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Devon Calls

Feb / March 2019

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Devon Association Young Ringers

The Devon Association Young Ringers were set up in early 2017 following a Devon Association committee meeting looking into 'recruitment and the next generation of ringers'. Scott Adams agreed to run a Quarterly Young Ringers Event, with wholehearted support coming from the committee. The aim was to encourage the younger generations, teens to thirty odds, to get out of their own tower environments and discover other ringers of similar ages. The focus would be on the promotion of striking as well as rising and lowering.

The first meeting was held at Drewsteignton in March 2017, with around 20 attendees. Speaking with a few new faces, they were surprised by how many people their age rang. Since then the group has met in various locations around Devon with new faces showing up every time, around 40-50 different people attending at some point. Initially the meetings were quarterly but due to the amount of support forthcoming it was agreed that these should

be increased to monthly.

A few of those who regularly attend have taken it upon themselves to offer further ringing opportunities to the group. First there was a Saturday ringing outing organised by Andrew Steer around the Cadbury Deanery on the 29th September 2018. Twelve ringers went

to Washford Pyne, Poughill, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Cadbury and Thorveton, where some very respectable ringing was had, even on the challenging sets. Thorveton also offered for many the first taste of 10 bell ringing.

A further opportunity was organised

by John Lagdon to ring at Buckfast Abbey on Sunday 4th November 2018 following a service. This was a fantastic opportunity for many to ring at the Abbey and we were able to get 11 ringers. With the help of Paul Hext, who helped organise, we were able to ring all 12 bells and enjoyed some good ringing. A few



L-R Stuart Bennie, Adam Brealy, Ben Squire, Kate Carew, David Burgoyne, Luke Mitchell, Will Carew, John Crotty, Andrew Steer, Amy Squire at Thorveton

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

Deadline for next edition - 20th April 2019

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

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

Devon Association Young Ringers—continued from page 1



L-R Sam Massey, John Lagdon, Jade Gall, Andrew Steer, Kate Carew, Will Carew, Nicola Bennie John Crotty, Stuart Bennie Ben Squire & Amy Squire at Buckfast Abbey

had only brief experiences at 10 bell ringing, let alone 12, and with changes, but everyone adapted quickly and rang well.

If you are, or have been, interested in coming along to a meeting, but perhaps have not done so due to the distances, please get in contact and we will try to get everyone involved.

youngringers@devonbells.co.uk

Towers Visited

30 th March 2017	Drewsteignton
27 th July 2017	Plymouth, Eggbuckland
26 th October 2017	High Bickington
30 th November 2017	Ide
1 st February 2018	Bow
5 th April 2018	Lustleigh
3 rd May 2018	Kenn
14 th June 2018	Whitchurch
5 th July 2018	Exeter, St David's
16 th August 2018	Newton Abbot
20 th September 2018	Chagford
15 th November 2018	Plymouth, St Budeaux

Monthly meetings are announced on the Association website

<https://www.devonbells.co.uk/index.php/category/youth/>

Also get involved with discussions and information on the dedicated Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/409127049435136/>

Hopefully we will see many new faces in the coming months.

Stuart Bennie

Young Devon Ringer No. 3. Marlon Darragh

Marlon, whom we are told is just 14 years old, is learning to ring at St. Winifred's Church, Branscombe in East Devon. Tower Captain John Bass is teaching Marlon who has now been ringing for about 12 months. John is teaching him on the treble bell. Apparently Marlon has always been musically inclined; something which first became apparent when he learnt to play the recorder at school. It was mum, Amanda, who first saw an advertisement in the parish newsletter calling for new bellringers and suggested to Marlon that he give ringing a try. She was somewhat surprised when he immediately agreed. Well 12 months on and he continues to receive instruction from Captain John. However, he has made such good progress that he was able to ring rounds with the rest of the team on Remembrance Sunday 11th November 2018 marking also the 100th Anniversary of the Ending of WW1. Marlon signed up to the Central Council's "Ringing Remembers" campaign and just a few days before 11th November received his badge which he is shown wearing in the group photograph.

Congratulations Marlon on behalf of all ringers across Devon for all that you have achieved in your ringing career so far. How many young people of your age can safely say they



The picture was taken during a ring to commemorate the end of WW1 at 6.00pm on Sunday 11th November at St Winifred's Church, Branscombe, Marlon rang a session of rounds with us at the start and is proudly wearing his badge.

