.co.uk however Eggbuckland were the first winners of the trophy - congratulations to them.

The competition will be held this year on Saturday 21st March 2015. Details are being circulated by Mr. Mike Pascoe, Tower Captain at Widecombe-in-the-Moor.

Graham Pascoe

	MALCOLM BROWN BELLROPES Bellropes made and repaired Wheels stays and other wooden fittings made and repaired	
Well Cottage, Ballingers Row, Chedworth, Glos GL54 4AQ		www.MalcolmBrownBellropes.co.uk 01285 720757 Malcolm@MalcolmBrownBellropes.co.uk



December 2014

Dear Secretaries,
Another Christmas gone by but an exciting New Year begins. 2015 will be the 5th year for the Ringing for England and your wonderful generous ringing for the campaign in the

past is winning over not only more ringers but also members of the public.

One of the ways in which I feel we could engage more with the public is to offer them an 'open day' at some of your towers, most especially those in towns, to encourage them to come forward and try their hand at bell ring

ing. The few occasions last year where it happened it was reported back as a huge success and the media were happily involved. I wonder if this could be something you might encourage within your Guilds. If there are takers could I be kept informed in order to bring in the media who are always more than pleased to have happy stories. I would be grateful if you could let me have your views on this.

Meanwhile may I wish you all a most Happy and Fruitful New Year and look forward eagerly to hearing from your ringers.

My Best Wishes,
Libby

Ringing for England Campaign - April 23rd 2015



www.ringingforengland.co.uk

Telephone: 07799 23 04 23

RAISING FUNDS FOR DAME HANNAH ROGERS TRUST

Paignton hand bell ringers have been ringing carols on hand bells to raise money for Dame Hannah Rogers Trust (DHRT) every year since 1955 and John Kelly BEM for 58 of those 59 years. 2014 was no different. We had our usual venues and have collected over £700 to send to DHRT.

It is pleasing to report that other ringers and towers also raise money for DHRT.

Rusty Hartley, a bell ringer at Exeter Cathedral, who works for the railways organised another day of 'Santa Specials' just before Christmas on 21st December. This year was a little different, as throughout the day trains were running on the line between Newton Abbot and Heathfield - a section of the once existing Teign Valley line - and apparently not used by the public for 50 years! Dressed as elves, Rusty and her colleagues - and Santa - kept everyone happy on the short trip both ways. Neville Gibbings lead the singing of a few Christmas songs too. Ringing was involved. The guild's Frank Mack mini-ring was set up on Newton Abbot Station for general ringing, and two quarter peals were rung by the Guild. Another quarter was rung on the train on the Teign Valley line on handbells. With the rail company and everyone else giving goods and time for free, all ticket sales went to the local charity 'Hannahs'.

EAST OGWELL

Those who have rung at East Ogwell in the past will probably remember the tricky treble or the experience of ringing whilst sitting in a sink! All this is now in the past and it is now a very different situation since the recent work. The bells are now rung from a new ringing room high up in the tower. This room was once used by visiting priests whilst on their travels round their extensive parishes. There is still a fire-place and the light ring of six has been transformed. There is enthusiasm from the local community in keeping the bells ringing and a new team has been formed.



St. Bartholomew's, East Ogwell



STOKEINTEIGNHEAD

Practices have been resumed and new recruits are being trained. Practices are on Monday evenings at 7.30pm and all assistance is gratefully received! As always, it is worth checking before travelling

RECOGNITION OF 55 YEARS

LOYAL SERVICE BY HARRY BARDEN

Members of the Woodleigh Deanery Bellringers Association recently attended their AGM at Holy Trinity Church Salcombe. Those members present witnessed the end of an era! because after 55 years of loyal service to the Deanery **HARRY BARDEN** has retired. Harry has served the Deanery Association in the roles of Chairman and latterly Treasurer. He was presented with a Whisky Decanter and glasses and a bottle with which to fill the decanter.! A hand painted card was signed by those present and also given to him along with a bouquet of flowers for Ellen.

So 'drink up' Harry - You've earned it! With our very grateful thanks!
Woodleigh Deanery Bellringers Association

ST.MARY'S CHURCH, HIGH BICKINGTON.

