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# Devon Calls

July 2014

## THE PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT ANDREW, KENN.

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### Inside this issue

#### Ramblings of a Past

##### President

2

#### Recruitment, Training & Retention

Mike Adams

3

Training Officer

4

A personal Rant

5

A young Devon ringer

6-7

Okehampton Deanery

8

Young Ringers

8

#### Devon Church Bell

##### Restoration Fund

9

#### Competitions

Devon 8 bell

10

N. 6 bell qualifier

10

S. 6 ell qualifier

11

Minor Final

11

Major Final

11

Novice

12

Results

12

#### Ring for England

13

#### Jack Rhymes - Tribute

14-15

#### St. Mary's, Plympton

15

'No record of a Saxon church in Kenn survives, nor is there any physical evidence that one existed. The earliest extant written record is in a charter of the reign of King Stephen, in the middle of the twelfth century, from which we know that there must have been a Norman church in Kenn at the time. The charter refers to "St Andrew's, Kenn" so it also tells us that the patron saint then was St. Andrew, as it still is today' <sup>1</sup>.

Whoever decided to build a place of worship at Kenn could not have chosen a better location. It sits in a sheltered position at the foot of south facing hills at the head of the Kenn valley overlooking the village. From the road on the south of the church, access is either by the attractive half-round 'Heavitree' sandstone steps leading to the lych gate or by two sloping foot paths.

The perpendicular style building is almost entirely built of red 'Heavitree' sandstone excepting the tower which contains a high proportion of limestone and some flint. St. Andrew's was built in several different periods. Today the outward appearance is of an extensive 15<sup>th</sup> century enlargement.

The tower, at the west end, was probably built in the early 1300's. Inside there is a small well equipped social or committee room, with kitchen facilities, tastefully enclosed by glass doors.

There are six bells. The tenor bell weighs 13cwt.-1qtr.-25lbs. in the key of F. "In the inventory of 1553, 4 bells are listed. A note in an account book says "Kenn bells were cast in the year 1688", but there is no entry of a payment for this. The 2<sup>nd</sup> was recast by Thomas Pennington 111 and John Stadler in 1702, another by Pennington in Exeter in 1711, and the 4<sup>th</sup> in 1750 by Bilbie. In 1826 the old bells were exchanged for a new six by Mears at a cost of £155-8s-8d" <sup>2</sup>. The bells are hung in their original oak frame made by Stokes of Woodbury in 1882.

In 1947 the bells were overhauled, re-tuned and re-hung by Gillett & Johnson of Croydon. A photograph, dated December 1947 hanging in the ringing chamber, shows the bells at the lych gate having just returned from the foundry.

In 2000 the cannons were removed from each bell and the peal was quarter turned. Fabricated steel headstocks were fitted. The work was carried out by Robert Parker of Taunton with the bells remaining in the bell chamber.

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1. Lewes F. Morter I. C. 1997 *in* The Parish Church of Saint Andrew Kenn, A guide and history. Westprint.
2. Scott J *et al* 2007 Kenn, St. Andrew *in* Towers and Bells of Devon, Vol 2; 222. The Mint Press, Exeter

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## RAMBLINGS OF A PAST PRESIDENT

March 2014 brought another ringing tour for a past President. This one was for two reasons. It was to be a two day tour, partly to celebrate Merv Langdon's 70th Birthday, but Cornwall was chosen as I have been trying to get to Truro and Sennen for years but something always prevented it actually happening. Last year I had booked the towers and accommodation but was not well enough to go. Needless to say great fun was had in my absence.

This year, the towers were booked and the tour party set to go, when disaster struck. The gales blew some masonry from the tower at Truro and Sennen was struck by lightning. The best laid plans of mice and men do go astray, the secret is to take it on the chin and re-plan. So it was on Sat 1st March tour organiser Chris Ley, myself Chris Clayton, Merv Langdon, Tony Jeffery, Steve Herniman, Stuart Bennie, Nicola Stoneman, Sue Ashton, Karen Squires, Scott Adams, Paul Wright, Colin Adams, Andrew Gist, Suzanne Driscoll and Graham Sharland met at various points on the A30 and set off on a re-planned tour.

Breakfast was at the Kingsley Centre just off the A30 near Fraddon. If you haven't been, it is well worth a visit and the Breakfast was excellent.

The first tower was just up the road at St Columb Major. A 12cwt peal of 8. Always a pleasure to ring, the Captain is the President of the Cornwall Guild and keeps the bells in good order.

Lunch was in one of the Pubs below the tower at Penzance; not pre-booked but plenty of room and good service. I thought the Penzance bells were not as good as I remembered them, the tower has considerable movement but some reasonable striking was achieved after a long cold wait. I thought it was going to be a lockout.

The last tower of the day was the superb 14 1/2cwt peal of 6 at Paul. Here we had some excellent striking and the ringing was enjoyed by all. Also enjoyed was the superb pub opposite, the "Kings Arms". Here a very pleasant post ringing hour was spent before we all piled into the bus for the journey to the Commercial Hotel at St Just.

No problems with the Hotel for food and accommodation. A very enjoyable evening was spent, with the party going to bed from early to quite late.

Just one tower on Sunday, so after breakfast we drove the very scenic route from Cape Cornwall to Zennor. Well it would have been scenic but on a foggy, drizzly day with a steamed up mini bus not much was seen. We were, however, made very welcome at Zennor where we rang for the Service, to the appreciation of the surprisingly large congregation in a very cold Church.

So to our Sunday lunch stop at the "Eliot Arms", Tregadillick. Tables were organised for us and after pre-prandial drinks a good lunch was had by all.

Thanks were said and the party started to break up as

some cars had been left there the day before.

A very enjoyable weekend, good company, good ale and good bells.

*Chris Clayton*

From "The Cornishman" Friday February 14, 2014

### **LIGHTNING STRIKE AT SENNEN CHURCH**

WHILE most eyes have been on the sea during the county's horrendous weather, it's not only coastal landmarks that have taken a battering.

Sennen Church suffered what experts say was a massive lightning strike that went unnoticed for nearly a week.

The church – famous as the first and last in Cornwall – suffered a huge strike on its north-east pinnacle that blew a hole in the roof, sent debris including parts of the fuse box flying through the vestry and lifted a large area of earth and grass where the strike entered the ground.

Residents in Sennen Cove reported hearing a huge bang during a storm on January 26 but no one noticed the damage to the church until worshippers arrived to prepare it for a Sunday service on February 2.

Jean Jefferies, whose husband Michael is churchwarden, said: "It was a huge shock. There were electrical wires hanging from the telegraph pole outside like ribbons. Inside there's a layer of debris and the bits of the fuse box lid shattered across the vestry. "Water has also poured down the inside of the tower from the hole in the roof."

It appears the church's lightning conductor saved it from even worse damage, channelling most of the power down the tower and into the earth.

Mrs Jefferies said: "It must have been absolutely huge. There was obviously a tremendous surge.

"The people from Western Power couldn't believe the damage.

"Thankfully it didn't do too much structural damage. We now have a leaning pinnacle which is visible from outside; it's quite noticeable."

The church has been closed until further notice while the damage is assessed and repairs are carried out, meaning some visitors –

**INCLUDING A GROUP OF DEVON BELLRINGERS** (emphasis by Ed.) - have had to be reluctantly put off, but worshippers say they are keen to reopen the church before they have to postpone any major event such as a wedding.



### **TV gardening expert brings in bell funds**

From Exmouth Journal

Gardening television presenter, Peter Seabrook, visited East Budleigh on Wednesday, March 12 to give a talk to enthusiasts at the village hall. The East Budleigh Bell Ringers were amongst those attending the talk.

(Picture by Alex Walton. Ref exb 7970-11-14AW. To order your copy of this photograph go to [www.exmouthjournal.co.uk](http://www.exmouthjournal.co.uk) and click on Photo Orders)

# RECRUITMENT, TRAINING AND RETENTION

MIKE ADAMS - KENTON

DAVID TRIST - TRAINING OFFICER

YOUNG DEVON RINGER - SAM MASSEY - STOKE GABRIEL

OKEHAMPTON DEANERY YOUNG RINGERS

I want to follow Maurice Sharland's article (*in February 2014 edition of 'Devon Calls' - Ed.*) about recruitment of new ringers. How right he is when he says, "asking for volunteers is not very productive".

On a recent trip to ring at Probus in Cornwall we were taken by the fact that they seemed to have a lot of learners. On asking how they attracted them we were told that they simply placed a sign outside the Church saying "Try Bellringing" and having an open Saturday morning when people came to have a try. As a result they attracted several new people. Now not all will stay but if only 2 or 3 remain they have gained. We tried the same here at Kenton and have recruited 3 new people.