L-R John Bass (Tower Captain), Chris Fuell, Janice Burroughs, Kay Smith, Marlon Darragh (then aged 13), Keith Smith (Tower Captain at Colyton), Graham Sweetland.

actually rang on the 100th Anniversary of the Ending of World War One?

Colin Adams

Editorial

Belated congratulations to all those towers, both Association and Guild, who rang on Remembrance Sunday 2018 for the Centenary Anniversary of the ending of WW1. The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers sought to recruit 1400 new ringers in an attempt to replace those who fell in the First World War. In the end the Central Council estimated that the recruitment campaign yielded 2792 new ringers – close to 200% of the original target. The contribution which ringers made to the Centenary Anniversary is contained in a letter sent out by Christopher O'Mahony, President of the Central Council. Part of his letter contains the following statement. "As bellringers, we are the 'external choir' that calls out across time and space, giving tribute on this day for those who have gone before. This is what we do, this is our calling, this is our service." What a wonderful way of summing up our mission.

Following on from Remembrance Sunday the Devon Bell-ringers' Carol Service took place in the wonderful setting of Buckfast Abbey on Sunday 9th December. The service was led by Fr. Christopher Delaney O.S.B. The music was led by the Bell Ringers' Choir under their conductor Mr. Ian Avery. There were outstanding performances by the Exeter Cathedral

Handbell Ringers who rang a peal of 'Norwich Surprise Royal' and Lamerton Handbell Ringers who rang the 'Queen's peal'. The Bidding Prayer was read by Rev. Deacon Lester Yeo. Approximately 400 people attended the service. The proceeds from the collection were donated to the Abbey's Millennium fund (which includes Devon Hospices). We have so much to thank Ian for. He works so hard each year organising what has now become a significant annual event. On behalf of all who attended – thank you Ian. If you missed the last one make a note of the next – *Saturday 7th December 2019 at Exeter Cathedral starting at 3.00 p.m.*

My grateful thanks to all those who have taken the trouble to contribute to this edition, an edition which contains the very first "Letter to the Editor". I am always grateful to the small group of helpers who regularly and reliably help with the process of packaging and distributing the magazine; thank you all.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the year. Probably on one of those warm summer afternoons with the bells pealing in the background!

Colin Adams

Armistice Ringing and Ringing for Peace at Whimble

The centenary was important to many and the church was full to bursting with extra seating needed. With the cubs and scouts at the front, we also had silhouettes marking the 'There but not there' project. The History Society had mounted an informative display about the men from the Village and immediate surroundings, their families and former occupations.

The attached photograph shows the morning band as they gather for the half muffled call change peal rung for our village Remembrance Parade.



L-R Penny Daniels, Chris Brown, Penny Wells, Mike Ellingham, Lis Roberts, Roger Algate

Our Service of Remembrance takes place in the morning, around the two minutes silence, and therefore does not end until about noon. As in most places on this day people linger and chat and reminisce. A seemly interval was thought appropriate before the further marking of the Armistice – Ringing for Peace and Ringing Remembers.

Consequently, Ringing for Peace was marked by call change peal rung open at 7:05 in concert with so many other towers across the county, the nation and the world.



L-R Penny Wells, Bob Scanlan, Chris Brown, Mike Ellingham, Liz Silk, Dy Beedell

The second photo is the band after ringing an open call change peal in the evening from 7:05 initially associated with Ringing Remembered, just as much Ringing for Peace.

We had the Video Link to the Bells switched on all the week culminating on Armistice Day, with the Devon Bells Newsletter open at the tribute to Devon's Ringers who fell in the Great War.

We feel the day went well and our ringers served the village well.

Roger Algate

Marriage of William and Kate

On Saturday 18th August 2018 the wedding of William Philip Charles Carew to Kate Elizabeth Avery took place at St. Michael's Church, Kingsteignton. Will, from Liskeard and Kate from Kingsteignton are both ringers.

The day was bright and sunny as a large number of guests arrived at St. Michael's for the wedding service with the bells pealing in the background. The service was conducted by Father Mark Smith. During the service a reading from - Ephesians 5 v 3-20 was read by Mr. Ian Avery, uncle of



the bride. This was followed by a reading from - 1 John 7 v 7-21 which was read by Mr. Philip Carew, father of the bridegroom. Four hymns were chosen the fourth being the Ringers' Hymn. The Organist was Mr. Wyn Turner and the Choirmaster Mr. Ian Avery. The Best man was Brandon Van Blerk. Mr. Mark Lovell, who is also a ringer, was the Master of Ceremonies. For the reception,

guests travelled to Bow Village Hall for dancing and a hog roast.

