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Devon Calls

February 2016

FROM THE PRESIDENT - MIKE ADAMS

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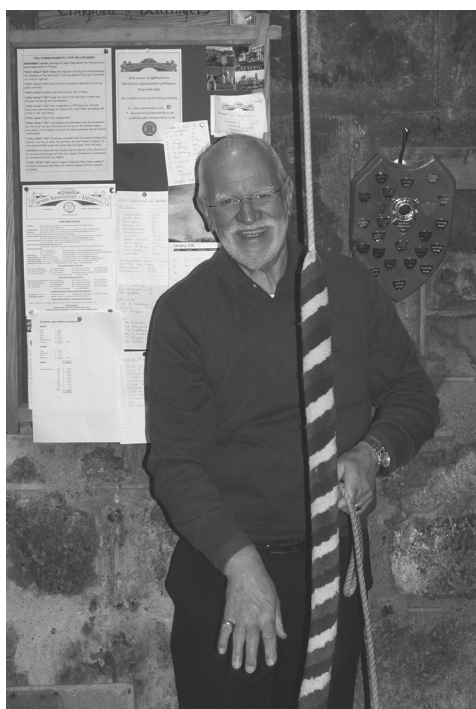
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First I must thank my fellow ringers for electing me as your President for 2016/17. It is indeed a privilege especially following in the footsteps of Brian Drake who has served the Association for many years. Hopefully I will be able to contribute something toward the development of call change ringing and further the aims of a unique part of the culture of Devon.

We have a group of very able officers who carry out excellent work and I will do my very best to support them at organised events and elsewhere.

Just a bit about me. I started ringing at about the age of 12 (now some 60 years ago) with my brother Colin, Lewis Withecombe and a few other youngsters in the village of Kenton. Ringing as a pastime was inevitable really as my father, grandfather and great grandfather were ringers and as children we were taken along to the tower on Sunday mornings where we would sit in the window of the ringing chamber and watch what was happening. As soon as we were old enough, although my grandfather had retired as tower captain, we went on Tuesday evenings and were given instruction by the late Bill Withecombe. After some years Colin and I



joined the Kenn ringers then under the Captaincy of Jim Rice. In those days the Kenn team were very good and competed regularly in competitions. We no doubt absorbed their standard of ringing, although we were rarely included in the competition team, and I will return to this theme later.

About 30 years ago the team at Kenton was in a precarious state and I took the opportunity to take on the Captaincy, a position I have held ever since. I have tried to encourage new ringers and have recruited several in that time. However, sadly as happens in many places, there has been a dropout rate. It would

seem that the standard of retention is about 1 in 12 whoever you ask. It is, I believe, a similar figure experienced even by our method ringing colleagues.

So I am left to ponder how we can encourage more people to learn the art of bellringing. Recruitment is the first issue, and it would be interesting to hear from different towers how they go about it. Perhaps thoughts can be shared through "Devon Calls". It would be interesting to know how other towers manage. I see from "Facebook" that Dartmouth seems to have a measure of success. Although Dart-

COPY for "DEVON CALLS" is always welcome and we rely on you to submit articles please

Deadline for next edition—13th June 2016

We would be very interested in including "Letters to the Editor".

Articles and letters should be sent to the Editor: Colin ADAMS - kentonian@eclipse.co.uk

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-mouth has a fairly large population this cannot be the only reason. It is I think much to do with Tim Chapman's encouraging attitude and openness to new people. I look forward to hearing your responses.

Having recruited people there is then the issue of retention. I believe that there are towers and ringers who could do more to make newcomers welcome. There is sometimes impatience at the speed at which people learn, and often a dismissive attitude if progress isn't made as quickly as we would like. We must remember that we all started out not knowing what to do and it took a long time to gain the experience to be able to become a top class ringer. We must be tolerant of a lower standard of striking while learning takes place and we must be patient. Learning a new skill takes time and ringing is quite complicated involving physical co-ordination, learning to set a bell, keeping in time with others, learning the changes and not least learning to raise and lower a bell.

Above all I think people need to feel included. There are

many stories of people being told "to sit and watch as you will learn just as much that way". Nonsense, the only way to learn is to take part, and if people are included they will learn more-quickly.

Of course competitive ringing is the pinnacle of the art, and very important in raising the standard, but it is of secondary importance to what we do. Lots of people enjoy ringing without ever taking part in competitions and they ensure that Sunday ringing, which is of prime importance, is continued. I would paraphrase John Kennedy, ask not what bellringing can do for you but ask what you can do for bellringing. That I think is one way of ensuring that Devon Call Change Ringing will have a future.

Devon is the richest County in Britain with regard to ringable sets of bells, and it is incumbent on all of us to preserve and maintain that inheritance and to ensure that we hand it on to future ringers.

Mike Adams

DEVON BELLRINGERS' CAROL SERVICE 2015

By the time you read this account of the Ringers' Carol Service, which was held at Exeter Cathedral on Saturday 19th December 2014, the run up to Christmas will have become a dim and distant memory.

With bells pealing in the background the service began at 4.00 p.m., a little later than usual as some of the 'key' participants had engagements earlier in the afternoon. As before, arrangements were in the very capable hands of Ian Avery. Each year Ian works hard to produce a programme containing a variety of festive music, making the occasion both a pleasure to listen to as well in which to participate. The service began with the Ringers' Choir singing "Break Forth" from 'The Christmas Oratorio' by J.S.Bach. This was immediately followed by the choir and congregation joining together with "Once in Royal David's city". The Welcome & Bidding prayer was given by Canon Ian Morter on behalf of the Dean and Chapter of Exeter Cathedral.

The service consisted of five readings which were delivered by members from both the Guild and the Association. The Exeter Cathedral handbell ringers rang a peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal (10 bells) and, later in the service, the Lamerton handbell ringers rang the Queen's Peal (8 bells) which included the rise and fall. Both teams gave a flawless performance. If performed anywhere other than within the confines of a cathedral the ringing would have generated resounding applause. As it was the congregation was asked at the beginning of the service to refrain from applauding!

The service was well structured with the Ringers' Choir performing between the carols as well as singing with the congregation. At the close the Prayer and Blessing was led by Canon Morter. This was followed by the choir singing "The Lord Bless you and keep you" by Rutter. This was a truly captivating performance for which the members are to be congratulated. The opening notes of "Oh come all ye faithful" coming from the pipes of the magnificent cathedral organ prepared everyone

for the final carol. With Wyn Turner once again acting as organist and the unrestrained voices of the choir and congregation acting in unison it was another memorable occasion.

A retiring collection was taken for the Children's Hospice South West.

Thanks must once again go to: Ian Avery for organising and overseeing the entire service, the Dean and Chapter of Exeter Cathedral for kindly hosting the event, Wyn Turner – Organist, The Ringers' Choir, the Exeter Cathedral and Lamerton Handbell Ringers and the Lesson readers.

