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Devon Calls

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DEVON'S BELLS RING OUT FOR HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN



Bells across Devon rang out as part of celebrations to mark Her Majesty's 90th birthday both on Thursday 21st April, Her Majesty's actual birthday, and on Saturday 11th June her official birthday. Some teams rang on Sunday 22nd June.

A straw poll across the county revealed that many teams rang changes known as the "Queen's" peal. Chagford was one such team to do so at 10.00 a.m. on Saturday 23rd April. The ring also celebrated the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's birth and St. George's Day. Broadhempston in South Devon rang various sets of changes, including the "Queen's" peal, at 6.00 p.m. on Thursday 21st April. At St. Edward's Eggbuckland, home of the Devon six-bell champions, the bells were rung during the evening of Thursday 21st April. The ringers were: Hilary Trout, Marie Yates, Angie Trout, Sue Ashton, Martin Crewe and David Trout.

After the ring the team retired to the nearby Prince Maurice pub to toast her majesty reaching such a remarkable milestone in her life.

Seventeen people, including ringers from Kenton, came to support ringing at St. Martin of Tours, Exminster. The full eight bells were rung on the evening of Thursday 21st April. A fellow ringer, Reverend Tim Jones of St. James' Taunton, led the group in a thanksgiving prayer. During a visit to the nearby Swan's Nest for refreshments the opportunity was taken to drink a toast to Her Majesty the Queen. Earlier ringing had also taken place at Kenton. The bells at Exminster were also rung to mark St. George's Day on Saturday 23rd April.

In the north of the county Margaret and Fred White, Nick Williams, Tony Jeffrey, Tony Barrable and George Rogers rang at St. Calixtus Church, West Down on Saturday 23rd April. They were joined by John Conibear when they rang together at Swimbridge on Sunday 12th June. After ringing the team was treated to strawberries and scones prepared by the local people. The same band was invited to ring at Landkey on Saturday 25th June during

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

Deadline for next edition - 30th September 2016

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

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

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which the local people held their own “Royal Garden Party”.

The ringers of St. Eustachius Church, Tavistock rang to mark Her Majesty’s birthday on Sunday 12th June from 2.30 until 3.00 p.m. prior to a special church service that was held”.

Tower Captain Derrick Goff of Chardstock in the West of Devon called his team together for ringing on Thursday 21st April. Derrick also invited his learners to be part of the celebrations and each one stood in, one at a time, with the more experienced ringers. Hot sausage rolls and drinks were served in the ringing chamber during which a toast to Her Majesty the Queen was taken.

Colin Adams.



CHARDSTOCK

l-r: Mike Lloyd (learner); Eleana Lord (learner); Sue Bray, Darren Lord (learner), Gillian Lord (learner), Derrick Goff, Kevon Newbery, Stephen Goff, Richard Scott

FROM A LEARNER

Almost a year has passed since I went along to the bell ringing open afternoon at St Michaels and All Angels at Alphington. Having had a go I decided to go ahead and join the Alphington Tower as a learner.

I received a warm welcome from a great group of experienced ringers who with much patience, encouragement and reassurance that it does get better, have after almost 10 months managed to turn me into a novice bell ringer - with I hope some potential. I have been told that it can take 2 - 3 years to become a proficient ringer.

As with everything when you are a learner there are good weeks and bad weeks, ropes can suddenly fly around like a whip, and the weight of the bell works against you as it fights to fall downwards. Then there is that moment when it all goes right and the sound is wonderful!

With bell ringing there is no extra practise at home, so visits to other churches are vital to develop skills as a

ringer and increase practise time. No two bells are the same; every bell tower is constructed differently which brings more challenges. Even a cold damp evening can affect the ropes; I had no idea that there would be so much to learn.

Ringling at other churches can be a great adventure driving down country lanes looking for the church and then climbing to the top of the tower, I have seen some incredible views of the surrounding countryside. There is always a warm welcome from ringers when visiting their tower.

I am looking forward to the day I am asked to ring for a wedding service that will be the moment I will feel I have made it.

However, until then, Alphington I apologise for the occasional mistakes you will no doubt hear!

Sara McIntyre

LIVING NEAR A CATHEDRAL

“Mankind was never so happily inspired as when it made a cathedral.” So said the author Robert Louis Stevenson, and some homeowners can appreciate these magnificent buildings and parish churches every day simply by looking out of their windows.

Most of Britain’s cathedrals have sought-after residential closes surrounding the building and its grounds. These are often peaceful enclaves featuring historic homes, yet within easy reach of the city’s amenities and excellent schools.

For those who don’t mind having their Sunday mornings interrupted by bells ringing, or tourists within close proximity, living next to a cathedral offers the chance to be at the heart of community life. Richard Addington, of Savills Exeter, says: “Many city-centre buyers are desperate for cathedral views. Living in the shadow of a cathedral is similar to living next to the sea — it will not change, and is as good as national park status.”

Michael Webster

DOWN MEMORY LANE WITH HARRY BARDENS OF BIGBURY, DEVON.



It seems many of the houses across the South Hams, once occupied by local people, are now second homes and those in the little village of Bigbury are no exception. However, on the morning of Thursday 5th May I was invited into the home of a couple who have been in residence since 1976. The home in question, a picturesque cottage named 'Cranmere' and its residents - Harry

and Ellen Bardens. The house is one that Harry grew up in as it was first owned by Harry's parents who moved in in 1926.

I doubt if there is a ringer across Devon who doesn't know Harry and Ellen. They travel most places together and their willingness to engage with young and old alike makes them two of the most popular people on the ringing circuit. Harry had indicated his willingness to contribute to an article for Devon Calls when I spoke to him a few years ago but I wanted to make sure that his wife Ellen, who once learnt to ring, would be able to make a contribution and also act as aide-memoire. Having been made to feel welcome and whilst sitting comfortably in the living room I put a few questions to Harry.

Where did you learn to ring? I learnt to ring at Bigbury. I was introduced to ringing by my father on 23rd May 1944 at the age of thirteen. Three other new members were enrolled at the same time. We were all taught by my late father Joe, he had been the Tower Captain at Bigbury for many years.