Colin Adams

Forthcoming Marriage

Samuel Christopher Massey will marry Jade Alicia Gall on Saturday 13th April 2019 at the Church of St. Mary & St. Gabriel, Stoke Gabriel. Sam, a musician, is a well known ringer who rings regularly at Stoke Gabriel. Jade, also a musician, is a ringer and rings at Lamerton. The Wedding

Ceremony is scheduled for 12 p.m. Bellringing will take place before and after the ceremony.

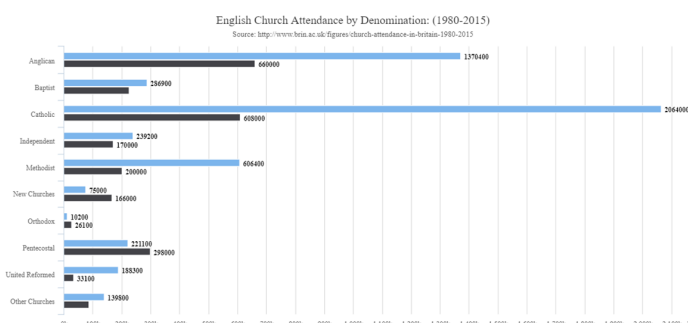
We wish Sam and Jade a happy and healthy future together.

Colin Adams

Letter to the Editor

"You can't get ringers nowadays"

We've heard it all before, but what has really wound me up is that after the AGM it came from the lips of people who should be trying to do something about it; committee members. In the past tower bands would naturally obtain membership through healthy congregation numbers. The graph below shows a decline by half in Anglican congregations, therefore I agree that we are bound to have that reduced natural audience. But you do not have to go to church to be a ringer! That is the message that we need to relay in our recruitment.



We as an Association aim to promote the ringing for divine service, but no one's arm is behind their back to stay for service. Therefore, we cannot sit back and expect new recruits to just walk through the door, and the focus should not always be on competitive ringing. It has shown that teams that did very well in the past spent very little time recruiting and now there is nothing to show for it.

When I started going to Sampford Courtenay with my now wife Nicola, the late Chris Clayton was the perfect example of how to get new recruits into the tower. At any village event

he would be heard saying "When are you going to learn to ring?", down the pub "When are you going to learn to ring?", anyone new to the village "When are you going to learn to ring?". Unfortunately, he is unable to see the benefits of his work but we have 14 members who were in one way or another influenced by his captaincy. The work still continues with two current recruits.

Another example is Jonathan Bint at Chagford. Unfortunately, shortly after the rehang project we lost the backbone of the band. Three have gone to university, two developed medical problems which prevented them from continuing and two moved further away. I find myself that I don't get there as much as I should since moving. All of a sudden the tower found itself in a difficult situation. Jonathan however has seen the new bells as the perfect chance to train up a new band. Since the rehang we have 5 new youngsters, around 11 – 15yrs, 7 new adults and two returning ringers. All through engaging with the school and the community.

A third example from the Okehampton Deanery is Hatherleigh. Whenever I've been there on a Wednesday evening there have always been new faces learning, and the evenings are geared towards getting them ringing with the band. Again, that has come from Richard Harrison and Mark Wonnacott engaging the community.

Clearly there are people out there who are interested in ringing or want to know more about what is involved. What the message should be from the committee members is "how can we help you?" If you need new ringers but are unsure of the best way to recruit or have recruits but need help training then ask your Deanery representative to the committee for help – it is what we are there for.

Stuart Bennie

DAR Committee – Okehampton Deanery

A Very Special Occasion at Bishopsteignton



Roger and daughter Rachel

Roger Avery, who lives and rings at Bishopsteignton, learnt to ring there about fifteen years ago after retiring to the village from a career as a lecturer at the University of Bristol. His father, Fred Avery, had also been a ringer. Fred learnt in Stonehouse, Plymouth, at the 12cwt eight lost to German bombing in 1941, before moving to Somerset in 1938 where he rang at St George's, Wilton, in Taunton. It was his father's lifelong love of ringing that inspired Roger to take up the exercise after he retired although sadly their ringing careers didn't overlap, and they never rang together.

