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President - Brian Drake

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# Devon Calls

July 2015

**BRIAN DRAKE**

PRESIDENT OF THE DEVON ASSOCIATION OF RINGERS

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## Inside this issue

Summoned by Bells	2
Devon 8 Bell Call Change	
Ringing	4
St. Mary's, High Bickington	6
Obituaries: David Trist	7
David Prowse	7
Percival Saunders	8
'Tiz like this Frank	8
Combe Raleigh	8
Competitions	9 - 10
Okehampton Deanery Young	
Ringers	11
Chagford 1915 - 2015	11
Out to Sunday Lunch	12
Birthday Ringing Tour of	
Scotland	13
Devon Ringing Workshop	14
Devon Association of Ringers	15
Ringers' Lunch	15

This is an important year for Brian. Not only is this his presidential year but on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2015 he and his wife Maureen, celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Sixty years ago on a cold winter's day, with light snow on the ground the couple were married at St. Peter's Church, North Tawton. They have lived and farmed on the edge of the town ever since.

In late March this year I paid a visit to Brian and Maureen. It was a dry, bright and sunny afternoon as I drove across central Devon to arrive at their lovely home in North Tawton. The countryside looked perfect and on the approach to North Tawton I was struck by the appearance of a long stretch of bank covered almost entirely with golden daffodils. It was a spectacular sight. The entrance to Brian and Maureen's house is most welcoming with stunning magenta, pink and white heather beds interspersed with daffodils on either side of the drive. Beyond in the meadow lambs were playing, which I assumed were offspring of Devon and Cornwall long-wool parentage.

After an exchange of greetings and some catching-up we made ourselves comfortable in their nicely furnished sun lounge. Primarily I was keen to ask Brian about his ringing career. At the same time, aware of his modesty, I wanted to find out a little more about his achievements as a 'real' Devon farmer. With welcome input also from Maureen I was able to obtain a valuable insight into both his

ringing and farming career.



Stephen                      Brian                      Kathy  
Susan                      Maureen                      Linda

**Q. Do you come from a family of ringers?**

A. No.

**Q. How old were you when you first learnt to ring?**

A. I was 14 years old. I used to attend Sunday school but because I also blew the organ at St. Peter's Church, North Tawton (there were no electric motors in those days) I was allowed to leave Sunday school early. On my way I had to pass the ringing chamber, which at the time was situated on the ground floor. I used to look in and watch the team ringing. On Sundays the tenor bell would toll for about five to ten minutes before the service

(continued on page 3)

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# SUMMONED BY BELLS! - Association's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Had the late Sir John Betjeman been standing within the precincts of Exeter cathedral on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April he would undoubtedly have been impressed by the sounds coming from the cathedral's south tower and the nearby tower of St. Petrock's. It was the occasion of the Devon Association's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the sound of bells filled the air and lifted the spirit.

A comprehensive programme of ringing had been arranged to cater for all levels of skill. On the cathedral bells a ten-bell competition took place during the morning. This was followed by an eight-bell competition during the afternoon, whilst across at St. Petrock's a six-bell festival had been arranged. It was a fascinating contrast. The little ring at St. Petrock's sounding out across the cathedral green in such sharp contrast to their much heavier neighbours.

Against this harmonious backdrop people, some ringers others non-ringers, made their way towards the cathedral. Once inside they were drawn to the South Transept where a carefully arranged display depicting bells and bell ringing had been prepared. A live video feed showed the cathedral's ringing chamber and each of the competing teams in action. The Frank Mack mini ring had been suitably positioned and drew a lot of interest. Nearby the association's trophies were on display including the two magnificent Ross Shields (one for the eight-bell competition and the other for the six). The display had been prepared by Mrs. Joan Clarke who was also on hand throughout the day to answer questions, of which apparently there were many, with quite a lot coming from the general public. The association's Publicity Officer, Victoria Tucker, was present but only for the morning as her little daughter Ellie was unwell which necessitated an early return home. Victoria had brought memorabilia and comprehensive information about the association, its history and purpose. Specially designed commemorative badges were on sale. Added to all this was handbell ringing performed by Exeter cathedral ringers. Bellringing also took place towards the west of the city at St. David's. The carefully choreographed programme of events helped to convey a positive impression about bell-ringing as it is practised here in the West Country.



Choral Evensong took place in the cathedral at 4.00 p.m. This was a combined service attended by the Exeter Chapter Company of Servers and Organists from Devon and Cornwall. During the service a brief period of silence was kept in memory of the late David Trist. Amongst the music chosen was the "Ringer's Hymn" and it was so uplifting to hear this sung in conjunction with the cathedral's choir. After the service tea was taken in the historic setting of the Chapter House. 'Open' ringing followed at the cathedral from 6.00 until 7.30 p.m. It was then back to the Chapter House for the announcement of the results and presentation of commemorative certificates.

It was a wonderful day. A day which resonated with enthusiasm and goodwill and it was a day for reflecting on just what can be achieved when our two organisations (the Devon Association and the Guild of Devonshire Ringers) work closely together.

So many people helped towards making the day 'special' in every sense. On behalf of all those present - thank you, for all your hard work and especially to Ian (Ian Avery). Ian was the principle 'architect', master planner and overseer who provided us all with such a memorable and enjoyable day. Congratulations to all those who took part in the ringing whether as a novice or an expert. What a great pity Chris Clayton and David Trist were taken from us. They would have enjoyed the day so much and we missed them.

*Colin Adams.*

## RESULTS

### RINGING HELD AT THE CATHEDRAL

#### 10 - BELL RINGING FOR THE JOHN SCOTT TROPHY:

1 Wednesday evening Ringers	33%.
2. Quarter Pealers	33%.
3. Tavistock	51%.
4. North East Branch	75%.
5. Okehampton Deanery Young Ringers	76.
6. Moreton Deanery	84.
No result – Exeter Cathedral (rang under time) 29	

#### 8 - BELL COMPETITION:

1. Kingsteignton	29.
2, High Bickington	36%.
3. Chagford	51%.
4. Down St. Mary	53%.
5. Chittlehampton	68.
6. Kenn Deanery	119.

### RINGING HELD AT ST. PETROCK'S

1. Stoke Gabriel 'B'	26%.
2. Moreton Deanery 'A'	27%.
3. Stoke Gabriel 'A'	30.
4. Burrington	31%.
5. Kenton	35%.
6. Chagford	36%.
7. Down St. Mary	49%.
8. East Anstey	54.
9. Exeter Cathedral	55.
10. Alphington 'A'	58.
11. Alphington 'B'	64.
12. Moreton Deanery 'B'	66%.

*(continued from front page)*

began. I used to watch this being done. Someone took an interest in me and invited me to catch hold of the end of the rope and help pull along with the tenor man. This became my early introduction to ringing and a long career followed.

**Q Where did you learn to ring and who taught you?**

A. I learnt to ring at North Tawton and Alfred Lias was the ringer who taught me.

**Were you taught with the bell down or off the stay?**

A. I learnt with the bell down. It was the way I was introduced to ringing whilst helping to toll the tenor bell on Sunday mornings.