So you learnt to ring towards the end of the Second World War but weren't the bells silent during the war? Yes, there was a ban on all ringing but this was temporarily lifted towards the end of the war and the bells were rung for morning service on Sunday 15th November 1942. This was in order to celebrate victory being declared at El Alamein, North Africa on 11th November 1942. Ringing also took place on Christmas Day in the same year. At Easter 1944 the ban on ringing was lifted altogether. The bells were then rung for Sunday services and on special occasions. I remember that on Easter Day the bells were rung twice.

When did practice nights recommence? Not until April 1944. The bearings of the bells were oiled and the fourth rope

spliced. Quite by chance the four of us who started to learn were fortunate to receive consistent instruction. This was because the war was still on and some of the Bigbury ringers were engaged serving as members of the armed forces. This left the band short of ringers which meant considerably more time was spent with us as learners. In fact I was probably ringing on Sundays before I was really up to the usual standard required for Sunday service ringing.

Who were the ringers at Bigbury at the end of World War Two? Following demobilisation the ringers were: my father Joe who was the Captain and rang the treble. I rang the second. Cyril Radford (ex-Royal Navy) rang the third. Interestingly Cyril had been in the Royal Navy during both the 1st and 2nd World Wars. Bill Burgoyne rang the fourth. Norman Kerswell rung the fifth and his father George (ex-Royal Navy) rang the tenor. It was Cyril Radford who actually taught me how to splice rope. He always said he wanted me to become proficient at splicing before he died!

How quickly did ringing resume locally after the war? Local teams gradually got together again. As a means towards re-establishing ringing an 'Open' tower day in Woodleigh Deanery was held in 1946. The towers of Churchstow, East Allington, West Alvington and Kingsbridge were made available. Local teams were invited to ring and circulate around these towers. At the close a church service was held at Kingsbridge. It wasn't a competition but more of a ringing event designed to get the bells going again and re-establish old links. Of course some towers were depleted because they lost members of their band during the war.

Deaneries then started to have their annual competitions again. Woodleigh Deanery reconvened theirs in 1947 with a competition held at Churchstow. I think the winners were Dodbrooke with Bigbury finishing eighth. As a matter of interest, apart from the foot and mouth crises in 2001, the annual Woodleigh Deanery competition has been held ever since.

When were you appointed Tower Captain at Bigbury? I was appointed Captain in January 1958. This followed the sudden death of my late father Joe in 1957. My father had been the Captain at Bigbury for a great many years. He had also been the Chairman of Woodleigh Deanery Ringers for several years. I replaced Dad as Chairman, a position I held for no less than thirty nine years when I replaced the treasurer following his resignation. The treasurer had held the position for most of my tenure as Chairman. I resigned as treasurer at the last AGM after having held office for a period of seventeen years. After fifty seven years of continuous service a surprise presentation was made to me by the Woodleigh Deanery ringers. This consisted of a Dartington Crystal whisky decanter with two matching whisky glasses and a bottle of whisky to go with it, plus a hand painted card depicting a rural scene with a church tower in the background. The card I have since had framed and it hangs on the wall of the sitting room.

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At this stage I would like to say how generous the Woodleigh Deanery bellringers have been towards Ellen and me. We were presented with a silver topped claret jug on the occasion of our ruby wedding and for our golden wedding we were presented with twin garden seats joined by a table and a bouquet of flowers.

Did Bigbury compete in competitions outside the Woodleigh Deanery. Yes, we joined the Devon Association of Ringers in 1950. In that year the South Devon Qualifier was held at Widecombe-in-the-Moor and was won by West Alvington with Bigbury coming second. The final was held at Newton St. Cyres (then a six-bell tower). West Alvington were the winners. It was the first time for the team to be awarded the Ross shield and First Certificate. Bigbury were eighth and placed last (only four teams from the North and South qualified in those days).

Up until the 1970's Bigbury had a reasonably good team. We competed regularly and were often 'in the frame' although seldom winning. Aside from me all the team were of my father's generation. Old age and death eventually brought about the demise of the old team.

With the demise of Bigbury as a team what did you do? In the mid 1970's I was invited to join Loddiswell ringers where the late Fred Parsliffe was Tower Captain. Fred died in 1992 and I was invited to become Captain. It is a position I have held for the past seventeen years. Following Fred's death the team lost their competitive spirit. I was then invited by the late Jack Rhymes to join West Alvington and I rang with them in competitions taking over the treble after Jack retired due to ill health. Competition ringing gradually declined at West Alvington and it was at this time I was invited to ring with the newly formed Shaugh Prior team. I enjoyed some good ringing with them for a few years.

I must also mention my eight-bell ringing. I started to learn eight-bell ringing way back in the late 1940's. It was when petrol came off ration. I would ride my 250cc BSA motorbike up to Bovey Tracey for a ring on practice evenings; Bovey had quiet a good eight-bell team at the time. Eventually I went to ring at Kingsbridge where I rang the second behind Edward Punchard until poor Edward lost his sight completely. I rang the treble from then on and quite enjoyed Monday night practices at Kingsbridge.

Did you ever learn to ring Ellen? Yes I did. Harry taught me here at Bigbury and I rang up until I became ill in the 1990's.

Harry, you have also acted as a judge on numerous occasions. Yes, I have judged both at six and eight-bell competitions, in fact this year I will have judged at the annual Moreton Deanery competition for no less than thirty three consecutive years having first been invited to judge in 1984. I have also judged in the South Devon eight-bell and first did so way back in the 1960's with the late Jim Rice of Kenn. Top teams around in those days were; Bridford under Ruben Elliott, Yealmpton under Arthur Tapper, East Portlemouth under Bill Powesland and Kingsbridge under Edward Punchard. Combe-in-Teignhead also once had a good team.

Bigbury bells are now silent. They are but I'm pleased to say plans are afoot to get them ringing again. Due to various

problems, some political, some structural, the bells have not been rung since the early 1990's. However, recent events have given fresh impetus towards getting the bells going again. It all began in 2007 with the retiring Chairman of South Hams District Council, Councillor B. Carson, making a request for the bells to be rung for a service to mark his retirement as Chairman. Apparently he was surprised to find that for Health and Safety reasons the bells could not be rung. More recently for his 80th birthday Mr. Carson made a request, not for gifts but for people if they so wished to make a donation towards the costs of structural work to the tower and refurbishment of the bells. This kind gesture raised a considerable sum of money for the project.