In October Roger contacted me to see if we could ring sixty on thirds on our next Bishopsteignton practice night in memory of his grandfather, Frederick Avery. Frederick, who served in the Devonshire Regiment, died on 19th October 1918 from injuries sustained at the Somme. Roger mentioned in passing that his daughter Rachel, who lives in Scotland and has herself learnt to ring in the last couple of years, was also going to ring in memory of Frederick, but that she would be ringing the tenor behind for a method quarter peal in her home tower of Inverness. Bishopsteignton is a Devon Association tower and we exclusively ring call-changes, but I tentatively asked Roger if perhaps he'd like to also ring the tenor behind for a quarter peal so that both he and his daughter could achieve the same feat in memory of Frederick. To his credit Roger was extremely enthusiastic about the idea and so we assembled a band to attempt the quarter peal on the closest date we could to the 100th anniversary of Frederick's death. Incidentally, the rest of the band was made up of people who regularly and enthusiastically ring both call changes and method and it is great to reflect on how much closer the two communities have become in recent times.

In line with Roger's initial request, we did ring sixty on thirds in

memory of Frederick at our practice night that Thursday. In fact, we did it twice – once for each of our learners. Rachel and the Inverness band successfully rang their quarter peal the same evening. The following Sunday evening we assembled at Bishopsteignton for Roger's first quarter peal attempt (at age 79). I'm delighted to say that we rang a first-class quarter peal and that Roger rang wonderfully throughout, a remarkable achievement made even more significant by the occasion and by Rachel's Inverness quarter peal.

Bishopsteignton, Devon

St John the Baptist

Sunday, 21 October 2018 in 42m (9–0–25)

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Jo Brown

2 Robert Brown

3 Ian Avery

4 Will Carew

5 James Grant (C)

6 Roger Avery

First quarter - 6. Rung in memory of private Frederick Avery, Devonshire Regiment who died 19th October 1918 from injuries received at the Somme. Frederick's son, Fred, grandson Roger (today's tenor ringer) and great granddaughter Rachel are, or were, all ringers. Rachel also rang the tenor behind for a quarter peal in memory of Frederick, at Inverness on 18th October.



The quarter peal band, L-R: Jo Brown, James Grant, Robert Brown, Roger Avery, Will Carew, Ian Avery

Unsurprisingly given where they live, Roger and Rachel have very rarely rung together, the only previous occasion being in Inverness. It was great that on a visit to Devon in early December Rachel came to ring with us at Bishopsteignton and also joined Roger ringing at his other tower, Marldon. Most significantly perhaps, although Roger never rang with his father, nor Rachel with her grandfather, the two of them went to Somerset and rang together in Wilton, his home tower of almost half a century.

James Grant

Ringling at Kentisbeare

Stan Howe, Tower Captain and treble ringer at Kentisbeare for over 60 years died on Easter Sunday 2016 aged 90. Fred Western, tenor ringer for nearly as long, died just four days later aged 93. I often think how apt this was. For all that time, when rising and lowering in peal, which the Kentisbeare ringers put a great deal of time and effort into practising, Stan took the lead and Fred followed, not far behind ! All the early ringers of the other four bells had already passed away.

Fred was my father.

Stan was taught to ring by the headmaster of the Primary School. Fred learnt at Brampford Speke near Exeter, where his father, also a ringer, had the Post Office. Both boys were ringing by the age of twelve. In 1936 Fred's family sold the Post Office and moved to the butchers shop in Kentisbeare. The Westerns had for a long time been butchers, in and around Exeter. When the war came both Stan and Fred were called up. Stan became a " Bevan Boy " and Fred a tank driver in the army.

The war over, and the old village ringing band in decline, a new team of eager, keen young men joined Stan and Fred. It was now the early fifties. Alongside them were Percy Lane, Walter Radford, Les Leatt, Gordon Cligg, John Summers, Fred Clarke and Geoff Cottey. They rang together regularly and practised weekly. Their improvement began to show in their striking. But one practice night, while ringing, they heard a lot of unusual sounds : bumps, creaks and bangs from the belfry above. They decided to stop. An inspection by a bellhanger was arranged. The bells were found to be unsafe and could not be rung!

In 1958 six re-cast bells, with new headstocks, wheels and bearings, were housed in the original frame. The village had supported the ringers in their task of raising the necessary finance. The tenor, originally 14cwt was now just over 10cwt. The other 5 bells benefitted from the extra bell-metal. So Fred's record of rising the old tenor in seven strokes would now never be broken. (He broke his braces in doing so !)