If you missed last year's event make a note of this year's :

3.00 p.m. on Saturday 10th December 2016 at Buckfast Abbey.

Historical background.

The idea of holding a combined Guild and Association Carol Service each year with proceeds going to the Children's Hospice South West was taken approximately thirty years ago. The first service took place at St.Petrock's Church in the High St. Exeter. At the time St. Petrock's was functioning as a church and being used for active worship and the little peal of six bells had just been brought back into service. Attendance at the first service was small with roughly fifteen people present. A repeat service took place a year later with slightly more people attending. The event then moved to St. Michael's Heavitree and was held there for two consecutive years. As support for the event increased significantly it was decided to move to Buckfast Abbey where it has since been held on several occasions. Other venues have included St. Peter's Tiverton and St. Andrew's Cullompton.

The person who came up with the original idea is still around and pleased to know that the annual service is not only still taking place, but is well organised and well supported.

Colin E. Adams.

The Wednesday Evening Ringers Association

Tour to London & the Home Counties

26/27/28/29 November 2015

“The first Devon Call-Change team to ever ring the bells of St Paul’s Cathedral, London”

It was Thursday 26th November 2015 as the car pulled up to the first tower of the tour on a fairly draughty late autumnal afternoon. We huddled outside the church at Sampford Peverell waiting for more ringers to arrive (from The Globe Inn). Once all had assembled the full spectacular details of our historic trip were unveiled to us for the first time. Despite departing from Sampford Peverell on numerous occasions over the years, this was a new tower for a number of ringers. We all enjoyed a pleasant ring before piling ringers and suitcases (some bigger than others!) onto the minibus. We were heading for Guildford for an overnight stay at the Premier Inn. The journey flew by fuelled by crisps, spiced rum and great conversation all round as we discussed what was in store over the coming days...

Friday 27th November 2015:

A relative lie-in greeted us on Friday morning as we only had a short commute from the Premier Inn to our first tower of the tour Guildford Cathedral, 12-bells, 30cwt in D. Completed in 1961, the modern tower is 49m tall and can be seen from miles around. As we ascended the first of many sets of stairs and lifts that we would encounter (say no more!), we were greeted by a huge and immaculate ringing chamber. One of the most impressive items was a beautifully made working model of a bell; if only we all had one to show the learners and visitors in our own towers! We started off rising the back 10bells: what a treat they were, a clean strike-off and up they went! The back 8/10-bells were amongst the best going and sounding bells we would encounter. Those who took the trip up to view the bells were suitably impressed!



From Surrey to Bedfordshire. After lunching at The Swan Inn, our second tower was Leighton Buzzard, another fine ring of 12-bells with a tenor of 35cwt in C#. These were completely recast by Taylors in 1987, following a severe fire in the church, and sounded majestic. As a result, some glorious 12-bell striking was produced.

St Albans, Hertfordshire, was to be our base for the next two nights. A warm welcome awaited us at St Albans Cathedral which was our evening ring. Although they went well and sounded good, the maze of beams in the ringing chamber gave us a challenge or two. The White Hart Tap was to be our hostelry that evening. Some of the thirstier ringers set off at a fair pace, however our route march was rather more

longwinded than we'd hoped. When we finally arrived, we expected to be the last...but no...where were the others?! A quick phone call and all became clear – they were enjoying the hospitality of the **other** White Hart in St Albans! A good night was had by all. When we got back to the hotel, some of us decided not to take the lift up to our rooms since it looked a bit of a squeeze. Let's just say that in hindsight we were glad we didn't test the lift's limits any further!

Saturday 28th November 2015:

An early start for the big day into London! We all boarded the 9.03 train from St Albans bound for London Blackfriars train station. Once in London we made our way along the Thames Embankment towards Trafalgar Square. After some liquid refreshment en-route, we were all assembled outside the church of St Martin in-the-Fields ready to ring at 11.00am.

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St. Martin-in-the-Fields is one of London's best known churches owing to its prominent position overlooking Trafalgar Square. The church is perhaps the finest work of James Gibbs and is modelled on a classic temple with a 6 column portico. Some of the group went down to the Crypt which now houses a coffee shop. The ringing chamber was very well decorated, with wooden



panelling all around and a grandstand view of the ringing. The tower contains 12 bells with a tenor of 29cwt cast by Whitechapel in 1988. I was fortunate enough to watch a lovely rise on the back 10 bells from above, a spectacle I won't forget in a hurry. We had some lovely 8, 10 and 12 bell ringing here and it was a shame to move on!

Move on we did. We walked along The Strand to our second tower of the day, **St Clement Danes**, 10-bells, 21cwt cast by Mears & Stainbank in 1955. Famous from the rhyme "Oranges & Lemons", the church was destroyed in the Second World War and completely rebuilt by the RAF as a memorial to all those airmen killed in action during that conflict. Amazing architecture inside, and what a peal of bells too! Very loud outside, but very ringable - just right for a few rises and lowers to get us going! Our last peal was a call-change version of "Plain Hunt" rung on the whole 10 bells. This was one of our best peals of the tour with many favourable comments made by members of the Ancient Society of College Youths who had assembled outside to hear us ring. Recommended by Steve Came, a great pub awaited us afterwards - Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese on Fleet Street. The historic interior is like going back hundreds of years and it was the perfect place for some food and "Dutch courage" before the afternoon ring.

It was finally time to make our way to **St Paul's Cathedral**. It's a magnificent sight as you walk up Ludgate Hill. Designed in the English Baroque style by Sir Christopher Wren, it is one of the most famous and most recognisable sights in London. The north-west tower contains 12-bells cast by Taylors in 1878 with a tenor bell of 61cwt. They are the 3rd heaviest ring of 12-bells in the world after Liverpool and Exeter. David Bassford (secretary of the St Paul's Cathedral Guild of Ringers) along with a few other friendly supporters, gave us a warm welcome as we met in the Crypt adjacent to the Winston Churchill Gates to make our way up to the bells. We were treated to some amazing views of the nave along the way; breath-taking at times. The sheer scale of the place was daunting in itself. I think I

speak for all of us in saying that this was one of the most thrilling but unnerving ringing experiences we had ever come up against. Big boxes and a long unguided rope draught, plus all the famous ringing names on the walls added to the atmosphere of the place. Paul Mounsey (Master of the St Paul's Guild of Ringers) welcomed us as we arrived into the ringing chamber. Our first peal was to rise the middle 8-

bells and ring the "Queens" peal - what a challenge! This was followed by a warm-up on the back 10 bells before ringing four peals of "double 60-on-Thirds" on the whole 12 bells. We were pleased to have our friend, Phill Ridley, ring in one of our 12-bell peals. Phill used to study at the University of Plymouth and was part of the "Plymouth Youths" who used to ring at both Laira and Plymouth Emmanuel. Once we had got the hang of them, we settled into some very respectable ringing and certainly flew the flag for Devon Call-Changes and the Devon Association of Ringers. Everybody can feel particularly proud of their performance. During our ringing, David Bassford took several



parties up to look at the bells, which are almost exposed to the elements!