I gather you and Ellen had cause to add towards the restoration project. On the 10th November last year we celebrated our Diamond Wedding Anniversary. A large gathering of people came to share and enjoy the occasion with us. Celebrations were held in the Memorial Hall at Bigbury. It was there that we held our wedding reception in 1955. For our anniversary we did not want gifts but suggested to people that if they wanted they could make a donation towards the restoration of the bells. Amazingly £1, 500 was received. *What a magnificent gesture.*

Are there any additional points you would like to make? Well I shall be eighty six this year and fortunately I am still in remarkably good health. My ringing is limited to Sundays and monthly meetings with the Ringkly Ringers and their trips away each year. I still accept invitations to North Devon where Ellen and I now have several close friends.

I must mention Egg Buckland ringers and thank them for the many outings I have enjoyed with them.

Many years ago they took Ellen and me under their wing and we have been to so many places with them, sometimes for the day, mostly for a long week-end, occasionally longer. I remember with gratitude ringing with them all over Scotland, Southern Ireland and when the troubles eased Northern Ireland as well. I was always given a fair share of ringing wherever we went.

My scrap book is full of ringing memorabilia. Including a record of two wonderful trips organised by Scott Adams, one to London and the other to Liverpool. Such happy days!

With the Westminster chimes of the grandfather clock in the living room striking twelve it was time for me to make the effort and leave. It was a privilege being able to sit in the comfort of their living room and listen to Harry's reflections on his ringing career. Ellen also helped to fill in some of the detail whilst at the same time providing coffee and offering some of her home made treats. Throughout I was struck as much by their kind hospitality as I was by Harry's meticulous record keeping. How many ringers I wonder have such a well catalogued archive?

Let us hope Bigbury's bells will soon sound out again and that Harry and his loyal and faithful wife Ellen will live long enough to enjoy their sounds. A sound which will surely remind them of home and a long life well spent together.

Colin Adams. 11th May 2016.

DEVON ASSOCIATION OPEN FESTIVAL - SATURDAY 23 APRIL 2016

Once again the Devon Association of Ringers is totally indebted to Ian Avery for all the hard work and co-ordination behind this hugely successful day. The day kicked off at 9.45am with the draw for the five teams taking part in the **John Scott 10 bell competition** at **SIDMOUTH**.



The Open format was adopted again this year. Sidmouth was soon filled with the sound of the ten bells being put through their paces – each team was able to have a short practice prior to the test piece – and many passers-by stopped to ask questions or to listen. Sidmouth was also playing host, later in the day, to the Eastern branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers which had organised a tour of

East Devon on a Rolling Ring of 21 towers as part of the Ringing for England festivities – a magnificent feat of determination and stamina! There were posters regarding this event outside the church and people could be in no doubt that bell ringers were celebrating that day.

Several ringers moved from Sidmouth to **HARPFORD**, where an **Open Tower** had been arranged for ringers not taking part in the competitions so they could enjoy ringing too. The standard of ringing was very high and 25 people came over to join in.

Events soon moved on to **SIDBURY**, where a draw was held for the teams competing in the **Open 8 bell competition**. Despite a road through the village being closed for maintenance work 8 teams managed to take part. At the same time, there was an **Open Tower** at **COLATON RALEIGH** where more than 30 people of all abilities arrived to partake in the ringing.

Time seemed to pass very quickly as ringers moved from Colaton Raleigh and Sidbury to the last **Open Tower** at **EAST BUDLEIGH**, where a couple of teams managed a quick practice before moving over to nearby **OTTERTON** for the **Open 6 bell competition** draw. There was a quiet period at East Budleigh while the draw was taking place, then ringers migrated back again when they found they had a little time to spare! We were delighted to see another 20-plus people enjoying the newly refurbished and very musical bells there. At the same time, 9 teams were competing for the **Open 6 bell certificates**. On leaving East Budleigh we could hear Otterton bells ringing across the valley, calling us to the last tower of the day.

Finally, everyone gathered at Otterton to hear the last ringing of the day and settle down for the results, carvery and crumble at the King's Arms in the village. This was a lovely location to end the day and more than 50 ringers from all parts of the county (and beyond!) made their way to the conservatory room for the presentations and evening meal. Following the results, Graham Sharland took great pleasure in presenting Ian Avery with the Devon Association Appreciation Award to recognise his continued hard work and commitment to ringing in Devon and the Devon Association in particular.

Many thanks to everyone that came out to enjoy both the competitions and the Open Towers. We felt that this was a hugely successful day that celebrated both the best of Call Change ringing and St George's Day, and we look forward to hosting similar events in the future.

RESULTS

10 Bell Competition at Sidmouth for the John Scott Trophy

1. Wednesday Evening Ringers (2)	24 1/2
2. Wednesday Evening Ringer (1)	39 1/2
3. Exeter Cathedral	42
4. Quarter Pealers 4	44 1/2
5. Okehampton Deanery Young Ringers	104
Judges: Mary Mears & Neil Holloway	

8 Bell Competition held at Sidbury

1. Kingsteignton	25 1/2
2. High Bickington	41 1/2
3. Stoke Gabriel	45 1/2
4. Down St Mary	49 1/2
5. Chittlehampton	50 1/2
6. Chagford	56 1/2
7. Moretonhampstead Deanery	58 1/4
8. East Anstey	90
Judges: Barry Osborne & Maurice Sharland	

6 Bell Competition held at Otterton

1. Burrington	27
2. Moreton Deanery Ringers	31
3. South Brent	37 1/2
4. Stoke Gabriel	47
5. Down St Mary	54 1/2
6. Chagford	70 1/2
7. Georgeham	84 1/2
8. Chittlehampton	92
9. East Anstey	122 1/2
Judges: Ruth Tuckett & John Coulthirst	

Victoria Tucker

RINGING COMPETITION AT PLYMPTON ST. MARY

Saturday 13th February 2106

Saturday 13th February 2016 was the day on which Plympton St. Mary hosted a competition for novice ringers. Teams were invited to ring either 'rounds' or half a peal of 'sixty on thirds'.