So this is where I come in. My father taught me to ring in the Autumn of 1964, while at the same time Percy Lane taught his son-in-law, Derek Brake. By the spring we were ringing regularly. Now fate takes a hand. I learnt on the second. Geoff Cottey was the recognised second ringer. In those days we



tended to keep to the same bell. One night, under cover of darkness, Geoff eloped with the landlady from the Wyndham Arms, and neither would ever be seen in Kentisbeare again.

The first competition which the band entered was at Kenn on Saturday, July 23rd 1960. As the decade progressed we competed at a great many more. This became a regular, virtually weekly event throughout the summer months. I

won my first cup in the junior section at Bow in September 1967. It was about this time that Stan, a highly respected builder in the parish, suffered an injury to his hand. He was actually working at our place making a new shop doorway, when a large piece of cob fell on him. He couldn't ring for several months. He gave me a big card with the changes for "Sixty on Thirds " written on it, and a lot of advice. I was now ringing the treble. I well remember the early days when I had John Summers, now on the 2nd, talking to me all the way as we lowered. Such words as " don't rush it - ring it - don't let it fall - wait for the tenor to come in - pull in now " etc. etc. What a help he was! As were all the others!

The sixties gave way to the seventies and we were ringing as much as ever: especially at competitions. Our neighbouring



Kentisbeare ringers at Diptford in 1965

*Back L-R John Western, Walt Radford, John Summers, Fred Western, Stan Howe, Derek Brake
Front L-R Fred Clarke, Les Leatt, Percy Lane, Gordon Cligg*

parish, Plymtree also participated and there was great, friendly rivalry between us. They had such good, steady ringers (all with wonderful names) and would on occasions do better than us. People such as George Knight, Ron Cleal, Bill Lovering, Herb Minifie, Ted Widgery, John Hussey and Roy Cleal. Later, in the nineties, Roy organised many ringing evenings. But we could beat them also, as we often did! Among the top teams at this time were Down St.Mary and West Down. I cannot remember ever beating West Down but we did beat Down St.Mary, but only the once. But on that day Plymtree beat us, coming

first and pushing us into second place!

We continued to enter the "Devon" every year. Our best achievement was in 1979 at Bradford, so small a place that it seemed to me to be a church and a farm and nothing else. We came 4th in the major final. Six months later tragedy struck: we lost Percy Lane, dying of a heart attack at only 58. All the ringers and their wives, along with friends and neighbours had spent the evening at his house to celebrate his and Joan's Ruby Wedding Anniversary which everyone enjoyed. He died in the early hours after everyone had left.

And now to the present. We have seven regular, good ringers

Kentisbeare —continued from page 4

plus a teenage lad who is learning and a retired paramedic who has just started. Both are keen and progressing well. One of our seven, ringing the tenor, is John Summers recently retired from Southleigh. Yes, a new John Summers ! We also have two lady ringers, who learnt here and live in the village who are happy to ring, not regularly,



Early 1960's, Back L-R Les Leatt, Walt Radford, Fred Western, Stan Howe. Front L-R. Geoff Cottey, Fred Clarke.

but when needed.

Looking back at the sixties and seventies, I feel very fortunate and honoured to have been part of a team with those chaps, all a generation older than me. I didn't realise at the time how competent and skilful they were. I do now ! And it is my wish to pass on to others, those who are learning the art, if I can, just some of what they taught me.

John Western, Tower Captain

Molly Pratt Celebrates Sixty Years of Ringing



Molly receives her certificate from Barry Osborne

During August 2018 All Saints East Budleigh with Bicton, Bell ringers had cause for celebration. Mrs Molly Pratt achieved a record of ringing at All Saints for over 60 Years. Barry Osborne, President of The Devon Association of Ringers, awarded Molly with a certificate to mark this remarkable achievement. Molly was also awarded a Life Membership to All Saints Bell Ringers by Tower captain Alan Murdoch.



Molly receives the Life Membership from Alan Murdoch

Raleigh. As instructed, I turned up and found I enjoyed the challenge, and have been going ever since.

I have had the opportunity to ring with a few notable ringers including John Quick, Sid Skinner and Jim Smith to name but a few.

I have rung in various Churches including Colaton St Mary and Cockington, where I was made a Guild member.

Molly recounts some highlights of her time ringing -

"When I was a young girl, the then Captain of All Saints came around to our house and told me to be up at the Church tonight at 7pm and learn ringing. I entered what was then a nearly all male environment. My family had a history of ringing with my Grandfather Charlie Ebdon who rang at Colaton

Now at my advanced age I am still ringing and enjoying it with many good friends at All Saints East Budleigh. (still room for improvement though)."