However, here is the nub of the problem. It is one thing attracting people, it is quite another teaching and then retaining them. So let me deal with teaching first.

Since starting ringing in the 1950's, I have rung with many ringers, some good and some not so good. There exists within any activity an elitism where once a skill has been learned and standards improve there is a tendency to go to where ringing is better and forget that someone gave their time to teach them. I would use as an example the Premier Football Teams who claim the name of a City but who have players who have absolutely no connection with the place, indeed lots are foreign players. Agreed it makes the team absolutely top class but does little for the local populace. I have seen the same with bellringing, people who are happy to travel miles to ring with top class people but who do little for their home tower. The question to ask of ourselves is not "why are there no new ringers coming forward", but how much encouragement do they get when they show an interest", and "am I willing to help teach them?" My experience is that most people can be taught to ring if we are willing to give up the time to teach them. They need time, they need practice, and they need to be included, they need to feel welcome and they need to ring with experienced ringers, even if that means sacrificing for a short while the high standard you may set for yourself.

I have seen the nudge and wink when someone turns up who isn't very good and better ringers choose not to ring

with them. I have also heard severe criticism of learners with a consequent complete lack of willingness to help to improve the standard. As if a high standard is inborn or can be reached by luck or without training.

Retention is another issue completely. There will inevitably be losses, particularly with younger people who go off to further education. In discussion it would seem the retention rate is about 1 in 12 but the people who leave may take it up in later life and may be useful to someone else. It is probably more worthwhile focusing on people who have moved in and are likely to settle in the local community because they are more inclined to want to get involved and are likely to be that bit older.

All of us need to remember that someone gave us the time and instilled the skills in us. We can attract new ringers, it means that we have to spend time, our time, teaching and then constantly encouraging an improvement of skills. What is not helpful is to train people only to find that once they can ring they go elsewhere.

The places which have new ringers are the ones where the present ringers are willing to help teach, train and retain people, which make new people welcome, and accept that they will take time to learn. You also need to accept that for some time they will not attain the high standard to which you want to ring. The encouraging note is that everyone, even you, starts with the same skill level and only with time and practise did you get better.

In any activity, whether it is fishing, football, golf or bellringing, there are many people who will take *out* but won't put *in*. I would urge all who can ring to look at what is happening in your own tower, look around you and ask the question, "How can we attract new people and, am I willing to help to teach and pass on my skills to the next generation of ringers?" If you are not then bellringing is destined to wither and eventually die out.

The future of ringing lies in the hands of the present ringers passing on the skills that they were once taught by the previous generation.

**Mike Adams.** All Saints, Kenton

## SOCIAL AFTERNOON HELD FOR TWO RETIRING BELL RINGERS

Tuesday 1st April 2014 in 'Somerset : This is the WEST COUNTRY'



**CHARDSTOCK St Andrew's Church** Bell ringers held a cream tea and social afternoon in the church to honour two of the longest serving members Michael Hunt and Stan Griffin.

The pair have decided to hang up their ropes after over a combined total of over 120 years dedicated and loyal service.

The afternoon started with the church bells being rung followed by the Tower Captain presenting Michael and Stan with framed certificates depicting the bell tower.

The afternoon then preceded with a wonderful display of Hand bell ringing from The Combe St Nicholas Hand Bell Team.

After which a Cream Tea was served, generously donated by the Chardstock bell team and organised by two of the lady ringers. After tea everybody was treated to a further session of Hand bell ringing and all that wanted to participate in trying out the hand bells were encouraged to do so by the friendly hand bell team.

A big thank you goes to all ringers that made the afternoon a great success in proudly honouring the Towers two most respected stalwarts who will still be taking a keen interest in the tower, but will be very much missed by the team.

## A POSTCARD FROM THE TRAINING OFFICER

It has been a busy start to the year for the Devon Association Training Officer, David Trist, and his team, Stephanie Brown and Ryan Brodie. Back in February, with the snowdrops just blooming, it was off to Weare Gifford where, fortunately, the floods had subsided and no rowing boat was needed to cross the river. Despite a bitterly cold day, we were welcomed by a keen group of ringers, who had already received much valuable training from Claude and Curly and who wanted to focus our session on rising and lowering. Much progress was made, a wonderful tea supplied, and we left with a warm invitation for a follow up session later in the year.

Dodbrooke was the destination for the Woodleigh Deanery training day. After a slightly delayed start due to two-thirds of the training team being lost in the one way system, the Church was packed with enthusiastic, keen ringers, of all abilities, who practised rising, lowering, rope control and pull off. We were pleased to have the support of several luminaries of the Association, including John Cole and John Dietz, and were delighted to meet the Vicar, Rev Jackie, who is extremely keen on the bells and made us very welcome. We believe this to be the only tower in Devon with its own four legged mascot. A small dog loves to hear the bells so much that he walks himself to the Church and lies on the floor of the nave where he can feel the vibrations, and neither a Church full of ringers nor a visiting dog were going to put him off enjoying the bells. May we suggest that, with the enthusiastic support of both Clergy and Canines, this may be a good future venue for a competition, particularly as we now know where the Church is?

The teachers' training day at Saint Petcock's, Exeter was a huge success with representatives of towers from all over the County and from Sydney Australia. We were delighted to be supported on the day by the Association President, Maurice Sharland. The day was split between group discussion and the practice of teaching techniques in pairs. We were very pleased to see just how much excellent teaching is happening around the County. However, it became clear that many people who are now teaching within their own towers, do not feel confident of their own ringing abilities and technique. It was suggested, and enthusiastically received, that a regular get together for teachers to ring with the training team would help to improve confidence which can then be fed back to the novices in the home towers. **Watch this**

**space for information about the next meeting of Teacher's Pets.**

We ended the day with some serious safety instruction disguised as having fun recovering lost ropes.

The prize for most hospitable tower in Devon must currently be held by the ringers at St. Peter's, Peters Marland. It was a pleasure for us to spend a day with this team practising rising and lowering, coiling and rope control. This is a team which has been helped hugely by experienced ringers such as Dave Kent and Lester Quance, and are champing at the bit to learn more and improve further. We were treated to a riotous meal at the local pub, where the revelry continued long after we had left. We look forward to seeing a lot more of this team in the future. The novice competition perhaps?

We were delighted to have the opportunity to spend an evening with an all new team at Cadbury with Lynette, who has done tremendous work with several Churches in the Exe valley. This is another wonderful group to spend time with, who are progressing in leaps and bounds, and we are thrilled to hear they have subsequently joined the Association, and we look forward to seeing them at many future events.

We would like to thank the captains and ringers of all the towers we have visited, and look forward to meeting many more of you in the months to come. Keep up the good work chaps - together we are doing wonderful things to improve the ringing around Devon.



**David Trist**  
(visiting Lechlade 2011)

**Joanna Mitchell**

### **NEWSFLASH**

#### **DISTURBANCE IN GOODLEIGH**

On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April a disturbance was reported at Goodleigh. It is believed that a ringer was trapped in the church toilets and had to be rescued by the tower captain after sounding the alarm. It is thought that the ringer was part of a team practising for the North Devon 6 Bell Qualifier that was held in May. Locals were only able to catch a glimpse of the suspects speeding away in a silver four-by-four.

# TEACHING AND THE FUTURE OF RINGING

## - A PERSONAL RANT

A recent thread on an internet bellringing chat site threw up some very interesting ideas and perceptions around ringing, its future and how we teach ringers, as well as some misunderstandings around Devon Call Change Ringers. I could not let these pass without comment; well actually more of a rant.

It has been suggested that my views would make an interesting article for inclusion in Devon Calls and as such I have reproduced my rant, with a few additions and extra comments. I must add that this is a personal view, but one which I hope will get a few others thinking.

I am a Devonian both by birth and heritage on my mother's side. My mother comes from West Alvington and as a young girl lived next door to Jack Rhymes; at that time he was in shorts! I have spent my whole life in the County, wouldn't want to go any where else. I enjoy all styles of ringing and the challenges they throw up and as such have a foot in both camps, but most of all I have a love of good ringing and tradition.

Nationally there is a project called the Integrated Teacher Training Scheme (ITTS) which aims to improve the standard of instruction of ringing tutors, I wholly support the idea. However, I do get a little annoyed with some of the assumptions and the philosophy behind it. ITTS is aimed at teaching people to ring and ring method. I have no problem with that but the assumption is that everyone wants to progress to method ringing, and aim to achieve ringing in the "black zone", the black zone being some of the most complicated methods around. Their view is the Association of Ringing Teachers (ARTS), who run the ITTS, is the only approach and way forward.