The aim was to introduce new ringers to the wider world of ringing. To give them a gentle introduction to the skills involved in competitive striking whilst at the same time facilitating links with other local bands of ringers.

Thirty four ringers from five bands participated. It was a competition that heralded the revival of ringing in which teams competed for the Wilf Edworthy plaque and shield after a lapse of eight years

Ten of the ringers who competed had never entered a striking competition before. The best novice ringer within the 'rounds' category was Philip Downrick of Plympton St. Mary. The winner of the 'change ringing' section was Plympton St. Maurice.

Thanks go to everyone who supported the event. Well done to the ringers who rose to the challenge of competitive ringing. Thanks also go to the two judges, David Crocker and Cyril Nicholls.

Given the support received we are looking forward to next year when we intend to expand the competition to include novice callers, which should be fun. Plans are under way to hold the competition next year at Bere Ferrers.

RESULTS

'A' Section (rounds).

Philip Dowrick (St. Mary's).
Steve Bulgen (Ugborough).
Pauline Dowrick (St. Mary's)
Ray Johns (St. Mary's).
Jill Symons (St. Mary's).

'B' Section (change ringing).

Plympton St Maurice.
Salcombe Holy Trinity.
Plympton St. Mary.
Bere Ferrers.

Brian Meek.

Vice Captain at Plympton St. Mary

'THE WOODLEIGH DEANERY ANNUAL COMPETITION AT CHURCHSTOW'

SATURDAY 7TH MAY 2016

RESULTS

A Section

Modbury A 41
West Alvington 681/2
Modbury B 75
Churchstow 85
Stokenham 1381/2

B Section

Galmpton 58
Salcombe 671/2
Sherford 68
West Charleton 701/2
Chivelstone 7
South Pool 811/2

The Judges were Nick and Ruth Tuckett

John Cole

COMPETITION ADVANCE NOTICE

The **TEDBURN St. MARY** Bell Ringing Competition will be continuing as usual at St. Mary's Church and will be held on the third Saturday in October which this year is 15 October 2016

The teams will be ringing for the "Tedburn Cup", the "Lt. Col. Mackie Memorial Cup", the "Shilton Shield" and the "Courtier Shield" along with the usual certificates.

Any teams who would like to take part will be welcome, contact either John on 01647 61675 or Jenny on 07872922202, nearer the date.

John Moody

DEVON ASSOCIATION NOVICE COMPETITION

Saturday 12 March 2016 – St Bartholomew, East Ogwell

Conditions were bright and clear for the 17th running of the Devon Association Novice Competition. While there were fewer teams attending than last year, the same friendly atmosphere was evident with ringers from 12 teams happily gathering outside the church to listen to three teams compete for the Round Ringing trophy.

Graham Sharland was running things and his duties included leading the church service as well as keeping the teams in order. Graham was nearly required to play the organ for the service as well had Jon Bint not been available to step in at the last minute!

Our judges for the day were Mark Lovell, James Steer and Maurice Sharland, and Mark was very pleased to give the results of the Round Ringing after the service, doing it Cornish style with the runners up first. President Michael Adams was on hand to present the certificates, with First Certificate and Shield being presented to the youngest ringer in the whole competition, Finn Goodwin, aged 11, from Chagford.



Teas were available throughout the afternoon from the back of the church, with local ringers Sharon and Sheila working hard to keep all the thirsty ringers in cups of tea and well supplied with pasties, sandwiches and cakes. It was a lovely spread! I understand others were also drafted in to supply baked goods so many thanks to everyone that contributed edibles. It was all delicious!

The afternoon proceeded very well, with several teams asking to ring early and so two draws were undertaken – one for the first five positions and another for the remaining five slots. Once everyone knew when they were ringing things got underway, with all teams ringing either the first or second half of Sixties on Thirds from off the stay. The standard of ringing was very good and the judges commented on the quality of ringing achieved throughout the day.

first runners up being Dartmouth. These two teams are invited to ring at the Minor Final on Saturday 28th May at Kilminster, competing against each other for the Hooper Cup by doing a full competition peal with rise and lower.

This was another very successful day! Of particular note was the enthusiasm of so many ringers for additional Devon Association ringing events such as workshops, open practices and even more novice and intermediate competitions! There were many ideas shared throughout the day so we hope to be able to put some of them into practice in the coming months.

Thanks to Graham for running the day, Suzanne Driscoll for running the raffle, Sharon and Sheila for the catering, Mark Lovell, James Steer and Maurice Sharland for their judging expertise, Jon Bint for stepping in as organist, and to all the wonderful teams that joined in and shared their enthusiasm on the day.

See you next year!

Victoria Tucker

RESULTS

Round ringing section

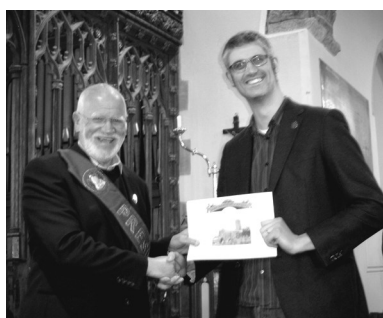
- | | |
|----------------|--------|
| 1. Chagford | 17 1/3 |
| 2. Berrynarbor | 39 1/3 |
| 3. Kenton | 44 1/3 |

Call change section

- | | |
|----------------------|--------|
| 1. Exeter St David's | 15 |
| 2. Dartmouth 2 | 15 2/3 |
| 3. South Brent | 24 1/3 |
| 4. Beaford | 24 1/2 |
| 5. Salcombe | 29 |
| 6. South Pool | 32 |
| 7. Berrynarbor | 36 2/3 |
| 8. Sherford | 47 |
| 9. Dartmouth 1 | 51 |
| 10. Cornworthy | 66 2/3 |

Judges

Mark Lovell
Maurice Sharland
James Steer



After peal ten we all gathered in the church again for the raffle and the results of the Call Change section, with Mark Lovell again announcing the results with the runners up first. This time the overall winners were Exeter St David's, with



THE DEVON ASSOCIATION SIX-BELL SEMI-FINAL (SOUTH)

Saturday 14th May 2016 - St. Sylvester, Chivelstone



The church of St. Sylvester in the little hamlet of Chivelstone, near Kingsbridge was the venue for this year's semi-final. Eleven teams came to compete for the "George Facey" Shield and the "Archie Furzeland Memorial Trophy". The afternoon was bright and sunny although a northerly wind tended to hold back the temperature. Chivelstone is quite a unique place in that in spite of developments taking place elsewhere in South Devon it remains untouched. The hamlet is surrounded by picturesque open farm land with a few cottages and established farm buildings situated close by the church.