**Q Who was the Tower Captain and who were the ringers when you first started to ring?**

A. The Tower Captain was Jim Bennett. The ringers were: Walter Mortimore, Fred Harris, Bill Nicholls, Joe Palmer and Cliff Westlake (Cliff was an outstanding tenor man).

**Q Did the team ring twice on Sundays?**

A. Yes always twice, prior to the morning service and then again before Evensong.

**Q Did North Tawton compete in ringing competitions at the time when you were learning?**

A. Yes, regularly.

**Q When did you ring in your first ringing competition?**

A. My first competition was in the Devon eight-bell competition at High Bickington, circa 1951. We actually won the competition. I was twenty three years old and I rang the fifth which was to become the bell I most frequently rang.

**Q Who were the teams that constituted the main opposition at the time?**

A. There were several. The main teams were: Bideford, Braunton, Chittlehampton, High Bickington, Kingsteignton, Tavistock, Witheridge and Wolborough.

**Q How many times has North Tawton won the Ross shield?**

I think 21 times between 1927 and 1995.

**Q You have been competitive as a farmer as well as a ringer.**

A. Yes, together with my late brother Donald; we were partners for fifty years. In terms of livestock we successfully exhibited Devon and Cornwall long wool sheep and Ruby Red Devon cattle. We gained several top prizes and have been inter-breed champions at the Devon County and Royal Cornwall shows. In the year 2000 at Smithfield we were successfully awarded long wool breed champion. Over the years we also exhibited root crops e.g. Swedes, Turnips and Mangel or Mangolds.

**Q Is it correct that you have been a judge of cattle and sheep?**

A. Yes. I judged for a very long period starting first in 1976 when I judged at the Devon County Show, which was held at the old showground at Whipton, Exeter. I have also

judged at Smithfield for the inter-breed championship as well as at local agricultural shows.

To me it is sad that the Royal Smithfield Show is no longer held, neither is the Royal Show which used to be held at Stoneleigh. There isn't an English show now, yet Wales and Scotland have retained their annual shows but not us.

**Q You have been a judge in numerous ringing competitions. When did you first become involved?**

A. I judged in my first Devon Association competition when the North Devon six-bell semi- final was held at Monkleigh, Nr. Great Torrington in May 1964.

**Q Is there a period in your ringing career that you hold particular fond memories of or a character or characters that you readily recall?**

A. In terms of my ringing career not really as I have enjoyed every minute of my ringing.

In terms of characters and the many people that I have met along the way one stands out in particular. That person is the late Ralph Wright, who for many years was Down St Mary's tenor man. Amongst the many amusing comments made by Ralph was this one, made during one of North Tawton's annual outings. We were visiting the Plymouth area and Ralph, ever mindful of the need to replace fluid lost whilst ringing, went into a nearby public house for a pint. I joined him. As I sat down Ralph leaned across and said, "Brian I never thought I would ever live to see the day when I would have to pay 50 pence (10 shillings) for a pint of beer!"

There are many people similar to Ralph whom I recall but he was certainly one of the greatest.



As I left their house Maureen showed me the special congratulatory card which they had received from Her Majesty the Queen. It had been framed and was proudly hanging on the wall of the dining room. A fitting tribute to a long and happy life spent together.

Belated congratulations to Brian and Maureen from the readership and production team of Devon Calls and thank you for warmly welcoming me to your lovely home.

**Colin Adams.**

# DEVON 8 BELL CALL CHANGE RINGING by ROBIN P. BURNHAM

This is a distillation of 46 years thoughts & hints by Robin P. Burnham ex Dartmouth Ringer for 15 years and latterly Tavistock. Ringer for 25 years: Captain Emeritus for 12 years.

1. The Treble starts the race, the second sets the space, and the Tenor holds the pace. Ern Tucker, a very much respected Dartmouth Ringer, told me this very early on. It is quite correct. The treble starts and has the responsibility of rising and fall-ing the Bells in peal but once the tenor is striking, has to follow him closely and evenly because with a heavy tenor the ringer is at full stretch to get the bell up and cannot alter his speed of rising. Once up the second has the very important job of setting the space to allow the bells to follow at the correct speed. Finally the tenor holds the set pace constant to provide support to the changing bells. It is possible for the tenor man to adjust the speed to attain the best pitch for the particular set of bells being rung.
2. It is my belief that every set of bells has its own correct pitch at which they sound best and can change the easiest.
3. When ringing from stay the tenor must be brought down to pitch immediately otherwise the bells will stay at too high a level.
4. In Devon Call Changes, the sallies must be snapped back as it is called, and allow the ends to rise up to the correct level. I believe the reason for this is that on the sally stroke the rope is only wound around a short length of wheel, while on the end stroke it goes much further around thus giving much more leverage. This is how in Devon ringing that lovely rolling rhythm is attained, described by many elsewhere as cart wheeling. They do not know what they are missing!
5. In Method or Change ringing the end is pulled firmly to ensure the sally rises to provide the treble rest characteristic of method ringing where the sally speed is slower than the end stroke. This gives the disjointed sound to the ringing rather than the smooth even speed of Devon Call Changes.
6. It is always interesting to watch Method ringers trying to ring the Devon way for the first time. They try to snap back the sally, but also through habit the end stroke so if you do not look out you find the bells lowering.
7. When pitching off for the rise the back bells have to follow well forward to get the sound right. We used to pitch the Tavistock Tenor behind the 6th. They have to swing well to ensure striking, usually, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> pull. Once striking the swing is immediately reduced to allow the trebles to get away as

until their sally strike is achieved the correct lead cannot be attained.

8. Jack Hine of Plymstock used to say it is like Concord taking off, the nose or treble has to rise up first until the correct lead is obtained sally to tail or end. Only then can the rear / tenor bells get away. Once the trebles are up to the correct level then they have to wait until the tenors also arrive at top ringing. This is because a treble might have only a 3' wheel whereas the tenor could have a 6' or 7' wheel with correspondingly much more rope to travel. Lowering is the reverse, tenors have to squeeze in the sally stroke, and taking in rope until the trebles can start to come down. Once the tenors are moving a few inches only then can the treble start to take in the last of his rope, though he will still have more swing left than the tenor.
9. This difference in rope lengths also shows up when a small bell is following a large bell. It might have to pull out 12" after the large bell to strike in the correct place after it. Likewise the Tenor following the light bell could well pull out before the treble to ring after. All very confusing.
10. It is most important for a ringer to learn at an early stage to hear his bell within the peal. It should be noted that the bell strikes every time the ringer's hands pass his /her face going up on both end and sally.
11. A steady stroke should be aimed at from the start not slavishly following the bell in front, though this can only be obtained from experience. This irons out the small changes in rhythm.
12. When changing it should not be possible to hear the change, only that the notes have altered.
13. **Strapping** or the art of two people working as a team to rise a heavy bell in peal. George Boucher and I found the best way is for the actual ringer to stand on a box to allow him to reach well above the strapper, who has the coil of rope in his hand. This also gives the strapper a reasonable length of stroke to pull the bell beneath the ringer, otherwise they cannot work as a team. During the rise the strapper eases out the rope as required, leaving the sally to the ringer who in turn must release the rope after the sally pull. Catching hold again just above the strapper's hands on the end, as his hands reach their lowest point, release the end to the strapper in readiness to catch the sally. If he does not, he will get pulled off the box. Once the bell is up and the strapper has only the end in his hand, he should ask the ringer if ready. If so say "next time" and only when the ringer is on the end stroke and has the rope in his hand must the strapper release. **This is imperative.**

(continued on page 5)

*continued from page 4)*

I have seen many times, ringers not doing this and the poor man on the box has his hands on the sally and no end in his hand. Not funny! The ringer can then if wished hop off the box and the strapper moves it out of the way.