Our ringing concluded by lowering the middle six and was followed by Stuart Bennie tolling the tenor for 3 minutes prior to the evening service. Once we descended the tower, we walked across the Millennium Bridge and retired to The Founders Arms on the bank of the river Thames for some much needed refreshment. (Young's brewery did us proud!). Our grateful thanks to Paul Mounsey, David Bassford, Phill Ridley, Alban Forster, Laura Davies and Louis Suggett for making us feel welcome and at ease at St Paul's.

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Sunday 29th November 2015:

Another early start as we made our way from St Albans to **Basildon in Essex**.

Basildon has a peal of 8-bells with a tenor of 11cwt.

This was a welcome return to normality after the epic proportions of the day before. There was one difference though, Basildon is a standalone glass bell-tower! Built for the millennium, both the ringing chamber and the bells could be viewed from outside, which is great for visitors.



Some keen local ringers turned up to listen with a couple of younger ringers too and it was nice to hear their enthusiasm. We enjoyed our only 8-bell tower of the tour, you could hear everything extremely well and the bells went very easily.

It was another county to tick off for our next stop, **High Wycombe in Buckinghamshire**. These were a real treat. Cast by Whitechapel in 2012 with a tenor of 26cwt, this is

the sister 12-bell peal to two of our favourites: Crediton and St-Magnus-the-Martyr, London Bridge. We had some thoroughly enjoyable 8, 10 and 12-bell ringing here and was something we won't forget in a hurry.

A brief pub stop in the nearby Weatherspoons in High Wycombe followed before we started to head for home; but not before another amazing ring of bells! On the way home, we were fortunate enough to stop at **Swindon's Christ Church, Wiltshire**. A glorious peal of 10-bells with a tenor of 21 cwt cast by John Taylor in 1924. These must surely be classed as one of the finest complete 10-bell towers in the country. Simon Edwards joined us here and we had some great striking at a fitting tower to round off the trip.

Sitting comfortably in The Sun Inn, Swindon, we looked back at our amazing trip: 8 counties, 9 towers, 17 ringers (Colin Adams, Scott Adams, Sue Ashton, Stuart Bennie, Steven Came, William Carew, Suzanne Driscoll, Elaine Grant, James Grant, Tom Grant, Stephen Herniman, Tony Jeffery, Christine Ley, Sam Massey, Andrew Phillips, Graham Sharland & Nicola Stoneman) and a whole host of pubs. We thanked Scott Adams, our tireless organiser, for allowing us to be part of such an historic occasion and all our driver volunteers who drove us safely around the country. A special thank you is given to Chris Ley who faithfully organises the minibus each year and is always the last to get home at the end of the tour. Here's to the next one!

Sam Massey et al

CALL CHANGE RINGING AT ITS BEST!

"Call Change ringing at its best", to quote from one of the Tower Captain's who had just let twelve ringers into his home tower on Saturday 31st October 2015.

Twelve ringers from across Devon & Cornwall descended on four of the best eight-bell towers in Cornwall for what became (in my opinion) one of the finest trips I have ever had the pleasure to be invited on. The trip was organised by Will Carew of Liskard and the chosen towers were:

- **Bodmin St. Petroc, 8 bells. Tenor 17-0-11 in F.**
- **Fowey St. Fimbarrus, 8 bells. Tenor 17-1-0 in E.**
- **St. Austell Holy Trinity, 8 bells. Tenor 18-2-5 in E.**
- **St. Stephen in Brannel, 8 bells. Tenor 13-1-20 in F#.**

The ringers were: Will Carew, Phil Morse, Ryan Trout, Suzanne Driscoll, Graham Sharland, Neil Holloway, Victoria Tucker, Mark Lovell, Sam Massey, Stephen Herniman, Steven Came and Scott Adams.

I had rung at these towers before but not like this. Bodmin I remembered as being a tough eight and yes, they were tricky with a lot of rope noise but all four peals which were rung contained striking of a very high standard. I listened intently to the first peal which I felt started off a little too quickly (as did all the peals here) with a few clips on the first three or four changes but once settled the ringing was a real joy to listen to. Whilst sitting and listening to the bells I felt quite nervous thinking...I have to ring next! I hadn't rung in an eight-bell peal since the July meeting of the Wednesday

Evening Ringers at Plympton St. Mary, Plymouth. Having just witnessed some superb striking I was becoming eager for my turn to come. I was really impressed with the group's performance on these bells. Although they are superb ring tonally, as previously stated they can be tricky. The seventh particularly and the bells following the seventh required careful handling on both back and hand strokes.

After ringing at Bodmin we were all looking forward to our next tower of the day and after a short drive we made our way to the beautiful waterside town of Fowey. We were greeted by glorious clear blue skies and a temperature of 19 degrees centigrade! The bells have a glorious old fashioned tone to them and are a challenge to ring well but are quite rewarding as they give so much back. When ringing the bells you get a sense that you need to put extra effort in to make them sound right. The standard of ringing here seemed to accelerate from Bodmin and it was a case of concentrating even harder to make sure you were not the one making mistakes! We have all been there I'm sure. I knew that I was with some of the best ringers both counties have to offer in terms of call-change ringing. Even so I didn't realise the standard of ringing would be quite so high.

For the final peal at St. Fimbarrus I decided to climb to the top of the tower. I was so glad I did. The view from the top is unbelievable and with the sound of the bells pealing below it was a magical experience. What a great day it was turning out to be with everyone saying how impressed they were with the standard of striking that had been achieved.

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After our ring we had a lovely lunch at the "King of Prussia" Public House. The food was washed down with very well kept St. Austell "Proper Job" or "Tribute" and there was lots of talk about the two lovely eights we had rung earlier. However, somehow I felt the best was yet to come!!!

After lunch and climbing the very steep pathway back to the car park we made for the short journey to St. Austell.

Now, if you have never rung at St. Austell before you MUST. The tower contains one of the best Taylor eights I have ever had the pleasure of ringing. The bells are rung from the ground floor and there is a great deal of surrounding space. It is always best to ask for the trap door to be opened otherwise the sound of the bells becomes muffled, but when opened what a sound. These were my favourites; an absolutely outstanding octave, they sound out of this world and the bells go well. I personally think it was here that we achieved the best ringing of the day. I was so excited and proud to be part of this, to be ringing in a different county and to show off "Devon" style call-change ringing was something that rarely happens. I have been ringing since I was nine years old and would go so far as to say the ringing standard produced was amongst

the best I had ever experienced, it really was that good.