The afternoon began with a church service which was conducted by Reverend Pamela Kemp. The organist was Mr. Ian Avery. Mr. Jereme Darke (Secretary for the South) and from nearby Stokenham welcomed everyone and proceeded to make the draw for ringing order.

First to ring were Stokenham who, like Kenton, had returned to support the event having been absent for several years. Holbeton were drawn to ring in number two position with Lamerton ringing number three. Having overcome the tension of not being drawn early, particularly in position number one, teams began to settle and gather outside to listen with the shrewd being keen to pick up any oddities within the peal.

With the exception of the top three teams many found the bells a challenge to ring and even more so those who had not been to practice. 17 year old Jake Richards who rang with Broadhempston acquitted himself very well. It was Jake's first major ringing competition and through his efforts Broadhempston came fifth qualifying for the major final. Similarly Julie Field who rang the second bell for Kenton did very well as it was also her first major competition. At the close Kenton found themselves eligi-

ble to compete in the Minor final.

The fifth bell proved particularly troublesome for many teams as also did the tenor. Teams who rang late had to contend with the additional problem of glare from the setting sun entering the west window into the ringing chamber. This was particularly the case for anyone ringing the front bells.

Local ringer Ross Wakeham worked hard towards making sure the day would be successful. He organised a draw containing in the region of thirteen prizes, all in an effort to raise funds for the church, and the local ladies provided a first class tea consisting entirely of home made produce.

At the close Jereme thanked everyone who had contributed towards the day's success. Everyone agreed it was good to see him back running things again and with his usual undiminished enthusiasm. He made a wonderful final gesture by thanking his mother Sally for the tremendous investment she has made in helping him towards recovery from the serious accident he sustained a few years ago.

The results were announced with the shield, cups and certificates being presented by the President Mike Adams

RESULTS

- | | |
|--------------------|-------|
| 1. Egguckland | 21. |
| 2. Shaugh Prior | 21 ½. |
| 3. South Brent 'A' | 30 ½. |
| 4. Lamerton | 47 ¾. |
| 5. Broadhempston | 51 ½. |
| 6. Holbeton | 58. |
| 7. Stoke Gabriel | 59. |
| 8. North Bovey | 64 ½. |
| 9. South Brent 'B' | 82 ¾. |
| 10. Kenton | 94 ½. |

Stokenham. No result (rang under time).

Judges: Ian Avery. John Cole. John Dietz and Ruth Tuckett.

Scrutineer -John Dunstone of Salcombe,
Secretary to the Woodleigh Deanery Ringers.

Colin Adams.

THE DEVON ASSOCIATION MINOR FINAL

Saturday 28th May 2016 - St. Giles, Kilminster



The little village of Kilminster, Nr. Axminster hosted this year's Minor Final which was held on Saturday 28th May. The sun was shining, the air was warm. Returning swifts were circling the tower and dipping and diving across the adjacent meadows. Silage was being gathered from nearby fields and opposite the church a cricket match was taking place with the home team, Kilminster, playing against nearby Axminster. The whole scene was a striking reminder, if ever one was needed, that this was England.

Teams who had progressed through the north and south qualifying rounds gathered to compete on the peal of six at the little church of St. Giles. Following a brief but uplifting service the President Mike Adams welcomed everyone and thanked the vicar and the organist for their contribution towards the day. The South Devon Secretary, Mr. Jerome Darke, then took over and proceeded to make the draw for the order of ringing.

The programme ran very smoothly with five teams ringing before tea leaving four to ring after. The people at Kilminster had worked very hard to provide a tea which everyone thoroughly enjoyed and they were appropriately thanked by Jerome. If the cricketers were similarly treated they did very well.

As ringing progressed groups of ringers could be seen huddled together, either reflecting on their ringing performance or planning their tactics. Occasionally this tranquil scene would be interrupted by a cry of "look out" as a cricket ball came crashing through the nearby trees landing in the road.

Ringing was over by around 7.00 p.m. Jerome thanked the judges and the Scrutineer for their commitment and all those who had helped in any way to make the day possible. He also thanked the competing teams for their participation. The results were then declared.

RESULTS

Top Ringing Section (peal marked from the first to the last change).

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1. Exeter St. David's | 38 ½ faults. |
| 2. South Brent 'C' | 52. |

Main competition

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| 1. Stoke Gabriel | 38 ½. |
| 2. South Tawton | 47. |
| 3. East Anstey | 59. |
| 4. Kenton | 71 ½. |
| 5. Sampford Courtenay | 75. |
| 6. South Brent 'B' | 76 ½ |
| 7. Warkleigh | 86. |

Stoke Gabriel and South Tawton qualified to compete in the Major Final at Bampton (*see next page*).

Judges: James Clarke, John Dietz, Neil Holloway and Steven Herniman.

Scrutineer: Mr. John Cole.

Jerome Darke is to be complimented on his excellent organisation of both the South Devon Qualifying competition and this Minor Final.

Colin Adams.

DEVON ASSOCIATION OF RINGERS – MAJOR SIX BELL FINAL

Saturday 11th June 2016 - St Michael & All Angels, Bampton



Mr Kippin had been sitting with the judges all day to gain more experience of marking rises and lowers in peal.

The ringing this year had been of a very good standard and while Egguckland produced the best overall peal, hot on their heels was the team from Shaugh Prior who secured the prize for the best top ringing.