So where am I coming from? I was taught at a tower which rang Call Changes and very basic method ringing, and eventually I called my teacher's first quarter of Plain Bob Major. At the same time I was taken with the high standard of call-change ringing when Plymstock, in the days of the late Jack Hine and Ivor Treeby, would come over to ring at my home tower.

I personally do not buy into the idea that you have to be a ringer in a particular zone to be capable of teaching some one to handle a bell. What you must be able to do is teach that person safely, and to a standard which will allow the individual to progress if they so wish in the future. Also, not all learners wish to aspire to ring peals, quarter peals or even method. In one of the towers where I am Captain we have been teaching a new band, they all live in the village and at Christmas it was the first time in over 25 years where a wholly local band rang, ringing some very reasonable call changes called by one of the people we had taught. They are a good social side who support the Church and the village, we have fun, enjoy the odd trip out, but in general there is no great desire to progress beyond that, but just improve on what we do.

I also ring regularly with ringers who started out as staunch call change ringers who are now ringing surprise

methods on a regular basis and who are active peal-ringers.

A competent call change ringer in general terms does not have a problem in learning to ring method, but again it is if they want that challenge and if they so wish.

At the other extreme I remember going to a practice up country where there was a band crashing through Plain Bob Doubles, most were struggling to handle a bell let alone place it in the right place in the change. I was horrified to find out they had been ringing at that standard for over five years! despite being supported by a so called very experienced ringer! Some one needed to wind the clock back and get the basics right.

So a couple of points I would make are:

- We should not try and force individuals to progress if they don't want to; there is nothing wrong in ringing call changes or simple methods well and just supporting your local band on a Sunday. Bells are essentially there to advertise the Church.
- The person learning needs to take some responsibility for their own progress, if they are that keen then encourage them to go to other practices, or seek out opportunities or take opportunities when they arise.

Don't get disheartened by initiatives being time limited. In our Deanery we ran a bi weekly practice to bring learners on from a number of towers. To a large extent this worked and we now have a number of towers locally who benefited from this, albeit ringing call changes, because it's what collectively we wanted to do. That practice to a certain extent is now superfluous and happens less frequently, although we all still ring together.

Bottom line - the exercise as a whole needs to reappraise what is important, black zone ringing or the local ringer who turns up every Sunday and who is happy to ring call changes or the Tenor behind to Grandsire Doubles. Too much elitism in the long term can be counter productive both in the method and call change world. How many towers are silent now because they had their 'set band' and didn't teach anyone else? How many potential great ringers were put off by going to such towers?

I am also keen that as ringers we should embrace all aspects of ringing and encourage ringing where possible. if you don't like method ringing or have no interest in learning method ringing that's fine. I love music but I'm not keen on Jazz, I would not, however, criticise anyone for their love of a type of music that I personally find a din and because it's not to my taste.

Bellringing is a great hobby and tradition which we need to preserve and develop in all its forms. So if you are a Beer or Cider person, call change or method and at whatever standard enjoy your ringing, but remember why we do it and help and encourage others.

All the best

**Bovey Bob** (Robert Brown)

# **'YOUNG DEVON RINGER'**

## **AN INTERVIEW WITH SAM MASSEY OF STOKE GABRIEL**

### **What got you into bellringing in the first place?**

Bellringing has always been a part of my life. From a very early age, I was taken to hear the annual 8am ringing at Dartmouth Regatta each year, and it was certainly a regular feature during the primary school summer holidays whilst growing up.

With so many bellringing family members (we often have enough for a competition at family weddings) I suppose it was only a matter of time before I was persuaded to try it out for myself.

### **How old were you when you started, where did you learn to ring and who taught you?**

The first time I went to Thursday practice night at Stoke Gabriel was in the February half term holidays in 2003, aged 13. I went along with another friend from the village and his Dad, who were both also trying it out for the first time. Colin Heath, Vice-Captain at Stoke Gabriel, was (and still is) tasked with the job of teaching learners at 7pm before the main practice begins.

I am very grateful to Colin, who persevered with me whilst teaching me the basics, even after I ripped my hands to shreds during my second week after holding on to the sally too long (I think I've still got the blisters!)

### **Which bell did you learn to ring on?**

We started with the basics of rope handling on the treble, but after a few months, I was allowed to stay on to the main practice and start to ring rounds in with the more experience ringers. For this I was allocated Stoke Gabriel's infamous 2<sup>nd</sup> bell, which is hung over the top of the others (which makes it difficult to hear clearly), and is quite odd-struck. It's one of the reasons why I still have a habit of turning the sally and keeping the end rope off when I approach new bells, which is not always the best policy!

In June 2003, I was allowed to ring at my first annual Stoke Gabriel Ringers' Outing. We went to Ashcott, Dinder, Bathwick and Twerton in the Bath area, and rang in rounds at Ashcott. This still sticks in my mind, as I was very nervous and had to stand on a box to reach the sally.

September 14<sup>th</sup> 2003 was my first session at Sunday ringing, and was thrown in at the deep end with my first rise in peal on October 23<sup>rd</sup> of the same year.

### **Where was your first competition, how old were you, which bell did you ring and where did it take place?**

The natural progression from here was to enter my first Top Ringing Competition at Stoke Gabriel in the Totnes Deanery Winter League on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2003, aged 14. Stoke Gabriel were delighted to come first with 17 ½ faults, narrowly beating South Brent's 20 ½. The Stoke Gabriel team was: 1. Christine Pascoe, 2. Sam Massey, 3. Horace Clements, 4. Colin Heath, 5. John Knott, 6. John Kelly. I obviously needed to spend quite a bit more time practicing my rising and lowering, as my first full competition was not until nearly twelve months later, at Diptford in the Totnes Deanery Winter League on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2004, aged 15. The Stoke Gabriel 'B' Team came 4<sup>th</sup> with

34 faults, which I was personally very pleased with for my first time. That team was: 1. Norman Mortimore, 2. Sam Massey, 3. Norman Betts, 4. Chris Massey, 5. Ray Squires, 6. John Kelly.

### **Who taught you to ring the treble bell and call changes?**

After ringing the treble in top ringing a few times at Stoke Gabriel when we were short on practice nights, I was taken aside by my uncle, John Dietz. He took the opportunity to arrange practices at St Petrox, Dartmouth, and other mini-tours around Devon to teach and give me experience of rising and lowering the treble.

I was fortunate that he would bring along experienced ringers, who were patient enough to rise and lower many times, to give both my cousin Robert and me the chance to learn to treble properly.

He also helped introduce me to calling, along with Mike Webster and Julia Jarvis at Stoke Gabriel. I do remember one entertaining practice night, where I was attempting to call half a peal of 'Sixty on Thirds', where Mike and Julia were having to bellow "Wrong Call!" every other round as I muddled my way through!

Since these early days, I have been extremely grateful to John as a steady hand on the tiller during my time ringing. He's always been there to give a word of advice, or criticism, where it's been necessary, and we've had many enjoyable ringing trips over the years.

### **What would you regard as your most significant achievement/s so far?**

The first occasion that springs to mind is winning the Devon Association Minor Final with Collaton St Mary in 2005. It was the first team that I'd ever been in that had won a competition, and to win something so significant as a Devon Final at the age of 16 was a very special feeling.

However, the most significant has to be winning the Devon Association Major Final with Stoke Gabriel at Down St Mary in 2012.

I never thought in my wildest dreams that we would win such a prestigious competition, but all the conditions were right. We'd been for a practice at Bickington the Thursday before (helped out by our great stalwart, Norman Mortimore) and at Rewe on the way up, and had a good lunch in the pub at Stoke Canon. We were drawn number twelve, favoured us, and the beer tent was positioned at a suitable distance from the church to hear the ringing while keeping our blood sugar levels up!

The Stoke Gabriel team had heard all the problems other teams were having with our respective bells, and when we were ringing we all knew that we were having a fair peal. Afterwards as we came out, we were greeted with positive comments, but it was the deafening roar of delight from the fellow ringers as the Scrutineer announced '1<sup>st</sup> Place, Peal Number Twelve, with 30 ½ faults' that I will never forget. The team was: 1. Sam Massey, 2. Julia Jarvis, 3. Colin Heath, 4. Chris Massey, 5. John Kelly BEM, 6. Mike Webster.  
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Devon Final at Down St Mary 2012.

L to r: Colin Heath, Chris Massey, Julia Jarvis,  
**Sam Massey**, Mike Webster, John Kelly.

Another great achievement for me was being part of the winning team in the Devon Ringers Council John Scott 10-bell competition in 2012 and 2013 with the Wednesday Evening Ringers Association, an organisation I am privileged and grateful to be involved with.