After a couple of goes on the bells I stood outside to listen. Whilst doing so I was approached by members from the local band who, having heard the bells, decided to wander across and listen. All of them made complimentary remarks about the quality of striking which was taking place.

I had to leave after ringing at St. Austell to catch the train back to Plymouth. The others in the party left for St. Stephen in Brannel; a beautiful ground floor ring with a tenor weighing just over 13cwt and in the key of F#. I was told later that the standard of ringing achieved there was just as good; which I had anticipated.

I want to say a massive thank you to Will for organising the day and to everyone else for making it such a memorable one. It was a day that I will always look back on with fondness. It made me realise yet again just how extraordinary our style of ringing is and how uplifting it can be, whether participating as a ringer or taking time out to listen. Both have their rewards.

Ryan Trout.

Tower Captain

Shaugh Prior, South Devon

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Distributors for "Devon Calls" are urgently needed

If you can help please contact The Editor

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ST. PETER'S, STOKE FLEMING

Bells Project - progress report

Work on the scheme to rehang the bells is due to start around mid-January with the removal of the clock mechanism for safe storage. Building work will commence in February to replace the steel girders supporting the tower roof and continue with work to all the floors in the tower.

The clock is to be converted to auto-winding, funded by the Friends of St. Peter's. The order for the bells and bellframe has been placed with the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. It includes the retuning and rehangng of the six in a rebuilt frame with augmentation to eight.



Funding has come from various events held by the Friends of St. Peter's, personal donations large and small, grants from a number of charitable trusts including the DBRF, and a £39,900 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The two trebles are being donated by Johnson Matthey plc in memory of Percival Norton Johnson, who founded the firm in 1817. He was resident in Stoke Fleming and is buried in the church.

A more detailed article will appear after the bells are back in action, which we hope will be by the Autumn.

John Dietz

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL- CHAGFORD

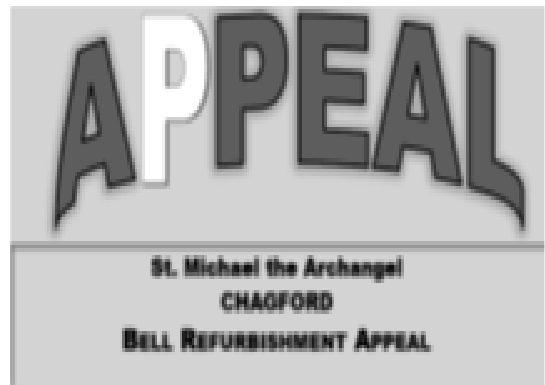
Bell Refurbishment Appeal - Progress Report

The need and scope of the planned refurbishment of the bells at St. Michaels was described in the last edition of this magazine. In brief, the bells, which were recast a century ago, are themselves in excellent order. However, the moving parts – headstocks, gudgeons, wheels, ropes, etc. - all need replacement or full refurbishment at a cost of approximately £42,000 plus VAT although it is anticipated that the VAT may be reclaimed.

The Appeal was officially launched on 25th October 2015 including an exhibition of the history of these historic bells. The Appeal is proceeding well thanks to the generosity of many individuals and organisations including the Friends of St. Michael's, Chagford Parish Council and the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund.

A faculty for the work has been obtained from the Diocese. It is planned that the contract will be placed shortly and that work may commence in April. The bells will be lowered and transported to Taylor's of Loughborough in mid-April and the work will take approximately two - three months. The bells will then be returned, rehung and a celebratory bell ringing festival will be planned the proceeds of which will go to St. Michael's.

A very successful fund-raising weekend was held on the 30-31 January. A coffee morning with raffle raised £550 and intentionally coincided with a sponsored



silent ring of the tenor bell starting at 9.30 am on Saturday 30th and finishing just at the beginning of the morning service on Sunday 31st. A team of 17 ringers, led by Laurence and Stuart Bennie, took turns to toll the bell including eight who took turns throughout the night. Other members of the ringing team and their spouses helped support the ringers with refreshments throughout the 24 hours, including having a celebratory supper party together.

The Rector, publicly thanked the ringers who were applauded by the congregation and took a bow from the balcony. This repeated an earlier similar ring for a new rope frame in 2008 and, although all the sponsorship money has not yet been received, has raised over £800.

The Appeal Committee takes this opportunity of thanking all those who have donated so generously already and hopes that the target will be reached in the near future.

Julia Endacott
Tower Captain

Colin Barnes
Chairman, Appeals Committee

PAIGNTON RINGERS CELEBRATE TWO SIGNIFICANT BIRTHDAYS.

John Kelly BEM hits 80 and Vashti Wilks reaches a significant mile stone

John celebrated his actual birthday not by ringing but eating. He threw a party for his large number of friends and family at the Berry Head Hotel, Brixham where meals and drinks were supplied. His family were there, his son John and his family, and daughters Tracey, and her family, and Louise who had come over from New Zealand. Louise gave a speech outlining John's wonderful achievements and ended by saying how much John valued our friendship. John, in return, thanked Louise and said how lucky he was to have such good children, and grand children and so many wonderful friends and with his interests mainly in railways, as well as in bell ringing, he was having a wonderful time.

John had invited his many guests to this evening dinner and in return asked that no presents be given and that if people so wished, they could make a donation to the Ricky Grant Ward of Torbay Hospital. The figure so far has reached £150.

John started ringing at Moretonhampstead in 1948 and has been captain of Paignton since 1958 and has also been a regular and loyal supporter at Stoke Gabriel since 1993 and helped them to win the Major Final competition in 2012 at Down St Mary. He has also supported Dame Hannah Rogers Trust since 1956 and with the Paignton Handbell team raised well over £53,000 and still continues to ring the handbells at venues throughout Paignton and Torquay over the Christmas period to raise money and awareness for the Dame Hannah Rogers School at Ivybridge.

John's son, John, also arranged a surprise bell ringing outing, not only to celebrate his father's 80th birthday, but also for Vashti's birthday as she had reached a significant milestone. The outing consisted of ringing at a number of outstanding towers in Somerset, and in order, Winford, Chewton Mendip, Ditchet and Chard. A pub lunch was arranged at the Waldegrave Arms, Chewton Mendip and the ringers and guests were delighted with the service and food. The towers were especially selected for this auspicious occasion and John, on the day, gave his thanks and also on behalf of

Vashti, for this surprise outing and to all the ringers who made this celebration so special. The day ended with a splendid evening meal at the Heathfield Inn, Honiton where other guests were met.