14. I can never understand why many towers have boxes for the ringers to stand on, usually largish bells with long ropes. It means that the ringer has a heavier weight of rope to carry, this can get quite tiring.

Also there is the chance of the rope getting beneath the ringers toes if there is no front on the box, possibly upending him. We used to ring Tavistock which is 24 cwt, without a permanent box, very easily. When rising a large bell on one's own you need to be able to move around the floor without worrying about staying on a box.

15. Rope work. When fitting new ropes, if pre-stretched, hang as soon as possible otherwise all benefit will be lost. All the surplus rope should be retained in the wheel not cut off. This will allow cutting and splicing at a much later date giving a new lease of life to the ropes. Long splices should be used, never short splices which hinder free rope movement.

Bell rope tails should always be turned back and tucked in for the full length supplied. This increases the life of the rope and safety. It should not be cut off and only a short eye splice inserted at the very end, as I feel this is a very bad practice.

16. In dry weather, single rope gets very whippy and especially on eight bells which usually have longer ropes and can cause accidents. Ern Tucker at Dartmouth lost the end of his thumb through this very reason. It is also very hard on the hands in rising and falling due to the small size of rope to hold.

17. Many West Country Ringers also pass the loop over their wrist when ringing presumably to prevent the rope flapping if set overlong. This is a very dangerous practice, as if the bell is set for any reason the stay could give way. This might be due to wood worm or because it is damaged through heavy setting and the rope will be wound up over the wheel lifting the ringer off the ground if he cannot release in time. Very painful!

18. The bell should be set on end to find the correct length of rope. Once tucked, any adjustment should be made in the wheel, or using temporary boxes or short strops, not by retucking the ends. Once the tucks are set in their place from new, a crease forms in the rope and this retains the end in position. Any later adjustment destroys this and the end will not stay in place.

19. This leads to the horrible and very dangerous practice of using twine or tape to hold the end in

place. I have seen this come loose during ringing and nearly take off a ringer's finger like a cheese cutter. People forget that while a bell is so easy to handle at the end of each stroke, during the swing several cwt are on the move and will not stop easily, like a garage door spring, keeps on going what ever is in the way. (Ever tried to change one?)

20. The only time twine is used is when the rope comes from the supplier, on the ends. Careful examination will show this is always a sailmaker's whipping which has the turns retained in position. Any later repairs to ropes should have whipping done in this manner only.

21. Rope grease can be obtained, though I have always used good old tallow to grease the rope where running through the fillet hole and the sheaves. Bell ropes wear from the inside out at these points and in old ropes the characteristic decrease in rope size can be seen. To check old ropes the lay should be opened to inspect the inside of the rope; it should be a lighter colour than the outside, if not, ditch it as it is far too old.

22. Long Splicing. The two ends to be joined are unlaid fully back 18". Marry tightly together alternately so that you have two sets of 18" strands in hand. Select a pair lying together and half knot them so that the strands appear at right angle to the lay of the rope. Pull snug.

Select another pair lying together, unlay the strand back along the rope, laying in the other gently twisting so it lays in well, light colour inside lay, proceed back until 3" from end of strand being laid in. Half knot as before. Cut off long end to match short end. Turn rope around and carry out the same procedure to the remaining pair and half knot. You should then have three sets of pairs spaced approx. 15" apart. These ends should be cut back and tapered long enough to splice in. Tuck in for three tucks each and roll underfoot to settle in.

23. Should a rope get badly worn or break, the usual place being where passing through the sheave box. Unwrap the surplus rope in the wheel, cut off the worn section from both ends and drop it down until you have fresh rope through the sheaves around 4' beyond to allow for wear and splice. Ensure you have enough to retie in the wheel after splicing. Then splice as at 22 above. Rub in plenty of rope grease to reduce friction on completion, as the rope gets hot it will melt into the rope. This is mainly at the start of the rise and end of the lower.

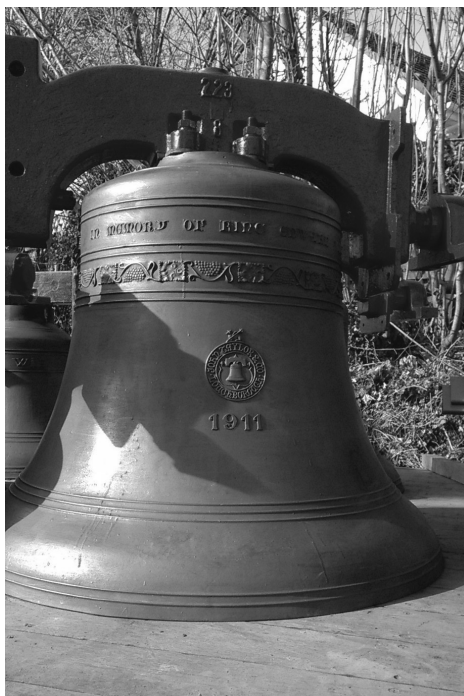
I hope these few thoughts prove of interest to fellow ringers and their learners.

**Robin Burnham**



## BELLS OF ST. MARY'S HIGH BICKINGTON

The restoration of the tower at High Bickington was featured on page 12 of the February 2015 edition of *Devon Calls*. After being silent for four years the bells were lowered, taken to Nicholson's for refurbishment to be re-hung on a new metal frame in a repaired tower.



A service of celebration and re-dedication of the bells at High Bickington with Bishop Nick McKinnel took place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

The bells were rung before and after the service by people who had helped to get our lovely peal back to life. Since the bells have been heard once more we have had lots of interest from people wanting to learn. The bells have been missed greatly; something which had not been apparent until they started to sound out again.

I would like to thank everyone who was involved in this major project.

**Stephen Herniman**  
Tower Captain

## OBITUARIES

### **DAVID ANTHONY TRIST**

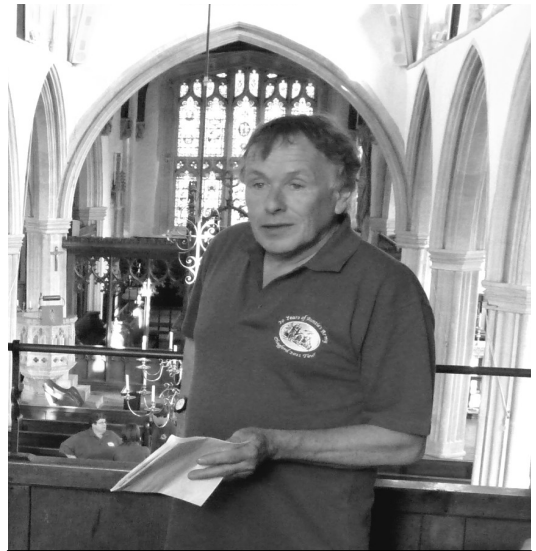
David Trist, 60, died suddenly on either the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> April, alone and on Dartmoor whilst engaged in his beloved photography, camera by his side. David was an only child and leaves behind many cousins, including Angela Moore on his late father's side, and Derek Henderson on his mother's.