At last the work on our lovely church tower has begun! High Bickington bells have been silent for over 4 years. The tower has been unsafe (falling masonry). Whilst work on the tower has been in progress the bells have been taken down by Nicholson's Engineering and are being refurbished. The peal of 8 were hung in 1911 and installed on a steel frame. After refurbishment the bells will be replaced on a new frame with new fittings. No more climbing stairs with oil can!!! We hope the bells will be ringing again soon! The cost of the work to the tower and bells will be coming in at approximately £260,000. We would like to thank the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund and all others who have helped with fund ing, also all our volunteers who have helped to bring our bells back to life!
Stephen Herniman

MUSICAL HANDBELL RESTORATION

Free written quotations
Specialised repairs by:

Geoffrey C. Hill

New Court Farm

Lamerton

Tavistock

PL19 8RR

01822 614319

newcourtfarm1@btinternet.com

SLAPTON LOSES TWO RINGERS

There had been no bell ringers at St James the Great, Slapton, for several years but in 1997 a couple of people heard of the initiative to Ring in the Millennium. In November that year ten residents started learning to ring with the invaluable help of Bill Sanders of Stokenham.

A few people dropped by the wayside but six of us persevered and rang on New Year's Day 2000 with **RICHARD ALLEN** on the tenor. Richard rang the tenor regularly for several years until heart problems prevented him from continuing. He acted as treasurer for the ringers as well as being church treasurer. Sadly Richard died on 3 August 2014 and at the request of the family we rang after his funeral service.

Another of our original band was **ALAN BARNES** who died very suddenly on 5 September 2104. Alan and his wife, Judith, were very keen ringers not only in Slapton, but also rang regularly at Dartmouth and Stoke Fleming. In addition Alan was our nimble and conscientious tower keeper until he was 80, only stopping because the church insurance would not cover him to go up into the bell chamber. Ringers from Stoke Fleming and Dartmouth attended Alan's funeral and joined us to ring a joyous peal at Judith's request.

Both Richard and Alan will be greatly missed in the village and particularly by Slapton's ringers.

Jane Cumberlidge Tower Captain

TOPSHAM - ROY BERRY

I bumped in to Roy Berry from Topsham the other day and he told me that he has given up being Captain of Topsham. This is the end of an era as Roy has been Captain there for an incredible 62 years! Over that time he has taught countless ringers, kept the bells maintained, been a mainstay of the community and serves as a shining example of service that deserves all our admiration and recognition. Well done Roy, you are an example to us all.
David Trist

DEVON ASSOCIATION OF RINGERS

GENERAL ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

	2013/14	2012/13		2013/14	2012/13
RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS		
Affiliation subscriptions	£ 1,540.00	£ 1,300.00	DBRF	£ 4,915.00	£ 4,920.00
Entry fees	£ 433.00	£ 408.00	Hon. Sec. expenses	£ 53.40	£ 67.67
ECO Bags/Guides/Badges	£ 110.00	£ 166.00	Hon. Treasurer expenses	-	-
Draw	£ 4,157.00	£ 4,475.00	Affiliation Central Council	£ 60.00	£ 50.00
Dinner Dance	£ 125.00	-	Hall Hire AGM	£ 40.00	£ 30.00
V P subs	-	£ 25.00	Judges' teas	£ 82.50	£ 56.00
Donations	£ 60.42	£ 23.00	Devon Calls	£ 1,460.21	£ 593.20
N. Savings Int erest	£ 40.63	£ 24.69	Insurance	£ 280.59	£ 280.59
Reserve a/c NatWest	£ 2.40	£ 1.76	Website	£ 58.71	£ 84.96
			Committee room donations	£ 90.00	£ 95.00
			Draw expenses	£ 146.90	£ 142.10
			Other	£ 102.75	£ 89.38
TOTAL	£ 6,538.45	£ 6,571.45		£ 7,491.08	£ 6,600.90

Costs	<u>£ 7,491.06</u>
Balance after costs	- £ 932.61
Last year	
Balance brought forward	<u>£ 11,678.16</u>
Balance carried forward	<u>£ 10,745.55</u>

Hon. Treasurer MR. J C BARNES
 CUNNICOTT
 NORTH BUCKLAND
 BRAUNTON
 N. DEVON
 EX33 1HY

BANK BALANCE & CASH	2013/14	2012/13
N. WEST CURRENT	£ 50.00	£ 50.00
NS	£ 5,650.93	£ 5,612.30
N. WEST RESERVE	£ 5,029.62	£ 5,996.50
CASH IN HAND	<u>£ 15.00</u>	<u>£ 19.36</u>
TOTAL CASH BALANCE	<u>£ 10,745.55</u>	<u>£ 11,678.16</u>