Vashti was taught to ring in Cornwall and had moved to Paignton and eventually continued her ringing at Paignton where she is now a regular member and a loyal Sunday ringer. Vashti enjoys competition ringing and has perfected her calling of the changes.

I wish them both every happiness and years of splendid ringing and good company and thank all those who contributed in any way in making their birthdays so special.

Michael Webster



Vashti Wilks and John Kelly BEM

WITTERINGS FROM WHIMPLE.

December 2015

I'm the last person to ask about ringing in Whimple really, being a mere incomer of ten years residence. It was only because we were visiting Exminster and Kenton that it came about at all. It was a strange affair; organised initially as a tribute to mark the semi retirement from regular ringing of one of our number after many years committed service to bells and the parish.

A couple of things this year have been timely reminders of our transience and the realities that bring pressure on our ability to put out a band for regular ringing. There is a calendar hanging in the ringing chamber and November's picture is of our twelve ringers photographed during the summer last year. Since then we have mourned the untimely death of one, said farewell to another moving house, sent 'get well' cards to another, seen two others less often due to pressure of work and involvement in other activities, quite reasonably. Including new recruits our default strength can be seven or eight hands, and even then not always. That is not to complain but merely a reflection of the reality that we lead full and varied lives around health, families, hobbies and wider interests within the community beyond bellringing. I acknowledge that we have been strengthened by our new ringers, all of whom are doing well, both on their own account and as part of the band, but like everywhere else we need more in order to keep pace.

So what of our oldest ringer now taking a slower pace? Nan Sturdy may well be known to some of you. Her daughter Sue certainly will be, particularly among the Guild. Nan was a fixture in the ringing chamber when I first put my head round the door. Now at eighty something she looks back on long experience of service ringing. She tells me she was one of three friends invited to learn when eighteen and living in Chudleigh. The others didn't stay long but she rang there for

several years in spite of some resistance to female ringers - to the extent that some of the die-hards declined to ring with the girls! Nan married and moved to the St. Leonards district of Exeter. No bells there of course, and she and her husband also worshiped at churches without bells; so an interlude from ringing. They later moved to a lovely village near Wincanton where they had the Post Office and shop and Nan took up ringing again. She rang there for seven years before moving to Dunchideock. They moved to Whimple in the mid nineties and Nan has rung the bells here for weddings and services ever since. Indifferent health forces her to step back but she still takes a rope in extremis very occasionally; and it is Nan that visitors first encounter when they telephone to request permission to ring our bells. She remains 'one of us'.

What of the future? We had an open evening for our Scouts and there may be some interest early next year. Also the church's recent Alpha course revealed a lady who had always wondered about bellringing; and a friend of a neighbour has shown interest. Will these three materialise into fledgeling ringers in the coming months? Only time will tell.

However, I do think the DAR needs to emulate the GDR in arranging opportunities for ringing together beyond initial training and before service/competition ringing. I see this level as augmenting tower practice nights and targeting learners of a broadly similar ability/experience. Where we have done this the progress in ability and confidence is unmistakable and I commend it to you. Happy New Year.

Roger Algate

Roger's target is to achieve 18 ringers at Whimple and we wish him every success. Editor.



Back row: Chris Brown, Bob Scanlon, Mike Ellington, Roger Algate, Tom Howard, Jill Horsman.

Front row: Dy Beedell, Liz Silk, Nan Sturdy, Judith Canniford, Lis Roberts, Janthia Algate

OBITUARIES

MR. IVOR WILLIAM HOOKWAY

The morning of Monday 30th November was wet, windy and overcast as I pointed my faithful Rover Metro in the direction of North Devon. I was heading for the little village of West Down near Ilfracombe to attend the funeral service of one of Devon's most respected senior ringing figures – Mr. Ivor Hookway. Earlier in the month Ivor had been taken ill and was admitted into the North Devon District Hospital at Barnstaple. It was at the hospital that he died peacefully on Tuesday 17th November 2015. Ivor was a well known figure across the county of Devon and was looked upon as a respected "Past Master" of ringing. In many respects by his manner and stature he resembled the late Tommy Darch of Torrington who was always upright and equally forthright. Ivor regarded him as the "Godfather of all ringing"!

Ivor was born and brought up at West Down. It was at West Down in 1937 and at the age of nine that Ivor first began to learn how to ring. His introduction began by learning how to ring the fourth bell. Three other young lads also learnt at around the same time. They were: Mervyn Phillips (Ivor's cousin) Walter White and Len Smale. They were taught by Ivor's father William and Mr. Fred White who, in spite of having lost one of his legs during the First World War, was, according to Ivor, "a wonderful ringer, a very good teacher, mentor, and an inspiration to us all." Teaching and learning must have been something of a challenge in those days as in the dark winter evenings the only source of light came from a solitary oil lamp in the Ringing Chamber.

It wasn't long before the combination of youthful enthusiasm and well qualified instruction began to shine through. At the age of seventeen Ivor and his mates entered their first ringing competition at Tawstock. At the time of this event Ivor was placed to ring the fourth bell. From this point on the young team began to follow very much in the footsteps of their seniors as they took part in several other local competitions. As the team's results improved the more adventurous they became and it soon followed that competitions were being contested much further afield. At the same time adjustments continued to be made to the line-up. This led to Ivor eventually moving from ringing the fourth back to ring the fifth bell. Such was the standard of striking at West Down that the bells were selected by the BBC to be recorded and broadcast during the Queen's Coronation in 1952. In the early 1960s the bells also featured on "Christmas Bells" which was broadcast on Christmas morning.

On the 5th April 1958 Ivor married Muriel. The wedding service took place at the Congregational Chapel, West Down and with the bells of nearby St. Calixtus Church pealing in the background. The newly married couple established their home at West Down and lived there until moving to Braunton in April 2014. In business Ivor was an agricultural engineer. The firm of Hookways was well known across North Devon as agents for John Deere machinery.

Travelling to compete in competitions became a regular feature. However, it is a long way from West Down to Dartmouth.



In the early 1970s and before improvements to the road network were made the journey would have been in the region of 90-100 miles. Travelling by car the journey time would easily have been around 2-3 hours. In spite of this on Saturday 30th June 1970 the West Down team set sail for St. Petrock's, Dartmouth to compete in the Devon Association's Major Final. I remember the occasion very well and for many reasons. First of all the setting was perfect, the day was warm and sunny and the atmosphere something akin to a major sporting fixture. It was also the first time I was introduced to Ivor and the rest of the team. West Down were drawn to ring peal number one. The warning bell sounded

and silence fell over the ringers who had strategically positioned themselves around the precincts of the church. What followed was an extraordinary standard of striking which included the unique West Down lower, a lower which must have taken three to four minutes to complete. As a young ringer I remember being enthralled and amazed that a peal of bells could be struck with such precision. The other teams rang and eventually the secretary, the late Mr. Edgar Cole, called everyone to order for the announcement of the results. "Ladies and Gentleman and fellow ringers, here are the results which the judges have arrived at this afternoon and this evening." There was deathly silence. "The Ross Shield and First Certificate with a loss of 13 faults goes to peal number one - West Down." Inside the tiny little church of St. Petrox and amongst tremendous applause Mr. Mervyn Phillips the Tower Captain was presented with the magnificent Ross Shield and First Certificate.