Alan Murdoch

The Three Counties Swing Band at Chardstock

Chardstock Bell Ringers are delighted to have raised £812.47 towards new bell ropes from The Three Counties Swing Band event held on November 10th 2018.

It was a really enjoyable and memorable evening. The hall was decorated to reflect the occasion and the evening started with The Last Post followed by plenty of music and songs that were familiar. Everyone joined in the singing and waving of flags and during the evening others took to the floor to dance.



We did have a raffle and sold teas and coffee with donated delicious cakes during the event and at the interval.

The evening came to a close with The National Anthem and one last piece of music.

The band gave a wonderful performance which we were truly grateful for.

Thank you for advertising the event and placing it in Devon Calls.

Susan Bray

Saint Gregory's Church Dawlish

The following piece by John Southall and Bernard Chapman was spotted in the 26th December copy of the Dawlish Gazette, and it is used with their kind permission.



When I first saw this photo in the Bernard Chapman Collection I thought: 'I know just the

quote to caption this one'... but I thought that it might be a bit corny. Then I thought again so here you are... 'The bells, the bells' straight from *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*!

The year is 1911 and the new, splendid looking pair of bells are being added to St Gregory's peal of six.

Are these the eight we still hear today?

It's interesting the way that the clappers have been arranged. I can't help wondering if there is some significance to it.

The bells were bought to commemorate the coronation of King George V. There does look to be an inscription on each of them but I can't make it out.

I have contacted the Dawlish Gazette with the following information. The two bells were cast by Mears & Stainbank of London in 1911 to augment the ring to eight. The inscriptions on the bells are:

Treble – MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON.

GOD PRESERVE CHURCH AND KING

22 JUNE 1911.

2nd. KING GEORGE V. CORONATION

22 JUNE 1911.

Reference: Scott, J. Mack, F. and Clarke, J. (2007) "Towers & Bells of Devon" Dawlish, St. Gregory, The Mint Press, pp 127.

Colin Adams



The Art of Devon Call Change Ringing

Saturday 13th July 2019

2.30-5.00 pm

St Mary the Virgin,

Federation Road, Off Old Laira Rd, Plymouth, PL3 6BR

church website: <https://www.sacredheartplymouth.co.uk/st-marys-c8n5>

- A talk on the history and tradition of Devon call change ringing
- A demonstration peal by members of the Devon Association of Ringers
 - A selection of bellringing songs
 - An opportunity to have a go and pull a rope
 - Followed by a Devon cream tea*

Admission by donation; *Cream tea £4.50

For more information and numbers for cream teas please contact Kathy Wyke 01769 573666; or email: kmwyke2004@yahoo.co.uk

Parking for blue badge holders for 6/7 cars is available at the Church. Otherwise, unlimited on-street parking nearby.

In association with the:



Devon Association Novice Competition

9th March 2019

1pm

Ideford

7-3-9 cwt

All towers are invited to enter a team in this year's Novice Competition.

There will be two sections:

Round Section

Competing for the TH Priddle Shield.

Teams in this section must ring for a minimum of 7 minutes; the first minute will NOT be judged and counts as practice time.

Once the seven minutes of competition ringing is complete, judging will cease and the bells should be sat back on the stay.

Call Change Section

Competing for the P Rice Shield.

Teams will be expected to ring HALF a peal of SIXTY ON THIRDS. They may ring the first or second half. Copies of the changes can be obtained for the Assistant Secretary.

Teams will be allowed ONE minute of rounds to settle, and then must start changing. Judging will commence at the first change and cease once the bells get back to rounds.

There will be a maximum time limit of 10 minutes for the change ringing and a suggested minimum of 5 minutes. Please return the bells back on their stays once ringing has been completed.

To enter please contact:

William Carew
Asst Secretary South

✉ southcompetitionsecretary@devonbells.co.uk
☎ 07950 112333

Rules

- ▲ The aim of this event is to encourage and have fun. These rules are a guide with the main theme concentrating on the spirit of the competition – the competition secretary reserves the right to disqualify any teams seen to be abusing the nature of this NOVICE event.
- ▲ Teams should consist of 6 ringers who are regular service ringers for that tower.
- ▲ Where a tower wishes to enter two teams it is suggested that there should be at least 10 ringers.
- ▲ Teams may borrow one ringer, but they are not to ring the treble or tenor.
- ▲ This competition will involve top ringing only; there will be no raising and lowering
- ▲ No practice will be allowed at the tower after the Association AGM in the previous November
- ▲ The judge's decision will be final.
- ▲ Certificates will be awarded to all competing teams.
- ▲ Entry fee of £3.00 per team, payable on the competition day.
- ▲ Non affiliated teams to the Association are invited to affiliate on the day.