Hon. Auditor G. HERNIMAN
 16, MEADOWBROOK
 ROUNDSWELL
 BARNSTAPLE
 DEVON EX31 3TG

DRAW for the DCBRF

PRIZE WINNERS

1 st . John Connibear's grandchildren - £250	8 th Lewis Stevens.
2 nd Don Lawson, Ilfracombe - £75.	9 th Bill Crispin, Dodbrooke.
3 rd Mrs. Boyce, Atherington - £50	10 th J. Shearing, East Budleigh.
4 th Amery - £25 (as were all the remaining prizes)	11 th A. Colton, Exminster.
5 th Chris Dent, Exeter.	12 th A. Snell, Barnstaple.
6 th Cynthia Borrowes, Witheridge	13 th James Steer, Bow.
7 th Meavy Tower.	14 th I. & W. Campbell, Exeter.

ACCOUNTS

Payments: Printing	£ 146.90	Receipts: Tickets sold	£4,807.00
Licence	£ 20.00	Donations	£ 20.00
Prizes	<u>£ 650.00</u>		
	£ 816.90		
Surplus receipts **	<u>£4,010.10</u>		
	<u>£4,827.00</u>		<u>£4,827.00</u>

** 2010: £4,087; 2011: £4,192; 2012: £4,286; 2013: £4,333; **2014: £4,010**

TOWER AFFILIATIONS

Is your affiliation fee overdue?

If so please contact, asap,
the Treasurer, Mr John Barnes, Cunnicott, North Buckland,
Nr Braunton, Devon EX33 1HY
Tel: 01271 890517 e-mail: jcbarnes482@btinternet.com.

COMPETITIONS (North)

6 Bell Qualifier Saturday 9th May

BISHOP'S NYMPTON 6  10cwt.

Upstairs ring (28 steps) access back of the church. There are public toilets in the village close to the church. There is also ample parking which can be found at the rear (west end) of the church.

Practices can be arranged by ringing Michael Warren 01769 550945 closing date Saturday 25th April.

6 Bell Minor Saturday Sat May 23rd

HALBERTON 6  17cwt.

Upstairs ring with access either from the church or outside (west end). There is a portable toilet in the churchyard as well as in the Village Hall which is a two minute walk. The small Village Hall car park is also available for our use as well as parking leading up to the church.

8 Bell Saturday 19th September

Competition to be held in September rather than April for this year only.

NORTH TAWTON 8  19cwt.

An upstairs ring, straight staircase of 8 steps to the ringing room, access is outside on the west front. There is a toilet in the church as well as excellent facilities for disabled opposite the lych gate. Limited parking near the church.

Joan Clarke. Competition Secretary (North).

COMPETITIONS (South)

Details to be announced

NOVICE COMPETITION

Saturday 14th March

SOUTH BRENT 6  13cwt.

Ground floor ring

Details to be announced

COPY FOR

"DEVON CALLS"

Copy is always welcome and we rely on you to submit articles, please.

These should be sent to the Editor,
Colin ADAMS - kentonian@eclipse.co.uk

DEVON CHURCH BELL RESTORATION FUND

REPORT FOR DEVON ASSOCIATION AGM: 8 November 2014

During 2014 the Fund has been involved with 13 towers at some stage in their restoration projects. For one of these, High Bickington, we also arranged some volunteer help in addition to help from the local ringers.

We have again, through the Diocese, been carrying out bell inspections alongside churches' routine quinquennial inspections. This year we have carried out inspections at Southleigh, East Portlemouth, Denbury and Witheridge. Though not carried out specifically as a fund-raising measure, most churches receiving our reports have nevertheless made significant donations to the Fund.

Last year we were made aware that a bequest made to the Fund by William Smale of Petrockstowe in 1991 was shortly to be transferred to the Fund following the death of the intermediary beneficiaries. The monies finally reached us early in January and were immediately re-invested in an investment portfolio in the care of Cathedral Financial Management of Exeter. Not having any particular investment expertise within our own ranks, the trustees took the decision to entrust the management of the portfolio to CFM's Discretionary Portfolio Service such that the investments are managed on a day to day basis without continually referring back to the trustees, but within the parameters we have set. At the time of initial investment in January the value of the portfolio was £332,709. This was boosted by the transfer of a further £24,409 which was held on behalf of Mr. Smale by the solicitors formerly administering the bequest, thus giving us a very useful additional liquid balance.