**How do you see the future for bellringing over the next 10 to 20 years, particularly call-change ringing?**

Whilst I believe that we all need to make every effort to encourage as many new ringers as possible, I hope that the future is a positive one.

Seeing the large number of young ringers at the National Twelve Bell competition at Crediton in 2010 was very positive, and I believe the major cities and universities throughout the country continue to attract a high standard of method ringing (and call changes in Exeter and Plymouth of course).

With call-change ringing in particular, I hope that the great attendance and atmosphere seen at the Novice competition will continue, and that towers will hold intermediate competitions (such as that held at Bow this year) to help people keep the rising, lowering and striking tradition alive that makes our style of ringing stand out from the crowd.

**Does the Devon Association of Ringers invest sufficiently in the recruitment and retention of ringers? If not what initiatives would you like to see the organisation take?**

The Association and the Devon Ringers Council are making an effort to spread the message of ringing in this area, with initiatives such as stands at the Devon County Show and the Ringing Roadshow.

I think that we can always strive to do more in this area, by running other events to keep the interest of ringers who might not feel able to ring in Devon's major competitions for one reason or another.

I personally would like to see occasional groups of ringers going into schools to demonstrate ringing using portable mini-rings, simulators or hand-bells to try and get interest that way.

We can look to organisations such as the Modern Society of Plymouth Youths, a group of ringers under 30 in the method-ringing world, the Okehampton Deanery Young Ringers, the Ringkly Ringers and the Wednesday Evening Ringers to name a few, as inspiration of enthusiastic groups who get together and love ringing and the social aspects that go along with it.

**Do you have a favourite peal of bells in Devon which you not only like to ring but also like to hear?**

I love the tone of Dartmouth St Saviours, which are very rewarding to ring and have a real majestic sound, especially when in rounds. I am fortunate enough to ring there at least once a year, which is a real treat.

I would say that my most favourite peal to listen to in Devon would be Tiverton St Peter. In my opinion, they are a perfect example of a 'Taylor 8' from their 'golden era' and I could listen to them all day!

**What in your view makes a 'good' ringer?**

I feel that a good ringer understands the importance of being sympathetic to the others around you within the team. Whilst perfect striking is the goal, it is rarely achievable, so I think a ringer who is versatile and able to adapt to what is going on around them is a valuable asset to any team.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the Stoke Gabriel ringers, particularly Mike Webster, the Captain, who has been so encouraging over the years.

## ***THE BELLS OF DEVON***

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# OKEHAMPTON DEANERY YOUNG RINGERS

It all started on a Chagford ringers' tour, in August 2011, around south Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire. At Meysey Hampton in south Gloucestershire, which has a 9cwt peal of six, we realised there was a team of six young ringers: my brother Graham, Freddie Crowley of Gidleigh and Chagford, Rachel Hurdle of South Tawton and Chagford, Ben Squire of Sampford Courtenay, Edward Gist of St. Giles in the Wood and me. So we went in and rang. Edward at the time was still learning so his father, Andrew, stood beside



St. Mary, MEYSEY HAMPTON

## August 2011

L to R:

Ben Squire,  
Edward Gist,  
Freddie Crowley,  
Rachel Hurdle,  
Graham Bennie,  
Stuart Bennie



him whilst he rang the Tenor.

A few months later I spoke with the four ringers who were capable of ringing full peals to see if they were keen on going out once a month. Nicola Stoneman of Sampford Courtenay joined us so we had our team of six. The idea was to go out once a month, help the younger ringers to improve their striking and also enjoy doing so as a team of similar age.

Our first night out was to Inwardleigh on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2012. In the following months we went to Throwleigh in May, North Bovey in June and Broadwoodkelly in July. The trip down to North Bovey was to meet halfway with Sam Massey of Stoke Gabriel, who at the time was fronting a sub-committee for training and youth development, as he had taken an interest in what we were doing.

In the few months that we had been ringing, improvements could be seen in the young ringers' rising and falling abilities, especially Ben and Rachel. I had also noticed that Lucy Wonnacott of Hatherleigh, a friend from my college days, had finished University. I asked if she still rang and if she was interested in joining us, which she was. She informed me that her brother Mark also rang, so on the 14<sup>th</sup> September they joined us at Belstone. Nicola and I had been badgering her brother Garry for a few months to come and join us as he is a very capable ringer. Eventually he joined us at Hatherleigh and brought along his girlfriend, Lucy Capron, and her friend Katrina Brook. Since then they have taken up ringing at Sampford Courtenay and are coming along well. As Hatherleigh is an eight bell tower we had our first crack at eight, though most had little experience of eight bell striking.

Saturday 13th October 2012 saw the trial of a Devon Intermediate Competition held at Highweek. We decided

to field a side which was required to rise, ring half a peal and then fall. As Nicola was playing hockey it fell to me to ring treble, not a natural bell for me, and I'm sure that led to a fair number of faults. Nevertheless the team had a respectable peal and I'm sure they enjoyed the competitive environment.

There were further trips to Exbourne, Iddesleigh, Bratton Clovelly and the DenMisch ring in Okehampton which was a new experience for most of us, where Mischa Thompson was very hospitable

Ben Squire had decided rugby was best played on concrete leaving him with a broken wrist. To save Ben missing out we agreed to wait till he was back ringing again.

After a few months out we tried getting the group back off the ground again but various reasons prevented this and it fell by the wayside. But I got my act together again recently and the group of young ringers is back on track. With the addition of Lucy and Katrina, and now David Weeks who is another up and coming ringer at Sampford Courtenay, we have a healthy group of 12 ringers.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> February the group went to Coldridge which, if I'm honest, was challenging. A few of the ringers had never experienced springy ropes, but by the end of the evening it could be seen how they adapted to the conditions and managed some reasonable striking.

Hopefully the group can stick together and enjoy going out and ringing different towers to broaden their understanding of ringing and improve striking.

I believe the Okehampton Deanery is blessed with young ringers and it is a testament to the likes of Julia Endacott and Chris Clayton who have trained and encouraged many young ringers within their towers over the years. At present we have two new young ringers, aged 10 and 13, at Chagford. Both are keen and coming on well for their ages.

If there are similar groups around Devon it would be very interesting to hear of their development and activities.

**Stuart Bennie** (s2bennie@hotmail.co.uk)



Garry Stoneman Lucy Capron  
Freddie Crowley Mark Wonnacott  
Dave Weeks Rachel Hurdle  
Ben Squire Lucy Wonnacott  
Stuart Bennie Nicola Stoneman  
**NORTHLEW - Monday 31st March 2014**



# DEVON CHURCH BELL RESTORATION FUND

(Charity Number 276490)

## REPORT FOR 2013

During 2013 the Fund has been involved with 14 towers at some stage in their restoration projects, though at one of these, Holy Trinity Ilfracombe, the necessary repairs were carried out without recourse to the Fund.

We have again, through the Diocese, been carrying out bell inspections alongside churches' routine quinquennial inspections. This year we have carried out inspections at Bradford, Beaford, High Bickington, Halwill, North Molton, East Down, Colyford, Colyton and Burlescombe. Though not carried out specifically as a fund-raising measure, most churches receiving our reports have nevertheless made significant donations to the Fund.

Perhaps the most significant event of the year arises from the bequest made to the Fund by the late William Henry Risdon Smale of Petrockstowe in 1991. Under the terms of his will, the bequest was to be placed in trust and used for the support of his two former companions until the time of their death. The surviving companion died in July 2013 and the residual estate now passes to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund. At the year end the bequest, in the form of an investment portfolio, was still in the hands of the previous trustees, two partners of Seldons Solicitors of Bideford. The trustees of the DCBRF have authorised and instructed the former trustees to transfer the portfolio to us. Not having specific investment expertise within our ranks we have instructed Cathedral Financial Management of Exeter, who had been managing the portfolio on behalf of Seldons, to transfer the portfolio into their Discretionary Portfolio Service, whereby they will manage it on a day to day basis within the parameters set by the DCBRF trustees. We anticipate that this will be in place early in the New Year.

The most recent information we have indicates that the value of the bequest is of the order of £330,000. This will clearly have a significant impact on the ability of the DCBRF to assist bell restoration schemes, and the trustees will be reassessing their strategy for the future.

During the year the usual two meetings were held, in March and November. The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The aim of the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund remains to provide financial assistance to churches in the County of Devon and Diocese of Exeter for the purpose of restoring, maintaining and improving their bell installations, so to ensure their continuing use both for religious purposes and for the ongoing development of the cultural art of English church bell ringing. Though bells are housed predominately in premises of the Church of England the practice of church bell ringing is open to all regardless of age, creed or culture; and being a very public instrument may be heard by all.