Do we have your correct address? If not please contact the Editor.

Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund – (Charity Number 276490)

During 2018 the Fund has again been involved with 18 towers at some stage in their restoration projects. In addition to these, one further tower has requested a grant application form, though it has not as yet been completed and submitted. Although we had previously been contacted by Revelstoke, the cost of re-hanging the bells there was covered by local fund raising and no application was made to us.

We have again, through the Diocese, been carrying out bell inspections alongside churches' routine quinquennial inspections. This year we have carried out inspections at South Brent, Meshaw, Arlington, Coldridge and East Allington. 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 March and November. In addition to these a prolonged series of emails was exchanged in September/October concerning issues with our previous grant offer to Beaford. In June Ian Campbell retired from the committee and was replaced by Janet Deem, her father Brian Coles having previously served on the committee for some twenty years from 1982 until the time of his death. In November John Barnes resigned from the committee and was replaced by James Steer.

The bulk of our financial assets remain in the form of an investment portfolio purchased from the William Smale Bequest, and continue to be managed through the Discretionary Portfolio Service of Cathedral Financial Management Ltd of Exeter. Due to recent volatility in the markets the value of the portfolio has decreased significantly since the previous year end and, at 31st December 2018, stood at £336,270. This represents a decrease of 9.8 per cent across the year, though is still approximately 1 per cent greater than its original purchase value. We are advised that there is no immediate concern with the value or performance of the portfolio, but quarterly income may fluctuate in the short term. The continuing benefit of the investment portfolio is in the dividends received which amounted to £11,956 for the year.

Following receipt of the Smale bequest in 2014 it was decided to increase the level of grants offered from our previous benchmark of about 10 per cent of the cost of a restoration scheme to about 15 per cent. In the past, requests for financial assistance have varied markedly, some years producing few requests and other years producing considerably more. If this trend had continued we would have been able to maintain our offers at the higher level. However, over the past five years both the number of requests received and the cost of those schemes have increased significantly, such that our grant giving has far outstripped our income. We have therefore had to take the decision, at least for the time being, to revert to our former benchmark of 10 per cent, perhaps also setting a 'cap', ie a maximum grant, for any one project.

At the beginning of 2018 the liquid assets of the Fund stood at £59,200. Since that time six grants totalling £38,750 have been paid. £450 went to Highweek towards cleaning down and repainting the bell-frame and supporting grillage; £3,500

to Alphington towards re-profiling and re-bushing the clappers, replacing pulleys, servicing bearings, replacing a tenor gudgeon, and scraping down and repainting the bell-frame; £15,000 to Ugborough towards totally recasting the eight bells and hanging in new fittings in the existing bell-frame; £8,500 to Exeter Cathedral towards replacing the clappers, clapper staples and pulleys, removing the button tops from the treble and second bells, inserting additional support beams under the tenor and ninth bells, and cleaning down and repainting the bell-frame and grillage; £9,000 to Moretonhampstead towards replacing the severely corroded support beams, refurbishing the clappers and staples, servicing the bearings, repairing the wheels, replacing the pulley sheaves and repainting the bell-frame; and £2,300 to East Anstey for re-making the foundation for the upper bell-frame, re-rimming the wheels, and building a new floor under the bells to allow safe maintenance.

Income during the year (excluding that from the investment portfolio) has amounted to £10,453, including £2,000 from the Guild of Devonshire Ringers as agreed at their Annual General Meeting in June, £495 from peal and quarter peal ringers, £585 from personal and miscellaneous donations, £3,479 from the Devon Association of Ringers following their Annual Draw, £1999 from the Guild Branches, £244 from the competition in July organized by Graham Sharland in aid of the BRF, £230 from various individual towers, and £1215 following tower inspections and talks. £206 was received in memory of Cyril Deem of Exmouth. Tax refunds following gift-aided donations and bank interest make up the balance. Administration expenses for the year amounted to £44.

At present the liquid assets of the Fund stand at £43,190.