During the year the usual two meetings were held; in Holy Week at Ian Campbell's home in Exeter, and this morning at the home of Brian Drake. At our April meeting we reassessed our strategy for offering grants in the light of the funds recently received. We took the immediate decision to aim at contributing about 15 per cent of the total cost of restoration schemes, rather than our former 10 per cent, perhaps going even higher in the future depending on the dividends received from the investment portfolio and assuming that our other income does not fall away.

At the beginning of the year the Fund stood at **£30,020**. Since that time two grants totalling **£10,500** have been paid. **£5,000** went to **Plymouth, St Budeaux** towards the replacement of the heavily corroded sub-frame, which involved the total dismantling of the installation during which the bell-frame was cleaned down and painted, the crown staple stubs were removed, the bearings serviced, the pulleys were replaced and the clappers refurbished. The ringing room was also relocated back to the ground floor where it was originally. **£5,500** went to **East Ogwell** where the installation was somewhat rearranged following an unsatisfactory augmentation in 2000. Many of the fittings were replaced and the very poor tenor bell was replaced by a new bell from the Whitechapel Foundry. Also the ringing room was relocated higher in the tower.

Income during the year (excluding the investment portfo-

lio) has amounted to **£37,281**, the largest portion being the **£24,409** from the solicitors formerly holding the Smale bequest. The remaining income included **£1,500** from the **Guild** as agreed at their Annual General Meeting in June, **£328** from **peal and quarter peal ringers**, **£1,327** from **personal and miscellaneous donations**, **£4,010** from the **Association** following the **Annual Draw**, **£696** from the **Guild Branches**, **£223** from the **competition in July** organized by Graham Sharland in aid of the BRF, **£400** from the **Ottery St Mary ringers**, **£131** from the **Pinhoe ringers**, **£273** from other individual towers, **£150** from the **St Brannock's Society**, **£200** from the **Troyte Ringing Centre**, **£440** from the **Exeter and Mid-Devon Barn Dance**, **£125** from the **Association Dinner**, and **£325** following **tower inspections and talks**. **£1,000** came from the sale of **Devon Tower Directories**, and finally **£4,762** as dividends from the **Investment Portfolio**. Tax refunds following gift-aided donations and bank interest make up the balance.

At present the liquid assets of the Fund stand at **£60,556**.

Grants agreed this year include

- **£3,000** to **Meeth** towards removing the cast-in crown staples from the bells, providing new clappers, headstocks, stays and runner boards, eighth turning the tenor bell and rebuilding the treble wheel;
- **£7,000** to **High Bickington** towards dismantling the bell installation, replacing the foundation beams, cleaning and repainting the bell-frame, rebuilding the wheels, fitting flapper boards in the intermediate chamber, overhauling the fittings, renewing the rope guide, and re-installing; and
- **£7,500** to **Stoke Fleming** towards dismantling the installation, removing old crown staple stubs from the fifth and tenor, tuning and turning the bells, replacing bearings, pulleys, pads and bell-bolts, modifying clappers and wheels, overhauling chiming and clock-hammers, providing a new double beam foundation, and re-hanging in a rebuilt and extended frame with future augmentation in mind.

At this morning's meeting the following grants were agreed:

- **Hatherleigh, £250** towards replacing the clapper staple on the fourth bell, rebushing all the clappers and replacing the hinge-pins;
- **Churchstow, £120** towards repairing the broken tenor clapper;
- **Kingsteignton, £2,500** towards replacing the bearings and repainting the bell-frame, and
- **Trusham, £150** towards repairs to the wheels and general tightening of the frame and fittings.

Assuming that all of the agreed grants are taken up, the uncommitted liquid balance stands at **£25,486**.

November 2014

IVJS



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.

bells@nicholsonbellhangers.com
www.nicholsonbellhangers.com

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

COPY FOR "DEVON CALLS"

Copy is always welcome and we rely on you to submit articles, please.

These should be sent to the Editor,
 Colin ADAMS - kentonian@eclipse.co.uk



25 YEARS OLD
 and looking better than ever



- Handmade from flax and hemp.
- Rope repairs and refurbishments.
- One month delivery.
- Competitive prices.



Mendip Ropemakers Ltd

Manufacturers of Traditional Church Bell Ropes



Isle Brewers, Somerset

01460 281022

mendipropes@gmail.com

www.mendipropes.co.uk