David Anthony Trist was born on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 1954 in Essex to Roland and Mabel Trist of Uffculme. His father was an inventor and descendent of the Trist family of Veryan, Tristford and Bowden House. The Trists were a family of great explorers and adventurers, with one branch making great waves in the New World, one marrying the daughter of U.S. President Thomas Jefferson and living in the famous Monticello, and another Trist inventing the Stetson. Having served successfully in the U.S. Government, one member of the Trists arranged the purchase of California for the U.S.A. from the Mexican Government.

David attended Uffculme school - 1967-70 - and East Devon College - 1970-73. From there he went to St. Luke's School of Education from 1973-76 graduating with a teaching qualification in Environmental Studies. David held many local government contracts, including carrying out an ecological survey of the Teign Valley to determine the effects of Dutch Elm disease. He was also a supervisor at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter. David later ran the audio-visual aids department at Vincent Thompson High School from 1980-88. He then joined what is now known as the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, where he worked until the time of his death, offering nearly 30 years of loyal and honourable service.

*David's funeral was held at the Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Uffculme on Tuesday 26th May 2015. The church was packed - standing room only - with family, friends, ringers, and colleagues from the Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service. The very moving service was conducted by the Rev. Tim Jones, Vicar of Taunton and a friend of David's since schooldays in Uffculme. Half muffled peals were rung on the eight bells both before and after the service. The service started with the 'Ringers' Hymn' and concluded with the hymn 'I vow to thee my country'. A Tribute was given by Chief Fire Officer Lee Howell and the Eulogy by Stephanie Brown. After interment at Uffculme cemetery many attended for refreshments in the Magelake Hall by kind invitation of the family. In lieu of flowers donations were received for The Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund.*

**Colin Barnes**



**David Trist**  
(Visiting Lechlade 2011)

David was an active member of the Devon Dowsers, serving as chairman for 3 years. As a keen member of local Amateur Dramatic Societies he performed regularly over the years with the Brown Paper Bag Company of Crediton.

David's ringing career began in Uffculme. Later he became Tower Captain at St. Petrock's, Exeter. As the Education and Training Officer for the Devon Association of Ringers he travelled the length and breadth of the county helping people to acquire the skills of bellringing as well as giving support to those engaged in providing instruction. He was also a keen member of the Devon Ringer's Council.

He was a deeply practical man (the DIY King), pragmatic and funny to the last. David will be sadly missed by us all.

**Stephanie Brown**

### **DAVID PROWSE**

David Prowse passed away suddenly on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2015. Although he had been living at Woodbury for some time, David continued to farm at Whitestone, near Exeter and to support Whitestone Tower on a regular basis. This included effectively becoming Tower Captain for a period when Whitestone bells might otherwise have fallen silent. Dave will be greatly missed by his family and all who knew him. In the bell tower we will especially miss his wit, experience and friendship. The Bells were rung

half muffled at St. Catherine's, Whitestone in his memory a few days before his funeral. His funeral took place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February at the East Devon Crematorium. David leaves his wife Ruth, son Phillip and daughters Alice and Sally.

**James Bryant**

*We have since been informed that sadly David's father, apparently also a ringer, passed away at the end of April. On behalf of all ringers we express our deepest sympathy to the family and hope that in due course the passage of time will help to lessen their feelings of loss.*

## PERCIVAL SAUNDERS

One of the UK's oldest bell ringers celebrated having been married to his wife for 70 years this week.

Percival Saunders, 91, and Joan Saunders, 92, both from Landkey, reached their platinum anniversary on Tuesday and even got a celebratory card from the Queen.

The number 17 is certainly a lucky number for Percival and Joan, who met on May 17, 1942, before discovering that they both have birthdays on July 17 and September 17 respectively.

The pair met on a blind date in Blackpool, set up by Joan's sister, where they visited an aquarium.

"My sister was five years younger than me, but she looked the same age, so my mother would not let her go out on her own, so she asked me to go with her," said Joan, 92.

"One day I said 'I'm not doing it anymore' so she got her young man to bring a gentleman along with him."

Percival was in the RAF, training to become a wireless operator when he met Joan, shortly before he went off to war.

When he returned in 1945 for a week the pair married on January 27, 1945.

Joan said: "The war was still on in 1945 and everything was rationed, even clothes, so I was not married in white." She wore a blue dress and a hat she had made in the same style as the one in the 1942 film *Mrs Miniver*.

After the wedding Percival went to college to train as a handicraft teacher before getting a job near the Tilbury docks in Essex where the couple lived for 39 years.

In 1988, after Percival retired, he and Joan decided to move away, and originally set their sights on Somerset.



"But we got gazumped on several houses," said Joan. Percival added: "We almost came here (to North Devon) by default."

The pair soon settled into Devon life and Percival took up church bell ringing in Swimbridge, although he practises in Bishops Tawton.

"I am probably the oldest bell ringer in Devon, if not the country," he said.

"I helped to install a ring of bells in Essex and someone said 'you have helped to fit them, you'd better learn to ring them'. And within three years I was the tower captain."

The couple have three children, eight grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren, with whom they celebrated on both Saturday and Tuesday.

They said they have been very happy in North Devon and had lovely friends.

When asked the secret to their long marriage, Percival said: "Having a very tolerant wife."

Read more: <http://www.northdevonjournal.co.uk/Blind-date-led-marriage-stood-test-time/story-25956248-detail/story.html#ixzz3QXsRvOn4>



## 'TIZ LIKE THIS FRANK

The late Les (Tiny) EDWORTHY (*right*) and the late Frank (Stormy) ADAMS at the Widecombe -in-the-Moor festival, organised by Les Edworthy, c. 1990

***If you also have photographs similar to this please send them to us by email or through the post. If possible include a suitable caption. We promise to return any photographs we receive.***

***Editor***

## COMBE RALEIGH

Combe Raleigh are working really hard to raise money for their bell fund to augment their three bells to six at St. Nicholas Church.

**Victoria Tucker**

**Lisa Clarke reports:** Our Plant Sale on 17th May turned out to be yet another great event. The weather was kind and lots of people came to buy our plants and enjoy tea and cake. A huge thank you to everyone who supplied plants and manure!, not to mention the wonderful home-made cakes. On the day we made a profit of £720! Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a successful

event and, of course, to those who came along to support us.

We had quite a number of plants left over so we decided to book a couple of tables on the forecourt of St Paul's Church, Honiton. This morning the weather was lovely and the town was busy with shoppers - we are delighted to say that we made a further profit of £130 and, with an unexpected donation of £35, our grand total has reached a staggering £885!!

The Bell Fund has now reached £49,641.60.