Thank you Bampton for a fantastic venue and a very enjoyable day! Also thanks to Stuart Bennie, Ian Avery, Mervyn Way, Paul Wright, John Dietz and Scrutineer Gerald Arscott for their time and considerable expertise.

RESULTS

Ringers flocked to the Devon/Somerset border on Saturday 11 June 2016 for the Devon Association Major Six Bell Final at Bampton. The team at Bampton have been hoping to host the final for a number of years and their captain Mike Hackett gave us the warmest of welcomes on behalf of his team before the service. During the service Reverend Kevin Chandra reminded us all that this weekend marks the official birthday of Her Majesty the Queen, and the service was concluded with a very joyful burst of the National Anthem.

Stuart Bennie ran the day with his usual calm efficiency and once the judges Ian Avery, Mervyn Way, Paul Wright, John Dietz and Scrutineer Gerald Arscott departed, the draw took place by team names being selected, then a representative from that team taking the number at which they would ring. The only team to request an early draw was Lamerton, so eleven other teams held their collective breaths as the draw was made. Everyone then moved outside to take up stations around the church yard to listen to the ringing and start getting an ear in for the bells.

Bampton proved to be an excellent venue for a competition due to handy car parking, lots of room to spread out in the churchyard and The Swan Inn was handily located just outside the church gate, boasting a balcony from which people could enjoy the ringing in comfort! A short stroll down the road was the Community Hall in which everyone was treated to a luxury buffet tea supplied by Bampton ringers after peal six.

When the ringing was concluded, Julia Jarvis and her willing assistant Mike Webster undertook the annual Grand Draw (*results on page 15*), then the judges returned and Gerald Arscott was asked to announce the competition results. President Michael Adams shared the prize giving with Chris Kippin, a highly regarded method judge who has previously been the lead judge for the national twelve bell competition.

1. Egguckland	13 1/2
2. Shaugh Prior	16 3/4
3. South Brent	18 1/4
4. Down St Mary	23
5. Morteohoe	26 3/4
6. Drewsteigton	27 1/4
7. Burrington	27 1/2
8. Stoke Gabriel	33 3/4
9. West Down	34 1/4
10. Broadhempston	38 3/4
11. South Tawton	51 1/2
12. Lamerton	52

Top Ringing

1. Shaugh Prior	8 1/2
2. Egguckland	8 3/4
3. South Brent	12
4. Down St Mary	13 3/4
5. Drewsteigton	17 1/4
6. Burrington	17 1/4
7. Morteohoe	18 3/4
8. Stoke Gabriel	21 3/4
9. West Down	23 1/2
10. Broadhempston	26 3/4
11. Lamerton	28 1/2
12. South Tawton	32

(photos on next page)

Victoria Tucker

Stuart Bennie is to be congratulated on the calm, cool and efficient way in which he organised this competition on behalf of the Devon Association of Ringers

Editor

DEVON ASSOCIATION OF RINGERS – MAJOR SIX BELL FINAL

Saturday 11th June 2016 - St Michael & All Angels, Bampton

(continued from previous page)



Shelley Cup

Ross Shield

Jack Hine Trophy



L-r: Gerald Arscott, Mervyn Way, John Dietz, Ian Avery,
Stuart Bennie, Michael Adams, Chris Kippin
Kneeling: Paul Wright



Michael Adams

Steven Trout

Chris Kippin



Michael Adams

Natasha Trout

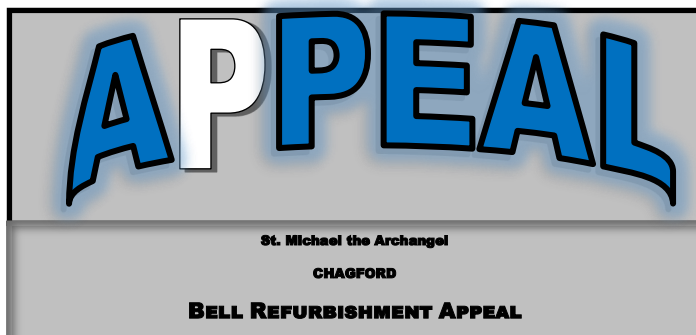
Chris Kippin



Michael Adams

Ryan Trout

Chris Kippin



CHAGFORD Bells Refurbishment Appeal - PROGRESS May 2016

We would like to thank again all who have very generously donated to the Chagford Church Bell Restoration Fund. As a result of this generosity we have collected monies in excess of the original target and are now in the enviable position of being able to undertake a complete refurbishment.

The original scheme involved some work to the original, 1914, oak frame despite which the frame would have required replacement at some time. That would involve further considerable expense including lowering of the bells and replacement of their bearings again, thus repeating much of what had been planned for this year. Re-examination of the bellframe this year revealed considerable deterioration, compared with a year ago, with developing rot during the recent very wet winter.

The committee, therefore, proposed that the project should be extended to include the replacement of the century old wooden frame with a cast-iron one along with the rehung of the bells and sufficient funds have almost been collected to do this. Our PCC supported this proposition and the Diocesan Advisory Committee has now also approved this proposal.

The time scale, unfortunately, will be extended into the beginning of 2017 but the period when the bells are away in Loughborough will be essentially the same. It is planned that the bells will be lowered in the week of Monday 22nd August and be rehung during January 2017.

Thank you yet again for your generosity - we are nearly there.

Julia Endacott
Tower Captain



Colin Barnes
Appeal Chairman

COLEBROOKE'S BELLS.

The bells of St. Andrew's Church Colebrooke, (between Bow and Crediton) are in need of attention and an appeal to raise about £45-000 is to be launched shortly.

Ringers, both call-change and method are invited to come and ring the bells on Saturday 30th July 2016 between 10.00 a.m. and 12 mid day and between 2.00 and 4.00 p.m. (In order to book a time in which to ring please contact Fred Oliver on 01363 84419). It is intended to repeat this invitation again in the not too distant future and after the bells have been re-hung.

The 6 bells with a tenor of 17 cwt. have a fine tone. Interestingly the peal contains a bell (the fourth) which was cast by Pennington in 1627.

It is intended eventually to make Colebrooke into a ringing centre with simulator and to include a dumb bell whereupon people interested in learning how to ring can come. Experienced ringers will be welcome to come and assist with the teaching.