Grants agreed this year, other than that to East Anstey which has already been paid, include £9,200 to Denbury towards replacing the existing second and tenor bells, adding a sixth bell, tuning all to be in line with the existing listed fourth bell, and re-hanging in the modified existing frame – the ringing room is also to be re-located higher in the tower; £1,500 to Starcross towards re-hanging the two bells in the exposed turret with all new fittings (not subsequently taken up as local fund raising covered the cost); £7,000 to Kingskerswell towards re-hanging the six bells in a new frame with all new fittings – the bells will also be augmented to eight and a new ringing floor will be constructed lower in the tower, these two latter items not being considered in the grant award; £2,200 to Northam for scraping down and repainting the bell-frame, treating all woodwork with preservatives, servicing bearings, and overhauling the clappers; £1,750 to Bradford for replacing the cracked treble side-frame and replacing some of the steels, also overhauling the bearings, clappers and pulleys; £6,000 to Holbeton for turning, tuning and re-hanging the bells in mainly new fittings, also maintenance of the main bell-frame and replacing the support steels of the upper frame; and £1,000 to Broadhempston for creating new trap doors in the tower and inserting new foundation RSJs under the existing frame foundation (this is phase 1 of a larger scheme to retune and rehang the bells).

Assuming that all of the agreed grants are taken up, the uncommitted liquid balance of the Fund stands at £1,840.

Committee Members and Trustees for 2018-2019

Secretary: Ian Smith, Church Cottage, Mary Tavy, Tavistock, PL19 9PR (01822 811071; dcbf72@gmail.com).

James Clarke (Chairman), Ian Campbell (till June 2018), Janet Deem (from June 2018), Mary Mears (Treasurer), John Barnes (till November 2018), Elaine Grant, Graham Sharland, James Steer (from November 2018).

Ian Smith

Chagford Bellringers - Auntie's retirement

48 Chagford bellringers, families and friends met for their Christmas Dinner on 4th January 2019 at the Fingle Bridge Inn traditionally held on the first Friday of January each year.

As always, a splendid meal was enjoyed in excellent company. It was good to see three of our five teenage and four of our five adult novice ringers present. This is evidence of the determination at the conclusion of the bell refurbishment appeal two years ago to continue “Ringing the Changes” which includes the recruitment, training and retention of new ringers.

However, on this occasion an historical event took place: Julia Endacott announced her retirement as Tower Captain from the end of 2018, a position she has held in succession to her father, Percy Rice, since 1977 – yes, 41 years!! (Mr. Rice himself had been Tower Captain since just after WW2!) During that time, she has led the band in regular and competition ringing and has trained many ringers. However, all were pleased to hear that she has every intention to continue ringing and will also continue to act as Secretary to the Chagford Ringers, a most important task in, for example, liaising with visiting ringers, entering teams for competitions, and organising ringers for occasional services such as weddings and funerals.

The Rector, the Revd. Paul Seaton-Burn, congratulated Julia on her achievement and presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

Jon Bint was announced as Julia's successor as Tower Captain, which met with universal acclaim. Jon learned to handle a bell-rope in 1976, under the guidance of Percy Rice, and (aside from a 3-year sojourn with the Birmingham University Society of Change Ringers, in the '90s) has been a regular member of the Chagford team ever since. On behalf of the ringers he presented Julia with a card the calligraphy having been beautifully drawn by Clare Griffiths, and a small bell made by Whitechapel Handbells, which continues after the closure of the renowned bell foundry in east London. This is engraved “Julia Endacott, Tower Captain Chagford, 1977 – 2018”.

Colin Barnes



L to r: the Revd. Paul Seaton-Burn, Julia Endacott, Jon Bint



An interview with Julia will be published in the next edition of Devon Calls.

Swimbridge

In February 2018 we started teaching learners at Swimbridge and the response has been very heart warming.

On the very first night Janet was there waiting with a smile and we were welcomed with hot drinks, biscuits and cakes. Ever since the group has been growing, and we now have 10 learners. We are hoping to be able to enter three teams into the novice competition.

Our learners (who range from 8 to 70 years old) are at various stages as they started at different times. The learners abilities range from rising in peal, changes and lowering all in place to a young lady doing her Duke of Edinburgh award who started in early January and can rise her bell on her own. The



Photo: James Stringer

learners are so enthusiastic, it's a pleasure to go there and teach.

We are very lucky to have a dedicated group of ringers who come from all over to help teach, so the learners have a great standard of ringers helping and ringing with them.

The villagers love hearing the bells and since we have started ringing there we have

only missed ringing for 5 services. We have decorated the ringing chamber and are waiting for new ropes.

Without the people who help every week it would not be such a big success. Thank you to you all.

Chris Ley

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