When everyone eventually departed the sun was setting in the west. The winning team, no doubt buoyed up by their success, embarked on the long, long journey back to the little village of West Down where they had first been introduced to the art of bellringing.

During the early 1980s Ivor decided to retire from active ringing. He then took up judging and regularly judged in competitions. His commitment to judging not only encompassed competitions organised by the Devon Association but included countless invitation competitions. In doing so he travelled far and wide across most of Devon. After the results were announced he was always willing to give teams and any interested individual ringer feedback on their performance, which he always offered in a straightforward and constructive manner.

He was passionate about the Devon Association of Ringers and its guiding principles. At meetings he unreservedly spoke his mind. On one occasion I remember him pointing out that the fifth verse of the Ringers' Hymn is "being sung too loudly". "The fifth verse should be sung softly, it's the last verse where you give it full throttle," he explained. I recall Mr. Oatway, who was the Chairman of the Devon Association at the time, saying after Ivor had spoken, "Well there you are you have all heard what Mr. Hookway has said. Next time keep in mind the point he has made, "full throttle" but not until the last verse gentlemen, if you please!!

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St. Calixtus Church was packed for the funeral service which was conducted by Rev. Iain Robertson. His five granddaughters, Kelly, Maddy, Darcy, Elin and Kathryn spoke affectionately about their grandfather and reflected on the happy times they had spent with him. In the Eulogy which was given by sons Richard and Ian the contribution Ivor had made towards family life, to his business and to the local community was affectionately and sentimentally conveyed.

Following the service and under leaden skies his body was finally laid to rest in a grave within a few meters of the tower. A place he knew so well and where in 1937 he first held a bell

rope and learnt how to ring.

*"For when the one Great Scorer comes
To mark against your name
He writes - not if you won or lost
But how you played the Game."*

Henry Grantland Rice. American Sportswriter (1880-1954).

Ivor played the game well, very well and always with a straight bat. We will all miss him.

Colin E. Adams.

25th January 2016

WEST DOWN RINGERS

WITH THE ROSS SHIELD WHICH THEY WON AT WEARE GIFFARD IN 1953

WITH A LOSS OF 13 FAULTS



Back row - l to r

Rev. Kestrell Cornish, Fred White, Des Smale, Len Smale, Les Phillips, Mervyn Phillips, Ivor Hookway, Bill Hookway, Rev. Arthur Chandler

Front row - l to r

Mr. Furze (Churchwarden), Mrs. Furze, Mrs. Hookway, Gerald Hookway, Walter White

Photo kindly supplied by Mr. Fred White of Braunton

EULOGY given at the

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF WILLIE VICTOR LANG ("BILL") AVERY (20.03.20 - 21.10.15)

Thank you all for coming today, to celebrate Bill's life. As is evident by the fact that you are here, he touched your life as well as ours.

Bill was born on 29th March 1920 in the village of Bow. He was the youngest of 5 children, having one sister and three brothers, and he attended Bow School and then North Tawton senior school, leaving at the age of 15.

Bill's first job was as a grocery boy in Okehampton, earning ten shillings a week (for those of you under 40, that's 50 pence).

Every morning, he cycled up the hill to Bow station to catch the train. Sometimes he was late. The guard would see him pedalling like mad up the lane, and would hold the train just long enough for Bill to throw his bike in the hedge and hop on !

I doubt there was a strict British Rail Timetable, or a Health & Safety Policy, in place at the time !

With very few cars ... and no telephones, mobiles, computers or Tesco delivery vans back then ... part of Bill's job was to cycle out to the homes of customers who couldn't get in to the shop. He would write down their grocery orders and take them back to the shop to be made up.

There were no carrier bags either - let alone a 5p charge! Things like sultanas were sold loose, weighed on scales and wrapped in paper.

When War broke out 1939, fearing compulsory conscription, Bill and his youngest brother, Kitch, volunteered ... hoping they might then get the job they wanted.

His handwriting was always very neat, even back then.

He told the Recruiting Officer he'd like to be a writer in the Navy. The officer replied: "We want somebody to fight the beggars not send 'um a Christmas card!"

Bill developed a duodenal ulcer, so was refused entry into the armed forces.

In 1940 he got a job with a big grocery firm in Barnstaple called Yeo, Ratcliffe and Dawe. He left home and lodged in Pilton, Barnstaple.

On 3rd October 1942 Bill's life changed completely !

He had often seen this pretty 16 year old girl walking past and he finally plucked up courage to speak to Betty at Barnstaple Fun Fair. They were married 6 years later

in Barnstaple Baptist Church on 2nd August 1948.

On registering Ian's birth, 3 years on, Bill met the Barnstaple Registrar - an old 'Homeguard' colleague - who was shortly to leave that part-time post. Bill applied and got the job. 4 years later, Bill became full time Registrar in Newton Abbot and moved into 14 Greenbank Avenue in January 1956.

After paying the removal firm, Betty and Bill were left with £10 to their name. The bungalow really needed rewiring, but that would have cost £13 and they couldn't afford it.

A High Bickington bellringer, Herbert Pidler, told his friend and Kingsteignton bellringer, Sam Slade, that Bill was in the area and he was invited to come and ring here. Shortly after that he became Captain of Kingsteignton Bellringers - a position he held for the rest of his life - and there began his long and happy association with St Michael's Church.

Later that same year, Carole was born, followed by Sandra two years later, and then Colin in 1961. (The South Devon air was obviously extremely bracing !!!!) All 4 children were married at St Michael's, Kingsteignton, and then followed the gradual arrival of 10 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Bill retired on his 65th birthday, having served 33 years. He occasionally commented (with tongue firmly planted in cheek) he'd married more women than any other man in Newton Abbot! In fact, someone once said

to him, "I understand you are responsible for all the births in the area?" !

To save new mums a little time when registering their baby's birth, Bill offered them the opportunity to register at the then vibrant Maternity Unit at Newton Abbot Hospital each Tuesday afternoon. The room he was allocated to do this was the delivery room. On one occasion in 1975, a young mum, who Bill happened to know, came into the room, whereupon he greeted her with the words, "Hello my darling. Was it a boy or a girl then?" to which the young mum replied, "I haven't had it yet!"