<http://www.colebrookebells.org.uk/>

Margaret (from Colebrooke).

CONGRATULATIONS

70th Wedding Anniversary

Alan and Kathleen Soper of East Allington

Alan was born on 23rd April 1921 and has just celebrated his 95th birthday. He has not rung now for a few years and misses it. Would forgo his dinner years ago just to go ringing!

Alan learnt to ring at Slapton Parish Church when they were a 5. He remembers ringing on Sundays at Slapton, then travelling over to East Allington to ring the 6.

East Allington then became his home tower but their ringers were not very keen on competitions.

Alan was asked to ring for Halwell and this was the team that he rang for at many competitions.

He remembers well a good result for Halwell - ringing in the Devon Six and winning the Minor Final at Black Torrington. It is interesting that Alan rang at Devon Towers that were pretty adjacent but in different Deaneries! One being the Woodleigh and the other the Totnes.

Alan was and is still actively involved with their family business - agricultural engineers, based at East Allington. His son Terry works with him and helps run the business. I remember Alan coming out to our farm at Coleridge to help keep the cogs turning, especially at harvest time.

Alan is proud to have overhauled the bells at Halwell and put them on ball bearings. What a commendable achievement.

Alan met his wife Kathleen from Okehampton. They were married at Belstone Church on his birthday - 23rd April, back in 1946. They have two children - a son and daughter.

Congratulations to Alan and Kathleen on attaining their 70th Wedding Anniversary this year.

Both Alan and Kathleen keep pretty good health.

We wish them well and hope to see them at Dartmouth in September for the eight bell event.

Golden Wedding Anniversary

Belated congratulations to Kingsbridge and Churchstow bellringer **Raymond JEFFERY and his wife Melanie**. The couple were married at South Milston Parish Church on Saturday 11th June 1966. Ray was once the Tower Captain at St. Edmund's, Kingsbridge and he rang there for a very long time.

Raymond's ringing career.

Ray, a builder by trade, learnt to ring at Thurlestone Parish church 60 years ago. Having learnt to ring he went on to become an enthusiastic ringer eventually becoming the regular tenor man at Kingsbridge; something which he did for many years under the captaincy of the late Edward Punchard. During his time at Kingsbridge he took over the captaincy from Edward, maintaining at the time the regular Monday evening practices. The team, lead by Edward ringing the treble, consisted of, Harry Bardens, Bill Sanders, Paul Hosgrove, Clifford Weekes, Terry Hockin, Jack Wood and Jack Rhymes. This team rang for some

services and also for weddings and special occasions.

The team kept together and entered both the Devon and South Devon 8 - bell festivals. In the year in which the Devon 8-bell festival was held at Christow the team came 2nd. Kingsbridge also entered 6 - bell festivals and regularly took part in the Woodleigh Deanery annual contest as well as the Inter-Deanery and the Devon Historic Churches Trust (Beric Bartlett) festival. Ray was a regular member of the competing team. Sadly most of the team have since passed away with only Ray and Harry left who are still ringing. Unfortunately Kingsbridge doesn't have a team of ringers any more.

Ray has been a regular and reliable member of the team at Churchstow for a long time and to lesser extent West Alvington.

I consider myself lucky to have been able to ring with Ray, in fact ever since the late 1980s. I have fond memories of ringing 8 - bell peals with him in Kingsbridge as well as in numerous 6 - bell ringing festivals.

Jereme Darke

Births

To Natasha and Ryan TROUT on the birth of Corban Ellis.

Corban, 5lb. 15ozs was born in the Maternity Unit at Derriford Hospital, Plymouth on Friday 29th January 2016. Mum and Corban were initially cared for in the Transitional Care Unit at Derriford. After spending 11 days in the unit they were allowed home. Talia and Connor now have a baby brother.

To Kathryn and James KERSLAKE on the birth of Nathaniel George.

Nathaniel, 7lb. 6ozs was born in the Department for Women's Health at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Wonford. Daughter Esme now has a baby brother.

Forthcoming marriage.

Mr. Stuart BENNIE will marry **Miss Nicola STONEMAN** at St. Andrew's Church, Sampford Courtenay, on Saturday 1st October 2016 at 12 noon. Stuart and Nicola are both ringers and ring at Sampford Courtenay, Chagford and Drewsteignton. They are also members of the Wednesday Evening Ringers.

We wish them a long and happy life together.

Belated Happy Birthday to our Technical Editor, **Colin BARNES**, who celebrated his 80th birthday and friends over the weekend of 2nd-3rd July.

Editor

OBITUARY

JOAN ANN CLARKE (NÉE HAYWARD): 5TH JUNE 1947 - 13TH FEBRUARY 2016



Joan was born in Eastchurch on the Isle of Sheppey, Kent, into a large old Island family. Her mother was however, Devonian, having met her father at the beginning of WW2. Joan's father was Captain of the ringers and taught her to ring at Eastchurch of course, when she was eleven. Soon after, a good little band developed, and after Joan went out to work, she was travelling around Sheppey and farther

afield on the buses and trains, to attend practises, meetings, quarter-peals and peals. During this time she enjoyed encouragement from the young band and in particular Peter Wilkinson, whose father was Rector of Eastchurch during that time.

Joan took up handbell ringing and with the young local band, scored several six-bell quarters and a peal or two. This brought her to regular practises and peal attempts with some wonderful senior handbell ringers from the Gravesend area, and into contact with the Cumberlands. They met weekly at Ted Beer's house in Shorne. The pinnacle of her achievements was a peal of Bob Royal. She subsequently became Ringing Master of the Rochester District of the Kent County Association.

However, and this is where I come in, Joan aged 19, came to Devon for a holiday with her Aunt in Exmouth. The place to get a good practise in those days was Withycombe Raleigh on a Friday night, under the Captaincy of Frank Mack. That was about the same time when I was starting to find my feet (a late starter compared to Joan), and on my first visit to Withycombe in Joan's presence, accepted an invitation to join them on an outing to Somerset on the following day. So did Joan.