[http://www.comberaleigh.org/Church\\_Bells.html](http://www.comberaleigh.org/Church_Bells.html)





# COMPETITIONS

## NOVICE COMPETITION 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2015 ST. PETROC'S, SOUTH BRENT

Just to wish the teams success in either The Minor or Major 6 Bell Finals.

*Joan Clarke*  
Competition Secretary (North).

### Results:

#### Round Ringing Competition for the TH Priddle Shield:

- |    |              |     |
|----|--------------|-----|
| 1. | Dartmouth    | 19% |
| 2. | Halwell      | 36% |
| 3. | Berrynarbour | 49  |

#### Call Change Competition for the P Rice Shield:

- |     |                    |     |
|-----|--------------------|-----|
| 1.  | Mortehoe           | 19  |
| 2.  | Dartmouth B        | 23½ |
| 3.  | Upton A            | 28% |
| 4.  | Upton B            | 37% |
| 5.  | Berrynarbour       | 47  |
| 6.  | Exminster          | 47  |
| 7.  | Dartmouth A        | 48% |
| 8.  | Kenton             | 49% |
| 9.  | Exeter St. David's | 50½ |
| 10. | Beaford            | 56% |
| 11. | Chivelstone        | 59% |
| 12. | Salcombe           | 61% |
| 13. | South Pool         | 66% |

Judges: James Steer, Kate Avery, James Kerslake and Colin Avery.

Congratulations everyone! Thank you all for a brilliant day.



The President, Brian Drake, presenting the "George Facey" shield to Mrs. Chris Ley of Burrington's winning team

## NORTH 6 BELL QUALIFIER MAY 9<sup>TH</sup> 2015

### ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, BISHOPS NYMPTON

I worry too much. You would think I would know by now that when you ask an experienced team like Bishop's Nympton, who have done all this before and know very well what is required, the Association Festival will run like clock-work. It was a very good day. The village even published the forthcoming event in the local paper. Wonderful publicity. Michael Warren, our host & Team Captain was on hand with any queries, together with John Finch. John has only been ringing at Bishop's Nympton for 4 years and was 'pleased as punch' to be given the opportunity to ring with the judges. Cheryl Woolacott & her family, who own Capital Farm next door to the tower are old friends of the judges and are always very willing to give up their bedroom for the day. It was disappointing that only 8 teams were able to take part this year. We missed Littleham (due to illness) & South Tawton (who had to ring for a wedding). Never-the-less the teams who entered enjoyed themselves. The Reverend David Baker put the short service together making sure that we included the Association Prayer, Hymn & National Anthem, a very important part of each Association Festival. Our President, Brian Drake, also had a wedding to ring for but arrived in time to hear the competitors start. Jill Warren and her band of helpers put together a splendid tea in their lovely new Hall, which was very much appreciated. Some of us wondered what Jill looked like. She refused to come out of the kitchen!

### Results:

- |    |               |     |
|----|---------------|-----|
| 1. | Burrington    | 20½ |
| 2. | West Down     | 30% |
| 3. | Down St Mary  | 31% |
| 4. | Drewsteignton | 33% |
| 5. | Mortehoe      | 35½ |
| 6. | East Anstey   | 49½ |
| 7. | Dolton        | 61% |
| 8. | Monkleigh     | 64% |

Judges: Mervyn Way, James Clarke and Michael Rose,  
Scrutineer: Gerald Arscott

## SOUTH 6 BELL QUALIFIER MAY 9<sup>TH</sup> 2015

### ST. BUDEAUX

### Results:

- |    |               |     |
|----|---------------|-----|
| 1. | Egguckland    | 17½ |
| 2. | Shaugh Prior  | 18% |
| 3. | South Brent   | 29½ |
| 4. | Broadhempston | 36  |
| 5. | Stoke Gabriel | 38% |
| 6. | Holbeton      | 44% |
| 7. | Lamerton      | 88  |
| 8. | Dunsford      | 96  |

Judges: Ian Avery, John Dietz and John Cole.

Teams from 6th to 8th qualified to enter the 6 BELL MINOR FINAL at St Andrew's, HALBERTON on 23rd May  
Teams from 1st to 5th qualified to enter the 6 BELL MAJOR FINAL at All Saints Church KENTON on 13th June

*(continued on page 10)*

## MINOR FINAL 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2015 HALBERTON

We had a lovely sunny day for the competition at Halberton. The teams of Dolton, Dunsford, East Anstey, Holbeton and Lamerton were all ready for the 2:00pm start. Monkleigh unfortunately could not make it. After discussion with Graham Sharland (Chairman), Mervyn Way and Michael Rose (Judges) and Gerald Arscott (Scrutineer) it was decided to let all five teams ring and finish the day with tea and a raffle in the village hall. One of our helpers Clair was dispatched to the Hall to let Tom know what time to expect everyone for tea.

Rev Sue Blades called us all in for the service. She led a lovely ringers' service with four hymns. Her address was on the origin of bells, complete with her own treasured goat bell on a collar from her travels. I didn't realise bells had been used in the Iron Age to locate animals. This was her starting point and she took us right up to the present day with our church bells. Greta, our organist for the day, did a super job on Halberton's somewhat temperamental organ: she could only manage half an hour's practice on it. The church warden with the safe combination failed to appear, so the collection during the ringers' hymn was taken in a tin, which clanged and clattered causing a lot of amusement. After the service the Judges and Scrutineer were taken to our village school staff room, (comfy chairs in there), and Graham Sharland started the draw for positions. Dolton were drawn in first place and climbed the tower. (We did warn them there were 42 steps to climb.) As Halberton is an upstairs

ring people were able to stay in and around the church during the ringing. Our Halberton ringers and helpers kept everyone supplied with tea, coffee and squash during the afternoon. Offered donations were steered towards the raffle.

After the five teams had rung, the Judges and scrutineer were collected from the school, Jane and Cecilia's raffle prizes were gathered up into waiting arms and everyone made their way up the hill to the village hall.

Tom and his ladies waited until we all appeared then served a delicious ham salad ringers' tea, with wonderful homemade puddings. After all were 'stuffed' with food, we called the raffle; oddly enough those two bottles of whiskey disappeared first !!

The Judges then being well fed and watered called the results.

### Results:

1.	East Anstey	43%	2.	Lamerton	46½
3.	Holbeton	53%	4.	Dunsford	65%
5.	Dolton	4%			

Judges: Mervyn Way and Michael Rose

Scrutineer: Gerald Arscott

East Anstey and Lamerton progress to the Devon Association's Major Final on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2015..

Thank you to Rev Sue Blades and Greta Tucker for the service, to all the helpers and to all who came for the day to ring, listen and support. Special thanks to Willy and Jeannie who supplied their prize winning ham for the occasion.

*Catherine Gabrielle Thorpe*

## DEVON ASSOCIATION OF RINGERS - MAJOR FINAL - 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, ALL SAINTS, KENTON

**M**any ringers were anxiously checking the weather forecast on the morning of the Major Six Bell Final to check on the wet warm front that was threatening the west of the UK. While some ringers in the far west may have got a little damp in the morning, by the time everyone started to gather at Kenton the sun was well out and the weather front had moved slightly to the north of us, leaving East Devon bright and a bit breezy. Very lovely conditions for a very lovely day!