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Bill vacated the delivery room fairly swiftly. That young Mum was Sue, (Ian's wife) who shortly after gave birth to Lisa. Bill will often have greeted many of you with "Hello my darling" or "Alright my Boodie". Whilst this was always a term of endearment, it was also often used when he had difficulty instantly recalling your name ... and that included his 4 children too! As you will appreciate, it is difficult to cram 95 years into 5 minutes. You will all have your own special memories of Bill. Here are a handful of his children's memories:

Bill, on a Sunday School outing to Woodlands, aged 71, doing the whole assault course with his young grandchildren - scramble nets the lot - frightened them all to bits !

When Colin and Sandra were in their early teens, the three of them cycled to Bow - 25 miles each way - and on the way back got tied up with Moretonhampstead Carnival.

Having to get off their bikes and walk alongside the procession, Bill would often joke about how he narrowly missed receiving 2nd prize in the Pedestrian Class !

Whilst attending Teign School, each grandchild, in turn, ate lunch at 14, Greenbank. Bill never wanted them to pass up an opportunity to learn something, and the dictionary or the atlas was frequently consulted midway through the sandwiches ! Kingsteignton Ringers will recall Bill bringing the Radio Times 9 letter Trackword for them to solve every Sunday morning! Great concentration would ensue as each struggled to be the first to crack the puzzle!

When his children were young, Bill excitedly wheeled each of them around the garden in a wheelbarrow - them sat on a teddy sack, shrieking with laughter, holding on for dear life! But they always felt safe.

Bill taught all 4 of them how to drive. Carole remembers her first night journey, travelling home along the dark, twisting roads from Barnstaple. She couldn't get the hang of dipping the headlights, and accidentally turned them off completely, plunging them all into total darkness. She can still hear the screams now! Despite ALL their protestations, Bill insisted she get back behind the wheel, so as not to deter her from driving ever again.

They enjoyed many wonderful family holidays at Croyde Bay. Bill used to lift them up out of the huge breakers, just as they were about to crash on them - always using those wonderfully reassuring words, "Don't worry, I've got ya".

Bill loved his garden and grew all his own vegetables right up to about 3 years ago.

Colin remembers earning pocket money by pulling up weeds. Unfortunately, this sometimes included Bill's carrots & spring onions!

Bill also liked working with wood and was brilliant at making and mending things. With 4 children to clothe & feed, money was too tight to throw anything away. But they NEVER wanted for anything; never felt that they had missed out. It certainly taught them the true value of money.

Bill also loved football, playing keenly in his twenties and later on supporting his beloved Torquay United - not missing many home matches as his children grew up.

On Ian's 13th birthday, he and Bill went to Plainmoor at 4.00am to queue for tickets to watch Torquay play Spurs. The man at the gate gave Ian a free ticket for being first in the queue and for getting up so early!

Of course music was Bill's other passion. He loved playing his accordion at dances at the local village hall in the 1940s. Also

singing in the choir and, later in life, playing this magnificent organ. It was often remarked upon by those listening, that Bill had a lovely touch and that he played from the heart. It gave Bill immeasurable pleasure knowing that Ian had also been blessed with this gift.

The other type of music which had enthralled him since the age of 10 was obviously his love of bellringing. A life time of ringing and judging has given him such a tremendous amount of joy and many lasting and wonderful friendships.

Bill enjoyed competitions ... in fact after one particularly good 6 bell peal in the local deanery, where Kingsteignton were given 2 faults in the top ringing, he was heard to say, "Where did they get those 2 faults from then?" !

Bill never lost sight of the fact that the most important reason for ringing the church bells was to invite people to come and worship God.

Bill showed total devotion and loyalty to Betty during their 67 years of marriage. His wife and his family were his pride and joy.

Both Betty and Bill have been their Rock. Even when times were tough, Bill would always say, "We must count our blessings" or "We have so much to be thankful for"

The words in the Bible reading, that Reverend Sandra kindly read, were very appropriate:

Bill **was** patient, kind and supportive. He was never jealous or envious; never craved material things or sought praise or acknowledgement.

He was honest and generous; never boastful, selfish or rude. He never judged his children; but always explained where they'd gone wrong; encouraged them to do better next time; and always loved them throughout ... no matter what.

He was just there for them - guiding them every step of the way; teaching them family values and, most importantly, the true meaning of love.

Bill loved his God, his Church, his family and his friends. In return, he was much loved and respected by all those lucky enough to have known him.

Maybe the world would be a better place if there were more people like Bill in it.

He was a true Gentle-man in every sense of the word.

With God's help, it's now up to his family to strive to continue to live their lives as Bill would wish them to.

They thank him for his love, and his example and for setting the bar high !

This Eulogy, which was given during the service, was by daughter Sandra and son Ian.

Mrs. Betty AVERY

We are sorry to learn of the death of Mrs. Betty Avery, wife of the late Bill, who died on New Year's Day. The devoted couple had been married for 67 years and spent almost their entire married life living in Kingsteignton. On behalf of all ringers we extend a message of condolence to daughters Carole and Sandra, sons Ian and Colin, and their respective families.

Editor

NORMAN MORTIMORE (1928 - 2015)

I returned home from work one day last week and found that my husband had taken a message for me. Scribbled on a piece of paper were two words "tribute Norman". Anyone who has ever been on a Bellringing trip with Norman will understand my first thoughts at reading that note - "where can I get hold of a barrel of that at short notice?"

Well it wasn't that at all it was a message from Wendy asking if I would like to read a eulogy for the family, and here I am, very honoured to do this.

Norman was the third born in the Mortimore family of eight. His parents Mark and Hilda were farmers before retiring to Ipplepen.

He started his life at Hartwell Farm, Lamer-ton on 4th March 1928.

Life was busy with never a dull moment as they all played and worked together over the years. When Norman was 4, he was told they were moving house. He remembered being puzzled how were they going to move the house all those miles away to Hazelwood Farm, Marldon?

It was there he spent his childhood years. Going to the local schools and growing up with the local children. Many a bike or scooter was rigged up with bits from the local tip and this being their only form of transport to and from school, was often shared. While at Marldon Primary, he swapped his bike for a scooter with a friend and remembered being chuffed with the outcome. On reaching the farm he had second thoughts about what his parents would say and hid it at the top of the lane for two weeks!

Everything has a use and many skills were learned whether it was making a go-kart or re-building an engine. At Young Farmers classes Proficiency tests were taken in sheep shearing, thatching, rope and spar making, each achieving good results.

With the Young Farmers came the social side too, and it was at a dance that he met Sylvia. They married in 1952 and lived at Cumming Farm, Buckfastleigh, before moving back to Marldon. The daily routine then was the milk round which they started in 1954, delivering milk, cream, eggs and poultry to



households in the area. Being in daily contact with the locals they both accumulated many friends over the years.