At the beginning of the year the Fund stood at £27,214. Since that time five grants totalling £12,090 have been paid

- £240 to Shobrooke towards the refurbishment of clappers and replacement of ground and drawing pulleys; £4,250 to Cruwys Morchard towards rehangng the six bells in the existing frame with mainly new fittings;
- £4,000 to Hawkchurch towards dismantling the installation, replacing the corroded sub-frame with new steel joists, servicing bearings, replacing pulleys, re-bushing and annealing clappers, and re-installing;
- £2,600 to Fremington towards replacing the cracked 4<sup>th</sup> bell and also the listed 3<sup>rd</sup> bell; and
- £1,000 to Talaton towards servicing of bearings and renewal/replacement of wheels and pulleys.

Income during the year amounted to £14,933, including £5,000 from the Devon Association Annual Draw, £1,500 from the Guild as agreed at their Annual General Meeting in June, £1,257 from the Guild Branches, £443 from peal bands and quarter peal weeks, £3,217 from miscellaneous and personal donations, £400 from the Ottery St Mary ringers, £250 from the St Brannock's Society, £216 from collections/surpluses at ringing functions, £120 from the Dunsford/Doddyscombsleigh Competition, £200 from the Troyte Ringing Centre, and £575 following tower inspections and talks. £467 was received from Widworthy PCC following the activities of a working party to render their bells ringable; £125 was received from Thurstlestone PCC following volunteer help there, and £60 was received from other individual churches. Bank interest and tax refunds following Gift Aided donations amounted to £1,103.

At present the Fund stands at £30,020.

In addition to the grants already paid, four further grants were awarded during the year; £5,000 to Plympton St Mary towards the repair and repainting of the supporting grillage, possible welding of the cracked 5<sup>th</sup> bell, re-bushing and annealing clappers, new pulley sheaves, bell bolts, wheel shrouds and soles, new gudgeons on the treble and 2<sup>nd</sup> bells, drilling out the remaining crown-staple stubs, and servicing/replacement of bearings; £4,500 to East Ogwell towards rehangng the front four bells, replacing the fittings on the 5<sup>th</sup> and tenor, and creating a new ringing room higher in the tower; and £3,250 to East Budleigh towards recasting the treble, 2<sup>nd</sup> and tenor, modifying the fittings to suit, re-rimming the wheels, replacing sliders, runner-boards and bell bolts, providing flapper-boards in the intermediate chamber, and descaling and re-painting the bell-frame. The grant of £3,700 previously offered to Plymouth St Budeaux was increased to £5,000 to reflect the increased scope of the work which now includes the total dismantling of the installation and the removal of the existing ringing floor.

If all agreed grants are taken up, the uncommitted balance of the Fund stands at £6,220.

*Ian Smith*

### **Committee Members and Trustees for 2013-2014**

**Chairman:** James Clarke, Sansuns, Tom's Lane, Ford and Fairy Cross, Bideford, EX39 5BU (01237 451667).

**Secretary:** Ian Smith, Church Cottage, Mary Tavy, Tavistock, PL19 9PR (01822 811071; [DCBRF@church-cottage.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:DCBRF@church-cottage.wanadoo.co.uk)).

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Graham Sharland, 3 Longbrook Road, Ivybridge, PL21 9JB (01752 893719).

## THE DEVON ASSOCIATION 8 BELL

Holy Trinity Church, Ilfracombe

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014

I love this competition. There cannot be anything nicer than to listen to good call change ringing on 8 Bells and we certainly experienced that today. This was such a good day out, despite awful weather. The vast majority risked getting soaked to stand outside and listen (except us girls who found room inside directly under the ringing room where the acoustics were perfect).

But I digress. A perfect day cannot begin without a hiccup (we had two - both my fault!). It was obvious the initial venue for the judges was not going to be suitable, caused by a misunderstanding and I must apologise for not realising this beforehand. All was not lost, an acceptable place was quickly found.

I suppose I had better get the second hiccup out of the way. We had six teams and the cloth bag containing the 6 balls for the draw also contained numbers 13 & 14. Don't ask me how I managed to do that!!

We could not have had a warmer welcome from Christine Harris the Tower Captain, the ringers & helpers of 'Top Church' as Holy Trinity is affectionately known. Nothing was too much trouble. The service was taken by Christine's husband, the Rev. Robert Harris, who decided against a sermon (the organist could be heard shouting hurrah) but to read the poem 'Ring out Wild Bells' by Alfred Lord Tennyson instead. What a lovely idea.

To ring in an 8 bell tower in Devon you cannot get further north than Top Church and it was wonderful to see so many people there who had travelled considerable distances. It was very nice to see our President Maurice Sharland & his wife Daphne. We also had 'a Guest of Honour' this year Mrs Jean Seaber. Jean is the daughter of Laurie Passmore. As many will know The Laurie Passmore Cup is presented alongside The Ross Shield to the winning team. Jean kindly agreed to present her late father's cup this year. Jean bought along a number of photographs of her father posing with various ringers which was of great interest to quite a few of us.

Conscious of the distance that some of the ringers had travelled it was agreed that the 6 teams would ring 'back to back'. This allowed for the ringing to finish by 5.45pm. A late tea for some but I think everyone appreciated the decision.

Again Christine and her team provided an excellent tea which was served throughout the afternoon and a raffle was held and raised a healthy sum which will go towards buying new ropes.

The results can be found on *page 12* and on the website



Our President Maurice Sharland presenting the Ross Shield & certificate to Rachel Avery of Kingsteignton together with Jean Seaber who presented her late father's trophy, the Laurie Passmore Cup

but I cannot finish without congratulating Kingsteignton, the winning team. All the teams can congratulate themselves on such a fine performance.

I enjoyed myself today. Roll on 2016 when I can do it all again.

**Joan Clarke**  
Competition Secretary  
(North)

## THE NORTH 6 BELL QUALIFIER

St Gregory's, Goodleigh

Saturday 10th May 2014

Striving for perfection I find myself running around in circles before the event, sending endless e-mails, making phone calls & writing letters so that everything is 'just right'. I get to the church hours before with enough baggage to take up the entire front pew when all I really need is a clip board and a pen!

The real organiser is not the competition secretary but the tower captain and his team. Everything is always in place and little is forgotten. I am given a warm welcome by the clergy and everyone else and we sit waiting for the event to begin.

Now, this is the anxious bit. There is 15 minutes to the start and no sign of the competitors, just all the organisers & judges. Where is everybody? Have I told everyone the wrong time? Then 4 minutes to 'kick off', the church door bursts open and a noisy but cheerful crowd pour in. Everything is going to be fine.

St Gregory's is no exception. Steve Parker and his team are splendid hosts. The only thing that let us down was the weather. The service taken by The Reverend Simon May was well thought out and the organist Pam Ley proved to be a 'jack of all trades', popping up all afternoon carrying out various tasks. We must thank Linda Thorne & her helpers for such a splendid tea. I have not seen such an array of homemade cakes in ages. She tells me that everything had been donated by the local community. It is lovely when a village pulls together like that.

Nine teams took part: Burrington, Dolton, Down St Mary, Drewsteignton, East Anstey, Littleham, Mortehoe, South Tawton & West Down. One team less than last year.

A warm welcome was given to our two judges Mervyn Way & Brian Drake and our scrutineer Gerald Arscott. Brian, our President Elect, awarded the Shield and certificates at the end of the day. It was also lovely to see our Association President Maurice Sharland and his wife Daphne. I have never known both Association dignitaries to be present at a 6 bell qualifier before because The South Qualifier at Feniton had a late start.

After the service and before the draw a few items of house-keeping were necessary. One concerned the toilet door lock. But I will let those present tell that tale to the 'South! We had time to ring 6 teams before tea at 5pm and the competition was over by 7pm which suited the villagers (they could have their car parking places back.)

St Gregory's has a lovely little peal of bells and everyone enjoyed ringing them. The results can be seen on *page 13* and on the website. West Down were the winners with 16½ points closely followed by Burrington with 17½ points.

And this is why I enjoy what I do for The Association. East Anstey qualified for the 6 Bell Minor Final at Kenn. However they have a wedding that day which requires the bells to be rung. All the neighbouring towers also have weddings. I put out an S.O.S. at the end of the day and 6 volunteers came forward. I know Keith Bavin and his team at East Anstey are very grateful, as I am, but then I would not have expected anything less. The Devon Association of Ringers is a very fine institution. Good comradeship and lifelong friendships are formed. Long may this continue.

**Joan Clarke** Competition Secretary (North).



Brian Drake, President Elect, presenting the George Facey Shield together with the 1st certificate to Margaret White of West Down.