With Jereme Darke at the helm we knew this would be an organised occasion, and after roll call and an uplifting service, which was conducted by Reverend John Williams, Priest in Charge, the draw was made and the twelve competing teams given their instructions.

Our President-Elect seemed delighted to escort the teams up and down the many steps to the ringing chamber, where teams got to work on bells that rang very well but were tricky to strike accurately. The unusually low ceiling tested rope-handling too! It was felt by many that the bells were a good, fair test for a Final.

Tea was taken after peal 6 and we were treated to plates of salad, ham, cheese, rolls, condiments and fabulous cakes and pies in the Victory Hall.

Before the results were read out, Chris Ley officiated over the annual Draw for the benefit of the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund. Over £4000 has been raised and the winner of the £250 first prize was P. McCulloch from South Brent.

Then to the results! Brian Drake took off his Judge hat and put on the President's one to give out the certificates as announced by John Cole, Scrutineer.

Many thanks to everyone that got involved with hosting the Major Final at Kenton this year, including but not limited to; Jereme Darke, Michael Adams, Colin Adams, the rest of the Adams Clan, John Cole, Ian Avery, Brian Drake, Mervyn Way, John

Dietz, Chris Ley, Reverend Mark Lord-Lear and the Churchwardens, the ladies and gentlemen who made us so wonderfully welcome for tea and Greg Phoenix, the generous Kenton ringer, and his wife Lyn for accommodating the judges all afternoon.

### Results:

1.	Egguckland	20	1st Certificate and the Ross Shield
2.	South Brent	25	2nd Certificate and the Shelley Cup
3.	Shaugh Prior	26	
4.	Burrington	27	
5.	Broadhempston	37	(awarded 5 <sup>th</sup> Certificate, longer peal)
6.	Drewsteignton	37	(awarded 6 <sup>th</sup> Certificate, shorter peal)
7.	Mortehoe	37%	
8.	Stoke Gabriel	39%	
9.	West Down	42%	
10.	Down St Mary	54%	
11.	East Anstey	62	
12.	Lamerton	66½	



The President, Brian Drake, presenting the Ross Shield to Steven Trout

Egguckland also won the Top Ringing trophy with 12 faults.

*Victoria Tucker*

## THE OKEHAMPTON DEANERY YOUNG RINGERS

The Okehampton Deanery Young Ringers were able to raise a side for the John Scott 10 Bell competition at the Association's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary held at Exeter Cathedral on the 25<sup>th</sup> April. The average age of the ten, on the day, was 25.5 years, ranging from 19 - 35. The group, which is 13 strong, meets once a month and goes to various towers within the Deanery and surrounding areas.

The group being mainly made up of 6-bell ringers, the prospect of ringing 10 bells at first was daunting to some. Therefore, the group managed to get practices in at Tavistock and Cridton, to whom we are grateful for their hospitality.

The side came a respectable fifth out of seven with 76 faults, which is a great achievement. This has given the group confidence to take part in future events and ring bells of greater weight.

*Stuart Bennie*



*Top row:* Freddie CROWLEY, Garry STONEMAN, David WEEKS, Stuart BENNIE  
*Bottom row:* Graham BENNIE, Graham PRIDHAM, Mark WONNACOTT, Lucy WONNACOTT, Nicola STONEMAN, Lucy CAPRON

## CHAGFORD - 3RD FEBRUARY 1915 - 2015



*Back row:* Chris SMALLWOOD, Joe BINT, Stuart BENNIE, Freddie CROWLEY, Dave HATTON  
*Middle row:* Richard HURDLE, Nat BONFIELD, Laurence BENNIE, Rev. Noël WALTER, Karen SQUIRE, Mervyn LANGDON, Colin BARNES  
*Front row:* Ruth & Jon BINT, Julia & Evan ENDACOTT, Jan LAMACRAFT, Elinor D'ALBIAC

The bellringers of St. Michael the Archangel Parish Church, Chagford marked the occasion of the centenary of the recasting and rehang of the eight bells on 3rd February. Exactly one hundred years earlier the bells were rededicated. The present ringers marked the occasion with a short service of thanksgiving, eight bell ringing and, of course, a party.

# OUT TO SUNDAY LUNCH WITH BELL RINGER RACHEL AVERY

By Liz Parks (Western Morning News - Sunday 22nd February 2015)

**T**hink of bell ringing and you probably think of men of a certain age. But, as mum-of-two Rachel Avery points out over lunch with Liz Parks, it's a community-focused pastime that offers something for everyone - no matter what age.



## **Q) How long have you been bell ringing?**

A) My grandad got me into it. I rang from the age of nine or ten and stopped. Then I came back to it about five years ago. I started in Upton, Torquay, that's where my grandad still rings. I met my husband ringing so he rings at Kingsteignton and we ring there now together so it's a real family affair.

## **Q) Why did you stop ringing?**

A) I was young. I was doing lots of other things at the same time and, let's face it, it's just not very cool. When you're growing up you've got to be cool.

## **Q) What is it about bell ringing that you enjoy so much?**

A) I love the people who ring. I have met so many wonderful people ringing. It keeps your brain active - it's exercise too with the ringing and going up all those stairs to get to the bells. I really enjoy it and I didn't appreciate how much I would enjoy it when I was younger. I love that my children are now growing up in that environment. They're really well-rounded, the older one especially. She spends so much time with different people that are older than her and younger than her - it's a really nice way to grow up.

I also love the competitions. I've got friends that don't understand why I go to a competition where everybody rings and all you win at the end is a shield or a certificate but I'm a very competitive person so I only want to win that shield.

## **Q) Is it difficult to master the technique?**

A) There are two different types: there's method ringing and call change ringing. In Devon we're renowned for call change. In method ringing, the bells change in each round so, in layman's terms, there's one dong and then the next dong is behind a different bell so it makes a different sound. In call change ringing, they call the change around so if you call four to five then those bells will change. Call change ringing isn't rung anywhere else - it's a real Devon-led thing.

## **Q) How long does it take to pick up the knack?**

A) It does take a little while to get the control of the bell. To make it dong when you want it to dong is a really skilled thing to do. It's all very well just ringing it but getting your

bell in the right place at the right time is actually really hard work - it's taken me ages.

## **Q) How often are competitions held?**

A) You could go to a competition every week if you wanted to. There are two humongous competitions that are held in Devon which are the six and eight bell competitions. There are also competitions every week in different parishes where you get anything from four to 24 teams.

## **Q) There is something quintessentially English about the sound of bells ringing out on a Sunday - is it a special sound to you?**

A) For me it's a sound that's synonymous with Devon villages. I grew up in Ipplepen and we always heard the bells on a Sunday morning. We're calling people to worship. I can't say I'm a particularly religious person but you are calling people to church - that's what bell ringing is actually about, being at the centre of a community.