Bellringing became an important part of Norman's life. He started learning at an early age and later worked his Sunday morning milk round route around it. Sylvia would drop him off at the church and continue deliveries and pick him up later. It was a strong passion of his for 45 years, Norman being captain here at Marldon Church for 20 of those years.

Numerous friendships were formed far and wide between the ringing families which Norman enjoyed so much and, as you have all come together today, I feel sure what will be in the forefront of your minds is his quick wit and mischievousness fun that made him a legend of his era. There are many humorous

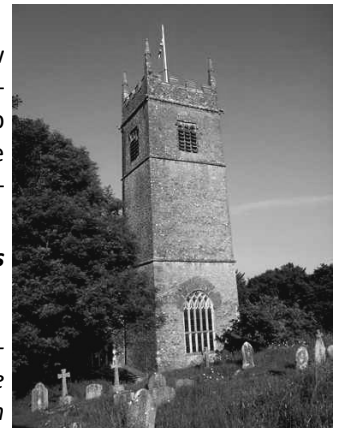
and indeed touching tales of Norman's exploits whilst Bellringing, I am sure some of which will be recounted during today.

After the milk round and a few years of rearing cattle at Marldon Tor, Norman and Sylvia retired to Kingskerswell. The family grew, as their children Wendy and Mark produced five children of their own and at present there are eleven great-grandchildren of which Norman and Sylvia were immensely proud.

It will be a sadder world now without Norman but his memories will never fade. All the help you have given us and all the love you have shown will not be forgotten.

Julia Jarvis

Ed: The funeral of Norman Mortimore was held at St. John the Baptist Parish Church, Marldon on Thursday 19th November 2015 at 2pm



Stop Press

JOAN CLARKE

We are sorry to have to report the death of our friend Joan CLARKE, formerly North Devon Secretary of the Devon Association of Ringers. We understand that there will be a private cremation and that a memorial service will be held at a later date. We extend our sympathies to James.

Editor

DEVON CHURCH BELL RESTORATION FUND (Charity Number 276490)

Report given at the Devon Association's AGM - 14 November 2015

During 2015 the Fund has been involved with 17 towers at some stage in their restoration projects.

We have again, through the Diocese, been carrying out bell inspections alongside churches' routine quinquennial inspections. This year we have carried out inspections at Axmouth, Harpford, Dittisham, Combe Martin, Ide, Ilsington and Ashwater. Though not carried out specifically as a fund-raising measure, most churches receiving our reports have nevertheless made significant donations to the Fund.

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. In addition to our grant based discussions we also discussed the suggestion of providing a small plaque to each tower to which we award a significant grant, though as yet we have not finally decided. We also discussed the arranging of volunteer help for churches carrying out bell restoration work and concluded that we do not currently have the resources to continue this.

The bulk of our financial assets are now of course in the form of an investment portfolio purchased from the William Smale Bequest, and managed through the Discretionary Portfolio Service of Cathedral Financial Management Ltd of Exeter. On account of the volatile state of the markets over the past year, the value of the portfolio is now somewhat lower than at the previous year end, though it is still some 0.85 per cent higher than the original purchase price, currently standing at **£335,553**. The continuing benefit of the investment portfolio is in the dividends received which have amounted to **£7,910** for the first three quarters of the year.

The down-side of having received the Smale Bequest in 2014 is that, for that year, in order to comply with the requirements of the Charity Commission, we were obliged to have the accounts scrutinised by a currently registered accountant. We engaged Barretts Chartered Accountants of Union Street, Newton Abbot to carry out this work at a cost to the Fund of **£360**.

At the beginning of the year the liquid assets of the Fund stood at **£63,251**. Since that time nine grants totalling **£21,870** have been paid. **£120** went to **Churchstow** for the repair of a clapper; **£3,500** to **Plympton St Mary** where the bearings have been overhauled, the clappers refurbished, new wheel rims, pulleys and bell-bolts supplied plus various other works; **£3,250** to **East Budleigh** where the treble, second and tenor bells have been re-cast such that the profiles are now much more in line with the other bells, also the bearings have been serviced, the clappers re-bushed and new wheel rims, pulley blocks, sliders, runner boards and stays provided; **£350** to **Ipplepen** for new gudgeons on the sixth bell; **£4,250** to **Bishopsteignton** where the bells have been re-tuned and re-hung with all new fittings – this ring having been totally transformed; **£7,000** to **High Bickington** where the heavily corroded sub-frame has been replaced, the fittings either refurbished or replaced (including a new headstock for the treble), the bell-frame repainted and the bells re-hung; **£2500** to **Kingsteignton** where the bell-frame has been painted, the bearings serviced and the bells quarter-turned on their headstocks (this latter item being the subject of an additional grant application); **£750** to **Pinhoe** where severe corrosion to the south side of

the frame foundation has been addressed and the whole bell-frame repainted; and **£150** to **Trusham** where repairs have been made to the wheels and the whole installation has been tightened up.

Income during the year (excluding that from the investment portfolio) has amounted to **£11,073**, including **£1,000** from the **Guild** as agreed at their Annual General Meeting in June, **£416** from **peal and quarter peal ringers**, **£781** from **personal and miscellaneous donations**, **£4,059** from the **Association** following the **Annual Draw**, **£1,069** from the **Guild Branches**, **£369** from the **competition in July** organized by Graham Sharland in aid of the BRF, **£265** from various individual towers, **£200** from the **Worshipful Company of Founders** and **£905** following **tower inspections and talks**. **£1,079** was given in memory of **David Trist**. Tax refunds following gift-aided donations and bank interest make up the balance.

At present the liquid assets of the Fund stand at **£60,365**.

Grants agreed this year, other than those to **Ipplepen** and **Pinhoe** which have already been paid include **£10,000** to **Combe Raleigh** towards drilling out the crown staples on the three existing bells, adding three second-hand bells, tuning five of the bells to match the existing mediaeval second bell, providing new fittings for all six bells, modifying the existing frame and constructing a new ringing gallery.

At this morning's meeting the following grants were agreed: **Cornworthy** - **£8,400** towards rehanging the bells with overhauled fittings including the removal of crown staple stubs, overhauling the Ellacombe chiming apparatus, installing two new foundation beams and three stub end beams for the bell-frame, and repairs to the bell chamber floor; **Kingsteignton** - **£600** towards extra work done, including quarter-turning the bells and fitting new bell bolts; **Woolfardisworthy (East)** - **£1,700** towards conversion of the derelict ring of three into an electronically operated chime, and conservation of the bell-frame; and **Chagford** - **£7,400** towards eighth-turning the bells and rehanging on new cast-iron headstocks with new or refurbished fittings, also stabilisation of the bell-frame.

Assuming that all of the agreed grants are taken up, the uncommitted liquid balance of the Fund stands at **£19,965**.

IVJS

November 2015

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