## **THE SOUTH 6 BELL QUALIFIER**

**St. Andrew's, Feniton**

**Saturday 10th May 2014**

The atmosphere at a ringing competition largely hinges on the weather. At Feniton a strong cold north westerly wind blew throughout. Although the church is relatively sheltered the wind still managed to swirl around the vicinity which meant teams listening to the ringing had difficulty finding shelter.

A wedding service taking part during the early afternoon meant delaying the start until 4.00 p.m. However, competing teams on their arrival discovered that the ceremony had over-run and were ushered into the nearby hall where they were welcomed by Mr. Jereme Darke, South Devon secretary and Mr Maurice Sharland, the Association's President.

Jereme announced the arrangements for the afternoon and evening. The President said how pleased everyone was to see Jereme back in action once more, adding that he was confident, given Jereme's previous experience, that everything would run smoothly. This was followed by loud applause.

The draw for ringing order took place with Ide and Kenton asking to ring early drawing numbers one and two respectively. It was good to see Kenton back competing again after a lapse of approximately twenty years. The remainder of the draw meant that Lamerton rang peal three followed by South Brent, Shaugh Prior, Stoke Gabriel, Broadhempston, Holbeton and Eggbuckland.

The ladies at Feniton provided teas in the comfort of the village hall throughout, which was welcome considering the blustery and cold conditions.

Such is the commitment of our President and his good lady that they took advantage of the delayed start and earlier visited Goodleigh, for the N. Devon round. This was a tremendous gesture and something which has never been done before.

A noticeable absentee was Mr. Barry Osbourne of Lamerton due to a planned admission to hospital. It was the first time Barry had missed a South Devon semi-final since 1970! However, Lamerton were still able to field a side as Mr. Peter Crockford rejoined the team and bravely rang after a break of thirty four years! Well done Peter and welcome back.

Due to Jereme's efforts the order of ringing progressed smoothly. Gradually numbers increased around the church to hear peal number nine, Eggbuckland, who were the worthy winners and beat out the right pitch from start to finish.

The event closed with a short church service.

**Colin E. Adams.**

*(results on page 12)*

## **DEVON ASSOCIATION MINOR FINAL**

**St. Andrew's, Kenn,**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

On a blustery afternoon punctuated by very heavy showers, seven teams, four from the north and three from the south, came to the little village of Kenn to compete in the Minor Final. Not surprisingly marks were on the high side, given the challenge presented by the bells. The winners, Morthoe, did well to ring a peal with a loss of just 40 ¼ faults.

The afternoon began with a church service conducted by the Reverend John Williams. Teams then drew for ringing order whilst the judges; Mr. John Dietz, Mr. Neil Holloway and Mr. Mervyn Way (who kindly stepped in at the last minute) with

Mr. John Cole as Scrutineer, retired to nearby Chapel Court.

The President Mr. Maurice Sharland welcomed everyone and Mr. Jereme Darke, took care of the arrangements for the afternoon and evening, as he had done previously at Feniton. Kenn ringers hosted the event and warmly welcomed everyone. With the facilities now available in the church mine hosts provided the teams and visitors with a first class tea.

At the close some found the nearby Ley Arms, circa 1249, a suitable place in which to reflect on the day.

**Colin E. Adams**

*(results on page 12)*

## **THE 6 BELL MAJOR FINAL**

**St. Andrew's, Sampford Courtenay**

**Saturday 14th June 2014**

Well, where do I start? What a simply wonderful day we all had. The weather was perfect and with well over 100 ringers and their supporters invading the village of Sampford Courtenay we could not have been made more welcome. It is clear to me that Chris Clayton had done his ground work as the villagers were expecting their population to double in size. There is a true community spirit in this village as so many of the villagers turned out to help make the day such a success. I would like to personally thank Terry Bullworthy & Richard Knapman who were my 'right hand men' during the proceedings.

Beginning the afternoon with the service works well and The Reverend Nick Weldon took the service with cheerful banter. The organist, Professor Rodney Levick, received a round of applause from the congregation following his voluntary at the end of the service.

Making the draw can be a bone of contention amongst ringers. Who should make the first draw? Should it be done in alphabetical order (poor old West Down) or should it be in order of the placing in last year's event? I decided to try something different. All the names of the teams were put into a bag and the Chairman, Graham Sharland, drew out a team name at random. A team member then drew out a number from the bag that the President, Maurice Sharland, was holding. No one has come back to me and complained so I might try this again.

The judges were 'well housed' in a property opposite the Church owned by Sue Robertson who looked after them well. The New Inn was open all day for those wanting shelter from the sun! As for the rest of us, sitting in the churchyard listening and chatting was our idea of a most enjoyable pastime.

Tea was hosted by Nicky Craig and her team in the Church Rooms - and this was not to be underestimated. We had a 'proper' sit-down tea of ham salad and new potatoes followed by desserts to die for. There had to be two sittings as there were so many of us, but it was well worth the wait. Well done Sampford Courtenay.

How nice it was to see Bill Folland who felt well enough to join us for the second half of the competition. We wish him well.

The results are on the next page and on the Association website. However, I would like to point out one or two highlights which for me were memorable. The Reverend Nick Weldon, during his service, made it clear that he was a very keen supporter of Holbeton, because his parents live there, and I was able to write to him afterwards giving him their very good results.

*(continued on page 13)*

## **NOVICE COMPETITION St. Peter's, Zeal Monachorum Saturday 9th March 2014**

The event was wonderfully supported. As will be seen below there were some results which were very close adding to the excitement. Everyone who attended added to the undoubted enjoyment of the day. Thank you everyone for coming.

*Devid Trist*

## **COMPETITION RESULTS 2014**

### **NOVICE COMPETITION**

#### **St. Peter's, Zeal Monachorum Sat. 9th March**

##### **Round section (7 minutes)**

- |                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Exeter St. David's A 20% | 5. Sampford Courtenay 48% |
| 2. Exeter St. David's B 31½ | 6. Dunsford 57%           |
| 3. Broadhempston 32%        | 7. Combe Martin 64%       |
| 4. Dartmouth 36%            |                           |

##### **Call Change section (half of the sixties - judged from first to last change or for 10 minutes, which ever happens first)**

- |                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Dolton 28                | 10. Broadhempston A 43%     |
| 2. Ashreigney 28%           | 11. Sampford Courtenay 47%  |
| 3. Chagford 29%             | 12. South Pool 48%          |
| 4. Exeter St. David's B 32% | 13. Dunsford 62%            |
| 5. Broadhempston B 34%      | 14. Exeter St. David's A 65 |
| 6. Weare Giffard A 35       | 15. Combe Martin 68%        |
| 7. Berryarbor 36            | 16. Weare Giffard B 69      |
| 8. Dartmouth 38%            | 17. Cadbury 68%             |
| 9. Ilfracombe 40%           | 18. Chivelstone 73%         |

### **DEVON 8 BELL**

#### **Holy Trinity, Ilfracombe Saturday 26th April**

##### **Overall result:**

- Kingsteignton 35%
- High Bickington 47½
- Georgeham 51
- Tavistock 69%
- Ilfracombe, Ss Philip and James 105%
- Exeter, St. David 105%

##### **Top ringing:**

- Kingsteignton 17%
- High Bickington 20%
- Georgeham 25%
- Tavistock 31%
- Ilfracombe, Ss Philip and James 51%
- Exeter, St. David 52%

### **THE SOUTH 6 BELL QUALIFIER**

#### **St. Andrew's, Feniton Saturday 10th May**

- |                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Eggbuckland 16    | 6. Holbeton 53 |
| 2. Shaugh Prior 21½  | 7. Lamerton 78 |
| 3. South Brent 31    | 8. Kenton 91%  |
| 4. Stoke Gabriel 40% | 9. Ide 100%    |
| 5. Broadhempston 41½ |                |

**Judges:** Ian Avery. John Dietz, Martin Sharland

**Scrutineer:** John Cole.

### **THE NORTH 6 BELL QUALIFIER**

#### **St. Gregory's, Goodleigh Saturday 10th May**

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. West Down 16%     | 5. Down St. Mary 27% |
| 2. Burrington 17½    | 6. Morteohoe 30      |
| 3. South Tawton 21%  | 7. Littleham 35      |
| 4. Drewsteignton 24% | 8. Dolton 46%        |

### **THE MINOR FINAL**

#### **St. Andrew's, Kenn Saturday 24th May**

##### **Main section**

- Morteohoe 40%
- Holbeton 64%
- Littleham 76
- Kenton 84½
- East Anstey 96%
- Ide 136%