The story from then would be long and tedious to most of you and so I will just relate that we paired up at the first tower, and never looked back. After some months of correspondence, Joan decided to move to Devon, to live with her Aunt. She joined the bands at Littleham (where her mother's family were), and Withycombe. Three years later, we married at Withycombe and bought a little Wimpey house in the parish. During that time we enjoyed many an outing, Sunday evening quarter-peal and the occasional peal. Joan didn't record her Peals and Quarters but I believe that she rang about thirty Peals for the Kent County Association, before she "emigrated". She then rang about twenty for The Guild of Devonshire Ringers. The Withycombe band were rather far sighted for those days and we participated in both Guild and Association events. The pinnacle of our achievements at call-change ringing, was a second place in the Tawstock Shield at Bideford. We thought that we were robbed of the shield because the fire siren went off half way through the winners (Chittlehampton's) peal, drowning out the ringing for a period; but in truth, we were quite pleased with the result.

During our engagement, and with the encouragement of Frank Mack and Brian Coles, Joan and I started to attend practices with and eventually joined the Cathedral band. We remained members until we moved "up north", and remember in particular, Christmas Day mornings when we always seemed

to ring at our best. Because there was insufficient time for worship between all of the ringing throughout the rest of the day, we used to attend 8am Said Eucharist in the Quire at the Cathedral. It made a special beginning to our Christmases.

Soon after arriving in Devon, Joan got a job at Lloyds Bank in Budleigh Salterton; a job that she had always wanted. She was to work for them in Salterton, Bideford and Barnstaple for the rest of her working life, retiring in 2002.

In 1977, we moved to North Devon to live, when I got a job at the then new North Devon District Hospital. Our first home was in the parish of Pilton, on the edge of Barnstaple. At that time they had a good strong band there and so we looked around for a tower that needed our support. Barnstaple bells were very difficult to ring and did not have much of a band, but at Marwood, we joined the band and congregation. When the band there gradually diminished, we joined the new St. Peter's, Barnstaple band and rang on the newly rehung bells.

In 1986 we moved to the parish of Alwington, just west of Bideford, and have been there ever since. After taking some time to settle in, Joan and I started to ring with the Littleham and Alwington bands, and made up a strong enough band to restart their competition tradition. Joan became our regular treble ringer and we gradually made progress until eventually we became regular participants in the Devon Major Six-Bell Final. On the way we twice won the Minor Final and many local competitions.

We remember many of the ringers with whom we shared our love of ringing, our bells, our Cathedral and our churches, who have now gone on to higher service. I would like to mention them all but that would take up too much space, and it would not be entertaining for readers, but the Lord knows who they are. There seem to be so few of them left now.

On retirement, Joan started to acquire "jobs" to keep her out of mischief. She did this slowly and sensibly at first, but they seemed to come thick and fast after that. Before her recent illness she was: Competition Secretary (north) for the Devon Association of Ringers; Ringing Master of the North and North West branch of The Guild of Devonshire Ringers; Treasurer for Hartland Deanery Ringers; Secretary and Treasurer of our busy Village Hall; Secretary and Treasurer of Alwington Horticultural Show; and probably a few more that I have forgotten about. Along the way, she had been Secretary and Treasurer of the Bideford Small-bore Rifle Club. She had started to reduce this workload so that we could have bit more time together, but unfortunately the turn of events overtook her and she had to hand over all of these jobs in some haste due to the diagnosis of an inoperable brain tumour in July 2015. Due to Joan's hard work and thoroughness, this was accomplished quite quickly but she was still remembering details to pass on and making suggestions, some weeks and months later.

And so ends a long and faithful service as a ringer and as a person who joined in and did things. Those of you who knew Joan will have your own memories of her, I hope that you find them comforting. She was a one-off, a truly remarkable lady and my best friend for nearly fifty years, and wife for over forty five.

James M Clarke



DEVON ASSOCIATION OF RINGERS

EIGHT BELL COMPETITION

This event will be held on **Saturday 17th SEPTEMBER 2016** at the Parish Church of St. Saviour, **DARTMOUTH**. The tenor weighs 18 cwt. This is not a ground floor ring. The roll call (at which all entered teams are expected to be present) will be at 2pm prior to the service. The draw for the order of ringing will take place immediately following the service. Teams will ring a peal of 'Queens' including rise and fall in not less than 20 minutes. This competition is limited to 12 entries, certificates are awarded to the first 6 placed teams. Teas will be served during the afternoon. No practice will be permitted.

To enter this competition, please contact the **South Assistant Secretary**, Mr Jereme Darke, Tel: 01548 580540, Mobile: 07875054257 by 3th September 2016.

COMPETITION ADVANCE NOTICE

The TEDBURN St MARY Bell Ringing Competition will be continuing as usual at St. Mary's Church and will be held on the third Saturday in October which this year is **Saturday 15th October 2016**

The teams will be ringing for "The Tedburn Cup, The Lt Col. Mackie memorial Cup", the "Shilton Shield" and the "Courtier Shield" along with the usual certificates.

Any teams who would like to take part will be welcome, contact either John on 01647 61675 or Jenny on 07872 922202, nearer the date.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 12th November 2014 at 14:15

Town Hall, North Tawton



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Holne Tower

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11 prizes of £25

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Joan Taylor, East Prawle

K. Palfreyman - 01237 441***

A. Brealy, Zeal Monachorum

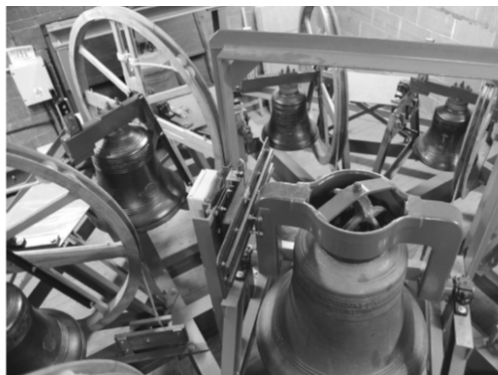
Mrs. M. Parker, Barnstaple

Robin Wonnacott 01837 810***

L. Bennie, Whiddon Down

Jeff Addy, South Brent.

Julia Jarvis wishes to thank all those who helped in any way and reports that the profit will be in excess of £3,600.



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