## **Q) Why isn't campanology cool?**

A) I think a lot of people think that it's just older people that ring but I know a lot of people my age that ring, they're women in their 20s and 30s and their husbands are ringing too. I think it's something that's often passed down through families. I think it's something where if your dad rings or your husband rings your children will ring. The bells will always be there. There's also a strong social side. Bell ringers are always in pubs. I'm not a big drinker but we're always out somewhere. After competitions we go to the pub - the pub and the church tend to be next to each other.


## **Q) What's the gender split like?**

A) There are more men but I do know a lot of women who ring. You find a lot of couples who met through bell ringing. I've met a lot more women in the last two or three years when I've gone to competitions so the numbers are going up.


## **Q) Do you have a favourite bell ringing memory?**

A) I have one big highlight which everything else pales into insignificance next to. It was the eight bell competition last year which we won. It was held in Ilfracombe and I rang for the first time in Kingsteignton's eight bell team and we won. The church hadn't lost that shield in something like 13 years and I was the only different member of the team so if they had lost I would have felt that it was all my fault. But we won!

Read more: <http://www.westernmorningnews.co.uk/Sunday-lunch-bell-ringer-Rachel-Avery/story-26058785-detail/story.html#ixzz3Y3aBkXij>



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## BIRTHDAY RINGING TOUR OF SCOTLAND

**1965:** a vintage year? Yes, according to five of our Wednesday Evening Ringers who turn 50 this year. To celebrate, the five “fifties” plus ten other ringers and one non-ringer toured Scotland in March 2015. Having packed thermals and water proofs and wearing four layers of clothing to save space, we flew from Exeter to Edinburgh on Monday 23rd March 2015 arriving in warm sunshine and above average temperatures, which lasted almost the whole week!

We picked up the minibus and headed 12 miles east of Edinburgh, to Haddington.

After refreshments in the Tyneside Inn near the church, we were welcomed to the tower and caught hold of the superb peal of 8 (11-11-20 in F#). The John Warner bells had been moved from elsewhere in Scotland and rehung to celebrate the Millenium. The first ringing of the week was excellent, and our host thanked us for ringing such a “metronomic” first peal, and we couldn’t help but hope that all the peals in Scotland were of this quality.

We headed back to Edinburgh disappointed that the bells of Fettes College were not available to us, but the surrounds of the Red Squirrel in Lothian Road had its benefits, including Black Ball stout. The impressive tower of St Cuthbert’s at dusk at the foot of Edinburgh Castle looked austere, but the brightly lit church inside with musical rehearsals going on offered a very warm welcome. First hung in 1902 the Taylor eight had been augmented to 10 in 1964 (21-0-0 in E). We caught hold of the ropes. We were surrounded by the dark wood panelling of the ringing chamber, and made a really good sound on these lovely bells to conclude our first day.

**Tuesday (Day 2):** From the Premier Inn (Edinburgh East), we headed to Edinburgh’s busy commercial centre. We ambled past St Andrew’s Square turned into George Street and found the church of St George and St Andrew, once again a light and airy space. The 8 bells are the oldest peal in Scotland, were removed in 2003 whilst the church and tower underwent renovation and the bells rehung in 2005/6 (8, 14-2-23 in E). The unusual ringing chamber is open to two stairwells one on either side, and a stairway ascending to a viewing platform above, and was a very pleasant space to ring in and spectate from. The bells stood out as one of the best peals on the tour and helped us to produce some fine striking for our first tower of the day.

Having rounded up some errant ringers who pleaded a thirst (at 10am in the morning), we set off for Stirling, passing Wallace Tower to our east, and snow-capped mountains to the west looking breath-taking in the sunshine, as was the view of Dunblane Cathedral as we arrived in the town. Another peal of 8 (we didn’t need to ring the 9<sup>th</sup>) with tenor 24-2-24 (in Eb). We had to concentrate to get the music from them but, when struck well, the rewards from this tonal peal were there. After lunch we headed east 55 miles to St Andrew’s University, Fife and the Chapel of Salvator for their light 6 (7-3-20 in A). With high expectations of such a significant place, we walked through the quad in the early evening sunshine to access the tower. The bells felt nice to ring, but we were disappointed in that we could not hear them at all well from the ringing cham-

ber and could not easily judge how well our striking was. From St Andrews, we drove to the Premier Inn at Dundee North for a well-earned dinner, and relatively early night.

**Wednesday (Day 3):** Our first tower was St Paul’s Cathedral, Dundee at 9am and we were warmly greeted once again, this time by Mr Ron Oliver. At 21-0-0 in Eb, the peal of 8 sounded superb outside and inside and we hoped our fine striking was being appreciated by the City workers. Perhaps fame had come at last when a church steward insisted on a group photograph of our visiting band of Devon Bellringers for the St Paul’s website? Being only 500 yards walk to our next tower, there was time for a quick morning coffee before meeting Mr Oliver again for the climb to the ringing chamber of the magnificent Old Steeple with another ring of 8 (19-2-10 in E). A superb peal of bells, the peal of Tittums that we rang was my favourite of the week. We had to try and ignore a cameraman and two journalists floating about whilst we were ringing, as our visit to Scotland was being featured in the Dundee Chronicle, and we duly appeared that week online and in the press. From Dundee to Aberdeen and the Church of St Machar with 8 bells (14-0-6) where we were greeted by Ruth Ogilvy. The bells had originally come from Ealing, West London and hung in 1987 after a much older ring of 16 bells had been lost centuries ago. No doubt we were tiring, but we made a good noise on these slightly trickier bells, and ended the day generally pleased with ourselves and having enjoyed all three of the day’s peals.

**Thursday (Day 4):** Having stayed overnight at the Premier Inn in Elgin, our first ring was at Inverness Cathedral, the most northerly cathedral on mainland Britain situated on the banks of the River Ness. With no time for breakfast, we travelled along the southern side of the Moray Firth arriving in Inverness just before 9am and were welcomed by Mike Neale. The ring of 10 (16-3-12 in Eb) were a little challenging to strike well in particular during the rise and lower mainly because of difficulty hearing the middle bells from inside the ringing chamber. The relatively new 9<sup>th</sup> bell was lovely to ring and we understand has improved the ring considerably. From Inverness we travelled along the southern bank of Loch Ness in the direction of Ben Nevis, searching for the Tulloch ringing centre. I think our expectations of a 12 bell ring with 7-2-4 tenor in Bb were not that high despite the back six being Gillette and Johnson. Our first peal on the 12 however, demonstrated the quality of the bells, and our second peal on the back 8 was one of the best on the trip. Our “on board caterers” provided us with a delicious sandwich lunch at Tulloch, and we then headed south to Inverary, in Argyll and Bute, through the best scenery of the trip as we wound through the valleys between high snow-capped mountains on either side. The tower at Inverary was erected in memory of Campbell clan members who died in the First World War and dominates the surrounding town. We had to let ourselves in and overcome some detailed instructions before starting, but thoroughly enjoyed ringing the heaviest peal of 10 in Scotland (41-2-8 in C) cast and installed by Taylors of Loughborough, as well as the stunning views over the surrounding Loch Fyne and countryside. *(continued on page 14)*