##### **Top Ringing section:**

- Ashreigney 49%
- Dolton 63

**Judges:** John Dietz, Mervyn Way, Neil Holloway

**Scrutineer:** John Cole

### **THE 6 BELL MAJOR FINAL**

#### **St. Andrew's, Sampford Courtenay**

##### **Saturday 14th June**

##### **1. Winner of The Ross Shield**

Eggbuckland 19%

##### **2. Winner of The Shelley Cup**

Burrington 25%

- West Down 29
- Shaugh Prior 30%
- Broadhempston 34
- South Brent 38½
- Down St. Mary 49%
- South Tawton 51½
- Drewsteignton 54
- Holbeton 54%
- Morteohoe 58%
- Stoke Gabriel 66%

##### **Top Ringing:**

##### **1. Winner of The Jack Hine Perpetual Trophy**

Eggbuckland 13%

- Burrington 17
- Shaugh Prior 17%

**Judges:** Michael Rose, Mervyn Way, Ian Avery, Martin Sharland

**Scrutineer:** Gerald Arscott



(continued from page 11)

Down St. Mary opened the competition, It is never easy being the first to ring but they came a very creditable 7<sup>th</sup>. For me, Broadhempston were the 'dark horses' of this competition and they did very well finishing 5<sup>th</sup>. Mortehoe, who won the Minor Final with a newly formed team this year, are certainly worth a mention. But of course I leave the best 'till last. Ringing in 12<sup>th</sup> place and showing us all how it should be done, were the near invincible team of Egguckland. They were brilliant, their rise and fall warranted no more than 6 faults and as for their top ringing, well it was a pleasure to hear. Worthy 2014 champions.

Well folks that is the last of the Association Competitions for 2014. I would like to thank the three towers I have had the privilege to be involved with. Ilfracombe Holy Trinity, Goodleigh and, of course, Sampford Courtenay. I wonder what 2015 will bring?

**Joan Clarke** Competition Secretary (North).



Steven Trout receiving the Ross Shield and Martin Crew the Jack Hine Trophy from the President, Maurice

## **RINGING FOR ENGLAND**

Dear Secretaries and Ringing Masters,

April 23rd 2014

The enthusiasm and tremendous kindness of your ringers in giving up their time to ring out on April 23<sup>rd</sup> has helped the Campaign grow and raised awareness to a far wider audience. The number of peals and quarter peals rung on the day was astonishing and quite wonderful

This year local media were far more active and covered some great stories. Then the nationals started to pay attention and of course excellent interest from BBC Regional Radio stations. This all helps to establish your ringing on St. George's Day as a national event creating a nationwide focus for the public to support. This in turn hopefully brings appreciation to your skills and community spirit.

It is on the latter note that I have sent the above attachment. Last year I mentioned how designating a tower in each city as an 'open house' might be something to consider in order to encourage greater interest and new ringers. I felt that the public were more likely to participate in something new if they felt they were part of an important and nationwide event. St. Thomas' in Leicester seems an excellent example and as a result I was able to sell the story to the media who ran with it.

I very much wish to convey to you and your wonderful ringers the enormous gratitude I have for them all for entering into this project with such terrific spirit and enthusiasm. I am also enormously grateful for all the e-mails of support that I received which makes the whole Campaign so worthwhile. I enclose below the response from St. Thomas'.

Thank you all Most Sincerely

**Libby Alexander**

Ringling for England Campaign



[www.ringingforengland.co.uk](http://www.ringingforengland.co.uk)

Telephone: 07799 23 04 23

## **RINGING ROADSHOW**

**September 2014**

The Central Council is pleased to announce that the next Ringing Roadshow will be held on Saturday 6th September 2014 at Newbury Racecourse, Berkshire. The Roadshow has its own website ([cccbr.org.uk/pr/roadshow/](http://cccbr.org.uk/pr/roadshow/) and <http://www.ringingroadshow.co.uk/>), while all enquiries can be made to the organiser, Jackie Roberts ([jackie.roberts@ringingroadshow.co.uk](mailto:jackie.roberts@ringingroadshow.co.uk)).

### **Previous Roadshows**

Ringing Roadshows have been held periodically since 1997. The aim has been to provide a showcase for ringing organisations and vendors and an opportunity for ringers to meet, to buy ringing related things, to have a go on a mini-ring or handbells, attend seminars and so on. Each Roadshow has been bigger and more ambitious than the previous one, and the patronage rose correspondingly to make this viable.

But growth cannot go on for ever, and after the 2008 Roadshow at Stoneleigh in 2008, it became clear that a revision of the format, and/or continued growth were necessary. The Ringing World centenary provided a natural pause for thought, since it would have been wrong for a Roadshow to compete with this once in a lifetime event.

The CC Public Relations Committee currently has the task of exploring the future of national events for ringers, whether in the Roadshow format or some other format. As part of this task, the Committee intends to draw ideas from the ringing community about what it needs and what it will support.

At the 2008 Roadshow the following exhibits and activities were available: various Central Council Committees, The Ringing World, ringing societies, bellhangers and founders, bell accessory vendors, handbell ringing, mini-rings campaniles and simulators, ringing software, recordings, videos, artwork, music, clothing, jewellery, teaching aids and publications.

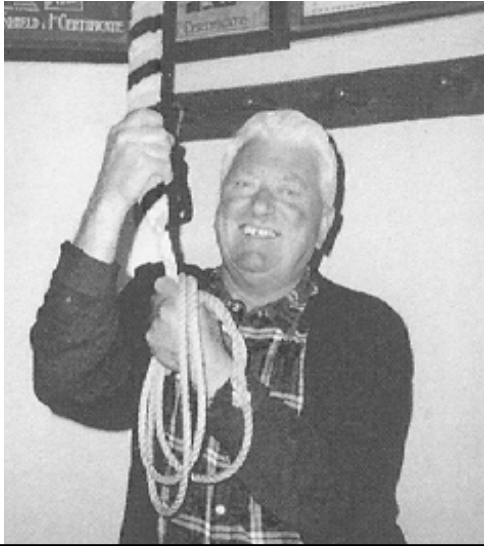


# Funeral service of the late JACK RHYMES

All Saints Church, West Alvington: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2014; 2:00pm

*"That is the land of lost content,  
I see it shining plain,  
The happy highways where I went  
And cannot come again.*

A. E. Houseman



**JACK RHYMES.**

Born, West Alvington 28<sup>th</sup> December 1927.  
Died, West Alvington 5<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April the hills and valleys of the South Hams were bathed in bright spring sunshine. Sheep grazed on the young spring grass and dotted all around were fields of bright yellow rape seed oil. In the dapple shade by the roadside and in the wooded glades an abundance of blue-bells made a

spectacular hue. With primroses everywhere it was a reminder of just how beautiful this area is. As we passed through the villages of Loddiswell and Churchstow towards West Alvington memories of past ringing events came flooding back.

We had come to pay our last respects to a great man, a man who knew and loved this area. Who grew up here, worked here, and who valued and contributed so much to its culture. A man, who was well known, respected and valued. We had come, not only to say farewell but to rejoice through the way in which he had enriched our lives mainly through his love of bell-ringing and provided us with so many lasting memories.

As we walked towards the church at West Alvington the bells began to ring and the flag of St. George gently flew from the top of the tower. A steady trickle of mourners began to arrive long before the service was due to start. No doubt folk were aware of just how many souls would be likely to gather. Branches of apple blossom, a box of apples and equipment once used by Jack for cider making had been placed around the entrance at the church porch. It was a beautiful touching display and a suitable prelude to the service.

At 1.45 p.m. the church fell silent, everything was still. In the distant background the bells could be heard and then the sound of handbells. We stood as Jack's coffin, which had been carried from his nearby home, was brought into the church by, Dave Doyle, Mike Ellis, David Horton, Mark Lovell, Chris and Tim Rhymes, David and Stephen Solomon acting as bearers and lead by Father Stephen Ball. The processional hymn 'The Old Rugged Cross' was sung with great feeling and with Ian Avery at the organ everyone knew that the scene was set for a dignified and uplifting service befitting of Jack Rhymes

Father Stephen Ball welcomed the mourners and opening prayers were said. This was followed by the hymn 'How Great Though Art', a fitting choice. The reading from St. John's Gospel 14 v 1-9 & 26 was read with great dignity by Mrs. Margaret Ellis, a neighbour and close friend of the family.

Paula Rhymes, Jack's daughter, with great composure, deliv-

ered a homily taken from the poem 'The Clock of Life is Wound But Once'. She touched on the pleasurable times spent with her father and recalled an unforgettable 'magic moment' together when, during Scott's ringing tour of London in October 1996, they had both stood on the roof of Southwark Cathedral looking across the Thames and into the city of London, with the sound of the 12 cathedral bells ringing beneath them. This was followed by the singing of 'Love changes everything.'