### **Friday**

**(Day 5):** From the Premier Inn in Perth to Dunkeld Cathedral in Highland Perthshire. A beautiful setting next to the river, the church is partially ruined, and the tower undergoing restoration work. Passing a sign for “Bellringers only” we ascended the tower, looking big enough for a 30cwt peal of 10, but the peal is in fact a delightful 6 (6-3-2 in C). We felt very “at home” and produced some excellent striking, with the sound of the bells rolling out across the surrounding countryside on the bright sunny morning. By contrast our next tower, the 8 in Alloa town centre (13-0-20 in F#), proved one of the most demanding to ring of the tour. The ringing room was “cosy” and it was difficult to hear all the bells inside especially during the rise and lower and many of us struggled to strike these well. The welcome we received however was typical of the whole trip, both warm and friendly, and the church was beautiful and peaceful inside. It was a short walk to the excellent Old Brewery Pub for lunch which the church folk had recommended, and the discussion turned to thoughts of a friendly competition at the next tower. The “fifties plus one” would take on “the young ‘uns plus one” and ring 60 on thirds at the Church of Holy Rude in Stirling (6-3-25 in Bb), with two expert judges and a time keeper! The fifties plus one lost the toss and were put into ring first, a disadvantage. An excellent rise and a good peal and lower was rung. In came the young ‘uns who rang a peal worthy of a top Devon side. The result didn’t matter as it was all in good spirits, but let us say the birthday boys and girls were very pleased!

From Stirling, we went on to Glasgow Cathedral designed by

George Gilbert Scott and raised to cathedral status in 1908. The heavy 10 (32.1.6 in C#) dating from 1901 were of a lovely tone and handled well and we were pleased with our rise on 10 in peal, and with our striking on the back 8. Next was St James, Paisley, Renfrewshire (at dusk) for our fifth and final ring of the day (8, 22-1-17 in Eb). We did find these tricky to strike but we managed to ring a couple of nice peals on these before finding our way to the Premier Inn in Paisley.

**Saturday (Day 6):** The next morning we travelled back to Edinburgh and the Cathedral Church of St Mary’s with one of the few Grimthorpe rings to still exist (12, 41.1.15 in B). Unfortunately, the rope on the tenor snapped above the sally during our first peal, but even the 11 sounded superb and we enjoyed our ringing at our eighth Cathedral of the week. Our final peal was in Dumfries which was a four hour round trip for an hour’s ringing but it was worth every minute. The scenery south through the southern uplands and part of Dumfries and Galloway was magnificent; more so in bellringing terms was the new peal at St John’s Church, Dumfries hung in 2014 (8, 10-3-18 in Ab) where we were again made very welcome. This last tower visit was typical of our ringing week in Scotland: on the whole we had a warm welcome wherever we went and the bells and towers were well maintained. Furthermore, there seems to be an enthusiasm for bell ringing in Scotland at all levels that is sure to see new recruits coming through and helping to further invigorate the ringing community.

Thank you Scotland, we hope to be back!

6 June 2015

**Steven Came**

## **DEVON RINGING WORKSHOP**

**SAINTBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE - SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015**

Seeing as a few of us were travelling a very long way up the line to take part in a competition, *someone* (yes, me!) had the bright idea of taking Devon Call Change ringing to the masses and decided to organise a ringing workshop, to include rising and lowering and call changes, done the Devon way. It had been noted that the “Rising and Lowering in Peal” lecture at the Ringing World Roadshow was very popular in Newbury last year, and it was thought that a practical session may be well received by our method-ringing contemporaries.

Following much telephone liaison with Our Man in Gloucestershire (the wonderful Denzil Spear) the venue was set as being Saintbury, which is a ring of 8 with 11cwt tenor. They are also rung from the ground floor and are easily accessible from the church, allowing people outside to see the ringing and hear the commentary. The day started well with three Devon ringers and eight method ringing friends, the numbers swelling as the morning went on with more Devon ringers joining us and more local ringers turning up to see what all the fuss was about.

There were teas and snacks available in the church, which was also welcoming walkers who had made their way to Saintbury from Chipping Campden that day. Many of the walkers stopped to watch and listen to the ringing and some even took photographs!

Overall the morning was very successful and many of those at the workshop then went over to nearby Longborough for the striking competition. The day could not have gone ahead without the skills and enthusiasm of several people, including Graham Sharland who expertly ran things, Suzanne Driscoll, Denzil Spear, Anne Thomas who let us in, gave us a place to park cars

and kept the tea coming, and everyone that joined us a little later on to support the event and help the guests (ringers from Burrington, High Bickington and Chagford).

Everyone that came had plenty of opportunities to ring and there was a lovely atmosphere as people asked questions and discussed different approaches and techniques. These conversations were continued at Longborough later in the day!

Many, many thanks to everyone that supported my mad idea of taking Devon Ringing on the Road in our 90<sup>th</sup> year. We had a great morning and I couldn’t have been happier with how it turned out!

Later in the day, the team representing Chagford won the striking competition at Longborough. The trophy is inscribed “Inaugural Bell Striking Competition for the Ruth How Plate held at the Church of St James, Longborough, 16 May 2015”.

**Victoria Tucker**  
**Publicity Officer**



**DEVON ASSOCIATION**  
**OF RINGERS**

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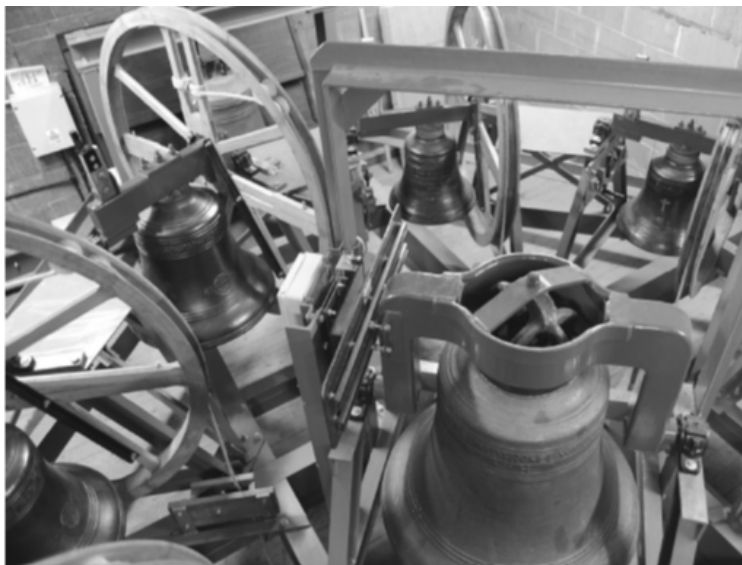
**Deadline for next edition**

**- 30th September 2015**

**We would be very interested**  
**in including**  
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**These should be sent to the Editor,**  
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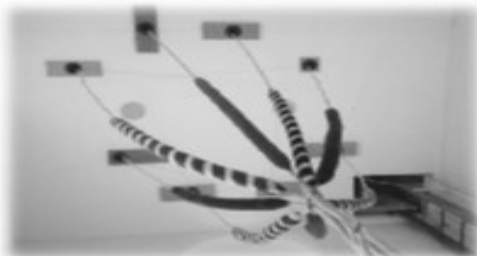


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