Tributes were then read. First by Mr. Mark Lovell, a long standing ringing friend of Jack's and then by Jack's son Andrew. Here again great composure was shown by both men. First Mark spoke about the quality of the relationship he had enjoyed with Jack over many years and the degree by which Jack was able to embrace people and impart so much knowledge about ringing and the wonderful experiences he had had.

Andrew spoke of his father in warm and humorous tones, conveying just how strong the bond had been between all the family members and his father's pivotal role towards achieving this. As Andrew spoke one could not help but notice some of the characteristics of his late father being expressed; a touching and pleasurable sight to witness.

There then followed perhaps the most moving part of the service with the singing of 'Danny Boy' (The Londonderry Air) by the 'Bell Ringer's Choir' during which Mr. Chris Massey sung a solo verse.

Prayers of Intercession were then said. This was followed by the hymn 'The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended'. The Lord's Prayer followed and finally 'The Bell Ringer's Hymn' which was sung with such great feeling that it is doubtful whether anyone didn't feel a deep sense of sadness. How many times during his life had Jack sung this very hymn? And what a lovely voice he was blessed with.

At the close the Edwards family gathered around the coffin and the soft music from the handbells could be heard effectively ushering the end of the service. The bearers lifted the coffin which was simply but beautifully decorated with wild flowers held with strands of raffia. A bell rope had been thoughtfully placed around the coffin and it was carried from the building with the organist softly playing 'Time to say goodbye'.

With great dignity his body was carried from the church. A building which he knew and loved, where he had spent many hours of his free time, now to be taken for burial in the churchyard. There to rest in a place he knew so well and once cared for with loving pride.

The family had clearly given a great deal of thought towards planning the funeral service. It was a most beautiful, touching and dignified ceremony, befitting of Jack, husband, father, grandfather, stonemason, gardener, caretaker, storyteller, but most of all a true DEVON RINGER. Neither Jack Rhymes nor his funeral service will ever be forgotten.

*And when life's peal we cease  
And come at last to rest,  
May heavenly bells of peace  
Acclaim us with the blest.  
Each part rung true  
Ours now the prize  
In Christ, to rise  
And ring anew.*

**Colin E Adams**

(continued on next page)



## A Great Day for a Great Man!

**JACK RHYMES: 28<sup>th</sup> December 1927 – 5<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

If ever there was a day to celebrate the life of a man who lived the whole of his life in his home village – this was it. Glorious weather and surroundings, beautiful Church, outstanding ringing, poignant handbell ringing from the Edwards family, great singing, a village that stopped to pay its respects, 300 family, friends and associates and a damn good do at the “Ring O Bells” to round things off.

What could be a better send-off to one of Devon’s finest characters? A man born, raised and lived his whole life in West Alvington. He served the community steadfastly contributing in numerous ways including 70 years bellringing (40 as Captain); 53 years winding the Church clock; 56 years attending to the Churchyard renowned for being kept like a “bowling green”.

Years of cider-making which he shared with many in the village and beyond at social events turning many into “jolly occasions”!

### A few of Jack’s ringing achievements :

- ♦ 5 times winner of Devon Association 6 Bell Major final  
1950 - Newton St Cyres (rang the 4<sup>th</sup>)  
1961 – Shirwell (rang the 4<sup>th</sup>)  
1969 – Burrington (rang the Tenor)  
1976 – Meavy (rang the Treble)  
1979 – Bradford (rang the Treble)
- ♦ President , Devon Association of Ringers 1997/1998 in his 70<sup>th</sup> year
- ♦ Made Honorary Life President of the Devon Association of Ringers 13<sup>th</sup> November 2004
- ♦ Honoured by the Woodleigh Deanery Bell Ringers in 2010 for 29 years’ service as Secretary

**A few thoughts about Jack :** A proud village man, frustrated farmer, bored builder, brilliant husband, father and grandfather, loyal supporter of the ‘Ring O’Bells’, highly regarded cider-maker, enthusiastic singer (wherever and whenever!), phenomenal story teller, incredible impressionist and mimic, immense bellringer – effortless and inspiring.

I am honoured to have been amongst Jack’s friends.

**Mark Lovell**

### ‘Footnote’ by Mrs. Helen Rhymes

Jack was taught to ring the hand-bells at the age of 10 years by George Edwards with his youngest daughter, June, aged 6 years. George had also taught his older children, Iris, Beryl and Dennis and was Captain and owner of the hand-bells. With a stand in for Jack they formed a guard of honour and rang at our wedding. Jack was best man for Dennis Edwards. When Jack passed away, it became very important to me, to have the hand-bells. The whole service was based on Connection. All that remained of the original team, were the elder and youngest daughters, Iris & June. Iris, for health reasons, was unable to ring leaving June aged 80 years. When she agreed it was amazing. Seeing June together with George’s grandchildren and great grandchildren, ringing the very bells Jack learnt on was, for me and the family, a never to be forgotten moment and so poignant. They all had played a big part in making it a memorable service. We had come full circle. What a tribute to Jack’s memory.

Jack was also taught to ring the church bells, at the age of 12 years by ( Captain ) George Edwards beginning his lifelong love of the Church bells.

George passed on the captaincy to Jack, who remained Captain until he died. He was Tower Captain for over 40 years.

## St. Mary’s, PLYMPTON

### a progress report

From Plymouth Herald 17 March 2014

A CHURCH with a 700 year past has plenty of appeal and a promising future thanks to a team of bell ringers. A coffee morning and generous donations raised £1,500 for the repair of the bells, which have been striking a chord at St Mary’s for almost 400 years.

Mary Nicholls, bell captain, said: “We joined the team because of our love of our church and its bells, and are determined to do all we can to preserve the bells for the future by helping to raise funds.”

The team of 12 to 13 bell ringers includes Cyril Nicholls a bell ringer since 1958, Ann Carter, bell ringer, secretary and treasurer for 32 years, Brian Meek, Phil Dowrick and Colin Searle.

The total cost of repair is in the order of £30,000 but, because of the expertise of members like Brian and Phil, and thanks to the hard work of everyone concerned, the bill is down to £18,661 (plus VAT).

The current cost is a little different to when the bells were last refurbished 81 years ago for £440.

Over the past 12 months, all but £5,000 has been raised, and the team would like to convey their “sincere thanks” to the people of Plympton and elsewhere for their generous support.

St Mary’s has eight bells, the first two installed in 1614 with the heaviest weighing 1,300 kilograms and the oldest a tenor, provided by Marie Strode of Newnham.

The next three bells were installed in 1725, 1754 and 1766 and the final three in 1868, including the lightest, weighing 340 kilograms, called a treble. Each bell carries an inscription saying in whose memory it was given.

They are housed in the tower of the church with 5 feet thick walls built using pink granite from Trowlesworthy Quarry near Cadover Bridge. The bells swing in different directions for stability of the tower.

Repairs also include: painting frames – carried out by members of the team; replacing wheels – two out of the eight have been replaced; replacement of sheve and rims; and clappers (the part that strikes the bell) which need to be sent to Whitechapel in London for repair.

The control mechanism for the clock, which strikes every 15 minutes (a Westminster chime), has also been repaired.

Rodger Ruse, St Mary’s publicity officer, said: “Unless the remaining funds are raised, it is possible that the bells of St Mary’s will be silenced for the first time in nearly 400 years.

“Events like the recent coffee morning are crucial to the future of this iconic feature of Plympton. Our church services, weddings and other special occasions would not be the same without the bells.”

**STOP PRESS Brian Meek reports that a contract has been placed with Whitechapel Bell Foundry to complete the repairs, and work is scheduled to start in April 2015 - three years after fund raising started. Meanwhile, Brian writes, “the bells ARE ringable, contrary to reports that these bells are not in a ringable condition as the fifth is cracked. Yes the fifth is cracked but it is still ringable and has been for the last five years since the crack was detected, in fact this small crack has not moved in all that time”.**

**23rd June 2014**

## DEVON ASSOCIATION OF RINGERS

**Vice Chairman (elected February 2014)**

**James STEER - 8, Gregory Close, Bow EX17 6DD ☎ 01363 82359**

### Diary for 2014

**Committee Meeting**

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September - "Mortimore Room" at  
North Tawton Church.

**October 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Affiliation Fees due.**

**Honorary Treasurer:** Mr John Barnes, Cunnicott, North Buckland, Nr Braunton,  
Devon EX33 1HY Tel: 01271 890517 e-mail [jcbarnes482@btinternet.com](mailto:jcbarnes482@btinternet.com).

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November**  
**December**

**AGM.** Town Hall, North Tawton, at 14:15  
**Devon Ringers Carol Service** TBC

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